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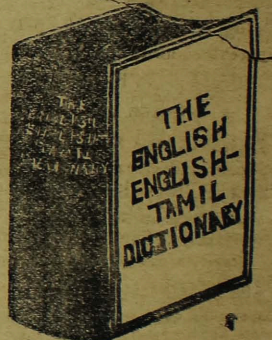
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## NOTICE.

## Order Nisi.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 3378.

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

1. Sinnatambay Sellenpa and wife
2. Sinnatankam of Vannarponnai East

Deceased.

Vs.

Velupillai Kathiravelu of Vannarponnai East

Respondent.

This matter of the Petition of Sinnatambay Sellenpa and wife Sinnatankam of Vannarponnai East, praying for Letters of Administration to the estate of the abovenamed deceased, Tayalmuttu wife of Velupillai 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 Vaniasingam,  
District Judge.

February 19, 1917.

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For further particulars, please apply to:  
MESSRS. CASIPILLAI, & KATHIRAVELU,  
Proctors, JAFFNA.



# The Hindu Organ.

JAFFNA, THURSDAY, MARCH 8, 1917.

## "PHILOSOPHY AND PRACTICE."

Under the above heading, our contemporary of the "Morning Star," in his issue of February 28th, with infinitely more rancour than common knowledge and even common sense, treats its readers to about three quarters of a column of abuse of Hinduism and its exponents and Hindu charity. No man who knows what Hindu philosophy is, will bring the corruption of the institution of "Devadasies" under it. As our contemporary has got into the habit of looking at everything Hindu with a jaundiced eye, and as his knowledge of Hindu philosophy and practice seems to be just enough for the purpose for which he uses it, we are not surprised that he has come to a conclusion which is diametrically opposed to that at which any careful and impartial observer of Hindu life is bound to arrive. It is a matter of common knowledge that even illiterate Hindu women have some of the principal teachings of Hindu philosophy ingrained in their minds. The doctrines of *karma*, transmigration etc., are believed even by the uneducated masses with intelligent faith and exercise a potent influence on them during the ups and downs of their lives. It is not at all fair to pick up one or two evils and base on them the utterly untenable statement that a yawning gulf separates Christian from Hindu conceptions of righteousness. The moral character of some exponents of Saivite philosophy is not good in the opinion of our contemporary; but it is significant that he has never a word to say about some prominent pastors of Christian Churches and some Bible women as well as some lay Christian men of whose moral character the very Christians themselves have a bad opinion. If some pastors and Bible women and prominent Christian laymen, who are supposed to have been converted from being "heathen" and baptized with the holy spirit, are suspected and spoken of as immoral by Christians themselves who have ample opportunity of judging as to their moral character, is it any wonder that Christianity does not make headway in this country and that some at least of those who ought to preach the gospel by fair means have given up their work as if it were a hopeless task and begun to abuse Hinduism and Hindus with malicious intent? It would be interesting to know what our contemporary thinks of Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa, Swami Vivekananda, Thukaram and other Hindu religious teachers and our great Tamil Hindu Saints, and where Barrows, Hall, Fairbairn and King will stand in comparison with them. According to Saivite teachings and practice, however spiritual a man may profess to be, if he kills any animal for sport or for food, he will have no claim to righteousness. To kill a poor buffalo for sport is far from righteousness. We therefore, think that a reverend gentleman, who, in the spare hours he is free from pastoral duties, takes a fiendish delight in killing animals without an atom of *Jeevakaruniam*, cannot impress himself on the minds of Hindus as a truly righteous man.

We think that it was the Editor of the "Ceylon Observer" who pointed out some years ago that the absence of any poor house in this country was a very strong proof of the love which Saivites and Buddhists have to their fellowmen and of their great charity which is truly a part of their very existence. In giving alms they are not at all swayed by any feelings of caste, creed or superstition as our contemporary falsely accuses them to be. No needy person is ever refused help by Hindus or Buddhists on the score of his caste or creed.

If there is any religion the votaries of which show the greatest difference between their precept and practice, it is Christianity by means of which the foretaste of heaven in this world can never be realised, unless it is thoroughly divested of the sordid materialism which accompanies it always. We trust that our contemporary does not think the horrible European war a sign of heaven on earth.

THE RELIGION OF THE ANCIENT  
TAMILS.

(By S. Sabaratna Mudaliyar.)

PART SECOND.

## CHAPTER XXVIII.

## IMPEDIMENTS TO OUR REALIZATION.

I have explained in the previous chapter that the object of the Religion of the Tamils is to help the souls in their realization of the Truth, and that this realization is real salvation. Realization is not possible except in the plane of our feeling and when we realize the truth in that plane, we identify ourselves with *love*—or we are transformed into *love*—the highest point in the plane of our feeling. The nature of the souls is such that when they realize the truth—when they are placed in close contact with truth—they become like that truth; and this truth being God whose form is pure *love*, the souls that realize that truth, themselves assume the form of *love*—and this, in short, is the *advaita* bliss which our religion vouchsafes for us. I cannot say how far this doctrine of salvation will be appreciated by the followers of other religions who view salvation from a material standpoint; but our *Gnanis* who have realized God have told us very clearly that our salvation lies in this realization.

In order to help us in this realization, our religion gives a detailed explanation of the impediments that stand in our way. These impediments are our inherent *milams* known as *Anavam*, *Mayai* and *Kanmam* to which are added two more factors known as *Mayeyam* and *Thirothayee* which manifest themselves in our condition of action.

## ANAVAM.

This is a factor that obstructs our intelligence. It is neither a spirit nor a matter with any form or dimensions. It is as formless as the souls are, and it is a non-intelligent being that adheres to the souls and obstructs their intelligence. The souls, in their normal condition, lie wholly stupefied under the influence of the *anava mala*, and it is only when they are given an embodiment out of *Maya* their intelligence is excited to a certain degree, and they are enabled to know and feel, think and act. Even then, the influence of the *anava mala* is there in the souls, and this influence is seen in their egoism and delusion. This influence is rendered ineffective to the extent to which the souls realize the Grace of God.

