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(THE CHEAPEST WEEKLY IN CEYLON)

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THE HINDU ORGAN.

JAFFNA, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 1904.

A BOARD OF AGRICULTURE FOR CEYLON.

His Excellency Sir Henry Blake, though he has not yet been fully an year in Ceylon as its Governor, seems to have studied its most pressing needs. He has found out that the future prosperity of the Island depends on the improvement of agriculture. Though Ceylon is essentially an agricultural country, yet the native cultivators have not had any Government aid worth speaking to improve their agricultural methods and left to shift for themselves as best as they could. The result is that native agriculture in Ceylon has not improved keeping abreast with the advance in other countries. It is strange that while the wealthy and educated European planters in this Colony enjoy the benefit of advice by a large and costly staff of scientists connected with the Royal Botanic Gardens at Perediniya the interests of the the poor and ignorant native cultivators alone should have been entirely neglected.

The present Governor, however, has now made up his mind to remedy this defect. The speech which he delivered recently at the Royal College urging the necessity of greater attention being paid to agriculture by well-to-do people and educated Ceylonese was highly appreciated by the public. But it was felt that, in the absence of Government initiative and aid, nothing could be done to improve native agriculture. His Excellency has, therefore, decided to establish a Board of Agriculture with branches in all important districts in the Island. If Sir Henry will successfully carry out this proposal he would earn the undying thanks of all Ceylonese and would prove one of the greatest Governors Ceylon has ever had. His Excellency explained his proposal in regard to the establishment of the Board in the following terms in the course of a speech which he delivered a few days ago on the occasion of a lecture delivered by Mr. Herbert Wright at Perediniya:—

If there are no further questions, I think nothing remains but for me to propose a vote of thanks to Mr

Wright for the most admirable lecture he has given. I think the best proof of its quality is that I don't think a line of it could be eliminated or could be spared. He has given us concisely and tersely very valuable information on this question of green manuring. I am immensely impressed with the value of Mr. Wright's work, for I see so many of you gentlemen, members of the planting community, all of you knowing exactly what he was taking about and all about to put into practice the lessons which we have learned from the small experiments that have been made. I think, gentlemen, I will ask you to signify your approval of Mr. Wright's lecture and accord him a hearty vote of thanks. And now gentlemen, that we have done with this pleasant business of the lecture, I may tell you, as I see so many Kandy gentlemen before me, that for a considerable time there has been an idea of establishing a Technical College of Agriculture in Ceylon. It is a question whether the time is not approaching when the idea should have some practical result. I should like, myself, to see, established in the Colony some such association as I established in the Colony of Jamaica in 1895, that is a Board of Agriculture, which would have a central body composed of the members of the Legislative Council and such other gentlemen as may be chosen for such a central body, to which there would be ultimately all over the Island affiliated bodies, local Boards of Agriculture, which could appeal to the central body for information on any point. I should look forward, further more, to the possibility of having lecturers appointed for practical work, who would attend every part of the Island, on such a Board as I have mentioned. I don't mean a Board of Agriculture that would confine itself to instruction on matters connected with the planting community only. I think you know your business pretty well, and there is not much to be learned by you that can't be learned here. But, I think, we might do to the people of the Island an immense service by such a Board, in inducing a certain amount of cultivation in the future, by getting hold of the low lying districts and by introducing a general improvement in agriculture all over the Island. I put this before you now as it is well that the idea should be known. Such a Board would have at its disposal a certain amount of money, for it would be necessary to bring within the reach of the people practical instruction which will produce in time the happiest results, as it has done in Jamaica where the institution I referred to has now grown into the great Central Board of Agriculture for all the West Indies, and is doing an immense amount of good work.

Again replying to the Chiefs' Address presented to His Excellency at Ratnapura during his recent tour he spoke as follows:—

