THE STRIKE OF B.I. COMPANY

OFFICERS.

From a telegram received In Singapore last evening (says the "Straits Times" of the 17th February) we learn that the Strlke among the British-India Company's officers has been put an end to, and it is hoped the long-standing disputes between them and the company have been settled. The whole of the circumstances connected with the dispute have been furnished to a representative of the "Straits Times" by Mr. Dagge, the chief officer of the steamer Bancoora, one 'of the company's steamers now lying at Tanjong Pagar Wharf. In reply to the representative, Mr. Dagge said that he courted every inquiry. There was no doubt, he said, that the Company did now, as they always should haye done, realise that the claims of the officers werejust, and that they had only been actuated with a desire to do what every other servant would do-refuse to allow any master, or combination of masters, to oppress them.

Asked to give me the circumstances which led to the dispute. Mr. Dagge said : Yes ! I will tell you, because there is nothing that I court more than full inquiry. The whole affair goes back to 18S9, When the question of the pay and promotion of the officers engaged the company's attention. A scheme was drawn up which gave the ofilcers a chance of rising both ways. A commander starting at 250 dollars was agreed to, but then they put In chief officers as acting commanders with a pay of 200 dollars. I was one who was appointed and I refused to go. There was a commander ashore with his family, and he had come out after six months' leave, and It was then that the whole question came out. This was in Bombay, and our association, which in consequence of the arrangement made in Í8S9, had been abandoned, was revived. It was stated that the managing agents at Calcutta, Messrs. Mackinnon, M'Kenzle, and Co., had Introduced the practice of making chief officers, acting commanders-and some say without the sanction of the directors.

Then, I believe there was a revival of the dispute in Bombay ?

Yes, and I went and gave the local agents notice that no ships would be able to leave the harbour. Then they offered to pay my passage to Calcutta, which I refused. They tried to force the men again, but I told that no steamer would sail, and out of the whole fleet there were only two men who actually agreed to work. I don't wish to say anything hard against these men, but they were known not to be the most competent men in the company.

Then I believe the Rangoon mails were stopped ?

Yes, six months after this the Burmah malls were stopped, and the strike revived. Something about a month ago, Sir. J. L. MacKay came out as one of the directors, to inquire Into the subject, and I received a letter asking me to send a deputation of fifteen officers to Calcutta to join in the deliberations, so that the main points embodied in a memorial which had been sent in could be finally settled. The Lindula and Culna left for Calcutta, but the officers who were to go in these steamers as the deputation were refused passages.