

Social and Personal.

His Excellency the Governor visited the Sipaur Botanical Gardens on Thursday.

Sir Herbert Holmwood was entertained by the members of the Calcutta Club at a dinner on Wednesday night.

The Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab with Lady and Miss O'Dwyer returned to Lahore on Sunday from his farewell visit to the Viceroy at Delhi.

It is understood that the Government of India have requested the Hon. Mr. G. H. B. Kenrick, K. C. to retain office as Advocate-General until his departure from India, which takes place on Thursday.

The Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab left Lahore on Wednesday evening on a farewell visit to His Excellency the Viceroy. Sir Michael O'Dwyer returns to Lahore on Sunday evening.

Mr. T. G. Evers, the well-known Calcutta race horse owner and G.R., has joined the army and has been given a commission in the Essex Yeomanry. Mr. Evers went home recently on short leave.

Their Highnesses the Maharajas of Patiala and Alwar left Viceroyal Lodge on Saturday. His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab and party also left Viceroyal Lodge at night for Lahore.

Mr. D. Bray, lately Assistant Agent to the Governor-General in Baluchistan, will succeed Mr. Maffey as Deputy Secretary in the Foreign Department. He will join his appointment on return from leave in England about the middle of the current month.

The Secretary of State has appointed the Hon. Mr. W. D. Sheppard, C.I.E., at present a Member of the Executive Council of Bombay, to be a member of the Council of India vice Sir Steynning Edgerley.

Mr. J. G. Drummond, I.C.S., has been appointed Custodian of enemy property under Act XIV of 1915 for the purpose of receiving, holding and dealing with such moneys as may be paid to him in pursuance of this Act. His office is at Writers' Buildings.

When Mr. J. Mackenna, I.C.S., takes up his post as Agricultural Adviser to the Government of India he will be relieved of his post of Deputy Commissioner at Myaugmya by Mr. G. E. R. Grant Brown who is expected to return from leave shortly.

It is now settled that the Government of India officials will remain open in Delhi until the 6th April re-opening in Simla on the 10th idem. This will enable Government of India officials to be present when Lord Chelmsford visits Delhi on his arrival in India as Viceroy.

It is understood that Sir William Vincent and Major-General Hingley are proceeding to Buzra shortly on special duty to examine and report on the difficulties experienced in the transport and treatment of the wounded over the long line of communications from our front in Mesopotamia to the sea.

Lieutenant (now Captain) H. J. Manockje Cursetjee, I.M.S., who was seriously wounded on 28th June last which serving with the 14th Sikhs at Gallipoli, has now completely recovered and will join duty shortly. He is at present enjoying a holiday at Eastbourne.

Prince Victor Narain of Cooh Behar is engaged to be married to Miss Nirupama Gupta, youngest daughter of Mr. M. L. Gupta, Bar-at-Law. The eldest daughter of Mr. Gupta is married to a son of Sir K. G. Gupta while another is married to Mr. J. N. Roy, Barrister-at-Law.

His Majesty the King-Emperor has approved the appointment of the Hon. Mr. Justice B. B. Newbould, I.C.S., at present officiating as Judge of the Calcutta High Court, to be a permanent Judge of that Court in succession to the Hon. Justice Sir Herbert Holmwood, Kt., on the latter's retirement on the 15th May, 1916.

Intelligence has been received by Mr. E. Montisole of Bangalore of the death in action in France on Monday of his nephew, Lieutenant Eric Montisole. He had been at the front since the beginning of the war and was previously wounded. This is the second nephew of Mr. Montisole, who is killed in France. He has two others still living, one of whom is in the R. A. M. C.

Mr. H. C. Gadsden (Imperial Police), Private Secretary to the Lieutenant-Governor of Burma, reverts to his former post as Principal of the Police Training School, Maudslayi, by Captain F. Lane Roberts, 7th Duke of Connaught's Own Rajputa, Officiating Personal Assistant to Col. French Mullen, Deputy Inspector-General, Military Police.

The news of the appointment of the Hon. Mr. W. D. Sheppard, Member of the Executive Council to the Governor of Bombay, to the India Council at Home, has been received in Bombay with satisfaction. Mr. Sheppard has had varied experience in all departments of the Indian Civil Service. Joining the service in 1886, he served in several districts of the Southern Division until he came to Bombay as Municipal Commissioner and that appointment for nine years. He was Commissioner, Southern Division, when he succeeded Sir Richard Lam as Member of the Executive Council on 10th April, 1915. Mr. and Mrs. Sheppard have been very popular with all classes in Bombay and their departure will be greatly regretted.