As I drove down this beautiful valley yesterday from Avissawella I was impressed by the want of fertility in the low and flat lands and the proposal that I foreshadowed in speaking a few days ago in another place crossed my mind, that is the proposal of establishing a Board of Agriculture. I wish to explain to you what I mean by a Board of Agriculture and that I want you, especially the Rate mahatmayas and Mudaliyars and other Chiefs of this Island, to do all you can to help me in carrying out the idea. My idea is to have a Central Board of Agriculture which will consist of some of the leading men of every province. I want each province or each district in time to establish a Local Board, which Local Board could place themselves in communication with the Central Board, and through that Central Board would be able to get to any locality all the benefit that people who have more energy than the Ceylonese, that is the planters, are able to receive now when they go to Peradeniya and when they take the trouble to see the experiments and to hear the reasons for them and to accept advice and to learn how they can use their money and their land with better results. Now, gentlemen I find that in the system upon which the Government of Ceylon is carried on a great deal is entrusted to the hands of the Rasamahatmayas and the Mudaliyars and why this is so entrusted to their hands and you are chosen from among the chief families of the country and often when you are very young for the reason that you are supposed to be the most influential men in your districts. If you have no local influence then there is no reason why you should be chosen and placed in a position above your neighbours and therefore I look to you and to the other Rate-Mahatmayas and Chiefs and Mudaliyars of the Island to prove to me that you have that local influence for which you have been given credit in the arrangements of Government and that you will use that influence for the benefit of your people. Let me take the case of Ratnapura, the case of the valley through which I passed. There is not one of you who knows anything about cultivation, who does not know that return of rice is very poor and that it seems that some of these fields are not returning the value of the labour spent upon them, but if you had proper advice there is not one of these fields that would not increase its returns by certainly threefold and by probably ten fold and it is for the purpose of placing that advice within the reach of the people who will never look for it and who will never ask for it and who will never follow it except the Rate-Mahatmayas and the Mudaliyars and headmen induce them to do it. It is for the purpose of bringing that advice within their reach that I want to form this Association for the example and benefit of the cultivators of the Island. So far as I can see the people

here know nothing of paddy land except that if you work it in the proper season and possibly put in some bone manure you get some rice but there are other crops that will bring ten times the value of the rice they now grow and it may be better to grow these crops as an alternative and to buy the rice. It is for the purpose of enabling you to do all this that I want to form this Society. Let us take a plot of ground nuts. Probably you know nothing about it. They are much more easily grown than rice. In the proper manuring they will yield a crop worth three hundred rupees an acre or more and you will fertilise that land and you will make good land in time of what is bad land. Now that is one of the things I mentioned and there are many other ways in which the condition of the people can be improved. I know the difficulty of improving the condition of the people of Ratnapura because nine-tenths of them would much rather work under ground than on the surface, (laughter). I am speaking through you and through the Press to the Chiefs of every part of the Island of Ceylon, and as I told you I look to you and to them to justify your existence by the influence you will bring to bear upon the people to try to impress upon them the advisability of helping themselves and of making the Colony more wealthy than it is.

LOCAL & GENERAL

The Weather—Welcome showers of rain have fallen in some parts of the District but not in the town and suburbs. Since the above was in type a partial shower fell in the Town yesterday.

The Government Agent—Mr. J. P. Lewis left here yesterday on circuit with Mr. Sabaretnam, the Chief Mudaliyar, to make appointments of Headmen. He will return to Town on the 14th Instant. The *Times of Ceylon* says that Mr. Ievers will not be returning next month as his health continues to be poor.

The Salt Rent—Tenders will be received by the Government Agent on the 14th Instant for the sale of the salt rent of the Jaffna District for the year 1905.

A donation to the Hindu College—We are glad to announce that Mr. S. Sapatthipillai, second son of the late Mr. Proctor A. Sinnatamby and a brother of the late Mr. Advocate Nagalingam has donated to the Hindu College, Jaffna, a room in a godown near the Grand Bazar worth about Rs 2000. It is the wish of the donor that the best boy in the 6th Standard of the Hindu College, if he be a Hindu and in poor circumstances should be given free tuition from the rent of the godown.

Swami Gnananda at Copay—The Swami delivered an interesting and instructive lecture at Copay on "Image Worship" on the night of the 7th Instant. The House of the Udaiyar of the place which was decorated for the occasion afforded excellent accommodation for the large number of persons who attended to hear the Swami's lecture. Mr. A. Sapapathy was voted to the chair. On the conclusion of the Swami's lecture which was delivered in English Mr. S. R. Muttucumar, Chief Clerk Land Registry, Jaffna, explained the purport of the lecture in Tamil. The other speakers were Messrs. Kanagasabapathy Iyer, Ponnambalampillai, Manager of the Sivite School, Chithambaram, Kanyapillai of Irupalai, A. Cathiravelu Proctor, and Ellankainayaka-Mudaliyar, retired Interpreter District Court. The meeting came to a close at 9. p. m., with a vote of thanks moved by Mr. A. Mailvaganam J. P., and U. P. M., to the Swami for his able lecture.

The Clerical Examination—This examination commenced on Monday last in the Jaffna Kachechi and is still going on.

Twins—A woman at Vaddukkoddai who gave birth to a female child delivered a male child after the lapse of a week. The male child died soon after birth.

A New Advocate—Among those who have lately taken their oath of allegiance and of office as advocates of the Supreme Court are Mr. Chellappah Colandaivelu who is a native of Valluvettitarai and Mr. Abdul Cader who is the first Muhamedan Advocate in the Island. We wish them every success in their profession.

