

# The Hindu Organ

(THE CHEAPEST WEEKLY IN CEYLON)  
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The Hindu Organ.

JAFFNA, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 1899

The Tamil Member's Motions

THE COACH SERVICE.

At the sitting of the Legislative Council held on the 18th ultimo the Hon'ble Dr. Rockwood brought forward two motions which were important ones. One had reference to the mail coach services in the Island and other to the augmentation of the salary of the Supreme Court Judges, with the view, as he says, "to secure the services of English Barristers of Judicial experience and learning to fill the vacancies as they arise." The first motion was a most pertinent one, and the Tamil Member deserves the thanks of the people of Jaffna, if not of the Colony at large, for bringing to the notice of the Government and the public their grievances in regard to the Central Road mail coach service. But he was treated with scant courtesy by the Government, taking advantage of his inexperience as a member of Council the fact of his being. The manner in which the motion was worded, and the desultory nature of the speech which he made in introducing it, prompted Mr. Taylor the acting Colonial Secretary to say: "I tried to understand what he tried to put before the Council but I fear I may have somewhat failed in my effort." It was, however, very uncharitable on the part of Mr. Taylor as the mouthpiece of the Government which appointed Dr. Rockwood as Tamil Member of the Legislative Council to make the remarks above quoted derogatory to the Hon'ble gentleman's abilities to fitly represent the interests of his constituents.

Of all the coach services in the Island, the Matale and Jaffna and Dambulla and Trincomalee service is the most important, and the great distance covered

and the amount of subsidy paid by the Government. According to a return lately published by the Government at the instance of the Tamil Member, the amount of subsidy, on account of this mail coach service, paid by the Government was Rs19,800 in 1896, Rs37,000 in 1897, and Rs40,000 in 1898 and onwards. Seeing that the subsidy has more than doubled within the last three years, one would naturally expect a corresponding improvement in the coach service. But the reverse is the case. In 1896 when the subsidy was only Rs19,800 horse coach was established to a greater distance than it is now, and mails were received here some hours earlier than they are in the year when the subsidy is Rs40,000. Even if we put the matter in the most favourable light and say that the coach service in all respects remains in 1899 in the same condition as it was in 1896, it is quite inexplicable to us why should there have been this large increase of Rs 20,200 in the subsidy over that of 1896. Mr Taylor, instead of accounting for this, what we cannot but characterise as, unnecessary waste of public money, insults the Tamil Member by asking him to become a proprietor of coaches and motor cars, if he is not satisfied with the present arrangements. The Hon'ble acting Colonial Secretary concluded his reply to the motion of the Tamil member as follows:—

If the hon member who moved the resolution is public-spirited and much interested and if he has this matter of coach accommodation really at heart. Sir, I would like to suggest to him, as an influential citizen who commands capital, that he might promote an undertaking of this kind—an undertaking that would place motor cars on our roads in place of the coaches that are there now. If he does so he will give us a lead in this respect and I am sure he will find that the Government will do all in their power to assist him in promoting the undertaking and contribute in every way it can.

We need hardly remark that these observations of Mr. Taylor were not only insulting to the member whom the Government has appointed to represent the interests of the Tamils of Ceylon in the Legislative Council, but unbecoming the Government itself of which the Colonial Secretary was the spokesman. We are simply astonished that the Hon: Dr. Rockwood should have quietly stomached these insults and withdrawn his motion, at the behest of His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, without protesting at least against the uncalled for and discourteous remarks of the acting Colonial Secretary—remarks which if made in reference to any of his predecessors in the Tamil seat would have received fitting retorts and made the Colonial Secretary wince for his mistake.

THE SUPREME COURT JUDGES.

