

The Hindu Organ.

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Order Nisi.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 8390.

In the Matter of the Estate of the late Kanapathipillai Chinnakuddy alias Joseph Samuel of Chandirupai who died at Kuala Lumpur in the Straits Settlements

Deceased. Margret Thangamma Samuel widow of Kanapathipillai Chinnakuddy alias Joseph Samuel of Do. Petitioner.

Vs.

1. Emma Navamany daughter of Kanapathipillai Chinnakuddy alias Joseph Samuel of Do.
2. Christians Gnanatheepam daughter of Kanapathipillai Chinnakuddy alias Joseph Samuel of Do. by their guardian ad-litem Loosy Alfred Thillaiampalam widow of Alfred Thillaiampalam of Do.

Respondents.

This matter of the Petition of the abovesaid Petitioner, praying for Letters of Administration to the estate of the abovesaid deceased, Kanapathipillai Chinnakuddy alias Joseph Samuel, coming on for disposal before P. E. Peiris, Esqr., District Judge, on May 8, 1917, in the presence of Mr. S. Kandayya, Proctor, on the part of the Petitioner; and the affidavit of the Petitioner, dated February 16, 1917, having been read: It is ordered that the Petitioner be and she is hereby declared entitled, as the widow of the deceased, and that Letters of Administration to the estate of the said intestate do issue to her, accordingly, unless the abovesaid Respondents or any other person shall, on or before May 29, 1917, show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

May 10, 1917.

P. E. Peiris, District Judge.

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18 Valvedditurai
24 Kayts

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S. H. WADIA,
for Govt. Agent.

Jaffna Kachcheri,
May 18, 1917.

Mr. & Mrs. Vytialingam Muthiah

beg to thank their friends and relations for the congratulatory telegrams and presents sent on the occasion of their marriage.

Kotmale,
14.5.17.



The Hindu Organ.

JAFFNA, MONDAY, MAY 21, 1917.

LEASING OF CROWN LAND.

It will be remembered that in September last year a Committee consisting of the Hon. Messrs. R. E. Stubbs, A. S. Pagden, R. Hayshe Elliot, K. Balasingham and Dr. H. M. Fernando, Mr. T. F. Garvin, jr., Mr. J. Graeme Sinclair, Mr. G. H. Gollidge, and Mr. B. W. Bawa, was appointed by H. E. the Governor "to consider the terms and conditions on which land should be leased for Agricultural purposes". The Committee has now sent in its report which is published in the form of a Sessional Paper. Just about the time this Committee was appointed a report got abroad that it was decided by Government to abandon altogether the sales of Crown land and introduce a system of leasing it. The report created a consternation in the minds of the public and it formed the subject of adverse comment in the press. The public associations in the Island also protested against the proposed innovation, and among these protests, the one sent by the Jaffna Association was perhaps the most closely reasoned and convincing. We are pleased to note that the Committee has brought this question within the scope of its enquiry and has submitted an opinion which is entirely in accord with the public opinion in the Island. Clauses 3-5 in the Report deals with this important subject and are as follows:-

In view of the terms of the reference, we understand that it is not desired that we should express our views on the general question of the relative advantages of systems of sale or lease, but only that we should advise as to the conditions to be imposed, in order to give effect to a system of leasing which it has been decided to introduce.

We desire, however, to record our opinion that it would be unwise for the Government to bind itself not, in any circumstances, to alienate land by way of sale in future. There are two classes of cases in which we consider that the retention of the system of sales in either necessary or eminently desirable, and there is little doubt that in many other cases exceptional circumstances may make it advisable to sell land instead of leasing it. The two classes to which we refer are these:-

(a) Small holdings, such as are suitable to the peasantry.

(b) Areas of comparatively small extent, which form enclaves in or immediately adjoin existing estates.

As regards class (a), we refer especially to small plots of land such as the ordinary villager, would desire to possess either as paddy fields or as what are commonly known as "residing gardens," i. e., small areas of land cultivated with coconuts, plantains, &c., surrounding a house. In such cases as these a system of leases is foreign to the habits of the people, and, as the matter cannot be of great importance from the point of view of the Government, we consider that a concession should be made to their deep-rooted affection for a freehold tenure. We would add that in the case of small plots of this nature the amount of labour involved in keeping the records of leases and securing periodical payment of small sums by way of rent would be so great as to counter-balance any possible advantage to Government. We recommend, therefore, that, as a general rule, the system of leases should not be applied to holdings below 10 acres in extent which are taken up by natives of the Island.

We suggest further the desirability of introducing in this connection a system of purchase by instalment, under which such small areas (i. e., paddy fields and residing gardens surrounding a house) would be leased for periods of years in such

a manner that part of the rent would be regarded as an instalment of purchase money, and the land would become the property of the occupant on the completion of the prescribed period.

As regards class (b), we consider that it is reasonable that an estate should be regarded as having a prior claim to land which is partially surrounded by lands already belonging to the estate, or which immediately adjoins the cultivated area of the estate, and which is not of sufficient area to be developed as a separate property (we refer later on to another aspect of this question), and it would obviously be an unsatisfactory arrangement, and one which would tend to diminish the value of the estate as a negotiable property, if in an area cultivated with one product and as a complete entity part of the land were freehold and part held on lease. We advise, therefore, that in such cases Government should adhere to the system of sale in respect of areas of moderate extent. We would suggest 50 acres as rough standard, though it would, of course, be necessary to consider each case of the kind on its individual merits.

The Committee felt constrained to go beyond the instructions, as they must have felt the gravity of the innovation and its probable prejudicial effect on the Agricultural development of the Island. In the case of small holdings below ten acres in extent, such as are suitable for peasant settlements, the method of sale recommended, by which the cultivator is given the option of paying the rent and a part of the purchase money in small instalments and ultimately to acquire a freehold tenure of the property in a prescribed period, is eminently suited to the needs of the agriculturists and we hope it will also be adopted by Government. It will be still more desirable if the limit of ten acres also is dispensed with and a provision added that, in all crown land sale preference should be given to the bidder who undertakes to settle on the land with his family and cultivate it as against the bidder who wants the land to find a profitable investment for his capital. But even in the latter case one should not be altogether denied the liberty to purchase the land subject to certain conditions as to the time in which the property should be brought under cultivation. The best plan will be to survey and map out certain areas adjoining existing villages and reserve them for future settlements on the lease or instalment purchase system for the benefit of the peasants. But in remote parts the system of sale should continue as before—we would rather wish the system is made more attractive and liberal than at present.