Acknowledgement—We acknowledge

with thanks the receipt from the Secretariat of the Blue Book for the year 1903.

THE REPORT OF THE NORTHERN PROVINCE BY MR. J. P. LEWIS.

(continued from our last issue.)

IX—IRRIGATION.

Irrigation Works—The Survey of the Irrigable land under Vavunikulam was completed in 1903. I have referred to this scheme elsewhere.

Karaichchi Irrigation Scheme—During the year the earthwork on the subsidiary tank Manatkulam at Kilinochchi, to which the Irrigation Department have given the ill-omened name of the "Dry-kulam," was completed. This consisted of an embankment of about one mile in length and an average height of 20 feet with a spill 150 feet wide. The construction of the masonry wall of the sluice was also begun, and a start was made with the clearing of the site of the Iranamadu tank.

Kanukkeni tank near Mullaitivu was completed, with the exception of the channels. Nearly Rs 67,000 was spent in 1903, but no provision has been made for the proper disposal of the spill water, and the high-level channel has breached. Until this is remedied and the channels are put in good order, the tank is useless for irrigation purposes.

Giant's Tank.—As the Assistant Government Agent has treated this subject in detail, it is unnecessary for me to say more than that until the bund has been turfed and a proper system of sluices and channels has been constructed, the tank, though it did excellent service in 1903 and supplied water to subsidiary tanks that without it would have had none, will continue to work under great disadvantages, involving much waste of water and uncertainty in its supply and distribution.

Akattimurippu Scheme.—I am glad to record the sanction of the Akattimurippu scheme, for which a sum of Rs 75,000 has been set apart.

The Vavunikulam Scheme.—The restoration of this tank will be of great benefit to that part of the Mannar District in which it is situated, one of the most sparsely populated and least cultivated portions of that district with a steadily decreasing population. But though this persistent decrease is a fact that cannot be ignored, the soil of this part of the Province is very rich, and it only wants irrigation and easy communication with the rest of the Province to affect a complete change in its condition, and to make it prosperous instead of desolate. The scheme is admirably situated as regards the Northern Railway, and there appears to be no reason why cultivators should not be attracted to it from other districts and from Southern India. Experiments in cotton cultivation may also be made here, which, if successful, would result in a considerable area being taken up and cultivated with that product.

It is on settlers from other districts that the resuscitation of this part of the country must depend, and for the means of attracting them we must rely on the richness of the soil, the facilities for irrigating it, and on that communication with the main centres of population which will be afforded by the railway and its feeder roads.

It is estimated that the tank when restored will be capable of irrigating 8,000 acres, and the whole of this land can easily be reached by the Mankulam-Tanukkai minor road, the improvement of which I have recommended. No part of this land is more than fifteen miles from Mankulam and the greater portion within twelve miles therefrom.

The cost of the complete scheme will be a little below Rs 320,000, but a water-rate of Rs 2 per acre will ultimately bring in Rs 16,000, from which would have to be deducted Rs 3,000 for upkeep. This would be 4 per cent. on the capital invested.

The Nantikadal Scheme (Sessional Paper No. XLVII. of 1886, Report on the Per-aruv Valley)—The Assistant Government Agent mentions as a benefit which would result from the execution of this scheme, in addition to those described by Mr. H. Parker, the almost certain advantage that it would put an end to the mosquito plague in Mullaitivu, I have not seen the report on the survey, but it appears that it was doubtful if the salt water could be kept out of the Nantikadal, except at much greater cost than was at first anticipated. The Assistant Agent suggests that if objection has been made to the scheme owing to the cost, a portion of the Rs 15,000 in deposit on account of irrigation fines "might well be made use of in defraying the cost of the scheme, if Government is unwilling to pay the entire cost." In view of the many advantages to be derived from the scheme, the suggestion is, I think, worth consideration, more especially if the result were to make the Town of Mullaitivu more habitable than it is when the winds of the south-west monsoon fill it with mosquitoes. Existence there at that time is al-

most unbearable: at 5 P. M. there is a buzz of mosquitoes in the air, which, even outside the houses, is filled with clouds of them.

Erection of a Spill Dam across the lower end of the Malappu Villu.—The people of the village of Nallur in Punaryn petitioned for the construction of this in order to dam up the waters of the three villus: Malappu, Kokkaddiyar, and Kovaikulam. Surveys of the three villus and of the Vanneri and Pallavarayakaddu tanks were made, but since then no further action has been taken (see Report of the Provincial Irrigation Board for the Northern Province, 1893, Sessional Paper No. XVIII. of 1894, p. 21, paragraph 7).

