

The Hindu Organ

(THE CHEAPEST WEEKLY IN CEYLON)
PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY.

VOL XI.

JAFFNA: WEDNESDAY 21ST FEBRUARY 900.

NO. 32.

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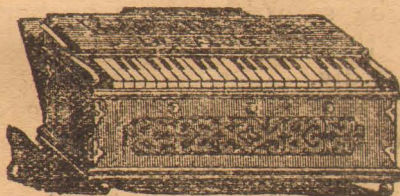
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13th February 1900 S VALUPPILLAI
Executors.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA ORDER NISI

Testamentary. } No 1040.

Jurisdiction. }
Class. II

In the Matter of the Estate of the late Chinnachippillai wife of Arumugam Coomarasamy of Valvedditurai

Arumugam Coomarasamy of Valvedditurai Deceased.
Petitioner.

Va

1. Arumugam Veluppillai and wife
2. Sithamparam of Valvedditurai

Respondents

This matter of the Petition of Arumugam Coomarasamy of Valvedditurai praying for Letters of Administration to the estate of the abovenamed deceased Chinnachippillai wife of Arumugam Coomarasamy coming on for disposal before C. Eardley Wilmot Esquire, District Judge, on the 30th day of January 1900 in the presence of Messrs. Casippillai and Cathiravelu Proctors on the part of the Petitioner and affidavit of the Petitioner dated the 29th day of January 1900 having been read, it is declared that the Petitioner is the lawful husband of the said intestate and is entitled to have Letters of Administration to the estate of the said Intestate issued to him, unless the Respondents or any other person shall on or, before the 14th day of March 1900 show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

Signed this 30th day of January 1900
Sigd/ C. Eardley Wilmot.
District Judge.



THE HINDU ORGAN.

JAFFNA, WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 21, 1900

The New Director of Public Instruction.

We extend a hearty welcome to Mr. S. M. Burrows, the Director of Public Instruction, who has arrived here, with Mrs. Burrows, on a tour of inspection. We are glad to learn that he intends to remain in Jaffna till the 8th of next month and study fully the educational wants of this District, with the view to the introduction of reforms in the educational policy of the Government. He will no doubt be struck with the large number of Colleges and Schools in the Peninsula and the great avidity with which parents get education imparted to their children in them. There was a time when almost all the educational institutions here belonged to the Christian Missions. Taking advantage of this monopoly, the Protestant Missionaries,

who, it must be admitted, had done much in the cause of education, became very intolerant and forced the Hindu students attending their schools to rob away the sacred ashes from their forehead and resorted to other high-handed proceedings. This opened the eyes of the Hindus to the necessity of establishing Colleges and Schools of their own for the education of their children without any violation to their religious feelings. The Hindu College at Vannarponnai, Victoria College at Chullipuram, and the Point Pedro Hindu School, not to speak of the large number of other English and Vernacular schools under private management, are the products of this spirit of self-help on the part of the Hindus of this Peninsula. The Department of Public Instruction has hitherto very properly encouraged these private ventures, as it could not have justly refused grant to schools started by Hindus for the education of Hindu children, thus supplying a long-felt want among them, instead of leaving them at the mercy of Missionaries and their agents, who establish schools, not with the sole object of supplying the educational wants of the "heathens," but as a means of proselyting them. It is, therefore, to be hoped that the new Director will follow the policy of his predecessors in this matter, and not heed the advice of the organ of these Missionaries in Jaffna which asks him not to multiply the number of schools in this District but to refuse the application for grant to any new school which is within one mile of an existing school. The Missionaries are undoubtedly interested in the adoption of such a policy by the Government; but the public whose interests the Government are bound to safeguard and whose religious feelings and scruples they respect will not be benefitted by it. It will thus be seen that our contemporary's advice in this respect was not tendered disinterestedly.

