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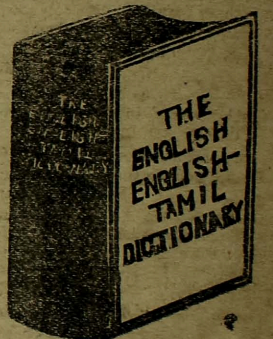
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IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.

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.
Pakeerathy, widow of Naganathan Cheddy of Kumbakonam in India

Petitioner.

Vs.

1. Chakkerapany Cheddy son of Ayathurai Cheddy

2. Amuthamma widow of Ayathurai Cheddy of Kumbakonam in India

Respondents.

This matter of the Petition of Pakeerathy 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. Pieris, Esquire, District Judge, on February 28, 1917, in the presence of Messrs. Sivaprakasam & Katreem, Proctors, on the part of the Petitioner; and affidavits of the Petitioner, dated December 8, 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. Pieris,
District Judge.

March 6, 1917.

Time extended to the 14th May 1917.

P. E. Pieris,
D. J.

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The Hindu Organ.

JAFFNA, THURSDAY, MARCH 22, 1917.

WHITHER ARE WE MARCHING?

With the advance of education and civilisation and the forces engendered by them, changes of far-reaching importance have come over our people. A few of these, we admit, are good, being conducive to the happiness and welfare of the people, while the others are positively undesirable and have caused great hardships, inconveniences and even more serious consequences to those who have been subject to them. The injudicious adoption of new and expensive modes of living and the formation of habits and manners utterly foreign to the genius of the Tamil people have done incalculable harm to our social well-being; and we think the time has come when we must pause and consider whither we are marching, and what the results of our course will mean to us and to our country.

There was a time, and that time has unfortunately passed away, when our forefathers, living simple lives and free from the new habits which have done so much harm to us, enjoyed infinitely better physical and intellectual health than we of the present day. It is our firm conviction, and we feel confident we are not alone in the opinion, that a great deal of the bodily and mental suffering of the present day Jaffnese has been the result of the injudicious and expensive ways of living, which are daily growing to be universal among all classes of our people. When the simple and substantial food of our forefathers has been superseded by costly and highly luxurious dishes, when the hardy lives led by them have given place to ease-loving lives, when the vicissitudes of the West have come to augment those of the East under cover of civilisation, only one result can be reasonably expected—physical and intellectual deterioration, which is all too evident in the weak bodies and minds of the people and their comparatively short lives. We do not think it necessary to dwell at length on these points to convince our readers of the truth of our statements. We have simply to direct their attention to the facts which are well known to all that, whereas this country had at any given time in former days a very large number of old men, some of them nonagenarians, the average life in these days does not exceed fifty years, and that, while the physical and intellectual strength and achievements of the former men have become proverbial for their greatness, those of our modern men are incomparably inferior. It is worthy of special notice that our educated men and women suffer most from the ravages of the new habits of life. Scorning to follow in the footsteps of their ancestors whose simple lives they deem as rude and unbecoming, our new men and women plunge themselves into the whirl of ease and luxury, which are at once expensive and prejudicial to bodily and intellectual health. The love of ease is carried to such an extent that even physical exercise indispensable to health is persistently neglected. Though western games are played by students and a few men of the learned professions, the great majority of our educated people take no physical exercise whatever, while their minds are constantly engaged in their various pursuits of life throughout their waking hours. In the matter of physical exercise and development our educated people have an excellent example in the westerners who, wherever they happen to be, or whatever their position or circumstances, never fail to take regular physical exercise regarding it as a duty they owe to themselves for the preservation of the health of the body and the mind.

Without dwelling any further on the evils we have pointed out, which we think we have made sufficiently clear, we desire earnestly to sound a note of warning to our people against the suicidal course they follow, which is certain to lead them to further physical and intellectual deterioration. It is surely possible for us to go back as far as we can to the simple habits and modes of life of our forefathers and free ourselves and generations to come from the grip of disease and degeneracy by developing our bodies by means of physical exercise suitable to our different conditions and circumstances.

A reform is most urgently needed in the direction we have indicated, and the best way to begin it would be to create a healthy public opinion in favour of the desired changes by means of public lectures, pamphlets, and handbills and articles in the newspapers of this country. Associations with the aim of physical development and the promotion of simple and pure lives among the people are bound to render very great assistance in accomplishing the object.

THE RELIGION OF THE ANCIENT TAMILS.

(By S. Sabaratna Mudaliyar.)

PART SECOND.

CHAPTER XXX.

BHAVANAI OR SYMBOLISM.

Symbolism is largely availed of in the Religion of the Tamils for the worship of God, and the critics who have no idea of the value of symbolism condemn it as gross superstition. If the practice of symbolism is studied carefully, I am sure that its advantages would be quite apparent. Modern critics view things superficially without going into their foundation and indulge in opinions which are highly prejudicial to our spiritual uplift. They do not realize for a moment how beneficial symbolism is in its practical side, and despise it with an entirely wrong notion of its theory.

We all know, in the first place, that human intelligence is limited, and that any idea we have of the unlimited God with our limited intelligence cannot be a correct idea. The idea we have of God—or the objective form which we adore as God—is only a substitute for God—and this is symbolism pure and simple. So that man must have recourse to symbolism, if at all he has to seek the help of God. This is a state of things which human nature renders inevitable. Symbolism is the only means for the limited to reach the unlimited.

Not only our idea of God, our ideas in general—our thoughts—are all symbolism. Our thoughts are merely the recalling to our mind of our past sense perceptions, and as such they are themselves a form of symbolism. So are our words. Our words represent our thoughts, and our actions represent our will. We use names to represent persons, places and things and even actions and abstract qualities. We use writing to represent speech, and we represent our happy mood by laughter and sorrowful mood by weeping. So that human life is a mass of symbolism, and symbolism is essential for human progress.

According to the religion of the Tamils, the whole universe is symbolism. All macrocosm and microcosms are symbols. There is God in everything, and there is the form of God in every thing. The human body largely represents the form of God. There is the Grace of God in every material form, and it is to enable the souls to enjoy the Grace through those forms, God manifests Himself symbolically anywhere and everywhere. It is not of course given to all to realize the form of God in every object, but they still enjoy the Grace through these symbols even unawares, just as a tiny insect itself enjoys the salubrious atmosphere of a sanatorium without any idea of that atmosphere. The cumulative effect of these enjoyments contribute in the long run to the development of the capacity of the souls. The secret influence which these symbols exercise over the living creatures may not be quite apparent, just as the effects of the microscopic germs of diseases are not apparent to our superficial view.

