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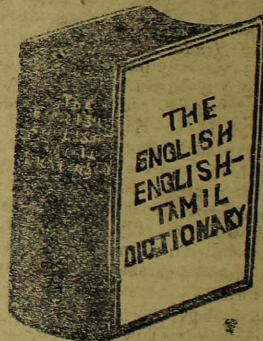
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IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 8378.

In the Matter of the Estate of the late
Tayalmuttu wife of Veluppillai Kathiravelu
of Vannarponnai

Deceased.

1. Sinnatamby Seliappa and wife
2. Sinnatankam of Vannarponnai

East

Petitioners.

Vs.

Veluppillai Kathiravelu of Vannarponnai

East

Respondent.

This matter of the Petition of Sinnatamby Seliappa and wife Sinnatankam of Vannarponnai East, praying for Letters of Administration to the estate of the above-named deceased, Tayalmuttu wife of Veluppillai Kathiravelu of Vannarponnai East, coming on for disposal before P. E. Peiris, Esq., District Judge, on February 13, 1917, in the presence of Mr. K. Sivapirakasam, Proctor, on the part of the Petitioner; and the affidavit of the Petitioner dated February 12, 1917, having been read: It is declared that the 1st Petitioner is the husband of the sole heir and the 2nd Petitioner is the sole heir of the said intestate, and is entitled to have Letters of Administration to the estate of the said Intestate issued to them unless the Respondent or any other person shall, on or before March 8, 1917, show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

J. Homer Vanniasingam,

District Judge.

February 19, 1917.



The Hindu Organ.

JAFFNA, MONDAY, MARCH 5, 1917.

"PHILOSOPHICAL SAIVAISM"
FOR THE EYE OF GOVERNMENT.

This is the title of a book by Rev. S. Gnana Prakasar, O. M. I. issued from St. Joseph's Catholic Press, Jaffna. "In this is a reprint of the articles", says the author, "contributed to the *Jaffna Catholic Guardian* under the caption, "Saiva Siddhanta", the original parts have been re-arranged into Chapters and some new matter, drawn in large measure from the *Elements of Hindu Iconography* of Gopinatha Rao recently published, has been introduced". "I cannot adequately", adds the author, "thank the Rev. Father J. Collin, O. M. I., late Editor of the *J. C. Guardian*, through whose kind encouragement and help, especially in passing it through the press, this work sees the light of day in its present shape". So it is a work which not only contains articles originally contributed to and published in the *Guardian* but is also published in its present form at the instance of the late Editor of that paper.

Even a cursory glance of the book will show that it is intended to revile Saivism—a Religion professed by millions of His Majesty's Subjects in India and Ceylon—in the worst manner possible, without any regard to the feelings and susceptibilities of its votaries. This ancient Religion whose philosophies are the admiration of even a great many *Savants* in the West, is held up to ridicule and brought to the level of the Religions of Savages and aborigines. Lord Ronaldsbay, Governor designate of Bengal, presiding over a meeting of the East India Association at Westminster a few weeks back, is reported to have referred to the Religions of India as follows:

"The Chairman emphasised the lecturer's (Lady Katherine Stuart's) advice to study and understand the spirit of the Indians' religion with its symbolism. When a man studied the religions of India he found himself soaring into intellectual and philosophical heights. Nowhere more than in India did religion and philosophy go harmoniously hand in hand".

It is this Religion of the Hindus which Father GnanaPrakasas has held up to ridicule, in the most hideous form, distorting its doctrines and rituals to suit his purpose, without understanding their esoteric meaning or purposely misrepresenting them. The whole work consisting of 259 pages is intended to lower this Religion in the estimation of those who read it. We will not soil our columns by quoting here some of the most blasphemous attacks on Hinduism contained in "Philosophic Saivism", but earnestly ask the authorities to take notice of this mischievous publication and to see if it is not one which is calculated to excite feelings of religious animosity between the Hindus and Roman Catholics. Government has passed laws penalising blas-

phemous attacks on religions, as nothing is more calculated to cause breaches of the peace and harmony among the subjects than religious controversies and distortions of the character abounding in the work in question.

If a Hindu or Buddhist were to misrepresent Christianity in the manner Hinduism is misrepresented and reviled by Father Gnana Prakasar, surely there would be a powerful outcry among Christians to bring the offender to justice. But the Catholic Missionaries and their organs in the press have for a long time enjoyed an immunity which no other religious sections of the community could dare to claim. The "Jaffna Catholic Guardian" some months back, taking advantage of the war and the Sinhalese—Muhammedan riots of 1915, without any rhyme or reason and without any provocation attacked the Hindus as a community wanting in loyalty to the British Government and called them pro-Germans and Huns. We have reasons to believe that the Hindu leaders of Jaffna having brought this matter to the notice of the Government, the *Guardian* was warned at that time. Again, quite recently, the visit of Sir J. Marshall, head of the Archaeological Department of the Government of India, to Ceylon and the presentation of Buddhist relics, afforded an opportunity to the *Catholic Messenger* to hurl violent attacks on Buddhism and Hinduism, which has caused widespread resentment among the Buddhists and Hindus of Ceylon. Now Father Gnana Prakasar has come out with the work under notice which is a wanton provocation to the Hindus to resort to similar attacks on Roman Catholicism, which cannot fail to produce serious effects. We would, therefore, strongly advise the Hindus to restrain themselves and not to yield themselves to the temptation of retort.

Certain portions of the work of Father GnanaPrakasas are said to be a reply to S. Sabaretna Mudaliyar's exposition of Hinduism in general and Saiva Siddhanta in particular. The Mudaliyar expounded the doctrines and tenets of his own Religion for the use and benefit of his own co-religionists and in doing so, as far as we are aware, he never said anything hurtful to the feelings of Catholics or other religionists. It is the look-out of the Hindus themselves to correct the Mudaliyar if he is wrong in any of his theories. By reviling Hinduism in the manner he has done, Father Gnana Prakasar cannot expect the Saivites to give up their religion and embrace Catholicism. But the effect will be disastrous to the peace and harmony among His Majesty's loyal subjects in this Island. We earnestly hope that Government will intervene and put a stop to the mischievous activities of writers like Father GnanaPrakasas.

We published in our last issue what our contemporary, "Ceylonese", an impartial and disinterested critic, had to say on this work of Father Gnana Prakasar.

HINDUISM AND ITS ENEMIES.

