

# The Hindu Organ.

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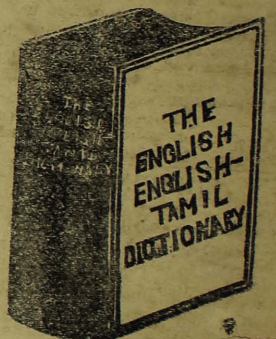
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## Order Nisi.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 3385.

In the Matter of the Estate of the late Venasitambay Muttutambay of Navatkuly Deceased.

1. Kasiar Sellappah and wife  
2. Rasammah both of Navatkuly

Vs.

Ponnu widow of Venasitambay Muttutambay of Navatkuly

Petitioners.

Respondent.

This matter of the Petition of Kasiar Sellappah and wife Rasammah both of Navatkuly, praying for Letters of Administration to the estate of the above named deceased, Venasitambay Muttutambay of Navatkuly, coming on for disposal before P. E. Peiris, Esq., District Judge, on March 1, 1917, in the presence of Mr. E. Murugesampillai, Proctor, on the part of the Petitioner; and the affidavit of the Petitioner dated February 27, 1917 having been read: It is declared that the 2nd Petitioner is an 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 27, 1917, show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

P. E. Peiris,  
District Judge.

March 6, 1917.

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## Order Nisi.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 3368.

In the Matter of the Last Will and Testament of the late Ranganathan Cheddy, son of Ayathurai Cheddy of Kumbakonam Deceased.

Pakeerathay, widow of Naganathan Cheddy of Kumbakonam in India

Vs.

1. Chakkarapany Cheddy son of Ayathurai Cheddy

2. Amuthamma widow of Ayathurai Cheddy of Kumbakonam in India

Petitioner.

Respondents.

This matter of the Petition of Pakeerathay widow of Ranganathan Cheddy, praying for Letters of Administration to the estate of the late Ranganathan Cheddy son of Ayathurai Cheddy with the copy of the will annexed hereto, coming on for disposal before P. E. Peiris, Esquire, District Judge, on February 28, 1917, in the presence of Messrs. Sivaprakasam & Kattiresu, Proctors, on the part of the Petitioner; and affidavit of the Petitioner, dated December 3, 1916, having been read: It is declared that the Petitioner is the widow of the said deceased and is entitled to have Letters of Administration with the copy of the will annexed issued to her unless the Respondents or any other person shall, on or before March 22, 1917, show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

P. E. Peiris,  
District Judge.

March 6, 1917.

Time extended to the 14th May 1917.

P. E. Peiris,  
D. J.

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## The Hindu Organ.

JAFFNA, MONDAY, MARCH 19, 1917.

### HINDU MOVEMENTS.

The Hindus of this country have every reason to congratulate themselves on the inauguration within the last few years of several movements which have in them great possibilities with regard to our religious and national well-being. There are a few points which must be borne in mind by those who guide the destinies of Hindu movements if they wish these to accomplish the objects for which they have been started and serve as excellent forces from which sweet influences will continuously flow forth to our people. It is our experience that very often a Hindu movement does not succeed as well as it should, owing to lack of genuine earnestness on the part of those connected with it. If self-advertisement, self-glorification, or a desire to be identified with a movement merely for the personal advantages accruing from it, is the impelling force, then it is certain that there cannot be adequate success. And to work at a movement with the expectation of only partial success will often lead to no success by gradual deterioration of aim.

Another point we would urge on the attention of leaders of movements is that it is of the utmost importance that those who lead should have received a good training for the work they feel themselves called upon to do. Let us take for instance the Y. M. H. A. movement which is doing useful work in this country though still very young. It has a very promising future before it, and a time will soon come when it will be in the greatest need of young men not only well educated, earnest and having fine moral character, but at the same time possessing a good training for the work. We cannot emphasise too strongly what seems to us extremely important—that the success of the Y. M. H. A. movement will depend in future years largely on the regular, methodical and judicious manner in which the various activities connected with it are carried on. What we have said of the Y. M. H. A. movement applies with equal force to all other Hindu movements. What splendid results exceedingly beneficial alike to the Hindu religion, the Tamil language and Hindu national ideals, can be achieved if the Saiva Siddhantha Maha Samajam held annually in Jaffna can show greater earnestness and better organisation? One great lesson all leaders of Hindu movements should learn, and that speedily, is that whatever is done, especially in the name of religion and national advancement is worth being done with real excellence and earnestness.

### LOCAL & GENERAL.

**THE GOVERNOR'S ILLNESS**—We are glad to learn that there is considerable improvement in His Excellency's condition. His Excellency's son Mr. S. K. Anderson, has returned to Bombay.

**DARING ROBBERY**—One Hanu Manthan Rao Sam Row of Bangalore, raided the house of Mr. W. Duraismay, Advocate, on the night of the 12th instant and removed a cash-draw and some other articles. He was met on the way by two Constables who were on beat and taken to the Police Station with the cash-draw. When he was produced before

the Police Magistrate he pleaded guilty and was sentenced to three months' rigorous imprisonment.

**THE ATTORNEY GENERAL**—The Hon. Sir Anton B. Ram, Attorney General, is going on short leave at the end of the month.

**THE NEWSPAPER LIBEL ACTION**—The Editor of the "Ceyloner" has appealed against the decision of the District Court of Colombo in the Libel Action brought against him.

**THE ESCAPED PRISONER**—The prisoner Eliatambu Marandu who escaped from the custody of the District Court of Jaffna, has surrendered himself at the Police Court of Mullaitivu. He was taken to Jaffna and produced before Mr. A. Cathiravelu, Additional Police Magistrate, and is now under trial for escaping from lawful custody.

**EMIGRATION FROM CEYLON: NEW LEGISLATION**—The last "Gazette" contains the draft of an Ordinance, the object of which is to extend to the natives of British India, who emigrate from parts of Ceylon for the purpose of theatrical or spectacular employment, the same protective precautions as are applied in the case of natives and residents of Ceylon by Ordinance No. 32 of 1903, for which the present Ordinance is substituted. The provisions of the Ordinance, in so far as they apply to natives of India, have been settled by arrangement with the Indian authorities.

**JUDICIAL CHANGES**—Mr. W. Wadsworth, Advocate, has been appointed to act as Commissioner of Requests, Colombo, from the 19th instant, relieving Mr. R. N. Thaine, who goes on to the Police Court owing to the absence of Mr. Furse Roberts, the Police Magistrate, on sick leave.

**LOCAL SELF GOVERNMENT COMMISSION**—A meeting of the Local Self-Government Commission, was held on Friday, at the Colombo Kacheheri. The Hon. Mr. J. G. Fraser, presided.