## MAYAI.

This is another non-intelligent and immaterial factor in which the souls are housed, and this is the primordial germ out of which the whole material world is produced. The physical body and the organs of senses, the regions of abode and the objects of enjoyments are all produced out of *Maya*, for the use of the souls. The souls that lie stupefied under the influence of *Anava Mala* have their intelligence excited to some extent when they are given an embodiment out of *Mayai*. This *Mayai* itself exerts its baneful influence over the souls, although it serves to excite their intelligence to a certain degree. This *Mayai* is said to be of two kinds—*Suddha Mayai* and *Asuddha Mayai*—the higher order of souls being given their body and sense organs out of the former, while the lower order are given their embodiment out of the latter.

## KANMAM

This is the effect of actions. The actions of souls produce certain results under the guidance of *Siva Sakti* or the Grace of God, and these results are mainly found in their experience of pleasure and pain. The actions which one does contribute largely to the nature of the body and the sense organs which he is given again, and with which he enjoys pleasure and pain and does further actions, while so enjoying. As the effect of actions remain with the respective souls and produce their results at appointed times, these effects are known as the fruits of *Karma* and are counted among the bondages of the souls. This *Karma* is of two kinds—*Nalvina* and *Theevina*—good deeds and bad deeds—and they are known by different names when they attain different stages. An action is known as *Akamyam* when it is being done; when it remains with the soul, before producing its effect, it is known as *Sanchitam*; and when it produces the effect it is known as *Piravaptam*.

The souls, as I have already said, are given an embodiment, according to their previous *Karma*, and when they are so given, they do actions again and again until they are enabled to realize the futility of actions by realizing the truth. The *Siddhanta* theory of *Karma* is misunder-

stood by the critics, and they think that, if *Karma* presupposes embodiment, and embodiment presupposes *Karma*, it will amount to what is known in the language of Logic as *Anavarthai* or *circulus viciosus*. *Anavarthai* is only applicable when the factors are said to be the cause of one another *ad infinitum*, independent of any other factor. In the case of the *Karma* theory, there are three other factors—the soul, the *Mala* and the Grace of God—all eternal in themselves—as the basis of the progression of *Karma*. The *Anava Mala*, and the Grace of God that neutralizes the influence of that *mala* being both eternal; the act of Grace that is seen in the rotation of our *Karma* and embodiment must also be eternal. The actual cause of our *Karma* and embodiment must therefore be said to be the Grace of God coupled with the *anava mala*, and it cannot be said that our *Karma* and embodiment cause each other. To say that *Karma* and embodiment cause each other is only a Buddhist theory. According to the *Siddhanta* Philosophy, the main cause of our embodiment and *Karma* are the *anava mala* and the Grace of God. These being both eternal, the rotation in succession of our embodiment and *Karma* must also be eternal. Our embodiment and *Karma* are only the *metres* to gauge the capacity of those that follow them, and not their cause. The logical flaw of *anavarthai* cannot therefore be applied to the theory of *Karma*. It is in order to point out the actual cause of this rotation in succession of our *Karma* and Embodiment, the *Siddhantins* have explained the influence of *anava mala* as the *Mala Kanmam* or the inherent *Kanmam* that is innate in the souls in not enjoying the light of Grace—and this *Mala Kanmam* is the main cause of all our Embodiment and *Karma*, coupled of course with the Grace of God. We cannot certainly trace a beginning to a course of events connected with an eternal factor—and this cannot be said to be an *anavarta* which is only applicable if these events cause each other independent of any other factor. The cause of events being eternal, their course must also be eternal.

A study of the *Karma* theory, as explained by the *Siddhanta* Philosophy, will be highly beneficial to seekers after truth, as it sets out beautifully the means of our salvation. We are made to eat the fruits of our *Karma*, not with any vengeance or with any feeling of anger, but with the love of correcting us and enabling us to realize the truth. In fact, what we call the fruits of our *Karma* are what are considered indispensable for our progress according to the capacity that we attain as a result of our actions.

## MAYEYAM.

The material world including our body and sense organs produced out of *Mayai* are known as *Mayeyam*. These are given to us with the object of removing our original *malam*, just as poison is administered to a patient in order to counteract a poison that entered into his constitution.

## THIROTHAYEE.

This is the Grace of God which excites the souls to actions,—both good and bad,—in order to finally release them from the bondage of *Mala*. Action is necessary to realize the truth, and souls are excited to action until they realize the truth. The souls cannot act independent of the Grace of God, because they are always dependent on God. The Grace of God that urges them to action according to their respective capacity is known as *Theropava Sakti*; and as actions are considered a barrier to our realization of truth until we become fit for it, the *Sakti* that prompts them to action is also counted among the bondages of the soul. When the souls are enabled to realize the truth, as a result of actions, the *Theropava Sakti* assumes the form of *Arul Sakti* and enables them to enjoy the Divine Bliss.

## LOCAL &amp; GENERAL.

ILLNESS OF H. E. THE GOVERNOR—His Excellency had a relapse on Sunday night and his condition was critical. At 10 P. M., on Tuesday His Excellency's condition was slightly improved. We earnestly wish His Excellency a speedy recovery.

THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL—At Monday's meeting of the Legislative Council two items of importance were discussed—one the restoration of the night mail train service between Colombo and Jaffna, and the other a survey of the most populous parts of Jaffna, with a view to improve their drainage. We publish in another column a report of the proceedings of the first item as given in the "Morning Leader." The proceedings will regard to the other item will be published in our next issue.



A PUBLIC LECTURE.—Under the auspices of the Y. M. H. A., K. K. K. a public lecture on the "Necessity for Religion" will be delivered in Tamil, by Mr. E. K. Sivasubramaniya Aiyer, B. A., on Saturday the 10th instant at 6.30 p. m., at the Kookuvil Hindu English School.

PERSONAL.—Mr. V. V. Thambiah, Excise Inspector, Mannar Island Range, has been transferred to Chavakachcheri Range.

—Mr. M. Selvadurai, Excise Inspector, Manipay Range, has been transferred to Mannar Island Range.

—Mr. V. S. Valupillai, P. W. D. Overseer, who is stationed at Daniyaya for the past 20 years, has been promoted to the special class from the 1st class, since March 1st 1917. His promotion is a well deserved one.

