

the centre of a general rising which, though there is no danger of its final success, will involve heavy expenditure on the part of the Indian government, and probably great loss of life to suppress. Meantime, the action of the Afghan ameer in denouncing the revolt and renewing his declaration of fealty to Great Britain has had a reassuring effect, though that the Calcutta authorities are not yet satisfied is shown by their request for specific answers to certain questions.

#### THE NEWS FROM INDIA

NEWS from India is of increasing gravity. The rising of the Afridis, among the fiercest of the border tribes, numbering twenty thousand fighting men, and occupying the region about the Khyber Pass, adds a new danger to a situation already serious enough. The Afridis have hitherto been loyal to the British, and under an agreement made some years ago, have in return for liberal subsidies, kept the pass open against the attacks of other tribes, and supplied recruits for the Khyber Rifles, a native contingent. But incited by the Mad Mullah, and perhaps encouraged from Cabul, they have attacked the small forts scattered through the pass, captured or driven out the garrisons, and closed the great defile against the British. As the Khyber is the main gateway between India and Afghanistan, its reopening and the punishment of the Afridis is indispensable, both for the maintenance of British influence in Afghanistan, and of British supremacy along the border, if not throughout India. The pass is twenty-eight miles long, and forms part of the road from Peshawur, the British military base in Northwestern India, to Cabul, the Afghan capital, a distance of about 170 miles. Peshawur stands in a plain a few miles from the eastern end of the pass, and Jamrud, a small British fortified town, still nearer its entrance, the pass running thence westward through lofty hills, at first in a narrow gorge, then broadening out only to contract further on, to emerge at its further end in the great valley of Jellalabad, in Afghanistan. From this valley, whose only eastern outlet is the Khyber, there are several passes through the mountains to Cabul, ninety miles away, one of them being the Khoord-Cabul, in which the massacre of Lord Elphinstone's army occurred more than half a century ago. Cabul and Jellalabad are under the sway of the Afghan ameer, and Peshawur is British, but the Khyber and the hill regions to the north and south of it is the land of the Pathan tribesmen, who, independent or yielding only a nominal allegiance to either power, are always ready for action. Just now all of them seem astir, the British outposts in the Kurram valley to the south being attacked by the Orakzais, the Mohmund tribesmen threatening to renew hostilities about Fort Shabkadr, north of Peshawur, and the clansmen in the Swat and Tochi valleys being still in revolt. The Khyber is thus