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The Hindu Organ.

JAFNA, MONDAY, MAY 7, 1917.

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION AND ITS NEGLECT IN THE TAMIL DISTRICTS.

We referred recently to the subject of educational expenditure in which the Government of our Island may follow the lead of the British Government and provide larger sums in the Budget for carrying out educational reforms. Among the few educational reforms which have been found by the British Chancellor of the Exchequer, to be of such urgent need as to require increased provision in the Budget, at such a time of financial stringency, the development of agricultural education is one. When such is the case in England where scientific agriculture is already in a very advanced state, it needs no urging on our part to commend the subject to the attention of our paternal Government.

The educational work of the Agricultural Department is carried on mainly under four heads, viz. the School of Tropical Agriculture, the experiment stations, the large number of School gardens, and the Agricultural Society. The School of Tropical Agriculture was opened at Peradeniya in January 1916. It had on its rolls last year about 66 English speaking and 6 vernacular students. The educational influence of this institution will be felt by the ryots only when a sufficient number of students belonging to the landed gentry pass out of it, and take up agriculture in the villages as a remunerative occupation. The prospect of such a time ever arriving is problematical. The few students who pass out, will most probably find employment in tea or rubber estates or under Government as Agricultural instructors. Among the students in this Agricultural School, a large majority are Sinhalese, and it will be better for the agricultural progress of the Tamil Districts if more Tamil students belonging especially to the landed classes in the Northern and Eastern Provinces seek admission in the School.

The Experimental Stations at Peradeniya and other places also carry on important educational work by means of demonstrations in the cultivation of new products, introduction of improvements in manuring, in agricultural implements and in many other respects. Most of these Experiment Stations are located in the Wet Zone. The only Experimental Farm in the Dry Zone is at Anuradhapura where about 50 acres of irrigable land are under cultivation with various products. The tobacco trial ground in Jaffna is also of importance in this connection. But the educational value of the experiments and researches conducted in these farms have been little felt by the cultivators in the Tamil Districts. More Demonstration Farms should be opened in the Northern, Eastern and the North-Central Provinces for the benefit of the Tamil cultivators. Travelling facilities should be given to poor cultivators in the shape of free railway passes so that they may occasionally visit these gardens and gain knowledge. Modern agricultural implements, seeds and manures suited to local conditions should be kept in these gardens for sale. There is vast room for improvement in the educational work in Tamil Districts through experiment stations and demonstration farms. When reading reports of similar works carried on in some parts of India, not to speak of England, America, Japan and other advanced countries, we cannot help thinking that Ceylon is very slow and backward in this respect. For an instance, we read that in the Native State of Mysore "an Agricultural Inspector is posted to each district and he has to make himself thoroughly acquainted with local soil conditions and needs of the cultivators, and to give advice and assistance in connection with the introduction of agricultural improvements, to hold demonstrations and deliver lectures at jattras, fairs, and other

local gatherings and to persuade the agriculturists of the district to co-operate in carrying out demonstration work along definite lines recommended by the Department. The new system of departmental sale of agricultural machinery is progressing satisfactorily. Implements of the value of nearly Rs. 17,000 were sold during the year (1916) and 613 ploughs were sold as against 446 in the previous year. A new type of plough was introduced during the year, in which the point of the share is replaced by a long steel bar which can be shoved forward as it wears out. Arrangements are being made for its manufacture locally. The hire purchase system introduced in the year has been found to be of great help to ryots. The foregoing are some specimens of the educational work carried on in some parts of India through demonstration farms under Agricultural Instructors. If we can procure similar provisions provided in every district in Ceylon, agriculture will no doubt improve on a vast scale.

Closely allied to the work carried on in Demonstration Farms is the work of the School Gardens. The total number of Government School Gardens in Ceylon at the close of the year 1915 was 287 and the Gardens receiving grant-in-aid, were 56. These gardens play an important part in the development of rural agriculture, and strange to relate, they are all confined to the Sinhalese Districts. In the Eastern or the Northern Province, there is not a single Government School Garden. The reason may probably be found in the fact that there are few Government Vernacular Schools in these Provinces. But that is no reason why the large number of Grant-in-aid schools in these Provinces should not have attached to them model school gardens, and why Government should not lend its support to them. This is a matter in which the Department and the School Managers must conjointly work and bring up the Tamil Districts to the level of the sister districts in agricultural education through School Gardens.

The Ceylon Agricultural Society is a valuable adjunct to the Agricultural Department in the sphere of its educational work. The work of its experiment committees, the valuable papers on agricultural research work read at its quarterly meetings, and its other publications have a wide educative effect. But even here, there is ample scope for extension and improvement. The work of the Society requires to be largely popularised through the vernaculars. There should be a vernacular publication bureau connected either with the Society or with the Department, which should take in hand the wide dissemination of agricultural knowledge among the masses through the publication and distribution of tracts and leaflets in the vernaculars.

Co-operative Societies play an important part in the diffusion of agricultural knowledge in England and other countries. These Societies stimulate a spirit of self-help enterprise and co-operation among the ryots and infuse an enthusiasm in them for their calling. Co-operative Farms in every village worked by the local farmers under the supervision of an expert Instructor will be productive of much good. Any improvement worthy of the name must be effected with the intelligent co-operation and initiative of the cultivators themselves. Advancement of general education among the masses, on modern lines is, therefore, a necessary step to effect the moral and material improvement of the people and we hope the Government will be more liberal in its expenditure under these heads.

NOTES & COMMENTS.

We specially commend to public notice the patriotic munificence of Mr. C. Namasivayam, J. P., who has contributed to the Imperial Government a sum necessary for the purchase of a motor Ambulance for the War, as will be seen from the correspondence on the subject published elsewhere. We say, the gift is a highly patriotic one as no enlightened Ceylonese who loves his country can rest content unless he has done everything in his power to help the British Government in the prosecution of the just war in which all our interests are at stake. Our gratitude for the help rendered to us by the British nation demands it. Our hope for future political advancement is intimately bound up with the success of the British arms and the permanence of the British Empire. All patriotic Indians are acting up to this conviction and we hope all patriotic Ceylonese will follow the lead given by our distinguished countrymen.

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LOCAL & GENERAL.

