

The Hindu Organ.

"Arise! Awake! and stop not till the goal is reached."

THE ONLY NEWSPAPER IN CEYLON FOR THE HINDUS

HAS THE WIDEST CIRCULATION

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THE HINDU ORGAN.

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H. 65.

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Y. 62.

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Y. 60.

HIGHER APPOINTMENTS FOR CEYLONESE.

THE FAILURE TO EMPLOY CEYLONESE in the higher branches of the Technical Departments of the Ceylon Government has been the subject of strong criticism for a long time. The Heads of these Departments in reply put forward the excuse that the Ceylonese lacked technical qualifications and that there was no local institution where they could obtain training necessary for such employment.

The Finance Committee appointed a Committee to go fully into this question and to make suitable recommendations. The Report of this Committee now issued though inadequate in many respects is of some assistance to remedy the existing defects and to facilitate further employment of Ceylonese.

During the last few years higher education has made rapid strides in the Island. Honour courses in physical and natural sciences have been established in the University College. An increasing number of students is now taking up these courses. If sufficient encouragement should be given to them we are sure that the Technical Departments can be manned by Ceylonese without any loss of efficiency. The Agricultural Department is one of them. A good many specialists recruited from Europe are employed by it. It cannot be said that this Department cannot find qualified Ceylonese for these posts. There are competent young men from the University College who have got aptitude for research work in Science. If further training is necessary the Government should be made to provide scholarships to competent students so that they might undergo the necessary training in a European University. If a generous and steady policy should be adopted by it we are sure that in a few years the necessity to look for men recruited in Europe will disappear. We regret to see that the Committee has failed to take a broader view of the question of recruitment to the Agricultural Department and has confined itself to a recommendation of providing two post graduate scholarships to fill only two vacancies in the Department.

The higher branch of the Irrigation Department is now a closed field for Ceylonese talent. No Ceylonese has ever been appointed as District or Divisional Engineer. We cannot understand how this anomaly has escaped the notice of this Committee. Its recommendation to call for applications for eight vacancies in the subordinate field staff of this Department cannot be regarded as a compensation for this obvious defect.

Ceylon is an agricultural country. Its agricultural problems can be better understood and appreciated by local men than by foreigners, however high their qualifications may be. The Agricultural and Irrigation Departments are closely connected with agricultural development. It is to the interest of the country that these two Departments should be fully manned by Ceylonese. The Legislative Council cannot remain silent in this matter. It is its duty to insist on the Government carrying out a steady and consistent policy in the matter of recruiting Ceylonese to these Departments.

The Director of Public Works is the only Official who has submitted a good and workable scheme for the employment of Ceylonese in the higher branches of his Department. We hope to publish in our next issue his memorandum.

The only redeeming feature of this Report is the recognition of a lack of a higher grade Technical College where young Ceylonese can obtain training necessary for appointment in the Technical Departments. "We feel, however", goes on the Report, "that it is important to provide locally facilities for a training sufficient to qualify Ceylonese for direct appointment to the higher grades which are at present filled only from candidates who have received their training outside the Colony. What is required for this is an Engineering College in Ceylon which will give the necessary theoretical training up to the standard of B.Sc. honours. We append a further statement (b) by the Principal, Government Technical Schools, of the estimated cost of enlarging the Technical Schools to meet the requirements of

courses up to University standard in Civil and Electrical Engineering. The estimate is necessarily a rough one and will, if the scheme is approved, require further consideration as to details of staff and cost. If such a college were established the students who passed out would, after having completed a satisfactory practical training, not only be eligible for higher posts in the Government Technical Departments, but would be in a position to obtain similar posts in private employment or outside the Colony." In the event of the Government failing to establish such a college the Committee recommends that scholarships should be provided to enable young Ceylonese to qualify for appointment to the higher posts in the Technical Departments until such time as arrangement can be made to provide the necessary facilities for training locally.

EDITORIAL NOTE.

MUDALIYAR C. RASANAYAGAM AND TODDY DRINKING.—We invite the attention of our readers to the correspondence, published elsewhere, that has passed between the Hon. Mr. S. Rajaratnam and Mudaliyar C. Rasanayagam regarding the latter's alleged reference to "Councilors and Temperance Agents" at Kitaly. It is now evident that the Mudaliyar did not make such statement. Perhaps his address which was made in Tamil was not correctly understood by the Reporter.

LOCAL & GENERAL.

A CORRECTION.—In the concluding sentence of the third paragraph in the Editorial of our last issue, the prefix *anti* has been omitted owing to printer's error. The sentence should read thus:—"Still the anti-prohibitionists argue that the majority of the people of Jaffna wants toddy."

A LUNAR ECLIPSE.—There will be a total eclipse of the Moon on Sunday, June 3, and will be visible in Ceylon only for part of the time. The total eclipse will commence at about 4 p. m. and end at 6-18 and as the Moon rises at 6-22 little but partial obscuration can be seen from Ceylon. The Moon will leave the umbra at 7-32 p. m. and the penumbra at 8-44 p. m.

