

The Hindu Organ.

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Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 3250.

In the Matter of the Estate of the late
Suppaiyar Kanagasabai Aiyar of Kal-
thady

Deceased.

Manikkamma widow of Suppaiyar Kanaga-
bai Aiyar of Kalthady

Petitioner.

Vs.

1. Kanagasabai Aiyar Muttukumarasamy Aiyar of Do
2. Nagammah daughter of Kanagasabai Aiyar of Do
3. Suppaiyar Aiyathurai Aiyar of Do. The 1st and 2nd Respondents are minors by their Guardian ad litem the 3rd Respondent

Respondents.

This matter of the Petition of Manikkamma widow of Suppaiyar Kanagasabai Aiyar, praying for Letters of Administration to the estate of the abovenamed deceased Suppaiyar Kanagasabai Aiyar of Kalthady, coming on for disposal before P. E. Floris Esquire, District Judge, on July 25, 1916, in the presence of Mr. K. Kanakasabai, Protector, on the part of the Petitioner; and the affidavit of the said Petitioner dated May 31, 1916, having been read: It is ordered that the Petitioner be and he is hereby declared entitled, as widow of the said deceased, to administer the estate of the said deceased and that Letters of Administration do issue to him accordingly, unless the Respondent abovenamed or any other person shall, on or before August 15, 1916, show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

July 29, 1916.

P. E. Floris,
District Judge.

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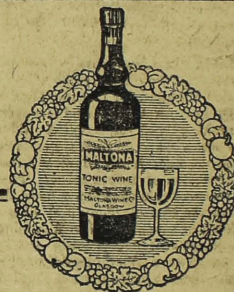
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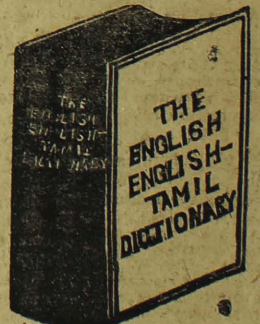
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NOTICE. LAND SALE.

The following lands situated in the Pachchilappalli Division will be put up to auction at Grand Bazaar, Jaffna, on Saturday, 7th October, 1916, at 3 P. M.

(1) 31 acres of jungle land with numerous palmyrahs and good firewood in the village of Masaar adjoining the Masaar coconut Estate belonging to Mr. Sapapathy, about 3½ miles from Pallai Railway Station and within a few chains from the Kandy road.

(2) 15 acres of jungle land with palmyrahs in Tamakkini village, South of Tachchankadu coconut Estate and within 1½ miles of Pallai Station.

(3) 88 acres of jungle land with palmyrahs in Iyakachchi village adjoining the Kandy road and within 4 miles of Pallai Station.

All the lands are said to be fit for coconut. Private offers also will be received by the undersigned until the day of auction. The lands are well-known to Mr. S. Asaippillai, Nallur House, Jaffna.

C. K. SWAMINATHAN,
Ramanathan College,
JAFFNA.

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I Suppar Nagar of Tholpuram, (Thamarappiddy) do hereby give notice that I will hereafter sign my name as Suppramaniam Naganathan.

SUPPAR NAGAR.

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The Hindu Organ.

JAFFNA, MONDAY, AUGUST 14, 1916.

THE INDUSTRIES COMMISSION AND THE INDUSTRIAL NEEDS OF JAFFNA.—II.

In our last issue we dealt with some of the important local industries that may possibly be improved and expanded with the help of expert knowledge and financial aid under Government auspices. Before proceeding to dilate further on the nature of the State aid required for the industrial development, we will note here a few more local industries, other than agricultural, that have possibilities of development. We have already dealt with weaving, pottery, brick and tile manufacture, dye manufacture, coir manufacture, and basket and mat making.

