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ESTABLISHED SEPTEMBER 11, 1889.

(REGISTERED AS A NEWSPAPER.)

PUBLISHED EVERY MONDAY AND THURSDAY.

VOL. XXVIII—NO. 66.

JAFFNA, MONDAY FEBRUARY 26, 1917.

PRICE 5 CENTS

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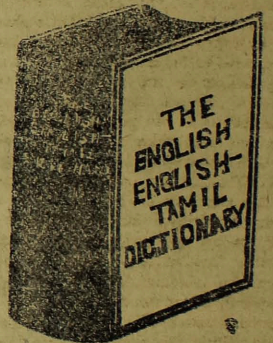
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The Hindu Organ.

JAFFNA, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1917.

INDIA'S PARTICIPATION IN THE IMPERIAL WAR CONFERENCE.

The greatest achievement of India, as the result of the present war, is her gaining admission to a partnership in the deliberations of the Imperial War Conference which is to meet in London next month, with Representatives from the British Dominions over the Seas. The Government of Lord Hardinge, one of the greatest of Indian Viceroyalties accepted a Resolution moved by an unofficial Member in the last session of the Imperial Legislative Council held during his viceroyalty, claiming the right of India to participate in this Conference. And in fulfillment of that undertaking, the Imperial Government has appointed the Secretary of State for India to represent this Dependency at the Conference with the assistance of three Delegates appointed by the Government of India. These Delegates have already left India for England and the result of the deliberations of the Conference are looked forward to with the greatest interest in all parts of the British Empire.

The persons selected as India's Delegates are Sir James Meeson, the Lieutenant-Governor of the United Provinces, the Maharajah of Bikanir, and Sir S. P. Sinha. The first of these is one of the ablest of Indian Civilians. Although he is not in entire sympathy with Indian aspirations, yet he is one who is not rabidly opposed to them, as his presence and speech at the last sitting of the Indian National Congress held in Lucknow would show. The Maharajah seems to be, judging from the speech delivered by him on the eve of his departure from Bombay, a most enlightened, patriotic and public spirited Prince who shares the nationalist ideas and ideals of the advanced section of his countrymen. His speech is worthy of reproduction. He said:

After the end of this terrible world wide war who can doubt that the angle of vision as regards

India will be still further altered in favour of every reasonable and ripe political reform. Close personal co-operation on the battlefields and the common bond of loyalty for the Sovereign and love for the Empire have furthermore led to a similar favourable change in the angle of vision of the self governing Colonies and the other parts of the British Dominions, which for the first time, are beginning to realise and understand India at her true worth. Big changes are in the air, including the reconstruction and reconstitution of our Empire, and though at present the immediate energies of all of us must be devoted to winning the war, yet when by God's Infinite Grace, the Arms of His Imperial Majesty the King Emperor and those of our brave Allies, are crowned with victory—an event which happily is already in sight—I sincerely believe that the British Statesmanship and British Sense of Justice and fairness will rise equal to the occasion and accord to our country that place to which her position in the Empire and her loyal services to the Crown entitle her. We may, therefore, confidently assume that that Great Britain and the British Nation who have so bravely made, and are still making such tremendous sacrifices to uphold the cause of justice and humanity, will not forget the just claims and aspirations of India to enable her to work out her destiny under Britain's guiding hand and protection.

Not only the Maharaja of Bikanir but also the other Princes who met on the occasion of the send off to him in Bombay gave expression to similar patriotic sentiments.

Sir S. P. Sinha is too well known to require any detailed introduction. He is the ex-Advocate-General of Bengal and the first Indian Member of the Viceroy's Executive Council, and, above all, the President of the 30th Indian National Congress held in December 1915 in Bombay—a person enjoying the confidence and esteem of both Government and the public.

There can be little doubt that the Indian Delegates to the Imperial Conference will do their best to elevate the position of India and place her on a par with that of any other parts of the Empire, securing for her privileges which she has deserved by services rendered and sacrifices made in connection with the war.

Surely, India has a bright future before her. Till recently the Princes of India were an ignorant and exclusive class, caring only for their own privileges and not sympathising at all with the political aspirations of the Indians. There is, however, a growing feeling among them in consonance with that of the educated Indians for the securing of greater political privileges for their common country. The Mohammedans and Hindus were disunited and pulled in opposite directions, and this was made a reason for the denial of those privileges. But they have now united themselves and agree in demanding from the British Government self-Government for India under the British Empire on an equal footing with self-governing British Colonies. When the Princes and people of India—Hindus and Mohammedans—unitedly ask for these privileges, they cannot be long withheld, more especially after they had proved themselves worthy of them by the splendid loyalty which they have shown and sacrifices which they have made in connection with the war. The Indians may not have all they ask for granted in the immediate future, but they are marching towards a goal which they will reach in the fullness of time. The end of the war will, however, see introduced into India substantial reforms which would be further steps for the attainment of Indian's ultimate ambition.

THE NIGHT MAIL TRAINS.

Great inconvenience is being felt by the passengers on the Northern line after the night mail trains have been cancelled. To travel in a train in daytime at this hot season of the year is undoubtedly very inconvenient. Besides, there is considerable delay in the transmit of mails which interfere much with transaction of business. If circumstances would not allow the restoration of this popular train service while retaining the day train, the authorities will do well to stop the day train and restore the night train. We quote below what the "Ceylonese" of the 24th instant writes on the subject:—

With regard to the night mail to Jaffna, we cannot see that the cancelling of the 1.00 A. M. train from Madawachchi to Kankasanturai, over a distance of barely ninety miles of level country, represents any real advantage to the department which is worth the discomfort imposed upon a large section of the public, travellers and others. Apart from the great convenience of travelling by night, which enables a man to have the whole of his day before him for business of any kind, there is the important question of the conveyance of mails to be considered. With only the day service, as at present arranged, a letter posted to Jaffna to day (Saturday) will not reach there until the day after (Monday), which is, also, the time taken for a letter to reach Madras or points even farther north of that city in the N. Z. dominions (Deccan), a distance of about nine hundred miles, or more than three times the distance by rail between Colombo and Jaffna.

We think the close contact, social, commercial, and administrative, between the metropolis and the capital of the north, renders necessary a more frequent intercommunication than a weekly postal service now offers, and we urge upon the authorities the desirability of meeting the public convenience in this matter. It is not as though a special train has to be run nightly to the north, for the express benefit of travellers and mails to Jaffna. One is already being run as far as Madawachchi, over nearly two thirds of the terminal distance, in connection with the Indo-Ceylon service, and what is suggested is only a connecting train from that junction to Jaffna, as used before to be the case. We trust the Hon'ble Mr. SAPATHY'S motion in Council on this matter will secure for the public of Jaffna this greatly felt want.

LOCAL & GENERAL.