CHANGES IN THE SECRETARIAT.—Owing to the departure of Mr. M. A. Young, Principal Assistant Colonial Secretary, on leave, changes have occurred at the Secretariat. Mr. W. R. Murphy is appointed to the Office of P. A. C. S. from the 23rd instant. Mr. K. Somasunthram is to be Fourth Assistant Colonial Secretary and a Justice of the Peace for the Colombo District from the same date.

A JAFFNESE PROMOTED.—Mr. N. Alvarpillai, who was until recently Chief Clerk, Registry, Supreme Court, Ipoh, has been appointed Assistant Registrar, Kuala Lumpur, in place of Mr. R. M. McKenzie, retired.—C.

CEYLON RLYS. ORDINANCE.—Last Friday's Gazette publishes the text of a new rule to be substituted in lieu of that existing, referring to parcels conveyed by passenger trains and to the removal of same before they become subject to cloak room charges.

MEDICAL COUNCIL ORDINANCE.—Mr. A. G. Smith, Acting Registrar, Ceylon Medical Council, is to be Returning Officer, during the absence of Dr. F. O'E. Ellison from the Island.

BUDDHIST POSON FESTIVAL.—It is hereby notified for general information that Saturday, June 2, 1928, being the Full Moon day of the Sinhalese month of Poson, will be observed as a Public Holiday.—Press Communique.

TAMIL GIRLS' VERNACULAR SCHOOL.—The Ramanathan Practising Tamil Girls' Vernacular School, which is under the management of the Hon. Sir P. Ramanathan has been registered as a grant-in-aid school, with effect from February, 1927.

CHANGE OF MANAGEMENT.—Brama Sri Kumarasamy Kurukkal Thyagarajah Sarma of Karaveddy has been appointed as Acting Manager of the Kaitbady Vernacular School in place of Brahma Sri Kumarasamy Kurukkal for two months with effect from April 25, 1928.

PENSIONAL.—Mr. N. Ganapathipillai, Planter and Contractor, Sitiawan, who was here in Jaffna for the Marriage Registration of his son, Mr. G. Chelladurai, Medical Student, Singapore, has left for his station on Monday last accompanied by his son.—Cor.

DR. TAGORE'S ARRIVAL.—Dr. Rabindranath Tagore, the famous Indian poet, is expected to arrive in Colombo by the M. M. "Obanilly" from Madras on the 31st instant (to day).

The University Commission

A PRELIMINARY CONFERENCE

The following gentlemen attended a conference held at Queen's House, Colombo, on Monday last to discuss the preliminaries of the University Commission:—Hon. Sir P. Ramanathan, Hon. Messrs. M. T. Akbar, A. C. G. Wijesekoon, A. F. Molanure, K. Balasingham, D. B. Jayatilaka, H. B. Lees, W. A. de Silva, G. A. Wille, T. B. Jayah and A. Mahadeva, Drs. V. van Langenberg, S. C. Paul and Andreas Nell, Mr. R. Marrs and the Rev. Fr. M. J. Le Go, O. M. I.

"The Ceylon Daily News," learned that the conference was called by the Governor for a preliminary discussion in connection with the duties of the Commission to be appointed in terms of the resolution passed in the Legislative Council in March, to work out the details of the proposed University, to be established as recommended in that resolution.

It is learned that the abovesaid gentlemen, among others, are to form the Commission.

THE TERMS.

The first two parts of the resolution of the Legislative Council, adopted in March, laid down that the University was to be of the unitary type and that it was to be situated on the site selected within the Municipal limits of Kandy. The third clause of the resolution called upon the Government "to appoint a Commission to work out the details of the proposed University as recommended above."

THE CHAIRMAN.

At the meeting of the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council held on April 27, the Colonial Secretary was authorised to call on the Secretary of State for the Colonies to select an expert educationist to be the Chairman of the Commission. It is understood that no intimation on the subject has yet been received from Downing Street.

TRAINED INSPECTORS FOR CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES.—The three Inspectors of the Co-operative Branch of the Agricultural Department who proceeded to India for their training in co-operative work, Messrs. R. C. S. Cooke, H. L. B. Ellagan and A. Alvihere returned to Ceylon on the 14th instant. They have been posted to Jaffna, Badulla and Anuradhapura respectively for duty.

PALLAH ATTACKING AN UNOFFICIAL EXCISE OFFICER.—Before Mr. J. Light, Police Magistrate of Kays on Saturday last fifteen Pallahs, were charged by Police Vidhan Paramasaher Samugum of Karainagar West with unlawful assembly, rioting, and with having robbed Mr. E. Kandiah, Advocate, Unofficial Excise Officer and Chairman of the Village Committee of Kokkuvil, on May 24th, at Karainagar. Mr. Kandiah said, that he was recognized as a public servant by the authorities. In his capacity as Unofficial Excise Officer, he left his home at Kokkuvil at about 3-30 a. m. to arrest some illicit tappers and reached Karainagar after dawn. A man named Perampalam of Karainagar volunteered to act as his guide and took him to the Pallah quarters where he abandoned him and his party. Perampalam undertook to watch the movements of the tappers when he left them. Shortly after he returned, and took them into the heart of the palm-rah garden, where he disappeared. Directly he had done so, a gang of Pallah tappers, numbering about fifteen, came there and started attacking his cooly, Markandan, and Cheliah, a motor car driver. One of them snatched a bag from Cheliah, and handed it over to an accomplice who escaped with it. The accused were remanded pending further inquiry.

