

Hindu Organ

(THE CHEAPEST WEEKLY IN CEYLON)

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THE HINDU ORGAN.

JAFFNA, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 1904.

THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

The first session of the Legislative Council, under the regime of His Excellency Sir Henry Blake, was opened by His Excellency on the 16th Instant, when he delivered the usual Address. It is a business-like speech, unlike the grand rhetorical performances of his immediate predecessor on similar occasions. The opening Address under notice is, in spite of its brevity, a most interesting and satisfactory state paper, giving a summary of the most important facts respecting the present prosperous condition of the Colony and embodying His Excellency's views of things, which is practical and statesmanlike.

It is gratifying to find that the revenue of 1903 exceeded the revenue of any previous year. The actual revenue collected (Rs 29,423,308) was Rs 2,378,928 in excess of the estimate, and Rs 2,225,252 in advance of the previous year's figure, leaving a surplus of Rs 2,708,480 over the year's expenditure—the largest surplus ever recorded. In addition to this large surplus there was a balance on the accounts of this Colony of some Rs 2,000,000 brought forward from previous years, and consequently at the beginning of 1904 Government should have had a total balance of some Rs 4,500,000 at its disposal. Though the balance is large, yet His Excellency says that the probable expenditure in the immediate

future on works already sanctioned in the time of Sir West Ridgeway and in progress now was estimated in July 1903 at nearly fourteen million rupees, and on a revision of the estimate at the end of the first half of the current year at seventeen million rupees. Against this large amount there was only available from the last loan some Rs 4,000,000, leaving Rs 13,000,000 to be otherwise provided. His Excellency thinks that it is reasonable, practical, and economical that the Colony should from its accumulated surpluses and savings defray so much as those moneys will cover of the cost of completing the large works already sanctioned, and that it should be empowered to borrow the rest. He is averse, therefore, to the undertaking of any further new works in the immediate future.

The financial figures for the year 1904 are equally satisfactory. In spite of a decrease of over Rs 300,000 in the revenue from license, Excise, &c, the revenue for the first nine months of this year shows an increase of Rs 449,364 over the corresponding period of 1903. This increase is chiefly due to the Pearl Fishery which was unprecedented in its returns.

The revenue for 1905 is estimated at Rs 29,698,080 and the expenditure at Rs 29,851,499. The revenue, His Excellency says, was originally estimated at Rs 30,698,080, but it has been deemed prudent to allow for the continuance of the temperance movement, the effect of which may diminish the revenue from arrack to the extent of a million rupees. It will thus be seen that the temperance movement is looked upon by the Government as a thing that has come to stay, and to cause a direct loss of ten lakhs of rupees to the public revenue. This loss, however, will be made up by the increased prosperity of the people and increase of revenue in other directions.

On 1st January 1904, the debt of the Colony at the current rate of exchange was Rs 73,644,560, or Rs 730,082 less than on 1st January 1903, the decrease being due to repayments.

Regarding crime His Excellency regrets that the returns do not permit to report any diminution in serious crimes. He also thinks that the proportion of convictions obtained compares unfavourably with other Eastern Colonies. He attributes the large proportion of failures of justice to the shortcomings of a disjointed police system and want of public training. His Excellency says he has submitted to His Majesty's Government a proposal that will, if accepted, increase the efficiency of the Police system and secure more immediate superintendence by trained officers, involving increased expenditure to a moderate amount.

His Excellency spoke as follows in regard to the Northern Railway:—

The Northern Railway was opened for traffic to Anuradhapura on the 1st instant. I hope to have the pleasure of opening the completed line to Jaffna during the coming year.

Cheaply as this line has been constructed, it cannot be expected to pay its expenses for some years; but with the facilities afforded by Railway communication the rapid development of the country traversed by the line may be assumed. There are considerable areas suitable for cultivation either by capitalists or by small cultivators, for portions of which inquiries have already been made, and with the completion of the experiment in cotton cultivation now being tried by the Botanic Department I expect to see all the available land taken up within a short time, with a consequent increase in the earnings of the Northern Railway.