We are also equally surprised that the acting Colonial Secretary who has the reputation of being a model officer and a courteous gentleman should have in this instance treated the Tamil Member in that cavalierly fashion. In our opinion Dr. Rockwood's ill-advised motion in reference to the Supreme Court Judges accounted for the treatment he received on this occasion at the hands of the Government. He seems to have little thought that this motion would not only estrange against him the feelings of all sections of the Ceylonese communities, but would also show him up as a member of the Legislative Council who did not understand that he was not serving by it the best interests of his countrymen. He does not also seem to know that there are certain designing men whose one object is to bring down everyone, however deserving he may be, to their own level, and to stifle the just aspirations on the part of the Ceylonese to a share in the administration of the affairs of, and hold offices of trust and responsibility in their

own country. We cannot bring ourselves to believe that the Hon'ble Dr. Rockwood who has a reputation to lose would knowingly lend himself to the tactics of those individuals. Anyhow, the fact remains that the Tamil member has by this motion endorsed, unwittingly we presume, the doctrine preached by these men to the effect that no Ceylonese should be entrusted with any high judicial office in the Colony, and those among them who aspire for such offices should find employment in other parts of the Empire. It is noteworthy that the organ of those persons in the press which had reviled and abused the Tamil Member at the time of his appointment to the Council and continued to do so long afterwards now lauds him to the skies as the only Member of the Legislative Council who has ever done a meritorious service to his countrymen.

The motion in question is not only a reflection on the competency of the eminent Judges who now grace the Bench of the Supreme Court and who are content with their present salary, but a libel on the leading members of the Ceylon Bar which has hitherto given to the Supreme Court a succession of eminent and distinguished Judges. If Dr. Rockwood's doctrine were to prevail it would not be the privilege of any one in any clime or country to serve his country in a high judicial office. Because in the opinion of the Hon'ble the Tamil Member it is a disqualification to have interests and connections in the country. Does he think that the Judges in England are strangers imported from other parts of the Empire—men with no connections and interests in the place where they hold office, or men who, if they have local interest and connections, would forego them because they happen to hold offices under the Crown? To come nearer home, does he know that our bretheren in India hold some of the highest offices in their own country and among their kith and kin, without any detriment to public interests? Dr. Rockwood argued that because the Judges of the Indian High Courts are paid higher salaries, the salary of the Ceylon Judges should be raised. If he is patriotic or possessed of a sense of his responsibility as a representative of the Ceylonese in the Legislative Council he would have argued in the same breath that the next vacancy in the Supreme Court of the Island should be given to a deserving Ceylonese, as there are three Indian Judges in the High Court of Calcutta, two in the High Court of Bombay, one in the High Court of Madras and one in the High Court of Allahabad, drawing each Rs 4000 per mensem, not Rs 3750 as the Tamil Member stated in the Legislative Council. Instead of doing it the Tamil Member would have all Ceylonese of character, ability and learning sent out of the Island, and all future vacancies in the Supreme Court filled by "English Barristers of Judicial experience and learning." This is patriotism, indeed, with a vengeance!

Most of the native Judges of the High Courts in India are not even English Barristers, but Vakeels of those courts before they were raised to the Bench. If a vacancy occurs by the death or retirement of any of the Indian Judges, an Indian is as a rule selected to fill the vacancy, although there may be English Barristers practising in those courts with greater abilities and higher qualifications. Not being satisfied with this, the Indians continue to fight for a larger share in the holding of high offices. It was only last month Mr. Subramania Iyer, a Tamil Brahmin with large interests and connections in the Madras Presidency, gave over charge of the Chief Justiceship of Madras to Mr. Arnold White, after

acting with great acceptance in that capacity for several months. In any country but Ceylon a public man of Dr. Rockwood's standing and status would think twice before bringing forward such a retrograde and unpatriotic resolution as the one which he introduced into the Legislative Council on the 18th ultimo requiring all vacancies in the Supreme Court to be in future filled by men imported from England, to the exclusion not only of natives but also of Europeans in the Island. We are, however, glad that the motion did not even find a seconder, and that the Government and the other members of the Legislative Council gave it such a reception that the Tamil Member was obliged to withdraw it.

