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a new Army of 500,000 men and Bengal's quota was fixed at 910 combatants per month, beginning from June. Special efforts were made and the figures for May jumped from 150 to 567. For June it was 558. In July it was still higher, being 912 and last month it has created a record, going no less than 927, i. e., in the month of July and August a whole battalion was recruited per month. The original call was for only a double company of 233 men, who were recruited within 48 days, which, considering all things, was a record in recruiting. Then there was a demand for a signal corps of 120 men; there have also been recruited. Then came a demand for 1,700 Infantry which also have been raised, and finally 100 men were asked for monthly and not only has this been given but exceeded. Figures show, so far, a total of about 6,900 combatants with camp followers from Bengal and the numbers were expanding month by month. —"M Mail"

MINE EXPLOSION AT WADDUWA—At about 11.30 a. m. on the 23rd instant fishermen saw a floating mine by the shore near Wadduwa Station. They secured it to a coconut tree with a stout rope, and told the Police. Mr. H. A. Chunchi, S. I., sent P. O. Kandaiya to guard it, and while he was a telephoning to the Colombo Military Headquarters, the mine exploded. He ran up and found 10 men dead on the sea-shore, and several in a critical condition. He got the first aid outfit, and rendered assistance. Among the dead was a toddy drawer who had been tapping near; the couplings on which he was standing were all broken up, and two coconut trees on the sides were cut off from the middle. Several trees were injured. The sea-shore was blackened for a long distance. The charge had taken an angle of 60 going off towards the fishermen. Most of those killed were 15 yards from the mine. Nearly 50 were injured, but most slightly. One man died on the way to hospital. Seriously injured was P. C. Kandiah and the P. V. of Wadduwa. The caps came in contact with the seashore with some force under the wave action and the ground was strewn for over 50 yards with the blinded and senseless people. The explosion was heard at Panadura and Kalutara. Crowds went to the spot during the evening. The Wadduwa P. V., before he was injured, had wired re flooding the mine, to Mr. Brayne, A. G. A. Later he went on guard. P. C. Kandiah and he could not keep the spectators at a distance. Mr. Pritchett held an inquest on the 11 dead people, and returned a verdict of death due to injuries sustained by the explosion of a mine, probably German. The mine had floated shore-wards owing to the strong wind and rain. From the Wadduwa mine explosion three more deaths among the injured were reported on the 24th instant. —"The Ceylon Observer."

ALCOHOL FROM BREAD—Another unconsidered trifle has been discovered. An ingenious New Mexico baker was found to be distilling alcohol from bake-oven fumes. His apparatus was crude, but he got the vapour through a worm and cooled it and condensed it by passing it through a barrel of water. The cost was naturally very little and in these days when liquor is so scarce the result was valuable. At the present moment the whole trend of public opinion appears to be to divert alcohol from its old-fashioned use of stoking the human machine and to utilize it to drive aerial and other motors. If it is found practicable to make alcohol a by-product of bread-making—we shall presently hear that steam laundries have also fallen into line—there will be no limit to enterprise of this kind. The Excise Departments of the future (says the "Madras Mail") will have a busy time.

OBITUARY—It is with deep regret we record the death of Mr. R. S. Waminathar, Udaiyar of Chunnakam, which took place at his residence on the 24th instant. The late Udaiyar was the father of Mr. S. Ponnambalam of the G. P. O. and father-in-law of Mr. S. Seneivappah of the Surveyor General's Office Colombo. He was held in high esteem for his sterling qualities by all who knew him. Our condolences to the bereaved.

—It is with deep regret we record the death of Mrs. Naganathar wife of Governor's Gate Mudaliar Naganathar, J. P., U. P. M., at her residence at Copsy on Friday last. This sad occurrence following so closely on the death of his daughter, Mrs. Ratna Mallivagum must have come as a shock to the Mudaliar and other members of the family. She leaves behind besides her husband two sons Mr. N. S. Naganathar, Advocate, and Mr. N. Canaganayagam, Shroff, National Bank Nuwara Eliya, and a host of other relations and dependents to whom we offer our condolences.

INFLUENZAL PANDEMIC.

Mr. R. W. Byrde, Chairman, Municipal Council and Mayor of Colombo, writes to the press:—
Town Hall, Colombo, 26th Sept.
Sir—I have the honour to state that the Medical Officer of health informs me that the Influenzal disease which is prevailing in Colombo appears to be greatly on the increase, both as regards the number and the severity of attacks.
2. There appears to be little doubt that it is the same disease which has swept over Europe and Asia and which has sometimes been referred to as Spanish Influenza, but whether the specific cause is Pfeiffer's influenza bacillus or some other micro-organism or a mixed infection has not yet been definitely established.
3. In view of the serious results which the disease has caused in other countries, I would

request that the public may be informed, through the medium of your paper, that the infection is contained in the upper air passages—nose, mouth and throat; that it is highly infectious and is conveyed by affected persons coughing and spitting, that the risk of acquiring the infection is greater in a confined space, such as a room and specially in places where numbers of people gather together, such as, cinema shows, theatres, schools, churches, banks, concerts, lectures, railway stations, carriages, tramcars, shops, markets, courts, post and other public offices.

