

THE COCONADA POST OFFICE.—The Engineer of the 1st Division has been directed, in communication with the Postal authorities, to report definitively what arrangements are proposed for the accommodation of the Post Office at Coconada, and submit the requisite plans and estimates. It is observed by Government from the letter from the Collector of the Godavery District, dated 21st August 1871, that by adopting the new site proposed for the Telegraph Office at Coconada, and since approved of by Government, "it would allow of a building for the Postmaster to live in being built on the same ground, and thus save the cost of a new Post Office, as the present building would then suffice for office accommodation."

HOMeward BOND.—The P. and O. Steamer *China*, from Calcutta, arrived in the roads yesterday evening with the following passengers:—

- For Madras.—Dr. Porter, Miss B. Gardiner, Dr. Murray, and three native man servants, Mrs. Atkins and one native.
 - For Galle.—Mr. A. Capell, and two native man servants, Messrs. G. S. Park, and C. H. Tawney.
 - For Bombay.—Mr. T. C. Anstey.
 - For Aden.—Allan Abdool.
 - For Brindisi.—Mrs. Burns, infant and ayah.
 - For Southampton.—Dr. and Miss Macdonald, Mr. Daniell, Col. Stubbs and Mrs. Mitchell.
- The *China* left at noon this-day for Galle, Aden, and Suez, with the following passengers from Madras:—
- To Southampton.—Major W. H. and Mrs. Carleton.
 - To Brindisi.—Dr. Colvin Smith.
 - To Singapore.—Mr. Joseph Mayhew.
 - To Galle.—Sir P. E. Woodhouse, and native servant, Hon'ble Mr. Fortescue, and Mr. A. S. Andree.
 - To Southampton.—Capt. and Mrs. D. Mourro, one child and two infants—embarking at Galle.

A RHINOCEROS HUNT IN THE PEOPLE'S PARK.

(By a Correspondent.)

Stealing a march on the just awakening sun, I was early, yesterday, at the spot where, after a weary day and night's perilous labour, the rhinoceros was secured to a large tree with a two inch cable rope noose round his neck. At this time of the morning he seemed content to wear his tether, and was quietly grazing on the dew moistened grass, but as the day brightened and exposed danger unseen before, he commenced letting every one know he disputed the strength of the rope that bound him. A little after six, Mr. Loch, Colonel Napier Campbell, Major Bowen, and others were on the spot, and commenced attempting to secure the huge beast more effectually. They at first attempted to put another noose round his neck. For this they got a man up the tree to which the animal was tied and threw up a rope to him, which was formed into a noose, and quietly let down; and it was expected that rhino had nothing else to do, but put his head into it. But he seemed to have as much an aversion to a noose as a higher order of beings have, and he steadily disappointed all hopes of success by that mode. It was then decided that loose nooses should be thrown on the ground all about him, and the moment he put his foot into them, a large number of men who were ready were to secure his leg, and tie it to another tree. During these preparations, he seemed to have had a suspicion that those around him were not working for his benefit, and he displayed an animation not very raising either to the safety of those in the or to the rope by which he was held. Many attempts and more blunders, the were got within length of his tether, and all waited the result, with intense anxiety. The careless brute at last did put his fore foot into one of the nooses; and was in a minute secured by a two inch cable rope to an adjoining tree. A few minutes after this, one of his hind legs was also secured, but by a thinner cord. He now seemed to appreciate the full extent of his danger, and commenced plunging, and rearing and tossing his great head about (a sign that he was angry). The travail of the great beast under his tribulation of cords, was a sight that gave as much pleasure as fear. After many abortive efforts to release himself, he grew calmer, and seemed to be making up his mind for a final effort. In a storm of rage that followed the calm, he made a desperate plunge, and snapped all that held him as if they were three green boughs, and trotted off to a pond of water that lay in unbroken sheen close by, in which save his ears and nostril all were hid. In here, a noose was again tried, and the pluck displayed by Colonel Campbell, was the object of admiration of all those who were present, and deserved success, but had it not. Suddenly the huge beast seemed determined to put a stop to the attempts of his tiny tormentors to capture him, and charged his assailants, and had the run been a little longer one, there was very little doubt as to the result of it to Col. Campbell, who had the infuriated beast, only a few yards snorting behind him. The friendly heights of the bear's quondam den offered just in time a security to Col. Campbell and many others. Seeming to think he was incapable of the ascent (which he was not) the rhinoceros trotted off towards the "silvery Cocoom" into which he fully wallowed, and across which he have gone to see what pastures lay beyond; and he not been stopped by the hootings, yellings and stones of the crowd, who were some thousands strong, and who were gathered on the heights of the opposite bank close by the to-be Terminus. Seeing more trouble than pleasure before him, he quietly returned, to the Park bank of the stream, and got into that part of the Park "where many a righteous moslem sleeps," and unconcerned of the bristling dangers around him began to nip the grass and eat. Many were the propositions, made, of which it boots not now to tell, but it was at last decided that four elephants were to be let loose on the refractory monster to capture him. Accordingly, four elephants were brought into the Park and, after doffing all superfluous trappings, were invested with ropes and chains that were to tie up effectually the object of next morning's anxieties. Colonel Campbell, who by this time seemed to have got into the spirit of the sport, got on top one of the elephants. They now started, and were steadily marching all abreast on the Rhinoceros, which lay partially hid about two hundred yards ahead. Their advance at first seemed a matter of indifference to the rhinoceros. But as the distance lessened and a combat seemed inevitable the rhinoceros was not slow to commence the action. He made a furious charge, when he was approached about thirty yards, and so formidable did he look, that the elephants, using their natural sagacity, thought valour sometimes was prudence and broke away pursued by their intended captive. The Rhinoceros overtook one and charging him, brought him with a shrill cry to the ground. The monstrous combatants now were hid by intervening trees from sight, but the frequent cries of the elephant told it was being worsted, when the elephant on which Col. Campbell was mounted now came to the rescue, and at first seemed to gain an advantage, for he almost brought his antagonist to the ground, catching him in his side, but by a tremendous effort the rhinoceros released himself, and in turn charged Col. Campbell's elephant, and such was the shock that he (the elephant) was *hors de combat*, and with a shrill cry of pain and fear broke away, the keeper and Colonel Campbell, who still kept their seats, could not stop him, till he was out of sight. The scene was short and terrific. The shrill trumpet of the elephant, and the deep snort of the rhinoceros rending the morning air by turns. The fury of the gigantic combatants, who seemed to know they met as deadly foes, the beholder into the depths of some dense forest, where such sounds and encounters disturb its solemn tranquillity. The rhinoceros next content with having routed its antagonists, made a second charge, on seeing them halted afar off, and it just gave them time to clear the Park gates, when it was within seventy yards behind. It was very fortunate it did not charge through the gates, and it might have done so with the greatest ease. After this there was a lull, and both the pursuers and pursued seemed exhausted. The pursuit was however commenced again, and continued till about half past one, when even the rhinoceros fell a victim to fatigue. He was again captured by a noose, and after a little excitement and trouble secured to a tree, where he was bound with chains and hemp cords of a tremendous calibre. He made a few efforts to release himself but, perhaps, finding he had no more strength left in him, yielded with a good grace, and quietly commenced eating the sugar-canes and hay that were thrown to him. He was now fenced round with the water pipes that lay scattered about the

