

# ALLEN'S INDIAN MAIL

AND

## OFFICIAL GAZETTE.

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### CONTENTS.

	PAGE		PAGE
SUMMARY AND REVIEW ... ..	507	Staff Corps ... ..	518
Casualties, &c. ... ..	509	MADRAS—Civil, Military, &c. ...	520
ORIGINAL ARTICLES:—		BOMBAY—Civil, Military, &c. ...	521
India at the International Exhibition ... ..	509	WAR OFFICE ... ..	521
SPIRIT OF THE INDIAN PRESS:—		BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS	522
Bonus Compensation ... ..	511	HOME:—	
The Physical Sciences ... ..	511	India as a Field of Enterprise for the Educated and Middle Classes ... ..	523
The Indian Museum ... ..	511	Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company ... ..	523
BENGAL:—		The Committee on Indian Finance ... ..	523
Station Talk ... ..	512	Miscellaneous ... ..	524
Miscellaneous ... ..	513	Imperial Parliament ... ..	525
Shipping and Commercial ... ..	514	Arrivals, &c., reported at the India Office ... ..	526
MADRAS:—		Births, Marriages, and Deaths ...	526
Miscellaneous ... ..	515	Shipping ... ..	526
Shipping and Commercial ... ..	515	Mails to India and Rates of Postage	527
BOMBAY:—		STOCKS AND SECURITIES ... ..	527
Miscellaneous ... ..	516	ADVERTISEMENTS ... ..	528
Shipping and Commercial ... ..	516		
OFFICIAL GAZETTE:—			
BENGAL—Civil, Military, &c. ...	517		
GOVERNMENT GENERAL ORDERS:—			
Military Furlough Rules—Appeal of Lieut. Col. Roberts ... ..	518		

### Summary and Review.

OUR latest advices by the Overland Mail are—from Bombay, May 6; Agra, May 4; Madras, May 4; Calcutta, May 3.

INDIA herself offers nothing of very salient interest by this mail. Lord Mayo's sport is a well-worn theme already, and no accident befel any of his party in the Dhoon on their way up to Simlah. The tigers appear to have had no better chance of escape from their well-armed hunters than the Paris insurgents have had from the troops of M. Thiers. Lord Mayo reached Simlah on the 5th May. A pleasing diversion from administrative work will be open to him in the archery meetings which Lady Napier and her friends have arranged to hold, in revival of a pastime little known to Simlah since the days of Sir W. Gomm. The latest news of Lord Napier reports him visiting Umballa on the 1st, after a careful inspection of the troops and stations at Agra and Delhi.

BOMBAY is once more talking about the late Gaikwar of Baroda. There is said to be "little doubt that a legitimate descendant of the late Khundirao Maharajah will be forthcoming in due time." In other words the late Gaikwar's widow is once more declared to be pregnant, and the critical moment for ascertaining the truth on this point is supposed to be near at hand. In view of a prospect so disappointing for Prince Malharao, the Hon. Mr. Tucker, accompanied by Mr. Secretary Wedderburn, has been sent to Baroda by the Governor of Bombay to wait upon events, and meanwhile to inquire into certain matters of administrative detail. He was to ask among other things why a system of espionage had been set up over the Post-office. Major Coles, Police Superintendent of Tanna, has also started with his wife for Baroda in order to "provide for the lady's comfort and safety." It is curious that the late Gaikwar should have been married so many years and that no child was born to him during his own lifetime.

MR. RAYMOND WEST's appointment to act on the High Court of Bombay during Mr. Justice Lloyd's absence has been greeted with general approval on the Bombay side. Mr. Rogers is likely to act for the Hon. Mr. Mansfield as member of the Bombay Executive Council. Sir George Couper will no doubt

take General Barrow's place at Lucknow; the latter officer having so far recovered as to be ready for his convalescent trip to Simlah as soon as the weather would allow. It is asserted that the first head of the new Agricultural Department will be Mr. Allan Hume, C.B., and that Mr. Geoghegan, of the Home Department, will become his Under-Secretary. What, then, is to become of Mr. Rivett-Carnac?

