

# The Hindu Organ.

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HAS THE WIDEST CIRCULATION

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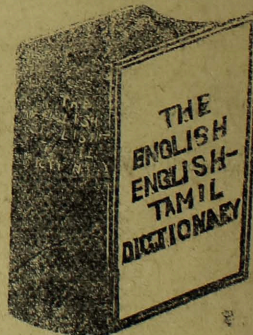
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## Order Nisi.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 3387.

In the Matter of the Estate of the late Nagamma alias Kanniamma wife of Sinnappu Kasippillai of Vannarponnai East Deceased.

1. Nannitamby Ponnampalampillai and wife
2. Theivanaipillai both of Vannarponnai East Petitioners.

Vs.

1. Sinnappu Kasippillai of Vannarponnai East
2. Naganathapillai Kathiresapillai of do
3. Alagaratnam daughter of Sinnappu Kasippillai of do, minor appearing by her Guardian ad litem the 2nd Respondent abovenamed

Respondents.

This matter of the Petition of Nannitamby Ponnampalampillai and wife Theivanaipillai, praying for Letters of Administration to the estate of the abovenamed deceased, Kanniamma wife of Sinnappu Kasippillai, coming on for disposal before P. E. Pioris, Esqr., District Judge, on March 19, 1917, in the presence of Messrs. Chelvarurai and Ramalingam, Proctors, on the part of the Petitioners; and the affidavit of the said Petitioners, dated February 28, 1917, having been read: It is ordered that the Petitioners be and they are hereby declared entitled, as the lawful father and mother of the said deceased, to administer the estate of the said deceased and that Letters of Administration do issue to them accordingly, unless the Respondents abovenamed or any other person shall, on or before April 26, 1917, show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

P. E. Pioris,  
District Judge.

March 21, 1917.

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## Order Nisi.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 3382.

In the Matter of the Estate of the late Aechchimuttu wife of Kandappillai of Kockuvil Deceased.

1. Sinnathamby Nannithamby and wife
2. Sellamuttu of Kockuvil Petitioners.

Vs.

Thampoe Kandappillai of Kockuvil now of Ipoh in Federated Malay States Respondent.

Respondent.

This matter of the Petition of Sinnathamby Nannithamby and wife Sellamuttu of Kockuvil, praying for Letters of Administration to the estate of the abovenamed deceased, Aechchimuttu wife of Kandappillai of Kockuvil, coming on for disposal before J. Homer Vanniasinkam, Esqr., District Judge, on February 19, 1917, in the presence of Mr. K. Sivapirakam, Proctor, on the part of the Petitioner; and the affidavit of the Petitioner dated February 19, 1917, having been read: It is declared that the Petitioners as heirs of the said intestate, and are entitled to have Letters of Administration to the estate of the said deceased issued to them, unless the Respondent or any other person shall, on or before April 17, 1917, show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

P. E. Pioris,  
District Judge.

February 27, 1917.

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## NOTICE.

Three plays in Tamil will be staged at the Jaffna Hindu College Hall by the Members of the College Old Boys' Association, in aid of the Laboratory Fund of the College, on the following datesviz:—

14th April, 1917,  
Harichandra,—Mayanakandam.

18th April, 1917,  
Lilavathi,—Sulochana.

21st April, 1917,  
Kovalan Kathai.

V. CHINNATAMBY,  
Hon. Secy. H. C., O. B. A.

Kandarmadam, Jaffna,  
1st April, 1917.

Mrs. S. Visuvappah

and

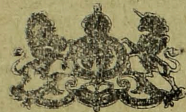
Mr. R. Kanagasundram

beg to thank all friends and relations for their sympathy and condolence at their recent sad bereavement.

Chunnakam,  
30-3-17.

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## The Hindu Organ.

JAFFNA, MONDAY, APRIL 2, 1917.

## THE TRAIN SERVICE BETWEEN COLOMBO AND JAFFNA.

For some weeks past the train service between Colombo and Jaffna has been the ruling topic of discussion among Jaffnese of light and leading in and out of Jaffna. The night train service was stopped from the 19th of February last, to the great surprise and inconvenience of the travelling public, as so many other trains in other parts of Ceylon were cancelled, owing to shortage of coal. But, as is well-known, the cancellation of the night train between Colombo and Jaffna stands on a different footing from the cancellation of trains in other parts of the Island. The matter came up before the Legislative Council. The Government showed itself sympathetic towards the resumption of the night train service, although the motion made in Council for that purpose was not then acceded to. It was at the instance of the Government, the General Manager has made arrangements to run night trains between Colombo and Jaffna alternately and it has come into effect since the 25th ultimo.

The public welcomed the news of this arrangement as a great relief, although they did not get all they desired. But the practical working of this arrangement has caused great disappointment. The new arrangement in regard to up train service from Jaffna to Colombo, under existing circumstances, leaves nothing to be desired, as we have every day train service, either day or night, to the Metropolis. But the down service from Colombo is very unsatisfactory, to say the least of it. If it is also on the system of the up service, there would be little complaint on the part of the public. But, under the new arrangement, there are no trains at all, either day or night, from the Metropolis to Jaffna for three days in a week—on Sundays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays. The consequence is dislocation of our mail service which gets much delayed, not to speak of inconveniences to the travelling public. We get no mails in Jaffna from Colombo and other parts in the South on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays and two days' mails come together in one day. This is a contingency which no one expected. It is, therefore, no surprise that serious complaints of this arrangement find expression in the columns of our daily contemporaries as well as in those of our local contemporaries.

Surely, there should be daily train and mail service from Colombo to Jaffna. This could be done most advantageously by giving night trains on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays also, cutting down, if necessary, two of the local trains in the Peninsula which are running six days in the week over a distance of 35 miles. The extra three night trains will be run over a distance of 114 miles from Madawachchi to Kankasanturai. There would thus be no additional expenditure of coal, if the above suggestion be adopted.

It is a question of having both day and night trains and not one of preferring one to the other. We should employ our best endeavours to prevail upon the General Manager to make some arrangements on the lines above indicated. If, however, comes to a question of choosing either day or the night train, we have no doubt that the bulk of the public will vote for the latter.

Of our local contemporaries, the "Catholic Guardian" and the "Morning Star" have unmistakably expressed their preference of the night train. That is the general feeling in the country. There are, however, reasons for the retention of the day train also. We cannot, however, agree with the microscopic minority who say that it would be well to revert to the day train service alone, if daily night train service cannot be secured. We earnestly hope that some arrangement will be soon come to in regard to this train service satisfactory to all parties concerned.