Mr. Burrows also will notice the great activity of the Jaffna people and the perseverance with which they till their gardens. Jaffna is essentially an agricultural country whose staple product is tobacco which has, however, but one market outside Ceylon—the native State of Travancore. We do not think there is much room for improvement in the mode of their cultivating fields and gardens in general. But he will do a great service to this Peninsula, and his name will be remembered by its inhabitants with gratitude, if he will be the means of introducing into Jaffna Agricultural Instructors or experts who would teach the cultivators the planting of new and finer varieties of tobacco and the mode of curing them to suit European markets. This is a subject on which we have often written and which claims the special attention of our present Government Agent as his administration reports would testify.

PUBLIC HEALTH IN JAFFNA.

We invite the special attention of our readers to the extract which we publish in another column from the able and masterly report of the Registrar-General on Vital Statistics for 1898. It will be seen that Mr. Arunachalam draws the special attention of the Government to the very unsatisfactory condition of public health in Jaffna, as disclosed by the statistics of deaths that occurred during the year, and quotes largely from the Administration report of the Government Agent and from our own columns to show the need of prompt measures being adopted to improve the sanitary condition of the Peninsula. We have times without number adverted to the subject and urged on the Government and the public the necessity of adopting measures to prevent the recurrence of the fever epidemic that annually occurs

in Jaffna and carries off thousands of victims. We earnestly hope that the leaders of the Jaffna community will bestir themselves and approach the Government with a memorial pointing out the urgent necessity of introducing sanitary reforms into Jaffna, and if need be, the appointment of a Commission to inquire into and report on the causes of the periodical outbreak of fever here, and the preventive measures to be adopted.

THE HINDU MISSION IN AMERICA.

Our readers will have heard of the noble work done by Swami Abhedananda in America who took up the Vedanta work in succession to Swami Saradananda who in turn had succeeded Swami Vivekananda. Several of the Swami Abhedananda's lectures notably that on Reincarnation, speaks of his high erudition, deep thought and earnestness. From a report of his half yearly work it appears that the work is progressing very steadily. An independent testimony to the success of the Mission was afforded in an extract from an American Board Report that appeared in the Jaffna Morning Star recently, in which the waning support for Christian Mission abroad was in part attributed to the preaching of the Indian Swamis in America. The Swami Abhedananda had travelled over 2000 miles during six months preaching and lecturing to many societies and assemblies of cultured Americans. In June last, the Swami, addressed the New England Cremation Society at their anniversary meeting, saying that cremation has been practised in India from prehistoric time and showing the Sanitary value of this method of disposing of dead bodies. The practice of cremation is rapidly spreading in the United States, where there are twenty five large crematories. The Swami said that the teaching of the resurrection of bodies from the grave, during the past 2000 years stood in the way of cremation. This superstition is passing away and it is reported that "The Bishop of London and many other clergymen of standing have been considering an interesting addition in the Church of England Prayer Book. It is felt in view of the very rapid increase of cremation, that there ought to be a new form of religious service before committing the bodies to the flames." A Committee has been appointed to consider the new form of Service.