SUPREME COURT CRIMINAL SESSIONS.—In the Puckuduthivu murder case the Jury brought in a verdict of guilty of grievous hurt and the accused was sentenced to 4 years rigorous imprisonment. The next case that was taken up was from Point Pedro. The accused was charged with attempt to murder. Mr. Tampoe who appeared for the accused tendered a plea of guilty of grievous hurt which was accepted by the Crown. The prisoner was sentenced to 6 years rigorous imprisonment. The case in which a man from Madduvil who stood charged with having committed abduction of a girl with a view to compel her to marry him was next taken. Mr. Advocate Tampoe defended the prisoner. The Jury brought in a verdict of not guilty and the prisoner was discharged. The next case was the Chulipuram murder case. It was the *casus celeberrimus* of the sessions. The Crown charged Markandan, Sinnatamby and Mustan 3 dhobies of Chulipuram with having committed murder by stabbing to death one Kovinthan. The Crown Counsel in his opening address to the Jury said that it was the worst case in the sessions and that it was a premeditated crime. The defence was that certain Samandan when he stabbed Markandan, by an irony of fate the blow alighted on Kovinthan and he died. The accused were ably defended by Advocates Messrs. S. D. Tampoe and T. E. Nalliah instructed by Proctor R. R. Nalliah. The address to the Jury by Mr. Tampoe rose up to the usual forensic reputation he has, and the Jury brought in a verdict of acquittal and the prisoner was discharged. The last case was from the Cunnagham Paraya quarters which resulted in a conviction. At the close of sessions the Chief Justice thanked the Jury and the Bar for the valuable assistance they had rendered in the administration of Justice and Mr. Advocate Tampoe thanked His Lordship on behalf of the Bar. The Chief Justice and his Private Secretary visited on Sunday the different Courts in the Peninsula and left for Trincomalee by the morning train to-day.

SMALL-POX.—A fresh case was discovered on Thursday evening last, the victim being a man living in the back grounds of the compound in which the Vannarponnai Post Office is located. As the patient was removed after the disease had fully developed, medical aid was of no avail to him and he expired at the hospital on Saturday night. The authorities will do well to prevent those who live in infected areas from removing themselves to other quarters and to adequately punish those who fail to report fresh cases in time. In removing patients to hospital, it is necessary that they do so at a late hour of the night, at least after 10 P. M. We understand that in some instances patients were removed very early in the night, when the roads were full of passers by. We hope the authorities will see to these things and take rigid measures to stamp out the disease.

RECEPTION TO MANIAGAR RATNA MAIL-VAGANAM.—Mr. Babna Mailvaganam, Maniagar, Vaigam East, was given a grand reception on Saturday night last at Neervely Sivaprakasam Vidhyasalai, by the residents of Neervely. He was taken in procession with native music from about quarter of a mile from the school and was garlanded when he entered the school hall. The hall was tastefully decorated with flowers &c. About 500 residents of the place and of the neighbouring villages were present. Welcome songs specially composed for the occasion having been sung, an address was read by the Headmaster of the school, on behalf of the residents of the place. The Maniagar replied in suitable terms. Speeches referring to his high family connections and to the honest and impartial way in which he has begun to discharge his duties were made on the occasion. Two Brahmin Priests of the place blessed the Maniagar by chanting some Sanskrit *Shlokas* and giving him *Achuthai*. The Maniagar on his way back also was taken in procession to about a quarter of a mile. The whole function was purely in oriental fashion and presented an imposing sight.

THE CIVIL SERVICE.—Mr. A. P. Boone, A. G. A., Colombo, is leaving for war service shortly. He will be succeeded by Mr. W. K. H. Campbell, Mr. G. F. R. Browning, who is returning from leave, taking Mr. Campbell's place as District Judge, Badulla.

MR. P. B. HERAT REINSTITUTED IN GOVERNMENT SERVICE.—Mr. P. B. Herat, Police Magistrate, Avissawalla, who was suspended for some reason or other is now reinstated in Government Service. He has been offered and has accepted an appointment at the General Treasury, Colombo.

PERSONAL.—Mr. V. Suppiah, Chief Clerk of the F. M. S. Government Printing Department, has been appointed Chief Clerk of the Selangor Secretariat.

—Mr. P. Ramapillai, Head Clerk, Loobugan Group, Matale, has been transferred to Dangan Group, Matale, as head clerk of this group.

—Mr. A. Chundrampillai of Clyde Group, Tebawana, has come to Jaffna on a short leave and is staying at his residence at Velakai, Manipay. He will return to his station on the 2nd proximo.

SUTHUMALAI RIOT CASE.—In the appeal of the accused in the Suthumalai caste riot case the conviction of the 8th accused was set aside and the sentence of the lower court on the other accused numbering about 32 was confirmed.

SURVEY DEPARTMENT.—Mr. Leonard Ship-ton, Superintendent of Surveys, North-Western Province, retires from service shortly. He was previously in charge of the Northern Province. He leaves Ceylon after thirty three years of service.

SCHOOL OF ORIENTAL STUDIES.—The following contributions had been made to the School of Oriental Studies which is to be established in London:—The City Corporation has given 250 sterling yearly for nine years. Goldsmiths Company £5,000 of the War Loan, Chartered Bank of India £1,000 donation and £100 yearly for five years, Hongkong and Shanghai Bank £200 for five years, National Bank of India £100 for three years and the Mercantile Bank of India £100, Sir Marcus Samuel and Mr. Andrews have given £1,000 each. The latter increased his subscription from £100 as a tribute to the valour of Indian troops.

GERMAN SUBMARINES.—It is perhaps not very widely known at present that in the later German submarine the bows take the form of an extremely sharp piece of specially hardened steel, whereby the submarine can cut any ordinary thickness of wire netting. This device is no doubt well enough in its way, but the nets used against submarines have mines attached to them. By that and other means the submarine is not only caught but destroyed. —The Ceylon Observer.

THE VIVEKANANDA SOCIETY, COLOMBO.—A meeting of the Vivekananda Society, Colombo, was held on Thursday, the 22nd inst. in the society room at No. 95, Dam Street. Mr. C. Perumapillai, Proctor, S. C., occupied the chair. The usual business of the meeting having been gone through, the Chairman proposed a vote of condolence on the death of Gate Mudaliyar R. O. Kallassapillai, a Vice-President of the Society. He detailed in a short speech the valuable and disinterested services of the late Mudaliyar to the cause of the Vivekananda Society and the irreparable loss it has sustained by his demise. Not only were the members of the society greatly benefited by his deep scholarship in Hindu religion and literature by attending the literary and religious classes which he used to hold in the society room, but he was also a most useful guide to the Managing Committee of the Society. Much sympathy was felt for his widow and children. The vote of condolence was passed in silence, all the members standing. This being over, a lecture that had been arranged for the evening was delivered by Mr. M. Vanniasingam on "Love of God and of his servants."

