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Notice.

A committee meeting of the Jaffna Saiva Paripalana Sabha will be held in the Hindu College Hall on Monday the 14th instant at 4.45 P. M.

BUSINESS:

1. Consideration of the rules as revised by the select committee appointed at the general meeting of the Sabha held on the 15th March, 1917.
2. Consideration of the report of the auditors, as to the state of accounts for the period January 1916 to 25th February, 1917.
3. Consideration of the letter received from Mr. R. Kandiah, J. P., the Auditor, appointed to go into the accounts for the period prior to 1916.

Any other business of which due notice shall be given.

Jaffna, S. KANAGASAPAI,
May 9, 1917. Hon. Secy., S. P. S.

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The Hindu Organ.

JAFFNA, THURSDAY, MAY 10, 1917.

OUR PRISONS.

The Report of Major A. de Wilton, Inspector-General of Prisons, for the year 1916, contains very many useful statistics and informations concerning the administration of this Department. The total number of convicted prisoners admitted to the prisons in Ceylon during 1916 was 11,381, as compared with 15,859 in 1915 and 10,340 in 1914. The year 1915 was the year of the riots which accounted for an abnormal increase in admissions during that year. Of the total admissions of convicted prisoners to prisons during 1916, 11,666 were from the Supreme Courts as against 1,767 in 1915 and 1014 in 1914.

The number of convictions for murder and manslaughter was 92, 151, and 113 in 1916, 1915 and 1914 respectively. Of those convicted in 1915, 25 were convictions by field general Courts. Martial in connection with the riots of that year. The number of persons actually hanged was 30, 90, and 41 in 1916, 1915 and 1914 respectively. Of the 48 persons sentenced to death in 1916, 5 were females whose sentences were subsequently commuted. Of the 30 hanged in 1916, 10 came from the Western Province, 7 from the Southern Province, 2 from the Province of Sabragamuwa, and 11 from the Central Province. It will thus be seen that no one was hanged during the year from the two Tamil Provinces of the Island, the Northern and Eastern Provinces.

Of the convicted prisoners in 1916, 1,332 were with one previous conviction, 385 with two previous convictions, 165 with three previous convictions and 189 with more than three previous convictions. So about one fifth of those admitted to the Ceylon prisons in 1916 were hardened criminals. It is earnestly to be hoped that Government will take early steps to segregate the first offenders and juveniles, without herding them with hardened criminals and jail birds, with the object of preventing the former from the contamination and evil influences of the latter. We are glad to find from the Report that there are 10 prisoners under preventive detention at Bogambra jail, Kandy, all of whom being taught trades.

In regard to the general health of prisoners the year 1916 does not show favourable result compared with the previous year, the total death rate per 1,000 of the prison population being 22.37 as against 8.63 for 1915. The Inspector-General explains by saying that "the general health of the Mahara, Welikada, and Hultsdorf jails and the Borella Convict Hospital was not as satisfactory as in previous years, owing to the large influx of prisoners in connection with the riots of 1915". It appears 429 cases of diarrhoea and dysentery occurred at Mahara resulting in 51 deaths. This is an appalling figure and the authorities should see that there is no recurrence of this state of things. It also appears that out of a daily average of 1051.48 persons in the Jaffna Jail in 1916, there were 12 deaths on account of simple diarrhoea, 2 on account of acute diarrhoea, 8 on account of dysentery, while pneumonia accounted for 10 deaths and malaria for 12 deaths.

The expenditure of the Department for 1916 was Rs. 817,558 as against Rs. 656,804 in the previous year, the establishment and dieting forming the chief items in making up those amounts.

The result of the working of industrial labours in jails in the financial year 1915-16 is satisfactory. Furniture and several other articles are turned out, the sale of which realised Rs. 11,680, besides articles of the value of Rs. 40,100 made for Government departments for which no payment was received. Prisoners, wherever possible, are employed on public works of utility and remunerative industrial labours. At Welikada and Bogambra jails various trades are taught, such as carpentry, blacksmiths' and tinsmiths' work, boot-making, tailoring, cane furniture and matting, coir mats, brooms, door rugs, coal bags, rope, string, making of bamboo tats, ekel brooms, laundry work, printing, book binding and masons work. At Welikada 250 prisoners are also daily employed in the Government printing office.

We learn from the Report under notice that the Karai Reclamation work in Jaffna has progressed satisfactorily, 8 acres being reclaimed during the year, making a total of 27 acres up to date.

NOTES & COMMENTS.

We invite our readers' special attention to the very interesting account of the Imperial War Conference which occupies considerable space in our telegraphic columns today. To the Ceylonese, the most noteworthy point is the presence of the Indian Delegates—the Maharaja of Bikanir and Sir S. P. Sinha—at the Imperial Conference, on a footing of equality with the Delegates of the Self-governing Colonies. The graphic description of the Delegates' presentation of the Address to the King at Windsor and His Majesty's reply to it, would be specially appealing to the emotional nature of His Majesty's Oriental subjects. The following words from the concluding portion of His Majesty's reply to the Delegates breath sentiments of the most ennobling nature, "The value of the Empire" said His Majesty "lies not in

greatness and strength alone, but in several contributions that each of its diverse parts with varying circumstances and conditions makes to the one general stock of knowledge and progress." While he was staying in India His Majesty expressed the inspiring sentiment that the progress of the Empire depended on the "union and fusion of the ideals and aspirations of the East and West." It is also stated that the lunch given to the Delegates by His Majesty consisted of strict war rations and no intoxicants. This is, we believe, the daily practice in the Royal household. Such acts of self-alienation and sympathy with the just aspirations of all classes of his subjects, manifested by the King, work as a powerful incentive to unite all his subjects in all parts of the Empire in the one firm resolve to win the war at all costs and to live in peace and harmony, helping each other and safeguarding each other's rights.

