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JAFFNA, MONDAY DECEMBER 25, 1916.

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Order Nisi.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 3323.

Class I.

In the Matter of the Estate of the late Nagamuttu wife of Arumugam Cathiravelupillai of Vaddukoddai West in Jaffna late of Kajang in Selangor

Deceased.

Viyaladchippillai widow of Velayutur Arumugam of Araly West

Petitioner.

Vs.

Arumugam Cathiravelupillai, Overseer, P. W. D., Kajang in Selangor

Respondent.

This matter of the Petition of Viyaladchippillai widow of Velayutur Arumugam of Araly West, praying for Letters of Administration to the estate of the abovenamed deceased, Nagamuttu wife of Arumugam Cathiravelupillai, coming on for disposal before P. E. Pieris, Esq., District Judge, on November 2, 1916, in the presence of Mr. S. Sittampalam, Proctor, on the part of the Petitioner; and the affidavit of the Petitioner, dated November 2, 1916, having been read: It is declared that the Petitioner is the sole heir of the said intestate, and is entitled to have Letters of Administration to the estate of the said Intestate issued to him, unless the Respondent or any other person shall, on or before January 16, 1917, show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

P. E. Pieris,
District Judge.

November 8, 1916.

Order Nisi.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 3263.

In the Matter of the Estate of the late Kadirgamathamby Siddiraval of Valvettiturai

Deceased.

Katirgamathamby Siddiraval Sandrasegampillai of Jaffna

Petitioner.

Vs.

1. Ponnammah widow of Siddiraval of Valvettiturai
2. Siddiraval Alagaseundram of do
3. Siddiraval Sundramoorthy of do
4. Sornalechumy daughter of Siddiraval of do. The 2nd, 3rd and 4th Respondents are minors by their guardian ad litem the 1st Respondent.

Respondents.

This matter of the Petition of Kadirgamathamby Siddiraval Sandrasegampillai of Jaffna, praying for Letters of Administration to the estate of the abovenamed deceased Kadirgamathamby Siddiraval of Valvettiturai, coming on for disposal before P. E. Pieris, Esquire, District Judge, on December 15, 1916, in the presence of Messrs. Sivaprakasam and Kattresu, Proctors, on the part of the Petitioner; and the affidavit of the Petitioner, dated June 16, 1916, having been read, it is declared that the Petitioner is one of the sons and sole heirs 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 January 9, 1917, show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

P. E. Pieris,
District Judge.

December 15, 1916.

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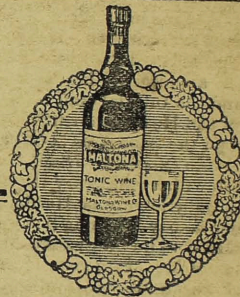
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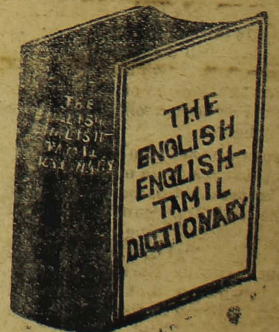
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Thereby given that it is proposed to close the Toddy Tavern at Kankesanturai and to reopen the Toddy Tavern at Alampil in Maritime Pattu Division of the Mullaitivu District with effect from 1st July, 1917.

It will be prepared to receive any representation up to the 12th December, 1917, and on the above date any verbal representation at the meeting for or against the proposal.

W. L. MURPHY,
Asst. Govt. Agent,
Kankesanturai,
December, 1916.

NOTICE.

A leather bag locked up with its contents which was picked up by a carter on the Jaffna-Kankesanturai Road between the 7th and 8th mile posts on the night of the 23rd instant is in the custody of Mr. A. Sapapathy. It will be restored to the owner on application with satisfactory proof of ownership.

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The Hindu Organ.

JAFFNA, MONDAY, DECEMBER 25, 1916

THE UNION TRAINING SCHOOL FOR VERNACULAR TEACHERS.

Our readers are aware that a Union Training School for the training of Tamil Teachers was started on the 1st of this month at the instance of Government, in Kopy, Jaffna. As its origin and history may not be generally known we give a brief account of them in this article.

Christian Missionaries in Jaffna, Catholic and Protestant, have had separate Training Schools of their own. While the Catholics own one for themselves, the three Protestant bodies—American, Wesleyan and Church Mission—had each a training school at Tellipalai, Koddadi and Kopy respectively. The Hindus though they have about 60 vernacular schools in the District have been unable to establish and maintain a Training School of their own and have had to requisition the services of men trained in Christian Mission Schools as Headmasters of their schools.

The boys who are admitted into Mission Training Schools come mostly from poor, though respectable Hindu families. Getting practically free tuition and meals, the fees if charged being nominal and far less than the actual cost, the vast majority of them become Christians. It is also a well-known fact that the instruction imparted in Tamil in those Schools have not been sound or of a high character. These are the men who are Headmasters and Assistant Masters of most of the Tamil Schools in this Island. Even those Hindu boys who have been trained in Christian Mission Schools without becoming converts to Christianity have had to conform themselves, as long as they were connected with those institutions, to Christian discipline and live the life of Christians.

There was a Tamil department attached to the Training College, Colombo, which enabled many a Teacher to be trained there more efficiently than in Mission Schools without prejudice to their religious belief. But this having been abolished by Government, the Hindu students who wished to become trained Teachers were placed absolutely at the mercy of Christian Missionaries. The

Government was, therefore, approached and asked to establish a model school of their own in Jaffna for the training of Tamil Teachers. His Excellency Sir Robert Cochrane, our late Governor, interested himself in the matter and directed Mr. Harward, the late Director of Education, to see that this great want of the Hindus was supplied.

In 1915 there were two conferences held in the Jaffna Kachcheri in the presence of the Government Agent, at one of which Mr. Harward was personally present and at the other he was represented by his Assistant, Mr. Evans. All the Christian Missionaries were represented, and on behalf of the Hindus, the Hon'ble Mr. Ramasathan, the Hon'ble Mr. Kanagasabai and Mr. T. Kallaspillai were present at the two Conferences. Finally an agreement was come to, that the three Protestant Missionary bodies should have a Union Training School at Kopy at which Hindu students should be admitted with full religious liberty to take part in secular studies, while they live in their own hostel close to the school and have their religious instructions under separate arrangement. The Roman Catholic Mission declined to be a party to this settlement and continue to have a Training School of their own. It was also agreed that this Union Training School should be under the management of a Board or Committee of four members consisting of representatives of the American, Wesleyan and Church Missions and of the Hindus.

Mr. E. B. Denham, who succeeded Mr. J. Harward as Director of Education, has taken the matter seriously in hand and brought about the establishment of the school, having paid a handsome grant for putting up the buildings and having, during his recent visits to Jaffna, personally urged those concerned to start the School as early as possible. The Managing Committee has also been constituted with Revs. J. H. Dickson, G. J. Trimmer, and Jacob Thompson, representing the American, Wesleyan and Church Missions respectively, and Mr. A. Sapapathy appointed by the Director of Education as Hindu Representative.