## NOTES &amp; COMMENTS.

The Select Committee's Report on this Bill has been published, with the dissent of the Hon'ble THE MONEY LENDERS Mr. Bernard Senior and the reservation of the

Hon'ble Mr. A. Sapapathy. Our contemporary of the "Ceylonese" in an excellent article in its issue of the 27th ultimo on this subject misunderstands the purport of Mr. Sapapathy's reservation. His object was, as it is clear from his observations, not to exclude tobacco traders, but the owners of tobacco lands who cannot get their lands cultivated without advancing loans to their cultivators, and also villagers who are themselves cultivators with some spare cash and who help their fellow cultivators with loans, from the harsh provisions of the Ordinance. If they are applicable to this class of persons also, the tobacco industry of this District is sure to suffer. We see no reason why tobacco traders should be protected. We find no reference at all to tobacco traders in the reservation in question.

## LOCAL &amp; GENERAL.

VANNARPONNAI VAIDESHVARAN TEMPLE.—The annual festivals at this ancient Hindu temple are being conducted on a grand scale. Large concourse of people attend the temple daily to witness the festivals. The Car and Theertham festivals come off on Thursday next and Friday next respectively. Mr. E. Ponnuswamy Chettiar, the Managing Proprietor of the temple has done a signal service to the Hindus and to the Hindu Religion by persistently refusing to employ dancing girls at the festivals, although, we understand, he was strongly persuaded by some residents of the locality to employ them. We earnestly hope that those temple Managers who still permit the services of dancing girls in their temples will follow the good example set by Mr. Ponnuswamy Chettiar and several other educated Managers of Hindu Temples, and put a stop once for all to this degraded custom.

PERSONAL.—The Hon'ble Mr. A. Sapapathy left this for Colombo last evening.

THE JAFFNA INDUSTRIAL CO-OPERATIVE CREDIT SOCIETY.—The annual meeting of the above Society is fixed to take place this forenoon. Mr. F. A. Stockdale, Director of Agriculture and Industry is expected to preside.

THE CEYLON SUGAR REFINERIES LTD.—By the last Lady Boat, the Ceylon Sugar Refineries, Limited, shipped 2,000 bags of sugar containing 150 tons and also 8,000 gallons of Arrack, the latter being consigned to Mr. R. E. S. De Soysa for the Colombo taverns.

THE FORTHCOMING TOUR OF THE TAMIL UNION CRICKET AND ATHLETIC CLUB OF COLOMBO TO JAFFNA.—We understand that the above Club have decided to pay a visit to Jaffna during the coming Easter to play a few matches with the local Clubs.

ALAUDEDDY TEMPERANCE ASSOCIATION.—The Annual Meeting of the Alauddedy Temperance Association will be held on Saturday, the 7th April, 1917, at 2 P. M. in a pandal specially erected for the purpose in front of the Alavolai Pilliar Temple.

GOVERNMENT TRAINING COLLEGE.—The following candidates, whose names are arranged in order of merit, were successful at the Trained Teachers' Final Examination held in December, 1916, and are placed in the Second Class:—C V Perera, E W Kannangara, S Muttucumara, D W Jayasingha, J V Markandu, V Basunorram, C R Wiso, V Sinnatamby, A D A Ramasingha, J S Kumaraswamy, J T Roberts, K Nagasingum, S Sanmugam, K L B Tennekoon, and H D Weerasingha.

CEYLON MADE VARNISH.—After testing a sample of varnish manufactured by Messrs. Pullenayagam Bros., a local firm, we have no hesitation in saying that it is as good as any other imported varnish. The new varnish ought to find a ready sale. With the outbreak of the war the quantity of such commodities as varnish imported from foreign countries has steadily decreased and Messrs. Pullenayagam Brothers are to be congratulated on being able to find an excellent substitute for imported varnish. The firm has advertised for agents for their varnish in Colombo and outstations. —Ceylonese.

GOVERNMENT STATIONARY WAR ECONOMY.—The Government of Madras have just detailed the steps they are taking in the matter of economising paper and other articles of stationery. They range from the substitution of unbleached or "badam" paper for white paper in all departments of the Government Service to cutting down the supply of red and blue pencils, goosequills, pen and penholders and luxuries of the office table such as pins, tape-tags, paper fasteners, etc. A further examination has been ordered of Government publications, etc., to decide what can be dispensed with. Extensive reduction in this direction are not expected, because all previous attempts have failed so hopelessly. The Press communicate, however, under notice, fulfilled the conditions it is intended to introduce. It was on a half-page of paper, printed on both sides.

CO-OPERATIVE CREDIT SOCIETIES.—In order to remove any misapprehension, His Excellency the Governor desires that it be notified for general information that there is no objection to Government servants becoming members of Co-operative Credit Societies registered under Ordinance No. 7 1911.—"Gazette."

THE REVENUE OF CEYLON FOR JAN., 1917.—has been Rs. 476,905 against Rs. 313,806 in Jan., 1916, and Rs. 241,496 in Jan., 1915. The total for the first four months of the current financial year is Rs. 238,830,968, compared with Rs. 207,635,564 in the same period of 1915-16 and Rs. 163,387,358 in that of 1914-15.

WRECKS ON CEYLON WEST COAST.—The following notice to Mariners appears in the last Gazette:—"The wrecks of two steamers are in the following positions:—(a) In 22 fathoms—Latitude, 6° 58' N. Longitude, 79° 41' E. A portion of about 10 feet of a derrick is visible above the sea. (b) In 32 fathoms—Latitude, 6° 47' N. Longitude, 79° 45' E."

PAPER AND PULP INDUSTRY.—A new paper mill is to be erected at Kushi, in the Hokkaido, by a company with a capital of 7,500,000 yen. Two power houses, generating 10,500 h.p. and 5,500 h.p. respectively, will be installed to operate the mill. A paper manufacturing company is now planning to extend its operations by erecting plant for making paper pulp. A site is to be chosen near Asahigawa in the Hokkaido, and the plant is expected to have an annual output of 12,000 tons of pulp. —A. B. Patrika.

## THE CLERICAL EXAMINATION RESULTS.

The following candidates have passed the examination held on January 15, 1917, and following days, for admission to Class II, Grade III, of the Clerical Branch of the Public Service:—A. K. Alvapillai, District Court, Anuradhapura; K. Anandaram, Public Works Office, Colombo; V. C. Arulanathan, Education Office, Colombo; M. Arunasalam, Lake Shema Office, Colombo; D. Asaipillai, Civil Hospital, Jaffna; P. S. Casimiri, Land Settlement Office; J. A. E. Caspersz, Colonial Secretary's Office; F. G. Delpethado, Land Settlement Office; P. W. Daniel, Welikatte, Dugedara, Galle; W. I. De Mel, De Soysa road, Moratumulla, Moratuwa; B. P. E. De Silva, Government Veterinary Surgeon's Office; C. S. De Silva, Police Office, Matara; G. N. De Silva, "Belsize," Temple lane, Maradana; M. A. Fernando, Solicitor-General's Office; D. C. Jayamanne, Registrar-General's Office; A. A. Jayasekera, Railway Extension Office, Colombo; J. B. Jayasekera, Principal Civil Medical Officer's Office; V. Joseph, Principal Civil Medical Officer's Office; V. Karthigasu, Registrar-General's Office; J. M. Kathirgamer, Ceylon Public Works Department, Mandapam, South India; V. Katir-kampillai, Medical College, Colombo; A. S. Lamabadursuriya, Christ Church English School, Tangalle; E. A. Lawrence, St. John's College, Jaffna; F. J. Mendis, The Kachcheri, Kalutara; Peter A. P. Mudanayake, Care of Postmaster, Kotahena; V. Nadaraja, Thavaday, Kockuvil, Jaffna; S. Namasiyayam, Irrigation Office, Nachehaduwa, Anuradhapura; G. L. B. Perera, 42, Mayfield road, Kotahena; D. N. D. Perera, Land Settlement Office; V. C. Ponnampuruma, Excise Office, Colombo; T. Ramanaiah, Forest Office, Kurunegala; N. P. Salaman, Care of Mr. P. D. Marthens de Silva, 81, High street, Galle; A. M. Sevundranayagam, Harbour Engineer's Office; T. Sellap-