**MATRIMONIAL**—A marriage has been registered and the ceremony will take place on Wednesday the 23rd instant between Mr. A. K. Somasundaram and Miss Ponnammah Vairamuttu both of Koddady, Jaffna. The bridegroom who is the Railway Inspector of Telegraph at Anuradhapura is the grandson of Aratchy Namasiyayam and son of Mr. A. Kulandavelu, Renter Messrs. V. Ramanathan and V. Nagalingam, Ex-cise Inspector, Kayts, are his cousins. No invitations are issued.

**PERSONAL**—Mr. S. Sinniah of Hattangala Estate, and brother of Mr. S. Ponniah, Head Clerk, Culloden Group, Neboda, has been appointed as Superintendent of Tannehana Estate, Akuressa.

**NEW COLOMBO PORT SURGEON**—Dr. A. Rode, L.R.C.P., and S. (Elin.) and L.F.P. and S. (Glasgow), Medical Officer, Convict Establishment, has been appointed Port Surgeon, Colombo, relieving Dr. Donald Schockman, who goes to the Ceylon Medical Camp, Mandapam.

**THE CEYLON SUGAR REFINERIES LTD**—14th March 1917—One Hundred tons of sugar was despatched by the Ceylon Sugar Refineries Limited, by the last Lady Boat. Over 200 tons remain unshipped owing to want of accommodation on the Boat. The Company has just had the good fortune of striking a splendid supply of pure fresh water. The large tank which the Company had sunk ran dry owing to the large demand of water for the factories. It became necessary therefore to deepen the well. The present well is over half an acre in area. A space of 20 ft was marked out for digging, and after sinking a further 6 ft. the inrush of water was so great that no further work could be continued. The huge tank is now completely full. No matter what demand is made upon it, there is not the slightest decrease in the well. The last of the difficulties of the Company seems to have been solved, and they are now working day and night, turning out Sugar and Alcohol. The tapping of toddy this season has begun, and toddy is beginning to be transported.

—Cor.

**NEGOMBO D. C. "IMPASSE"**—The case in which Mrs. B. W. Bawa and Mrs. P. G. Cooke, are suing the Hon. Mr. J. C. Fraser, Government Agent, W. P., over the value of the land required for the New Negombo Rest-house, has been fixed for the 29th, 30th and 31st of this month. Mr. C. E. Karunaratne, Auctioneer and Broker, has been selected Assessor for plaintiffs in place of Mr. W. M. R. Jipakee, while Mr. F. L. Daniel remains Assessor for the Hon. Mr. Fraser.

**MRS. BESANT APPEALS**—Justices Abdur Rahim, Ayling and Seshgiri Iyer had before them to day an application for leave to appeal to the Privy Council against the decision of a special bench of the Madras High Court in Mrs. Besant's case. Mr. C. H. Ramaswamy Iyer with Mr. Govindarejulu Mudaliyar appeared for the petitioner, while the Advocate General represented the Government. The Advocate General said the Government had no desire to oppose the application. Their Lordships reserved judgment. "Bengalle", March 14th.

**THE DUCHESS OF CONNAUGHT**—whose death is announced—was, though many may have forgotten it, the third daughter of the late Prince Frederick Charles of Prussia, and

was married at Windsor on March 13th, 1879, to the Duke of Connaught, 3rd son and 7th child of the late Queen Victoria and uncle of King George. She was aged 56, a Doctor of Music and a Lady of St. John of Jerusalem. Her visit, with the Duke and Princess Victoria Patricia to Ceylon in March 1907 will be recalled, when H. R. H. unveiled the memorial to the Ceylon (Boer War) Contingent at Kandy, the work of Miss Geraldine Blake, now Mrs. E. H. L. Thomas. The Duchess was very popular at home, as well as in India (1886-90) when the Duke was Commander-in-Chief and in Canada where he was Governor General from 1911 to 1916.

### THE JAFFNA SAIVA PARIPALANA SABHAI.

A General Meeting of the above Sabhai was held at the Jaffna Hindu College upstairs Hall on the evening of the 15th instant, at 4.30. After the usual preliminaries over 35 new members were enrolled. The most important items were the election of office-bearers for the ensuing year, and the appointment of a committee to revise the Rules including the Constitution of the Sabhai.

#### OFFICE BEARERS:—

President: The Hon'ble Sir A. Kanagasabai.

Vice-Presidents: The Hon'ble Mr. A. Sapatthy and C. M. Chinnappa Mudaliyar.

Secretary: Mr. S. Kanagasabai, Advocate.

Asst. Secretaries: Mr. S. M. P. Sathan parathna Chettiar and Mr. S. T. Chittisuppalam.

Treasurer: Mr. P. Vytilingam, Advocate.

Auditors: Mr. M. Kanagasabai, Sub-Collector, Jaffna, and Mr. S. Thuraiappah, Clerk, Fiscal's Office, Jaffna.

Managing Committee: Mudaliyar S. Sabaratnam, J. P., Messrs. T. Kailasapillai, W. Duraismay, S. Rajaratnam, T. R. Nalliah, C. Arulambalam, M. S. Eliyatambay, S. Tanjiah-Pillai, S. Kandayya, A. Canagaratnam, V. M. Muttukumaru, M. Sabaratnasirighe, V. Chinnatambay, S. Ehamparam and N. V. Kanagasabapathy Iyer, in addition to the Office-bearers.

#### COMMITTEE TO REVISE THE RULES:

S. Sabaratna Mudaliyar, V. M. Muttukumaru, W. Duraismay, S. Rajaratnam, M. S. Eliyatambay and A. Canagaratnam.

### LABOUR EMIGRATION.

#### PROHIBITED BY GOVERNMENT.

Delhi, March 12.—The following notification has been published in a Gazette extraordinary to-day:—

In pursuance of Section 2 of the Defence of India Act as subsequently amended the Governor-General in Council is pleased to direct that the following amendment shall be made in the Defence of India Consolidation Rules, 1915, namely: After rule 16A. the following rule shall be inserted namely:—16B. No native of India shall depart by sea out of British India for purpose of or with the intention of labouring for hire in a country beyond the limits of India provided that the prohibition imposed by this rule shall not extend to any person or class of persons permitted so to depart by a general special license granted by such authority as the Governor-General may appoint in this behalf.

Explanation:—"Labour" in this rule means unskilled labour and does not include any work or other occupation of the nature referred to in Chapter II of the Indian Emigration Act 1908.

