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THE HINDU ORGAN.

JAFFNA, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1904.

THE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

An Agricultural Society for Ceylon has been established under the happiest auspices. His Excellency the Governor has taken the deepest interest in the matter, and the Colony will ever be thankful and grateful to him for giving a start to the Society whose object is to introduce agricultural improvements and reforms. Ceylon is essentially an agricultural country, and the Governor who introduces reforms in agriculture, which means increased prosperity to the Island, is certainly its greatest benefactor and deserves well of its

inhabitants. His Excellency has set his heart on this great improvement, as not only his utterances on the subject since his assumption of duties as Governor of Ceylon but also his actions would show. We publish in another column His Excellency's address in opening the meeting on the 28th Ultimo, on the occasion of establishing the Society.

The attitude of His Excellency and the names of the gentlemen who took part in the proceedings of the meeting and of those who have been appointed Members of the Board, are guarantees to the future success of the movement. But we think that, unless the Board is worked as an official body with a paid Secretary, but with the co-operation of representative un-officials, as the Irrigation Board, or the Provincial and District Road Committees are worked, the present Agricultural Board will share the fate of its predecessors, the history of whose failures was given by the Hon'ble Mr. John Ferguson at the meeting. We would, therefore, urge on His Excellency the Governor the necessity of constituting the Central and District Boards on such lines as would ensure success. As the establishment of these Boards is sure to promote the best interests of the Island in general, the expenditure of a certain sum of public money on this behalf will not be grudged by the public.

We would also suggest that the Central Board cannot do much good without branches being established in the Districts, and these District Boards should have the Government Agents and the Office Assistants or some other officers, as ex-officio Chairmen and Secretaries respectively, while leading land-owners and agriculturists should be un-official Members.

LOCAL & GENERAL

The Weather—The weather continues to be clear. Absence of rain is again causing some anxiety, as the young paddy plants are badly in need of water.

The Government Agent—Mr. Lewis returned from circuit on the 7th Instant.

Birthday Honours—Mr. Sabaretnam, the Chief Mudaliyar, who accompanied the Government Agent, returned to Jaffna on the 2nd, and left for Colombo by land the following day, to be invested by His Excellency the Governor with the rank of Mudaliyar.

The Legislative Council—It has been officially announced that His Excellency the Governor will open the session of the Legislative Council for 1904-1905, on Wednesday the 16th Instant, at 3. p. m.

The Ceylon Board of Agriculture—since our leading article on this subject was written we have learnt that His Excellency the Governor has appointed an official Secretary to this Board, and that the person so appointed is Mr. E. B. Denham, second Assistant to the Colonial Secretary. This is a move in the right direction and we thank His Excellency on behalf of the Tamils for evincing such absorbing inter-

est in the success of the Board which he has established.

Acknowledgments—We have to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the September number of the "Jaffna College Miscellany", and "St. John's College Magazine" for October. We hope to review their contents in our next issue. We have also received the October number of "Awakened India" and the September number of "Brahmavadin".

The Northern Railway—The section of this railway between Kurunagalla and Annuradhapura, a distance of 68 miles, was opened on the 1st Instant for traffic.

The Loss of a Native Vessel—Intelligence has been received here by wire that "Gnesapuray," a Brigantine belonging to the Jaffna Chetty Firm of Peena Kuna Navanna, which left Jaffna a few days ago with a full cargo of tobacco, and dried fish was sunk at the entrance of the Colombo Harbour by the outgoing French Mail steamer which came in collision with it. This occurred on the evening of the 2nd Instant. The vessel was the next day towed into the Harbour. The cargo which is believed to have been damaged is estimated at Rs 10000, and the vessel which is a new one at Rs 20000.

Y.M.H.A.—A lecture on Hindu Astrology in connection with the Y. M. H. A., Jaffna, will be delivered by Mr. S. R. Muttukumaru, Head clerk Land Registrars Office Jaffna, in the Hindu College Hall on Wednesday the 16th inst. at 7 P. M.

The Jaffna Police Court—Mr. M. Sapapathy, the Interpreter of this Court, who was on leave, has resumed duties.

A TAMIL MARRIAGE IN HIGH LIFE.