IF India is quiet, the din of war is reverberating on her frontier among the Khyber hills. The whole of the Khyberies, women and all, seem to have risen in fierce revolt from Shere Ali Khan. They have already forced him to exchange some of their own party imprisoned in Kabul for his brave old general, Meer Akhor, Governor of Jellalabad, who, ill supported by his Kabul contingent, had fallen into their hands after a desperate defence, in which sixteen of the enemy are said to have perished under his single sword. The hill tribes appear to have been thus far wholly successful, in spite of the help refused them by our old enemy but present ally, the Akhoond of Swat. In their fights with the Ameer's forces many women took part and one at least was found among the slain. Of the cause of this uprising we know nothing. That Russian intrigue has done aught to instigate it is a position which the Russophobists have already as a matter of course taken up.

THE telegraph brings news from Kabul down to the 20th May. At that date Herat was still holding out against Yakob Khan, and its Governor declared himself confident of his power to hold on successfully against all attacks. According to the Indian papers Yakob Khan has been striking up an alliance with his old opponent and cousin, Abdurrahman Khan. In this attack upon Herat it is a matter of course that the hand of Russia should be visible to those who believe in the Russian bogey. But there is no need to look so far North for the cause of a quarrel in Afghanistan. In a country where everybody lives in a state of smouldering war with his neighbours, we should rather wonder at any long continuance of general peace.

INFORMATION has been received by telegram from Bombay that the first section of the Wudwan Extension of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company's line—viz., from Sabar-muttee to Sanund, a distance of fifteen and a-half miles, was opened for public traffic on the 24th inst. The first sod was turned on the 3rd November last. This Extension leads into fruitful cotton districts, and will be a valuable feeder to the main line. A further opening to Verumgaum (twenty-three miles) is expected at the end of this year, and the remainder to Wudwan (thirty-nine miles) should be ready for opening in twelve months.

THE Civil Engineers in the Indian Public Works Department have lately memorialised the Secretary of State on the subject of their leave and pension rules. They complain that the civil officers of their department are unfairly treated in these respects by comparison with their military comrades, and that no distinction is made between themselves and the native clerks and lower officials in the Uncovenanted Services. The rules which now press so hard on them were framed for the requirements of native officials who work in their own country, in a climate to which they are accustomed, and who have fewer expenses than Englishmen of the same class. They maintain that exposure to a tropical climate is as much their lot as that of the military officers in their department, and is more common among them

## Miscellaneous.

**CIVIL.**—Mr. G. Hart will act as Private Secretary to Sir Richard Temple on the return of that eminent financier from Srinuggur.

**MEDICAL.**—The Station of Punchmuree is to be included in the Allahabad circle of medical superintendence.

**ECCLESIASTICAL.**—The Rev. Mr. Grant, of the General Assembly's Institution at Calcutta, is compelled to leave the country at once, under medical advice. His health has quite broken down.

**A NEW MAGAZINE.**—The Rev. John Fordyce has undertaken the editorship of a monthly magazine at Simla, to be called "Mountain Echoes." The first number was to appear on the 15th April.

**THE RAJAH OF NABHA.**—The *Mofussilite* states that his Highness the Rajah of Nabha has had a relapse, and is again dangerously ill.

**DEATH OF LEHNA SINGH.**—The death of Sirdar Lehna Singh, Nazim of Rajpura, in the territories of his highness the Maharajah of Puttiala, is announced.

**A BOLD BENGALIER.**—A Bengalee reformer, named Baboo Sasi Perahad Banerjee, has left Calcutta for a visit to England with his wife.

**LORD NAPIER OF MAGDALA** arrived at Umballa on Monday, May 1, and inspected the whole of the troops on the brigade parade-ground, expressing himself gratified with their smart appearance and excellent discipline.

**GENERAL BARROW.**—The Chief Commissioner of Oudh was to have left Lucknow for Simla on Wednesday, May 3. The rich men of Lucknow are still distributing large sums in money and food to the poor of the city, in gratitude for the recovery of General Barrow.