Delhi, March 12.—In order to conserve the manpower of India for the purposes of labour in connection with the war the Government of India have thought it necessary to prohibit all labour emigration from the country except to the extent necessary to supply the minimum requirements of Ceylon and the Federated Malay States. For this purpose a new rule has been promulgated under the Defence of India Act. The rule will come into force at once.—"The Hindu", March 13th.

### A TRIP TO BENARES.

Benares is the most sacred city of the Hindus, and is situated on the left bank of the river Ganges to bathe in which pilgrims from all parts of India and Ceylon periodically go. The city is about 18 square miles in extent, has a population of about twelve thousand, and was at one time the chief seat of Brahminical learning. It has nearly a thousand temples and mosques and innumerable small shrines scattered everywhere. It is situated about 1900 miles to the north of Dhanuskodi, the terminus of the South Indian Railway, and about 2200 miles from the East of Ceylon.

To visit Benares in the olden days was an arduous task. It was a life journey. Modern means of conveyance such as motor cars, trains or coaches were then not available, and a period of six months was the minimum time required for people in Ceylon to proceed to Kashi and return. The inconveniences and dangers attendant on travelling through jungles infested by wild animals, bandits and dacoits kept many away from travelling, and the same dreadful thoughts about the journey still linger in the minds of several, even though the distance has been shortened by excellent Indian railways, and all dangers of travelling have been removed.

The trip takes exactly eight days constant travelling from the east of Ceylon, of which nearly three are required to cover the short distance up to Dhanuskodi, from which point travelling is



considerably faster and less expensive compared with travelling in Ceylon. What is required for a second class ticket for a distance of 122 miles in Ceylon is more than enough for a person to travel in the third class from Dhanuskodi to Beaufort about 15 times that distance.

The following are some of the impressions of a few who recently travelled from the east of Ceylon to Beaufort; and it is hoped that the information contained in this account will be of some practical advantage to others who propose to visit the sacred city. The account is, however, imperfect, and so are the manner and language in which it is conveyed, but we trust that our intelligent readers will overlook all imperfections and be interested only in the bare account.

We left home by Government motor mail on the night of the 2nd December last, and after an all night travelling reached Beaufort at 7 A.M. the following day. After a respite of about 15 minutes for which we were very thankful, as it gave our cramped legs some freedom of movement outside the car, we left Beaufort in a larger motor bus for Badulla which we reached after a pleasant journey at 11.30 A.M.

The scenery along and route is always striking especially to people travelling from a low country. To them there is in the first taste of up country life a kind of sensuous rapture not easily described. The rising mountains, the many water spouts, and the extensive tea and cocoa estates with their factories, please the eye and gladden the heart to a great extent. Badulla is a fine small town with plenty of pure water available everywhere, and it lies at the base of a range of mountains. The last two and a half miles were covered by the motor car moving down the slope to the town without the aid of motor power.

At Badulla there is an old Katesan temple where we had our noon meals, and punctually at 1.30 P.M. we left this delightful spot to a still more delightful one, namely Bandarawela, reaching it at 3.45 P.M. This place is 19 miles from Badulla, and its climate is very exhilarating. The place is considered a sanitarium for consumptives, and it is a pity that our benign Government has not yet established some offices here for the benefit of its sick officers. The town was clean, and the many bungalows dotting the hills and mountains were neat and picturesque. Our journey by motor car was now ended, and the journey of thousands of miles by train, except for a few miles by sea, here commenced.

We left the place at 6 P.M. and reached Nanu-Oya at 9. Nanu-Oya is rather a cold place, but the cold here is nothing compared with what we experienced in Kashi.

The whole night was spent in travelling and on the morning of the 4th we reached Polgahwela. A more miserable and unclean spot than this we never came across. We were glad to leave the place at 9 A.M. and reached Anuradhapura in the afternoon. Here we visited the Buddhist temple and the dagaba which is being rebuilt.

We had some currency notes which we exchanged for British Postal Orders at the local Post Office. These postal orders are cashable in any post office in India. They were therefore a great convenience to us, considering that we had a long journey to perform in a strange land. They are also less weighty than silver rupees, which cannot be easily carried on long journeys. Ceylon notes are not easy to exchange in India except in the Banks. There are a few persons in important towns who undertake to exchange Ceylon notes, but the commission they demand is very exorbitant. In some cases it is as much as 8 to 10 per cent. It is always advisable for travellers to India to exchange all their money for British Postal Orders, keeping only a small sum in silver rupees.

We respectfully suggest to our Government that facilities for exchanging Ceylon currency notes in all Indian post offices at reasonable rates of commission be arranged for with the Indian Government. The existence of professional "Ceylon currency note changers" in Calcutta, Madras, Madras and other places proves that, through error of judgment or the ignorance of travellers, these notes find their way to India, and that the owners are mulcted of large sums as commission. The Banks charge only annas eight for every hundred rupees or a part of that sum. This commission is reasonable, but banks are not found in all places.

We left Anuradhapura at 11.30 P.M. and early on the morning of the 6th December reached Talai Mannar pier which is the extreme end of the north Ceylon. Here S. S. "Hardinge," one of the three steam boats of the South Indian Railway company that ply between Talai Mannar and Dhanuskodi, a distance of nearly twenty two miles, was ready to take us over to the Indian shore. Though designated as steamboats, they are nearly as large as our round the island steamships, very comfortable, fast going and sea worthy. We left Talai Mannar at sun rise, and reached Dhanuskodi two and a half hours later. We encountered no equally weather, but this is not always the case. At times, when the weather is rough, it is said that passengers are put to great inconvenience on the voyage which sometimes takes over four hours.

On Board, Indian and Ceylon Customs officers were busy making a rigid inspection of all the luggage of the passengers for dutiable and contraband articles; and in some cases even the pockets of 3rd class passengers underwent strict examination. These officers are courteous men, and perform their unpleasant duty with the best possible grace. They have good reasons to be so vigilant, as petty traders who take jewellery such as rings, bangles, watch guards &c. for sale to and from India, have often been reported to have used the articles themselves for the time being to avoid payment of the customs duty which is not levied on articles that are personally worn by passengers.

Immediately after the arrival of the steam packet at Dhanuskodi, an Indian Medical Officer with three assistants boarded the vessel in connection with quarantine regulations, and, after due enquiry, gave each passenger a permit to land. At the gangway the same Medical Officer closely examined each passenger before disembarkation.

We had obtained tickets, on board, for our journey up to Madras. With these we entrained at Dhanuskodi. Many Medical, Customs and Police Officers were at the station, all busily engaged in their respective duties. We had to

remain nearly an hour at Dhanuskodi until all the passengers were passed by the Medical Officer, and at 8.30 we left the place for Madras.