His Excellency in speaking of his proposed visit to Jaffna said: "Thanks to the bold policy of railway construction pursued upon by my predecessor I hope

to be able to accomplish the entire journey to Jaffna by rail within the next six months." It can, therefore, confidently be expected that the whole line of the Northern Railway will be completed before June next.

His Excellency refers in his Address to the establishment of the Ceylon Agricultural Society and asks the Council to vote a sum of Rs 30,000 to be placed at the disposal of the Board for necessary expenditure.

The trade of the Colony continues to flourish. The imports and exports for the first three quarters of the year are valued at Rs 78,000,000 and Rs 87,600,000 respectively, as compared with Rs 74,900,000 and Rs 86,300,000 for the corresponding periods of 1903.

The following reference in the Address to Cotton and Rubber cultivation cannot fail to be of general interest:—

During this year several applications have been received for land on which it is desired to experiment with cotton and rubber cultivation. I regret the necessity for a careful settlement of the terms which it is proposed to offer has caused some delay in dealing with these applications. A notice, however, will very shortly be issued giving full details of the terms and conditions which Government is prepared for a limited period to lease land at specially low rates for pioneer cultivation. Briefly the terms are that if the purchaser will undertake to plant the land with cotton, rubber, or some other product approved by Government, a lease for fifty years will be granted at a minimum rate of 50 cents per acre, or Rs. 2-50 per acre if the land is irrigable from a Government tank. Applications for land on the special terms must be made before a given date in next year, which will be duly announced, and after that date land will be disposed of in the usual way.

His Excellency also refers to the proposal for increasing the numbers and raising the pay of the Civil Service in these terms:—

Sir West Ridgeway in his farewell Address informed you that he had placed before the Secretary of State certain proposals for increasing the numbers and raising the pay of the Civil Service. Mr. Lyttelton agreed to the addition of one post to the First Class of the Civil Service and to increasing the number of Cadets from ten to twelve, and you will be asked to make the necessary provision for this very desirable addition to the staff. As regards the question of pay the Secretary of State, while unable to accept Sir West Ridgeway's suggestions, expressed his recognition of the necessity for a revision of the salaries not only of the Civil Service but also of the officers of similar standing in other Departments. With a view to such revision Mr. Lyttelton made certain suggestions, and on the advice of my Executive Council I appointed a representative Committee to consider the whole question. Their recommendations, with which I am practically in entire accord, have now been submitted to the Secretary of State for favourable consideration, and when a definite decision has been given the papers will be duly laid before you. In the meantime Mr. Lyttelton has authorized me to place provisionally on the Estimates of Expenditure for next year the lump sum required to carry out a slightly modified form of the Committee's scheme; but he wishes it to be distinctly understood that no final decision has yet been arrived at, and that the proposals made may be further modified or possibly rejected.

"NO MARKS NO PROCESS" CASE

It will be seen from the extract which we publish elsewhere from "Truth" and from the article which we quoted from the "Morning Leader" in our last issue that this remarkable case in which a grave miscarriage of justice has taken place in Ceylon has drawn the attention of the English press. The criticisms by these two papers are as pungent as they are well deserved. Our local papers have not written half as strongly as these English ones have done, condemning the proceedings of the Colombo Magistrates and the decision of the acting Chief Justice of our highest Tribunal. This shows British fairplay and a desire on the part of the British public that justice should be administered in all parts of the British Empire without distinction of caste or colour. This will also open the eyes of those officials in Ceylon to the great wrong and injustice they have perpetrated in connection with this case, and will teach

them that, however influential and powerful they may be in this Colony to stifle public opinion and perpetrate injustice, it is not in their power to prevent their conduct from being arraigned and condemned at the bar of British public opinion. We will not be surprised if this case will form the subject of an interpellation in the House of Commons by a Member of Parliament, when it meets early next year. We have no doubt that Mr. Henry Labouchere, Editor of "Truth", who is himself an M. P., or philanthropists like Mr. Schwan, Mr. Samuel Smith, Mr. Herbert Roberts, or Mr. Lloyd George will fail to ask a question, if all the papers connected with this case were sent to them and if they are asked to do so.