On the 2nd June the Swami spoke before an audience of a thousand persons at the anniversary of the Free Religious Association of America on "The oriental view of immortality." At a lecture delivered in Newport the Swami was introduced to the audience by the Rev. Dr. Cutter. A Minister in the audience remarked that "Congregationalists no longer believe the doctrine of eternal punishment and Hell fire." Greeting the Swami personally at the close of the lecture, this Minister said "I do not know whether I have made you a better Hindu, but surely you have made me a better Christian." After lecturing at the Apalachian Mountain Club, the Swami went to Worcester Mass to attend the summer school for teachers in Clark University, taking part in lessons on Child Study, Physiology, Mineralogy, Anatomy, Philosophy, Anthropology and Biology, with laboratory appliances. An address was given to the students on the Philosophy of the Hindus. The spacious parlors were crowded to the doors and one hearer said "I wish our Ministers would give such sermons in our Churches." After visiting Chatanguwa the Swami went to Greenacre Main, where exists the school for the study of comparative religions. This school is held under a tree which can shelter nearly 200 persons under its over-spreading branches. This is known as the "Swami's Pine", named when Swami Vivekananda at the foundation of Greenacre taught there and consecrated it for use in teaching the Vedanta. Only the Swamis teach under its protecting shelter and happy memories associated with all the Swamis who have been in America are associated with this lordly forest relic of a by-gone century. Three different lectures were delivered here on Hinduism Pantheistic; Reincarnation; and Spiritual influence of India in the West. While here the Swami received a telegram of the arrival in America of Swamis Vivekananda and Sunyananda with a request to visit them in the Catskill Mountains, where he met them after three years of separation. For ten days the Swamis lived together in a cottage enjoying communion with each other, with loving friends and with nature. At the end of September the Swami attended a great musical festival in

Worcester, Massachusetts, and returned to New York to take up the work of the Vedanta Society in his third year in the city. The loving, grateful thought of many true friends and students follows Swami Abhedananda who is steadily gaining in power as a teacher and whose work, wherever he may be, is full of blessing.

LOCAL & GENERAL.

The Weather—No rain has fallen here for some weeks past. The days are very warm, but the nights are cold and chilly owing to heavy dew.

The Government Agent—Mr. Ievers is now at Mallakam engaged in the acquisition of lands for the railway.

Harvest—The paddy crop is a partial failure owing to the lack of rains in December and January last. The farmers are now busy harvesting their crop.

Earthquake—A slight shock of earthquake is said to have been felt here at about 3 A.M. on the 8th Instant. People generally did not seem to have noticed it owing to the hour when almost everybody would be enjoying a sound sleep. The same shock was felt not only in many parts of Ceylon but also in South India.

The Supreme Court—The first Criminal Sessions for the year 1900 commences here on the 23rd Instant. Mr. Justice Laure and staff arriving here the previous day by the 'Lady Gordon.'

Steamer Service—The 'Lady Gordon' arrived here on a special trip on the 16th Instant and left the next day directly to Colombo. The 'Ilafee' belonging to Messrs Noorbhai and Co arrived here also from Colombo on the evening of the 18th and left for Colombo the next day. The competition between the new steamer and those of the Steamship Company, is proving somewhat detrimental to the interests of the latter, as the former now shares a large portion of the passenger and goods traffic between Jaffna and Colombo and vice versa. The public are however, gainers by this competition. If the competition would still grow keener the fittest would survive.

Mr. Advocate Allegakoen—This gentleman has left for Colombo with Mrs. Allegakoen and family on a visit to his daughter, Mrs. Aserappa, wife of Advocate W. N. S. Aserappa who acted with great acceptance till last month as Deputy Fiscal and Municipal Magistrate, Colombo.

Road Tax Exemption—The Government Agent being engaged in the acquisition of lands for the railway, Mr. Leak, the Office Assistant, attended to the duties of exempting persons from the payment of this tax. We are glad to learn that in all the places this was done, he has used his discretion to the satisfaction of the public.

Tamil Classical Dictionary—A specimen sheet of this work which is in the press, by Mr. A. Muttutamy Pillai of Messrs Ward and Davy, has been sent to us. We understand from a note appended to the sheet that the work will contain 750 pages and that it will be issued to subscribers in volumes of 80 pages at the rate of 8 annas a copy. Mr. Muttutamy Pillai's undertaking is a praiseworthy one and we have no doubt that the Tamil public will very much appreciate the publication of the work which, to judge from the specimen sheet, will be a very useful and interesting one.

Anuradhapura—It is said that one result of His Excellency the Governor's visit to this place will be the establishment of a Local Board, which was mentioned in the public address presented to His Excellency as one of the chief wants of the Town.