It is a fact not a little gratifying to those interested in the welfare of Hinduism that, notwithstanding the continuous attacks to which it has been exposed for centuries, it is today not one whit lower in its position as the greatest and sublimest of all religions shedding the glorious sunshine of its eternal truths with ever increasing brilliancy. That it has emerged most triumphantly from all the adverse influences which have been directed against it by its designing enemies is proof positive of its wonderful vitality and divine power. Without any organised effort to ensure its stability, without any wealthy or influential bodies to safeguard its interests, and without holding out prospects of material gain to those who profess it, it stands serene and secure as the mother of all good religions and the marvellous repository of all true wisdom. Here in Jaffna, and for the matter of that in the whole of Ceylon as well as India, we see the dawn of a great awakening among Hindus, which naturally seems to have caused considerable consternation and disappointment in those who have made it their business to undermine the great Hindu religion by the most questionable means at their disposal. And as if smarting under the feelings of failure and despondency, the bitterest attacks and even insults are repeatedly levelled against Hinduism and its followers in this country and elsewhere. Like the fool who attempted to pump the whole atmosphere which envelops the earth, the most gigantic efforts have been put forth to explode Hinduism and hold it up to ridicule? The faults and foibles of the Hindu priesthood and laity have been

magnified and painted in the darkest colours, while the sins of their own priesthood and people have been piously withheld from public notice. It must be admitted that such partiality and unfairness in matters concerning righteousness cannot possibly be born of an honest desire to correct, but of the malignant motive of prejudicing the minds of the readers against a religion which is so far above human attacks that they can never produce the slightest effect on it.

As a proof of the firm hold Hinduism has on the people of Jaffna, we would point out that even those who are called Christians in this country are most of them Hindu at heart. Even Christians of the third and fourth generations, after years of Christian profession and practice, behave exactly like Hindus when they come to the most serious concerns of life. In support of this statement we would submit the fact which we trust cannot be disputed that if the marriage registers in the Christian Churches of Jaffna be examined, it will be found that at least seventy five per cent of the marriages which have been solemnised have taken place on auspicious days just as Hindu marriages. Do not this and other similar circumstances show that our Christians while professing a foreign religion outwardly, are inward followers of their own national faith? Nor do we think that it is merely in the observance of auspicious days and other popular beliefs that the Christians of Jaffna show Hindu hearts. The songs of Thiruvalluvar, Thayumanavar and other saints are as dear to them as to the Hindus, and the minds of the most cultured among them as well as of those who have not been stultified by blind faith or material gain are saturated with the grand and eternal truths of Hinduism, which they consciously or unconsciously display in their every day life. We do not say this to expose our Christian brethren, for we look upon them only as pursuing a faith which, too, has a place in Hinduism, but we merely mention it to show that the genius of our people is distinctively Hindu and that no amount of Christian training can nullify it. We feel strongly that it is the failure in effect of the proselytising agencies at work in this country which is responsible for the increasingly inimical attitude shown by some fanatics towards Hinduism.

It is our humble opinion, as it is of every true Hindu, that all good religions are from God and that to condemn any one religion as false is the direct result of gross ignorance, blind and unreasoning prejudice, religious fanaticism, proselytism, or a wanton desire to wound the feelings of other religionists. It is hard to find any other motive for the daring condemnation of so magnificent a religion as the Hindu religion through which the great Hindu Saints saw God and walked with Him in constant communion. We have often made it clear in these columns that we do not desire to enter into any religious controversy, for we firmly believe that only strife and unpleasantness can come out of it. But we consider it our prime duty always to raise our voice in defence when opportunity calls for it, and in the present writing we feel we have simply discharged that obligation.

THE RELIGION OF THE ANCIENT
TAMILS.

(By S. Sabaretna Mudaliyar.)

PART SECOND.

CHAPTER XXVII.

REALIZATION OF TRUTH.

The object of all religions is of course salvation; but how many of these religions can be said to give us a clear idea of Salvation? Salvation, as it is understood by modern religions, seems to be a factor that belongs to the material plane, while according to the religion of the Tamils, it is largely concerned with the spiritual plane. Salvation is not merely a release from the trammels of the material world, but it is mainly our enjoyment of the heavenly beatitude. The release from the material world is not possible without our realization of spiritual truths; and it is not even worth our while to release ourselves from the material plane, if we are not to enjoy the spiritual happiness. The material plane is not without its own happiness, and it would be foolish to sacrifice that happiness—fleeting though it be—if we are not to attain a better and a permanent state of happiness. It is true that the little happiness that we enjoy in the material plane will not be a true happiness when compared with the spiritual bliss,—and that it will even be a barrier to our enjoyment of the spiritual beatitude; but this can only be true when we

attain the state of enjoying that beatitude—and not otherwise. If we are not in a position to enjoy that beatitude, it will not be wise to forfeit the material happiness.

Our material happiness is always beset with evils, and it is a great impediment to our enjoyment of the spiritual bliss. The Sages have therefore thought it best to discard this happiness and to direct their energy towards the attainment of the heavenly bliss. But how is this bliss to be attained? It is by realizing the truth. The realization of truth is real salvation. God is Truth, and it is by realizing this Truth, that we can get ourselves released from the trammels of this *Mayavic* plane, and become fit for the enjoyment of the sublime Divine bliss. And how is this truth to be realized? We have to know God. To know God we have to know ourselves, know the relation between God and ourselves, the relation between God and the material plane and the relation between the material plane and ourselves. Even then, mere knowledge will not help us. We have to realize these truths. Realization is indispensable for our enjoyment of the Divine bliss, and it is this realization that is known in the religion of the Tamils as *Gnanam* (ஞானம்.)

Knowledge may help us in our realization, but knowledge in itself may not be of any great value. Knowledge combined with its equal of love, or *knowing* combined with *feeling* is what is known as *Gnanam* or Realization. If a man knows the truth, he must realize it in his plane of feeling and must love it. Love must invariably follow knowledge—that is true knowledge—all other knowledge is false knowledge; and in fact if knowledge is not followed by love, it is even considered a barrier to our attainment of heavenly beatitude. Our *Gnanis* have clearly laid this down. Says *Manickavasagar*:

கல்விபெண் னும்கலந்த பின்னடித்தும்

(Crossing the various seas of learning) And *Thayumanavar* says:

கல்வா தபேர்களை கல்வா கண்கல்வா கண்.

(The illiterate are indeed good, very good.)

Knowledge without culture and its attendant love is indeed very dangerous; and our great moral Philosopher *Thiruvalluvar* has put it very forcibly.

கற்ககடந்தகற்பவைகற்பின்
நிற்க அந்நுத்தக.

(Learn correctly what have to be learnt; after learning, conform yourselves to what you have learnt.)

It will thus be seen that the great use of knowledge is love, and that knowledge contributes largely to the formation of love;—and this is why our *Gnanis* who deprecate knowledge, when it is not followed by love, speak very highly of it in another place. Says one of them:—

கந்தவர் விழுங்குந் தப்பக்கனிவை

(The delicious fruit eaten by the learned.)

(கல்வார்க்கெஞ்சிவிடில்வாசீகண்.)

(God will not remain in the heart of the illiterate.)