Dr. Rockwood had been an official in the strict sense of the word and has been so much absorbed in the successful practice of his profession that he seems to know very little of public affairs and much less of men and things in the Island. Considering that his predecessors, Sir Coomaraswamy, Mr. Ramanathan, and Mr. Coomaraswamy took a very prominent part in and out of Council in all questions that affected the interests of the Ceylonese, and considering also that they were among the most distinguished and respected of Ceylon Legislators, the Tamils have no reason to be proud of the part their present member has played in the Legislative Council.

### LOCAL & GENERAL.

**The Weather**—After a spell of fine weather which lasted for a few days it began again to rain from the 1st Instant. The weather has been again fine for the last three or four days. The farmers are busy weeding and transplanting in the fields.

**The Police Magistrate of Kaits**—Mr. Woutersz who went to Colombo to stand the examination in law has returned by the last trip of the "Lady Gordon" and resumed duties.

**The Jaffna arrack Rent**—The Government has accepted the tender of Don Hendrick Appahamy, for Rs 73,000, for the District of Jaffna for the year 1900.

**Mr J. J. Casie Chitty**—We are sorry to learn that this gentleman who was for a long time Police Magistrate at Point Pedro and Chavakachcheri and subsequently at Panadura has retired from public service owing to ill-health. We hope he will soon re-join the Civil Service on regaining his health. The retirement of so conscientious and learned a Magistrate is a great loss to the Public Service.

**The Maniagarship of Vallegamam North**—We understand that on the representation of the Government Agent the Government has requested Mr. Chinnappa, Maniagar of this division to send in his papers for retirement with the end of this year. It is earnestly to be hoped that the Government Agent will not give room for complaint on the part of the Public in regard to the appointment of a successor to Mr. Chinnappa.

**Another act of wanton mischief**—We referred in our last issue to the wanton act of certain miscreants in the Town who broke the lamps put up by Mr. M. B. Deogupillai and Mr. Lawson in front of their houses for the convenience of the public. We have now to refer to a similar act perpetrated at Vannarponne. The lamp put up by Mr. R. Mailvaganam in front of his house was broken by some rowdies. We are astonished that there should be such low and despicable people in our midst who without knowing the benefits to the general public of the lighting of the thoroughfares and the good intention of the gentlemen who put them up, break them so wantonly. We think this is the outcome of envy and malice. We are at a loss to know what the police are about. There are now three lamps broken and in no instance the miscreants have been found out.

**Obituary**—We are sorry to chronicle the death of Mr. Ponnampalam, father of Mr. Marugasu of the Minor Courts Jaffna. The deceased lived to a very good old age and was hearty and hale up to the time he fell ill. We tender our heart felt sympathy to the bereaved family and others who bemoan his loss.

—We also regret to record the death of Mrs.

Arunachalam, wife of Mr. Muttucumarun Arunachalam of Batticotta and daughter of A. Iragnuatha Mudaliyar, Maniagar of Valligamo West. She died of fever at Batticotta on the 7th Instant.

**The Magistrates' Examination**—Mr. Godamune, Police Magistrate of Avishavale is the only candidate who passed the last Examination. Mr. Woutersz, Police Magistrate of Kaits seems to have failed. We hope he will be successful the next time he presents himself for this examination.

**Miss Rudd**—We are glad to learn that this young lady, daughter of Mr. J. Rudd our energetic and esteemed Superintendent of Police has passed her examination at Edinburgh University in Pathology.

**Marriage**—Mr. Frank Bartlett, C. J. S., who was Police Magistrate of Jaffna and now District Judge at Tangalla, was married to Miss Alexander, sister of Mr. E. B. Alexander, Police Magistrate at Panadura on Thursday the 26th ultimo, at Pollwatta Church. The wedding was a quiet one, the few who were present including His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor.

**The Death of an Egyptian Exile**—The death is announced of Yokoob Samy Pasha, one of the oldest of the exiles, which sad event took place at Kandy on the 30th ultimo.

—We acknowledge with thanks the receipt from the Secretariat of the Blue Book for 1898.

