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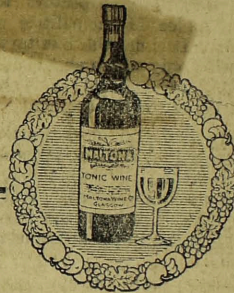
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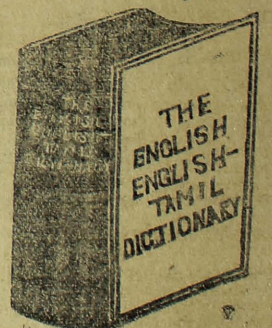
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IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 3279.

In the Matter of the Estate of the late Kanagamma wife of Kantar Thampiah of Thirunelveli

Kantar Thampiah of Thirunelveli Deceased. Petitioner.

Vs.

- 1. Thampiah Sannugam of Thirunelveli
2. Thampiah Visuvalingam of Do.
3. Sivakolanthu daughter of Thampiah of Do.
4. Kannanyamma daughter of Thampiah of Do.
5. Arunugam Muresuku of Do. The 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Respondents are minors by their Guardian ad litem the 5th Respondent

Respondents.

This matter of the Petition of Kantar Thampiah of Thirunelveli, praying for Letters of Administration to the estate of the abovenamed deceased, Kanagamma wife of Kantar Thampiah of Thirunelveli, coming on for disposal before P. E. Peiris, Esqr., District Judge, on September 6, 1916, in the presence of Mr. K. Sivapirakasam, Proctor, on the part of the Petitioner, and the affidavit of the Petitioner dated July 27, 1916, having been read, It is declared that the Petitioner is the lawful husband of the said intestate and is entitled to have Letters of Administration to the estate of the said Intestate issued to him, unless the Respondents or any other person shall, on or before October 8, 1916, show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

P. E. Peiris, District Judge.

September 8, 1916.

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The Hindu Organ.

JAFFNA, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 1916.

MALARIA IN CEYLON.

That malaria is increasing in several parts of Ceylon admits of no doubt. Its effects are not only suffering among and decimation of the population in the towns and villages subject to the disease but also the physical degeneracy of the people. It is also an admitted fact that malaria is a preventable disease. Countries in Europe and America which were once fever-stricken are now practically free from malaria. This has been done by the introduction of sanitary measures which were carried out at immense cost, with due regard to the welfare of the people living in those countries. We feel sure that the same result could be achieved in Ceylon, if our Government would bestow greater attention to this most urgent question and vote the required amount of money for the purpose. The Government are not indifferent to this question is evident from the fact, that Major James, the Expert on Malaria, was got down from India very recently to report on measures to be adopted to mitigate the horrors of malaria in Ceylon, and that a Sanitary Department has been established with the object of training Sanitary Inspectors to be employed under Municipalities and Local Boards. It is not the Sanitary condition of Towns only which should be cared for, but rural areas should as well claim the attention of the Government.

In India the question of malaria is now attracting the serious attention of that Government. Lord Chelmsford the new Viceroy and Governor-General of India, in the course of his speech in opening the session of the Imperial Legislative Council said:

Lastly, as a result of the discussion in this Council at its last session we are arranging for experiments in the improvement of vital statistics and for the investigation of malaria problems in Bengal. I have corresponded with the Governor of Bengal on this latter question and the hon. members in the department discussed it with Lord Carmichael when he was in Dacca the other day. It is impossible to exaggerate the importance of this question and I hope that we shall be able in due course to formulate measures to deal with it as a result of these experiments.

The fever season is approaching in Jaffna. We are threatened, judging from recent rains, with heavy floods during winter. It has been the invariable experience here for some years past to have an outbreak of malaria during the last and first quarter of every year, the virulence of the outbreak depending on the severity of the winter rains. If we have a defective rainfall, as was the case last year, the prevalence of fever does not become widespread. On the contrary in times of heavy rains and floods the outbreak of malarial fever becomes virulent and assumes an epidemic form. This clearly shows that want of proper drainage in this District is the cause of malaria here.

It is a well known fact that till about a quarter of a century or so ago the Jaffna District was considered one of the healthiest places in the Island, malaria in the form it has been now prevailing being unknown. That was a time when this Peninsula had a net work of channels and water courses to drain off the floods from the villages into the tanks in the fields and thence into the sea. But owing to years of neglect most of these drainage works have been allowed to be silted up or encroached upon by the adjoining land owners. It has been said that Jaffna is a flat country not much above sea level and that it is impossible to introduce into this country any proper system of drainage works. But the fact remains that the system of drainage works which were in existence at that time answered its purpose very satisfactorily and that it is after they had practically gone out of use Jaffna has become a malarial district during half the year. The people of Jaffna

will be quite satisfied if our Government will take steps to restore those channels and water courses for the purpose they were originally intended. We have no doubt that Mr. Horsburgh, our Government Agent, whose solicitude for the welfare of the people committed to his care is well-known, will earn their undying thanks by moving the Government, to allow a small vote to commence the restoration of these flood outlets in this District.

THE RELIGION OF THE ANCIENT TAMILS.

(By S. Sabaratna Mudaliyar.)

PART SECOND.

Chapter XIV.

WORSHIP OF GHOSTS AND GOBLINS.