The influence of this symbolism over the souls is so subtle that in our present condition we are not able to realize it—and it has become the fashion of the day to be little things that we do not realize. The present generation are not alive to the fact that the benefits we derive from the "unknowable" region are infinitely greater than the benefits we derive from the "knowable" region. Although the Grace of God that abides in these symbols is spiritual in form, yet by the relation that exists between matter and spirit, and between our mind and body, we are largely benefited by the Grace that abides in the symbols—and this is the only means of our enjoying the Grace in our present condition. It is only when the soul develops in its capacity by enjoying the Grace of God through these symbols in the material plane, it is enabled to progress and to have a vision of that Grace in the intellectual, and then in the spiritual planes.

The lower orders of souls may not be able to have any idea of the symbolism; but they are at any rate benefited by it,

being affected by it in their *Thurya* plane. It is only when they advance in their capacity, and finally assume a human form—and even then—when they are privileged to enjoy the benefits of the true religion, they will be able to have a clear idea of this symbolism, and they will be able to enjoy the Grace of God more fully. That religion will then be seen to prescribe various other symbolic practices to further help the soul in its final realization of truth. The rites and ceremonies prescribed by that religion are all intended to represent certain truths in the spiritual plane.

God is good and man has to become good and godly for the enjoyment of the heavenly beatitude—that is to say, man has to become godlike, God—and the *Sohambavanai* prescribed by the religion of the Tamils is intended mainly for this purpose. It is not that man has to become God, but he has to become like God. The nature of the soul, being similar to that of a crystal, as explained in the previous chapter, the souls will become like God by identifying themselves with God by the practice of *Sohambavanai*—and the various rites and ceremonies, and the observance of the various moral and religious duties, are all intended to help the soul to the final realization—realization of their sole dependence on God—through *Sohambavanai*.

If the critics will only take the trouble to study the inner meanings of the rites and ceremonies prescribed for the three paths of *Sariat*, *Kiriat*, and *Yogam* they will be fully convinced that they are all symbolic of the truths in the highest plane of spirituality.

All our temples and the several edifices appertaining thereto; the images set up therein and the poojas performed to them, the sacred waters and the sacred emblems of the religion are all symbolic of spiritual truths which have to be realized by the souls.

LOCAL & GENERAL.

THE WEATHER—is very hot.

THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LEAVING CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION—Jaffna Centre—This examination is being held at St John's College, Jaffna from Tuesday last. Over 200 students took up the examination.

THE NIGHT TRAIN—We understand the night train service on the Northern line will be resumed partially, night trains being run on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays. There will be the day train on the other three days.

THE JAFFNA SARASWATHI VILASA SABHAI—This well-known amateur dramatic body will stage the play entitled "Manohara" on Saturday next at 9 P. M. at the Ridgeway Hall, Jaffna.

PERSONAL—The Hon'ble Mr P Ramadathan K. C., C. M. G., arrived in Jaffna last night by train, with Mrs. and Miss Ramadathan, and is in residence at his College at Marthandamadam. He will return to Colombo probably on Saturday next.

—The Hon'ble Mr. A. Sapatthy also returned to Jaffna by the same train last night, after an absence of one month in Colombo, attending meetings of the Legislative Council and of Select Committees of the Council.

DEPUTATION OF TRAINED TEACHERS.—The Director of Education received a deputation consisting of the following:—Mr Leigh Smith, Mr. H. J. W. Jesinghe, Mr. J. de Saram, Miss L. Swan, at his office at 1 P. M. on Saturday last. Some of the points brought to the notice of the Director were salaries of teachers, houses to teachers, etc. After a very patient and sympathetic hearing, the Director promised to do all that lay in his power to improve the prospects of the teaching profession. The deputation having thanked the Director for receiving them, withdrew.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S LEAVE.—The Attorney General leaves for Northern India today on two months' leave, and will be accompanied by Lady Brittain. During Sir Anand's absence, Mr G. S. Schneider will act as Attorney-General.

SPECIES EXPORT PROHIBITED.—A *Gazette Extraordinary* prohibits the export of species except that (1) The said prohibition shall not apply to species exported by any person leaving the Colony to an amount which does not exceed Rs. 100, and which, on demand made by any officer of Customs or Police, he shall have truly declared in writing. (2) The said prohibition shall not apply to species exported in pursuance of a special license under the hand of the Colonial Secretary, or an Assistant Colonial Secretary, and in accordance with the terms of the said license.

THE LATE MR. S. MUDER VISUAPPAN.—Just as we go to press, we learn with the deepest regret of the death at Chunnakam of Mr. S. Mudaliar Visuappan, Registrar of Marriages &c., Tellipalai. The funeral takes place tomorrow. A fuller account will appear in our next.

OIL PAINTING OF SIR ROBERT CHALMERS.

A large oil painting of Sir Robert Chalmers, our late Governor, has been hung up in the Legislative Council Chamber on the left of the presidential chair. It is a correct likeness of Sir Robert, who is depicted in full Windsor uniform.

PAPER MANUFACTURE FOR CEYLON.—Mr. A. F. Somaratne, an old boy of Wesley College, who has recently returned from Japan, has made a special study of the manufacture of paper at the Higher Technological Institute, Tokyo. He says: "Materials for the manufacture of paper are largely available in Ceylon—straw, rags, waste-paper, waste hemp ropes, waste cotton, mango wood, sapu, sugar cane, refuse, and banana fibre being a few of the many varieties that could be converted into paper. I got some of these materials, I mean Ceylon straw, mango wood, sugar cane, refuse, sapu, and banana fibre, and got them analysed. The result of my experiments showed that they contained a very large percentage of cellulose, the stuff that goes to make paper pulp. The initial outlay is considerable. To open a factory and fully equip the same with machinery, &c., it would require an outlay of a lac of rupees. To start a factory complete in all details would cost Rs. 100,000, and once the machinery is erected wood pulp could be converted into paper within two days. I have made arrangements to start a company and raise the requisite capital a factory. I know it is going to be a success and that the necessary material for making the wood-pulp is available in large quantities in this land. All the machinery required I can get from Japan and once the capital is found the rest is quick work. I am able to produce paper from thin tissue to foolscap writing paper. Of course, I will have to get down one or two Japanese experts to assist me in the work. Once the industry is started, it will give employment to hundreds of youths of this country to whom will be opened a new avenue of usefulness."