The Committee has held a few meetings at one of which Mr. Denham himself was present. Rev. Mr. Thompson has been appointed Manager of the School and the tutorial staff with the exception of the Headmaster has been appointed and the School, as stated above, has come into existence from the 1st of this month with a temporary Headmaster, Mr. Eliatamby who was Headmaster of the former Kopy Training School of the Church Mission, an Assistant Master in the person of Mr. Murgas, Headmaster of the American Mission Training School at Tellipalai, and a Tamil Pandit, Mr. V. Kumaraswamy Pulavar of Point Pedro, who was Senior Tamil Pandit of the Jaffna Hindu College. The permanent Headmaster will be a fully qualified English trained Teacher. An advertisement has been published in the papers calling for applications for this post. Of the 32 students who have been admitted into the School 12 are Hindus recommended by the Hindu Member of the Committee for admission. There were larger number of applications from qualified Hindu students for admission into the School, but owing to financial considerations the number chosen has been restricted to 12 for the present. It may not be generally known to our readers that only students who had passed an Entrance Examination held by the Department of Education or who had completed their course as Pupil Teachers are eligible for admission to the Training School, and after a successful course of two years training in the School they will be entitled to a Second Class Certificate.

There can be no doubt that the Teachers trained at this School will be a great improvement on those turned out of the different Mission Schools which have now ceased to exist, and that Hindu Schools will specially gain by being placed in future under Teachers who had been not only properly trained for the profession but also will be Hindus learned in Tamil and with sufficient knowledge of their Religion to train boys in true Hindu lines. On the whole, it goes without saying, the establishment of this Union Training School will prove of immense benefit to Tamil education whether in Christian Schools or Hindu Schools.

Our object in writing this article is to lay before the Hindu public the state of affairs in connection with this School with the view to enlist their sympathy and support for the maintenance of the Hindu connection with it. Having consented to an arrangement with Government through their Representatives in Council—an arrangement which is, as

pointed out above, beneficial to all parties concerned, the Hindus are bound to carry it out without allowing it to fall through. If we fail, not only the Christian Missionaries will look upon us with disdain, but Government also will not in future attach any importance to us as a community and may not listen to our representations in regard to our wants.

The twelve Hindu students who have been admitted into the Training School, being poor boys, have to be fed and maintained by the Hindus. For the present they occupy a house rented out for the purpose close to the School and this temporary Hostel has to be furnished and equipped. Besides these, a Hostel Master and Religious Instructor has to be appointed. All these will entail a monthly outlay of no less than Rs. 150, not taking into account the initial expenses required for equipments of the Hostel. When the number of students increase, the monthly expenditure will proportionately increase. If the present arrangement will prove a success, there being no hitch with the Christian Missionaries in regard to the management of the School, the Hindus should purchase a land and put up a permanent Hostel of their own, in close proximity to the School, at a cost of a few thousand rupees. Or, if it becomes necessary, the Hindus should be able and in a position to establish a Training School of their own which cannot be done without adequate expenditure. The introduction of the Rural Schools Ordinance will have the effect of increasing the number of Hindu Schools in Jaffna and the need for trained Hindu teachers also will increase.

With proper organisation and a sense of ones duty towards a benevolent cause like this in the breast of every Hindu who is in a position to help, the required funds to carry on the present arrangement would be easily forthcoming. On the assurance of a few individual helpers, one or two public spirited gentlemen have advanced some money as a temporary measure for the maintenance of the Students who have been admitted. This will not continue long. From next month some permanent arrangement should be made to find means for the maintenance of the students and to defray other necessary expenditure. Several Hindu School Managers have, we understand, promised their support by monthly or annual contributions in the shape of collections from the salaries of teachers or a small percentage out of the grants earned by their schools, and a few gentlemen unconnected with schools have also promised monthly contributions, in some cases, sufficient for one boy's up-keep each. These are all mere promises but have not yet come to realities. Without a proper organisation to receive subscriptions, to work up the institution, and render an account to the public, it cannot be hoped that even the promised subscriptions would be forthcoming.

A meeting of the Hindu public has therefore been called by the Hon'ble Mr. Kanagasabai and Mr. A. Sapapathy to be held at the Sivaprakasam Vidyasalai, Vannarponnai on Wednesday the 27th inst at 4 P.M., to consider what steps should be taken to collect funds for the maintenance of Hindu Students in the Union Training School and to appoint a Committee to carry out the object of the meeting. We need hardly say that this is a movement worthy of the support of all Hindus, and it is earnestly to be hoped that all Hindu Managers of Schools and other public spirited gentlemen, will attend the meeting. We also earnestly appeal to all Hindus, in and out of Jaffna, to help the movement in any manner they can—a movement which will have the effect of greatly benefiting the community and adding to its prestige and importance in the eyes not only of Christian Missionary bodies but also of Government.

THE BRITISH PREMIER ON THE WAR.

We publish in this issue the summary of the memorable speech delivered in the House of Commons on the 19th instant by Mr. Lloyd George, the new British Premier, as wired to our daily contemporaries by Reuter, on the present situation and the necessity for rejecting the peace overtures made by Germany and carrying it on vigorously till the object for which Britain participated in it is attained. It is a speech worthy of the occasion which should be read and re-read not only by the British but also by British subjects in all parts of the British Empire. We do not think that no more patriotic, impressive, earnest and eloquent speech has ever been delivered in the British Parliament by any responsible Minister of the Crown. This

speech cannot fail to produce a tremendous effect not only in the British Empire and in the allied countries, but also in the German and Austrian Empires. While it will evoke new hopes on one side, dismay will be created on the other. When the Allies are unitedly determined to wage the war, at any cost and sacrifice, till the military power of Germany is crushed to the benefit of humanity, the latter cannot long hold out and will be obliged sooner or later to yield to the terms of the former. Undoubtedly Mr. Lloyd George is the man of the hour, although opinion may differ as to whether there was or not immediate necessity for his superseding Mr. Asquith as Premier. All these questions will and should be buried for the moment and all parties will only concentrate their attention on the successful prosecution of the war. The sooner this result is brought about the better it would be for the whole world at large. It looks as if Mr. Lloyd George is the man who will by the vigorous prosecution of the war bring about an early and lasting peace. The following portion of the speech of the Premier regarding himself cannot fail to convince every one who heard it or has read it that, in assuming the Premiership at this juncture, he was actuated by no other consideration than to see the one object of his heart realised—the suppression of German militarism and restoration of a lasting peace:—