4. The Public should be warned to avoid, as far as possible, entering or remaining in such places.

5. As an example of how this matter is being dealt with in Europe, it may be mentioned that in the district of Zurich in Switzerland an order has been made forbidding the following, viz.—theatres, cinema shows, concerts, or any pleasure meetings in buildings or out-of-doors; funeral processions, lectures, public worship or any functions which bring together numbers of people to the same place or room. The penalty for disobedience of this order is a fine of 5,000 francs or imprisonment up to three months.

6. In the absence of legislation such as the above, prevention must rest mainly with the people themselves. Those who are attacked by the disease should keep themselves isolated as much as possible; otherwise they will expose their friends and the public to danger of infection.

7. As the ordinary business of the town must continue to be carried on, the owners of premises in which large numbers of persons are accustomed to assemble, should be advised to have the floors regularly disinfected every evening. The floors should be thoroughly sprayed or sprinkled or mopped over with some disinfecting solution. The solution should not be swept away but should be left to dry on the floor. Any recognised disinfectant may be used, such as Cyllin, Jeyes Fluid, Corporation Fluid, Izal, Lysol, Carbolic acid, etc.

DISTRESS IN BATTICALOA.

(From the "Ceylon Observer" Sept. 25th.)

Batticaloa, Sept. 23.
Dear Sir,—Batticaloa is passing through the most critical period of its history in living memory. There has been no rain for the past six months. The ravages of the cyclone in 1907 and the sufferings caused by the historic floods of 1913 cannot compare with the untold privations and miseries the people are undergoing now. All the devastations may have been wrought in one day or one night on those two calamitous occasions but, like slow poison, the drought is steadily doing its work of destruction. Passing the Trincomalee road, it is a long scene of desolation. All the richness of verdure has been metamorphosed into an arid aridaeopos. Batticaloa has had its only hope in the coconut industry. What will become of it in the future it is hard for one to predict. The big estates at Thannamunai, Vavunmulai and Santivay and Paddiruppu on the South, owned by European Planters, are among those which have suffered the worst. Cultivation in normal times should be in full swing at this time of the year. No fields are shown for want of rain. Batticaloa is purely an agricultural country, and the villagers' only avocation in life is to till the land. With no cultivation, he is bound to suffer, and his present lot is most pathetic. Nothing to eat for himself and his family and no clothing to cover their nudity, the sufferings are unimaginable. Rice is now selling at the price of 27 cents per measure and may still rise higher.

To add to all these misfortunes, no small amount of mischief is done by the chetty in this District, who has established a Rice Mill at Kattankudy, the granary of the District. All the paddy received into this village from the different agricultural centres is brought in for his Mill. The paddy, converted into rice, finds its way into Badulla. This has resulted in several hundreds of the poor widows and the destitute, who have hitherto found a living by pounding rice for paddy owners, being driven to the verge of starvation, with no means of eking out a livelihood. The price of cloth has risen fourfold; harrowing tales are told of people in the villages, who suffer for want of food and clothes. The ground is so hard that not even yams can be dug to satisfy their hunger.

Batticaloa has not forgotten the readiness with which those philanthropists in Colombo, and other places, who came forward to help the distressed during the floods of 1913, among them the Hon. Mr. A. J. R. De Soya, was prominent. Here is a chance for those wealthy men, such as Mr. Cathiravela of Singapore fame, Mr. Karalappilai, Broker, who, we are delighted to read, has consented to give Rs 15,000 for the purchase of cloth to be given to the poor in Jaffna. Mr. Maccaudan whose own and that of his late father's name are famous for their munificence, to give of their plenty to relieve the starving and clothesless poor of Batticaloa.

The Rev. A. Lockwood of the Wesleyan Mission and G. W. Vallipuram, Mudaliyar, S. M. E., who have ample opportunities to travel in the interior of the District, and who have in the past associated themselves in affording relief to the distressed, may be able to report on the merits of the respective villages, co-operating with the Chief Headmen in the event of a Relief Committee is formed.

It is also time that Government steps in and lays an embargo on the chetty sending rice out of the District.

It is most unfortunate that our sympathetic and good Government Agent, Mr. R. A. G. Fasting is unable to see things for himself, owing to his recent encounter with the bear. This is one of the series of misfortunes for Batticaloa at its moment of despair.

Yours truly,
BATTICALONIAN.