Jaffna abounds in palmyrah more than any other part of Ceylon. The possibility of extending the manufacture of baskets and mats, ordinary as well as with ornamental designs, out of the leaves of the palmyrah, was already touched upon by us. Panaddu made out of the juice of the fruit, and tubers from the seeds, were extensively utilised as food, mostly by the working classes. Of late, the manufacture of these palmyrah products, especially of Panaddu, has been somewhat neglected. This may be due to the physical degeneracy of the people which demands easily digestible food. It may also be due to the infatuation of "modern fashion" under which old manners and habits are thoughtlessly discarded, simply because they are old and not found among the so-called civilized people. Anyway, the Government will be doing a great service to the northerners if scientific research on the food value of this product is instituted. If it is found to possess a good percentage of nutritious or health promoting constituents, its manufacture should be encouraged by all possible means. An expert in the manufacture of fruit jams or jelly may be able to find a process to preserve Panaddu in

tins fit for foreign markets. There is a slight rankness in the flavour of Panaddu which may be removed by using a suitable syrup for the preserve. If success should crown this effort, it will prove of immense economic value to the Jaffnese.

Coconuts, copra and desiccated coco-nuts to the value of more than 30 million rupees are annually exported from Ceylon to other countries to be used in manufactures. Since we have the raw material here in abundance in the shape of copra and coconuts it should be more profitable for us to manufacture coconut oil on a larger scale and start connected industries such as candle, soap, stearine, and butter making, if we can procure the required machinery and the technical skill to work them economically.

We will now make a few observations on the capacity of the Ceyloneses to undertake the industrial development and of the nature of the Government aid that may be given to it. In doing so, we cannot do better than quote the opinion of Sir Thomas Holland, President of the Industries Commission of India which was recently appointed by the Indian Government with objects almost similar to that of the Ceylon Commission. Referring to the capacity of the Indian labourers Sir Thomas Holland observes in his address delivered before the South Indian Chamber of Commerce on the 28th ultimo:—

"One thing he was quite satisfied with in India was that they had the means of obtaining all the expert labour that was necessary. Any one who had ever visited the Tata Iron and Steel Works would have been convinced that with Indian labour they could tackle any industry for which the country was suitable. He had seen the labourers at Satchi who, only a few years ago, had been the inhabitants of jungles without any education. They were now handling the machinery there and turning out rails, wheels, etc., as efficiently as they could get it done by any English labourer. When Indian labour was organised and properly educated, and led there was not the slightest doubt that they would get the result that would enable them to utilise all the raw materials available in the country."

We need hardly say that the above noted appreciation by the President of the Indian Industries Commission applies with equal, if not greater force to the capacity of Ceyloneses labourers. Sir Thomas further observes under this head:

"By scientific knowledge industries had been created under unfavourable conditions in Europe, industries that would thrive better in India. Huge quantities of sugar, for instance, had been imported by India from Austria and Germany although sugar making was a tropical industry. What science was able to do in Europe, it could do in India also. They had to devise a machinery for the distribution of information. There was no use of researches unless some body derived some benefits from them. They had also to develop some form of machinery for financing industrial undertakings and for financing the marketing of products. There was no use of producing articles unless they were able to market them successfully."

On the nature and scope of the Commission's enquiry Sir Thomas Holland's opinion is practical and worth consideration. Says he:—

"They would first have an examination of certain witnesses who should be men of experience. They did not want men of views. They wanted men of experience, especially men of the experience of failures. Local Committees would be formed to gather information and then they might have a general conference between the Provincial Committees and the Commission. That might possibly aid them to tackle certain problems on the spot and settle them without waiting for the final report. They had to consider the development of an efficient official machinery to carry out proposals they might leave behind. In some cases it might perhaps be necessary to join together the interests of different provinces and create an Imperial Department. The Commission would like to know whether the present method of collecting information was suitable, whether there was any necessity to establish trade agency abroad, whether commercial museums should be formed in towns, whether they should have periodical Industrial Exhibitions, and whether they should have their representatives in foreign countries to push the sale of their wares. In India the working of the trade marks was very defective and he would like to know whether it could be improved."