ADVOCATES' EXAMINATION RESULTS.—A meeting of the Council of Legal Education was held at 4 P. M. at Hultsdorf on Thursday last. Mr. Justice Eunis presided and the others present were:—Mr. Justice Shaw, Mr. G. S. Schneider, Mr. L. M. Maartensz, Mr. B. W. Bawa, K. C., the Hon. Mr. K. Balasingham, and Mr. F. Dornhorst, K. C. The results of the last Advocates' Examination were announced as follows:—Intermediate: Messrs. S. Aialasunderam and W. Chas de Silva. Intermediate and Final: Mr. C. Negalingam. Final: Mr. G. F. Ernst.

H. E. THE GOVERNOR'S PRACTICAL SYMPATHY WITH THE PEOPLE.—Last Friday's Government Gazette notified that H. E. the Governor has been pleased to set apart several lots of Crown land adjoining villages in the North Central Province for free chena cultivation. The total extent of the lands thus set apart amounts to about 4,000 acres.

THE CHALMERS' GRANARIES.—The Chalmers' Granaries have proved to be such a success, that Government, we learn, has decided to build several grain sheds on the strip of land between the newly-built Grain Sheds and the right bank of the Canal. The estimated cost of the new grain sheds is said to be three lakhs. The work will be taken in hand immediately.

THE "YOUNG HINDU".—We welcome this new quarterly Magazine, published by the Young Men's Hindu Association of Jaffna. The contents of the number before us are very interesting and instructive. Ourselves, My impressions of the Camp by R. R. Gunaratnam B. A., A plea for the establishment of Y. M. H. A., by Dr. M. Sinnatambay M. D., F. R. C. S., The Importants and the futile by Mrs. F. F. Emery, Saiva Siddhanta and loyalty by T. Ponnambalampillai M. R. A. S., The nearest temple by Dharmananda, What is initiation, The late Mr. R. S. Subramaniam, The late Mr. Myron H. Phelps, News and Notes, From day to day, which gives a brief account of the various activities of the Association, The great awakening, Business as a vocation for young men, by C. N. Devarajan, Maharaja of Dharbanga's speech, Hindu Students' Camp and Vegetarianism by S. K. Lawton complete the list. The price of a copy is fixed at Re. 1. We wish success to our contemporary.

THE "CEYLONESE" LIBEL CASE.—This case from the D. O. Colombo in which Mr. Lawrie Muthukrishna, Editor of the "Ceylonese" had been convicted for defaming Mr. G. F. Forrest, Deputy Inspector General of Police, and fined Rs. 250, was heard in appeal to the Supreme Court, before His Lordship Mr. Justice Eunis on the 4th instant. Mr. Advocate A. St. V. Jayawardene appeared for the appellant. After hearing counsel for the accused the case was postponed till Friday next.

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS.—We beg to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the following Administration Reports for 1916 from the Secretariat:—Colombo Drainage Works; Companies, Trade Marks &c; Government Printing Office; Colombo Museum, Prisons, and Registration of Deeds.

CROWN ADVOCATE IN SIAM.—Mr. A. V. Wijekoon, Barrister, son of Mr. J. A. Wijekoon, formerly of Wesley College, has been appointed Crown Advocate to the Siamese Minister of Justice, Siam. For several years past, Mr. Wijekoon was a partner in the firm of Messrs. Aitken and Oung, Barristers and Solicitors of Singapore. He left Singapore a few days ago, and in his new sphere will work under Mr. A. G. Tilleke, the Sinhalese Attorney-General of Siam.

POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK.—The Post Office Savings Bank, which only allowed withdrawals after three days' notice and in cases of higher sums a week's notice, has introduced a new departure from 1st instant by allowing a depositor to withdraw a sum up to Rs. 10 on demand. The application for these withdrawals must be made on special forms obtainable at all P. O. Savings Bank Offices. The depositor has to present his book along with the application and the former is retained and posted to his address a few days later.

THE KANDY TAMILS LITERARY ASSOCIATION.—An extraordinary General Meeting of the above Association was held on Saturday the 28th instant at 6.30 P. M. at the Association Hall, to bid farewell to Mudliyar N. N. Thamotheram, and Mr. L. S. Dorairajah, on the eve of their departure from Kandy on official transfer. Owing to the unavoidable absence of the former, the members bid farewell to Mr. L. S. Dorairajah. The function was presided over by the President Mr. V. M. Sarayanamuttoo. The notice convening the meeting having been read, Messrs. V. C. M. Ayethurai, K. Coomaraswamy, A. Vijayaratham, S. Sabaratnam, K. Kanapathipillai, V. Kadritambay, and J. M. Somasundaram spoke on the sterling qualities of the departing member, and the valuable services rendered by him as Secretary of the Association. A song in Tamil, specially composed for the occasion was sung by Mr. K. Ganapathipillai, and the chairman handed the departing member a souvenir as a token of remembrance. Mr. L. S. Dorairajah thanked the members in a few well-chosen words. The gathering dispersed at 8.45 P. M. —Cor.

Y. M. H. A. PETTAR, JAFFNA.—A students' fortnightly meeting of this Association was held on Monday the 30th ult. and commenced with the singing of Thevaram by Mr. S. Retnasigam followed by the reading of minutes of the previous meeting and the drafted rules of the appointed Committee. Master N. Subiah Rajan of the Jaffna Hindu College delivered an interesting and instructive lecture on "The depressed classes" when Mr. S. Kandiah Proctor S. O., presided. The lecturer dwelt on the subject exhaustively and he advocated that a school for the Panchamas should be opened very soon. It is hoped that the managers of schools and the leaders of society will take an active part in it. Remarks were offered by Messrs. M. S. Eliatambay, Advocate, I. Rasanayagam and V. Sivagnanam. Mr. Eliatambay in his remarks proposed that a Reform League for the amelioration of the depressed classes should be formed and Master I. Rasanayagam stated that we are men of maximum talk and minimum action. The meeting closed with the singing of Thevaram after proposing a vote of thanks to the lecturer, chairman and to the hostel manager which were unanimously carried with acclamation. —Cor.