The Report next deals with the terms and conditions of the leasing system. It is recommended that leases should be in perpetuity. Revision of rentals should be made at intervals of 30 years, but in no case shall the rent be increased by more than 50 per cent. of the rent for the previous 30 years period. The present auction system is to be retained for the granting of leases. As a safeguard against unscrupulous persons approaching those who require land and demand payment as a consideration for refraining from bidding at the sale, it is proposed to make certain conditions as to cultivation, and also to limit the bidding at the sale among those who have sent previous applications with the survey fees. In the event of no applications being received in reply to advertisements in the "Gazette" the original applicant will be granted the lease at such premium as the Government Agent may consider to be reasonable. The rent for the first period of 30 years, should, as a general rule, be fixed at a rate of approximately 6 per cent. of the appraised value of the land if sold as freehold, but, with a view to encouraging development it is recommended that the full rent should not be payable until the seventh year of the lease and that for the first six years it should be at the rate of one-third of the full amount.

Clauses 14-17 in the Report deals with the situation which will arise on the death of a lessee. The Committee is strongly of opinion that no system of ownership of undivided shares should be allowed to grow up in connection with the lease system. The lessee must bequeath the leasehold estate, or make it over by deed of gift, either to a single person as an undivided whole or to various persons in divided portions. In default of such devise or gift, or in case of intestacy, the lease of the property should be put up for sale and the proceeds divided among the heirs. The sale should be among the heirs, unless a majority of them object to this limitation, in which case it should be in the open market. The Hon. Mr. Balasingham and Mr. Bawa dissent from these latter provisions, being of opinion that such restrictions would render lease unpopular. We have no doubt that Government will give a fair consideration to their objection. The development and re-settlement by the Ceylonese peasantry of the vast area of arable lands in Ceylon should engage the

serious attention of the Government. It is therefore of primary importance that the scheme of sale or lease of Crown land that is adopted should be such as would facilitate this end.

NOTES & COMMENTS.

On reading the letter of Mr. Weigel published in another column, one cannot help thinking that this gentleman is labouring under a great disadvantage to form a correct judgment of the character of the Jaffna villager. We do not blame him for it. The one all-engrossing topic of his thought is how to work his undertaking to success and to show adequate returns to the shareholders who have invested millions on it. Naturally his view of men and things will be coloured with this preoccupation of his mind. If the Jaffna peasant would give up his meagre profit in cultivation, and turn up in large force to supply his arrack distillery and sugar refinery with enough and more than enough toddy, then, Jaffna will perhaps be the most blessed land on earth. But we are sorry the Jaffna villager is not disposed to view things in the same light. According to Eastern notions, a man or a community engaged in an avowedly immoral occupation such as toddy drawing or butchery, is considered low and untouchable. Most Jaffnese who remain staunch supporters of the Eastern social ideals, will decline with disdain even the most tempting offer of material gain in an immoral occupation and remain content with their poor *canjee*. Mr. Weigel's materialistic mentality cannot unfortunately grasp this. He seems to think that these Vellala peasants should be perverse, cunning, and indolent not to accept his offer of Rs. 6 a day for toddy drawing but take up their *mammoty* and grass cutter to earn only the poor return of 50 cents a day or even less in their ancestral gardens. That the charge of perversity, cunningness and indolence which Mr. Weigel has often hurled at the Jaffna peasant is unfounded needs no demonstration. Every unbiased European visitor who has observed the people has born unsolicited testimony to the Jaffna peasants' industry, and simplicity in manners and living. Mr. E. B. Denham in his last Census Report sums up Jaffna character in the following words:—"Notably industrious as small farmers in the Jaffna peninsula, they prove inefficient *field* workers on a daily or monthly wage, though the rate of pay be much higher than the amount they could obtain from cultivation of their own land". This remarkable trait in the Jaffna peasant, his love for his land and liberty rather than material luxury at the sacrifice of liberty or established social scruples is shared by many other Eastern races. We do not mean to say that the Jaffna peasant is the paragon of all virtues. He has his defects—and who on earth has not? But to single him out for obloquy and abuse in the public press as Mr. Weigel has been doing, is nothing but the outcome of ignorance. The way to reform the Jaffna peasantry is not to drive them in herds to the palmyrah groves to draw toddy for Mr. Weigel. What is required is education in and the revival in practice of the noble social and religious ideals which had made his race the pioneers of a higher civilization in the world. The love of land and liberty and attachment to simplicity in living, which are ingrained in the mental constitution of an eastern peasant, are qualities too sacred to be lightly tampered with. Everywhere in the East there is now a reaction in favour of Eastern ideals and Jaffna too is no exception to it.

LOCAL & GENERAL.

MANAGEMENT OF A CHARITABLE ENDOWMENT.—A public meeting of the Saivite inhabitants of Jaffna was held at the Hindu College Hall on the 17th instant to adopt measures for the proper management of the charitable trust properties in Maravanpulo and other parts of Jaffna, known as "Pun-nia-nachchy Tharumam", M. Thamparillai Adigar presided. Ten trustees, including the heirs of the old trustees, were appointed at the meeting, and it is to be hoped that the charities in Chidambaram and Jaffna in connection with this endowment will be conducted as of yore.

INCENDIARISM.—A boutique in Vannarponnai West was set on fire yesterday early morning. As the occupants got awake in time, they put out the fire, and there was not much damage.

THE STAMP DUTY—payable for a license under section 7 for every bandoo plying for hire in the District of Jaffna is fixed at Rs. 3/.

PERSONAL.—The Hon'ble Mr. A Sapaty left for Colombo by Thursday evening train. —Mr. S Ponnudurai of the Fiscal's Office, Mullaitivu, has been transferred to the Fiscal's Office, Jaffna.

MATRIMONIAL.—The marriage of Mr. P. Ambalawader, Land Clerk of the Batticaloa Kachcheri, with Miss Puwanewari, 2nd daughter of the late Mr. Swaminatar Appapillai of Tallipalai was solemnised at the bride's residence on the morning of the 17th instant according to Hindu rites, Simat Subramania Kurukkal, High Priest of Mavidapuram Kandaswamy temple performing the ceremonies. Mr. P. S. Chiravannattu, Chief Clerk of the Master Attendant's Office, and the only brother of the bridegroom came down from Colombo to attend the wedding and returned to his station on the 19th evening. Mr. and Mrs. Ambalawader will proceed to Batticaloa during the course of this week. May Lord Siva bless the married couple with the choicest blessings of Grahastham.

WHO IS TO PAY HIS DAMAGE!—In the Police Court of Chavakachcheri, a man of Maathuvil, by name Valuatar Kanthar, brought a case against the Chief Clerk and the Fiscal's Marshal. He was cited in a certain case, of which he knew nothing, to give evidence. He complained that he had sustained a damage of Rs 100/- by being compelled to attend Court on that day. The Chief Clerk is liable for signing the Summons and the Fiscal's Marshal for getting the Summons served on him. His witness was Fiscal's Peon Kandiah. The Magistrate refused the process remarking that he should be sent to the Lunatic Asylum in Colombo. Who is to pay his damage! —Cor.