Rameswaram was the first station of importance after Dhanuskodi, and here is a well known Hindu temple which we decided to visit on our return journey. A Ceylon Audit Examiner, who had been up to Mandapam before and was now going on duty to that place, travelled with us and gave us interesting information about the places we were passing through. He also gave us many directions as regards our trip which were of great advantage to us later.

Between Rameswaram and Mandapam there is a fine long railway bridge nearly one and a half miles in length spanning the reef known as Adam's Bridge in English (or Ramer Anal in Tamil.)

On both sides of the railway line between Dhanuskodi and Madras were miles and miles of extensive paddy fields all fully cultivated, and the plants were flourishing. There were also large groves of palmyra trees which reminded us of the Northern peninsula which we recently left. It is remarkable that these trees in such large numbers should be found in the south of India and the north of Ceylon.

Hindu shrines and temples, large and small, were scattered everywhere, and in two or three places we saw statues of horses built of masonry, which were said to have been constructed by worshippers of Rama Swamy.

Indian cattle were plentiful everywhere, but buffaloes were few. The former were almost all white or gray, and in very good condition, while the latter looked emaciated. There were also large flocks of sheep. It was strange for us to see boys tending the cattle driving about on the back of oxen.

Live palmyra trees formed the boundary fences of some tracts of paddy lands, and not a few paddy fields were enclosed with the thorny cactus plant called in Tamil *Naka thali*.

There were also jungle lands along the route, here and there, but the trees standing thereon were all of a stunted kind. In some places rows of whip trees were growing which, we understood, were meant for firewood.

Considering the large supply of rice that is exported from India to Ceylon and other places, and the extensive irrigable lands in India, it is no wonder that this place is an agricultural country. There are many tanks, and plenty of water is available for irrigation purposes everywhere. Crops are grown in rotation in India, and it was not an unusual sight for us to see reaping going on in one village and sowing in the adjacent one. When paddy lands are so extensive and the consequent demand for labour so great in India, it strikes one to enquire why coolies of that country should leave their homes to seek employment elsewhere.

Beyond Mandapam onwards refreshments could be had at every railway station, and the South Indian Railway Company have made arrangements with Messrs. Spencer & Co. of India to sell refreshments in the trains as well. The refreshment cars are usually patronised by all classes of travellers except the Brahmmins and Hindus. The conservative ideas of these and the fact that the servants employed by the Company are not of good caste, keep them from using the cars. Brahmmin and Sudra employees of the railway company provide water to needy passengers at all the stations.

It will not be out of place to mention here the advantages of the Indian railway system over that of Ceylon. The Indian Railways are much longer and broader than the Ceylon railways, and accommodation in all classes is, on ordinary days, abundant. The locomotives are very powerful, and in one instance we counted no less than 60 wagons and bogies being drawn by one engine. The drivers are mostly Indians, and in all our travelling we met with only two engineers who were said to be Anglo Indians. Only three passengers are allowed to remain in each 2nd class compartment during the day, and two in the night. Water is provided in each compartment, and the lavatory arrangements are perfect and adapted to the needs and condition of European and Tamil ladies and gentlemen. In what are called Corridor or vestibule trains one can pass from one end of the train to the other. The compartments of these corridor trains are connected by a simple mechanical device with powerful spiral springs, which give full scope to the train when in motion, but keep the bogies in position. The two ends of the flooring of the bogies are covered with steel plates, thus rendering them fit to walk upon. Besides the ordinary 3rd class, some Railways have an intermediate class— which is between the 2nd and 3rd classes and specially meant for Eurasians. The charges are a little higher than those of the 3rd class but lower than 2nd class fare. This class is patronised by the Eurasians as well as others who do not wish to travel in the 3rd class.

The cost of travelling comes to about half a cent a mile. Ceylon policemen accompany the train as far as Mandapam in connection with quarantine regulations. In addition to these, two Indian railway policemen always accompany each train. There are railway police stations in the station premises at short distances. Complaints from passengers are readily heard by the railway police and immediately enquired into. Surprise visits are paid by ticket examiners every now and then, and it is not an unusual occurrence for half a dozen visits to be paid by different men within a distance of 60 miles. Up to Madras these men wear white uniform with the designation of their office in brass pinned to their turbans. They understand English, but are not very courteous in their dealings with passengers, especially of the third class. We saw Sheikh, Eurasian, and South Indian Tamils among these officers. It is said that, with a view to better and more reliable checking, the different railway companies have made arrangements among themselves to interchange their ticket examiners, so that in and about Madras there were also employees of the East Indian and Bengal-Nagpur railway companies.

The uniform of the Madras police consists of white shorts, black puttees, a coat more like a banian with three large metal buttons. A red turban on the head, a belt, Indian slippers, or boots of the pattern as is supplied to the Ceylon policeman, complete the uniform of the Indian man. The Assistant Superintendents have white or black uniform and red silk turbans with lace.

The European Superintendents wear the same kind of uniform as our officers.

The Madras policemen on the whole do not come up to the standard of their brethren in Ceylon. The Ceylon policeman in his black uniform, which though uncomfortable in hot days yet covers a multitude of sins and dirt, is more majestic than the Indian policeman in his white soiled uniform and red turban.

Madras was reached at 2 P.M. on the 5th December. There are three chattrams within a call of the railway station and in front of it. They are all upstairs buildings, and rooms are let to travellers at the rate of 6 annas for a room upstairs, and 2½ to 3½ annas for a room below. All the buildings are said to be under the control of the Madras Corporation or Municipality which has employed its own men to collect the rent and look after the buildings. Tickets are issued for every sum paid as rent. These buildings have been put up by rich men for charitable purposes and handed over to the Municipality.

A few words here about the different classes of refreshment rooms in India may not be out of place. First of all there are the hotels run under European management, and chiefly patronised by the Europeans. Then there are the Hindu clubs, either conducted by Brahmmins or vegetarian non-Brahmmins of good caste. These are generally patronised by Hindus of good caste and standing. These refreshment rooms are for no reasons called "Coffee Clubs" though not only coffee but tea, aerated waters and even meals are provided in them. Perhaps they start as coffee kiosks and later develop into refreshment houses where meals are also supplied. The food is comparatively good and the charges are reasonable. The third kind of hotel is called the "Military Club", and is meant for non-vegetarians. This class of refreshment rooms is generally patronised by all classes of people who are not vegetarians. This name is again an anomaly. We presume these were at one time meant for and catered to the needs of the soldiers. Besides non-vegetarian Hindus, Mohammedan and even people of the low caste conduct these refreshment rooms. Coffee and Military Clubs are found in all nooks and corners of India. Apart from these recognised places, a Tamil need be under no apprehension as regards his meals in India. Any Brahmmin will be glad to give him food for a small consideration; or he may have his food for nothing at any one of the chattrams which provide free meals to pilgrims. There are many rice chattrams in India, and though we have not seen all of them, it is said that one can travel on foot from the south to the north of India getting his free daily meals at the different chattrams.