MARADANA STATION FATALITY.—A distressing incident is reported to have occurred at the Maradana Railway Station late on Saturday night ultimately resulting in the death of two villagers. One of them is an old man, and the other a cripple who was discharged from the General Hospital, Colombo. It transpires that the cripple requested his companion to fetch him some water and the old man walked down to the yard across the line. On his return as he was about to clamber on to the platform a train steamed in and the man was wedged in between the platform and the cow catcher and dragged along. A search under the train revealed no trace of him, and it was only when the men got to the end of the platform that they found the man clinging on to the cow catcher. He was gasping for breath and expired as he was lifted on to the stretcher. The cripple, in a state of great mental agony, was removed to the General Hospital where he was passed away on Sunday morning.

KAYS HARBOUR STRIKE.—The Kays Harbour coolies, about 200 in number, who struck work about a fortnight ago owing to the refusal of their contractor to pay them the usual 25 cents which shippers allow the workmen for food, are yet out. It would appear that the contractor claims 7 cents commission reducing the usual allowance to 18 cents, and the deadlock continues.—Cor.

INDIAN MARRIAGE APPEAL FOR A BRITISH M. P.—The Maharaja of Bardwan intended early in British Parliament to raise a doubt whether an Indian Ruling Prince is entitled to enter the House, but he will claim the right as a citizen of the Empire.

Newspaper Misrepresentation.

TACTICS OF ANTI-PROHIBITIONISTS.

ALLEGATIONS AGAINST COUNCILLORS REFUTED. COUNCIL MEMBERS AND CLOSURE OF TODDY TAVERNS. To the Editor, "Hindu Organ".

Sir, I am sending you for publication the correspondence that passed between me and Mr. Rasanayagam. It shows clearly how the anti-temperance party's cry re Council Members undertaking re toddy is entirely wrong.

Yours etc,
S. RAJARATNAM.

Jaffna, 27th May, 1928.

Correspondence referred to:—

THE DEMAND FOR PROOF, C. Rasanayagam Mudaliyar, C O S, Jaffna.

Sir, I have the honour to state that it is reported that after the polling for re opening of Kitaly tavern you made a speech and in the course of which you said Councilors and temperance agents had promised to get the old system on the abolition of the tavern system, therefore the village voted for the abolition of the tavern.

I am not aware of any Councilor of the North who stated at any time what you said at Kitaly. On the otherhand when I was in the midst of the vigorous temperance campaign some tappers approached me with a proposal that they would vote for the abolition of the taverns if I could promise them to work for getting the old system. I clearly made them understand that I am against any system where toddy will be sold and that I was for permit for the consumers to tap trees or to get trees tapped for them. These tappers did not vote for the abolition of the taverns.

Again before the Excise Commission when anti-temperance party of the North gave evidence it was loosely stated that the temperance workers promised to get back the old system if the taverns were closed. On cross examination it transpired that not a single leading temperance worker gave such an undertaking. I am aware that this statement is being often repeated by irresponsible men and by anti-temperance people who say that they were great temperance workers at one time and that they said so and thus misled the people. Be that as it may I like to know whether you have any proof or give the occasion, when any Councilor of the North ever gave an undertaking that he would work for the old system if the taverns were closed.

Yours etc,
(Sgd.) S. RAJARATNAM.

Jaffna, May 24, 1928.

POLLING KITALY TODDY TAVERN.

The Hon'ble Mr. S. Rajaratnam, Jaffna.

Sir, With reference to your letter of the 24th instant enquiring whether I used the words "Councilors.....tavern" while declaring the result of the poll at Kitaly, I have to inform you that the report is a misrepresentation of the words used by me. I never used the "Councilors and Temperance Agents.....". What I said was that it appeared that when the people of Kitaly voted for the closure of the tavern they were under the belief that they could obtain toddy under the old system, for, on that day most of the voters said that they wanted toddy and not the tavern, but when they were reminded that the polling was not for such a purpose they voted for the re-opening of the tavern as they had no other way of obtaining toddy and that I would bring that fact to the notice of the authorities.

I saw how my words had been twisted in the report to the papers and I said while declaring the result of the poll at Kitaly that I did not care to make any comments as I ran the risk of being misrepresented in the papers.

I thank you for having given me the opportunity to explain and to give the lie to the newspaper report.

Yours etc,
(Sgd.) C. RASANAYAGAM.

Jaffna, May 26, 1928.

Another Jaffnese J. P. in Malaya

SULTAN'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS.