On the nature of Government aid required to promote industrial development, the lines on which Sir Thomas proposes to institute inquiry are very practical and the local Commission also may adopt a similar line of enquiry:—

"The other points on which he expected people to give information was about the question of Government aid to industries like loans and money grants—whether Government was to supply machinery, whether Government should guarantee dividends for particular manufacturers without a refund of the dividend afterwards; what concessions of railway freights and subsidies the Government should give for industries, and whether the Government could employ expert advisers to aid private manufacturers. They had also to devise means for furthering research work and for improving the efficiency of labour and management. Then there was the question of finding out the means of generating power, and the Commission had proposed to investigate into the possibilities of generating hydro-electric power."

We may mention here that the Government of Mysore has been carrying out successfully a policy of industrial development on the above lines. Government

grants and loans, and free supply of machinery to nascent industries, concessions of railway freights and subsidies, research work on the possibilities of new methods, have been adopted by the Mysore Government.

THE RELIGION OF THE ANCIENT TAMILS

(By S. Sabaratna Mudaliyar.)

PART SECOND.

Chapter IX.

SERPENT WORSHIP.

I have already explained the Philosophic aspect of this worship under the head "*Naga worship*" in Chapter VIII. This aspect of the worship is largely availed of by people when they apprehend any danger from poisonous snakes. The Hindu realizes to a large extent the solemn truth that "not a hair droppeth without the will of God"—and particularly so when he is affected by any agency other than human. When he is bitten by a snake, the Hindu thinks that he has been visited by the displeasure of God through the snake—and in fact, his idea is that there is the will of God in the snake that prompted it to bite him; and this belief leads him ultimately to the idea that God punished him in the shape of a snake. He therefore worships God in the snake, remembering at the same time that the snake represents in form the *Kundalini Sakti* of God. He thinks that any service done to the snake is a service done to the *Kundalini Sakti* that abides in it. The serpent worship must therefore be said to have originated from a beautiful ideal which seems to have been lost sight of by the masses in course of time and only the ritual was retained.

It was this ideal that gave birth ultimately to Pantheistic ideas, and it would be interesting in this connection to point out briefly how the one idea led to the other. All religions are agreed that God is omnipresent and that His grace pervades the whole universe in one form or other. According to Hinduism, every species of the mineral, the vegetable and the animal kingdom is pervaded with a distinct shade of Divine grace, and the religion therefore postulates an *Athi-thevatha* or a presiding Deity for each of the different species. The Hindu recognizes this Divine influence over the whole *Pirapancha*, and when he wants to be benefited by any of the various species of creation that are found in the world, he seeks the help of the particular form of Divine Grace that is peculiar to that species, and he tries to appease the *Athi-thevatha* of that species in order to be benefited by that species. As I have already said, the Hindu is very susceptible of the spiritual influence over the material plane, and he is able to discriminate the difference between the various forms of the spiritual force that is at the back of every material object. There was a time when this idea grew strong and exceeded its legitimate bounds and it was then, I should say that it assumed a Pantheistic form. The origin of the serpent worship itself must be traced to this ideal which in course of time was forgotten and only the external form was retained.

Rahu and *Kethu*, the ascending and the descending nodes are counted among the nine planets of the Hindu Astrology, and they are represented in the forms of snakes. The planets have each an *Athi-theva* and they are supposed to have a large share in shaping the destiny of man. They are propitiated at times to ward off any impending danger, and when *Rahu* and *Kethu* are so propitiated, they are worshipped in the forms of snakes. This is another form of what is known as serpent worship, and the principle on which it is based has a beautiful meaning.

According to Hindu mythology, *Athi-sesha* is the supporter of the Earth—that is to say the material force that keeps her in her orbit. This force is therefore represented in the form of a serpent on which Vishnu the Lord of preservation takes his rest. On the spiritual side, this force represents the Grace of Lord Vishnu, and it is therefore revered in the form of a serpent.

As I have already explained in Chapter VIII, the *Kundalini Sakti* or the first principle out of which the universe evolved is of the form of a serpent, and it unfolds itself, with Siva in its centre—that is to say being enlivened by Siva—and it is therefore represented to entwine the *Siva Linga* in the form of a serpent; and this serpent being the vehicle of the Grace of God, has become an object of veneration.

