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(THE CHEAPEST WEEKLY IN CEYLON)

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NOTICE.

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NOTICE.

Notice is hereby given that a Public Meeting of the chief Headmen of the Jaffna District and others interested in the cause of Agriculture will be held at the Jaffna Kachcheri at 2 P. M., on

Wednesday the 21st Instant with a view to form a local society to promote agriculture in the Jaffna District on the lines of the agricultural Board formed at Colombo under the patronage of His Excellency the Governor.

J. P. Lewis
Government Agent.

Jaffna Kachcheri,
9th December 1904.



THE HINDU ORGAN.

JAFFNA, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1904.

THE CEYLON BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.

It will be seen from the proceedings of the Board which we publish in another column, held in Colombo on the 5th Instant, under the presidency of His Excellency the Governor, that the Board has commenced actual and earnest work at the instance of Sir Henry Blake to make the movement an enduring success. His Excellency deserves, indeed, the thanks of the Colony for the great interest he takes in the improvement of Agriculture. No other Governor of Ceylon had done a hundredth part of what the present Governor promises to do for the improvement of agriculture among the Ceylonese. The establishment of the Agricultural Society and the practical work that will be commenced under its auspices are sure to bring about great and far-reaching reforms in agriculture; and His Excellency's name will be handed down to posterity as one of the greatest Governors of the Colony.

We are glad that Mr. J. P. Lewis, our acting Government Agent, has issued notice for a meeting to be held in the Kachcheri on the 21st Instant with the object of forming a local Society to promote agriculture in the Jaffna District on the lines of the Agricultural Board formed at Colombo under the patronage of His Excellency the Governor. This is a move in the right direction, as, in our opinion, the Central Board, without the co-operation of District Boards, cannot do much in the direction of diffusing knowledge of agricultural science in all parts of the Island and in promoting improved methods of cultivating existing and new products. We have no doubt that the meeting will be largely attended by all persons in Jaffna who are interested in the cause of agriculture and that all men of light and leading will become members of the local Society.

Our Subscribers in Arrears.

Will kindly note that the XVth Volume of our paper has closed and it is more than 5 months since the XVth Volume commenced. Still we regret to note that many of those subscribers who are in arrears, have not yet made up their minds to settle their accounts. Although we waited for a sufficiently long time, expecting settlement, we were sadly disappointed much against our wish. We had therefore to hand over our accounts to our Proctors, who have commenced to issue "Letters of Demand" to our defaulting subscribers. Steps have also been taken to sue some of our very bad pay masters.

Our local and outstation subscribers are, therefore, requested to take note of the above and promptly pay up their arrears; and thus save us from the unpleasantness of taking legal steps against them.

THE MANAGER
HINDU ORGAN.

LOCAL & GENERAL

The Weather—No rain has fallen here during the past week. Although the previous rains have saved the paddy crop from total destruction, yet rains sufficient have not fallen to ensure a good crop. There is not even sufficient moisture in the fields to weed the plants. The ravages of the pest called Arakkoddian are decreasing; but it has already destroyed the crop in several parts of the district, without any prospect of revival. Unless there be heavy rains in a week or so the failure of the crop would be a very disastrous one, unparalleled in the annals of Jaffna.

A Grand Wedding—The marriage of Mr. T. Mailvaganam, Proctor, youngest son of the late Mr. Mailvaganam of Nellore, Government Store-keeper, with Miss Ponnammamma, youngest daughter of the late Mr. Valupillai Mudaliyar Kumaravelupillai of Kanderodai and sister-in-law of Mr. V. S. Ponnampalam, Proctor, took place on the 8th Instant, amidst great demonstrations of pomp and joy. The functions continued for four days and friends from all parts of Jaffna attended the wedding in response to the invitation of Mr. Ponnampalam. We wish the newly married couple every happiness and prosperity.

Another Wedding—Mr. A. Thampippillai, the youngest brother of Mr. A. Sapapathy was married to a daughter of Mr. M. Naganather of Punkudativu on Thursday the 8th Instant. The wedding was a quiet one and without invitations on account of the recent death of the bridegroom's aunt, Mrs. M. Covington, but it was largely attended by friends and relations. We wish the newly married couple long life happiness and prosperity.

Road Tax—The last Government Gazette announces that His Excellency the Governor has sanctioned the recommendation of the Jaffna Provincial Road Committee to increase the Poll tax from Re. 1-00 to Re. 1-25.

The Point Pedro and Chavakachcheri Courts—Mr. J. H. Vanniasingam, Advocate, has been appointed as acting Commissioner of Requests and Police Magistrate of Point Pedro and Chavakachcheri and visitor of the Jaffna Prison for one month from last Monday during the absence of Mr. G. E. F. Prins on leave. We congratulate him on his appointment. Mr. Vanniasingam is a learned and upright gentleman, and is in every way qualified to hold a permanent Magistracy.