One of the grandest and prettiest weddings that have ever been celebrated in Jaffna was solemnized in the Wesleyan Chapel by the Rev. J. G. Trimmer on Wednesday the 2nd Instant at 3 P. M., the contracting parties being Miss Florence Nallamma Tampoo, the youngest daughter of Mr. T. M. Tampoo, J. P., retired Police Magistrate of Jaffna, and Mr. T. N. Velupillai, Proctor, son of Mr. V. Namasivayam, retired Maniagar of Pachchilaipally. The number of persons, Europeans, Burghers, Tamils, and Moormen that attended this wedding, both in the Church and at the reception held at the bride's residence was unprecedentedly large. In fact there was everybody who is anybody in the Jaffna District. The Church which was very tastefully decorated could not have contained all the people invited, and hundreds had to stand outside. The reception at the "Esplanade Vella" was a great success. The decorations of the house and the Pandals were magnificent and the hospitality of Mr. and Mrs. Tampoo left nothing to be desired. We offer our hearty congratulations to the newly married couple and wish them long life, happiness, and prosperity.

THE DEATH OF AN EMINENT TAMIL LADY

It is with the deepest regret we have to record the death of Mrs. M. Covington, widow of the late Dr. M. Covington, senior Medical Officer, Eastern Province, which occurred at Batticaloa on the 5th Instant at the age of about 71 years. She came of an ancient and illustrious family in the Eastern Province and was the most prominent and the most highly respected Tamil lady in that Province. It was the fortune of few Tamil ladies to have been endowed with so many earthly blessings as possessed by the deceased lady. Her father having died before her marriage, her uncles, Allegacoona Mudaliyar, father of the late Advocate Allegacoona of Jaffna, and

Kanagaretna Mudaliyar, Chief Mudaliyar of the Eastern Province and father Mr. Proctor Canagaretnam J. P., Crown Proctor, Trincomalie, became her guardians. The late Mr. William O'Gredy, Government Agent, Eastern Province, who had known Dr. Covington as a very promising and brilliant lad in Jaffna, when the former was stationed here as Assistant to the Government Agent, conceived the idea of bringing about the marriage of the rich and accomplished young Tamil lady with the distinguished Doctor who then became Medical Officer of Trincomalie, after five years course of study in the Medical College, Calcutta. The seat of the Government Agency of the Eastern Province was then Trincomalie. Mr. O'Gredy who negotiated the marriage through his Kachcheri Mudaliyar, Canagaretna Mudaliyar, who was also uncle of the bride, took such interest in the alliance that he himself with Mrs. O'Gredy accompanied the bridegroom to Batticaloa, was present at the marriage and during the festivities connected with it, and returned to Trincomalie with the bride and bridegroom. The union was a most happy one. Mrs. Covington experienced no great sorrow or disappointment in her life except the death of her husband after about forty years married life which occurred in 1891. She leaves behind five daughters and only son, the youngest of her children. Her eldest daughter is married to Mr. A. C. Krishnapillai, second Clerk of the Batticaloa Kachcheri; her second daughter is the wife of Mr. R. W. Allegacoona, Police Magistrate of Chillaw; third daughter is married to Dr. A. Chinniah of Batticaloa; fourth daughter to Mr. C. Ponniah, late salt store-keeper Batticaloa; and the fourth daughter to Mr. W. Ollegasekaram of the Batticaloa Kachcheri. Her only son Mr. Victor Covington is a Planter and Member of the Local Board, Batticaloa. Her grand children number 35 and great grand children two. She leaves also a host of other near and dear relations of whom we are one to be moan her loss.

TRINCOMALEE.

H. M. Ships—H. M. S. "Hyacinth"—the Flag-Ship, arrived here on the 11th Inst. with Rear Admiral George L. Atkinson Willes. It is to leave for Singapore on the 29th Inst. after replenishing her bunkers.

H. M. S. "Fox"—which arrived here during the last part of September, is to be paid off at this port. H. M. S. "Harmonie" which is expected here soon, is bringing out the relief crew from Portsmouth; when Captain Pethem and his crew will take the "Harmonie" back to England.

Individualities—H. R. Woolmer Esq. from W. I. Docks is appointed to be the Assistant Naval Store officer here. Probably he will take up duties during the middle part of next month.

Proctor J. B. Canagaratnam J. P. is confined to his bed for the last three weeks. He is suffering from a boil in his lip. We wish him a speedy recovery.

Weather—The weather is fine and occasional showers take place. The parched esplanades are now of lively appearance and they give a pleasing appearance to the players as well as to the spectators.

Motor car—Lieutenant Skelton R. H. M. O. has brought out a motor car from Colombo. It cost him £ 350 and the car was specially made for him in England, containing two seats. As this is a new one to this place it arrests the eyes of many a passer by.

Shipping—The W. D. Steam tug "Moonstone" came into harbour yesterday morning with captain N. Treavan. She is intended for countermining and transporting duties at this port.

The S. S. "Aska" entered the harbour this morning at 7 o'clock. As her bunkers ran short, she is taking away some coal from H. M. R. N. yard.