On the occasion of H. H. the Sultan of Perak's birthday, the Hon'ble the British Resident of Perak has appointed Mr. S. Supramaniam to be a Justice of the Peace for the State of Perak along with two Chinese and one Malaya gentleman. Mr. S. Supramaniam has been an old resident of Perak, in which State he served in the P. W. D., as Head Overseer. Since his retirement, Mr. Supramaniam has resided in Ipoh where he has taken a keen interest in the welfare of his countrymen. He was at one time President of the Ceylon Tamils' Association.—Cor.

WIRELESS AND WEATHER

Scientists declare that wireless has no effect on the weather. The electric waves are but an infinitesimal fraction of the electrical energy emanating from the sun.

Letter To The Editor

RELIGIOUSNESS.

Religiousness is a quality which many people pretend to possess, but in reality there are few persons who are religious in the true sense of the term. We all know that religiousness is worth more than any other quality a man can have. It is a pity that in India there are very few persons who can insinuate into us some of the fundamental principles underlying our noble Saiva religion, which has been regarded for ages and will be considered for ever as the mother of all religions, existing or imaginable.

If a man is truly religious, his words and actions will certainly be different from those of worldly-minded, selfish and irreligious people. We read daily of the lives of our Saiva saints who are praised today by all religiousists for their lives of unparalleled self-discipline and inimitable devotion to God. True happiness is, we can say without any hesitation, the monopoly of persons whose minds are saturated with ever increasing love of God and never-failing perseverance in the achievement of Godliness.

Men may be divided roughly into three classes. The members of one of these classes are on account of their previous Karma, possessed of a superabundance of animal nature. The main characteristic of the members of another class is human nature. The men belonging to the other class are endowed with the priceless possession of divine nature. According to our Sastras the ultimate goal of every human being is the attainment of eternal bliss. We can become heirs to this indescribable bliss, only if we can make our animal and human natures subservient to our divine nature. That this is an attainable state has been conclusively proved to us by the lives led by our Saiva saints whose songs containing honeyed words have filled the minds of our ancestors with a thrill of joy and will give the very same experience to us and our posterity for ever.

If our country is to rise to real eminence and be reckoned as a powerful and useful unit among the nations of the world, the first and foremost thing we want is a number of persons who will devote themselves entirely to religious life and who, with the strength of their soul force help their unfortunate brethren to attain salvation without allowing them to be misled by worldly attachments.

We all know in our experience that an ounce of practice is worth more than a ton of big talk, which ends in mere words and does not result in action. This will be admitted to be true in every aspect of life by all sensible people. A man who is openly irreligious is not so harmful to society, as one who poses to be a Saiva and is always forward to deliver a never ending series of religious speeches, whereas there is in him a under current of an abominable nature contrary to his preaching. There is a class of our so called leaders who pose themselves to be proficient not only in literary and political matters, but are also full of ambition to make religious discourses, whenever they get an opportunity of doing so. The state of our country will be much better, if those who preach will only care to practise at least a part of what they preach. May we hope to have that state of affairs in the near future?

Myliddy, Yours etc., 26/5/1928 "Truth Letter".

Religion in Cambridge Exams.

BUDDHIST, HINDU AND MUSLIM TEXTS.

At a meeting of the Board of Education held at the Education Office on Saturday last the following questions were taken up for discussion:—

RELIGIOUS KNOWLEDGE & CAMBRIDGE EXAMS. The question whether subjects relating to the Buddhists, Hindu and Muslim religions should not be included as optional subjects for the Cambridge Examinations was discussed, and the Board had no objections to such inclusion. It was agreed that the Department should write to Cambridge University in the matter.

PUNDIT AND BALA PUNDIT EXAMS. A proposal was placed before the Board that teachers in Vernacular schools holding the Pundit and Bala Pundit Examination Certificates should be given an additional salary. After discussion, a Committee of the Board was appointed to consider the question of a special salary scale for Pandits and Bala Pandits and to submit their report at the next meeting of the Board.

PRIVATE CANDIDATES AND CAMBRIDGE EXAMS. The results of Private candidates in the Cambridge Examinations were discussed and were postponed for consideration at a later meeting.

LABOUR TROUBLE IN INDIA.—Labour trouble is prevailing all over India.

TWENTY-SIX JOINT STOCK COMPANIES IN 1928.—Twenty-six new companies were registered during the year with an aggregate capital of Rs. 23,195,000, as against 39 in the previous year with a capital of Rs. 31,300,000.

FORGERS OF THE INDIAN STATES.—The sentence passed by Sir Leslie Scott, in regard to the forgery of the Indian States, has not found any acceptance or approval at the Princes' standpoint.

INDIAN & FOREIGN

EQUAL FRANCHISE BILL.—The second reading of the Bill giving the vote to women at the age of twenty one on even terms as men was adopted by the House of Lords by 114 votes to 35.

FIRST MADRAS LADY LAWYER.—Miss. Anandabai, the first lady law graduate in the Madras Presidency, is now an apprentice under Mr. V. V. Srinivasa Iyengar, Advocate. She has an intention of setting up practice soon.

JUSTICE PARTY AND THE GOVERNMENT.—Great anxiety is felt in political circles as to whether the Justice party will join the Government in the appointment of the Committee of the Madras Legislative Council for co-operating with the Simon Commission.