**The New Governor of Fiji**—Sir Alexander Swettenham, Colonial Secretary of the Straits Settlements, and formerly of the Ceylon Civil Service, has been appointed Governor of Fiji in succession to Sir G. M. O. Brien who was also a distinguished member of the Ceylon Civil Service. Sir Alexander was at one time Office Assistant to the Government Agent Jaffna and Police Magistrate here.

### MANNAR.

Pesalai

2nd November 1899.

**Weather**—There were copious showers of rain for two or three days in last week. The meadows and parks look green. The health of the place is consequently not satisfactory. The North-East monsoon has set in.

**The Customs**—Owing to the North-east monsoon the port of Pesalai has changed to Vankalai. Our sub Collector Mr. Hallock Murugasamudaliyar Tambipillai is ready to proceed to Vankalai to open the port there. During the 7 months he has been here, he was very much liked by all as an upright and genial gentleman. On the eve of his departure at about 7 P. M. a large concourse of people consisting of Govt. Officers, Merchants, Traders, Boutiquekeepers &c assembled at his residence to bid him a farewell send off. Among those who were present we noticed the following:—Drs. N. L. Joshua and V. Sampooranam, Messrs. Joseph Manuel, Udaiyar of Mannar west, James. S. Clement Registrar of Births and Deaths, S. S. Fernando, Receiving Officer, S. Soosay Fernando and N. M. Miranda, Merchants &c and too numerous to mention. A few Tamil songs which were composed for the occasion were sung. A short address also was read, to which the sub Collector replied in suitable terms. At about 9 P. M. the assembly dispersed to their respective quarters.

**Medical**—Owing to the closing of the Immigrant route, we are glad to learn that Dr. N. L. Joshua, who usually proceeds to Vankalai with the change of Weather has received instructions not to itinerate between Pesalai and Vankalai as was hitherto done by him, but to reside permanently at Pesalai.

### WAR PRAYER.

The Metropolitan issued a form of prayer which was uttered at the Cathedral for the welfare of our troops in South Africa. We do not think that the Lord Bishop has any *locus standi* in this matter. If the war had been between Christians and heathens, his lordship might have easily drafted his prayer. But the fight is between two nations, both professing Christianity. If the Lord Bishop is drafting prayers here, Kruger is quoting Psalms in the Transvaal. If his lordship is appealing to God "for the sake of Him who is the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ," Kruger is doing precisely the same thing in his own country. And if Jesus Christ is the Prince of Peace, why do his followers fight at all? And why do they fight so fiercely and kill one another so wantonly without sufficient reason? The prayer of the Lord Bishop begins thus;—"O Lord God of Hosts, we entreat Thy gracious blessing for the soldiers of our race." And is not Kruger offering precisely the same prayer? That being the case, whom is God Almighty to listen

to? If we have understood the beautiful spirit of Christianity, the duty of the Christians is to pray for others and not for themselves. We find, however, his lordship, in the above prayer, doing quite the contrary; for, his lordship prays for his own people and not for the enemy. Indeed, we think the duty of his lordship is not to pray for victory but for defeat, for Christ says that God favours the meek and the lowly. The duty of a Christian is, when he has been hurt in one cheek, to turn the other. The fact is, we do not think it possible to reconcile Christianity and Imperialism. Let the Lord Bishop pray for "the coming of the day when nations shall not lift up sword against nations, neither shall they learn war any more," and then the Hindus will gladly join him.—Amirta Bazar Patrika

### TELEGRAPHIC SUMMARY.

LONDON OCTOBER 30.—General Sir George White reports that an engagement took place before Ladysmith to-day in which the Boers were repulsed after several hours' fighting.

The British loss was about one hundred and the enemies loss greater.

The Boers were numerous and had many guns. All our forces were engaged to clear the position commanding the town. The position was however, found to be evacuated. The enemy attacked with vigour, but were pushed back several miles. The British then returned to Camp unmolested. The Irish Fusiliers, the Gloucesters and the Mountain Battery were sent out last night to clear the left flank, but up to the present have not returned to Camp. The night firing caused the mules to stampede with some guns which General White hopes to recover.