CEYLON AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

The annual meeting of the Ceylon Agricultural Society for 1917-1918, was held on the 26th inst. in the Council Chamber. His Excellency Sir W. H. Manning presided. Present:—Hon. Mr. R. E. Stubbs, Mr. F. A. Stockdale (Director of Agriculture), Mr. C. Drieberg (Secretary), Dr. G. W. Sturge, Mudaliyar Rajapakse, Sir Ponnambalam Arunachalam, Mr. H. L. de Mel, Mr. Jan g

Peiris, Hon. Mr. J. G. Fraser, Hon. Dr. H. M. Fernando, Hon. Mr. J. H. Meedeniya, Hon. Mr. A. S. Spathy, Mr. Walter Dias Bandaranaike, Mr. K. L. W. Bamber, Mr. F. L. Daniel, Mudaliyar Weerakoddy, Sir Solomon Dias Bandaranaike, Hon. Lieut Colonel T. G. Jayawardena, Sir S. C. Obeyesekere, Mr. W. A. de Silva, Hon. Mr. B. Senior, Hon. Mr. Balasingham, Mr. C. Namasivayam, Mr. Walter de Livera, Mr. E. B. Deunahan, Lieut-Colonel E. J. Hayward, Dr. Appawamy, Mr. S. Wedrakoddy, Mr. Senior White, Mr. K. B. Beddewella, Mr. H. F. MacMillan, Captain Taylor and others.

ADDRESS OF WELCOMES.

The Hon. Mr. R. E. Stubbs—before the business began—read the following address of welcome:—

May it please your Excellency—We desire to welcome you as President of the Board of Agriculture, the executive of the Ceylon Agricultural Society.

We would express the hope that Agricultural problems will receive sympathetic consideration during Your Excellency's regime.

[Signed.] On behalf of the Vice-Presidents and Members of the Board of Agriculture:—R. E. Stubbs, Christoffel Obeyesekere, P. Arunachalam, F. A. Stockdale, and C. Drieberg.

H. E.'s REPLY.

His Excellency—replying to the Address of Welcome—said he had first of all to thank them for their kind welcome contained in the address. As no doubt they were aware, the founder of this Society had founded in the Colony from which he had come a similar Society. That Society in Jamaica was the agent for doing a great deal of valuable work in connection with matters agricultural. From what he had been able to gather from the papers of Ceylon Agricultural Society the lines of its organisation and work were different from the lines of the Society of which he had the honour to be the President. Nevertheless it was apparent this Society was doing good work in this country. The idea which underlay the object of the Society in Jamaica was that they should give instruction and education generally to the smaller centres, that was to say, to those who did not own large plantation areas and enable them to improve and increase the products generally and especially dealing with such matters as plant diseases and other enemies of agriculture. He believed he was correct in stating that no other body in that Colony was more highly respected and did more excellent work than that Society. It undertook in recent years propaganda for endeavouring to increase the food supply of the Colony. He saw from the papers before him that this Society also had undertaken the same work. He was there rather more in the role of a listener. He should like very much to hear what this Society proposed to do, about its future policy, etc. His remarks must be more concerned with the Society with which he was closely in the past, rather than that of the Society of which he was acting as President that day. Therefore, he asked the members to put before him their plans for the future. He again thanked the members for their address and said he was sure he would gather information from that meeting re the agriculture of this Colony.

ANNUAL REPORT.

The Secretary—after the formal business—read extracts from the annual report. When he mentioned that the Board has to mourn the loss of its founder, Sir Henry Blake, he also said they had received a letter from Lady Blake in reply to their vote of condolence; he read the letter.

Mr. Stockdale—drew the attention of members to the work of the Co-operative Societies. On inspection he had been greatly impressed with the work done. He mentioned one or two instances of what some Societies were doing: one in the Southern Province was taking up and providing suitable land for irrigation.

Mr. S. Weerakoddy—spoke at length. He had served Governments for 40 years. The whole of that period he had a great liking for agricultural products. He mentioned the names officials he had served under, the late lamented Herbert Wace, etc., and how they had encouraged agriculture. Paddy cultivation was his hobby. He transplanted paddy; he mentioned the results, he overheard someone say he was out of order; he hoped, if he was so, he would be corrected. Paddy had been the only important product of Ceylon, but times had changed the other way. He had no doubt the production of paddy in Ceylon could be made four fold. The speaker dipped into history and proceeded to tell of the number of varieties that were to be found in Ceylon—over 150. The late Mr. Cameron, who retired from the Treasurership of Ceylon, had been instrumental in introducing the rice known as *rata wae*. And Ceylon having so many varieties he could not understand why we got other varieties from other places, Japan, etc. We should improve our own products. Referring to the School Gardens Scheme, he said it was not a success. A School Garden only prospered at the start; then, the Schoolmaster leaving, etc, what was planted was left to the mercy of cattle. Some years ago he read a paper on the subject, Dr. Willis admitted something must be done, but nothing had been done. The speaker referred to coffee trees, and said some remedy must be found to eradicate the disease attacking them. He referred to the cocoa attacking germ, rubber root disease—and no remedy had still been found for these. The speaker was talking when Mr. Stockdale—rose to a point of order.