place, behind which a strong fence five feet high was raised, and he is now kept there. Looking at him as he stands, one can scarcely recognize, in the quiet, and apparently unexcitable monster before him, the infuriated and successful antagonist of men and elephants. Last Friday was perhaps a day during which was enacted one of the most exciting, and amusing events that has occurred in Madras.

This Afternoon's Hawk.

We learn by telegram that the Calcutta Bank has suspended payment. It is believed that depositors will receive in full, but that shareholders will suffer a certain, though not excessive, loss.—*Pioneer.*

Shaik Phaku, the *punkah-wallah* who struck down the murderer of the late Chief Justice Norman, has been rewarded with Rs. 300 raised by public subscription; and a present of Rs. 50 from Mrs. Norman.—*Id.*

The decrease (187 per cent) in the Revenue of the Registration Department, N. W. P., being fairly attributable to the improvement in agricultural prospects during the earlier months of the year 1870-71, is perhaps hardly a matter for regret. The gross receipts for 1870-71 amounted to Rs. 2,89,000—the exact figure at which the Accountant General's Department had estimated it.—*Id.*

Among the passengers by the *Columbian*, which arrived at Bombay on Sunday last, we notice the names of Colonel Stanuus, Colonel Cracroft, and Professor Medicott. The same steamer also brings the members of the Seistan boundary commission—General Sir F. J. Goldsmid, C. B., K. C. S. I., the chief, with Major C. B. Smith and Mr. Thomas his assistant. Colonel F. E. Pollock, C. S. I.; who has been ordered out from furlough on the same special duty, proceeds in the first instance, we believe, to Calcutta for instructions, and will then probably make his way via Afghanistan to join his colleagues at the scene of inquiry. With the Home Foreign Office and Persia pulling very much one way, Lord Mayo exercises a sound discretion in seeing the Amer fairly through the matter, for such, we presume, is a chief intention in Colonel Pollock's appointment.—*Id.*

We shall probably be thought to have committed a great mistake in applying the word 'session' to the meeting of the Governor-General's Council in Calcutta, now about to take place, as it will be remembered that Lord Mayo took exception to the term being used in one of the debates in the early part of this year, on the grounds that the Council was *en permanence*, and carried about with it the power to make laws wherever it happened to be assembled. That this is legally correct, we do not dispute, but are still prepared to maintain that practically our term was correctly applied, and we are inclined to think that the time is not far distant when it will be so recognised by custom, if not actually so made by legislation.—*Englishman.*

THE NEILGHERRY BRANCH RAILWAY.

The Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, in a letter to the Secretary to the Government of Madras, P. W. D., of the 11th ultimo, acknowledges the receipt of the application for sanctioning plans and estimates for the construction, in connection with the Neilgherry branch of the Madras Railway, of additions to the Pothanor Junction station, and of a new station at Coimbatore:—

The arrangements proposed at Pothanor are simple in character, and the Government of India sanction the estimated outlay of Rs. 52,715. But it is observed that the means by which passengers, coming from the country to Pothanor, will obtain access to the station are not shown in the plan. If there are no local reasons to the contrary, the fuel stage or engine shed would apparently be a better site than the platform for the watering arrangements for engines at the branch line terminus. As regards the new Coimbatore station, an outline map is required showing Pothanor station, Coimbatore city, and the Coimbatore railway station as proposed, three miles from the Noyel bridge, with all the main roads. The principal trade of Coimbatore will, it must be supposed, be towards the main line, and not towards Metapoliern, and the requirements of Coimbatore in this direction must, it is presumed, in great measure have been met when Pothanor station was built. The Government of India are unable to decide what should be the extent of goods accommodation at the new station without further information. So far as the plan can be accepted as a guide, the position of the proposed goods shed in low broken ground and over a watercourse seems to be unsuitable. The booking office block and a Station Master's house must be given, but as a Station Master's room is provided in the passengers station, either that may be omitted or an additional room may be given, and the residence outside left unutilized for the present. The latrine should be apart from the booking office, but that alteration will not effect economy. Until the points noticed are explained, the Government of India sanction only the proposals for Coimbatore to the extent of Rs. 41,860.

The local Government have communicated the above to the Consulting Engineer for Railways with reference to G. O., No. 2,534, dated 5th October 1871. The amounts sanctioned by the Government of India in connection with station arrangements on the Neilgherry Branch are:—

- Works at the Pothanor Junction Station 52,715
- Works for the Coimbatore Station 41,860

Major Prendergast has been requested to draw the attention of the Agent and Manager to the suggestions made, and submit the information called for by the Government of India as early as practicable.

REGATTA AT THE RED HILLS.

At a meeting held in the Strangers' Room of the Madras Club of November 17th, it was decided to arrange for a Regatta combined with athletic and other sports to be held at the Red Hills on December 29th and 30th. As funds will be required for the payment of prizes and other attendant expenses, the present programme of what it is proposed shall take place, is circulated, and it is hoped that the public will subscribe as liberally to the present Regatta as to that which took place in December 1868. The Committee will on their part do every thing in their power to afford two days' pleasure to those who may attend.

Proposed Programme of the Red Hills Regatta and Amateur Athletic Sports to take place on December 29th and 30th 1871, to commence punctually each day at 6 A. M. under the patronage of His Excellency the Right Honorable the Governor.

- COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT.**
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| A. F. Beauvoir, Esq. | Col. Rutherford. |
| Captain W. Campbell. | 1. Strange, Esq. |
| F. B. Hauna, Esq. | J. L. Symonds, Esq. |
| A. Macdonald Ritchie, Esq. | S. R. Turnbull Esq. |
- FIRST DAY, DECEMBER 29TH, 1871.**
- One Hundred-Yards Swimming Race.*—One Prize. Entrance Rs. 2.
 - Senior Pairs.*—Boats to be rowed, and steered, by Members of Boat Clubs in India or Ceylon. Distance one mile. Prize 3 Cups. Entrance for each Boat Rs. 10.
 - Three Hundred Yards Flat Race.*—One Prize. Entrance Rs. 2.
 - Midshipmen's Race, One mile.*—Open to Midshipmen and Apprentices of Ships in the Madras Roads. To be rowed in Ship's Boats. Two Prizes, Entrance Nil.
 - N. B.*—A second prize will not be given unless four boats start.
 - Yacht Race.*—First heat for the *Billston Cup* to be sailed for on its own terms.
 - Open to all Boats. Present holder A. Macdonald Ritchie, Esq.
 - Pigeon or Carrut Shooting.*—25 yards rise, 5 Traps 3 Birds to be shot for according to the rules of the "Madras Gun Club." One Prize, Entrance Rs. 2.
 - Saloon Rifle Shooting for Prizes.*—One Prize. Entrance Nil.
 - Yacht Race.*—Second heat for the *Billston Cup*.
 - Rifle Match.*—One prize, 100 yards standing any rifle. Entrance Rs. 5.
 - Swimming Race for Natives.*—300 yards. One prize. Entrance 2 annas.
 - Yacht Race.*—Final heat (if necessary) for the *Billstone Cup*.
 - Senior Four.*—Boats to be rowed, and steered by Members of Boat Clubs in India or Ceylon. Distance one mile and a half. Prize 5 Cups. Entrance Rs. 20.
 - Steple Chase on Foot.*—Quarter of a Mile. Six flights of 3 feet hurdles and two water jumps. One Prize. Entrance Rs. 2.
- SECOND DAY, DECEMBER 30TH, 1871.**
- Quarter Mile Swimming Race.*—One Prize. Entrance Rs. 2.
 - Mixed Four.*—Open to all Subscribers, and to