LONDON, OCTOBER 31.—General Sir Redvers Buller has arrived at Cape Town.

A Naval Brigade from the battleship "Powerful" with heavy quick-firing guns arrived at Ladysmith during the fight and at their fourth shot disabled the enemy's siege guns which was of longer range than our Field Artillery.

Unofficial reports say that General Sir George White's plan of action was upset by the Boers evacuating what appeared to be their principal position. The Boers then attacked our right flank which had to be largely reinforced from the centre. Eventually the British retired under a heavy fire, gallantly covered by our Artillery. Two guns of the 53rd Battery were temporarily lost but afterwards recovered.

The official account of yesterday's engagement states that the Irish Fusiliers, the Gloucesters and Tenth Mountain Battery were detached to protect the left flank and were obliged to capitulate after losing heavily. General George White adds that he alone is responsible.

London, October 31

The English newspapers in denouncing the Ladysmith disaster suspend their judgement pending the receipt of details.

They say that the loss will not affect the issue of the war and that great Britain is resolved to effect the object in view at any cost.

London, November 1—10-45 a.m.

The Continental Press, and especially the French papers, are jubilant at the reverse the British Arms have suffered at Ladysmith.

London November 2.—The details of the capitulation of the British Force at Ladysmith have evoked outspoken criticisms in the Press as to the propriety of leaving the left flank to itself without attempting to send assistance. The Times believes that the wholesale stampeding of mules is unaccountable unless it was due to treachery on the part of the native drivers.

London November 2, 5-10 p.m.

General Sir George White telegraphs from Ladysmith that Lieutenant Egerton, of the "Powerful," was dangerously wounded this (Thursday) morning by a shell.

The above is the only despatch received to-day.

Reports emanating from Brussels state the Boers have occupied Colenso and completely invested Ladysmith, and that general White is wounded.

The name of Major Campbell of the Kings Rifles is added to the list of the wounded at Dundee.

The War Office is unaware of anything to confirm this.

London November 2' 11-45 p.m.

Communication with Ladysmith was cut off at two thirty this afternoon.

London November 2, 11-35 p.m.

The Governor of Natal telegraphs that communication with Ladysmith has been interrupted since 2-30 this afternoon.

London, November 3—2-40 a.m.

In Monday's action near Ladysmith six Officers were killed and nine wounded, and 54 men killed and 231 wounded.

## SELECTIONS.

MR. JUSTICE RANADE ON  
HINDU MONOTHEISM.