Y. M. H. A. AT KOCKUVIL.—The ordinary meeting of the above Association was held at the Kockuvil Hindu English School on Saturday the 17th instant. The meeting commenced with prayer at about 7 p. m. with Mr. E. Cheliah in the chair. The minutes of the previous meeting being read and confirmed, the chairman called Master's T. Sri-rasagani and K. Thambiraja to recite pieces of poetry. Then Mr. K. Perambalam was called upon to read his paper "On Temperance" in Tamil, which was ably handled. Appropriate remarks were offered by Messrs. E. Kandiah, B. A. Advocate, V. Manikavasagar, Student at Law, and by Murugesu Ayer. The meeting came to a close at about 8.45 p. m. with the chairman's speech followed by singing of Devaram. At the next meeting Mr. S. P. Rasiah will deliver a lecture on "Co-operation." —Cor.

SANDILIPAY Y. M. H. A.—Under the auspices of the above Association, a public lecture on "Pathi Pasu Pasam" was delivered in Tamil by Mr. V. Mahalinga Sivam in the Vasee Nekkathana Vidyasalai Hall, on Sunday the 18th instant, at 5 p. m. with Mr. Sapapathy Pillai, B. A., L. T., in the chair. The lecturer dwelt at length on the various aspects of the subject and kept the audience spell-bound for about two hours. The meeting came to a close at 7.30 p. m., with a few remarks from the chair, and a hearty vote of thanks proposed to the lecturer. —Cor.

THE KANDY TAMILS' LITERARY ASSOCIATION.—The usual weekly meeting of the above Association was held on Saturday the 17th instant at the "Tamil Home" at 7 p. m. The President Mr. V. M. Saravananthi, Proctor, and M. M. C. occupied the chair. The minutes of the previous English meeting having been read and confirmed, Mr. M. Ramalingam delivered an instructive lecture on "The position of women in Eastern Society." Messrs. S. Sabaratnam, S. Nagarathnam, A. Vijayaratham, Dr. J. M. Somasundaram, and the chairman offered valuable comments on the subject. Proceedings terminated at 8.30 p. m. with a vote of thanks to the lecturer and another to the chairman. —Cor.

Y. M. H. A., CHULIPURAM.

DEEKSHA.—An initiation ceremony was performed in the College Hall on Sunday the 18th instant when 58 students received Samaya Desakaba.

LECTURE.—A meeting of this Association was held on Thursday the 15th instant beginning at 4.10 p. m. with Mr. N. R. Rama Chandra Iyer, B. A., in the chair. Master K. Ganaprasadam delivered a lecture on "Love." He first spoke of Divine Love which is disinterested and perfect, and then of Maternal Love which is disinterested but imperfect because a mother's power and knowledge are limited. Then Master S. Kandaiah spoke about Love for other human beings and sentient creatures and referred to the story of Rishi Dwa as an example of disinterested Love. Master V. Kandiah said that the best means of fostering Love for God is reciting Devaram and Thiravacakam and recommending the teaching of Devaram and Thiravacakam in schools. The next speaker was Master A. Ponniah who said that Love is the motive power of the universe and that Love for God should neither be commercial

nor be the outcome of fear. It must be pure and be cherished for its own sake. Then Mr. S. Muttucumaru said that Love is a great force which binds us like gravitation and that it ennobles, purifies and enriches our lives. The aim of education should be to expand the heart and make it overflow with the milk of human kindness. In the evolution of the mind there are various stages the development beginning from the initial stage of self-love and culminating in the final stage of universal love in which a man does not distinguish himself as different from the rest of the universe. The intellectual understanding of religious philosophies cannot in itself make us religious. The Bhakti Marga or path of Devotion, which alone will lead us to that infinite Love which is Sivam should be cultivated. The next speaker was Mr. S. Shivapadasundaram B. A., who said that it is a superstition that Buddha was the first who taught Love for the lower animals. The Shiva religion is millions of years older than Buddhism and has Jeevakarmyam as its fundamental law. Jeevakarmyam is taught in the Vedas. Besides, Buddha went only half way in Jeevakarmyam as he did not forbid flesh eating, which is the cause of more than nine y nine per cent of the murder of fishes and lower animals. The Ashwamedha, referred to by one of the previous speakers far from requiring the killing of the horse gives an occasion to the practice of Jeevakarmyam. He quoted from the Yajur Veda: "Six hundred and nine animals of various prescribed kinds, domestic and wild, including birds, and reptiles are made fast, the tame ones to twenty-one posts, and the wild, in the intervals between the pillars, and after certain prayers have been recited the victims are let loose without injury." The chairman warmly congratulated the lecturer on the clever handling of the subject and said that we should not be satisfied with hearing talks on Love but know it, feel it and possess it by constant practice. School life gives splendid opportunities for practising pure Love. Friendship and Love should not be commercial and must be simply different forms of the genuine Love which grows from the seeds of divine Love incessantly sown in our hearts by Parameshwara. —Cor.

RS. 50,000 CLAIM V. MR. DOWBIGGIN.

DISMISSED WITH COSTS.

Kandy, March 20.

A most important and interesting judgment was delivered today by Mr. Dias, D. J., in the action v. Mr. H. L. Dowbiggin for Rs. 50,000. In dismissing the action with costs the Judge remarked that there were grave inaccuracies in the story, as repeated both by plaintiff and defendant. His Honour dealt with Mr. Dowbiggin's report to Government *seriatim* and exposed its obvious inaccuracies. He did the same with plaintiff's story, which, though coherent and consistent, was improbable; and the evidence of those witnesses had been accepted with reserve. After a clear elucidation of all the facts as set out on both sides the Judge related the story as it must have occurred. He held that the deceased Walagampaya was undoubtedly killed and the Punjabi, who hit him on the head, was guilty of homicide, criminally and civilly, but on the local as well as on the English authorities Mr. Dowbiggin was not responsible for what the Punjabi had done. He further held that Mr. Hughes' story of the knife was

A OPTICAL ILLUSION

and he found it difficult to understand why the knife was never produced, if it was ever used. On the matter of prescription His Honour held that the

ACTION WAS PRESCRIBED

and if necessary in the future, he assessed the damages at Rs. 5,000. In conclusion Judge held that much confusion would have been avoided if the Coroner had done his duty in summoning all the witnesses present at the assault promptly. This commission had enabled someone behind plaintiff to fill in the gaps with false inventions. —The Ceylon Observer.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Legislative Council was held at 2.30 p. m. on Monday at the Council Chamber. Brigadier General F. Hackett Thompson, C. B., presided.

