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for Chairman.

District Road Committee's Office,
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Order Nisi.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 8645.

Class I.

In the Matter of the Estate of Sivakollanthu Sangarappillai of Araly South late of Vankalamkunda in Selangor Deceased.

Sivakollanthu widow of Sangarappillai of Araly South Petitioner.

Vs.

1. Yalappallath widow of Ponnampalam of Araly South
2. Kanagasethi Sithamparappillai & wife
3. Sureshchchi of Matabakal
4. Maragar Sianappu of do. and wife
5. Thangamutto of do.
6. Toyvanal widow of Ampalavaasar of do.
7. Amirtham widow of Appapillai of Chulipuram
8. Arumugam Chinniah of do. now of Alor Star, Gtira Kedah
9. Arumugam Mailysagasm new employed as a Dresser, General Hospital, Kuala Lumpur
10. Thamotharampillai Navaratnam now of Taiping, Perak
11. Thamotharampillai Mututampi of Chulipuram
12. Thamotharampillai Vaittilingam of Chulipuram
13. Thamotharampillai Suppiah of do.
14. Vairamuttu Thamotharampillai of do. The 11th, 12th, and 13th Respondents, are minors appearing by their Guardian ad litem the 14th Respondent

Respondents.

This matter of the Petition of Sivakollanthu widow of Sangarappillai of Araly South, praying for Letters of Administration to the estate of the abovesaid deceased, Sithamparappillai Sangarappillai, coming on for disposal before J. Homer Vanniasingam, Esqr., Acting District Judge, on September 24, 1918, in the presence of Mr. S. Sittampalam, Proctor, on the part of the Petitioner; and the affidavit of the Petitioner, dated August 19 1918, having been read: It is declared that the Petitioner is the lawful widow of the said intestate and is entitled to have Letters of Administration to the estate of the said intestate issued to her unless the Respondents or any other person shall, on or before November 15, 1918, show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

P. E. PIERIS,
District Judge.

September 28, 1918.



The Hindu Organ.

JAFFNA, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 1918.

THE BHARAT DHARMA MAHAMANDAL.

We have received with thanks a copy of the Report of the Sri Bharata Dharma Mahamandal for the year 1917. It is in the form of a handy book of 144 pages and 24 chapters and contains many interesting informations which should be of great value to the local Hindu public. The Mahamandal is an influential Hindu Religious organization having its headquarters at Jagatgung, Benares. The General President of the Society is H. H. Mahareja of Durbhanga and among its members, patrons or Samrakshakas, and Pratinidhis are found the names of several Hindu divines such as His Holiness Sankarachariya of Kumbakonam, H. H. the Sankaracharya of Gobardhan Math, Puri, Hindu ruling Princes as the Maharajas of Kashmir, Alwar, Manipur and Tippura, and many other leading Hindus, principally of the northern parts of India. The Mahamandal has autonomous Provincial organizations in U. P., Orissa, Bengal, the Punjab, Indraprastha (Delhi Enclave), Rajputana cum Malwa, Madras, and Bombay having their respective

branches and affiliated institutions. The Report states that in the year under review, the registered branches of the Mahamandal numbered 645 and Poshak Sabhas 59, showing an increase of 7 and 3 respectively. From the audited statement of accounts appended to the Report we find that the total income of the Headquarters for the year was Rs 36,638-12-4 and expenditure Rs. 31,060-10-1 leaving a balance in hand of Rs. 5,578-2-3. The Report says that this statement does not include the items of expenditure on Yajnas, the restoration of Kedara Nath Temple, Joshi Muth &c., which have cost several lakhs of rupees and for which separate accounts are furnished to those who specially undertook to meet the expenses of the works.

We will notice here some of the principal activities in which the Mahamandal was engaged during the year. We must notice at the outset the one important feature where the work of this Hindu organization differs from the other Hindu organizations such as the Ramakrishna Mission. It consists in the "special importance attached to the performance of great Yajnas or Yagas in order to obtain Divine help for objects connected with the temporal and religious advancement of the Hindu race. The report says:—"The year will be ever memorable in the annals of the Mahamandal in particular, and of the whole revivalist movement in general, on account of the splendour and frequency of the great Yajnas performed in the Yajna Mandapa at our headquarters during the twelve months..... When the year closed no less than twenty-six Vaidik, Tantrik and Vaishnava Yajnas had been carried out with full pomp and ritual in our Yajnasala. The recollection of this fact should send a thrill of joy through every Hindu. It should banish despondency and inspire hope". The performance of Yajna not only possess great hygienic value, but does also much more than that. Says the Report:—"It pleases the Gods—the divinities entrusted with the Government of the various departments of the Universe and the presiding deities of the elemental and super-material powers and forces of creation. It neutralises the malign effects of the planets and stars. It brings down Divine blessing. It does good to the King, the people and the Kingdom. It benefits the locality. It benefits the world. There are special Yajnas prescribed for special objects. To present day intelligence—limited by the scalpel, microscope and the test tube—these claims for the Yajna may sound as balderdash. But we say it with all solemnity and sense of responsibility, no exact science is more exact, no scientific application of mechanical force and no use of a chemical re-agent are more certain in their effect than is the effect of a Yajna—provided it has been carried out correctly, according to prescription". The foregoing words of the Report may sound somewhat hyperbolic at this sceptical age, but we are sure no true Hindu in our country would question their correctness. The Homas and Pujas performed in our Temple and domestic rites are of the same nature and purport as these Yajnas. They will be productive of good to the community, provided they are performed according to the prescribed rules. The faith of the Hindus in those parts on the efficacy of the Yajnas may be measured from the fact that one of the Yajnas performed at the Mahamandal headquarters is said to have cost Rs. 35,000, the whole of which was contributed by one Hindu Prince, the Maharaja of Narsingarh. The Yajna continued for 12 days and over 100 picked Ritwiks officiated.

Another subject of importance to be noted, among the activities of the Mahamandal, is the manner in which it has manifested its loyalty and active sympathy with the Government in the prosecution of the war. The essence of the Hindu conception of duty towards the British Raj is expressed in the following words from one of the recent circulars issued from the Head Office:—"The Orthodox Hindu looks upon the [British Raj] as a dispensation of Providence. To him Rajabhakti is a religious duty. He is prepared to do his utmost, even to laying down his life for the British Raj." Realising that the progress of the Hindu cause depends on the progressive maintenance of Pax Britannica, the Mahamandal has been working, from the first, with all its means and energy, to make it impossible for the evil seed of sedition to germinate, and to foster in every one the virtues of loyalty and love of Dharma. The Mahamandal has invested all its reserve funds in the War Loan and its missionaries have actively worked to help the Government in getting recruits, members of labour corps, and money, for the war.