"He would conclude with a personal Note. Might he say in all sincerity that it was one of the deepest regrets of his life that he should part from Mr. Asquith. Some of his friends knew how he strove to avert it. For years he had served under Mr. Asquith and he was proud to say so. He never had a kindlier or more indulgent chief. Any faults of temper were entirely his (the speaker's) and he had no doubt he (the speaker) must have been difficult at times. They had differed as men of such different temperaments must necessarily differ, but they never had a personal quarrel, despite serious differences of policy. And it was with deep and genuine grief that he felt it necessary to tender his resignation. But there were moments when personal and Party considerations must sink; and if he had paid scant heed to the call of Party during the War, it was because he realised, from the moment the Prussian cannon hurled death at a peaceable and inoffensive little country, that a challenge had been sent to Civilisation: to decide an issue higher than Party, deeper than Party, wider than all Parties—an issue upon the settlement of which would depend the fate of men in this world for generations, when existing Parties would have fallen like dead leaves on the highway. These were the issues he wanted to keep in front of the nation, so that we should not falter nor faint in our resolves (cheers). "There is a time in every prolonged and fierce War when, in the passion and rage of the conflict, men forget the high purpose with which they entered it. This is a struggle for International Right, International Honour, International Good Faith. The channel along which Peace, honour and good will must flow amongst men, the embankment laboriously built up by generations of man against barbarism had been broken. And had not the might of Britain passed into the breach, Europe would have been inundated with a flood of savagery and unbridled lust of power (cheers). The plain sense of fair play amongst the nations, the growth of an international conscience, the protection of the weak against the strong by the stronger, the consciousness that justice was a more powerful backing in the world than greed, the knowledge that any outrage upon fair dealing between nations great or small will meet with prompt and merited chastisement—these constitute the causeway along which humanity was progressing slowly to higher things. The triumph of Prussia would sweep it all away and leave mankind to struggle helpless in the morass. That is why, since this War began, I have known but one political aim. For which I have fought with a single eye. That is, the rescue of mankind from the most overwhelming catastrophe that has ever yet menaced its well-being (loud and prolonged cheers)."

SUBSCRIBERS

PLEASE NOTE

The annual subscription to the "Hindu Organ" is payable before 31st December of each year—July to June. Subscribers who have not paid their subscriptions yet for the current year (July 1916-June 1917) are earnestly requested to remit their dues before

31st December 1916.

We are obliged, owing to unavoidable circumstances caused by the War, to cease forwarding the Paper to such of our subscribers who fail to remit their subscriptions before the aforesaid date.

THE MANAGER,
"Hindu Organ."

LOCAL & GENERAL.

THE WEATHER.—Continues to be fine. The winter rains in Jaffna in 1916 have proved a failure as they had been the previous year. Up to date only 35.64 inches of rain have fallen as against 26.56 inches during the corresponding period of 1915. We have had

rains during 1916 distributed throughout the year which accounts for the years rainfall being over than that of the previous year. The paddy crop will be a great failure as it was last year. But the one beneficial result of scanty rainfall has been during these two years absence of malarial fever in the country in an epidemic form as it had prevailed in previous years on account of heavy rains and floods. This is conclusive proof that outbreak of malarial fever in Jaffna District is due to want of proper drainage.

NEW JAFFNA BARRISTERS.—We are glad to find among those called to the English Bar on the 17th November last the names of Messrs. Kandiah Muttu Coomarasamy of Middle Temple, Mr. E. M. Tampoe Philips B.A.L.B. of Inner Temple and Mr. S. N. Velupillai of Gray's Inn. We congratulate these gentlemen on their success. From a private letter of Mr. Coomarasamy we learn that he will be leaving for Ceylon shortly.

PERSONAL.—Mudaliar S. Sabaratnam, J. P., Deputy Fiscal, Jaffna, left this for Madras on Friday last to preside over the Saiva Siddhanta Conference to be held there on the 29th, 30th and 31st instant. Mr. T. Kallapillai, Manager, Sivaiprakasa Vidyalalai, Vannarponnai, Messrs. J. T. Sadasiva Iyer and S. Caudiah, Asst. Inspectors of Schools, and Mr. A. Mudir. Somaskander were also fellow passengers with him to attend the Conference.

—Mr. T. C. Murgasiah, Head Clerk, Pawa-watto, Yatiandota, has come to Jaffna on a fortnight's leave and is staying at Manipay South.

INTER ARTS EXAMINATION, LONDON.—Among those who came out successful in the last Examination held in June last is Mr. S. K. Rajasingam who is a brother of Mr. K. Chinna-stamby, Maniagar, Vadamarachy West.

INDIAN LABOUR IN CEYLON.—At a meeting of the Indian Colonial Institute, Madras, Mr. Polak and Mr. G. Natesan were deputed with their consent to proceed to Ceylon and make a report, after due investigations, of the conditions of labour in that island.

—*The Hindu*, 20th December.

BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.—The next meeting of the Board of agriculture will be held on 5th January 1917 at 3.30 p.m. at the Planters Association Hall, Kandy, and will be followed by a meeting of the Society. His Excellency the Governor will preside.

THE FIRST P&O VOYAGE TO THE EAST BY SIR WILLIAM TWYNAN K.C.M.G.—This is an account of the voyage of "The Hindustan" in which Sir William travelled to Ceylon by the Cape route in 1842-74 years ago. The reminiscences are of an interesting character and show the wonderful memory for which the retired Government Agent of the Northern Province has long been noted. It is a marvelous feat for one at Sir Williams age to remember every detail which occurred during this long voyage which occupied 81 days and relate them in a book form after three quarters of a century. The price of the booklet is 50 cents and the proceeds will go for the benefit of Queen Mary's Needle Work Guild. It may be had from Rev Mr. Jacob Thompson, St Johns College, or from the Queen Mary's Needle Work Guild.

HINDU STUDENTS' CAMP.

The second annual Hindu Students' Camp was opened at Keerimalai, yesterday, under the auspices of the Young Men's Hindu Association. There was a large attendance of students, teachers and other gentlemen interested in the movement. The spacious Madam founded by Mr. K. Vytialingam, Renter, was the venue of the students' gathering—the large majority of the students being temporarily lodged there sharing the common meals and living a common life and subjecting themselves to the same spiritualising and unifying influences of the camp life. The Central Hall of the Madam was beautifully decorated and served as the meeting place. About 500 students from different parts of Jaffna and outstations attended the Camp. Besides Mr. Vytialingam's Madam, the other Madams of Keerimalai founded by Mr. Sheriff Katheravelupillai and the late Mr. Krishnapillai had their share of student guests and contributed their share to the success of the Camp. In fact the whole atmosphere of this sacred spot was vibrant with the spirit of religious enthusiasm and every student who came under its influence had a new awakening in his religious life and fraternised wholeheartedly with each other.

