

# THE GREAT FAMINE IN INDIA.

That the monsoon has broken and that rain is falling throughout the stricken district of India does not mean that the famine is at an end.

The cause of the famine was lack of rain. The present fall is the first the country has known in twenty-four months with the exception of the one hour's rain which fell on the 20th of July last year. Hence rain must now fall for many weeks before the parched surface will become softened to a sufficient depth to assure the raising of a crop. Moreover, millions of head of cattle, ninety-five per cent. of all

"Up-country crawled the train, passengers so few that each of us had a carriage to himself. Twenty-five miles from Bombay vegetation ceased. Eyes searched the miles vainly for a single green speck. We had passed even the last cactus. Blasts of hot air, as from millions of furnaces, almost suffocated us, and yet the trees of the 'Jackal jungle' bordering the farms were shorn of leaves, as in a Canadian winter. Jackals could be seen prowling, trying to hide behind tree trunks, and we shuddered at the thought of their 'daily bread.' Hu-

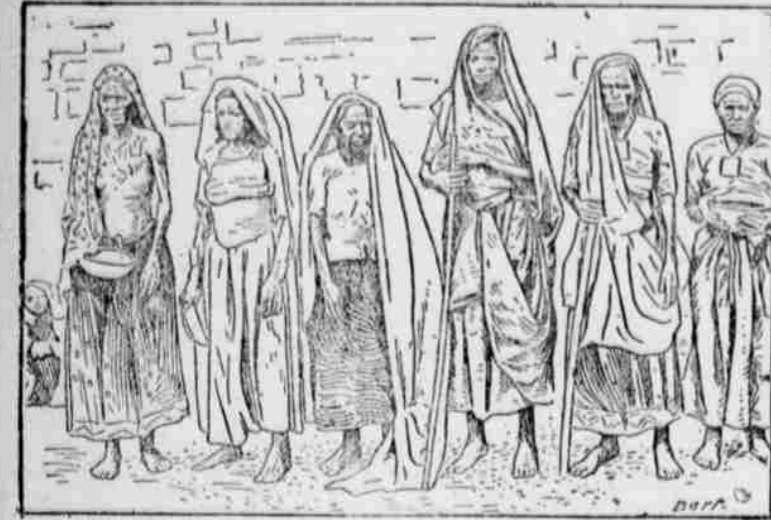
workers were women. On the tank works the men dug the colossal pit, the women carried away the sand in baskets on their heads. The great



WAITING FOR AN ORDER ON THE BUN-  
SIAH (GRAIN DEALER).

reservoir was for the reserve storage of water, thus providing against the recurrence of famine in the future. In the stone-breaking section both men and women broke stone, but women only were the burden-bearers, carrying away the broken stone in baskets on their heads, each tottering under her load for a distance of from one to two miles, till she came to the pile to which she must add her share, day by day. Among the stone-breakers were nursing mothers, old crones, young girls. One mother broke stone with one hand while with the other she held an infant on her lap. Death claimed the child even while I looked on, and the native in charge of the gang of thirty to which the mother belonged came and took the little body away. She followed it awhile with animal eyes, then, after pulling her torn sarree closer about her face, resumed her task, grasping the hammer now with both hands.

"Next morning at sunrise we followed the carts that gathered up the dead. In a cleared space in the adjacent jungle we attended the funeral of sixty-five famine victims. The ashes of a thousand other victims lay in white, smoking heaps. On top of these ash-heaps lay-caste men piled logs—four such piles. About the logs were thrown the sixty-five bodies, the morning's harvest. On the bodies more logs were thrown, till only a foot here, a head there, protruded. Then



BLIND VICTIMS OF THE FAMINE IN A POOR HOUSE.

the cattle, indeed, have died, for want of fodder, and farmers are tied hand and foot till Government supplies new live stock to replace the old, whose bones lie scattered over the whole country.

Therefore desperate distress still exists. Utter desolation is still the lot of millions. If the Government were now to withdraw its aid, shut up the relief works and poor-houses, seven million homeless, helpless people would be in imminent danger of a raving to death. Moreover, since the rain has come scores of thousands who have been saved from death by starvation are threatened with death by exposure. Blankets and clothing are scarce; only one person in every thousand possessing more than a loin cloth. Never since the world began have ten million people, at one time, been absolutely without a crumb of their own to eat.

Gilson Willets, the special correspondent of Collier's Weekly, writes as follows about what he saw in India:

"The breadless area covers 350,000 square miles, one-third of all India, big as all our New England, Middle and Southern States. In this area are 50,000,000 people, one-sixth the entire population of India, a number equal to our whole, well-fed family east of the Mississippi. Ten millions are en-

man skulls and bones dotting the sun-baked fields told awful stories.