As the law is interpreted in this Colony a person is not liable to be criminally punished, if he beats and kicks another without leaving any outside marks. It remains to be seen whether the same law will hold good, if the position of the parties be reversed—if the complainant be a European and the accused a "native". If the law is as interpreted by the Magistrates and endorsed by the acting Chief Justice in *Namasivayam-Thorpe* case the sooner that law is amended the better for the safety of His Majesty's subjects in Ceylon. There should be no doubt in the matter. It is only a question in the Legislative Council, by an unofficial member asking the Government whether they are prepared to introduce an amendment of the law if it is as interpreted by the courts, that will clear the doubt. It is on occasions of this kind the services of the people's Representatives are felt and required. The Hon'ble Dr. Rockwood, by ventilating in the Legislative Council at the close of his first term of office the grievances of the two young men who were unjustly and illegally whipped by order of the then District Judge of Jaffna, not only greatly enhanced his own reputation as the Representative of the Tamils but also enlisted the support of several leading Tamils for his re-appointment. We see no reason why he should not similarly act in regard to this case which is a more serious one from every point of view. He will signally fail in his duty towards his constituents, of whom the aggrieved Mr. Namasivayam is one, whose case has been espoused even by philanthropic Englishmen at Home, if the Tamil Member will not call the attention of Government to it and elicit their views on it. If the law is defective it must be, as we have pointed out, remedied. If it is not, but only misinterpreted, the public expression of such views by the Government will have the effect of putting a stop to similar miscarriages of justice in our courts and protecting helpless "natives" from the brutality and high-handed proceedings of some Europeans.

Important Notice

As we are given to understand that Mr. S. S. Vytilingam 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.

LOCAL & GENERAL

The Weather—Refreshing showers of rain fell in all parts of the District on Saturday night. Although this fall of rain is very timely yet it is not sufficient to cause flood and help the growth of the paddy plants. The weather is again clear.

The Government Agent—Mr. J. P. L. was left this on Sunday morning for Marichchikaddy, in connection with the next Paddy Fishery.

The Unveiling of a Portrait—An enlarged portrait of Mr. T. M. Tampoo, retired Police Magistrate of Jaffna, was unveiled yesterday evening in the Police Court Hall in the presence of the Members of the Bar and some other leading men of the place. Mr. Advocate A. Kanagasabai who unveiled the portrait at the request of the meeting made an excellent speech extolling Mr. Tampoo's career as a lawyer and Magistrate and holding it up as an example to be followed by his countrymen.

A Lecture—Mr. S. Sabarathna Mudaliyar, Chief Mudaliyar of the Jaffna Kutchery, will deliver a lecture on *Transmigration of Souls*, at 6.30 p. m., on Tuesday, the 29th Instant, in the Hindu College Hall.

The S. S. Jaffna—This little steamer belonging to the Jaffna Steam Navigation Company is now lying at Kayts.

Matrimonial—The marriage of Mr. V. Muttucumaru, Law student, second son of Dr. V. Muttucumaru, with Mrs. Somasundra Valliamma, daughter of the late Dr. M. Candiah, takes place tomorrow morning at Nellore in the house of the bride.

A Total Abstinence Meeting—A large and enthusiastic meeting was held at the Mannipal English School on the 19th Instant under the presidency of Mr. Advocate Kanagasabai to promote total abstinence in the District. A representative committee was appointed to carry out the object of the meeting. We wish the movement every success.

Health—Chicken pox, measles and fever have broken out in some localities.

A riot at Batticaloa—In consequence of a riot that has taken place in Batticaloa between the Roman Catholics and Hindus, fifty constables with a Superintendent have been sent there from Colombo.

THE JAFFNA CIVIL SERVANT IN ENGLAND.

GOING TO MADRAS NEXT YEAR.

Mr. Tampoo, who recently passed the examination in England for selection into the Civil Service, passed much higher than has been mentioned. He was first in Zoology and Physiology and beat by 10 marks the man who had passed first in the Natural Science Tripos of 1901. He has been offered a post either at home, or in India or the Colonies, and, being unable to get Ceylon, chose Madras. He has to pass an examination in Indian Law and History and Sanskrit and Telugu, which will be taken in Sept. Oct., 1905.