MEDICAL CHANGES.—The following medical changes have been sanctioned.—Dr. V. A. Goonetilleke, M. O. Dambulla, goes to the new hospital to be opened at Kahawatta. Dr. V. Vaitialingam from Uda Passellawa, goes to Dambulla. Dr. T. S. Nair from Ratnapura goes to Uda Passellawa. Dr. Coomaraswamy from Balagoda goes to Ratnapura. Dr. I. T. Kunaratnam from the General Hospital goes to Balagoda. Dr. Kadiravelu goes to the General Hospital.

COUNTERFEIT COINS IN BENGAL BANE.—Calcutta, May 17.—On examining the treasure chests of the Bankipore branch of the Bank of Bengal 3,000 counterfeit rupees were discovered. This has caused some sensation as it is evident expert coiners are at work somewhere.

MATCH-MAKING IN BURMA.—There has been much improvement in the quality of the matches manufactured in Burma, where the enterprise is only in its infancy. The great problem in Burma is in the matter of the wood available. The best wood is that of a wide fibre but this is difficult to obtain. The difficulties of obtaining materials, too, have been enhanced owing to the demands made by the War on chemicals. Despite these obstacles, however, the work has been pushed on and with a view to enlarging the market and increasing the sale. A number of samples have been sent to Calcutta and Madras.

INDIAN CONGRESS DEPUTATION TO ENGLAND.—Calcutta, May 14.—It is understood that the Congress deputation will not proceed to England in this month as was the original intention of the All-India Congress Committee. The Hon. Mr. B. N. Basu, who has been in communication with Sir William Wedderburn on the subject, has received the following cable from him:—"Advise delay, pending developments." The decision, therefore, as to when the deputation should leave India entirely rests with the Congress Committee which will probably again discuss the question in all its aspects. It is likely that the Committee will seek advice of Sir S. P. Sinha when he returns to India, as his recent experiences of the prevailing conditions in England would be of the utmost benefit to politicians in India.—"M. Times."

SPORTS.—An interesting football match was played between the Sri Samuganatha Sports Club, Eivalay and the Namagal Sports Club, Kadduday, Manipay, at the former's ground on Tuesday the 17th April and ended in a win for the latter. Both the teams were ably captained by Messrs. P. Subramaniam and A. Ramanathan respectively. Messrs. S. T. Sangarapillay and S. Arulampalam of the home team spared no pains in providing for the comforts of the visitors. A return football match was played between the same teams at the latter's ground on Saturday the 12th instant and ended too in a win for the latter. At the close of the play refreshments were lavishly served.

THE UVA JAFFNA UNION.—The 7th annual general meeting of the above Union was held on Saturday the 12th instant at 7.30 P. M. in the Union Hall with Mr. K. Nallasekarampillai in the chair. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. The Secretary read the report of the year ended May 12th 1917, and the Treasurer submitted his accounts for the same period. Now took place the election of office-bearers, which resulted as follows:—President: Mr. R. P. Chelliah, the popular Shroff of the Bank of Uva; Secretary: Mr. M. Nadarajah; Treasurer: Mr. C. Ratnasabapathy; Committee Members: Messrs. S. Ampavanar, C. Chinnappu, C. K. Thamothersampillai, K. Nallasekarampillai, K. Arumugam, B. Oandiah, S. Ponnambalam, C.

Ponnai and A Sangarapillai. Next the buying over a few building for the Union and the sale of a plot of land belonging to the Union were discussed respectively and left in the hands of a Special Committee for consideration and decision. Master T. Rajendram next recited a beautiful piece of Poetry on Worship and was followed by a short but very impressive speech "on Union" by Mr. Ganapathy, B. A. of the Buddhist English High School, Badulla. Other prominent speakers were Messrs. S. Muttiah, C. Chinappu and Rev. A. Sathianathan. All these gentlemen dwelt at great length on the advantages of the existence of a Union such as the above to the Jaffnese in particular and the Tamils in general. In the course of the meeting several telegrams and letters were received from gentlemen from out-stations regretting their absence and wishing the meeting every success. Votes of thanks were passed to the "Hindu Organ", the "Ceylon Patriot" and the "Ceylonese", for their kindness in having published the previous proceedings of the Union and this was followed by a speech by the Secretary thanking the audience for their kind presence on the occasion. A vote of thanks to the Chair brought the meeting to a close. —Cor.

DARLEY LITERARY UNION.—The first ordinary meeting of the above Union for the Sixteenth Half-Year was held on Saturday the 12th instant at 6.30 P. M. at 32 Darley Road with Mr. C. Venactambiy in the chair. As this was the first meeting for the half year there were no minutes to be read, and the Chairman proceeded with the main business of the day. The main business of the day was a lecture on "Be Men" by Mr. S. Sathiapillai. The lecturer very ably dwelt on the subject and Messrs. S. Navaratnam and T. Sellappah (Visitors) and V. K. Gnanasundaram, N. S. Sivaprasadam, C. Thiagarajam and the Chairman offered comments on the subject. The Secretary then announced the subject for next meeting. The election of Mr. T. Sellappah as a member on the proposition of Master R. Somasundaram seconded by Mr. V. K. Gnanasundaram brought the meeting to a close at about 9 P. M.

AMERICAN AND INDIAN SHIPBUILDING.—Apparently there is a limit to American shipbuilding capacity, enormous as that is. The latest estimate of the potentialities of the United States in this direction is between five and six million tons in two years, of which probably not more than two million tons could be delivered in the first year. But the present rate of submarine destruction is at least six million tons per annum, and if America, which must be until the end of the War the world's chief shipbuilder, is only able to respond to this by construction work less than half as rapid, it is obvious that the submarine campaign, if it is not defeated by the active police measures of the Allies, will produce results more serious than have yet been disclosed. There is, of course, every reason to hope that the police measures will sooner or later prove successful, but in the meantime it is surely desirable, says the "Statesman," to overhaul the entire shipbuilding resources of the Empire in order that every possible ton may be added to the general aggregate. The demand that has lately arisen for the construction of wooden ships lends point to the suggestion made by Major H. L. Crosthwait, R.E., in a letter a few months ago, that the Indian shipbuilding industry should be revived. The difficulties in the way of such a scheme are, of course, specially great at the present time, but presumably they are not insurmountable, and if that is admitted the question is simply one of how far India would be justified in diverting her energies from some other channel to assist in meeting this grave emergency. —"Ceylon Observer."

"THE NATION"—we refer to the weekly paper of that name—has fallen upon evil days. Its proprietors have been forbidden, by the military authorities, to send it out of the country. The articles contributed to this review, of a pronounced pacifist and pro-German type, have been regularly used by the German authorities in their propaganda work. They have been represented, in such enemy-owned productions as the "International Times," as voicing the views of a large, down-trodden section of the British people, sighing for liberty under the brutal autocracy of a Lloyd George. All this is dangerous moonshine. And Mr. Massingham has, or had, enough of a name in the journalistic world to make him, as an advocate of "our brother Hun," a dangerous man. When the proprietors of the *Daily Chronicle*, which he once edited, plumped for Liberal Imperialism, its office became no place for him. People who make a practice of blackening their own country (says an Indian journal) should be deported to Prussia, for choice. In the House of Lords on April 24 Lord Derby (Secretary of State for War) said that the prohibition of the "Nation's" foreign circulation was absolutely justified and the order would not be rescinded.—Ibid.