The Hon. Mr. P. Ramanathan, K.C.M.G., opened the sessions yesterday at about 8.30 p.m. The large concourse of students led by the Secretary and other leading members of the Young Men's Hindu Association, met the Hon. gentleman about a quarter of a mile from the Madam. Here Mr. Ramanathan alighted from his motor car and was taken in procession under a large silk umbrella and with a band of famous Tamil musicians in attendance. Mr. Ramanathan met with an enthusiastic ovation from the students. On his arrival at the meeting place and taking his seat on the dais he was garlanded by Mr. K. Vytialingam. An address of welcome was then read by Master T. Nalliah, a student of the Royal College, Colombo, on behalf of the Hindu Students. The Presidential address was listened to with rapt attention and was delivered

in a grand and most impressive manner. The nobility of the Tamil language formed the subject of his introductory remarks. This was followed by a learned discourse on the origin of the term Hindu. The name was originally given by the Persians to the people who occupied the tracts on the banks of the river Sindhu or Indus and came in course of time to denote all the people living in India. The President also gave another derivation of the word. The word Hindu also means Moon or Soma. Now the quality of the Moon is always associated with pleasant feelings, gentility and philosophic thought. The Hindus were called so because they were characterised by the above said Soumya Lakshana. The true meaning and purpose of the Varnashramadharma were also given and lucidly explained. These socio-religious divisions embodied in Varna and Ashrama were founded more on the mental and spiritual growth of the individuals, than on mere physical qualities. Every one should have his mind firmly grounded (Prathishtha) in the Siva Dharma or his own appointed duties.

In the afternoon Vidwan Thamothearampillai delivered a very learned discourse on 'Siva Dhiksha' expounding in detail the esoteric purport of the different practices in the daily Annshatams of the Saivites and how Siva Dhiksha is helpful to one in refining his nature and removing the three Malas or impurities of his soul.

ADDRESS BY HIS MAJESTY THE KING.

London, Dec. 23.

Parliament has been prorogued till Jan. 7th. H. M. the King's Proclamation speech says:—

"Throughout the months that have elapsed since I last addressed you my Navy and Army, in conjunction with those of our gallant and faithful Allies, have, by unceasing vigilance and indomitable valour, justified the high trust I placed in them. I am confident that, however long the struggle, their efforts, supported by the inflexible determination of all my subjects throughout the Empire, will finally achieve the victorious consummation of those aims for which I entered upon the War. My Government has been reconstituted with the sole object of furthering those aims, unaltered and unimpaired. The vigorous prosecution of the War must be our single endeavour until we have vindicated the rights so ruthlessly violated by our enemies and established the security of Europe on a secure foundation. In this sacred cause I am assured of the support of all my peoples and I pray Almighty God to give us His blessing." He thanked the Commons for their unstinted liberality with which they continued to provide for the burdens of the War.

THE NORTH CEYLON EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION.

The annual General Meeting of this Association took place at the Central College Hall on the 15th Inst. The attendance, though not very large, was representative. A few lady members graced the occasion. During the official year three special general meetings were held, where several important educational questions were discussed and resolutions were forwarded to the Director of Education. The acknowledgements received from the Government by the Secretary indicated very sympathetic consideration. It is gratifying to note that some of the recommendations made by the Association have already taken effect.

At the General Meeting, there was considerable discussion regarding the "amalgamation" proposed by the Ceylon Educational Association. The meeting was finally of opinion "That while a united Association for Ceylon is very desirable, the divergence of views held by the two Associations on several important educational questions, makes it difficult, for the present, to accept the proposed amalgamation."

The Secretary was authorized to transmit the following resolutions to the Director of Education: (1) "That under the present system of holding Cambridge Examinations, as the Senior candidates have no option but to take the examination at the end of the first year or to wait for two years, this Association recommends that an examination for Senior students be held in July in addition to the one held in December."

(2) While this Association welcomes the proposal to take "a special class" at the Government Training College, when recommended and supported by Managers (See circular No. 47 of 31.7.16) it regrets that the concession will become inoperative, if managers are required to pay, for each student, a tuition fee of Rs. 15 per month, in addition to the maintenance allowance, which is likely to be about Rs. 25. The Association, therefore, recommends that the tuition fee of Rs. 15 be remitted, till Government is prepared to carry out the scheme as defined in circular No. 47 clause (b) (a)."

BOY'S SCOUT ASSOCIATION (NORTHERN PROVINCE) LOCAL ASSOCIATION.

An Executive Committee meeting was held on the 21st instant in the Central College Hall with Mr. B. Horsburgh in the Chair.

The following troops were registered, No. 1 St. Patrick's College; No. 2 Jaffna College; No. 3 St. John's College; No. 4 Hindu College; No. 5 Central College.

Mr. V. A. Paul was nominated as the District Scout Master.

Dr. G. Mather was appointed Surgeon.

The Scout Masters and their Assistants as nominated by the different Colleges were approved of.

Tender foot and the other necessary badges and the useful books etc., selected by the District Commissioner is to be ordered from England.

S. Rajaratnam,
Hony. Secy. N. P.
(Local) B. S. A.

LLOYD GEORGE ON THE WAR.

London, Dec. 19.

Mr. Lloyd George said he appeared before the House with the most terrible responsibility that could fall on the shoulder of any living man, as the chief adviser of the Crown in the most significant War the country had ever engaged in, a War upon the events of which its destiny depended. It is the greatest War ever waged and the burdens are the heaviest ever cast upon this or any other country, while the issues are the gravest that ever attached to any conflict in which humanity was involved. The responsibilities of the new Government had been suddenly accentuated by the declaration of the German Chancellor. The statement made by the latter in the Reichstag had been followed by a Note presented to us by the United States without comment. The answer will be given by Government in full accord with our brave Allies. Naturally there has been an interchange of views, not upon the Note, because it only recently arrived, but the speech which propelled it, and inasmuch as the Note itself is practically only a reproduction, or certainly a paraphrase of that speech, the subject matter of the Note itself has been discussed formally. I am very glad to be able to state that we have each separately and independently arrived at identical conclusions. I am very glad the first answer was given by France and Russia, for they have unquestionably the right to give the first answer to such an invitation. The enemy is still on their soil and their sacrifices have been greater. That answer is already published and on behalf of Government I give a clear and definite support to it. Any man or set of men who waver or without sufficient cause prolonged a terrible conflict like this would have on their soul a crime that oceans could not clean. So, on the other hand, it is equally true that any man or set of men who from a sense of weariness or despair abandoned the struggle without achieving the highest purpose for which we entered, would have been guilty of the costliest act of poltroonery ever perpetrated by any statesman. I should like to quote the very well-known words of Abraham Lincoln under the similar conditions: "We accepted this War for an object and a world object, and the War will end when that object is attained. Under God I hope it will never end until that time."

THE ANGEL OF PEACE.