Personal—Mr. S. Kuddittampippillai who is a native of Manipay and who was employed in South India for a long time has now come to Jaffna on leave and is staying at Manipay. He is a pious Hindu and takes much interest in religious movements.

A New Proctor—Mr. T. Kumarasamy who lately passed the Proctor's Examination has come here and is practising in the Jaffna Courts since October last. He is the only son of the late Mr. K. Thillaiampala Mudaliyar of Chunnakam and nephew of Dr. M. Naganather and Mr. Sinnappa of the Surveyor General's Office Colombo. We think Mr. T. Kumarasamy is the youngest of the lawyers practising in Jaffna. He is an intelligent young gentleman who has a bright future before him.

Obituaries—We regret to have to record the death of Mr. Iampillai Vytialingampillai alias N. Ford, which took place at his residence at Arali on the 29th Ultimo. He was the father of Mr. Advocate Duraisamy, and was a gentleman of vast experience, keen intelligence and scientific knowledge. He had held high and responsible offices first in the State of Travancore and subsequently in the Straits Settlements.

We also regret to chronicle the death of Mr. S. Kantappasakarar, Retired Notary Public which occurred at Nellore last month. He was a brother of the late Manikavasaga Mudaliyar, Maniagar of Jaffna, of Vytialinga Mudaliyar, Maniagar of Vadamarachy and of Mr. Mailvaganam, Government Store-keeper. The present Maniagar of Vadamarachi West Sivasithampara Mudaliyar, is his nephew and Mr. P. Narayanaswamy Proctor, Colombo is married to one of his daughter.

It is our painful duty to record the untimely death of Mr. P. E. Francis, 2nd Clerk, Jaffna Customs, which took place on the night of the 7th Instant. He was suffering for some months with consumption but no one thought that his end was so near, as he attended office even on the day of his death. He was a brother of the late Mr. S. Bastiampillai, Chief Mudaliyar of the Jaffna Kachcheri, and son-in-law of Mr. S. Manuelpillai, the well-known merchant.

Gold Medal for Jaffna cigar and tobacco—Mr. M. B. Swampillai the well-known Jaffna Merchant, is the recipient of a Gold Medal at the St. Louis Exhibition for the Cigars and Tobacco sent out by him from here to that great Exhibition. We congratulate Mr. Swampillai on the distinction he has achieved. He has proved that, under improved methods of curing and manufacture, Jaffna tobacco and cigar can hold their own with the products of any part of the world.

Kerosine Oil—As the stock of Kerosine Oil in the Petroleum bulk store here, is almost exhausted and as no new supply has been received here for some time the price has risen so high that a bottle is sold at 30 cents. Since the above was in type we have learnt that a fresh supply has been received and the price has gone down to its normal rate.

The late Mr. G. Sandrasegaram—It is with the deepest regret that we have to chronicle the death of this young man which took place at his residence at Valvettiturai on Friday the 18th Ultimo. He was lingering between life and death for a few months and passed away at the early age of 23 in spite of the best medical aid and nursing that could be rendered. He was a son of Mr. V. Gnanasegaram pillai Entry Clerk, Quatome, Valvettiturai, a brother of Mr. Sivapiragasam who is now employed at Maradana as a District Engineer's clerk, and a cousin of the late Mr. C. Chithamparapilly who was for a long time employed as a District Engineer's clerk at Ratnapura and who was well-known for his liberality and for being the founder of the Valvettiturai Boy's English School. Mr. Sandrasegaram was a young man of spotless integrity and was about 3 years ago appointed as an Assistant

Telegraph Master and worked as such up to the time of his being confined to bed with intelligence, faith, and diligence. The untimely and unexpected death of this young man has cast a gloom over the whole of his family who had not dreamt the least idea of his being cut off in the prime of his life. —Cor.

Important Notice

As we are given to understand that Mr. S. S. Vyttilingam who was once connected with this Paper as its Travelling Agent has left Jaffna for Straits Settlements, we would like to invite the attention of our subscribers to the Notice published by us in the September and October issues of our Paper last year about the discontinuance of his services as travelling agent of the Hindu Organ.

Our subscribers are warned not to make any payments to him but to remit all money directly to the Manager.

No receipts signed by him will be accepted by us.

THE MANAGER
HINDU ORGAN.

CORRESPONDENCE.

NON-CHRISTIAN STUDENTS AND HYMN BOOKS.