So that intellectual advancement on approved lines contributes largely to the formation of love. The more a man knows God, the more will he be able to realize the truth. The *Siddhanta Shastras*, therefore, deal elaborately with explanations of the truths in the spiritual plane; and as the correctness and clearness of the explanations cannot be questioned at all, the critics satisfy themselves by saying that the religion of the Tamils is only *intellectualism*. This is another mistake which they generally fall into. No Religion on earth can be said to be as alive to the importance of love as the Religion of the Tamils, and the various outpourings of genuine love by all the Tamil Saints strongly support this view. The *Siddhanta Shastras* themselves have strongly emphasized the importance of love. Says *Thirumular*:—

அன்புபுவிமீதென்பாநிலாவர்

அன்புபுவிமீதாருமறிவார்

அன்புபுவிமீதாருமறித்தின்

அன்புபுவிமீதாருமறித்தோர்.

(The ignorant think that God is different from Love.)

They do not know that God is Love. When they come to know that God is Love.

They will be of the form of Love and become Siva.)

I do not think that any further evidence is necessary to convince one of the value set upon love by the religion of the Tamils. Love to God implies Love to fellow creatures, and love to fellow creatures implies implicit observance of all moral laws. The religion of the Tamils is very strong as regards the importance

of our moral duties, and this could be clearly seen from the quality and quantity of the moral codes that exist among the Tamils.

The Religion again is not satisfied with a mere theoretical explanation of spiritual truths; it prescribes abundant practical methods for the realization of those truths. The various rituals prescribed by the religion are all intended to help this realization; but the critics who are not able to see how these rituals will help realization find fault with the religion again that it is only *Ritualism*.

The spiritual plane is a mystic region very different from the material plane which is a great obstacle to our realization of spiritual truths. The Religion of the Tamils therefore prescribe effectual methods in the shape of *Yoga practices* to control the influence of the material plane, and to guide us gradually into the spiritual plane. The critics, in their ignorance of the use of these practices, call the religion again by the name of *Mysticism*.

The religion of the Tamils is neither *ritualism* nor *mysticism*, or any other *isms*, but it is all these *isms* combined together, and yet very different from them in its final stage. Love is the main factor that plays an important part in the religion—and this love has to be a true and genuine love—and not a blind or superstitious love. Genuine love is only possible when we have an accurate knowledge of things. *Knowing* must produce *feeling*, and it is the *feeling* that results by *knowing* that is known in the religion of the Tamils as *Gnanam*, which and which alone can secure for us the final beatitude.

உணர்ச்சியற்றமான அறிவு
முத்தியேகம்

and this is realization of Truth.

LOCAL & GENERAL.

THE WEATHER—is cloudy.

THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL—From telegraphic information to hand, we understand that on account of the illness of H. E. the Governor, the Major General presided at today's meeting of the Legislative Council and that the restoration of the night mail train service between Colombo and Jaffna was refused.

CHEAP BOOKINGS ON C. G. R. DISCONTINUED—On and from March 9th all cheap bookings in the C. G. R. Railways will be discontinued until further notice in order to economise coal and materials.

HINDU MISSIONARY SOCIETY—A Hindu Missionary Society, we are glad to note, is to be formed in July next, in Bombay, by some patriotic Hindus.

THE VICTORIA COLLEGE—We are requested by Mr. J. W. Small, Principal, Victoria College, to announce that a London Matriculation class has been opened there and that students willing to join may do so early.

COMPULSORY SERVICE FOR EUROPEANS—The following appears in the last "Gazette": Every male European, other than a member of His Majesty's regular forces, who had not completed three months' residence in this Island on January 26, 1917, but who has since completed that period, and every male European not being a member of His Majesty's regular forces who shall hereafter complete a period of three months' residence, is required to subscribe and send to the Colonial Secretary within one week from the date of completion of three months' residence in the island, or if he has already completed three months' residence, within one week from this date, a declaration containing the particulars specified in the notification dated January 26th, 1917, published in the "Government Gazette" of the same date.

THE Y. M. H. A., CHEVATEROO—The weekly meeting of the above was held on the 3rd instant at 6.30 p. m. at "St. Parvadi Vidyasalai" with Mr. C. Arulambalam, Advocate, in the chair. The meeting commenced with 'Thevaram' Master A. Lingam offered a piece of recitation, after which Mr. A. Ayathurai, Clerk, Jaffna, Kachcheri, in an able speech, proposed "That the Indo Ceylon Railway has been beneficial to the Development of Ceylon." Mr. M. Nagalingam, of the Ramanathan College, led the opposition. Remarks were offered by Messrs. P. Casipillai, Student-at-law, M. Muttiah, Teacher, Jaffna Hindu College, V. Cocmarasamy, C. Ponnampalam, Assistant Postmaster, Jaffna, S. Muthusamy of Kilner College, M. Thambipillai of St. John's College and the Secretary. The question was then put to the vote and the proposition carried the day by an overwhelming majority. The Chairman then delivered his address which was very interesting and instructive. At the next meeting Master M. Thambipillai will propose that "Eastern Mode of Dress is more conducive to Health in the Tropics than the Western." Master S. K. Sathasiva Aiyer will oppose. The meeting closed with 'Thevaram' at 9.30 p. m.

MANIPAL HINDU COLLEGE OLD BOYS ASSOCIATION—The annual meeting of the Manipal Hindu College Old Boys' Association was held at the College Hall on Wednesday the

28th February at 4.30 p. m., Mr. T. H. Crossette, M. A., the Principal of the College presided. The meeting commenced with an address by the Chairman, who in the course of his address spoke with admiration very highly of the great patriotic and self-sacrificing spirit of the O. B. Boys of this particular institution and he said he had found nowhere such an enthusiastic body during his life-long experience. A vote of condolence on the late Mr. T. B. Hudson, M. A., the first president, was proposed in silence while all members standing. Then after the reading of the report by the Secretary, the following were elected as office bearers for the Year 1916-17:—President: Mr. C. Namasiyayam, J. P. President: Mr. T. H. Crossette, M. A. F. R. S., the Principal; Vice-President: Mr. C. M. Obiniah Mudliyar of the Governor's Gate; Recording Secretary: Mr. C. Gunaratnam; Corresponding Secretary: Mr. K. Navaratnam; Treasurer: Mr. D. Swaminathan; Auditors: Messrs. K. Chiniah and T. Subramaniam; Editor of College Magazine: A. Hari Raj Singh; Committee: Messrs. S. A. Thirumala kountu, B. A., V. Singanayagam, S. Nagalingam and S. Sabaratnam. The great feature of the meeting was a stirring address on "Service to the Country" by Mr. S. M. Thevathasan, M. A. L. T., Professor, Jaffna College. He quoted some beautiful verses from Sir Rabinath Tagore, the greatest Indian poet. Messrs. V. Singanayagam, C. Gunaratnam and the Chairman also spoke with eloquence on the duty of everyone to his own country and urged every O. B. Boy to sacrifice at least a part of his life and wealth for the sake of his *Alma Mater*. The meeting came to a close at 6.15 p. m. with a vote of thanks to the Chair and Mr. Thevathasan for his fine address. It is hoped to publish the College Magazine very soon.

