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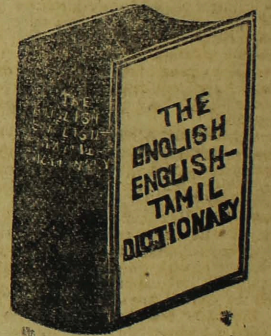
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begs to thank all relatives and friends who have sent him telegrams and letters of condolence on his recent sad bereavement.

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The Hindu Organ.

JAFFNA, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1917.

BRAHMACHARYAM OR STUDENT LIFE.

The address delivered by the Hon'ble Pandit Madan Mohan Malavya to the students of Madras was published in our last issue. The Hon'ble Pandit is too well and too widely known to need any introduction at our hands. Eminent both as a lawyer and as a politician, he is no less eminent as a Sanskrit scholar. His name will be ever remembered by Hindu posterity in association with the Benares Hindu University, as one of a noble band of Hindu patriots who worked hard to make the Hindu University an accomplished fact. The address of such a Hindu Scholar, as the Hon'ble Pandit is, on student life and its responsibilities is bound to win a respectful and enthusiastic hearing from the student community of Madras most of whom are Hindus. And it is no wonder that "the gathering which consisted of nearly 3000 students listened with rapt attention to the Hon'ble Pandit who spoke for an hour and a half."

The latter part of his address deals with the anxious problems of the hour arising out of the present political, industrial and social life of the Indian masses, and the art and part that Indian students should have in them. While denying neither the importance nor the soundness of the views conveyed by the Hon'ble Pandit to the minds of his youthful audience, we should like to dwell with some emphasis on the first part of his speech, as reported by the Hindu of Madras, as it is applicable to all students whether they are Indians or otherwise. And all that part of his advice to the students may be summed up in that one word, Brahmacharyam.

Now what does this word mean? In answer to this question, we shall have first to answer another, namely, What is Education? It is either to stuff the brain with all sorts of useful and curious information, or, it is to stimulate and bring out and train into proper use the many human faculties which may be roughly classified into physical and psychical, or the function of education is to do both these things. Now, whatever the function of Education may be, a sound education is never possible unless the physical and psychical powers of man are ever alert and quickly responsive and most capaciously receptive. In plainer words the body should be strong, healthy and supple and under the perfect control of the owner. Similarly the mental powers, those roses called memory, intelligence, and the nobler emotions should become fully blown and radiate their pleasing fragrance all round.

The word Brahmacharyam is used to denote the conservation of the physical and psychical energies of students as opposed to their quick dissipation and wreckage even while they are just budding forth. This tendency to physical and mental wreckage comes to youth in pleasing shapes and forms, in the forms of unchaste thoughts and unchaste acts. The baser emotions of sex are ever clamouring for gratification, and this gratification is the most dangerous form in which wreckage is done both to body and mind. Says the Swami Vivekananda, "The Yogis claim that of all the energies that are in the human body the highest is what they call the ojas. Now this ojas is stored up in the brain, and the more ojas is in a man's head, the more

powerful he is, the more intellectual, the more spiritually strong. Now in every man there is more or less of this ojas stored up. All the forces that are working in the body in their highest become ojas. You must remember that it is only a question of transformation. The same force which is working outside, as electricity or magnetism, will become changed into inner force. The Yogis say that that part of the human energy which is expressed as sex energy, in sexual thought, when checked and controlled, easily becomes changed into ojas, and as the Muladhara guides these, the Yogi pays particular attention to that centre. He tries to take up all this sexual energy and convert it into ojas. It is only the chaste man or woman who can make the ojas rise and store it in the brain; that is why chastity has always been the highest virtue."

It may be laid down, therefore, as an incontrovertible truth that Brahmacharyam is at the root of the opening up of faculties both physical and psychical. How to check impure thoughts is the next question. And our one advice is: get initiation or Deeksha, and repeat the Sri Panchakshara as many times as you can; the more, the better. On the repetition of mantras, Swami Vivekananda has to say the following.

"Of the three processes for the purification of the nerves, described above, the first (the mental repetition of a sacred word as the Sri Panchakshara) is neither difficult nor dangerous. You can practise it even while you are sitting at your work. Some day, if you practise hard the Kundalini will be roused, and the whole of Nature will begin to change, and the book of knowledge will open. Your own mind will have become your book containing infinite knowledge."

The key to unlock the store of this infinite knowledge is Brahmacharyam; and the key to Brahmacharyam is the fullest use of Sri Panchakshara. Make use of it, students, and conquer Nature both internal and external.

THE RELIGION OF THE ANCIENT TAMILS.

(By S. Sabaratna Mudaliyar.)

PART SECOND.

CHAPTER XXVI.

THE SOULS.

"Know thyself" is indeed a sound saying. A psychological knowledge of the souls is very essential to them for their salvation. Any attempt to attain salvation without a clear and correct idea of the nature of souls will be as futile as the attempt of a Doctor who undertakes to cure a disease without any idea of the nature of our body. Religion is in the same relation to our souls as Medical science is to our body. The Religion of the Tamils treats elaborately of the nature of souls, while the other religions care very little to throw any light on the subject; and some of them, such as Buddhism, ignore is even the very existence of souls. If there were no souls, there can be no salvation, and if we have no idea of the nature of souls, we cannot attain salvation.

According to the Religion of the Tamils, the souls are of course intelligent beings; but their intelligence is of such a nature as to receive the impression of the object before which they are placed. (சார்ந்த தன்மம் என்ற பொருள்). The Siddhanta philosophy of the Tamils therefore compares the souls to crystals in order to explain their imitative propensity—and this fact, I must say, has been amply supported by modern science. We have often seen that man is largely influenced by his surroundings; and animals, other than man, are themselves found to be affected by this law. The following extract from a book published in America (Spiritual Law in the Natural World) makes the matter very clear. Says the author:—

It is an invariable rule that we become like what we study or are closely associated with. We become so like people with whom we live constantly; that often the expression of face and sound of voice grow similar, and even the features grow alike. Some times, a child will look more like its nurse than its mother.

Our Great Tiruvalluvar says:—

சிலந்தியும்புள்ளீர் தீரிக் தற்குமுள்ளீர் தீர்
கிலந்தியும்புத்தாமுறியு

(The water changes its quality with the soil over which it flows: So man changes with the company he keeps.)