A SOCIAL "AT HOME" AND FOOT BALL MATCH.—On Saturday the 12th instant the members of the Point Pedro Club were "at home" to the members of the Chunnakam Athletic Association. A spacious bungalow belonging to Mr. V. Kumaraswamy Pillayar and facing the sea quite close to the Point Pedro rest house had been specially prepared to welcome the guests. Mr. Sangarapillai,

the patron of the club, Mr. Seivalambu the Secretary, Mr. Proctor Muthukumar and others spared no pains to make the function a grand success. A large party including some of the prominent lawyers of Point Pedro sat for breakfast, after which a party of expert musicians entertained the company with excellent music till 4.30 P. M. when tea was served. After tea the party moved towards the club grounds where a friendly football match was witnessed by a very large crowd of people. Mr. M. Sabaratnasingh was in charge of the whistle. The match ended in a victory for the Chunnakam team. After the match the party retraced their steps to the bungalow in front of which in the open the whole party gathered. Mr. Sangarapillai then called upon the gentlemen present to make speeches suitable to the occasion. Among the speakers were Messrs. Advocate Kulantavil, Advocate Ponnai, Proctor Kanapathypillai, Proctor Velupillai, Sarma and Sabaratnasingh. Dinner was served at 9 P. M. Nearly 450 gentlemen including almost all the leading gentlemen of Point Pedro sat for dinner. It was nearly 11 o'clock when the party broke up and the guests took their leave. —Cor.

FAREWELL ENTERTAINMENT AT ANURADHAPURA.—Mr. S. Singarajah, Booking Clerk, A'pura was entertained at a Farewell Function held in the premises of the Railway Reading Room and Recreation Club on the eve of his departure on transfer to Watawala on the 10th May, 1917. There was a good gathering present amply testifying to the popularity of the departing friend. Light refreshments were lavishly served. Mr. W. L. Bartholomew, Station Master, spoke lengthily, dwelling on the genuine character of Mr. Singarajah and wished him success at the new station. Messrs. F. Gunasinghe and M. K. Naga-igam, Chief Clerks, and R. N. Perera, B. P. R. S. and A. L. P. cheerfully also spoke eulogistically of the departing friend. Mr. Singarajah, who was visibly moved, replied to them feelingly. After the speeches were over a sing-song was got up and Messrs. G. T. Puvimannasinghe, R. N. Perera and A. W. Kiel kept the audience lively. The gathering dispersed late in the night after spending a very enjoyable night. The success of the function is due to the assistance rendered by Mr. D. R. Luther. —Cor.

TAIPIING.

THE LATE MR. S. V. KANDIAH.—The sudden and unexpected death of Mr. S. V. Kandiah, Revenue Surveys, Taiping, caused a tremendous shudder in and out of Taiping. He was ill at the General Hospital, Taiping, only for thirty-four hours and was carefully treated by Dr. A. Visvalingam, who was acting for Dr. Cox, Medical Officer, Larut and Matang. In spite of all his medical aids, the youngster breathed his last on Wednesday the 25th April at 12.15 A. M. He was the eldest son of Mr. S. Vaitalingam, Chandirupay North, a nephew of Mr. R. Saravananthi, Chief Clerk, D. L. O. Office, Kuala Lumpur, and a cousin of Mr. M. Moothuthamby, L. M. S. student, Medical College, Singapore.

A FAREWELL DINNER.—The members of the Ceylon Association, Taiping, gave a farewell dinner to Mr. A. W. Bajaratnam, P. & T. prior to his departure to Batu Gajah on transfer. He is the eldest son of Mr. A. Wyramuthu, Chief Draftsman, Revenue Surveys, Taiping. It is deserving that he was honoured so as his services to the Association as Football Captain and Committee Member for years successively were well appreciated. We long for his prosperity in his new station. —Cor.

THE SARASVATI VILASA SABHAI, JAFFNA.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The annual general meeting of the Sarasvati Vilasa Sabha, Jaffna, was held at the Ridgeway Hall on Friday the 18th instant at 6.30 P. M., under the presidency of Mr. C. W. Chinappapillai, retired member of the Indian P. W. D., and one of the Vice-Presidents of the Sabha. The Secretary Mr. V. M. Muthukumar read an interesting report which was adopted as well as the Treasurer's balance sheet for the past year. The following office-bearers were unanimously elected:

- President: Hon'ble Sir A. Kanagasabai, B. A., Advocate.
- Vice-Presidents: Messrs. W. Duraiswamy, B. A., Advocate, H. Vanniasingham, B. A., Advocate, C. W. Chinappapillai, Retired Officer, Indian P. W. D., N. Selvadurai Pillai, B. A., Principal, Jaffna Hindu College, W. Mudaliyar Muttavelupillai, Landed Proprietor, M. S. Ramalinga Mudaliyar, Kachcheri Mudaliyar, C. M. Sinnyah, Gate Mudaliyar and P. Vyttilingam, B. A., Advocate.
- Secretary: Mr. V. M. Muthukumar, Maniagar of Jaffna.
- Assistant Secretary: Mr. M. Kumaraswamy.
- Treasurer: C. Basanayaga Mudaliyar, Secretary, District Court.
- Stage Director: Mr. P. Vyttilingam, B. A., Advocate.
- Assistant Stage Director: Mr. E. J. Hitchcock.
- Green Room Director: Dr. S. Ponnuswamy.
- Assistant Green Room Directors: Messrs. C. Nadarajah and V. M. Krishnaswamy.
- Steward: Mr. S. Sabaratnam.
- Ticket Superintendents: Messrs. T. R. Nalliah, B. A., Advocate, V. Sinnatambiy, K. Katsasingham and A. Nadarajah.
- Conductor: Fundit V. T. Sambandan.

Music Director: Mr. V. Ramanathan.
Auditor: Mr. M. Kanagasabai, Sub Collector of Customs.
Committee: In addition to the office-bearers the following gentlemen:—Messrs. S. Rajaratnam, Advocate, K. Kanagasabai, Proctor, R. H. Nalliah, Proctor, M. L. B. S. Kattirasa, Proctor, S. Kan, dayya, Proctor, S. Kanagasabai, Advocate, E. Spenser, B. A., Professor, Central College, K. Ramalingam, M. Subramaniam, W. D. Niles, B. A., Advocate, P. C. Nicholas Mudaliyar, Head Clerk, Kachcheri, Dr. S. Arumugam, A. Ambalavanar-Proctor, V. Ramalingam, Proctor, S. Sappathiy, S. Eshambaram, Licensed Surveyor, K. Somasuntharam, Proctor, M. L. B. W. Ratna Gopal, Superintendent of Works, L. B., K. V. Subramaniam, and K. C. Nathan.