—Cor.

PUNDIT K. O. NATHAN at KAJANG, SELANGOR—At the special request of Kajang residents, Mr. K. O. Nathan of Jaffna, now on a lecturing tour in the F. M. S., delivered a learned and instructive lecture in Tamil at the premises of the Broadrick Club, Kajang, on "Eastern ideals of womanhood" on Saturday the 17th February. The chair was occupied by Mr. K. R. Muttiah of the Public Works Department. The lecturer in his usual ringing voice dilated at length on the position occupied by women of the East from ancient times, how the duties of the world had been divided into those of the home and those of the extra home each with its masters, the man and the woman reigning supreme in their respective fields and waiting only for mutual consultation in intricate problems. He repudiated the idea that education in the passing of standards, in which light only, many men of the present day boldly say that our society denied education for our females notwithstanding the fact that they were imparted education in better and more adaptable method by home preachings in the Puranas and by religious lectures in temples. He deplored the sad result of the modern tendency of female education to turn out a set of ladies without serving or nursing capacity which has been condemned even by nature as is to be testified from the increasing mortality among high class Tamil ladies during confinement and delivery. The hard studies and the qualifying examinations were not the necessary things to bring up a healthy race of mothers to regenerate our society and nation but it is only a deeply religious and national education, if possible at home by elderly scholars as imparted in the olden days and even at present in India with a fine culture in music by which all phases of life can be created and destroyed. He said this was an indispensable necessity and could be the only potent factor in the building up of the national greatness. The Chairman complimented the lecturer with a few summarising remarks. The meeting came to a close with a vote of thanks to the lecturer and the Chairman, proposed by Mr. S. K. Thampipillai and seconded by Mr. A. Mayilvanam which was carried with applause.

—Cor.

THE INDIAN BUDGET—Sir William Meyer, Finance Minister, presented the Budget statement at the Imperial Legislative Council on Thursday last. The following are the main points. The estimated surplus on the year 1916-17 is £226,000 and the actual surplus £5,738,000. The ultimate total Indian contribution to the British Government for War purposes is £100,000,000. The annual charge to meet the War contribution is £6,000,000 and the annual surplus on the present taxation £2,745,000. The amount to be raised annually by new taxation is £3,000,000. New taxes include a super-tax on all incomes over Rs. 50,000 per annum, the export tax on jute is doubled, the import duty on cotton goods raised from 31 to 77 per cent. and a surcharge made on Railway goods traffic. A long term War Loan will be issued at 95, carrying 5 per cent interest.

—Observer, March 2.

A NOTABLE CASE IN THE BOMBAY COURT—Bombay, February 27.—In the Bombay High Court there was an episode which must surely be without a parallel in the history of British jurisprudence, and which affords a notable example of assistance in the task of winning the war. Mr. Justice Beaman was hearing a case between some Hindus who were disputing the ownership of Rs. 1,880 and 1,502 tolas of silver. Seven counsel were engaged in the case and the dispute had been going on for a long time. The plaintiff suggested when he came in the witness box for examination, that the subject matter of

the suit should be given to the War Fund without further litigation. Other parties to the suit consented on condition that the Attorneys concerned would forego all their costs. They, in turn, agreed and so the case came to an end with a direction to the probatory to deliver the cash and the silver in the names of the parties and their Attorneys as a contribution to the war fund, an example to all litigants at this time of stress. The judge said:—"The example of these gentlemen would go down to posterity."

—The Hindu

CEYLON BUDDHIST TITLE FOR BENGALI SCHOLAR.—H. E. Lord Carmichael presided yesterday over a largely attended meeting, held in the University Institute, Calcutta, to congratulate Sir Ashutosh Mookerjee on being invested with the title of "Sambuddhagam a Chakravarti" (Monarch of Buddhist lore), conferred on him by the High Priest of the Amarapura (sic) seat of Ceylon. The last occasion on which the title was conferred on a Bengalee was in 1450. His Excellency, in presenting Sir Ashutosh Mookerjee with the diploma, congratulated him on obtaining a title he so thoroughly deserved. To signalise the occasion, an Oriental Research Society for the diffusion of Buddhist learning was founded, with H. E. Lord Carmichael as first Patron, and Sir Ashutosh Mookerjee as first President.

—"M. Mail," Feb. 27.

THE LATE MR. S. SELVADURAI, ADVOCATE.—It is with deepest regret that we have to chronicle the untimely death of Mr. S. Selvadurai, Advocate, which sad event took place at his residence in Vannarponnai on Friday last at 3.30 a. m. About a week prior to his demise he was in robust health and went to Kandavalai to supervise the harvesting operations in his farms there. On Saturday week last he returned from his farms seriously ill. Doctors were of varied opinion as to his illness, some holding that he was suffering from sunstroke and others holding that he was suffering from malignant malarial fever. The best available medical treatment and most careful nursing were given, but all proved useless. He was about 40 years old at the time of his death. The late Mr. Selvadurai was a thorough gentleman and an enthusiastic worker in matters social and educational. He was one of the Vice-Presidents of the Jaffna Hindu College Old Boys' Association and of the Aiyar-kovilady Union. The late Mr. Selvadurai belonged to that distinguished family in Vannarponnai, the members of which had the rare privilege of distinguishing themselves in Ceylon and India. The late lamented Advocate Mr. S. Nagalingam, the chief founder of the Jaffna Hindu College, and the late Mr. T. Chellappah Pillai, Retired Chief Justice of Travancore and first Editor of the "Hindu Organ" were uncles of the deceased gentleman. He first married the only daughter of Mr. T. Ponnampallampillai, Retired Excise Commissioner, Travancore. He leaves behind besides his second wife, an only daughter by his first bed, Mrs. Annamalai, wife of Mr. T. Annamalai, a grandson of the late Mr. Ampikaipakar Sinnatamby, Crown Proctor, Jaffna, an only brother, Mr. S. Kandaswamy, Proctor, S. C., and a host of other relations to whom his loss is a great affliction. We extend our heartfelt condolences to the members of the bereaved family.

