

The Hindu Organ

(THE CHEAPEST WEEKLY IN CEYLON)

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NOTICE.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.
ORDER NISI.

Testamentary }
Jurisdiction } No. 1480

In the matter of the estate of the late
Aiyampillai Kumaru of Karadive West
Deceased.

1. Ramanatar Sivaguru and
2. wife Paruppillai of Karadive West

Petitioners

Vs

1. Ponnachippillai widow of Aiyampillai Kumaru
2. Aiyampillai Paramu and
3. Aiyampillai Ramanatar all of Karadive West

Respondents

This matter of the Petition of Ramanatar Sivaguru and wife Paruppillai of Karadive West praying for letters of Administration to the estate of the above-named deceased Aiyampillai Kumaru of Karadive West coming on for disposal before T. B. Russell Esqr District Judge, on the 1st day of March 1904, in the presence of Mr. S. Kandayya Proctor on the part of the Petitioners and the affidavit of the 2nd Petitioner dated the 29th day of February 1904 having been read, it is declared that the 2nd Petitioner is the sole heir of the said intestate and as such is entitled to have Letters of Administration to the estate of the said Intestate issued to her unless the Respondents or any other person shall on or, before the 14th day of April 1904 show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

Signed this 1st day of March 1904

Signed. T. B. RUSSELL

District Judge.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.

ORDER NISI.

Testamentary }
Jurisdiction } No. 1488
Class II.

In the Matter of the Estate of the late
Vairavanathar Iranganathar of Uduvil
Deceased

Sinnattampi Arunasalam of Uduvil

Petitioner

Vs

1. Sithamparanathar Suppiramaniar of Tavala Iyattala
2. Suppiramaniar Swaminathar of Uduvil
3. Murugappan Arumugam of do
4. Vannattamby Velupillai of Thellipalai West
5. Visuvanathar Vaitilingam of Madduvil North and wife

6. Valliammai of do
7. Velayuthar Sinnattamby of Kaithady and wife
8. Sinnattankam of do
9. Kartigesar Kanthar of do
10. Sinnachchi daughter of Mailar of do
11. Paramanathar Iramanathar of Kokkuvil West
12. Kanthar Namasivayam No. 42 old moor street, Colombo

13. Kanthar Muttu of Kokkuvil
14. Kanthar Murugesu of do
15. Kanthar Thampayah of do
16. Poothathampi Kathirippillai of do and wife
17. Chellachechi of do
18. Muttupillai widow of Vaitilingam of do
19. Suppar Mailvakanam of Tavady and wife
20. Annappillai of do
21. Sinnappu Thurayappa of Kokkuvil and
22. Veerasingham Ponniah of do

Respondents

This matter of the Petition of Sinnattamby Arunasalam of Uduvil praying for Letters of Administration to the estate of the above-named deceased Vairavanathar Iranganathar coming on for disposal before T. B. Russell Esquire District Judge, on the 16th day of March 1904 in the presence of Messrs. Casippillai & Cathiravelu Proctors on the part of the Petitioner and the affidavit of the Petitioner dated the 15th day of March 1904 having been read, it is declared that the Petitioner is one of the heirs 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, be-

fore the 14th day of April 1904 show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.
Signed this 16th day of March 1904.

Sigd. T. B. RUSSELL

District Judge

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.
ORDER NISI

Testamentary }
Jurisdiction } No. 1484

In the Matter of the Estate of the late
Ramalinkam Mailvaganam of Mallekam
Deceased.

Mailvaganam Changarappillai of Colombo
Petitioner

Vs.

Thangappillai widow of Ramalinkam Mailvaganam of Mallekam

Respondent

This matter of the Petition of Mailvaganam Changarappillai of Colombo praying for Letters of Administration to the estate of the above-named deceased Ramalinkam Mailvaganam of Mallekam coming on for disposal before T. B. Russell Esqr. District Judge, on the 10th day of March 1904 in the presence of Mr. V. S. Ponnampalam Proctor on the part of the Petitioner and the affidavit of the Petitioner dated the 1st day of March 1904 having been read, it is declared that the Petitioner is one of the heirs of the said intestate and is entitled to have Letters of Administration to the estate of the said Intestate issued to him unless the Respondent or any other person shall on or, before the 14th day of April 1904 show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

Signed this 10th day of March 1904

Sigd. T. B. RUSSELL

District Judge



THE HINDU ORGAN.

JAFFNA, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30, 1904.

THE DISTRICT JUDGESHIP OF JAFFNA.