There is no man in all India who has a greater claim on the respectful attention of educated Indians than the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ranade, of the Bombay High Court. He has established for himself a position of unassailable predominance among the new Indians of to-day, and he has won it by efforts on his country's behalf sustained with unwearied diligence for over a period of 30 years or more. Whenever he speaks on topics of public interest, he is listened to with respect, sympathy and care; and we believe that his influence is always for the best, and we are very glad to note that his services for his country have continued to be faithfully rendered in spite of absorbing official anxieties and advancing years. His recent address on the progress of monotheism at the Prarthana Samaj, Bombay, on the occasion of the anniversary of the death of Rajah Rammohun Roy is one of those occasions on which Mr. Ranade reveals his anxiety for advancing the interests of his countrymen on the ideal aspect of their national life, and is an exceedingly interesting and useful performance. The most interesting portion of the address is, in our view, that in which Mr. Ranade clearly brought into prominence the fact that from remote times India has had a national monotheistic tradition, and that Rammohun Roy's Brahmo movement is "only a continuation and extension under modern conditions of the Pancharatra, Vaishnava, and Bhagavata movements of the remote past, commencing with the revered name of Narada Prahlad and including all the saints and prophets who have attained to eminence since the downfall of Buddhism." Mr. Justice Ranade also takes care to emphasise the fact that "in Rammohun Roy's hands the Church was a Hindu, non-idolatrous and monotheistic Church based on the old Hindu revelations." We have always held that true national greatness, in the modern sense, can only be based on monotheism, as its motive power, and that the people of this country have a monotheistic tradition which is as old as the Vedic revelation. Professor Max Muller has well pointed out about the Vedas:—"There are hymns that assert the Unity of the Divine as fearlessly as any passage on the Old Testament or New Testament or the Koran," and he goes on to point out various passages from the Rig-Veda in proof of his assertion. Colebrooke also says:—"The real doctrine of the Indian scriptures is the unity of the Deity." Dewan Bahadur Ragoonath Rao has frequently pointed out the same thing over and over again in his polemical and other writings. This fact needs to be well emphasised, and Mr. Justice Ranade, the ardent nationalist that he is, reserves India's meed of heart-felt thankfulness for insisting upon the fact that the national monotheistic tradition goes back to the "remote past," to Narada Prahlad, in fact, and his Pancharatra system of faith, and that it has been reinforced since the time of the illustrious Rajah Rammohun Roy and gathering strength. National greatness must be based on a high and holy monotheistic faith; and the living faith of a national monotheism is India's precious possession to-day and will doubtless prove a powerful and irresistible force in the creation of a Nationalist India under British supremacy in a not remote future. Mr. Justice Ranade gives the reason why Indian Nationalism must have this national monotheism as its motive power in the following precious sentences:—"It is protestant in its disregard of men, forms, ceremonies and rites and attaches special virtue to spiritual communion and worship. It is protestant in being a non-sectarian, but all-embracing, movement, embracing all castes and creeds in a common devotion." We have always had a partiality for the Brahmo Samaj movement, in its best, purest and most undistorted form, as it issued from its blessed founder, Rajah Rammohun Roy, and Mr. Justice Ranade truly says of him:—"His teachings, while they do justice to the prophets of other creeds, realise the importance of continuing and developing the old traditions on the national basis which have come down to far more than two thousand years." Every form of foreign monotheism is later than our own national creed of monotheism, and we have no need to go a begging. Under these circumstances, we cannot but characterise as quixotic any attempt made by Indians to go to foreign propagandists, for the favour of a gift to them of a monotheistic form of religious belief. Every one must by this time have known that it is too late to convert India to atheism, agnosticism, or scepticism, and every one who has India's future at heart must feel immensely indebted to Mr. Justice Ranade for emphasising the fact that Indian sages endowed us more than two thousand years ago with a noble monotheistic faith which is well calculated to prove a motive power for developing our future national life, however slow it may have proved in bearing fruit in welding together masses of men long moulded by medievalism and subjected to the most unforeseen and awful catastrophes and revolutions.

At the same time, we cannot agree with Mr. Ranade in calling the Ramakrishna movement of Bengal "reactionary." It is essentially Vedantic in its substance and tendency; and while India has to share with other countries the credit of possessing a truly monotheistic faith, India is in a unique position in having had philosophers who, more than three thousand years back, formulated the great Vedantic doctrines of the "omni-penetrativeness of God" and "the solidarity of man." Dr. Miller, of the Christian College, pointed out some years back in his celebrated lecture at Madras that these two ideas were the dis-

tinctive contributions of India to the world's advanced thought, and that the world had need of them. Europe had to wait till the nineteenth Christian century for a Kant, a Hegel, a Schopenhauer, a Deussen and a Max Muller, and all are German thinkers. Even then they have not got a truly philosophic religion. The Indian Vedanta supplied the want in a remote antiquity, and Carlyle and Emerson, the greatest of modern teachers in the West, have borne testimony to its powerful and inspiring influence over them. India will be bereft of much of her speculative and religious glory and influence, if she should disown the Vedanta. We would go further and say that the Hindus were governed by a truly noble and honourable instinct when they included the Buddha among her divine Incarnations. Whatever they may think of Buddha's gospel Hindus adore his life and character as among the best and noblest of their spiritual possessions, and this is true in a pre-eminent degree of that priceless treasure of religious philosophy formulated, æons upon æons back, in the forest glades and by the sacred waters of ancient India. —Hindu