—Mr. M. Chellappah, Head Clerk, Police Office, Anuradhapura, has retired from Government service from last month. He is a nephew of the late Mr. V. Karalappillai, Head Clerk, Kachcheri, Nuwara Eliya. Mr. Chellappah has come back to Jaffna and is at his residence at Tholpuram.

A SEND OFF.—The Mannar Rast-house presented a party scene on the 1st of February last, when the friends and well-wishers of Mr. V. V. Thambiah, Excise Inspector, entertained him at a farewell dinner, on the eve of his departure on transfer to Chavakachcheri Range. Covers were laid for twenty-five and much conviviality prevailed. Mr. V. K. Subramaniya Aiyer, Mantai, and Mr. S. M. M. Arulappah, spoke at length on the sterling qualities and amiable character of Mr. Thambiah. Mr. Thambiah replied in suitable terms. The gathering dispersed at 10 p. m.

ANOTHER SEND OFF.—On Friday the 2nd instant at 3 p. m. the friends and well-wishers of Dr. C. Somasundaram, Medical Officer, Kalmunai assembled to bid good-bye to him on the eve of his departure to Jaffna on transfer as J. M. C. After dinner was served. Rev. Mac Leland spoke highly of the qualities of the departing doctor to which the doctor replied. Messrs. C. Chelliah, D. E. Clerk, S. Abraham, I. E. Clerk, and Jasubasan, Agent, Mather and sons were other speakers. The presentation of a purse was made by the secretary, Medical Club, on behalf of the public. Thanks are due to Messrs. A. S. Joseph, Town Overseer and S. Somasundaram, I. E. Head Clerk for the suitable arrangements made for the function.

THE NEW FORT STATION.—was opened to traffic for the first time on Sunday, the first train to leave it being the morning train to Polgahawella, which left at 7.8, followed by the Up-country express which left at 7.25. The linking up of the new lines at the Fort and at Slave Island were effected on Saturday night. With the opening of the new station will come almost at once the demolition of the old one in the Fort, and in its place will rise further back and more towards the bridge the new Empire Theatre. There will be many changes in this part of the Fort before long, which will be most unrecognisable when the new overhead bridge is completed with the roads converging on it raised to the level of the bridge. Leader.

LIGHTS OUT.—By Government order all light-houses and lights from Mannar to Galle were extinguished on the 2d March and all other navigation lights around the coast of Ceylon are liable to be extinguished after March 14th without notice. Simultaneously motor head lights have been prohibited in Colombo. It will be recalled that motor headlights were used in England and in France by German spies to signal to German submarines and when the Emden was raiding in the Bay of Bengal, a motor is said to have been used at Pondicherry by German spies to signal to her. All lights in the Colony of Mauritius were extinguished on March 1st and many if not all the lights along the coast of India have similarly been extinguished.

A SCHOONER SEIZED AND SOLD.—Last month a schooner named *Sawal Hamid* landed 13 passengers secretly at a village in Puttalam District from South India. On instructions received from the Principal Collector, a look out was kept and the boat seized by the sub collector on arrival at Negombo, but the tinda had decamped. The passengers who landed were traced and convicted under the Panga Regulations framed under Ord 3 of 1897. As the tinda, a native of India, could not be traced, the vessel was ordered to be confiscated and sold. The sale was well attended, several Tamil and Moorish traders being present. After brisk bidding it was knocked down to Mr. C. B. Brodie of Colombo for Rs. 280.

Y. M. H. A., KOOKUVIL.—The weekly meeting of the above Association was held at the Kookuvil Hindu English School on Sunday the 4th instant at 7 p. m. with Mr. V. Manikkavasagar, Student-at-Law, in the chair. The minutes of the previous meeting being read and confirmed, Mr. K. Chelvadurai read a paper on "Moral Courage." Remarks were offered by Messrs. S. P. Rasiah, V. W. Thambiah, Excise Inspector, A. Mailvaganam, Relieving Postmaster and C. Vijayaratham, Student Hindu College. The meeting terminated at 8.30 p. m. A Reading Room of the Union was opened on Monday the 5th instant.

THE PUTTALAM RAILWAY.—Mr. M. Cole Bowen, Chief Construction Engineer, Ceylon Railway extensions, has returned to Colombo, after inspecting the track of the proposed railway from Chilaw to Puttalam. The object of the trip was to visit certain points for the preparation of the estimates on which Mr. Cole Bowen is now engaged.

VICEROY'S SON WOUNDED.—Friday's casualty list for the Indian Expeditionary Force contains the name of Second Lieut. the Hon. F. I. Thesiger, R. F. A., eldest son of His Excellency the Viceroy, as having been wounded in action.

THE FINAL RICE FORECAST FOR BURMA.—for 1916-17—shows that 2,700,000 tons of rice are available for export. The total area sown with rice in the Province is now estimated at 10,419,679 acres, an increase of 133,937 acres over the area actually planted in the previous year.

CEYLON TAMILS' ASSOCIATION.—SEVENTH ANNIVERSARY.—The seventh anniversary of this Association was celebrated on the 25th of January, 1917, at about 8.30 p. m. at the Association Hall, No. 11 Dhoby, Gbaut. There was a gathering of about two hundred friends and members. Mr. M. V. Pillay, the president welcomed the guests and briefly touched on the work of the Association. A party of Hindu Musicians and a string band contributed to the gaiety of the evening, while a fairly long programme of recitations and humorous sketches in English and Tamil kept the audience merry. Particular mention may be made of a humorous story in Tamil entitled "Cornflour Capers" by Mr. Thambippillay and a sketch in English entitled "Looking for Moses's Mother-in-law". A friend of the Association contributed a choice variety of specially composed Tamil songs suitable to the occasion. After the refreshment interval, Mr. Annamalai Pillay, a Patron of the Association and representatives from Amateur Drawing Association, Hindu Association, Medical School Recreation Club, and other gentlemen briefly spoke. It was close upon midnight when the gathering broke up. This Association is the recognised institution of the Ceylon Tamil Community and is bound to be a power for good in the land.