Another remarkable fact that must be noted in this connection is the continuous and daily performance of Chandi ceremony which was inaugurated at the instance of the ascetic organiser of the Mahamandal in May 1915. The object and significance of this ceremony is thus explained. The Devas (powers of light) were once sorely pressed by the Asuras (powers of darkness) that they almost despaired of recovering their celestial kingdom. In their distress they prayed to the Almighty mother to intervene. And the Mother took the side of righteousness and destroyed the hosts of evil. The hymn of adoration which the Gods had sung in invoking the Mother's merciful intermeditation is recited to bring down Her blessing which gives success. And this is the Chandi Anushthanam that has been going on unceasingly for more than three years to bring success to the British Arms. It is stated that the ceremony has a unique meaning and impressiveness and its value was recognized by high officials of the Government.

Sir J. R. Dunlop Smith, Private Secretary to Mr. Montagu, writes of this in the course of a letter:—"Mr. Montagu is much interested to learn of the Chandi Anushthana ceremony and all that it implies". The Private Secretary to the Viceroy also wrote a similar letter of appreciation. The Commissioner of the Division and the Collector were present at one of these ceremonies and evinced keen interest in them.

Another form of activity in which the Mahamandal is engaged is the conducting of the Hindu College of Divinity at Benares. The institution is now about 5 years old and is engaged in training both Sadhus and Grihasthas as Teachers and Preachers of Hinduism. The Report says that no pains are spared to turn out men who would do credit to their divine calling not only by their learning and eloquence but also by their character. From this College, 8 scholars have graduated this year after going through the three years' course of instruction and practical training. The Mahamandal also publishes two monthly Magazines—the "Mahamandal Magazine" in English and the "Nigamagama Chandrika" in Hindi—besides several other religious books.

The Mahamandal suffered a great loss during the year by the death of its Chief Secretary, Mr. S. C. Mitra, M. A., B. L., retired Judge of the Calcutta High Court. The Report says of him that it was due to his loyal and indefatigable efforts that new life was infused into every branches of work and the Society has expanded in every direction and is flourishing today. Swami Gnananda, who is referred to in many places in the Report as "our ascetic organiser" and his disciples Swami Dayananda and Vivekananda are among the chief organizers and preachers of the Society.

LOCAL & GENERAL.

WEATHER.—It rains daily and the paddy plants are thriving well.

PRICE OF FOOD STUFFS.—The price of food stuffs in Jaffna is daily increasing. A bag of Mutusampa is selling at Rs. 25.

THE NEW TOBACCO EXPERT.—Mr. W B Wilson who has been appointed as the Tobacco Expert to the Agricultural Department has arrived in Colombo.

THEFT AT THE VANNARPONNAI POST OFFICE.—We hear that about Rs. 500 have been stolen yesterday from the Vannarponnai Post Office when it was closed for the Holiday.

PERSONAL.—The Hon'ble Mr. A Sapapathy returned from Colombo this morning after attending a meeting of the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council held on the 5th instant.

FINANCE COMMITTEE.—A meeting of the Finance Committee was held on the 5th inst. at the Council Chamber, the Hon. Mr. R E Stubbs, C. M. G., presiding. Present:—The Hon. Mr. Bernard Senior and the unofficial Members of the Legislative Council.

INCREASE OF RAILWAY FARES.—It is understood that the increase of fares in the Railway will come into effect as from 1st of January next.

THE GOVERNMENT TREASURY.—The members of the Government Treasury Staff held a farewell function on the 31st ultimo at their Office to bid good bye to Mr. G A Perara, Mudaliyar, Chief Clerk, who has been appointed as O A to the Matara Kaohoheri.

GENERAL COUNCIL OF ADVOCATES.—The following gentleman have been elected members of the Council for the ensuing year:—Messrs. B W Bawa, K. C. A. St. V Jayewardena, E. J Samarawickrama, Allan Driewberg, E. W. Jayewardena, the Mr. K. Balasingham, Messrs. H. A. P. Sandrasagra, F. A. Hayler, R. L. Pereira, and M. A. Arulanandan.

MORE RANGOON RICE COME.—A shipment of 98 000 bags of Rangoon rice has just arrived in port.—"Ceylon Observer" Nov. 5.

Y. M. H. A. (CENTRAL).—Were requested by Mr. M. S. Elakumban to publish the following:—The Examination on Religious Knowledge fixed for 9th November, 1918, is postponed for another date to be notified later.

BARODA ASSEMBLY.—Bombay, October 22.—At the fourth session of the Baroda Legislative Assembly the Dewan after reviewing the salient features of the current year and the quota furnished by State towards war purposes, made a reference to the grant of ten lakhs of rupees made by His Highness from his private purse to help his subjects at the present crisis caused by the scarcity of food stuffs and high prices of other necessaries of life.

BIRTHS AND DEATHS REGISTRATION.—Last Friday's "Gazette" contains the draft of an Ordinance to amend the Births and Deaths Registrations Ordinance. The object is to give effect to certain suggestions made by a Commission appointed to inquire into and report on the law relating to the registration of deaths. Section 2 provides that any medical practitioner found guilty of making a false statement, etc., shall, as an inevitable consequence, have his name erased from the medical register, and that any medical registrar found guilty of dishonestly aiding or abetting the registration of a false cause of death shall have his name erased from the medical register. This section also provides that a medical practitioner during his employment as a medical registrar shall be deemed to be a public servant within the meaning of section 19 of the Ceylon Penal Code. By section 3 Form 1 in Schedule 11, to the principal Ordinance has been amended so that a certificate as to the cause of death required by section 23 shall contain the period during which the patient was under treatment, and the name of the disease or disorder which was the probable cause of death. A medical practitioner is sometimes unable to certify as required by the existing form that he attended on the patient during his last illness and till the patient's death.

SALE OF LAUNCHES.—By order of the Chairman, Port Commission, Colombo, Messrs. Bartlett & Co., put up for sale at noon on the 4th instant at the Harbour works yard, a trawler and some launches. An offer of Rs. 30,000 was not accepted for the trawler, "Violent" as higher private offers are expected. Mr. L. S. Gooneratne bought an old steam launch for Rs. 150, a gig for Rs. 130 and another gig for Rs. 95. Mr. O. H. M. Sulaiman bought a kerosene motor-launch for Rs. 900, and an old pilot boat for Rs. 65. An old carvel-built boat was sold to Messrs. Sarafally & Co. for Rs. 120. Three other boats were sold for prices ranging from Rs. 15 to Rs. 35.