THE ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION.

The anniversary celebration of this well known amateur dramatic Society came off at the Ridge way Hall, Jaffna on Saturday the 19th instant. From 6.30 P. M. guests from different parts of the Peninsula began to pour in and the ball and the premises presented an animated appearance. Oriental sweets of several varieties that would have satisfied the taste of even the most fastidious connoisseur and fruits were lavishly served. Tea, Coffee, and aerated waters were provided in abundance. After the garden party the guests were entertained to a dramatic performance in the shape of a farce in which the present social and educational questions were satirically dealt with. Almost all the important actors appeared on the stage and performed their parts creditably. A large number of ladies graced the occasion with their presence. The garden party and the dramatic entertainment were declared a complete success by all present. —Cor.

THE FUTURE OF INDIA.

MAHARAJAH OF BIKANIR'S VIEWS.

London, May 10th.—The Maharajah of Bikanir to-day communicates a statement to "The Times" in which he pays a warm tribute to Mr. Chamberlain's high sense of duty, fair-mindedness, frankness in discussing Indian problems, and courtesy in giving Indian representatives every encouragement to speak for themselves in the War Cabinet and War Conference. He expresses his personal indebtedness to his own friends and colleagues, Sir James Mason and Sir S. P. Sinha, and says that their relations have throughout been most happy and frank. The calm judgment and broad outlook of Sir S. P. Sinha, who has long been known as a true son of India, have greatly contributed to the understanding and sympathy with which the Indian cause was handled in the Imperial Sessions, and Sir James Mason in the discussions has shown insight, broad-mindedness, and the utmost loyalty to the land of his adoption. The Maharajah of Bikanir says that he has been most gratified to find here a greatly quickened interest in Indian problems and growing recognition that they must be solved on lines which would promote the greatest good of the greatest number and which would so far as consistent with the "high ideals which Great Britain has taught India, be most in accordance with the sentiments and hopes of educated Indian opinion. The Maharajah of Bikanir endorses the suggestion made by "The Times" on May 2nd that

AN AUTHORITYATIVE DECLARATION

on British policy in India should be made now, and urges that the advances to be made should be conceived with the breadth and generosity of views that have marked British policy in so many other parts of the world and, which, the history of British colonial expansion has shown, Britain has never had occasion to repent. Sentiment counts for a very great deal in India, and the changes should be such as to strike the imagination. The Maharajah of Bikanir continues:—"The saying 'He gives twice who gives quickly,' applies with singular felicity to constitutional reforms recently stated by the Viceroy to have been submitted by the Indian Government to Mr. Chamberlain. Excessive caution would be an error almost as great as the acceptance of rash and ill considered proposals.

Further step in the internal and political evolution of India would seem not merely a desirable but an essential corollary to

THE MOMENTOUS DECISION

that India with the dominions should regularly be consulted in peace as in war at Imperial Conferences and Cabinets which as Lord Curzon has announced it is proposed to convene annually. The difficulties of the adaptation of India's internal affairs to changed conditions are immense, but they are not insoluble and should not deter British and Indian statesmen from marching along the road of ordered development."

The Maharajah of Bikanir again emphasises that Indian princes would rejoice to see India politically progressing on constitutional lines under the British flag, and points out that many States, including his own, are rapidly progressing in the association of the people in the work of the administration and legislation. The interests of States and the Indian Government are identical, and their futures are bound up together. Their mutual advancement would promote the welfare of the whole Empire. "We are all members," he says, "of one great Empire, the most beneficent mankind has seen, under the rule of our Gracious King Emperor. Certain misgivings, the Maharajah of Bikanir continues, once entertained in India regarding the effects of Imperial re-organisation must have been dissipated by the cabled reports of the welcome which the Dominions' statesmen have extended to Indian representatives, and by the conclusions unanimously reached by the Imperial Conference, notably the acceptance of the principle of reciprocity of treatment in respect to the positions of Indians in the Dominions.

A NEW SPIRIT TOWARDS INDIA

has been shown by the daughter nations as well as by the people of Great Britain. Some differences of view might remain, but they would agree to differ now that India is no longer able to regard herself as the Cinderella of the Empire. She has taken her place at the Council Board, trust has brighten there, and India must give as well as receive." The Maharajah of Bikanir says he is persuaded that she will cheerfully respond in peace and war to the readjusted demands and sacrifices of Imperial citizenship as readily as she entered upon its great privileges and noble opportunities.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE VELLALA VILLAGER.

Sir,
I am not loathe to condone an argument, through the medium of your paper, which I believe may assist in putting a little more energy into Jaffna. I trust you will believe that my writings are not with ill intent but rather with good intent. I speak from my own experience, nothing more. It may be that the energy of Jaffna employers is not above being satisfied with the work which they can get from certain classes of labourers.

My experience is this. I do not think there is a finer coolie in the East than the Jaffna deep seaman. That is to say, the men who work on donkeys. I appreciate their work and an act loathe to pay them anything between Re. 1/- and Rs. 2/- per day. They earn it. Falls women coolies can get as high as Re. 1.50 per day from me when there is work for them in carrying loads. They earn it. My tappers are earning wonderful wages. The highest is earning, at the present moment, Rs. 6/80 per day.

But amongst all this set and all these men who are earning high wages is not to be found a single Vellala Villager. The reason is not far to seek. He is surrounded by prejudices, which, in his uneducated state of mind, he fears to break through, and, it appears to me that he has feared to do that for centuries, with the result that he has become a "shirker." The men to be seen lazing about the neighbourhood, leaning on our gates, staring over the wall, are all of this class of men. They have been given every chance, but they are "shirkers" by nature. There are, of course, exceptions. Whilst they look with envy and greed upon the large sums of money at present being earned by tappers, they profess to state they may not tap trees against their caste. Yet, practically everyone of these men has at some time of his life climbed a tree and tapped it. They admit it. They admit that they take illicit toddy. I know of an occasion on which two Vellala coolies here were driven nearly mad by the action of ———. They had drunk this by climbing a tree and stealing the toddy in which the tappers had placed it. There was no question about their having climbed a tree. Those same men who must not climb a tree act as cool collectors, they load ships, and go on barges. They blow the fire for a blacksmith. They hold tools and hammers for blacksmiths, carpenters and mechanics. It is the kind of lazy job that suits them. At coal work they were a failure. They would be found sleeping on the coal in broad daylight. At all classes of work we have put them in higher positions, as a kind of sub-kangaries. Then, I either found they tried to bleed the Company by combining together, or bleed the coolie under them, or both at the same time. That is my experience of the Vellala peasant. There are hundreds and hundreds of them around here doing nothing. A lot of them own little bits of land. Some of them, from time to time, till it—probably put in an hour in the evening and do nothing all day. They are to be found surrounding the Point Pedro Police Court gossiping, interested in somebody else's quarrel, or seeking one of their own. To earn .50 cts. a day they consider more or less a gift for which they should not work.