My friend Mr. Nallasvaminpillai has treated this subject at some length in his Studies in Sava Siddhanta (The Nature of the Jiva) and I will refer the reader to his able work for a fuller explanation.

The soul, so long as it is in the presence of Mala assimilates itself to that

Mala, and when it is placed in the presence of God, it assumes His image—and it is the course prescribed to guide the souls to the presence of God that is known as the means of salvation. When it is taken before God, His grace reflects on the soul, just as light reflects on crystal, and the soul enjoys the bliss of Divine Grace—entirely losing sight of Mala and getting rid of its evil influences. This is what is known in the Siddhanta Philosophy as becoming one with God—Adwaita; and it is a misconception of this Philosophy that gave birth to what is known as Mayavadam or Pantheism.

The souls are classified into three groups according to the number of the mala bondages they are subject to. These bondages, as I have already said, are three in number—Anavam, Mayai and Kamman. The souls that have only the bondage of Anava Mala are known as Vinjanakalar; those that are bound by Anava and Mayai are known as Piralayakalar and those that are subject to the influence of all the three Malas are known as Sakalar. The souls that are in the plane of what is known as Prakriti Mayai are known as Sakalar—and we all belong to this plane. Even the celestials including Brahma and Vishnu belong to this plane,—and the lower orders of organic beings themselves belong to this plane.

The souls in this plane are again subdivided into seven groups:—(1) Celestials, (2) Human beings, (3) Beasts, (4) Birds, (5) Reptiles, (6) Aquatic animals and (7) Stationery beings. The difference between these several groups is entirely due to the difference in their respective capacity to know and feel—which is attributable to the degree of the Mala bondage each is subject to. It cannot, however, be said that there is any difference in the souls themselves. As their mala bondage is gradually released, their capacity to know and feel is developed, and when they are wholly relieved of their bondage, they become fully qualified to enjoy the Divine Bliss,—and they will then be found to be all alike. There is no soul that will always remain a human soul, an animal soul or a vegetable or a mineral soul. These are but different forms of life and are only gradations which every soul has to pass through as it progresses.

There was a time when animals and vegetables were supposed to have no souls at all; but with the advance of modern science, the truth has been accepted that they themselves have souls. But science cannot of course throw any light on their future which can only be seen with the light of Religion. Modern Religions being silent on this subject, and as they confine themselves to the future of human beings alone, it cannot be said that any definite decision has as yet been arrived at by their follower as regards the future of what are known as non-human souls. These religions, however, are positive that the various types of souls have all been created by God,—and the question would naturally be asked "Why this difference?"—"Why this invidious distinction?"—the human souls being made fit to enjoy the Supreme Divine Bliss, while the other soul being made entirely unfit for that enjoyment? And again, why should these poor non-human souls be so created as to be fit only for the miserable life they lead even in this world, and at the same time to be subservient to Man? People are very loud in their condemnation of the Indian Caste System, and they speak very sympathetically of the depressed classes; but their sympathy would not extend to these mute creatures, although they are themselves souls—and as such, as eternal, I believe, as the human souls!

It may perhaps be urged that as they have not the capacity to feel the misery, they cannot be said to feel the effect of that misery. This may be so. But to a third person who witnesses the happiness of human life, and the miseries of non-human life, the difference would be quite apparent—and this difference has to be accounted for. A man who was born blind may not be able to feel the disadvantages he is suffering under, because he has no idea of the advantages of sight. This is no reason to say that the blind man is not miserable at all.

Another excuse that is likely to be offered in explanation of this anomaly is that we cannot fathom the Divine Will, and that we cannot find out why God created these beings, and what destiny awaits them. It is not that we want to fathom the Divine Will, but we want to satisfy our conscience. We have again to study God from Nature which is wholly intended for our benefit. If in this nature we find an anomaly, can we a tribute to it to God, and believe in His Divine mercy? That would, I think, be a hypocrisy. Can we say that a certain

state of things is beyond our comprehension when we find it to be an anomaly in the light of the intelligence given to us by God? That will certainly be a misuse of our intelligence. We are asked to believe that these non-human beings themselves were created by God, and if we are told not to make any inquiry as regards their why and wherefore, it will amount to an arbitrary injunction to limit the use of our intelligence—and such an injunction cannot, I think, be tolerated in the name of Religion.

The Religion of the Tamils solves this problem very satisfactorily—and according to that religion non-human souls are as valuable as human souls—the only difference being in their capacity to know and feel—which is due to the difference in their Mala bondage. The several forms of life in this world are intended to develop the capacity of the souls according to their respective Mala power and all souls—human souls not excepted—are excepted to take any of these forms according to their Karma in order to work out their final emancipation gradually and effectually.

The objection has often been raised that none of us have any recollection of having passed through any such life in a previous state of existence. Do we have any recollection of our life in the embryo or even of our infancy? A man does not remember what he was doing when he was in a state of coma—and this is no reason to conclude that he was doing nothing during that period—or that we were never in the embryo or in our infancy.

LOCAL & GENERAL.

THE WEATHER.—There were a few showers of rain on Tuesday night and Yesterday.

THE SUPREME COURT CRIMINAL SESSIONS.—The accused in the 1st case was bound over to keep the peace for six months. The accused in the second case was sentenced to three years' rigorous imprisonment. The accused in the third case was sentenced to death. The fourth case was taken up on Tuesday in which one Kanapathy Veeravaku of Pungudutivu was charged with murder. Mr. Advocate Joseph instructed by Mr. Tisseraasinghe, Proctor, defended the accused. The hearing of this case was continued this morning.

FINE FOR BELCHING.—The Police Magistrate, Jaffna, fined a Moor man on Tuesday last Rs. 5/- for belching in his Court.

NEW POLICE OFFICERS.—Messrs. C. T. Nettleton, A. R. Aitken and S. H. Tiley have joined the Police Department as A. S. P's and will be very probably stationed at Kurnegala, Eetton and Galla, respectively.

WOMEN AND CHILDREN TRAVELLERS.—It is notified for general information that no women or children will be allowed to embark on ships travelling through any danger zone until further notice. This applies to visitors to, and persons temporarily resident in, Ceylon as well as to persons domiciled in Ceylon.

