

## APPENDIX.

### RULES FOR THE ELECTION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE LOCAL AND DISTRICT BOARDS UNDER ACT III. (B. C.) OF 1885.

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#### NOTIFICATION.

*The 15 December 1885.*—It is hereby notified for general information that the Lieutenant Governor has been pleased to make the following rules under section 138(a) of the Bengal Local Self Government Act III (B. C.) of 1885.

#### PART I.

##### ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF UNION COMMITTEES.

###### *Preliminary.*

Throughout this and the following Parts the term "Magistrate of the district" shall have the meaning prescribed by section 5 of the Act.

2. Whenever a Union, constituted under section 38 of the Act, comprises two or more villages, the Magistrate of the district shall decide in what manner such Union shall be divided into electoral wards, and the proportional numbers to be returned for each of such wards. Such arrangement shall remain in force in subsequent elections until altered by similar authority. Provided that if it is thought convenient a Union, whether of a single or more villages, may consist of one electoral ward only.

###### *Of the qualification of Voters.*

3. Every male person of the full age of twenty-one years, resident at the time of election within the area comprised in a Union, who has, during the year immediately preceding the election of the members of the Committee of such Union, paid one rupee or more on account of road-cess, license-tax or chowkidari-tax, or who is a member of a joint undivided family, which has during such period paid one rupee or more on ac-

count, of any such cess or taxes, shall be entitled to vote at such election.

*Of the qualification of Candidates.*

4. Any person qualified under the preceding rule, and who in addition can read and write, shall be qualified as a candidate for any ward in the Union.

*Of the manner of holding elections.*

5. The Magistrate of the district shall decide at what places within the Union and on what date or dates the election of the members of the Union Committee shall be held.

6. The dates fixed for such elections shall be duly notified in all the villages of the Union in such manner as may appear suitable to the Magistrate of the district, and at least fourteen days beforehand; any cost incurred in issuing notices under this rule shall be defrayed from the district fund.

7 Each voter shall vote for the ward in which he ordinarily resides, and for no other. He may vote for as many candidates as there are members to be returned for such ward but shall not give more than one vote for any single candidate.

8. All persons wishing to vote must be present at the elections. No votes by proxy or in writing shall be received.

9. The Magistrate of the district, or such other officer as the Magistrate of the district may depute for the purpose, shall preside at the election for each Union or portion of a Union.

10 The elections for the different wards in the Union shall be held in succession; the proceedings in every case being commenced by the presiding officer explaining to the assembled voters the nature and objects of the election and the number of members to be returned.

11. The assembled voters of the ward shall be allowed to consult together and elect the necessary number of members in their own manner. They shall report to the presiding officer the names of the persons they have elected and if such persons are duly qualified, and no objection is raised to the manner in which the election has been conducted, the presiding officer shall declare that they have been duly elected.

12. If the result of the election held under the preceding rule is called in question, the presiding officer shall, if he

thinks it necessary, proceed to take a poll, recording the number of votes given for each candidate with his own hand. He shall then and there declare such duly qualified candidates as have a majority of votes to be duly elected.

13. If an equal number of votes is recorded in favour of two or more candidates, all of whom cannot be returned, selection shall be made from such candidates by lot in such manner as the presiding officer shall deem fit, and thereupon a candidate thus selected shall be declared to be duly returned.

14. If at any election held under these rules the number of voters of any ward shall be less than ten per cent. of the total number of house-holders in such ward, the Commissioner may order that the election shall be held again, or may decide that the electors have failed under section 40 of the Act to elect members.

15. Objections regarding the qualifications of candidates and voters shall be summarily decided by the presiding officer, and such decision shall be final.

16. If any candidate, duly elected under the preceding rules, declines to take office, the unsuccessful candidate, if any, who received the largest number of votes shall be held to have been elected. If there is no second candidate the Commissioner will appoint a member under section 40 of the Act.

17. Except as provided by rules 14 and 15, no election held under these rules shall be invalidated on any ground whatever.

18. The list of duly returned candidates shall be forwarded to the Commissioner of the Division for publication in the *Calcutta Gazette*.



## PART II.

### ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF LOCAL BOARDS.

#### *Preliminary.*

19. When the number of members of a Local Board has been fixed by a notification issued under section 8, the Commissioner, after consultation with the Magistrate of the dis-

trict, shall decide the number of members who shall be elected for each thanah within the area of such Local Board, and shall issue orders accordingly. Such orders shall be published in the *Calcutta Gazette*, at the district and sub-divisional offices, and at the head-quarters of each of the thanahs in question; and in such other manner as the Commissioner may prescribe.

20. The first election of any Local Board under these rules shall take place at such time, not being more than six months after the Act comes in force in the districts mentioned in the Third Schedule of the Act, and after the date of a notification establishing Local Boards in any other district, as the Lieutenant-Governor shall direct.

*Of the Qualification of Electors.*

21. Every male person of the full age of twenty-one years, resident within the area under the authority of a Local Board, who is qualified in one of the manners following, that is to say—

- (1) Is a member of a Union Committee within such area;
- (2) Has during the year immediately preceding such election—
  - (a) paid a sum of not less than one rupee on account of road cess in respect of land situated either wholly or in part within such area;
  - (b) paid license-tax in respect of a trade, dealing, or industry carried on within such area; or
  - (c) been possessed of a clear annual income from any source of not less than two hundred and forty rupees;
- (3) Being a member of a joint undivided family, one of the members of which is qualified to be an elector as in this rule heretofore provided, is a graduate or licentiate of any University, or holds a certificate as a pleader or mootkhar, shall be entitled to vote at an

election of members of such Local Board.

*Of the Registration of Electors.*

22. In all districts mentioned in the Third Schedule of this Act, or in which a Local Board may hereafter be establish-



ed, the members of which are not appointed under section 15 of the Act, the Magistrate of the district shall cause to be prepared for each thannah within the area of a Local Board a register of persons qualified to vote. Such register shall be prepared from assessment lists, from enquiries made by persons specially deputed for the purpose, and in such other manner as may appear expedient. Such register shall, from time to time, be corrected and added to as the Magistrate of the district may direct.

23. At least two months before the date fixed for the election for any thannah, a copy of the register showing the persons qualified to vote for such thannah shall be published at suitable places within that thannah. Copies of all the thannah registers shall also be published at the sub-divisional office.

24. Any person claiming the right to vote may submit to the Magistrate of the district an application in writing for the entry of his name in the register of electors, stating distinctly in what manner he is qualified; and all such applications, if made at least one month before the date fixed for the election, shall be duly enquired into. A notice of the claims thus made shall be published at the thannah within one week of their presentation to the Magistrate; and all objections made to them and received at least one week before the date fixed for the elections shall be duly considered.

25. All claims to vote, and the objections thereto, shall be considered by the Magistrate of the district, and his decision shall be final.

26. The thannah list as amended, after the hearing and decision of claims and objection, shall be considered to be the final lists of persons entitled to vote at the election, and no person whose name does not appear in the thannah list shall be permitted to vote.

