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THE HINDU ORGAN.

JAFFNA, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1904.

TOBACCO CULTIVATION AND TRADE.

Elsewhere we publish that portion of Mr. J. P. Lewis' exhaustive Report on this subject. His observations on the cultivation

and trade of this staple product of the Northern Province disclose a serious state of things which, unless some measures be adopted to introduce new methods of curing tobacco to suit foreign markets, threaten to cripple this industry which is the mainstay of the people of the North. The acting Government Agent seems to possess an accurate knowledge of the present condition of tobacco cultivation and trade in Jaffna, as we can from our own knowledge endorse every word written by him on the subject. We fully agree with Mr. Lewis when he says that "it is, therefore, desirable that other markets should be found for this important industry of the Peninsula, and, unless this is done, it may be in danger of a total collapse before long."

It has been our contention all along that, without Government initiative, the Jaffna cultivators will not and cannot adopt new methods of cultivating and curing tobacco suited to markets other than those in which the Jaffna product is now sold. We are, therefore, glad that Mr. Lewis holds the same view as ourselves. "Any improvement", he says, "in this direction, if it is to come at all, will probably have to be initiated by Government".

With the establishment of the proposed Board of Agriculture and a model farm in Jaffna, we have no doubt that the long desired improvement in the cultivation and curing of tobacco will be introduced, and the permanence of this industry will be assured.

As matters at present stand the tobacco grown in this Province must be sold in the Island itself, and in only one place outside the limits of Ceylon—the native State of Travancore, not to mention Cochin where a very small quantity is consumed. There was a time when Jaffna tobacco had no rivals in these markets. But now rivals have sprung up everywhere, as pointed out by the Government Agent, Negombo and Kandy in Ceylon, and Coimbatore in South India.

The Jaffna tobacco is being gradually ousted from the Travancore market, owing to the competition of the Coimbatore tobacco with which the former cannot compete in regard to cheapness, which is the secret of the increased consumption of the latter in that State, although the import duty on both kinds of tobacco remains the same, namely, Rs 90 per candy. The Government of Travancore, however, in 1891, imposed a differential duty on Jaffna tobacco, by reducing the duty on Coimbatore tobacco to Rs 30, while the duty on our tobacco remained at Rs 90 a candy. This measure would have the effect of entirely ousting Jaffna tobacco from the Travancore market, if it was allowed to continue in operation for some months longer there. An influential meeting was then held in Jaffna under the presidency of Mr. Mearns, Agent of the New Oriental Bank Corporation, to protest against the unjust action of the Travancore Government, and to appeal to our own Government to interfere on behalf of the people of Jaffna and to secure just and equal treatment in the na-

tive State for this tobacco. The present writer was deputed by the Jaffna merchants in 1892 to lay the case before the authorities in Colombo and to do whatever was necessary to achieve the object of our mission. Having seen and interviewed the Editors of the four dailies in Colombo, the *Observer*, the *Times*, the *Independent*, and the now defunct *Examiner*, we had the hearty support of those papers which at that time earnestly advocated our cause and called upon the Ceylon Government to make a serious representation to the Indian Government to prevail upon the tributary State to readjust and equalize the import duty on tobacco. The Ceylon Government did make a representation and the result was the raising of the duty in Travancore on Coimbatore tobacco to the level of the duty on Jaffna tobacco. Though this gave a new lease of life to the latter tobacco in that State, yet the former is now being more largely consumed there on account of its comparative cheapness.

Among those whose advice we sought in 1892 in the matter of securing just and fair treatment to Jaffna tobacco in Travancore was the late Mr. George Wall. He told us that we should not be satisfied with merely securing the abolition of the differential duty and depending on one country alone for the consumption of this tobacco, but the real salvation of Jaffna depended on new and finer varieties of tobacco being cultivated and their being cured to suit European markets. From that time we have, in these columns, times without number, advocated the necessity of carrying out the improvements suggested by Mr. Wall. But owing to the ignorance of the cultivator and apathy of the Government, there has been no improvement either in the cultivation or curing of tobacco or in its manufactures. The necessity of Government initiative in this matter is now officially admitted, and in view of the establishment of the Agricultural Board, we have every hope that this industry will have a bright future before it.

THE AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION OF BENGAL.