At the re-organization of the Civil Service by Sir West Ridgeway in 1898, the District Judgeship of Jaffna was a First Class appointment. Galle ranked first and Jaffna second in the judicial branch, Colombo and Kandy having been reserved for members of the legal profession. But Sir West Ridgeway had the knack of doing things all in his own way. He had also the knack of saying pleasant things, but under a pleasant and pleasing exterior there was an autocracy which the superficial observer failed to discover. Without any notice to the public and without caring to know the reasons which could have been urged against the change, His Excellency did, with one stroke of his pen, convert the District Judgeship of Jaffna into a Second Class appointment, and raise Kurunegala to the First Class lest the Civil Service might be deprived of one of its prizes. The reason assigned for the change was that the amount of work which came up for disposal before the Judge at Kurunegala was more than that at Jaffna. If this reason is to be held good, then an Assistant Agency like that of Kalutara, where, we believe, more revenue is collected

than in Anuradhapura, must be raised to an Agency at the expense of the latter. The importance of a town or district is to be measured not only by the amount of work done there, but also by other considerations. In the case of Jaffna, regard must be had to its position as the capital of the North, the influence and intelligence of its people, the efficiency of its Bar, &c. Admittedly Jaffna is head and shoulders above Kurunegala in these respects. There is not a single Advocate or Barrister practising in Kurunegala, and in point of numerical strength and the ability and efficiency of its members, the Jaffna Bar is much superior to the Kurunegala Bar. Advocates alone there are about a dozen in Jaffna. As regards population also, the Town of Jaffna ranks second to Colombo only in the whole Island. It is clear, therefore, that the reduction of the Jaffna District Judgeship was a most backward step, and the mistake came to be committed because the people interested did not know beforehand the change effected, and had no opportunity of laying their views before the Government. The then Secretary of State also, who was hand and glove with Sir West Ridgeway, readily sanctioned the proposal.

During the early days of British rule, all judicial offices in Ceylon, except seats on the Supreme Court Bench, were held by members of the Civil Service. At that time there was no Bar worth speaking of. But Ceylon has since advanced by leaps and bounds, and the best talent of the country is now centred in its Bar, which, in intelligence and efficiency, is not inferior to that of any other Colony. It was in recognition of the merits and claims of the Ceylon Bar, that the District Judgeships of Colombo and Kandy came to be set apart for lawyers, though a departure has been made in the case of the present occupant of the Kandy Bench. If the Government of Sir West Ridgeway had any, the slightest, intention of keeping pace with the progress of the age, the District Judgeship of Jaffna (of Galle too) would have been, instead of having been reduced, thrown open to the Bar. There need not have been any fear that that course would have involved the appointment of Native lawyers. For, all the permanent District Judges of Colombo and Kandy, selected from among the members of the Bar, have been Burghers and Europeans, and the majority Europeans.

Even if no account was taken of the spirit of the times, it would have been some consolation if the District Judgeship of Jaffna had been allowed to remain a First Class appointment in the Civil Service, as it had been for years. Can it be said with truth or justice that Kurunegalla has advanced and Jaffna has retrograded? Even if such is the case, the decision of the late Lord Derby who, when Secretary of State for the Colonies in the eighties, refused to sanction the proposal of the local Government to reduce the pay and emoluments of the Government of the Northern Province, is in point. His Lordship held that, on account of the distance of Jaffna from the Metropolis, and the fact that the Government Agent of the Northern Province was the chief officer of the Tamil population in the Island whose head quarters Jaffna was, it would be impolitic to place the Northern Agency at a lower footing than that of Colombo or Kandy. If there was no reason to reduce the Jaffna Agency, there was also no reason to reduce the Jaffna District Judgeship. But it has taken place, and it behoves the Jaffnese to see that nothing further is done to detract from the importance of Jaffna.

Before 1898, the year of the re-classification, the Jaffna District Court was presided over by judges of age and experience—judges who had grown grey in the service

of the Crown and who, though not lawyers, had acquired a fair knowledge of law when serving in the lower ranks of the Civil Service. Their experience made up for the want of a professional training. The first two judges appointed after 1898 were officers of the Third Class and rose to be Second Class officers during their tenure of the District Judgeship. One of them proved to be an able judge, but the other, though unerring in his decisions on facts, was not possessed of a good knowledge of law. These gentlemen had been once Police Magistrates in Jaffna, and there was an interval of about fifteen years between that time and their appointment to the District Judgeship. In this state of things, the translation of Mr. T. B. Russell direct from the bench of the Police Court to that of the District Court has come as a surprise on the public. Mr. Russell is quite a young officer, a little over thirty, and in the Fourth Class of the Civil Service, to which the Police Magistracy of Jaffna belongs. If the principle of his appointment is acceded to, the District Judgeship of Jaffna will be accounted even less important than the Magistracy at Colombo, to which no Fourth Class officer has as yet been appointed, and will never be appointed. Speaking of Mr. Russell personally, we are glad to admit that he is an excellent gentleman and makes an excellent judge, excelling even some of his hoary-headed predecessors in legal knowledge. But the point is whether the generality of officers in the Fourth Class are as competent as is Mr. Russell. It is the principle of the appointment that is in fault. In no period in the history of Jaffna has a Fourth Class officer who received no training in law, been appointed District Judge. His Excellency Sir Henry Blake is new to the Island, and it is his advisers that are to blame in the matter. If a Second Class officer was not available, the appointment properly belonged to one at the top of the Third Class.