Dealing with the backward state of agricultural education in the Tamil Districts, we advocated in our last DEMONSTRATION FARMS, issue the opening of demonstration farms at convenient centres in the country, under Co-operative Societies. We find the same plan successfully adopted in the Central Provinces of India. It is stated that Co-operative Agricultural Unions "control a limited and compact number of villages. They have under their control a farm acquired or leased. They possess also a capital of Rs. 500 which is raised by means of Rs. 10 shares, membership being limited to agriculturists. The Unions are managed by an elected Secretary and a Managing Committee of three or four members who look after the general management of the Farm which will be in charge of a "Kamadar" who will be responsible to the managing committee. As these are registered under the Co-operative Societies' Act, proper accounts and reserve funds against partial failure of crops and renewal of bullocks and stock and extra contingencies will be provided for. The Unions afford not only the means of introducing new varieties to large areas, but also become a means of demonstrating new methods of cultivation." In the absence of school gardens and other means of demonstrating new methods of agriculture in the Tamil Districts, we hope that Co-operative Societies will be formed who will take the work in hand under the sympathetic guidance of our energetic Director of Agriculture. When the shareholders of the Co-operative Society and others in the villages see the success of the new methods practised, the high productivity of the new varieties of seeds used and the utility and advantage of scientific manuring, they will certainly try to introduced these improvements in their private farms and thus help the general progress of the country.

THE RELIGION OF THE ANCIENT
TAMILS.

(By S. Sabaratna Mudaliyar.)

PART THIRD.

CHAPTER XXXVI.

ARYAN VIEW OF THE Agamas.

I have already said that the Agamas are the key to the Vedas. The Agamas explain the true meaning of the Vedas and provide means for the direct realization of the final beatitude aimed at by the Vedas. The Vedas are so general in their exposition of the Truth that they are accepted alike by people of diverse opinions and diverse creeds. This is apparent from the fact that they have given rise to the six systems of Indian Philosophy which differ from each other in material points. The Vedas are like the noon day sun whom every body thinks to be over his head. Even Christians and Buddhists seem to think that their dogmas are not conflicting with those of the Vedas. There are Christians who maintain that the doctrine of Transmigration is nowhere mentioned in the Vedas and who therefore think that they have the support of the Vedas for their non-belief in the theory of reincarnation. But if we study the Vedas with the help of the Agamas we could find in them clear and direct evidence in support of the theory. The Buddhist doctrine is almost identical with the Mimamsa Philosophy of the Vedic systems; and if one will only take the trouble to study the Vedas with the help of the Agamas, he will be able to find out the object and the correct meaning of the passages on which the followers of the Mimamsa school depend for their authority. As Vignana Bishku, one of the commentators on the Sankya Sutras has very properly held, the different schools of

Indian Philosophy, which are all based on the Vedas, are but gradatory steps to the ultimate goal, and they are all parts of a whole. How they are so, and why they are so can only be explained by the Agamas. The Agamic truths are embedded in the Vedas, and they have not been brought out as plainly in the Vedas as they are in the Agamas for obvious reasons. The Vedas are intended for the use of the whole Baratarashya, the majority of whose inhabitants are not quite fit, and have not the necessary capacity, to be benefited by the pure form of truth. When the people advance, the Agamas will be able to lead them to the secret of the Vedas—and this fact is amply borne out by the Puranas and other Upapuranas—and this is the use for which the Upapuranas are intended. But our Aryan brothers who fully accept and respect the Upapuranas, very much hesitate to recognize the importance of the Agamas; and matters have taken such a turn at present, that many of the North Indians, have no idea at all even of the existence of these Agamas—and the ignorance of the Agamas has become an excuse for some of the South Indian Brahmins to despise the Agamas although they are the cream of the Hindu religious literature.

We find it recorded in the Skanda Maha Puranam, one of the most important Upapuranas that when Sanakar and three other ancient Rishis were confused and were unable to find out the true meaning of the Vedas, although they laboured for ages together in studying them, Lord Siva assumed the form of Dakshinamurti and taught them the Agamanta which enlightened them on the secret of the Vedas.

We find again that in the Visvarupa form assumed by Lord Subramanya the Vedas were exhibited in His mouth while the Agamas were located in His tongue.

.....சுப்பிரமணியவரமுகேதம் (பேதம், பல்விடைமேழுத்துவாயிற் பம்பலாகததன் (Asya mathye Sthitha Vetha: jibhayan-thu Sivogama)

The Vedas are again said to have been produced out of the four side faces of Siva while the Agamas came out of His top face.

The Upapurana says again:—

தத்தமாதந்தகணிதவியசயயிகன்பலருக சுததுபுஞ்சொலையினலினவன்செயல்காணு சுததொதுளமுதலியதந்திறத்தொகுதிணாவார். புய்த்துணர்க்கதிநிரோயவன்செயலொகுதிபு

(God is beyond the comprehension of those that studied the self asserting dogmas of the various creeds. It is only given to those that have studied the Agamas such as Vathula who will be able to have some idea of God.)

The Agamanta has its own Guruparampara the origin of which is traced to the Sathasiva form of Divine manifestation—a form far above the plane to which the Hindu Triad belongs. The Agamas are a full store house of the various laws and regulations that are necessary for our religious duties and discipline in the four stages of Sariai, Kiriai, Yogam and Gnanam, while the Vedas are concerned mainly with Yanjnas. The Yanjnas themselves cannot be performed with any thing like perfection without the helps of the Agamas,—and this would clearly shew the relation between the Vedas and the Agamas; and the indispensability of the latter to the former. The merits of the Agamas are not only explained by the Puranas but the Vedas themselves testify to their great value (see Yajur Veda).

The construction and consecration of temples, and the daily pujas and special festivals carried on in these temples would have been almost impossible if not for the Agamas. We know how our religion would fare if not for our temples and temple worship. In the Kiriyakanda the Agamic ceremonies, being much more elaborate than the Vedic ceremonies which are but brief and concise, it appears to me that when India suffered under the religious persecutions of foreign nations, the Hindus of North India found it impracticable to observe the elaborate rules of the Agamas and they therefore took themselves to the Vedic rites; and that in course of time, they forgot altogether the Agamas and the Agamic practices—a state of things that was largely helped by the material propensity of the people, the propensity being peculiar to the Kali Yuga.