We publish in another column the speech of Sir Andrew Frazer, the Lieutenant Governor of Bengal, at the first meeting of the Association which he has already established for the Province. In view of the inauguration of a similar body in this Colony, on the 28th Instant, at the meeting convened by His Excellency Sir Henry Blake to be held in the Council Chamber, Colombo, the words of Sir Andrew Frazer would be specially interesting and useful. It will be seen that the Lieutenant Governor of Bengal has been led to establish the Agricultural Association in that Presidency, following his experience he had gained in the Central Province of India where he was Chief Commissioner, as the present Governor of Ceylon proposes to establish the Agricultural Board on the lines of a similar body he had established in Jamaica. Every word of Sir Andrew Frazer as to the constitution and working of the Association in India should be applicable to Ceylon.

LOCAL & GENERAL

The Weather—Copious showers of rain have fallen in all parts of the District, to the great benefit of man, beast and vegetation. Fields are now being sown everywhere, and those that had been sown in dry earth are in plants. The weather is now fine.

The Government Agent—Mr. J. P. Lewis starts today on circuit accompanied by Mr. Sabaretnam, the Chief Mudaliyar. He goes to Mannar and Marichchikaddi, and will be absent from here for about a fortnight.

The Office Assistant—Mr. J. Scott, the Office Assistant to the Government Agent, left here yesterday for Colombo by land on one month's leave of absence. Mr. H. R. Freeman the District Judge acts for him till the arrival of Mr. Southern who is expected here on the 24th inst.

Mr. V. M. Saravanamuttu—This gentleman, who has passed the Proctor's Examination and taken his warrant has decided to practice his profession at Kandy. We commend his example to other new Proctors sailing from Jaffna to seek

"new fields and pastimes anew" instead of overcrowding the Jaffna Bar which is already overcrowded. Mr. Saravanamuttu is an old boy of the Hindu College, and is a son of the late Vettivalu Mudaliyar, Maniagar of Ponaryn and brother of Mr. Gurunathapillai, Assistant Conservator of Forests, Chingleput.

The Vagaries of the Police—Though there is a decided improvement in the conduct of the Police in general since we ventilated the grievances of the public in regard to their high-handed proceedings, yet some members of the force still make themselves prominent by having recourse to questionable acts. We are, however, glad to state that Mr. Dowbiggin is now very prompt in inquiring into every complaint and punishing the delinquent Constables. The practice of drawing water from the Jaffna Lagoon to season the tobacco exported to Travancore is as old as the cultivation of tobacco in this Peninsula. It is a common saying here that no permission is required to draw salt water from the sea. It is the sea water of the Jaffna Lagoon and not of any other sea or ocean that gives a peculiar flavour to the Jaffna tobacco which is so much liked in Travancore and Cochin. On Wednesday last a Police Constable on the beat in the sea beach road prevented and molested the people who were engaged in drawing the seawater for the use of the Tobacco merchants and arrested those who did draw it and took them to the Station. There was, therefore, no work in any of the tobacco godowns for a whole day. We understand that Mr. Dowbiggin having heard of it, made a departmental inquiry and reduced the Constable from the 2nd class to the bottom of the 3rd class and fined him also Rs 5. The Constable who expected to get credit for the display of mischievous activity has been properly rewarded in a manner which he least expected. The action of Mr. Dowbiggin has given great satisfaction to the public.

Obituary—We regret to chronicle the death of Mrs. S. Kandiahpillai, wife of Mr. S. Kandiahpillai, the Manager of the *Hindu Organ* which occurred at her residence in Vannarponnai on the 14th Instant. She was a good and amiable young lady. We tender our heartfelt sympathy to the bereaved husband, parents, and others who bemoan her loss.

Suicide—Mr. V. Thambu who was a Clerk in the P. W. D. Colombo and who returned to Jaffna on his retirement from the service committed suicide on the night of the 14th Instant by falling into a well in his compound at Nellore. He was suffering from diabetes and other complicated diseases. We understand that it was owing to the severity of his illness he committed this rash act.

The late Mrs. Vanniassingam—We deeply regret to record the death of this lady which took place in Colombo last week. She was the widow of the late Mr. J. Homer Vanniassingam, Broker, mother of Dr. Vanniassingam and Mr. Proctor Vanniassingam, and sister-in-law of Mr. Advocate Vanniassingam of Jaffna.

The Late Mr. A. Naganathan—It is our most painful duty to record the death of this gentleman which took place in Colombo on the 8th Instant. He was the only son of the late Mr. Arumugam who was Broker, first in the Firm of Alston, Scott and Co, and afterwards in the employment of Messrs. Bois Brothers. Mr. Naganathan was part proprietor of the Orient Boat Company and was possessed of immense property in Colombo. He was married but leaves no issue. We offer our heartfelt sympathy to his mother and other relations who bemoan the loss of one who was not only near and dear to them but was also an estimable gentleman. He died of pneumonia at the early age of 31 years.