"One hundred miles up the train crawled into Gujarat, once the garden, now the Sahara, of India. The whole world, level as a prairie, barren as a desert, was dust-colored. The only thing of another color was the train. Even the naked trees were coated with the dust of the desert. The train zigzagged in and out between farms and deserted villages, where there was no living thing anywhere, not even a jackal. Yes, a few scampering monkeys seemed to find fun keeping



SHE REACHED THE RELIEF CAMP TOO LATE.

pace with the train. Huge, almost ape-size, they were, and dust-colored, too.

"Rivers, streams, lakes, pools had disappeared, leaving beds, like the fields, parched wastes of earth. Water, except in the few remaining wells, had vanished from the earth's surface. We were journeying through a depopulated Hades. Were all the absent ones at work in the relief camps? After all, besides the monkeys, we did occasionally see a stray brown man, or a stray brown group of families, trudging, probably bound for a relief camp, where they would arrive too late, so weak, so wasted, that the first stomachful of curry would be like a mortal wound. At stations nearest these camps the train paused for water, which was brought by gaunt, half-dead coolies in buckets from the nearest cholera-infected well.

"Two hundred miles and two days from Bombay the train wriggled into the big station at Ahmedabad, the city in the heart of the desert. Ordinary population, 100,000; famine population, 130,000—the 100,000 living in stone houses, normally, and the 30,000 in straw tents on the relief works outside the city walls. These were the people I had come to see. This camp was the Mecca for all famine victims within a radius of thirty miles. None within that area need starve. All were welcome. Here they could earn two annas (four cents) a day, which would buy grain enough to sustain life. The camp was divided into three sections; in the first, 20,000 people were digging a reservoir half as big

the four miles were set afire, and the flames of the funeral pyres leaped far above the tops of the surrounding trees. Thus is the trace of famine obliterated from the face of India."

### Conductor Was a Psychic Mystery.

"I have known streetcar conductors to fuss and worry," said the Psychic Cackler, "to call out the names of streets and carry passengers past them; to quarrel and give back talk as a result. But the other day I met a marvel among conductors. He was on a California avenue car and he never opened his mouth from the time he left Sixth avenue until he reached Arthur street, where I got off. Nobody ever spoke to him or beckoned to him, so far as I could see, but the car stopped at different places and people got off. I was puzzled and paid strict attention, but failed to fathom the mystery. I wanted to go to Arthur street, didn't know where it was, save that it was a good distance out, but said nothing to the conductor. Talking didn't seem possible on that car. By and by the car stopped and nobody got off. The conductor looked sternly at me. I mumbled an apology. I didn't know why, and got off at once. The neighborhood was strange to me, but the fact remains that I got off at Arthur street. I do not undertake to explain this thing; I simply mention it."—Pittsburg Dispatch.

### Extenuating Circumstances.

The British soldier is a first-class fighting man, but his mental attributes are not always very high. Numerous anecdotes are told of the simplicity of his ideas, and the following is, perhaps, one of the best: A gunner in one of the campaigns in Egypt was serving his piece, when he was surrounded so closely by Arabs that he had to use his rammer as a club. He repulsed the enemy and saved his gun at the expense of a broken rammer, and for his bravery he was selected for the Victoria Cross. When summoned before the board of officers, the soldier thought it was for the breach of discipline in having broken the rammer, and, before a word could be said, he spoke up and volunteered a plea of "guilty, with extenuating circumstances."

There was a broad smile on the face of the board, but the soldier got the Cross.

### Siege Belles Made in Germany.

Preparations are already being made in large industrial centres to meet orders for Pekin relics, shell splinter brooches, bullets, Chinese skulls and "match-boxes made from the wood-work of the British Legation"—these last largely in Germany. Sieges are, however, becoming rather a drug in the market.—St. James Gazette.



THE ORPHANS IN THE POOR HOUSE.

destitute, and of these Government is taking care of 6,500,000 on relief work in poor-houses.

"As for the mortality—more famine deaths daily than the total American losses in the Spanish-American war; more deaths weekly than the Boer and British losses to date in their present war, and a grand total of famine deaths, since January 1, equal to twice the figure at which is placed the losses on both sides from all



DEAD BODIES OF THE STARVED ON FUNERAL PYRES READY FOR BURNING.