KANDY TAMILS' LITERARY ASSOCIATION.—The weekly meeting of the Kandy Tamils' Literary Association was held at the Association Hall on Saturday the 17th instant with Mr. S. Sivagnanasundaram in the chair. The meeting commenced at 7.30 P. M. after a rehearsal of the "Sham Trial" to be held shortly. After the minutes of the previous meeting were read and adopted, the following resolutions were passed. Resolved (1) That a vote of thanks be passed and forwarded to the Hon'ble Sir A. Kanagasabai in appreciation of his inestimable services rendered by him to the Tamil Community as Member of the Legislative Council. (2) That a vote of congratulations be passed and forwarded to the Hon'ble Sir A. Kanagasabai on the signal mark of honour bestowed on him by His Majesty the King in raising him to the Knighthood. (3) That a vote of congratulations be passed and communicated to the Hon'ble Mr. A. Sapapathy on his nomination to a seat in the Legislative Council to represent the Tamils. (4) That a vote of congratulations be passed and communicated to Mr. V. S. S. Coomarasamy, B.A., on his passing the Inter L. L. B. Examination of the London University. (5) That a vote of condolence be passed and conveyed to Mr. K. Coomarasamy at the untimely death of his mother. As the hour was late, the lecture that was to be delivered was postponed. The meeting terminated at about 8.30 P. M. with a vote of thanks to the chair.

POONA WOMEN AND INDIAN EMIGRATION.—A representative meeting of the women of Poona was held yesterday, under the presidency of Mrs. Ramabai Ranade, to protest against the continuance of the emigration of Indian labourers under indenture, and to ask for its immediate abolition. Mrs. Sarojini Naidu who spoke in Hindi, pleaded passionately for the removal of the stain, and made an urgent appeal to the H. E. the Viceroy in the name of the honour of Indian women. Miss Sarojini was also one of the speakers. —"M. Mail", Feb 22

THE COLONIAL AUDITOR.—Mr W W Wood, the Colonial Auditor is going on six months leave from 9th of March. During his absence Mr J H. Morley Assistant Auditor will act for him.

EASTERN HARBOUR REGULATIONS.—Very stringent restrictions regarding traffic in Bombay Harbour have been introduced from the beginning of the current week. The port of Bombay has been closed, and no traffic of any kind between sunset and sunrise is permitted. Coasting steamers have to make the port during daylight, and all landing at certain prescribed spots is prohibited. Anyone disregarding these rules is liable to arrest, and if afloat will be fired on and sunk, if he fail to stop for examination on being hailed from the shore or from the harbour.—Observer, Feb. 24.

A SEND OFF.—On Wednesday the 7th inst. at 6 P. M., the friends of Mr A Poothapillai, Booking Clerk, C. G. R., Talawakelle, assembled together to bid good-bye to him on the eve of his departure to Dahiwalwa on transfer. After refreshments were served Messrs S. Kathiravelu the popular S. M. J. D. Senevratna, S. W. Cooke and Sohelid Perera, spoke highly of the sterling qualities of the departing friend to which the latter feelingly replied.

FAREWELL AT AVISAWELLA.—Saturday before last the members of the Avisawella Tennis Club bade farewell to Mr William Black, District Engineer, a prominent member of the Club, who goes to Jaffna on transfer. Mr C. J. S. Pritcheard, Police Magistrate of Avisawella, and President of the Club, on behalf of all present, thanked Mr. Black for all his valuable services rendered to the Club. He referred to the excellent condition in which the roads in Avisawella, were kept in spite of the heavy motor and other traffic under Mr. Black's able and careful supervision.

Y. M. H. A., NEERVELY.—The weekly meeting of the above Association was held on Sunday the 25th inst., with Mr. P. Ramappillai in the chair. The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, Master T. Rajaretnam gave his recitation to the satisfaction of the members. The subject fixed for the day was a debate on whether "western civilization or eastern civilization is preferable." Master T. Raguathan proposed that western civilization is preferable to that of the east and was supported by Master A. P. Thambyrajah. Master T. Chidamparamathan led the opposition, being supported by Master S. Vaithilingam. Then the house was open for remarks. Masters K. Sathasivam, T. Rajaretnam, K. Valupillai and Mr. T. Ariaputhirar offered remarks. Then the proposer was called on to sum up his arguments. On being put to the vote, the opposition carried the day by two votes. The chairman delivered a fluent speech in favour of Eastern civilization. A vote of thanks was proposed to the chair by the Assistant Secretary, Master K. Sathasivam, and seconded by Master S. Vaithilingam. The meeting terminated at 10 P. M. with the singing of Thevaram.—Cor.

OBITUARY.—It is our painful duty to chronicle the untimely death of Mrs. K. C. Nathan, eldest daughter of Dr. S. Arumugam, the popular physician and surgeon of Jaffna, which sad event took place at her father's residence yesterday evening. The deceased young lady gave birth to a daughter a few weeks back, and was suffering from puerperal fever. The best medical treatment and careful nursing were given, but all were to no effect. The funeral takes place today. Our heartfelt condolences to the deceased's father and other relatives who bemoan her loss.

RULES UNDER NOTARIES' ORDINANCE

The following rules have been gazetted for the conduct of Notaries, not being Advocates or Proctors, in the discharge of their notarial duties:

RULES REFERRED TO:—

- 35. (e) Every deed or instrument which shall be executed or acknowledged before a notary shall be attested by him within 48 hours of execution or acknowledgment, and such attestations shall be signed and sealed within the same space of time. In computing this period, Sundays and public holidays shall be excluded.
35. (f) In the register of deeds kept under rule 23 of section 29 the particulars of each deed shall be entered immediately after it is executed; in no case shall the entry be delayed beyond the day following the day of execution of the deed, except when such day happens to be a Sunday or public holiday.
35. (g) Provided, however, that a notary who is prevented by sickness from complying with either of the foregoing rules shall not be guilty of a breach of these rules, if he notifies the fact of his illness forthwith to the Registrar of Lands of the district in which he practices, furnishing at the same time in proof of such illness a certificate obtained from a medical practitioner registered under Ordinance No. 2 of 1905.

THE LANKA SUBODHA VILASA SABHA. HALF YEARLY GENERAL MEETING.

The half yearly general meeting of the above was held at the Sabha Rooms, No. 37 Hulstorf, Colombo, on Tuesday the 23rd inst. at 6 P. M., presided over by the Hon'ble Mr. K. Balasingam, the president of the Sabha. The Managing Committee's report and accounts which were read and adopted disclosed a

total membership of 106 and the balance sheet for the half year showed a sum of Rs. 344-04 to the credit of the Sabha.