*Of the qualification and the nomination of Candidates.*

27. Every male person of the full age of twenty-one-years who is qualified in one of the manners following, that is to say—

- (1) Is a member of a Union Committee within the area under the authority of the Local Board;
- (2) Has during the year immediately preceding the election

had his fixed place of abode within the area under the authority of such Local Board ; and

- (a) paid a sum of not less than five rupees on account of road cess in respect of land situated either wholly or in part within the area under the authority of the Local Board ;
- (b) paid a license-tax of not less than twenty rupees in respect of a trade, dealing, or industry carried on within the area under the authority of the Local Board ; or
- (c) been possessed of a clear annual income from any source of not less than one thousand rupees ;

- (3) Being a member of a joint undivided family, one of the members of which is qualified for election under clause (1), or clause (2) (a) or (b) of this rule, is a graduate or licentiate of any University, or holds a certificate as a pleader or mookhtear,

shall be qualified for election as a member of the Local Board for any thannah under the authority of such Local Board.

28. Any elector may for the thannah in which he is qualified to vote nominate any qualified person as a candidate.

29. The Magistrate of the district shall, at least six weeks before the date fixed for the thannah election, issue notices calling for nominations of candidates. Such notices shall be published at every village within the thanah. All nominations shall be submitted within three weeks from the date of the publication of the notices in question. No names of candidates shall be received after the expiration of such period.

30. The Magistrate of the district shall ascertain whether all of the nominated candidates are duly qualified to take office ; his decision on this point shall be final. He shall also, if possible, ascertain whether they are all willing to take office.

31. A list of the candidates who are duly qualified, and who appear to be willing to take office, shall be published at suitable places in the thannah at least one week before the date fixed for the election. No candidate whose name does not appear in such list shall be considered eligible.

*Of the manner of holding Elections.*

32. The election for each thannah shall be held on such date as may be fixed by the Lieutenant-Governor and notified in the *Calcutta Gazette*.

33. The election for each thannah shall be held at the head-quarters of the thannah, or at such other place within the jurisdiction of the thannah as the Magistrate may fix. The place of election shall be publicly notified at least one month before the date fixed for election and shall be stated in the notice issued under the next rule.

34. The date fixed for the thannah election shall be duly notified at the thannah, and at such other places as may appear suitable, at least one month beforehand.

A vernacular notice in the following form shall also, at least a fortnight before the date fixed for the election, be despatched by post, or by such other mode as may be found convenient, to every elector whose name appears in the register;—

“You are hereby informed that you are registered as a voter for the                      thanah and that you will be entitled to vote at the election of                      members of the Local Board to be held at                      on the                      18 .”

35. An elector duly qualified under Rule 12 shall be entitled to vote for the thanah in which he ordinarily resides, and for no other. He shall be entitled to vote for as many candidates as there are vacancies for such thanah, but shall not give more than one vote for a single candidate.

36. All persons wishing to vote must be present at the election. No votes by proxy or in writing shall be received.

37. The Magistrate of the district, or such other gazetted officer as the Magistrate of the district shall depute for the purpose, shall preside at the election for each thannah.

38. The proceedings shall commence by the presiding officer explaining the nature and objects of the meeting to the assembled voters. He shall then read out the list of candidates, and state the number of vacancies.

39. Each candidate shall then be proposed by one qualified voter, and seconded by another. Subject to the control of the

presiding officer on points of order, each candidate and this proposer and seconder shall be permitted to address the assembled voters on the subject of his candidature. The names of candidates not duly proposed and seconded shall be removed from the list.

40. In the case of the number of the candidates duly proposed and seconded not being greater than the number of vacancies, the presiding officer, if he is satisfied that not less than ten per cent. of the registered voters for the thannah are present, shall at once declare such candidates to be duly elected.

41. If the number of candidates duly proposed and seconded exceeds the number of vacancies, the presiding officer shall proceed to take a poll for each candidate, recording the votes with his own hand.

42. All objections to voters shall, if possible, be summarily decided by the presiding officer after reference to the register. No objections shall be entertained, other than objections arising out of matters subsequent to registration under Rule 26.

43. The presiding officer shall then and there declare such candidates as have a clear majority of votes to be duly elected. Provided that no candidate shall be declared to be duly elected unless at least ten per cent. of the registered voters of the thannah have appeared and recorded their votes.

44. If ten per cent. of the registered voters for the thannah are not present (Rule 40), or have not appeared and recorded their votes (Rule 43), the presiding officer shall report that the electors have failed under section 10 of the Act to elect the number of members for the Local Board fixed for such thannah.

45. In the case of an equal number of votes being recorded in favour of two or more candidates, all of whom cannot be returned, selection shall be made from such candidates by lot in such manner as the presiding officer shall deem fit, and thereupon a candidate thus selected shall be declared to be duly returned.

46. If any candidate, duly elected under the preceding

rules, declines to take office, the unsuccessful candidate, if any, who received the largest number of votes shall be held to have been elected. If there is no unsuccessful candidate, a fresh election shall be held to fill the vacancy thus created.

47. In the event of any person being elected for two or more thanahs, such person shall be at liberty to choose which thanah he will represent, and in every other thanah for which the said person has been returned, the result of the election shall be determined under the preceding rule as if no votes had been recorded for him, and if necessary a fresh election will be held.

48. After all the thanah elections have been held, the list of candidates duly elected for the Local Board shall be forwarded to the Commissioner of the Division for publication in the *Calcutta Gazette*.

#### *Miscellaneous.*

49. No election shall be invalidated on a point of form, provided that these rules have been substantially obeyed.

50. No election shall be invalidated on account of any irregularity whatever, unless it appears that the irregularity was such as materially to affect the results of the election.

51. No person in the employment or pay of the District or Local Board shall directly or indirectly engage in canvassing for votes, or otherwise assist in the election of any candidate, otherwise than by giving his own vote. Any breach of this rule will render him liable to dismissal.

52. All costs incurred in the preparation of the register of voters, the publication of notices, the holding of elections, or taking any other necessary action under these rules, shall be payable from the District Fund.

### PART III.

#### ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF DISTRICT BOARDS AND TERM OF OFFICE OF MEMBERS OF BOARDS.

##### *Election of Members of District Boards.*

53. A Local Board shall not elect members for the District Board until (a) the number of members of the District Board

to be elected by such Local Board shall have been fixed by notification under section seven of the Act, and (b) the names of the elected and appointed members of the Local Board shall have been published in the *Calcutta Gazette*.

54. Within one month of publication of the notification referred to in clause (a) of the preceding rule, or the notification referred to in clause (b) of the same, whichever be later, the Local Board shall at a meeting elect the requisite number of members for the District Board. The names of the candidates shall be submitted at the meeting, and the election shall be made by the majority of votes of the members of a Local Board present at such meeting.

55. In the case of the election or appointment of a Chairman, or the election of a Vice-Chairman, of the Local Board, not having taken effect, the meeting referred to in the preceding rule shall be called by the Magistrate of the district.

56. The names of the persons elected to serve on the District Board shall be forwarded without delay to the Magistrate of the district who shall ascertain if they are duly qualified and are willing to serve.