## THE TRANSVAAL CRISIS.

The Transvaal crisis pushes everything else out of the daily paper. The evening papers are hysterical, the morning papers historical. Every afternoon telegrams come from the special correspondents announcing all sorts of Boer outrages, excursions and armaments, which the morning's official news contradict. It is not easy to gather the actual truth day by day, but the fact remains that we are on the extreme edge of the precipice of war, and any rash young Boer may push us over, by shooting a cow on British soil. The Boers of the Transvaal and Orange Free State are all nerving on the frontier and practically the entire male population of both States from lads of 14 to old men of 80, are entrolling themselves in defence of that liberty and independence which is dearer to them than life itself, and which is threatened by that malign influence in British Imperial policy, Joseph Chamberlain. I have not the smallest hope of a peaceful settlement of this miserable and discreditable business. Kruger is as obstinate and determined as Chamberlain. Chamberlain for the last four months has done everything in his power, in his despatches and speeches, to convince the Transvaal Government that his one object in life is, to go down to posterity as the statesman who added two fine provinces to the empire at a single blow. He has been gallantly supported by Sir Alfred Milner, his willing tool in South Africa, and by entire Jingo press, and all the greediest elements of the Stock Exchange. Kruger has made up his mind that all further negotiation is futile, and has got his back to the wall; the Orange Free State sees that if the Transvaal is annexed their turn will follow, and the two States are in strong offensive and defensive alliance. They can conjointly put at least 50,000 fighting men into the field, and I suppose 30,000 of these are already encamped on the frontier. It is frankly admitted by British military authorities, that even with the arrival of the troops now en route from India, it is hopeless to think of attacking the Boers, who are expert fighters on their own soil, and the Cape Colony and Natal will have to act on the defensive only, until the Army Corps of some 40,000 men, now ready in England, can be got out to South Africa with complete paraphernalia. It is certain that a successful advance into such a country as the two Republics are defending with 50,000 skilled guerilla troops cannot succeed with less than a 70,000 army fully equipped. Whatever may be thought of the rights and wrongs of this terrible quarrel one thing is becoming very clear, viz.,—that Chamberlain's policy of hustle and bluff has run far away ahead of that military preparation which was necessary if it failed. It has failed. We now find ourselves in the undignified position of having British colonies overrun by the soldiers of two petty States, whose joint populations are about the same as the State of Manipur. Of course, it is only a question of time for these poor little countries to be gobbled up by the insatiable maw of the Jingo party, and added to the British Empire, increasing its unwieldiness, and providing a thorn in its side that will fester for 50 years to come. Indeed, the most far-seeing politicians, who have intimate knowledge of South African affairs, predict that Mr. Chamberlain will find, that instead of adding to the Empire, he has, by his fatal and fatuous policy, only laid the foundations of a great South African Republic.

I fear that the common sense of the country is blinded by greed of empire, and lust of battle; but it is strong in the back ground, and will come out in time—not in time to prevent the catastrophe, but perhaps to save the future. Sir William Harcourt, Mr. John Morley, Mr. W. T. Stead, and practically the rank and file of Liberals everywhere, are shouting for peace and commonsense as loudly as they can, and so far are smothered by the "dead cats and rotten eggs" argument of the Jingo herd of shampatriots, whose songs of Rule Britannia and God save the Queen, fill the air. The Parliamentary leaders of the Liberal party so far have been conspicuous by their silence, (with the honourable exception of Mr. Asquith,) faithful to that fine old crusted superstition of "not embarrassing the Government in a crisis," of which Sir Henry Fowler is the great "medicine man." But even the Liberal leaders are being shamed into action, and a meeting has been held this week of the Front Opposition Bench to consider the situation. Sir Henry Campbell Bannerman is to divulge their policy this afternoon, at a luncheon party at Maidstone, but the report will come out too late for this letter. Had the official leaders of the Liberal party taken the field against this iniquitous treatment of a gallant, if misguided, little State, the mischief might have been prevented. At any rate, they would have vindicated their own position, and given force and power to an opposition which now will be only perfunctory, and the leadership in which will inevitably be in the hands of the two men who have succeeded from the Front Bench, Sir William Harcourt and John Morley.—London cor of the A. B. Patrika