Religions are all agreed that Man has a Soul which is spiritual in form. When the soul takes a human body it is known as Man. It must, I think, be considered a narrow view to suppose that human soul is the only kind of spiritual being in the creation of God. When we look at the vast universe around us, it will strike us very forcibly that the various planes and regions of this universe are not all intended for the use of man alone, and that there are other beings as spiritual in form as the human soul in the different regions of the universe. The existence of other spiritual beings besides man has been admitted by all religions, and it is during what is known as the dark age of present epoch, the idea of the existence of such beings was ignored and despised. This was evidently because the view of the people of this period became so narrow that it was confined to this tiny earth, as it was hopelessly lost in materiality. The people of this period were at one time so callous and heretic that they even doubted the spirituality of their own selves, and the existence of God as well. They only believed in the gross, and not in the subtle. They were unable to look through the gross materiality and find out the subtle spirituality in the interest of which the material plane was ushered into existence. It will be curtailing to a large extent the sphere of human knowledge if man is to believe only in the gross and reject all that is subtle. Medical science will be altogether impossible if the subtle phenomena of our own body and the subtle properties of various material objects are not studied minutely and analytically. Not only the medical science, every department of human knowledge draws largely from the plane of subtlety, and material science is mainly an explanation of the process of the subtle evolving into the gross, and of the subtle properties of matter. NO 203

The Hindu Philosophy traces even the subtle properties of the material plane to still more subtle principles known as Sukkhumabuthas, which in their turn are traced to a further subtler principle known as Maya. At the back of this Maya is the still more subtle plane of spirituality, and the souls of that plane, when brought in contact with the material plane of Maya, are located in regions suited to their respective capacity, and the Philosophy explains how they are so brought in contact, and how they are energised when so brought in contact. Their material coating consists of two sheaths or Sariras—one the Thulasarira or the gross body, and the other the Sukkhumasarira or the subtle or ethereal body. I will not enter here into a disquisition of the much more subtler bodies known as Karanasarira, Sankhukasarira and Gunasarira which, together with the Sukkhumasarira and the Thulasarira above referred to, form the basis of the Pancha kanchuka of the animated souls. The Thulasarira and Sukkhumasarira which stand prominent to our view are of various types suited to the different regions in which the souls are placed. The Thulasarira of the beings in some of the regions are much subtler than the human body and their Sukkhumasarira or ethereal body is subtler still—and they are therefore known as spirits or Ganas of whom there are eighteen sects such as Amaras, Siththar, Viththiyatharar, &c. They are on a much higher level in the spiritual plane than human beings as they enjoy the Grace of God more directly than men. They have the potentiality to help human beings, and there are among them certain class of beings who have the capacity to molest men. Although these spirits are able to enjoy the Grace of God without the help of the gross material plane which is necessary in our case, they have their evil tendency in their own way, and they are at times found to make use of that tendency in molesting those below them, just like men who are in power molesting those

who are weak. These are known as evil spirits, while the spirit that use their power in the right direction are called good or benevolent. The capacity which they all possess is derived from God, as that capacity is only the reflection of the Grace of God on them. Beings in the lower plane seek the help of those in the higher plane, just as the subjects of a king seek the help of the officers under by him rather than his help directly. A stricter spiritual discipline is necessary to invoke the help of God than to invite the help of a being in one of the Mayavic planes, and men who are not spiritually advanced prefer to seek the help of the latter which is of course much easier for them. Any how the help that they seek belongs ultimately to God.

Some of these spirits have been ordained by God to exercise the function of punishing sinners, and as such, they are also given the power of forgiving sins. There are certain other spirits that excite the evil tendency of man—and their function is therefore said to represent the Thirobava side of Divine Grace. The help of those spirits is invoked by man when he has recourse to what is known as Ashtakarna or magic. Although there is the Thirobava function of the Divine Grace in these spirits, the man that invokes their help to carry out his evil design cannot escape punishment, and the spirits themselves will not be unpunished for helping evil-doers. This may sound paradoxical to those who have not a clear view of the functions of Divine Grace. The functions of Divine Grace are very similar to the treatment of a Doctor who stirs up the bad blood in a patient in order to cure him of his disease. There is the evil tendency in man and that tendency has to be excited to action, and the action repaid and counteracted, so that the tendency may be finally exhausted. Stimulating this evil tendency, which is known in the Hindu Philosophy as Mala power, is the Thirobava function of the Divine Grace—and it is this Thirobavasakti of God that is said to excite evil doers to action, as they cannot act in dependently. The evil spirits are largely charged with this Thirobava Sakti and evil doers therefore invoke the help of these spirits to carry out their evil designs. Although the evil spirits have advanced in the spiritual plane in a certain direction and are able to have a control over certain material phenomena, they have still a large stock of Thamas or darkness in them and they have therefore been vested with the Thirobava function of the Divine Grace so that they may themselves be purified ultimately of their Thamas. It is these spirits that are known as Ghosts and Goblins, and although the worship of these spirit gives expression to gross secularity, it cannot be said to be a form of superstitious practice as it is now supposed to be. VOL. 28

Some of these evil spirits, with a large preponderance of Thamas in them, are fond of animal sacrifice, and the wicked among the ancient Tamils sought the help of these evil spirits to carry out their nefarious objects, and they had recourse to the brutal practice of animal sacrifice which is still found to exist among the ignorant and the illiterate class.

The worship of Ghosts and Goblins may be said to be of two kinds—one the worship of benevolent spirits and the other that of malevolent spirits. The worship of benevolent spirits cannot be condemned at all, while the worship of malevolent spirits stands highly condemned by all true Hindus.

My object in explaining the various forms of worship that were practised by the ancient Tamils is only to shew that they were not the result of any crude form of superstition as the critics try to represent them to have been. They are based on sound principles, and that is the reason why they are being observed even to-day. It will not be out of place to point out in this connection that even what are known as superstitious practices will be found to rest upon some truth or other if their origin is traced minutely. Of course when people observe the practices without an idea of their true significance they are branded as superstitious practices. These practices, no doubt undergo various changes in course of time when their aim and object are lost sight of,—and this will not I think be a sufficient reason to condemn them as gross superstitions with no foundation at all—and this condemnation, I should think, is a form of superstition peculiar to the critics. They are not satisfied even when explanations are offered and they think that such explanations are only of a later origin and that they were embodied in the Shastras when the people became civilized. I do not think there is any evidence in sup-

Attention like that; but on the contrary there is ample evidence to show that the shastras are much older than the times the critics refer to. And again if the practices were actually the result of ignorance on the part of the ancient Tamils, very naturally they would have been rejected by the later generations when they became civilized, instead of being given an explanation in a civilized light, which again would not suit those practices. I will revert to this subject later on in the chapter on superstition.

LOCAL & GENERAL.

THE WEATHER.—No rain for the last five days.

