

Thur. 12<sup>th</sup> May 27. "Sir, the boiler will burst!"

There was a very funny incident today at day-break. It so happened that a steam-roller and its workers had stopped for the night near the well in the colony. Without asking <sup>for</sup> the permission the driver began to fill in his <sup>big</sup> water-cart from the well which was specially reserved for drinking-purposes only and the mandali themselves went for bathing and washing elsewhere. Therefore some one from the mandali tried to stop the driver from taking out all that water, but being used to treat poor illiterate villagers roughly on the wrong notion of being a government servant in charge of such an imposing thing like a steam-<sup>Roller</sup>-~~engine~~, he paid no heed to the protests. The puffed-up driver ~~displayed~~ continued to display his effrontery with impunity even when Rustamji appeared on the scene and began to persuade him to desist from taking the water! A few minutes

more and the driver suddenly found himself being bundled into the Mahan very unceremoniously - He was not only detained inside but quite a showy hue and cry was raised about calling in the Police and prosecuting him for trespass and so on.

It did not take long in this way to bring the insolent man to his senses, but the humour of it was ~~this~~, that at that time, none of the mandali could grasp as to what he meant by frantically gesticulating towards the engine outside and ~~saying~~ repeating again and again with all the emphasis at his command "Sub bulega gr orion" (Sir, the boiler will burst.)

The more he tried to squeeze out of the Mahan the more he was pressed in, till at last signs of horror were clearly visible about his features.

At this he was allowed out, and it was a sight to see him go with a bound towards his engine!

He had steamed-up the engine before he had begun to draw out the water from the well and there was really a chance of the boiler bursting out! It was only then that the full significance of his frantic ejaculations "Sir the boiler will burst" dawned upon the mandali. Anyhow the fellow got the fright of his life which would no doubt go a long way in teaching him good manners.

There were the usual Thursday visitors and also Bhaosahib's musical Bhajan took place in the school premises between 4 and 5-15 in the evening. Again in connection with the wanton assault on that poor girl, that took place

a few days ago in the Angava village, the City Sub-Inspector came for further investigations and took Rustamji with him in the village this evening.

The way the Inspector gave importance to Rustamji's statements in the presence of the villagers it created a profound impression amongst them for the Nekherabad authorities, so much so that the accused's relations fell on Rustamji's feet to help them in compounding the case, but of course it has been finally decided not to do anything of the kind in this case and let the law take its own course and provide a good lesson of restraint amongst the villagers and so the enquiries were duly carried out.

At seven o'clock in the evening Baba was pleased to accept an invitation of attending a marriage ceremony amongst the villagers at Angava and accordingly went there with good many of the mandali. For more than an hour Shri was kind enough to remain at the house where the marriage took place and saw all the ceremonies to the end, and then after patiently allowing His august 'Darshans' to the hundreds of men women and children assembled there Baba came back at Nekherabad by 9.30. Thereafter Ramji was asked to begin his "Sexton Blake" narrations, at the close of which, at about eleven o'clock all were asked to retire for the night.

The new Swami who has been allowed to stay here of late was reported of playing some mischief and disturbing other members in their duties. At first Shri threatened him with dismissal, but after sometime cooled him down and gave him some new clothes as

well as advised him to remain quietly in the room allotted to him near the well, without causing any nuisance to others.

A telegram was also received this evening intimating the arrival of the Head-Priest of the Parsis here on Saturday morning to see Baba.

Fri. 13<sup>th</sup> May '27

The school was so long conducted in the two big halls without any partitions for the different classes. But the wooden screens got from Bombay for this purpose were made ready today, and the early morning saw all busy in making out separate class-rooms with these screens under Shri's personal supervision. There was some talk about compiling Shri's biography today between Chanjji and Baba who permitted the former to begin the work from Monday next.

Baba again accepted a marriage invitation and accordingly went in the Amgaon village with some of the mandali in the evening. Here Shri actually went round with the marriage procession from the bride-groom's place to that of the bride, remained throughout the lengthy ceremonies and after letting all the people pay Him their respects returned at Gherabud by nine o'clock. After the usual story repetition all retired to beds at ten thirty. Adi who happened to come to Gherabud in the evening was instructed to go and receive the High-Priest coming here tomorrow and conduct him here in the car.