Before the business of Council was taken up, The Colonial Secretary inviting all to stand—said he desired to bring forward a matter which had not been properly noticed in the formal business of the Council. They had received the intelligence of the death of the Duchess of Connaught and he would express their sincere sympathy on behalf of the Colony. He, therefore, asked that the Council would agree to the following telegram being sent:—The telegram was then read.

"That the Council desires to express on behalf of people of Ceylon its deepest sympathy with H. B. H. the Duke of Connaught in his bereavement."

The Hon. Mr. P. Ramanathan seconded and the motion was carried, all members standing.

MOTIONS.

(1) The Hon. the Colonial Secretary moved.—That the transfers between voters and the items of expenditure shown in the lists attached to the report of the Finance Committee dated February 13, 1917, be authorised.

The Hon. Mr. A. S. Pagden seconded. —Carried.

(2) The Hon. the Colonial Secretary moved.—That in terms of Section 81 (ii) of the pension Minute, the following gratuities be paid to the widow and children of Rajapasa Achchige Caralis Appu, Telegraph cooly, who was killed in October 1915, last while in the discharge of his duty:—To the widow Rs. 86 7, to each of his three children Rs. 14 8 5.

The Hon. Mr. A. S. Pagden seconded. —Carried.

The Hon. Mr. F. Bowes moved.—That the following addition be made to Schedule C. of Ordinance No. 5 of 1914: "Table of Prohibitions and Restrictions Inwards:—Any article exported from Ceylon and refused admittance by the authorities at the port to which it was shipped, except by permission of His Excellency the Governor." —Carried.

The Hon. Mr. R. B. Hellinges seconded. —Carried.

The Hon. Mr. K. Balasingham moved.—That this Council recommends that a Commission be appointed to report on the desirability of introducing legislation for defining the persons or class of persons to whom Tassawalamai applies. In doing so he said:—

MR. BALASINGHAM'S SPEECH.

I rise, Sir, to move the motion that stands in my name. At present, the class of persons to whom Tassawalamai applies is not easily ascertainable. When Class of I. A. & C. compiled the Tassawalamai in 1909, he called it "the laws and customs of the Malabars of Jaffna." It is an error to speak of the Tamils as the Malabars as was pointed out by the Hon. the Ceylonese Member in a note on the subject. The designation was however clear enough at that time to define the persons to whom Tassawalamai applied. In the Regulation of 1806, by which the Tassawalamai was declared to be in full force by the British, the expression "Malabar inhabitants of the province of Jaffna" was substituted, probably without any express reason, for the Dutch expression "Malabars of Jaffna." Recent decisions of the Supreme Court have given a narrow meaning to the term "inhabitants" with the result that it has been held that the Tassawalamai unlike the Kandyan Law and the Mohamadan Law, is not a personal law. This decision goes counter to the views commonly held by the vast majority of the Tamils who are governed by the Tassawalamai. I do not ignore the fact that some of the lead up Jaffna Tamil families now in Colombo who came over here in the early part of the last century have accepted the views of the Roman Dutch lawyers of that time and allowed themselves to be governed by Roman Dutch law even in matters relating to inheritance and matrimonial rights. This is not surprising if we take into account the complete isolation of Jaffna in those days—there was probably not even a mail road then between Jaffna and Colombo. The lawyers in Colombo were for the most part not conversant with the Tassawalamai. At present there are many Jaffna people who have taken up their abode in other parts of the Island and they view with apprehension the possibility of their being governed by other laws. It is well settled that a Kandyan or a Jaffna Tamil cannot change his domicile by residing in Colombo for any length of time, as there is only one domicile in Ceylon—a Ceylon domicile. But it has been held that a Jaffna Tamil may cease to be an inhabitant of Jaffna by residing in Colombo and thus cease to be governed by the Tassawalamai.

In the latest pronouncement of the Supreme Court on the subject, the following passage occurs:—

"In questions relating to domicile there is a presumption of law that a domicile of origin is retained until a change is proved, but it seems to me that when the question is one of inhabitancy, for the purpose of an application of a local custom the presumption is not in favour of the original inhabitancy, but of the actual residence at a particular time, that there is a presumption that a change of residence to a place outside the limits of local custom indicates an intention to depart from local custom."

This is not the view that most Jaffna people take of their laws.

In 1911, the Tassawalamai was codified and in some respects amended. But the Ordinance does not define the class of persons to whom it applies. Mr. Walter Pereira A. G. said on the second reading of the Ordinance that it was difficult to say when a Tamil by reason of emigration from Jaffna ceased to be governed by the Tassawalamai. But the question is, whether emigration should have any effect at all on the status of the Jaffna Tamils.

The next question is the status of the off spring of Jaffna men and Batikialoa women. According to the principle laid down in *Mudayanse v. Appahamy* which led to the appointment of the Kandyan Law Commission, the children of such unions would not be governed by the Tassawalamai. That is again contrary to the popular conception of the law. The Ordinance of 1911 does not remove all doubts on the point even as to the offspring of marriages which have taken place after 1911. Besides under the new Ordinance the status of the surviving widow of such a marriage is not clear for it merely enacts that during the subsistence of the marriage she shall be subject to the Tassawalamai. The words "until she marries again" which occurs in the corresponding section of Ordinance No. 15 of 1876 is omitted in the Ordinance of 1911.

Another point that has to be considered is the position of a Batikialoa or Colombo Tamil who settles down in Jaffna. It would be difficult to resist the conclusion that under the recent decisions he is a Malabar inhabitant of Jaffna and therefore governed by the Tassawalamai.