The Editor of the *Native Opinion* Sent to Jail—Fidelis Vansandan Perera, Editor of the *Ceylon Native Opinion* was on the 7th Instant convicted by the Supreme Court in the case of defamation brought against him by Mr. Felix Dias, Additional District Judge, Colombo, and sentenced to six months simple imprisonment and to pay a fine of Rs 1000, or in default of the fine, to three months more. The fate of this Editor should be a warning to writers to whom scurrility is a pastime and a trade.

COLOMBO.

A new departure by the "*Times*" :—The good proprietors of this Anglo-Ceylonese Journal have out of the abundance of their hearts for the "natives", thought it convenient to publish in the morning a cheap edition of their paper. Almost every issue pronounces benediction upon the leading "natives" upon whose subscriptions the editors and proprietors mean to depend for a portion of their daily bread. So far Mr. Ramanathan is the most favoured of the lot. Then comes the pre-eminent Jayawardena family.

The sin of slander :—Slander is a most wicked form of sin. It is the commission of none but the coward. It is unfortunately indulged by many a native, and has become a fashion of the day as it were. It was only the other day, we were told, that a native in high position whispered certain rubbish about the repute of the Jayawardena family into the ears of the Private Secretary to the Governor. It is rumoured that a member of this pre-eminent Sinhalese family is determined to set in motion the legal machinery against him.

What they speak of the Governor now :—Sir Arthur Henry Blake, at the commencement of his Government in this Colony, raised high hopes in the minds of the natives who were longing to see a calm day after an eight years storm. In this hope they were nurtured only for about four or five months; at the end of which time H. E. did assume a new attitude—attitude of supreme silence and non-interference with the autocratic actions of H. E.'s predecessor. This attitude is maintained to this day, and will be perhaps maintained to the end. This sort of supreme silence and non-interference cannot in any sense mean administration of British Justice as expounded by H. E. himself.

The next Sinhalese M. L. O. :—The term of the Honble Mr. Obeyesekere expires by the end of the current year. Speculation is rife as to who will be the next councillor. In this particular case there is nothing so good as re-nomination. But if a new member is required, there is none so good as Mr. Hector Jayawardena who is pre-eminently the fittest. But it is quite doubtful whether Mr. Hector will take up the honor seeing the degenerated condition of the Legislative Council at the present day.

Incense of crime :—Crimes are re-increasing. We are very sorry to notice a lot of murders and burglaries committed during the past fortnight in different quarters. In one case at Chilaw we hear, within a short distance from the residence of the Assistant Government Agent, a woman was cut into three pieces and thrown on the ground. Most of these crimes are committed in such an ingenious manner as not to permit the perpetrators being discovered.

Inflow of Western Civilisation :—This is the funeral notice found in a local paper announcing the death and funeral of a descendant of Wijayo :—

"The remains of Caesar Alexander Napoleon, the beloved son of Mr. J. A. Wijeyesinghe of Madampitya will be removed for interment etc". What will Wijayo say of his degenerated descendant if he were alive to-day, and what will those proud white warriors, Caesar, Alexander and Napoleon, say of the impudence of the black Sinhalese if they were alive to-day.!!

—Cor.

TRINCOMALEE.

The Weather—The heat is intense and everything is looking parched and dry; although there is every indication of rain in the near future.

Shipping—The ss "Lady Havelock" while steaming out of harbour on Monday afternoon, it was found that her mainpipe had gone out of order and she had to put back to harbour and had the repairs done by the ship's officers. She left very late in the evening.

The ss "Goorkha" arrived this morning from Calcutta homeward bound and left in the afternoon taking a large consignment of Naval and Ordnance Stores and also taking away Mr. W. S. H. Alexander, Asst. Naval Store Officer and Mr. and Mrs. Evans and child, who have been invalided.

—The Kumbam Festival has started and there is to be found great enthusiasm among the different rival parties.

Cricket—A two days' match has been arranged for Friday and Saturday the 30th Instant and 1st proximo, between the Trinco Sports Club and the T. L. A. C. C., the latter to be captained by E. Weiman.

Individualities—Dr. H. A. Moraes, Colonial Surgeon E. P. has arrived from Batticaloa on inspection duty and is staying in the Rest-House.

—Rev. Lockwood has arrived from Point Pedro and taken over the duties as Principal of the Wesleyan Mission School here and we believe that the school under his supervision will in due time be in a flourishing state of efficiency. —Cor. 25-9-04

BATTICALOA.

25th September 1904.