COMPULSORY FREE EDUCATION IN COLOMBO.—A deputation from the Social Service League, consisting of Sir Ponnambalam Arunachalam, Rev. O. J. C. Eveden, Messrs. James Poiris, Fritz Kuruz, and C. H. Z. Fernando, waited on Mr. E. B. Donham, Director of Education, on the evening of the 20th instant and discussed the question of compulsory free education in the City of Colombo.

ANOTHER CIVIL SERVANT FOR THE FRONT.—Mr. A. P. Boone, A. G. A., Colombo will be leaving for home by next month to offer himself for War Service.

HIGH APPOINTMENT FOR MR. M. STEVENSON C. O. S.—Mr. M. Stevenson, Principal Assistant Colonial Secretary, has been appointed Chief Secretary to the Government of Cyprus. He will leave Ceylon early in April to take up his new appointment.

THE NEW COUNCIL.—Mr. S. P. Thiaga Rajan writes as follows in the "Nation" of Sunday last:—"The Ceylon Government have, now for many years, never done a wiser thing than in nominating Mr. A. Sappahy to the Legislative Council. It may be taken as a sign of the times, or as an appreciation of an onerous but thankless task well performed. I do not know if the dozen of Ceylon journalists still remember an old contributor—but during the years it was at once my privilege and my pleasure to read the "Hindu Organ." I have been struck by the race impartially and the manifest good sense and love of country which illumine its editorials. To him it is no honour, but to the country it may well bring a sigh of relief at what might have been."

Y. M. H. A., KOOKEVIL.—The fortnightly meeting of this association was held at the Kookivil English School on Sunday, the 18th Inst at 6.30 p. m. with Mr. E. Kandiah, Advocate, in the chair. The first item was a recitation by Master A. Rasiath which was well done. Then Master V. Ponnudurai read an interesting essay on "Patriotism." Remarks were offered by Messrs. Pandit Somas-

bandar, Murugesa Iyer, and A. Muthiyaganam, in Tamil, and by Master A. Ponnudurai and the Chairman in English.

The Late Mr. J. T. Muttiah Mudaliar.—We regret to record the death of this gentleman which occurred on the 7th instant at Telipallai. He was Interpreter Mudaliar of the Supreme Court, and counted a wide circle of friends in Colombo and all other towns of Ceylon. He was 48 years old at the time of his death. He leaves behind six sons and two daughters with whom much sympathy will be felt.

THE SAIVA SIDDHANTA CONFERENCE, JAFFNA.

In the course of his presidential address to the Saiva Siddhanta Conference over which he presided on the 26th, 27th and 28th of the last month Mr. T. Ponnambalam Pillai delivered himself as follows for the benefit of the student portion of the audience, on the Tamil language.

Tamil is one of the oldest languages of the world, and once it was dominant almost all over it. Before the advent of the Aryans, it prevailed all over India and it has left its worth whenever it held its sway. The names of certain places in Northern India and in Afghanistan such as Timilam, (தமிழகம்), Tamilam (தமிழம்) and Tamulak (தமிழகம்) confirm my statement. The word Oore (ஊர்) in the names of places such as Lahore and Chandernagore go towards the same end. The word Kachcheri (கச்சேரி) which is used all over India and Ceylon, is not an Urdu or Arabic or Persian term as is generally supposed, but a pure Tamil word formed from Kacham (கச்சம்) the sound or report of a bell. In the olden time when Kings dealt out justice on person to their subjects, it was usual to suspend a huge bell to the roof of the Portico of their Palace, and it was open to any aggrieved party to pull the string attached to the clapper, and the report is taken as a complaint and it is engaged into. The name of the bell is (ஊர் முத்திரை) Araichimany or the bell of enquiry. This word கச்சம் should not be confounded with a Sanskrit word nearly similar in sound viz Garcha. It may be stated here on the authority of the Chanthogya Upanishad (உபநிஷதம்), that an ancient King of the Fudjab required the members of a learned Society over which he presided to learn தத்துவஞானம் (Philosophy) from the Tamils.

European Savants who have investigated the matter say that Tamil was once in use in Afghanistan and the word Tamulak which is the name of a place there, testifies to the fact to some extent. In Beluchistan the country south of it, it has been ascertained that a three quarters of a million of people are of Tamil descent. When we travel westwards, we find that Tamil speaking people once occupied the regions of the Persian Gulf. In the valley of the Euphrates and Tigris where our brethren are fighting for the Empire at the present moment, the headquarters of the Assyrian Empire was located, and its capital was known by the name of Oore (ஊர்). The country of the Hebrews was not far away from it and Tamil became mixed up with the language of the country and its words have found a place in the Bible. According to the researches of Antiquarians, the Tamils were engaged in building the pyramids of Egypt which bear great resemblance to the towers of Southern Indian temples. Considering the number of such monuments in Egypt, and the time it must have taken to construct them, the Tamils must have lived there for centuries or settled themselves down there as is done by them at the present moment in South Africa, and Tamil must have been a current language there.

Retracing our steps towards the East, we find on the authority of Sir William Hunter the current language of the inhabitants of the peninsula of Kauskatika is a dialect of the Tamil. From there we go into the Chinese Empire and find that its language bears some affinity to Tamil. For the Tamil pronouns such as நான், நீ, இது, which is also the Malayalam form of நான், and யார் are also the Chinese pronouns. Again such Tamil words as பெண் (female), எஃகு (steel), சாமி இன், இடம் (place) and ஈர் (two) are found in the same language. The islands of the Malaya, Ancepalago lie almost to the south of China, and it has been ascertained by scholars, that the language of those places bear affinity to Tamil. From these islands, if we travel on in a south-easterly direction, we would reach Australia and finally New Zealand. In the former place there were about 58,000 Aborigines according to the last census, and it has been ascertained that the pronouns which they use are the same as the Tamil pronouns. In New Zealand the language of the Maoris has been found to be dialect of the Tamil by an enterprising Missionary of the name of Rev. William Taylor.

In case we proceed further and reach the American continent, we would find from the history of Mexico that during the reign of King Montezuma, the car festival was celebrated in honor of a Naga King who belonged to a Tamil tribe. Entering into the United States we learn that an inscription on stone in Tamil characters was discovered in the city of Cimaenati in the year 1841.