—The Ceylon Observer.

DRUNKENNESS IN JAFFNA.

The agitation started of late against the spread of drunkenness in our peninsula has caught on and is beginning to assert itself. Good men have risen here and there as champions and have voluntarily engaged themselves in a crusade against this dread enemy of mankind which is slowly working the ruin of our people.

In order to accomplish a thorough reformation in this matter there must be a united action, and a few words towards this object will not be out of place.

It must be remembered that religion does not sanction the use of intoxicating liquor. The Hindus bring it under the class of the five great sins (panchama-patnakam), murder, theft, drink, and disregard of Gurn.

The Christian Bible is very strong in its denunciations against it. The Mohamedan religion strictly prohibits the use of it. Buddhism is equally against it. It is therefore the bounden duty of all religionists in Jaffna to strive to the utmost of their power to do away with this terrible evil. There is no excuse for any one to be indifferent in this matter which is of vital importance to the interests of all religions.

The use of liquor seriously affects the peace of any place. The disturbance of the peace and rest of quiet citizens by the noisy brawls of drunkards and the danger to life and property from followers of Bacchus are too well known to need any proof. It then behoves all lovers of peace to make efforts to remove the cause that tends to mar it.

Patriotism demands a decided action against this cruel enemy to mankind. To love one's country and seek the well-being of his countrymen is a trait of character that bespeaks magnanimity of a very high order. It must be the ardent ambition of every person to be the proud possessor of this noble trait. Now no one can dare deny that drink is playing a deadly havoc in Jaffna ruining the people physically,

mentally, morally, and spiritually. Many a man who ought to prove an ornament to the country has become unfit to be a true citizen. Many a man of wealth and position has lost both, through the pernicious habit of drinking. How many families there are, in which the husband, wife, and even the children are addicted to drink, and thereby render home bitter instead of making it sweet.

Oh ye friends of Jaffna! Will you not rise up and nerve yourselves to fight against this great enemy of your country? Will you patiently look on while numbers of your countrymen and countrywomen are being led away to destruction by this cruel and relentless enemy? Will you let large sums of money go out of your country annually to enrich foreign liquor traders and thus render your country so much the poorer?

Rise up, dear friends, and unite in a grand noble effort to save your country and redeem her from the degrading position she has gone down to. Use all your influence, open your purses, raise your voices and wield your pens, in this great work of reclaiming your fellow creatures who are pursuing a foolish and suicidal course. Drown all selfish considerations in the fulness of your love to your brethren. He only loves his country truly who is willing to make some sacrifice, if necessary, to improve and better her condition. Forget all private differences in this most deserving common cause. May nothing have the power to quench the fire of patriotism in your hearts. Let each one consider this as his own affair and not as that of somebody else.

Only a united and concerted action can save your country.

An Abstainer.

THE MAHA MADURA AMBIKA NADANA SABAH, COLOMBO.

At the special request of many who were prevented by the rain from witnessing the representation of "Arichandra" on the 27th Ultimo, the Maha Madura Ambika Nadana Sabah will re-stage this popular drama at their Theatre Hall Gintapitiya street on Saturday the 12th Instant under the patronage of the Hon'ble the Lieut. Governor and Mrs. Ashmore and of Hon'ble the Auditor-General and Mrs. Ellis.

Their Excellencies the Governor and Lady Blake were so pleased with the performance on the 27th ultimo that they have graciously caused the following certificate to be sent to the Proprietor of this talented troupe.

The King's Pavilion
Kandy, October 31, 1904.

Sir,

I am directed by their Excellencies the Governor and Lady Blake to convey to you an expression of the great pleasure it gave them to be present at the performance of Arichandra at the Theatre under your management on Thursday last and to request that you will kindly communicate to all the members of your company their appreciation of the excellent manner in which the play was staged and acted.

I am Sir,
Yours faithfully
Sgd. J. KEANE.

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

(continued from our last issue.)

XXII—WORK OTHER THAN ROUTINE.