THE TAMIL SEAT.—A large and representative meeting of the Tamils of Batticaloa South was held at Kalmunai on Thursday the 14th instant to support the nomination to the Tamil Seat in the Legislative Council of either Mr. Advocate Nagapper of Batticaloa or Mr. Arunachalam Sappathy of Jaffna who was once a resident of Batticaloa and who still has several influential relatives and friends and proprietary interests in Batticaloa. Mr. Kuttappadi, retired Vanniah Mudaliyar, presided, and Mr. Newton Olegasagarampillai acted as Secretary. A Committee was appointed to convey the unanimous resolution of the meeting to His Excellency the Governor. —Cor.

THE COMMERCIAL ACADEMY.—We draw the attention of our readers to the advertisement in another column from the Manager of this institution. The departure in the scope of the Academy is, indeed, very commendable and deserves every encouragement.

THE JAFFNA ASSOCIATION.—A committee meeting was held on Monday the 18th inst. at 1.30 p.m. in Central College Hall. Hon. Mr. A. Kanagasabai presided. Several important resolutions were passed. The request of the Association from Government to grant quinine for distribution among the villagers during the fever season was granted. The Secretary, Mr. Crosette Thambiah, Advocate, was authorised to apply for quinine whenever there is a demand for it. Reference was made to the Excise Commission which is to sit in Jaffna shortly and the opinion of the meeting on various important questions on excise was obtained by the Chairman. The matter of drainage was also considered.

COMPULSORY MILITARY SERVICE.—for all European British subjects is about to be introduced in Ceylon by a Government ordinance. This was announced at the Planters' Association last week.

MOTOR CAR ACCIDENT.—The old man of Inuvil, who was run over by a motor car last week near Inuvil Hospital died on Friday. One leg was fractured and he had internal injuries.

RIOT PRISONERS.—In addition to 616 prisoners released on King's birthday, as an act of grace, it is said that 98 long term prisoners had been released up to September 8th, mostly by Sir John Anderson, who promised to look carefully into all cases brought to his notice.

"NEW INDIA".—The security of Rs. 2,000 deposited by Mrs. Annie Beasant as the proprietor of this Madras daily paper was forfeited and Government made a fresh order to give a security of Rs. 5,000 for the "New India" Press and another Rs. 5,000, security for the Vasantha Press in which the "Commonwealth" a weekly paper, also owned by Mrs. Beasant is printed. Mrs. Beasant has deposited the Rs. 10,000 under protest and has appealed to the High Court to set aside the order of forfeiture.

THE COLONY'S REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.—appear to be conservatively managed judging from statements in detail published in last week's "Gazette". The revenue shows a net increase of nearly 10 million rupees compared with the first nine months of the previous financial year; while the expenditure shows an increase of only Rs. 1,134,367. On June 30th last, the assets and liabilities totalled Rs. 51,885,257 and Rs. 18,971,884 respectively, leaving a surplus of Rs. 32,913,373, of which Rs. 4,781,954 were in investments, Rs. 1,095,438 loans to local bodies and Rs. 22,160,555 advances—the last item including Rs. 11,092,230 for Colombo Drainage Works, Rs. 3,000,000 for Colombo Waterworks, Rs. 5,241,505 on account of Riot expenses and Rs. 850,000 for Colombo Municipal Council on account of Riot Compensation.

AN ATTEMPT TO STEAL.—Two men with thievish intentions entered a house at Nallur, on the 12th instant about midnight, and stole a brass pot. When they were about to search for more property, the owner of the house woke up and raised a cry. The neighbours came to the scene and pursued the thieves. It is said that one of them was arrested and the other escaped.

SURVEYING AND LEVELLING EXAMINATION.—The examination for the Surveyor General's license for surveying and levelling will be held at the Colombo Observatory on the 6th of November, 1916, and the following days. For further particulars, see Government "Gazette" dated 15th September, 1916.

CHANGE OF OFFICE.—Mr. V. Ramalingam, Proctor, S. C., and Notary Public, has shifted to his new quarters in 1st Cross Street Jaffna.

MATRIMONIAL.—The marriage of Mr. A. Somasundaram, the Apothecary to charge, Iranaï Iluppai Kulu Di gonsary, brother of Messrs. A. Arulampalam, retired Postmaster and A. Sishamparanathar, Native Physician, and brother-in-law of Mr. K. Thosaganah, Forest Department, Kandy, and uncle of Mr. N. Sabaratnam of H. M. Customs, Colombo, with Thangachiammal, the only daughter of Mr. A. Kasipillai of Maviddapuram and niece of Mr. E. Thammavathar Udiar of Toppalai, took place at the bridegroom's residence at Panunai on Wednesday the 13th instant at 6 A.M. according to Hindu rites. There was a large gathering of friends and relations present on the occasion and a reception was held for three days. We extend our hearty congratulations to the newly married couple.

SOCCER MATCH.—A very interesting Soccer Match will take place on Friday the 22nd instant at the Central College Grounds at 5 P.M. sharp, between the Combined Colleges captained by the St. Patrick's College Football captain and the Old Boys combined captained by Mr. Victor A. Paul. Elaborate preparations are being made on the side of the old Boys to make the match a thorough success. A large gathering of supporters of both sides are expected to turn up to witness the match.

SRIMATH AMPALAWANA NAVALA SWAMIKAL IN BATTICALOA.—On his return journey from Kragamuwa Temple whither he had been on pilgrimage the Swamikal visited Batticaloa. He was struck with the natural resources of Batticaloa and was pleased to call it "Thonkailainadu". On the 13th inst he was taken in torch light procession to the Saivite school in Pullyaavitu and was presented with an address of welcome by the Vivekananda Society. Then he delivered a lecture on "Samyakovadhu" which was a masterpiece and evinced his vast learning in Tamil literature and the unique position he holds at present in Ceylon as the exponent of the Saiva Siddhanta philosophy. The large audience was simply amazed at the manner in which the Swami inspired them by his lucid, concise but comprehensive and oratorical disquisitions. —Cor.

FOREST OFFICE AT NUWIRA ELIYA ON FIRE.—The Forest Office of Nuwara Eliya was set on fire on Friday night when the records and some other papers inside were burnt to ashes. The building escaped damage. It will be remembered that some time back an employee broke into the office and interfered with some papers. The Police have the matter in hand.