pah, Alaveddy English School, Chunnakam; S. Sivasubramanian, Central College, Jaffna; A. Sivasubramanian, the Kachcheri, Trincomalee; T. Sivasubramanian, 51, Hill street, Colombo; J. Somis, St. Thomas's Boys' English School, Matara; L. M. Sainwall, Education Office; U. B. Unambow, the Kachcheri, Kandy; C. Vallipparam, Kulapittu, Kottuvil, Jaffna; and D. E. Wijesociya, Provincial Registrar's Office, Galle.

The under mentioned officers of the Subordinate Clerical Service have been selected for appointment to Class II, Grade III, of the Clerical Service in terms of paragraph 11 of the Notification dated July 19, 1916:—A. Abdool, Public Works Department; Peter De Silva, Land Settlement Office; J. H. Perera, Registrar-General's Department; N. Sabapathy, Forest Department.

Though it was intended to take on thirty new hands, it is said the number has had to be increased to forty two, as there are a large number of vacancies in the Clerical Service. It is also understood that those candidates, who have passed the examination but have come below the 42nd place in the order of merit, will be given places in the Railway Department instead of their having to stand the usual Railway examination.

#### GAZETTE APPOINTMENTS.

Mr. J. H. Vanniasinkam to act as District Judge and Additional Commissioner of Requests and Police Magistrate, Jaffna, from March 30 to April 12, 1917, during the absence of Mr. P. E. Pieris from the station.

Mr. P. V. Vithalingam to act as Commissioner of Requests and Police Magistrate, Point Pedro and Chavakachcheri, from April 6 to 10, 1917, during the absence of Mr. C. Coomaraswamy from the station.

Mr. J. Kadramatamby to act as District Judge, Commissioner of Requests, and Police Magistrate, Batticaloa, from April 6 to 13, 1917, during the absence of Mr. T. B. Russell from the station.

#### Y. M. H. A. JAFFNA.

**INITIATION**—For the convenience of Hindu gentlemen from the outstations who are likely to be in J. H. during Easter holidays, an Initiation ceremony will be held at Keerimalai on Sunday, 8th April, 1917. Friends desiring to accept Dharmasai are requested to communicate with the Secretary in time.

**THOLURAM BRANCH**—Much interest is evinced by the members at the usual weekly meetings held on Saturdays at the Vidyodaya Institute. Reading of Essays and religious discourses generally form the chief items. Arrangements are being made for a series of public lectures. —Cor.

#### THE JAFFNA ASSOCIATION.

The General Meeting of the Association adjourned from the 22nd instant for the 25th instant, for the discussion of the resolutions on the advisability of introducing an income-tax, and the disadvantages of abandoning the system of Crown Land sales was not held for want of a quorum.

A Committee Meeting was held at which Mr. W. D. Niles, B. A., Advocate, presided.

A vote of congratulation to the Hon. Mr. A. Sapapathy on his nomination to the Legislative Council was passed on the motion of Mr. G. O. Tambiah, B. A., Advocate, seconded by Mr. O. Arunampalam, Advocate. Reference was made to the public services of Mr. Sapapathy, and to the great services done by him to the Association successively as a Joint Secretary, as a Vice president, and a Member of the Managing Committee. This was carried with acclamation.

Mr. G. O. Tambiah, B. A., Advocate, proposed and Mr. K. Kanagasabai, Proctor, seconded the following resolution:—"That the Secretaries be authorised to write to the General Manager, Ceylon Railways, on behalf of the Association, requesting him to arrange for a railway service on the Northern Line between Jaffna and Colombo as follows:—A through day-train to run between Colombo and Jaffna on all days of the week with the addition of two night trains both ways—one at least of the trains to serve week end passengers from both ends; if a through night train service alone is allowed, two day trains to run to and from Colombo." This was agreed to and passed. —Cor.

#### NOTABLE DISCOVERY BY BENGAL SCIENTIST.

##### MUSIC OF THE SPHERES.

A recent issue of the well-known scientific monthly "Knowledge" contains an appreciative notice of a physical investigation carried out at Calcutta by Mr. Suchansukumar Banerjee M.Sc., a research scholar of the Sir Rishi Behari Ghose foundation. Some time ago in one of his illustrated lectures, Prof. C. V. Raman suggested as a subject for exact investigation the origin and characteristics of the sound produced when two spheres of solid material collide with each other (as in billiards). This suggestion was taken up by Mr. Banerjee who devised his own instruments for the experimental research and also worked out a mathematical theory. Mr. Banerjee's paper on the subject which was published in the philosophical magazine of London is noticed in "Knowledge" the following extract from which, written by Prof. J. H. Vincent D. Sc. is of interest. "The distribution of the intensity of the sound in (found by Mr. Banerjee) is very remarkable. The various directions round the line of direct impact

intensity is a maximum in a line joining the centres, and gradually diminishes almost to zero at an angle of about 67 degrees with a line joining the centres, when it again increases to a second maximum at an angle of 90 degrees. The sound is not due to the vibrations of the spheres, which in any ordinary material, such as ivory, wood or metal are both too high in pitch to be audible and too faint in intensity, but to air vibrations caused by the reversal of motion of the spheres as a whole."

Mr. Banerjee's work is of interest as throwing light on some phenomena probably familiar to billiard players, as for instance the characteristic difference between the sound heard by a player making a "check" stroke and a "running" stroke. The sound measuring instrument with which Mr. Banerjee made his discoveries is of such novelty and value that Prof. E. H. Barton D. Sc., F. R. S., writes in the "Science Abstracts" suggesting that it should be given the distinctive name of 'ballistic' phenometer. —A. B. Patrika.

#### A TRIP TO BENARES.

(Continued from our last issue.)