Mr. Sapapathy seconded. He said: The mover has exhausted what has to be said on the Tassawalamai law and the uncertainty that prevails in regard to its application on sons of Jaffna domiciled elsewhere in the Island. The difficulty arises, as he has pointed out, in regard to what law should be applied to those persons. Extensive litigation has taken place with indefinite result. There are a number of persons, Jaffna Tamils, in other parts of the Island, where they acquire property, live and die. It is very doubtful as to what law applies to the Tamils. There are also inter marriages between Tamils of Jaffna governed by Tassawalamai and Tamils, who are governed by the Matrimonial Rights Ordinance. To settle this doubtful point of law the Commission is asked for. At one time it was attempted to abolish the Tassawalamai. The people of Jaffna succeeded in resisting the movement. They prefer to live under their own law, which is well suited to them and is equitable. I have great pleasure in seconding the motion.

The Colonial Secretary said that he had no objection to the motion. The motion was then carried.

LAW RELATING TO TRUSTS

The Attorney General brought up the report of the Select Committee on the Ordinance to define and amend the Law relating to Trusts. The report was adopted and the Ordinance was read a third time and passed.

The Attorney General moved to lay on the table the report of the Select Committee on the Money Lenders Ordinance.

The Hon. Mr. Senior objected to the report being brought up as the report was against the principle of the Bill.

The Attorney General said he was not asking that the report be considered. He merely moved that it lie on the table.

The Colonial Secretary supported Mr. Senior in the contention that the Bill, if laid on the table, meant that it would have to be considered.

Mr. Ramanathan:—Rule 84 runs as follows: [reads] a Select Committee to which a Bill shall have been referred shall present the report to the Council explaining its recommendations, and if the said recommendation involve any amendments a reprint of the Bill shall be attached to the report with all amendments printed in Italics and all outlines clearly indicated, and a copy of the report of the Bill so amended shall be distributed to every member of the Council.

Section 84 runs as follows: [reads] The report of the Select Committee shall be brought up by the Chairman and may be ordered to lie upon the table.

Continuing Mr. Ramanathan said that a copy of the report had not been distributed, and for that reason he suggested that the distribution should be made before the members in Council. The distribution was not merely placing the papers upon the table in order that members may look into the Bill. Some of the members came in just at 2.30 p. m. and they had to give their attention to the proceedings going on in Council, and they had absolutely no time to read the report.

Now, supposing it was taken for granted that the Bill had been distributed in the sense as stated in the rule, yet he would maintain that it would be quite right on the part of the Attorney General to bring up the report to the Council preparatory to any order by the Council and lay it upon the table; and he (the Attorney General) very properly moves that the report do lie on the table. He submitted that his Hon. friend the Attorney General was right there. The Colonial Secretary had suggested that the Council must make an order to that effect; and he (the Colonial Secretary) was also right.

Eventually the Attorney General withdrew his motion on the understanding that the report was being circulated.

RURAL SCHOOLS ORDINANCE.

The second and third readings of the Rural Schools Ordinance were passed with the amendment brought forward by Dr. Fernando, that rigorous imprisonment be not enforced in the case of defaulters.

The Attorney General:—Personally I have no objection to the change. I have no special experience on the point.

Mr. Pagden: May I point out that the Section does not deal with "rigorous" imprisonment? It is left to the discretion of the Court.

Mr. Ramanathan:—I am sorry, Sir, I cannot agree with my friend the last speaker. By making a penal clause in respect of an offence which is not criminal, we would be fabricating I submit, a criminal population. It is not right to exercise these powers and create a criminal class of people out of purely civil defaults.

A division being called for the voting resulted as follows:—

AYES.	NOES.
Mr. Tillekeratne	Mr. Hellinges
Mr. Sapapathy	The Treasurer
Mr. Meedeniya	The Colonial Secretary
Dr. Fernando	The Controller of Revenue
Mr. Abdul Oader	
Mr. Vanderwall	
Mr. Balasingham	
Mr. Cressey	
Mr. Ramanathan	
Mr. Chapman	
Mr. Bowes	
Dr. Rathford	
Mr. Vaughan	
Mr. Elliot	

This report of the select committee on the Housing and Town Improvement Ordinance was not brought up as it was not ready.

Council adjourned sine die.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE VOLUNTEER MOVEMENT AND GOVERNMENT CLERICAL SERVICES.

Sir,

Your readers would have known ere this letter appears in your popular paper that, according to a government notification, candidates for the Civil Service should be members of a recognized Cadet Company or Volunteer Corps. The rule coming into force two years hence. A Colombo daily suggests that the candidates to the various branches of the government clerical services should also possess the above qualification. The suggestion may be good or bad, but if the government considers it seriously and pass a rule to that effect, our Jaffna boys will be shut out altogether from entering to compete for service as clerks under government, there being not a single Cadet Company or Volunteer force in the Peninsula. I believe a Boy Scouts Movement was started only recently.

Jaffna boasts of a large number of schools and colleges, but none of them seem to have considered the idea of forming a Cadet Company on the lines of the colleges in the metropolis. It is not late even now to organize a volunteer force in the Peninsula recruited from among school boys, while Cadet Companies can be formed in the various schools and colleges. The matter deserves the serious consideration of those who are responsible for the education of our boys in Jaffna, for, if the government decides that the clerical services should be manned by Ceylonese who have been members of a recognized Cadet Company or volunteer force, imagine, Sir, in what a plight the educated sons from Jaffna will be! Apart from that, the benefits to be derived from military training are, I think, too well known to be repeated here.

Military training, however, seems to have few attractions to the Jaffna boys, to judge from the few Tamil young men in the ranks of the Ceylon Light Infantry and other units. Indeed we must overcome all prejudices. In any case, if my humble suggestion is carried into effect I venture to think that it will do a world of good to the Jaffna boys.

Colombo, 17th March

AP AGRI.

The War.

THE TSAR ABDICATES.

REVOLUTION BREAKS OUT IN RUSSIA.

Grand Duke Michael appointed Regent.

London, March 15.

In the Commons Mr. Bonar Law announced that the Tsar has abdicated. The Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovitch has been appointed Regent.

DUMA IN CONTROL.

Mr. Bonar Law said that telegrams showed Petrograd was becoming more or less under ordered rule. That rule was a rule over which the President of the Duma was exercising control (loud cheers.) We had every reason to believe the movement was in no wise devoted towards an effort to secure Peace; but against Government for not carrying on the War with the expected efficiency and energy.

THE REVOLUTION DESCRIBED.

OUTBREAK ON MONDAY.

ARMY AND PEOPLE UNITE AGAINST PRO-GERMANS.

London, March 16.