The election of office bearers and committees resulted as follows:—

- President: Hon. Mr. K. Balasingam, M. L. C.
Vice-Presidents: Drs. David Rockwood, M. R. C. S. (Eng.), L. R. C. P. (Lon.), Major, C. V. M. C., E. V. Ratnam, L. R. C. S. & F. R. C. S. (Edin.), M. M. C., R. Saravanamuttu, M. B., L. R. C. P. (Lon.), M. R. C. S. (Eng.), Messrs. S. Manogandam, C. Arumugam and A. C. Muttumaru.
Hon. Secretary: Mr. M. A. Arulanandam, B. A.
Hon. Asst. Secretary: Mr. A. Homer.
Hon. Treasurer: Mr. V. S. Ratnam.
Hon. Asst. Treasurer: Mr. C. P. Chellathurai.
Committee: Messrs. M. C. Raju, S. Theagarajah, C. Kumaravelpillai, James Joseph and Dr. S. K. Chinniah.
Literary and Arts Sub Committee: Dr. S. K. Chinniah and Mr. K. Chornalingam.
Dramatic Sub Committee:—Conductor: Mr. K. Chornalingam; Stage Directors: Messrs. S. V. Supramaniam and C. W. A. Beebe; Green Room Directors: Messrs. S. Mahadeva and A. Selvaratnam; Messrs. James Joseph, S. Theagarajah, and A. Suppiah.
Social Sub-Committee: Messrs. M. C. Raju, and A. Selvaratnam.
Auditors: Messrs. P. S. Hallock and C. Theagarajah.
The following were present at the meeting:—Hon. Mr. K. Balasingam, Dr. R. Saravanamuttu, Messrs. M. A. Arulanandam, James Joseph, A. Homer, Dr. S. K. Chinniah, Messrs. V. S. Duraisinghe, K. Chornalingam, V. S. Ratnam, P. Amirthalingam, S. T. Kandiah, S. Manunayagam, A. Nagalingam, S. V. Supramaniam, V. Sinnathurai, S. Theagarajah, C. Omaraavelpillai, C. Theagarajah, P. S. Hallock, K. R. Kandiah, C. W. A. Beebe, M. Kandiah, G. J. Rajah, A. Suppiah, C. P. Chellathurai and others.—Cor.

APPOINTMENT OF KING'S COUNSEL IN CEYLON.

GENERAL MEETING OF ADVOCATES SUMMONED.

Notice has been issued by Mr. A. B. Cooray as Hon. Secretary of the Bar Council convening a general meeting of Advocates on Friday, the 2nd March at 4 P. M. Mr. P. A. Hayley will move the following resolution:—

- (a) That a meeting of five members be appointed to consider whether the system of appointing King's Counsel in Ceylon is satisfactory, and whether Rules for regulating the practice of King's Counsel appointed in the future should be framed, and to report to the Council of Advocates.
(b) That the Council of Advocates be requested, on receipt of the Committee's report, to frame such Rules, if any, as may be deemed advisable and to submit them to the next general meeting of advocates for approval.—The Ceylon Observer.

HIGH THINKING.

It is a law of human nature, that men are inevitably influenced by their environment. But besides the outward environment of good or bad influences which go to educate us, there is an inner environment which is much more powerful. This consists of our own thoughts, our habits of thinking, our mental associations. That which we love to think about reacts on our character, and surrounds the soul with a sort of Chinese wall which other influences can hardly break through.

The Scripture says very wisely, "As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he." That is, a man's character is formed by what he loves to think about. There are matters which we think about because we insist—matters of business, daily duty—but into which, often, we do not put our hearts; matters which we do mechanically and automatically. There are other subjects to which our thoughts turn of themselves, as the compass needle which you have moved from the north your finger immediately trembles back when you let it go. What we think in our hearts, what we love to think about, forms our character. A miser is a man who has devoted his thoughts for gems to making and saving money, till at last it becomes impossible for him to think of anything else. He would be glad to use his money to enjoy it, to give, but he cannot do it; his thoughts have worn so deep root of habit that he is unable to get out of it. As he thinks in his heart so is he.

We talk about the education which comes from books, the culture which is given by study, by schools, by lectures; but the deepest and strongest of all education comes from the atmosphere of thought with which we surround our souls. Therefore Sukdev says, "Think of what is true, noble, beautiful, good; not of what is false, base and mean." To think of good things, good men, noble actions, elevates the soul; to think of base and mean things draws it down. If there be any good anywhere, think of it. If there be any goodness anywhere, think of it. And, to think of these aright, think of Him from whom all goodness comes and to whom all goodness tends.

"Whatever things are true," says Sukdev, "think of them." No matter where they come from, from heretic, infidel, pagan, if they can teach you anything new which you have not already known, thankfully accept it—"whatever things are honest." "Honest" is not exactly the proper word here. A better translation would be, "whatever things are adorable or worthy of reverence." The habit of looking up with reverence to what is above us is one of the chief moral forces which elevate the soul. The soul which, consumed by egotism, vanity, jealousy, is unable to see nobleness and adore it, is almost incapable of progress.

The greatest souls have always been those most full of reverence. Shakespeare calls reverence "the angel of the world." Without reverence life loses one of its chief charms, character becomes angular and hard, conduct grows willful, dignity, harmony, and the highest culture depend on reverence as their foundation. "Whatever things are adorable, divine reverence them." For, reverence for these things opens the soul to what is heavenly, and brings down God into our hearts.

Sukdev does not forget the lower earthly virtues. He tells us to think of whatsoever things are just, pure, amiable, well spoken of, everything which gives happiness to human life, which adds a charm to earthly existence. He does not despise beauty nor undervalue the lighter graces of our common homes. Whatever things are well spoken of seemed to him to have some element of worth. He did not depreciate earthly goodness as 'mere morality,' or think that whatever was popular must necessarily be bad. He believed that men really liked good things, and not bad things, and that popularity itself probably indicated some kind of merit.

There is a favourite maxim, "Look up, and not down." Love to think of what is true, good, excellent in every thing and in every one, rather than what is false, wrong, and evil. These thoughts give us strength and peace, and are the source of true life. And if the things we love about such mould and influence our character, is it not evident why, when we love to think of God, we receive the best of all influences?

To think God from fear, as a form, or as a ritualistic duty helps us little. But when our thoughts flow upward to God as the all-loving friend, the ineffable tenderness, the power which pours into nature with the abounding life of spring, who is seen in all the glory of summer skies, in the immeasurable smile of ocean, in the living solitude of the woods, in noble friendship and generous love—when He comes to us as the personification of all that is most sublime and all that is most lovely in our human life, lifting it to an infinite value, bestowing on it an eternal stability, then the thought of Him feeds the soul as nothing else does. It lifts up our heart, strengthens every good purpose, consoles us in every sorrow, gives us a power not our own, to cleave to right, and thus feeds the soul from its centre with what is best. This is the true spirit in the human heart.