Rumours are also afloat that Mr. George Prins of Point Pedro is to be appointed District Judge on the 6th April to try some criminal cases committed by Mr. Russell when Police Magistrate. We know Mr. Prins to be good in his Police Court work, and he is moreover a most polite and courteous gentleman. But we mean no disparagement to him when we say that Mr. T. M. Tampoo, who vacated the Police Court bench only two months ago, will make a better judge. Why his name was not submitted to Government we are at a loss to know.

CENTRAL COLLEGE CALENDAR FOR 1904.

We are in receipt of the Calendar of Central College, Colombo, for 1904. It opens with a frontispiece of Mr. S. O. K. Rutnam, the Principal. It contains a variety of information useful alike to boys and adults, besides College notes, reports of prize-givings, subjects and results of examinations. Mr. Rutnam is to be congratulated on the success which has attended his labours as an educationist. Colombo supplies him a wider field than Jaffna. Tamils as well as other races are availing themselves of the benefits of the education imparted in the College. It does good and useful work not only in purely scholastic subjects but also in subjects in which the passing of an examination is insisted on by Government departments. The College is specially suited to Tamil boys of tender age. Not only there is a Tamil principal who knows their ways, habits, and predilections, but such of them as cannot understand instruction given in English in the older Colleges can hope to have special attention paid to them.

The College is worked on Christian lines,

we believe. As a Christian and the son of a Tamil Christian minister, Mr. Rutnam cannot perhaps be expected to act otherwise. But to make the College popular among non-Christians a conscience-clause may be introduced whereby non-Christian boys who or whose parents have conscientious objections to their joining the religious classes may stand back during the hours of religious teaching. This is done in the St. Thomas' College and in the Roman Catholic institutions, and they are not less Christian than the Protestant colleges in Jaffna, the managers of which have persistently opposed the insertion of a conscience-clause in the Grant-in aid Code. We do not write this in a spirit of fault-finding. Our sympathy for all movements undertaken or conducted by Tamils of whatever caste or creed must certainly allay any misgiving in this respect. Our only object is to show that the adoption of our suggestion will make Central College a national college without detracting from its Christian character, while an adherence to the policy of the Jaffna missionaries will make it rather a sectional, if not a sectarian, institution. The Jaffna Hindu College would not have been started if not for the treatment accorded to Hindu boys by the authorities of some of the Colleges in Jaffna.

THE MARRIAGE CUSTOMS OF THE JAPANESE.

We draw the attention of our readers to an interesting description of Japanese manners and customs published elsewhere. Those who cry down the marriage customs of the Hindus, in season and out of season, will note that the Japanese practice in this respect is more or less similar to ours. If the Japanese could have risen to their present position with such customs being in force among them, the conclusion is irresistible that our customs are in no way responsible for the evils affecting Hindu society, which certainly are not many. Dr. Gurn Dass Bannerjee, M.A., D.L., late judge of the High Court of Calcutta and one of the most eminent and distinguished Indians of the day, observes even the minutest details of a Hindu householder's life enjoined by the Shastras. He is of opinion that Hindu manners and customs are the results and products of the evolution of Hindu society during long series of years, and that any change in them, to be beneficial or lasting, must come from within, and not as the result of engrafting on it foreign institutions which are suitable only to the climes and countries of their own origin and growth.

LOCAL & GENERAL

The Maniagar of Thernmaradchy—Mr. Saravannuttu Mudaliyar, the Maniagar of Thernmaradchy, has applied for and obtained leave owing to ill-health, and Mr. Tampapillai Mudaliyar, the Maniagar of Jaffna, is acting for him in addition to his own duties.

The Police Superintendent—The Police Superintendent, Mr. Dowbiggin, who went to Marichikaddy, has returned to Jaffna.

The Calcutta F. A. Examination—The Calcutta F. A. examination was held here last week.