KANDYAN LAW COMMISSION.—A meeting of the newly appointed commission on Kandyan Law was held on Saturday afternoon at the District Judge's Bungalow, Kandy, presided over by Mr. Justice T. E. de Sampaio. The others present were:—The Hon. Mr. C. Vanderwall, the Hon. Mr. T. B. L. Moone-malle and Mr. H. W. Odrieston, c. c. s.

THE CENTRAL RAILWAY STATION, COLOMBO.—The work of renovating the Central Station is being carried out vigorously, a force of about 200 coolies being employed. The greater part of the flooring is being laid with fresh granite, while every part of the masonry is being strengthened. The platforms, which are 540 feet long, are being extended another 360 feet. This extension renders necessary the construction of another over-head bridge, of the same type as the one in existence at present. We learn that the Central Station will be opened for traffic in January.

RESULTS OF LIGHTNING.—The City College building at Calcutta was struck by lightning on last Thursday and an electric flash passed through the rooms and fans emitted clouds of smoke, the carbon in them being burnt out. Another accident occurred at the Presidency College on the same day when Mr. Dutt, the Demonstrator, was making experiments with sulphuric acid. He was badly burnt on the face and was removed to the Medical College hospital.

DEATH BY FALLING FROM A TREE.—A Nalava man, it is reported, while climbing on a coconut tree to draw toddy, on Saturday last near Nayanmarkadu, slipped and fell on the ground. He was senseless for a couple of hours and, when about to be removed to the hospital, died. Another man from Coppi, who also had a fall, was admitted into the Nayanmarkadu hospital where he is recovering.

TOBACCO EXPERIMENTS TO BE RESUMED.

Arrangements are being made to carry on experiments in tobacco during the next season, both at Jaffna and Taldeniya. The work will be concentrated principally on pipe and cigarette tobacco at Jaffna and on cigar leaf at Taldeniya. Special investigations will be made at Jaffna with a view to determining the source of the excess chlorine which had made the previous samples much below the required standard and quite unfit for the European market. Every precaution will be taken to make the experiments a success.

Mr. B. Scherffus was up at Peradeniya last week in consultation with the Acting Director of Agriculture as to the work of the coming season.

The proposed plots at Taldeniya were inspected by them on Saturday. —The Times of Ceylon

H. E. THE GOVERNOR.

PROGRESSING FAVOURABLY.

THEIR MAJESTIES MAKE ENQUIRY

His Excellency is progressing favourably.

A telegram has been received from His Majesty the King as follows:—

"Sir John Anderson, Governor, Ceylon. The Queen and I are much distressed to hear that you have had to undergo an operation. We hope that you may have an early restoration to health.—GEORGE R. I."

The following reply was sent by H. E. the Governor:—

"Their Majesties, Buckingham Palace, London. Sir John Anderson, with his humble duty, submits his most grateful thanks for Their Majesties kind enquiries. The operation was successfully performed on Friday morning and the progress is good to date".

Y. M. H. A., JAFFNA.

Lectures.—On the 15th instant Mr. V. Mattukumar, B. A., delivered a learned lecture on "Liberalism". Mr. P. Vithyalingam, B. A., Advocate, presided. Remarks were offered by Mr. E. K. Sivasubramania Ayer, B. A., and Mr. K. Somasundaram, B. A. A vote of thanks to the lecturer was proposed by Mr. R. Ramachandra.

—On the 18th instant Mr. E. K. Sivasubramania Ayer, B. A., delivered an eloquent Tamil address on "Bhakti" in the Perumal Koil Mandapam.

—On the 19th instant Srmat Marimuttu Upathiyayer concluded his discourse on "The Life of St. Masickavasar".

TAMIL CLASSICS.—On the 14th and 17th instant Sayantan's Lamentations in Kanta Puranam were expounded.

LIBRARY.—Books have been donated by Mr. A. Mootulambay Pillay, Mr. S. Balasingham, Excise Inspector, Mr. V. A. Kulanthavelu and Mr. S. Shanmugam. —Cor.

FORMS AND TYPES OF STATES IN ANCIENT INDIA

By NARENDRA NATH LAW, M. A., B. L.

HOW FAR THE ANCIENT HINDUS WERE A POLITICAL PEOPLE.

The question as to how far the ancient Hindus were a political people and evolved political constitutions of their own presents an interesting line of investigation. The subject is indeed one of the many dark spaces in our early history requiring to be illumined, one of the many forgotten chapters awaiting restoration at the hands of painstaking and sympathetic research.

EVIDENCE ON THE SUBJECT: ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE.

The fact cannot be gainsaid that the ancient Hindus knew of both small and large states, kingdoms and empires, and acquired the necessary political experience in the administration thereof. There is besides a large literature extant, treating of political topics, which has been handed down from generation to generation.

LITERATURE ON POLITICS DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY TREATING OF SAME.

These professedly political works are as a rule compilations from other older works and thus serve to preserve the political experience and knowledge of the race. The Arthashastra of Kautilya is a monumental work of this kind which refers to the previous knowledge, and in some points attempts a comparative study of the subject. There are other works which are more or less representative of their times and throw much light on the subject by their mass of information. But we should draw not merely upon these treatises, or those portions of them that deal specifically with policy, but also upon others which though not directly treating it, throw many hints and sidelights, the combined effect of which may clear up many an obscure corner of the subject of our enquiry.

FORMS OF GOVERNMENT KNOWN IN ANCIENT INDIA. MONARCHY THE PREVAILING BUT NOT THE ONLY FORM. EVIDENCE OF THE KAUTILYAN.

India has seen a multitude of forms of government, and her political experience has not been derived from one form alone. Monarchy was the prevailing form of Government but it was not the only form. The Arthashastra knows of a constitution in which the sovereign power is wielded by a family or clan (Kulasangha), and states in connexion with the succession to a vacant throne that a pure monarchy may pass into a constitution of the aforesaid kind by a combination of circumstances.

NAMES OF THE PRINCIPAL SELF-GOVERNING CLANS IN ANCIENT INDIA.