57. If any elected candidates decline to take office, the unsuccessful candidates, if any, who received the largest number of votes shall be declared to be duly elected. If there is no unsuccessful candidate, a fresh election shall be held to fill the vacancy thus created.

58. In the event of any person being elected by two or more Local Boards, such person shall have liberty to choose which Local Board he will represent, and as regards every other Local Board for which such person has been returned, the result of the election shall be determined under the preceding rule as if no votes had been recorded for him, and if necessary, a fresh election shall be held.

59. The only persons qualified for election as members of the District Board shall be:—(a) members of the Local Boards in the district; and (b) persons qualified for election as members of any Local Board in the district.

60. The names of the elected members of the District Board shall, together with the names or official designation of the

appointed members, if any, be published in the *Calcutta Gazette*.

*Term of office.*

61. Every member of a Local or District Board, who has been elected or appointed by name, shall vacate his office at the end of three years from the date of his election or appointment as such member.

62. The term of three years mentioned in the preceding rule shall be held to include any period which may elapse between the expiration of the said three years and the date of the next subsequent appointment or election, not being an appointment or election under the next succeeding rule.

63. If any member of a Local or District Board shall be unable to complete his full term of office, the vacancy caused by his resignation or removal or death shall be filled by the appointment or election, as the case may be, of another person; and the person so appointed or elected shall fill such vacancy for the unexpired remainder of the term for which such member would otherwise have continued in office.

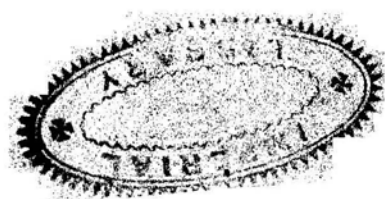
64. *A. Local Boards.*—As soon as possible after the expiry of the term of office of an elected member, mentioned in rules 61 and 62, or after the occurrence of a vacancy among elected members under rule 63, a date for a fresh election shall be fixed by the Lieutenant-Governor, and notified in the *Calcutta Gazette*, and rules 21 to 52 shall apply, as far as may be, to such subsequent elections.

*B. District Boards.*—As soon as possible after expiry of the term of office of an elected member, mentioned in rules 61 and 62, or after the occurrence of a vacancy amongst elected members under rule 63, the Magistrate of the district shall send a notice to the Local Board which has the right to elect a member to fill the vacancy, and such Board shall, within one month of the receipt of such notice, elect a member in accordance with rules 54 to 59.

J. Ware EDGAR,

*Offy. Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal.*

Bylaw of N. Sarum District  
Board Chakia 188. 80.





## PUBLIC FERRIES.

*The following Rules under Section 17 Act I B.C.  
of 1885 (the Bengal Ferries Act) are adopted as  
BYE LAWS.*

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*Rule 1*—In these rules the term “Chairman” includes—

- (a) the Vice-Chairman or any member of the Board to whom powers may be delegated under the rules.
- (b) the District Board of Sarun in respect of any public ferry, the management of which has been vested in it under Section 35 Act I (B C) of 188 ; and any Local Board in the District of Sarun when legally vested with the powers in respect of any public ferry by the District Board of Sarun.

*Rule 2*—Every public ferry in the District of Sarun under the management of the District Board shall either be held khas by the District Board or be leased by public auction.

*Rules for the management of public ferries held khas.*

*Rule 3.*—For every public ferry which is held khas, the District Board shall from time to time—

- (a) provide such boards, landing-stages, rest-houses,

and other appliances as they shall think proper;

- (b) appoint a suitable person to superintend the plying of the ferry, provide and pay boatmen, receive the authorized tolls, and remit the same to the treasury;
- (c) fix, with the approval of the Commissioner, the tolls to be levied from persons using the ferry;
- (d) cause a schedule of such tolls, legibly written in the vernacular, to be fixed up on both landing-stages;
- (e) determine the maximum number of passengers, animals, carts, vehicles, and goods which each ferry boat shall carry, and cause a notice to this effect to be affixed to each boat;
- (f) determine the hours within which the boats shall ply, and the minimum number of journeys to be made every day;
- (g) provide for the prompt conveyance of the mails at all times across the ferry.

*Rule 4* — Any person may compound for tolls payable for the use of the ferry; and if the ferry should be closed before the expiry of the period for which such person has compounded for tolls payable for its use, he shall be entitled to a refund, the amount of which shall bear the same proportion to the whole sum paid by him, as the period remaining bears to the whole period for which he compounded. Such refund shall be made under the orders of the Chairman.

*Rules for leasing out ferries.*

*Rule 5.*—When it has been determined to lease the tolls of any public ferry by auction, under Section 9 of Act I (B C) of 1895, the Chairman shall at least 15 days before the auction is held, cause an advertisement of such auction to be published, both in English and in the vernacular, in such place and in such manner as to him shall seem expedient

*Rule 6.*—The advertisement shall specify—

- (a) the time and place of the sale;
- (b) the period for which the ferry is to be leased, and the dates between which the lessee shall be bound to ply the ferry every year;
- (c) the number and description of the boats to be maintained, the strength of the crew to be employed on each, and the maximum number of passengers, animals, vehicles, and the bulk or weight of goods each is authorized to carry;
- (d) the liability or otherwise of the lessee to provide the boats and to keep them in repair;
- (e) the liability or otherwise of the lessee to provide and keep in order the landing-stages, and the rest-houses or travellers' sheds, if any at either or both termini of the crossing;
- (f) the minimum number of crossings to be made daily at any particular season of the year;
- (g) the rate of tolls to be levied;
- (h) the persons and things to be ferried over free of toll as provided in rule 14;

(i) the instalments in which the rent for ferry is to be paid; and

(j) such other particulars as the Chairman shall consider necessary.

*Rule 7* — A copy of the advertisement, and of the Rules and the Form of Agreement required to be executed under Section 9 of the Act, shall be posted up in a conspicuous place in the offices of the Magistrate and District Board and shall be duly notified on the day of the auction.

*Rule 8*.—On the day of the auction the lessee, to whom the ferry has been knocked down, shall deposit Rs.            as security for the due fulfilment by him of the conditions of his lease. This deposit may however, at the discretion of the Chairman, be dispensed with in the case of small ferries in which boats; or canoes are not provided by Government.

*Rule 9* —In cases in which the ferry is leased for only a year, or part of a year, the lessee shall be held liable for the rent for the entire period the moment the ferry has been knocked down to him. In cases in which the ferry is leased for a number of years, the liability for each year's rent shall accrue from the first day of the year.

*Rule 10* —The contract which the lessee will be required to execute under Section 9 of the Act shall be in the form appended to these rules.

*Rule 11*.—As soon as possible after the contract has been executed by the lessee, the Chairman shall furnish him, free of charge, with a copy of these rules, a

list of the authorized tolls duly signed under Section 19 of the Act, and two notice boards having written on them in the vernacular the schedule of tolls applicable to the ferry, the number, size and pattern of boats which the lessee is bound to keep plying, the number of men by whom each boat is to be manned, and the maximum number of passengers, &c. each boat is allowed to carry. The notice boards shall be fixed by the lessee in a conspicuous place at both ends of the ferry, and shall be kept by him in a proper condition. On the expiry of his lease they shall be returned by him to the Chairman.