—Mr. Ratuam Mavaganam and Mr. S. Sella-turai who passed the last Advocates' Preliminary Examination are on a visit to Jaffna. They will return to Colombo about the end of April.

The Northern Railway Department—Mr. H. Oliver, Chief Resident Engineer, came to Jaffna last week.

The Post-Master, Jaffna—Mr. M. P. Somasinghe Mudaliyar has left for Colombo on three weeks' leave. Mr. Muttiah is acting for him with great acceptance.

—The operations in connection with the water supply scheme for Jaffna are over. The officers have left on other duty. Mr. R. W. Smith who was in charge of the work has made a report to Government. It is stated that the well tested is capable of supplying the Town of Jaffna with the required quantity of water.

—Mr. A. R. Savundranayagam of the Colombo Drainage Works is on a visit to Jaffna.

Obituary—We regret to chronicle the death of Master Ponnudurai, a nephew of Mr. Proctor Sivakolunthu, which took place at Vannarponne on the

16th Instant. He was a student in the Hindu College and was only 16 years of age when he died.

The Pearl Fishery—The fishery this year is remarkable for the high prices obtained for the oysters. In the first nine days of the fishery the Government realized double the amount they obtained during the same period last year.

Official Changes—Mr. B. Horsburgh, who is now at Marichikaddy as Assistant to the Government Agent, Northern Province, will, we understand, shortly go to Trincomalee as Assistant Government Agent, and will relieve Mr. Eardley-Wilmot who will then go to Batticaloa as District Judge.

Salt from Madras—A consignment of salt was discharged at Colombo by the B. I. S. S. Chilka. Out of this the "Lady Gordon" took 50 tons to Galle and 50 tons to Hambantota.

The Buddhist National Congress—A meeting of the Buddhist National Congress will be held at Ananda College, Colombo, on the 2nd April, and the Venerable High Priest Sri Samangala will preside.

Accident to Mr. E. F. Hopkins—Mr. E. F. Hopkins, Registrar General, met with a rather serious accident at Galle while he was there on circuit. As he left the Land Registry Office at Galle and walked along the road, a surya tree fell on one of his feet and caused a painful injury. Mr. Hopkins is now in Colombo and is improving.

The Director of Public Instruction—The Officer is expected to visit Jaffna on his annual inspection next month.

The Surveyor-General—Mr. F. H. Grialston left Ceylon last week preparatory to his retirement. Mr. Warren is acting for him.

The Next Post Master General—Mr. Pagden is spoken of as the probable successor to the present Post Master General who goes home shortly on leave.

The death of Sir Walter Sendall—Sir Walter Sendall who entered the Educational Department in Ceylon in the year 1859 died in England in his 72nd year. Sir Walter Sendall was first an Inspector of Schools in Ceylon and then Director of Public Instruction. Subsequently he was Governor of several British Colonies.

CORRESPONDENCE.

MY IMPRESSIONS OF KUALA LUMPUR.

To the Editor, "Hindu Organ".

Sir,

Amidst the different things that attract the attention of a young man in these States, I have thought it advantageous to spare a few moments to pen a few lines regarding the Metropolitan town of Kuala Lumpur and the Jaffna Tamils resident therein; and it is my hope that you will be good enough to spare a corner for the following in your popular journal.

Being favoured by natural advantages, especially on account of the central position it occupies in the Federated Malay States of this vast Peninsula, Kuala Lumpur has grown to be a cosmopolitan town, where one meets everywhere people of diverse creeds, castes, and races. Kuala Lumpur is growing year by year; the centralisation policy of the Federal Government tends to its being regarded as the "Venice of the Orient"; trade receives an impetus, and mercantile business is facilitated by an extensive railway system, which is ultimately to connect Penang and Singapore.

Having been favoured by circumstances to remain in Kuala Lumpur for about 10 days, I thought it worth while to avail myself of that opportunity to study the society there, especially that of the Jaffna Tamils, being a Jaffna Tamil myself.

To begin with, my estimate of the total number of Jaffnese resident in the town of Kuala Lumpur and its suburbs varies between 800 and 1000. Wherever you go, whether to the east or west, south or north, you will find a number of Jaffnese, most of them still clinging to the habits and customs of the times gone by, and it will not be a surprise to many of your readers when I say that almost all the Departments, more especially the Railway Department, are, for the most part, manned by Jaffna Tamils; and it is no wonder that their position, if they maintain it properly, will be the source of great utility and influence, whereby we can mould into "union" a shattered and scattered people as the Jaffna Tamils of these parts.