Twenty-two notaries' offices were inspected. There are forty-one notaries in the peninsula who are not proctors. Seven post offices were inspected, three hospitals, and nine dispensaries.

A return having been called for of "Ancient Monuments," I visited the remains of several of these.

(1) I went to see what remained of the Dutch or Portuguese tower at Velani known as Kopurataladi. Though it was in existence in 1832, when it was described as "a tower 50 feet high and 15 square, in three stages," it is now nothing but a heap of stones.

(2) I visited the ruined Portuguese fort at Kayts opposite Fort Hammaubiel, which the writer, in the *Colombo Journal* of 1832, who is quoted above, calls "Fort Byrie," a name which is certainly not known nowadays and which sounds American more than Portuguese or Dutch.

(3) The ruins of the Portuguese churches at Achchaveli and Chankanai were also inspected. A portion of the latter consisting of a chancel vaulted in coral stone is in a good state of preservation, and I have recommended that a small sum of money be expended on preserving this unique feature from further decay.

(4) There is a fine old Dutch gateway in a fair state of preservation at Nallur Jaffna at the entrance to the garden known as "Sangili-toppa," which is said to be the site of the residence of the last king of Jaffna. The palace and temple were destroyed by the Portuguese, and probably both they and the Dutch Company after them made this garden their headquarters in the country, as the "Seventy-two Orders" (so-

called because they are 76 in number) were signed in 1704 "at Jaffna, City of the Master of the Gunter in the Government Garden at Nallur." This gateway is evidently Dutch, though it now gets the credit of being the work of the Tamil kings.

(5) The tombstone of the wife of Thomas Nagel, who was the Administrator of the Vanni under the Dutch (1784-1786), was found in the verandah of the bungalow on a coconut estate at Navat-kali. It had apparently been removed there either from the Dutch church at that place or at Jaffna, and I have had it let into the floor of the latter. The date is 1774.

(6) The bell of the Dutch church in the fort was examined and found to bear the following inscription:—N. S. DOS MILAGRES DE JAFANAPATAO— "Our Lady of Miracles of Jafanapatam," with date 1648. As it is therefore worth preserving as a relic of the Portuguese, I had it removed from the belfry into the vestry, and will have it suspended on a stand.

A small coin that was found at Vallipuram, near Point Pedro, in 1890, was identified by Mr. Bell as the Iraka or Duraka Sinhalese gold coin. Some Sinhalese copper coins, one of Queen Lilavati, were dug up in an earthen pot at Pandateruppu at the other end of the peninsula. The spot where they were found is, according to tradition, the site of the palace of a queen, and is called Irasamurunkaiyadi. There is a solitary tree there known as irasamurunkai (*Adiria cordifolia*) which is said to be the only one of the kind in the peninsula.

In December I visited the island of Kachchaitivu, lying between Delft and Rameswaram, with Mr. Ingles of the Survey Department and Mr. Hornell. It is uninhabited owing to want of good water, and is covered by a shrub jungle consisting of stunted sariya trees and *Tetrameles multiflora*. A specimen of the leaves and flowers of a curious tree, looking like a *Calotropis gigantea* weed that had reached the size of a tree, was forwarded by me to the Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens for identification. It turned out to be *Tournefortia argentea*, which had not been hitherto recorded north of Trincomalee.

As the spread of the prickly pear is becoming a nuisance in some places, e.g., Delft, Kayts, Valikamam North, and the neighbourhood of Jaffna, I endeavoured to reduce it by introducing an insect from the Hambantota District. Mr. Dyke had been very successful with it in 1865-66 (see "Vanni Manual," p. 279). A supply was received in November, but the experiment was not successful, as a large percentage of the insects was dead, and probably the wet weather was unfavourable to the preservation of the others. I intend to try it again in 1904 at a different time of the year. The transit by sea from Hambantota, which takes four or five days, is also perhaps rather too long. The prickly pear is said to have been unknown in Delft previous to the cyclone of October, 1884, but it has "now spread all over the place and covered many a good dry grain land." The Maniagar remarks that "it would be a great blessing to Delft if some means could be discovered to destroy this plant." The people of Delft have learned to eat the fruit.