IS INDIA UNFIT FOR DEMOCRACY?—Speaking at the Liverpool Conservative Conference, Sir Leslie Scott is reported to have said that India was unfit for democracy and that if Britain withdrew there would be disastrous consequences in India.

NAVAL APPROPRIATION BILL.—President Coolidge has signed the Naval Appropriation Bill providing for expenditure of 362 million dollars.

CROSSING THE NORTH POLE.—The Airship 'Italia' has crossed the North Pole.

AN INDIAN LADY DOCTOR OF LITERATURE.—A correspondent writes to the Leader of Calcutta; Dr. Gargi Devi Asthana, daughter of Rai Sahib Munsif Jwala Prasad of Lucknow, returned home, early this month after taking the Ph. D. degree in English literature from London University. After graduating from Benares University she left for England in September 1925, attended the University College, London, and secured the Ph. D. degree. She was elected a member of the Royal Asiatic Society in London. She is the first Kayastha lady to achieve this distinction and deserves congratulations.

HEAVY FIGHTING IN NORTH CHINA.—It is reported that heavy fighting has broken out for the last few days on the Peking Harkow railway front. General Feng Tien and the Northern authorities claim that two divisions launched a successful attack on May 25 and after desperate fighting the Southerners are retreating to Tingohow. General Feng Tien's front line is now seven miles to the South of Wangtu.

GALLIVANTING INDIAN PRINCES.—It is necessary that the Indian Princes take the business of Government seriously and not spend their time gallivanting about Europe at the expense of the subjects' was the opinion of the Maharajah of Burdwan in an interview with the 'Observer' (London) on the subject of the future of the Indian Princes. He declared that he wanted to see the British constitution applied to Indian States without British democracy.

FIRST ROCKET AIRPLANE.—The first Rocket Airplane made a successful trip flight in Vienna attaining a speed of 150 kilometers an hour.

ANTI-WAR TREATY.—The Dominions and India are to be invited immediately by the Government to participate in the negotiations for a general anti-war treaty. Invitations are being sent direct to Canada, the Irish Free State and through the Foreign Office, to Australia, South Africa, New Zealand and India.

A FERRAR OF NATURE.—Considerable curiosity was recently excited at Gandevi by the birth of a fourlegged baby who lived not on the mother's milk but on water. Lala Bhagat whose daughter gave birth to this freak of nature dwells in the vicinity of the railway station at Gandevi.

SEVERE EARTHQUAKES IN PERU.—Severe earthquakes are reported from Peru as a result of which a village and a town were destroyed, burying many people beneath the ruins.

A MAHARAJA ON 'INDIAN ASPIRATIONS'.—In a debate at the Colonial Institute the Maharaja of Burdwan characterized 'Indian aspirations as not really Indian, but the result of poison gas escaped from the House of Commons.'

Pudukota Maharaja Dead.

AT AMERICAN HOSPITAL IN FRANCE.

Paris.—The death is announced of the Maharaja of Pudukota. His Highness died at 11 o'clock this morning. The end was quiet and comfortable. The Maharaja was conscious practically to the end.

The Maharaja, who had not left the bedside all night long, was with him when he died. His son, who was also present, talked with his father early this morning.

The Maharaja's body is lying in the mortuary of the American Hospital (at Neuilly).

The Maharaja wishes the remains to be conveyed to India for cremation. She has communicated with the India Office, but the fact that it is a bank holiday is causing delay in connexion with the arrangements.

[The late Maharaja] of Pudukota (Raj) Marud Bharava Tandiman Bahadur, G. C. I. E., was born in 1875 and married in 1915 Eamie Mary Sorrett, youngest daughter of the late Mr. W. Fink, M. A. L. D. of Melbourne, Australia. The State of Pudukota has an area of 1,179 square miles and a population of 426,813. It has been ruled by the Tandiman Dynasty from time immemorial. The late Ruler granted his people a representative assembly for consultative and legislative purposes and recently a dispute arose as to the succession to the throne. The Heir Apparent is Marthanda Hydroy, who was born in Australia in 1916.] —'Times of Ceylon.'

Conversion to Hinduism.

NEW AWAKENING IN ENGLAND.

FRANCE TO FOLLOW SUIT

The Editor of the 'Indico,' a monthly review on India in London, has received more than a dozen queries for information about the possibility of conversion to Hinduism here in England. Since the conversion of Miss Nancy Miller, the American girl to Hinduism, and her marriage to the ex ruler of Indore, the interest in Hinduism and the possibility of a non Hindu entering into this religion have intrigued many people in this country and in France, where the teachings of Dr. Rabindranath Tagore have created a favourable atmosphere.

The building of a new Hindu temple in London has also increased the interest among those who have come into contact with the philosophy of the Hindus, and there are not a few among the Europeans who prefer to believe in the doctrine of Karma and reincarnation as more satisfactory to explain the riddles of life.

To the outside world, interested in the Hindu doctrines the fact of a European girl's conversion to the old religion has come as a revelation, and as a consequence many inquiries have been made about the possibility of performing the purification or Shuddhi ceremonies here.