In writing all this, I would like to point out, they have my sympathy, for I know that a lot of these men would most willingly tap trees if they dared. .50 cts. a day does not please them. To see a tapper earn Rs. 6/- a day does not please them either, but it would please them if they could do likewise.

Now, Sir, I hear a lot in Jaffna about the industry of Jaffna, yet, it has been a puzzle. I believe, to the British authorities to know what to do with Jaffna. I hear of this man and that man who has made "good" and usually find he left Jaffna to do it, and came back to the home of his fathers to enjoy it—which is very natural. I have met a large number of the higher and better class of Jaffna gentlemen and I ask to meet no better or nicer man, but nice mannerisms nice morals and nice disposition on the part of the minority is hardly likely to bring Jaffna prominently forward.

You, Sir, I take it will also say a Vellala must not climb a tree, and he must not do this and he must not do that. It is perfectly clear that the proper wealth, and the true wealth of Jaffna lies in the abundance of its palmyra trees. Many a man, many a Jaffna man, has great wealth, and even greater wealth than the majority of the Sinhalese, ready grown upon his properties, but he has not the labour. There is very little other work. There is a combination of no labour for that which can bring riches, and no work for the labourer, who is idle.

It amounts to this. Until the leaders of the Jaffna community have the courage of their own education, and are able, to say to the Vellala peasant you can climb a tree or be a blacksmith without degradation to your birthright, the wealth of Jaffna must remain locked up, and it must go on as it is, for everlasting. I remember some years ago riding into the Courtyard of Hampton Court and seeing a Royal British Prince grooming his own horse. I suppose if a Vellala were to do that he would descend to the level of a Muttoo. I venture to submit that a gentleman can do no wrong whatever the trade he takes up, whatever work he does, and that if this were instilled into the peasant cultivator he could retain his caste principles, enjoy the memory of his traditions, and find a greater scope wherein to earn a livelihood. An immense labour force will be freed for use in Jaffna—for Jaffna is a populated area—and the great wealth locked up in the wild unfenced palmyra properties be brought into use for the welfare of the whole community.

I would end, Sir, by saying I write as I find. My labour force is a big one. I know what they can do. I know the trouble I have with them, what they are worth, and the above is a true expression of my experience. Caste is a nuisance amongst the Sinhalese, but never to the detriment of a man's welfare and his rise in education and social position. That is where Jaffna and the Sinhalese differ, and where the Sinhalese of Ceylon has won, whilst Jaffna is still a nation of Ceylon has won, whilst Jaffna is still a nation of its sons who have done well outside its borders.

Yours faithfully,
D. M. Watson.

TELEGRAPHIC SUMMARY.

The War.

ZEPPELIN DESTROYED.

London, May 14. The Admiralty announces that our Naval forces destroyed Zeppelin LZ2 in the North Sea this morning.

THE BRITISH FRONT.

A MOST VALUABLE ADVANCE.

London, May 14. Correspondents at Headquarters state that we bombed the enemy out of Bullecourt and drove him out of a maze of riverside defences around Roex quarries. The Germans desperately endeavoured to retake Bullecourt at 3.30 on Sunday morning and launched a heavy attack which was smashed up by gunfire. Only twelve men came to bombing distance and nine were killed and three taken prisoner. They died of wounds. A fresh attack was dispersed an hour later but twenty men got through. All were killed except one who was captured. It is difficult to give a right scale of perspective of the various engagements. Summing up it may be said we made a most valuable advance and took nearly 1,000 prisoners. We captured the better part of two villages. We captured a trench and a fair amount of booty. French mortars and machine-guns put large numbers of the enemy out of action. The weight of the German Artillery is still a feature of the situation.

London, May 15.

F. M. Sir D. Haig says:—We continued our progress today Northward of the Scarpe. We completed the capture of Roex which has been defended with great determination and was the scene of much desperate fighting in the past month. We slightly advanced the line Northward of Gavrelle. Six German aeroplanes were brought down and two others driven down on Sunday. Three of ours are missing.

London, May 14.

A Berlin official despatch admits that the British have forced an entrance to Roex. The fierce battle continues at Bullecourt with increasing Artillery fire at Ypres and in the Wytshate sector.

London, May 15.

F. M. Sir J. D. Haig says:—There were small night outpost engagements Southward of Epehy. The enemy heavily bombarded this morning our positions at Bullecourt and on the Hindenburg Line, delivering two determined counter-attacks. His attempt on the Hindenburg Line completely failed. His attack at Bullecourt was also repulsed after heavy fighting in which our advance posts in the North-West portion of the village were forced back a short distance. Our Artillery stopped a counter-attack South-Eastward of Loos. We successfully raided near Ypres.

London, May 17.

F. M. Sir D. Haig reports:—After a heavy bombardment on both banks of the Scarpe the enemy launched a powerful counter-attack early this morning between Gavrelle and the river. He pressed forward under the destructive fire of our Artillery and machine-guns. The enemy for a short period by weight of numbers forced us back from our forward positions. Our immediate counter-attack regained all the ground inflicting exceptionally heavy losses. A number of prisoners were taken. We progressed on the Hindenburg Line North-Eastward of Bullecourt. Werepulsed a raid South-Eastward of Ypres.

London, May 16.

F. M. Sir D. Haig reports:—Fighting continued yesterday to our advantage in the Western portion of Bullecourt. We took a few prisoners during small encounter yesterday night to the rightwards of our position on Hindenburg Line and Eastwards of the village. Severe fighting is progressing Northward of the Scarpe.

London, May 17.

F. M. Sir D. Haig says:—There was night fighting at Bullecourt. We further progressed through the village and reached the Western edge.

THE FRENCH FRONT.

London, May 14.

A French *communiqué* says:—Strong German reconnaissances, attempting to reach our lines at various points, broke down completely under our fire. The enemy had important losses. We took prisoners.

London, May 15.

A French *communiqué* says:—The Germans bombarded Bray-en-Laonnais and Cerny and were violently answered by ours. There was lively Artillery fire East of Berry-an-Bac and at Mont-Haut. Seven enemy aeroplanes were brought down. Bombarding squadrons dropped 81 tons of explosives behind the German lines.

London, May 15.

A French *communiqué* says:—After a violent bombardment on Chemin-des-Dames in the region North-West of Brays-en-Laonnais the Germans yesterday evening attacked on a wide front towards Les Corvètes and Chevigny ridge. Our barrage of machine-gun fire broke up the attack which did not reach our lines except at one point where an enemy fraction gained a footing in one of our advanced elements South-West of Felain.

London, May 16.

A French *communiqué* says:—The Artillery struggle continued in the different sectors. It is confirmed that the enemy sustained very heavy losses in yesterday's attack.

London, May 16.