—The Mahamandal Magazine.

CORRESPONDENCE.

CANCELLATION OF THE NIGHT MAIL TRAINS.

MAIL ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN MADAWACHCHI AND JAFFNA.

Leaving the wisdom of the General Manager, C. G. R. in cancelling the night trains between this and Jaffna, I beg to lay before you, with the hope of getting redress the following facts, re the mail arrangements between this and Jaffna.

After the stopping of the night trains our letters take nearly 3 (three) days, to reach Jaffna. If I post a letter today, say, at 10 A. M. this letter will be despatched from here by the receiving officer in the evening at 6 P. M. to the railway station together with the mails to Colombo and will lie there till the following day to be carried by the 2.30 P. M. train to Jaffna. This train will arrive at 8 P. M. at Jaffna and this will be delivered probably at 10 A. M. at next day (that is the third day of the posting of the letter). So you will see by not making adequate arrangements for the closing of mails to Jaffna say at about 10 or 11 A. M. our letters to Jaffna take 48 hours to reach; whereas, during the night train service it reached at about 18 hours.

Will you please, therefore be good enough to ventilate this in your valuable paper so that it may catch the eye of the Postmaster General.

I remain, Sir, Yours Truly, K. V. Aronachalam, Madawachchi.

THE CANCELLATION OF THE NIGHT TRAIN SERVICE ON THE NORTHERN LINE.

The announcement that has just been made in the press by the General Manager of Railways regarding the cancellation of the night train between the Jaffna Peninsula and Madawachchi will, I am sure, be accepted with feelings of great dissatisfaction. The decision to cancel the night train on this line forms one of the stand out features of the misconceived economy. It deprives all those who have commercial and other interests in the North of the fine mail and passenger service. I think the General Manager has been advised to cancel the wrong train, should the circumstances as stated by him warrant the cancelling of one of the two trains on the Northern Line.

It would appear that the night train was much desired and has always been the more convenient and popular with the travelling public, for it connected the train to India with all other sections, while the day train has had the disadvantage of not giving a through connection from Jaffna beyond Polgahawella on the Upecunry Line, beyond Negombo and Moratuwa on the Chillaw and Coast Lines respectively, and beyond Talaimannar. The conditions would be similarly disadvantageous to those travelling in the reverse directions by the day train to Jaffna, and I would suggest for the kind consideration of the Railway Authorities the advisability of retaining the more popular night train up and down in preference to the day one—either dependently or independently of the Colombo—Talaimannar Service, which is a night one.

It might perhaps be urged that the night trains would be inconvenient as at present time to those travelling to and from Vavuniya, Mankulam and Paranthan, i. e. places situated between Madawachi and Pallal. In the case of Vavuniya, the Railway Station being in the heart of the town, it would suit well if the trains arrive there at any time between 4 A. M. and 10 P. M. The convenience of the few residents of Mankulam and Paranthan would also be served if the trains are suitably timed. However, the comfort of the largest number of passengers should be cared for.

If I remember aright, it was Mr. A. S. Pagden, who, as Postmaster General, urged on the General Manager the necessity of the night service to and from Jaffna, after the line to India was opened out. One of his reasons was that an express service up and down Talaimannar via Madawachi might as well tap the progressive Peninsula fully only 90 miles off. The public opinion fully endorsed the late Postmaster Gen-

eral's views on the point, and we have still to advance the same line of argument, supported by the steady growth of business interests requiring quick communication between the North and the south of Ceylon. Time will show the practicality of my proposal.

I trust that the Ceylon Government Railway Management will endeavour to minimize the inconvenience which the running of the day train in preference to the night one would involve by timely arrangement.

I am sure the whole of Jaffna, will rise to the occasion and lay the grievance before the Government through the Jaffna Association. "Maheswari Vasa", Sutherland Road, Colombo, Feb. 20, 1917. C. THIAGARAJAH.

MALAYA LETTER.

TAIPUSUM.—This annual religious festival of the Hindus has acquired in Singapore, thanks to the energy of the Nattukkottai Chetties, an unusual measure of social significance about it, and year after year the celebration convalesces to become more and more popular among a very cosmopolitan population. With a very large amount of financial endowment to back them the Chetties spare no pains to make the event as important as possible. The occasion is more of a spectacular demonstration of the wealth of the Chetties and their way of handling it on the plea of religion than a religious ceremony to be devoutly performed by the pious and the God having. The temple doors are thrown open to all, while the rules relating to religious observances are thrown to the winds. It is a usual sight to see devout bearers of Kavadi embouring their way to the inner court of the shrine through a conglomerate crowd of all manner of men, women, and children eagerly and anxiously pressing forward to satisfy their curiosity. The Chetties evidently derive much satisfaction and praise themselves on having provided entertainment to Singapore's scum. And to cap all they wind up the joy making by an elaborate and expensive display of fireworks. It would, however, be more useful and lasting if the Chetties, worldly wise as they are, would direct their energies and coin to lay more emphasis on the religious aspect of the occasion, whereby Hinduism will be more understood here than it is. The Chetties are free to do what they please with their (?) money but not at the expense of Hinduism and its actual adherents.

CEYLON TAMIL ASSOCIATION.—This Singapore body celebrated its Seventh Anniversary on the 25th ultimo in the Association Hall at Dhoby Ghant. A very large attendance of the community graced the occasion, and was provided with a good entertainment. A chief feature was a contribution by a well wisher of a choice variety of specially composed songs in Tamil. The function lasted about 3 1/2 hours and was a success.

Although this Association has been seven years in existence it has chosen to be unostentatious. Now the younger members of the community are beginning to show an interest and activity and one may hope to see evidences of the work of the body soon.

NOTES AT RANDOM.—Lord Northcliffe recently made a journalistic scoop by having an article on "Fashioning the New England" published in nearly one thousand newspapers in America, Australia, Canada, France and Italy on the same day. The burden of his song was a criticism of the last government and commendation of the new one.

Lord Northcliffe is supposed to be a maker of Ministers. One should think he could spend his time better by making munitions!

"There was a Hunger Demonstration here yesterday" says an Amsterdam telegram of the 6th inst. It must have been by the Hunger Demons!

After months of discussion the Straits Government has decided on the War Income Tax. A committee appointed to report on possible taxes proposed a wonderful of taxes of all sorts but the population got alarmed at the prospect of some of these grinding and unequal levies descending on them and addressed a memorial to the Governor and also represented matters through a deputation and asked for a War Income Tax, and the voice of the people has prevailed. The minimum income taxed is \$8000 per annum.

Experiments are reported as being made with the lalang grass of Malaya with a view to find out if paper could be made out of it. The lalang in a long broad bladed tough grass and is a wild growth of Malaya mostly to be seen on the slopes of hills abutting on the sea coast. It is supposed that large quantities of it could be obtained for nothing more than the cost of collection. If the experiments prove successful there is a "future" for Malaya and its lalang!