DIFFICULTIES IN THE WAY.

The difficulties in the way of such a conversion are many, the chief among them being the absolute authority of each caste among the Hindus to accept or refuse to admit anybody to their community. Nobody can force a caste Panchayat or council to accept any person to their caste. If any one desires to come into the Hindu fold, that person would have to secure the consent of the particular caste to which he desires to belong, a consent which is not easy to be secured.

The castes are exclusive to the uttermost degree, but there are instances when a person is promoted from a lower to a higher caste. For instance the Maharajah of Travancore has the privilege of taking his food on equal terms with the Nambudri Brahmins of Malabar, perhaps the most orthodox and the most exclusive caste in India.

Before obtaining this privilege he had, however, to undergo an extraordinary ceremony, that of passing through a goldbreadcrad egg, symbolising the rebirth into the Brahmin caste. Whatever may be the method, the fact remains that legally, from the point of Hindu law, a person belonging to a lower caste can be taken into the higher castes.

Under the new democratic wave passing over the whole of India to day there is no doubt that such restrictions will pass away soon. The conversion of another Englishman to Hinduism, which took place in Bombay last week, was celebrated along with the giving of the sacred thread—up to now the privilege of the higher castes—to more than a thousand untouchables, an unheard of thing.—'Daily Express,' London.

MATRIMONIAL.

KANAGARATNAM—KANMANYAMMAL.

The marriage of Dr. K Kanagaratnam of the Ceylon Medical Department, son of Mr. V. Kambiravettilal of Palanboddam, Kandernadam, with Miss. Kanmanyammal, eldest daughter of Mr. V. S. S. Kumaraswamy, Advocate and Member, Urban District Council, was solemnised at the residence of the bride on Monday last at about 10 p. m. in the presence of a large number of friends and relations. We wish the newly married couple all happiness and prosperity.

Noted Hindu Hours and Days.

DURING THE MONTH OF JUNE, 1928.

(FROM THE 10TH DAY OF Vaikasi TO THE 17TH DAY OF Aani of Vipava.)
Sativakana Saka, 1851; Kaliyugatham, 5380.

Table with 2 columns: Day and Rahu Kalam. Monday 7.30 a.m. to 9.00 a.m., Saturday 9.00 " " 10.30 " " 10.30 " " 12.00 noon, Friday 10.30 " " 12.00 noon, Wednesday 12.00 noon " 1.30 p.m., Thursday 1.30 p.m. " 3.00 " " 3.00 " " 4.30 " " 6.00 " " 6.00 " " 6.00 " " 6.00 " "

The Dragon's Head (Rahu) eclipses the Sun causing loss of light and vitality and therefore important undertakings should not be commenced at the hours stated above.

Table with 2 columns: Festival Name and Days. Vaikasi Vesavam June 1, Full Moon 8, Lunar Eclipse " 8, St. Tiru Gnana Sambhanda Moorthy Guru Pooja 5, Ashdami 11, Navami 12, Nallore Kandaswamy Kovil 13, Maha Sanga Apeshekam 14, Mathappirappu 14, Parathosam 15, Kaarthikai " 15, Van. Veeramakkal Ammal Festival Commences 17, New Moon 17, Ashdaha Suththam 18, Kada Kayanam 21, St. Manica Swamy Guru Pooja 22, Nalinavinu Nagapossany Ammal Festival Commences 23, Aani Uththaram 24, Nalloor Uththara Dharisanam 25, Ashdami 26, Navami 26, Sani Pirathosam 30

Memories of Previous Life.

GIRL'S AMAZING REVELATIONS.

An amazing story which is generally believed in the district, comes from the village of Shadimager, in the Pudukottai District, United Provinces, where a girl, aged seven, states that she remembers her previous life and has confirmed the assertion by identifying persons who, she says, were related to her in her earlier life. The girl is named Maglabai, and she is the daughter of Pandit Ganga Vishnu, a Brahmin. When only three years old she told her father of her earlier life, and said she used to live in a village named Maglabagh.

She said that she had three sons, and one was born shortly before her death. The eldest was named Siyaram and the second Ramwaroop. She insisted on meeting her sons in her present life.

Her parents tried to dissuade her, but the girl persisted and started to starve herself. Eventually, her father took his daughter and wife on a bullock cart to Maglabagh, the village described by the girl.

When approaching the village, the child pointed out two houses in the distance, in which she said she had lived during her previous existence. She entered one of the houses, and, walking up to two men, who were inside, recognized them as her sons.

The girl was then cross examined, and described correctly the alterations and repairs to the house, which were effected some years ago, and to other questions put by the villagers she gave correct replies.

Eventually, her parents left the girl crying bitterly over her relations and the sons who had been cut off from her. She is now living with her parents. —'Times of Ceylon.'

Self-Government for Ceylon.

RECOMMENDED BY T. U. COUNCIL.

Such questions as 'should subject peoples of the Commonwealth be granted self government immediately?' are among the enquiries appearing in questionnaires which have been circulated among members of the British Commonwealth Labour Conference which will meet in London on July 2nd.