The Weather—The weather still continues to be warm and hot. The days are sometimes very cloudy and almost threatens to rain but we had no rain up to date except slight drizzles. There are indications that rain is imminent. The cattle disease (Murrain) has broken out among the cattle and the Headmen are now preventing their being removed from one station to another.

Tobacco—The crop of this product this year is not altogether a failure as was anticipated owing to its unusually late cultivation on account of the heavy flood we had in January last. The price of tobacco has risen considerably owing to competition among the merchants who are pouring in large numbers from Jaffna. The Manager of the "Jaffna Commercial Corporation" here had disposed of nearly Rs. 14,000 within the last two weeks to the merchants who used to get down money from Jaffna by Telegraph transfers.

Medical—Dr. H. A. Moraes, the Colonial Surgeon of this Province has proceeded to Trincomalee on circuit by the last trip of the "Lady Havelock".

Personal—Swami Sathananda, one of the disciples of

the late Reverend Swami Vivekananda has arrived here from Trincomalee on his way to Katragama. He could speak neither Tamil nor English but has a lively and a saintly appearance.

—Mr. S. Poopalpillai, Head Clerk of the P. W. D. Kandy, is now in our midst, having come on a visit to his friends and relations here.

Specie—The Steamer "Lady Havelock" which arrived here yesterday on her Southabout Trip brought from the General Treasury Rs. 66,000 for the Batticaloa Kachcheri and Rs. 10,000 from the National Bank of India for the Jaffna Commercial Corporation Ltd..

New Proctors—Messrs. Odiramer and Sixtopillai who have passed the last Proctor's Final Examination arrived by steamer yesterday having obtained their warrant to practise as Proctors of the District Court of Batticaloa. We wish them all success. There are now in all nearly 10 Proctors and 4 Advocates.

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

(continued from our last issue.)

X.—TOBACCO CULTIVATION AND TRADE.

Though the cultivation may be said to have been as extensive as in previous years, yet it is doubtful whether the people take as much interest in the cultivation of tobacco as was formerly the case. This is no doubt due to the fact that the price has gone down and that the market is not so keen as it used to be, and then again to the opening of rival markets recently at Negombo and Kandy and in some places in Southern India. Another reason for the fall in price is the monopoly of the trade by the Natukotta Chetties. The local merchants having experienced bad times for some years past, the Chetties hesitate to make them large advances, and they have in fact instead of lending money, got the trade into their own hands. There is a combination among them and the result is a fall in price, to the great detriment of the cultivators.

In the year under review there was owing to want of purchasers, a large stock of tobacco in the hands of the cultivators for months together, and the longer it remained unsold the more it lost in value. This was especially the case with the crop of smoking tobacco, which is largely grown in the Tenmaradchi, Pachchilapalai, and Karachchi divisions of the Jaffna District and in the Mannar and Mullaivivu Districts. It remained in the hands of the cultivators for the greater part of the year, and was ultimately sold at nominal prices.

The chewing kind, which is generally sent to India did not find ready purchasers, and the few that purchased it were not much benefited by the trade. This kind of tobacco which suits the Indian market is now largely grown in the Coimbatore District of South India, and there is therefore not much demand for the Jaffna tobacco. It is therefore desirable that other markets should be found for this important industry of the peninsula, and unless this is done it may be in danger of a total collapse before long.

Mr. Mac D. Gibson made a trial of curing the Jaffna tobacco to suit European markets in 1902, but the result of his experiment, which was apparently not encouraging, has not been made known. He complained, I believe, that he could not get sufficient quantities of the leaf to carry out the experiment properly. This seems strange in view of the fact that there was a glut of tobacco in the market. I see no reason myself why a better system of curing should not result in an extended market for the Jaffna tobacco. A system of curing which only takes a week to carry out, while European methods in Sumatra and Java take two months, can hardly be satisfactory.

According to Mr. Gibson, the Jaffna cultivators cut their tobacco "green" to save the trouble and expense of tending it longer, as their system of watering it involves great labour. After this, instead of curing the leaf in a manner calculated to cause it to retain its full natural flavour and to improve its colour and to enable it to keep for any length of time, their system practically destroys the leaf, their principal object being to make the leaf as black as possible. When it comes into the hands of the cigar maker, they apply foreign substances to give the leaf taste; this of course only lasts for a limited time, and in a few months the tobacco will have no taste, if indeed it has not become quite rotten. He considers that the Jaffna tobacco has good flavour as a smoking tobacco, though not suited for suitable covering for cigars and spoilt in the curing. Any improvement in this direction, if it is to come at all, will probably have to be initiated by Government.

(to be continued)

THE WAR.