With a view of improving the breed of poultry in the Province, forty-two Orpington black and brown and Plymouth rock cocks were purchased and issued to the resthouse and bungalow keepers. Little interest, however, was taken by them in their poultry yards. At the end of the year eleven of the cocks were reported dead, one missing, and one stolen. It is too early yet to report on the result of this experiment. Steps are being taken to induce the resthouse-keepers to show more interest in the matter.

A number of fruit trees—oranges, jambu, lovi-lovi, nam-nam, aguressa, &c.—were obtained from Peradeniya and distributed among the resthouses and to Government officers.

I took some interest in the collection of exhibits for the St. Louis World's Fair. The following were among the exhibits:—

- Twenty-seven varieties of paddy.
- Twelve varieties of dry grain.
- Palmyra products, including fibre, nuts, roots, &c.
- Thirteen varieties of baskets made of palmyra and other leaves, head coverings, umbrellas, and fans made of palmyra leaves.
- Forty-eight medicinal oils, specimen of indigo, kandal, and avaram bark.
- Ropes.
- Mosses.
- Bacha de-mer.
- Oyster shells.
- Models of a native house, of a cradle, of a well and well sweep, of a palmyra tree, of a bullock cart, of agricultural implements (sixteen), of a cattle

manger, mortar and pestle, of boats, &c., eleven models showing the costume of different castes, besides curiosities of ingenuity such as a chain made of a single piece of ebony, a basket made of paddy seeds, a walking-stick made of pressed palmyra oles, a wooden lock and key from Iranativa, and wooden buffalo bell.

Six models of fishing nets, a fishing line to which was added a set of photographs framed in palmyra wood exhibiting the everyday life of the Jaffna people—castes and occupations, temple, and temple ceremonies, weddings, funerals, vehicles, boats, palmyra products, and agricultural operations—ploughing, watering, manuring, &c.

Several meetings of subscribers to the Ridgeway Permanent Memorial were held, and in October, at a general meeting, it was decided that it should take the shape of a public hall to be erected on the esplanade. Government has allowed an excellent site for the purpose, and Mr. Tomalin of the Public Works Department has been commissioned to prepare a design. The amount subscribed is nearly Re. 10,000. The Colombo Sub-Committee, which collected subscriptions for the purpose of the memorial at the instance of the Jaffna Committee, decided to keep the subscriptions so collected to itself and to have a separate memorial. Of the other Sub-Committees, those at Point Pedro and Chavakachcheri have fulfilled their obligations in the matter and forwarded their subscriptions to the Jaffna Committee, and those at Batticaloa and Matale have promised to do the same, and it is hoped that they will do so without further delay.

(To be continued.)

THE WAR.

London, November, 13—A Mukden telegram received in Paris says pessimism prevails at Mukden regarding the prospects of the winter campaign. It is believed the transport and supply question will be most difficult.

Four Russian battleships, five cruisers and seven transports have arrived at Dakar in Senegal.

London, November, 14—Admiral Alexeieff, who was interviewed today, said he admired the military organisation of the Japanese, but it was too minute. They prepared their plans so carefully that they often missed opportunities of striking rapid blows. General Kuroki lost precious time at Fenghuangcheng and could have annihilated Sasulitoh and jeopardised the Russian concentration at Liaoyang.

The reports of serious dissensions between himself and Kuropatkin were, he said, all lies. He had never interfered with the General's plans and even if divergences of opinion had arisen, there had been no constant antagonism. He knew nothing of Kuropatkin's famous order of the day till it was published and scarcely approved it.

Reuter at Tokio says it is reported the Gromoboi has struck a rock and been severely damaged at Vladivostok during her trial after repairs. She has now been redocked in a sinking condition.

The situation on the Shaho changes little. Many officers are reaching Kuropatkin's Headquarters to replace those who have fallen. The troops are better fed than hitherto during the campaign, but the question of supplies for the huge army—not to mention fuel and forage—remains a most difficult problem in spite of the improvement in the Railway. Over 86,000 sick and wounded are now in terribly over-crowded hospitals between Baikal and Mukden.

