

COLONIAL INTELLIGENCE.

INDIA.

The Legislative Council of Calcutta have passed a Draft Act for regulating Coroner's Juries in that city. It makes the minimum necessary to constitute one, not twelve, but three, the finding of which jury shall be as good, valid and effective law, as one by twelve jurors. This is a great innovation upon the duodecim system, but it seems to have been urgently called for.

A notification appears in the *Gazette* announcing that henceforth imported salt may be bonded in private warehouses, licensed by the Controlling Board.

The abundance of rain during the month of June had not been favourable to the Indigo crop, which cannot now be expected to rise above the average, unless indeed fine weather in July should improve its chances. The fall of rain registered during June in Calcutta was 12.61 inches; at Bombay there fell in one day, the 12th June, not less than 13½ inches. The fall of rain at Narainpore during the month of May was 5.90 inches. Twenty-three inches of rain fell at Rumpore during the eight days, from the 13th to the 20th of June.

It is proposed to establish a new weekly paper at Agra, to be called the *Agra Messenger*.

We understand that the labours of Mr. Williams, the Surveyor of the Mining districts of India, have resulted in the discovery of a very valuable seam of coal, inferior in geological position to those which have been hitherto working, and one which will afford "coking coal" of very superior quality, especially adapted to the use of locomotive engines. This discovery sets at rest the discussion which had arisen regarding the value of the Burdwan coal field; which as Mr. Williams asserted some time since contained coal of very superior quality, but which, according to the opinion of others who had paid some little attention to the subject, had already been fully explored. We cannot but congratulate Mr. Williams on this discovery, establishing the truth

of what he some time since fearlessly asserted regarding the value of the Burdwan coal-bearing strata; and we are glad to find that the Government has so soon reaped the fruits of procuring the services of a thorough practical miner. We learn, too, that machinery has been recently sent up the Damooda, which will afford Mr. Williams every opportunity for prosecuting labours which are so important to the interests of the country.—*Bengal Hurkaru*.

The island of Bombay has recently suffered from a desolating conflagration, by which the British hotel, and several godowns of the merchants were destroyed.

Attempts have also been made to burn the vessels in the harbour. The Bombay shipowners and merchants have in consequence appointed a committee to inquire into the best method of defeating such villany, and a registration act for seamen is loudly called for in consequence.

A recent notification by the Bombay Government admits goods crossing from Kurrachee or other sea-ports in Scinde to Bombay, free of duty.

A new joint-stock association, called the Bombay Spinning and Weaving Company, is about shortly to be established in Bombay. The capital is to be five lakhs of rupees, divided into 5,000 shares of rupees, 100 each. A deposit of rupees, five per share, is required to be made, and six months' notice will be given for any further call. About 3,000 shares have been already subscribed for. The object of the association, which is sufficiently indicated by the title, is to manufacture cotton fabrics from the raw material on the spot, by means of machinery imported from Europe.

CEYLON.

Our papers from this Colony are to July 12. A dinner had been given by the merchants of Colombo to the new Governor, Lord Torrington. His Lordship has, however, drawn himself into hot water, at this early stage of his government, by the pertinacity with