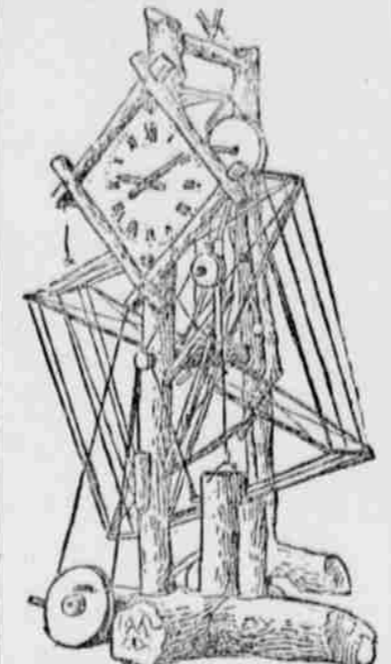
causes in the Civil War. In actual figures the death list amounts to more than 3000 daily, 100,000 each month, 700,000 this year.

as Central Park; in the second, 7000 were building a narrow-gauge railroad; in the third, 3000 were breaking stone for roadbed. Two-thirds of the

### A RUSTIC CLOCK.

Keeps Accurate Time Although All Working Parts Are of Wood.

This rustic clock shown herewith, according to Revue Chronometrique, was constructed by M. Boullat, a clockmaker of Contance, France, as a curious piece of horology, yet notwithstanding its rusticity it seems to conduct itself with much regularity, and reflects credit on the mechanical skill of its author. It possesses all the necessary organs, although they are exceedingly simple. Two small logs of firewood, fastened crosswise, constitute the base, and two upright sticks, solidly connected at top and bottom, serve for the reception of the arbors. The mechanism consists of a motor weight, a four-armed wheel and escapement rack, a pendulum and two pulleys, one of which has a crank and handle for winding. A dial and hands,



RUSTIC CLOCK.

with the dial work, complete the ensemble. All is of wood, except the wheel range of the rack, which is of metal. The motor weight is suspended from the drum of the four-armed wheel, which occupies the central part of the clock. The force is transmitted to the pendulum and the motion work by a wire, four and a half meters in length, rolled on one hand on the arbor of the rack, and on the other attached to one of the arms of the wheel, as shown in the illustration. The pendulum is attached to a wire, of which the length is regulated by means of a pin seen at the top of the frame. The winding is effected by means of a pulley placed at the lower part of the construction and connected with the axis of the escapement wheel by an endless wire. The motion work is operated with the aid of a pinion of three leaves acting on a cannon pinion of seventy-two teeth, which revolves once an hour. This pinion is on the arbor of the escapement rack, so that the latter makes twenty-four revolutions an hour; as it has 120 teeth the virtual length of the pendulum is about 306 centimeters. The wheel revolves once in four hours.

### General Miles in His New Uniform.

The new uniform of lieutenant-general, which has been built after designs made by General Miles himself, promises to create a reform in Europe which will bring the old style military dress of high rank up-to-date. General Miles's new regimentals are some-



GENERAL MILES IN HIS NEW UNIFORM.

thing to shame the antique styles of the continent and Great Britain.

The coat is of a rich dark blue material, illuminated with triple rows of buttons. There are collars and cuffs of dark blue velvet, and the cuffs are three inches in depth. There are gold epaulets, with solid crescents, bearing three stars instead of two, as under the old regime. The shoulder-straps, of dark blue, are four inches long, bordered with gold embroidery, and on each strap are three stars embroidered in silver.

In selecting his headgear and that of his staff General Miles has followed the Russian fashion.

The Governor of Georgia, population in 1890 1,800,000, receives \$3000 a year salary. The Governor of New Jersey, population in 1890 1,400,000, receives \$10,000.

# THE REALM OF FASHION.

New York City.—The fitted jacket basque that can be worn indoors or as part of a street costume never goes out of style. This season it is short and embodies some hint of the mil-



FITTED JACKET BASQUE.

itary influence that renders it especially smart. As illustrated the May Manton model is made from fine broadcloth in a rich brown, with vest of cream white and trimming of brown braid edged with white, but all suiting materials are suitable, vicuna and Venetian cloths being generally good.

The basque is cut with a centre seam, side backs and under-arm gores, and is fitted with double darts, the many seams, as well as the narrow waist, tending to give a tapering effect. While it is excellent for all figures, it suits the stout ones as few models can, and reduces apparent size as far as it is possible to do. The sleeves are two-seamed and fit snugly to the wrists, where they are slashed and flare over the hands. The high standing collar fits smoothly, and is singularly effective made of the two colors, although it can be of either one entire, if preferred.

To cut this jacket basque for a woman of medium size one and three-quarter yards of material forty-four inches wide, of one and three-eighths

ranged at the right side. This can only be made on a heavy skirt, such as corduroy or cloth. The weight of the balls would drag a pique skirt out of shape. The pocket should be capacious, or there is no need, otherwise, for its existence.