THE LATE MRS. AMPIKAIPAKAR VEERAVAGAR.—We regret to record the death of Mrs. Ampikaipakar Veeravagar, mother of Mr. V. Kathiravelupillai, B. A., Proctor, S. C., and mother-in-law of Mr. T. Ponnampallampillai, Retired Excise Commissioner, Travancore, which event took place at her residence in Vannarponnai on Thursday evening last. She lived to a good old age and was charitably disposed of. Mr. V. K. Rasanayagam, Proctor, Avisawella is a grandson of the deceased lady. Mr. R. Ponniah, Broker, Colombo, and Mr. T. P. Mastamani, Editor, "Peoples Magazine", Colombo, are married to two of the grand daughters of the deceased lady. The funeral which took place the following day was largely attended. Our condolences to the bereaved.

OBITUARY.—It is with deep regret that we have to chronicle the untimely death of Mr. V. Kandaswamy, Storekeeper, Land Settlement Department, Colombo, at the early age of 33. He was ailing for nearly two months. He first contracted enteric fever and entered Dr. Ratnam's Private Hospital. When he had just recovered from it a slight relapse set in and at last he developed pneumonia, to which he succumbed in spite of the best medical aid rendered by Drs. Ratnam and Goonesekera. He died at the Private Hospital on the afternoon of the 6th ultimo. He comes from a respectable family in Tanavay, Jaffna. He married about a year ago and leaves behind him an infant son and a young widow with whom much sympathy is felt. The remains were cremated on Wednesday evening, the 7th ultimo, at the Kotahena Crematorium in the presence of a large gathering of his brother officers, friends and relatives. The popularity of the late Mr. Kandaswamy was testified to by the large gathering present including Mr. H. O. Fox, Settlement Officer, Mr. T. G. Willett, Assistant Settlement Officer, Mr. F. G. Lewis of Messrs. Dodwell and Co., retired Assistant Settlement Officer, Mr. K. D. P. R. R., Chief Clerk, Settlement Office, Mudaliyar Vaithianathan, Chief T. M. Translator to His Excellency the Governor, Messrs. L. J. Fernando, W. T. Jagasothy, S. Valiparam, A. C. Weerasinghe, N. T. Basu daram, Proctor and many others.

—Cor.

SCHOOL OF ORIENTAL STUDIES.

OPENING CEREMONY: THE KING'S SPEECH.

London, Feb. 23.—Opening of the School of Oriental Studies today. H. M. the King emphasised the wide scope and vast importance of its work, alluring fresh opportunities for study to those services which had been the pioneers of progress and instruments of good government in India and Egypt, and furnishing with fuller technical equipment the pioneers of commerce and industry who in each successive generation undertook the duty of upholding the honoured fame of British trade in the East. His work would also serve to develop the existing sympathy between Britons and Japanese. If the School succeeded in imparting to pupils sent out as teachers of unselfish government and civilised commerce a clearer comprehension of the thoughts and lives of the diverse races of the East, the good effects thereof would extend far beyond the immediate tangible results. The ancient literature and art of India were of unique interest in the history of human endeavour. His Majesty looked to the School to quicken to public interest in the intellectual tradition of India and to promote and assist the labours of students in these departments of knowledge to the advantage of both countries. The School was about to open its doors in the midst of an unparalleled crisis in the world's history. For more than two years the peoples of His Majesty's dominions had loyally and devotedly aided with each other in offering blood and treasure for the prosecution of a righteous war—(cheers) and the sense of common sacrifice and endeavour had drawn us all nearer one another in feeling and sympathy. Meanwhile, the peaceful labours of the School in spreading accurate and scientific knowledge of Eastern life and thought would foster the spirit of loyalty and patriotism and knit together still closer the many nations of the Empire.

The King paid a tribute to the undoubted efforts of distinguished scholars and statesmen in establishing the School. He deeply regretted that one of the most illustrious of them, Lord Cromer, had not lived to complete his share in the work. Had he lived, his wise judgment and unrivalled experience would have been priceless in the Council. The King also paid a tribute to the public spirited benefactors who had contributed so liberally to the endowment of the School, thus rendering service to the Empire. He trusted that the beneficence of the community would endow the School with funds adequate to all demands of its teaching capacity.

In conclusion, the King said:—"May God bless the labours of this School in the advancement of learning, unity and good government among people of every race and language."

Lord Curzon trusted that the school would become a sort of clearing house of ideas between the East and the West.

—The Hindu.

ALL-INDIA AYURVEDIC CONFERENCE.

Poona, February 24.—Vaidya Ratna Pandit D. Gopal Chatur of Madras opened this evening the Ayurvedic exhibition organised in connection with the eighth session of the Ayurvedic Conference when there were present about three hundred native physicians and hakims from different parts of the country. His Holiness Shri Shankaracharya of Virupaksha Math, who is himself a distinguished physician practising the Indian system of medicine, also attended. Pandit Gopal Chatur dwelt at length on the uses of the exhibitions, which, he said, were very useful in bringing the Indian system in touch with the western. He suggested that there should be permanent medical "museums" in different parts of the country and concluded his address by appealing to Indian princes and chiefs to support the indigenous system of medicine.

Poona, February 25.—The Eighth Session of the All India Ayurvedic Conference commenced this afternoon in Kirtikar Theatre. About 350 Vaidyas and Hakims representing different provinces of India attended. Several distinguished guests were also present, prominent among those being Dr. Sir Ramakrishna Bhaudarkar, Hon'ble Messrs. Godbole and Kamat, and Messrs. Tilak and Kelkar. His Holiness the Shankaracharya of Virupaksha Math was also present.

Dr. M. C. Deshmukh, M. D. (Bombay), in his welcome address impressed upon the Conference the necessity of making strenuous efforts for the revival of the ancient science of medicine and revising the present courses of study.

He urged the Ayurvedic Maha Mandal to protect the existing rights of the Vaidyas and to agitate for securing further rights for them.

Sri Rama Varma, G. O. S. I., C. I. E., Maharaja of Cochin, having been elected President of the Conference, read his opening address which was in Sanskrit. After dealing with the deplorable condition in which the ancient science of medicine was, at present, he suggested the following remedies for its revival. (1) Works bearing on medical science written either in the vernaculars or Sanskrit should be collected in one place. (2) Statements that may appear to be conflicting with one another in such works should be reconciled by learned Vaidyas. (3) Encouragement should be given to the comparative study of both the systems of medicine, Indian and western. (4) A central school teaching Ayurveda should be established at a convenient place with a medical library attached to it.

Poona, February 27.—A number of resolutions were passed in today's session of the All India Ayurvedic Conference. It was resolved to send a deputation consisting of the present President, Pandit Gopal Chatur, Kaviraj Ganapathi Sen, Pandit Gopal Chatur, to place before His Excellency the views of the conference with regard to the Indian system of medicine. A resolution was passed against the action of the All India Municipality in abolishing the Ayurvedic dispensary at the place which was largely used by the local people. A committee consisting of Sri Rama Varma, the Maharaja of Poona, the Maharaja of Rewa, Alwar and Durgapur, Sir Babhashankar, Sir Subramanyam I. and other members was appointed to collect funds and frame rules for the Ayurvedic Mahavidyalaya Provincial Committees to work in their respective provinces according to the resolutions passed were also formed.