The Northern Province gets Rs.187,100 for irrigation works in 1904, as against Rs.187,500 for the North—Central and Rs.217,500 for the Eastern Province.

Two of the Irrigation Sub-Inspectors were employed for four and a half months in the year in taking levels and surveys in connection with the channels from Giant's tank. Chief Irrigation Inspector Mr. MacDonnell was relieved by Mr. W. Ferguson in August.

Kanakarayankulam tank was specially inspected by Mr. Ferguson at my instance with the object of ascertaining why it has not so far been possible to irrigate more than 73 acres from this large tank, restored in 1890 at a cost of nearly Rs. 27,800, and estimated when the restoration was sanctioned to be capable of irrigating 450 acres. The result of his inspection was that he found that the defect was in the position of the sluice, which is at a lower level than a large portion of the fields which it is supposed to irrigate. What is wanted is a high-level sluice or a distribution dam with two gates to raise the head of water and let it flow to different levels. The area of the tank at spill level 10 feet is 174 acres, and with 10 feet of water it can irrigate 800 acres. The patrol who was employed here at Rs. 10 a month was discontinued as unnecessary.

There was a subsidence in the bund of Iratperiyakulam in December, but the cavity was promptly filled in. The work was completed in two days, and the coolies paid each day (the last being Christmas Day) under the personal supervision of Mr. Ferguson.

Irrigation Fines.—The fines imposed under the Paddy Cultivation Ordinance of 1889 are in this Province generally for default of contributing labour towards the repair and upkeep of village tanks. For some years past these fines have been devoted towards the repair of the tanks in respect of which they were imposed, in addition to the labour contributed by the shareholders.

But there is a sum of over Rs. 15,000 in deposit in the Mullaitivu Kachcheri, the result of the accumulation of fines imposed previous to the introduction of the system of spending the fines on the respective tanks. These fines being very old recoveries, it is not possible to identify the tanks on account of which they were inflicted, and the amount is therefore lying idle.

I think it very desirable to make use of this amount either for the Nantikadal scheme or in completing the repair of village tanks, which under the present scale of labour contributed by shareholders will take in some instances a very long time, in many cases not less than a century, to reach completion. The amount of Rs. 15,000 in deposit would, I think be enough to complete the repair of five village tanks, and we could therefore take up five tanks first and spend the money on them binding the people in the meantime for the repayment of the amount so spent in ten annual instalments. The recovery of these instalments would enable us to take up another batch of five tanks and in this way we might proceed with the work of gradual repair of the village tanks the labour by the people being also exacted in the meantime. This would greatly expedite the completion of the tank works and would ultimately be of immense benefit to the people. The people themselves would, I believe, be very glad to accept the condition as to repayment as it would be much to their advantage.

Irrigation Rules.—An amended version of the irrigation rules for the Northern Province was published in the Gazette of 2nd October 1903. These rules make no distinction between manavari lands and lands irrigated by tanks. There were two separate sets of rules, one for each class of lands which were both repealed with the publication of the new rules on 24th October 1902, and as the customs in regard to paddy cultivation on manavari lands and of tank lands differ in some respects, I think it will be necessary to publish a new set of rules for the former. As it is there is still a separate set of rules in existence for the sub-

division of Pallavarayankaddu in Punaryn, which existed side by side with the old rules and which has not been superseded by the Proclamation of the new rules.

(To be continued.)

THE DISTRICT COURT CRIMINAL SESSIONS.

The District Court Criminal Sessions were held on the 5th and 6th October 1904. There were 5 cases on the roll.

1. Post Office case against F. W. Guneteleke on a charge of theft.

A registered and insured letter containing Rs. 250 was sent by a tobacco trader from Matara, to his son Vairamuttu Arumugam of Kokkuvil. The accused who was then a clerk in the post office opened the letter and abstracted the contents thereof. When the addressee called for the letter, he was told that no such letter had been received. The Post Master, having discovered that the letter was actually received at the office from the entries in the books, and that it has been tampered with, immediately telegraphed to the Matara Post Office to wire the numbers of the notes enclosed in the letter; and on receiving the numbers, a search was made in the house of the accused, where one of the pound notes, bearing number corresponding to what has been wired from Matara, was found concealed in a box of the accused. The trial of the case lasted two days; and after a patient hearing of the case the accused was found guilty and sentenced to undergo 18 months' rigorous imprisonment.

2. Concealment of birth. The accused, a woman of Suthumalai in Manippai pleaded guilty to the charge and was sentenced to one month's rigorous imprisonment.