London October 2.—General Sakharoff reports that on the 30th the Russian cavalry expelled the Japanese from a village on the Hun River and burned seventeen junks laden with ammunition and stores, and retired on the approach of Japanese reinforcements.

The Japanese are still pouring across the Taitscho at Benaiku. It is stated that numbers of Chunchuses are with the Japanese.

Reuter's correspondent with General Oku wires on the 1st, that the first Japanese train arrived at Lia-

yang that afternoon. There will be a regular schedule of trains in a few days. Engines and cars will be brought from Japan. The completion of the railway removes entirely the problem of transport of supplies and ammunition. The first train brought quantities of ammunition, telegraph, and railway supplies.

Reuter at Chifu wires today that, according to the Chinese who left Port Arthur on the 30th, severe fighting had taken place in which the Russians were the aggressors.

On the 28th and 29th on the west shore of Liaotishan near Pigeon Bay, the Russians were apparently attempting to capture the heavy guns which the Japanese had mounted in the vicinity, but were not successful.

London October 3.—General Sakharoff telegraphs that the Japanese advance guards including Fengtsiapu are south-east of Mukden.

Latest accounts from Mukden indicate that the situation is unchanged.

Contradictory reports are current at St. Petersburg some declaring the military authorities expect a battle shortly; others that Kuropatkin is preparing to retire on Tieling.

London October 4.—A Daily Telegraph telegram from Nagasaki says the Japanese tunnel into Port Arthur was finished on the 24th ultimo, and was immediately used. The result is unknown.

London October 14.—A despatch from Kuropatkin, recounting the fighting on Wednesday and Thursday, states that large Japanese reinforcements prevented the Russians' left profiting by the first successes towards Pensihu. Finally, these troops, being separated from the rest of the army, were ordered to retire. Kuropatkin admits heavy losses but abstains from details. With reference to the guns, Kuropatkin says that two regiments on the right were compelled to abandon their guns but recaptured all, except sixteen. The Japanese in the night attack, forced them to reabandon the guns recovered.

The capture of 16 guns is officially admitted at St. Petersburg.

Russian correspondents agree that the fighting is more desperate than at Liaoyang. The combatants have complete disregard for life. Positions are taken and retaken six or eight times daily at terrible cost. Frequent hand-to-hand encounters take place, both sides throwing hand-grenades with murderous effect. The cannonade is continued nightly.

Reuter from Tokio wires today that Oyama reports:—Fighting continues along almost the entire front. The Japanese are progressing satisfactorily.

Bombay October 14.—

The Japanese Consul at Bombay has received the following:—Oyama reports that near Pensihu the enemy's counter attacks were repulsed on all sides. On Wednesday our right army sent one detachment to Shikiatze, eight miles north of Pensihu, to cut the enemy's retreat. The central and left columns of our right army occupied on Wednesday several eminences north east of Yentai mines and were vigorously pursuing the enemy. The central army commenced operations on Tuesday night, and on Wednesday morning gained the heights, a few miles East of Yentai. They captured two field-guns and eight ammunition-waggons and, while pursuing the enemy also captured field-guns with ammunition-waggons, numbering eleven, at Sackuaishisha beside 150 prisoners. The pursuit by the right and central armies is progressing successfully. On Wednesday the enemy's detachment with Artillery was being enveloped, panic-stricken, 12 miles east of Yentai, while the rest was retreating northward in disorder. The left army, since Tuesday night, has been continually attacking the enemy posted near the railway, within 10 miles of Yentai. The central column of the left army, after repulsing the enemy's strong forces, occupied Lantzechich, five miles north east of Yentai, on Wednesday afternoon, capturing 16 guns. Thereupon we immediately pursued the enemy retreating in disorder and captured 4 more guns. During the pursuit the enemy twice attempted desperate counter-attacks, but each time was repulsed with heavy losses. The right column of our left army, while pursuing the enemy near Shilcho, captured 5 guns and 5 ammunition waggons.

Bombay October 15.—The Japanese Consul has received the following this morning:—Marshal Oyama's report on the engagements of Wednesday and Thursday are as follows: In the direction of Pensihu the enemy's repeated counterattacks of Wednesday were all repulsed. The enemy was showing signs of retreat in the evening. Our forces there have turned to the offensive since daybreak on Thursday. A flanking movement of our strong force of cavalry under Prince Kanin largely contributed to the favourable development of the situation in that direction. The central and left columns of our right army both occupied important eminences and are continuing the attacks. The operations of the central army are progressing favourably, dislodging the enemy from several strategic points. The left army was attacking Shahopu and neighbouring places and occupied some points. Our reinforcements are continually arriving at Yentai.