A French *communiqué* says:—The Artillery struggle continued at night. After a violent bombardment the enemy in the morning powerfully attacked on a four kilometre front in the Moulins-Lestefaux District. We maintained our positions despite his repeated efforts. The fighting continues at various points.

London, May 17.

A French *communiqué* says:—Fresh enemy attempts to retake the ground we gained at the Luxembourg will region failed. The struggle, which was lively at certain points, turned everywhere to our advantage. The enemy had heavy losses. We took more prisoners. Our barrages inflicted heavy losses on three German assaulting detachments which made several fruitless attempts to reach our lines at Rovert Farm, Epine de Chevigny sector North-West of Bray-en-Laonnais.

THE RUSSIAN FRONTS.

London, May 14.

A wireless Russian official despatch says:—Southward of Erzingan the Kurds repulsed one of our companies. We repelled a Kurd attack near Belumer. Under superior Turkish pressure we retired to the left bank of the Diash.

THE NEW RUSSIA.

London, May 11.

A Proclamation by the Russian Provisional Government, after warning against isolated groups seeking to create anarchy, appeals for the efforts of all Russians to strengthen the power safeguarding them. It invites the representatives of creative forces hitherto not sharing in the administration to co-operate. The appeals are consequently addressed to M. Rodzianko, President of the Duma, and M. Tshidze, President of the Workmen's Delegates. Russian Socialists have decided to take no part in the Socialist Conference at Stockholm in which German Socialists, agents of the German imperial Party, participate.

London, May 13.

Petrograd.—General Korniloff has resigned command of the troops in Petrograd. There is no explanation, but it is apparently due to friction with the Council of Workmen's and Soldiers' Delegates.

London, May 14.

Petrograd.—M. Rodzichief, who recently delivered a speech in the Duma, declaring that unless German Militarism was overthrown the work of the Russian revolutionaries would be futile, is now Secretary of State for Finland. M. Gutchkoff has ordered the sending to the front of reserve officers and men mobilised in 1914 who have not yet fought in the War. The percentage of such is 17.

THE ZEBBRUGGE BOMBARDMENT.

London, May 14.

The bombardment at Zeebrugge was unusually severe. It was clearly felt at Dover, Deal and elsewhere, the doors and windows rattling.

AUSTRO GERMAN CONFERENCE.

London, May 13.

Amsterdam.—A telegram from Berlin states that the Chancellor has gone to Vienna for a Conference with the Austro-Hungarian Foreign Minister.

London, May 14.

Amsterdam.—Von Bethmann-Hollweg lunched with their Austrian Majesties, dined with M. Czernin and returned to Berlin where the Conference continues.

SPANISH STEAMER SUNK.

London, May 14.

Madrid.—A German submarine has sunk the Spanish steamer "Carmen" proceeding to Cette. The Government is protesting and demanding compensation. Two Spanish destroyers have been ordered to act as guardships between Gijon and the French coast.

CANADA'S AID.

London, May 14.

Ottawa.—M. Viviani has addressed both Houses of Parliament and had an enthusiastic reception. He dwelt on the services of Canada at the front, notably Ypres, and acknowledged the material aid of the Dominion.

ROYAL TOUR OF MUNITION WORKS.

London, May 14.

Their Majesties are touring the munition works in the North of England and are freely chatting with the workers.

GENERAL JOFFRE IN CANADA.

London, May 14.

Montreal.—General Joffre has paid a flying visit of welcome.

50 YEAR OLDS TO SERVE IN AUSTRALIA.

London, May 14.

Melbourne.—Mr. Pearce, Minister of Defence, has had a consultation with the Director of Recruiting. It is understood they discussed the acceptance of men of good physique to the age of fifty.

CANADIAN WHEAT PROSPECTS BRIGHT.

London, May 14.

Montreal.—Winnipeg reports splendid prospects. The wheat growth is phenomenal.

THE ITALIAN FRONT.

London, May 15.

An Italian official despatch records an intense Artillery duel between Tolmino and the sea. Our raids led to considerable progress on the slopes of Monte Cucco and the hills Eastward of Dossola. Numbers were taken prisoner. Two hundred bombs were dropped on enemy encampments and supply columns Eastward of Gorizia.

London, May 16.

A wireless Italian official report states: The vigorous offensive on the Julian front resolutely continued. Our infantry established themselves on the steep wooded heights on the Eastern bank of the Isonzo Northward of Gorizia. These had been transformed into formidable fortified defensive position on our left wing. Columns forced a passage across the river and captured Bombros Village. We captured in the centre the heights North-East of Piasta. We stormed the villages of Zameca and Zagonilla and carried the crests of Mount Cucco and Mount Vodice. Our right wing progressed considerably on the steep slopes of Mount Santo. Fierce counter-attacks were repulsed. We conquered Eastward of Gorizia the strongly fortified heights Northward of Tivoli. Insistent counter attacks were beaten back. We took prisoner 3,375, of whom 98 were officers, a mountain battery and much War material.

THE BALKANS.

London, May 15.

A French Macedonian *communiqué* says:—The Venizelists in conjunction with the French troops in the reign of Gumno successively captured two works North of Haddibarnimah taking prisoners. Counter-attacks here and on Grkadijeon and Dobropolje completely failed.

THE SERBIAN FRONT.

London, May 15.

A Serbian *communiqué* records great activity on the whole Serbian front. We advanced in the region of Vretinik and Dobropolje and repulsed a violent counter-attack.

RUTHLESS SUBMARINING.

London, May 15.

Copenhagen.—The state of mind of even the educated classes in Germany is shown in an article in the review *Die Woche*, the well known

Professor Flamm urging harsher treatment of neutral ships to force them to remain in their home ports. In too many their crews at present are arid. It would be best if neutral ships disappeared without a trace; then terror would keep them away from the blockade zone.

U. S. A. AND THE WAR.

London, May 15.

Washington.—The Government Espionage Bill has passed the Senate by 77 votes to 6 shorn of its censorship and alcoholic prohibition which will be embodied in separate measures. President Wilson has authorised an impending Army Bill contemplating the expansion of the Regulars to full War strength. 83,000 of the additional 128,000 required are already recruited. The organisation of the new regiments begins on May 15.

EIGHT MILLION DEAD.

London, May 14.

Speaking at a meeting of the League of Nations Society, Lord Bryce presiding, General Smuts said the War had stamped into the hearts of millions of men and women an intense desire for a better order of things. The old order was now useless. All treaties and the optimism of the nineteenth century ended in suffering losses of a baffling description. It had been computed that 8,000,000 men had died in the War and the greater part were permanently maimed. It had been stated that the casualties in this War were equal to the white population of the British Empire. If such Wars were allowed to recur, the whole fabric of civilisation was endangered. It was time for action to be taken, not to fold one's hands and bend one's head. If one hundredth part of the thought given to this War were to be given towards Peace, there would never be War again. "I believe that a passion for Peace has been born of this War which will prove greater than any passions for gain or conquest. As far as is humanly possible, such a War as this should never be tolerated again. However, there is danger in believing too much in Treaties until we have a radical change in the hearts of men. I think that change is coming. There must be no patch-work Peace, or a peace which is simply a compromise of conflicting interests. Every nation must have the choice of its own destiny and it must not be cut or carved to please the Great Powers." He supported the idea of the appointment of an Anglo-American Committee to discuss a scheme ensuring Peace. He suggested that if it could bring together practical men, who knew the world's bad ways, splendid results would be achieved. Any nation, not wishing to run straight, must be compelled to realise that as a last resource, the world would use force to make it run straight.