Three days' silence from Russia was broken by a Reuter message from Petrograd, dated March 15th, describing the Revolution which is resulting in the Duma, aided by the Army, assuming the Government and in the arrest of the reactionary Ministers and ex Ministers whom the people had long suspected of pro-German sympathies which are responsible for the shortage of food and lack of enthusiasm in conducting the War. Popular discontent, smouldering since March 10, flamed up on the 11th and became a conflagration on the 12th when there was fighting in the streets in which soldiers fought soldiers and people. It ended in the troops, including Guards and the Navy, joining the Revolutionists. The action of the Police in firing on the crowds, which most of the troops refused to do, was resented by the soldiers. There were fierce battles at various points between the Police and the troops and many Police Stations and also the Detective Headquarters were burned with all the archives relating to political personages and organisations. The Duma met secretly on Sunday and Monday and resolved to continue sitting in defiance of the Ukases suspending Parliament. President Rodzianko telegraphed to the Tsar insisting on a change of Government; also to the Commanding Generals at the front, soliciting their support in persuading the Tsar. The Generals replied affirmatively. Deputations of troops, accompanied by armed citizens, arrived at the Duma on Monday and public buildings were taken over. The Fortress of Peter and Paul and the prisons were seized. The arrests include the ex Ministers Stuermer, Sukhomlinoff, Protopopoff, President of the Council of Empire, and Stucheglovitch. A National Cabinet was formed with Prince Lvoff as Premier. A large part of Reuter's despatch is still not yet received.

THE NEW MINISTRY.

Petrograd.—The list of the new National Cabinet is:—

Premier and Minister of the Interior.—Prince Lvoff, who is also President of the Alliance of Zemstvos.

Foreign Affairs.—M. Miliukoff.

Minister of Justice.—M. Kirenski.

Minister of Communications.—M. Nekraschoff.

Minister of Commerce.—M. Konovloff.

Minister of Education.—M. Manuiloff, who is a Moscow Professor.

War & Marine.—M. Dutchkoff, who is Councilor of the Empire.

Minister of Agriculture.—M. Shingariff.

Minister of Finance.—M. Terestchenko.

Controller of State.—M. Godneff.

EVOLUTION MEANS RUSSIAN DETERMINATION TO WIN.

A feeling of the deepest thanksgiving for what has been accomplished with so little bloodshed fills all patriotic hearts. The Petrograd revolution symbolises Russia's determination to conquer.

M. Rodzianko addressing the Delegations of the troops to the Duma, emphasized the unity of the people and the Army, by which Russia's might and victory were assured.

Despite the stirring events in Petrograd no single word has yet been heard against the War. The shortage of food, lack of organisation and neglect of the most elementary precautions are popularly ascribed to German influences. The patriotic determination on the extermination of these influences has been fired by the recent killing of the Court Monk Rasputin. The conflagration burst on March 12th. Reuter hears that its purpose was achieved when all the Naval and Military forces now at Petrograd declared themselves on the side of the people.

LARGE TOWNS ADHERE.

Telegraphing on March 15th Reuter says Kronstadt, Kharkoff and Nijni Novgorod have declared for the new Government. Moscow adhered to the movement within 1½ hour without a drop of blood being shed. The political prisoners are everywhere being released.

MOSCOW REJOICES: 1,000 ARRESTS.

London, March 16.

Moscow.—Inhabitants are rejoicing at the overthrow of the Government Officers are supporting the new National Government. A Military Committee has been formed to preserve order and regulate food supplies. General Nirosovev, Commandant of Moscow and 1,000 police and gendarmes have been arrested. Political prisoners have been released.

GRAND DUKE'S POLITICAL ACT.

Petrograd.—On Thursday evening the Grand Duke Nicholas telegraphed to M. Rodzianko that in agreement with General Alexieff he had requested the Tsar to take the only possible decision which would save Russia and secure victory. Calm is rapidly being restored.

Old Regime Welcome the New.

Petrograd.—The troops are still clearing the roofs and gutters. Partisans of the old regime garrison of Tsarskoelce have adhered to the new Government, welcoming the latter's Delegates most enthusiastically.

100 KILLED AND WOUNDED.

STIRRING SCENES.

London, March 16.

Despatches from Petrograd state that the Emperor did not reply to M. Rodzianko's warning telegrams, but replying to the Council of Ministers' intimation of resignation on Sunday night, he said he was sending General Alexieff as Dictator. Events thereafter, however, were so startling and dramatic that there was no alternative but to comply with the Duma's wishes. Another narrative of events states that 100 were killed and wounded in the first volley fired by the Guards at Nevsky Prospekt on Sunday afternoon, but the crowds remained on the sidewalks, shouting to the soldiers: "We are sorry for you. You had no duty." It was no Monday that events became dramatic and rapid when the troops, resenting Police tricks and brutalities, began to join the people and the arsenal and prisons were captured and convicts liberated. The law courts were set on fire, but the building was saved. The worst scenes were around Nicholas Station, where Police with machine guns from the roofs of the houses felled the crowd at Nevsky Prospekt, illuminated by night by searchlights from the Admiralty offices. The Admiralty quarters were the final refuge of Government who took refuge in the prefecture, protected by machine guns posted on the Admiralty roof, while the revolutionaries in armoured cars dashed down the streets replying to their fire. The Admiralty surrendered at 8 a.m. on Tuesday. The Ministers disappeared soon afterwards, being arrested. Others surrendered, including M. Protopopoff. Sir Geo. Buchanan, the British Ambassador, on Tuesday accompanied by the French Ambassador, was paying his usual call at the Foreign Office, undeterred by the activity of the Police snipers concealed in the barracks. The people recognised and cheered him and escorted him back to the Embassy.

London, March 16.

Petrograd.—There is still a little shooting from the roofs by the Police, who receive short shrift when hunted down. Red ribbons and favours are seen everywhere, including on lances, rifles and the caps of the troops. Large parties of Cossacks are riding the streets, singing national songs. There are processions of all kinds, Military, Naval and Civilian, more than one headed with a flag "Liberty, Equality, Fraternity." Crowds of soldiers and others daily assemble around the Duma. It would require a Carlyle to describe the seething lobby, with the earnest colloquies and oratory, with the appeals to patriotism and self-sacrifice and denunciations of all connected with the old regime. One end of the lobby stands on a rampart of sacks of flour. Here a pile of boxes of cartridges, there half a dozen sleeping soldiers. At the entrance there is a counter of medicines and first aid appliances. Visitors to the Common Room included journalists, and the white-bearded political leader Lopatin, a member of the old society styled "People's Will," who spent twenty years in St. Petersburg Prison and only now is able to return to Petrograd. Kereuski who is a Socialist, has accepted the portfolio of justice on condition that a constituent assembly be convened and elections based on universal suffrage.