RESTRICTION OF EMIGRATION OF COOLIES INTO CEYLON.—It has been decided by the Indian Government to restrict the emigration of coolies to Ceylon owing to the War requirements in India, hence the abolition of the long standing, Depot at Tattapara and with it the closing of the Tuticorin route for ingress into Ceylon, and the notice of the Acting Ceylon Labour Commissioner stating "that no unskilled labourer who is an adult male unaccompanied by his family, and proposing to emigrate to Ceylon for the first time shall be permitted to leave India.....Old coolies and new coolies emigrating with their families will be permitted to go to Ceylon, permits being applied for....." We further, understand, that after careful consideration, the Madras Government is convinced that 50,000 coolies are sufficient labour for Ceylon for one year, and they have taken steps to see that this number is not greatly exceeded, or is exceeded at all.

NATIONAL BANK OF INDIA.—The annual meeting of this Bank discloses a remarkably satisfactory state of affairs, despite the War. The financial position of the Bank is very strong, and a dividend of no less than 32 per cent. for the year was declared. This is free of income tax and is equal to a dividend of 42 per cent. That the Bank is a live go-ahead concern is proved by the fact that branches have been opened in two towns in what was recently German East Africa. Shareholders are to be congratulated on the efficient way the affairs of the Bank are managed. —"Ceylon Observer".

Y. M. H. A., (CENTRAL)

Conference.—A conference of branch secretaries will be held at Keerimalai on the 13th instant.

Japa Malais.—50 Rudraksha malais strung in silver are for sale at the Y. M. H. A.

Tract No. 2.—A leaflet in English on the evils of meat eating is ready for free distribution. Booklets in Tamil on the same subject are ready for sale at Rs. 3/- per 100.

Lecture.—Mr. E. K. Sivasubramaniam B. A., will deliver his lecture on "the Wanderings of Vivekananda" in the Head Quarters on Friday the 11th instant.

An Offer.—Mr. A. Mootutambipillai has generously offered to write and print for us free of cost a short history of the life of St. Manickavasagar. This book is intended specially for Hindu prisoners in the Jails.

A Visitor.—The Committee have decided to invite Mr. J. M. Nallaswampillai B. A., B. L., to deliver a series of lectures in Jaffna. —Cor.

GIFT TO THE IMPERIAL GOVERNMENT.

MR. C. NAMASIVAYAM GIVES A MOTOR-AMBULANCE.

The following correspondence on the subject of a gift of a motor ambulance to the Imperial Government for war purposes by Mr. C. Namasivayam, was laid on the Press Table at the Secretariat on the 5th instant:—

The Hon. Mr. R. E. Stubbs, C. M. G., Colonial Secretary.

Sir,—I wish to present the Imperial Government with a motor ambulance for war purposes and I hope you will take the necessary steps to give effect to my desire. I enclose herewith a signed form addressed to the Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation requesting them to remit by wire to the Crown Agents, London, the sum of £500 for this purpose.

In order to suit your convenience and to ensure that your advising telegram will reach London before the remittance I have arranged that when the form is returned to the Bank by you sum will immediately remit the money. If any sum in excess of this will be required I shall be glad to pay it so that the Ambulance car will be entirely in my name.—I am, etc.,

(Sgd.) C. Namasivayam.

Ayodhya, Rosemead Place, Colombo, May 5th, 1917.

C. Namasivayam, Esq., Ayodhya, Rosemead Place.

Sir,—I am directed by the Governor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 3rd May, 1917, offering a sum of £500 for the purchase of

a motor ambulance to be presented in your name to the Imperial Government for war purpose and to convey to you an expression of His Excellency's thanks for your generous gift which His Excellency is sure will be fully appreciated by His Majesty's Government. The Secretary of State for the Colonies has been informed of your offer and also of your willingness to pay any sum in excess of £500 if an ambulance cannot be purchased for that amount.—I am, etc.,

(Sgd.) A. N. HOTT,
for Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Colombo,
May, 1917.

JAFFNA'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE WAR FUND.

Sir,
I have the honour to forward a statement showing the amounts which Jaffna has contributed towards the various Funds in aid of the War and to request you to be good enough to publish the same in the next issue of your paper.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,
S. H. WADIA,
for Government Agent, N. P.

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By General contribution	Rs. Cts.
Roman Catholic Clergy	11049 20
Saraswathi Vilasa Sabha	1182 46
Police Office	102 00
Forest Office	10 00
	201 00
Aeroplane Fund	1000 00
Overseas Tobacco Fund	222 00
Disabled Ceylon Men's Fund	125 00
Indian Troops Fund	140 25
Belgian Fund:—	
By Roman Catholic Clergy	1158 31
Concert at the Convent	449 25
by Vembadi Girls School	1000 00
Benefit night Bioscope Co.	66 00
	2678 56
French Fund by Roman Catholic Clergy	6600 00
Red Cross "Our Day" Fund	147 50
By Roman Catholic Clergy	40 00
Land Registry	21 70
Excise	20 00
	229 20
Serbian Relief Fund—Chief Justice Lecture	61 00
Poland Relief Fund by Roman Catholic Clergy	711 44
Lord Kitchener's Fund (Vembadi Girls)	78 47
Queen Mary's Needle Work Guild:—	
Handed over to Mrs. Anderson	760 00
By Excise Department	452 50
Garments & Comports	
up to Feb. 1917	6759 3704
Officers' One Day's Pay Fund from Nov. 1916 to March 1917	7380 05
(This is exclusive of the contributions made by Civil Servants and other heads of Departments.)	
Railway Department to end of March 1917	221 45
	Total 38,182 58

DARLEY LITERARY UNION.

The Fifteenth Half-Yearly General Meeting of the above Union was held on Saturday the 26th April, 1917 with Mr. S. Kanapathipillai, Proctor, S. C., in the Chair.

After the preliminaries were gone through the Secretary read the Report of the half year ended 31st March, 1917. Comments were offered on the Report by Messrs. A. Mututumbay, K. Kanakaram, C. Thirugalingam and the Chairman. It was then adopted on the motion of the Chairman seconded by Mr. C. Venkatachary.

Then came the most important business, the election of office bearers for the ensuing half year and which resulted as follows:—

President:—Dr. E. V. Ratnam, F.R.C.S., M.M.C.
Vice-President:—Messrs. M. A. Arulanandam, B. A., Advocate, A. J. R. Vohavanam, F. A., S. Kanapathipillai, Proctor, S. C., and C. Nagalingam, Student-at-Law.