London October 15.—Oyama's detailed report of Wednesday's and Thursday's fighting says the repeated Russian attacks in the direction of Pensihu on Wednesday were repulsed. The Japanese central and left armies dislodged the enemy from an important strategic position and continuing the attacks satisfactorily after a desperate battle one of the right army's columns occupied the key to the enemy's position. Reuter at St. Petersburg says the news from Manchuria has caused profound gloom and is in striking contrast to the elation provoked by the proclamation of Kuropatkin. The Russian losses are understood to be about 8,000.

—The Ceylon Observer.

CEYLON PEARL FISHERIES.

ARE THEY GOVERNMENT PROPERTY?

A PRIVATE FISHING SUGGESTED.

Mr. S. L. Edwards, Westward Ho, Herne Bay, who was out here last year, showing the pearl fishermen how to dredge for oysters, writes the following letter to the "Daily Chronicle" (September 15th) in which he makes the extraordinary suggestion that a private pearl fishing expedition should try its luck on the Ceylon Banks:—

I read with much interest the statement as to pearl thefts made by a gentleman home from Ceylon on leave, in your paper, and cannot make out how your

informant estimates the loss through theft in a six weeks' fishing at 200,000 rupees. I never heard of a conviction for stealing pearls among men returning from the pearl banks, nor have I heard of poaching, although such practices may go on. There is a native overseer, paid by the Government, on board of each boat, and I doubt if a European would answer the purpose much better. I went out there last year, engaged by the Colonial Government, to show the pearl fishers the best mode of dredging for the oysters, and I was working and dredging on the banks throughout this year's pearl fishery. I should like to know how the Government becomes possessed of the sole right to fish for pearls. As I understand it, the international law in all European countries and Colonies is that there is a three-mile limit to protect the fisheries of any one country from another, but that outside of the three-mile limit any one can fish. If I am right, a private pearl fishing expedition, properly fitted out, would be a great success, for all the banks that I know of are seven miles from land. I have caught in a fifteen minutes' haul with one dredge over 2,000 full-grown oysters.

—The Ceylon Observer.

BENGAL AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION

His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, in opening the proceedings of the first meeting of the Provincial Agricultural Association, Bengal, held at Belvedere, on the 26th ultimo, made the following observations:—

Gentlemen,—I do not wish to detain you any length of time this morning for I know that you are all busy men to whom time is precious. I thank you for having come together in accordance with my invitation and am very pleased indeed to see that nearly every member of the Association is present. My object in asking you to come together here was that I might be able to welcome you as members of the Association, to welcome your cooperation with the Government in the Agricultural work of the Province, and also that I might be able to say one or two words regarding the constitution of the Association.

I do not require to say much to you; for the objects of the Association have been already set forth in the proceedings of a meeting held at "The Shruberry" at Darjeeling on the 14th of June last in a Note by the Secretary in the Revenue Department dated the 27th of June last and copies of which paper have been handed to the members of association along with a letter of invitation to join. I may say, however, briefly thus that my purpose to form this Association arises from experience of the work of such an Association in the Central Provinces. The great object of that Association was to secure the cooperation of men interested in agriculture and in industry with the Government in agricultural and industrial work. The Association in Nagpur sprang into existence mainly, I think, by the force of circumstances. In the year 1899 to 1900, the Government of the Central Provinces had to battle with the severest famine with which any Government in India has probably had to cope. One of the results of that battle with famine was that the officers of the Government and the leaders of the people were brought into closer association probably than had ever existed before. The earnest support and co-operation with the officers of Government received from the leading gentlemen in all parts of the Province produced a feeling of mutual confidence and sympathy which was most favourable to co-operation. I believe I may say that one result of this for I really look upon the two things as cause and effect, was the establishment in that year of the Agricultural Association at Nagpur. It consisted of leading agriculturists and businessmen interested in the improvement of staples, who were Associated with Mr. Sly, the Director of Agriculture, and pledged themselves to do their best to advise and assist him in his efforts for the improvement of agriculture. In the following year an important departure was made in the formation in each district of an Agricultural and Industrial Association. The objects of this Association are the development and improvement of the agricultural and industrial resources of the district. The Deputy Commissioner (or District Officer) is the President while the Tahsildars (or sub-divisional Officers) and Superintendents of Land Records are the other official members. The non-official members are chosen from the leading residents who take a real interest in agricultural and industrial improvement. Each member pledges himself to do his best for the improvement of agriculture and promises to carry out in his own village any practical experimental work entrusted to him. Meetings are held at which a practical scheme of work is framed and the work allotted to the several members who afterwards report the results. The Agricultural Assistant who is also head of the Nagpur Agricultural School and of the model farm there, a Mahratta Brahmin of great influence and of marvellous knowledge of ag-

riculture attends these meetings, and give advice or delivers address on suitable subjects connected with agriculture. Year after year the most excellent reports have been made of the influence of these Associations. If you will look at the reports of the Central Province Department of Agriculture for the last two years 1901-02 and 1902-03, you will see what good progress has been made by these District Associations.