After breaking our fast at a neighbouring Brahmin restaurant, we proposed to visit the historic temple known as "Minadoli Amman Temple." This temple is just in the middle of the city, and is a strikingly imposing and venerable structure enclosed within four high walls covering an extent of over ten acres. At the entrances, on the four sides, rise four stupendous towers each nearly 175 feet high. Those are said to be the highest towers in India. One feels dazed indeed when looking at the tops of these towers. The temple is built of granite and the towers are partly built of hewn granite and partly of bricks. The four towers contain the figures of everything conceivable by the Hindu mind or mentioned in the Hindu Shastras. On festival nights the towers are fully lit, and they then present a glorious spectacle. Within the four walls are again four small towers, and the two domes over the images of the Amman and the Swamy are of gold. In the middle of the temple there is a keni (tank) which has a steam pump attached to it to drain the water off. On entering the gateway we were surprised to see rows and rows of shops selling various commodities most of which were articles required in connection with pujas in the temple.

We had already been buttonholed by an officiating priest of the temple before we left the chattram. This person met us at the entrance of the temple, took us round, and finally performed the *archanais* for us. Pujas were first performed for the Amman, and then for the Swamy. Owing to the large concourse of people it is not always quite possible for pilgrims to gain access to that part of the temple where the Amman is placed. But for our Brahmmin and Mr. A. Duraisamy, the city guide, whom we had engaged for the day, we would not have been able to witness the puja at the Amman temple. Thanks to these persons, we were taken to the entrance of the *sanctum sanctorum*, from where others were kept away for some time for our benefit by a Brahmmin guardian of the gate. This Brahmmin guardian was too officious and was very loud in his speech. Even on ordinary days the rush to this part of the temple is so great that it is said that the residents of Madras too do not always have the happy opportunity to witness pujas in the Amman temple. There were many devotees at the time we went to the temple, and most of them were of the female sex and of Brahmmin caste.

(To be continued.)

#### MALAYA LETTER.

INDIAN REPRESENTATION IN THE FEDERAL COUNCIL.—From time to time this subject is discussed in the Malayan newspapers by Indian and Ceylonese Correspondents, but so far nothing has materialised. Just now the subject has again come to the front and there are some nice distinctions made out. The Correspondents cannot agree among themselves as to the proper designation of the representation, if ever it comes. While some argue that it should be Tamil others declare nothing short of a general Indian representation will suit the needs of the Indian population here. There is a fear among Indian Tamils that if the Tamil Community is to have a representative in the Federal Council it would open the way for a Ceylon Tamil being chosen, and as the Ceylon Tamils "hotly resent being classed with Indians" no Indian worth his name cares to be represented by a Ceylon Tamil. That would be out of sympathy with the aims, desires and views of Indian Tamils. This is rather ugly for the Ceylon Tamils, but it must be said that there is some truth in the charge laid at their door. When the Indian Tamil was nothing more, or nothing less, than a *Kling* the Ceylon Tamil was rightfully indignant at any attempt to classify him also as such, but circumstances are different

now. In common with others he is also learning to change the angle of vision. One point in the discussion that seems to vex the imagination of people is whether the large masses of Indian coolies require representation. Some hold that it is they that are to be represented while others dismiss the coolies curiously and claim that the intelligent and educated classes ought to be represented. The point is simple enough. The coolie stands as much in need of representation as the clerk, but it has served the purpose of Imperialists, like Sir Valentine Chirol, to declare that because the masses in India have not asked for representation they need not it. That is the very reason they ought to have representation. This was in India. It holds good here as well.

MY MAIL BAG.—"My Dear L.—That Chemical shrub which was to be the means of my magnificent future has ended in a miserable failure. It is, I now find, a medicinal shrub and is only found in medicinal quantities. One more disappointment,—but I have not lost heart. I am determined to make something out of this War, see if I don't. Meanwhile I am engaged in establishing a Malaya Information Agency here in Jaffna for the benefit of the numberless young men (and old) who leave this place for Malaya. This is my idea, I shall store all possible information about every place of any importance in Malaya, get good maps of the place and such other useful information. A class will be conducted personally by me to coach up the young men in colloquial Malay and Indian Tamil, in their behaviour in public and private, on how to manage a *sarong*, and how to approach a crowded c. f. f. shop and so on and so on. It is things like these our men ought to be familiar with very early so that when they land in Singapore the Malays there would think twice before trying to lead them by their noses. I shall take particular care to keep my clients fully posted in every detail. Please write to me about the passport system and also let me have a complete list of Tamil eating houses and "hotels"—these latter must be decent and honest places. Only last week a man from Kuala Lumpur told me of a rice boutique in Singapore which "served out penal diet", to put it in his own words. These things should not be. Don't you think I would do a good turn to young men if I include in my course of instruction some valuable information on our leaders in Malaya and their views, and the policy and domestic relations of the various associations?.....

Ta Ta,  
Yours as ever,  
Henry."

NOTES AT RANDOM.—Consumption is becoming so widespread in India (says Dr. C. Muthu, the eminent specialist of England) that by the time the Indians obtain self-government within the Empire the land will be full of consumptives. Evidently it is because of this fear that the Indians have quietly dropped self-government and taken up Home Rule!

A Chinese inventor, we read, has been given a patent to run for five years. Now, what is to stop him?

There was something in the nature of a small riot in Klang a few days ago when a crowd of Chinese hooligans of the town decided to deal as they pleased with a pair of European planters who had been charged with rape on a Chinese woman and were awaiting trial. The police and the volunteers came on the scene and quelled the disturbance.

The planter prisoners were alleged to have forcibly taken a married woman, wife of a Chinese estate manager, to their bungalow and committed rape on her. The defence was that a pimp of a rickshaw puller having promised to provide the planters with a woman took this Chinese woman to the bungalow, where she gave illness as an excuse and returned with a dollar for the trouble. The prosecution failed to establish the case and the planters were discharged.