Secretary:—Mr. S. Manunajakam.
Asst. Secretary:—Mr. P. J. Swaminillai.
Treasurer:—Mr. V. Sivaprasadam.
Asst. Treasurer:—Mr. M. Thiruvilangam.
Auditor:—Mr. M. Selvadurai.

Committee:—Messrs. P. Amirthalingam, C. Venkatachary, V. K. Gnanasundaram, A. Subramaniam, L. Ratnasabapathy and A. Mututumbay.

Honorary Members:—Dr. C. Panchalingam's name was added to the list of Honorary Members.

Ordinary Members:—Mr. Nathaniel Vinden was enrolled a member of the Union.

The revised rules were then read and adopted.

Serving of light refreshments terminated the meeting at about 9 p. m.

A TRIP TO BENARES.

(Continued from our issue of April 30, 1917.)

We reached Allahabad at about 10 or 11 on the night of the 11th, and though we had only a few hours to spend in this interesting place, we made the best of the short time before us. Allahabad is a very beautiful city with its numerous buildings and its wide and shady roads. There are many chattrams in the place, all set apart for the free use of travellers. We were shown a few men who were said to be members of the police force of the city. They were dressed in home spun uniform of coat, vest, and shorts with knickerbockers and thick boots, all of which were really necessary in view of the extreme cold experienced in the place.

In the afternoon of the 12th we left for Gaya via Moghal Bazar where we had to remain for a few hours before we could catch the train to our

destination. At 8 p. m. we reached Gaya, and almost before we alighted from the train we were surrounded by a crowd of agents of the numerous Brahmins of the place and a large number of Pandars, each of whom wanted us to accompany him. Many were the allurements held out by them. One promised to have all the ceremonies performed almost for nothing, another undertook to secure for us good accommodation and appetizing food, while many others who could not talk to us in English or Tamil expressed themselves in Hindustani. We however could not understand them, though we suspected that they too were speaking to us of the advantages which could accrue to us if we accompanied them.

There was one Brahmin who was from South India, and this man's outward appearance and demeanour induced us to place ourselves under his protection. Alas for outward appearances which as usual were deceptive! He told us that he would first take us to a refreshment house, and then secure sleeping accommodation in his master's house. After taking us in a conveyance for about two miles through nooks and corners, he pointed out an old dilapidated building which was a poor apology for a residence, and said that we were to rest there for the night. This was an unexpected and painful surprise to us, and we expressed in the most vehement language that we could then muster with our empty stomach what we thought of him, and ordered him to procure for us a conveyance to enable us to return to the railway station for the night. Being afraid that he will lose his fees if he could not keep us with him, he went out and returned in a few minutes with a promise that we could be accommodated in better quarters as soon as his master returned home. His master appeared to be a mythical person, but as we could not at that late hour in a strange land do anything until daylight, we waited patiently until the return of the chief Brahmin. An hour after, a newly arrived Brahmin was introduced to us as the master of the house, and he forthwith ordered his agent to take us to a house in the neighbourhood for our night's rest. With very light refreshments we resigned ourselves to spend the few hours before dawn in our new quarters, which though far from satisfactory yet had a good habitable room.

On the morning of the 13th the Brahmin priest came to us and when we explained our object of our visit to Gaya, undertook to get the ceremonies performed for us for Rs. 30/. This we brought down to Rs. 10/. Even this we found later was a considerable amount. The Brahmin priest was after all a middleman, and we found, when it was too late, that we could have engaged an officiating priest for a very small sum.

At 9.15 a.m. we proceeded to the river bank with the man engaged for us. On the way he purchased the necessary articles for the ceremony and they consisted of a little gingelly, some flowers, a thimble full of honey, a small quantity of flour, a little ghee, an earthen pot, and a handful of navathania. With part of these the first portion of the pindam ceremony was performed at the bank of the river. We had baths before and after the ceremony. The priest then took us over to the Vishnu temple, a sacred and ancient edifice, in the verandah of which the second portion of the ceremony which was almost like the first one was performed. In this place the pindas instead of being thrown into the river as in the first instance, were thrown one by one at a rock which has the impression of a foot and which is called the "Vishnu Pitha" or Vishnu's foot. This small rock is enclosed in a silver trough, and many pilgrims from all parts of India, mostly Vishnuites, frequent the place. The temple is entirely built of granite stone, and is very spacious and picturesque. It is situated on an eminence and commands a good view of the river which flows by it and the numerous temple buildings that dot the river banks.

After this we were escorted to a distant place, and the third and last portion of the ceremony, similar to the first two, was performed under an aged Banyan Tree. We were in all the stages besieged by hosts of sadhus and beggars of both sexes, and Gaya is the only place in India where we found so many of them. It was nearly 1.30 p.m. when the ceremony was over, and we then returned to our quarters from where we went to a Brahmin's house for our noon repast. This Brahmin perhaps labouring under a misunderstanding that we were of low caste, wanted us to take seat on an open place which was a passage for people. We told him through our interpreter that we would rather forego our meals than sit on that spot. After much hesitation he took us to an inner room in his residence and gave us food.

We returned to the station at 3.30 p.m. with a light heart, for our return journey had now commenced. The solemn and sacred purpose for which we had to go to Benares, Prayag and Gaya was accomplished, and we were now free to visit places of interest and remain in each place as long as we liked.

At the railway station we met a good old Brahmin gentleman who with two of his companions was returning to Salem after a religious tour all over India. This gentleman, Narayana Rao, was at one time in Government service, but has now retired. He was a quaint old man full of information and vitality. It would indeed be a pleasure to anybody to travel with him. He had something to say about every place and every one of importance in India, and it was from him that we gathered some particulars regarding Gaya. He said that this place was of historic fame and that both Harichandra and Rama had been there and that it was one of the few places which has an authentic history of its own. It is a place shrouded in antiquity. Rama lived nearly 7000 years ago and Harichandra was his ancestor 21 generations backwards, and that the latter must have lived about 12 thousand years ago. If these figures are correct, Gaya must be a still more ancient place, and so must Benares and Prayag be.

Gaya is not very clean, and except for pilgrims who visit it in large numbers, it will be a lumbering little town. There are no buildings worthy of mention, and the streets are narrow having very little traffic on them. The inhabitants are like those of Allahabad, and most of them are Brahmins.