OBITUARY.—We regret to record the death of Mr. K. Subramaniam, father of Messrs. Sivaramo of the P. W. D., Jaffna, Visuvalingam, Building Contractor, Penang, Mutiah, S. M. R., Ratnapura, Manickam of the Railway Department, British North Borneo, and Vijayaratham, Asst. Postmaster, Kurunegala, who had sad event took place at his residence at Vannarponnai East on Friday last. He was over 80 years old at the time of his death. The funeral was largely attended. Our condolences to the bereaved.

## THE LATE MR. S. SELVADURAI, ADVOCATE.

### TRIBUTE FROM THE BENCH AND THE BAR.

On Friday last as soon as Mr. Paul Floris, District Judge, mounted the Bench Mr. W. Daraiswamy, Advocate addressed the Court as follows:—

"Allow me, Sir, on behalf of myself and my colleagues of the Bar to express our deep regret at the untimely death of Mr. Selvadurai, Advocate, today. He belonged to a respectable family at Jaffna. The late Mr. Chellappapillai, Chief Justice of the High Court of Travancore, and the late Advocate Mr. Nagalingam were his uncles. He was a grandson of the late Crown Prosecutor, Mr. Ampikalakar Sionatambay. Though Mr. Selvadurai was called to the Bar three or four years ago he won the esteem and regard of each and every one of us by his amiable qualities. We deeply regret that a life so full of promise has been cut short in the prime of life.

I move that this expression of regret be recorded in the midst of this Court and a copy of it be forwarded to the widow."

Mr. Floris District Judge replied as follows:—

Mr. Daraiswamy and gentlemen,

"It was only 5 minutes ago I heard of the death of Mr. Selvadurai. As you all know Mr. Selvadurai did not always practise in this Court but whenever he appeared I was struck by his charming personality, gentlemanly manners and fairness to all. I did not know till today that he was a member of that illustrious family of which the late Advocate Mr. Nagalingam was one. I fully agree with all the sentiments which you have just expressed on behalf of the Bar.

I shall record the expression of regret in the minutes book of this Court and shall direct the Secretary to forward a copy of the same to the widow."

## THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

### THE NIGHT TRAIN SERVICE BETWEEN MADAWACHCHI AND KANKASANTURAI.

The Hon. Mr. A. Sapapathy, at Monday's meeting of the Council, moved that Government be pleased to order the resumption of the night train

service between Madawachchi and Kankasanturai which has been stopped since February 19th 1917.

He said: Sir, I beg to say as briefly as possible the reasons, which necessitated the introduction of this motion. The construction of the Northern Railway was the result of 15 years continuous agitation on the part of the people of Jaffna. Governor Sir Arthur Gordon in whose time the matter was first mentioned dismissed the project as a tantalising vision. Sir Arthur Havelock after ordering a survey of the railway gave it up. It was left to Sir W. G. Ridgeway to bring this matter within practical politics, and conferred the boon of railway extension on the people of the North. This was constructed not on the test of "Will it pay?" but Government decided to construct this line on the broad and benevolent policy of benefiting the teeming population of the Northern Peninsula, as a speedy and ready means of communication with the metropolis and other parts of the Island. It was at the time believed that the undertaking would be a financial failure, and for that reason the construction was done partly out of the general revenue and partly out of borrowed capital. But soon after the construction it was found to the agreeable surprise of many that it was not a financial failure, as it was thought it would be. We had one day train for some years. The necessity for a night train service—night mail hour service, became very necessary after the development of passenger and goods traffic. The Postmaster-General who is now Controller of Revenue while on a tour of inspection was met by most of the leading men of Jaffna and they urged on him the necessity of a night train service. A night mail service was established at his instance and recommendation.

Mr. Sapapathy continuing said that the night train enabled the people of Jaffna to finish their day's work in Colombo and travel during the night to Jaffna avoiding the tedious and long journey of two hundred and fifty miles by day, besides the exposure to the heat of the sun which was very powerful at certain times of the year. The night mail service enabled the people of Jaffna to receive their mails from Colombo in thirteen hours instead of thirty-six hours as it used to be previously. But since the 19th February last, owing to war conditions, the night mail train between Madawachchi and Kankasanturai had been suspended, which was practically the denial of the whole night service between Colombo and Jaffna. Jaffna was a rising commercial centre and next to Colombo was a great intellectual centre also; a large number of Colleges, Reading Rooms, and other institutions were there. Letters posted in Colombo at 6 o'clock in the evening were received next morning in Jaffna. That was highly valued by the people of Jaffna, especially the receipt of the evening papers with war news and other general news was a special privilege, but by the new arrangement letters were received twenty-four hours later and it took three days travelling for doing one day's work. Besides that the journey had to be done in the heat of the sun. The effect was not only on passengers between Jaffna and Colombo but it entailed hardships on passengers from India, who were stranded in Madawachchi station where there was no accommodation for passengers and where in 1915 there was not even a waiting room. He was aware that many trains had been suspended in other directions and the people in other parts too suffered inconvenience, but the inconvenience which the people of Jaffna suffered was harder than that of any others. That was not so vital and had not affected the mail arrangements in other places. But even Anuradhapura had three trains now. Jaffna people did not claim any special privilege and they were ready and willing to suffer any inconvenience or hardship in common with other parts of the island, owing to the war, if they could not be avoided. He suggested that the third train to Anuradhapura was not a necessity. That portion of the train between Polgahawella and Anuradhapura, a distance of 81 miles, might be stopped and two local trains in the Jaffna Peninsula could be cut down and thus a considerable mileage could be saved and the General Manager could effect the saving of coal he desired. He hoped his suggestion would be acceptable to Government.

The Hon. Mr. K. B.asingham seconded and said that if the saving of coal was the reason for the present curtailment of the service, the hon. the mover's suggestion should be appreciated. He was in hearty support of the motion.