Now that they suffer no more under any such religious persecutions—thanks to the benign British rule—our Aryans and South Indian Brahmins should open their eyes to the importance of the spiritual treasures stored up in the Agamas, and see that Mother India fully enjoys the benefit of these valuable treasures. The use that they now make of the Vedas is altogether in the material plane, and if they will

only decipher their true meaning with the help of the *Agamas* and enjoy the spiritual light that lies concealed there, they will not only benefit themselves but will do a great service to their country and to their religion.

LOCAL & GENERAL.

THE WEATHER—The south-west monsoon has set in.

JAFFNA KACHCHERI—Mr. S. Thuraiappa, Assessment Clerk, who served Government with great acceptance for nearly 40 years in the local Kachcheri having retired from the 1st instant, Mr. N. Kandaswamy, of the local Kachcheri, has been appointed to succeed him. Mr. M. Krishnaswamy, Extra-clerk, has been promoted to the fourth class of the Clerical Service, and succeeds Mr. Kandaswamy.

MURDER—A dhoby of Chittankeny in Jaffna is reported to have been murdered by some others of his caste. During the last Criminal Sessions of the Supreme Court, there was also a murder case from among the dhoobies of the same place.

VISIT OF THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION TO BATTICALOA—Mr. E. B. Denham, the Director of Education and late G. A. of the Eastern Province, is expected to visit Batticaloa. He hopes to arrive on May 16th and will remain there till 21st. During his stay he will visit the various schools of the town. We understand that a number of functions have been arranged for his visit one of which is a cricket match which is to be held on May 17th, a Government holiday. The people of Batticaloa will be glad to welcome Mr. Denham once more into their midst.

MADRAS UNIVERSITY MEDICAL EXAMINATION—The following Ceylonese candidates have come out successful in the last Medical Examination:—Final M. B.: V. Kadirgama-tamby; 3rd M. B.: I. G. De Zylva; 3rd L. M. S.: E. T. Saravanamuttu; 2nd M. B.: S. Pasupathy; and 2nd L. M. S.: H. M. G. Tilleke. Dr. V. Kadirgama-tamby who passed the M. B. B. S. examination has returned to his native place at Alway. He is the eldest son of Mr. K. Vyrarnuttu of Alway West and cousin of Mr. Obellipillai of Tikkam and a nephew of the late Mr. Mylvaganam Suppiramaniam better known as Puloy Tamby.

KANDY TAMILS' LITERARY ASSOCIATION—The Seventeenth Half Yearly General Meeting and Social Function of the Kandy Tamils' Literary Association will be held at the Tamil Home, Kandy, on Saturday the 12th instant at 5.30 P. M. —Cor.

FAREWELL FUNCTION AT KANDY—No. 44 Katukelle, the residence of Mr. S. Sivaganasundaram was the venue of a pleasant function on Wednesday evening the 2nd instant when the friends of Mr. K. Canapathipillai, Notary Public, entertained him at a farewell dinner on the eve of his departure to Valikamam East, Jaffna, where he is proceeding to practice his profession. The dinner was a vegetarian one. After ample justice was done to the excellent repast, Mr. K. Canapathipillai, Deputy Jai or, sang a few songs of farewell specially composed for the occasion and handed Mr. Canapathipillai, Notary Public, a group photograph of his friends taken with Mr. Canapathipillai as the central figure. Speeches were also made by Messrs K. Coomarasamy, M. Nagamuthu and A. Vijayaratham, eulogizing the many sterling qualities of head and heart of the departing Notary and his influence for good among the Tamils of Kandy during his stay of nearly eight years. Mr. Canapathipillai feelingly replied and returned thanks for the farewell entertainment got up in his honour and for the present. A gramophone supplied the music and the company spent a pleasant evening. Much credit is due to Mr. S. Sivaganasundaram for the success of the function. —Cor.

A ROYAL ENGAGEMENT—London, May 2.—The engagement is announced, with the King's entire approval, of Prince Alexander of Battenberg to Lady Irene, daughter of the Earl of Londesborough. —Reuter.

SHIMAD RAMAYANA, BALAKANDA—Mr. J. S. R. Sarma B. A., Head Master, Puloi Hindu English High School, has brought out in English the Balakanda of Ramayana in the form of a drama in five acts. The preface by the author, which runs to about 20 pages, treats on the nature and necessity of the work in a masterly manner. The play itself is written in elegant black verse and is eminently fitted to enlighten and enchant the reader with the inspiring story of this great epic. The book is dedicated by the author to Dr. Sir S. Subrahmanya Ayyar, Retired High Court Judge, Madras, with his kind permission. The Hon. Mr. Justice T. V. Seshagiri Ayyar, the Hon. Mr. K. V. Rangaswami Aiyangar and several other prominent men have given their opinions commending the attempt of the Author to inculcate the ancient Dharma and Hindu ideals of life to the rising generation, through the medium of such popular narratives. We thank the author for the copy sent to us.

THE AIYANAR-KOVIDADY UNION—The Third Half yearly general meeting of this union was held on Monday evening last with the President Mr. S. Kandasay, Proctor, in the chair.

A TRIP TO BENARES.

(Continued from our last issue.)

One of the special features of Calcutta is the New Market, which is the emporium of the city, and perhaps of the East. From fresh vegetables to the most costly millinery, anything can be purchased at that place, and nothing can be more convenient for the public than to be able to purchase everything at one place. This market is a very extensive building under Government management, and the stall holders have to pay fees annually to the Corporation for the privilege of selling articles there. On one side fruits and vegetables, all arranged beautifully on galleries, can be had from innumerable stalls. On the other side we find a row of stalls for hats, another stall for millinery, another for aluminium ware, another for iron and steel articles, another for crockery, glassware &c., and infinitum. Thus everything that one wants is sold there. The roofing is of glass, and there is sufficient ventilation and light in the whole building. At the entrance to each stall, a placard in large character notifies the public what things are sold therein. One can pass days at the place and yet not get tired. There is so much to see and so much to admire. The place is well worth visiting and will be profitable to young students, as they will have easier means of acquiring the names of various objects they see there, than from pictures in their books.