*Rules for the management of ferries leased by public auction and for regulating their traffic.*

*Rule 12.*—The lessee shall be bound to ferry over diligently, carefully, and with the least possible delay, all passengers, vehicles, animals and goods which may come to the ferry ghat to be ferried over.

*Rule 13.*—The rate of tolls to be levied at each ferry shall be those fixed by the District Board, with the approval of the Commissioner, under section 18 of the Act.

*Rule 14.*—The lessee shall not charge or demand tolls for ferrying over—

- (a) Mails, Mail carts, Dak-runners, and Government telegraph messengers on duty.
- (b) Commissariat stores, animals and vehicles when accompanied by a challan from the Commissariat officer.

- (c) Military officers, soldiers and their followers; }  
 (d) Police and other public officers & process serving peons. " } when travelling on duty with their *bond-fide* baggage, horses, palkies or other conveyances.
- (e) Executive officers of the District Road Department when travelling on duty.
- (f) Coolies engaged in repairing roads with their tools and instruments.
- (g) Persons carrying dead bodies or property sent in by the police.

*Rule 15.*—The lessee shall not charge or demand tolls from persons who wade or swim across, or take cattle or other animals or property across at their own cost and risk, or from persons who cross themselves, or take other persons across without charge, in their own boats.

*Rule 16* —The ferry shall ordinarily ply between sunrise and sunset; but the lessee may employ the boats in ferrying passengers across at any time after sunset, provided each boat so employed carries a light, which must be displayed in a conspicuous part of the boat.

*Rule 17* —The District Board may, if necessary, fix the time for the crossing of the mails and dak-runners, and may, as occasion arises, vary such times. He shall in all such cases give notice in writing to the lessee of the time at which the mails are to be ferried over, and it shall thereupon become the duty of the lessee to see that arrangements are specially made for

the crossing of the mails immediately on their arrival at the ferry ghat, and that no delay is allowed to occur in their transit.

*Rule 18.*—The lessee shall provide and keep in proper order, to the satisfaction of the Chairman the landing-stages on both sides of the ferry, and shall move them when necessary according to the rise and fall of the water. He shall also provide proper rest-houses or travellers' sheds on the banks of the ferry as required by the Chairman, and shall make all proper arrangements and provide all suitable accommodation on the ferry boats for passenger and goods traffic.

*Rule 19.*—The lessee shall mark on each boat the number of passengers, and animals and vehicles, and the bulk and weight of other things it is authorized to carry at a single trip.

*Rule 20.*—When any ferry which has been leased for a given period is discontinued under the orders of the Chairman before the expiry of that period, the lessee shall be allowed a deduction in the rent payable for the unexpired portion of the term of the lease. If it be shown to the satisfaction of the District Board that the lessee has suffered any loss, consequent on the discontinuance of the ferry, the District Board may allow him such compensation as they think is deserved.

*Rule 21.*—In the event of the ferry being discontinued before the expiry of the lease, either by order of the Chairman or otherwise, all persons who have

compounded for the tolls for its use shall be entitled to receive a refund calculated as in rule 4, and unless the claims of all such persons have been satisfied by the lessee, the Chairman shall have authority to satisfy the claims out of the deposit made by the lessee under Rule 8.

*Rule 22* —The lessee shall, when required by the Chairman or Magistrate to do so, but not otherwise, furnish all information in his power regarding suspicious persons or classes of persons who may have been, or may come to be, ferried over.

*Rule 23* —The lessee shall be bound to furnish such returns of traffic as may from time to time be called for by the Chairman or Magistrate, and for this purpose he shall keep up a register of traffic in the form to be prescribed by the Chairman.

*Rule 24.*—If the lessee desires to establish communication across the ferry by means of a bridge of any kind he shall first obtain the sanction, in writing, of the District Board, and shall, on obtaining such sanction, carry out any orders which the District Board may make regarding the opening of such bridge for the through passage of vessels and rafts. Such bridge shall on no account obstruct the free passage of the streams.

*Rule 25.*—The Chairman may at any time require the lessee to repair or replace any boat which he considers to be in dangerous state of disrepair, and the lessee shall thereupon be bound to repair or replace it as desired.



*Rule 26.*—Police officers will report at once to the Magistrate and Chairman any instance of mismanagement of a public ferry, the insecurity of the boats, landing-stages, slopes or approaches, and any other defect in the working of the ferry, which may come to their notice.

*Rule 27.*—The ferry boats belonging to any public ferry shall not be plied when the current, wind or state of the weather is such as to render the crossing unsafe, and endanger the lives of the passengers.

*Rule 28.*—A register in the following form, showing the demand and collection on account of rents payable for tolls of public ferries, shall be kept up by the District Board.

*Receipts on account of ferry      , farmed by  
at an annual rent of Rs.*

*[Signature of officer holding sales.]*

Serial Number.	Details of Payment.	Amount.	PAYMENT.					REMARKS.	
			Amount.	Date.	Number of Chalan.	Initials of Magistrate or Vice- Chairman.	Initials of Treasury Officer.		
		Rs.	Rs.						

*Rule 29.*—A quarterly statement shall also be kept showing the demand, collection and arrears up to date on account of rents for public ferries.

*Form of Agreement.*

THE Chairman, District Board of Sarun doth hereby lease to me hereinafter called the lessee, son of resident of mouzah , pergunah thana , district ; and I the said lessee do hereby take the lease of the public ferry across the river , and situated on the road from to at the rent of Rs. upon and under the following terms and conditions viz:—

1. I, the lessee, have deposited with the intent that the Chairman shall hold the same until the determination of the lease, as partial security for the due performance by me of the stipulations herein contained, and for the observance by me of the provisions of the Bengal Ferries Act I (B.C.) of 1885, and the rules framed under it, and may deduct therefrom any rent which may become due, or penalties which may be awarded under sections 23, 24, and 25 of the said Act.

2. I, the lessee, do hereby acknowledge to have received a copy of the rules under section 15 of the Act aforesaid, and to be aware of the provisions of section 10 of the Act, under which I am legally bound to conform to them. I also acknowledge to have received a ferry list of the tolls to be levied at the ferry.

3. The lease to me is to be for \_\_\_\_\_, namely from the \_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_, and during this period I shall be bound to ply the ferry from the \_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_ every year.

4. I hereby agree—

(a) to provide \_\_\_\_\_ boats for the ferry and to keep the boats in proper repair;

(b) to employ a crew of \_\_\_\_\_ men on each boat;

(c) to make at least \_\_\_\_\_ crossings every day; and

(d) to provide and keep in order the landing-stages and the travellers' sheds at either or both banks of the river.

5. I shall not charge or demand tolls for ferrying over:—

(a) Mail, mail carts, dak-runners and Government telegraph messengers on duty.

(b) Commissariat stores, animals and vehicles, when accompanied by a challan from the Commissariat officer.