The War—According to the latest intelligence from the seat of War, General French relieved Kimberley on Thursday last. But the British sustained another reverse at Rensburg from which they have retired to Auraland. Lord Roberts has crossed the Oranga Free State frontier and is at Jacobdal. The Boer army around Kimberley and its vicinity is in full retreat towards Bloufontein.

Postal changes—We are glad to learn that Mr. S. Sammanther of the Telegraph Office Negombo, has arrived at Pt. Pedro and assumed duties as Signaller of that station relieving Mr. Danvers transferred to the Head Office at Jaffna. Mr. Sammanther belongs to a respectable family in Nellore. He is a grand son of the late Mr. Sampandar a renowned Tamil poet of Jaffna.

We also learn that Mr. V. Vadivelu, Signaller Telegraph Office, Jaffna, has been transferred to the Colombo Head Office. He is the second son of Mr. N. M. Venayagam the veteran Post and Telegraph Master of Pt. Pedro and is a very able Signaller. We wish Mr. Vadivelu all success.

Obituary—We regret to record the death of Mr. S. W. C. Philips, second clerk of the Trincomalee Kachcheri at his residence in the Jaffna Town. He was the second son of Mr. M. Philips late P. W. D. overseer and brother of Mr. R. H. Philips, Deputy Jailor, Jaffna.

Alleged Extortion by Division Officers—It has been brought to our notice that Division Officers in many of the Islands require the people in those outlying parts of the District to pay the Roadtax with an additional levy of 25 cents each in aid of the Transvaal War relief fund. We hope the Government Agent will promptly inquire into the matter and put a stop to this extortion. The Islanders are the poorest among the inhabitants of the Northern Province, and it is not from them the War fund is to be collected in that fashion. The Maniagar of the Islands is reputed to be one of the very few Headmen who are not corrupt and have a high sense of their duties. We therefore feel surprised if such abuses are possible in his Division.

MR. S. A. J. NOORBHAI & CO.

Messrs S. A. J. Noorbhai & Co are becoming so much of interest to the people of Jaffna in connection with their purchasing and working the Ceylon Spinning and Weaving Co. and with their introducing a new line of steamers making Jaffna a special port of call, that our readers will, we are sure, be glad to see the portrait of



MR. S. A. J. NOORBHAI.

of 'Noorani Villa' Kollupitya, Colombo, the Ceylon representative of the firm. The business of the company is reported to be very extensive, especially that with the Maldiv Islands. The late Spinning and Weaving Co., though started under very favourable auspices, had not proved successful and went into liquidation. One of the causes, not sufficiently understood by the promoters, having been that the manufactures did not exactly suit local needs. The manufactures of the Company under Mr. Noorbhai's ownership and management appear to be gaining ground and we hope will out to a large extent by cheap production foreign goods. The steamer which is plying between Jaffna and Colombo weekly is being much availed of at present. Deck passengers appreciate the conveniences afforded, and it is believed that the local agent who is favourably known in Jaffna will establish a prosperous continuity of this additional convenience to the travelling public of Jaffna.

TELEGRAPHIC SUMMARY.

THE WAR

London Feb. 11th.

Reuter, wiring from Kimberley on the 8th instant, says that the Boers continue bombarding, and that the women and children are bravely bearing the hardships of the prolonged siege.

Reuter at the Modder River says:—Lord Roberts arrived here and had an enthusiastic reception. He inspected the Highlanders in Camp yesterday, and congratulated the brigade on their steadiness at Koodoosberg, where the Boers left twelve dead, after burying many.

London, February 12th.

An official despatch from General Clements from Rensburg states that the Boers on the 9th tried to turn our right flank, but were beaten off, and our position was maintained. Our casualties were small.

Reuter, wiring from Rensburg on the 11th instant, reports that two patrols, consisting mostly of Anglo-

lians, were surrounded yesterday. Some escaped and several were wounded. Twelve were captured.

The advance of Boers into Zululand is causing some anxiety.