THE EXCISE DEPARTMENT.—Government has approved a recommendation of the Excise Commissioner for the institution of a system of examinations for the subordinate officers of the Excise Department. There are altogether eight examinations, the first three being what is now known as the Excise Learners' Final. Officers who have already passed the examination in Excise Law are now required to pass in the other examinations. Assistant Superintendents of Excise and Inspectors will be debarred from obtaining any increment to salary or promotion until such time as they shall have passed the prescribed examinations. They are allowed two years' time to obtain the passies. The first of these examinations will be held in August, 1919.

AN EMPLOYMENT BUREAU FOR COLOMBO.—The Colombo Social Workers' Conference, a co operate body representative of 19 independent Societies engaged in charitable and social service work, are taking final steps towards the establishment of an Employment Bureau, a crying need of the city. At a recent meeting of the committee held at the Education Office it was decided to make a beginning by compiling as full a register as possible of those who are in need of employment of any description. The Harvard Settlement, at 42, Dam Street, will be the central office, in charge of a paid clerk supervised by the Rev. H. Haigh, the Secretary of the Friend-in-Need Society. The Y.W.O.A. at Union Place has undertaken to supply the office for the Women's Department, and will work it with voluntary helpers. The Social Service League and the Friend-in-Need Society, amongst others, are contributing largely towards its maintenance. In a few days the office will be ready, and the work will begin.

OBITUARY.—It is with the greatest regret that we have to record the death of Annamab, wife of Mr. P. Thambayah, Traffic Inspector, F. M. S. Rlys. Tamplin on the 9th ultimo of pneumonia. She leaves behind four children and a host of other relations to bemoan her loss.

—We deeply regret to record the sad and untimely death of Sellathangam the beloved wife of Mr. O. Rajasayagam, Steward, General Hospital Singapore on the 21st October 1918, of pneumonia after confinement. The deceased was 17 years old at the time of her death and was the daughter of Mr. K. Cumarasamy, Steward, Military Department, Singapore and sister-in-law of Mr. Rajathurai, Clerk, Singapore Harbour Board. She was of a kind and charitable disposition and enjoyed the esteem of all who knew her. —Cor.

CALCUTTA BRAGGED—Calcutta, Nov. 5.—Since yesterday Calcutta has been more boisterous than when the Turkish Surrender was announced. Not only so, but, taking advantage of the Dewali festival, local Indians who could afford it profusely illuminated their houses and flew flags.

SPANISH FEVER—London, Oct. 4, Amsterdam.—A Doctor, writing in a Viennese medical journal, says that the Spanish sickness is due to the *streptococcus bacillus* which can be destroyed by the injection of sublimated. 22 cases of inflammation of lungs have thus been successfully treated.

MOHAMEDAN EDUCATION SCHEME.

A QUANT OFFICIAL ORGANIZATION.

Measures are on foot to organize a great scheme for Mohamedan Education in Ceylon, which is bound to have striking results and may well revolutionize the whole situation in the Community within a few years, if only those of them who have the power to help will join now and make the effort a success.

Briefly, a Committee consisting of the Hon. Mr. N. H. M. Abdul Cader, Messrs M. B. A. Cader, A. C. M. Abdul Cader, M. T. Akbar, M. R. Akbar, M. Casim Ismail, A. M. Hamid, N. M. Haniffa Hassim, S. M. Ismail, H. N. H. Jallaldeen, Mohd. Maan Markar, A. V. Maan Markar, A. M. Saleem, M. H. M. Shamsadeen, M. L. M. Shariff and M. H. M. Sulaiman, has put out an appeal to the Mohamedan Community to raise a fund of Rs. 1,000,000, in shares of Rs. 10 each for an organization which will be registered under the Friendly Societies Ordinance, with this million rupees as capital, for the purpose of providing facilities for the educations of Mohamedans. A great College in Colombo, together with a number of branch schools in other quarters of the Island and other educational establishments are the main part of the project. The money will be collected in easy instalments, share holders being required to pay Rs. 2 on allotment and Rs. 1 every three months thereafter so as to complete the full payment in three years. The share is to be Rs. 10 the ten cents additional is to constitute a Mohamedan contribution of Rs. 10,000 to the British War Fund.

The Scheme will be worked under the eye of the Registrar General and under the immediate and constant direction of the Director of Education, and it is hoped that, in due time, the various establishments called into existence will be endowed by the munificence of individual philanthropists. It is a great object and we trust it will be supported with the enthusiasm it deserves.

THE CHITTORE DISTRICT CONFERENCE.

Tiruttani, October 20.—The 16th District Conference was held at Tiruttani on the 19th instant in the spacious dramatic hall of the place. There were about 200 delegates from all parts of the district and about 500 visitors. Very great enthusiasm was displayed throughout the proceedings.

The President elect, the Hon'ble Mr. K. V. Rangaswami Ayyangar, Member, Imperial Legislative Council, arrived from Madras on Friday night and was received at the station by the Chairman and Members of the Reception Committee, the Boy Scouts troop of Ellencheri being in attendance. The President was taken in procession to his quarters.

The following are the resolutions passed:—

(1) This Conference tenders its most loyal homage to His Gracious Majesty the King Emperor and has learnt with great satisfaction of the recent successes of the Allies in the war now raging and sincerely prays for their early and decisive victory and the final vindication of the principles of freedom, justice and self-determination.

(2) This Conference strongly urges that the President of the District Board of Chittoor be a non-official elected by the Board and that the Board be wholly elected.

(3) This Conference also urges that the Chittoor Municipal Council be wholly elected and that the Council do elect its chairman.

(4) This Conference while protesting against the view of the Government on the Ayurvedic and Unani systems of medicine requests the Municipality and the Local Boards in the district to open Ayurvedic and Unani dispensaries.

(5) This Conference affirms the resolutions passed at the Bombay Special Congress regarding the Montagu-Chelmsford Scheme of Reforms.

A resolution condemning the recommendations of the Rowlett Committee was then unanimously carried as also the resolution that "this Conference is of opinion that every Indian subject shall be entitled to bear arms subject to the purchase of a license as in Great Britain and that the right shall not be taken away save by a sentence of an ordinary court of law."

THE REFORMS SCHEME.

Sir S. P. Saha, representative of India in the Imperial War Cabinet, spoke at a Conference of the Overseas Press Centre, on September 5, on the situation in India, and the bearing of the proposed changes of the Constitution upon it.