Then we went on to the Museum buildings, Messrs. Thacker Spink & Co's firm, the Empire Theatre, the Grand Cafe, the High Court, the Esplanade mansion and stores of six stories, and the Calcutta Corporation Hall which can accommodate not less than ten thousand people.

We then proceeded to the Eden Gardens a fine well kept place of large extent, where the band plays almost every evening. The gardens are lit with electricity and gas, and present a pleasing appearance in the night, with the large throng of Europeans and Bengalees who spend their evenings here.

From the gardens we went to the Outram jetty, one of the several openings to the Hoogli. The jetty and the large building standing thereon are on floats capable of rising up or going down with the rise or fall of the river. There is a refreshment house attached to the jetty, and the whole place is lit with electricity. From here we saw the innumerable steam ships and steam boats that ply on the river. There are boats of every description on the river from the large steamers down to cargo boats, which are usually towed by steam boats. These cargo boats some of which are very large, convey goods to and from the countless mills along both sides of the river. Hoogli river is navigable for nearly three hundred miles. The sea is about 70 miles from Calcutta. One kind of dhoby used on the river deserves special mention. The stern of this rises higher than the bows and is crowned with a platform for the steersman. The rudder is a large triangular wooden board. The crew, ten or twelve in number stand on the prow and row the boats with long oars moving backwards and forwards and raising their legs alternately for every motion of the oars, the men all the while keeping time by singing. Their song and their motions are rhythmic.

The roads of Calcutta are broad, and the turf on both sides of them are daily watered in the mornings and the evenings by means of hoses, the water for this purpose being obtained from the river. The hoses are also used for watering the roads, and in addition to them there are many water carts drawn by horses.

Water pure and wholesome for drinking purposes, and unfiltered water from the Hoogli are available everywhere in Calcutta. Fire alarms are fixed at short distances all along the roads. These are like postal pillar boxes of about 4 feet in height, painted red, and are connected with the fire station by electricity. There is a round thin glass near the top and a notice requiring any one who discovers a fire to break open the glass and turn the crank inside.

Pedestrians wishing to cross any important road in Calcutta have a very perilous time of it, and should be quick and observant in view of the large number of vehicles of every description that pass and repass every minute. On the Esplanade road, one of the promenades of the city, no less than 29 motor cars, 17 one horse carriages, 6 double horse carriages, 8 motor cycles and 14 bicycles passed both ways at a certain junction within the short period of 5 minutes. One can just imagine how vigilant passers along the road should be when they cross the roads. Foot passengers are provided with pavements on every important road.

The double bullock carts in Calcutta are peculiar in construction. They have no boxes to hold goods. Two stout bamboos form the yoke tree (or shaft), and the intervening space is filled with short bamboos thus forming a platform over the wheels. The wheels are of the same size as those of carts in Ceylon, but more ponderous, and the hubs are larger. The carts are heavy and the bulls used are sturdy capable of carrying any weight. Unlike our carts, they carry only one lantern each, and probably there is no rule there that two lights should be carried. This lantern is hung underneath the cart as was the practice with our carts in former times. As a matter of fact lights are not wanted for carts in Calcutta since the whole city is lit with gas and electricity, and nights are like days there. Most of the horse carriages in Calcutta are palanquin carriages, with large purple glassess forming the front side of them. These are largely used by the Bengalee ladies, not one of whom did we see during the three days we were there. The most noticeable feature in that city was the absence of women on the roads. There were a few here and there, but they were all from South India.

(To be continued)

FILGINS.

INDIA'S POLITICAL ASPIRATIONS.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN'S TRIBUTE.

London, April 24th.—The Empire Parliamentary Association gave a lunch in the House of Commons to the Indian and Dominion delegates to the Imperial War Conference. Sir Robert Finlay, the President, dwelt on the loyalty of India, in the cause of justice and humanity.

Mr. Chamberlain, replying, said the welcome given to the Indian delegates would evoke a warm response in India, which was deeply gratified at the cordiality of their reception at the War Conference. It marked a conspicuous stage in the relations of the different parts of the Empire. Nowhere were we confronted by greater problems than in India, and it was for us to help to our full measure the realization of India's natural aspirations to play a full part in the life of the Empire. The realization of this could only come with time, and as Indians qualified themselves. We were bound to sympathise and lend a helping hand and strive to make India a fit training ground for the development of these aspirations and liberties. Mr. Chamberlain spoke enthusiastically of the part which the Ruling Princes in India had played in the service of the Empire, and referred to the passionate loyalty to H. M. the King-Emperor and the loyal assistance of the Princes and Chiefs in this war. He concluded:—"We drink with special pleasure to the health of H. H. the Maharajah of Bikanir, who is a soldier and a statesman, as he has shown at the deliberations of the Conference and as a contributor to one of the many forces now upholding the banners of the Empire."

MAHARAJAH OF BIKANIR.

INDIA'S PRICELESS LOYALTY.

H. H. the Maharajah of Bikanir warmly thanked the Mother of Parliaments for her warm welcome. Reviewing India's political aspirations, he declared it was the first and foremost consideration of Indians at all times to render all service they could to the Emperor and the Empire, whose welfare, both for loyal and patriotic reasons and for motives of enlightened self interest, was a matter of abiding concern to them. The millions of the Indian peoples were loyal to the core. Similarly the Ruling Princes and Chiefs, though not technically a part of British India, were proud of their unique position within the British Empire and yielded to none in the whole world in loyalty to the King-Emperor.

His Highness emphasised the widespread gratification felt in India that she was represented for the first time at the Imperial War Conference. Subject to her profound veneration for the King-Emperor and her constant concern for the welfare of the Empire, India desired, with the guidance and help of Great Britain, materially to advance on constitutional lines in regard to matters political and economic, and ultimately to attain, under the standard of the King-Emperor, the freedom and autonomy which her more fortunate sister Dominions enjoyed. Sedition in India was confined to an extremely small minority, and the vast majority were loyal to the core. (Cheers.)