(c) Military officers, soldiers and their followers.	} when travelling on duty with their <i>boul-fide</i> baggage, horses, palkies or other conveyances.
(d) Police and other public officers & process serving peons.	

(e) Executive officers of the District Board Department when on duty.

(f) Coolies engaged in repairing roads with their tools and instruments.

(g) Persons carrying dead bodies or property sent in by the police.

6. I shall not charge or demand tolls from persons who wade or swim across, or take cattle or other animals or property across at their own cost and risk, or from persons who cross themselves, or take other persons across without charge, in their own boats.

7. I hereby agree to pay the rent in the following instalments:—

	Rs. A. P.	Date.
1 <sup>st</sup>	}	
2 <sup>nd</sup>		
3 <sup>rd</sup>		
4 <sup>th</sup>		

But if at any time before the expiry of the period for which the ferry has been leased to me, I be removed therefrom for any breach of the terms and conditions of the lease, or for any wilful breach of any of the rules under section 15 of the Act, I shall be liable to pay rent up to and including the instalment due next after my removal.

8. If the rates of tolls are reduced during the currency of my lease, or the exemptions from the payment of it are extended, this agreement is to be modified accordingly. I shall be given a fair opportunity of satisfying the Chairman as to the effect of the change, and if the terms proposed by him thereafter are not such as I can reasonably accept, I will according to the law, immediately carry into effect the order reducing the rates of toll, or extending the exemption from payment of it, but will at the same time state

the amount of rent I may be willing to pay under the altered circumstances of the case, should my offer appear to the Chairman to be inadequate, it shall be competent to him to remove me, and place another person in charge of the ferry, and for such time as I remain in charge of the ferry after the issue of the order reducing the rates of tolls or extending the exemption from payment of it, I shall pay rent only at the rate tendered by me.

9. If I make default in payment of the rent for the ferry, or of any penalty which may be lawfully imposed, or if I do not observe and perform the covenants herein contained, it shall be lawful for the District Board to remove me from the charge of the ferry, and to settle the same with some other person. After such removal, I shall not be entitled to any part of the proceeds of the ferry or to levy any toll therefor, and if the rent on reletting the ferry fall short of the amount at which it was leased to me, and the Government thereby incur loss, I shall be held responsible for such difference or loss, the amount of which may be deducted from my deposit. If the deposit does not cover the loss incurred, the rent due from me, and the amount of tolls refunded by the District Board under Rule 21 of the rules under section 15 of the Act, the total amount which is deficient shall be recoverable in the manner set forth in Section 12 of the Act.

10. I will not assign, sublet or part with the possession of the ferry without the previous consent,

in writing, of the Chairman.

11. I shall not claim any compensation on account of roads being closed for repairs, or on account of inundations or the breaking down of bridges.

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## FERRIES.

*Rules under Section 22, Act I (B.C.) of 1885,  
for the District of Sarun.*

*Rule 1.*—All private ferries shall be registered in the office of the District Board of Sarun and particulars under the following heads shall be entered in the application for registration.

- (a) Name of the ferry and names of the villages and thana in which, and the river across which, it is situated.
- (b) The number and description of the boats to be maintained, and the strength of the crew to be employed on each.
- (c) The maximum number of passengers, animals, vehicles, and the bulk or weight of goods to be carried by each boat.
- (d) The period or season during which the ferry is to be plied every year.

*Rule 2.*—Before a private ferry is registered, the Chairman shall satisfy himself that the statements contained in the application are correct.

*Rule 3.*—If the proprietor of any private ferry shall not apply, as required by Rule 1, for its registration

within three months from the publication of these rules, the Chairman may serve upon him a written notice requiring him to furnish the particulars stated in Rule 1, within a stated period of not less than one month; and any proprietor on whom such a notice has been served in respect of any ferry shall not maintain the same, or allow it to be maintained, after the expiry of the period fixed in such notice, unless the particulars required by Rule 1 shall have been furnished to the Chairman as ordered.

*Rule 4.*—The proprietor of every private ferry shall be bound to adhere to the terms of his application, or of any statement furnished by him under Rule 3, and shall not reduce the number of boats or crews to be maintained by him, or allow any of his boats to carry an excess number of passengers, animals, vehicles or weight or bulk of goods.

*Rule 5.*—The proprietor shall mark on each boat the number of passengers, animals and vehicles, and the bulk and weight of other things it is authorized to carry at a single trip.

*Rule 6.*—The ferry shall ordinarily ply between sunrise and sunset, but the proprietor may ply the boats after sunset, provided each boat carries a light, which must be exhibited in a conspicuous part of the boat.

*Rule 7.*—The ferry shall not ply when the current, wind, or state of weather is such as to render the crossing unsafe, or to endanger the lives of the passengers.

*Rule 8.*—The Chairman may direct that any boat used in any private ferry may be examined by such officer as he may depute, and may prohibit the use of such boat if he is satisfied that it is of such a kind, or in such condition, that its use is dangerous to life or property.

*Rule 9.*—The owner of every private ferry shall report without delay, at the police-station within whose jurisdiction the ferry is situated, the occurrence of any accident at the ferry resulting in serious injury or in loss of life.

*Rule 10.*—The Chairman may require the owner of any private ferry to state the name of any person to whom such ferry may be leased, or who may be placed in charge of such ferry.

*Rule 11.*—The person in charge of a private ferry, and all persons employed in working a private ferry boat, shall be responsible that such boat shall not be overladen; and every person having been directed not to enter a fully laden boat, or not to load animals and goods in it, shall be bound to obey such direction.

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## ROADS.

1. Whoever being in possession of, or having control over, any plants, trees, or hedges obstructing, overhanging, or overshadowing any road in such a manner as to render the said road unsafe or inconvenient for passengers, or overhanging any public



drain or any drain which is connected with any public drain, and being required by a notice in writing signed by the Chairman or Vice-Chairman of the District Board to cut down, prune, or trim such plants, trees or hedges shall neglect or omit to comply with such requisition within the period therein prescribed, shall be liable to a fine not exceeding Rs. 10 for each offence.

2. Whoever encroaches upon a road by tethering cattle upon or within reach of the road, or making cattle stalls, threshing floors, chabootras, chullas (*cooking stoves*), planting trees, or erecting fences thereupon, shall be liable to a fine of Rs. 10.

3. Whoever shall make any channel, or convey water by any channel across any public thoroughfare except in such manner as may be prescribed by the Chairman, shall be liable to a fine of Rs. 10.

4. Whoever spreads clothes to dry, or for any purpose, and thereby causes inconvenience to passengers, and vehicles shall be liable to a fine not exceeding Rs. 5.

5. No bricks or wood or other thing shall be placed on any public road, street or highway without the previous permission of the Chairman.

Penalty for infringement shall be a fine not exceeding Rs 10.

6. No person shall cut sods or grass or remove earth or grass from any part of any public road.

Penalty for infringement shall be a fine not exceeding Rs. 10.

7. No person shall drive a bullock cart on any part of a public road except the *likhs*, so long as the latter are in good order.