We alighted at Howrah station, and crossed the bridge into Calcutta which is a wonderful city with its superb buildings and its broad streets. We were passing through two rows of shops and these in themselves would give diversion to a man for days if he went about visiting each shop and seeing the wonderful things exposed for sale there.

The bridge referred to above is the one over the Hughli river, and not a minute passes either in the day or the night without hundreds of passengers and vehicles crossing it. The bridge is only a short one, but minutes and hours pass before passengers and vehicles can cross it, the traffic being so enormous. There are two portions of the bridge one for passengers and the other exclusively for vehicles. It is a removable bridge like the one at Famban, to enable the numerous steamers that ply on the river to pass to and fro. Passage is made for these steamers twice a week and on other days if there is urgency. The public is given 24 hours notice in the local news papers before the bridge is removed, and on such occasions many steamboats and horse boats convey the passengers and vehicles from one side to the other.

At Calcutta one does not need an umbrella in the cold season. Even at 12 noon the sun is not powerful, and the atmosphere is chilly. If the city looks so grand and imposing in the day, it is still more so and entrancing in the nights. The whole place is lit with electricity and all the principal streets have lamps on both sides at a distance of 25 paces. At the junctions large arc lamps or lamps with 5 or 6 clusters shed forth powerful and brilliant light. Every shop has more than one electric light. In some streets lights were so plentiful and powerful that we felt as if we were walking about in broad day light.

The Calcutta police, like their brethren of Madras, wear white uniform in the daytime, but black in the nights. They have only one more appendage than the Madras men, viz. a contrivance to hold umbrellas in position to allow both their hands free to direct traffic. This umbrella holder is a brass cylinder fixed in front of the chest with leather straps running over both shoulders and fixed to the belt. Unlike the Madras police, the men in Calcutta have plenty of work to do, and they do it with greater diligence and promptitude than the Madras police. Officers of rank frequently go round inspecting the work of these men, and it is not a soft job for the police to regulate traffic in so populous a city. There is much more to be said of this interesting city, but we would ask the reader's permission to do it on our return journey.

We were taken to the Hotel where we learnt from the manager that some Jaffna students were also staying there. This was a pleasant surprise to us, and before attending to other important business, we requested the guide to take us to our countrymen.

We found two young students named Tambiah and Subramaniam, the former from Matale and the latter from Nallore, both about to leave the hotel for their respective colleges. They kindly took us under their wings, and introduced us to two of their friends who were medical students named Vittal Shetty and Bujanga Shetty, and all four of them placed themselves at our service. The last two Indian gentlemen are from Mangalore, and were very courteous and amiable to us who were strangers to them. Mr. Vittal Shetty has only one year more before him, and will be soon leaving for England to finish his medical course. Besides our two Ceylonese friends there were many others in different parts of the city but unfortunately the short time before us precluded us from seeing them all. We however came across another one, Mr. Barlett from Jaffna, and he was himself in the Medical College.

The first thing that our four friends wanted us to do was to get each a slipper for our feet. In Calcutta one may not cover his head, but one's feet should be covered. This was an unwritten law in the place. In Madras the practice was just the reverse; one may go about without slippers, but the head should be covered.

After having been entertained with music by Mr. Vittal Shetty, who is an accomplished musician, we left for Howrah station en route for Benares accompanied by our friends and many others staying at the hotel. Our friends parted company only after extracting a promise from us that we would stay with them on our return journey.

At about 8 A. M. on the 10th, we passed the School river which is partly dried up. We were passing now through villages whose inhabitants knew not one word of Tamil. Many of them were Mohammedans. Those who travelled in the second class with us knew no English or Tamil and we were ignorant of Hindustani, and therefore could have no conversation with them. They were all very sturdy men, dressed in woolen trousers and long coats with big turbans. Each of them carried a good serviceable cumbly with him, for we were entering the land of dew and mist and of biting wind. There were also men swathed in thick folds of white cloth with turbans. Being ignorant of their language we could elicit no information from them, nor could we tell them anything more than the word "Lanka." This was our pass word for every question they asked. Thus our journey continued until we reached Moghal Seral at 9 A. M.

On the suggestion of Mr. Vittal Shetty who had been to Benares some months previously, we had decided before leaving Calcutta to have our ceremonies performed at Kashi by Sri Ram Kumarji, Tirtha Prothiter. This Brahmin's agent in Calcutta had telegraphed to his master, on the 9th, that we were to be expected on the following day. Accordingly when we reached Moghal Seral we found another agent of the Brahmin on the platform waiting to accompany us to our destination. He was the only one with whom we could converse either in English or Tamil. After a journey of about an hour, we reached Benares at 10.35 A. M. on the 10th. From the station we proceeded direct to the Brahmin's guest house, and immediately made arrangements to have the chief *asthi* ceremony performed that very day. We had taken the ashes of two other deceased persons, and the ceremony in connection with them was postponed for the following day, as the priest told us that it would not be regular to perform all the ceremonies on the same day. The priest was then asked about the expenditure required for the first ceremony. He first wanted Rs. 50/ which after lengthy discussion was knocked down to half the amount. He made up a list of articles required, and if they were all to be purchased, he less a sum than Rs. 25/- would have had to be spent. We were at this juncture surrounded by half a dozen Brahmins who were all his employees, and they were exhorting us to pay, without demur, the full amount demanded, and not miss the golden opportunity of having the ceremony performed by so great and illustrious a Brahmin as the Tirtha Prothiter. We however were not to be hustled, but took things quietly, paid the priest Rs. 25/- and requested him to start work at once. In about an hour's time he returned with a basket of flowers, one coconut, a small earthen pot, two new shawls, a little congealed ghee, a piece of white stone, a small pot of milk, a little honey, a few betel leaves, some camphor, a little raw rice, a small quantity of gingely seed, a few sticks of incense, a little wax like substance which was a substitute for benjamoin (benzoin), and two lamp stands in the shape of a man and a woman holding the lamp in the hand.

The two lamp stands and the piece of white stone belonged to the priest and were brought only to do temporary services. The rest of the articles were said to have been purchased, and all of them would not in Ceylon have cost more than a rupee or two. The priest's son commenced the ceremony aided by his father, and surrounded by a number of other Brahmins. The ceremony lasted a little over an hour, and was quite different from what we are used to in Ceylon. One noticeable peculiarity in the recitation of the Slokas was that we had to repeat them word by word after the officiating priest. The little ghee was meant for feeding the lamps; a little cotton twisted up as wicks shed forth feeble light. The old gent had come up with a major portion of the money we had given him, and whenever his son wanted "thedchanai," he gave it to him in rupees. We were surprised at his generosity until afterwards we found that both father and son were living together, and that the *thedchanai* went back to the old gent. Whenever *thedchanai* was given to the other Brahmins who were present there, the old gent took care to see that only annas and not rupees were given, because he knew that this money will not find its way back into his pocket.

