

The Bengalee

THE BENGALIAN

CALCUTTA, OCT. 16, 1914.

THE 16TH OCTOBER.

TO-DAY IS THE 16TH OCTOBER, A day which when the partition was in force and had not been modified, was observed as the great nation-day. It is no longer, a day of mourning; for the great grievance of the partition has been redressed by a beneficent Government. It is now a day of rejoicing, but also a day of great memories. It is the day of the "Rakhi-bandhan," when brother met brother and tied round his wrist the red emblem of eternal brotherhood, which Kings even did not despise. May the day live in our recollection and kindle in our breasts the joy of fervent patriotic unity. We live in better times and under happier auspices, and may the self-sacrifice and the devotion of the past be re-awakened in us to spur us on to renewed efforts for the re-birth of our indigenous industries and the growth of our nascent civic rights. In the days that are now happily past and gone, we fought, in the words of Edmund Burke, with our hands tied behind us, with an omnipotent Government watching us in suspicion and distrust. All this is now changed. Not distrust, but conciliation is now the watchword of the Government, and if we are men, and if the spirit that was awakened on the 16th October lives and is not dead, we should be able to take the fullest advantage of the present golden opportunity and turn it to the best account for the benefit of our great and ancient country. With the help and co-operation of the Government, with our patriotism stimulated by recent events and with the memories of brotherhood, indissolubly associated with the 16th October, we should be in a position to impart an added impetus to the great movement of progress which has been so happily begun.

THE BUDGE-BUDGE INCIDENT.

WE DESIRE TO CALL PROMINENT attention to the following letter which we have received from an esteemed friend on the Budge-Budge incident:—

Sir,—The public are relieved to see that the painful incident which took place at Budge-Budge on the 29th

ed at the hands of the Canadian authorities had created a sense of mistrust and irritation which was intensified by the fact that they found on their return home that they were not to be permitted to go where they liked. The situation needed the most delicate handling and by persons who inspired the confidence of Gurdit Singh and his followers. But the past cannot be recalled, and it is useless to indulge in unavailing regrets. We agree with our correspondent in thinking that a public enquiry should at once be ordered, and that by a mixed Commission of officials and non-officials, in which the Sikh community should be adequately represented. We are glad to find that the Indian Association has already taken action in the matter. The Secretary has sent the following telegram to His Excellency the Viceroy through the Private Secretary:—"The Indian Association earnestly appeals to His Excellency the Viceroy to appoint a mixed Commission of officials and non-officials, the Sikh community being represented thereon for public enquiry and report upon the Budge-Budge incident." We further learn that the Association has submitted a representation to His Excellency Lord Carmichael making the same prayer. We hope the Government will see their way to grant this prayer which represents a universal public demand.

While the above was in print, we received a telegram from our Simla correspondent announcing the appointment of a committee of enquiry by His Excellency the Viceroy. The committee will be presided over by the Hon'ble Sir W. Vincent Kt. I. C. S. and will be composed of the Hon'ble Maharajadhiraja of Burdwan, the Hon'ble Mr. Fagann I. C. S. (Punjab), the Hon'ble Sardar Saljit Singh, and Mr. H. Walmley I. C. S. (Bengal). The committee, we are informed, will assemble in Calcutta at once.

JAPAN AND THE WAR.

THOSE WHO HAD ANY KNOWLEDGE of Japanese politics and any confidence in Japanese statesmanship knew it that the moment Great Britain intervened in this conflict, Japan would also throw herself into it, on behalf of the Allies. She had very clear and definite treaty-obligations with Great Britain, in the discharge of which she had to take her side in this war.

ture is intimately bound up with that of China. Any attempt at the partition of China would only be the precursor of the overthrow of Japanese supremacy in Eastern Asia. This is why Japan forced herself upon the European powers when they combined to punish China for the Boxer outrages. Her presence as a member of the punitive expedition saved China then. Her presence as a member of the Peace Conference at the close of this war would once more make her the saviour of China and the protector of peace in Eastern Asia. As then, as now, Japan will have Great Britain for her trusted friend and ally. Great Britain and Japan working together will be able to safeguard the interests of the Asiatic peoples far more effectively than the former would have been able to do if required to work single-handed for this end. And these great powers are equally interested in the preservation of the integrity and independence of the existing sovereign States of Asia. The loss of the independence of any of these would spell considerable risk to the position of both these powers. And this is the deeper and the larger reason that stands at the back of Japan's decision to join this pan-European war. In short it was to prevent the peace that is bound to end this war from becoming a purely European compact that Japan had to join this war. And she has joined the treaty by which the Allies have bound themselves not to make peace with their common enemy except in combination and concert, and accept no terms that are not agreed to by them all. All this is to the advantage of Asia. All this is more—a safeguard of those larger humanitarian interests and ideals the promotion and realisation of which are the ordained objectives of modern historic evolution.

A fatal blow to the fish industry.

It has been brought to our notice that by declarations dated the 2nd September 1914 and 8th September 1914 respectively, and published in the Calcutta Gazette dated the 2nd and 8th September 1914 respectively, the public have been informed that about 17940 and 16064 bighas of land would be acquired in the villages of Dakhindari, Duttabad, Gururabad, Noahpati, Dha-

