

## INDIAN GOVERNMENT.

## DECENTRALISATION COMMISSION.

The report of the Royal Commission upon Decentralisation in India was published as a Blue-book on Saturday last. In view of the great interest which attaches to Indian affairs at present we give an extract, from a London contemporary, of the Commission's recommendations which suggest very important changes.

The Commission recommend that Provincial Governments should be subject in all respects to the general control of the Government of India, and that their functions and powers should be variable by that Government or by the Secretary of State.

In the present circumstances the Commissioners are generally satisfied with the financial relations now existing between the Government of India and the local Governments, but they suggest a further enhancement of the powers of the Government of India and Provincial Governments in respect to the creation of new appointments and the raising of salaries. If provincial Legislative Councils obtain an effective control over provincial finances, the Commissioners consider it will be necessary hereafter to give the provinces more distinct sources of revenue and greater sources of revenue, and greater powers over their Budgets.

They deprecate minute criticism on points of administrative detail in cases which local governments have to submit for sanction under financial rules. They recommend some increase of the powers of Provincial Governments in dealing with establishments which are wholly paid for from Imperial revenues, and propose that the Chief Commissioners of the North-West Frontier Province should be given a quasi-provincial settlement.

They recommend that the Civil Service regulations should be thoroughly revised. The Civil Account Code is also unnecessarily minute. Accounts, rules, and procedure and audit requirements should be simpler, and the detailed control hitherto exercised by the Government of India over Excise Administration in the provinces should be largely diminished.

The necessity for further decentralisation in regard to the Public Works Department is also insisted upon, and with a possible exception in regard to railways, the Public Works' accounting staff should be under the Finance Department of the Government of India. In regard to land revenue all the major provinces should have the same powers as the Governments of Madras and Bombay now possess in settlement matters. Any material alteration in the police laws should be effected by provincial legislation.

## LORD CURZON'S INQUIRY.

They suggest, as a means of reducing reports and returns a fresh inquiry, similar to that set on foot by Lord Curzon, which should be repeated every few years. As to the constitution of Provincial Governments they consider that the system of single Lieutenant-Governors is no longer suited to larger provinces, and prefer a regular Council Government, with a Governor usually, but not invariably, appointed from home. They think all such Governments should consist of no fewer than four besides the Governor, and that no fewer than two of these should be appointed under the conditions which now apply in Madras and Bombay.

They recognise the change in the existing system is not equally urgent in all provinces, and that the time for making such a change must be determined by political considerations. They make suggestions for placing the secretariat officer more in touch with district work, and draw attention to an undesirable tendency to uniformity in provinces, whose constituent portions are not homogeneous. With Local Governments constituted as at present, Boards of Revenue and Financial Commissioners should be retained, but they might be advantageously absorbed in the executive councils suggested. In that event the existing Board of Revenue in Madras should be replaced by a system of Territorial Commissioners. So long as Boards of Revenue and Financial Commissioners remain they should have larger powers.

The Commission consider it essential to give larger powers to Commissioners and reject proposals for their abolition or their conversion into mere advisory and inspecting officers. They suggest larger financial powers for the Commissioners, and that they be given a voice in regard to secondary and collegiate education, and in respect of training and technical schools. A system of provincial conferences similar to that adopted in Bengal is suggested. It is not considered advisable to create special advisory councils for Commissioners and collectors. The position and powers of the collectors should be enhanced.

## VERNACULAR SCHOOLS.

The collectors' present position in regard to police matters should in no case be weakened. The collector should be the final authority in matters affecting village officers. The subdivisional system should be universally applied, and promotion to collectorships should be by seniority. Sub-district boards should be universally established on a sounder financial footing and without borrowing powers, and their proceedings conducted in the vernacular. Municipalities should have the same full powers and should undertake primary education; and may devote money to middle vernacular schools. The Commission do not propose to relieve the municipalities from plague charges, but where these are heavy the Government should contribute substantially. Municipalities should have full powers in regard to taxation within the limits of the law under which they work, subject to the maintenance of prescribed minimum balances.

Municipalities should have a free hand in respect to their Budgets; Municipalities should ordinarily contain a substantial elective majority; Government officers should not be allowed to stand for election; where it is considered expedient that hospitals and educational institutions in a Presidency town should be directly controlled by Government, the municipality should not be forced to contribute thereto.

## SMUGGLING AT NEW YORK.

## N. G. LLOYD STEWARDS HELD.

## FOUR PRISONERS IN ALL.

Through the persistent efforts of James S. Clarkson, Surveyor of Customs of New York port, the details of a well organised system of smuggling drugs into America free of duty were brought to light some days ago in the Federal Court, and four men implicated in that industry were arrested and held in \$3,000 bail.

Surveyor Clarkson learned several weeks ago, according to a New York contemporary, that efforts were being made to get large quantities of codine, a derivative of morphine, into the country, and, assuming that the practice had been thriving for some time, started an investigation. A careful watch was placed upon all incoming German liners, and within a week after assigning George Smyth, Special De-

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## Dresden Museums, etc.

Royal Picture Gallery. Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays 9-5. Sundays and Holidays 11-2 free entrance. Wednesdays, Saturdays 9-8. Mondays 9-1. 1.50.

Royal Kupperstich Kabinett (Zwinger). Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays 9-2. Sundays and Holidays 11-2 free entrance. Mondays closed.