From the 1st instant the passenger fares in the Federated Malay States Railways have been increased by 50% on the usual rates of 2, 3 and 5 cents per mile for the three classes. This step was taken to reduce railway travelling as much as possible as the Railway Dept. is at its wits' end to supply the necessary rolling stock.

It was supposed that the demand of the travelling public was larger than could be met by the railway and that higher fares would put a stop to unnecessary travelling. So it transpires that there are people who travel by the railway for the mere pleasure of doing so!

But in Ceylon they know better and curb the pleasures of the people by enforcing passengers to stay at Madawachi half a night. If that would not stop travelling nothing else would!

A hint in passing. Would it not conduce to the smooth working of public affairs in Jaffna if the leaders there would always take care to include a certain Northern Editor in their deliberations and get the advantage of his sapient counsel. There is nothing like being left out—to try one's temper!

Some men require to be humoured; others to be coaxed; still others to be kicked!

The Censor, is now being abused more than he deserves to be, and is not unfrequently made the scapegoat of other peoples' sins. People notorious for not replying to letters have now found an excuse in the censor. There is nothing easier than to put all the blame on him!

In a rambling letter Henry discourses at length on legislative council members, past and present, of Ceylon, much of which may not be seen by the world. He fails to see why his countrymen in Malaya should not try for a seat in the Ceylon Council. I think he has an eye on a seat himself,—our Henry!

Singapore,  
9th March 1917.

LANKA.



## The War.

## IN MESOPOTAMIA.

## HOW BAGHDAD WAS CAPTURED.

London, March 11.

Mesopotamia (official).—We by surprise crossed the Diala by moonlight on Thursday and established a strong post on the right bank and bridged the Tigris below the confluence of the Diala. A strong detachment marched up the right bank and found the enemy six miles South-West of Baghdad and drove him back two miles. We forced the passage of the Diala on Friday and advanced four miles to Baghdad. Our right bank forces dislodged the enemy from his second positions and bivouacked on the captured ground. There were dust storms and a violent gale. We forced back the Turks three miles West and South-West of Baghdad on Saturday.

## GRAND FLEET'S CONGRATULATIONS.

London, March 12.

The Press Bureau states that Admiral Beatty through General Sir W. Robertson has conveyed to General Maude the Grand Fleet's admiration and congratulations at the magnificent achievement in capturing Baghdad.

## TURKS SILENT.

A French *communiqué* says:—Today's Turkish official despatch does not mention Baghdad.

## THE SUBMARINE WAR.

London, March 11.

*Lloyd News* Cork correspondent wires.—The Belgian relief steamer, "Storstad," from Buenos Aires, was submerged in daylight. Thirteen were landed, including an American, in two boats. Twenty men are missing. The survivors count 36 hours in a stormy sea. The Fourth Engineer died of exposure. The submarine refused to tow the boats which it shelled. It was the "Storstad" which collided with the "Empress of Ireland."

## GERMANS DOUBT EFFICACY OF THE CAMPAIGN.

Amsterdam.—Berlin doubts of the efficacy of submarine war are expressed. Herr Reiser, President of the Hanseatic League, in a speech said the object of the blockade was not to force Britain to her knees but to produce a desire for an understanding. Count Reventlow attacked Herr Reiser, declaring German must dictate Peace to Britain. The *Vorwaerts*, in an article, says that Reventlow's aims mean a tremendous prolongation of the War and concludes declaring it impossible to starve Britain. German papers accuse Agrarians in Prussia of withholding supplies from the rest of the Empire.

## AMERICA TO ARM.

London, March 11.

Washington.—President Wilson's decision to arm merchantmen followed opinions by Messrs. Lansing and Gregory Government's armed Neutrality plan was withheld in order to avoid endangering American ships by permitting information to reach Germany. The only statement obtainable at White House and the Navy Department was that the President was fully determined to protect America's rights long before the order was given from White House. The Navy Department completed all necessary preparations to arm merchantmen, but Mr. Daniels appealed to the Press and public not to discuss it.

## SURPRISING DUTCH INCIDENT.

## REGARDING BRITISH ARMED MERCHANTMEN.

London, March 10.

Amsterdam.—The British armed merchantman, "Prince Melita," arrived at the Hook of Holland for water and was ordered to leave in half an hour. The ship put out overboard its armament and returned and obtained supplies.

## THE BRITISH FRONT.

London, March 12.

F.M. Sir D. Haig says:—We slightly improved the position North Eastward of Bouchavenes and entered the trenches in the same neighbourhood, securing prisoners. We raided the trenches Southward of Arras and bombed dug out despite strong resistance, inflicting many casualties. Air-fighting was continuous. Nine enemy machines were brought down or driven down, four of which are known to be destroyed. Five of ours are missing.

## A GERMAN REPORT.

London, March 12.

A Berlin *communiqué* says the clear visibility is responsible for the increased long range Artillery and aviation activity on the Western front. The firing was especially violent on the Ancre between Bacquoy and Le Transloy.

## ENEMY RETIRING AROUND BAPAUME.

London, March 14.

F.M. Sir J. D. Haig reports:—Owing to our bombardment the enemy abandoned the main defences along the forward crest of the ridge Westward of Bapaume on a 3½ miles front. We drove back the rearguard in this area to a depth of a mile and occupied Grevillers and Loupart Wood. We also progressed Eastward and North-Eastward of Gommecourt on a frontage of a mile. A raiding party reached our trenches South West of Neuve Chapelle. A few British are missing. Hostile raids elsewhere were repulsed.

## BRITISH ENTER PRACTICALLY UNDAUNTED COUNTRY.

London, March 14.

Correspondents at Headquarters state that the British guns made the fortified Loupart Wood untenable. When our patrols advanced after a sustained bombardment on March 12th they found the wood empty and passing through it entered the fortresses of Grevillers, meeting with slight opposition. Field howitzers and bombing patrols followed up. The Germans are retreating from Bapaume Ridge very speedily. Swarming at their heels day and night and pressing them back to the Railway are our troops who are enthusiastic at entering practically undamaged country. From Grevillers they could see still unbroken roofs and chimneys of half a dozen villages West and North of Bapaume, surrounded by green fields and undamaged roads. The next day should take the British there. The panorama stirred the imagination. Never since 1914

have the Infantry so interestedly watched the work of the gunners. Correspondents agree that important movements are impending in which the enemy is likely to be damaged severely.

## THE ONLY TOPIC IN PARIS.

## "BEGINNING OF VERY GREAT EVENTS."

London, March 14.

Paris.—The great German retreat before the British is the only topic. The air is full of sensational reports that the retreat is turning into a *debacle* under the unremitting activity of the pursuers who are superior in both material and initiative. It is impossible at present to say how far it is true, but undoubtedly the British continue advancing to the North East and East of Gommecourt. We are probably witnessing the beginning of very great events, involving more than the fall of Bapaume.