We could thus see that what is known as serpent worship is based upon beauti-

ful ideals in more than one way. I could have dismissed the question of serpent worship as one that is not concerned with the genuine form of our religion, but my object in tracing the origin of this worship to its philosophic aspect is to show the relation that exists between the Philosophic religion and the Popular religion of the Hindus. Not only the critics, but even some of our own young generation are found to attack at random several practices that obtain among us in their ignorance of the sublime truth that underlies such practices. I think they would do well to have a patient enquiry into these practices before attacking them without due investigation.

The ancient Tamil literature refers to a race of people known as *Nagas*, and the inference is therefore drawn by the critics that these people were serpent worshippers, because the word *Naga* means a serpent. The word not only means a serpent, but it also signifies a mountain, and it is also a name for the heavenly region—and I cannot understand why the *Nagas* should be said to have been serpent worshippers and not mountain worshippers or worshippers of the heavenly region. It is I think very unsafe to rush into conclusions from the mere similarity of names; and it is very much to be regretted that it has become the fashion of a certain portion of our modern generation to build up big theories on slender arguments, and christen such theories in the name of science. The Sinhalese people cannot be said to be worshippers of lion because their race name has a strong resemblance to that of a lion.

When we refer to the Hindu *Puranas* and *Ithihasas*, we find that the *Nagas* were worshippers of *Siva* and that the chiefs among them such as *Vasuki*, *Nahusha*, *Karkkodaga* &c., were great potentates. They belonged to a peculiar species of beings—half human and half serpentine—quite different from the celestials or the human beings. They occupied the lower regions, while men occupied the middle and the celestials the upper. These *Nagas* were very different from the *Nagas* referred to in literature of the last *Sangam*, and the latter evidently got their name from the former, because of some connection between them. Science discloses the existence at one time of several species of animals which are extinct now, and it is therefore not improbable that there existed at one time a peculiar species of beings occupying the lower regions of the Earth and that they have become extinct now. We cannot reject the evidence of ancient writers, because we are unable to verify that evidence. The reference made in *Chintamani* to an aircraft of the shape of a peafowl in which the queen of *Rasamapura* escaped was considered at one time to be a fabulous story; but the recent aircraft activities of the West have fully removed the doubt that was entertained of the incident referred to. The reference to the occupants of the lower regions will also be similarly accepted when European science makes further progress. Whatever this may be, the *Nagas* of the Vedic and the Puranic periods were not serpent worshippers as they are represented to be, and there is no evidence in any ancient literature in support of such a gratuitous assumption.

NOTES & COMMENTS.

Mr. V. S. Sreenivasa Sastry has been elected by the non-official members of the Madras Legislative Council to represent them in the Supreme Legislative Council.

Mr. Sreenivasa Sastry is the President of the Servants of India Society and is bound by a vow to poverty and self-abnegation in the service of his motherland. He, like the other Members of the Society, gets an allowance of about Rs. 60 or 75 per month for his maintenance from the Servants of India Society and devotes his whole time in the country's service. Can we find such a man in Ceylon?

The proposal of the Indian Government to raise a double Company of infantry from the Bengalis has been hailed with delight in Bengal. Hitherto Bengal was neglected as a recruiting ground as Bengalis were not considered efficient soldiers. For many years, the educated leaders of Bengal had demanded that their Province should be placed on the same footing with other Provinces in the matter of recruiting. Dr. S. K. Mullick and Dr. S. P. Sarbadhikari have proposed to tour the Province and try to make the experiment a success.

Singapore,
26th July 1916.

TELEGRAPHIC SUMMARY.

The War.

THE ATTACK ON EGYPT.

London, Aug. 9. Special correspondents, describing the last phase of the Turkish attack on Egypt, say that all the German tricks failed. Turkish officer captured admitted that our machine-guns were terrible and cut down men like reaping corn. He marvelled that any escaped. The Turks were scattered far and wide in small parties. The brunt of the fighting was borne by the mounted Anzacs, who have done splendidly.