Are we likely, continued Mr. Lloyd George, to achieve that object by accepting the German Chancellor's invitation? What are the proposals? There are none. To enter a Conference on the invitation of Germany, proclaiming herself victorious without any knowledge of the proposals she proposes to make, is to put our heads into a noose, with the rope ends in Germany's hands. This country is not at all together without experience in these matters. This is not the first time we have fought a great Military despotism overhauling Europe, and it will not be the first time we have fought to overthrow Military despotism. We can recall one of the greatest of these despots; who when he had a purpose to serve in working his nefarious schemes, his favourite device was to appear in the guise of the Angel of Peace.

REMINISCENT DISQUIETUDE.

He usually appeared under those conditions when he wished for time to assimilate his conquests, or to reorganise his forces for fresh conquest; or, secondly, when his subjects showed symptoms of fatigue and War weariness. The appeal was always made in the name of humanity. He demanded an end to bloodshed, at which he professed himself to be horrified, but for which he himself was mainly responsible. Our ancestors were taken in once and bitterly they and Europe had rued it. The time was devoted to reorganising his forces for a deadlier attack than ever upon the liberties of Europe. Examples of that kind would cause us to regard this Note with a considerable measure of reminiscent disquietude.

OUR TERMS.

We feel we ought to know, before we can give favourable consideration to such an invitation, that Germany is prepared to accede to the only terms on which it is possible for Peace to be obtained and maintained in Europe. These terms have been repeatedly stated by all the leading statesmen of the Allies. Mr. Asquith has stated them repeatedly. It is important there should be no mistake in a matter of life and death to millions. Therefore he (the speaker) would repeat them again, namely, complete restitution, full reparation and effectual guarantees. Did the German Chancellor use one single phrase indicating he was prepared to accept such a Peace?

GERMANY AND THE RIGHTS OF NATIONS.

The very substance and style of the speech constitute a denial of Peace on the only terms on which Peace is possible. He was not even conscious now that Germany had committed any offence against the rights of free nations. Listen to this from the Note: "Not for an instant have the Central Powers swerved from the conviction that their respect for the rights of other nations is not in any degree compatible with their own rights and legitimate interests." When did they discover that? Where was the respect for the rights of other nations in Belgium and Serbia. That was self-defence, I suppose, menaced by the overwhelming Armies of Belgium. (Laughter.)

BELGIUM INTIMIDATES GERMANY.

I suppose the Germans had been intimidated into invading Belgium, burning Belgian cities and villages, the massacres of thousands of inhabitants old and young, and carrying off the survivors into bondage? They were carrying them into slavery at the moment when this Note was being written about the unswerving conviction as to their respect of the rights of other nations. Are these outrages to the legitimate interest of Germany? He must know that this is not the moment for Peace. If excuses of this kind for palpable crimes can be put forward two-and-a-half years after the exposure by grim facts of the guarantee, is there, I ask in all solemnity any guarantee that similar subterfuges will not be used in future to overthrow any treaty of Peace you may enter into with Prussian Militarism?

WHAT GERMANY HAS TO LEARN.

This Note and the speech prove that not yet have they learned the very alphabet of the respect for the rights of others (cheers). Without reparation peace is impossible (cheers). Are all these outrages against humanity on land and sea to be liquidated by a few pious phrases about humanity? Is there to be no reckoning for them? Are we to grasp the hand that perpetrated these atrocities

in friendship without any reparation being tendered or given? Germany leaves us to exact damage for all torture violence committed after the War. We have already begun.

NO GRIM INHERITANCE FOR OUR CHILDREN.

Has cost as much and we must exact it now so as not to leave such a grim inheritance to our children. Much as we all long for Peace, deeply as we are horrified with War, this Note and the speech which heralded it do not afford us much encouragement and hope, for an honourable and lasting Peace. What hope is given in that speech? The whole root and cause of this great bitterness is the arrogant spirit of the Prussian Military caste. Will it not be as dominant as ever if we patch up Peace now? (Cheers). After pointing out that the speech in which Peace proposals were suggested resounded to the boast of Prussian Military triumph, Mr. Lloyd George declared that we must keep a steadfast eye upon the purpose for which we entered the War; otherwise the great sacrifices we have been making will be in vain.

THE PRUSSIAN MILITARY CASTE.

The German Note states that it was for the defence of their existence and freedom of national development that the Central Powers were constrained to take up arms. Such phrases defeat even those who pen them. They are intended to delude the German nation into supporting the designs of the Prussian Military caste, who even wished to put an end to Germany's national existence or the freedom of their national development. We welcomed their development so long as it was in the paths of Peace. The Allies entered this War to defend Europe against the aggression of Prussian Military domination and, having begun it, they must insist that the only end is the most complete and effective guarantee against the possibility of that caste ever again disturbing the Peace of Europe (cheers).

A BAD NEIGHBOUR.

Prussia since she got into the hands of that caste has been a bad neighbour, arrogant, threatening and bullying, and shifting boundaries at her will, taking one fair field after another from her weaker neighbours. With her belt ostentatiously full of weapons of offence, and ready at a moment's notice to use them, she has always been an unpleasant, disturbing neighbour in Europe (hear, hear).

"SWASBUCKLING THROUGH THE STREETS OF EUROPE."

It is difficult for those living thousands of miles away to understand what it has meant to those who lived near her. Even here with the protection of the broad seas between us, we know what a disturbing factor the Prussians were, with the constant Naval menace, but even we can hardly realise what it has meant to France and Russia. Now that this War has been forced by the Prussian military leaders upon France, Russia, Italy and ourselves, it would be cruel folly not to see to it that this swasbuckling through the streets of Europe, to the disturbance of all harmless and peaceful citizens, shall be dealt with now as an offence against the Law of Nations. (Cheers).

The mere word that led Belgium to her own destruction will not satisfy Europe and more. We all believed it. We all trusted it. It gave way to the first pressure of temptation and Europe has been plunged into the vortex of blood. We will, therefore, wait until we hear what the terms and the guarantees the German Government offer, other than those, better than those, surer than those, which she so lightly broke, and in the meantime we shall put our trust in an unbroken Army rather than in a broken faith. (Loud Cheers).

[Two sections of the message which should follow here have not been received at time of going to Press.]

THE ROUMANIAN BLUNDER.

and from this position to treat as trifling real setbacks, Britain never appeared at its best except when confronted with a real danger and understood it. "Let us for a moment look at the worst. The Rumanian blunder was unfortunate, but at the worst it prolongs the War. It does not alter the fundamental facts of the War. I cannot help hoping it may even have salutary effects in calling the attention of the Allies to obvious defects in the Allies' organisation."

STRONG ACTION WITH GREECE.