3. Theft in the house of the Assistant Colonial Surgeon, Dr. Santiago, in the Jaffna Fort. The accused was his domestic servant. Charge— theft of jewellery i. e. two hair pins and money from iron safe. When the doctor was absent from home, the servant took the opportunity to commit the theft and he took one of the things stolen to pledge it with some traders. The evidence called for the prosecution was trustworthy; the accused was found guilty and sentenced to 18 months' imprisonment.

4. Case of theft at night in a dwelling house at Sembianpattu. It was committed for trial by the Police Magistrate of Point Pedro. The whole case for the prosecution rested upon the evidence of a single witness. The District Judge finding it unsafe to convict upon such evidence, acquitted the accused.

5. Robbery and hurt. This case is from Elephant Pass. The prosecution charged the accused with having robbed and assaulted a wayfarer, as he was returning from Irana Madu, where he had gone to receive his pay for working in the Railway works. The complainant made his complaint to two headmen immediately after the commission of the offence. The District Judge after hearing the evidence convicted the 1st accused of causing hurt to the complainant and sentenced him to pay a fine of Rs. 25—, and discharged the 2nd and 3rd accused.

NOTES AND GLEANINGS FROM THE STRAITS.

Mr. Alfred Stead's summary of the terms which Japan expects to be able to impose upon the Russians on the Fall of Port Arthur and the conclusion of the war is as follows:—

First, the handing back of Manchuria to China under international guarantees as an open country; second the making of the Chinese Eastern Railway into an international concern; third the possession of Port Arthur & Dalny should she wish to keep them; failing this their return to China; fourth Valdivostok to be returned to Russia in exchange for an indemnity; fifth the island of Sakhalin to be ceded to Japan; and sixth Japanese predominance in Corea.

The third report of the Committee of Public Accounts which has just been published, contains drastic comments on the extravagance

shown by the War Office in its conduct of the South Africa War. As an indication of the loose methods which were followed, it is mentioned that, of an amount of £1,250,000 granted in connection with the Imperial Yeomanry the Committee had found that vouchers for only £460,000 could be produced.

It is officially stated at Tokio that the expenses incurred by Japan up to the end of July in connection with the present War amount to £20,000,000. Of this sum it is stated that 70 per cent has been expended in Japan.

A German Chemist, Dr. Heuner, proposes to buy up all coconut oils and transform them into vegetable butter, a savoury, inodorous, and succulent substitute for true butter. Coconut oil, like butter, contains 7 per cent of soluble acids, namely butyric acid, and capric or decylic acid, which gives a pleasant aroma to butter and have a taste of hazel-nut. Coco butter contains less water than true butter, and will keep 15 or 20 days without showing any acid reaction; therefore it is useful in making pastry. Coco butter has also been found by trial the better antiseptic against infection by microbes and as it is quite digestible the various Boards of Health have not objected to it.

P. Gazette.

For the first in the history of the Philippine Islands since the American occupation, the United States mails have been held up and robbed. The hold up occurred on August 3, on the Manila and Dagupan railroad, on the through train from Dagupan. The agent was sorting out the mail and sacking in when he was attacked from behind and knocked unconscious. Just how much the robber secured is not known but some forty or fifty letters were torn open and rifled.

P. Gazette.

Some days ago a wedding in an elaborate scale took place at the residence of Mr. Wyrant, Draftsman in the Revenue Survey Department. The contracting parties were Miss Chithambara Pillay, daughter of a brother of Mr. Wyrant, and Mr. V. Arumugam, Station Master at Port Swettenham and a Brother of Mr. Kandiah, Dresser in Tapah Hospital. The ceremonies were conducted in the orthodox Hindu style and the attendance was large.

The affairs of the Ceylon Association here are getting on quite satisfactorily. In the last half yearly Meeting held on 31st August last, the accounts of the first six months of the current year were submitted and Messrs. E. C. Daniel and S. M. Arulampalam were selected to fill up to vacancies in the Committee.

It is a few of the Jaffna sons who distinguish themselves in any educational test in these parts. In the last P. W. D. Subordinates examination held in Kuala Lumpur Mr. A. Barnabas, Assistant Draftsman in the P. W. D. here came out successful. Out of about 11 candidates who went in for the examination, of whom 7 were Jaffnese, Mr. Barnabas alone came out successful; and great credit redounds on him in this achievement. He has now been appointed as Chief Draftsman in the P. W. D. on a salary of £1,200 per annum.

At last Sir William Treacher has severed his connection with the F. M. S. as Resident—General. A Public Ball was given in Kuala Lumpur on the 7th instant in honour of his departure, and the whole Federation and Colony were thoroughly represented. Everybody here view Sir William's departure with regret, be he a European or Asiatic, a Civilian, Planter, Miner, Contractor, Lawyer, or Merchant.