London, Aug. 8.

General Murray reports that the mounted troops are in contact with the Turkish rearwards six miles East of Katia, where the enemy entrenched at the beginning of his advance. The work of clearing the battlefield is proceeding. A quantity of rifles and other War material has been brought in. Hitherto 200 enemy dead have been buried in the area over which the counter-attack passed.

London, Aug. 9.

Cairo.—H. M. the King has telegraphed to General Murray his appreciation of his brilliant success in the hot season and in desert country.

PORT SAID AND SUEZ BOMBED.

London, Aug. 8.

On Aug. 4th there was an aeroplane and bomb attack on Port Said and Suez but little damage done. The casualties were light.

THE REVOLT OF ISLAM.

London, Aug. 7.

The Times correspondent at Constantinople says the Ulama-ul-Islam attribute the Arab revolt to Enver Pasha's pro-German policy and anti-Islamic tendencies. Their sympathies are with the Grand Sheriff.

MULHEIM BOMBED.

London, Aug. 8.

The Admiralty announces that Anglo-French Naval aeroplanes raided Mulheim on July 30th and successfully bombed benzol stores and barracks. Despite heavy anti-aircraft fire all returned.

MESOPOTAMIA AND THE I. M. S.

London, Aug. 9.

In the Commons Mr. Chamberlain said the Report of the Committee of Enquiry into the station hospital system for Indian troops would be submitted to the Mesopotamia Commission if it was desired. Sir Henry Craig asked:—Did not the Committee recommend certain very important additions to the medical equipment of India, which would be carried out? Mr. Chamberlain said:—I do not think so. I have not read the report, but I am informed that it referred to Peace conditions. Its consideration is suspended owing to the War.

PORTUGUESE PARTICIPATION IN THE WAR.

London, Aug. 8.

Lisbon.—At an extraordinary Session of Congress Sig. Costa, Minister of Finance, and Sig. Soares, Minister for Foreign Affairs, narrated the result of a visit to London from where they had just returned. The Premier in an incisive speech eulogised the Allies and spoke in favour of Portuguese participation in the War. A resolution was adopted approving of what the Ministers had done in London.

DEATH OF JAPANESE ADMIRAL.

London, Aug. 8.

Tokio.—The death is reported of Admiral Kamimura, Supreme Councillor of the Admiralty and prominent in the Russo-Japanese War.

THE EGYPTIAN FIGHTING.

London, Aug. 9.

General Murray reports that the pursuit of the enemy in the Katia district continues. The Turkish rearward has been pressed back Northward and Westward, while Southward a dashing attack by the Imperial Camel Corps drove them out from their entrenchments. We took more prisoners. The enemy rearward has now retired to a line North and South of Bikelab, fifteen miles East of Katia.

London, Aug. 10.

Cairo.—The Turks advanced from Romani in massed formation at some points calling out "English and Australians surrender." They were met with a devastating machine-gun fire. It is stated that the Turks suffered so terribly from the thirst that they killed the camels and drank the blood.

BRITISH SKIRMISH WITH BULGARS.

London, Aug. 9.

Salonika.—A British patrol has surprised and dispersed a Bulgarian detachment at the village South of Doiran with bombs and the bayonet.

ITALIANS ENTER GORIZIA.

London, Aug. 9.

Rome (official).—The Italians have entered Gorizia. There are 10,000 prisoners up to the present. (Official).—The Austrians were completely routed at Gorizia and abandoned large quantities of War material. Cavalry and Bersaglieri cyclists pursued the enemy beyond the Isonzo.

London, Aug. 9.

