

have to pay \$9,000,000 if we bought at the valuation on which we now pay rental interest. It probably would take from 15 to 20 years, but it all depends on how fast the city grows.

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#### The Russian Church and Tolstoy.

Tolstoy's birthday (p. 539) which is being celebrated in Russia this week, on the 9th (on the 28th of August according to the Russian Calendar) has been put under the ban by the Holy Synod of Russia, which has issued a circular appealing to all believers not to participate in the celebrations announced, on the ground that thus to praise this opponent of the church would be a stumbling block to persons of weak faith. In line with this attitude the governors of the provinces of Moscow, Warsaw, Saratov, Simbirsk, as well as others, have resorted to the provisions of martial law to veto the celebrations arranged by the municipalities; and the censorship of St. Petersburg has prohibited the memorial performance arranged at a local theater. The Countess Tolstoy has requested that all newspapers publishing commemorative articles in regard to the Count, should forward copies to the Rumiantsoff Historical Museum at Moscow, for preservation in the Tolstoy room. The aged Tolstoy is reported in the days just in advance of his eightieth birthday, to be weak and ill, and to look emaciated, though still keeping at work.

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#### A "Sedition" Trial in India.

The recent trial at Bombay of Mr. Bal Gangadhar Tilak on charges of sedition, and his deportation to the Andaman Islands for six years, was reported last week (p. 540). Mr. Tilak's prominence as a leader, and his character and ability, have given his trial a typical value, as if all India were being tried for sedition. The Indian point of view on the trial is given vividly in these extracts from a private letter written from Bombay on July 25:

This fortnight has seen Bombay rising up and down in excitement over the prosecution, defense and conviction of Mr. Tilak. News of this case must have reached you ere this. The verdict was given on Wednesday night [July 22].

Mr. Tilak has been a journalist for the last twenty-seven years, and a prominent legal man in the Deccan for over twenty-five years. He is one of those Indians who live for speaking the truth, and speak the truth at any cost, come what may. Ten years ago he was convicted for publishing a "seditious" article, in his vernacular paper "The Kesari." The "sedition" consisted in his fighting for and advising the Hindu poor, who were being oppressed and harassed by the Government officials and demiofficials, the police and their underlings, under the plea of fighting the plague. It was no secret that the most was made of the plague opportunity—I will call it, and during the years 1896-98, the poor

were without a home, or even for the matter of that even without a roof to cover them. Everything used to be coolly burnt down—houses, cottages, thatched blocks, clothing, head and foot wear, to save the poor Indians from the plague microbe. For this defense of the poor he was sentenced to eighteen months' hard labor. Mr. Tilak went through it quietly, and came out all the stronger to carry on the campaign against bureaucratic rule in India.

But to the present. In two of his issues for April and May, Mr. Tilak published editorials headed, "India's Misfortune," "These Remedies Are Not Lasting" and "The Bcmb in India." The articles were written in Marathi, the language of the Deccan. They were subsequently translated into English at the Oriental Translator's office, Bombay. It goes without saying that the translations were not accurate, and words to suit the objects of the Government were put in, instead of the literal meanings, throughout. On this, four separate charges were framed, and Mr. Tilak was arrested for preaching sedition. The Magistrate's Court saw him first, but there he refused to say anything in his defense. The case was, according to his own wish, transferred to the Criminal Sessions, and was conducted before a special jury of Europeans and two Indians, the Indians being represented by two Parsee gentlemen. No Hindus, no Mahrattas, no Bengalees, no Punjabees, were allowed a seat in the jury. The proceedings lasted from Monday, the 12th, to Wednesday, 11 p. m., the 22nd inst., except the intervening Saturday and Sunday. Of the nine days Mr. Tilak defended himself for eight days, his defense speech having taken all that time. It simply thrilled India through and through, and opened the eyes of the entire public. Mr. Tilak spoke for twenty-one hours and ten minutes. The case has been a record one, and many legal men came to minutely watch its proceedings. It was known that the defense would cause a sensation, and the Government brought in troops and men from distant places. Soldiers and cavalry men have been patrolling the city day and night for the past week and a half, harassing the poor and the passersby. Martial law has been proclaimed; meetings of all kinds stopped and forbidden; preachers, religious and otherwise, prosecuted; and public men who have shown some sympathy with Mr. Tilak or his cause, grossly insulted.

Mr. Tilak's speech was delivered in English. The case as put by the prosecution was a regular farce. But Mr. Tilak made splendid use of the opportunity. He took the entire Court by storm. The legal men who had assembled were struck dumb. The authorities regret having allowed him to speak. But he has said his say. After the conclusion of his speech matters were hurried through. The court sat until 11 p. m., for the first time in the annals of Bombay.

Very great pressure was brought on the two Parsee jurors to side with the Government and pass the unanimous verdict of "Guilty." But I am very proud to say that they have kept up the tradition of the Parsee by saying just what they thought the truth. One of them has been fined Rs.\* 50 for saying, after the sentence had been passed, that "Gross

\*A rupee is at present equivalent to about 32 cents.  
Editors of The Public.