The S. S. Lady "Gordon" which came into harbour early morning, left the port this noon after taking away some cargoes and deck passengers.

—Cor.

SOUR MILK.

Sour Milk (*Dahi*) has lately acquired additional medicinal value in being regarded as an effective means of destroying the innumerable microbes which bring about premature old age and death by their destructive work of hardening the arteries, stiffening the joints and organs and slow poisoning of vital parts. Says the *Indian Mirror*, "it is interesting to learn on such high authority as that of Professor Metchnikoff than whom few names are greater on the roll of modern scientific research that sour milk (*Dahi*) conduces to longevity." It is said that Bulgarians have acquired additional lease of life by consumption of sour milk in large quantities, and the learned Professor thinks that the fatal organisms will die out by the excessive use of sour milk. But it should be said that Indian experience is not very much in favour of the Professor's theory. If sour milk has the extraordinary virtue which the Professor claims for it, it is impossible that its extensive use would not have conduced to a longer life than it is the privilege of the better classes of this country to enjoy.

—The Hindu.—

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

(continued from our last issue.)

XVII—PILGRIMAGES.

The following are the principal places of pilgrimages in the Northern Province, and the figures opposite them represent the number of people who attended the respective places during 1903:—

Hindu.	
Nainativu	21,000
Maviddapuram and Keerimalai	15,000
Vattappalai	6,000
Roman Catholic.	
Madu	27,085
Putumadam	4,100
Kilali	1,800

The festivals all passed off quietly and peaceably without disturbance or the outbreak of an epidemic.

At Madu and Nainativu the sanitary arrangements were looked after by the Medical Department and the headmen, and were satisfactory.

Keerimalai is a rocky hill, not high enough to be called a cliff, on the seashore, two miles west of Kankasanturai. There are several springs, which at full tide are submerged by the sea. It is a religious duty to bathe in the sea once a year at this point after the image of Kaadaswami from Maviddapuram, 2½ miles inland on the Kankasanturai road, has been bathed in it. This ceremony takes place at new moon. The place is, besides, looked upon by the natives as a sanitarium for Jaffna, and it is a place of pilgrimage all the year round for the purpose of bathing in the spring, though it is in July that the great festival takes place.

At Keerimalai nothing whatever is done in the way of sanitation. There is no money to spend on sanitary measures here. The seashore next to the bathing place becomes a vast latrine, the evil of which is remedied by the sea; but at Maviddapuram, where the festival begins, and which is 2½ miles away, there is no sea, and the filth, and other inconveniences of the festival remain for days.

Under "The Small Towns Sanitary Ordinance, 1892," all buildings appropriated to religious purposes are exempted from payment of any rate levied for the purpose of sanitation. In these places the chief buildings are the church or temple and its adjuncts, and the rest of the village is practically of no consequence. At the same time, all the dirt and the measures necessary to get rid of it are due to the spot being a "place of pilgrimage" and the numbers of persons who attend the annual festival. These festivals add considerably to the income of the local church or temple or the religious body which conducts the festival and to which the shrine belongs. It is only equitable therefore that a portion of the income thus derived should be devoted to the sanitation of the place during and immediately after the festival, and it is not equitable that the whole of the expense incurred on account of it should be paid by Government. It is on this account that the Assistant Government Agent of Mannar has proposed that the Roman Catholic Mission should provide for the upkeep of the hospital which is opened there during the festival, as well as for a portion of the cost of sanitation.

Possibly the present anomalous state of things might be got rid of by the addition of a clause to the Pilgrimages Ordinance, No. 13 of 1896, providing that the cost of any measures that may be imposed under section I, sub-section (3), to promote cleanliness and to check the breaking out and spread of infectious diseases, be borne by the religious body that promotes the festival.

or from the funds of the temple that is benefited pecuniarily by it. The Roman Catholic Mission has always shown itself both willing and anxious to co-operate with Government in carrying out any measures necessary for the sanitation and regulation of the Madu festival, and I do not think it would object to co-operate also in bearing the cost of them when the reasonableness of the suggestion is apparent. At Maviddapuram and Keerimalai sanitation is as necessary as it is at Madu and Nainativu.

XVIII—CRIME.

During the year there were five murder cases reported, of which one was in all probability a case of suicide and two of manslaughter, making the total of homicides the same as in 1902:—

(1) A Delft man hit his stepmother with a club during a quarrel. She died, and he was acquitted.

(2) A Kayta man is supposed to have been murdered in a boat between Anativu and Elnativu by his father-in-law and brothers-in-law, who objected to his treatment of his wife. A few bones were found on the shore at Anativu, but could not be identified, hence, as there was no *corpus delicti*, the prosecution could not stand.