No reasonable person would contend that India was at present ripe for full self-government, but many thought that there was room for further political reforms. Indians needed patience and a sense of responsibility, and, above all, concentration on what could be attained. They looked to Great Britain for sympathy and help, and they were confident that these questions would be considered in time to permit of something being done at the conclusion of the war. Indians did not desire this as a reward for loyalty, for the loyalty of India had no price. India's adherence to the Empire was not due to any unworthy motive, but was because they felt that she could only realise her object within the Empire, with the sympathetic aid of the British people. The Indian States, several of which had already representative government, rejoice at any political advance in British India.

A COUNCIL OF PRINCES.

The Maharajah emphasised the loyalty of the Indian Princes and Chiefs, and gratefully acknowledged the sympathetic attitude of the Government of India and Mr. Chamberlain. He urged the early institution of a Council or Assembly of Princes, where important questions concerning the Indian States and the Government of India could be decided, similarly to the Legislative Councils of British India. He emphasised that Princes did not desire either to interfere in the affairs of British India or outside interference in their own affairs. He concluded by declaring that Lord Chelmsford's speech at Delhi and the attitude of the Government of India led the Princes to hope that the questions were receiving sympathetic consideration.—*The Times of Ceylon*.

THE INDIAN DELEGATES.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT.

SIR S. SINHA'S SPEECH.

London, April 26.—Mr. McLeod, Chairman of the East Indian Section of the London Chamber of Commerce, gave a luncheon to the Indian delegates to the War Conference.

Sir S. Sinha said that the problems between India and the rest of the Empire were being treated with mutual forbearance and understanding and if that spirit continued the difficulties would vanish. He believed that any fear with regard to the security of British supremacy in India would shortly disappear, because the loyalty of India in the war would convince Britons that India desired to remain always an integral part of the Empire. He believed that the war would also bring about mutual trust and confidence between the different sections of the people of India. India wanted more autonomous power in regard to finance and more equitable adjustment of the burden devolving on India. Each part of the Empire must contribute according to its resources and power to the defence of the Empire. Referring to the expansion of India and commerce of India, Sir S. Sinha emphasised that the resources of India must not be exploited by other parts of the Empire for their own benefit (cheers). The first aim must be the welfare of India herself, and this would be most advantageous to the Empire itself.

Mr. Chamberlain said in the development of India there was room enough for all India and Britain could do. It would be foolish policy for

Britain to appear to grudge or desire to hamper the development of India's industries. (Cheers.)

The development of those industries was not only a commercial but a political interest of the first consequence. Britain and India must do all they could for it so as to make India more prosperous and a better market for British goods which India could not produce (cheers.)

—The Hindu.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE CONSCIENCE CLAUSE.

Sir,

My letter to you on the Conscience Clause has, I see, been commented upon in the *Morning Star* of the 2nd instant.

Now the "many Hindu leaders" referred to in the *Star* do not want a Conscience Clause in the Educational Code as they fear that Education would suffer as a consequence. But the *Star* does not and cannot maintain that these leaders do like the conversion of Hindus to Christianity. Naturally the Christian *Star* sees no danger in Hindus becoming Christians. But would the writer in the *Star* be happy if Christians become Hindus? I want an answer.

The writer in the *Star* justifies Bible teaching to Hindu children in Mission schools on the ground that the Hindus themselves are so indifferent to the religious needs of their children as to keep the children's knowledge of Hinduism confined to the simple fact "that it is the religion of their birth." The rebuke to the sleepy Kumbha karnas among us is thoroughly well-deserved. I too join the *Star* and cry "shame" on those my sleepy co-religionists—and they form an appalling number—who come under the *Morning Star's* well deserved censure. But the *Star* knows or ought to know that, appalling as is their indifference, sadly grievous as is their neglect, no Hindu sends his children to Christian Mission Schools actually wishing their conversion to Christianity. If it knows this, the plea of the writer in the *Morning Star* and those of his way of thinking simply amounts to this, "We shall certainly take advantage of your folly in order to push on our own propaganda."

Now it is quite true there is a large number of sleepy Hindus. But the *Star* cannot deny that there are Hindus who are quite sleepless over this question of Hindu Education. They are increasing in number. They cannot be looking on without doing their little best for Hindu Education. In whatever light the question may appear to Christians, conversion of Hindus to Christianity is to the Hindus an undesirable thing. So there would like to have a Conscience Clause in the Code. If the consequence of this is to be a contraction of Christian Mission Educational work, there will be a corresponding expansion of Hindu Educational work. This is not an idle fancy. Those who have eyes to see cannot but note the steady expansion of Hindu Educational activity both in India and Ceylon. The very fact that some people complain that Hindu schools crop up "in season and out of season" shows that, by the Grace of Arul Sakthi, the Hindus are slowly awakening to their needs. Of course I do not pretend that there will be a prompt filling up of all gaps, in case they occur. But I do think that there will be a steady though a somewhat slow readjustment.

But all this presupposes that Christian Missionaries will leave the field of Education in case of the introduction of a Conscience Clause; and so far as I am concerned I am not one to dogmatise on future happenings.

So far about the Conscience Clause.

Now about two other matters referred to by the *Star*.

"Why make so much ado about learning truths which no man in his right sense will object to and which make for righteousness and spirituality?" asks the *Star*. I wonder who told the writer in the *Star* that Hindus do object to learning "truths," "which make for righteousness and spirituality." I may assure the *Star* that no Hindu objects to learning "truths" at all, but that he is as eager to learn them as anybody else on the face of the earth.