Week by Week.

Mr. Muddiman is confirmed as Secretary in the Legislative Department, Government of India.

The *Pioneer* says it is understood acting arrangements will be made when Dr. Kenrick vacates the office of Advocate-General of Bengal.

His Highness the Maharaja of Cooh Behar has presented an ice-machine to Government for the use of the wounded in Mesopotamia.

His Highness the Nawab of Maler Kotla has offered an annual contribution of Rs. 1,200 for the Lady Hardinge Medical College and the Hospital. His Excellency the Viceroy has accepted the generous offer.

The Postmaster-General in a Press communique states that owing to interruption of land lines between Karachi and Jask telegrams for Basra and Mesopotamia are subject to considerable delay.

The total approximate gross earnings of State and Guaranteed railways from 1st April 1915 to 15th February 1916 are more by Rs. 2,53,34,287 than the figures for the corresponding period of 1914-15.

At the Bareilly durbah the Lieutenant-Governor announced that the Government of India had withdrawn the few remaining restrictions on the Nawab of Rampur and had granted His Highness the exercise of full powers of administration.

It is interesting to note from the Revised Provincial Financial Statement presented on Monday that Professor Geddes' town planning exhibition held in Calcutta cost the Bengal Government £726. It is to be hoped the money was well spent.

At Monday's meeting of the Bengal Legislative Council, the Hon. Mr. De laid a statement on the table showing that he had spent on Sanitation in Bengal since 1911 being made up by non-recurring grants amounting to Rs. 40,55,000 and recurring grants of Rs. 33,00,000.

H. H. the Maharaja Scindia has very generously offered to the Government of India three aeroplanes for use in military operations in Mesopotamia. These aeroplanes are in replacement of three of those previously presented by His Highness which had been wrecked or lost in Mesopotamia. The offer has been gratefully accepted by H. E. the Viceroy.

Their Highnesses the Maharaja and Maharani of Cooh Behar, accompanied by, among others, Princess "Pritty," Prince Victor and Prince "Higg" had a most successful shoot recently, the bag being four leopards, one tiger, two civets (one measuring eighteen cubits at the shoulder). The Maharani shot the tiger and one of the leopards.

Mr. W. Kuehler, C.I.E., late Director of Public Instruction, Bengal, is at present engaged in official duties in connection with the War Office. Dr. Denison Ross, also late of the Education Department and who subsequently took up an appointment in the British Museum, has also been transferred to the War Office where he is engaged in connection with the work relating to Indian troops.

The plague mortality in India during the week ended February 26th stood at 7,505 against 9,211 cases. Bombay Presidency and Sind had 1,839 deaths, Madras Presidency 239, Bengal 1, Bihar and Orissa 666, United Provinces 1,530, Punjab 106, Burma 360, Central Provinces 696, Mysore State 111, Hyderabad State 1,890, Central India 23, and Kashmir 5.

The *New York World* recently contained the following item: "There is again a report that Lord Curzon of Kedleston is shortly to marry an American—Mrs. Alfredo Duggan, whose husband died recently. Mrs. Duggan is extremely handsome and has a large fortune. Her late husband who drew his income from the Argentine, was not seen much in society, where his wife has been an admired figure. She is a Tennesseean and a Catholic. Lord Curzon has been mentioned before as being likely to end his widowhood, but his friends declare that none of the other affairs looked so serious as this one."

Practice has been begun at the new miniature range inside the Plassey Gate at Fort William, constructed for the Calcutta Miniature Rifle Association by Mr. Percy Brown. Conditions under which firing is carried out are very comfortable, and the light is excellent. Members who have been firing in the old building, will find the present conditions in this new open air range very satisfactory. Circumstances are more equal to service conditions. It is hoped that members will take advantage of this arrangement and turn up to use this range in large numbers. Special facilities will be afforded to them. There are eight targets always.