(3) The body of a young girl was found in a well at Tumpalai. Rape was suggested as a reason for the supposed crime, but the balance of probability was in favour of suicide.

(4) A man of Obempyanpattu, whom some allege to be mad, hit another on the head causing his death. The deceased had refused to give his daughter in marriage to the accused, which would seem to argue some method.

(5) A case occurred at Anakkoddi in September, when a young man stabbed to death a relative of his, and also stabbed the son of the latter. This and the previous case are awaiting trial.

There were seventy cases of causing hurt with a knife, in exactly half of which convictions were obtained. Two are pending.

There were five cases of grievous hurt with a knife, convictions being obtained in three.

Grievous hurt cases (section 316) numbered 44, but convictions followed in 15 only out of the 38 that were tried—a low percentage.

Only five cases of cattle stealing were reported in the Jaffna District, of which one was pending at the end of the year. There was a conviction in one case in the District Court with a sentence of seven months' rigorous imprisonment, and an acquittal in the Police Court in another. In the remaining two the accused are not known. Cattle at Jaffna are allowed to stray about the streets which gives opportunities for theft, but cattle stealing is not a prevalent offence.

The headmen co-operated with the police generally in the prevention or detection of crime and in the arrest of offenders, and the few who failed in their duty in this respect were suitably dealt with.

A sum of Rs. 1,425-96 was paid to the unpaid headmen as rewards and to meet expenses incurred by them in the performance of their duties. The Police Vidane of Anakkoddi was paid a reward for promptly arresting the Anakkoddi murderer and for good services rendered by him in connection with the case. The Police Vidane of Vannarpannai South-West also received a special reward for arresting at Pundutivu a proclaimed habitual criminal who had been evading arrest for some time.

The Sinhalese railway cooly who stabbed Mr. R. A. Blair of the Northern Extension in February was arrested in the Negombo District in November, and sentenced to two years' rigorous imprisonment and fifteen lashes in December.

(to be continued.)

THE WAR.

London, October 28.—The International Court of Enquiry will be as provided by the Hague Convention and not a court of arbitration. There will be also a special Board of trade enquiry at Hull, upon which Mr. Balfour hoped Russia would be represented. Mr. Balfour ridiculed Admiral Rozhdestvensky's tale of romance, which he said was really an attack on our national honour. It was bare justice to say that Tsar and the Russian Government had never underrated the crisis nor failed to do what they could to diminish it. They had always shown an enlightened desire for truth and justice.

The Standard and the Morning Post are dissatisfied, and consider the settlement does not redound to the honour and dignity of Great Britain.

The Standard says there is no guarantee that the Baltic fleet will be kept out of mischief, and the Russians have not acknowledged their error.

The Morning Post says, We should like to know more about the proportion of the fleet and the rank and number of the officers detained at Vigo.

The Daily Telegraph says it is a triumph of common sense and humanity, and not a single point has been surrendered.

The Daily Chronicle says the British people ought to be sincerely pleased.

The Daily Mail describes it as extremely gratifying. The Daily News describes it as a mighty victory for the principles of conciliation and arbitration.

London, Oct. 29.—There will seemingly be a British Board of Trade inquiry at Hull, and a Russian naval inquiry at Vigo, with an international inquiry at the Hague or elsewhere.

The battleships Oslabya, Sissoiveliki and Navarin, and the cruisers Admiral Nakimoff, Aurora, Svetlana, Dmitridonskoi, Kamechatka, Zemtshung and Almaz, besides seven torpedo-boats and five colliers, have arrived at Tangier. The rest remain at Vigo where the cruiser Lancaster has arrived.

A St. Petersburg official notification says the total Russian losses from the 9th to the 18th instant were 45,800. The figures given on the 22nd were due to overlapping reports.

Bombay, October 30

The Japanese Consul received the following telegram today:—Oyama reports a detachment of our right army attacked the enemy on 27th at Waitoushan. The enemy consisted of two battalions of infantry. The detachment met with stubborn resistance, but finally occupied Waitoushan, capturing two machine guns. On 28th the enemy continued cannonading Waitoushan till the afternoon and then disappeared. There was no other important engagement on 28th.

London, October 31.—The Russian enquiry opened at Vigo yesterday.

Five Russian destroyers have left Taginer. The remainder of the fleet is coaling and provisioning.

Rear-Admiral Bridgeman from Gibraltar has visited the British Legation at Tangier.

The six hours' mobilisation manoeuvres at Gibraltar ended yesterday.