The conference will be attended by Labour representatives from the... (Empire). The agenda includes questions of Inter-Commonwealth labour relations, migration, world peace, and problems concerning subject peoples.

The British Trade Union Council and the Labour Party, in reply to the question mentioned above, lay emphasis on the difference between the different classes of subject peoples.

They say that Iraq should be given self-government immediately, also Palestine, having regard to the terms of the Mandate and the Balfour Declaration.

The reply says that the measure of self-government demanded by the inhabitants of the Crown Colonies (excluding the African Crown Colonies), for example Ceylon, should be granted immediately. —'Ibid.'

Publications Received.

The following Publications have been received from the Government Printer:—Administration Reports for the year 1927 of The Acting Land Settlement Officer, (Part I.—Civil 'K'); The Registrar General on the Registration of Trade Marks, Designs, Joint Stock Companies, Societies and Business Names, (Part III.—Judicial 'E'); The Government Veterinary Surgeon, (Part IV.—Education, Science and Art 'G'); The Principal Collector of Customs on Customs and Shipping, (Part II.—Revenue 'H'); The Surveyor General (Part I.—Civil 'J'); The Government Analyst, (Part IV.—Education, Science and Art 'H'); and The Director of Statistics and Office Systems, (Part I.—Civil 'M').

The Report of the Commission appointed to inquire into the Wages of Manual Workers (Sessional Paper VIII—1928); The Interim Report of the Committee on Remuneration to Chief and Minor Headman for Estate Duty Work, (Sessional Paper IX—1928); Memorandum embodying the Decisions of Government on the Recommendations for the Further Extension of the Work of the Agricultural Department, (Sessional Paper X—1928); and the Report of the Select Committee of the Finance Committee on the Training of Ceylonese for Higher Posts in the Technical Departments, (Sessional Paper XI—1928).

Destruction of Old Records.

Notice is hereby given that the following records will be destroyed unless any person interested shall within three months of this date personally, by Proctor or by duly authenticated petition, claim, upon good cause shown that any of the records be not destroyed.

Records referred to: 1. Non summary inquiry cases over 5 years old. 2. Summary criminal cases over 5 years old. 3. Money cases where satisfaction of decree is recorded.

Minor records, L. J. de S. SENEVIRATNE, Point Pedro, Police Magistrate and May 24, 1928, Commissioner of Requests, G. 907.

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Lanka in Africa.

Ruins of ancient granite buildings, discovered in South Africa, have led to a number of surmises as to the people that lived in these parts.

The ruins lie in the heart of the continent hundred miles away from the coast at Zimbabwe which is about 17 miles from Port Victoria in a straight line with the old East African port of Sofala.

The ruins consist of several granite edifices of which the largest is a rough oval. There are no roofs and between these two major ruins are traces of several minor structures.

DATE AND ORIGIN OF RUINS.

Two theories have been advanced in connection with the date and origin of the ruins. On the ground of medieval objects having been found in such positions as to be necessarily contemporaneous with the foundations of the building a set of thinkers conclude that the structures do not date back to more than 800 years.

But there is another theory, placing the Zimbabwe ruins somewhere in remote antiquity. According to it, "when what are now Britain and France were still barbaric countries, a foreign civilization flourished in Zimbabwe."

The Bantus, natives of Rhodesia, have never been builders of stone structures elsewhere and are even to-day entirely in a rudimentary stage.

Rhodesia and Transvaal are even at this date generally the richest countries of the world. They must have been so even in remote ages and the antiquity school allege that some foreign people, now wiped off and forgotten, may have had a colony at Zimbabwe for exploiting the mineral wealth of this territory.

Hundreds of old workings have been discovered both in Rhodesia and Transvaal, making it abundantly clear that gold was once mined on a large scale in these regions.

WHO EXTRACTED THIS GOLD?

Who extracted this gold? If the Bantus did it, they must have been a very different people from what they are now. If foreigners did it, who were they? We must go to the history of ancient peoples.

Ravana the King of Lanka, lived across the sea, many miles distant from the Indian shore, much more distant than Ceylon which we generally identify with Lanka. He was the devotee of Shiva who is worshipped in a phallic form.

In fact, a study of the ruins reveals considerable organization, military, mining and colonial. The structures at Zimbabwe are not ornamental, they are not even strictly symmetrical, but they impress one with their proportion and skill.

A Scotsman on a motor tour stopped one night at a small hotel.

"How much for a bed?" he asked. "Five shillings." "Terrible dear. How much for breakfast?" "Three shillings."

UNDRAWN WIDOWS' AND ORPHANS' PENSIONS.

The following is a list of widows and orphans whose pensions have remained undrawn from the date noted against their respective names. Any of these pensioners who may be still alive should communicate with this Office without delay.

Table with columns: PENSION No., NAME OF WIDOW, NAME OF OFFICER, DESIGNATION, PENSION UNDRAWN FROM. Lists names like Haerica Wilhelmina, Williammah, Eku Nona, Lucy Hamy, etc.

Gems with Mysterious Powers

ABOUND IN INDIA, BURMA & OCEYLAN.