### The Pointed Belt Front.

The newer leather belts for wear with morning gowns are slender all around, except in front, where the lower edge broadens to dip down and produce the desirable long-waisted effect. These new belts have two buckles, only one of which is fastened. They are on both sides of the pointed piece of leather. A white one leather belt is machine stitched with black, and the black patent leather belts are sometimes decorated with a narrow facing of white leather on the edges, or as often as not are stitched with white thread.

### For Larger Sleeves.

All the intimations from fashion centres are to the effect that sleeves are to be loose this winter. Not that there is any danger of a return to the overgrown monstrosities of a few years ago, but it is not going to be fashionable to have the sleeve fitted closely to the lines of the arm. Sleeves will be draped. They will have dainty caps and ruffles and shirtings, and will otherwise be made an attractive feature of the gown of the coming season.

### Almost to the Elbow.

Very long cuffs of lace are worn over the forearm. They are close-fitting, rather a tight envelope for the croon or mesh beneath. They continue their journey upward from the wrist, and frequently reach the elbow, where they are lost to sight beneath the elbow puff of silk, or of chiffon. As the upper edge of the lace cuff is not visible, you can use piece lace for the cuff, if you have no edge lace with border of the suitable depth.

### Chains Still the Vogue.

Long chains of antique design will be popular during the season. Some



MISSIE'S BOLERO WAIST.

yards fifty inches wide, with five-eighths yards for vest and collar, will be required.

### Misses' Bolero Waist.

Whatever other styles the season may have in store, the bolero will remain a favorite for young girls, as well as for their older sisters and mammas. The very chic May Manton design shown in the large engraving is youthful at the same time that it is eminently practicable and suited to a variety of materials. As illustrated, the jacket is of fawn-colored vicuna cloth, with bands of rich red braid, the waist of soft-finished taffeta in a slightly lighter shade with embroidered dots of red, that match the braid, and worn with a crush belt and collar of panne velvet ribbon in the same warm color. Velvet could, however, be substituted for the bolero with admirable effect, and all suiting materials are entirely appropriate.

The waist is made over a fitted lining that closes at the centre front. On it is arranged the full front, that is tucked to form a pointed yoke. As shown, it is included in the right shoulder and under-arm seams, and hooked over to the left; but, if preferred, can be opened at the centre, the closing being concealed by the folds. The little jacket can be made entirely separate and slipped on over the waist. It is simplicity itself, fitted with shoulder and under-arm seams only, and is lined throughout with silk. The sleeves are two-seamed and are finished at the wrists with roll-over flare cuffs.

To cut this bolero waist for a miss of fourteen years of age two and three-eighths yards of material twenty-one inches wide, one and one-quarter yards forty-four inches wide, or one yard fifty inches wide, with one yard of silk twenty inches wide for the full front, will be required.

### Up-to-Date.

A golf skirt up-to-date has a new fangled pocket added to hold a few extra golf balls as a reserve for an emergency. This is an outside pocket, and has an envelope flap, which buttons over to keep the balls from hopping out during exercise. The pocket must be placed at the left side. It would be in the way of the player if ar-

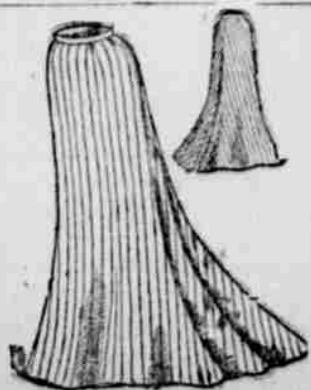
are hung with odd charms and pendants.

### Ladies' Circular Skirt.

Skirts that fit snugly at the upper portion and flare freely at the feet make a marked feature of autumn styles. The circular model lends itself to the mode peculiarly well and is becoming to all slight and medium figures, at the same time that it is singularly well adapted to cloths and all wide materials. Indications point to many striped materials for fall and winter wear, and the illustration by May Manton shows the skirt in a tan cheviot with lines of brown, but all plain and small figured materials are equally suitable.

The skirt is cut in one piece, with the seam at the back. It is fitted about the hips with small darts, and the fulness at the waist is laid in an inverted pleat at the centre back. The folds formed are graceful, and the flare provided means abundant freedom for the feet. When plaid goods is used, a good effect is obtained by making a seam at the centre front, the pattern being laid on the bias edge of the material in place of on the double fold. The plaid must, of course, be carefully matched, but when that is done the result is a good one, and the sides, falling on the straight, are not so liable to sag.

To cut this skirt for a woman of



CIRCULAR SKIRT.

medium size three and one-half yards of material fifty inches wide, or three and three-quarter yards forty-four inches wide, will be required.