The Italian offensive was carefully prepared for weeks. It captured at one stroke positions such as Sabotino, Podgora, San Michele and Osavina, which have been contested for a year. The Austrians were completely surprised. The summit of Sabotino, 2,000 ft., dominates Gorizia. The South-eastern slopes of the mountain were honeycombed with caverns drilled in the rock by the Italians for months past, each containing a company of Infantry. Moreover a tunnel 850 feet long was secretly bored to within 30 feet of the Austrian trenches. Eight hundred men from the tunnel opened the attack, supported by men pouring out of the caverns. Patches of scrubby undergrowth were previously fired to deprive the Austrians of snipers cover. The Italians crept through the low-lying pall of black smoke and carried three lines of trenches in twenty minutes and a redoubt at the summit and in an hour swept down the slopes to Isonzo collecting prisoners in a drove.

ANOTHER ZEPPELIN RAID.

London, Aug. 9.

(Official).—Hostile airships crossed the East Coast early this morning. One airship is reported to have visited the South-East coast of Scotland and bombed various localities on the coast. Hitherto three women and a child are reported killed and fourteen injured. There was no damage of military importance. Our anti-craft droff them off from several places.

London, Aug. 9.

(Official).—The revised casualties in the air raid are killed 1 man, 2 women and 3 children. Injured 5 men, 6 women and 6 children.

London, Aug. 9.

(Official).—It is estimated seven to ten airships participated in the raid, operating singly or in pairs. Apparently indiscriminate destruction of property was the main object. A Naval aeroplane pursued one seawards for several miles.

GERMAN AIRSHIP SHEDS BOMBED.

London, Aug. 9.

(Official).—Naval aeroplanes dropped bombs from two hundred feet on the airship sheds at Evere near Brussels and returned safely. Eight bombs were observed to hit the shed from which heavy smoke columns issued.

CONFISCATION OF GERMAN PROPERTY.

London, Aug. 9.

In the Lords, Lord Lansdowne said Government was conferring with the highest commercial and banking authorities on the question of the confiscation of German property in retaliation for the outrages.

GERMAN EAST AFRICA.

London, Aug. 9.

The Belgian General Tombeur reports that the North-West portion of German East Africa is entirely free of the enemy who are retreating to Tabora. The Belgians are following closely.

PORTUGAL TO JOIN IN THE WAR.

London, Aug. 9.

Amid cheers for Great Britain and the Allies an extraordinary sitting of the Portuguese Congress resolved to accept the British invitation to participate in the War in Europe.

THE CAPTAIN FRYATT MURDER.

London, Aug. 9.

Viscount Grey, through the United States Embassy in Berlin has protested most strongly at the shooting of Captain Fryatt which is only describable as a judicial murder. He denounces the circumstances in connection with the trial as unparalleled.

TROOP TRAIN TRAGEDY.

London, Aug. 10.

In the Commons Mr. Chamberlain announced by the suggestion of the Raj the issue of rule safeguarding the movement of troops by rail in hot weather. It is stated the illicit traffic in Cocaine is causing the Raj himself grave anxiety. The drug could be smuggled in ways defeating the best conceived regulations.

GERMANY'S RESERVES.

Allahabad, Aug. 9.

Pioneer special cables state:—The Daily Telegraph's Paris correspondent states:—The French success North of Verdun were obtained by noticeably small forces. Even cautious observers are inclined to believe that the German Reserves really have begun to run short. Hence the importance of concerted attacks at Verdun and on the Somme. A British correspondent at the front states:—The Germans were told during a lull that the British had done their worst. Our advance at Pozieres was a surprise and it is believed that our casualties were smaller than in any other important action. During the battle of Picardy the enemy's losses were heavy. The prisoners were dazed, nerve-shattered men. Some apparently belonged to Germany's last Reserves.

TURKS REFUSE GERMAN TROOPS.

Allahabad, Aug. 9.

It has been recently reported that Turkish troops are actually helping the Austrians, but the *Gazzetta D'Italia* learns from what it describes as a reliable Turkish source that Turkey has refused the German request for 100,000 troops on the ground that Turkey needs all her available forces to oppose Russia in Asia and moreover considers that there is danger of communications between Turkey and the Central Powers being cut, rendering the return of her troops impossible. According to the *Corriere D'Italia* the *Tarvin* was suspended for several days for suggesting that if Germany and Austria needed more troops on the Eastern front, they should withdraw their own forces now on the Balkans and Constantinople.