The Editor
"Hindu Organ"
Dear Sir,

I crave the indulgence of your readers for bringing up this subject, at a time when their minds are engaged in evolving plans as to how they could best educate their children and bring them up in the right path of virtue, religion and morality. An incident that took place in the Central College, Jaffna, lately and which culminated in the turning out of a few of the senior students of the College, who were Hindus by religion, prompts me to inquire whether the Principal of the College was justified in his action and whether there is any remedy for the students, thus disgraced. To be more explicit, certain Hindu Students of the senior form were without hymn-books during prayer. The master on duty, on his usual tour of book-inspection, finding the students without books, thought they had perpetrated a profane crime amounting to sacrilege and asked them to provide themselves with Hymn-books. The boys did not do so for considerations religious. The master was upon them the next day and gave the order—"out of the room." The students were rather reluctant, but fearing that they might set up a bad precedent and example marched out of the room, dismantled and disgraced before the triumphant eyes of their Christian mates. Let us for a moment see whether there is just cause for provocation. The students were senior students, who are expected to know the rules re-hymn-books, if rules there ever were any. They were not new-comers to be ignorant or negligent of their duty, but they were students who can count not less than three years' life in the college. Their reason for not possessing a prayer-book was not an innate aversion for Christ and his religion, for every Hindu knows the place which Christianity takes in the arena of religion, but simply because they were Hindu students and did not want to make others believe they were Christians. Some of your readers might be led to think that the master found them disobedient and cheeky and is therefore justified in his action. Not in the least; they were students who know something of the world outside and were therefore well qualified to form their own opinions on Religion and give them outward expression. None can say they were disobedient, for they passed their restive age long ago and were conscious of their status in the school room. Assuming for the sake of argument that they did wilfully disobey could not the master have inflicted a lighter, more honourable punishment?

The missionaries, no doubt, were in a position to enforce Christianity with education in the days of the Batticotta Seminary, but he who is only blind to the progress of the times will hold that the same methods can be pursued at the present day with as much success. Now that we have a school in almost every street and a College in every division, we make bold to say that, unless the missionaries see that they vary their methods and adapt them according to the progress of Society and civilization their money-making-machines would prove a failure in the literal sense of the word.

The remedy proposed is one that should engage the attention of the parents, especially at this time when competition is keen and the strife is keen. We are witnessing a national revival in its first stage of bloom. Such of you parents as think your sons are susceptible of easy conquest, send them to a College under Hindu management, for instance the Hindu College, Jaffna, until they implant in them

selves the true ideas of religion and morality which are inseparably connected with each other. Then let them enter the lists and they can stand the assaults. Those of you who think your sons are well-versed in our time-honoured religion persist in sending them to the Christian Colleges where they might rescue their fellow-mates who hopelessly tumble and have no help to rise.

You suffer your children to undergo in vain the penalservitude meted out by the awful dignitaries of the mission of Christ.

I am
Dear Sir
Your Obedient
M. S. E.

(It is at the earnest request of our correspondent "M. S. E." we give insertion to this communication. We need hardly say that we are prepared to publish if there be another version, namely that it is not true that Hindu boys were turned out of the school room for the unpardonable crime of not having with them Christian Hymn Books at the time of prayer. We must, however say that we have no sympathy with the Hindu students whose cause our correspondent has espoused must suffer the consequence of their own act in preferring a Christian College to the Hindu College. —Ed. H. O.)

THE WAR.

London December 4—Reuter wires from Chifu that the Japanese have been hurriedly but effectively overhauling their entire fleet with great secrecy since August in readiness to meet the Baltic Fleet. The majority of the ships are now fully repaired, refitted and repainted.

The reform movement in Russia is spreading. Friday's Meeting at St. Petersburg, regarding the press laws, was interrupted by students who clamoured for admission, overfilled the hall, insulted the police and were eventually dispersed by mounted gendarmes.

London December 5—Reuter wires from Perim that the Folkersham squadron is coaling from colliers at Mushah Island, between Obok and Jibutit.

A meeting of 450 lawyers, doctors and journalists, held at Moscow to celebrate the anniversary of the introduction of trial by jury sent to M. Mirski a resolution endorsing the Zemstvos' demands.

In the Reichstag the Socialist leader, Horn Babel, declared Germany has been most lax in observing neutrality obligations and has sided with Russia.

The Foreign Office late on Saturday night instructed the authorities at Cardiff, under the Foreign Enlistment Act, to prohibit the German steamer, under Captain W. Meuziele, from sailing, the Government having received proof that her previous cargo was delivered to the Baltic Squadron. 400 tons were already on board when further shipment was stopped. It is understood that Government is investigating the case of steamers loading. The question of contraband is not involved and shipments on Russia and Japan are not affected.

Reuter at St. Petersburg says:—It may be stated on the highest authority that the question of the passage of the Dardanelles has not been officially raised in any form and the press campaign is in nowise inspired by the Foreign Office or Admiralty.