General Liniavitch has been appointed to command the first Manchurian army, and General Kaulbars will command an army corps.

Reuter at Chifu says the general attack on Port Arthur is proceeding unabated. The Japanese have captured two positions.

London, October 30.—Admiral Sir Cyprian Bridge and Mr. Butler Aspinall, King's Counsel have been appointed to report on the damages and fixed compensation for the North Sea Outrage.

The whole continental press rejoice at the North Sea outrage being referred to an International Enquiry in the cause of peace throughout the world.

The Tsar received Sir Charles Hardinge British Ambassador, and had over an hour's private audience today.

Four Russian destroyers have passed Gibraltar bound Eastwards.

The Japanese Minister has protested to Spain against the coaling and provisioning facilities given to the Russian fleet at Vigo. The Spanish Minister replied that other countries did the same.

London, October 31.—General Kurapatkin reports the Japanese have begun a significant movement concentrating Eastwards and are receiving reinforcements evidently preparatory to assuming the offensive.

The Japanese Diet Meets on the 25th November to discuss the budget which doubles the income tax and augments other taxes to meet war expenditure.

London, November 1.—The whole of the British fleet at Gibraltar has cleared for action.

A telegram from Gibraltar states that the battleship Caesar, the flagship of the Channel Fleet, fired a gun recalling all officers to their ships. All cleared for action.

Allahabad, November 3.—A special to the Pioneer, says, the Echo de Paris St. Petersburg correspondent says Russia is prepared to pay a million roubles as compensation.

London, November 3

Reuter at St. Petersburg states Britain has proposed that the Commission shall consist of four delegates appointed by Britain, Russia, France and the United States respectively, the fifth to be selected by these and the Commission to sit in Paris.

At the instance of the Counsel for Government the Coroner's jury at Hull simply found that the deceased fishermen were killed by shot fired by the Russian warships without warning or provocation.

Four Russian battleships passed the month of the Tagus closely followed by four British cruisers, doubtless Admiral Walker's squadron.

The Morning Post has reason to believe that arrangements have been made for a British squadron to shadow the Baltic Fleet throughout their voyage by both routes.

London, November 2.—Negotiations are progressing and the Commission of Enquiry will probably consist of an Admiral Jurist on both sides and naval officers of neutrals. Britain favours Paris and Russia the Hague as the place of meeting. Other essential points require most careful consideration. The fleet will probably be a thousand miles off before the enquiry begins. The Russian officers left behind are the Captain of Rozhdestvensky's flagship, another captain and two lieutenants.

Admiral Walker's squadron in Arosa Bay sailed immediately the Russians left and it is reported to be following the Russian.

Reuter at Tokio says Russian prisoners captured in a sortie at Port Arthur declare the fall to be near at hand. Food is insufficient and the garrison is greatly reduced.

Tokio official despatches show that a tremendous bombardment at Port Arthur began on the 26th ultimo and continued till the 29th ultimo with ever-increasing effectiveness. A number of the chief forts were severely damaged. The Japanese mine reached the outer limit of Erlangshan and part of the outworks were blown up and breaches made in two other forts at night by means of dynamite. Russian sorties were made with the object of hindering these mining operations, causing desperate nocturnal encounters.

London, November 3.—The witnesses at the Hull inquest on fisherman were emphatic in their statements that there were no torpedo boats present when the Russians attacked the trawlers.

The four Russian officers detained at Vigo have arrived at Paris and proceeded to St. Petersburg.

Admiral Rozhdestvensky with four battleships has arrived at Tangier.

The proceedings at Gibraltar on Tuesday remain unexplained beyond the suggestion that they were a continuance of the mobilisation manoeuvres.

London, November 4

Admiral Walker's squadron followed Admiral Rozhdestvensky's squadron the whole way to Tangier at a distance of five miles. Both were cleared for action. The Sissoiveliki, Oslabya, Admiral Nakimoff and Dmitridonskoi under Rear-Admiral Foelkersahm have left Tangier for Suda Bay.

Lord Lansdowne, in a communication to the London Chamber of Commerce, says Russia has met all the representations of Britain and the United States in a conciliatory spirit, and it is understood the Russian naval commanders were recently furnished with instructions which would result in their exercising their rights less vexatiously in future. Government was unable to find ground for the suggestion that the Russians favoured German ship as compared to British. It was obviously impossible for any Government to inform shippers whether particular cargoes are entitled to immunity from seizure.

—Ceylon, Observer.

SPEECH BY H. E. THE GOVERNOR.