Now we will cross over the Atlantic, reach Europe and enter Italy. There the language of Tuscany is allied to Tamil. Some years ago I read a verse in that language as reported in the journal of the Royal Asiatic Society in Roman characters, and I thought that I was reciting a Tamil stanza. From Italy we enter the Austrian Empire which is inhabited by numerous races, and we find some of them using the Tamil personal pronouns,—particularly in the first person. From there we would enter Russia and traverse the country from the Gulf of Riga and pass on to the Persian Gulf. It is the opinion of linguists that Tamil was connected with the language of this extensive region.

I must mention here that in presenting these facts I have not quoted my authority for each statement as I did not want to confine you. I have given you as it were a number of headings and it is for you to investigate when you are in a position to do so.

Thus it will be seen that Tamil had once spread all over the world. It is a language that could stand on its own legs without extraneous help. By this I mean to say that it is possible to write Tamil, without the assistance of Sanskrit. With regard to gender its position is unique. Its classification is logical; whereas the classification in other languages is arbitrary. For instance the three words தாய், மகன், and சகதாயர் stand for wife in Sanskrit. According to its grammar the first is masculine gender, the second feminine and the third neuter.

THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

AID FOR VESSELS IN DISTRESS NEAR COLOMBO.

PROTECTION OF PRAEDIAL PRODUCTS.

The minutes of the previous meeting were confirmed.

PETITIONS.

LOCAL BOARD MEMBERS UNABLE TO READ.

Mr. Balasingham presented a petition from the inhabitants of the Local Board Town of Anuradhapura praying for an amendment of the Local Board Ordinance. Under the present ordinance members had been elected, who had absolutely no knowledge of English, so much so that when the contest for the Educated Ceylonese Seat took place they were unable to read the names of the candidates on the ballot papers. The business being transacted in English it was only desirable that the Local Boards Ordinance should be amended.

SHOT ON ORDERS OF THE MILITARY AUTHORITIES.

PETITION PRESENTED BY MR. RAMANATHAN.

Mr. Ramanathan said:—I beg to present Sir a petition from Dona Francis Hamine of Divulapitya in the Western Province relating to the unfortunate case of her son Mark Leo Fernando who was shot by the Military on the 8th June, 1915, in the presence of Mr. Luddington the then Police Magistrate of Nagonbo. The circumstances are narrated here, and I do not want to go into the particulars. But it is my duty to present it to the Council and say that the memorialist prays that your Excellency be pleased to grant an inquiry into the circumstances in connection with the death of her son, and vindicate his fair name.

QUESTIONS.

RELIEF FOR VESSELS IN DISTRESS.

Mr. Harry Creasy gave notice that he proposed to ask at the next meeting of the Council the following two questions: (1) what appliances are available for the relief of vessels in distress in or near the Colombo harbour, and (2) whose duty it is to afford assistance and relief to such vessels?

NOTICE OF MOTIONS.

NIGHT MAIL TRAIN SERVICE.

Mr. A. Sapapathy gave notice that he would move the following motion at the next meeting of the Council:—That the Government be pleased to resume the night mail train service from Madawachchi to Kankasanturai which was stopped in February, 1917.

MOTIONS.

HOLIDAYS BETWEEN CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR.

Mr. Balasingham moved the following motion: That a Committee be appointed to report on the desirability of declaring as public holidays the working days between Christmas and New Year holidays, and whether any alteration in the number of existing public holidays is necessary.

In doing so he said that he wished to slightly alter his motion by deleting the words of the last clause from "and whether" and inserting instead the following words:—"declaring as working days the three existing holidays." Several gentlemen in the public service felt that the present holidays between Christmas and New Year were of not very much use to them, inasmuch that they were unable to leave their stations owing to the intervening working days. Elsewhere the intervening working days were only one and a half. Owing to the intervening working days many gentlemen in the public service are unable to obtain leave because of the exigencies of service. Indeed it would be a great advantage to the members of the Public Service, if instead of having intervening working days between Christmas and New Year, those days were declared as public holidays. He did not ask an addition to the number of holidays. He only asked that instead of those working days other holidays be declared as working days. Sometime back the financial year ended on the 31st December and it was very desirable in the interests of the Public Service that there should be some working days from the end of December. But that was changed now. There was not that necessity now for having those days in December declared as working days. He found from an Indian handbook that in India, there was a continuous number of holidays from Christmas to New Year. A similar provision in this country would be appreciated by those who were in the Public Service.

HIS MAJESTY'S SPEECH.

Mr. O. C. Tillekeratne seconded. He said: I have great pleasure in seconding the motion brought forward by my hon. friend the first Tamil Member. Having been lately a member of the Public Service myself I know personally, and have experienced the difficulties that are entailed by these intervening days. In theory the members of the Government Service—my remarks are practically more or less directed to the minor Government Service—are entitled to six weeks' privileged leave. But there remained the difficulty to arrange for their work and get even two week's continuous leave. If the motion of my hon. friend is accepted, it would mean that every Government servant in the Island would be sure of having continuous leave once a year. I know there is also a system of Government Clerks being compelled to take leave for a fortnight at a time; but that also is confined to eleven departments in Colombo. I think it would be in the interests of the Government itself to accede to our request because it would make for greater efficiency if Government Servants are occasionally allowed to have a little rest before they begin their work again the other year.

MR. BERNARD SENIOR DISAGREES.

Mr. Senior said that he should like to point out that if all public offices were closed for 3 or 10 days of the year it would mean a great dislocation of public interests. For instance speaking

of his own department, the banks would be thought, strenuously object to Treasury being shut. Another point he should like to bring to the notice of the Council was that it was hardly feasible to drain holidays into one period instead of scattering them throughout the whole year. He was opposed to the motion.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY'S REMARKS.