At 8.45 p.m. on the 13th we left Gaya railway station for Calcutta which we reached the following morning. We proceeded to the same hotel which accommodated us on the former occasion. Our friends were glad to meet us again, and after an early breakfast, under the guidance of some of them, we took tram for the Zoo. The tram

ways are conducted in a very systematic and businesslike manner by a private company, and are in every way superior to those of Madras. The rates are low and the whole city is connected with tram. Two large cars are run every time, the front one for first class passengers and the rear for the second class. The cars are always full which speaks well for their usefulness to the public.

The zoological gardens are about 20 acres in extent, and a fee of one anna is charged from each visitor at the gates. Here we saw for the first time live rhinoceros, Bengal tigers, lions, zebras and monkeys of every description, not to speak of many varieties of birds. There are some specimens from this our little island too. The reptile house was closed to the public as it was under repairs. Most of the buildings have been put up by the rich men of the place and bear their names at the entrance. There was a large monkey—an orang outang—which was to all intents and purposes like a man except that his feet were long and his body hairy. Special provision is made for the needs and the condition of all the animals in the zoo. The rhinos, two in number, had a large enclosure of iron with a deep pond in the middle of it. In this the two animals were wallowing quite content with their lot and quite unconcerned about the number of persons who were watching them from outside the enclosure. There were large sea hogs too in the gardens, large unwieldy animals with capacious mouths always open and ready to swallow anything and everything thrown to them by the visitors. The birds had boughs and twigs in imitation of live ones for their use, and a large tank was allotted for those species which love water. The lions and tigers are generally fed on meat which is brought to them in large carts. There were many caretakers and employees in the gardens all in black uniform. The gardens have a refreshment house for the convenience of the visitors.

From the zoo we went to visit the European firms. Messrs. Whiteaway Laidlaw and Co's buildings are the finest being five stories high. The shop was well stocked with goods of every description. The goods on the ground floor are all in glass cases, and each glass will be about 10 by 6. In the night the whole building is lit with electricity. If the prosperity of a firm is to be judged from the size of its building, Whiteaways certainly carry the palm, for there is no other European firm which has such a palatial building in Calcutta.

We then went on to the General Post Office passing on the way the park and the fresh water pond adjoining it. The office is a building of 3 stories, and plenty of business is always transacted there, though there are many Post and Telegraph Offices all over the city. Close to the Post Office and facing the park are other Government offices all of three stories.

Near the General Post Office we saw the tablet erected by Lord Curzon over the spot on which stood the Black Hole of Calcutta, the chamber in which 146 Europeans were imprisoned in 1756, and from which only 23 came out alive the following day. The pavement over the spot covers the exact length and breadth of the prison which was 18 feet by 14 feet 4 inches. There is also a column erected by the same Viceroy at a certain junction a little further away in memory of this sad event.

After this we had a look round the European quarters, the race course, a very extensive piece of ground with a large grand stand, the Governor's residence of three stories, Fort William. To the last mentioned place we could not have ingress, as an order had recently been made not to admit outsiders. There were several statues on the esplanade and in other parts of the city. Many of them were of past Viceroy and Governors, and a few important men of Calcutta who had done much for their country have also been immortalised in this manner. The European quarters are called "The Little London", and the place deserves the name on account of its grandeur. The Senate House, the University Institute were other buildings of importance which we visited that day.

The following day viz: the 15th was also spent in Calcutta in sight seeing. We visited the Salvation Army quarters and Industrial Home, a building of one story. Then we passed through the Chinese quarters. Many of them were the owners of large shops. Their chief occupations were sculpture and shoe making.

We then went by train to Kalighat to visit the Kali temple. On the way we passed the picturesque residence of the Maha Raja of Burdwan. The temple is dedicated to Kali Amman whose image about 4 feet high was placed on a pedestal which was three feet from the ground. The building is a small one of marble and has only one room with a verandah all round. There were plenty of guides at the gate which is a proof that many visit the temple. These were a nuisance, so were the priests inside. An admission fee of one pie had to be paid by each of us. The Temple is said to be very meritorious. We performed a portion of our return journey by train, passing St. Paul's Nursery for little boys on the way, and got down near the New Market.

(To be continued.)

Pilgrims.

COMMENTS CONCERNING VITAL QUESTIONS.

(By RAJAKERKI)

THE ETHICS OF BRITISH COLONIAL EXPANSION.—This is the title of a paper read at the Ceylon Tamil Association, Ipoh, on 15th February by Mr. Cecil Round M. A., Headmaster of the Anderson School, Ipoh. The paper has now been printed in a booklet and sold in aid of the Red Cross funds. It contains a lucid account of the method of possession or conquest and the method of infusing British civilisation to the subjects of the Empire. It has reference to the great Self Governing Colonies, Crown Colonies and the Dependency of India. Let me here give you a few points of Mr. Round as regards this last mentioned country.

With regard to the conquest of India he says that England had no intention of entering upon the Military conquest of India until her hand was forced by the French under the leadership of the Soldier—politician, Duplex. Answering the question why England did not, after defeating the French stop at Plassey, the lecturer says "to have stopped in our victorious career would have allowed

of the French the opportunity of recuperating and sending out a further challenge thus entailing the necessity of doing the work all over again. Further more, our withdrawal at that moment would most surely have resulted in terrible anarchy; many a chieftain would have attempted to establish himself as supreme king with all the ensuing chaos and bloodshed."

Relying on history which is the only criterion for us to decide upon the question we may accept Mr. Round's explanation as true and reasonable. Today however we are not so much concerned with the cause of military conquest as with the ultimate aim and end in view of the Government—Self Government for India. Mr. Round has some pertinent things to say on this vexed question and in my next instalment I shall put them before your readers.

THE HINDU PRIESTHOOD.—I most heartily endorse what you say in your notable editorial of the 6th April with regard to the Education of the Hindu Priests. There is no doubt a great deal of decay and inactivity in the system of our priesthood and some strong reorganising force is urgently wanted. We must be able to, or at least try to, see ourselves as others see us and the Hindu public is under great indebtedness to you for your frequent and well-thought suggestions on this subject. Hindu money has been freely given out on many occasions to Christian undertakings only to receive in return kicks and stings and contemptible sentiments. Let us put a stop to this complimentary charity and put our united energy and finance to improve our own priesthood without the high standard of which, the tone of the Hindu religion in our country will never be respected.