His Excellency—said what the speaker was saying was interesting, but not germane. Would the speaker wait till item No. 5, it would then be his opportunity.

Mr. Weerakoddy—said he had already said what he wanted to say. The cat was out of the bag. He thanked His Excellency for his indulgence.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT.

Sir Ponnambalam Arunachalam—moved the adoption of the report.—Carried.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS.

Mr. Stockdale—submitted the statement of accounts. One item was not correct; they had made an advance for War Bonds, and that sum would be recovered. The accounts were carried.

AGRICULTURAL AND EXPERIMENT STATION FOR THE NORTHERN PROVINCE.

The next item on the agenda was: The reply of Government with reference to the report of

the Committee of the Board of Agriculture that considered the provision of an Agricultural School and Experiment Station in the Northern Province.

GOVERNMENT'S ANSWER.

Mr. Drieberg—announced that Government had replied in a letter dated 21st March to the following effect: The proposed Scheme the report, of which His Excellency had read with much interest, will receive sympathetic consideration of the Government, but His Excellency regrets that it will be not, so far as can be seen at present, be possible to make provision for such heavy expenditure in the estimate for 1918-1919.

CO-ORDINATION AND EXTENSION OF AGRICULTURAL SERVICES IN THE COLONY.

The next item on the agenda was:—The reply of Government with reference to the report of the Committee that considered the proposal for the co-ordination and extension of agricultural services in the Colony.

THE REPLY.

Mr. Drieberg—said the following reply had been received from Government in a letter dated Aug. 23rd:—The proposals for the co-ordination and extension of Agricultural Services in the Colony were submitted to His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government in Executive Council and it was considered that the present time is inopportune for embarking upon any scheme such as that outlined and that the matter must lie over for the present.

His Excellency—then invited the members to speak with regard to the matter.

The Hon. Dr. H. M. Fernando—proceeded to explain in a way why the Scheme had not been approved. "The coat must be cut according to the cloth." However, he hoped that when the first opportunity arose the scheme would be favourably considered. The Scheme itself was complete and extensive; the Island was to be divided into six departments. He had to confess that their Society had not such a clear start as the Society in Jamaica. Their early history was due to the late Mr. John Ferguson, and they had to carry it on. Dr. Fernando then gave an outline as to how the work should be carried on: the executive branch should be taken up by the Agricultural Board and the advisory and propaganda work by the Association.

Mr. Weerakoddy—said his proposals might be considered in the same way. He said the Department of Agriculture could be worked better if worked more methodically and in continuity.

Mr. James Peiris—said it was satisfactory, in a way, that the matter—co-ordination and extension—had not been taken in hand; the members would have more time for consideration. The Association had not only local members, but more than 800 foreign members. That showed that its literature was being appreciated all over the British Empire. He hoped the members would again consider the matter and see the Association did not lose the importance attached to it.

THE GOVERNOR'S VIEWS.

His Excellency—said that perhaps it would be improper for him on the first occasion to make any remark in regard to the matter. He thanked the Hon. Dr. Fernando and Mr. James Peiris for their remarks, but he rather had hoped there would be more discussion of the point. As had been pointed out, the matter was not one that could be settled off-hand. He hoped that at some future date when members would have had the opportunity of considering the matter, more views would be heard. He was there in the role of a listener, and he was not prepared to lay down anything definite on the matter. Judging by the valuable work of the Agricultural Society in Jamaica and after having been convinced of what was required here, he hoped steps would be taken to remove the defects of the organisation here—and so help the smaller centres of the Colony.

AGRICULTURAL SHOWS IN 1918.

Mr. Stockdale—said members had had circulated to them a report of what had been done in 1918. He wanted to know if it was the wish of the Society that the shows be continued next year?

Mr. Weerakoddy—said he had had experience with these Shows. They should not be held spasmodically, but systematically and regularly. There was a show almost annually at Nuwara Eliya; people knew that and began preparing for it early. So it must be at other places. He praised the action of the A. G. A. at Kegalla. They must go on improving Shows must not be held only at large and principal places, but also at small centres and districts—then they would do a great deal of good.

His Excellency—enquired if it was the opinion of the members that these Shows should be continued? He knew they greatly advanced agriculture. He had given prizes at similar Shows and was prepared to do so here, too.