Mr. W. T. Taylor, C. M. G., Colonial Secretary, Singapore, and who was formerly acting as Colonial Secretary, Ceylon, has been appointed to act as Resident—General. He assumed charge of his new office today; and it is needless to say the F. M. S. will continue to progress as it did under the judicious administration of Sir William Treacher.

The four Protected Native States of Perak, Selangor, Negri Sembilan and Pahang are being every day forged into a formidable Federation; and the latest move in this direction was the removal of the Perak Printing Office from Taiping, and its amalgamation with the Selangor Office at Kuala Lumpur, to be hereafter known as the Federal Government Printing Office.—Cor.

12. 9. 04.

THE WAR.

London September 24—In accordance with the decision of General Kuropatkin, General Orloff has been recalled to St. Petersburg and, without further inquiry dismissed the army. General Kuropatkin reports no fighting on Thursday and Friday.

Reuter, wiring from Chifu, says, a fierce bomb

ment was going on at Port Arthur on the 19th and 20th. Telegrams received in Paris from St. Petersburg state that the Japanese are delivering a furious general assault on Port Arthur and have attacked three sides simultaneously. Great anxiety is felt at St. Petersburg.

London, September, 25.—The Tsar has appointed General Gripenberg, commanding the Wilna district, to command the second Manchurian Army. His Majesty, in a letter to Gripenberg, says: The intense energy with which Japan is conducting the war, and the stubbornness and high warlike qualities of the Japanese, impel me to strengthen considerably the forces at the front in order to attain a decisive success in the shortest possible time. Owing to the number of units, it is necessary to divide the active forces in Manchuria into two armies, leaving one in the hands of Kuropatkin, whilst you will command the second. Your many years service and warlike exploits assure me that you, following the general directions of General Kuropatkin, lead successfully the army entrusted to you to the attainment of the object of the war.

Reuter at Chifu, wiring today, says the assault on Port Arthur, beginning on the 19th, lasted for 50 hours and—it is reported—resulted in the capture of two or three supplementary Forts in the vicinity of Kikwan-shan and the driving out of the Russians from the trenches. The fighting was desperate but owing to the careful preparations, the Japanese losses, though heavy, show a decrease in comparison with previous attacks.

Reuter wires from Tokio today that it is believed the Japanese have captured six forts in the second line of defence at Port Arthur since the 19th instant.

London, September, 26.—General Kuropatkin telegraphs that the Japanese are preparing an extensive turning movement eastward of Mukden.

Several attempts have been made to capture Kaotulinpass, twelve miles north east of Beniaprize but were repulsed. Fighting is proceeding in Hun Valley, eastwards of Mukden.

It appears that General Kuropatkin and Gripenberg have equal footing and both are under Alexeieff.

The Echo de Paris publishes from St. Petersburg the correspondence between the British authorities and a coaling firm at Dartmouth, whom Russia desired should furnish coal to the Baltic Squadron while on its way to the Far East, in deference to the interpretation of the Foreign Enlistment Act. The correspondence extends from 21st May to 24th August, when the Admiralty finally informed the firm that the provision of coal under these circumstances to vessels to be employed in connection with the war would be an infringement of the Act. The same journal also publishes a letter from a Kiel contractor, in reply to an enquiry from Admiral Boshdestvensky, stating the amount of coal international law permitted him to supply but offering to supply any quantity desired, even outside Kiel. The contractor is the brother of a German Rear Admiral.

London, September, 28.—Reuter, wiring from Tokio, says that there are altogether about 45,000 sick and wounded soldiers in Japan. The system of treatment is admirable and the mortality exceptionally small.

Reuter, wiring from Tokio, says that the Japanese Government has decided to issue an internal loan of £8,000,000 at five percent. It is expected that the loan will be largely subscribed.

General Kuropatkin reports that there are numerous skirmishes at the Russian front, the Japanese confining themselves to outpost attacks—all of which have been repulsed. The reconnaissances have established that the main Japanese forces are still along the Yentai railway. The Russians and Japanese are in constant contact, General Samsoreffs troops being particularly engaged.

Reuter wires from Mukden that the cavalry outposts report a big Japanese movement to the westward of railway and that the Japanese are threatening an attack. There is no chance eastward.

London, September, 29.—It is impossible to understand what is happening at Port Arthur. The French despatches from St. Petersburg are the gloomiest, and indicate that the Japanese have gained important success; while telegrams from Chifu seem to imply that the Russians have again forced the Japanese to evacuate the forts which they captured in the last assault after heavy sacrifices.