Kautilya extols this constitution for its safety and efficiency. He also mentions many self-governing clans viz., Lichchhavis, Vrijika, Mallaka, Madraka, Kuruva, Kuru and Panchala as well as those of Kamboja and Surashtra. Some of these clans appear in the list of the sixteen independent peoples existing at or shortly before the time when Buddhism arose viz., Anga, Magadha, Kasi, Kosala, Pajji, Malla, Cheti, Vamsa, Kuru, Pauchala, Machchha, Surasena, Assaka, Avanti, Gandhara and Kamboja. A few other clans of the time were the famous Sakiyas, Bhaggas of Sunumura Hill, Bulis of Allakappa, Kalamas of Kesaputta, Kshiyas of Rama ganga, and Moriyans of Pipphalvana.

THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE SAKIYA CLAN.

An insight into the administrative machinery of some of these clans can be obtained from a study of the methods by which they disposed of the business of the state. The administrative to go with the judicial work of the Sakiya clan, for instance, was done in a public assembly—their common Mote-Hall (Santhagara) at Kaplavastu, where both young and old met to attend to state

affairs. The Mallas had a similar hall where Amudra is said to have gone to announce Buddha's death. An office bearer corresponding to the Greek Archon, or the Roman Consul and bearing the title of Raja was elected to preside over the meetings and act as the administrative head.

Besides the Mote Hall at the metropolis, there were several minor halls at towns and other important places as also in every village within the dominion of each clan, where the local people did their share of administrative business. The building of Mote Halls, rest-houses and reservoirs, the mending of roads between their own and neighbouring villages, the laying out of parks and such other works of public utility for instance, constantly exercised the co-operation of the villagers including women who were proud to take an active part in these public affairs. Thus the people obtained opportunities for exercising their head on village and town affairs which gave them a training in the more difficult work of guiding and controlling larger interests common to many such townships and village communities. We find an instance of such administration of larger common interests in the local self-government obtaining in the capital of Chaudragupta Maurya.

THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE VRIJIS.

The Vrijis or Samvrijis (i. e. United Vrijis) were a confederation of eight clans of whom the most important were the Lichchhavis with their capital at Vaisali, and the Vichhas with their chief town Mithila. The Vrijis were all republicans, and the Lichchhavis, we notice, did not elect a single chief like the other clans already mentioned but a triumvirate to conduct their administration. The people of Kasi (Benares) had once their public which is testified to by their possession of a public hall used as a "parliament" chamber for the transaction of public business.

THE EVIDENCE OF GREAT WRITERS: MEGASTHENES.

Megasthenes records an Indian tradition that "from the time of Dionosus to Sandrokotos, the Indians counted 153 kings and a period of 6012 years; among these a republic was thrice established," which along with the following two passages from the pen of the same authority point to democracies in ancient India:—

(1) "At last after many generations had come and gone, the sovereignty, it is said, was divided, and democratic government set up in the cities."

(2) "Maltacorae, Singhae, Marohae, Torungae and Moruni are free, have no kings and occupy mountain heights where they have built many cities."

ARRIAN.

There are further evidences of non-regal states in ancient India. Arrian says that the Nyssians were free, had a president and entrusted the Government of their state to the aristocracy.

CURTIUS.

He also refers to the Oreitai as an independent tribe with leaders, while Curtius mentions the Sabarcae as "a powerful Indian tribe whose form of Government was democratic and not regal" and the Cedrosii as a free people with a council for discussing important matters of state.

DIODORUS.

Diodorus describes the Sambastai as dwelling in cities with a democratic form of administration, and Taula (a name which has been restored to Patala as its correct form) as "a city of great note with a political constitution drawn on the same lines as the Spartans; for in this community, the command in war was vested in two hereditary kings of two different houses, while a council of elders ruled the whole state with paramount authority."

THE MALLOI AND OXYDRAKAI.

The Malloi are simply referred to by Arrian as "a race of independent Indians" but the Oxydrakai, we learn from him, were attached more than others to freedom and autonomy which they preserved intact for a very long time before Alexander's invasion. The Malloi (i. e. the Malaya) and the Oxydrakai (the Kshudrakas) figure in a few Sanskrit works e.g. the *Kasika vritti* and the *Mahabharata*.

THE KATHALANS.

There was a race in the Panjab living under democratic institutions viz., the Kathalans, who formed part of the people known as the Arabas (kingless) described by Justin as robbers and denounced as such in the *Mahabharata*, and whom Chandragupta Maurya used as weapons for wresting for himself the sovereignty of the Panjab.

—The Modern Review.

(To be continued.)

CORRESPONDENCE.

A SUGGESTION.

Sir, I have pleasure to bring the following resolution to the notice of the innumerable Nativie Gentlemen of the Planting community through your widely circulated paper:—

That a suggestion should be made to establish a Union consisting of the Native staffs of Estates to help their brother Officers when they are out of employment and to pay a nominal sum when a death occurs.

Why not the leading members of the Planting Community try to use their influence to put this matter in force?

Sometime ago I was told that somebody took this matter up, but sorry to hear that it somehow or other fell through.

If this suggestion would have only come in force when at first suggested it would have been a great boon for the hundreds of our brother officers who at the present moment are unemployed and unable to find out a bit.

I am, Sir,

Yours etc.,

18th Sept. 1916.

AN ESTATE CLERK.

THE DISSOLUTION OF THE MANNAR FAMILY BANDYISM.

Sir, Permit me to thank His Excellency Sir John Anderson for having broken the Mannar Family Bandyism, by appointing an outsider to the presidency of the Mannar Katchery.

I should also thank you for the support you have given us in your paper.

Yours etc.,

18th Sept. 1916.

A. PHILIPS TAMP.

The War.

COURCELETTE MARTINPUICH AND FLERS NOW CAPTURED.

London, Sept. 16.
Gen. Haig reports that on the main battle front South of the Ancre there was no material change. Four German field-guns and a further 200 prisoners were captured. Two counter-attacks were beaten off. We hold the line gained yesterday which now runs 500 yards Northwards of High Wood and includes the whole of the large villages of Courcellette, Martinpuich and Flers, each fully twice the size of Guillemont. We carried out many successful enterprises last evening at various points on the front, our troops entering the enemy trenches at many places and inflicting casualties and taking prisoners.