Now, gentlemen, it is something of this kind that I want have in this Province. I do not want the Association to undertake the administration of the Agricultural Department of the Province. That is a duty which falls upon Government and its officers; and from that duty we do not wish to shrink. But I do want to have the hearty co-operations of those who are interested in agricultural and industrial development, in the work of this Department. At present we get plenty of advice, of suggestions and of criticism and our experiments, our forecasts, our plans are all freely criticised. I do not object to criticism. What I object to is that the criticism is not well informed. The criticism which is most prominently forced upon us comes from men who know little or nothing of what we are doing and probably do not know much more or what ought to be done. The man who neither knows what you are doing nor what you ought to do is not a good adviser or critic. What I want is to have men gathered round the officers of this Department who really do know something of what ought to be done, men who know something of agriculture, something of industrial work, something of the needs, agricultural and industrial, of the Province, and I want to have these men thoroughly well informed as to what we are doing. I want them to be taken thoroughly into our confidence, to know our plans, to see our experiments and to understand our system then I shall expect to have for my officers in the arduous work in which they are engaged, valuable advice, criticism and co-operation, I want them to be surrounded by capable and friendly advisers. For this purpose I have set apart one of the best rooms in Writer's Buildings as the headquarters of this Association. There a library will be formed consisting of one copy at least of all books of reference of agricultural and industrial interest which are in the library of the Secretariat or of the Director of Agriculture. I trust that this library will include the best books of reference available; and if any member of the Association thinks that any book would be of value in that library we shall be glad to have his advice, and to seek to procure the book. On the table of this room will also be laid all papers of interest regarding agricultural and industrial work. Therefore any member of the Association who has a few minutes to spare may find himself able profitably to employ these minutes, by turning into the Association's room in Writer's Buildings and reading books or papers there supplied. This room will also be available for the meetings of the Association, and at these meetings I have no doubt it will be possible for the Association to give in its corporate capacity, very considerable assistance to the Director of Agriculture. Then, again, the Director of Agriculture's Office is in the same building, and he will be available (or his Assistant in his absence) to see any member of the Association, and to receive advice or suggestion from him to the interest of his work. I do not expect, nor does my friend Mr. Maddox, that the work of the Director will be diminished by the creation of this Association. The result will probably be a considerable increase of work. The Hon'ble Mr. Fuller, who was staying with me at the beginning of this week, told me that he had once asked Mr. Sly how it was possible for him to get the Association in the Central Province to do so much. Mr. Sly's answer, "It is the Associations that drive me!" The Association at head-quarters and in the interior, will no doubt, in this respect at least, increase the work of the director, in that they will give him advice and suggestions as to his work, and ask his assistance and advice in the carrying on of their own experiments. But I am sure that he will not regret the increase of work, if as we confidently believe, the result is that the work will be far more efficient. We believe that the result will be to bring the Department into touch with the people throughout the whole Province and therefore to render the efforts more effective. But now, gentlemen, you will clearly understand that, while I have stated to you what I want and what I expect, I feel most strongly that I shall fail altogether in achieving my object unless I secure the earnest and business-like co-operation of the members of this Association and of the branches through-

out the Province. What we hope for is that you will work with us earnestly and in a friendly spirit.

I had a mind to talk to you to-day a little about the recent development in this Province in regard to the work connected with cotton, indigo, sugar, jute and sericulture. But I find that you have already received almost the most recent papers on these subjects, and that it is hardly worth while my occupying your time with further remarks on these subjects. I therefore, propose now unless there is anything that you would like to bring to my notice to vacate this chair in favour of my hon'ble friend Mr. Savage so that the work of the Association as an organised institution may now begin. In the Central Provinces the Director of Agriculture is the President of the Association, and it seems to me that in this Province it is natural and will be found a very convenient arrangement, that the Member of the Board in charge of the Land Revenue and Court of Wards administration, should be the President and the Director of Land Records, the Secretary of the Association. I leave you now to proceed with the work of the Association, and I earnestly beg that you will understand that I myself, and the officers of the Department will greatly value the earnest co-operation of the members of this Association both individually and collectively and will be most ready to listen to all suggestions, advice and criticism. —The Hindu.