**THE NEW DEPARTMENT.**—Mr. Allan Hume, C.B., will be the first head of the new Agricultural Department. It is now probable also that Mr. Geoghegan, Under Secretary, will be detached from that department to strengthen the Agricultural.

**NANCONRY.**—The Governor-General in Council observes that Nanconry is the well-known and long-used name of the harbour, and accordingly desires that it should be adopted as the name of the new Settlement at the Nicobars.

**DEATH OF CAPTAIN NUGENT.**—We regret to learn from the *Pioneer* of the death at Murree of Captain W. S. Nugent, Adjutant 2nd Regiment Punjab Infantry Frontier Force. This officer died of consumption after a short illness. The disease was originally engendered at Kohat, brought on by several successive attacks of the deadly fever for which that station and Peshawur are so unfortunately famous.

**POLYGAMY.**—At the last meeting of the Sanatana Rakshini Sabha in Calcutta, the question of polygamy was warmly discussed by those present. The reformers are said to have had the best of the argument, and the president admitted the necessity of conforming to the times. The question is to be taken up again at the June meeting of this Society, which is said to be a conservative one.

**MILITARY ACCOUNTS.**—The Bengal Military Accountant's-office has, an experimental measure (we learn from the *Englishman*) been attached to that of the Controller of Military Accounts. Captain Perreau, ordered down from Allahabad, is in charge of the new branch office. If the plan succeeds, the Military Accountant's offices at Bombay and Madras will be placed upon a similar footing. The monthly savinu effected is equivalent to the difference between Rs. 1,200 and Rs. 600, staff.

**NEWS FROM CABUL.**—Yakoob Khan little more than a week ago was reported utterly beaten; a few days later he had attacked and captured Fort Ghorian, and the feeling of Herat, always strongly in his favour, was sufficiently tempting to cause him once more to try the wheel of fortune.—Two Europeans who have become Mahomedans arrived recently at Candahar, and have been sent on to Cabul, where it is supposed the Ameer will give them service. They profess to have had much experience in drilling troops, casting guns, and other service of a like character.—*Friend of India.*

**SPORT IN LOWER BENGAL.**—A correspondent of the *Indian Daily News*, writing from Purneah, records a splendid hunting tour in the Coosy desert. Equally good sport was met with last year in the same jungles. Here is the bag:—"One rhinoceros, nine tigers, and a cub, two buffaloes, seventy-six deer, forty-two pigs, fourteen partridges, five floricans, ten quails, one snipe, and one hare." The rhinoceros gave a grand chase and afforded great fun. It would have been shot last year but for imprudent firing at buffaloes driving it away. It was found in the same cover.

**FINANCIAL.**—It is understood that when the few gentlemen (only one or two) who have already been encouraged to accept nominations to the Financial Department shall have been absorbed by the occurrence of vacancies, further admissions to the department are likely to be determined by a modified form of competitive examination in India. Hitherto candidates have been appointed only by the Financial Member or the Governor General.—At the suggestion of the Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces, the Government of India has authorised the abolition of circle treasuries and the re-establishment of district treasuries in the provinces.

**SIR W. MUTR.**—The Lieutenant-Governor of the N. W. P. was to leave Allahabad on the 15th April, proceeding *via* Etah, Badli, and Bareilly to Nynee Tal, where his Honour would probably arrive on the evening of the 20th.