H. E. THE GOVERNOR in opening the proceedings said:—Ladies and Gentlemen, I have invited you here today to consider with me the advisability of forming an Agricultural Society for Ceylon. A Society that, while I hope it will always receive the active support of the Government is to be in principle a voluntary society formed and working on the broad basis of self-help. (Hear hear.) In bringing this matter before you, I think it will not be amiss to consider the position of this important Colony. We see within our borders human society in every phase of progress from the Veddas who are still in the hunter period, through the primitive village community with its common lands, to the individual owner with presumably an impulse for improvement and accumulation of capital, and so on to the complex society in which Agriculture has called in the aid of science supplying an ever broadening base for the superstructure of Manufacture, Trade and Commerce, and all the inter-dependent interests that most ultimately rest upon that solid source of wealth and progress. For the purpose of our meeting today we may divide the community into two great divisions. In the first we find the owners and managers of large estates, producing exportable commodities in the growth and preparation of which nothing is left undone that energy and foresight can accomplish. The other division embraces a much larger proportion of the population, Veddas, Moormen, Sinhalese and Tamils. The Veddas are but an interesting remnant of a race that has remained untouched by the stream of civilization through which all the centuries they have gazed with timid glances from the depth of their forest retreats. The Moormen are, in the main, distributors. The Sinhalese and Tamils are cultivators, and these are the people who will most immediately benefit from the formation of the society that I now advocate. It may be asked what is the evidence that attempts at further development are necessary? Or that Ceylon is backward in comparison with other Colonies. I do not like to bore you with figures, but I have taken from the Colonial Office list, and from the Ceylon Blue Book of 1903 some figures that bear upon this question. I find that taking the total exports of all the Colonies and dividing the value by the total population gives an average of Rs. 72-78 per head. I then took the exports of Jamaica which is a Tropical Island like Ceylon mainly cultivated by small Negro settlers and peasant proprietors. There the value of exports is Rs. 29-13 per head, while in Ceylon the value of our exports is Rs. 25-12 per head. Here, then, the aggregate production of labour falls short by fourteen millions of rupees of that sum that would place it on a level with Jamaican labour. Of course this is very crude, and there are many factors that would have to be taken into account in a close comparison. But the figures afford ground for an assumption that there is considerable room for improvement. Now turning to imports I find that Ceylon imported rice, paddy, peas, chillies, cattle, garlic, pepper, raw cotton and cotton seed ponce to the amount of over Rs. 41,000,000 a great part of which might be grown in the Colony. The proposal to form a Board of Agriculture is no new thing. The Commission that sat five years ago and reported on the proposal to form an Agriculture Department recommended an advisory Board, and a minority report recommended the formation of a Board of Agriculture. I am afraid that the formation of such a Government Department as is there recommended would not reach the people who stand most in need of agricultural progress. We have at present a Director of the Botanic Department and a scientific staff capable and excellent in every way—devoted to their work and ready to instruct and advise as to the selection and treatment of economic plants, or to combat the diseases and pests that threaten their existence. We have also an experimental station where economic plants are

grown under varying conditions and we have a Board of gentlemen associated with the scientific staff which determines what experiments shall be undertaken and examines the results. Of this scientific department, the planting community avail themselves freely and show their appreciation by giving facilities on their estates for various experiments. We want to go further, we desire to reach the native cultivators and if possible, to secure their co-operation in the improvement of the crops grown by them and the introduction of additional products; and in this I look especially for the assistance of native gentlemen of property some of whom have many tenants who will thus be afforded an opportunity of showing their acquaintance of the principle that property has its duties as well as its rights, and of proving their readiness to help forward their own people in the initial struggle against the obstacles formed by ignorance and old customs—obstacles that will melt before effort as mist before the morning sun. A few days ago when taking my morning walk I came upon a column of black ants across the road, all busily pursuing a well beaten track. Drawing with my stick a furrow in the sand across the line of march. I waited to see what would happen. There was consternation. The column halted and recoiled, and waves of ants swept backwards, no doubt spreading tidings of despairing helplessness. Some hurried away to the right, others to the left, utterly distraught. But a few of the bolder and more thoughtful spirits after a slight pause went straight over the ridge and furrow and in a short time the black column was again pursuing its course as if nothing had happened. Again I draw a furrow on the other side of the road. But this time there was no perceptible pause. Experience had given them confidence in their leaders and they had learnt the lesson that unexpected conditions do not necessarily imply difficulties. Thus it is that I want the native gentleman of property to come forward and help their own people (to lead the millions of agriculturists of Ceylon out of the grove worn by 25 centuries of unchanged custom, and I hold that the man who lifts the people out of this conditions of picturesque immobility will deserve well of his country, and establish a special claim for due acknowledgment of public service. In this effect I think I may safely promise every assistance that can be given by the Planting community, for modern thought agrees with the Tamil poet of 2,000 years ago, who wrote: "The ploughers are the lynchpin of the world." The first step in practical co-operation is the submission for your acceptance of the resolutions to be proposed. To go over all the ground that may be covered by the Society when in full operation would be too weary you; but I hope that the Society when in full work will be able not alone to encourage better cultivation but also to assist in securing the technical education of the people in the elements of agriculture by means of school gardens and local experiments plots and to take into consideration the question of the promotion of Agricultural shows and encouragement of village competitions; the preparation of crops for market at home and abroad; the instruction by demonstration, & when invited by District Committees, the creation of co-operative credit societies, that the small cultivator may relieve himself from the extortion of the usurer and many other matters that will come within the purview of the Society. I have considered the question whether the members of the Board should be elected or nominated by the Governor as President. My own inclination would be to appoint the Board by the former method, but in deference to the opinion of those whose knowledge of eastern feeling is greater than any to which I can pretend, I am prepared to nominate gentlemen whose names I will mention in due course. I have assumed that the Society would desire that the Governor should accept the duties of President. These gentlemen, are, in broad lines the proposals that I commend to you this day in the hope that the action of the Ceylon Agricultural Society will inculcate habits of systematic industry; improve the condition of the people; increase the volume of our trade, and assist in placing Ceylon in the very forefront among the most prosperous Colonies of the Empire. (Applause.)