Yesterday's message regarding the Russian Prize Court should read as follows:—"The Supreme Prize Court at St. Petersburg has decided that the sinking of the 'Thetis' in July last was unjustified. The owners claim £ 39,000, but as no appeal has been made regarding the cargo, the Vladivostok judgment stands. The Court also justified the seizure of the 'Arabia'; and upheld Messrs Dodwell and Company's appeal regarding the flour on board for Kobe, which was seized, and confirmed the confiscation of the rest of the cargo, seeing that no appeals have been lodged.

London December 6—An official statement at Tokio says the bombardment of Port Arthur exploded a magazine south of Sainshan on the 3rd. Operations against Sainshan and the forts to the eastward are proceeding day and night. Two 36 millimetre quick-firing guns were captured on Sunday en lunette on the counterscarp of Erlangshan.

Reuter at Tokio says the Russians are nightly attacking Metre Hill, but in vain. It is estimated they have already sacrificed 3,000 men in these efforts to recapture it.

The cruisers "Oleg" and "Ignemud," the vanguard of Admiral Botrovosky's supplementary Baltic Fleet, have left Tangier for Snez.

The Naval Headquarters at St. Petersburg announces supplementary information from Admiral Rozhdestvensky regarding the North Sea incident, which states that "cease fire" was signalled after ten minutes in order to prevent the hindmost vessels of the squadron 'hitting their own ships. The cruiser 'Aurora' was struck with five projectiles. The Chaplain and a petty officer were wounded and the former died at Tangier.

Reuter wires from Mukden that a four days' artillery duel in the centre and on the right failed to alter the general situation. There is a considerable amount of illness consequent on close confinement in trenches and bomb-proof shelters, beside the continual nervous strain.

London December 7—The Japanese are steadily bombarding the Russian fleet from Metre Hill, and set fire to two or three warships on the evening of the 12th. Their names and the extent of their damage are unknown.

The English papers regard the belated statement of Admiral Rozhdestvensky, which is somewhat obscurely worded, as virtually admitting the Russians fired on one another.

Reuter at Tokio says that there was another five hours' armistice at Port Arthur yesterday, the Russians desiring to remove their dead.

The "Poltava" has been sunk and the "Retvisan" is listing badly, and the "Bayan" is stranded. The Japanese have occupied Akasaka Hill.

Subsequent to Akasaka the Japanese captured two other hills near Itshan.

Reuter at Mukden says there was a tremendous cannonading yesterday morning, round Putiloff Hill and the railway, from the siege guns, of which the number

is constantly increasing, which it is supposed portends to important developments.

The Russian correspondents at Mukden constantly refer to the activity of the Chunchuses, who are now well-organized and under the famous leader Tulisan are especially directing their attempts in the direction of exploding bridges on the railway.

Reuter from Perim says the yacht Catarina from Jibutit contradicts a Dhow's report that the Russians coaled at Mushah. They all coaled at Jibutit from their own colliers and also were reprovisioned there. The rest of Admiral Botrovosky's supplementary Baltic Fleet, consisting of the Dnieper, formerly the Peteraburg, two destroyers and transports have left Tangier, bound Eastward.

London December 8—A Daily Mail telegram from St. Petersburg states that the Tsar yesterday issued a decree for the despatch of a third squadron—not the Black Sea Squadron.

The Japanese bombardment of Port Arthur harbour was continued yesterday. Many shots took place. The "Peresviet" was ignited and the "Retvisan" apparently sunk. The "Pobieda" is listing to starboard.

London December 9—Reuter, from Tokio, says the disabling of the Russian fleet at Port Arthur having precluded the possibility of their aiding the Baltic Squadron, there is strong probability that the Japanese will rely on the starvation of the garrison instead of assault to reduce the fortress.

There was no sign of life on board the Russian ships during the bombardment. It is concluded that the blue-jackets were taking refuge or engaged in the land defences.

General Nog's second son was killed at Metre Hill. The elder son was killed at Nanshan. He is therefore now childless.

The Headquarters at Tokio have published a further list of 36 officers killed and 58 wounded, presumably at Port Arthur.

The "Pallada" is on fire, the "Gilyak" and "Amur" have sunk and the "Bayan" is still burning.—O. O.

THE TINNEVELLY-QUILON RAILWAY.

MADRAS QUILON TRAIN SERVICE

The ghost section of the Tinnevely-Quilon railway, from Shencottah to Punalur, will be opened for public traffic on the 26th instant. A new timetable for the train service between Maniyachi Junction and Quilon has been sanctioned for introduction from the above date. Two mixed trains are timed to leave Shencottah daily at 5.25 A. M. and 12.32 P. M., arriving at Quilon at 10.25 A. M. and 5.25 P. M., respectively. From Quilon there are two trains, timed to leave daily 5.20 A. M. and 12.10 P. M., arriving at Tinnevely Bridge at 1.42 P. M. and 9.25 P. M. The train which is timed to leave Quilon at 5.20 P. M. runs through to Madras, reaching here at 5.23 P. M. the following evening. There is also a through train from Madras to Quilon, which leaves Madras at 6 A. M. and reaches Quilon the following evening at 5.25.