The Hon. Mr. R. E. Stubbs—said he was not going to oppose these Shows, but he wanted to know what was their actual result? His knowledge was confined to Nuwara Eliya Shows and it seemed to him that there the Show had no real bearing to what actually should be done. He thought some exhibits were confined to one firm, etc.

Mr. Stockdale—said that there was a brief report about each show in the "Tropical Agriculturist." He had to admit that some exhibits were grown only for that particular show. As to the ultimate result it was difficult to say.

The Hon. Mr. R. E. Stubbs—wanted to know whether prizes could not be given for products on the ground.

Mr. Stockdale—replied that their great difficulty was that they hadn't sufficient men to inspect the places.

Sir S. C. Obeyesekere—said the prizes must be awarded to the producer and not to the exhibitor. Very often the producer and the exhibitor were different people.

Mr. Weerakoddy—said he agreed with the Hon. Sir S. C. Obeyesekere.

His Excellency—said he hoped the Director would bear in mind the remarks of the various speakers in preparing the next Shows. He personally thought these Shows were of great value. He would be happy to offer prizes to products that were essential and produced by the small villages.

The proposal to continue Shows was carried. The meeting then terminated.

—The Ceylon Observer.

THE CRIME OF EXTORTION.

ITS PREVALENCE IN PUBLIC OFFICERS.

INTERESTING JUDGMENT BY CHIEF JUSTICE.

The following is the text of the order made by the Chief Justice in enhancing the sentences passed on the three accused in the Mirigama Extortion case:

His Lordship said:—This case is one of a very serious nature. I think that the Crown acted quite rightly in bringing it to the notice of this Court and in view of the importance of the principles involved, and of the nature of the offence I thought it right that this a petition should be heard before the Full Court. It is not necessary for us to express any opinion about the prevalence of this crime as a general one in the Colony. The offence is a grave one. It would be an offence if it were rare, and it is certainly not so. It is, in fact, but in any case it is grievous enough. One thing is quite certain, whether it is rare or whether it is frequent, the opportunity for its commission in the public service of this Colony are most numerous, and are yearly increasing. Everywhere in the Colony we are familiar with the existence of persons representing official authority. We have not only the old historic hierarchy of the Chief Headman and his subordinates constituting Government representatives in every district and every village of the Colony, but with the growth of civilisation, a highly organised and active Police force. We have had recently established an Excise department with officers, whose business it is to inspect and supervise the sale and manufacture of intoxicants in the Colony. We have a railway with railway officers spread in various directions, and what is more in the interest of public health we have established Health, medical officers, whose duty it is to minister to the health of the population, and we have Sanitary officers who have to visit their houses, and attend to other departments of their daily life. We are familiar in this Court, in excise cases, how much depends on the evidence of the Excise Inspector. It is in his power practically, unless there are flaws otherwise, to determine what shall be him as a man of honour, to give his evidence as a man of responsibility. We know how fundamentally important it is that the officers of the Police force should be men on whose word reliance could be placed. It is a matter of common knowledge to me that attempts have been made to improve the standard of the Police force by issuing Commissions in that force to men of good family and education in the hope that a sense of responsibility may govern their movements. Whenever we have these public officers for the protection of the public, for forwarding their interest, they have power to exercise authority and wherever a man has power to exercise authority that carries with it power to exercise oppression and Government has to rely partly on the honour of its officers and partly on the attitude taken by the Courts of this Colony. It would, therefore, be a most serious thing if it were ever laid down by the Supreme Court of this Colony that, when an offence of this nature has been brought home by clear and definite evidence to officers holding positions of responsibility, that is an offence which the Courts may condone as a mere case of human weakness, and consider it as yielding to an ordinary temptation. It is the business of the Courts to indicate to the public a sense of reprobation and of indignation against acts of this character. They should indicate that a crime like this is not an excusable fault, but that it is an act of gross moral turpitude not merely a crime but an iniquity disqualifying a man who commits it to the Society of his fellow men, until his offence has been adequately expiated. I fear very much that the crime of these young men is due to a blunted moral standard. In considering whether, apart from the serious nature of the offence, it is an offence which is gravely prevalent in offices, what gives us the greatest disquietude is the fact that the learned District Judge, a gentleman of exceptional experience who agrees with the expression of opinion by another learned Judge, with even perhaps greater experience, that this crime is prevalent in the public services, at least that it is in the air, should nevertheless have felt himself justified in treating it in the manner he has treated it. I cannot help feeling that the attitude of the learned District Judge may have been affected by the fact that the public conscience on the matter has been blunted. It is a matter of great and grave disappointment that three young men of good family and education, one appointed to a most responsible office in the Police Force, another belonging to a good family honoured by official appointments, and himself having the advantage of one of the best educations of the Colony, and the third a young man who belongs to a body of professional officers who are anxious to secure greater public recognition—should have combined together to commit an act of oppression against the members of the population. I fear that it is not realised, as it ought to be realised, that a man who does that, is guilty of an act of dishonesty, false to the King whose officer he is, false to his own honour and that of his family, and false to the reputation of his fellow countrymen. Now, in regard to the facts in this case, I do not think there is any doubt. The only question is, what are the principles which the Court has to apply. It is necessary that the Court, in the first place, should protect the public. As I have already said wherever there is power to exercise authority, there is power to commit oppression. It is necessary therefore that we should indicate to the public that the Court will protect them. It is also necessary to give to the public an expression of this Court to indicate that this offence is one which deserves reprobation. Now, I fully realise, I realise to the fullest possible extent, the responsibility it means to a young man of responsible antecedents and belonging to an honourable family, to be subjected to the penalty of imprisonment. But I think it also ought to be realised that it is not only a humiliation, but an expression of the crime that is required, and until an offence of this character where is expiated the position of the offender is much more humiliating than what he has gone through without it. I hope that in the sentences we are going to impose the fact will be kept in mind that there will be an indication that in acts of this kind against the public interest, if public officers are false to public principles, if they dishonour public responsibilities committed to them, they are cases in which they must go through grievous expiation. With regard to the first accused we have taken into consider-