Before the ceremony we cleansed ourselves in Mother Ganga, the water of which was bitterly cold even though it was then about 12 noon. After the ceremony one of us carried the pot with the *asthi* to the river, where a boat was engaged for us by one of the priest's servants to enable us to consign *theasthi* in the middle of the river. After this we had to bathe again in the river at a place called "Mani Karnika" where a small *thedchanai* given to the Brahmin in charge of the place procured us permission to have our ablutions there. Mani Karnika is held sacred by the Hindus in view of the legend that in that place the Swan's "Kundalam" or earring fell from his ear and was lost. There were several boats at the shore, and these were all for the use of pilgrims who wished to convey the *asthi* for consignment further from the shore. In Kashi even a bath in the river meant money. One of us who wished to bathe in the sacred water was informed by the priest that a bath without a preliminary ceremony would be of no benefit to him, and that he should pay a sum of Rs. 6/25 for the privilege. Our friend had no other alternative but to pay; though the sum was eventually reduced to Rs. 3/-.

A word here about the Kashi Brahmins. We were told that our priest, Sri Ram Kumarji, was the least rapacious among those in the city. If he was bad, the others were worse. Apart from the exorbitant demand of fees for the ceremony and the doubtful disposal of the money, the priest as well as his sons treated us well, and showed themselves in many ways that they were not as bad as we were led to infer from their conduct at the start. What was most annoying is not what was demanded by the priest, but the way in which it was demanded. There was no necessity for him to have told us that the articles required for the ceremony would cost so much as was paid to him. The real truth may have been told, and a reasonable fee demanded from us for his troubles. None of us would have grudged giving reasonably to the Brahmins as our object was to give as much as we could have afforded.

The old Brahmin showed us a register of his in which his clients have entered their opinion of him, and how he had performed their ceremonies &c. We found therein many names of well known persons of Jaffna.

Another extenuating circumstance in favour of Kashi Brahmins is that they depend entirely on what they expect from persons who proceed to the place from outside India. The Indians, with perhaps few exceptions, who know Kashi and its Brahmins, will only pay what is reasonable and will not yield themselves to be mulcted of large sums of money like the outsiders. It is only from the latter that they can make anything.

The sacred river is not very wide or deep. On the other side of it we could see the palace of the Maha Rajah of Benares. He is not a ruling Prince, but is called so by courtesy. The water is rather muddy, but this was not a material objection to us who had travelled thousands of miles to bathe in that water. From the river, the bank on the side of Kashi presents a very beautiful picture. For nearly a mile the numerous towers and minarets, and the flat roofed buildings resembling pigeon coots, all reminded us of a

Turkish city. A flight of stone steps led one from the shore to the water of the Ganges. A thick wall runs along the shore on which were perched old Brahmin widows who offered the sacred ashes to the pilgrims and made a little money from them. Hundreds of people, both males and females, bathed in the sacred river at all hours of the day.

After the bath at Mani Karnika, we proceeded with a brass chembu full of water to Viswanath Temple, a little way off, for worship. Every pilgrim who bathes in the Ganges has to take a potful of water for bathing the Lingam in the temple. Flowers can be had at the stalls near the temple, and with these and the water we performed our pujas. There were no Brahmins to teach us in the temple, and anybody, be he Brahmin or Pariah, can enter the sacred place and bathe the lingam with the water from the Ganges. Kashi is the only place where there is no caste distinction in the matter of temple worship. The caretaker of the temple is a Brahmin, but he cannot object to anyone worshipping Viswanath. If you have no money to buy flowers for offering, you can go to the temple only with water which Mother Ganga freely gives you. After our worship, we went round the temple once, and returned to our house close by. In all our travels in India we had opportunities to visit many temples, but devotion pure, simple and true, is found only in the Kashi Temple. Next to that, Sithamparam may be classed. The innumerable pilgrims who visit the temple at all hours of the day and during a greater part of the night lose all consciousness of their surroundings while they are within the precincts of the sacred temple. They are really in communion with God then. From all parts of the temple and even from outside, you hear the Blessed Name of Viswanath uttered in reverent, rejoicing and reverberating tones. You have only to utter the sacred name once in loud tone when it will be repeated by hundreds from every quarter of the temple. Blessed be the Name of Viswanath. This name is mingled even with the usual every-day salutation of the people.

After breakfast which consisted of rice and curries, though we were previously informed that rice could not be had in Benares, we again went to the temple to examine it more closely. It is a small building of granite, and the Lingam black in colour and about 3 1/4 foot high stands just a little below the level of the ground in a sort of trough made of pure silver. The dome over it is about 12 feet from the ground and is made of gold. The pillars supporting it are also of the same metal. One can just imagine how glorious the dome would look with the noon day sun falling on its resplendent surface. The floor is laid with black and white square marble slabs each of which is studded with a silver rupee. As a temple so far as size and appearance go, it is nothing, but "much is contained in little." After the *apishika* ceremony a large bell in the temple has to be rung once to signify that the ceremony is over. When this is done many of the Brahmin devotees seat themselves on benches provided for that purpose, and commence to recite in loud tones Sanscrit slokas. One can perform the *apishika* ceremony any number of times in a day and at any hour of the day, provided one was prepared to bathe oneself as many times in the Ganges.

Benares is after all sacred only in its having the sacred temple and the sacred river in its midst. As to the city itself, it is an unclean and unhealthy spot. Except in the town proper there are no proper roads. The ancient city, that is the part near the temple, is built entirely of large slabs of granite. Houses have been built without any idea of sanitation or ventilation. Consequently there is always a musty smell in all the houses in the place. The houses are all of many floors, and stone staircases lead from one floor to another. The roads in the old city are narrow and are also made of slabs of stone. Underneath the ground floor of the houses and the roads run many sewage drains and drainage pipes. Every house has a lingam of its own at the entrance, and pujas are daily performed by the householder in his own house as well as in the temple. Besides these we found Lingams in all nooks and corners of the roads and streets, and passers by offer flowers, or a few grains of raw rice, or pour a little water from the vessels they carried. Even in the temple there were numerous lingams, large and small, besides the chief one. Almost every shop in the city sold lingams made of stone, or glass or crystal, and a lingam of any size could be obtained for a small sum. Rudrakshas were also plentiful in the shops, and in one we saw a string of these of the best kind each valued at Rs. 1000. The shopkeeper has a fortune in them.

(To be continued)

Pilgrims.

#### CORRESPONDENCE.

##### ANIMAL SACRIFICES IN SOME VILLAGE TEMPLES.

Sir,

The Tamil new year is coming round in April and with it the carnival of bloody butcheries of innocent goats by other goats who ally the qualms of conscience which the pool of blood and the bleat of the shivering victim in the iron grip of the axe-man's mate may excite by persuading themselves that the wrath of evil gods has to be appeased by such inhuman atrocities. The sight is sickening and positively demoralising to those that gather for divine worship. Attendance at these sacrifices has the tendency to paralysed the moral fibre without which man will descend to the level of beasts. If we permit our students and children to witness these terrible crimes we shall unconsciously strengthen their anti-social instincts. It is the duty of every parent and school master to keep their children and students away from these theatres of moral degradation and cruelty wrought in the name of God Almighty by our ignorant and illiterate fellow creatures who are abetted in the game by the managers of some village temples who think that the House of God was consecrated to earn money by straight or crooked ways for their own sons and daughters to live in style. It is time educated Hindu opinion was stimulated to dissipate the superstition of our brethren who believe that the blessing of Heaven can be invoked by deliberate breach of the eternal law of Jeevakrunyam or love to all beings.

