

Notice.

The following Resthouses and Madam will be closed to the public on the under-mentioned dates on the occasion of His Excellency the Governor's visit.

Kayts Resthouse.....on 17th January, 1919, (afternoon only)
Elephant Pass Rest-house on 19th and 20th January, 1919
Iraimadu Madam on 21st January, 1919.
Mankulam Resthouse on 21st and 22nd January, 1919.
Mullaitivu Resthouse on 23rd January, 1919
Vavuniya Resthouse on 24th January, 1919.

H. E. JANSZ.
for Chairman.

Provincial Road Committee's Office,
Jaffna 10th January, 1919

Wanted

FOR

**MADAWACHCHY
REFRESHMENT ROOM.**

A reliable man as Head Saleman in charge Salary Rs 25/- per month Security required Rs 150/- in cash or Rs 300/- in property.

Apply in person to the undersigned stating qualifications.

M KANAPATTIPILLAI,
General Contractor,
ANURADHAPURA.

**The Hindu Organ.**

JAFNA, MONDAY, JANUARY 13, 1919

**HIS EXCELLENCY THE
GOVERNOR'S VISIT.**

It will be seen from the programme of the Governor's Visit to Jaffna published in another column that His Excellency arrives here on the morning of the 15th instant and remains in Jaffna till the evening of the 19th. We have no doubt that His Excellency will receive a right loyal and enthusiastic welcome from the people of this District as his predecessors had been always received on the occasion of their visits to this place. Preparations are going on to accord him a fitting reception. It is our fervent hope that His Excellency's visit will be productive of immense benefit to Jaffna.

His Excellency comes to Jaffna so soon after the calamity caused by the recent floods which have greatly devastated the country. It was an unprecedented occurrence, and the people have not yet recovered from its effects. As far as we are aware, for the last half a century or so, while the Government has been obliged very often to render help in the shape of relief works and otherwise to other parts of the Island, owing to distress caused by floods, failure of crops and prevalence of epidemic diseases, this District, though not a wealthy country, has managed to tide over failures of crops and other set backs, without the Government coming to its relief, owing to the industrious habits of the people, the vast majority of whom depend for the means of their livelihood more on the produce of their gardens than on that of the fields. But the floods of November last did not only very largely damage the paddy crop, but also the garden produce and destroyed thousands of cattle and a very large number of houses. The distress by the floods has been intensified by the abnormal price of food grains which are being sold at very high price. It is, therefore, to be hoped that His Excellency who has already expressed his sympathy on this calamity will afford some relief to the people, especially to those whose agricultural resources have been crippled by the loss of their cattle. Out of the contributions generously made by the public, especially by our countrymen in Colombo, the Straits and M. S., amounting to about Rs. 25,000, not only rice has been freely distributed and sold at reduced rates, in the distressed parts of the country, but help is being rendered to those who cannot, owing to their poverty, re-build their houses. This measure of relief will entail a large amount of expenditure absorbing almost the balance

amount remaining out of the public contributions. It is, therefore, hoped that the Government will help the needy agriculturists by a grant to replace their lost cattle. It is also felt that the loss on account of the floods would not have been so severe if this Peninsula contained a proper system of drainage. Most of the channels and water courses which had served the purpose of a drainage system suited to the condition of this Peninsula, have been allowed to be silted up or encroached upon, by long neglect of Government.

We have no doubt that the public Address which will be presented to His Excellency will contain most of the pressing wants of Jaffna and that they will receive His Excellency's sympathetic consideration. There will be four Addresses presented to His Excellency at the Ridge-way Hall on the 15th instant, the Public Address, the Local Board Address, the Address of the Headmen and the Address of the Jaffna Association.

MATERIAL PROSPERITY.