In the House of Lords this evening Lord Lansdowne explained the Army scheme of the Government. It was the first duty, he said, to provide a field Army of 130,000 men, which would form a reserve for further reinforcements for South Africa. It was proposed to add to the Army fifteen battalions, 43 Batteries, and seven Cavalry Regiments. The proposed changes would add 30,000 regulars and 5,000 auxiliaries, making a total force of nearly 600,000 men.

Captain Eykyn, of the Black Watch, has died from his wounds received at Koodoosberg.

It is reported that Japan has allowed the British Government to take over four 4.7 quickfiring guns ordered from Armstrong's, and that some of the European States have acted similarly in reference to orders they have placed with Vickers and Maxim—the British Government thus acquiring a hundred guns.

In the House of Commons, Mr. Wyndham said that the Government has been urged to adopt a modified form of conscription, but this step was not intended and was not necessary, in view of the volume of the Volunteers, effort in every part of the Empire. Ten thousand Volunteers, he said, had joined during the past month.

The chief aim, therefore, was to increase the efficiency of the Auxiliaries, and to qualify them for garrison duty, and also in case of need for heavier duties. It was proposed to make the pay of the Militia equal to that of the Regulars, and to embody the whole of the Militia in the Spring; and in the Summer to re-arm and increase the grant of Volunteers, to authorise a 2nd Battalion when the number of the first exceeded 1,000, and to exact a higher standard of efficiency.

It was also proposed to raise the Yeomanry to the establishment, to increase their pay, and give them a month annually under canvas.

London Feb. 13th.

Mr. Wyndham, in the House of Commons, said it was intended to replace the troops borrowed from India for the Cape at the earliest possible date.

In the House of Lords Lord Weymss gave notice of a motion in favour of a modified form of compulsory service for Home defence. Lord Lansdowne replied that he strongly favoured some form of National Military Education, and that the War Office and Education Department had exchanged views on the subject.

The Times comments on the lack of guiding principle and definite object with regard to the Government's proposals in their army scheme.

Kimberley was being severely bombarded on the 8th instant.

The Boers have driven in our outposts on our western flank at Rensburg. We suffered some casualties.

Our eastern flank at Rensburg is being threatened, and our force at Slingsfontein has been obliged to retire on Rensburg.

Reuter, wiring from Rensburg to-day, says that under pressure of a strong force of the Boers who had likewise mounted a big gun on Bastards Nek, commanding the surrounding country, the British have evacuated every post westward of Rensburg including Coleskew.

General Buller's casualties from the 5th to the 7th were 26 killed and 338 wounded, the latter including Lieut. Bohnell of the West Yorkshires and Captain White of the East Surreys.

SELECTIONS.

HEALTH OF THE TAMILS IN 1898.

Of the Tamil population in the Island, which amounts to a million, the Indian immigrant population of the estates estimated to be close on 500,000 and the remainder to be home-born, of whom about 825,000 live in the Northern Province, nearly 100,000 in the Eastern Province, about 50,000 in the Western, and the rest scattered over the other Provinces of the Island.

NORTHERN PROVINCE—The rate of mortality among the Tamils of this Province this year rose to 27.7 per 1,000 from an average of 23.0. For this the increased mortality of the Jaffna District was mainly responsible. Though in extent only one-fourth of the Northern Province, it contains about 300,000 inhabitants, or more than nine-tenths of the Provincial population, with an average density of 341 persons to a square mile, varying from 2,134 in the Jaffna division to 14 in Karachchi. The mortality in the district in 1898 was in the proportion of 26.5 per 1,000 or about 5 per 1,000 higher than the average in 1891-97 (21.1).