It has been years since the Jaffna Tamils have had access to these States, which was on account of the very liberal policy followed by the administrators of these States; but the preference and encouragement given to the Jaffnese have now ceased a good deal; and it will be of interest to find out the cause of that disregard. Wilful disregard it is; and I am not inclined to enter, in detail, into the circumstances which have brought about this indignity upon us, but suffice it to say that it was through ourselves alone, and we are our own despisers.

Attempts have of late been made to remedy this state of affairs, Selangor of course taking the lead and establishing the "Selangor Ceylon Tamil Association". What now remains of that Association I cannot say, because I am confronted with contradictory reports; but of one thing I am certain, there is nothing which is worthy of the name and fame of the community, and if at all there is anything, it is not in any way calculated to advance our interests in these States. I understand that the doom of the Association has been brought about by the "legislators" of the Association; and the course known as religious prejudices and distinctions has sealed the fate of the Association.

Although Kuala Lumpur Jaffnese are comparatively rich and in good position they have not done anything to advance their national interests; and the only thing of which not only Kuala Lumpur, but the Jaffnese in the whole F. M. S. can be proud of is, that they have now started a Religious Association, of which your readers would have read much in your recent issues; and being curious to know all matters touching our people in these parts, I was audacious enough one day to get into their Meeting. When our people are mounted on their "almighty dollars", religion is entirely ignored; but it was with great pleasure that I found that the Kuala Lumpur Tamils were above the average in this respect. Mr. S. R. Arumugam, a religious enthusiast himself, and Mr. Sathasivam, another of his type, have actually forseen the indifference prevailing among their brethren in matters of religion, and have devoted their leisure to the organisation of a Religious Association; and I was told that they were going to establish a Reading Room, orders for the books having been already despatched. I had been told different stories, before I attended the meeting, rather prejudicial to its interests; but, later on, I found the object of the undertaking was quite philanthropic; it displays fellow-love to a degree hitherto unheard of among Tamils in these parts.

It must also be said that a few of the gentleman came there with jaundiced eyes; they did not look at things as they ought to have looked at; they placed every formality and etiquette at a discount; and were persistent in their views, unheeding arguments urged to the contrary. It is to be hoped that matters will adjust themselves in time. Mr. Arumugam's endeavours are bound to succeed in the end.

I have etc,
A Tamil

Perak,
11th March 1904.

THE JAPANESE IS.

A UNIQUE CHARACTER.

The Japanese Empire, which consists of four large islands and more than two thousand smaller ones, is of the same area and has about the same population as the United Kingdom. Japan is a very mountainous country. For this reason hardly twelve per cent of her total area is cultivated. But it has an exceedingly fertile soil, which is cultivated with great care in a multitude of small farms, and is thus rendered very fruitful. Japan is also a land of earthquakes. From earliest times it has been subjected to great ruin by their visitations while villages and towns have been suddenly swallowed up, and huge mountains have disappeared in a day. There are about 365 earthquakes in a year—one for each day.

The whole of Japan abounds in picturesque landscapes and scenic beauty. Mountain scenes rivalling those of Switzerland; clear, placid lakes, in which the image of sky and mountains blend; and smiling, fertile valleys heavily laden with fruits and grain, make the landscape one of surpassing beauty. Few countries are more pleasing to the eye than is Japan. It has every variety of climate—cold in the north, mild and equable in the middle part, and perpetual summer in the southernmost islands.

JAPAN'S RE-AWAKENING.

The revolution of 1868 was the beginning of the Japanese revival. The information of the country, the assimilation of Western civilisation and institutions, and the gradual opening and development of the Empire have gone on uninterruptedly since the restoration of the Emperor to the supreme power.

In 1889 the Constitution was promulgated whereby the people were given a voice in the Government, and Japan became a constitutional monarchy. In this year local self-government was also established. The first Diet was opened in 1890.

The war with China in 1895 gave Japan an opportunity to demonstrate to the world the substantial progress she had made. Some feared the people would be so elated by their phenomenal success that their pride and arrogance would

be unendurable. But it was not so. The Japanese expected to win from the beginning and were not surprised at the result. After the war was over they settled down to the even tenor of their ways as though nothing had happened. They have shown themselves as able to bear victory as to win it.

LITTLE BUT BRAINY.

Physically the Japanese are inferior to the races of the West. They are shorter of stature and lighter of weight than Europeans. The upper part of their bodies is developed, perhaps as fully as our own, but the lower limbs have been so cramped by sitting on the floor for centuries that they are shorter and weaker. Their habits of life and their vegetable diet have combined to make of them a physically weak people. They age earlier than the Western races.