—Ibid.

The War.

THE BRITISH FRONT.

London, Feb. 26

Reuter's Headquarters' correspondent telegraphs that a patrol on Saturday morning first discovered the retirement of the German line in the Ancre Valley. This unquestionably is due to the recent British intolerable pressure. The first intimation that anything unwonted had occurred was early on Feb. 23rd when a number of fires were observed to break out in the enemy lines on the front at Pys, due to deliberate firing of the dug-outs. The correspondent compares the advance movements in the afternoon and the busiest days of the great Somme push. The extreme depth to which the German retreat was carried is reported to be three miles. We occupied Miraumont, Miraumont le Petit and Serre with no obstinate resistance. The Germans employed obstructive tactics without fighting rearguard actions. Yesterday evening we advanced on Warlencourt and Miraumont on the enemy's heels. This line is now established. We gained a large tract of country without loss of life, and the new ground is not ploughed up by shellfire for resumption of the battle. There is an unconfirmed report of the enemy evacuating the great strategic point of Bapaume, from which explosions and fires have been observed.

ADVANCE ON 11 MILE FRONT.

London, Feb. 27.

Field-Marshal Sir D. Haig says:—The advance was maintained and extends on an eleven-mile front Eastward of Gueudecourt to Southward of Gommeourt to a depth of two miles. We occupy Battle De Warlencourt and the villages of Warlencourt, Eaucourt, Pys and Miraumont. We reached the outskirts of Le Barque, Isles and Puisieux Amont. We repulsed with loss an attack on a British post Southward of the Somme. We successfully raided the neighbourhoods of Arras, Monchy au Bois and Lens.

ENEMY RETIREMENT STILL CONTINUES.

London, Feb. 27.

A correspondent at Headquarters says the gradual withdrawal of the enemy continues, pressed by the British Infantry. Occasionally there is determined resistance by isolated detachments, especially in the vicinity of Bapaume, but without delaying the general British advance. Trees are piled across the roads to Bapaume which are also obstructed by fresh craters and masses of stone and wire. Underground galleries and the water supply at Bapaume have been blown up. The Germans were again favoured by the weather in retreat. The sloppy ground precludes a vigorous pursuit and hampers the bringing up of heavy guns. It may enable the Germans to make a good new defensive line and avoid being rushed. It is impossible still to determine how far the retreat will continue. Two natural lines of country affording strong positions are, firstly, the Bapaume ridge and behind it a longer line between Cambrai and Arras. The British are already close in touch with the enemy positions South West of Bapaume ridge and it is not unlikely that the enemy may be compelled to withdraw to the Cambrai-Arras position.

TWO MORE VILLAGES OCCUPIED.

F. M. Sir D. Haig says:—We further progressed and captured Le Barque and occupied Ligny. We established ourselves in the Western and Northern defences of Puisieux au Mont. We raided South-Westward of Lens and also Eastward of Armentieres on half a mile front, entered three lines of trenches and considerably damaged the defences.

VIEWS ON THE ANCRE RETIREMENT.

The enemy's retreat on the Ancre is the most considerable since the Battle of the Marne. Undoubtedly it will result in continuous British pressure, but the experts, though they rejoice at the bloodless capture of some of the strongest German fortresses, warn people against exaggerating the significance of the German movement, which is well timed as regards the weather which enables them to remove guns and escape without great loss from positions threatened with envelopment. While possibly the German move will cause a revision of the plans of the Allied offensive some critics think the Germans, who are reported to have secured more troops as the result of the compulsory civilian service and the enslavement of subject populations, are aiming to secure delay for the delivery of the stroke anticipating the Allied offensive.

GERMANS STILL IN RETREAT.

London, Feb. 28.

Reuter's correspondent at Headquarters on Feb. 26th says:—The Germans are still retreating on the whole line between Gommeourt and Transloy. The British everywhere are in close contact. The weather cleared for a brief time today, the first time for ten days, permitting aeroplanes to get photographs which should indicate the direction of the withdrawal. It is now probable the Germans will not stop till they reach the line Arras-Cambrai, as the ceaseless British pressure threatens them retiring on the Bapaume line. The German retreat may tactically have temporarily improved the position, but strategically the enemy is for the first time admitting defeat. The retreat is an unqualified triumph for the British Army.

NEARING BAPAUME ON THE NORTH.

F. M. Sir D. Haig says:—This morning we captured a portion of a trench North-Eastward of Bally-Sillisel, taking prisoner 85. We occupied Gommeourt, and captured the villages of Thillois and Puisieux Amont with the trench systems adjoining, and pushed the line 1,000 yards North-Eastward of Gommeourt. During a raid in the neighbourhood of Clery we reached the second line and also entered positions North-Eastward of Arras and South-Westward and Westward of Lens. We repulsed a raid North-Eastward of Armentieres.

SEA FRIGHTFULNESS.

18,000 TON CUNARD SHIP.

London, Feb. 28.

The Cunarder "Laconia," 18,000 tons, New York to Liverpool has been torpedoed without warning and sunk. 270 aboard, including passengers, were saved.

THE DUTCH OUTRAGE.

Reuter says Dutch circles state that it was US which attacked the Dutch steamers, torpedoing and sinking three, and placing bombs on others. The "Menado" was rescued by a British trawler and towed to harbour. The whereabouts of the others are unknown. The crews were towed to the Scillies, thinking they were sunk. Eleven other Dutch ships had been ordered by the owners to sail simultaneously but fortunately had not cleared.

THE GERMAN EXCUSE.

Amsterdam.—An official Berlin message recapitulating the excuses mentioned on Feb. 25th, says the owners of 83 Dutch ships, including twenty laden with corn for the Dutch Government, asked Germany for permission to leave Falmouth and Dartmouth. Eighteen undertook to sail but apparently only eight took the risk.

REPLY TO BRAZIL.

Rio de Janeiro.—Germany has informed the Brazilian Minister in Berlin that its decision to maintain the submarine blockade is unalterable, and suggests recourse to diplomacy if Brazilian ships are sunk.

AMERICANS ON THE "LAONIA."

London, Feb. 27.

It is confirmed that two American ladies, passengers on the "Laconia," died of exposure in a boat. It is officially announced 8 of the "Laconia" passengers are dead and 3 missing and 6 dead and 6 missing of the crew, the latter being sent to hospital.

The "Laconia" was torpedoed at 10.50 on Sunday night. It is known that one is dead and some are missing. The Cunard Co. announces that practically all were saved. A telegram from New York says that twenty Americans were in the crew and there were six American passengers on the "Laconia."