India, he said, was a very poor country, and was not enjoying war prosperity, and so far as he could see, India would remain poor unless the policy of laissez faire was dropped. Yet, with a population intelligent and law abiding with a soil fertile beyond that of most other countries, with resources absolutely unlimited in men and material, there was no reason why India should not be as prosperous as any other part of the Empire. Who would find the remedy? India looked for it to the seat of the Empire, and particularly to England. Without increased prosperity it was useless to expect India to be either contented or loyal to the connection with the Empire. It was no wonder that the educated classes in India were

continually asking—"What is wrong with the Government?" After all, the true function of Government was to see that there was prosperity in the land.

It was because of this feeling in India, which we growing every day, that reform of the Constitution had become necessary. If England had progressed under self-government, they believed that India also would grow equally well at once in India as it had worked in the self-governing parts of the Empire. Mistakes would be made, inefficiency would probably show itself at first, there might be even instances of dishonesty in the Government, but they were prepared to go through all that for the sake of the better and brighter future beyond, such was their faith in the ideas which England had been teaching them systematically for 150 years now. He had always believed that the goal of British rule in India was to make India capable of governing herself, as Canada, Australia and South Africa did, and as every part of the Empire, he hoped, would do in time. The Montagu-Chelmsford Scheme was valuable not so much for its immediate performance as for the promise it held out for the future. Speaking as an Indian, he thought that if the scheme was carried out in its main principle, with the elimination of some of its over-cautious checks and counter-checks, it would give satisfaction in India, and tend to the contentment and loyalty of the people. —Ibid.

ALPHABET OF SOUNDS.

NEWSPAPERS AND BOOKS.

THAT MAY BE READ THROUGH THE EARS.

An instrument called the Optophone, has been invented by Dr. E. F. Fournier d'Alba to enable blind people to read ordinary print by the transmission of the letter values into sound. It owes its existence, indirectly, to the fact that one day about forty five years ago an unsatisfactory feature was noticed in the working of the Transatlantic cable station at Valentia, off the coast of Ireland.

The trouble was found to lie in the siletium used at the station, and this led to the discovery that siletium responds in a certain way when exposed to light. Working from this fact Dr. Fournier d'Alba has produced his Optophone.

The method employed is to throw intermittent light of five different "frequencies" on the type of an ordinary book or newspaper. The book lies face downwards over the instrument. The reflected light is received on a siletium tablet, which transmits to a telephone a set of sounds corresponding to the varying shapes of the letters.

A representative witnessed an interesting experiment at King's College. A blind girl, Miss Mary Jameson, who has acquired this new alphabet of sound, submitted to a test, and read a portion of Dante's "Inferno".

In conversation Miss Jameson mentioned that it had taken her ninety hours to familiarise herself with the series of tiny sounds almost like the dots and dashes of the Morse system into which the alphabet of ordinary people has been translated. During the test the rate of reading was about one word a minute. But Miss Jameson said she was able to read the sounds more quickly when her attention is not diverted by the presence of a number of listening people, and the rate is increased with each attempt.

A RECEPTION.

Mr. K. M. Coomaraswamy, Barrister-at-Law, who returned lately from England, was entertained by his friends and countrymen at a Social function in the Town Hall, Kuala Lumpur, on the evening of Wednesday the 7th August, 1918, commencing at 5 p. m. The "Town Band" was in attendance.

The hall was crowded to its utmost and many had to content themselves with standing accommodation in the verandahs. There were present a vast assembly of Tamils and a good representation of other Indians and Chinese.

Refreshments having been served from 5 to 6 p. m., the meeting commenced at 6 when Mr. S. Chellatambay, (Managing Director, Eastern Trading (Selangor) Company Ltd.), the Chairman of the Reception Committee heartily welcomed all present who had responded to the invitation of the Reception Committee to do honour to a deserving son of the Tamil Community who by his perseverance and skill succeeded in qualifying himself in Law in England.

The Chairman then garlanded Mr. Coomaraswamy amidst loud applause and proposed Dr. E. Tasmabiah MacIntyre, M. D., to preside over the meeting.

The President in an eloquent speech eulogised Mr. Coomaraswamy on his success and touched on the great responsibilities of the profession which he had chosen for himself. It was very gratifying, he said, that admission of his fellow-countrymen to the bar of Malaya is now becoming frequent and he hoped that the day will not be far distant when the full capacities of Mr. Coomaraswamy, which time will prove to all, coupled with the joint efforts of him and his colleagues in the bar will make the authorities in Malaya realise the necessity of allowing the bench of Malaya open to them also.

The President then called upon Mr. L. Y. Sweeney, Proprietor of L. Y. Sweeney Co., Kuala Lumpur, and a respectable member of the Chinese Community, to say a few words on the occasion. Mr. Sweeney paid high tributes to the Ceylon Tamil Community whose examples of enterprise and perseverance were not a few of which a brilliant one was before them that night; and expressed his great hopes on the successful future of Mr. Coomaraswamy.

Mr. R. Thambapillay, Senior Assistant Master, Victoria Institution, came next and dwelt at length on the early career of Mr. Coomaraswamy, observed on his remarkable qualities as a teacher while he was with him in the Technical Staff of the Victoria Institution before proceeding to England, and said that the high ideals which Mr. Coomaraswamy has before him and the principles he is by to attain them are bound to secure for him yet higher places in the not distant future.

Mr. Aruliah Barnabas, Clerk of Works, Public Works Department, laid great stress on the two main points which were the secret of his success—Ambition and Perseverance—and appealed to the younger generation to steadily follow the example of Mr. Coomaraswamy and try their utmost to elevate themselves and the community they belonged to.

Mr. T. Arumugam, Teacher, Methodist Boys' School and Mr. C. Thambapillay, Interpreter, Courts, Kuala Lumpur, congratulating Mr. Coomaraswamy, in turn, on his success, expressed their fervent desire to see several others following his example and to be benefited by it.

Mr. Coomaraswamy then thanked the audience for the great honour they had done him that night and in an eloquent and masterly speech laid great stress on the absolute necessity in each individual of a deep sense of his duty to the nationality he belonged and said that this was the key-stone of success in the great efforts of all Western nations. He hoped that present events will make us emulative and enjoin us to greater efforts to work our way up, so that in the near future we may not rank second to any in our position among the nations of the earth.

Mr. Coomaraswamy was then personally introduced to those present and the happy function came to a close at 8 p. m.

Mr. K. M. Coomaraswamy, Barrister-at-Law, comes of a very respectable family in Jaffna. He is the son of Mr. V. Kandiahpillay of Mallakam whose brother was the late Mr. V. Venkayappillay of Vannarponnai who was Talisdar, Tanjore District, India.