ation the fact that he is a young man. But for that fact the sentence may have been more severe, and we were determined to declare that a deliberate act of extortion committed by a responsible officer of the nature of this act, is one which merits the punishment of imprisonment. The sentence passed by the learned District Judge is revised, and he will be sentenced to a period of 6 months rigorous imprisonment. With regard to the second accused, his position is a painful one. His family is a respected one, and it appears from the affidavit presented to us that two of his brothers have signified their loyalty by volunteering for service at the Front. There is, this to be said in regard to him that the impulse, the original impulse towards this offence does not appear to have proceeded from him. He also has taken a step which, under the circumstances is the right one for the past by proceeding to the Front. He has already volunteered for service at the Front, and he has been passed for that purpose. This is a crime which requires expiation, and he is prepared to offer expiation, in that manner. But for that circumstance we shall be compelled to pass a sentence of imprisonment in his case also. But in view of the mitigating circumstance which I have just referred to he may be sentenced to a fine. The fine imposed upon him is Rs. 250. With regard to the third accused fortunately, here also there are certain mitigating circumstances. He accepted the suggestion, he acceded to it, and he received the money. But it is clear that he had compunctions of conscience. I do not think there is any reason to suppose that he brought this matter to the knowledge of his superior officer merely because he was afraid of punishment. I think the circumstances shew that he was disturbed in mind at what he had done because of qualms of conscience and he was anxious to make restoration. I think it would have been better if he had more frankly confessed his fault. It would have been much better if he had the moral courage to make a clean breast of it. Certainly his conduct is less serious than that of the other accused. In the circumstances we feel justified in passing the same sentence as we have passed on the second accused. In the event of the fines not being paid the second and third accused will have the alternative of 3 months' rigorous imprisonment each. These fines, in the case of the 2nd and 3rd accused will include the amounts directed by the learned District Judge to be paid as compensation, but with regard to the first accused the sentence of imprisonment will be in addition to the amount of the compensation.

—The Ceylon Daily News.

TELEGRAPHIC SUMMARY.

The War.

THE PALESTINE OFFENSIVE.

London, Sept. 23.

A Palestine communique says:—Having seized the passages of the Jordan at Jisraddamieh on Sunday morning the enemy's last avenue of escape Westward of the river was closed. The Seventh and Eighth Turkish Armies virtually ceased to exist and their entire transport was captured. By eight yesterday evening 25,000 prisoners and 260 guns were counted. Many prisoners and much more material are not yet enumerated.

London, Sept. 22.

A Palestine communique says:—By nine of the evening of Sept. 21st our left wings and the Infantry pivoting on their left about Biragur had reached the line Beitdejan-Samaria-Birasur, shepherding the enemy on and Westward of the Jerusalem-Nablus road into the arms of our Cavalry, operating Southwards from Jenin and Beisan. Other enemy columns attempted to escape into the Jordan Valley in the direction of Jisraddamieh which the enemy still held. These columns suffered severely, being constantly bombed and machine gunned from low altitudes. We held Nazareth and the rail and road passages over the Jordan at Jiermejamis. 18,000 prisoners and 120 guns have been counted.

London, Sept. 23.

Palestine.—A communique says:—25,000 prisoners are 260 guns have been counted.

London, Sept. 22.

Reuter learns that the situation in Palestine is developing in a most interesting way. The enemy in the neighbourhood astride the Jordan is stubbornly holding his front, but everything Westwards has been broken down. While one Allied line is advancing Northwards, another is progressing towards the Jordan, taking the Turkish resistance in the flank. Our losses are absurdly light in view of the importance of the advance. The total number of prisoners captured by the British in Palestine has now reached 18,000, while 120 guns have been taken.