The Colonial Secretary said that he did not propose to raise any objection to the motion. At present he would only say that with regard to himself he was in disagreement with the Colonial Treasurer about the comparative convenience of scattering public holidays instead of lumping them together. He must say that a public holiday which came upon them when they were unaware of it—for instance next Wednesday was a public holiday—was an unmitigated nuisance. If it were practicable to crowd holidays together and take them in a lump, it would be a desirable and useful thing. His only difficulty was that he did not believe it to be practicable for the reasons given by the Treasurer in the first part of the latter's remarks. Mr. Tillekeratne had spoken in the interests of the junior members of the service. What he (the Second Sinhalese Member) desired could be effected by a method of relief by which an officer could for one year take a few days' leave while another carried on that work. The heads of the departments could easily give that matter some attention. He thought that that would be quite practicable. He wished to say no more until he knew definitely what were the proposals of the Hon. gentlemen who were going to serve in the Committee. He was glad to the last words of the motion altered, because he was afraid if there were any suggestion to increase the number of holidays, he should have been compelled to oppose it tooth and nail. He raised no objection to the appointment of a Committee.

The motion was then put to the vote and a division being called for the voting resulted as follows:—

Table with 2 columns: AYES, NOES. AYES: Mr. Tillekeratne, Mr. Sapapathy, Mr. Mceadeniya, Dr. Fernando, Mr. Abdul Cader, Mr. Vander Wall, Mr. Balasingham, Mr. Huyshe Elliot, Mr. Ramanathan, Mr. Chapman, Dr. Rutherford, Mr. Helligs, Mr. Vaughan, Mr. Fraser, Mr. Pagden. NOES: Mr. Creasy, The Treasurer.

The motion was thus carried. The following are the members appointed to serve in the Committee:—Messrs. K. Balasingham, T. H. Chapman, O. C. Tillekeratne and Abdul Cader.

FIRST READINGS OF IMPORTANT ORDINANCE.

The Attorney-General moved the first reading of an Ordinance to amend "The Enemy Property Ordinance No. 28 of 1916."

The Attorney-General explained that two Ordinances in these connections had already been passed, but points had arisen requiring legislation. It was very necessary, for instance, to have power to deal with the immovable property of enemy subjects. There was the German Club for instance. It could not at present deal with that. Again difficulties had arisen in connection with claims upon German shipping companies, Messrs. Freudenberg, for example, had been in considerable credit to shipping companies. It was only reasonable that a claim that was reasonably clear should be met. The previous Ordinances hitherto, while permitting certain properties of firms to be dealt with, left the private properties of the partner of those firms intact. Now it might happen that the firm was insolvent but the partners were not. It was therefore proposed in such cases that Government should have power to deal with private properties of partners of firms who were enemy subjects.

The Ordinance in fact represented the considered opinion of the Imperial Government. Government would be enabled for such time as may be necessary in Imperial interests to secure that no property belonging to a German in Ceylon should pass into his or other German hands and there would be ample power to regulate into whose hands it could pass, the power existing if necessary to make it that the property could only pass into British hands. "I may announce," said the Attorney-General, "that in regard to the sales of immovable property of enemy subjects in Ceylon, it is our intention to restrict the sales to British subjects only."

Mr. Senior seconded.—Carried. The Attorney-General moved the first reading of an ordinance to amend the Enemy Firms Liquidation Ordinance.

Mr. Bernard Senior seconded.—Carried. The first readings of the following ordinances were moved by the Attorney-General:—"To amend the Fiscal Ordinance, 1897," "To revise the Provisions of Ordinance No. 9 of 1885," "To amend the Ceylon Evidence Ordinance, 1895," "To amend 'The Rubber Theft Prevention Ordinance, 1905,'" "To amend the Cacao Theft Prevention Ordinance, 1904," "To amend the Quarantine and Prevention of Diseases Ordinance, 1897."

PROTECTION OF PRAEDIAL PRODUCTS.

In moving the first reading of one of the ordinances regarding the protection of praedial produce in Ceylon, the Attorney-General said that first of all there was an Ordinance to amend the Ceylon Evidence Ordinance. Sir Anton Bertram explained that from time to time the better protection of praedial produce had been prominently before the Government. Some three years ago an Ordinance was going to be introduced, but it hung fire. In connection with this question the general purpose of legislation was to place on a person found in possession of produce in suspicious circumstances the obligation to account for the possession of that produce. The late Mr. Justice Walter Pereira had pointed out that a decision in the Supreme Court would practically pass the proposed Ordinance in this connection. It usually occurred that a person found in the possession of produce in suspicious circumstances told the headman or the policeman who found him some story which afterwards was

found to be a lie, but no confession made to a policeman or a headman could be tendered in evidence. In England it was the custom for a confession made as a condition to be tendered in evidence, but in India and Ceylon the confession made whatsoever to any policeman or headman was inadmissible.

He regarded this as deplorable, and an unjust aspersion on the whole police force. Now that Mr. Dowling had done so much to improve the Police force, and introduce a better stamp of men as inspectors and sub-inspectors, he hoped that the time would come when a confession made to an inspector or sub-inspector of police would be admissible as evidence. For the present, however, it was not proposed to go quite so far as this. For the time being it was intended to put forward what the late Mr. Justice Pereira had suggested as a remedy namely, that a person found in charge of produce under suspicious circumstances should be taken immediately before any independent householder and asked to explain how he acquired the property. Any confession or statement he made in those circumstances would be evidence in a court of law.

ORDER OF THE DAY.

LAW RELATING TO TRUSTS.

With regard to the bill relating to the Law of Trusts the Attorney-General said that it was a most important ordinance and, he was sure, they had the support of the Council and the public. Since the Select Committee's report there had been several changes in the constitution of the Council. Some of the new members had not the advantage of being present at the lengthy deliberations of the Committee. Several amendments had been suggested by them and he liked to have further time to consider the bill. He also gathered that the European Urban Member would like to reconsider one or two points in the ordinance and that he would therefore like a Further Period of Grace. He was very reluctant indeed to allow the consideration of the bill deferred because it had been before them for some time. However, a matter like that should not be rushed. He therefore proposed that the report of the Select Committee be referred to a committee.

The following was the Committee appointed:—The Attorney-General, Mr. Ramanathan, Mr. Abdul Cader, Mr. Creasy, Mr. Balasingham, Dr. Fernando, Mr. Vanderwall and Mr. Sapapathy.

PAPER CURRENCY.

The Colonial Secretary moved the third reading of an ordinance to amend the Ceylon Paper Currency Ordinance of 1884.

Mr. Pagden seconded.—Carried. The Hon. the Attorney-General who was to move the second reading to amend the Housing and Town Improvement Ordinance No. 19 of 1915—moved that it be referred to a Select Committee.