His sister was married to Mr. V. Vijayarathnam of Sandiruppay, late Chief Clerk, Public Works Department, Kuala Pilah, who with the following holding high and responsible positions in the Federated Malay States are his cousins:—Messrs. V. Kanagasabapathy, Chief Clerk, Treasury, Parit Buarar, V. Somasundaram, Government Pensioner, Kuala Lumpur, and V. Chelliahpillay, B. A., General Merchant, Penang; and another brother-in-law of his is Mr. S. Elstambay, Contractor and Landed Proprietor, Seremban.

AUSTRIA GIVES IN.

Three days after announcing the capitulation of Turkey, we are today able to announce the long-expected Austrian surrender. At the moment of writing, the terms of the Armistice—which came into force at three o'clock today—are unknown; but an Italian message mentions that they are such that a resumption of the War by Austria will be rendered impossible. She will also be unable to profit by the Armistice by getting her troops out of their present situation, from which it may be concluded that the Austrians are only given the Armistice on condition that they lay down their arms where they are. In any case we may be sure that they are nothing less than a complete surrender. The Turkish Armistice terms, which are published today, may be taken as in some measure indicating to what the Austrians have been compelled to subscribe, and Germany may well take serious heed of their terms, because she will be called upon to acquiesce in no less. As stated, Austria's surrender has been expected for some time. It has been evident that a state of Bolshevism has been sweeping over the country. State after State has declared its independence; Hungary has cut herself adrift, and the Dual Monarchy, once a proud member of the European group of nations, no longer exists. With a political upheaval, and a persistent cry for food, it was evident that Austria could not for long put up a show of resistance, and the end has now come. Turkey has committed suicide; Austria has followed suit; and of the great Alliance, which in 1914 entered upon a grandiose campaign of world-domination, only Germany remains. And she is battered and forlorn, anxious for Peace, but still in the last dying agony in which she is not yet quite convinced of the inexorable nature of the end. Until the terms of the Armistice are given fully, it is impossible to state exactly how Germany may be affected; but, with the freeing of many hundreds of thousands of men from other fields, and the strategic points in possession of the Allies, it will be surprising to find Germany attacked on another front. The wall in the West is cracking, and with the possibility of the Allies battering upon her back door, she may accelerate the end which the Militarists are still toilsomely striving to avert. It is interesting to note that, in but a few days over a month, the Allies have brought about the surrender of three nations with a population of nearly eighty millions, occupying a tract of country of considerably over 5 million square miles. There now remains before us Germany, with an area of some 238,780 square miles, and with a population generally estimated at about seventy millions of people—though she had long been "cooking" her statistics for foreign consumption and 90 millions was nearer the true mark. It is to be expected that victory can be attained by Germany with the world in arms against her, and though she may struggle along for a spell the final result is certain. The Military Party may be anxious to save something from the mess they have created, but with the real facts before them the people of Germany should be able to play their own hand. The Allies in their victory have created an important task; that is, they have now to control the Bolshevism their victories have produced. The world is in a political turmoil and the task of reducing the chaotic muddle in Russia and Austria will be no light one. The spirit of unrest is prevailing in Germany and the condition of things now existing reveals the awful failures of Kaiserism and Caesarianism when brought to final trial by their own peoples. —"Ceylon Observer," Nov. 4.

CORRESPONDENCE.

MADRAS NOTES.

THE INFLUENZA—epidemic is the one absorbing topic of talk everywhere, almost every house having somebody down with the "flu". The death rate in Madras during the last week was somewhere near 170 per thousand of the population, and the bulk of the mortality was due to the new disease.

The Mahomedans of the town assembled near the Egmore Tank yesterday and the day before and offered prayers for rain and the end of the epidemic, and whether as a result of the prayers or otherwise the town had good showers of rain yesterday and today, in fact today is a very wet day. It is expected this cooling of the temperature will appreciably decrease the ravages of Influenza. At any rate it has laid down the dust in the streets, and that is a great relief.

LABOUR TROUBLES—appear to be of frequent occurrence recently. On the 23rd October a large number of labourers of the Buckingham and Carnatic Mills were shut out owing to the enforcement of new rules as to time of starting work. It is said the mill authorities desired the

men to start work for the day at 6 a. m., but the men objected to working till 5.30 a. m., with the result that when a good many men reached the mill gates after 6 a. m., the gates had been closed against them. Thousands of labourers were thus kept out of work partly owing to the demands and partly owing to the calculated firmness of the mill authorities. The men tried to present their case at Government House and the sight of hundreds of them wending their way along the streets frightened the shop keepers who thought the men were looters and so shut their shops. Though large in numbers the men out of work behaved well and assured the shop keepers of their peaceful methods. The police were also vigilant and there was hardly anything to engage their attention. This morning after interviews the men were back at work on the mill owners' terms. The mills are engaged in war work and the obstinacy they showed during the lock out proved that they were prepared for anything. Labour Unions have recently sprung up and the suspicion that this attempted strike might have been engineered by political agitators probably strengthened the determination of the mill authorities. There is however no gainsaying the fact that some "political agitators" have done much to weld together the scattered units of the labouring classes into corporate organisations of much benefit to the labourers.

CEYLON ASSOCIATION—Having heard that there was an Association of Ceylonese resident in Madras I betook myself this morning to find out the whereabouts of this institution. After a long search I was told it was housed in the residence of Mr. J. Vincent Mendis, Scout Commissioner, but on enquiry there I was directed to the Y. M. C. A. buildings. There the Ceylon Association was not found and later on, wet with rain, and bespattered with half the mud of Madras, I was shown to a residence of some Ceylonese friends where the Association is supposed to be temporarily housed. One of the Secretaries informed me that the Association has not been properly organised yet for effective or visible work. Let us hope it soon will be.

PUBLIC ACTIVITIES—in Madras are just now at rest due mostly to the epidemic of Influenza. On Desampal Day the Madras Central Educational Association will make a house to house collection. This organisation is doing very useful work, having last year given scholarships to 30 poor students. This Association was started some three years ago to benefit the non-Brahmin Community.

The term non-Brahmin colours much of the public thought in South India these few years, and every right thinking man should be sorry for it. The choice of the term was most unfortunate and has brought in its wake a deal of unnecessary friction and ill feeling between the Brahmins and the rest of the community. There is no doubt, a tinge of spite and vengeance in the term. —Cor. Madras, 31st Oct., 1918.

MALAYA LETTER.