Mentally they are bright and intelligent, receiving and apprehending instruction readily. College students have great thirst for knowledge and study for the sake of learning itself, hence the various devices for evading study so common in the schools at home are almost unknown. Hundreds of young men all over Japan are struggling for an education against very great odds.

INTENSELY PATRIOTIC.

Duty to rulers, to the State, is the first principle of Japanese morality. It is this that makes the Japs loyal to an extreme that we can scarcely conceive. There are many instances in Japanese history of men who, having slain their own parents, children, and wives for the sake of their prince, were praised.

At the time of a tidal wave in Northern Japan, when the waters were rushing furiously into one home, a husband and father turned a deaf ear to the cries of his drowning wife and children, permitting them to perish, that he might rear the Emperor's picture; and he was applauded for the act.

It is said that the name of the Emperor, whispered over the heads of an excited mob, will calm it as readily as oil poured over troubled waters. In the war with China there were many more volunteers for active service than could be sent to the front. Patriotism amounts to a passion. From earliest infancy it is instilled into the minds of the children, and there is not one of the little ones in whose heart his country has not the first place.

NO FEAR OF DEATH.

Another national peculiarity is the slight value placed upon human life. The idea that the family and not the individual, is of supreme importance, and the Buddhist teaching that life itself is the greatest of all evils, are responsible for this.

To pour one's blood upon the battlefield for one's lord has from of old been considered a privilege. Death has not that terror that it has in the West, and the people are not afraid to die.

Hence suicides are of very frequent occurrence, and to take one's life is under certain circumstances considered a meritorious act. Under the old regime a member of the samurai, or warrior classes, could not be executed like a common man, but after condemnation was left to take his own life.

About 7,000 suicides occur in Japan each year. The slightest reasons will induce a man to take his own life. Statistics show that the proportion of suicides varies with the success or failure of the rice crop.

If sustenance is cheap, people live; if it is dear they rid themselves of the burden of life. The number of suicides also varies much with the season of the year, showing that such little matters as heat and discomfort will outweigh the value put on life.

MARRIAGE CUSTOMS.

Among the customs most peculiar in the eyes of Westerners, and most squarely opposed to their own, are those relating to marriage. In Japan the young man and woman have nothing whatever to do with the match-making except to give their consent to the arrangements of their parents and frequently even this is not asked.

The wedding is arranged in some such manner as this:—Whenever the parents of a young man think their son old enough to get married they secure the services of some friend, who acts as "go-between." It is the duty of this party to search out a suitable girl and win the consent of her parents to the marriage.

While this is going on it is not likely that either of the young people is aware of it, but as soon as the parents have arranged matters to their own satisfaction they are informed. It often happens that the man has never seen his bride until the wedding day. Young people seldom object to the arrangement of their parents, and marriages made in this way seem to work well.

A PASSION FOR CLEANLINESS.

Japanese bathing customs are peculiar. Perhaps there are no other people on earth that bathe as often as they. It is customary for every one, even the coolies, to bathe well the whole body every day. The baths are even very hot—about 110 degs. F.

Each private house has a large bath tub which in many instances is capacious enough to accommodate the whole family at once. Besides these private baths each city and town has its public ones, where a good hotbath, in a place large enough for you to swim round, can be had for one cent. Men, women, and children go in to them at the same time indiscriminately.

Japan is a land of hot springs, so that almost every district has its natural hot-baths. Most of them have medicinal value, and the people flock to them by thousands.

EXCEEDINGLY POLITE.

The Japanese are an exceedingly polite people. They have been called the Frenchmen of the Orient in recognition of this national characteristic. Politeness is exalted above everything, above even truth and honour. If you ask an ordinary Japanese which is better, to tell a falsehood or be impolite, he will at once reply "to tell a falsehood." But while the people are exceedingly polite a large part of this politeness is merely surface, without any meaning. Etiquette requires that you always address and treat your equals as though they were your superiors.

There is a separate form of address for each step in the social scale. Japanese men have been seen standing at a door for five minutes, and blush, and beg each to pass through first, each hesitating to precede the other. A Japanese gentleman never stops to converse with a friend, be he only a child, without taking off his hat.

HIGHLY CIVILIZED.

If civilisation consists in a courteous refined manner, in a calm enjoyment of literature and the arts, in an ability to live easily and comfortably with a due regard to all the amenities of life, then a Japanese are a civilised people.

A brilliant writer on Japanese subjects has said that the Japanese have been a civilised people for at least a thousand years. While it differs from European civilisation, it is a highly organised and developed system, venerable with age.

Chinese civilisation is much older than our own. Systematic methods of agriculture, the art of printing, gunpowder, and the mariners' compass were all known and used. While our forefathers in Northern Europe roamed the forests as wild men and dressed in skins, the Chinese were living quietly in cities and towns, dressed in silks.