We do not simply want Brahmins who can do ceremonies in Temples or at Antihistis and marriages and thereby earn their living, but we want, more than these, men of high religious education, purity and character, who can infuse a religious and pure atmosphere into the minds of the Hindu population and who can serve as men of example for others to follow. The scheme of an oriental college may perhaps be too expensive for the present. Let a small start be made forthwith in the right direction and it may in due course develop into something bigger and brighter. I appeal with you to all the public spirited and religious minded Hindus of our country to move in this matter.

ANIMAL SACRIFICES IN TEMPLES.—Mr. R. Arulanandam, in your issue of the 2nd April raises an important question which should receive the serious attention of true Hindus. It seems strange that at a time of refinement and culture as this 20th century there are people who without a shudder or hesitation chop off the heads of innocent goats in front of the temples of the so-called Gods and Goddesses of wild taste. We often speak of the inferiority of the African Negroes and of the Aboriginal Blackies of Australia and of the wild tribes of the Pacific Islands; but we are blind to the wild and barbarous habits and actions of the wild people in our own land. It would be more logical to suppose that one's sins would be minimised by one sacrificing one's own life than by butchering goats and fowls, because by doing so the sinner would not live long enough to sin to his fullest extent. But this is idle prattle. A remedy must be sought; will others who know more put out a suggestion?

REPUTATION FOR UNTRUTHFULNESS.—Mr. Paul Pieris is certainly exceeding his powers as District Judge of Jaffna by passing wanton and prejudicial remarks about a whole community in the course of his judgment. I make bold to say that there are lies in various forms coming before Courts in almost every part of the world, and even out of court. In every case there is a plaintiff and a defendant and one discredits the other. So indirectly one is calling the other a liar, and it is for the judge to decide, by examination of witnesses, which is lying. Such remarks as the District Judge passed, might be an excusable one if it came from the lips of a minister of religion; even then it would be a gross libel on a community if the remark could not be supported by facts. As it now stands it simply rouses one's feelings with indignation that such a remark should come from a person who by profession has always to deal with certainties and uncertainties and good characters and bad characters. I believe personally Mr. Pieris had not created a bad opinion in Jaffna before this incident, and for the peace of all concerned may he be more reserved in his future judgments.

TAMIL REPRESENTATION IN THE MALAYAN FEDERAL COUNCIL.—Now that this subject has been discussed with interest in all Tamil quarters, so much so, that it has even attracted attention from Chundikuli, I venture to say a few words. In the first place I must dispel from your readers the idea that because Chinese and Malays are represented, therefore Tamils should also be represented. Here, there is no such thing as representation by nationality. The Malays are in the Federal Council simply because the country belong to them. The Chinese Members have their seats in the Council not chiefly as representatives of the Chinese Community but as the chief, wealthy and popular gentlemen of the country, irrespective of nationality. It is not their nationality that has got them their seats but their popularity and position as men interested in the public welfare. It should be remembered that this country is a protectorate and not a Colony. The Malay Sultans, and the British Government, as protectors and advisers can conduct the affairs of the country in the manner which may appear best to them. The Federal Council is essentially a Government Council and the Government appoint Members who, in the Government's valuation, may be entrusted to take part in the annual Budget arrangements and the consideration of taxes and rates which are the chief items of business done by the Council. The Tamils may request the Government to be good enough to include a Tamil gentleman so that he may be of usefulness in matters concerning the Tamils but they cannot say as a right that they should be represented as the Chinese and Malays, for reasons which I have already made clear. In the Council of the Colony of the Straits Settlements there is no Tamil representation and how could any one show reason for claiming a right of representation in a Malay man's country? The British, the Ceylon, the Ceylon Councils when there are representatives of Tamils, Sinhalese, Burghers, Europeans and Mohammedans naturally feel there should be national representation. But the pity is that the F. M. S. is not Ceylon.

TELEGRAPHIC SUMMARY.

The War.

THE SUBMARINE WAR.

London, April 30.

In the Commons Sir E. Carson stated that owing to the increase in submarines in other areas and the increase in patrol boats in the Channel the loss of shipping in the Channel in April was less than any of the preceding three months. He admitted that shipping losses generally were increasing; the number of the enemy submarines had increased. He declined to publish the number of enemy submarines sunk on the ground it would give the enemy information otherwise unobtainable. Mr. Bonar Law stated that an opportunity of discussing Naval matters would be afforded at the Secret Session next week.

U. S. A. AND THE WAR.

London, April 30.

The American War Department has already presented plans for the training of two million men. Manufacturers throughout the country are awaiting the signal to start making equipments at a moment's notice. It is practically decided to adopt the English rifle and the French gun, while the inventors are busily engaged on improved German devices for poison gas, tear shells and liquid fire. Edison is devoting himself to the submarine problem. The sites of Military Camps are already selected. It is proposed to call up the men in batches of half-a-million.

A LOAN TO BELGIUM.

London, May 1.

Washington.—In addition to loans to France and Italy the United States will shortly lend Belgium about thirty millions sterling. Mr. Balfour and President Wilson conferred at length at White House. It is understood they reviewed the entire situation, particularly considering where Britain's experience was valuable to the United States and preparing the way for major decisions which will be worked out later.

REPORTS OF A GERMAN PEACE OFFER.

London, May 2.

Washington.—Mr. Viviani and general Joffre appeared in the Senate which adjourned the debate on the Army Bill to receive them. The Senate adopted the Army Bill with Conscription provisions. The Bill now goes to a Conference of the Senate and the House of Representatives. The Swiss Minister has conferred with President Wilson on the food conditions in Switzerland. Dr. Wilson reiterated his assurances that the United States does not intend cutting off supplies to neutrals unless absolutely necessary. After a Cabinet meeting it became known the consensus of opinion favours the despatch of American troops to France as early as possible.

CHICAGO.—Wheat tumbled fifteen points in the last hour after the announcement that the Swiss Minister was conferring with Dr. Wilson. There are reports of an immense strike in progress in Germany also that Von Bethmann-Hollweg will make a Peace offer on Thursday. The market closed demoralised.

MEATLESS DAYS A FAILURE.

London, April 30.