The Japanese loan appears to be an unqualified success and applications are pouring in from all quarters, including Paris.

London, November, 15—Later accounts state that the Japanese failed to take East Kiewan Fort, but gained the mesa, and are now sniping the crest of the hill. They lost 1,500 men in the assault.

The Japanese Loan has been closed in London, covered about ten times.

The public hearing of the evidence in the Board of Trade enquiry at Hull commenced today. An English Barrister represented the Russian Government. The presence of Japanese vessels or men was emphatically denied.

Prince Fushimi called on President Roosevelt today and conveyed the Mikado's good wishes and friendship and hope for the President's health and happiness. He alluded to closer and stronger relations between the two countries. President Roosevelt in reply gave assurance that these sentiments were shared by the American people who wished the Japanese people prosperity.

The Russian Minister at Washington, referring to certain vague reports of mediation, declared Russia will fight to the bitter end and listen to no suggestion of mediation.

London, November, 17—Rumours of a hitch in the wording of the Convention as regards the punishing of officers and which made the markets flat, are stated by Reuter at St. Petersburg to be greatly exaggerated as nothing has occurred beyond what was indicated in this morning's messages. The Russians desire to modify the clause relative to culpability and wishing to ensure the enquiry being confined to facts.

Despatches which have been received at St. Petersburg from Stoessel by the Rostoropy have been published. They are dated 25th and 30th ult. and 3rd inst. and show the Russians had 500 casualties in repelling the assaults on the 25th and 26th last. The despatch, dated on Accession Day is couched in a tone of most fervent loyalty and jubilant triumph because nine days' continuous assaults had been finally repulsed. This was the great day whereon the Japanese swore to take the fortress. As published, the despatches contain no hints of impending disaster, but the fact that nothing is published later than the 3rd instant is significant.

London, November, 18—The American Consul-General at Chifu telegraphs to the State Department that the situation at Port Arthur is extremely critical. The outer forts having fallen into possession of the Japanese.

London, November, 17—Supplementary ships for the Baltic Fleet, consisting of five cruisers including the former volunteer ships Petersburg and Smolensk, renamed the Rion and Dniaper, beside eight torpedo boats, left Libau yesterday and passed Bornholm today.

London, November, 18—The Russian fleet has left Dakar and gone on to Acera.

London, November, 17—Reuter, wiring from Mukden on the 16th says the Japanese are moving considerable numbers of troops behind a screen of fortifications on the Shaho and the Russians anticipate a battle.

London, November, 18—A Daily Telegraph telegram from Tientsin says it is reported that the Japanese have suddenly advanced and are now within 12 miles of Mukden. The sound of machine guns and rifles can be heard at Mukden indicating that Kuroki is attacking upon the East.

London, November, 17—Reuter at Chifu, says three Japanese destroyers entered the harbour this morning and left after satisfying themselves that the Rostoropy was sunk.

—The Ceylon Observer.

"TRUTH AND THE THORPE", CASE.

A DROLL JUDICIAL UTTERANCE.

The following appears in "Truth" to hand by last mail:—

The public in Ceylon have been much exercised over the fantastic course which justice has taken in the case of Tiliyampalam Namasivayam v. T. S. Thorpe. Both the parties were in the employ of the same firm at Colombo, the native being a clerk in the storekeeper's office, while Thorpe held what is described as a slightly higher position. The former states that Thorpe asked him for a 6½ in. spanner from the stores, and that he replied that there were none of that size. This was correct, but Thorpe was incredulous, and, after striking T. Namasivayam on the chest, he ordered him to look again for the spanner. The native turned round to do, and then Thorpe helped along with a kick. It was admitted that neither the blow nor the kick left any mark, but T. Namasivayam affirmed that he suffered considerable bodily pain and also "great pain of mind" from the disgrace of being so treated in the presence of several persons. He laid an information before the Police Magistrate of Colombo who happened to be a brother of the accused, and his worship made this order:—

The accused (this was an obvious slip of the pen for "complainant") has no marks whatever to show, and I do not issue process unless the alleged assault is sufficiently grave to leave at least some marks. However, in this case the accused being my brother, I send the case to the additional police magistrate for orders.