Penalty for infringement shall be a fine not exceeding Rs. 10.

8. No person shall put or cause to be put on any house or other building any spout or other thing intended for the conveyance or discharge of water which shall be so placed that water discharged therefrom shall be thrown or fall upon any public road or thoroughfare.

Penalty for infringement shall be a fine not exceeding Rs. 5.

9. No person shall construct or place over or by the side of any public drain any bridge, platform, building or structure of any kind except by or with the written permission of the Chairman or Vice-Chairman or in such manner as he shall direct.

Penalty for infringement shall be a fine not exceeding Rs. 20.

10. If an house, wall, or other erection or any part thereof fall upon any highway, or into any public drain, the owner of such house, wall or erection shall remove it after notice within the time prescribed therein.

Penalty for infringement shall be a fine not exceeding Rs. 20.

11. No person shall in any way obstruct or allow to be obstructed any of the lanes, walks, bye-ways or other thoroughfares in any bazar by exposing goods

for sale or accumulating any thing, or in any other way, on any such lane, walk, bye-way or thoroughfare.

Penalty for infringement shall be a fine not exceeding Rs. 10.

12. The person in charge of an elephant or camel shall remove it out of any public road or street whenever any horse is being ridden or driven or is approaching. Elephants in passing over or by a public road are to carry bells; for omissions the owner as well as the person in charge is liable.

Penalty for infringement shall be a fine not exceeding Rs. 20.

13. No person shall fly a kite on any public road in such a manner as to cause inconvenience to passengers.

Penalty, a fine not exceeding Rs. 5.

## INSPECTION BUNGALOWS.

1. Inspection bungalows being necessary to enable District Board Officers including Members and Subordinates to supervise their work they have the first right to occupy bungalows in their own Divisions and Sub-Divisions.

2. Inspection bungalows are also available to all Gazetted officers of Government travelling for *bona-fide* public duty, unless the buildings be occupied as permanent residences by an officer or subordinate of the District Board with due sanction.

3. Of two officers of other departments travelling

on duty, the superior officer is allowed preference.

4. Bungalows may be occupied for seven days without payment of rent; after that time the occupant will be considered a temporary resident, and be liable for rent for the whole time of occupancy.

5. Notice should invariably be sent to the Chairman District Board if an officer finds that his duty obliges him to become a temporary resident, and sanctions must be obtained.

6. Any officer occupying an Inspection bungalow containing more than one main room must vacate one room for the use of a District Board officer on inspection duty, on receiving 24 hours' notice.

7. The following scale has been fixed for payment by all officers for temporary residence in inspection bungalows.

I.	Officers drawing Rs. 500 a month			
	and over, per day	...	1	0 0
II.	Officers drawing Rs. 250 a month			
	and over, per day	...	0	8 0
III.	All officers drawing under			
	Rs. 250 a month, per day		0	4 0

But when these bungalows are occupied as residences by officers or subordinates of the District Board for the period of a month or upwards, such rates will be charged as will cover interest at  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent on the actual or estimated capital cost of the property, in addition to a fair allowance for risks and for the cost of repairs.

8. Inspection bungalows belonging to this

department are not available for non-gazetted officials. Non-official gentlemen travelling may occupy them, if not required by a Government officer, on paying a fee of annas eight per day.

9. Officers and others who may occupy inspection bungalows are required to keep and leave the bungalow clean. If they have not servants of their own or cannot themselves arrange for doing this, they must pay the chowkidar of the bungalow three annas for each day or portion of a day's occupancy and must arrange to keep the bungalow clean and be responsible that it is kept clean.

10. A copy of these rules will be hung up in each bungalow and a book will be kept in which every person occupying the building, shall enter his name and the date of his arrival and departure, and the amount paid.

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## EDUCATION.

1. The Head master of a Board School shall be held responsible for any damage done to the School building, and for the loss of, or damage to any furniture, or any books, maps, and other school apparatus belonging to the school under his charge.

2. Head masters of Board Schools shall not allow the school house to be used for purposes detrimental to the discipline of the school, or the interests of morality.

Penalty for infringement not exceeding Rs. 5.

3. Teachers of Board Schools shall not have any kind of money dealings with their pupils on their private account.

Penalty for infringement not to exceed Rs. 5 in the first instance and dismissal if the offence is repeated.

4. Inspecting officers found guilty of making false entries in their diaries, or false statement about schools visited by them, or payments made or to be made to school masters, with a dishonest intention, shall be subject either to dismissal, or to lesser punishments according to the heinousness of the offence.

5. Inspecting officers shall not accept presents from, or lay themselves under any kind of obligation, to school masters or managers of schools.

Penalty for infringement not to exceed Rs. 20.

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## MEDICAL.

1. No Hospital Assistant of any mofussil dispensary shall receive any present or gratuity from any patient.

Penalty for infringement, fine not exceeding Rs. 20.

2. No Hospital Assistant of any mofussil dispensary shall carry on a private practice in a manner which may interfere with the proper discharge of his official duties.

Penalty for infringement, fine not exceeding Rs. 50.

## POUNDS.

Under Section 5 of the Cattle Trespass Act the following are fixed as the daily rates chargeable for feeding and watering impounded cattle *viz*:—

Elephants . . . . .	Eight annas.
Camel or buffalo . . . . .	Two annas.
Horse, mare, gelding, pony, colt, filly, mule, bull, bullock, cow, or heifer. }	One anna.
Calf, ass or pig . . . . .	Six pies.
Ram, ewe, sheep, lamb, goat, or kid	Three pies.

## MISCELLANEOUS.

The members of the Surn District Board are permitted to draw mileage allowance for each journey at the rate of four annas per mile by road and double second class fare by rail under the provisions of Circular No. 663 dated 10th February 1887.



# ERRATA.

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Preface	...	Last line	...	for <i>opportunate</i> read <i>opportune</i> .
Page 5	...	1st "	...	" <i>were</i> read <i>was</i> .
" 22	...	16th "	...	" <i>Nepolean</i> read <i>Napoleon</i> .



## PREFACE.

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THE duties of a narrator, however humble the theme may be, are so complex and his responsibilities so grave that an apology would not have been out of place had the pretensions of the writer of these lines extended beyond an honest attempt at delineating, in the unadorned language of truth, the curiously grotesque state of affairs in his native Municipality. If the bare fact of Lord Macaulay visiting the place of occurrence at Glencoe, or Victor Hugo spending a whole month on the outskirts of Waterloo could invest their narratives with an air of unquestionable authority the following account, written in the very midst of the events to which it relates, by one, whom a policy of perfect non-interference had hitherto taught to stand aloof and be a simple looker-on, may fairly claim the indulgence of a patient hearing. It is almost impossible for a rational being, endowed as he is with the faculties of feeling, willing and thinking, to hear the cry of oppressed humanity, or see acts of injustice all around him, and be in no way affected by them. The time, it is hoped, is come when, in the language of the Poet, something of the kind attempted in the following pages is more than opportunate—is imperative—and begs publication.