The Hon. the Treasurer seconded. The following Select Committee was appointed:—The Hon. the Attorney-General, Hon. Messrs. Chapman, Bowes, Creasy, Abdul Cader and H. M. Fernando.

The following Ordinance was read a second and third time and passed: To amend Ordinance No. 4 of 1886 intitled an Ordinance to enlarge the power of the Surveyor-General to demand the production of deeds and make surveys of lands and to facilitate the proof of surveys.

RURAL SCHOOLS ORDINANCE.

The Attorney-General moved the second reading of an Ordinance to amend the Rural Schools Ordinance, 1907.

Mr. Bernard Senior seconded. Dr. Fernando said that he should like to make one or two amendments. He referred to section 18 of the ordinance providing that no child shall be compelled to attend school from a distance exceeding three miles. Dr. Fernando said that it would be a cruelty to expect tender children attending school to travel three miles and back.

In the sittings of the Local Government Commission they had a great deal of evidence to show that two miles should be the limit to compel village children to attend school. A number of the foot paths, the village paths were not good, and under the circumstances it would be a cruelty to enforce compulsory attendance at a school from a distance of three miles.

The Attorney-General said that "three miles" was not a new thing. It had been a regular part of the machinery of the ordinance enforced in all cases. Clearly they ought to have some medium in all cases. It was provided for in Section 14. He thought that they ought to act more wisely in making an amendment on that point. He doubted whether it was worth their while that that point should be further considered. However before they took that step they ought to consult the Director of Education and other officials. The amendment might have been more appropriately brought up in a general amendment of the ordinance.

Mr. Ramanathan:—What other sections of the parent ordinance refers to these three mile rule?

Attorney-General:—Section 14 of 1897. Mr. Ramanathan:—What other one? The paragraph runs as follows:—(Mr. Ramanathan here read out Section 14 of the ordinance referred to.)

Mr. Ramanathan said that he would join his hon. friend the Sinhalese member as to the undesirability of making children walk three miles and back. It necessary the wishes of the Director of Education could be obtained. He thought that his bill might stand over. It was a point worthy of consideration on.

Mr. Creasy:—What is the age of the children? Dr. Fernando:—From six to twelve years. Mr. Huyshe Elliot said that Dr. Fernando had been serving in the Local Government Commission and that he would possibly know many things on the subject.

Dr. Fernando:—We had abundant evidence upon the subject from a number of school managers and experienced inspectors of Schools. I say that there was a general consensus of opinion that two miles should be the limit and that's why I brought this point forward. This motion was then stood over.

The Attorney-General moved the second reading of an ordinance.

To provide for the Discipline of Seamen serving on ships chartered or requisitioned for the purposes of the present War.—Carried. This concluded the business of the day. Council adjourned till Wednesday the 25th. —The Ceyloner.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE HON'BLE SIR AMBALAVANAR KANAGASABAI.

Sir, The Tamils of Ceylon ought to feel proud of the honour conferred by His Majesty the King on the Hon'ble Mr. A. Kanagasabai to be a "Knight Bachelor". As soon as the news was known in Jaffna there was a universal feeling of approbation at the excellent choice His Excellency the Governor had made for this signal honour. We may without fear of being contradicted say that the Hon'ble Sir Ambalavanar Kanagasabai commands the reverence of his people to a high degree. His eminent culture, sound common sense, admirable tact, modest ambition and unostentatious manners all combine to make him the beau ideal of his countrymen. Among the many brilliant lawyers who have graced from time to time the Ceylon Courts Sir Ambalavanar is one. He is a great master of facts and an able exponent of the "Thesevalame". His mind is always clear and judges who resort to short cuts are obliged to patiently listen to him; for he never misses a point which appears important to the cause of his client.

As a Legislative Councillor for the past eleven years he worked for his community at great self-sacrifice. At the time he was first appointed to a seat in the Legislative Council, he had an enviable practice at the Bar with a large income. He was the leader of the Bar, not only by seniority but by his lucrative practice. For the sake of his country he abandoned his covetable income and went into residence at the Metropolis which entailed heavy demands on his purse.

His sincere devotion to the cause of his country during the term he was a member of council is a matter of common knowledge. On account of the present constitution of the Legislative Council it is not possible to do solid work in council. Yet his courteous and cheerful manner, his never failing smile and his persuasive tact always unvaried and disarmed his opponent. He was never an obstructionist in council and he used sparingly his talents for rhetoric. Whenever the occasion demanded it, his speeches rose to a high level of oratory combined with sound judgment.

I understand that there is a movement on foot to give a reception to the Hon'ble Sir Ambalavanar. I think that these receptions have become very common in Jaffna. We orientals in our oriental simplicity give receptions to each and every one indiscriminately. A young Ceylonese student returning from Europe, a retired Postmaster on his being made a Mudir, a school-master on his being appointed in charge of a school, a clerk on his appointment as a headman, are all feted in the name of good Jaffna and at times our leaders do not hesitate to read addresses also. I do not condemn for a moment the good intentions of our good people but this is the first time ever since the British rule a Jaffna gentleman born and bred at Jaffna and residing at Jaffna has been conferred this great honour. The Government has recognised his services to the Crown. My countryman will agree with me that we have a great duty to perform to the Hon'ble Sir Ambalavanar for the disinterested services he has rendered to his country both in and out of council. This recognition should take the form of a permanent memorial in addition to a grand reception. I make the suggestion and leave my countrymen to decide for themselves the form it should take.

Law Library, I am, Sir, Jaffna, Yours truly, 19 2-17. "Politicus"

TELEGRAPHIC SUMMARY.

The War.

CONDITIONS IN GERMANY.

Allahabad, Feb. 17. Pioneer special cables, dated London, Feb. 14th, state:—The Central News Bome correspondent quotes a report, published for information, as having been received by the Vatican from a sure source, dealing with the state of the enemy Armies. According to this Von Hindenburg bluntly stated at a recent Council of War at the German General Headquarters that the Military deterioration of Germany and Austria during the past three or four months had been even more marked than the deterioration of civilians through economic distress. He could not fail to note during his inspection of all fronts that the spirits of the soldiers were full of depression. They also showed marked physical deterioration. The War material at the disposal of the forces was neither so abundant nor so good as formerly. Moreover the German Army was now suffering from a shortage of officers. The information adds that if the German conditions are so bad, it is safe to assume that those of her Allies are much worse. There is also reason to believe that the percentage of sickness in the Central Powers' Armies is alarmingly high.