The material prosperity of a country means its ownership of material things in the shape of both necessities and luxuries. That prosperity is entirely dependent on the country's agriculture, its manufactures and commerce. "He who makes two blades of grass grow where one grew before is a benefactor to mankind," says Ruskin. He puts the secret of agricultural prosperity in a nutshell. If the food supply of a country comes from its own soil and is at least so abundant as to stand the people in good stead both in times of peace and of war, then the situation is good, and starvation will be a thing unknown. But man does not live by bread alone, though he needs it first and foremost. Once the craving of hunger is satisfied, other cravings assert themselves, cravings born of the senses, of aesthetic tastes, cravings for a life of convenience and comfort, cravings for fine, spacious buildings, for beautiful and artistic furniture, for splendid, swift and speedy conveyances. In one word, there is in almost all of us a craving to live as imposing a life as possible. Whether it is, or can be, satisfied by all is another question. But there it is, as the very vitality of our modern twentieth century civilisation. Those who can afford to satisfy their tastes need the things that satisfy them. And so we have our manufactures and commerce. We require manufactured goods of such qualities and make as would please us, made of raw materials which Mother Earth yields. If, therefore, a country by itself produces the raw materials necessary for producing the goods, and there is sufficient, skilled labour in that country to produce the goods required, then it is placed in a position of entire industrial independence. And commerce is simply the exchange of the surplus goods of a country for others which that country needs but which it does not or cannot produce. And if on this commercial side of a nation's activity, there is no successful competition on the part of other countries or nations, its commercial independence is also assured.

We come back, therefore, to our first proposition that the material prosperity of a country depends on its agricultural independence, on its industrial independence, and on its commercial independence. A country means, as we know, the people of a country. And when we speak of the material prosperity of a country, we throughout mean the material prosperity of those who are settled permanently in the country. We consider the interest of the former first, and every other interest afterwards. Our position is very strongly put by Sir Frederick Nicholson, of the Indian Civil Service. Pleading the cause of India he says, "I beg to record my strong opinion that in the matter of Indian Industries we are bound to consider Indian interest firstly, secondly and thirdly—I mean by 'firstly' that the local raw products should be utilised, by 'secondly' that industries should be introduced, and by 'thirdly' that the profits of such industries should remain in the country." The italics are ours. In other words, the principle, "Indian interest first in India," "Ceylonese interest first in Ceylon" and so on for every country should be strictly adhered to under any or all circumstances. If this principle does not govern our practical politics, if this principle is a mere pious wish recorded on paper, then all we can hope for are tons and tons of frothy talk, with not an ounce of practice.

So the practical application of the above principle is the first condition, the very foundation of our material prosperity.

In this connection the Report of the Indian Industrial Commission with the Hon'ble Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya's criticisms thereon forms very interesting and instructive reading. In our opinion both are opportune and published not a day too soon. No one can deny that the conditions prevailing in Ceylon, so far as agriculture, industry and commerce are concerned, are similar to, if not in some respects worse than, those obtaining in India. The case being so, the findings of the Indian Industrial Commission and Mr. Malaviya's criticisms apply equally to Ceylon, and we therefore make no apology for drawing our readers' attention to some of the most salient points in both.

First as regards agriculture. It is admitted that agriculture should be intensive and extensive; that is to say, an acre should be made to yield as much as possible, and as many acres as possible should be brought under cultivation. As an example of intense cultivation, we shall take the potato crop. It is said that by scientific methods the land can be made to yield potatoes each as big as a football. Similarly a land can be made to yield more crops by scientific methods of agriculture than without them. But what has Mr. Malaviya to say regarding the state of Indian agriculture? He says, according to the summary of his Note published in the *Indian Review*—

"The yield per acre of crops is very much lower in India than in other countries. We are producing in a normal year just enough to meet our requirements of food consumption, with no surplus to meet the contingency of the failure of the rains in the ensuing year. For this reason and also because the high prices of foodstuffs are inflicting serious hardship and injury on the bulk of the people, it is urged that the call for necessary measures being taken for improving the yield of our crops is urgent and insistent and that the matter should receive prompt and adequate attention from the agricultural departments, both imperial and provincial."

Ceylon is much worse situated in this respect than even India. Even in normal years we do not produce enough to meet our requirements of food consumption. Are not intensive and extensive agriculture in Ceylon, and the measures urgently called for by the Honourable Pandit more urgently called for in this country? Who, with the experience of the Rice Situation we have passed and are passing through, would say 'No'?