NOTICE.

The following rules and orders made by the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council under Ordinance No. 13 of 1896, entitled "An Ordinance relating to Pilgrimages," for the conduct of the Kataragama pilgrimage and festival, where special precautions have been and are necessary, are published for general information in lieu of the rules promulgated annually for several years.

By His Excellency's command,
J. J. THORBURN

for Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Colombo, October 6, 1904.

RULES.

1. For sanitary reasons the duration of the Kataragama festival and of the stay of pilgrims at Kataragama shall be and it is hereby limited to two days, namely, November, 22 and 23, 1904 inclusive. Pilgrims arriving before the day first named or staying beyond the day prescribed shall be guilty of an offence.

2. It shall be lawful for the Police authorities or any Police Magistrate at any place on the line of march to prohibit from proceeding all persons who by reason of disease, infirmity, weakness, advanced age, youth, want of supplies, or other sufficient cause, are considered unfit to undertake the journey, or who appear likely to fall in and endanger the health of others; and to require such persons to find security to ensure their obedience to the orders so given. In default of such security being found, it shall be lawful for the said Police authorities or Police Magistrate to detain such persons in custody for a period not exceeding three days.

3. In the event of an epidemic breaking out at Kataragama during the festival it shall be lawful for the officers appointed to enforce the observance of orders to declare the festival at an end, and to direct pilgrims at once to leave the village and proceed to their homes, and to prescribe the roads they have to travel.

4. The officers appointed to enforce the observance of orders shall have power on the line of march to and from Kataragama and at Kataragama—

(a) To appoint particular places to be exclusively used by the pilgrims for washing and bathing, for drawing water and drinking, and for natural offices;

(b) To appoint places for the occupation of each class of pilgrims;

(c) To prescribe routes for the journey of any body of pilgrims;

(d) To regulate the distribution of all food given to pilgrims;

(e) To fix separate places of abode for pilgrims who fall ill, to prohibit communication with them, and to detain them if unfit to travel.

Any person disobeying an order given by the appointed officers shall be guilty of an offence.

5. The Police are empowered and require to seize and destroy all food condemned as unwholesome on the march or in camp by the Medical Officer, or, if there be none, by the Chief Officer of Police; and any person resisting or obstructing the Police in the discharge of this or of any other duty prescribed by these rules shall be deemed guilty of an offence.

6. Any pilgrim tethering or keeping cattle in any place other than that assigned by the Police shall be deemed guilty of an offence.

7. Any person selling meat in camp in any other place than that assigned for the purpose by the officer in charge of the camp, and any other person selling food condemned as unwholesome by the Medical Officer, or in his absence by the Chief Officer of Police, shall be deemed guilty of an offence.

8. Any pilgrim who shall during the occupation of the camp use any other place for offices of nature than that provided for the purpose by Government, or failing to cover the deposit with earth or sand, and any person who shall during the same period bathe in or enter the river above the spot appointed by the officer in charge of the camp, shall be deemed guilty of an offence.

9. Any person suffering from an infectious or a contagious disease, and not reporting the same to the Medical Officer, or in his absence to the Chief Officer of Police, and any person abetting or assisting in the concealment of such disease, shall be deemed guilty of an offence.

10. All pilgrims shall take up the quarters assigned to them by the Chief Officer of Police at the halting places and in the camp, and any pilgrim declining or neglecting to do so shall be deemed guilty of an offence.

11. The number of pilgrims for the pilgrimage of the year 1904 is restricted to 50, viz. 15 pilgrims for the Colombo band, 5 for the Kandy band, 5 for the Galle band, 5 for the Kurunegala band, 5 for the Batticaloa band, 10 for the Jaffna band, and 5 for the Badulla band.

12. No person shall proceed on the pilgrimage in the year 1904 without having first obtained a ticket from the Government Agent of the Western Province for the Colombo band, or from the Government Agent for the Central Province for the Kandy band, or from the Government Agent of the Southern Province for the Galle band, or from the Government Agent of the North-Western Province for the Kurunegala band, or from the Government Agent of the Eastern Province for the Batticaloa band, or from the Government Agent of the Northern Province for the Jaffna band, or from the Government Agent of the Province of Uva for the Badulla band.

13. Every person proceeding on the pilgrimage shall show his ticket when required to do so by any officer of Police, or by any officer appointed to enforce the observance of orders under the Ordinance aforesaid.

14. The transfer of a ticket by the person named in it and the use of it by any other person are forbidden.