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GENERAL NEWS.

By the arrival of the present mail, *via* Brindisi, we are placed in possession of advices and gazettes from Calcutta to Feb. 11; Madras, Feb. 11; Bombay, Feb. 13.

ALTHOUGH the mail train arrived at Cannon Street Station soon after six this morning, our papers and gazettes were delivered by the Post Office too late to enable us to produce our paper in time for the usual evening mails.

A LOHAPARA telegram of Feb. 11 states:—Their Excellencies Lord and Lady Minto, accompanied by Lady Eileen Elliot and Col. Dunlop Smith (private secretary), Col. Victor Brooke (military secretary), Col. Crooke Lawless (surgeon to the Viceroy), and Capts. Lord Francis Scott and Jelf, aides-de-camp, arrived at Sarupeta Station to-day by special train, which was in charge of Col. Brooke, manager, and Mr. Kiernander, traffic superintendent of the Eastern Bengal State Railway.

THEY were met by the Maharaj Kumar of Cooch Behar, Mr. Dentith (superintendent of the Cooch Behar State), Mr. Rivett Carnac (deputy inspector-general of police, Eastern Bengal and Assam), and other local officers. The party proceeded to the camp at Lohapara, fifteen miles distant where they were met by the Maharaja of Cooch

Behar and Major Herbert, deputy commissioner, Kamrup, who are in camp as guests of the Viceroy.

A *Reuter* telegram from Calcutta of Feb. 22 states:—Lord Minto returned to Calcutta to-day on the conclusion of his short tour in Assam. The trip was marred by an accident to Col. Victor Brooke, the Viceroy's military secretary. A rhinoceros charged the elephant ridden by Col. Brooke, dashing that officer against the howdah so violently that his right arm was fractured in two places. The Viceroy alone was shooting the rhinoceros, and Col. Brooke was attempting to take a photograph of the shot and also to turn the charging animal.

THE Government of India offices will close in Calcutta on March 30, and reopen in Simla on April 2.

THE subscriptions to the Italian Earthquake Fund in Calcutta amounted to 76,374 rs. when the mail left. Maharaja Scindiah had given 10,000 rs.

MAHARAJA SCINDIAH has recently sanctioned the construction of twelve tanks for irrigation purposes, at an approximate cost of 3,28,000 rs. They will vary in size from 10 to 254 million cubic feet capacity, giving a total storage of 623 million cubic feet. A system of canal distributaries will be afterwards created.

IT is understood that the Budget debate in Calcutta will take place on March 26, instead of the 29th.

A *Reuter* telegram from Lahore of Feb. 22 says:—A seditious letter has been sent from England, written in Gurumukhi, the language of the sacred Scriptures of the Sikhs, and is being circulated among the Sikh regiments and nobility. It vehemently urges them to revolt, even though success should be hopeless, declaring that he dies who lives for self, but he lives who dies for his country.

THE India Office have decided that in the case of appointments made to the Indian services from home in future no young man will be permitted to go out to take up his appointment during the hot weather—*i.e.* between April 1 and Oct. 1—without the special sanction of the Secretary of State for India. This sanction will only be accorded on the production of a satisfactory health certificate from the medical board at the India Office.

To meet the convenience of the public the Government of India have sanctioned the introduction of new postage stamps of the value of 25 rs., 15 rs., and 10 rs. The stamps are intended principally for the purpose of paying the charges on telegrams of high value, but they may also be used for the payment of postal charges. The new stamps of 15 rs. and 10 rs. value will be available very shortly at all important post and telegraph offices, and stamps of 25 rs. value are expected from England within a few months. Service postage stamps of the value of 25 rs., 15 rs., 10 rs., 5 rs., and 2 rs. will also be introduced.

SIR EDWARD BAKER stated a short time ago that the Calcutta improvement scheme was likely to be proceeded with this year. Some delay must, however, the *Pioneer* states, still take place, as the draft Bill, now under preparation by the Government of India, has to receive the