—The Hindu.

CEYLON BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.

YESTERDAY'S MEETING.

A meeting of the Ceylon Board of Agriculture was held yesterday at noon in the Council Chamber H. E. the Governor presiding. The others present were: Hon. the Lieut. Governor, the Hon. Messrs. G. M. Fowler, H. Wace, W. H. Jackson, H. C. Nicolle, E. Rosling, S. C. Obeyesekere, J. Ferguson, S. N. Hulgalle, and Dr. Rockwood, Dr. Willis, Dr. H. M. Fernando, Messrs. W. Forsythe, T. J. Campbell, Solomon Seneviratne, Herbert Wright, J. Harward, the Maha Mudaliyar, Messrs. Francis Beven, W. D. Gibbon, C. Driberg, D. Joseph and E. B. Denham (secretary).

PROGRESS REPORT.

Three copies of the following progress report were circulated among the members:—

The number of new members who have sent in their subscriptions to the Secretary is small (60), but this was perhaps to be expected, as—

- (1) It was not clear at first whether membership of the Society must be obtained through a member of the Board and by election or by application to the Secretary.
- (2) The formation of local Societies has been commenced. Many interested in agriculture prefer to work for their local Associations and affiliate it with the Society.
- (3) Until the Society can issue its publications and leaflets, there are no doubt many persons who will prefer to wait and see what this Society is going to do for its members before they join it.

They have a further excuse for their attitude, in that the new year, which seems the natural time to make new resolutions and join new societies, is so close at hand.

As regards election to the Society, it has been decided that at the commencement the list of applicants for membership shall be laid on the table at the monthly meeting of the Board, and the persons therein named shall be considered to be elected members of the Society. Applications for membership can be sent in to the Society, and the applicant will receive the full privilege of membership from the date of his application.

The first local Association formed was at Galle, where a well-attended further meeting was held on the 25th ultimo under the Presidency of the Government Agent, Mr. Crawford. An application for affiliation has been received from Kirinda in the Matara district, where it is stated that a local Association of 25 villages has been formed.

Letters have been received from Jaffna, Kurunegale, and Matale stating that local Associations are being formed.

Copies of the rules of the Society and application forms for membership in English, Sinhalese and Tamil are being widely distributed by the help of the Revenue Officers and their assistants.

The first experimental cultivation which the Board will take up is ground nuts. Two tons of ground nuts have been wired for from Mauritius; it is hoped that they will arrive here about the middle of this month. Applications for seed can then be attended to.

Several large landowners, among others Messrs. Obeyesekere, Seneviratne, Peter de Saram, Mahawalanenne Ratemahatmaya, have applied for seed and offered to open up plots of a few acres. The seed may be distributed on easy terms in case where it is considered desirable to encourage local Associations and cultivation by villagers.

Preference will be given to areas from which there are several applications in order to centralize the experiment and allow of several plots being inspected at the same time.

An officer from Peradeniya will visit all new plots opened and give instruction in the best system of planting, &c.

A leaflet is now ready for translation into Sinhalese and Tamil giving the most simple instructions and advice for the cultivation of ground nuts. Mr. Wright will give further information on the subject to-day.

Another leaflet on Indian corn is being prepared by Mr. Wright, while Mr. Willis hopes to let the Society have a short pamphlet giving simple hints on various cultivations likely to be successful in different parts of the Island.

It is not desired to restrict the interest of the Society to experiment cultivation alone.

Hulgalle Disawe and Mr. Varitambi Kurunathapillai of Batticaloa, have raised the important question of the improvement of the varieties of paddy sown and the importation of different kinds of seed/paddy. Steps will be taken to procure other varieties for distribution.

Mr. Casipillai, of Jaffna, desires to experiment in date palm cultivation; the Director, Royal Botanic Gardens has been asked to assist him by obtaining suckers from Egypt.

Others wish to start experiments in cotton. Dr. H. M. Fernando has kindly given some very useful information on the subject on the results of experiments made by him in the North-Western Province and has offered to distribute 2 cwt. of seed in quantities of 4 lb. an amount sufficient for one acre, to villagers in the Kurunegala District, while he has further promised to open at least one acre next year in the Wataraka School Garden if this suggestion met with the approval of the Director of Public Instruction.