### THE COLONIAL SECRETARY'S REPLY.

Mr. Stubbs replying said that he should be very pleased if it were in his power to meet the hon. member's wishes. He had listened with great interest to the early history of the Jaffna line. That was before his time but he was glad to say that he was not one of those who held the "will it pay" opinion on railway construction. The train service on the Northern line was a subject on which the member's predecessor had taken great interest. The curtailment of the service was not for financial reason as in the early days of the war the train service was restricted. It was because they were not getting enough coal to maintain the whole train service. Perhaps it might be necessary to make further stoppages which would affect the whole island. For those reasons he felt that it would be impossible to accept the hon. member's suggestions. They were sound on doubt; but when the General Manager and the Traffic Manager were consulted on the matter it was found impossible to discontinue the train between Polgahawella and Anuradhapura as it was very essential for goods traffic. It was necessary to consider the matter from every point of view. What measures could be adopted for the least inconvenience to the least number of people? He did not think it was advantageous to consider at present the cost of an individual train rather than the financial possibility of working others. He would suggest a course which would be the best—to call upon the General Manager who was a traffic expert himself and the other traffic experts to consider the matter from all points of view and take the Advisory Board into his confidence, discuss the matter and it might be possible to effect some economy.

### MR. RAMANATHAN.

The Hon. Mr. Ramanathan said that he was disappointed with the explanation of the hon. the Colonial Secretary. He expected a settlement but the matter had been postponed indefinitely. He was one of those who felt keenly the inconvenience which would arise to the public. At the time the idea was proposed and long before the

Tamil Member had given notice of his motion he had had the opportunity of discussing the subject with the Executive the Governor. It was noted that what was decided then might be secured by discussion with the General Manager. He invited Mr. Sapapathy and went to meet the General Manager to find out what the difficulties were concerning the difficulty of getting a coal supply. Then it was found that what was necessary was the saving of coal for a run of 228 miles of railway. The suggestion by the Tamil Member to stop the train between Polgahawella and Anuradhapura and two local trains in the Jaffna Peninsula would effect a saving of something like 250 miles. But now it was quite different and the General Manager who called himself an expert was unwilling to dispense with the train to Anuradhapura owing to goods traffic. They knew something of the goods traffic between Colombo and Anuradhapura and the condition of things in Anuradhapura. If it were a matter of finance it was for the Government to decide. The question of goods traffic should be not a stumbling block in the way of the convenience of 300,000 people on the one side and many hundreds of persons on this side. The railway was made for the people and the people were not made for the railway. The suggestion of the Railway Board to hold a conference with the General Manager was impossible. The Members of the Board were perhaps not as much experts as the General Manager claimed to be.

The Hon. Mr. A. S. Pagden wished to point out that there were other conveniences to be considered besides those of passengers. The mails he might mention, were of greater consideration than passengers because the mails affected everybody whereas passengers happened to be people who travelled on one day by the night train and on another by the day train. With regard to the question of experts, they could, he thought, safely leave the matter to the Advisory Board which consisted of able members and whose Chairman was the hon. the Treasurer.

Mr. Sapapathy did not desire to press the motion but consented to leave the matter in the hands of Government for consideration.

The motion was withdrawn.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

### THE SELF RIGHTEOUSNESS OF THE "MORNING STAR".

Dear Sir,  
The "Morning Star" gives us Hindus a startling revelation of things in its editorial of February 28th last, under the heading "Philosophy and Practice". It often arrogates to itself the function of a high and unbiased critic on Hinduism. Its maddleness is more than annoying. There is a good deal to be done by the "Morning Star" in its own field. It has failed to sanctify the Christians in Jaffna of their iniquity; but it carries its pupils to the Hindus much to their amusement. Why lookest thou the mote in thy brother's eye while the beam in thy eye looms large.

The "Morning Star" is quick to see the defects in others. It is perhaps due to the phantom of self-righteousness or to the fancy for mere fault finding. Commenting on somebody's question the "Star" avows that Hinduism has failed to connect its philosophy with every day problems of life. Let this Editor if Christianity has achieved that end. Certainly not. Though I admit that different religious systems are good institutions in their respective ways embodying good and sound teachings for man I am conscious of the universal truth that "To err is human". The "Morning Star" feels itself sufficiently learned in Hinduism because it has created an atmosphere of self-righteousness about itself. It does not know that "Devadasis" in temple is an institution of sacred origin. The religion is not to blame for the corruption it has fallen into. It is the fault of man much as is the fault of Adam and Eve to have violated the law of Jehovah. Jehovah is not to blame for the sin Adam and Eve committed and bequeathed to their children. The "Star" does not know that long before it or any other Christian Scribbler set to denigrate on Hindu evils, thinking Hindus pitted themselves to fight the evil of natch girls in temples.

Where would stand half a dozen Barrows, Halls and Kings in the sight of teachers like Thyayumanavar, Manikkavasagar and Swami Vivekananda of blessed memory? I don't deny there are black-heaps in every religion. I know of Christian pastors and teachers who violate without the least qualm of conscience all the commandments of Moses and those of Christ. A true Christian should not be abjectly critical nor should he attempt to criticise a time honoured religion before he has mastered the great principles and the spirit underlying it. I recognise the superiority of scholars on Hinduism like Muller and Mrs. Bryant over the editor of a Missionary paper.

The "Star" says the present Hindu revival is the impulse of Christianity. It may be. But if one original idea strikes one and the same time two different thinkers in two different countries are we to say that one plagiarised the thought from the other? If we say so much in the same breath can it be said that the teachings of Christ were stolen from the Hindu Agamas. In fact attempts have been made to prove that Christ picked up his ideas from the writings of Hindu Sages. If Christianity is responsible for some Hindu organisations it should also claim responsibility for some vices. Christianity through Westerners has been the main cause for the denationalisation of Indo Ceylonese. In fine I should like the "Morning Star" to bear in mind that those who live in glass houses should not throw stones.

Thanking you, sir for the space.  
I am, Sir,  
Yours truly,  
S. A. N.

[We have expunged certain portions in this letter which contained wholesale attacks on Christians and Christianity. Ed H O]



## TELEGRAPHIC SUMMARY.

## The War.

## THE BRITISH FRONT.

## How GOMMECOURT WAS SECURED.

London, March 1.