The excess was shared by ten of the eleven divisions, the exception being Punakari. The greatest increase was in the least populous division of Karachchi (from 14.2 to 41.0), and in the division next to it in population; Vadamaradchi east, from 24.6 to 48.5, making it the unhealthiest division in the district: but the rates of these scantily populated divisions are not suitable for comparative purposes. In the adjoining division of Vadamaradchi west, which contains twelve times the population—over 50,000—and is in fact the most populous division in the Province, the increase in mortality was from 18.6 to 23.3 making it the second healthiest division in the district as well as in the Province. Taking the five other populous divisions, the first place in the district and the Province was, as usual, taken by Vallikamam east (22.8), a rise from an average of 16.8, and the third healthiest division was Vallikamam West, with the death-rate rising from 18.7 to 24.5, followed by Vallikamam north with a death-rate rising from 17.1 to 25.1, and Jaffna division (rising from an average of 22.2 to 28.8), and Tenmaradchi (from 23.7 to 31.1), which last may be considered the unhealthiest in the district, excluding the smaller divisions which do not

The cholera epidemic which commenced in November, 1897, extended to January, 1898, causing 83 registered deaths. There was a recrudescence in the third quarter, causing 47 deaths. In the fourth quarter there was a very severe epidemic of fever and pneumonia, which lasted to the end of February, 1899, and was far more fatal than cholera. In the Jaffna division, i. e., practically the town of Jaffna, with its population of over 40,000 who are under the operation of the special clauses 31 to 36 of the Ordinance No. 1 of 1895, the number of deaths was so great that the registrar was unable single handed to inspect the dead in the division, issue certificates for burial, and register the deaths, so that in the last quarter 61 deaths escaped registration.

This epidemic of fever and pneumonia was due to the unusually heavy rains. The country being flat, a heavy flood does not run off. The water lodges in the soil, contaminated by an excessively congested population, floods houses and compounds, and results (says the Government Agent, Jaffna) in a type of malaria more deadly than is found in the Vanni.

The Government Agent's remarks on the health of the Province are worth reproducing:—

"Cholera, introduced by returning pilgrims from India, broke out in Valikamam north division in the last quarter of 1897, and continued till the end of the 1st quarter of 1898. It again appeared from the same cause in Vadamadachi west division in July, but gained no hold on the villages owing to prompt segregation. The non-spread of the disease was chiefly due to the energy and care of Dr. Thornhill, Colonial Surgeon, and later on of Dr. Santiago Acting Colonial Surgeon, who received all possible assistance from the headmen and police.

"The local pilgrimages were, of course, a source of anxiety, and the sanitation of the localities was not easy. The great Madu pilgrimage was carried out successfully under the direction of the Assistant Government Agent, Mannar, who gratefully records the co-operation and help he received from the Vicar-General and resident clergy. No disease of any sort broke out among the twenty thousand people who assembled there at a time when water was usually a difficulty.

"For the small pilgrimages at Kalali, Puthumadam, Nainativu, and Keerimalai, the usual sanitary precautions were adopted under the superintendence of the local chief headmen.

"I am glad to say that in the latter half of the year pilgrims to India were stopped by orders from Government, and the results were satisfactory.

"During the rest of the year the Jaffna District was healthy until December, when after the exceptionally heavy rain the flooded country produced fever and pneumonia. The mortality was great. Fever powders were, as far as possible, distributed through the headmen, and I am informed with the best results. But unfortunately the supply of quinine was soon exhausted and further supplies were not available from Colombo. I trust this will be a lesson for the future to be prepared with sufficient supplies of this indispensable drug to meet any contingency. The people have now come to realize its efficacy, and it is inexcusable that their requirements should have been neglected—a neglect which undoubtedly caused increased mortality.

"The flatness of the peninsula is a serious natural defect. It is physically impossible to run off a heavy flood: the water lodges, floods houses and compounds, and results in a type of malaria more deadly than is found in the Vanni.

"The increase and congestion of population have resulted in the filling up and occupation of low-lying lands, often below the actual sea-level, and these places suffer proportionately in wet weather. We cannot drain them, but at least we can give the quinine."