DISCONTENT IN TURKEY.

Allahabad, Aug. 9.

The Balkan correspondent of *The Times* writes from Constantinople:—The movement at Constantinople against Enver Pasha and the Committee of Union and Progress is rapidly gaining strength. The promoters, seeing the ruin of Turkey impending, desire to overthrow the present regime and immediately ask for Peace. They realise, however, that owing to the rigorous precautions taken by the Young Turks and Germans, a revolt at the present moment would be a failure. Therefore many important persons, who recently adhered to the movement, continue to profess loyalty to the Government, while fostering discontent. Meanwhile Enver Pasha is master of the situation and spreads terror on every side. Executions, open or secret, are of almost daily occurrence.

THE BRITISH OFFENSIVE.

London, Aug. 10.

General Haig, in a *communiqué*, says:—The British further progressed North-West of Pozieres. Here we gained all our objectives, which we are consolidating. We raided a spot South of Arras and the enemy unsuccessfully attempted to raid our trenches North-West of Hulluch.

GERMAN PLANS TO RETIRE.

Reuter's Headquarters correspondent says:—We possess evidence that the Germans prepared plans to retreat in the middle of June. It is pointed out this apparently explains the sudden military measures taken by Holland then, as the German would possibly have retreated the shortest way across the Dutch Province of Limburg.

THE FRENCH FRONT.

London, Aug. 10.

Paris.—A *communiqué* says:—We progressed in the region of Hem Wood. Except for the bombardment at Flourey and Chapire there was quiet on the Meuse. Three German aeroplanes were brought down on the Somme front. French air squadrons dropped 400 bombs on railway stations, a battery and bivouacs on the Somme and at Verdun.

A GERMAN ADMISSION.

London, Aug. 11.

Copenhagen.—A German official message admits that the Artillery depot at Rothenstein was destroyed by an explosion. 50 were killed and 72 injured.

MORE RUSSIANS FOR FRENCH FRONT.

London, Aug. 11.

Another detachment of Russians have landed at Brest.

THE FALL OF GORIZIA.

London, Aug. 10.

Rome.—The capture of Gorizia has renewed the demonstrations of Joy in Italy. The work of the Duke of Aosta's Army is especially praised. It has crossed the Isonzo, preceded by swarms of Cavalry, inflicting heavy losses. It has already taken 2,000 additional prisoners and much booty. The whole of the Austrian-Isonzo line from South of Tolmino to the sea has been captured by the Italians.

London, Aug. 10.

An Italian *communiqué* says that hitherto over 12,000 prisoners have been taken at Gorizia. Our Cavalry inflicted heavy losses on the enemy and took prisoner hundred. We occupied Boschini in Carso. Enemy counter-attacks elsewhere failed.

THE RUSSIAN FRONT.

London, Aug. 10.

Petrograd (official).—The Russians have carried the great railway junction Chirpiline, just South of Stanislaw. The enemy is retreating in disorder.

THE MESOPOTAMIA MUDDLE.

London, Aug. 11.

In the Commons Sir John Jardine asked:—Will the report of the Commission on Medical Supplies and Transport in Mesopotamia be laid on the table before the House rises?

Mr. Roberts pointed out that Mr. Chamberlain had promised to expedite the report. Sir Henry Craik and Sir E. Carson strongly protested at the delay.

In the Commons Mr. Lloyd George stated that he was satisfied there were now sufficient medical supplies in Mesopotamia.

BRITISH FINANCE.

London, Aug. 10.

In the Commons Mr. McKenna said that, deducting 800 millions advanced to the Allies and the Dominions, our total indebtedness to March, 1917, was estimated at 2,640 millions, which was less than a year's national income. We would be able to maintain our credit, however long the War lasted.

STEAMERS SUNK.

London, Aug. 9.

The steamers (British) "Trident" and (Greek) "Achilles" and the schooner "Demaris" have been sunk—the latter in the Channel. The Danish steamer "Ydun" has been seized by German torpedo-boats in the Kattegat and taken to Swinemede.