The Berlin *Post* is greatly interested in India, in which country it considers Great Britain has "betrayed the white race." That great organ of *Kultur* has made the discovery that all the members of the Indian National Congress are in the pay of the Government of India. And yet those members demand self-government for India. The *Post* points out, and it wags its head over the terrible state of affairs that must be prevalent in India when even the hirelings of the Government fail the British. It is to be hoped the *Post* will continue to deal with India. It is especially qualified to amuse us and our Indian fellow-subjects.

General News.

IMPERIAL COUNCIL.

DEBATE ON THE NEW TAXATION

NECESSITY FOR SURPLUS

PRINCIPLE UNANIMOUSLY SUPPORTED

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Delhi, Mar. 7.

The Imperial Legislative Council met this morning at 11 o'clock. Sir William Clark presiding in the absence of the Viceroy. The weather being hot and the programme of business not being particularly attractive to the public, there were very few persons present in the public galleries. After Mr. Oldham had taken the oath, eight main questions with a number of subsidiary queries were put and replied to.

Sir Sankaran Nair, in reply to a question if the Government would place on the table the report of the Simla Improvement Committee which sat under Mr. Ludovic Porter, said that it was still under consideration and could not be published at present.

The Commander-in-Chief introduced a Bill to provide for the trial by Court Martial of foreigners for offences against the Defence of India Rules. The rules of business were suspended and the Bill was duly passed. The Bill extends to the whole of British India and will be in force during the war and for six months thereafter and, in introducing the Bill, Sir Beauchamp Duff pointed out how necessary it was to deal speedily with cases of espionage.

THE DEBATE IN DETAIL

(From Our Own Reporters.)

Delhi, Mar. 7.

Sir William Meyer presented the Select Committee's report on the Tariff Bill which was as follows:—We the undersigned members of the Select Committee to which the Bill to amend the Indian Tariff Act 1894 Bill to amend the Indian Tariff Act 1894 and for other purposes was referred have considered the Bill and have now the honour to submit this our report with the Bill as amended by us annexed thereto.

1. The Hon. Sir Ibrahim Rahimtoola proposed that the duty payable under item 51 (cotton piecegoods) in part 2 of the new schedule 2 (import tariff) inserted by the Bill should be raised from 31 per cent. to 6 per cent. The Hon. the Finance Member expressed his inability to accept this proposal on the ground that he was precluded from doing so. After discussion the majority of the Committee expressed themselves as against any change and the existing provision was retained in the Bill.

3. With reference to item 63 of part 3 of the same schedule the Hon. Mr. Stewart proposed that railway material which had been ordered prior to the date this legislation will come into force should be free. After discussion this proposal was not adopted.

4. In considering schedule 3 in so far as it relates to jute we had the advantage of consulting Mr. Birkett, who attended the Select Committee as an expert witness. He explained in answer to questions by members of the Committee that the discrimination made in item 1 relating to raw jute as regards rejections was likely to be a source of difficulty and after considering the point we decided that this classification should be omitted from the Bill and that "rejections" should be included in sub-head 3 "all other descriptions" and pay duty at the rate for that class. We have accordingly renumbered the sub-heads of this item.

5. The Hon. Mr. Stewart laid before us the view that the present state of the tea industry was not such as to justify the imposition of the export duty imposed by item 4 of the same schedule. The Hon. Sir William Meyer expressed his inability to agree in this view and after discussion we decided to retain the existing provision in the Bill.

6. The Bill was published in the *Gazette of India* in English of the 4th March 1916.

7. We think that the Bill has not been so altered as to require republication and we recommend that it be passed as now amended.—(Sd.) W. S. Meyer, W. H. Clark, G. R. Lowndes, Ibrahim Rahimtoola, Rama Rayanagar, Sita Nath Ray, J. B. Brunyate, P. R. T. Gurdon, C. E. Low, F. H. Stewart and T. W. Birkett.