—The Ceylon Observer.

IN DEFENCE OF HINDUISM.

THE WORSHIP OF THE GODS.

"Hinduism is polytheistic, and polytheism is a low form of religion." Such is an attack often made by thoughtless people, who fail to see that all religions, except when much materialised, are polytheistic in exactly the same sense as is Hinduism. Truly there is but one Existence, one Life, whence come, and in which exist, all existences, all lives. All, save the ONE, are derived, dependent. The ONE alone is Self-Existent, the Eternal Changeless Brahman. Therefore in the Scriptures we read of "The Creation of the Gods," just as we read of "The Creation of Man." The Gods come forth from Brahma, Himself but a partial manifestation of the ONE, but

Their existence is as much a fact in nature as is the existence of men, and no more negates the Divine Unity than does our own.

In a universe the highest manifestation of the Divine Life is the Saguna Brahman, or Ishvara, the supreme Lord of the universe. For that universe, He has three necessary aspects, the constructive (or creative) the preservative, and the destructive. He thus manifests Himself in Three Forms, the Trimurti. From Him, in His constructive aspect, the Gods are emanated, and thereafter act as His Agents, His Ministers, carrying on the work of the universe, building, preserving and destroying. They exist in innumerable grades. Concerned with the cosmic order are seven chief classes, each under its own Ruler, of whom five are at present revealed, generally named Indra, Vayu, Agni, Varuna and Kshiti. These names represent offices, rather than individual; the individual who takes up the office of Indra Deva takes that name, so that while there is a succession of individuals who are Lords of the Akasha, each is spoken of simply as Indra (readers of the *Mahabharata* will remember that five Indras once appeared together in the presence of Mahadeva, one regnant, and five whose reigns were over.) Under these chief Rulers are hosts of Devas, who carry on the detail activities of the universe, vast hierarchies of brilliant splendid Intelligences, flashing through the realms of space, administering the laws which are the expression of the will of Ishvara; and below them again the minor Devas who are concerned with single words, and yet lesser ones who superintend single countries and even districts. The universe is not an illogical absurdity in which exist minerals, plants animals and men, in regular gradation, and then a vast gulf of nothingness with one supreme God on the other side; it is an ordered whole, a perfect unbroken chain of living beings. All religions have recognised this, and have given different names, but similar functions, to these vast hierarchies that stretch between man and Ishvara. The Buddhist, like the Hindu, calls them Devas. The Zoroastrian speaks of them as Ferishtas. The Christian and Mussulman call them Archangels and Angels. Names matter little. It is rather interesting that a famous Protestant writer, John Bunyan, speaks of the Angels by the Hindu name, and calls them "Shining Ones," Devas. Probably he saw Them, and uses the name which best describes Their appearance.

The question then arises: Should men worship the Gods? Why not? We will not just now consider the worship of the Trimurti, but apply the question to the cosmic Deities and those especially concerned with human evolution. The peasant, toiling at his crops, may surely well pray for the help and blessing of the Devas who apply and adjust the laws which regulate rain and sunshine. If he is not committing a sin in asking advice or help from a man wiser than himself, why is he wrong in asking help from living beings, stretching from a speck of dust right up to Ishvara, in every grade of developing life and intelligence, more numerous above us than below?