THE UNDER WATER CAMPAIGN.

Allahabad, Feb. 18. Pioneer special cables state:—London, Feb. 17th.—Satisfactory accounts of the Navy's work against German submarines continue to come to hand from home and Neutral sources. French advice states that the number sunk is very considerable. This is borne out by the reduced quantity of tonnage sunk in recent days. The Admiralty people are silent, but smiling, and it is believed that before long the enemy will make the best of the situation and, with a show of regard for Neutrals, will agree to refrain from sink-

ing ships where possible. It is known that the tonnage sunk does not come anywhere near the German estimate. Already the Berlin Foreign Office has prepared the public for a few sinkings by circulating a statement that the submarine campaign had succeeded in locking up Neutral ships in harbour. As a matter of actual fact only a small proportion is laid up and at sea only one ship in a hundred is destroyed. At the present rate of progression it would take some years to clear the seas of merchant ships. The danger of the menace is by no means over, but it has been crippled at the beginning and against that Germany has to recover. She will no doubt do her very best in the next few weeks, and there will be losses, but all the signs are favourable to the Allies.

INDIA AND COMPULSORY SERVICE.

Calcutta, Feb. 19. At Rangoon on Saturday Sir Harcourt Butler, the Lieut Governor, and Mr. W. F. Price, Chief Secretary, were the first to register under the new Ordinance, which shows that both are under fifty.

THE BRITISH FRONT.

London, Feb. 18. A German evening official communique records strong Artillery fire on the Ancre in the forenoon, and that fresh Infantry engagements developed.

774 PRISONERS ON SATURDAY.

Field-Marshal Sir D. Haig says:—We took prisoner on the Ancre on Saturday 774. Three waves of German Infantry in the morning, accompanied by supporting troops, attacked the new positions at Bailliescourt Farm. They came under concentrated Artillery fire and did not reach our lines, being driven back with heavy losses. We entered their positions in the night South West and North West of Arras, South of Fauquissart and North of Ypres, and inflicted many casualties and took prisoner nineteen. We repulsed raiders South of Ypres.

PUSH ON THE ANCRE.

London, Feb. 17. Field-Marshal Sir D. Haig says:—In a successful operation on both banks of the Ancre this morning we have progressed considerably. We attacked Southward of the River and captured positions on a front of 1 1/2 mile. Opposite the villages of Miramont and Petit Miramont we penetrated over 1,000 yards. We advanced our line to within a few hundred yards of Petit-Miramont. We captured Northward of the River an important position on the upper slopes of the spur Northwards of Bailliescourt Farm on a 1,000 yard front. We successfully repulsed the counter-attack. The enemy's losses were heavy. We took prisoner 268, of whom six were officers. We carried out raids Southwards of Neuve Chapelle and North-Eastward of Ploeg-street and reached the second line in the latter. A large number of the enemy were killed and many dug-outs destroyed. We repulsed hostile parties Westward of Lens and Eastward of Givenchy.

THE FRENCH FRONT.

London, Feb. 18. A French communique records patrol encounters, especially in the sectors of Troyon, Les Chambrettes and North-West of Badonvillers. A detachment penetrated an enemy trench at Le Pretre Wood and destroyed works and dug-outs.

London, Feb. 19. A French communique records a fairly lively Artillery duel on both banks of the Meuse, especially in the region of Bezonvaux and Hill 304.

London, Feb. 17. A French communique says:—In Champagne there was mutual Artillery activity in the sector Maison de Champagne. In Alsace one of our detachments penetrated the German salient of Ametzwiller and completely wrecked it, the enemy suffering heavily. We brought back prisoners.

London, Feb. 18. A French communique says there was an intermittent cannonade on most of the front, especially active in the direction of Ribecourt.

AMERICA AND THE WAR.

Washington.—The Germans have ordered the lowering of the American flag on the American Legation at Brussels. Official quarters admit this has greatly added to the tension of the situation.

GERMAN PROPERTY NOT TO BE SEIZED.

Washington.—It is officially announced that the United States regards the Treaty of Russia of 1799, promising protection of their respective subjects and property in case of War, as in force. America has already proclaimed that German ships will not be seized or used by the American Government in case of War.

THE "YARROWDALE'S" PRISONERS.

Washington.—The demand for the release of the Americans aboard the "Yarrowdale" has been delayed pending verification of the newspaper report that they have already been released. It is stated that the State Department has inquired through the Spanish Embassy at Berlin the reason for the delay in the departure of the second train load of American officials.

THE GREEK SITUATION.

London, Feb. 18. Athens.—A Decree orders civilians to deliver up their arms in five days with the penalty of confiscation and a fine.

THE RUSSIAN FRONT.

London, Feb. 18. A wireless Russian official communique says:—Germans clad in white overalls made an offensive South-Westward of Dvinsk and penetrated the front line. We immediately threw them out. We surprised and captured without a shot a fortified height South-Westward of Olona.

THE ITALIAN FRONT.

London, Feb. 17. A Vienna official despatch reports that since the morning the enemy has been attacking our positions West of Horstrau and North East of Bozenau Pass. Fighting is proceeding.

SEA FRIGHTFULNESS.

London, Feb. 18. Amsterdam.—Conversing with the post-Mueller the Kaiser declared that Napoleon's phantom of a continental blockade had become a reality, hitting England harder than anything hitherto. Right and morality were on the German side for the triumph of which every clean weapon must be used.

STEAMERS SUNK.

The British steamers "Cilicia" "Ferga" and "Margarita" and three English trawlers have been sunk of a total tonnage 5,000 tons.

CAPTAIN TAKEN PRISONER.

London, Feb. 17. The Captain of the sunken trawler "Mary Bell" has been taken prisoner.

BREVITIES.

London, Feb. 16. Amsterdam.—Count Reventlow, commencing in a newspaper on the "Lords" submarine debate, claims the previous submarine campaign was overcome not by British measures but by threatening the diplomatic intervention of America. Count Reventlow feebly reports Lord Curzon's mention of Admiral Jellicoe's satisfaction at the number of German submarines sunk.