SIR WEST RIDGEWAY ON OUR GOVERNMENT  
INSTITUTIONS

The 'Isle of Man Times' of the 7th Instant records an

interview with our Governor. We extract the following, the rest of the conversation being about the recent improvements which have been made at Douglas and elsewhere:—

In the corridor leading to His Excellency's room his faithful Cingalese servant constantly keeps watch and ward. He speaks English perfectly, and is an extremely intelligent man, having been in the employ of several successive Governors of Ceylon.

His Excellency, who had just returned from a long day's visiting, and was reclining in an easy chair, obligingly answered some questions put to him.

Asked how he liked his residence in Ceylon, Sir West replied, "I enjoyed Ceylon very much. It is one of the peculiarities of that colony that you can get any variety of climate you like according to the altitude. The higher you go the cooler it is. At Colombo it is very warm for the greater part of the year, but you may ascend to Kandy, which is cooler, or to Nuwara Eliya, which is cooler still."

"What is the general character of the people of Ceylon?"

"The people are most peaceable, orderly, and loyal. The population of the colony is about three and quarter millions—chiefly Asiatics. There are also 'the Burghers'—the descendants of the Dutchmen who originally settled there."

"Did Lady Ridgeway and yourself enjoy good health during your residence in Ceylon?"

"I did. Lady Ridgeway enjoyed fairly good health."

"I presume the duties which belong to the Governor are of a very onerous nature?"

"They are somewhat onerous, but not so much so as not to leave a sufficiency of time for exercise and recreation."

"What are the Government Institutions of Ceylon?"

"The Governor, of course, represents the British Crown. The Council consists of official and unofficial members. The official members are in a majority, so that the Government can always rely on being able to carry its proposals. In the Isle of Man a Governor could not force any measure through the Tynwald Court. He has, by persuasion and arguments, to convince the Court of the desirability of the proposals which he brings forward. I have tried to govern in as liberal a spirit as is possible under the circumstances of the colony. Although I could enforce my measures by an official majority, I have always tried—and hitherto have succeeded—in carrying my proposals with the aid of the unofficial vote."

"Then there is a representative element in the Council?"

"There are the representatives of the planters and of the Chambers of Commerce. The other members are selected by the Governor, who, of course, takes into consideration the wishes of the people."

"What have been the most remarkable events during your Governorship?"

"It has not been a very eventful period. I have tried to give an impetus to public works. A large scheme of railway construction has been recently sanctioned, with a view to developing the country generally. It will also assist the tea growing industry."

"Is that the chief industry of Ceylon?"

"Tea growing is the chief industry. The cultivation of the coconut is also increasing."

"Is Ceylon a progressive colony?"

"It is increasing in population, and the finances are prosperous."

I think it was only in 1896 that your Excellency went to Ceylon?

I went there in February, 1896, and I left, with Lady Ridgeway, last April for England. I go back early in November. Lady Ridgeway will follow me later on."

—The Times

## IMPORTANT NOTICE.

## TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS.

As previously announced, we are now publishing the "HINDU ORGAN" as an English Weekly Newspaper with a Tamil Fortnightly Supplement.

We are sending both the English and Tamil issues to all our Subscribers in the hope that they would willingly subscribe for both.

Any gentleman who may not like this arrangement, will kindly let us know his wish, by a Post Card, without putting us to unnecessary expense and trouble.

## OUR SUBSCRIBERS IN AREARS

Should also settle up their accounts without delay. It is rather hard on their part to expect us to continue supplying them with the paper without their paying for it.

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