In view of paragraph 2 of the report I cannot join in the recommendation contained in paragraph 7—Ibrahim Rahimtoola. Sir William Meyer explained the Select Committee's report and alluding to the representation of the South India Chamber of Commerce he explained in detail the present practice of annual tariff valuation and said that the Chamber was under misapprehension and stated that annual tariff valuation would not be abolished and would not thus be replaced by *ad valorem* duties. Sir G. M. Chutnani in supporting the Tariff Bill said it would command general approval, although the reason why it had been undertaken was regrettable. The elastic-

city of Indian revenue had always been a matter of surprise and there was much to be said for the view that its normal expansion in times of peace would be sufficient to cover all liabilities. This optimism was further justified by the fact that a close scrutiny of public expenditure would reveal items about the paramount urgency of which opinion might be divided. In difficult times like the present large expenditure on unproductive construction work was questionable and the explanation did not appeal to the speaker as conclusive. He would not, however, raise any point in the debate which might embarrass the Government now and would loyally accept the assurance that additional taxation had become essentially necessary. The revision of tariff had all along been demanded by the Indians, but the exclusion of imported cotton piece-goods from the tariff was viewed with keen disappointment. It was some comfort, however, to know that the Government of India tried to do justice, and it was likewise a hopeful sign that on the conclusion of peace the whole question of cotton duty and countervailing excise duty would be carefully considered along with questions of Imperial Preference. It rested with the Government of India to see that the situation bore fruit. He hardly expected that his suggestions of 1913 when he moved the resolution of Imperial Tariff would materialise so soon. It was natural that a Customs Union among the units of the British Empire was already in view and he earnestly hoped its inauguration would be marked by the repeal of the unjust cotton excise duty and reasonable advantage in import duties upon cotton manufacturers.

Sir Fazlulhoy Currimbhoy in speaking on the Tariff Bill said that though ordinarily he was loath to support an addition to taxes, specially when they were expected to result in a fairly big surplus, he however, fully believed they had become necessary, even though in his opinion commercial prosperity would increase revenue after the war in more directions than one. There had been for sometime past a growing pessimism in the country for a heavy tariff. He considered the Bill was a concession to public opinion and meant a welcome departure in the fiscal policy. He welcomed the announcement of the Finance Member that the enhancement of import duties upon cotton goods simultaneously with the abolition of the countervailing excise duty would have been just and would have been acceptable to Government, but in view of the explanation given by the Finance Member, criticism on that point would not further the cause. He assured the Government that when time of action in the direction would come they would have the moral support of the whole country. Continuing Sir Fazlulhoy said that it would have been more consonant with public feeling if in the schedule to the Bill the duty upon salt had not been increased and the estimated revenue from the additional duty had been raised from other sources of tax. But he would not like to press the point. In conclusion he pointed out that the Tariff Bill would operate harshly upon the pearl trade, unless it was supplemented by the Government notification under Section 23 of the existing Indian Tariff Act exempting from duty the pearls imported into Bombay from the Persian Gulf.

Mr. Shafi said he supported the Bill not only because of the abnormal conditions under which the country was passing but because it opened up a fresh and legitimate source of revenue. He also believed that the Bill would afford protection to Indian industries. The pleasing feature of the Bill was the list of import duties levied upon articles hitherto on the free list. The Bill also brought home to the minds of confirmed free traders of Manchester and elsewhere that an indiscriminate application of the doctrines of free trade is equivalent to endangering the growth of trade. He welcomed the imposition of duty on sugar which the speaker thought would protect the Indian sugar industry. He regretted the attitude of Government in respect to excise duty on cotton goods. Mr. Shafi regarded the increase of salt tax as unfortunate, but he looked upon it as a war tax, pure and simple and that was why he did not object to it but hoped that after the war this tax would be withdrawn. He also hoped that other duties would remain permanently on the statute book.

The Maharaja of Coohimbar supported the Bill and urged that the salt duty should be taken off at the earliest possible opportunity.

Mr. Ram Rayanagar while supporting the Bill criticised Government's decision in respect of cotton excise duty and strongly urged its abolition. He pleaded for the exemption of agricultural machinery from duty.

Mr. Dalaboy welcomed the Tariff Bill but said so much for the recent alteration in rates would be a trifle, but for the evidence it contained of a decided change in the fiscal policy of the Government. Public opinion in India had all along demanded that Government should have a heavy tariff not only for purposes of revenue but also for the protection it was likely to afford to Indian industries. Indian public opinion would look forward with hope to the maintenance of an increased scale of import duties for a sufficiently long time. The main points of the Bill which in the speaker's opinion called for serious comment were the retention of the countervailing excise duty upon Indian cotton, omission to levy a higher scale of customs duties upon cotton exports and the exclusion of raw cotton from the new scheme of export duties. With regard to the first two points Mr. Dalaboy said the Finance Member had offered an explanation about the sufficiency of which difference of opinion was permissible.