"When a man disgraces himself by the commission of a wicked act, people look on with indifference, and are, at any rate, not alarmed by it." I do not know who "the people" referred to are, but I take it that the *Star* wants us to understand that 'people' means Hindus. If that is so, it means that in the first place this statement itself is correct and that in the second place Non-Hindus are entirely free from what the *Star* supposes to be a defect of the Hindus peculiarly. All that the *Star* says on this point is a matter of mere opinion and I do not want to waste ink on a matter of mere opinion. All that I desire to do is to enunciate a general principle regarding wickedness and wicked acts. There never was, there never has been, and there never can be a Perfect life for any one (though each one may fancy that his own favourite hero lived a Perfect life) in this world. The highest in this world can live perhaps a nearly perfect life and not the perfect life here. The sun's rays are considered to run parallel to each other, but they are not absolutely so. So all are wicked in a sense and wickedness simply differs in degree and kind among people. One is wicked in one way and another is wicked in another way and so on. No one is free from wickedness of one sort or another in some little strength. Now, then, every act, whether good or bad, carries with it its own consequences. The laws of Karma are unerring in their operation. Whether, therefore, "people" are interested in or indifferent to, their own or other peoples' acts, good or bad, whether they are alarmed at them or not, the acts themselves carry with them their own consequences. The experience gathered from the consequences of one's acts helps him to grow purer and purer in life, or from life to life till at last he becomes perfect, even as Paramashivam is perfect. We are differing in various ways, though not all to the same degree, and so far as the Hindus are concerned, their religion and the practices of the religious Kriyas enjoined by it will lead them from error to perfection in as soon as possible time.

Jaffna,
6th May 1917.

Yours faithfully,
E. K. SIVASUBRAMANYAN.

TELEGRAPHIC SUMMARY.

The War.

THE BRITISH FRONT.

London, May 4.

F.M. Sir D. Haig says:—There was fierce fighting all day long Westward of Quenast to Northward of Fresnoy, Fresnoy, Eastward of the village of Vimy. The enemy is again employing large reserves of men and guns and he delivered repeated counterattacks practically along the whole battle front. He suffered heavily from concentrated Artillery and machine-gun fire before the attack. During the assault our troops despite obstinate resistance in the morning penetrated the sector of the Hindenburg line Westward of Quenast, maintaining them there all day long against constant powerful counterattacks. Further progress was made in the neighbourhood of Chénay astride the Arras-Cambrai road, and the right bank of the Scarpe where positions which changed hands frequently, were defended with great determination are now in our possession. On the left battle front we captured Fresnoy and the positions Northward and Northward on a two mile front. We also gained a footing in the trench system Northward of Oppy. We progressed at other points. Fighting continues. Besides the enemy's severe losses in killed and wounded there were several hundreds of prisoners. There was great aerial activity. Five German aeroplanes were brought down and five driven down uncontrollable. Four kite balloons were destroyed. A British machine is missing.

HEAVY FIGHTING GOING ON.

London, May 3.

F.M. Sir D. Haig reports:—Heavy fighting is taking place on the whole front from the Hindenburg Line Southwards of the Senne River, to the Acheville-Vimy road. We are progressing and have already captured a number of strong positions.

ENEMY GIVEN NO REST.

Though the infantry is comparatively inactive on the Western front this does not mean a suspension in the task of killing Germans. On the contrary the British Artillery is thundering ceaselessly day and night over the Douai plain giving the enemy no rest. The results of the recent offensive may be summed up as follows:—A considerable part of the Hindenburg line is now in the British possession and another section is endangered. The British captured the Hindenburg line between Arras and Croisilles and hold 9,000 yards of the old German positions North of the Scarpe and by the attack on the Arras-Lens front turned the Hindenburg line between Arras and Quenast, thus creating a situation full of strategic possibilities. Meanwhile the breach effected in the German front in the Moronvillers region in Champagne seriously menaces the formidable positions of Berra and Nogent La Bassée overlooking Rheims.

THE POSITIONS HELD.

London, May 4.

F.M. Sir D. Haig says:—Fresnoy and the positions we captured North and South thereof were severely counter-attacked yesterday evening. We maintained all the positions. There was severe fighting in the neighbourhood of Bullecourt. The enemy heavily counter-attacked Eastward of the village yesterday evening in the sector of the Hindenburg Line we captured yesterday morning. The attempt failed with heavy losses. There was fighting also during the night near Chénay, astride the Arras-Cambrai road. We were compelled to fall back from advanced positions captured during the day. We further progressed North-Westward of St. Quentin and North-Eastward of Hargicourt where we captured Malakoff Farm.

London, May 5.

F.M. Sir D. Haig says:—We took prisoner on Thursday upward of 900, including 28 officers. We strengthened today the position captured in the sector of the Hindenburg Line and progressed Eastwards along the enemy's trench killing many. There was severe air fighting on Thursday. Three enemy machines were brought down and five driven down uncontrollable. Two were shot down by gun-fire and another forced down behind our lines. Two of ours are missing.

THE FRENCH FRONT.

London, May 3.

A French *communiqué* reports Artillery activity and patrol encounters throughout the region of Chénay-des Dames. We repulsed enemy raids in the wood West of Mont Cornille and the heights East of Mont Haut where we captured an isolated post which was still holding out. We took prisoner the garrison of 9 officers and 210 men. Detachments penetrated the enemy trenches at Avocourt Wood on the left bank of the Meuse. There were patrol encounters on the right bank in the direction of Damoupy and Bezonvaux. There was an intermittent cannonade at some points on this front, notably in the sector of St. Mihiel.

CREANNE CAPTURED.

London, May 5.

A French *communiqué* says:—A brilliantly conducted operation made us masters of the village of Creanne and several strong points East and North of it. 150 prisoners have hitherto been counted. After lively Artillery preparation in the region North-West of Rheims we launched an attack, carrying the first German lines on a front of four kilometres, taking prisoner 800. The Artillery did was furious in Champagne throughout the day South and South-West of Moronvillers.

London, May 4.

A French *communiqué* says:—Artillery was active in the region North-West of Rheims. We again progressed in the woods West of Mont Cornille. We stopped dead an enemy attack West of Moronvillers. Five enemy aeroplanes were brought down. It appears that three others were reported seriously damaged on May 2nd brought down.

THE RUSSIAN FRONT.

London, May 3.