The Daily Chronicle's Queenstown correspondent says the "Laconia" was twice torpedoed in comparatively calm weather. She listed heavily and the boats were lowered with difficulty. There was no panic.

PRESIDENT WILSON'S ACTION.

London, Feb. 26.

Washington.—In Congress, President Wilson asked for authority to establish "armed neutrality." He stated he had made full plans to protect American ships in the German War zone. He pointed out while he desired peace there was something greater than peace, namely the protection of the rights of Americans and holding up the rights of American ships to sail the seas unmolested. The President requested Congress to authorise him to supply merchant ships with defensive arms and also adequate means of protection, including War risks and insurance. After Dr. Wilson's speech the Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee announced that he would immediately introduce a Bill granting President Wilson the power to arm ships and other necessary authority, including a credit.

WILSON AS THE FRIEND OF PEACE.

The President weightily and outspokenly reviewed the submarine situation. He feared that none of the neutrals, asked to co-operate to prevent submarine depredations, thought it wise to join in common action. American commerce was suffering more in apprehension than in fact. Ships were timidly keeping to home ports and daily there was most serious and growing congestion therefrom, which, in itself, might presently accomplish the German aim. He characterised the sinking of the "Lyman Law" as disclosing a ruthlessness of method deserving of great condemnation. He laid stress upon the indications and expressions of purpose by the German Press and authorities which increased the impression that in future the sparing of American ships and people was likely to be more due to unexpected discretion and restraint of submarine command, or to fortunate circumstances, than to the carrying out of instructions. It was foolish to deny that the situation was fraught with the gravest dangers and the necessity for definite action may come at any time if we are to defend our elementary rights as a Neutral. Therefore it would be most imprudent to be unprepared. "I wish to feel that the authority of Congress is behind me in whatever it may be necessary for me to do. I still am a friend of Peace and do not contemplate War or steps leading to War, but merely request authority to safeguard the rights of our people. I am anxious to live in Peace and War is only possible through wilful acts of other people. You can trust me to act with restraint and prudence."

ARMED NEUTRALITY.

London, Feb. 27.

Washington.—President Wilson's speech fore-shadowed his action. There will probably be a declaration of armed Neutrality. The Bill mentioned yesterday evening as introduced in the House of Representatives provides a special bond for the issue of a hundred million dollars.

AUSTRIAN SUPPORT.

London, Feb. 28.

Amsterdam.—In the Reichstag Herr Westarp, Conservative, stated that Austria fully supported Germany's submarine policy.

ANOTHER 14,000 TONS LOST.

London, Feb. 26.

Additional week end sinkings are the steamers "Beneficent," "Isar," "Falcon," "Grenadier," "Loxhirst" and "Trojan Prince," (British). The Captain and six of the crew of the "Grenadier" were killed. The total tonnage is about 14,000.

STORY OF THE LOSS OF THE "LAONIA."

London, Feb. 28.

165 of the crew of the "Laconia" have crossed from Dublin to Liverpool. The majority were previously torpedoed on the "Franconia." Further stories of survivors confirm she was twice torpedoed. The first hit the stern and the Captain ordered all lights to be turned on to facilitate the escape of the passengers and crew. The vessel listed, then righted, sinking slowly. The submarine reappeared and torpedoed the engine-room though the boats were close by and visible in the blaze of electricity. The "Laconia" sank immediately.

FALLING FRIGHTFULNESS.

The Press Bureau states that the arrivals for the week ending Feb. 25th of merchantmen of all

nationalities in the United Kingdom over 100 tons, exclusive of fishing and local craft, was 2,280 and sailings, 2,261. British merchantmen of 1,600 tons upwards, sunk by mine or submarine, were 15 and under 1,600, 6. British merchantmen unsuccessfully attacked numbered twelve, and fishing vessels sunk 4.

CHANCE FOR U. S. A.

Washington.—Official despatches confirm the deaths of Americans on the "Laconia," thus establishing an overt act. It is regarded as another "Lusitania" case. President Wilson and the State Department officials consider no steps should be taken until Congress acts on the President's request for authority to arm merchantmen. The sinking will hasten the action of Congress. Committees of both houses have been busy redrafting the Bill, but it is now expected they will acquiesce in the Government's wish and the Bill will be passed practically unchanged.

U. S. A. SHIPS TO BE ARMED.

Washington.—The Foreign Relations Committee in the Senate has agreed to a Bill empowering the President to arm American merchantmen defensively, fore and aft, and granted forty millions sterling for it. It also empowered the President to use "other instrumentalities."

DUTCH STEAMERS REGARDED AS LOST.

Hullfax (Nova Scotia).—Count Bernstorff has sailed on the steamer "Frederick Eight."

The Dutch steamers "Bandoeng," "Eemland" and "Zandijk" (see Feb. 25) are now regarded as lost.

GERMAN OFFER TO HOLLAND.

Amsterdam.—The German Legation has informed the Government that Germany is willing to place German ships at Holland's disposal during the War as compensation for the seven torpedoed, on the understanding that Holland will negotiate about their eventual purchase after the War.

IN MESOPOTAMIA.

London, Feb. 26.

In the Commons Mr. Bonar Law announced that as a result of the operations in Mesopotamia the whole enemy position at Sanna-i-Yat and Kut-el-Amara had been secured, and Kut-el-Amara passes automatically into our hands.

THE TIGRIS CROSSED.

London, Feb. 25.

Mesopotamia (Official).—The Southern portion of the Sanna-i-yat position captured on Thursday consisted of two lines of 450 yards frontage and 100 in depth. Six counter-attacks failed. One assault on Thursday afternoon resulted in the capture of two lines on a 900 yards front. At daybreak on Friday we crossed the Tigris in the neighbourhood of Shumran bend. Our covering parties were established on the left bank, taking prisoners. Within nine hours we completed a bridge and consolidated the position despite stubborn resistance. Simultaneously we resumed the assault of Sanna-i-yat and captured the third and fourth lines on a 1,050 yards front. We took prisoner in the Shumran area on Friday 544.

STORY OF THE VICTORY.

London, Feb. 26.

Mesopotamia (Official).—Early on Saturday we captured the ridge across the neck of the Shumrah Peninsula. It became evident the enemy was in full retreat in the direction of Baghailab, Westwards of Kut-el-Amara. Many Turkish depots and stores were set on fire. A strong force of cavalry and infantry heavily engaged them all day long, inflicting severe casualties. Meantime we pursued our successes at Sanna-i-Yat. We captured the fifth Turkish line on the Nakhallat-Suivada positions, and reached the Ataba Marsh Magasin line. Aeroplanes co-operated invaluable, bombing and machine-gunning from the minimum altitudes. We took prisoner in the two days 1,780. The whole of the enemy's positions from Sanna-i-Yat to Kut-el-Amara were thus secured, Kut passing automatically into our hands. The full Turkish losses are yet unknown.