THAT DEADLY DISEASE—That fairly world wide epidemic known by a world of names has been taking a heavy toll in the Malay Peninsula during the past few weeks. Starting in its fatality it has staggered humanity everywhere and is ravaging the country. The Tamil Community appears to have suffered most by this uncanny visitation. It makes one's heart sink into oneself to hear that promising, rising young men, women, and children who were, only a week before, hale and hearty have been carried away ruthlessly, indeed torn away from the world. How many little children, are weeping as I write over a mother that is not how many young wives weep over dear husband separated from them for ever on earth, how many fathers shedding tears over sons and daughters that are no more! It is terrible, too terrible, this toll of life. Whose obituary are we to write about, there are dozens and dozens. The disease has taken anxiety into almost every home, anxiety for a distant child, for a husband that's away, for a father that's out!

Let us all pray that this cruel figure stalking the earth by night and by day may soon be checked in its fell work.

MY MAIL BAG—"My Dear L.—It's no use trying to answer letters nowadays. By the time I get your letter I forget all about what I had written you before and your references are all misleading. For God's sake don't try to answer letters, write as if you are writing, say, one of your provoking random shots, and we will see what we can get out of the stuff. I am still experiencing new things here though I have been long enough in the place now. What do you think of the insular views and actions of some of our young fellows who have been years and years in Cosmopolitan Malaya. The other day I met a couple of these frogs at a mutual friends' and it being tea time (so you still have tea time, Eh, Henry), tea came round, but what was my surprise when I found that one of these above-said frogs refused to take tea at this friends' because the unfortunate fellow was lower down in the social ladder in Jaffna. And just fancy these three chaps were all messing together in the F. M. S. and indeed, the "low" chap was the boss of the show there! This is only one of such instances, and when I argued the matter out I was told anything is good and proper in Malaya but in Jaffna we must be "correct" and particular.

I will have something interesting and unexpected (if by you) to tell you shortly. Here's a liver for a guess, I am sure it will sit tight in my pocket.

Ta Ta,
Yours as ever,
Henry.

NOTES AT RANDOM—Singapore has been going in for papers and periodicals during War time with a courage that is baffling the uninitiated. Advertisers, weekly and monthly, are launched forth as easily as in the palmiest days of peace. There are new weeklies in the making and one wonders where all the money comes from. Of advertising experts there are scores, each trying to cut down the other.

The recent talk of peace has set about rumours of a shades and varieties but it has not brought down market prices, and that is what most of us mortals are mainly minded about!

We know the Kaiser was once wanting a place in the sun. It now looks as if he might put the son in his place!

TELEGRAPHIC SUMMARY.

The War.

THE ITALIAN OFFENSIVE.

London, Nov. 1.

A wireless Austrian official message says:—The High Command of the Armies early on Oct. 29 by means of a *Parlementaire* communicated with the Italian Army Command. Every effort is being made for the avoidance of further useless bloodshed and a cessation of hostilities and the conclusion of an Armistice. The Italian High Command at first assumed an attitude of unmistakable refusal. It was only on the evening of Oct. 30 that the deputation was permitted to cross the fighting line for the preliminary *pourparlers*.

An Italian official message says:—The battle is continuing and expanding. The enemy maintains its resistance from St. Elvo to Adico, vacillates on the Asiago plateau and is in full retreat on the remainder of the front. Our troops in enthusiastic pursuit are intensely shelling the enemy. Our Cavalry Divisions have re-established the crossings at Liva and are marching to the Tagliamento. The Sixth Army is attacking the adversary on the whole front at the end of the Brenta valley. We occupied Feltr. Our light columns are brilliantly encircling Fadalto. Marines reached Caedo. The prisoners are continually increasing. Over 700 guns were taken, and the value of the booty is estimated at millions.

London, Oct. 31.

An Italian official message says:—The success is assuming great proportions. The routed enemy is retreating Eastward of the Piave and is hardly able to withstand our close pressure. On the mountain front hostile masses are thronging the mountain valleys or attempting to reach the crossings of the Tagliamento. Prisoners, guns and material depots, almost intact, are falling into our hands. We completed the capture of Ocean Massif. Fighting is proceeding for the possession of Gorce Querc. Elsewhere we captured the spur between Follinabosin in the Piave Valley and occupied Saravalle, advancing towards the high plain of Consiglio. The Tenth Army reached Livina. We resumed the attack in the Grappa region and carried Col Carrillo, Col Bonato, Asolome, Prassolan, Solarolo salient and Monte Spignola. The prisoners exceed 50,000 and over 800 guns.

A DEBACLE COMING.

London, Oct. 31.

Rome.—Austria's official announcement of the evacuation of Italy comes rather late. The fact is that the retreat is the consequence of the defeat of the Austrian Army after desperate resistance. Correspondents point out that the capture of Mount Osen resulted in the cutting off of the Archduke Francis Joseph's group of Armies operating in the mountains. A *debacle* is in progress.

GERMANY.

London, Oct. 31.

Amsterdam.—It transpired that Independent Socialist Members of the Reichstag addressed five demonstrations in Berlin on Sunday, which were suppressed. Dr. Liebknecht demanded the establishment of a Government which would unite the workmen of all countries within International Socialism. Herr Ledebour warned his hearers to prepare for anything and be ready, he said, for action.

Amsterdam.—Von Hindenberg denies the reports that he said the German Armies could only resist for a short time. He says this is untrue and adds that the German Army and Fleet will not capitulate.

PRISONERS-OF-WAR.

London, Oct. 31.

Following upon the impressive debate in the House of Commons on prisoners of War, intense public indignation over the treatment of prisoners in Germany has been aroused. This feeling is strongly voiced in the newspapers, which warmly approve the policy of placing the release of repatriation of all prisoners in the forefront of the Armistice claims. It was stated during the debate that Austria had treated her prisoners mercifully, the greatest complaint being against Germany and Turkey and Bulgaria.

RHINE PROVINCES IN A FUNK.

London, Nov. 1.

Amsterdam.—The "Tagliche Rundschau" states that panic has broken out among the population of the Rhine Provinces, as well informed people declare that the Government is prepared if necessary to allow enemy troops to occupy Coblenz and Cologne. The statement is confirmed in the "Cologne Gazette."

U. S. A. ELECTIONS.

London, Oct. 31.

Interest in the elections in the United States on Nov. 5th of the whole of the Representatives, one-third of the Senate and Governor and the Legislature of many States is intensified by the vigorous reply made by the Republican leaders on Oct. 28th to President Wilson's appeal for election to the Democratic Congress. The Republicans in their reply declare they stand for Peace by victory, not by negotiation, and accuse President Wilson of aiming at autocracy, desiring full power not only to settle the War but to reconstruct American industry on the basis of Universal Free Trade, thus giving Germany advantages she would never be able to obtain by Military means.

ALSACE-LORRAINE DIET TO MEET.

London, Oct. 31.