It will be observed that though Mr. Thorpe the magistrate, very properly referred the complainant to another magistrate he very improperly threw out a hint that the charge should not be entertained. The hint was accepted, the additional police magistrate declining to issue process "on the ground that the harm caused, if any, was exceedingly slight." T. Namasivayam, then applied to the Supreme Court for a mandamus to compel the magistrate to inquire into and adjudicate upon his complaint. The judgement in which the Acting Chief Justice refused this application is one of the drollest judicial deliverances I have ever read. Said his Lordship.

It does not seem to me that the act of the accused was meant as an assault. The accused indulged in what I may call an unwarranted familiarity—a familiarity in which he had no right to indulge except with a person with whom he had acquaintance sufficient to justify what he did. I can quite imagine his putting his hand out on the complainant's chest, and as he went away his putting his foot out and touch-

ing him on the hind quarters. . . . It is an unseemly act, and if it were repeated on the person of an employee who objected to it, and with whom the accused had no right to take such liberties, I have no hesitation in saying that some remedy would be open to the complainant. As, however, the alleged act admits of the meaning which I have put upon it, and the complainant himself admitted that there were no marks upon his body, I think I ought not to grant this rule.

Valuable, indeed, are the lessons that may be derived from this judgement. First of all, hitting a man on his chest and kicking him on the other side only amounts to a familiarity—a sort of friendly salutation, though it should not be indulged in except between intimate acquaintances. (It would perhaps have been more helpful if the learned Judge had explained from his own practice and experience exactly what he considers an acquaintanceship "sufficient to justify" this delicate attention.) Secondly, one learns that an employee must submit to this treatment once, but that if it is repeated in spite of his objection some remedy may be open to him. Apparently, however, this possible remedy would not be a summons for assault for the Acting Chief Justice adopts the singular ruling of the magistrates that a blow and a kick do not constitute an assault when there are "no marks."

It is a comic case, but not without a serious side. Confidence in British justice in Ceylon rests upon the assumption that it makes no distinction of class or colour. Everybody knows, however, that this assault would not have been deemed too trifling to come within the purview of the law if the position of the parties had been reversed, and the decision of the Supreme Court has consequently produced a very unfavourable impression among the native community.

SRI RAMAKRISHNA'S TEACHINGS

AVATARA—1

As a large and powerful steamer moves swiftly over the waters, towing rafts and barges in its wake, so when a saviour comes, he easily carries thousands across the ocean of Maya (illusion).

When there is a flood, river, steamer and land present alike one watery surface. But the rain-water flows away through different channels. When a saviour becomes incarnate, all are saved through his grace. The Siddhas (perfect men) only save themselves by much pain and penance.

A Great raft of timber floating down a stream, can carry a hundred men on it and still it does not sink, but a floating reed may sink with the weight of a crow. So when a saviour becomes incarnate, innumerable are the men who find salvation by taking refuge in him. The Siddha only saves himself with much toil and trouble.

The locomotive engine in reaching the destination itself, also draws and takes with it a long train of loaded wagons. Likewise act the saviours. They carry multitudes of men, heavily laden with cares and sorrows of the world, to feet of the Almighty.

When Bhagavan Sri Ramachandra came to this world, seven sages only could recognise Him to be the God incarnate. So when God descends into this world, few only can recognise His Divine nature.

On the tree of Sat-chit-ananda there grow innumerable fruits like Rama, Krishna, Christ &c.; one or two of them come down into this world now and then, and produce mighty revolutions.

The Avatara or saviour is the Messenger of God. He is like the viceroy of a mighty monarch. As when there is some disturbance in a far-off province the king sends his viceroy to quell it; so whenever there is an insurrection of irreligion in any part of the world, God sends His Avatara there.

The Avatara is one and the same. Plunging into the ocean of life, He rises up in one place and is known as Krishna; diving again, He rises up in another place and is known as Christ.

NONE knows the immensity of the sacrifice which the Godhead makes when it becomes flesh.

—Awakened India.