Not merely the organisation of each but the organisation of the whole. If it does that and braces them to a fresh effort, it may prove, bad as it is, a blessing. That is the worst. It has been a real setback. It is the one cloud—well, it is the darkest cloud—and it appeared on a clearing horizon. We are doing our best to make it impossible that that disaster should lead to worse. That is why we have taken in the last few days this very strong action in Greece. We mean to take no risks there. We have decided to take definite decisive action and I think it has succeeded.

THE WESTERN FRONT.

We have decided to recognise the agents of that great Greek statesman, M. Venizelos. (Cheers). I should like to say one word about the lessons of the fighting on the Western front and about the significance of the whole of that great struggle, one of the greatest ever waged in the history of the world. It is full of encouragement and hope. Just look at it, an absolutely new Army; the old had done its duty and spent itself in the achievement of that great task. This is a new Army, but a year ago it was in the earth of Britain, yes, and of Ireland. It had become iron. (Cheers).

THE NEW ARMY.

"It has passed through the fiery furnace and the enemy knows it is now fine steel (cheers). This new Army, new men, new officers, and Generals new to this kind of work, have faced the greatest Army in the world, the best equipped and the best trained, and have beaten them, beaten them, beaten them (loud cheers) in battle after battle, day after day, week after week, in the strongest entrenchments ever devised by human skill. They have driven them off by valour which is incredible. That is something which gives us hope, which fills us all with pride in the nation to which they belong. It is a fact, and it is a fact full of significance for us and for the foe (cheers)."

"The enemy has seen that Army grow under his very eyes. They are becoming veterans, and therefore, basing our confidence upon these facts, I am as convinced as I ever was of the ultimate victory if the nation proves as steady, as valourous, as ready to sacrifice and learn, and endure as that great Army on the Somme." (Loud cheers).

THE VICEROY INTERVIEWED.

Reuter's Agency has already given us a brief summary of the interview granted by the Viceroy to Mr. Mackenzie, the representative of the American Associated Press. The following is the full text of Mr. Mackenzie's interview:—

Simla, India, 18th October.—India's new Viceroy, Lord Chelmsford today told a correspondent of the Associated Press during a formal interview, that the war, by giving this country an opportunity to show its practical importance to the Empire, had stirred Indian aspirations for development, politically and economically and declared that it would be his endeavour to secure a practical response to this new desire for progress. His Excellency spoke most warmly of the loyalty of India, of the alacrity and fine spirit with which princes and people had identified themselves with the cause of the Empire, and of his own great interest in India's problems.

The man under whose guidance the national affairs of a population three times that of the United States have been placed, came to Viceroy Lodge a soldier-statesman. When the war broke out as a former officer, he answered the call of King and country and rejoined the colours, wearing the modest three stars of a captain. His regiment was detailed for duty in India, and here he served until he was appointed Viceroy a little more than six months ago. From 1905 to 1909 he was Governor of Queensland, and for the four succeeding years was at the head of the Government in New South Wales. As a result of his varied training he is said to have brought to India the quick decision of the commanding officer and the free thinking and energy of Australasia. Certainly the characteristics that impress one most in meeting him are his energetic step even in crossing a small room his firm grasp as he shakes hands, and his frankness and directness in conversation. In speaking the Viceroy comes to the point without preliminaries, and as he talks looks his hearer squarely in the eye.

In the half-year that Lord Chelmsford has been Viceroy he is said to have gained a wide reputation among the Indian people for honesty of mind and courage in the conduct of Government affairs. In many quarters one hears comments which may be summed up in the expression of an Indian gentleman, a literary man with no political connections, who remarked to the correspondent that the Viceroy seemed to be "a man of much sincerity and great activity."

During the interview the Viceroy spoke of the surprise with which he had read various highly coloured articles in American papers, purporting to depict conditions in India to-day and representing the country as labouring under an oppressive rule and shaken by revolutionary and seditious activities.

"The British Government," continued Lord Chelmsford, "has not deemed formally to repudiate such calumnies—perhaps this has been a mistake—but for my part the reply which I give you is this simple one:

"Go wherever you please throughout the length and breadth of India. Study our work and study our difficulties. No sentry will bar the way and no secret agent will shadow you. Talk to whom you please, see what you please; do what you please, and then write what you please. In India we have nothing to conceal. Will you tell your countrymen that?"

The correspondent called attention to the changing political conditions in India, and to the fact that certain Indian politicians were advocating that still more of the affairs of Government be turned over to them.

"No doubt at the present moment political problems are attracting the greatest attention both in and out of India," replied the Viceroy, "but none the less it is a mistake to suppose that these are new problems which have recently come up, or even different problems from those on which we have worked in the past. The political development of India has always commanded our anxious attention and has always been progressive. British statesmen have always conceived in a generous spirit their responsibilities to India and the Indians. Perhaps the rate of definite political progress has been slow, but constitutional development can hardly be other than slow, and I have little doubt that, whatever the future of the Indian policy may be, the Indian historians of its later growth will ascribe no blame to the Power which has, with due deliberation, guided their country through the early and difficult ways of political development."

"But the war affording India an opportunity of displaying in the most dramatic fashion its practical importance to the Empire, has accelerated the pace. It has stirred Indian aspirations, and the new partnership on the battlefield has quickened the sympathy of the whole Empire with those aspirations."

The Viceroy leaned forward and continued with still greater earnestness:—

"It will be my task to endeavour to secure a practical response to these quickened impulses, guarding India, on the one hand against the cramping influences of undue conservatism, and, on the other against impractical and revolutionary tendencies. I need hardly say how deep and sympathetic an interest I take in this task, since I realise that the problem which now confronts the British Government is one of the most difficult problems that ever confronted any Empire, and it is at the same time a problem by the right and just solution of which the British Empire will be finally judged."

Lord Chelmsford was asked if the signs of the times did not point to the beginning of a new industrial era in India, and whether the extension and development of industries would not have a stabilizing influence that would directly affect the political situation.

"Yes, I believed that is true," he replied. "Large as the political issues loom at present I shall not, for my part, be surprised if the economic development of India shortly brings other questions into even greater prominence. I hope the expansion of Indian industries will reduce the heat of political controversies and carry the more active minds of the country into more vital channels of progress. India now requires a forward industrial policy. We have just appointed a commission, composed of Indian and British experts, to investigate every phase of the industrial possibilities. The commission is about to enter upon its labours and I look to it to furnish definite proposals which will go a long way towards solving many existing difficulties."

—The A. B. Patrika.

MALAYA LETTER.