Amsterdam.—A message from Strassburg states that the Kaiser has summoned the Alsace Lorraine Diet to meet on Nov. 12th.

AUSTRIA'S TROUBLES.

London, Oct. 31.

The break-up of what was Austria-Hungary has been so rapid that the question has been asked:—With whom will the Allies negotiate? Following upon the announcement that the Czech Council controls Prague, absolutely, comes the news that the Generals Commanding at Agram have placed all their troops at the disposal of the Croatian Council. The German newspapers accept the situation philosophically. Their comment may be summed up:—As Austria-Hungary is now a phantom, we must stand alone and must make the best of it.

Amsterdam.—A Vienna message says the Germans in Bohemia have declared their independence with a seat of Government at Reichenberg. They have elected the German Radical, Herr Pascher, President.

Paris.—A Berlin message says the Austrian National Council is transmitting a Note to President Wilson, notifying the creation of a German-Austrian State, claiming all the Austrian territory in which Germans predominate, including Moravia and Silesia, asking for admittance in the negotiations unreservedly in admittance of Mr. Wilson's principle recognizing the independence of the Jugo-Slavaks and Czech-Slavaks. They are appealing for the right of self-determination, and an immediate Armistice.

Renewed street fighting is reported in Budapest in which rifles, machine-guns and bayonets were used. There were numerous casualties.

Amsterdam.—The Austrian Germans are furious at Count Andriess's representations to America and reiterate their claims to self-determination.

TURKEY.

London, Nov. 1.

The surrender of Turkey and the imminent disappearance of Austria-Hungary have completed the isolation of Germany, releasing formidable Allied forces for new fields of action on the frontiers of Saxony and Bavaria and elsewhere, facilitating the Allied efforts for the reconstruction of Ratis and the restoration of Poland, and incidentally giving access to the granaries of Southern Russia. These developments will take time, but their menace may persuade Germany to forestall by capitulation the inevitable end.

Accounts which reached London of Germany's internal difficulties suggest that the Allied terms may speedily be accepted. The "Daily News" even predicts the cessation of hostilities by the end of next week, though naturally the settlement of Peace conditions will take much longer. The papers generally, however, contemplate the possibility of a considerable Naval battle in the Black Sea where the Germanised Russian fleet, including two Dreadnoughts, may offer fight or may shelter behind the mine and submarine defences.

The papers, commenting on Turkey's surrender, emphasize that it is the single-handed work of Great Britain whose sea power made possible the splendid triumphs of the British and Indian Armies in the East.

Amsterdam.—Rail traffic from Berlin via Saxony to Austria has been stopped. The Czechs have held up oil trains bound for Germany and have seized cargo and disarmed the escort. Food trains proceeding to Vienna and Germany have also been held up.

AUSTRIA OUT OF THE WAR.

London, Nov. 3.

The Press Bureau says:—Mr. Lloyd George telephoned to Downing Street from Paris:—"News has arrived that Austria-Hungary, the last of Germany's props, has gone out of the War. General Diaz signed the Armistice on Sunday afternoon and it comes into operation at three o'clock on Monday."

THE WESTERN FRONT.

London, Nov. 3.

A British and Belgian *communiqué* says:—The attacks of the Second Army and the Franco-American Army on Oct. 31st and Nov. 1st bore fruit today. Pressed by the Belgian Army and the left of the French Army the enemy was forced to retreat hastily in the direction of the Ghent-Namur Canal. At the end of the day the Franco-Belgians had reached the line Ecloo-Waerchoote-Lieve Canal and farther South as far as Seeveverghen and reached 4 kilometres from the outskirts of Ghent. The left bank of the Scheldt was occupied in the North to Seeveverghen. Allied aviators throughout maintained the mastery of the air. The results obtained by the British aviators were particularly remarkable.

London, Nov. 2.

A British-Belgian official despatch says:—The operations of the Flanders Armies continued on the 1st most successfully. The British on the South bank threw the enemy on the Scheldt to Melden, capturing the strong villages of Ansegem, Tieghem, Caster and Eleghet and taking on Oct. 31st 900 prisoners. The French and Americans in the centre carried the fiercely defended heights between the Lys and the Scheldt and advanced to the Scheldt between Melden and Eeclie on a front of 16 to a depth of from eight to sixteen kilometres, capturing in two days' fighting nineteen villages, notably Daynze, Nazareth and Audevalde and taking on Oct. 31st 1,000 prisoners and two batteries. The Belgians in the North carried out minor operations on Derivation Canal, assisted by French Tanks.

London, Nov. 3.

F. M. Sir D. Haig says:—We captured on Nov. 2 the steelworks South-Eastward of Valenciennes which the enemy determinedly defended all day long. We advanced the line 1½ miles Eastward of the town and completed the capture of St. Saulve. We took in two days 5,000 prisoners and also four Tanks and a few guns.

Paris.—Since July 15 the Allies have taken prisoners 7,990 Officers and 354,865 men, and captured 8,217 guns, 88,622 machine guns and 3,907, minor-throwers. Of these 2,472 Officers, 105,871 men, 2,084 guns, 18,939 machine-guns, 1,193 mine throwers were captured in October.

KING BORIS ABDICATES.

London, Nov. 2.

Copenhagen.—A message from Berlin states that the Bulgarian King Boris has abdicated. A peasant Government has been established at Turnovo under Herr Stambulinsky.

The abdication of King Boris is the latest sensation of the week, which has witnessed the collapse of two Empires and the sudden development of a Military disaster of the first magnitude on the plains of Veneti.

London, Nov. 3.

A message from Sofia states that the Council of Regency has taken charge of affairs in Bulgaria. Herr Stambulinsky has an Army of 40,000.

THE BALKANS.

London, Nov. 3.

A French Eastern *communiqué* says:—The Serbians reached the Danube on Oct. 30 between Semendria and Belgrade. They occupied Belgrade on Nov. 1 when the Commander of the First Serbian Army solemnly entered the city. Jugo-Slav forces in Montenegro are nearing Podgoritz.

AUSTRIAN "VIRIBUS UNITAS" DESTROYED.

London, Nov. 3.

Amsterdam.—A Vienna telegram states that two Italian Naval Officers entered Pola roadstead at night and mined and blew up the Austrian dreadnought "Viribus Unitas." Most of the crew were saved. No explanation has been received as to how the raid was carried out. According to a later telegram from Vienna a mine was placed alongside the hull.

Rome.—An official messenger states that it was Engineer-Commander Rossetti and Surgeon-Lieutenant Polocci who destroyed the "Viribus Unitas." It is believed both were taken prisoners.

THE KAISER'S DECREE.