Y. M. H. A.  
25th March 1917.

R. ARULAMPALAM.



TELEGRAPHIC SUMMARY.

The War.

THE BRITISH FRONT.

London, March 26.

F. M. Sir J. D. Haig reports:—We captured Lagnicourt, Nordward of Bapaume, on the Cambrai road and took prisoner thirty. We drove off determined counter attacks Eastward and North-Westward. Artillery dispersed the third attack. We repulsed a bombing attack Northward of Beaumetz. Machine guns scattered parties approaching the neighbourhood of Fauquissart and Ypres. There was much air fighting. Two German machines were brought down and three driven down damaged. Seven of ours are missing.

TWO MORE VILLAGES TAKEN.

London, March 27.

Reuter's Headquarters correspondent, wiring on March 27th, said the British have occupied the village of Longuevesnes, the possession of which greatly improves our line between Roisel and Naulx, also the small village of Equeaucourt on the Torpillier River, near where it falls into the Canape Nord.

THREE MORE CAPTURES.

F. M. Sir J. D. Haig says:—The Cavalry drove out the enemy from Longuevesnes, Liermont and Equeaucourt, which we occupy. A number were taken prisoner. The enemy's third attack Northward of Beaumetz, was temporarily successful, but we re-captured the post and re-established the position. Our fire drove off a raiding party Eastward of Floegstreet.

WEDGE 5½ MILES OFF S. QUENTIN.

London, March 29.

Reuter's correspondent at Headquarters, wiring on March 29th, says:—The enemy continues energetically to resist attacks in the Northern part of his new line. The Germans manifestly regard Croisilles as of great technical importance. They are strongly defending it, but are hard pressed and suffering heavy casualties. They also suffered badly in the capture of Neuville-Bourjival, eight miles East-South-East of Bapaume. Our casualties were light at both places owing to good cover which enabled us also to capture many machine guns. Further South our outposts hold Etteillers, Vaux and Villeveque. The line of our advance here thus forms a wedge, the apex of which is 5½ miles from S. Quentin.

VILLAGE TAKEN AFTER SHARP FIGHT.

F. M. Sir D. Haig reports:—After a sharp fight we captured the village of Neuville-Bourjival, the enemy losing heavily. Our raiding parties destroyed dug-outs and inflicted casualties on the occupants in the neighbourhoods of Arras, Neuville-St-Vaast and Neuve Chapelle. Two German aeroplanes were driven down damaged during air-fighting. Three of ours are missing.

THE FRENCH FRONT.

London, March 26.

A French *communiqué* reports:—Our fire stopped or (doubt?) counter-attacks. We repulsed severe fresh enemy attacks in the night on the Esigny-Banay front between the Somme and the Oise. Serious loss was inflicted on the enemy. We entirely maintained the positions captured yesterday. We continued to advance South of the Oise, despite the state of the ground and the bad weather and pushed patrols beyond Folembrey, South of La Bassée, in the forest of Coucy. Our batteries blew up and enemy ammunition depot East of Godat Farm, N. of Rheims. Five enemy aeroplanes were brought down. A French air squadron dropped a ton of bombs on factories in Thionville and in the Briey Basin; also on the Railway Stations of Conflans and Montmédy.

THE HINDENBURG LINE REACHED.

Paris.—A semi-official report states that the Allies apparently have reached the so-called Hindenburg defensive line of which St. Quentin is believed to be the centre, with Cambrai in the North and Laon in the South as support points. The Allies are again confronted with trenches. Fighting is becoming more intense, but more vigorous German resistance has not checked the dash of the assailants who are inflamed by the spectacle of the wanton devastation. The German's whole line has fallen back under pressure, losing heavily. The French now are close on St. Quentin, have cut the St. Quentin-Chauny Road and have maintained and even extended their gains North of Soissons on the Laon or Vegny Plateau despite two powerful counter-attacks. The numerous German effectives now engaged prove the extent of the effort the enemy is making to arrest the advance.

IMPORTANT PROGRESS SOUTH OF THE OISE.

London, March 27.

A French *communiqué* reports that between the Somme and the Oise our Artillery dispersed enemy gatherings between Benay and Urvillers. South of the Oise we made important progress in Lower Coucy Forest and occupied Folembrey and La Feuille, notwithstanding difficulties of terrain and vigorous enemy resistance. We also progressed North of Soissons in the region of Vegny.

STRONGLY DEFENDED POINTS TAKEN.

A French *communiqué* reports:—We continued our advance South of the Oise, in the Lower forest of Coucy of which we occupy the entire Northern portion. The enemy has been driven beyond the Baris-Servais line. A night attack brilliantly carried the village of Coucy-le-Chateau, South of the Forest, which the Germans energetically defended. In the region North of Soissons we captured a farm North-West of Margival and one point d'appui strongly held by the enemy.

CLOSING IN ON ST. QUENTIN.

Paris.—Interest is now being concentrated in the sector of St. Quentin, which both the French and the British are approaching. The French capture of Esigny plateau immediately South of the town is notable as it commands a gap which is on the direct strategic route between Paris and Belgium and also marks a considerable step towards outflanking the town. The Germans, recognising its importance, made numerous counter attacks. All were shattered with heavy enemy loss.

ST. QUENTIN EVACUATED.

London, March 29.

A telegram from Paris states:—The Germans have evacuated St. Quentin, burning the villages for miles behind the present lines, indicating a renewal of the retreat.

NO CHANGE TO REPORT.

A French *communiqué* reports no change from the Somme to the Aisne. We are everywhere in contact with the enemy. We captured South of the Oise important depots of ammunition and other material. A brisk attack recaptured the last portions of the trenches which the enemy was still holding since March 18th in the sectors of Avocourt Wood and Hill 304 on the left bank of the Meuse.

London, March 30.

A French *communiqué* says:—There is nothing to report except lively granaading in the sector of Maisons-de-Champagne.

A French *communiqué* says:—Between the Somme and the Oise the day was comparatively quiet. There was an active Artillery duel in the Margival sector of Maisons-de-Champagne, Hill 304 and Embermenil in the region of Lorraine. There was reciprocal Artillery activity at Monastir.

A French *communiqué* says:—North of the Somme between the Somme and the Oise there was reciprocal vigorous Artillery fire on the first lines North East of Soissons. We progressed in the Vegny Margival sector. A vigorous counter-attack West of Maisons de Champagne enabled us to eject the enemy from the trenches in which he got a footing on March 28th and we took prisoner 68.