CEYLON TAMILS' ASSOCIATION.—This association of Singapore held its annual general meeting on the 30th ultimo when Dr. John Gnanapragasam, the President, presided. The past year's general report and balance sheet were read and adopted. The cash balance to the credit of the association is small but it must be noted that the putting up of a hall has had something to do with the paucity of the cash balance. The main activities of the association had been directed towards the completion of the new Hall, and among the items of work during the past year the calling of a public meeting of the community to submit a name for nomination to the Senior Tamil Seat in the Ceylon Legislative Council ranks foremost. The following gentlemen were elected to form the managing committee for the current year. President: Mr. M. V. Pillai, B. A. LL. B., Vice President: Dr. John Gnanapragasam, Hon. Secretary: Mr. P. N. Ponnambalam, Hon. Treasurer: Mr. K. Mailvaganam, Hon. Asst. Treasurer: Mr. K. Kandiah, Chairman of Literary Department: Mr. S. Kandiah, Chairman of Athletic Department: Dr. K. Kiramathipathy, Committee Members: Messrs. S. Muttukumar, K. V. Veerasingam, S. Ambalavaner, R. N. Sivasamboo and M. Chelliah.

Some new blood has been introduced into the managing committee and it is hoped that it will show itself in a lot of useful work this year. There are vast possibilities before the association and we can only wish members of the community would join the ranks of the association and contribute to its permanence and usefulness.

POPULAR SCENES: A WAYSIDE STATION.—Batu Limbas has always been associated with a sanitarium for its peculiarly healthy site for several miles round. The name is Malay for 15th mile—Heaven alone knows from where—and as nobody seems to have troubled about the direction and the end of the 15 miles from this sanitarium the name has survived. It was a remarkably simple township, the government railway forming the boundary on three sides and a river called Sungai Lalang being the boundary on the fourth side. A couple of narrow streets, half a dozen shops of sorts, a long shed called a market, and the Railway Station and quarters and a few bungalows formed this much sought after place. The Railway Station was the one spot of attraction all day and most of the night, but for all this only two trains passed it in a day, one at 8 in the morning and the other at 5 in the afternoon. The Station Master, an elderly gentleman (needless to say of what nationality) of considerable proportions, and all smiles, and his chief right hand man and factotum, porter Valupillai (equally needless to say of what nationality) contrived to be the outstanding personages of the locality. The station premises were generally used as a sort of club where all the township would meet during both day and night. And it was considered a privilege by the passengers of the passing trains to be closely inspected in order by the local tailor, the shoe maker, the butcher, the coffee-shop man, the barber, the dhoty and the representatives of all the other establishments. Not the least among this motley crew was a Malay constable who said to it that everything was done in accordance with established precedent. A few planters owning or managing estates further up the line had also taken up residence in Batu Limbas on account of its health. Among this European fraternity was a couple, presumed to be newly wedded, who had managed to be the cynosure of the public of Batu Limbas. The husband managed an estate twenty miles away and travelled by train to the estate and back every day. He and his charming wife would go to the station in the morning and the husband would join the train there. On his return in the afternoon the wife would be at the station to receive the loving husband. When the genial Station Master and voluble Valupillai set out of an evening "into town" they were welcome everywhere—in fact it would be correct to say they carried everything with them!

NOTES AT RANDOM.—We are told that "to be able to walk with a slight bent forward" is considered a passport to admission to civilised society today. I should call it want of backbone—literal and moral!

A friend notes with regret that the mention of "oil and ghee" has disturbed the mental equilibrium of two gentlemen, but he need not despair, for it is on record that the mention of oil and brinjal has turned the heads of hundreds ere now!

There was a big fire in Singapore on Saturday the 9th instant when the exchange room of the oriental Telephone and Electric Co. was burnt out. The switchboard where the fire originated was destroyed, but the stores in the ground and first floors were saved. As a result the town is minus telephone just now.

"A little Vim shaken on to a damp cloth and applied to the knives forks and spoons after meals leaves nothing but absolute cleanliness behind it" we are assured. So the knives, forks and spoons will be clean off, which is just what one does not want to see in these tight days!

There used to be a lot of talk about the high standard of living among the civilised nations of the West and the Eastern races were taunted for their simple living. Much of this high standard was nothing but mere luxury and unnecessary waste and the war has opened too eyes of the Westerners to the grim consequences of pursuing this so-called high standard of living. Now it is a race for simple living. Cutting down meat and butter, wine and other expensive pleasures has become a necessity and it is surprising how readily these people have adapted themselves to the needs of the situation. If this new development be lasting it will be a result of the war. Just as much important and desirable as that other result which everyone of the Allied nations eagerly awaits!

The Federal Guardian of Kuala Lumpur is having a short respite these rainy days. Mr. Charles Champion, its managing Editor, is touring the peninsula with a view to make the paper a sound establishment and is just now in Singapore.

"The man behind the Gun—A most interesting person" reads a headline. Well, not half so interesting as the man in front of it!

"Germans in Roumania" cry the papers. The time will soon come when the Germans will be in Rue Mania!

Singapore, 15th December, 1916. LANKA.

TELEGRAPHIC SUMMARY.

The War.

GREECE.

Athens.—The situation is uncertain. The *Entente* diplomats are exchanging views regarding the second Note. The Press now describes the situation as impossible and urges Government to vigorous measures to terminate it.

A NEW ULTIMATUM.

London, Dec. 19. Reuter learns the draft of the new ultimatum to Greece has been settled and its presentation is imminent.

DEPORTATION OF VENIZELISTS.

London, Dec. 20. Reuter learns that the Greek Government Allies (*etc*) yesterday protested at the landing of Venizelists under the protection of the Allies on various islands of which they demanded the restoration. The Greek Government hitherto has carried out its promises satisfactorily.

HORSE TRANSPORT SUNK.

London, Dec. 19. The Admiralty states that an empty the West-bound British horse transport "Russian" was submerged and sunk in the Mediterranean on the 4th. Eleven of the crew and seventeen American muleteers were killed.

GERMAN LOSSES ON THE SOMME.

London, Dec. 19. It is stated an independent estimate by the British General Staff of the German losses on the Somme substantially coincides with the French unofficial estimates of 690,000.

PARLIAMENT AND THE WAR.

London, Dec. 20. In the Commons Mr. Worthington Evans announced that the Ministry of Munitions had ordered the debadging of all semi-skilled and unskilled men, enabling the men to be called up soon who could be spared or replaced.

Mr. Bonar Law stated that to Dec. 16 the Treasury had received £73,690,000 sterling from excess profits.

Mr. Roberts announced that on Jan. 1st railway passenger fares would be increased fifty per cent., except workmen's tickets and season tickets up to forty miles. There would also be a restriction of the passenger train service.

THE BRITISH FRONT.

London, Dec. 22. General Sir D. Haig reports:—A strong raiding party last night approached us opposite Lens. Some entered our trenches but were promptly ejected. We successfully raided trenches South-Westward of Armentieres. The raid Northward of Arras reported on Wednesday yielded fifty prisoners. Aeroplanes dropped a ton of explosives on points of military importance behind the enemy's lines.