In the Commons, Mr. Bonar Law regretted that his statement in the House yesterday, which was based on a message from the Duma, produced the impression that abdication was *un fait accompli* for which the Tsar's consent had been obtained. A further telegram now stated that the previous message apparently was not quite accurate. The Emperor's abdication and the appointment of the Grand Duke Michael as regent was not yet effective although decided by the Duma Executive. Another telegram stated that the whereabouts of the Tsar were unknown. He added: "That is all the information we have received." He pointed out in the circumstances it was impossible to form an accurate estimate of what happened.

Petrograd.—A most important Conference of the Executive of the Duma and delegates of workmen lasted all night and finally an agreement was practically reached concerning the transition period prior to the elections for a constituent assembly. The Executive insisted in the interests of the War the necessity for complete establishment of order before elections.

CROWDS WAIT 5 HOURS FOR FOOD.

IN FORTY DEGREES OF FROST.

London, March 16.

The latest despatch from Reuter's correspondent at Petrograd further describes the events leading up to the Revolution. He says: For weeks people were obliged to stand for five hours, in forty degrees of frost, waiting to buy bread and even then they frequently obtained none. Potatoes were eight times dearer than usual, while other foodstuffs were prohibitive. The Minister of Agriculture ascribed the state of affairs to the non arrival of flour owing to snowstorms as though snowstorms were phenomenal at this time of year. M. Protopopoff, who is a wealthy manufacturer, as well as courtier, with the reputation of debonair publicity, was absent from Saturday's Food Conference, convened by M. Rodzianko. It is generally believed that he was engaged in spiritulistic seances at Tsarskoelce Palace with the Premier, a nonentity. It was not surprising that the food situation produced dismay. Although 1,000 Cossacks and also Mounted Infantry patrolled Nevsky Prospekt, the people were undeterred and held a demonstration on March 10th. It was remarkable that they were mostly middle class. They cheered the troops. Some of the latter doffed their caps and cheered back, but to this eloquent sign of the times the authorities remained blind.

ALLIED POWERS RECOGNISE DUMA.

London, March 16.

Petrograd.—The British, French and Italian diplomatic representatives and Military Attaches have informed the Executive of the Duma of their readiness to recognise the Executive as the sole authority in Russia and enter into business relations forthwith. The Minister of Justice, M. Kereuski, addressing a large assemblage of soldiers and civilians, from the Duma, announced that the first act of the new Government had

been the publication of a decree of full amnesty for Members of previous Dumas who had been illegally banished to Serbia and would be released forthwith.

BANKS RE OPEN.

London, March 17.

Petrograd.—On the afternoon of the 16th the Banks reopened. Drastic measures were taken to restore order. Malefactors resisting arrest could be shot at sight. There is plenty of evidence that the Provinces were kept absolutely in the dark regarding the situation at Petrograd prior to the Revolution.

A LABOUR GOVERNMENT.

M. Kereuski stated that the Provisional Government took office by virtue of its agreement with the Council of Workmen's and Soldiers' Delegates, who approved it by several hundred votes against fifteen. "Comrades, in my jurisdiction are all Premiers and Ministers of the old regime. They will answer before the Law for all crimes towards the people." ("No merely.") M. Kereuski (sic) replying, said none would be condemned without trial. Regenerated Russia would not resort to shameful means. He appealed to the soldiers for co-operation and urged them to listen to their officers and not listen to the prompting agents of the old regime.

AUSTRIA APPREHENSIVE.

Berne.—Vienna telegrams state that the news from Petrograd has excited considerable apprehensions in Austro-Hungarian political circles.

THE DOUBLE ABDICATION.

Petrograd, March 16.—The Tsar has abdicated.

Later.—The Tsar has transferred the Supreme Command of the Russian Armies to the Grand Duke Nicholas.

Later.—The Tsar abdicated at midnight on Thursday on behalf of himself and the Tsarevitch in favour of the Grand Duke Nicholas. The latter abdicated on Friday afternoon. The Government is vested in the Executive of the Duma and the National Cabinet.

Later.—The Tsar has issued a manifesto to the people, stating that he thought fit, at the time of internal troubles, in order more effectively to prosecute the War for the good of the country to abdicate the throne in favour of the Grand Duke Michael.

TSAR'S MANIFESTO.

Petrograd.—The text of the Tsar's Manifesto runs:—"In the days of the great struggle against a foreign enemy, endeavouring for three years to enslave our country, God has pleased to give Russia a further painful trial. Internal troubles threaten to have a fatal effect on the further progress of the War and the destinies of Russia. The honour of her heroic Army, the happiness of her people and the whole future of the beloved fatherland demand that the War shall be conducted at all costs to a victorious end. A cruel enemy is making its last efforts. The moment is near when the valiant Army of the glorious Allies shall finally overthrow the enemy. In these decisive days in the life in Russia, we thought it our duty to secure to the people the close union and organisation of all its forces for the realisation of speedy victory, wherefore, in agreement with the Duma, we recognised it was for the good of the country to abdicate and lay down the Crown and Supreme Power. Not wishing to separate myself from our beloved son, we bequeath the heritage to our brother Michael with our blessing for the future throne. We bequeath it to our brother to govern in full union with the national representatives and to take his inviolable oath to them. In the name of the beloved Fatherland we call upon all faithful sons of the Fatherland to fulfil the sacred and patriotic duty to obey the Tsar in the painful moment of national trials and aid him with representatives of the nation in the conduct of the Russian State in the way of prosperity and glory. God help Russia."

GOVERNMENT'S MANIFESTO.

The Provisional Government has issued a Manifesto to Russians. It refers to the triumph over the noxious forces of the old regime. It states that the Cabinet's policy, following an immediate general amnesty for all political and religious offences, will include freedom of speech in the Press, Association, Labour organisation freedom to strike, and the extension of these liberties to officials and troops so far as Military technical conditions permit, the abolition of all social, religious and national restrictions, the immediate preparation for the summoning of a constituent assembly, based on universal suffrage which would establish the Governmental regime and the Constitution for the country.