## VARIOUS ADVANCES.

London, March 14.

F.M. Sir J. D. Haig says:—The line advanced on a 1½ mile frontage South-Westward and Westward of Bapaume. We progressed 2,000 yards on the frontage Southward of Achiet-le-Petit. We occupied 1,000 yards of trench South-Westward of Esart, which is North Eastward of Gommecourt. We raided trenches Eastward of Arroncourt. We effectively bombarded positions Northward of the Somme Eastward of Arras two explosions were caused.

## THE FRENCH FRONT.

London, March 12.

A French *communiqué* says:—An enemy surprise attack in the region of Paisy between Soissons and Rheims was completely repulsed. The enemy sustained loss and left prisoners. We again progressed by means of hand grenades toward Maisons de Champagne. We successfully raided German trenches North of Suseprey in Woivre. There were patrol encounters in the sector of Auberville and in Lorraine in which we took prisoners.

## USEFUL WORK BY THE FRENCH.

London, March 13.

A French *communiqué* reports that the Germans West of Maisons de Champagne last evening violently counter-attacked Hill 185. Our barrage and machine gun fire stopped the enemy dead. We maintained all our positions. We took prisoner 150 yesterday, including three officers. An enemy *coup de main* in the region of Louvemont on the right bank of the Meuse was easily repulsed. We made three *coups de main* last evening in German trenches between the Aves and the Aisne which our fire had wrecked and brought back prisoners. The Germans continued to bombard Soissons. Enemy attempts to reach our lines on Crouy road and in the region of Beaulencheville further Eastward failed. There was lively Artillery fire in the sector of Troyon.

## ENEMY ATTACKS FAIL.

London, March 14.

A French official despatch says:—Between Butte du Mesnil and Maisons de Champagne the Germans delivered two violent counter attacks against the works which we had captured to the left of the sector. The enemy were unable to reach our positions anywhere and sustained heavy losses. Throughout the night an obstinate grenade struggle continued between Hill 185 and Maisons de Champagne, where we captured more trenches. Between the Meuse and Apremont our troops penetrated the German trenches at four points, reaching the second line and capturing prisoners.

## ENEMY TEAR SHELLS.

London, March 15.

A French *communiqué* says:—We continued to progress, bombing the region of Maisons-de-Champagne notwithstanding a furious enemy bombardment with tear shells.

## THE RUSSIAN FRONT.

London, March 12.

A Russian *communiqué* says:—We repulsed enemy gas attacks South of Lake Narotch and South-East of Kovel.

## ENEMY GAS ATTACKS REPULSED.

London, March 12.

A Russian *communiqué* says:—We repulsed the enemy gas attacks South-West of Lake Narotch and South-East of Kovel.

## SABINE OCCUPIED.

London, March 12.

A wireless Russian official despatch says:—We attacked with gas South-East of Tukum and Eastwards of the Mitau Road. We repelled an attempted Turkish offensive on the Sevas Road. As a result of the fighting in the Hamadan region we occupied Sabine. We pursued the enemy after stubborn resistance towards Bisutun.

## SUCCESS AGAINST TURKS.

London, March 12.

A wireless Russian official despatch says:—North-Westward of Okna our troops are counter-attacking to regain lost heights. We attacked the Turks Westward of Numichkhany, demolished works and took prisoner fifty-three. We took possession of positions at the town Senne in the direction of Bidjar. We submerged a large steamer in the neighbourhood of the Bosphorus.

## RUSSIANS DRIVING TURKS FROM PERSIA.

London, March 10.

A Russian *communiqué* shows the Turkish withdrawal in Persia is not limited to the routes towards Baghdad but extends farther North. The strength of the forces is not great and the distances between the columns are enormous. For example, Sakiz is eighty miles from Sinna where another force is retreating and 160 miles from Hamadan. The pursuing Russians have now covered half the distance to the frontier.

## CHINA BREAKS OFF RELATIONS WITH GERMANY.

London, March 12.

Pekin.—The House of Representatives has approved by a majority of over 300 the breaking off of relations with Germany.

## AUSTRIA AND THE WAR.

London, March 10.

Paris.—A remarkable interview with the Hungarian ex-Premier, M. Andrássy, is published in the *Matin*. He thought the War would end

through general exhaustion and peace terms would be dictated by the cleverer belligerent. He asserted hereafter that the Central Powers were more intelligent than the *Entente*. He declared Germany had two aims, firstly, uniting Central Europe and the East, and secondly, to become the dominant world power. The first would be attained in the present War, but in order to achieve the second Britain must be defeated. He doubted the success of submarine war and thought other slower means must be employed. M. Andrássy declared it would be a blank Peace without formal annexation and indemnities, but emphasized the necessity that the Central Powers should control Poland and Lithuania militarily and economically as a barrier against Russia whose power must ultimately be broken before Germany's world policy and plans of supremacy in the East could be fully realised.

## CONFIDENCE IN FRENCH GOVERNMENT.

London, March 10.

Paris.—The Chamber by 296 votes to 1 voted confidence in the Government after a three days' debate on food supplies, in which the Chairman of the Agricultural Committee emphasized the necessity of Neutral economies wheat or largely substituting other cereals.

Paris.—The Vote in the Chamber yesterday, when Government's opponents abstained from voting, has not allayed the agitation which M. Briand declared was interfering with Labour and the Government. Therefore, a grand debate on the general policy of the Cabinet is probable to enable the Chamber to clearly define its attitude.

## BREAD AND MILK TICKETS.

London, March 11.

Paris.—The Minister, M. Harriot, replying in the debate on Food Supply, defended the food restriction measures and forecasted bread and milk tickets. He declared the economic factor would prove equally as important as the Military in deciding the War. Germany was starving and making a last effort to escape her inevitable doom.

## THE GREEK BLOCKADE.

London, March 11.

Athens.—Mr. Lloyd George, replying to the protests against by Athenian Bar against the blockade, says that in raising the blockade, it depends on the fulfilment of the Allies' demands. It would have been already raised if the Anti-Ally incidents had not occurred.

## THE DARDANELLES REPORT.

London, March 12.