There is evidence of an increasing interest in Indian affairs on the part of the Ceylon public. The papers until recently kept India out of their range of discussion but now one frequently comes across reference to Indian problems and active participation in their discussion. This augurs well for us. The policy of striking out a line wholly for ourselves and looking down upon Indian experience ought to fall far short of our expectations in its result.

There is a class of thinkers in Ceylon and among Ceylonese outside that by turning to India for guidance now and then Ceylonese interests stand to lose. These persons would do anything to cut ourselves adrift from India in connection and sympathy simply because they think Indian progress is far behind that of Ceylon. A careful study of current events will show that in many instances we have everything to learn from India.

There seems to be a possibility of the Federal Guard at late of Kuala Lumpur, being published in Singapore, if the price of printing paper does not go up. Mr. Charles Champion, the Managing Editor, is in Singapore having joined the tutor at St. R of the Angli Chinese School. Singapore, 10th February, 1917. LANKA

TELEGRAPHIC SUMMARY.

The War.

BIBBY LINER "WORCESTERSHIRE" SUNK.

20,000 TONS LOST. London, Feb. 19. The Bibby steamer "Worcestershire" has been sunk. The sinking of the steamers "Lady Ann," "Marie Leonhardt," "Marion Dawson," "Queenswood," "Romsdalen," "Valdes" and two small craft, all British are announced. The total, including the "Worcestershire," is about 20,000 tons. A number of men were killed and missing. The loss of the "Worcestershire" was due probably to either a floating mine or an internal explosion; all the passengers and all but three of the crew were saved.

SEA FRIGHTFULNESS.

10,000 TONS SENT TO THE BOTTOM. London, Feb. 17. The sinkings of the steamers "Aton," "Greenland," "Hopemoor," "Kyanite," "Longscar" and four small craft, all British, are announced. They total over 10,000 tons.

THE WHOLE OF EUROPE SUFFERING.

London, Feb. 19. The cumulative effects of the War are manifest throughout Europe. Food and fuel restrictions are becoming general. Neutrals particularly are lacking coal. Britain despite the submarine is best served in all respects. The newspapers in France are single sheets, while Holland is paperless one day weekly. France, in addition to meatless days and the prohibition of pastry, proposes to issue bread cards shortly. The general conditions are becoming worse daily in Scandinavia. The coal shortage has compelled the restriction of hours in which schools, churches and factories remain open. Sweden has issued sugar and soap cards. The Italian Government has commandeered crops at thirty-six lire a quintal and fixed the price of the next crop at 45 lire, hoping to encourage new sowing. Bread and sugar tickets are expected in Rome. Coal costs sixteen pounds sterling a ton and wood 78 shillings. There is great distress in Spain owing to the stoppage of industries due to submarineing.

DUTCH-AMERICAN SERVICE.

London, Feb. 20. Amsterdam.—The Nederland Shipping Company and the Rotterdamsche Lloyd will shortly resume services with eight passenger steamers between Java and San Francisco, touching Hongkong, Nagasaki and Honolulu and connecting with the Holland-America line at New York.

LITTLE EFFECT ON IMPORTS.

New York.—Lord Robert Cecil, interviewed by the Associated Press, said submarineism hitherto had had very little effect on the imports in the United Kingdom but it had interfered to some extent with trade with neutrals. Some Scandinavian, Dutch and Trans-Atlantic boats are now afraid to call at United Kingdom ports in order to be searched and thus avoid the trouble of search on the sea. The British Government had consequently arranged that such ships should be searched at Halifax, Nova Scotia.

A SWEDISH PROTEST.

London, Feb. 21. The Swedish Press denounces the submarineing of Sweden's biggest sailing ship, "Hugo Hamilton," from Valparaiso for Sweden with a cargo of asphalt, contrasting this flagrant breach of International Law with British methods.

FUTILITY OF THE BLOCKADE.

Reports for 1916 of the Liverpool Steamship Owners Association show that Britain's ocean going tonnage was reduced less than five per cent after 2 1/2 years of War. The Association says these figures show the futility of the German blockade.

THE BRITISH FRONT.

London, Feb. 19. Reuter's special correspondent says:—The battle around Miraumont was the heaviest attack since the battle of Beaumont Hamel. The line of attack extended from a point South-West of Pys to the Puisseux road on a front of two miles. The operation was in continuation of the great tactical plan which enabled us to destroy the most formidable works and gain a footing on the highest ground between Grandcourt and Miraumont. The attack was preceded by a deliberate bombardment to destroy dense barbed wire. The attack was launched before dawn under cover of all the available guns. The first objective was gained with little opposition. The attacking force swept on. All the objectives on the left were carried by seven o'clock, the British, advancing well up the strongly fortified line of the Albert-Arras Railway. Daylight brought rain-clouds, which enveloped the battle-field and put out of action the Artillery. Thereafter there was fighting with rifles, bayonets and bombs. The fiercest struggle was in the centre where the British objective was a forty foot mound with a sunken road fringed with machine guns. The Germans disputed the advance foot by foot up a muddy incline. The British had almost gained the crest when the Germans launched their heaviest counter-attack. The grey waves swept down. The British retreated a short distance, maintaining a fierce rifle fire. Then the supports arrived and ended the German advance which had gained little ground. Thereafter the fighting was desultory. The Germans failed to retrieve the losses. The prisoners paid a striking tribute to our Artillery. The enemy casualties were of the heaviest. We also paid the price of the victory which was most important. French correspondents reveal that General Gough commanded. The success aggravates the already critical position of the Germans at Bapaume.

London, Feb. 20.

Field-Marshal Sir D. Haig says:—We made a successful raid South of Souchez. We blew up a mine-shaft and destroyed several occupied dug-outs.

London, Feb. 21.

Field-Marshal Sir D. Haig says:—We seized a portion of the trenches North-Eastward of Gneudecourt. We entered the trenches on a 550 yards front Southward of Armentieres, penetrating deeply and inflicting many casualties. We raided South-Eastward of Ypres on a 500 yards front, reaching the support line. Many were killed and dug-outs and mine-shafts destroyed. 114 were taken prisoner here. The total prisoners for the day were 184. Our casualties were light.

London, Feb. 22.

F. M. Sir D. Haig says:—We repulsed raids Eastward of Vermeles and Southward of Neuve-Chapelle. The enemy had a number of casualties, and some were taken prisoner.

THE FRENCH FRONT.

London, Feb. 20.

A French communique reports lively Artillery fire in the sectors of Avrecourt, Pepper Hill and B. zovaux. The French destructively bombarded enemy organisations North of Damoupt.

London, Feb. 19.