Mysterious and inexplicable gems abound in India and Burma even in the days of the twentieth century, writes Vishnu R. Kavandkar in the "Sunday Express."

A few months ago a common-looking antique necklace, belonging to the Royal Family of Tanjore, in South India, was sold in the Sowkar-pash, or Bankers' Lsion, in Madras.

The jeweller found that the diamond hanging as a pendant was a very peculiar one, and suggested that it should be reset as a ring.

CHANGING COLOURS.

On examination it was found to contain wonderful properties. It was generally of a bluish tint, but during the day it took on a rosy shade.

When taken into a dark room it gave out no light at all. Later on it was astonished to find it flooded as with brilliant moon light.

He found that the jewel was wet. His own hand as he held the gem became wet, as water seemed to pour out of the diamond.

It was found that the stone lost its lustre when the moon waxed, would not give any light during the day, never shed tears when the moon was waning but was moist only on full moon days.

THE ELEPHANT PEARL.

From Ceylon comes the wonderful elephant pearl. "Until I had examined this jewel myself," said Dr. Joseph Pearson, D.Sc., Director of the Colombo Museum, "I had been under the impression that the references to these pearls in oriental literature were mythological legends rather than realities."

Varaha Mihir, a great Indian writer on jewels of the fourth century A.D., says that an elephant pearl is found in the head of the root of the tusks of an elephant born when the sun and moon are in a certain conjunction.

Writing of other pearls with mystic properties, he states that the storm pearl is said to fall from the skies in the first cloud-burst of the monsoon, is of the colour and size of a pomegranate seed, shines like a flash of lightning, and makes the possessor immune from storm, accidents or danger of electrocution.

Tradition says that the cobra jewel shines in the night, and that the cobra feeds on the toads and mice and insects that are attracted by its light. The cobra lies concealed beside it, and after he has preyed on the rodents which come near, he swallows it again, and goes back to his hole.

JEWEL SNAKE BITE CURE.

The jewel is said to melt and turn to poison when the cobra is angry, and so is difficult to get, but there are instances when such jewels are found. In the Poonia district, 200 miles south of Bombay, a rich Zimidar succeeded in securing one. It has the property of curing snake bites.

It sticks to the wound only when there is poison in the bite, and falls off when the poison has been absorbed. It is then immersed and washed in cow's milk, which is then burned up, mixed with ghee and wooden pulp.

Mr H. W. B. Moreno, member of the Legislative Council of Bengal, is the proud possessor of a ruby which contains under its shining surface the image of a dark man dressed in white puggie (the national headdress of the Hindus) and clad in white robes. The image appears clear through a thin halo of scarlet cloud forming the surface of the ruby.

King Thebaw of Burma had in his possession a wonderful pair of earrings made of rubies, containing underneath their surface perfect lotuses. These were stated to have the power of curing blood poisoning.

The King wore them to the day of his death. He gave them on that day to a devoted servant, and they have not been heard of since.

Mahatmaj's Autobiography.

TRUE "SERVANT OF INDIA".

This is another instalment of Gandhiji's Autobiography, as taken from "Young India".

On arrival in Poona, we found ourselves, after the performance of the Shraddha ceremonies, discussing the future of the Society and the question as to whether I should join it or not.

Most of the members of the Society were in Poona at this juncture. I sent about pleading with them and tried to dispel their fears about me. But I saw that they were divided.

All our discussions were therefore free from bitterness and strictly confined to matters of principle. The section that was opposed to me held that they and I were as the poles asunder in various vital matters, and they felt that my membership was likely to imperil the very objects for which the Society was founded.

We dispersed after prolonged discussions, the final decision being postponed to a later date.

I was considerably agitated as I returned home. Was it right for me to be admitted by a majority vote? Would it be consonant with my loyalty to Gokhale? I saw it clearly that when there was such a sharp division among the members of the Society over admitting me, by far the best course for me was to withdraw my application for admission and save those opposed to me from a delicate situation.

Experience now tells me that it was well that I did not formally become a member and that the opposition of the one who had been against me was justified. Experience has shown too that our views on matters of principle were widely divergent. But the recognition of the differences has meant no estrangement or bitterness between us. We have remained as brothers and the Society's Poona home has always been for me a place of pilgrimage.

It is true that I did not officially become a member of the Society, but I have ever been a member in spirit. Spiritual relationship is far more precious than the physical. Physical relationship divorced from the spiritual is like body without soul.

NOTICE.

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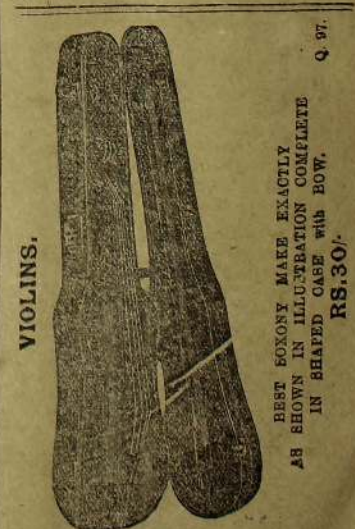
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