Royal Zoological and Anthropological-Ethnographical Museum (Zwinger). Sundays and Holidays, Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays 11-1; Wednesdays and Saturdays 1-3 free entrance.

Royal math.-phys. Salon (Zwinger). Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays 9-12. Sundays and Holidays free entrance. Saturdays closed.

Royal mineral. geol. and prähist. Museum (Zwinger). Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays 10-12. Wednesdays and Saturdays 1-3, Sundays and Holidays 11-1 free entrance.

Royal Collection of Porcelain (Johanneum II). Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays 9-2. 0.50. Saturdays 9-2. 1.50. Sundays and Holidays 11-2. 0.25.

Royal Collection of Sculpture in the Albertinum and An der Frauenkirche 12, I. (Cosel-Palais) In the week (except Saturdays) 9-3, Sundays and Holidays 11-2 free entrance.

Körner-Museum (Körner Strasse 7). In the week 9-2, Wednesdays and Saturdays 9-1 and 2-5, Sundays and Holidays 11-2. 0.50.

Royal popular Library (Japan Palais). In the week 9-2 and 4-6 (except Saturdays) free entrance. Sundays and Holidays closed.

puty Surveyor, to the case two stewards on the North German Lloyd Line steamship "Kronprinzessin Cecilie" were found to be implicated. When Smyth and his assistants put them through the "third degree" the inspectors were able to trace codine valued at \$2,000 to where it was hidden in Manhattan and it was seized and locked up in the government vault in the Custom House.

In the course of his investigation Surveyor Clarkson found that there exists in Germany a company which does nothing but take contracts to smuggle goods of all sorts into America free of duty, the agents of the company being chiefly stewards on oceangoing vessels. It is said that the agents of the company in various parts of Europe will guarantee to smuggle anything presented to it for that purpose by a patron.

An incident in the surveyor's work of investigation which helped largely in running down the culprits was the death of Dr. George von der Schulenburg, who jumped from the window of his home, at No. 169 East 128th street, last September and died a few days later in the Harlem Hospital.

The affidavits made by the stewards arrested alleged that the physician was the receiver and distributor of the smuggled drugs. His death, they said, caused confusion among the stewards and others handling the goods, and for a while they could find no safe market for the large quantities of codine that were brought over weekly on the incoming steamers.

Hermann Ebert, who has been a steward in the service of the North German Lloyd for thirteen years, and Adolph Bunneberg, who has been twenty-two years in the company's employ, were arrested and brought before Commissioner Shields. Both stewards were put through the "third degree," but Smyth and his inspectors were unable to get much information from them concerning their associates. When they learned, however, that Gunter Schmitz, a bartender on the "Kronprinzessin," and his brother-in-law, Alfred E. Willembricher, of Westwood, N. J., had been brought before the Commissioner and were undergoing an examination in separate rooms, the stewards made a full confession and implicated a dozen persons besides themselves.

It was brought out at the examination that after the death of Dr. von der Schulenburg, when the kilo packages of codine were coming over in goodly quantities, the stewards were at a loss for a distributor. Schmitz, it is alleged, was struck with a brilliant idea. He confided to his friends that Willembricher, his brother-in-law, was a salesman for a wholesale drug company in New Jersey, and he might be persuaded to carry the smuggled codine as a side line during his trips on the road. Schmitz, it is alleged, made a proposition to Willembricher, and the latter reluctantly undertook to sell the codine.

While the customs officials are anxious to break up the illicit traffic they are inclined to deal leniently with Willembricher, who they believe was persuaded to act as a distributing agent against his will. The North German Lloyd has helped the customs officials in their efforts to stop the smuggling, and while the goods have been brought into this country on its steamers the company is not held morally responsible.

From the confession of Ebert it was learned that he had been engaged in the drug smuggling business for two years, and that Dr. von der Schulenburg had an office in Nassau-street and had sold the codine to several manufacturers of cough candies.

So far the surveyor has taken about 480 ounces of codine, on which there is an import duty of \$1 an ounce. The codine, which comes originally from the Orient, is put through a chemical process in Germany and prepared for shipment in kilo packages. The purchase price in Germany is \$5 an ounce.

## MOVEMENTS OF LINERS.

NORDEUTSCHER LLOYD S. S. Co. Dresden office. Fr. Bremermann, Prager Strasse 49.

## YESTERDAY'S REPORTS.

"Main," from Bremen for Baltimore, arrived Baltimore March 1st. "Chemnitz," from Bremen for New York, arrived New York March 1st.

"Zieten," from Bremen for Australia, arrived Genoa March 1st. "Kleist," from Hamburg for Japan, arrived Shanghai March 2nd. "Neckar," from Genoa for New York, passed Gibraltar March 1st. "Goeben," from Bremen for Japan, arrived Naples February 27th. "Rhein," from Baltimore for Bremen, passed Dover March 1st.

## BRITISH AND AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVES.

THE BRITISH LEGATION: Wiener Strasse 38.—Minister Resident: Mansfeld de Cardonnel Findlay, Esq., C.B., C.M.G.

THE BRITISH CONSULATE: Altmarkt 16.—British Consul: H. Palmé, Esq.

THE AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL: Ammon Strasse 2, p. American Consul-General: T. St. John Gaffney, Esq.

## WEATHER FORECAST FOR TODAY

of the Royal Saxon Meteorological Institute.

Moderate north-westerly winds, overcast, snow, temperature but little altered.