**A MISTAKE CORRECTED.**—We have been requested to correct a mistake into which the *Indian Daily News* has fallen, which mistake was reproduced in our last Overland Summary, in stating that the officer of the Financial Department at Lahore, who has recently been removed from his situation for certain irregularities, was "one of those who lately came out to this country." Only three officers can answer the description of having "lately come out to this country"—Mr. E. Gay, Deputy Comptroller-General, Calcutta; Mr. E. R. H., Officiating Deputy Accountant-General, British Burnah; and Mr. Tudor Trevor, Examiner of Claims, Bombay. Now all of these, we are happy to say, are in the full enjoyment of their substantive appointments, and are justly regarded as valuable officers of the important department to which they belong.—*Times of India.*

**THE NAWAB OF BENGAL.**—At last we seem to be at the end of the Nawab Nazim of Bengal's claims, or at least of the possibility of making them good. The Duke of Argyll, after reading a close and telling despatch from the Government of India, finds that nothing stated by the Nawab is weighty enough to overturn the decision of 1864. All that the Nawab gains is that the loan of three lakhs of rupees, promised to him by the Duke in 1869, shall be made an absolute payment out of the Deposit Fund of the Nizamut, instead of a loan. There is no doubt whatever that in the long list of grievances preferred by the Nawab, and on his behalf, some were very real, but time levels even grievances, and the Nawab, defeated himself, may take comfort that after his death his family will be all right, even where he has failed. That ought to compensate for everything. The despatch of the Government of India is very decided and forcible, and the Duke's summing up of the whole reads exceedingly like the "finis" of a story.—*Friend of India.*

**MILITARY.**—General Fraser Tytler, C.B., was to assume command of the Allahabad Division on Thursday, May 4.—The titles of Chief Inspector and District Inspectors of Musketry are about, says the *Pioneer*, to be abolished. In their stead the officer holding the former appointment will be styled Assistant Adjutant General at Head Quarters, while the old District Inspectors will receive the prefix of Deputy Assistant Adjutant General of the Divisions to which they may be attached. "This is one of the great pieces of military reform which are being initiated during the present season of alarm. No real change will be involved; and as the rose by any other name is supposed to smell as sweet, we may reasonably hope that the efficiency of this branch of the staff will not be seriously impaired by this stupendous innovation." The good service pension rendered disposable by the death of Major-General Sir H. Durand was, on the recommendation of the Government of India, conferred by the Home Government on Major-General Broome, who died a few weeks ago on the passage to England.

**INDIGENOUS JOINT STOCK ENTERPRISE.**—The *Indian Daily News* tells an anecdote illustrating the native idea of joint-stock companies. A cunning native, it appears, started a joint-stock company to trade in rice. He induced the people to believe that if they paid their shares to an amount sufficient to cover the expenses of purchasing rice from the eastern districts they could obtain their daily supplies free of cost. At the end of each year, when the accounts are made up and the profits ascertained, the same would be divided among them. "I got my idea," said the native, "from the *shikhs*. The Great Eastern Hotel," said he, "has a very large number of shareholders, and they got all they wanted from the hotel without paying for it. Each shareholder was provided with a ticket, and he had only to show the ticket to get all that he wanted." "Capital idea that," said the shareholders, and each paid Rs. 10 as his first call. The great joint-stock company came into life, a large godown was stocked with rice, but as soon as the stock was eaten the company went into liquidation. The projector soon after disappeared. The shareholders now accuse the directors of having eaten too much.

**THE VICEROY AND HIS SHIKAR.**—The Governor-General left Moondia Ghat for Pillibheet on the morning of the 26th April. He will inspect the head works of the protected canal *en route*. The sport has been very good, including seventeen tigers, besides leopards, sambar, and gonds innumerable. On the 24th a particularly successful drive resulted in four tigers falling in about three minutes within the cordon which had been drawn round them. "A more picturesque sight could not be conceived than was afforded by the long lines of elephants advancing from all sides, throwing out skirmishers and flankers, now sloping from some impassable quagmire, now stopping to form line, now driven back in parts by some fierce rush of the forest kings, a rolling fire ever bursting out from some position or other of the storming party; the ivy-green grass, nine feet high, furrowed every second by the wild rush of tigers seeking to escape—all this in a deep forest glade, once the course of an ancient mighty river with rounded pebbles scattered beneath in the grass; the setting sun tinging all with brilliant colours, and the mighty Himalayas, rosy red, grandly looming over the trees upon the tumult and slaughter beneath." We have only time to add that on this occasion Dr. Fayer's professional science exhibited itself in the way his bullets sought out mortal