Reuter's Headquarters correspondent says the German evacuation of the fortress of Gommecourt was most interesting because it marks the Northward extension of their retreat. Here also the German work of destruction was most effective, craters being blown in the roadway and tress felled across it. There were various devices designed to explode on contact secreted in the trenches. Fighting yesterday was more open in consequence of the British pressing the rear guards more vigorously. Things are also busy on the Somme front where a successful attack at Sailly Saillais was designed to straighten the line. The enemy undoubtedly realises the riskiness of his movement and is abandoning much ammunition owing to want of time to destroy it. When the British patrol approached Gommecourt on Monday night it was received with a sharp fire, showing it was still garrisoned. Thereupon guns were concentrated all night long, and at daybreak a strong patrol, plentifully supplied with Lewis guns and bombs, preceded the barrage and advanced round Gommecourt which was empty. As an instance of the British tactics to keep the Germans jumpy the Australians near Arruentez sweeping rushed the third line and mowed down the fleeing Germans with Lewis guns. The Australians bombed dug-outs and collected twenty prisoners and counted 100 German corpses, exclusive of those "Lewis gassed," altogether accounting probably for 250.

## OUR NEW LINE.

London, Feb. 28.

Reuter's correspondent at Headquarters says the British line now runs North of Gommecourt through Puisieux, Achiet le Petit, Ires and Ligny to between Transloy and Les Boeufs.

## NEW GAS-SHELLS.

London, Feb. 27.

Le Journal's correspondent in a remarkable explanation of the British success on the Ancre says it was due particularly to the terrific efficacy of the new gas-shells which caused the enemy astonishingly heavy losses.

## GENERAL GOUGH'S PRUDENCE.

Paris.—The *Echo de Paris* comments on General Gough's prudence in not throwing forward cavalry and infantry, thus avoiding a possible trap.

## ENEMY CONTINUES HIS RETREAT.

London, March 2.

F. M. Sir J. D. Haig says:—We took prisoner in February 2,135, including 36 officers. The enemy continues to retreat. We advanced Northward of Miraumont 600 yards on a 1½ mile front. We discharged gas Southward of Souchez and made a raid and also entered trenches North-Eastward of Givenchy. The enemy raided trenches near Ablaincourt and Rancourt and were ejected.

## A GERMAN ADMISSION.

London, March 1.

A wireless German official despatch says:—We voluntarily evacuated the foremost positions on both banks of the Ancre and took up another defensive line. The enemy remained in ignorance of our movements. The rearwards compelled the enemy to fight for possession of the destroyed country. The British attacks at Le Transloy and Sailly failed with the exception of two narrow positions they captured.

## THE KING'S CONGRATULATIONS.

London, March 3.

The Press Bureau states that the King has congratulated F. M. Sir D. Haig on the Army's splendid work and steady persistent pressure, forcing the enemy to quit carefully prepared and strongly fortified positions. The successes are a fitting sequel to the fine achievements on the Somme and a great credit to those responsible for drawing up the plans of the campaign. Sir D. Haig warmly acknowledged His Majesty's generous commendations.

## MORE PROGRESS.

F. M. Sir D. Haig says:—Further progress was made Northward of Warlencourt, Baucourt and North Eastward of Puisieux au Mont. We repulsed counter attacks on our advanced positions North-Eastward of Gueudecourt and North Westward of Ligny Thilloit, inflicting loss. As a result of today's fighting on the Ancre we took prisoner 128. We raided trenches in the neighbourhood of Angre-Calonne and Loos.

London, March 4.

F. M. Sir J. D. Haig says:—After a stubborn resistance we made further progress Northward of Puisieux au Mont. Eastward of Gommecourt our line advanced a quarter of a mile on a frontage of five miles. The enemy in a bombing attack forced us to evacuate a trench Eastward of Sailly-Saillais. We regained the ground by an immediate counter-attack.

## REASONS UNCERTAIN.

London, March 8.

Views of the great retreat, of which it is noteworthy that the German people are still unaware, are most contradictory. The latest suggestion, based on Berlin reports transmitted by the Berne correspondent of *The Times*, is that the enemy may after all act on the defensive in the West and attack the Russian Northern front. The correspondent, however, points out that the reports may be intended to divert the Allied guns and munitions to Russia, so rendering the Anglo-French offensive less formidable.

## FINE WORK BY THE ENGINEERS.

While the British correspondents are most cautious in their statements regarding the retreat the French writers assert that the Germans destroyed a number of heavy guns and that the retreat was not strategic, but forced, and the new line the Germans are reaching is in no wise strong. It is calculated that it will take the enemy three weeks to complete the withdrawal to the Acrea Cambrai line if such is his intention. German ingenuity and energy in hampering the pursuit were successfully countered by the skill of the British Engineers in building new roads

and restoring the Railways behind the advance almost as fast as they were destroyed before it. The British at one point are almost on the outskirts of Bapaume, pushing nearer Loupart Wood, which is a network of wire intended for a strong resistance.

## A LULL IN THE RETIREMENT.

Reuter's Headquarters correspondent says the partial lull in the German retirement in the past two days is due to the enemy's increasing difficulty in carrying out the movement unobserved. We are profiting by the lull to push forward our communications and consolidate the advance. For instance, yesterday was largely devoted to cleaning up, with the result that over 200 prisoners were rounded up at various spots. The lengthening range of enemy Artillery indicates the withdrawal of the guns continues. Aerial photographs disclosed a rearward movement of the batteries by road and rail. British troops repudiate the suggestion that the new gas shells are responsible for the retirement, which was due to the tenacity and gallantry and increasing weight of our Armies.

## ENEMY EXPLANATIONS.

London, March 1.

Amsterdam.—Now that it is impossible longer to conceal the retreat on the Ancre the German Press with one inspired accord has begun to publish explanations intended to reassure the population, which has been disquieted for weeks past at the rumours of the evacuation. The papers now declare they knew all about it on Feb. 26th and hence are delighted to observe the "enemy's astonishment."

## TWO IMPORTANT ADVANCES.

London, March 5.

F. M. Sir J. D. Haig says:—We attacked and captured the enemy's front and support lines Eastwards of Bouchavesnes on a 1,200 yards frontage, taking prisoner 173. We heavily repulsed several counter attacks. The enemy continues to yield ground Eastward of Gommecourt where we advanced to a depth of 1,200 yards on a frontage of two miles. The total prisoners for the day are 190.

## SEA FRIGHTFULNESS.

## STEAMERS SUNK.

London, Feb. 27.