London, Dec. 23. General Haig reports:—We repulsed an attempted raid opposite Hohenzollern. Our Artillery dispersed working parties Northward of the Ancre.

FRENCH FRONT.

London, Dec. 21. A French *communiqué* reports calm on the whole of the Western front. Four enemy aeroplanes were brought down on the Somme, including Sub-Lieuts. Nungesser's twenty-first. A French pilot collided with an enemy aeroplane which he was pursuing. Both machines fell. Our aeroplanes heavily bombed several Railway Stations, hutments, bivouacs and convoys on march. There is snow and rain on the Macedonian front where there is only Artillery fire.

GERMAN GAS FACTORY DESTROYED.

London, Dec. 22. Paris.—A *communiqué* says:—The enemy violently bombarded the sector Louvemont-Vaux. We replied. In the course of other Artillery work we destroyed a gas apparatus between Berryau-Bac and Rheims.

London, Dec. 22. A French *communiqué* reports lively Artillery fire in Louvemont District, on the Meuse and North of Monastir.

Paris.—A *communiqué* says:—There was a lively Artillery duel in the region of Hadraumont work, Louvemont and Chambray. Several successful *coup de main* were carried out in different sectors. There was an intermittent cannonade elsewhere.

ROUMANIA AT BAY.

London, Dec. 21. A German evening *communiqué* says:—The enemy in the most Northern part of the Dobruja, hitherto retreating, has resumed his resistance. Strong hostile attacks on Cerna loop were repulsed.

ROUMANIAN CABINET RESUMES.

London, Dec. 21. Jassy, Dec. 18.—The Ministerial crisis has ended. The Cabinet is withdrawing its resignation. M. Bratianu has returned to the Army Headquarters.

EGYPT: BRITISH TAKE EL ARISH.

London, Dec. 22. Egypt (official).—We have occupied El Arish after it has been two years in the enemy's hands. The enemy intended a stubborn resistance and constructed a strong entrenched position at Masaid, covering El Arish. The rapidity of our advance completely upset calculations. We forestalled the arrival of the enemy's reinforcements. The enemy abandoned the position on the night of the 19th and retreated East and South-East.

The recapture of El Arish is a serious blow to the Turks.

DESTRUCTION IN ROUMANIA.

London, Dec. 22. The British Military Mission satisfactorily reports the destruction, under the Roumanian Government's orders, of the oil wells and refineries in the chief centres.

ANOTHER AMERICAN NOTE.

Washington.—President Wilson has cabled all the belligerents and Neutrals, suggesting that the opportunity, is propitious for a comparison of the views of the belligerents regarding the terms which must precede the conclusion of ultimate Peace. He emphasized that he does not propose a Peace Note or even mediation. He is merely taking soundings. Mr. Lansing has issued a statement explaining President Wilson's Note. He declared in his statement that for Neutrals it was becoming increasingly critical. The United States itself was being drawn near the verge of War.

"EMBARRASSED" BY HUN OFFER.

President Wilson's Note was issued in London. It hopes that Government will consider the action suggested in the friendliest spirit. He was somewhat embarrassed in his offer of the suggestion at present because it may seem prompted by the recent overtures by the Central Powers, but it is in no wise associated. He would have delayed the suggestion till the overtures had been answered, except that he has the same object in view. The President expressed his willingness to take the initiative, but did not desire to determine the method or instrumentality. He drew attention that the objects which all belligerent statesmen declared they have in mind are virtually the same and the United States is as vitally interested in the measures to be taken to secure the future world Peace as the belligerents. The concrete objects for which the War was being waged were never definitely stated.

"NO CHANGE IN POLICY."

Washington.—Late in the day Mr. Lansing, after a conference with President Wilson, issued another statement designed, as he said, to make clear beyond question that there had not been any change in the policy of neutrality of the United States.

BELLIGERENTS AGAIN ASKED TO SAY WHAT THEY WANT.

It is suggested that the belligerents avow their desires in regard to the arrangements for a guarantee against future War. He feels it his duty and right to point out that their interest in the conclusion of the War is a test. The situation of the Neutral nations is now exceedingly hard to endure and may be rendered altogether intolerable. He suggests that authoritative spokesmen on either side had not avowed the precise objects which had to be attained to satisfy them. The world is left to conjecture what definitive results and actual exchange of guarantees, political or territorial changes or re-adjustments, at this stage of Military success even, would end the War. He speculates on the possibility that the belligerents' terms would not be so irreconcilable as is feared and an interchange of views would clear the way for a Conference.

OFFICIAL WORLD ASTOUNDED.

Washington.—President Wilson's Note has surprised the official world. None of the Ambassadors apparently had any idea of its intention. Mr. Lansing, in the course of a statement, says:—"We were mindful of our own rights in despatching the Note. These are becoming more involved and more involved by the belligerents. We are entitled to know what each belligerent seeks in order to regulate our future conduct. We only decided to send the Note on Dec. 18th."

PAIN AND SURPRISE IN ENGLAND.

Surprise and pain, rather than indignation, are the sentiments expressed by the English newspapers on President Wilson's Note. They do not doubt President Wilson's sincerity in attempting to be impartial towards the belligerents, but are astonished at his placing Germany on a par with the Allies as regards the objects of the War. The utterances of Lincoln and Seward in the Civil War are recalled as the best model for the Allies' attitude now.

STOCK MARKETS WEAKER.

London, Dec. 23. New York.—President Wilson's Note and Mr. Lansing's statement that the United States were on the verge of War has weakened the Stock Markets. The total sales were three million shares, the largest since the Northern Pacific corner in 1901. Cotton is practically demoralised and broke nearly 150 points from the highest to the closing lowest. Wheat alone hardened in the afternoon on reports of enormous exports.

LATEST NEWS.

London, Dec. 22. A Russian *communiqué* says:—On the Roumanian front the enemy attempts at an offensive were repulsed. In the Dobruja detachments withdrew Northwards after stubbornly resisting superior forces on the whole front. One regiment daringly attacked the advancing Bulgars, who were thrown into a lake and mostly drowned.

London, Dec. 21. The outlines of the Government War Work Scheme are that all males from 17 to 60 are required to enrol before Advisory Committees in various centres. Then the Lord Chamberlain's Department will decide what industries, apart from War Work, are essential and what proportion of workers they require. Non-essential industries will be shut down. An instance is the tin plate trade. It is not intended that tin plates shall any longer be used in packing tobacco, mustard and such like articles. Skilled workmen will thus be released to go to steelwork. There will be a Register in every locality of War industrial or productive requirements. The mobility of labour will be stimulated by the transference of batches to places where they are urgently required. Power will be taken to billet workers at private homes. Workers will be paid at Trade Union rates plus half a crown daily separation allowance, where homes are divided, and railway fares. If Volunteers are insufficient, Government will apply compulsory powers.

—The Ceylon Observer.