London, Feb. 15. Amsterdam.—The Berlin correspondent of Des Nordens says the decision of the United States to permit the arming of American merchantmen has increased the chances of War because it deprives the submarine commanders of their last chance of placing passengers and crews of American vessels in safety.

London, Feb. 15. Paris.—A Rio de Janeiro telegram states that three Brazilian vessels have sailed for Europe since Feb. 1st.

THE WAR LOAN.

GREATEST FINANCIAL TRIUMPH IN HISTORY. London, Feb. 17.

The consensus of opinion is that the War Loan is the greatest financial triumph in the world's history. Estimates of the result vary from 600 to 1,000 millions, but even the smaller figure far exceeds the anticipations of the financiers who, five weeks ago, did not expect more than 200 to 300 millions would be procurable direct from the public subscription, especially as the Loan handicapped conversion operations for the Loan of 1915 and included 200 millions from the Banks which at present have not participated, confining their efforts to generously assisting their clients, though it is no secret that they have arranged with Mr. Bonar Law that money will be forthcoming whatever the result of the Loan. The overwhelming public response leaves the Banks free to assist Government in any further War finance. In other words the huge financial strength, conveniently concentrated, remains in the country. The features of the subscriptions included attractive instalment payment schemes by Municipalities and employers, also sweepstakes one of which at the Stock Exchange resulted in the subscription of £21,000. The number of subscribers to the 1915 Loan was 500,000. The indications are that the number now is 5,000,000, with a minimum subscription of 15s. 6d., compared with Germany's shilling. The War savings certificates are still most popular. Their sale in the Post Offices prior to the Loan campaign was one million weekly and amounted last week to eight million sterling.

GOLD HOARDS UNEARTHED.

London, Feb. 18. A future of the War Loan subscriptions has been the unearthing of some extraordinary gold hoards. Three thousand sovereigns were paid into Sunderland Post Offices in two days and four thousand sovereigns at Swansea. One farmer's family at Wrexham paid a hundred sovereigns and a Lincoln woodman 850 sovereigns. There were also numerous gifts of money ranging from half-a-crown to ten pounds, often accompanied by pathetic letters breathing patriotism and poverty. Nine hundred workpeople in one factory subscribed £15,000 sterling. There are huge subscriptions from the Municipalities: for instance, Luton averaged ten pounds a head.

A FORECAST.

London, Feb. 17. It is unofficially estimated that 1,000 to 1,200 millions of new money have been subscribed to the War Loan.

BRUGES AGAIN BOMBED.

London, Feb. 17. The Admiralty announces that Naval aeroplanes effectively dropped heavy bombs on Ghiselles aerodrom and also bombed Bruges harbour and shipping yesterday.

FIGHTING IN CUBA.

London, Feb. 18. Sharp fighting has occurred in Cuba. The rebels have been defeated 17 miles West of Havana.

MESOPOTAMIA.

London, Feb. 17. Mesopotamia.—We took the offensive on Thursday on the right centre of the Dabra bend on the right bank of the Tigris and secured our objective on a 700 yards front. We extended our games by bombing to a depth of 500 yards on a 1,000 yards front. We easily repulsed counter-attacks. We assaulted later the left centre and secured our objective on a front of 850 yards. During the night we cleared out the enemy from small areas, securing the whole of the Dabra bend. We took prisoner 89 officers of whom two were regimental and three battalion commanders, and 1,906 men. The booty includes five machine-guns, 2,500 rifles and large quantities of ammunition and stores. We advanced on Friday 1,200 yards Southwards of the Humran loop and are now holding the South West corner of this bend.

BRITISH GOVERNMENT'S CONFIDENCE.

London, Feb. 18. Mr. Henderson at Manchester said the confidence of the Government in a final issue was never so high. He believed a blow would be struck in the coming summer which would lead the War to a close entirely satisfactory to the Allies.

GREATER SACRIFICES NEEDED.

London, Feb. 18. Lord Derby at Bolton said the War would still be long and more bitter than ever. The nation must make still greater sacrifices of manhood. Germany was still possessed of an enormous reserve of power. She would make a gigantic effort to gain the mastery. The next six months would be most critical. Lord Derby confidently predicted we would be successful, but it would not be a walk over.

IMPERIAL WAR CONFERENCE POSTPONED.

London, Feb. 17. The Daily News states that the Imperial War Conference has been postponed till April. It is stated that Government's chief difficulty is in restricting the imports from the Dominions. There is a danger of excluding essentials like grain, sugar, timber and ores, while some financial arrangement will be necessary to support exchanges, if silks, wines and fruits from France and Italy are stopped.

MOBE GERMAN TAXES.

London, Feb. 18. Amsterdam.—An explanatory Note regarding the Imperial Budget of 1917 is issued in Berlin. It announces that new War taxes will be necessary to cover the deficit of the ordinary Budget of 62 1/2 millions sterling. It is intended to impose an ad valorem tax on coal and tax passengers and goods on the railways, and domestic shipping and to increase the excess profits tax. The Dredener Nachrichten says that every day the War continues the question of making the enemy pay the bulk of the War costs becomes more imperative for the very existence of the Empire.

—The Ceylon Observer.

NOTICE.

Order Nisi.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 3365.

In the Matter of the Estate of the late Arampar Alvappillai of Point Pedro

Deceased.

Kasiar Moothathambay of Puloly East

Petitioner.

Vs.

- 1. Sivakkolundu widow of Alvappillai of Point Pedro
2. Thambiah Thanikasalam and wife
3. Manoniamammah of Do
4. Venayaga Mudaliyar Culandaivelu and wife
5. Sivapakkiam of Do

Respondents.

This matter of the Petition of the abovenamed Petitioner, praying for Letters of Administration to the estate of the late Arampar Alvappillai, coming on for disposal before P. E. Peiris Esqr., District Judge, on January 31, 1917, in the presence of Mr. S. Subramaniam, Proctor, on the part of the Petitioner; and the affidavit of the Petitioner, having been read: It is ordered that the Petitioner be and he is hereby declared entitled, as a creditor of the said deceased, to administer the estate of the said deceased and that Letters of Administration do issue to him, accordingly, unless the Respondents abovenamed or any other person shall, on or before March 6, 1917, shew sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

P. E. Peiris,

February 12, 1917. District Judge.

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