EVENTS OF LAST YEAR WIPED OUT.

London, Feb. 27.

In the Lords Lord Curzon read a telegram from General Maude, stating that on the morning of Feb. 25th Cavalry and Infantry moved Westwards in pursuit of the retreating enemy. Strong Turkish rearguards, supported by Artillery, occupied trench positions fifteen miles West and North-West of Kut, evidently covering the withdrawal from Baghailab. After an intense bombardment our Infantry assaulted the enemy's positions and obtained footing therein, while our Cavalry operated round the Turkish Northern flank. At least 60 prisoners and numerous flocks and equipment and stores were captured. Our aeroplanes bombed a steamer towing a Turkish pontoon bridge up stream with the result that the tow slipped and the pontoons floated down stream. Lord Curzon added that it was evident the scene of operations had shifted considerably up stream beyond Kut, and the success announced yesterday had been followed up. It is believed several thousand were taken prisoner. It was clear that the events of last year were now entirely wiped out. (Cheers)

TURKS ADMIT LOSS OF KUT.

London, Feb. 28.

A Turkish *communiqué* admits the evacuation of Kut.

PURSUIT OF THE ENEMY MAINTAINED.

Mesopotamia (Official).—The close pursuit of the enemy was steadily maintained. On Monday we advanced the troops engaging the enemy in the afternoon from three sides from a point on the left bank of the Tigris over thirty miles North West of Kut. The enemy abandoned quantities of arms and equipment and threw four howitzers into the river. We recaptured the gunboat "Firefly" lost in the retreat from Ctesiphon and also captured a Turkish ship and destroyed another. We took prisoner on Sunday 880 and on Monday 161.

AMERICA AND THE WAR.

REPUBLICANS AND PRESIDENT WILSON.

London, Feb. 26.

Washington.—The Republican resolution mentioned this morning was not adopted but referred to the Foreign Relations Committee, thus shelving it for a furious debate in which the Republicans attacked the President for his Hesitant Act. The Republicans are apparently trying to

force an extra session to prevent President Wilson fully controlling the situation as regards Germany.

PRELIMINARY TO WAR.

Washington.—President Wilson today asks Congress for authority to use the forces of the United States to protect American rights on the high seas.

THE FRENCH FRONT.

London, Feb. 26.

A French *communiqué* says:—We raided the German line near Ville-sur-Touche and destroyed many dug outs and brought back prisoners and material. An enemy *coup de main* North East of Soissons, West of Avocourt, failed. We made prisoners. Three enemy aeroplanes were brought down. Our air squadrons heavily bombed bivouacs and a munition depot near Spincourt, where many explosions were heard, also airfields at Bazency and Railway Stations in the region of Wissembourg.

London, Feb. 25.

A French *communiqué* says:—Our Artillery was effectively active in the region of Monthormé. There was intermittent Artillery fire in Lorraine and Vosges.

DESTROYERS BOMBARD BROADSTAIRS AND MARGATE.

London, Feb. 26.

In the Commons Sir E. Carson announced that German destroyers had bombarded Broadstairs and Margate in the early morning. A woman and child were killed and two injured, and two houses damaged. A patrol of our destroyers between 11 and 12 o'clock yesterday evening encountered various enemy destroyers and they were engaged, for some time being under heavy fire from guns and torpedoes. Our destroyers were not damaged. The effect on the enemy could not be ascertained owing to darkness. Another force of destroyers bombarded for a quarter of an hour the undefended towns of Broadstairs and Margate. As soon as the firing was heard our forces in the vicinity closed on the enemy, who had withdrawn before ours arrived.

WAR PRISONERS RATIONS CUT DOWN.

London, Feb. 26.

Lord Devonport has approved of the new scale of rations for German War prisoners and internees, involving a reduction to the proportions recently enjoyed on the British public.

FOOD RESTRICTIONS.

London, Feb. 26.

The Press Bureau states that Lord Devonport notifies that bread must be sold in loaves of a pound or an even number of pounds. It must be twelve hours old and will not be exchanged for old bread previously sold. It will not contain currants, sultanas, milk or sugar. Inspectors are authorised to weigh it on the premises or in course of delivery. Rolls must weigh two ounces.

THE DESTROYER RAID.

London, Feb. 27.

The brunt of the bombardment was suffered by a hamlet between Margate and Broadstairs. The worst experience was in a cottage with a family of nine. The mother rushed upstairs to fetch her ten months-old infant. A shell killed the mother and mortally injured the baby. Two other children were seriously hurt.

London, Feb. 26.

Unofficial details of the bombardment state that a dozen shells fell on the coast. All the casualties were in the village. A shell also dropped on the town four miles away.

LOCAL VOLUNTEERS MENTIONED IN THE "GAZETTE."

FOR VALUABLE WAR SERVICES.

London, Feb. 27.

A "Gazette" of 54 pages mentions for valuable services in the War many Indian people and retired Indian folk, including Lieut Colonel Lord Amphil and the following Ceylon men, Lieut. Colonel E. J. Hayward, Majors A. E. Andrews, T. H. Chapman and D. Rockwood, Captains Ingram and McCloskey, Lieuts. A. Lewis, B. R. Lewis, and Sergeant Major E. Fulcher, and Sergeant G. H. Stevens.

NAVAL AIR RAIDS.

London, Feb. 28.

The Admiralty report that Naval aeroplanes raided Ronwork and Brebach, South-Eastward of Saarbrücken, on Feb. 25th. Several air fights took place and an enemy machine was destroyed.

THE RUSSIAN FRONT.

London, Feb. 27.

A wireless Russian official despatch says:—We repulsed a Turkish attack Northwards of Sivassky.

A wireless German official despatch says:—The activity on the East front has increased with the decreasing cold.

London, Feb. 28.

A wireless Russian official despatch says:—The enemy attacked on both sides of the Jacobeni-Kimpoling, high road, and occupied heights two miles South West of Valeputna. We counter-attacked and recovered a portion of the heights.

NO EXCHANGE OF CIVILIANS.

London, Feb. 28.

In the Commons Mr. Hope stating the objections to wholesale exchange of Anglo-German civilian prisoners, said many German prisoners were reservists quite fit for military service while nearly all were fit for national service in Germany. He emphasized that the only proposal for a wholesale exchange acceptable to Germany was that 35,000 prisoners in the United Kingdom Dominions and Colonies should be exchanged for 4,000 in Germany.

DEARER NEWSPAPERS.

London, Feb. 28.

The Daily Mail increases its price to a penny and the Observer to two pence.

INDIA'S HUNDRED MILLIONS FOR THE WAR.

London, Feb. 28.

The Imperial Government has gratefully accepted the Government of India's offer of a hundred millions sterling towards the general cost of the War.

—The Ceylon Observer.