GERMANY'S BLACKEST WEEK.

London, Sept. 17.
"The great day in Germany's blackest week" strikes the keynote of the morning papers' opinion on yesterday's *communiqués*. The feeling is one of satisfaction without elation. The question had been asked during the French push, what the British were doing. Last night General Haig's *communiqué* was a splendid answer to that. It means that both the British and French have now smashed through the third and last line of the enemy's long-established position on the Scarpe and have driven him to less strongly organised defences. The much vaunted wall of steel has been battered through.

SOME RESULTS OF OUR MASTERY OF THE AIR.

London, Sept. 16.
General Haig says our Air Service kept up a constant successful co-operation with our artillery and infantry. Frequent accurate reports were furnished in the course of the battle. Hostile artillery and infantry were effectively engaged by aeroplanes with machine gun fire. Many bombing attacks were carried out against a hostile aerodrome and railway stations in the course of which troop trains in a railway siding were attacked with machine guns. A kite balloon was brought down.

THE GREAT PART PLAYED BY AVIATION.

London, Sept. 17.
The pace of the fighting during the past fortnight is undoubtedly beginning to tell on the Germans. The German newspapers are seeking desperately for excuses to explain the continuous advance of the Allies, but the German *communiqué* continues to publish the usual half-truths, talking of bloody repulses of the Allies, whereas the successes have undoubtedly been the greatest on the Western Front since the beginning of the War. While the artillery continues to play even a more splendid part in preparing the way for the infantry advance across the great Albert Plateau, and crawling armoured cars negotiate country never yet crossed by vehicles of any kind, it should not be forgotten that aeroplanes are playing a splendid and unexpected part in descending so low and in pouring in machine gun fire, so that they become literally flying infantry. Machines skimming the fields added another terror to the German infantry.

CONGRATULATIONS FROM KING GEORGE.

London, Sept. 16.
The King has cabled to General Haig congratulating him on the brilliant success. He never doubted that complete victory would ultimately crown our efforts and the splendid results yesterday confirmed this view.

WORRYING THE BULGARIANS.

London, Sept. 16.
A British official report from Salonika says our raiding detachments crossed the Struma and attacked Dzaminah and Kameja, capturing prisoners. Our mounted troops also raided on the Upper and Lower Gudell. We are maintaining a steady bombardment of the Doiran Front.

REFUGEE QUESTION IN HUNGARY.

London, Sept. 16.
Rome.—News from Hungary describes the situation as increasingly grave. Political troubles are complicated by the constantly growing influx of Transylvanian refugees, who received scant courtesy. At Budapest several unpleasant incidents occurred and the Police intervened.

FRONTIER GUARDS NOW WOUNDED MEN.

Amsterdam.—The German frontier guards who were removed from this front have been replaced by others with bandaged heads and arms. The Belgian civilians suspected of revealing troop movements are threatened with instant deportation.

PARLOUS STATE OF GERMAN SHIPPING.

Amsterdam.—The *Cologne Gazette* damps the optimistic expectations of a great future for German shipping after the war. It admits that shipping has suffered worse than any industry and the situation is monthly becoming more anxious. It contrasts the prosperity of the French and Italian shipping and appeals for assistance from Imperial funds.

THE BRITISH OFFENSIVE.

London, Sept. 17.
General Sir D. Haig in a *communiqué* says:—South of the Ancre we had further successes in the vicinity of Courcellette and extended our gains on a 1,000 yard front. Today South of the Ancre we continued our attacks in certain localities making further progress. Since yesterday we have advanced from one to two miles on a front of six miles. The number of prisoners taken today is over 1,900, including 51 officers. The total captured in two days are over 4,000, of whom 116 are officers. Hitherto six guns and over fifty machine guns have been taken or destroyed. A considerable quantity of material was captured. Fifteen German aeroplanes were destroyed on Sept. 16th and another hostile kite balloon brought down. Altogether six of our machines are missing.
Near Thiepval we obtained considerable success yesterday evening and captured the fortifica-

tions known as the Danube trench on a mile front. The enemy abandoned quantities of rifles and equipment. We also captured defended works at Moquet. The number of prisoners is increasing.

MANY CASUALTIES INFLICTED IN RAIDS.

London, Sept. 17.
An outstanding feature of yesterday's push was the amazement of the German prisoners, who, after being overwhelmed by the supposedly impotent British, were told this was a mere flounder compared with what was coming. Many raids along the whole line were made yesterday, causing heavy aggregate German casualties. A particularly brilliant affair at Leipzig salient, near Thiepval, resulted in the capture of five officers and 170 men. All the German counter-attacks hitherto have been abortive, suggesting that the enemy is tired. It is reported the Germans are rushing up reinforcements in motors which are having a very unpleasant time at the hands of our Artillery, assisted by our air men. The British faced the first German Army with over a thousand guns.

MOST IMPORTANT BRITISH VICTORY SINCE THE MARNE.

London, Sept. 17.
Routier wiring from Headquarters gives fuller reports of yesterday's battle which show that so far, it has resulted in the most important British victory since the battle of the Marne. The total prisoners hitherto counted are 2,500, but they are still arriving. The enemy evidently lost many guns. The German Artillery is weakening, especially the heaviest. The loss of high ground for observation coupled by our complete domination in the air minimises the opportunities of the enemy's long range guns.

THE ARMOURD MOTOR-CARS.

The topic of the moment is our new armoured cars, which are veritable mobile turrets and which were seen to afford a solution of the problem for dealing with machine guns. German prisoners admit the sight of these weird monsters creeping towards them and spitting fire was a most demoralising experience. The whole tone of the prisoners is one of great depression. They were told our offensive was spent and the previous days' inactivity lulled them into false security.

A BRILLIANT BIT OF WORK.

London, Sept. 17.
The capture of Courcellette was one of the most brilliant tests of the push. Fighting began in the morning with alternating fortune, the enemy being constantly reinforced by the Albert-Bapaume road. The British columns attacked the village early in the afternoon. Fighting ensued in the streets. The British and Bavarians fought with revolvers, knives and fists. The German garrison which was ordered to resist to the last, surrendered in a body when it saw the game was up. Fighting also was stiff at Martinpuich. A captured battalion commander admitted he was unable to stand against the irresistible British push.