Then there are many Devas who are concerned especially with the evolution of man in this world and in the worlds immediately connected with it. Such are Ganeshji, Sarasvati and many others, who are ever ready to help and illuminate those who turn to Them for aid. Other types and kinds also there are, but this brief enumeration will sufficiently serve.

Is there any reason why men should not appeal to and respect a non-human superior, as they do a human, but in a higher degree? A man with a petition does not need to present it directly to the Emperor: he places it in the hands of an officer, present in his district, who wields the delegated imperial power. There is no disloyalty in recognising the Emperor's local representative, and there is no blasphemy in praying or showing reverence to the Deva-representative of Ishvara. Moreover an uneducated man can very dimly figure to himself the invisible Ruler, human or Divine, and his love and loyalty are more readily excited by a more concrete benevolent and protective power, felt as immediately present. The invisible Ruler remains as a brooding splendid presence, overarching all—a dimly seen Glory, giving dignity and breadth to life.

As a man evolves, he will cease to pray to the cosmic Deities, recognising that they need no askings and pleadings of his to guide Their work, accepting all they bring, as the elder child ceases to importune his father and trusts his love and wisdom to do the best. But he will none the less treat them with the reverence due to Their high office, and with the gratitude due to Their ceaseless work for the world.

To the Devas concerned with human evolution worship may also most fitly be addressed, for the strong aid They willingly render, for illumination they can shed on the mind, for the teaching They are ready to impart. The student may pray to Ganeshji, to Sarasvati, and find his studies made easier and simpler by Their help and all may walk through life with their path brightened by his gracious companionship of our Elders, this kindly aid of the strong to the weak. Man need not be lonely, unless he so chooses, in a world so full of helpful Beings, add many a one left desolate by man has found consoling friendship in the Gods.

So let not the Hindu lad be overawed by five-syllabled epithets hurled at his most rational religion but rather rejoice in the Polytheism which fills all the worlds with shining Forms and loving Faces, and Hands outstretched to help and bless. ANNIE BESANT.

—Benares Central College Magazine.

NOTICE.

In accordance with the requirements of section 15 of the Opium Ordinance, No 5 of 1899, I hereby give notice that the license for the sale by retail of opium within the limits of the Local Board of Trincomalee for year commencing January 1st 1905, will be one in number.

The said license will be put up to sale by public auction at this Office on Monday the 28 November 1904 at 1 P. M. and it will be issued in accordance with the provisions of the aforesaid Ordinance and under the following conditions:—

Conditions

1. That the place licensed will be subject to inspection, and that no riotous or disorderly conduct shall be allowed to occur therein.
2. That the license shall cause to be painted or affixed in some conspicuous part of his shop, his name, the number of the shop and the words "Licensed to Sell Opium by Retail"
3. That no person other than the licensee shall sell or expose for sale under his license either as agent or servant of such licensee unless the name of such agent or servant be registered in the Office of the Local Board with the sanction of the chairman.
4. Wholesale licenses will be issued only to retail dealers
5. No opium shall be sold between the hours of 8 at night and 6 in the morning.
6. The quantity to be sold at any one time to any individual, except to a licensed retail vendor, shall not exceed 180 grains.
7. Opium shall not be consumed on the premises.
8. Opium offered for sale shall not be adulterated or deteriorated in any way.
9. Opium shall not be sold to any individual, apparently under the age of 15 years.
10. Wearing apparel or any goods shall not be received in barter for opium.
11. Daily accounts shall be kept in a form to be prescribed by the proper authority of the quantities of opium received, sold, and remaining on hand at the end of each day.
12. The highest bidder on being declared the purchaser shall forthwith pay down the whole amount of his bid.
13. The place licensed shall be restricted to the sale of opium and cigars only and shall be closed at 8 A. M.
14. That in the event of the license being revoked during the year, the proper authority will resell the license for the unexpired portion of the year at the original licensee's risk.

W. L. Kindersley.

Chairman. L. B.

Local Board Office.

Trincomalee, October 22nd, 1904.

NOTICE.

Sealed tenders will be received at this Office until 12 o'clock noon on Monday the 28th November 1904, for scavenging and sweeping the Town of Trincomalee with a staff of not less than ten coolies and a Kangany and five double bullock carts with drivers for two years commencing from 1st January 1905.

The lowest offer if approved by the Board will be accepted. Satisfactory security will be required for the due performance of the work. Further particulars may be ascertained on application at this Office.

W. L. Kindersley.

Chairman L. B.

Local Board Office

Trinco 25th October 1904.

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