General Kuropatkin wires today that the Japanese have begun an offensive movement along the entire east, south and front.

The Standard's special correspondent with Kuroki wires on the 28th that Kuropatkin, with the main body, has fallen back north of Mukden and upon the Tieling. A considerable body of infantry are still south of Mukden, observing the Japanese.

London, September, 27.—It is stated at Tokio that the new regulations for military service will increase the Japanese army by 200,000 men.

London, September, 29.—Le Temps of Paris states that Russia has ordered eleven destroyers from the Societe des forges et chantiers de Mediterranee, to be delivered in fifteen months, and is negotiating four cruisers of the Bayan type.

London, September, 30.—The Russian General Staff announces that the assault on Port Arthur from the 20th to 26th September were every where repulsed.

London, October, 1.—A morning Post telegram from Shanghai says it is reported that the Japanese have been victorious in a general engagement at Mukden.

General Sakharoff, on the 30th ult, reports that a skirmish took place in the vicinity of Yentai on the 29th, and another on the 28th on the left bank of the Lao River with two Japanese squadrons, one company and four guns, and a large band of Chunchuses. Reuter, wiring from St. Petersburg, says the Second Manchurian Army will consist of the Fourth, Eighth and Sixteenth Corps, the Sixth Siberian Corps, and several brigades of Tirailleurs.

Allahabad, October, 2.—A Pioneer special, dated London, 1st October says Reuter's Mukden correspondent states that the Japanese are now desirous of acting on the defensive. The Journal de St. Petersburg assumes that Kuropatkin will avoid all risks until the second army is concentrated under Colonel Gadke. It is impossible to say, in the event of serious fighting at Mukden which side will attack.

WINTER QUARTERS AT PORT ARTHUR.

The Daily Telegraph's Chifu correspondent has

authoritatively announced that the Japanese before Port Arthur must go into winter quarters, and adds that the Japanese policy is a strict blockade at sea and bombardment of land ports which when captured will be rendered untenable.

MR. RAMANATHAN ON THE MYSTERY OF GODLINESS.

"DENATIONALIZATION" AND "DAMNABLE MATERIALISM."

INTERVIEW WITH THE SOLICITOR-GENERAL.

In all huge, wandering, dreary Hultsdorf there is no place which refreshes the eye and soothes the soul so much as the chambers of the Solicitor-General, Mr. P. Ramanathan K. C. Elsewhere things massive, ponderous, dull, unpoetical and unpleasing, weary and distressing; here delicate tints, harmonies of light and shade and colour, restful settings, gentle electric fans, lovely pictures and an atmosphere charged with a nameless charm of poetry offer a haven from the jar of law and prosaic bickerings at the bar. It is

A TRANSITION FROM THE "DAMNABLE MATERIALISM"

which complains, accuses, sues, demands, appeals and argues in the courts—all in quest of Rs and cents, and degrading self-interest and grovelling covetousness, to the mystic spiritualism of the thinker, philosopher and reformer, the man who laments and deplures, soothes and elevates, guides and directs—or at least endeavours to do so.

THE PHILOSOPHER AT HOME.

The busy newspaper man, seeking only material things, inspired by the lust for "copy," sends in his bit of paste-board, enters and stands rebuked. But Mr. Ramanathan understands human nature and human frailty. He motions him to be seated and listens.

"Your speech at Ananda College roused a good deal of discussion, Mr. Ramanathan. Much has been spoken and written since you spoke. Perhaps you would like to gather the loose strings together and sum it all up?"

LIKE MR. BALFOUR, HE NEVER READS THE PAPERS.

Mr. Ramanathan looked surprised. "I never read the local newspapers," he answers "unless someone calls my attention to anything in particular. I am afraid I cannot say what has been said and what has been written."

It was the pressman's turn to be surprised—very much surprised. Nevertheless, he accepted the situation and briefly sketched the trend of the discussion.

"So you see, men are not quite sure what you meant, not quite sure that your words did not carry you away further than you meant to go. Many of the Sinhalese do not agree that there is any denationalization.—"

"Oh, of course, the denationalized people will disagree; but I was speaking at Ananda College rather of the denationalization of the Sinhalese speech, of its rejection from the home and from the gatherings of friends and relatives."

WHAT HE MEANT BY IT.

"You were not thinking of any fusion of race, any obliteration of race type?"

"Oh no. I was referring to the disease of the Sinhalese speech at home, amongst friends and relatives, on Sinhalese public platforms and for purposes of correspondence between Sinhalese people."

"But is that consistent with modern conditions?"

