

TYRANNY OF HINDUS.

RULES FOR BALAIS.

MODE OF LIFE LAID DOWN.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT).

INDORE, January 1.

Last May high caste Hindus, viz., Kalotas, Rajputs, and Brahmins including the patels and putwaris of villages Kanaria, Bicholee Hafsi, Bicholi Mardana, and of about 15 others villages in the Indore district informed the Balais of their respective villages that if they wished to live among them, they must conform to the following rules:—1. Balais must not wear gold lace bordered pugrees; 2. They must not wear dhoties with coloured or fancy borders; 3. They must convey intimation of the death of any Hindu to relatives of deceased—no matter how far away these relatives may be living; 4. In all Hindu marriages, the Balais must play music before the processions, and during the marriages; 5. The Balai women must not wear gold or silver ornaments; they must not wear fancy gowns, or jackets; 6. Balai women must attend all cases of confinement of Hindu women; 7. The Balais must render services without demanding remuneration, and must accept whatever a Hindu is pleased to give. 8. If the Balais do not agree to abide by these terms, they must clear out of the villages.

BALAIS REFUSE COMPLIANCE.

The Balais refused to comply; and the Hindu element proceeded against them. Balais were not allowed to get water from the village wells; they were not allowed to let go their cattle to graze. Balais were prohibited from passing through land owned by a Hindu; so that if the field of a Balai was surrounded by fields owned by Hindus, the Balai could have not access to his own field. The Hindus also let their cattle graze down the fields of Balais. The Balais submitted petitions to the Darbar against these persecutions; but as they could get no timely relief, and the oppression continued hundreds of Balais, with their wives and children, were obliged to abandon their homes in which their ancestors lived for generations, and migrate to adjoining States, viz., to villages in Dhar, Dewas, Bagli, Bhopal, Gwalior, and other States.

COMPULSORY AGREEMENT.

Only a few days ago the Hindus of Reoti village barely 7 miles to the North of Indore City ordered the Balais to sign a stamped agreement in accordance with the rules framed against the Balais by the Hindus of other villages. The Balais refused to comply. It is alleged that some of them were beaten by the Hindus; and one Balai was fastened to a post, and was told that he would be let go on agreeing to sign the agreement. He signed the agreement; and was released. Some Balais from this village ran up to the Prime Minister, the next day, i.e., on the 26th December, and made a complaint about the ill-treatment they have received from the Hindu villagers of Reoti. They were sent to the Subha of the District. This Officer, with the help of the Police, made inquiries at the village, and recommended that action be taken against the Hindus under Sections 342 and 147 and against the Balais under Section 147 Indian Penal Code.