A wireless Russian official despatch says:—We repulsed an attack on a height ten miles South-West of Omsk. We defeated Turkish attempts to advance South-Westward of Gornishphare. We occupied an island on the Dnieper River Northwards

of Khanykin. Russian hydroplane squadrons destructively bombed Mahmudia on the Danube.

THE IMPERIAL CONFERENCE.

London, May 3.

The Colonial Secretary has issued a statement respecting the work of the Imperial War Conference, now approaching the end of its labours, together with some resolutions. It states some of the matters are of a confidential character at present. The publication of the resolutions and debates regarding them will probably not be possible till after the War. It records the Conference's decision and its unanimous respect for the resolutions now publishable. On no occasion was it necessary to divide or withdraw a motion because agreement could not be reached. The statement comments on a few resolutions and notes. In the resolution resolving thanks to the Secretary of the Colonies, as Chairman, Sir R. Borden touchingly paid a tribute to the late Brigadier General Long who had fallen in his country's service. Sir R. Borden and other speakers expressed gratification at the presence at the Conference of the son of a Statesman who had done so much to promote the idea of Imperial unity, the late Mr. Joseph Chamberlain. The resolutions recommend the appointment at the earliest possible moment of an expert Committee representing the United Kingdom, the Dominions, and the Indian Military authorities to consider the various patterns of Military stores and equipment now used with a view to selecting standard patterns for general adoption as far as the special circumstances of each country permit; That the Ordnance personnel of the Empire and Military organisations be trained on the same methods and principles and Ordnance authorities from all parts of the Empire should be attached for adequate periods to the Imperial Ordnance Department; That the Admiralty be requested to work out immediately after the War the most effective scheme for Empire Naval defence for consideration of the Governments summoned to the Conference with the Admiralty's recommendations regarding the Empire's future security. It welcomes the increase in the number of trade commissioners and recommends the Governments concerned to co-operate in assisting the service, especially for the promotion of inter-Imperial trade. It records the view that the 1907 Imperial Conference resolution should be modified to permit of the full representation of India at all future Imperial Conferences and the assent thereto of the various Governments was obtained. It prays the King to continue by Royal Charter the Imperial War Graves Commission on the lines proposed by the Prince of Wales to the Prime Minister. The Conference records its deepest appreciation of the French Government's generosity in allotting perpetuity of the land where our men are buried. It urges similar arrangements be made in the Peace terms with all ally, enemy and neutral Governments in Gallipoli, Mesopotamia, Africa and elsewhere.

READJUSTMENT OF THE EMPIRE.

The Conference is of opinion that the readjustment of the constitutional relations of the component parts of the Empire is too important and intricate a subject to deal with during the War and should be discussed by a special Imperial Conference immediately after the War. The Conference records that such readjustment, while thoroughly preserving all the existing powers of self Government and complete control of domestic affairs, should be based upon full recognition of the Dominions as autonomous nations of the Imperial Commonwealth, and India as an important portion of it. It should recognise the right of the Dominions and India to an adequate voice in foreign policy and foreign relations and should provide effective arrangements for continuous consultation on all important matters of common Imperial interest and for such concerted action founded on consultations as the several Governments determined.

UNIFORMITY OF EMPIRE POLICY.

The Conference recognises the importance of securing uniformity of Empire policy and action in regard to naturalisation and commends the proposals submitted by the Home Office to the Overseas Governments. It recommends that there be no delay in taking steps for the establishment in London of an Imperial Mineral Resources Bureau on which the whole Empire will be represented, whose duties will include advising as to how mineral resources may be developed and made available to meet the Empire's metal requirements. In view of the War experience the Conference draws attention to the importance of developing the adequate capacity of production of Naval and Military material and munition supplies in all important parts of the Empire, including the countries bordering the Pacific and Indian Oceans where such facilities do not at present exist. It affirms the importance of close co-operation between India, the Dominions and the United Kingdom with this object.

THE DOUBLE INCOME TAX.

The Conference urges that the present system of double income taxation within the Empire should be taken on hand immediately after the War and the law amended regarding its present unsatisfactory position. In view of the War experience the Conference records that the safety of the Empire and the necessary development of its component parts require prompt attention and consideration and concerted action in regard, firstly, to the production of an adequate food supply, and arrangements for its transportation when and where required under any conditions reasonably to be anticipated; secondly, the control of the natural resources available within the Empire, especially those of an essential character for necessary national purpose, whether in Peace or War; thirdly, the economical utilisation of such natural resources through manufacturing processes carried on within Empire. It commends the Governments concerned to consider the enactment of legislation in that direction.

IMPERIAL RESOURCES.

The Conference after expressing the view that the time had arrived when all possible encouragement should be given to the development of the Imperial resources, especially towards making the Empire independent of other countries in respect of food supplies and raw material for essential industries, favours firstly, the principle that each part of the Empire, having due regard to the interests of the Allies, shall give specially favourable treatment and facilities to the produce and manufactures of other parts of the Empire; secondly, arrangements by which interlocking municipalities from the United Kingdom may be induced

to settle in countries under the British flag. The Conference having examined the memorandum on the position of Indians in self-governing Dominions, presented by the Indian representatives, accept the principle of reciprocity of treatment and recommends the memorandum for the favourable consideration of the Governments concerned. The Overseas Members of the Conference conclude by appreciatively acknowledging the services of Mr. Long in connection with the Conference and the courtesies of Government and the generous hospitality of the people of the United Kingdom.

THE KING AND THE WAR CONFERENCE.

London, May 3.

The members of the Imperial War Conference presented an Address to the King at Windsor. After expressing loyalty to the Throne and person of His Majesty the Address says it has been the members' privilege to share in deliberations with a view to securing a victorious conclusion to the conflict. It further considered steps to secure that the fruits of victory should not be lost by unpreparedness after the War, thus preventing an unscrupulous enemy from repeating his outrages upon the liberties of civilisation. "We are returning home inspired by the magnificent efforts of all classes of His Majesty's subjects throughout the world, confident that the trials and sacrifices borne in common will draw still closer the bonds of Imperial unity and co-operation." The Address was signed by Mr. Walter Long and all the members of the Conference.