NEW RUSSIA'S DECLARATION OF FOREIGN POLICY.

London, March 18.

Petrograd.—Government has telegraphed its representatives abroad, stating that the Government which assumes power for the moment in the gravest external and internal crisis of Russian history, fully conscious of its immense responsibility, will apply itself first to repairing the overwhelming errors of the past, ensuring order and tranquility in the country and finally preparing conditions that are necessary in order that the sovereign will of the nation may be freely pronounced on its future lot. In regard to Foreign Policy the Cabinet will remain mindful of the international engagements entered into by the fallen regime and will honour Russia's word and carefully cultivate relations uniting Russia and other friendly Allied nations. Government is confident that these relations will become even more intimate and solid under the new regime. Russia, which is resolved to be guided by democratic principles, will give the respect due to small from great nations, to liberty in their development and a good understanding between nations. It re-emphasizes that Russia did not wish for the War, but was the victim of premeditated aggression. She will continue to struggle against the spirit of conquest of the predatory race, aiming at the subjection of Europe to the intolerable shame of domination by Prussian Militarism, faithful to the pact which unites her indissolubly to her glorious Allies. Russia is resolved, like them, to assure to the world at all costs an era of peace on the basis of stable national organisation, guaranteeing respect for right and justice. She will fight on their side against the common enemy until the end, incessantly and unflinchingly. Government will devote all its energies to the preparation of victory and apply itself to the task of repairing as quickly as possible the errors of the past, which have hitherto paralysed the aspirations and self-sacrifice of the Russian people. Firmly convinced of the marvellous enthusiasm of the whole nation, it will multiply its strength ten times and hasten the final triumph.

THE BRITISH FRONT.

London, March 15.

Reuter's Headquarters correspondent on March 14th says:—The British advance, which was resumed on a front of four miles West of Bapaume, on Monday resulted in the further development of open warfare. A strong screen of rearguards covering the German retreat avoided action as much as possible. The British are now entering undulating green wooded country in very marked contrast to the brown dreariness they faced all the winter. The condition of the villages testifies to the hurry of the enemy's departure. Graveliers was largely intact. In Miraumont many houses were not destroyed. One of the most amazing spectacles is the roads and railways creeping up under the hands of the myriads of workers. The promptitude with which guns and ammunition are brought up is very disconcerting to the Germans. The latter abandoned much munitions and supplies, but wines and cigars found in dugouts are regarded with suspicion, after the experience of the dark ways of the Huns.

BAPAUME TAKEN.

London, March 18.

Reuter's correspondent at Headquarters announces that Bapaume has been taken.

London, March 17.

Reuter's correspondent at Headquarters, in a message, dated March 17th, says:—Our troops entered Bapaume in the morning after a stiff fight. The place was in flames, the Germans having evidently made all plans for setting fire to it when they were forced to retreat. Our troops are reported to be beyond Bapaume. Le Transloy and Achiet-le-Petit are also reported to be in our hands.

London, March 18.

Bapaume was captured after stiff fighting with the German rearguards. The town has been systematically pillaged by the enemy, who destroyed private houses and public buildings and carried off or burnt everything of value. Our advance proceeded rapidly today astride the Somme. Southwards of the river we entered the enemy's positions on sixteen miles of front and occupied Fresnoes, Horgny, Villers, Carboneux, Barleux, Eterpigny and La Maisonette. Northwards of the River in addition to Bapaume we hold Le Transloy, Biefvillers, Bihucourt, Achiet-le-Grand and Achiet-le-Petit, Ablainzeville, Bacquoy and Essarts, also Quennoy farm. 1,500 yards North-eastward of the last-named, and gained Western and North-Western defences of Monchy au Bois. We carried out successful raids Eastward and Northwards of Arras, reaching the support line. Eight of our aeroplanes encountered sixteen of the enemy's and broke up the hostile formation in 20 minutes, destroyed two German machines and drove down two damaged. All of our returned.

BRITISH ENTERING PERONNE.

London, March 19.

Reuter's Headquarters correspondent reports. Our troops are entering Peronne.

PERONNE TAKEN: 10 MILE ADVANCE.

London, March 18.

F.-M. Sir J. D. Haig reports:—We have occupied Nesle, Chaulnes and Peronne and pressed back the German rearguard. We advanced several miles during the twenty four hours to a maximum depth of ten miles on a front of forty-five miles from Southward of Chaulnes to the neighbourhood of Arras. We also occupied over sixty villages. Two German raider's reached the trenches North East of Vermeilles. There was great aerial activity on Saturday. We dispersed a number of large German formations and downed seven machines and damaged and drove down nine. Eight of ours are missing.

FRENCH FRONT.

London, March 18.

A French *communiqué* says:—On the whole front between Andrecy and the Oise the enemy, refusing battle, abandoned under our pressure the powerfully and scientifically fortified lines he occupied for two years. Our advance today continued rapidly. Patrols entered Roye, pursuing the enemy who blew up cross roads and streets, 800 inhabitants whom the Germans had no time to remove gave an ovation to the troops. We also occupied Lassigny and reached and passed North-East of it the Roye Noyon road at several points. Prisoners taken during the pursuit have not yet been counted. There was severe artillery work in Champagne on the right of the Meuse. As a reprisal for the burning of Bapaume a French aeroplane today bombed Frankfurt on Main.

THE SALONIKA FRONT.

London, March 15.

A French Macedonian *communiqué* reports great patrol and artillery activity on the Monastir front. The Italians advanced near Hill 1,050. An Austrian attack between Lukes Prespa and Malek was repulsed with loss, leaving prisoners.

1,000 YARDS ADVANCE.

BRITISH LINE 100 YARDS FROM ENEMY.

Reuter's correspondent, wiring from Headquarters at Salonika, says:—The British line has been advanced 1,000 yards over a front of 8,500, bringing the trenches in places within 100 yards of the enemy's. Operations, including digging themselves in and fixing the entanglements, are carried out by our troops during the night. The new line shortens the front by straightening the salient at Horse-shoe Hill, which was always exposed; secondly, it strengthens the defences by an extra line of trenches; thirdly, it facilitates future raids upon the enemy.

GERMANY DESPERATE.

London, March 15.

Reuter is informed that despatches just received in London from an unimpeachable source indicate that the situation in Germany is becoming "daily more desperate." The position is depicted as very black.

—The Ceylon Observer.

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