A French communique says:—A Zeppelin during the night of the 17th flew over the French coast from the Straits of Dover to the suburbs of Boulogne and threw several bombs but without result.

London, Feb. 22.

A French communique records reciprocal Artillery fire in the region of Butte de Mesnil and on the right of the Meuse near Caurieres Wood and Bezonvaux.

London, Feb. 23.

A French communique says:—German patrols attempted to approach our lines North-East of Nieuport in Belgium and were dispersed. There was an Artillery duel on the right of the Meuse in the sector of Pepper Hill. There was nothing to report elsewhere.

COMPULSION IN THE CROWN COLONIES.

London, Feb. 19.

Mr. Walter Long stated that he was anxiously considering the question of Compulsory Local Military Service for European British subjects in the Crown Colonies in which Compulsion did not exist, but was not prepared to adopt any further change at present.

PORTUGAL AND THE WAR.

London, Feb. 19.

Lisbon.—In the Chamber the Finance Minister, Sig. Costa, declared that the Allies could rely on Portugal's efforts and sacrifice. There was loud applause.

BRAZIL AND THE SUBMARINE WAR.

London, Feb. 20.

Rio de Janeiro.—Government states that it has informed Germany of the whereabouts of the routes of Brazilian ships bound for Europe so there will be no excuse for submarineing them.

AMERICA AND AUSTRIA.

London, Feb. 20.

Amsterdam.—The American Ambassador at Vienna has requested a clear and final statement of Austria's standpoint as to submarineism, as to whether the assurances given on the occasion of the "Ancona" and "Persia" incidents is changed or withdrawn.

THE MEXICAN OIL WELLS.

London, Feb. 20.

New York.—The Sun's Washington correspondent wires that the State Department has been informed of the arrival of 300 German reservists in Mexico City ready to join any faction to prevent the landing of the Anglo-American force to safeguard the oil wells at Tampico.

ROOSEVELT'S ARMY.

London, Feb. 20.

New York.—The World learns on excellent authority that in case of a German-American War Mr. Roosevelt will raise an Expeditionary Force for Europe it is estimated at 200,000 strong, for service under the Entente.

GREEK BLOCKADE CONTINUES.

London, Feb. 20.

Athens.—The Legations of the protecting Powers state that the blockade is continuing because the requirements of the ultimatum are not completely fulfilled. Government is especially half-hearted in the matter of the removal of arms. Nevertheless the Entente is not indifferent to the suffering of an innocent population and has seriously considered the question of facilitating food supplies as soon as circumstances permit. The Entente draws the attention of the Greek Government to the responsibility it is assuming if it continues to tolerate the anti-Entente Press campaign.

CUTTING DOWN THE BEER OUTPUT.

London, Feb. 20.

The Press Bureau states that the manufacture of malt suitable for beer and brewing from barley and other cereals are prohibited except under the authority of the Food Controller.

RUSSIAN ATROCITY COMMISSION.

London, Feb. 17.

Reuter learns that the Russian Commission of Inquiry into the German atrocities reports sickening cruelties. Although German orders were given in regard to the American Relief Commission in Belgium and North France they were reversed and the presence of the representatives nullified through Germany's strict maintenance of shipping restrictions affecting the relief ships.

GERMANS TO GIVE UP GOLD ORNAMENTS.

London, Feb. 20.

Amsterdam.—The Imperial Bank of Germany publishes a demand that all classes shall contribute gold ornaments and jewellery except articles of special artistic and historical value, as part of the national equipment and effort.

HELP FOR FARMERS.

London, Feb. 20.

The War Office has decided to loan horses and drivers to farmers needing help.

NO EXEMPTIONS FOR SCHOOL TEACHERS.

London, Feb. 20.

The Army Council has withdrawn all exemptions to school teachers under 31.

MESOPOTAMIA.

London, Feb. 19.

Mesopotamia (official).—We occupied two front lines, 350 and 450 yards, respectively, from Sen aliyah. Two heavy counter attacks were made.

The first was repulsed. The other was partially successful in forcing back our right to the original line. Our left was withdrawn at dusk. We further progressed Westward of Shuuran tend.

EGYPTIAN OPERATIONS.

London, Feb. 20.

Egypt (official).—We captured the Turkish posts of Nekhil and Bir-el-Hassana in the Sinai Peninsula, securing prisoners and booty.

THE ROUMANIAN FRONT.

London, Feb. 22.

A Rumanian communique, dated Feb. 14th, records weak Artillery fire and patrol encounters on the whole front North of Dornavatra. The enemy furiously bombarded with gas shells the Russian positions North-West of Foscani. The Russians dispersed reconnaissances in this region.

A Rumanian communique reports violent reciprocal Artillery fire on the Northern frontier in Western Moldavia. Russian Artillery was most active elsewhere in dispersing the enemy and destroying positions.

REPLY TO THE PACIFISTS.

London, Feb. 20.

In the Commons, replying to speeches of the Pacifists, Mr. Bonar Law said he failed to see a possible method of securing Peace at present without fighting. Therefore he lauded the Pacifists that they criticised our Peace conditions but were silent regarding the enemy's. We did not consider ours unreasonable. The Germans' were clearly based on victory and the accentuation of the Military machine, which would expose the world to a repetition of the present horrors. Germany was following the principle of an insufficient fight with her adversaries, but would also terrorise the civilian populations of neutrals. We were fighting to make the enemy learn it does not pay to commit crimes. We believe the War was forced on the world with calculation as cold as a chess player moves a piece. If we can help it, there will be no second panic War. Mr. Herbert Samuel warmly endorsed the Government's policy.

LAND TO BE COMPULSORILY ACQUIRED.

London, Feb. 21.

The Press Bureau states that the Board of Agriculture empowers local authorities compulsorily to take over land for allotment purposes with a view to maintaining the food supply.

COLONIAL PREFERENCE.

London, Feb. 20.

The Committee on Commercial and Industrial policy, of which Lord Balfour of Burleigh is Chairman, recommends, in view of the experience of the War, that special steps ought to be taken to stimulate production of foodstuffs, raw materials and manufactures within the Empire wherever the expansion of production is possible and economically desirable for the safety and welfare of the Empire. Therefore the Imperial Government should now declare its adherence to the principle of preference for products and manufactures of the Dominions with respect to any Customs duties now or hereafter imposed on imports in the United Kingdom. Further it believes it will be necessary soon to consider, as one of the methods of achieving the above objects, the desirability of establishing a wider range of Customs duties, which would be remitted or reduced on products and manufactures of the Empire, and which would form the basis of commercial treaties with our Allies and neutrals.

The Committee proposed to report later on the question of the wider range of Customs duties; also the question of how far the Dominions could be met by granting them subsidies instead of tariff preferences. It would be necessary to examine closely the effect of imposing duties upon articles used for manufacturing purposes in Britain, especially in connection with export trades, shipping and ship building industries. The special position of India, Egypt, Sudan and also the British commercial treaty obligations and the effect of the proposed policy upon the interests of the countries with which our trade relations were specially important must be considered.