172.A.201.14)

A  
RETROSPECT OF THE THREE YEARS  
OF  
LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT  
IN UTTARPARA.

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CHAPTER I.

CALM BEFORE A STORM.

The early part of 1882 was a remarkably quiet and peaceful period. The litigious and quarrelsome people of Uttarpara were sleeping the sleep of soldiers after the conclusion of a treaty of peace. The heads of the two rival factions, the Neris and Bianchis of Bengal village politics, had for a time been made to forget their differences by a retiring Lieutenant-Governor, and their adherents had had a temporary breathing space allowed them. The leader of one of the parties having died a weaker man had installed himself in his place, but, finding his position rather insecure, had allowed himself to be temporarily placed at the mercy of his rival. The younger generation did not care to notice so sudden a cessation of hostilities; the masses felt a little relief, though unable to account for it; but it was the old people alone who shrugged their shoulders and declared it a mighty boom. Though fraught with

mischief, this brief interregnum may well be described as quite a bit of sunshine, a refreshing oasis of peace and quiet in the dreary desert of party faction.

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## CHAPTER II.

### A TREACHEROUS RAY OF LIGHT

The July of 1882 saw the appointment of a non-official native Chairman in the person of the leader of the weaker of the two factions. The intelligent section of the community at first hailed this concession as a highly desirable step in advance, but they had not waited long before they began to see the cloven foot. Misplaced power began to assume the form of tyranny and persecutions commenced with redoubled vigour. The people stared and gasped at the abuses ; grey-haired ~~sees~~ muttered, "we thought as much"; but young men unable to contain themselves or keep a still tongue in their heads roared out their first "petition of rights," embodying a prayer for the Elective Franchise.

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## CHAPTER III

### FROM BEHIND THE SCENES.

For a whole year and a half the authorities wavered between *yes* and *no*. Meanwhile conservatism had begun to look upon the new movement with an evil eye and as subversive of power. Apprehensions of an overthrow ended in a counter-petition condemning Local

Self-Government. The time, it was declared, had not yet arrived for the application in Uttarpara of the principle of election in the choice of the Commissioners.

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## CHAPTER IV.

### OTHER DARK DEEDS.

Placards, those effective instruments of retaliation that cowards make use of, how thick were they and how prolific! There were blackguarding, declaiming, traducing and what not. And not content with all this, caricatures, anonymous letters written to all the four winds and even the burning in effigy of the advocates of Self-Government were had recourse to. This made many a young man's bread bitter to them and cut the poor petitioners to the quick. Strange to say, a few days after the wind had blown over a grandson of the Chairman laid some of his play-fellows under deep obligations by distributing among them spare copies of the caricatures!

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## CHAPTER V.

### QUICK-SAND.

"The highest" says Goethe, "cannot be spoken of in words." So too are the lowest. You cannot conceive, far less describe, the stratagems and the make-shifts of which baser clay is capable. The depths to which it can descend pass all comprehension. When, therefore, in 1884, an inquiry was held by the authorities for the purpose of ascertaining the feelings and opinions of the

rate-paying public, men were not wanting to make the bare-faced avowal of having signed the petition under compulsion. This and similar other effective dodges took their desired effect, and the authorities were led to report to Government that the people of Uttarpara were not up to the mark. This ray of hope did not last long, and the sand-bank on which the enemies of Self-Government had cast anchor proved treacherous after a while. The passing of Act III. of 1884 saw the extension of Self-Government to Uttarpara. Vive l'Impératrice ! Vive Lord Ripon !

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## CHAPTER VI.

### WON BUT LOST !

We have seen that the petitioners did not altogether draw a blank. The Act enjoined the appointment of four Commissioners and the election of eight, but reserved to the Local Government the power of appointing the Chairman. Uttarpara was thus given a place in the 2nd Schedule of the Act.

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## CHAPTER VII

### MODUS OPERANDI.

The ignorant rate-payers looked at each other and asked, 'What are we going to have?' Young enthusiasts held open-air meetings and essayed to educate the masses to a sense of their rights and privileges. The Chairman's trusted cronies canvassed votes in all directions, solicitous about making a monopoly of Municipal

Government. The palm of dependants were oiled ; some were made to forego their homes and keep away for a time, others were threatened with ejection, nay even ostracism. Some were deluded with promises of remissions, others were given small sums as earnest money. In fine, the manœuvres were such as threw in to shade the heroes of Trafalgar and Waterloo. The great moral difficulty having been tided over with the aid of the doctrine of the end sanctifying the means, the question as to whether those means should be fair or foul was disposed of *per saltum*, without referring to Conscience. As had been expected the *coup de main* answered well, and the General Elections of 1884 returned a pretty strong rank and file in favor of the Chairman. These, re-enforced by the four appointed Commissioners, constituted the entire Board.

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## CHAPTER VIII.

### DIVISION IN THE CAMP.

The following divisions, that had their origin in party faction and have therefore existed from the very formation of the Board, will, it is hoped, materially elucidate the mystery of the unvaried success of the party in power :—

DIVISION 1.	DIVISION 2.	DIVISION 3.
Chairman and eight Commissioners, 7 elected and 1 appointed.	3 Commissioners, 2 Appointed 1 Elected	One appointed Commissioner, neutral so far as party is concerned ; but generally siding with division No. 2 on important questions.

## CHAPTER IX.

## COMPLETE MASTER OF THE SITUATION.

The first meeting of the Commissioners, held on the 3rd day of March 1885, saw the election of a friend of the Chairman's as Vice-Chairman of the Municipality.

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 CHAPTER X.

## A HYGIENIC PROBLEM SOLVED.

A wealthy family, unfortunately opposed to the Chairman's faction, on coming to reside in the immediate neighbourhood of the local Trenching ground applied to the Municipality for its removal, at the same time promising to give away lands for the purpose. The Commissioners (at least the happy knot forming the majority) after due deliberation resolved to plant a few trees along the road to keep off the nuisance. Admirable contrivance ! !

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 CHAPTER XI.

## AN ANOMALY.

On the one hand all the water-spouts projecting on the drain of the Atitbari lane from the house-top of the poor widow of the late Digambur Sadhkhan were broken down on the ostensible plea of keeping the lane from erosion, and that solely because the unfortunate woman happens to be a tenant of the head of the faction opposed to the Chairman. On the other hand not only all the water-spouts projecting on the

Bama Charan Banerji's Street from the two-storeyed house of the late Bama Charan Banerji, who, (peace be to his soul ! ) was a trusted adviser of the Chairman, allowed to be kept in tact, but the road was, only the other day, repaired and provisions made for its protection, all, be it said, at the expense of the Municipality !

"Ah, where then, where shall poverty reside,  
To escape the pressure of contiguous pride"?

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## CHAPTER XII.