The leading Jaffna paper, the *Hindu Organ*, thus writes in a recent issue on the same subject:—

(Here follows quotation of our article of the 9th August 1899 Ed. H. O.)

It is quite time that Jaffna, the second town in the Island, was created a Municipality so that its wants may be properly attended to.

In the Vavuniya District there was an improvement from an average of 46.5 to 40.0, but in the other two districts there was a deterioration, in Mullaitivu from 44.8 to 48.2 and in Mannar from 38.6 to 39.8. In one of the divisions the general mortality rises as high as 70 per 1,000, and in another the infant mortality to 647 per 1,000.

The Mannar District being the first entered by the immigrant Indian cooly on his way to the estate on the hills, has always suffered severely from the cholera he brings with him, and this in addition to the ordinary malarial diseases which find a home among the inhabitants owing to insufficient food and bad water. The same visitation affected the districts of Vavuniya and Mullaitivu. In all of them there is an excess of deaths over births, which tells a sad tale of depopulation that has been going on for years.

—Extract from the Report of the Registrar-General for 1898.

TO INVADE INDIA.

A RUSSIAN OFFICER'S PLAN.

Things have somewhat changed since the Emperor Paul in an off-hand despatch a few lines long told his

Cossacks to concentrate at Orenburg and "march straight through Khiva and Bokhara to the River Indus, and thence to the Ganges," adding, in a casual note, if you want infantry I shall send some, but you had better do it yourself." Since 1801 the Russian bases for an invasion of India have been pushed south-east from Orenburg a thousand miles, and the railway to-day brings her troops direct to the Afghan frontier, running through territories of which the Emperor Paul could not even supply a map. In December, 1898, the Transcaspian Railway was opened to Kishk, and at the present date, twelve months later, we are learning some thousands of miles away that the railway bridge and embarkment are as indispensable to the advance of large bodies of troops with modern equipment as their horses were to the Cossack adventurers of 1801. How widely this plain differs from the Asiatic incursion proposed by Skobeloff and from the Cossack raids of Paul there is no need to point out. Nor is it necessary to enter into any of the intricate geographical and statistical details of which the book ("To India a Military Statistical and Strategic Sketch by V. P. Lebedyeff") is mainly made up. But as M. Lebedyeff has already acquired some reputation in Russia as the author of a work on "Lines of Operations in Case of War between the Dual and Triple Alliances," it is worth while making accessible his chief conclusions on a matter of such surpassing interest to English readers.

FOUR CAMPAIGNS.

M. Lebedyeff does not for a moment believe that a campaign with the immediate object of conquering India could be carried on by Russia with any prospect of success; nor does he, it is necessary to explain, regard the conquest of India as a desirable triumph for Russia. His project is of a very different kind. He divides his plan of advance into four campaigns after each of which he thinks Russia would find herself in an impregnable position and could force England to make peace while retaining her conquest, and holding her hands free to construct new bases for a further advance. At the conclusion of the third of these campaigns she would find herself on the Indus with India at her mercy. The fourth campaign from the Indus eastward, M. Lebedyeff thinks, would never need to be fought. The seizure of Herat would be the first step. M. Lebedyeff agrees with McGregor that it would be more profitable for Russia to risk a war with England by seizing the fortress than to declare war in the hope of capturing it. Without disturbing the present disposition of troops in the Empire, he estimates that 22,000 men and forty-eight guns might be moved southward from Transcaspia and Turkestan, with a reserve of 11,000 men and twenty-two guns from the Caucasus, and 17,000 men and thirty-two guns from European Russia. While the Transcaspian Railway was engaged in the transport of this operating army, reserves would be concentrating at Petrovsk and Baku. To counteract this, England, M. Lebedyeff thinks, would probably attempt to instigate a Persian attack upon the Russian flank, and he suggests the occupation of Tabriz and Khaf to insure against this. Herat being occupied by Russia, would be possible to recapture it? M. Lebedyeff thinks not.