While it is not desired to limit the assistance of the Society to any particular cultivation, ground nuts have been put prominently forward for several reasons—

FIRSTLY.—They can be planted at the end of this month or the beginning of January, and will give a crop after four months.

SECONDLY.—The demand is at present unlimited.

THIRDLY. They are a most useful catch-crop, and can be planted with coconuts or as a rotation crop on paddy land while if not sent down for sale in the Colombo market, the plant can be made excellent use of as a green manure and as food for cattle.

FOURTHLY.—It is known that they can be grown with success in most of the Provinces of the Island.

Dr. Fernando tells us that they have done very well in Chilaw and Kurunegala districts. An interesting account of a cultivation by Annamalai Chetty at Nilaveli in the Trincomalee district has been received through Mr. Kindersley, the Assistant Government Agent.

Annamalai Chetty states that he cultivated ground nuts on sandy soil with no irrigation but a well, and that after paying all expenses, including cost of obtaining four men from India, he cleared £170 profit on 2 acres, while he found the leaves to be excellent fodder for the cattle.

In addition to the different cultivations which have the attention of the Board, the improvement of the live stock of the Island is a matter of great importance.

It is hoped that the strong Committee proposed to-day will be of great help in assisting the development and the extension of the useful work now being done.

Mr. Sturgess is now preparing a leaflet on "fodder grasses," which will be translated and circulated.

The work of the Society can only be widely disseminated and thoroughly utilized by general interest being taken in it. Local Associations will, it is hoped, make suggestions and strike out lines and experiments of their own. They can obtain the best advice procurable from Peradeniya all they have to do is to ask for it, and it is not desired to restrict the asking to those who can only express themselves in English, but to encourage correspondence in Sinhalese and Tamil.

The proceedings commenced by the SECRETARY reading the minutes of the previous meeting, which were confirmed.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES

The Hon. Mr. Ashmore proposed the following Committees, which were passed—each Committee having power to add to their number. The Hon. member explained that the Director of the Botanical Gardens would be *ex officio* member of all the committees except the Live Stock Committee:—

AGRICULTURAL, EDUCATION AND PUBLICATION COMMITTEE.—The Director of Public Instruction, the Director of Royal Botanical Gardens, the Inspector of School Gardens, Mr. W. D. Gibbon, Hon. Mr. John Ferguson, Hon. Mr. S. C. Obeyesekere.

PADDY CULTIVATION:—The Director of Irrigation, the Director, R. B. G., Hon. Mr. Jackson, Hon. Mr. Hulugala, Hon. Dr. Rockwood, Mr. F. Beven, the Maha Mudaliyar, Rambukwelle R. M.

LIVESTOCK COMMITTEE:—Hon. the G. A. W. P., Hon. G. A. O. P., Hon. Mr. Hulugala, the Maha Mudaliyar, the Government Veterinary Surgeon, Mr. J. W. C. de Soysa.

NEW PRODUCTS:—The Director R. B. G. Hon., Mr. Roeling, Mr. W. Foraytha, Mr. C. P. Hayley, Mr. D. Joseph, Mr. Joseph Fraser, Mahawaltenner R. M.

CENTRAL EXPERIMENT STATIONS.

H. E. the Governor said that what they should aim at was to have a few central experiment stations. Ground nuts would be available to the members for distribution, but they must not suppose that it was going to be groundnuts and nothing else. Groundnuts gave quick returns and that was one of its great recommendations. But there were to be other experiments too. In America experiments were tried by a large number of people, who sent in their results to a central body. That was the easiest and most satisfactory way of working. He wished that courses followed here. Forms would be provided, and all that members would have to do would be to fill up the forms and send them in to the Secretary.

Replying to some remarks by Mr. FERGUSON, HIS EXCELLENCY explained that a local society joining the Board would pay one subscription and would be, to all intents and purposes, an individual member.

MR. WILLIS ON PADDY CULTIVATION.

HIS EXCELLENCY having congratulated Mr. J. C. Willis on his new dignity, called upon him to address the gathering on Paddy Cultivation.

Mr. Willis complied, at some length, dwelling particularly on rotation of crops in a paddy field. He suggested that different crops should be tried and cited Bengal, Tinnevely, Java and the United States, where rotation of crop was tried in rice fields. His list of crops included groundnuts, gingelly, yams, Indian corn, etc., which were to be taken in certain definite groups. In Peradediya they had a plot of 2 acres and they were trying experiments there. They had not progressed sufficiently, to be able to advise definitely, but if for the next 18 months or so 14 or 15 persons experimented in different parts of the Island, they would obtain some definite information to go upon.

Replying Mr. OBEYSEKERE, he explained that the yielding capabilities of the rice fields in the Tinnevely District were 100 to 110 fold. In Ceylon it was 40 fold. The yield in the United States was 40 fold, but the cost of the crop was very much cheaper there than in Bengal. American rice, he thought, would some day displace Indian rice in Europe and probably in the Eastern markets too.