In the Commons Capt. Bathurst said meatless days might have to be abandoned because they involved a strain on the consumption of bread. He added that the prohibition of horse racing applied to Ireland also (cheers). An order providing for the rationing of thorough breeds would be issued shortly.

IMPERIAL PREFERENCE.

London, April 30.

Mr. Bonar Law's announcement regarding Imperial Preference is being used by the German Government as a warning to the workers of the consequences of an Allied victory. For example, the *Vorwärts* says the Central Powers are threatened with complete exclusion from the world market upon the re-entry into which the future of Germany depends.

THE RUSSIAN ARMY.

London, April 30.

Petrograd.—M. Gutchkoff, Minister of War, who has returned from a visit to all fronts, has issued an order.—Each Army Corps, Regiment and Company shall elect a Committee which will maintain discipline, control food supplies, and have power to take "justifiable measures against the abuse of power by the Chiefs," settle disputes between Officers and soldiers and make preparations for elections to the Constituent Assembly.

ZEEBRUGGE BOMBED.

London, April 30.

Allied airmen are constantly bombing Zeebrugge. The Germans admit damage.

THE BRITISH FRONT.

London, May 1.

Reuter's Headquarters' correspondent says the Germans continue bringing up troops and counter-attacking particularly in the neighbourhood of Oppy down to Gavrelle, while continuous fighting is progressing round Boex chemical works. The latest captured enemy documents urgently emphasize the necessity of strictly economising shells of all types, and also urge unworn (worn) guns should be used against big targets not requiring very accurate shooting. The correspondent concludes that this is a complete reversal of the state of things when the Huns were overrunning Europe entirely by virtue of Artillery preponderance.

OUR CAPTURES.

F. M. Sir D. Haig reports:—We captured 10,343 prisoners, including 233 officers, 257 guns and howitzers, of which 98 were heavy, 227 trench-mortars and 470 machine-guns. Our Artillery destroyed many other guns. During the air fighting on Monday and last night our aeroplanes brought down eight and drove down nine, uncontrolled. Gun fire shot down another. Nine are missing.

NIGHT ARTILLERY WORK.

London, May 2.

F. M. Sir D. Haig records last night activity by the Artillery between St. Quentin and Lens. We repulsed a German raid at Fauquissart.

HEAVY AIR FIGHTING.

F. M. Sir D. Haig says:—We drove off a raid Northward of Arleux-en-Gohelle. Reciprocal Artillery fire was active Northward of the Scarpe and in the neighbourhood of Ypres. Ten German aeroplanes were brought down on Tuesday, six driven down and a seventh shot down. Four of ours are missing.

GERMAN TRIBUTORS TO OUR FIRE.

London, May 1.

Reuter's Headquarters' correspondent gives translations of captured enemy correspondent referring to the effect of our Artillery. A Sergeant Major in the Reserve Infantry writes: "The English have been firing gas shells for days. What a gruesome sight is the trenches which are shot to pieces. Our prospects look terrible." A machine-gun Under-Officer says "Three of my gunners and an orderly went to fetch ration. They failed to return. Our detachment now consists only of three men who have eaten nothing for two days." A Bavarian observation officer says: "The English fire so well directed that the whole front trenches and also the communication trenches are blown to bits. The enemy aerial activity is extraordinarily fearless. Our observation machines are immediately chased away by the English." A Private of the Grenadiers says: "The damned English swine come two or three times daily to take our men away. We have treble casualties to the Somme." Another quotation is "I certainly am glad we are no longer compelled to hold on to the front line at all costs, but we cannot win the War in this manner."

DUTCH TOWN BOMBED.

London, May 1.

The Hague.—An aeroplane at night time bombed the town of Zierike, Zealand. Three were killed and much damage was done. The nationality of the aeroplane was not established.

THE SUBMARINE MENACE.

London, May 1.

The Times states that at the request of his colleagues on the War Cabinet Mr. Lloyd George spent the whole of yesterday at the Admiralty in connection with the submarine menace. He held a thorough stocktaking of the anti-submarine organisation and conferred with the officials concerned.

MORE TROUBLE IN GERMANY.

London, May 1.

Zurich.—Neutrals from Germany report serious disorders, particularly in the Westphalia steel districts owing to the dearth of food. The Military were called out and fired on the crowds, many being wounded.

PARLIAMENT AND THE WAR.

London, May 1.

In the Commons Mr. Bonar Law stated that owing to unforeseen circumstances the statement regarding the efforts at an Irish settlement would be postponed for a week.

Mr. Dalziel asked why enemy attacks were possible on the Kent coast while Naval attacks on Zeebrugge were apparently impossible.

Sir E. Carson said it must be remembered that although the loss of life in these raids was regrettable they did not possess Military value. He assured the House continuous attention was given to this area.

Mr. R. I. Houston:—"Can you explain how enemy destroyers pass through our minefield with impunity?"

Sir E. Carson:—"I cannot explain."

THE IMPERIAL WAR CONFERENCE.

London, May 1.

Members of the Imperial War Conference visit Windsor on May 3rd to present an address to the King.

THE GREAT OFFENSIVE.

Allahabad, May 1.

A Pioneer special cable, dated London, April 25th, says:—The struggle in France has no longer the character of an Allied attack upon the more or less forced German abandonment of specific strong points but has assumed, alike on the British and French fronts, the character of a pitched battle. This week's German attacks on the new British positions have been likened to their attacks at Verdun. The comparison is probably faithful as regards the recklessness with which the enemy has sacrificed massed formations, but the battle was then for a single, albeit a vital point near the front. The truer comparison is with the fight for the coast in the autumn of 1914 on the outcome of which the future character of the War depended. The British then fought to preserve what remained of free Belgium. The Germans are now fighting to retain what remains of enslaved France, seeking to keep the battle line from the French frontier as we sought to keep it from the French coast. It is aimed against the key of the German defensive system. Sir Douglas Haig's offensive compels constant counter-attacks, so that all accounts agree that the enemy's casualties greatly exceed ours.

AIR ATTACK ON BRITISH STEAMER.

London, May 3.

The Admiralty states that the British steamship "Gena" was sunk on Tuesday by a torpedo discharged from a German seaplane off Aldeburgh. All were saved. The "Gena's" gun fire brought down another seaplane associated with the attack and its occupants were taken prisoner.

THE SUBMARINE LOSSES.

London, May 2.