The steamers "Algiers," "Aries," "Dorothy" and two small craft, all British, have been sunk. The total tonnage, including the "Laconia," is 27,000.

## GERMAN PLANS IN MEXICO.

London, March 1.

New York.—The Washington correspondent of the Associated Press of America reveals that Germany in planning unrestricted submarine war promised Mexico financial support to reconquer Texas, New Mexico and Arizona and share the prizes of German victory if Mexico declared War on the United States in the event of the latter not remaining neutral. Japan, through Mexican mediation, was to be urged to abandon the Allies and attack the United States.

## AMERICAN ITEMS.

London, Feb. 28.

Washington.—The Representative Committee amended the Bill of Feb. 28th, omitting the words "other instrumentalities" and prohibiting War insurance of munition ships. Hence a Conference of both houses will possibly be necessary finally to draft the Bill.

London, Feb. 27.

Bordeaux.—The American steamer "Rochester" from New York has entered Gironde.

London, Feb. 28.

Corunna.—Mr. Gerard has sailed for America aboard the "Infanta Isabel."

## FACTS ABOUT THE DUTCH STEAMERS.

London, Feb. 28.

It is stated the owners of the torpedoed Dutch steamers declined the London underwriters' offer of ten guineas per cent. War risk, but accepted eight guineas from German underwriters. Hence they sailed with lights ablaze.

Amsterdam.—The *Tyd* says if Germany offers compensation for the torpedoing of the seven Dutch ships she will be asked to hand over a number of German merchantmen which took refuge in the Dutch East Indies.

Amsterdam.—It is understood the cargo of the "Bandoeng" consisted of Borneo tobacco from a German plantation insured in Hamburg. Its loss, therefore, only affects Germany.

## DUTCH PROTEST.

A telegram from Amsterdam says that the Dutch Government has protested to Berlin at the attacks on the liners.

## NAMES OF VESSELS SUNK NOT TO BE PUBLISHED.

London, March 3.

France has decided to follow Great Britain's example by suspending publication of the names of ships sunk, giving instead a weekly statement regarding submarineism.

## "LAONIA" CAPTAIN SAFE.

The Captain of the "Laconia" had donned mufti before the sinking. Hence the pirates' search for him was fruitless.

## INDUSTRIES MAY BE CLOSED DOWN.

## IF NECESSARY TO WIN THE WAR.

London, Feb. 28.

Speaking at Sunderland, Mr. Henderson said if the closing down of industries was necessary to win the War they must be closed down. Government was determined to secure the speedy fruition of Mr. Neville Chamberlain's plans. The country's danger was more obvious than ever. There were 3½ million men in non-essential trades, including 1½ million in hotels, entertainments and Stock-brokers' offices. Mr. Neville Chamberlain at Glasgow said a list will be issued immediately of restricted occupations in which no fresh male labour would be employable without express permission.

## THE INDEPENDENCE OF PERSIA.

London, Feb. 26.

In the Commons, in reply to Mr. A. Ponsonby, Mr. Balfour stated that the Anglo-Russian Convention of 1907 was still in force and no contingent arrangement to modify its character would in any wise affect the integrity and independence of Persia.

## "MORNING POST" NOW 2d.

London, Feb. 27.

The *Morning Post* has increased its price to two pence from March 1st.

## GERMANY AND THE MEXICAN PLOT.

London, March 2.

The revelation of the Germans' Mexican plot is regarded by the British Press as a crowning exposure of the roguery, desperation and folly of Germany's rulers. The dramatic timing of the revelation is considered as fresh proof of the prudence and diplomacy with which President Wilson is seeking to consolidate the American nation by fully acquainting it with Germany's crimes before announcing the decision that the "Laconia" incident was an overt act necessitating War.

Washington.—The revelation of the German plotting in Mexico has stirred the capital to its depths. Congressmen have forgotten their differences and are rallying to support the President. Mr. Flood, Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, introducing in the Representatives a Bill authorising the arming of merchantmen, had an ovation when he asserted the right of Americans to travel. He added: "We hope to uphold the right peacefully. If this is impossible, then it must be upheld by force of arms." Mr. Lansing has issued a statement that he is confident Mexico will not be a party to such a plot, adding: "It is impossible to publish details for fear of endangering the lives of our informants." A Japanese official, in a statement just issued, scouts the idea of Japan ever maintaining such a proposal, dwelling on the good and growing friendship of Japan and the United States. An official at the Embassy said the idea of Japan adhering to such a proposal was monstrous, impossible and outrageous.

## DOCUMENT IN PRESIDENT'S HANDS.

London, March 1.

Germany's promise to Mexico was contained in a document now published, dated Jan. 29th, signed by Von Zimmerman and actually sent through Count Bernstorff. It was in Dr. Wilson's hands when he broke off relations, a fact which is considered sufficient answer to the Chancellor's complaint regarding American brusqueness threatened. The document is regarded as the climax to the German Embassy's machinations, the extent of which, if fully realised, would create immense public indignation. Von Zimmerman's proposal re Japan especially is interesting in view of the belief of the chiefs of the American Army that if Japan ever invaded the United States it would be through Mexico into the Mississippi Valley in order to split the country in twain. The revelations will undoubtedly have a profound effect on the country and Congress.

## JAPAN'S IGNORANCE.

Washington.—Mr. Lansing, referring to Zimmerman's Note to Mexico, said he was authorised to say we did not believe Japan had any knowledge of this, or that she would consider any enemy propositions.

## STILL HAGGLING.

London, March 2.

Washington.—The House of Representatives after a ten hours' debate passed by 403 votes to 13 a Bill empowering the President to arm merchantmen, but did not authorise him to use "other instrumentalities" which the President specifically desires.

## THE FRENCH FRONTS.

London, March 2.

A French *communiqué* says:—We repulsed with loss two German raids West of Soissons. We raided a German trench near Vanuquois and brought back prisoners. Two German aeroplanes bombed Montdidier. 1 was killed and 3 injured. Eleven French aeroplanes bombed huts at Guiscard and Railway Stations at Appilly, Babour and Oise, causing a fire at the last named place.

London, March 3.

A French *communiqué* says:—We successfully bombarded enemy organisations North of the Aisne and on the left of the Meuse.