London, Sept. 19.

Irish and Indians today attacked Westwards of the Nablus road and are progressing splendidly. They were accompanied by a unit of Cape coloured troops who captured a strong position called "Square Hill," as well as the first gun taken in this sector, showing great gallantry and push.

London, Sept. 23.

A French communique says:—In the region South of St. Quentin we continued to advance yesterday evening and night and penetrated the woods North of La Fontaine and carried the fort and village of Vendeuil and pushed on from there to the Oise. Our reconnaissances took prisoners North of the Aisne and in Champagne towards Butte du Mail. We repulsed enemy raids North of the Vesle and in the Voges.

London, Sept. 24.

A Palestine official despatch says:—Eastward of the Jordan the enemy is withdrawing to Amman on the Hedjaz Railway. Australian, New Zealand, West Indian and Jewish troops, pursuing reached Esalt, capturing guns and prisoners. Our Cavalry in the North occupied Haifa and Acre after slight opposition. The prisoners are increasing and the total largely exceeds 25,000. King Hussein's Arabs occupied Maan and are harassing bodies of the enemy retreating along the Railway to Amman.

London, Sept. 21.

Reuter's correspondent at the Palestine Headquarters, wiring yesterday, says the rapidity and completeness of General Allenby's magnificent achievement almost gives a misleading impres-

sion of its magnitude. The Turks were preparing to winter in their lines, which were of exceptional strength, and composed of at least three lines of well dug trenches, strongly wired with redoubts and abundant Artillery and machine-guns, but the complete surprise, coupled with General Allenby's boldness and mobility, completely demoralised the Turks. All the movements worked like clockwork. There was not a single hitch anywhere. The newly raised Indian troops behaved splendidly and showed a steadiness combined with the finest dash. London troops, with whom the Indians were brigaded on the extreme left, lived up to their splendid reputation and were first through the Turkish line. It was a remarkable feat, they reaching Tulkaram the same afternoon within a minute of the predicted time. Small parties of the enemy are still wandering about the hills, but are anxious to surrender. Sixty Turks entrenched in a village near Nablus surrendered on an Intelligence Officer with a Sikh batman appearing. The Turks in the Jordan valley appeared ignorant of the fate of the Palestine Armies until the Cavalry today reached the Jisraddamieh crossing, and took 8,000 prisoners. The stream of fugitives along the Jisraddamieh road to the Jordan was very heavily bombed by airmen. Numbers turned back, preferring rather to surrender than face the terrible ordeal. Our advanced guards have occupied Soffush and Kefkinnah, North of Nazareth.

The Press Bureau states:—H. M. the King has telegraphed to General Allenby:—"With pride and admiration we received the news of the ably-conceived and brilliantly carried out operations in which the British, Indian and Allied forces under your command, with the support of the Royal Navy, gained a complete victory. I am confident this will rank as a great exploit in the history of the British Empire and ever stand a memorable testimony to British leadership and the fighting qualities of the British and Indian troops."

London, Sept. 24.

Palestine, Sept. 23rd.—Gen. Allenby's victory is hailed as a model in conception, and is the most complete hitherto attained by the Allies in any theatre. A special tribute is paid to General Allenby's use of his cavalry. The immediate effect is the liberation of the Holy Land, for it is anticipated General Allenby will have little difficulty in entirely clearing Northern Palestine. He will be able to relieve his communications by establishing a sea base at Haifa, from whence the railway runs to Beisan and Damascus. Thus the whole Turkish railway system in Southern Syria will be controlled by the Anglo-French forces; but the Turkish disaster is bound to have a profound reaction in Constantinople and Sofia, to compromise the situation of the Turks in Mesopotamia, and terminate Turkish adventures in Persia and the Caucasus. The "Daily Telegraph," which declares the existence of the Ottoman Empire is imperilled by one of the master strokes of the War, points out that General Allenby has struck unexpectedly early, and has all the campaigning season still before him. The "Morning Post" urges that a diplomatic effort be made to detach Turkey from the Central Powers.

London, Sept. 25.

The French newspapers emphasize that it is the German High Command which has been beaten in Palestine and Macedonia since General Liman Von Sanders commanded the Turks in Palestine, while the Balkan front was under General Scholtz, and one of the defeated Bulgarian Armies was commanded by General Von Steinben. Apparently Scholtz ordered the Bulgarian retreat too late. His failure will embitter relations between Germany and Bulgaria in marked fashion.

London, Sept. 25.

A Palestine official communique says:—Eastward of the Jordan we are approaching Amman Northward of which the Arabs effected important demolitions to the Railway. Other Arabs are pressing the enemy retiring Northward from Maan. The prisoners are now over 40,000 and the guns 265.