Lord Buckmaster trusted that before the War had ended it would have brought down the whole of the Powers responsible for the great wrong. Voicing his own opinion he said that the scheme of the League of Nations would fail unless Germany admitted that we have got to separate the German rulers from the German people and to destroy one and support the other. If that were done, he believed the future would be safe.

Lord Hugh Cecil said that of late years European sentiment had shown some retrogression. We felt boundless devotion for our own country and had none for any other. We would like to see the Ministers of Christianity of all denominations and all countries foregather to enforce the principles that War and Nationalism were consistent with Christianity.

GERMANY'S WAR AIMS.

London, May 15.

Speaking in the Reichstag Von Bethmann-Hollweg affirmed there was no difference with Germany and the Allies regarding the Peace question. He perfectly understood the passionate interest taken in the German aims, but the only guiding line for the Chancellor was an early satisfactory conclusion of the War. He could say nothing beyond that. He denounced the Socialist talk of revolution. The nation was firmly round the Kaiser whom it trusted and who trusted it. Von Bethmann-Hollweg referred to the unparalleled battles raging in the past month on the West front and said even today the British and French showed no readiness for Peace. The recent utterances from London said the War aims announced two years ago were unaltered. The Chancellor rejected the idea of arriving at Peace by announcing the Germans' willingness to renounce successes. He equally declined to set forth the programme of conquest. The latter would help as little as the former to win victory and end the War. If Russia is wishful for further bloodshed, if it renounces conquest, if it wants Peace with us we will not disturb the permanent relations of the future nor obstruct her by antagonistic demands. He believed a mutual understanding could be attained which would exclude oppression and leave no sting. Germany's Military position was better than ever. The enemy in the West was unable to break through. "The deeds of the U-boatmen speak for themselves; even Neutrals will recognise that. We are approaching a satisfactory finish when it will be possible to negotiate our War aims. I am fully in harmony regarding the War aims with the Supreme Army command."

MAILS LOST.

London, May 15.

The Postmaster-General notifies that correspondence for the Egyptian forces, which reached London for despatch on April 27th, 28th & 29th, also parcels from Australia, India, the Far East, Egypt, Malta and Gibraltar, were lost at sea through enemy action. The date in this case is not given. No letter mails from Australia, etc., were lost.

LABOUR CORPS FOR EUROPE.

Calcutta, May 17.

Labour forces for work on the railways, docks and roads in Europe are being raised in many places in India. The first of such corps recruited in the United Provinces is complete and will leave shortly.

THE SUBMARINE LOSSES.

London, May 16.

The Admiralty state that the arrivals of the week were 2,568 and the sailings 2,552. Eighteen ships of over 1,600 tons and five of under 1,600 were sunk. Nineteen were unsuccessfully attacked. Three fishing-boats were sunk.

An Italian official despatch says the arrivals were 580 and the sailings 562. Four steamers and seven sailing ships were sunk.

U. S. A. TROOPS FOR FRANCE.

London, May 17.

The *New York Times* publishes a message from General Pershing, urging that American Volunteers be sent to France within three months for training, to be used later as skeleton organisations for the arriving American Armies. He concludes that it is of paramount importance that an American Commissioner should be immediately appointed to come to France.

THE ITALIAN OFFENSIVE.

London, May 16.

There is great interest in the Italian offensive on the Udines. The Italians are advancing on a front of sixty miles from Tolmino in the seaward sector of Tolmino to Sareano. Undoubtedly it is the most difficult front of the War. Tolmino bridgehead is a formidable fortification barring the entrance of the valley leading to Laibach. Mount Kuk, Mount San Marco, other Austrian strongholds, respectively, are 1,600 and 450 feet above the points from which the Italians are attacking.

U. S. A. DESTROYERS JOIN BRITISH NAVY.

London, May 16.

The Admiralty announce that a flotilla of United States destroyers has arrived to co-operate with the British Navy in the prosecution of the War. The Rear-Admiral of the Forces in Europe is in daily touch with the Chief of the Naval Staff. The services that American vessels are rendering to the Allied cause is of the greatest value and deeply appreciated.

London, May 17.

At the Navy League luncheon Sir E. Carson, toasting the United States Navy, declared that the arrival of an American flotilla here was one of the most important events in the history of the world for it was a recognition of the fact that the old and the new worlds meant completely to reserve the freedom of the seas and the interests of civilisation and humanity against plunder and savagery. He admitted that submarinism was a real danger but the Navy with the assistance of the United States Navy would counteract it (cheers). "We are going to stick this business through" (cheers).

REVOLUTIONARY TALK IN GERMANY.

London, May 16.

There is general disappointment in Germany at Von Bethmann-Hollweg's speech, which is described in the Dutch paper, *Nieuws van den Dag*, as a confession of defeat. The subsequent debate in the Reichstag showed that the Chancellor satisfied neither side, but avoided a fiercer controversy by a refusal to state his War aims Spain (?) has declared that the Centre parties agreed that discussion of the War aims was undesirable at present. Conservative speakers regarded as a threat Schiedmann's declaration that there would be a revolution in Germany if Germany did not denounce annexations, while their enemies renounced them. Herr Ledebor announced that the Independent Socialists would propose that a constitution Committee prepare for a German Republic.

—The Ceylon Observer.

Notice.

Order Nisi.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 3362.

In the Matter of the Estate of the late Thambiyer Nagendirayyer of Udúvil in Jaffna Deceased.

Thambiyer Aiyakkuddy Kurukkal of Udúvil in Jaffna

Petitioner.

Vs.

Nagammas widow of Thambiyer Nagendirayyer of Udúvil in Jaffna

Respondent.

This matter of the Petition of the abovesaid Petitioner, praying for Letters of Administration to the estate of the deceased, Thambiyer Nagendirayyer, coming on for disposal before P. E. Pieris, Esq., District Judge, on January 23, 1917, in the presence of Mr. T. Kanagarayer, Proctor, on the part of the Petitioner; and the affidavit of the Petitioner, dated January 22, 1917, having been read: It is declared that the abovesaid Petitioner is the brother of the said intestate and entitled to have Letters of Administration to the estate of the said intestate, do issue to him unless the abovesaid Respondent or any other person shall, on or before May 29, 1917, show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

P. E. Pieris,

May 3, 1917. District Judge.

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