AMERICA CONSTRUCTING 50 SUBMARINES.

London, Feb. 20.

Washington.—The Naval Committee in the Senate has agreed to an amendment of the Naval Appropriating Bill proposing for the construction of fifty additional submarines for the Pacific Coast.

STEAMERS SUNK.

London, Feb. 20.

The British steamers "Iolo" and "Okement" and two small craft have been sunk. The total tonnage lost is over 8,000.

London, Feb. 22.

The small British steamer "Bridge" and the sailing ship "Centurion" have been sunk.

London, Feb. 21.

The only vessels sunk yesterday were the Newfoundland and the fishing schooner "Napola."

WOMEN AND CHILDREN NOT TO TRAVEL.

London, Feb. 20.

Melbourne.—Women and children are prohibited from travelling to Europe in any circumstances.

THE NAVAL ESTIMATES.

FIGHTING THE SUBMARINE MENACE.

London, Feb. 22.

In the House of Commons Sir Edward Carson, in introducing the Naval Estimates for an unspecified amount, said the House was asked to vote for 400,000 man. To October last 8,000,000 man had been moved overseas with only one or two untoward incidents, beside 94 million tons of explosives and War material. Since the War began the Navy had examined 25,874 ships. Submarineism was a grave problem not yet solved but he was confident the measures being devised would gradually and greatly mitigate its seriousness. An Anti-Submarine Department had been established, composed of the best and most experienced men. The number of armed merchantmen had increased by over 47 per cent in the last two months and their arming was being improved weekly. 63 Allied and Neutral steamers each over a thousand tons and totalling 201,000 tons had been sunk in the first eighteen days of December. 65 of a tonnage of 182,523 had been sunk in the same period in January and 89 of a tonnage of 268,631 in the same period in February. Altogether 118 and 91 and 124 vessels had been sunk in these periods. From Feb. 1st to

Feb. 18th 6,176 ships had arrived and 5,873 had left the United Kingdom. It was estimated there were 3,000 ships in the danger zone at any one time. He mentioned that 75 per cent of the armed and 24 per cent of the unarmed merchantmen escaped after attacks. He announced that the numbers of arrivals and departures from the United Kingdom would henceforth be published, also the names of ships which had been attacked and escaped. He stated that the German submarine losses were not published because the policy of secrecy was very distasteful to the enemy. Also the Admiralty did not know whether a submarine for certain was destroyed. In fact we had forty encounters with submarines during February. It was an enormous achievement. Regarding the fate of these submarines the official reports showed every degree from certainty to improbability. He selected as an instance of certainty a case of the capture of a submarine with the crew by a destroyer and mentioned as a case of uncertainty where an afloat dropped a bomb just where a submarine had immediately previously submerged. Regarding shipbuilding, he declared, that no single ship would be unoccupied during the coming months, while steps were being taken to reconcile the competing claims of warships and merchantmen. He appealed to the nation to consent to the restrictions of imports in order to make the Admiralty's task easier.

AMERICA AND THE WAR.

London, Feb. 22.

Washington.—It is authoritatively stated that President Wilson, while not asking Congress for a declaration of War, will request full powers to protect American seamen and ships against submarineing. This procedure is similar to that prior to the Spanish-American War. The United States despatched a Note to Berlin on Monday, demanding the release of the American "Yarrowdale" prisoners. Owing to the absence of a satisfactory response to the previous inquiry no time limit was fixed.

"YARROWDALE" PRISONERS RELEASED.

Amsterdam.—A Berlin official telegram says that the Americans aboard the "Yarrowdale" were released after Germany was officially informed that German ships in America would not be confiscated and the crews not interned.

U. S. A. UNIVERSAL TRAINING BILL.

Washington.—After conferring with the President the War Secretary announced that he was about to send to Congress a Universal Military Training Bill.

AN ESPIONAGE BILL.

Washington.—The Senate has passed the Espionage Bill. It gives comprehensive powers and drastic penalties.

THE SPY SYSTEM.

London, Feb. 21.

New York.—A sensation is caused by the arrest of two men charged with conspiring to obtain maps, photographs and other military information concerning Great Britain which was sent to the United States and thence to Germany. It is understood that fifteen men are involved, who went to Britain masquerading as journalists in order to collect information.

MR. GERARD LEAVES PARIS.

London, Feb. 21.

Paris.—Mr. Gerard has left for Spain en route to America. He was ovated.

Zurich.—The American Consuls in Germany have arrived after many days delay and petty annoyances by German officials. There is no news of American Consuls in Belgium.

THE PANAMA QUESTION.

Washington.—The Foreign Relations Committee of the Senate has decided that the Colombian Treaty indemnifying Colombia for loss of Panama cannot be ratified this session, despite the letter from Dr. Wilson urging ratification as an act of justice and "because it is possible we shall need in the immediate future all the friends we can secure in Central America where our interests are critical."

TURKISH TRANSPORT TORPEDOED.

London, Feb. 22.

The Prize Court has disallowed the claim of submarine E14 in respect to the Turkish transport, but allowed the claim in respect of the gunboat.

A SPANISH SENSATION.

London, Feb. 22.

Madrid (Official).—A buoy containing 31 cases with spare parts for German submarines was discovered in the vicinity of Carthagea. Three Germans were arrested.

FOOD CONDITIONS IN GERMANY.

London, Feb. 22.

Amsterdam.—The Prussian Minister of the Interior in a proclamation admits frost has completely stopped the supply of potatoes, stocks of which are certain to be exhausted before the new harvest. This has strained the weak available stocks of corn owing to the necessity of distributing flour in the great cities. He therefore, orders rural authorities to take severe measures to compel farmers to supply foodstuffs.

ACTIVITY IN MACEDONIA.

London, Feb. 22.

A French Salonika communique records Artillery activity on the whole front. There were patrol encounters near Serez and on the Kalkovo front. We raided Brest near Lake Doiran and took prisoners. Two enemy counter attacks here were repulsed. Aviators were active and there were several successful air-fights. We bombed enemy columns near Serez and Melkuk.

THE RUSSIAN FRONT.

London, Feb. 22.

A wireless Russian official despatch reports that an enemy dense attack North Westward of Dornavatra failed.

FIGHT BETWEEN BAVARIANS AND PRUSSIANS.

London, Feb. 22.

Maastricht.—The newspaper Les Nouvelles says a sanguinary fight between Bavarians and Russians occurred in a camp at Deverloo last week. 32 were killed and 200 wounded.

PLYMOUTH CLOSED TO NEUTRALS.

London, Feb. 21.

The Gazette announces that Plymouth is closed to Neutral ships.

—The Ceylon Observer.