Mr. Massey, wiring from Nablus of Sept. 23, says no veteran has seen a sight so remarkable as that witnessed today. The six miles stretch of road from Nablus to Wadi Farah is covered with the debris of the Turkish Army. In this area alone 87 guns, 100 vehicles, 100 motor lorries, and a mass of impedimenta, like field kitchens, and water carts were found. The road is black with carcasses of thousands of animals, dead Turks and Germans. This was the work of the Welsh, Irish and Indian infantry, the Artillery behind and the airmen in front. When the guns began to shell the retreating transport, airmen swooped down to 200 feet from the ground and bombed the head of the column, flight succeeding fight till the column was reduced to a broken mass. Irish and Indian troops played a great part and marched 21 miles in 86 hours over an endless succession of mountains and deep rocky valleys, fighting incessantly.

London, Sept. 24.

Eastwards of the Jordan the Turks are falling back towards Amman along the Hedjaz Railway. With their communication broken at Derars and the Arabs in occupation of Maan, the situation of the Turks, especially those along the Hedjaz Railway is very critical.

THE SERBIAN OFFENSIVE.

London, Sept. 23.

A Serbian communique says:—On the 22nd (evening) we liberated 15 villages. We are forcing the Germano Bulgar reinforcements to retreat. We crossed to the left bank of the Vardar and cut the main railway line between Uskub and Sionika. We crossed the Cerna and cut the railway line between Gangeko and Prilep which is the German Army's main line of communication. We advanced 55 kilometres between September 15th and 21st. Certain Infantry units reached the highest point of a very mountainous region and advanced 40 kilometres in one day. The booty and prisoners are constantly increasing.

London, Sept. 26.

A British Salonika official despatch says:—British troops entered Bulgaria opposite Kesturine on Sept 25th.

THE ITALIAN FRONT.

London, Sept. 23.

An Italian official despatch says:—On the Asiago plateau a French brilliant coup de main Eastward of Sioncel penetrated deeply into the enemy's lines and took 100 prisoners. The British seized the lines Northward of Asiago and brought back prisoners.

THE WESTERN FRONT.

London, Sept. 23.

F.M. Sir D. Haig says:—By a successful operation this morning North-Eastward of Epheby we captured a strong point which the enemy stubbornly defended for the past three days. Northwards of this locality a hostile counter-attack entered our positions at one point where a party of the enemy is still holding out. Elsewhere the attack was repulsed. The sky was overcast with showery weather. On Sept. 22nd we dropped eleven tons of bombs and destroyed eight hostile machines. Four of ours are missing. Night-fliers dropped four tons of bombs on an enemy aerodrome near Valenciennes. All returned.

London, Sept. 26.

A French communique says:—A French and American offensive in Champagne has begun.

A French communique says:—Between the Ailette and the Aisne the enemy renewed his attacks yesterday evening in the regions of Allamant and Moulin-de-Laffaux. He succeeded in penetrating our lines at the latter point, but our energetic counter attack re-established the situation. Farther South we extended the gains Eastward of Batoy and took prisoners. At five this morning we attacked in Champagne in co-operation with the American Army operating farther East.

FOCH ON THE SITUATION.

London, Sept. 25.

The correspondent of the "Daily Telegraph" in Paris interviewed General Foch at Headquarters yesterday. Foch said the British Army is fighting better than ever. All its losses have been made good. The Americans are splendid and wonderfully gallant in the field. The French Army is the same good old Army as in 1914. No more need be said. Speaking of the general position, Foch said:—"The enemy is shaken and tottering, but still holding out. You must not think we will get to the Rhine immediately. We have passed the crest of the hill and are now going down-hill. If we gather impetus as we go, like a rolling ball, so much the better." Foch's brain is always working. He keeps a pocket book in which he jots down instantly any thought occurring to him; when his mind is made up, the decision is carried out unswervingly. He sleeps well and is always in bed before 11 p.m. He has to be awakened in the morning. He keeps his nerves under iron control and no events, good or bad, have shaken him. He was strong in the bad days and it is unthinkable that he will lose his head in the hour of victory. His Generals are supremely devoted to him and admire his intelligence, and still more his character, which is modesty itself. He was a passionate smoker of strong cigars till three weeks ago when a British General presented him with a pipe, after which he has smoked only a pipe. Since then he has been inundated with presents of pipes.

PALESTINE.

London, Sept. 26.

A Palestine communique says:—Our Cavalry occupied Irbidias, Semakin and Esamra on the shores of Lake Tiberias despite determined resistance. Eastward of the Jordan, Cavalry occupied Amman and are pursuing the Turks along the Hedjaz Railway. Our casualties since Sept. 18 are below one-tenth of the number of prisoners.

—The Ceylon Observer.

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