ANOTHER ADVANCE OF 1 TO 2 MILES; 1,700 PRISONERS.

London, Sept. 17.
General Haig in a *communiqué* says:—Since yesterday we advanced one to two miles on a six miles' front, 1,700 prisoners were taken today.

IN EAST AFRICA.

London, Sept. 17.
The Belgians have captured Tabora, one of the German strongholds in East Africa, after ten days' fighting.

AIR RAIDS IN PALESTINE.

London, Sept. 16.
Between Aug. 25th and 29th a British seaplane squadron carried out a series of attacks and reconnaissances on the enemy Railway communications in Palestine. Considerable damage was done to Afulah Junction. An engine, rolling stock and stores were destroyed and the stations Tulkeram, Ardans and Home and an enemy camp near Rembeh were also severely damaged.

AIR RAID ON BATTERIES IN BELGIUM.

London, Sept. 16.
The Admiralty states that early on Sept. 15th a squadron of Naval aeroplanes successfully bombarded the enemy's heavy batteries near Ostend. All returned safely.

MOBILISATION IN HOLLAND.

London, Sept. 17.
Amsterdam.—It is rumoured mobilisation will begin on Sept. 15th. The papers say it is merely experimental.

Amsterdam.—The Ministry declares the mobilisation rumours are unfounded.

STEAMERS SUNK.

London, Sept. 16.
The sinkings of the "Marcel," "Unstad," and "Elizabeth" (Norwegian), is reported. The crew of the former was landed at Genoa. The latter, numbering forty-seven, were picked up from boats and landed at Savona.

London, Sept. 17.
The British steamers "Bute-Town" and "Swedish Prince" have been sunk.

GERMAN PRINCE KILLED.

London, Sept. 17.
A German official report mentions that Prince Friedrich of Hesse has been killed.

PRINCE ALBERT INVALIDED.

London, Sept. 17.
(Official).—Prince Albert has been invalided on account of abdominal trouble. An abscess formed which was evacuated. He is doing well. But it will be a considerable time before he will resume his duties.

NEW APPOINTMENT ON GERMAN GENERAL STAFF.

London, Sept. 17.
Berlin.—General Baron Freytag has been appointed Deputy Chief of the General Staff.

SPAIN'S NEUTRALITY.

London, Sept. 17.
There is much discussion in Spain at a speech by ex-Premier Maura, suggesting an eventual alliance with Britain and France on the condition of Spain's receiving entire satisfaction at Nangar in the International Zone and at Gibraltar, and the *Entente* completely changing its attitude towards

Spain. The speech, it is said, has been made with the knowledge of the Premier, but Sig. Borell, the Minister of Public Instruction, declares that it was merely an expression of Sig. Maura's personal opinion. Spain would not abandon her neutrality.

LLOYD GEORGE RETURNS FROM FRANCE.

London, Sept. 16.
Mr. Lloyd George has returned from France where he had important conferences with Generals Joffre and Haig in addition to visiting Verdun.

THE BRITISH FRONT.

London, Sept. 18.
General Haig in a *communiqué* says:—South of the Ancre we improved our position North of Martinpuich, also East of Courcellette. The general situation is unchanged. A minor attack upon elements of enemy trenches East of Courcellette was entirely successful. Our lines advanced appreciably here. The enemy entered one of our trenches West of Moquet Farm under cover of heavy shelling, but was immediately driven out with loss. We have taken a further portion of the enemy trench system South of Thiepval. The enemy heavily shelled various parts of our line at intervals in the night.

London, Sept. 16.
General Sir D. Haig says:—South of the Ancre we made another important advance today. The strongly fortified German work between Bouleaux Wood and Ginchy styled "The Quadrilateral" which hitherto had resisted our efforts, fell completely into our hands, resulting in the advance of our line to a depth of a thousand yards on a front of a mile. Seven machine-guns and numerous prisoners were taken in this successful operation. Enemy counter-attacks North of Flers were driven back with loss and we progressed. Hostile troops massing for a counter-attack at Les Boafs and Morval were caught by Artillery and dispersed. The following additional guns have been captured since Sept. 15th:—Five heavy howitzers, two field guns, three heavy and three light trench mortars and a number of machine-guns. Ten German officers and 500 men were captured in the last twenty-four hours. There was considerable aerial activity yesterday and several enemy machines were driven down. Four of our machines are missing.

London, Sept. 18.
A message from the British Headquarters in France gives particulars of the battle of Sept. 15th and 16th. The attack extended from Leuze Wood to Pozieres. The enemy's positions were most formidable and included a treble line of entrenchments connected by strong subsidiary trenches, also protected by advanced positions with machine-guns, while four miles behind was the fourth main line of the trenches. The defence was supported by 1,000 guns. Our Infantry, accompanied by heavy armoured cars, advanced and carried the front of the enemy line everywhere except at two points. These were neglected temporarily, though one later was taken. Flers was captured, then Martinpuich and Courcellette. The positions were gained to enable heavy Artillery to fire on the enemy. Our armoured cars in the van knocked out the machine-guns and caused indescribable demoralisation. Counter-attacks were repulsed. The results of the battle are held to be most important and probably the most effective blow the British have yet dealt the enemy, especially to his *moral*. Since July 1st the British have engaged 85 German Divisions, of which 21 were defeated and withdrawn, exhausted.

London, Sept. 18.
(Official).—A squadron of Naval aeroplanes dropped a large number of bombs on an enemy aerodrome at St. Denis and Westrem on Sept. 17th with successful results. One of our machines was forced to land in Holland and the pilot was interned.

THE FRENCH FRONT.

London, Sept. 19.
Paris.—A *communiqué* says: A French attack North of the Somme captured a cluster of trenches 200 yards South of Combles. Desperate fighting continued at Denicourt, South of the Somme. The French after capturing the village and the last defenders advanced a kilometre Southwards in the direction of Ablancourt.

