

wealth, and prosperity. Thereafter cigarettes and hookahs were again in requisition, with the addition of pan, or betel-leaf, concocted in the usual way. The guests then sent a message to their host, craving his permission to take their departure. This was granted by Col. Yate personally coming to them and separately bidding each officer good-bye, with the expression of his happiness that all of them had enjoyed themselves so thoroughly, the guests thanking him in response.

SIR LEPEL GRIFFIN AND THE NEW FRONTIER PROVINCE.

RETIREMENT and tranquillity do not always appear to exercise a mellowing influence upon the controversial tendencies of exalted officials, says the *Times of India* of April 20. Sir Lepel Griffin's criticism of the new frontier province, in the April issue of the *Empire Review*, can hardly be regarded as gentle. He pointedly suggests that Lord Curzon's "remarkable memorandum" is characterised by "a personal animus against the Punjab Government." To make such a statement as this is to introduce into the discussion an element which might very well have been excluded. The Viceregal proposals have been examined with ample candour in this country; but no one, so far as we are aware, has hitherto dreamed of suggesting that "personal animus" coloured Lord Curzon's views upon frontier policy. However widely opinions may have differed upon Lord Curzon's administration, it has never occurred even to his severest critics on this side of Suez to hint that he examined important questions otherwise than in a sincere and severely dispassionate spirit; and it is unfortunate that so eminent an authority as Sir Lepel Griffin should have brought the somewhat silly charge of a personal motive against him. This is not the first occasion upon which, on his own showing, Sir Lepel Griffin has been induced by a feeling of loyalty to the Punjab Government to take up an untenable position in respect to Viceregal policy. He confesses that when in 1876 Lord Lytton arrived in India, and initiated his frontier policy by summoning the Commissioner of Peshawar without communicating with the Punjab Government, he, as Chief Secretary, prepared to do battle. "We at once recognised," he said, "that so unprecedented an official affront must have been deliberate, and that we must be prepared to defend our position." The point of view from which the Punjab Government surveyed the question was significant. "Although," says Sir Lepel Griffin, "we were compelled in honour to defend our inherited powers and position, there was immense force in Lord Lytton's contention." That contention was, of course, that the control of the frontier districts should be taken away from the Punjab Government; and we can discern nothing heroic or wise in Sir Lepel Griffin's assumption that his Government was bound to cling to powers which he admits it was no longer advisable they should hold. Something of the same unreasonable spirit marks his acid comments upon Lord Curzon's present proposals. He acknowledges that the time has come when a separate frontier administration is necessary and inevitable, but he cannot resist the temptation to assail the instrument of the reform. Perhaps Lord Curzon's despatch treats the Punjab Government a little cavalierly, and perhaps it says some things which are open to refutation. But in Sir Lepel Griffin the Punjab Government has found a champion whose admirable loyalty is in excess of his discretion. His statement of the case for the Punjab is neither ample nor entirely convincing. It is remarkable for its omissions. For instance, the name of Sir Richard Udny does not once occur in his paper.

THE FRONTIERS.

THE Malakhs killed a Powindah caravan between Hajuri Kach and Nili Kach on April 8, killing one and wounding two Powindahs.

The forest who killed Capt. Johnstone, Indian Medical Service, at Loralai has succumbed to a prolonged attack of pneumonia, which termination of his life is believed to have produced a greater effect on the people of Beloochistan than if he had been executed, he thereby being deemed cursed of God. A mullah, his relations and fellow tribesmen, who were proved to have instigated or harboured the murderer, or to have had knowledge of his evil intention, have, on trial by their own Jirga, been sentenced to terms of imprisonment, confiscation of arms, and fines. The village to which the murderer belonged has been completely charmed, and a collective fine of thousands of rupees levied on his tribe, the greater portion of which will be paid to the late Capt. Johnstone's nearest relation, who is believed to be his mother.

Col. Yate, since he assumed the office of Agent to the Governor-General, has introduced a vigorous and yet conciliatory policy into the general administration, says an Indian paper, though his ideas of economising by the curtailment of expenditure in the public departments, especially in establishments and as regards the reduction of the very high wages now paid to artisans, labourers, and domestic servants, are viewed with disfavour, and opposed by the latter, because of certain vested interests which will suffer therefrom. He is recognised, however, as a strong and sympathetic ruler, freely accessible to all classes and communities, and open to suggestions for their welfare and benefit, and most anxious to be kept informed of the popular sentiment in all important matters.

The Quetta-Seistan trade returns for the 10 months ended on Jan. 31 total 12,24,000 rs., as against 12,15,000 rs. for the whole year 1899-1900. The trade in February and March has been brisk, so the figures for the year are likely to be largely in excess of those of the previous year.