Amsterdam.—The text of the Kaiser's Decree, addressed to the Chancellor, is as follows:—Your Grand Ducal Highness, I return herewith for immediate publication a Bill to amend the Imperial Constitution and the Law of March 17th, 1879, relating to the representation of the Imperial Chancellor which has been submitted to me for signature. On the occasion of a step so momentous for the farther history of the German people, I desire to express my feeling. Prepared by a series of Government acts, a new order now comes into force, transferring the fundamental rights of the Kaiser's person to the people. Thus ends a period which will stand in honour before the eyes of future generations, despite all the struggles between inherited authority and aspiring forces. It has rendered possible to our people that tremendous development which has imperishably revealed itself in the wonderful achievements of this War. In the terrible storms of four years of War however the old forms have been broken up, not to leave ruins behind, but to make room for new and vital forms. After the achievements of these times the German people can claim that no right which may guarantee a free and happy future shall be withheld from them. The proposals which the Allied Governments have now adopted and extended owe their origin to this conviction. I, however, with my exalted Allies, endorse these decisions of Parliament in the firm determination, as far as I am concerned, to cooperate in their full development, convinced that I shall thereby be promoting the weal of the German people. The Kaiser's office is one of service to the people. May, therefore, this new order release all the good powers which our own people need in order to support the trials hanging over the Empire, and with a firm step win a bright future from the gloom of the present.

A CHAOTIC SITUATION.

London, Nov. 2.

The establishment of a peasant Government in Bulgaria may be indicative of the tendency, even in Austria-Hungary, where conditions are at present chaotic and the news is scrappy and uncertain. There are apparently two Premiers in Hungary, Count Hadik, nominee of the Archduke Francis Joseph, charged by the latter to restore order, and Count Karolyi, whose former chieftainship of Magyar domination makes his national Ministry suspect in the eyes of Allies. Both may still be submerged in the wave of Soviet anarchy, as the establishment of Councils of Soldiers and Officers is reported both in Vienna and Buda-Pesth. Count Karolyi has issued a list of Ministers, chiefly notable for the fact that they are all Magyars. Another new Cabinet is the German-Austrian, formed in Vienna, the most notable name in which is the holder of the portfolio of Foreign Affairs, viz., the Socialist, Herr Victor Adler, father of the assassin of the Premier, Herr Suerck, in 1916. Meanwhile the whereabouts of the Emperor Karl are uncertain. The latest report is that he is still in Vienna. All these developments impose new responsibilities on the Entente involving the safeguarding of their subjects, the limitation of Civil War, and the preservation of Governments capable of discharging the obligations incurred by the Monarchy. It is impossible yet to predict how the swift march of events will affect Germany.

THE DEPORTATIONS.

London, Nov. 2.

Paris.—The Rector of Lille University has forwarded to M. Poincaré a petition, signed by 5,000 parents, entreating the French Government to summon Germany to return their children, carried off, during the occupation, in violation of international Law. The document is couched in the most pathetic terms and says *inter alia*:—"We are tortured by the thought that our children, weakened by unheard-of privations and exposed to fatigue, dangers and miseries, are being dragged along by savage hordes flying in disorder and are abandoned to the mercies of pitiless and heartless men."

GERMANY.

London, Nov. 3.

A meeting of the Berlin Banking Commercial and Industrial representatives passed a resolution to urge the Government to accept the Entente's Armistice terms, as it was impossible to expect the War situation to improve.

Amsterdam.—The whole German Press is discussing the Kaiser's position. The papers publish inspired statements that he intends to issue a decree assenting to the internal political change. A meeting of the Progressive Party at Munich passed a resolution demanding the Kaiser's abdication. The "Weser Zeitung" reports that a crowd numbering thousands demonstrated before the Palace at Stuttgart demanding the abdication of the Kaiser and the formation of a German Socialist Republic. The Police dispersed them with difficulty.

London, Nov. 2.

The hurried departure of the Kaiser, the Chancellor and Herr Dolbrueck, the Kaiser's Secretary, for headquarters has revived rumours in Berlin of impending abdication, though it is pointed out in London that the stiffened German resistance to the British coincided with the Kaiser's arrival at the front, and it is stated that the first task of Ludendorff's successor, General Groener, is to collect reinforcements from the East for the West.

Copenhagen.—It is officially announced that Herr Scheideemann as State Secretary has sent the Chancellor a Memorandum emphasizing the necessity for the abdication of the Emperor.

Swiss reports depict the Kaiser's departure for Headquarters as a flight. It is stated that the Government is urging his abdication. Von Ludendorff, who is apparently still at Headquarters, is said to be the chief of a Military Cabal against the Government, but it is believed that the latter could thwart any such plot.

London, Nov. 3.

Rumours regarding the abdication of the Kaiser continue, but are received with the greatest reserve. The latest rumour is that the Kaiser signed the Abdication decree at the Assembly of Confederate Princes at Berlin on Oct. 30th, but execution of the decree was postponed owing to the fears of its effect on the public morale, and divergencies of views regarding the succession.

London, Nov. 2.

Amsterdam.—A Berlin message states:—The Prussian Upper House has unanimously voted fidelity to the hereditary ruling house.

London, Nov. 3.

Amsterdam.—On the occasion of Constitutional developments coming into force the Kaiser issued a decree, endorsing the decision of the Reichstag, avowing his determination to cooperate in their full development.

DESTRUCTION OF CHAMPAGNE.

London, Nov. 2.

Correspondents, who have visited Champagne and the Ardennes region, speak of the enemy's swift and wanton destruction of private houses. Their method was conscientiously to burn every house by placing mines in the cellars which were exploded at the moment of evacuation, by the sappers. Even the churches were not spared, while the destruction of wells was executed with diabolical ingenuity. All this was carried out amidst the deep indignation of the inhabitants. Officers told the latter:—We have orders to do it."

—The Ceylon Observer.

Notice.

TENDERS FOR SURVEYS.

The Surveyor General will be prepared to receive quotations, up to December 15th 1918 for the surveys, plans and tracings of the following Public Works Department Roads situated in the Jaffna Peninsula.

Approximate mileage.

- (a) Point Pedro to Kodikamam 85
- (b) Tallipalai to Batticolta 80
- (c) Punnalai Road 105
- (d) Mannipalai to Kattadi 85

2. Only Surveyors holding the Surveyor General's Special License need apply.

3. Copies of the Agreement, Specification, Specimen plans etc. may be seen at the Surveyor General's Office and at the Offices of the Superintendents of Surveys in each Province.

W. C. S. INGLES, Surveyor General.

Surveyor General's Office, Colombo, 31st. October 1918.

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