THE RUSSIAN FRONTS.

London, March 26.

A Russian *communiqué* says:—The Russians, pursuing the Turks, have entered the vilayet of Mosul.

In the Caucasus on the front in the direction of Khanikin on March 18th we dislodged the Turks from positions near the village of Harin and the Sermilkerind Pass. We attacked on March 19th the Turks who occupied a position near Miantaga.

A wireless Russian official despatch says:—We occupied the fortifications of Kalachahin in the direction of Kanykin the Turks maintaining themselves on the heights near Miantaga.

TWO ENEMY ATTACKS DEFEATED.

A wireless Russian official despatch reports:—A German advance in the region of Postavy, following four gas waves, was thrown back. The Germans dressed in white overalls, attacked Eastward of Baranovitchi and were dispersed.

London, March 30.

A wireless Russian official despatch says:—We attacked with asphyxiating gas South-Eastward of Baranovitchi, Artillery simultaneously bombarding with chemical shells. A counter attack dislodged the enemy from our trenches on the Odynsky Canal.

THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION.

London, March 24.

Petrograd.—A Central Committee of the Constitutional Democratic Party has declared in favour of a Democratic Republic.

ADVANCE ON PETROGRAD LESS FEARED NOW.

London, March 26.

A Russian diplomatic source has informed Reuter that a threatened German advance on Petrograd is less to be feared now than before the revolution. Moreover, it would have sobering effect on the Extremists. Anyhow the Germans would encounter a series of the strongest fortified positions. Regarding food, it is significant that the other day more reached Kieff in twenty-four hours than during the whole of February.

GUARDS' ADHERENCE.

London, March 27.

Petrograd.—The Volynsky Guards first regiment declared for the revolution and marched to the Tauride Palace to express loyalty to the Government. They carried red flags, inscribed "Don't betray your comrades in the trenches. Make shells." The Band played the Marseillaise.

GOOD REPORTS FROM RIGA.

London, March 27.

A Riga telegram says: M. Gutchkoff, the War Minister, has arrived and received an ovation from the sailors and soldiers who took the oath of fidelity to the Government. The delegates of the Government, who returned to Petrograd from the Riga front, give an excellent account, of the spirit of the troops in the trenches.

MINISTERS' OATH OF OFFICE.

London, March 28.

Petrograd.—The Ministers took the oath of office in the Senate, swearing to serve faithfully and justly the people and the Russian State, sacredly guarding its liberty, rights, honour and dignity, refraining from any attempts to restore the old regime, swearing to take all measures to convene a Constituent Assembly at the soonest possible, on the basis of universal, direct and equal secret suffrage and to transfer to the assembly all the authority provisionally exercised by the Government, and to bow to the people's will expressed in that assembly regarding the form of Government and the fundamental laws of the Russian State.

WAR UNTIL VICTORY COMPLETE.

Petrograd.—The principle that the War must be continued until a complete victory is gained, is everywhere unanimously expressed by the Army, Navy and people. The only differences are with regard to annexations, to which the most Radical elements are opposed. The feeling of solidarity between soldiers and officers is increasingly manifest. All realise the necessity for War to knife against the enemy. All news from the front shows that the same feelings prevail there.

"DOWN WITH WILLIAM."

London, March 29.

Petrograd.—A Council of workmen's and soldiers' delegates have issued a manifesto to the people of all countries, particularly the Germans, denouncing the aspirations of conquest by the ruling classes. The Labour Leader, M. Tcheidze, said the manifesto's watchword is "Down with William." In addressing the Germans we shall not loosen the grasp of our rifles.

THE NEW POLAND.

London, March 30.

Petrograd.—A Government Proclamation says that the Poles themselves will determine the

form of their new Government at a constituent Assembly based on universal suffrage. Mr. Rodzianko, addressing the troops, promised to defer to all the decisions of the Constituent Assembly, including the distribution of estates to people if so decided. A deputation of Black Sea troops and the fleet has arrived to promise to support the Government. The latter appointed a Committee to settle the affairs of Poland pending the establishment of the Polish State. It is announced that all Government posts, including Ministerial appointments, are open to women. The ex-Premiers, M. Golitzin and M. Goremykin have been released.

Petrograd.—M. Rodzianko informed the Duma that the situation at the front was most satisfactory. Owing to the thaw no decisive operation can be expected at present, but the enemy is concentrating forces at various points.

AMERICA REPLIES TO GERMANY.

London, March 27.

Washington.—The United States in reply to the German proposal to amend the Prusso-American Treaties states that Government is seriously considering whether or not the Treaties have not been already abrogated by the Germans' flagrant violations.

MARINES AT WAR STRENGTH.

Washington.—Dr. Wilson has ordered the Corps of Marines to be brought up to War strength, 17,400.

"APPAM" RESTORED.

The Supreme Court has ordered the immediate transfer of the "Appam" to its British owners.

RUSSIA.

London, March 27.

Petrograd.—Nine of the Principal Grand Dukes and three Princes have associated themselves with the views expressed by the Grand Duke Michael in the act of abdication and surrendered their appanages to the State. They expressed determination to support the Provisional Government.

A WARNING AND A GRAVE.

Since M. Gutchkoff's warning of a likely German attempt on the capital, officers have been waiting in queues at the Commandant's Headquarters, volunteering for the Riga-Dvinsk front. Soldiers are digging a huge square grave for the victims of the revolution in a prominent part of Petrograd on which a monument is to be erected.

AMERICA AND GERMANY.

London, Mar. 27.

The Steamer "St. Louis" is armed with six-inch guns fore and aft, and is manned by selected gunners. She travelled direct through the zone unhindered.

12 BELGIAN RELIEF SHIPS SUNK.

London, Mar. 27.

It is stated that 12 Belgian relief ships were sunk since 1914.

ANOTHER "BIRKENHEAD."

TRANSPORT "TYNDARUS" MINED.

London, Mar. 28.

The Press Bureau states:—The transport "Tyndarus", with a battalion of the Middlesex Regiment on board struck a mine on the 9th at Cape Agulhas in a strong South-Easterly gale. She began to settle after the explosion, her propellers showing. The men paraded in perfect order. The roll was called. The order to "stand easy" was given. The whole battalion sang. Two steamers were despatched to the rescue and arrived in half an hour. Although faced with the probability of imminent death the troops maintained the same steadfast courage and discipline. The incident was in the vicinity of where the "Birkenhead" lost. Thanks to the devotion and perseverance of the Captain the officers and engineers of the ship saved her and she reached Simonstown under her own steam. Two holds were flooded and another was leaking. The troops came to land by steamers. H. M. the King has expressed his deep admiration of all ranks, upholding the "Birkenhead" cherished tradition.