The Lieut-Governor thought the amount of yield depended on the way of sowing. In Uva 4 bushels was sowed to the acre and 40 fold would be 160 bushels, while elsewhere it was 2 bushels and the crop 80 bushels. In Jaffna there was rotation of crop, and they grew sweet potatoes in the dry months.

The Governor suggested that all those willing to experiment should write in and say so and ask what they might try.

Dr. ROCKWOOD asked what was meant by ploughing the straw in. In Jaffna, the straw was cut as near the ground as possible he said.

Dr. WILLIS said that in Java the straw was cut nearly two feet above the ground.

HIS EXCELLENCY said that in China that straw was cut low down, but as soon as the crop was taken the field was manured, and when the paddy began to grow manure was thrown into the water.

Mr. FERGUSON was of opinion that the Sinhalese villager was ready to plant paddy but would not care to plant anything else.

Mr. GIBSON thought the same could be said not only of Mr. Obeysekere's people, the Low-country Sinhalese, but of the Kandians—his countrymen. (Laughter.)

Mr. OBEYSEKERE thought differently. Once the good of the altered circumstances was shown the villagers would jump greedily at it.

GROUND NUTS.

Mr. HERBERT WRIGHT then, at the instance of His Excellency addressed the meeting on the merits of ground-nut cultivation, painting a somewhat rosy picture of its possibilities.

Some discussion followed.

HIS EXCELLENCY asked the members to bear two things distinctly in mind—

(1) That it was their object to get as many members as possible to say if they would undertake to carry out experiments in paddy-growing with groundnuts in rotation, as set forth in Dr. Will's lecture. (2) To get, as far as possible extensions to school gardens by assistance from

gentlemen owning land in the vicinity of the schools, and for members of the Society to show their interest in the schools by visiting those in their districts. He intended to have a large skeleton map prepared showing the various school gardens throughout the Island and the experimental plots.

This terminated the proceedings.

The next meeting will come off at the Council Chamber on the second Monday in January at noon.

—The Ceylon Independent.

The Indian National Congress, Bombay.

The following circular has been addressed to all the Congress Committees by the Chairman, the Bombay Reception Committee:—I am requested by the General Reception Committee to address you on the subject of the approaching sessions of the Indian National Congress which will commence on Monday, the 26th December. It will tend very considerably to enhance the success of the sessions if the election of delegates be taken in hand without delay. The Committee need hardly point out to you that great care will have to be taken to secure the election of the best possible men as delegates, representing all castes and creeds of the community. The delegates should, as far as practicable, be elected at public meetings, or in the case of Public Associations, at the meetings or committee meetings of such Associations. Reports of the election of delegates with the names, addresses and other particulars of every one elected should be sent to the undersigned as soon after each election as possible. Printed forms for sending such reports are annexed. As soon as delegates are elected, you will kindly supply each of them with his delegation-certificate filled up and signed as therein directed. Instructions to delegates who arrive in Bombay are printed on the other side of the delegation-certificate to which attention will have to be drawn. We send herewith a list of possible subjects, and we shall be obliged if you will send your suggestions and recommendations in respect of it as soon as possible. We may inform you that we propose to request your help to settle beforehand the names of delegates who are willing to speak on the subjects that may be actually selected, so that they may have time to prepare speeches beforehand.

The following is a list of possible subjects:—

- (1) Lord Curzon's Resolution on the Admission of Indians to the higher grades of the Public Service, and the abolition in most provinces of competitive examinations for the Provincial Service.
- (2) Official Secrets' Act.
- (3) Educational Policy of the Government in all its branches.
- (4) The Economic Situation—Government of India's Land Revenue Resolution, village inquiry demanded by the Famine Union.
- (5) Police Reform as indicated in the Summary of the Report of the Commission as published in the columns of the Times.
- (6) Separation of Judicial from Executive functions.
- (7) Real character of Government of India's surpluses of the last 5 years.
- (8) Disabilities of the British Indian Subjects in South Africa and other British Colonies.
- (9) Tibetan affairs and the just distribution of Military Expenditure of the British Army maintained in India.
- (10) Co-operative Credit Societies and the Resolution of the Government of India thereon.
- (11) Contribution from the Imperial Treasury towards Plague Expenditure in the different Provinces.
- (12) Expediency of reverting to the Calendar year for the Indian Budget so as to permit of its discussion in Parliament by Easter or soon after.
- (13) The expediency of placing the salary of the Secretary of State for India on the British Estimates as recommended by the Welby Commission.
- (14) Direct representation of India in Parliament.
- (15) Expansion of the Supreme and Provincial Legislative Councils and enlargement of their functions.
- (16) Nomination of Indians to seats in the Executive Council of the Governor-General and the Governors of Bombay and Madras.
- (17) Deputation of Indian delegates to England.