The Press Bureau states:—The King, in replying to the War Conference's address of loyalty, presented at Windsor, said:—Your deliberations will have a lasting advantage, not only in bringing the War to a victorious conclusion but will ensure that we are prepared for the Peace tasks and the organisation of the resources of the Empire with the view to rendering it self sustaining, and strengthening the ties knitting all parts of the Dominions. He expressed satisfaction that the Indian representatives participated in the deliberations and believed that consequent on the personal intercourse it would create the growth of a spirit of larger sympathy and understanding between India and the Dominions. The present gathering was a giant stride on the road of progress in Imperial development and he felt assured that this would be steadily continued. He deeply regretted the unavoidable absence of the Australian representatives but that great Dominion stands second to none in its determination to assist in the present conflict. He trusted that all the Dominions and India would be represented at the next Conference.

The King paid a tribute to the War services and gifts of the Dominions and India. "The Queen and myself recall with the happiest recollections our visit to the Dominions and look forward to the day when some of our children may have an opportunity of acquiring a similar priceless experience." His Majesty rejoiced at the prospect of improved communication linking up the Empire and hoped for increased inter-Empire visits.

The following is an amplification of the second section of the King's Reply to the War Conference Members:—"In the midst of the present terrible struggle the magnificent contributions of men, munitions and money made by all parts of the Empire have been a source of the greatest pride and satisfaction to me. Vast Armies have been raised in the Dominions and have taken or are taking the field side by side with those of the United Kingdom to fight the common foe in the cause of justice, and those free institutions which are the very keystone of the Empire. It is fitting also, I should here specially refer to the munificent gifts of money made towards the expenses of the War by the Government and Princes and peoples of India. May this comradeship in the field, this community of suffering and sacrifice draw together still closer for ever all the parts in my possession, establishing fresh bonds of union that will endure to our mutual advantage long after the War and its horrors have passed away. The Queen and I recall with the liveliest and happiest recollections the visits we have been privileged to pay to different parts of the Dominions thereby gaining a personal knowledge of the various countries and peoples and their resources and difficulties, and all their varying problems and interests. We do not forget the warm-hearted loyal welcome given to us on those occasions and it is with feelings of affectionate regard I ever follow the welfare of my subjects beyond the seas. I look forward to the day when some of our children will in their turn have the opportunity of acquiring a similar priceless experience by such visits. I rejoice at the prospect of better means of communication which will more effectively link up the various portions of the Empire. I trust the days to come will see an ever increasing exchange of visits and personal intercourse between the mother Country and the Dominions, for do not sympathy and common brotherhood help to form the surest foundations on which the State can rest? The value of the Empire lies not in greatness and strength alone but in several contributions, that each of its diverse parts with varying circumstances and conditions, makes to the one general stock of knowledge and progress. I thank you for coming here personally to present the Address. May God bless and protect you all and grant you a safe return to your home on the conclusion of your labours.

THE SUBMARINE WAR.

London, May 3.

Lord Curzon, addressing the Primrose League at the Caxton Hall, did not think submarine could so diminish our shipping as to affect the ultimate issue of the War. The Cabinet's calculation allowed for a wastage of shipping greater than had hitherto occurred. The situation in Russia was still not without anxiety. Referring to the increasing strain of Germany, he said, what might eventuate in the near future at present was not foreseeable. He drew attention to the fact that there was no Military front on which the enemy was not at present retreating. We were daily learning of increasing enemy desertions and surrenders, breaking down discipline. He considered the introduction of compulsory rationing necessary but there was not the slightest cause for panic or real alarm.

THE WAR CONFERENCE AT WINDSOR.

London, May 3.

The Windsor Reception of the War Conference Members by Their Majesties was a fitting conclusion to the most momentous Conference in the

history of the Empire, following upon the members adopting the unprecedented course of going to Windsor and there presenting an address of loyalty and devotion to the King. In glorious spring weather a procession of motor cars left the Savoy Hotel conveying Mr. Long, Mr. Chamberlain, Sir R. Borden, Mr. Rogers, Mr. Hazen, Mr. Massey, Sir R. Ward, General Smuts, Sir E. P. Morris, the Maharajah of Bikanir, Sir E. Meston and Sir S. P. Sinha and the Secretary, Mr. Lambert. Arriving at the Castle they were conducted to the White Drawing Room where a few minutes later the King in morning dress arrived. The King was accompanied by the Queen, Princess Mary and Princes Albert and Henry George. The Conference members, all of whom had previously known Their Majesties, were presented by Mr. Long. In a clear and resonant voice Sir R. Borden read the Address and the King, obviously much touched, himself read the Reply. The whole party thereupon proceeded to lunch which consisted of strict War rations and no intoxicants. On the King's right sat Mr. Walter Long and on the left Sir R. Borden. The Queen sat opposite with Mr. Chamberlain on her right and Mr. Massey on her left.

A FITTING FINALE.

After the lunch the party adjourned to the Drawing Room where the Royalties unceremoniously and animatedly conversed with the guests. After a stay of two hours the delegates left the Castle. Reuter's correspondent accompanying is authorised to state that the King deeply appreciated and was much touched by the expressions of loyalty and devotion and by the spirit which prompted the presentation of the Address, and the delegates were equally impressed by the cordiality of their reception and welcomed the King's reference to future Royal visits to the Dominions. The Conference was unanimous that it was an eminently fitting finale to an unforgettable mission to London in this crisis in the world's history. On the return journey General Smuts, Sir E. P. Morris, Sir Joseph Ward, Mr. Massey and others visited Queen Mary's Hospital, Southampton, and witnessed the work of fitting and training for future life maimed soldiers, including many from the Dominions. They were much impressed by the way armless and legless men by means of artificial limbs performed most of the functions of able-bodied persons. They saw armless men digging and legless men cycling. The maimed accorded three hearty cheers to the Conference members who suitably acknowledged them.

—The Ceylon Observer.

NOTICE.

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