London, Sept. 18.
Paris.—A *communiqué* says: We carried a trench East of Clery and repulsed enemy counter-attacks here, East of Berny and South of Denicourt with heavy enemy losses. We progressed East of Berny and advanced to the Eastern edge of Denicourt which is completely surrounded. Hitherto we have taken 1,200 prisoners and ten machine-guns. The Germans made three violent attacks South of Denicourt. The losses of the Tenth Ersatz Division and the 120th German Reserve Regiment at Berny yesterday were enormous. Two battalions of the 83rd Regiment and the 11th Division were almost annihilated. Simultaneous operations captured a trench West of Horgny and expected the enemy from three small woods South-East of Denicourt and occupied several trenches South-West. Over 1,600 unwounded prisoners hitherto have been counted as a result of two days fighting in this sector, including 25 officers. There was reciprocal Artillery activity in Champaagne. The French on the left of the Mouse captured a trench on the Southern slopes of Morthomme.

THE BALKANS.

London, Sept. 19.
The situation in Dobruja is confusing. The only definite information of an alleged enemy victory comes from Bulgarian sources, but the dates are conflicting and the total obviously includes the garrison at Turtakali. The truth appears to be that the Russo-Romanians have been forced back. It is noteworthy that a German *communiqué* gives no details of the victory and merely says that the pursuit continues. Indeed, a Rotterdam telegram describes Berlin as plunged in depression, as a result of the official failure to confirm the Kaiser's boast of victory. It says there is growing bitterness against the Kaiser, who is believed to have deliberately misled his subjects with a view to diverting attention from the Somme where the Germans were taught to believe the positions captured by the British were impregnable.

London, Sept. 18.
The *Times* correspondent at the Roumanian Headquarters says:—Sept. 17th.—The Roumanian forces at Dobruja are taking up strong positions on the line from Rasova, 10 miles South of Tchernavoda, to Tuzla, 12 miles South of Constanza. The Roumanians continue to advance in Transylvania and have occupied the town of Fogaras, taking 800 prisoners. A German *communiqué* states:—The Roumanians have reached Szekelyudvarhely, fifteen miles North of Brasov.

London, Sept. 19.
Odessa.—A Serbian Division in the early fighting in Dobruja repulsed eighteen attacks by Germans and Bulgarians and routed with the bayonet German cavalry who tried to take the Serbians in the rear. After a three hours' close quarters fight the enemy lost approximately 5,000.

London, Sept. 18.
A French 'official' from Salonika states that the Bulgars are falling back in disorder from Florina to Monastir, following a desperate battle with the Franco-Russian last night. The Bulgars offered a furious resistance, frequently counter-attacking, and the cavalry charging. The Serbs are progressing everywhere.

London, Sept. 18.
Salonika.—The Allies have occupied Florina.

FIGHTING NEAR THE CANAL.

London, Sept. 18.
General Murray reports that a Mobile Column of Anzac mounted troops and the Camel Corps and Artillery left Bir-el-Abd on Sept. 6th to reconnoitre West of El Arish. They attacked the enemy at Bir-el-Mazar, 65 miles from the Canal, on Sept. 17th and penetrated the trenches at several points and inflicted considerable casualties, while the Artillery heavily shelled the enemy camps. The Turks were apparently surprised. Our aircraft fired at parties there, including German officers. Riding rapidly to El Arish, we took prisoners. Our casualties are slight.

IN EAST AFRICA.

London, Sept. 18.
General Smuts reports that the British have occupied Lindi and Mikindani, the last remaining ports held by the Germans in East Africa.

THE ITALIAN FRONT.

London, Sept. 18.
Rome.—It is semi-officially announced that the enemy is hurrying up reinforcements and is trying by bombardments of unprecedented violence to check our advance on the Carso. He attempted diversions East of Civaron and Sugana Valley which were repulsed with heavy loss.

THE RUSSIAN FRONT.

London, Sept. 18.
A Russian *communiqué* says:—On the Western front there has been nothing of importance. In the Caucasus Turkish attacks in the region of the village, Adisa, have been repulsed.

LATEST NEWS.

London, Sept. 18.
Rome (official).—There were persistent attacks preceded and supported by an extremely violent bombardment on our new positions on the Carso. They were driven off. We took prisoners 300.

TURKISH OFFENSIVES REPULSED.

London, Sept. 17.
The Turks in the Caucasus started an offensive in the regions of Karaburun, South West of Kyghl, and West of Rayat. Everywhere they were repulsed.

PREMIER'S ELDEST SON KILLED.

London, Sept. 18.
Lieutenant Raymond Asquith, of the Grenadier Guards, eldest son of the Premier, was killed in action on Sept. 15th.

BRIGADIER-GENERAL CLIFFORD KILLED.

London, Sept. 18.
Among the killed is Brigadier-General H. F. H. Clifford.

—The Ceylon Observer.

NOTICE.

Order Nisi.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 3298.
In the Matter of the Estate of the late Kannany daughter of Vairamuttu Chellappah of Van-East.

Deceased.
Arnasalam Elayathauby Ponniah of Van-East.

- Petitioner.
1. V. Chellappah Manikkam, Audit Office, Colombo
 2. V. Chellappah Ponnuthurai, Clerk, Municipality, Colombo
 3. V. Chellappah Thiyyagarajah of 26 Campbell Place, Colombo
 4. Visaladohy wife of A. E. Ponniah of Sirampady, Jaffna

Respondents.
This matter of the Petition of Arnasalam Elayathauby Ponniah of Vannarponnai East, praying for Letters of Administration to the estate of the abovenamed deceased, Kannany daughter of Vairamuttu Chellappah, coming on for disposal before P. E. Floris, Esq., District Judge, on August 31, 1916, in the presence of Messrs. Sivaprasam & Katesu, Proctors, on the part of the Petitioner; and the affidavit of the Petitioner, dated August 28, 1916, having been read: It is declared that the Petitioner is the husband of the heiress of the said intestate and is entitled to have Letters of Administration to the estate of the said intestate issued to him unless the Respondents or any other person shall on or before September 26, 1916, show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

August 31, 1916.

P. E. Floris, District Judge.