HOSPITAL SS. "ASTURIAS" SUNK.

London, Mar. 28.

The hospital ship "Asturias" has been torpedoed. The attack occurred at mid-night. The torpedo struck the quarter, damaged the rudder and thence went to the engine-room, extinguishing the whole electrical illumination. The vessel had landed 900 sick. Those on board consisted of the crew, members of the Medical Corps and a number of nurses. Distress signals were answered by a patrol boat which towed in the "Asturias" with several boats with survivors. Between 300 and 400 landed thinly clad. Some were injured. Three died after landing. Others were rescued by a destroyer and another patrol boat.

FULLY LIGHTED: NO WARNING.

London, Mar. 27.

The Admiralty states that the British hospital ship "Asturias" steaming with all navigation lights and all distinguishing Red Cross signs, brilliantly illuminated was torpedoed without warning on the night of the 20th. The Military casualties were eleven dead and three missing, including a female staff nurse and seventeen injured. The crew's casualties were twenty dead and nine missing, including the stewardess, and twenty-two injured. The torpedoing of this ship is among the achievements, claimed by the "U" boats in a German wireless Press message.

MANY WOMEN ON BOARD.

London, Mar. 28.

The "Asturias" had more women aboard than usual, as many nurses, whose term of service had expired, were returning, eagerly anticipating their stay at home. One boat capsized while being launched. Some of the occupants were as hour in the water. The survivors were most chery, dressed in the most heterogeneous pyjamas, quilts, &c. Many had cut hands and feet. Several of the Medical Corps, including three nurses, are missing. The explosion was all the worse from the fact that the torpedo exploded in a part of the ship where the disinfectants were stored. The fumes of the chemicals were suffocating. The bodies of the Captain and twenty-four Medical orderlies were landed on Thursday morning, wearing lifebelts. Some were drowned. Some died of exposure.

SINKINGS.

Loddon, Mar. 28.

The Admiralty announce: Arrivals for the week were 2,314, sailings 2433, and sunk eighteen over 1,600. tons, including the "Asturias," and seven under 1,600. Thirteen were unsuccessfully attacked. Ten fishing boats, were sunk, of which nine were sailing ships.

HUN DESTROYERS SHELL DUNKIRK.

London, Mar. 29.

German torpedo-boats fired sixty shells on Dunkirk at 2 a. m. on March 28th. There were two victims.

GERMAN RETREAT.

London, March 29.

According to a Belgian source the Germans are destroying the country in the vicinity of Zebrugge, Bruges and Ghent, implying retirement there also.

ANOTHER BRITISH DESTROYER LOST.

London, March 27.

The Admiralty announces that from the British destroyer recently mined and sunk in the Channel four officers and seventeen men were saved. Another today collided with a steamer and was sunk. There was one fatality.

SUBMARINISM.

London, March 29.

An Italian Naval *communiqué* says that in the week ending March 25th, 517 merchantmen of a tonnage of 453,870 entered and 489 of a tonnage of 375,560 left Italian ports. Four Italian steamers each under 2,000 tons and one sailer over 100 tons were sunk. One vessel was attacked and escaped.

BATTLE WON IN EGYPT.

London, March 29.

Egypt. (Official).—We advanced fifteen miles from Rafa to Wadighuzze, five miles Southward of Gaza, for the purpose of covering the construction of a railway. We heavily engaged 20,000 of the enemy in this neighbourhood on Monday and Tuesday and inflicted heavy losses, taking prisoner 900, including the General Commanding and the Staff of the 53rd Turkish Division. Four Austrian officers were captured and two Austrian howitzers. All the troops behaved splendidly, especially the Welsh, Kent, Sussex, Aereford, Middlesex and Surrey Regiments and the Auzac Mounted troops and Yeomany.

THE BRITISH PUSH.

London, March 30.

F. M. Sir D. Haig says:—We have occupied the villages of Ruysalcourt, Sorello Grand and Fins and gained ground after sharp fighting in the neighbourhood of Heudcourt. We drove off an attack Southward of Neuville-Bourjival inflicting loss. We raided the lines at two points Eastward of Neuville-St-Vaast. Heavy Artillery obtained several hits on a German train Eastward of Vermelles.

THE PACE SLACKENS.

Reuter's Headquarters correspondent, wiring on March 30th, says:—Owing to the necessity for caution and for consolidating our gains, and the abominable weather, the pace has distinctly slackened in the last two days.

A GERMAN ADMISSION.

A wireless German official despatch says:—Our rearguards withdrew before strong English forces from both sides of the Peronne-Fins high road to the line Ruysalcourt-Sorel.

FRIGHTFULNESS.

London, March 29.

The British steamer "Alnwick Castle" was torpedoed without warning on March 19th in the Atlantic 23 miles from land. The day previously she rescued the crew of another torpedoed British ship. The passengers and the crew of both vessels abandoned the "Alnwick Castle" in five boats, of which one landed on the Spanish coast with 29, including one stewardess and one child, eight of whom died. The survivors are suffering from frost-bite. Three other boats were picked up during the week. One contained 27 and another 29 and a third twenty survivors and five corpses. The remaining boat is unaccounted for yet.

THE MONTHLY TOTALS.

London, March 30.

Mr. Macnamara states that the British ships submarine or mined in the first eighteen days of December, January, February, March respectively were 30, 26, 66, 55, not including fishing craft and the victims of the "Moewe."

A BELGIAN RAID.

London, March 31.

A wireless Belgian official despatch says:—A Belgian detachment penetrated the first line at Steenstraat bridge after a lively fight, with severe enemy losses. Some were taken prisoner.

STRAIGHT TIP TO GERMANY.

London, March 30.

Reuter authoritatively announces that Great Britain, without further warning, will take "such measures as will, perhaps, bring home to the German Government some realization of its infamy."

NEW SOUTH WALES WAR GIFTS.

London, March 30.

Sydney.—It is officially announced New South Wales contributed £2,601,973 sterling to various War Funds, including £1,064,959 for Foreign Relief, beside great quantities of provisions, clothing, etc. It also contributed £35,250,000 to the Commonwealth War Loans.

THE GERMAN BLOCKADE.

London, March 30.

Christiania.—Government has again protested against the German blockade.

A GERMAN NAVAL RAID.

London, March 31.

The Admiralty state:—During the night of March 28-29 firing was observed miles off the shore from Lowestoft. Patrols went at full speed to the scene, but nothing was seen of the enemy who, made off.

THE WAR OF STARVATION.

London, March 30.

Evidence of the increasing strain of anxiety in Germany is given in an article in the *Munchener Post*. Referring to the Allied blockade it says the starvation War is entering a decisive stage. All Germans will realise the meaning of endurance before harvest time.

FOOD KITCHENS IN LONDON.

London, March 29.

The Ministry of Food is about to establish public kitchens to feed 100,000 daily in South London. It is hoped that the rich will patronise them.

—The Ceylon Observer.