"And why not? Englishmen who know French don't correspond with their friends in French? Englishmen who come to Ceylon do not adopt Sinhalese ways and Sinhalese speech? Germans who know French and English do not abandon German in their homes and in their correspondence. No strong nation abandons its language; rather it does everything to conserve it, to improve it and then spread its use."

AN ANALOGY AND A CONCESSION.

"Are the cases quite analogous?"

"Certainly. True," he conceded, "English is the official language of the country, and therefore must be carefully learned, not only because we have to do with the Governors of the country but also because English literature is worthy of careful study; and if a man goes out of Ceylon, for the purpose of travelling, a knowledge of English will take him through many a country smoothly. Therefore, English must be elaborately studied, but not to the neglect of one's own language, which also must be as carefully and elaborately studied."

"Will it pay? It is a utilitarian age."

"That is a most ridiculous question—a question that estimates life by the money that comes into one's pocket. Religion does not pay! Love for your mother, who is being annoyed by others with whom it is dangerous to come into collision, does not pay. Nevertheless, you have to sacrifice yourself for the sake of your good mother,

for the maintenance of love and of high ideals; and in every land where there is a civilization that is worth anything, self-sacrifice is considered to be the highest ideal of life. I despise money where character, personal or national, is at stake. The question will it pay? is

DAMNABLE MATERIALISM!"

Mr. Ramanathan smiled as he used once more the phrase that is destined to live long in Ceylon.

"What did you mean by that expression, Mr. Ramanathan?"

"Materialism is that which obstructs the growth of spirituality. If that is true which the sages of the East and of the West have declared, that this life is but the stepping-stone to another life, that the material world is

A GYMNASIUM FOR THE ATTAINMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD,

then we must live this life in reference to that other life, where godliness reigns and not worldliness. There is corruption in human nature, and the question is how to eliminate it and attain incorruption. Corruption is nothing more than worldly desire, the desire to gratify sensuous tastes and to make the praise of worldly men the standard of one's conduct."

"That is the abstract. Will you describe the materialism in the concrete against which you warned the Sinhalese?"

A DEFINITION AND ILLUSTRATION

"Yes. It is (1) non-recognition of God, as the power that rewards and punishes men for their works; (2) the belief that man has no soul as distinct from the body, and that there is no life after the present closes; (3) the belief in the all-importance of the body' decorating it beyond measure and supplying all its sensuous wants to the exclusion of spiritual needs; (4) the attempt to secularize morals by the teaching that morality is simply the result of expediency, which has resulted in the feeling that wrong-doing; (5) the use of spirituous liquor and the indulgence of animal appetites; (6) the disrespect of elders; (7) opposition to constituted authority, developing (8) later on into rank socialism and nihilism, &c., which make good Government impossible without the maintenance of most expensive standing armies and effective constabulary.

THE P-ETRY OF HINDU SPIRITUALISM—

"In a pamphlet I received to-day, entitled notes of a tour through India" issued by the P. & O. Steam Navigation Co., the writer, Sir Edwin Arnold, the late poet and journalist—speaking of India, says:—'It is a land of exquisite breeding and ancient dignity and the Hindu people at large are probably the best conducted in the world. Their patience, their simplicity, their gentle bearing and sustained gravity will strike every intelligent mind. Not more thoughtless nor virtuous than the rest of mankind they have nevertheless inherited an antique civilization and an atmosphere of philosophic thought and habit which render even the ignorant peasants respectable and religious really far above even the average of European mental temperament, if judged with adequate acquaintance and apart from conventional notions and systems.' "All this charm of life," continued Mr. Ramanathan, "is gradually diminishing in consequence of the vulgar familiarity, love of ridicule and

THE SPIRIT OF FUN AND DEVILRY

that has been introduced into the country from abroad by people who know not how to live, know not the distinction between worldliness and godliness, know not that it is possible by study and culture to increase spiritual discernment from day to day, and to make our thoughts run continually and not fitfully on high and holy subjects, to make our thoughts instruments of action, persevering good works, goodwill to all— But I have not time to continue; we are only on the fringe of the question. 'Denationalization' is the fall of a nation from its ideals of life and action; and, in regretting the course of events, I never meant to condemn the ideals and practices of any other nation, because amongst European and Americans I have numerous friends who share the same view and who consider it their duty to stem the current of the rank materialism which is insinuating itself more or less into every household in the East and the West. Had any of them been present at Ananda College in my place, they would have uttered precisely similar sentiments."

That is

MR. RAMANATHAN'S LAST WORD.

on the discussion. He spoke the first word of it; he now says the last. He has uttered the alpha and omega. *Ramanathan locutus est; causa finita est!*

—The Times of Ceylon.