In the Commons, replying to Mr. Asquith, Mr. Bonar Law said the Dardanelles Commission did not recommend publication of the evidence because the parts dealing with Naval and Military considerations or the relationship of the Allies was unpublizable without serious detriment to public interests. Therefore Government were not prepared to publish it. Sir S. Collins [L. Kensington] asked:—"Would it not have been better if the report had not been published?" Mr. Bonar Law said Government thought they were bound to publish it in consequence of the Act of Parliament appointing the Commission. Mr. Churchill:—"Who is responsible for the excisions?" Mr. Bonar Law said the Foreign Office, the Admiralty and the War Office made excisions and the Cabinet was responsible.

## AUSTRIAN POLITICS.

London, March 11.

Amsterdam.—The *Frankfurter Zeitung's* Vienna correspondent says:—The Emperor has suddenly broken off his stay at Buda Pesth and his visit to South Hungary and returned to Vienna. The resignation of Count Tisza and the formation of a Coalition Cabinet are expected.

## THE MESOPOTAMIA VICTORY.

London, March 12.

In a statement in the House of Commons regarding the fall of Bagdad Mr. Bonar Law described the brilliant series of operations carried out by British and Indian troops with dash and determination for which no praise was too high. After the victory at Kut, imperilling the safety of the Turkish Army in Mesopotamia, the enemy immediately retired towards Bagdad. General Maude pursued with the utmost energy and not only were large numbers taken prisoner, and quantities of material of all kinds taken, but there was good reason to believe that nearly two-thirds of the whole of the enemy's Artillery either fell into our hands or was thrown into the Tigris. General Maude completed the victory at Kut by a pursuit of 110 miles in which the Tigris was crossed thrice (cheers). The fact that General Maude not only was able to feed and munition his Army and assure proper attention to the sick and wounded and was able to report that he can provide the necessities of the Army in Bagdad, red-its the greatest credit on the General and Staff and all concerned. (Cheers).

## EFFECTS ALREADY NOTICED.

London, March 11.

The rout of the Turkish Army has already resulted in the collapse of the Turkish operations in Persia, whence they are being pushed out by three Russian columns. The Turkish Armies are so scattered on distant adventures at the behest of the Germans that they are unlikely to succeed in concentrating reinforcements against General Maude.

## TURKS ADMIT RETIREMENT.

London, March 12.

Amsterdam.—In the Turkish Chamber Enver Pasha admitted that the Turks had retired in Mesopotamia and Persia for Military reasons.

## BAGDAD NEWS PLEASES PARIS.

Paris.—There is great delight at the fall of Bagdad.

## THE EAST AFRICAN CAMPAIGN.

London, March 12.

General Smuts to Reuters' correspondent said that the only thing delaying the absolute end of the German East Africa campaign was the prevalence of the rainy season till May, when the Germans would be compelled to surrender or enter Portuguese territory, where the Portuguese were quite prepared to handle them. The enemy only consisted of a remnant of the Army. General Smuts spoke in high terms of the native troops' magnificent Infantry work. He said they would shortly be available for service elsewhere. Nothing had given greater pleasure than Mr. Long's statement that no German Colony would

return to Germany. The mere suggestion was preposterous. He shuddered to think what would happen to the natives if any part were returned.

## GERMANY AND AMERICA.

London, March 13.

Washington.—The State Department has given notice to the Foreign Diplomats that American ships, traversing the German submarine zone, will carry "an armed guard for the protection of the vessels and lives of the persons aboard." It is expected that European vessels plying in American ports will take advantage of the new ruling of the State Department permitting the vessel to be armed force as well as afloat.

## FOOD PANIC IN PETROGRAD.

London, March 11.

Petrograd.—It is semi-officially announced that owing to very heavy snow falls hindering the arrival of foodstuffs, some inhabitants of Petrograd got into a panic and raided the bread supplies, creating a shortage. Energetic measures prevented the disturbances becoming serious. Municipal sales and other exceptional steps have been taken. The railways are gradually clearing the snow. Arrivals of foodstuffs are again approaching the normal.

## PLENTY OF FLOUR SUPPLIES AVAILABLE.

London, March 10.

A telegram from Petrograd says the Commander of the troops, in a Proclamation, informed the inhabitants that the flour supplies had not diminished and should be ample for bread if the people were moderate in their requirements. The Proclamation was due to unrest among the poor, especially the women, who began to assemble, demanding bread, but were quite orderly. The use of troops was unnecessary.

## CUBA REVOLT.

London, March 13.

Washington.—The Navy Department, in an official despatch, says the Cuban Government forces have regained the rebel stronghold of Santiago. This is regarded as the collapse of the revolution.

## RUSSIANS IN PERSIA.

London, March 14.

The Russians have taken Kermanshah [capital of Persian Kurdistan, near the right bank of the Kerkhah].

## GERMANS SINK AMERICAN STEAMER.

London, March 14.

The American steamer "Algonquin," 1,800 tons, from New York for London, flying the American flag and carrying foodstuffs, has been sunk by shell fire and bombs by a German submarine. The latter opened fire at a range of three miles, firing twenty shells without warning. The Commander refused to tow the lifeboats to land. The crew were saved.

## MESOPOTAMIA.

London, March 14.

The Press Bureau says:—The King, acknowledging the congratulations of the Allied Sovereigns and Heads of State on the capture of Bagdad, expresses his confident belief that the success advances the Allies another stage on the sure road to victory.

## GERMAN AND AUSTRIAN GENERALS IN CONFERENCE.

London, March 14.

Berne.—According to a Berlin telegram Generals Hindenburg and Ludendorff are conferring with the Austrians at Hoetzendorf Vonatz, the Germans' Head quarters, regarding the impending operations on the Italian and Western fronts.

## CHINA AND THE ENEMY POWERS.

London, March 14.

China has severed relations with Germany and taken possession of the German merchantmen at Shanghai.

Reuter learns that there are thirteen German ships, totaling 35,000 tons, in Chinese ports.

## SINKINGS.

London, March 14.

The Admiralty announces:—The arrivals during the week were 1,935 and the sailings 1,959. Sunk, of 1,600 tons and upwards, were 13; under 1,600 tons, four. Unsuccessfully attacked were sixteen. Fishing-boats sunk were three. Merchantmen under 1,600 tons reported last week as sunk have since been towed in.

## THE NEW SUPPLEMENTARY CREDIT.

London, March 14.

It is understood that the Supplementary Credit announced by Mr. Bonar Law amounts to £50,000,000.

## CABINET CRISIS IN AUSTRIA HUNGARY.

London, March 14.

Berne.—A Vienna telegram says that a Cabinet crisis is impending. It is stated that Count Martini will be succeeded by Czernin, the Foreign Minister, whom Count Tisza will succeed. Count Julius Andrássy will succeed Count Tisza, and form a Hungarian Coalition Cabinet.

—The Ceylon Observer.

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