This venerable Chinese civilisation was readily adopted in Japan, and prevailed down to the time of the Restoration, in 1868. Since that time the adoption and assimilation of Western civilisation have been progressing with a rapidity and success which have no precedent in the history of the world.

The old immobile, crystallised Chinese civilisation has been thrown off, and the vigorous elastic forms of the west have been successfully adopted. Japanese civilisation of to-day is European, only with a national colouring.

JAPANESE RELIGIONS.

The religions of contemporary Japan are four—Shinto, Buddhism, Confucianism, and Tanrikyo.

Shinto may be called the national cult of Japan. The word "Shinto" means "the way of the gods." This system hardly deserves the name religion. It has no moral code, no dogmas, no sacred books. Originally it consisted chiefly of ancestor and nature worship, and of certain mythological ideas. A chief feature of it still is the worship of ancestors, who are exalted to a high pedestal in thought, and worshipped as gods.

The divine origin of the Imperial family, and the obligation to worship and obey it, was a prominent teaching of Shinto. The ancestors of the Imperial family were to be held in supreme reverence and were the objects of especial worship.

According to Shinto there is neither Heaven nor hell, but only an intermediate Hades. Pure Shinto taught that a man's whole duty lay in absolute obedience to the Mikado and in following the natural promptings of his own heart.

The connection of the Government with Shinto extends no further than the maintenance of certain temples and the attendance of officials on some ceremonies. The majority of the upper classes in Japan who to-day have any religion at all are Shintoists.

TIT BITS ABOUT THE JAPS.

The Japanese Imperial University compares very favourably with Western Universities of the middle classes.

The Japanese are a nation of artists. Life in one of the most beautiful countries in the world

has, to a rare degree, developed in them the love of the beautiful.

The Government of Japan is progressive and enlightened.

Japanese laws have for years been gradually approaching Western standards.

The railways are modelled after those of England. The officials are extremely polite. All the more prominent towns are connected by rail. The steamboat service is good and popular.

The telegraph system is excellent. The tariff for messages is perhaps lower than any other in the world.

There is no village or hamlet in the whole land which does not enjoy the convenience of a good postal system. The postal rates are very low.

Every post office is also a savings bank, where a good rate of interest is given.

In all the large cities there are good electric plants, and electricity is extensively used.

The system of banking in Japan will compare favourably with those of the West.

The rural population largely predominates, most of the people live in the villages and small towns; but of recent years large numbers of the rural classes are drifting into the cities.

(For the above information concerning Japan we are indebted to "The Gist of Japan," a book written a few years ago by Dr. R. B. Peery, an American missionary, who has had long experience of the Japanese. His work, which is published by Messrs. Oliphant, Anderson & Ferrier, is characterised by temperateness, sympathy, and judgment.)

—The Hindu.

(The theory that a vegetable diet makes people physically weak has been proved to be wrong. Vegetarians more than hold their own with eaters of fish and flesh. Ed. H. O.)

OPENINGS FOR INDIANS.

A FIELD IN WEST AFRICA.

A Correspondent writes to the "Times"—It is generally recognised by those who have given attention to the problem that if Lancashire is to be rendered independent of foreign countries for the supply of raw cotton, and thus to be freed from a repetition of the crisis through which her great industry has been passing in consequence of the shortage of, and competition for, the American crop the most hopeful field for the realization, in this important respect, of Mr. Chamberlain's great ideal of a self-contained Empire is West Africa, more especially in Northern Nigeria. The cotton plant, favoured alike by soil and climate, grows there luxuriantly, and has for centuries been used by the natives to supply their domestic needs. Experts are agreed that proper methods of cultivation and improved transport facilities are alone required for this part of the Empire to become a supplementary, and in course of years, an alternative, source of supply for Lancashire. The British Cotton Growing Association is actively prosecuting investigations and experiments with a view to remedy this state of affairs, and during the recent visit to England of Sir Frederick Lugard, High Commissioner of Northern Nigeria, its executive was in frequent communication with him on the subject. Sir Frederick and his colleagues in the Administration are evincing keen and practical interest in the movement; and, in addition to measures already known to the public, the High Commissioner is understood to have formulated proposals for obtaining the assistance of Indians of various classes in the great work of developing the cotton and other resources of the protectorate. When these proposals, now understood to be under discussion between the Colonial Office and the India Office, are made public they may perhaps be regarded by enthusiastic believers in the future of our West African possessions as erring on the side of caution and moderation. But it is to be remembered that Northern Nigeria is not, and cannot for some years to come be self supporting. The administration is dependent on a grant in-aid from the British Treasury estimated to reach a total next year of £360,000, and the necessarily jealous scrutiny with which all projects involving new expenditure are examined in Whitehall puts any very ambitious scheme outside the range of practical politics. From this point of view, the question is complicated by the absence of direct steamer communication between India and West Africa, necessitating a costly and roundabout journey for immigrants who would probably have to come to England and embark at Liverpool.