—The Hindu.

IN DEFENCE OF HINDUISM.

SHRI KRISHNA.

Those who most attract the human heart in love are usually those who are also most hated, and there is perhaps no more striking example of this than Krishna, the blessed. How He was adored when He

lived on earth as child and man, by His parents, by Gopas and Gopis, and the Pandavas; how He was hated by Kamsa, and Shishupala, and Duryodhana? And what name has been dearer than His since His time to myriads of human hearts in India, to old and young, to men and women? And what name has been more blasphemed and outraged by the ignorant and the foolish, during late years when spirituality has been fading away?

The Western Shri Krishna, the Blessed Christ, had much the same fate during His life on earth and since; His mother, and His disciples, and several gentle and loving women adored Him, but the leaders of the people hated Him so much that they murdered Him. And since then myriads have loved Him better than any one on earth, while others have hated Him and have called Him very foul names.

There are many very striking points of resemblance between these two Divine Teachers of the East and the West, the Hindu and the Hebrew, as told in Their histories. Christ was, of course, Himself an Eastern, but His teaching has spread chiefly over the West; He was sent specially for the benefit of the western nations, the eastern having already had their Divine Teachers, from whom they had learned the same things as the western nations learned from Christ. The Hindus had had Manu, and Rama Chandra and Shri Krishna, and quite a crowd of Rishis, who had told them a great deal more than they are able to practise, and told it in such beautiful words, that no later teacher has been able to improve on them. The Chinese had had Lao-tze, a Teacher wonderful in His deep wisdom and all-embracing tenderness, and also—with the Japanese, and Siamese, and Burmese, and Sinhalese, and Tibetans—had sat at the feet of that marvel of wisdom and compassion, the Lord Buddha, and needed no other spiritual Guide. The Persians had had Zoroaster, son of the Fire, and required no other illuminator. But the young world of the West needed a Divine Man to instruct it, and that man was sent in Christ.

The followers of all these great and holy Teachers ought to love each other as brothers, as do the Teachers themselves; but alas! human love, until it becomes spiritualised, is very jealous and exclusive, and wants to make its own object unique, standing alone, high above all others and approached by none. And so the worshipper of Shri Krishna feels a great contempt for other peoples, and calls them Mlechchhas; and the worshipper of the Lord Buddha says there are no Holy Ones outside the Sangha; and the Christian says that no one can be saved without his Christ; and the followers of the great and holy Prophet Muhammad, sent to Arabia and Syria in later days, are no whit behind the adherents of older religions in pride, but call them all "unbelieving dogs." Thus "they bite and devour one another," and use the blessed Names as bullets to pierce human hearts. As the religion of the Hindus is the oldest, Hindus should set the good example of love and respect for others, and no Hindu boy should ever allow himself to use contemptuous terms applied to people of other creeds and races. A man's greatness is shown by the breadth of his love, and not by the height of his pride.

It is said above that there are many striking points of resemblance between Shri Krishna and the Blessed Christ as told in Their biographies. There is a reason for this. The lives of the Holy Ones are not as the lives of common men; the events of Their lives have a universal meaning, shewing out facts in external nature and in the evolution of the human soul, which are always and everywhere true. And when wise men write Their lives, they bring out especially the more important of these facts, and they often lay more stress on the universal truth than an action was meant to teach than on the actual details of the action; and this confuses unspiritual and ignorant readers in later times, so that they blaspheme the Blessed Ones for the very actions that are most full of deep instruction. Both Shri Krishna and the Blessed Christ have suffered much in this way.

Now for some of the points of resemblance. Both had Mothers remarkable for purity and deep piety, who suffered ill-usage for the sake of the unborn Child but were protected by celestial interference. The birth of both was foretold, and the king of the land in which each was born tried in vain to murder the Divine Child. Both were very wise as children. Both became Teachers of sublime morality as men. Both restored to life one apparently dead, in each case "the only son of his mother and she was a widow" and performed many other so called "miracles," such as feeding a great crowd with a few scraps of food. Both washed the feet of men, in sweet humility. The life of both ended in apparent disaster and gloom. Both rose triumphantly "into heaven," after the physical death. In fact, the outline of the story, as told in the sacred books, is the same.

Though Shri Krishna came into the world long before the Blessed Christ, you must not make the common mistake of thinking that the later Christian story was copied from the earlier Hindu one. These great Beings live out the same story, modified by the needs and conditions of Their time on earth, but They do not copy from each other, any more than two painters who paint the same mountain copy each other's pictures. (to be continued)

—Annie Besant.

—The Benares Central Hindu College Magazine.