London, March 4.

A French *communiqué* says:—Parties penetrated the enemy second line trenches South of Nouvron between the Oise and the Aisne and did great damage. There were violent Artillery duels North and South of the Etain Railway in Woivre. French air squadrons bombed hangars at Frescate, a powder factory at Bons Les Hauts and blast furnaces in the Woelfling district and Sarbruck and the Railway Station at Delme.

London, March 3.

A French *communiqué* says:—There have been several successful raids on German trenches near Moulin sous Touvent, East of Hill 304 and in the forest of Apremont. We brought back prisoners and material.

## A TEMPORARY ENEMY SUCCESS.

London, March 5.

Paris.—A *communiqué* reports violent Artillery fire East of the Meuse. A German attack on Caucieres Wood after an intense bombardment reached our first line but was completely ejected by our fire and counter attacks. Our line was maintained. The French effectively bombarded enemy batteries in the region of Malancourt.

## STEAMERS SUNK.

London, Feb. 28.

The steamer "Headley" and two small craft, all British, with a total of over 5,000 tons, have been sunk.

## APPLYING THE FINE TOOTH COMB.

London, March 3.

The Press Bureau states that the Army Council has ordered a general revision of the certificates of exemption of men under 81. Government impresses on tribunals that the War is reaching the critical stage. It is imperative to obtain more men for the Army. Exemption is in nowise justified on the ground of employment or hardship, unless for most exceptional reasons. It intimates that the special arrangements for postponing the calling up of religious workers and students have terminated.

## IN MESOPOTAMIA.

London, March 4.

The Admiralty announces that the Mesopotamia river gunboats "Tarantula," "Mantis" and

"Moth" came in contact with and forced the retreating Turkish Army Westward of Shumran on Feb. 26th, inflicting on it heavy loss and captured or destroyed four Turkish steamers and a number of barges containing ammunition.

## FRENCH CONGRATULATIONS.

London, March 3.

General Nivelle has congratulated Sir Win. Robertson on the splendid feat of arms of the gallant troops of General Maude in capturing Kut-el-Amara and the important British successes on the Ancre, brilliantly opening the campaign of 1917.

## GERMANY AND AMERICA.

London, March 3.

Amsterdam.—Germany justifies the intrigue in Mexico against America on the ground that it constituted an intelligent anticipation, subsequently justified, of America abandoning Neutrality. Germany is angry at the treachery with which the intrigue was discovered.

## JAPAN'S VIEW.

New York.—A Tokio telegram states: M. Motono, the Japanese Foreign Minister, told the Associated Press of America representative that he had received no proposal to join possibly in a War against the United States. The idea was ridiculous and based on the outrageous presumption that Japan would abandon her Allies.

## THE "YARROWDALE" PRISONERS.

Amsterdam.—A Berlin telegram says that the Americans aboard the "Yarrowdale" are still detained because British seamen have contracted spotted typhus. It is hoped to raise the quarantine on March 7th.

## A WHOLESALE PLOT.

London, March 2.

Washington.—It is now known Count Bernstorff was instructed from Berlin to arrange the dismantling of German ships in the United States, simultaneously with the receipt by Mexico of Zimmerman's Note. It is inferred detailed instructions were sent by Count Bernstorff to make War by the United States impossible. Officials are reluctant but it is indicated the plot was general and wholesale.

## REIGN OF TERROR PLOTTED.

The *New York World's* Washington correspondent says there is a strong impression that a section of Zimmerman's Note was withheld from publication. The Government has correspondence showing the Germans sought to alienate the South American and Central American countries from the United States, instigated the recent Cuban revolt and plotted a reign of terror in the United States in the event of trouble.

## CONSULS DETAINED.

London, March 3.

Washington.—The State Department has been informed that Germany is detaining four American Consuls until she is officially advised that the United States are allowing the German Consuls to proceed to the posts in South America to which they have been assigned. Irritation is felt at the continued detention of the American "Yarrowdale" prisoners.

## AMERICA AND THE WAR.

London, March 3.

Washington.—The amendments to the Naval Bill have been adopted, making all the appropriations available immediately instead of on July 1st and establishing another Navy Yard on the Pacific Coast.

## U. S. A. AND ARMED NEUTRALITY.

London, March 4.

Washington.—The Senate has adjourned without action on the Armed Neutrality Bill.

## NEW ZEPPELIN EXPLODES.

London, March 3.

Amsterdam.—According to Belgian correspondents a new Zeppelin, making its speed trials at Ghent on Feb. 26th, caught fire and exploded. The crew were burnt to death. Belgian eye-witnesses were arrested and taken to Germany.

## THE RUSSIAN FRONT.

London, March 3.

A wireless Russian official despatch says:—Our gas attack Northward of Lake Naroch provoked a panic in the enemy's trenches. We drove out the Germans, who entered the first line trenches South Westward of Brzezany.

## CHINA AND GERMANY.

London, March 3.

The *Times* Peking correspondent says the Allied Ministers have presented a Memorandum to the Chinese Government, sympathising with their attitude towards Germany and promising favourable consideration of the questions of suspending the Boxer indemnity payments during the War and revising the Tariff in the event of China effectively severing relations with Germany and Austria.

## DESTROYER SUNK.

London, March 4.

The Admiralty states that a destroyer was sunk with all hands in the North Sea on March 1st. It was probably mined.

## PARLIAMENT AND THE WAR.

London, March 1.

In the Commons Mr. J. I. Macpherson announced that a commission under the Chairmanship of Mr. Churchill would be appointed to examine the question of officers' promotion and deal with anomalies in the existing system.

Mr. H. W. Forster stated that the improvement in transport was largely responsible for the success in Mesopotamia where medical conditions were now generally satisfactory. There was necessarily some considerable sickness in the Summer but the ratio had since steadily diminished.

## ALLIES' MISSIONS TO RUSSIA.

London, March 4.

The Allied Missions have returned from Russia most satisfied with the result of the visit.

## DISARMAMENT IN GREECE.

London, March 3.

Athens.—The Minister of the Interior has urged the Police and Gendarmerie authorities to apply the disarmament decree more strictly as the Military control is disaffected with the results.

—The Ceylon Observer.