THE SECOND AND THIRD STEPS.

The second Russian campaign would be an advance to Kandahar and Cabul with the object of forming there intermediate bases for the march to the Indus. This would involve the continuation of the railway to Subzawar and Farrap, and the subjection of the country or the forcing of an alliance upon the Ameer. At Kandahar says M. Lebedyeff, England might oppose from 70,000 to 75,000 troops to 68,000 Russians and he has no doubt whatever of the result. A settlement with the Afghans would be more difficult. The Russian writer has no delusions as to the good will of the Ameer, but he thinks the tribesmen would side with Russia when they saw English troops invading their country again. The display of Russian force, a subsidy, and the bribe of a frontier extended to the Indus would induce the Ameer to co-operate.

The third campaign would begin only after permanent bases had been equipped on the Kandahar-Ghazni-Cabul line, and the railway continued to Kandahar. Such operations might take years to carry out, but M. Lebedyeff insists that the advance through Afghanistan must be carried on by alternate conquest and consolidation, a process which he compares to Russia's past operation in Central Asia, and he relies upon England's inability to attack Russia in a vulnerable spot as a fact which would ensure intervals of peace. The beginning of the third campaign would see (1) at Cabul some 38,000 Russians, with 10,500 more guarding their communications with the Turkestan Military District, (2) at Kandahar 67,500 men with 57,000 on the Herat-Kandahar lines of communications; and (3) in Chitral and Gilgit 7,000 men. With the dispatch of two army corps from England the opposing British forces would number 230,000 men; and with five divisions of reinforcements from the Caucasus and from Europe the Russian forces would be in equal strength. With this, he thinks there could be no question of the Russians reaching the Indus.

RUSSIAN VS INDIAN TROOPS.

It is interesting to note that M. Lebedyeff does not rely for the conquest of India on overwhelming forces. He is convinced of the superiority of Russian troops to the native Indian army, and, therefore, would limit the numbers of the invaders from considerations of supply. It is impossible here to make any remarks on his interminable estimates as to commissariat, but they are worked out in great detail, and based largely upon English authorities. Perhaps the best test of M. Lebedyeff's judgment is the scepticism with which he treats all assurances of a native rising against England. It is a widespread belief among Russians that at the very threat of a foreign invasion the natives would rise and throw off the English yoke. M. Lebedyeff would not risk the bones of a Cossack on such assurances. Any one who knows the real temperament of the Indian

peoples, he says, "could only hope for a rising after crushing victories of our troops, when absolutely the whole attention of England was concentrated on the frontier, and when the resources of England in the interior were weakened to the minimum." He thinks, however, that "the decay of the caste spirit will result in the formation of a really national and anti-British spirit. Then Russia's chance will come. The Russians, however says M. Lebedyeff, would never penetrate into the interior of India. They would only use their conquests as an instrument for terrifying England into an alliance which would place our naval power at their disposal. Russia, he admits, could not govern India, while to liberate the country and create confederacy of independent States would lead to civil war and intervention by other European Powers. Indeed, he thinks, England would return at the first opportunity. Russia's object would be to absorb Afghanistan and Beluchistan making the Indus and the sea the eastern and southern boundaries of the new acquisitions, and extending the Transcaspian Railway system through Herat, Kandahar, Jacobabad, and Kurrachee. "With the extension of our dominions to the Indus," he says, "we could prepare now bases for irruption into India; in our hands would be a Damocles' sword, by means of which we could thwart all English opposition in Europe, while England would be compelled to increase her army and live in constant dread of losing her Indian possessions. In all probability this would lead to close alliance with Great Britain, with immense advantage to both Powers. The Eastern Question would be settled in Russia's favour, and Russia would have as her neighbours in India, not fanatical Moslems and emasculated Hindus, but the English—the foremost nation in the world."

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