OLD INTERNED PRISONERS TO BE EXCHANGED.

London, Aug. 11.

In the Commons Lord Robt. Cecil said that Government had agreed to exchange British and German interned prisoners over forty-five on the condition that the remaining interned were exchanged in equal numbers.

AUSTRIANS SURPRISED.

Allahabad, Aug. 11.

A Pioneer special cable states:—A correspondent of *The Times* at the Italian Headquarters states that the Austrians believed their blow in the Trentino had nipped in the bud any Italian plans for co-operating in the Allied offensive. The Austrians were taken completely by surprise. Very few prisoners had more than a hundred cartridges. All the prisoners whom the correspondent has seen were men, over forty or stalwart youths. There were none of the intermediate ages. They were in the worst possible condition with nothing resembling uniform.

RUSSIANS TAKE STANISLAW.

London, Aug. 11.

Stanislaw has been occupied. Petrograd.—The Russians took Stanislaw after a fight and are now following on the heels of the beaten enemy in a Westerly direction.

RUSSIANS CONTINUE TO ADVANCE.

London, Aug. 11.

A Russian official message records a continued advance on the right bank of the Sereth where over 14,000 prisoners have been captured since Aug. 4th. The enemy loss is enormous.

AN IMPORTANT CAPTURE.

London, Aug. 12.

Stanislaw is seventy-five miles from Lemberg and is the centre of five railways, three of which are already in Russian hands. It is only fourteen miles from Halicz whose possession will give the Russians control of the most important artery for the defence of Lemberg. The position of General Bothmer is now precarious. He can only retreat on the Tarnopol-Lemberg railway against which General Sakharoff is advancing from Sereth, while General Letchitzky, South of the Dniester, struck a shrewd blow at Bothmer's rear. The Russians North of the Dniester are advancing at a pace which will soon threaten Halicz. A *communiqué* mentions that they captured Monasterzyaska after a fierce fight and crossed the Zylotalpa.

Fighting on both banks of the tributaries of the Dniester is described in a *communiqué* as most fierce. The capture altogether of 23,000 Austro-Germans was recorded yesterday but the slaughter of the enemy was tremendous. The Austro-Germans destroyed the bridges but the Russians fought and won the fords, and advanced overwhelmingly, clearing the woods and villages on

the banks. Russian cavalry were effective, breaking up the enemy counter-attacks in repeated charges, throwing the massed formations into confusion. When Monasterzyaska was captured a Russian mounted machine-gun detachment got in the rear of a German regiment and annihilated it.

THE FRENCH FRONT.

London, Aug. 11.

Paris.—A *communiqué* says:—We destructively bombarded enemy organisations North of the Somme. There were only minor operations elsewhere. French air squadrons bombed the Railway Station and barracks at Vouziers and the Railway Station at Bazancourt.

PORTUGUESE AND THE WAR.

London, Aug. 11.

The Portuguese President, telegraphing to the Paris *Journal*, says:—We have already sent soldiers to East Africa. Now we are going to fight also on the European front, where we are proud to co-operate with the Allies.

SCOTCH ESTATE FOR LAND SETTLEMENT FOR SOLDIERS.

London, Aug. 10.

Mr. Tennant stated that the Duke of Southland has offered an estate of 12,000 acres West of the river Naver in the county of Southland for a land settlement for soldiers and sailors equally. The offer has been accepted.

THE RHODES SCHOLARSHIP.

London, Aug. 10.

In the Commons Mr. Asquith said there was no reason for recommending the allotment of German Rhodes scholarships to parts of the Empire at present not benefiting.

THE ZEPPELIN RAID.

London, Aug. 11.

(Official).—There are now eight deaths in the air raid of August 8th. The total damage is four small houses and a shop wrecked, three houses and three shops damaged and a number of small houses and cottages slightly damaged. Fifty feet of a colliery railway was torn up and a horse killed.

—The Ceylon Observer.

NOTICE.

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