THE VICEROY'S SHOOTING TOUR.

END OF THE TOUR.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE VICEROY and party crossed the river on Friday, April 12. Again no tiger was found, but general shooting was excellent.

No tiger was found on Saturday. The Viceroy, accompanied by Cols. Pears, Baring, and Fenn, proceeded to a camp 16 miles off on Sunday, news of a rhinoceros, a wild buffalo, and a tiger having arrived.

The Viceroy and party had a long day out on Monday. One rhinoceros was found, and gave the Viceroy a difficult shot. After several hours' pursuit it got away. It transpired afterwards that the rhinoceros passed quite close to camp. Later in the afternoon one tiger was bagged.

His Excellency and party on Wednesday, April 17, visited some heavy grass jungle, and three rhinoceros were found. Lord Curzon killed one, and the others, scattering the line of elephants, escaped. One tigress was also bagged.

The camp broke up on Thursday, the party riding 20 miles to Forbesganj. The bag totals 12 tigers, one rhinoceros, and one leopard. The arrangements made by Col. Pears, the resident in Nepal, and Col. Hurck Jung, representing the Nepal Durbar, were perfect, and the shoot was a most enjoyable one. Great credit is due to Col. Pit Bahadur for the untiring way in which he managed the different beats.

THE BOER PRISONERS IN INDIA.

THE Simla correspondent of the *Times* telegraphed on April 30:—

The statements made regarding the cruelty of sending Boer prisoners to Ahmednagar have caused extreme surprise. The station has always been a favourite one with British troops, being 2,700 feet above sea level. So far from its being an arid desert, 2,500,000 acres out of 4,250,000 are arable assessed land, and there is an annual rainfall of 26 inches. The station was undoubtedly unhealthy in 1898-99, but in the preceding 10 years the average admissions of British troops to hospital were lower than in hill stations, such as Quetta, Ranikhet, and Dalhousie, and much lower than in the big cantonments in the plains, such as Rawul Pindi, Cawnpore, Meerut, and Peshawur. Drought in 1899 prejudicially affected the water supply of Ahmednagar, but material sanitary improvements have since been carried out, and a whole British regiment is stationed there, so the Boers can scarcely complain of hardship in being sent to such a cantonment.

MADRAS, May 1 (*Times*).—The Boer prisoners for Bellary arrived on board the *Koslin Castle* last night, five days before they were expected. They will be landed and sent by train to Bellary to-morrow.

The papers received by the present mail say:—The Boer camps in Ahmednagar, Trichinopoly, and Bellary are to be provided with electric lights.

It has been definitely decided to send 1,000 Boers to Ahmednagar. Government have sanctioned a reward of 50 rs. to any person capturing an escaped Boer prisoner.

THE PLAGUE. TELEGRAMS.

THE following telegram from the Officer Administering the Government of Mauritius has been received at the Colonial Office:—

"For week ended April 25 no fresh cases of plague; two deaths."

MAIL NEWS.

(From the *Times of India*, April 20.)

There has been a marked decrease in the deaths from plague during the past week, the official return showing 8,429, as against 11,606 in the previous seven days. The principal decrease has occurred in Bengal, where the figures dropped from 7,881 to 4,735, and those for Calcutta from 859 to 548. On the other hand, the Bombay Presidency, Kurrachee City, the Punjab, and the North-West Provinces all show a slight increase, while 25 cases have been reported in Cashmere during the past fortnight.

CALCUTTA.

The total mortality in Calcutta on Monday was 124, against a quinquennial average of 94. There were 56 plague cases and 57 deaths therefrom on the same day.

Extraordinary precautions are being taken to prevent the plague spreading to the Fort. A medical man is stationed at each gate, and no native is allowed to pass into the Fort without submitting to a medical examination.

The total mortality in Calcutta on April 17 was 166, against a quinquennial average of 94. Plague returns for that day showed 60 fresh cases and 69 deaths.

CALCUTTA, April 19.—The Calcutta mortality is now almost normal, the figures for Thursday being 98, against a quinquennial average of 94. Plague returns for that day showed 41 fresh cases and 44 deaths.

KURRACHEE.

Wednesday's plague returns for Kurrachee record 38 fresh cases and 30 deaths, the total mortality being 50.

Thirty-nine cases and 42 deaths from plague were recorded on Thursday in Kurrachee, the mortality from all causes being 55.

Kurrachee plague returns for April 19 show 30 fresh cases and 29 deaths, the total mortality being 39.

KOLAR GOLD FIELDS.

There were 28 attacks and 25 deaths from plague last week, the totals since the second outbreak being 1,809 seizures and 1,406 deaths.