### HOW THE RATE-PAYER'S MONEY IS SPENT ?

One Babu Kailas Chandra Mukharji, with a view to prevent the fishes of his pond, in Bama Charan Banerji's Street, from finding their way through the drain that discharges itself into it, applied to the Municipality for permission to buttress up the northern and southern extremities of the western side of his pond. After months and months of waiting and suspense, he erected two buttresses, and barred the two apertures, which he left for the free passage of water, with iron gratings. As to the petition, it was afterwards deposed in Court that it had been disposed of with the mysteriously laconic expression, "No order." And, what was the result ? The gentleman was served with a notice to pull down the buttresses, and, on his non-compliance on the ground of a strict observance of the Act, was dragged to Court and fined for



disobedience of orders. This was not all. The whole amount of law-charges, for the accuracy of which the writer cannot vouch, but which must have been something near Rs. 300, was met from out the hard-earned money of the poor rate-payers. This is Self-Government with a vengeance !

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### CHAPTER XIII.

#### Chêf d' œuvre.

In Mondle Street there are two godowns and a Mill. The godowns harbour bones, the iron jaws of the Mill crush them to dust. The former constitute a Golgotha, the latter is a monstrous blending of the boa-constrictor and the dragon—they all combine to make a Moloch, that demands from rate-payers the sacrifice of Religion, a thing than which there is nothing dearer.

Twelve years before, the lands on which the bony spectre now stands were occupied by rustic homes. The year 1880 saw the completion of the structures, and since then these lifeless brick-and-mortar skeletons of the monster had been confronting the skies and throwing their lonely and tenantless shadows on the still waters of the rivulet, till at an evil hour, in the year 1883, some alien mammon-worshippers infused life into them and set the monstrous mechanism a-going. Bones began to be imported and exposed in large heaps in the open air. The neighbouring people looked with terror and amazement at the sudden starting into life of this deadly

Moloch, and ran first to the Press and afterwards to the town Corporation for rescue ; but, alas the Press heeded them not, and their brethren of the Board, they whom they had elected only a few months ago, satisfied themselves with laughing a bitter laugh at what they called the folly of their constituents. Not long after this, the old high—priest was supplanted by a new one, and, under pretence of extending Part vi of the Municipal Act, the Commissioners, in spite of the outcry raised by suffering humanity, and in spite of the dictates of their reason and conscience stooped to sacrifice the time-honored traditions of their country, and trample on the beliefs of their forefathers by harbouring this leviathan of monstrosity in the heart of a populous part of the town. A license was granted, but, to throw oil on troubled waters, a promise of withdrawing it in case the mill proved a nuisance was held out to the sufferers !

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#### CHAPTER XIV.

##### ENTREMET NOUVELLE.

The philosopher could live in a tub, the poor can live in huts, the rich cannot do without mansions. Tub, hut and mansion represent social scales. The first indicates indifference to bodily wants, the second poverty, the last luxury,—they all combine to prove a necessity. There is, moreover, this difference : The first, being a positive self-infliction, finds favour only

with cynics of Diogenes' stamp ; the second, because falling to the lot of most people, has no temptations to offer ; the last, because enjoyed by a few is not only coveted by many, but becomes an eye-sore. In a street, christened after one of Babu Manahar's servants, one of such big mansions is building. Two out of the three blocks of which the building is made up had been complete at the time the owners went to live in it. The third block is still in course of erection. The Municipality chuckled at the prospect of reaping a plentiful harvest, and forthwith had the house assessed by one wholly unconnected with it. But, on the owner's objecting to the assessment, a Review Committee were appointed to re-assess the house. After one or two sittings, God knows where, the Committee thought it proper to reduce the assessed rates by Rs. 50. The owners thereupon went to Court, and the Members forming the said Committee were obliged to make the avowal of having followed no standard in recommending the remission. The case, however, was dismissed, and Municipal victory was proclaimed by a loud salvo of bombs.

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## CHAPTER XV.

### AN INSTRUMENT OF TORTURE.

The hand, that strikes the blow, does not feel what it is to receive it, or it would be sparing in dealing it. The sword inflicting a wound and the limb receiving it are two different entities. The boys in the Fable, who

pelted stones at the frogs, could not realise the predicament of their unfortunate victims, or they would have desisted from their cruel sport. Every one of these, therefore, has his own excuse to make. But what plausible justification can there be of the persistent efforts on the part of the Municipality to impose fresh burdens on people whose financial position has not been unknown to them? The Commissioners, we mean a majority of them, know, to their own bitter cost, what it is to pay taxes, and yet they did not scruple in the beginning of last year to apply to the Local Government to extend to their Municipality certain provisions of Part VI of the Act. The provisions of Sec. 222 were complied with, and the unwary rate-payers rose one morning to find themselves liable to take out licenses. Objections were forthwith preferred, remonstrances against certain irregularities and even illegalities in the proceedings of the Commissioners, but the Divisional authority, while acknowledging the weight of their arguments, did not think it proper to interfere. The result was a series of law-suits, ending in fines harassing to a few, but death to the many.

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## CHAPTER XVI.

### PECCADILLOS. ;

1. The Construction of drains in a town is a Consummation devoutly to be wished; their construction in certain lucky quarters only is objectionable; their

construction in front of the dwelling houses of few fortunate friends is a Sin.

2. Recusant rate-payers may deserve punishment, but to drag their wives to Court, especially when they belong to the priestly caste, is cruelty curdled into the worst form of Sin.

3. Simple neglect of duty is delinquency, but when it involves the sacrifice of other men's interests it becomes a Sin.

4. He who cannot hear what the world says is physically deaf. He who ~~will~~ not hear what *some* poor men say is morally deaf. Physical deafness, because it is a Providential curse, is a calamity ; moral deafness, because it proceeds from man himself, is a Sin.

## CHAPTER XVII.

### ANALOGIES.

The popular mind has a touch of mercury in it, and like mercury it is susceptible of change. A least breath of wind affects it. The younger section represents the mercury in the column, the older section the mercury in the bulb. The latter expands, the former indicates.

The people resemble a sea. A speck of cloud is enough to ruffle its surface. The whole mass feels the commotion, takes part in it, becomes perturbed, but the surface only indicates its roughness. 'Tis Law keeps

a turbulent people within reasonable bounds ; 'tis the earth cries unto the rough sea : " Thus far shalt thou go, and no further." The sea, when ruffled, moans upon the shore ; the people when offended look up to Law.

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## CHAPTER XVIII.

### SIGNS OF DISCONTENT.

A year and a half of misrule was enough to unsettle the popular mind. The towns-people, unlike men of the *laissez faire* school, grew restless under the incubus. They felt uneasy, groaned, muttered, grumbled, even, at times, shrieked. Persecuted, harassed, exasperated, nay, done to death, they at last rallied round the standard of Unity, upon which they had a month or so before.

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## CHAPTER XIX.

### YOUTH *vs.* AGE.

Unfledged striplings have too much of gun-powder in their composition. Instead of looking before leaping they jump at a thing unmindful of consequences. This gun-powder element originates in school, continues in College, and disappears at the Desk, the Bench, and the Bar. In fact, it flies off in smoke as soon as the battle of life begins in earnest. Discrimination dawns at 20, and, at 25, settles down into prudence. Prudence, when sublimated becomes Wisdom. This rule does not however, apply to genius and precocity. Chatterton and Akbar were prodigies, and are therefore exceptions.