INFLUENCE OF THE INDIANS.

Geographical considerations thus stand in the way of the introduction of Indian labour in West Africa on a scale at all equal to that witnessed in Uganda and on the east coast of the continent. In any case, resort to India for Government-assisted immigration would be based not upon any paucity of the indigenous labour supply, but upon its lack of industrial effectiveness. It is proposed that, in the first instance, this indigenous supply should be leavened with a small number of selected Indian ploughmen, transport drivers, blacksmiths, potters and other workers, to be distributed for teaching purposes amongst the best agricultural districts of the

protectorate. The Negroes use the sorriest substitute for a plough, propelled only by hand, and they have yet to learn the advantages of wheeled transport. In the transition from the costly, ineffective system of manual carriage to speedier methods of transport the mono-wheel cart lately designed by one of the residents of the country will doubtless play an important part; but another step forward will be attained when—given improved means of communication—Indian transport drivers give the negroes practical evidence of the advantages of animal haulage. They are quick to learn, and the introduction of agriculturists and artisans from India into the country would, in the opinion of competent observers, have a more beneficial effect in stimulating agricultural and industrial development than any other measure that could be devised. The newcomers would be treated with respect, almost with awe, by the negroes, and if Mahomedans are selected for the experiment (for which, it is understood, provision is being made in next year's Budget) they would have the bond of a common faith with a large proportion of the native inhabitants. It is suggested that the men, unaccompanied by their families, should spend a year or a year and a half in the protectorate under indenture, at a monthly wage ranging from Rs. 30 (£2) to Rs. 45. Before they left India, advances could be entrusted to their relations, and as they would not need to spend more than Rs. 10 monthly in the land of their sojourn they could take back with them to India a very substantial lump sum, averaging about Rs. 300 each. In their native villages they could circulate the news that immigrants were required and would describe the richness of the new country. They would thus pave the way for a much larger party of immigrants, which should, it is suggested, be made up from 2,000 to 3,000 persons, including wives and children, to form a self contained rural community in a selected district. The economic purpose they would serve would be to offer to the negroes the great object-lesson of a community in their midst made prosperous in their agricultural pursuits by the adaptation of means to the economic end in view. This development of the scheme is not, as yet, it is understood, included in the official programme, but it is one that should be steadily kept in mind, both for the benefit of the congested areas in India from which the immigrants would be obtained and for the signal advantages the people of Northern Nigeria would derive from the permanent presence of the Indian cultivator and artisan, who have so many lessons to teach which the negroes are quite ready to learn. When regard is had to these considerations and to the Imperial aspect of the question involved in the great stimulus of cotton production the introduction of the Indian plough is certain to effect, there ought to be no insuperable difficulty in satisfactorily apportioning the expenditure involved between the Exchequers directly concerned.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR B. A.'S

Indirectly the development of the resources of the protectorate is likely to be greatly assisted by the carrying out of proposals Sir Frederick Lugard has made for the introduction of an entirely different class of Indians. At present progress is retarded by the unsatisfactory character of the class from which the subordinate public services are recruited. The natives from old coast settlements who hold these appointments have many bad and few redeeming qualities, and their addiction to vices to which their "little brief authority" among an ignorant people gives scope for exercise accounts, in some measure at least, for the manifest unpopularity of the taxes it has been necessary to impose. To meet this difficulty the High Commissioner will, it is understood, make provision in his Estimates for next year for obtaining the services of a number of "English-educated" Indian youths, preferably Panjabi Mahomedans, who are regarded as likely to be more adaptable to the changed conditions of life than some other Indian races. The climate would permit of married men having their wives and children with them, and, apart from furlough leave, they would remain in the country until the time came for their retirement from the public service. The pay of the clerks now employed, who would certainly not be able to earn Rs. 40 a month in India, ranges from £80 to £150 per annum, and there can be no doubt that successful Indian candidates would have far better prospects financially than if they entered upon corresponding public employment in their own land. Northern Nigeria equals in extent one-third of the Indian Empire, and there is likely to be scope within its borders for a sufficient absorption of educated Indian youths to appreciably assist in solving the problem of adequate employment for the thousands of young men annually sent forth from the Colleges nearly 200 in number, in British India.

—The Hindu.