The Admiralty states that the arrivals for the week were 2710 and sailings 2,690. Thirty-eight over 1,600 tons and thirteen under were sunk. Twenty-four were unsuccessfully attacked and eight fishing-boats sunk. An Italian Naval communiqué says:—In the week ending April 29, 627 ships arrived and 521 left Italy. Three Italian steamers and seven sailing ships were sunk. One steamer was unsuccessfully attacked.

REPORTED GERMAN CRISIS.

London, May 2.

Amsterdam.—German papers chronicle rumours of a crisis in high Government quarters.

THE BUDGET.

London, May 2.

Mr. Bonar Law in his Budget statement said the estimate of advances to the Allies and the

Dominions had been exceeded by a hundred millions, but he was glad to say the Dominions had both the will and the power to supply so much from their own resources that there was no increasing strain upon the British Exchequer. Loans to the Allies last year were 540 and the Dominions 54 millions. Since the beginning of the War it had been 828 and 142 millions respectively. The National Debt was now 3,554 millions, less those loans. A large amount of the expenditure was being met from revenue. The last War Loan, including Treasury Bills, amounted to £966,048,000 and conversions from 4½ per cent. to £722,005,000, 4 per cent. to £22,658,008. He proposed no new taxes, only additions to three existing taxes. The entertainment tax yielded last year three millions. An additional duty would yield a further million-and-a-half. He proposed to increase the tobacco tax again by a shilling and ten pence per pound which would produce six millions. He would make the Excess Profits Duty 80 instead of 60 per cent. The new duty was retrospective from Jan. 1st. Concessions would be made respecting interest on new capital introduced since the War. The additional yield of this tax was estimated at twenty millions. He intended to deal with shipping profits not by tax but by requisitioning vessels at fixed rates. The estimated expenditure for the current year was £2,290,381,000. The entry of America had altered the financial situation. America would help us to the extent of her abilities with the financial burdens of the Allies. Mr. Bonar Law hoped 400 millions to the Allies put down for the current year would consequently not be required. Revenue for the year was estimated at £938,600,000, leaving £1,351,781,000 to be covered by the loan. Mr. Bonar Law, concluding declared the want of money would not prevent us winning victory for we could hold out longer than the enemy (loud cheers.)

—The Ceylon Observer.

NOTICE.

SOUND WHITE TEETH
FIRM & HEALTHY GUMS
USE

Danta Kanti Churna



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IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 3402.

In the Matter of the Estate of the late Kathiravelu Arumugam of Navay late of Kanthalai in Trincomalee

Deceased.

Marakatham widow of Kathiravelu Sanmugam of Navay, Jaffna

Petitioner.

Vs.

Sanmugam Sinnathurai of Navay, Jaffna

Respondent.

This matter of the Petition of Marakatham widow of Kathiravelu Sanmugam of Navay, praying for Letters of Administration to the estate of the abovesaid deceased, Kathiravelu Arumugam of Navay, coming on for disposal before P. E. Pieris, Esqr., District Judge, on April 20, 1917, in the presence of Mr. E. Murugesampillai, Proctor, on the part of the Petitioner; and the affidavit of the Petitioner, dated February 21, 1917, having been read: It is declared that the Petitioner is the lawful widow of the said intestate and is entitled to have Letters of Administration to the estate of the said Intestate issued to her unless the Respondent or any other person shall, on or before May 15, 1917, show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

P. E. Pieris,

District Judge.

April 24, 1917.

Order Nisi.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 3367.

In the Matter of the Estate of the late Rethnasingam Kumarakulasingam of Chandirupai

Deceased.

Thampu Chelliah of Chandirupai presently of Bandarawella

Petitioner.

Vs.

1. Vissuvalingam Kanagaretnam and wife
2. Thayalnayakiammah and
Minor 3. Ratnasingam Senthirajah all of Mahiyapiddy and
4. Seithupillai widow of Velayuthar Thampu of Chandirupai. The 3rd Respondent is a minor appearing by his Guardian ad-litem the 4th Respondent

Respondents.

This matter of the Petition of Thampu Chelliah of Chandirupai presently of Bandarawella, praying for Letters of Administration to the estate of the abovesaid deceased, Ratnasingam Kumarakulasingam of Chandirupai, coming on for disposal before P. E. Pieris, Esqr., District Judge, on April 17, 1917, in the presence of Mr. E. Murugesampillai, Proctor, on the part of the Petitioner; and the affidavit of the Petitioner, dated January 27, 1917, having been read: It is declared that the Petitioner is the paternal uncle of the said intestate, and is entitled to have Letters of Administration to the estate of the said Intestate issued to him unless the Respondents or any other person shall, on or before May 10, 1917, show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

P. E. Pieris,

District Judge.

April 19, 1917.

Order Nisi.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF BATTICALOA.

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 942.

In the Matter of the Intestate estate of the late Sittampalam Arembar Nambiar of Eraur

Deceased.

Charles Velupillai, Secretary, District Court of Batticaloa

Petitioner.

Vs.

1. Sittampalam Murugesu Nambiar of Division No. 4, Eraur
2. Elatchinippillai wife of Muruker Kartikesu
3. Muruker Kartikesu
4. Kathirathai wife of Velauther Kuddippillai
5. Velauther Kuddippillai
6. Sittampalam Valliammai widow of Kathirakumar Karuvai all of Valveddi in Jaffna
7. Kandayar Thakkappillai
8. Kandayar Amunippillai (Minor) of Eraur

Respondents.

This matter coming on for disposal before T. B. Russell, Esquire, District Judge of Batticaloa, on January 29, 1917, in the presence of Mr. Tamby Rajah, Proctor, on the part of the Petitioner abovesaid; and the affidavit of the said Petitioner dated January 23, 1917, having been read:

It is ordered that the Petitioner be and he is hereby declared entitled, as Secretary of the District Court of Batticaloa, to have Letters of Administration to the estate of the abovesaid deceased issued to him, unless the Respondents abovesaid or any other person or persons interested shall, on or before March 13, 1917, show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

It is further ordered that the 7th Respondent be appointed Guardian ad-litem of the minor the 8th Respondent, unless the Respondents abovesaid shall, on or before March 13, 1917, show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

T. B. Russell,

District Judge.

January 29, 1917.

Extended and reissued till May 10, 1917.

T. B. R.