Now as regards Industries. In the mildest of mild words the Commission expresses its dissatisfaction with the Indian Government's policy in matters industrial; this dissatisfaction is coupled sometimes with an attempt at apology for Government. But with all that, there is a decided tone of dissatisfaction with the poor achievements of Government till now in helping the industrial progress of India. From the Official Summary of the Report of the Commission published in the *Indian Review* we extract the following:

"In future (italics ours) Government must play an active part in the industrial development of the country. It is impossible for Government to undertake that part, unless provided with adequate administrative equipment and fore-armed with scientific and technical advice."

It is no doubt impossible for Government to undertake the industrial development of India, unless provided with adequate administrative equipment, but it is not at all impossible for it to provide itself at any time with whatever is needed to push on the industrial development of the country if it is only bent on playing 'an active part' in the matter as the Commissioners urge. We shall now extract other passages in the Report where our readers will see that the anxiety of the Commissioners to point out the defects of the industrial situation is tempered by an equal anxiety to minimise the blame that attaches to the Indian Government. Say the Commissioners:

"The absence of technical officers and the consequent inability to distinguish between the good and ungood industrial schemes offered have given rise to undue hesitation in granting reasonable concessions. Frequently, therefore, there has been displayed by Government officials an apparent indifference to industries which has been condemned in public mind by the absence of any openly expressed policy of encouragement."

In another place the Commissioners say:

"This account of the efforts made by the Government for the improvement of Indian industries shows how little has been achieved owing to the lack of a definite and accepted policy and to the absence of an appropriate organisation of specialised experts."

"We were forcibly struck when visiting the large Railway and private workshops throughout India with the almost complete absence of Indians in the ranks of foreman and charge-men, the non-commissioned officers of the great army of engineering artisans. At present these posts are filled almost entirely by men imported from abroad. The continuation of conditions which force the industrialisation of this country to import so many of their subordinate supervising staff is clearly most undesirable. They form a serious handicap to progress and militate against the ideal of an in-

dustrially self-sufficing India. Railway workshops are in many cases recruiting European and Anglo-Indian apprentices. There is however a noteworthy absence of provision for the middle class Indians. The arrangements made for Indian apprentices are at present inadequate and stipends paid to them are much lower than the corresponding amounts in the case of Europeans and Anglo-Indians. We consider that the principle should be adhered to that equal proficiency should be equally remunerated."

Again:

"We have come to the conclusion that the manufacturing capacity of the country has been far from being utilised by Government Departments in the past and we believe that somewhat radical changes which we now propose will considerably stimulate industrial progress. It appears to us that in the interest of Indian industries a radical change should be made in the methods of purchasing in India Government and Railway stores. The existing system has been handed down from a time when India was almost entirely dependent upon Europe for manufactured goods and it has had a deterrent effect on attempts to develop new industries in India."

We do not doubt that India from one end of it to the other will thank the Commissioners for painting the situation so truly and so boldly. With regard to many of their detailed recommendations we are more disposed to agree with the Hon'ble Mr. Malaviya than with the rest as it appears to us that he gives the purely Indian view of the matter more correctly. But with all that, we are convinced that the findings of the Commission will inaugurate a more liberal industrial policy in India. And Ceylon cannot remain unaffected by the forward movements in India in political and industrial matters. We fervently hope that Ceylon's industrial progress, from the point of view we have indicated at the beginning, will engage the attention of our Government as keenly as it engages that of the Indian Government.

But no industrial progress, worth the name will ever be made if it is tacitly understood that the natural resources of a country are the preserves, not of the children of the soil, but of those who are born elsewhere. The equanimity of those who calmly contemplate the future material prosperity of their country cannot but be disturbed when they read telegrams such as this:

"Discovery of Copper in India. (Rector's Service.) London, Dec. 19. At a meeting of the Cape Copper Company, the Chairman said that they must presently look to the Bakha Hills Mines in India for a renewal of the prosperity of the company. Large possibilities had been opened up by the discovery of a lode near Bakha similar to that at Bakha."

LOCAL & GENERAL.

THE WEATHER—is clear. More rain is wanted for the paddy crop. The days begin to get warm and the nights are dewy and chilly.

OURSELVES—On account of the Pongal Holidays, the next issue of the "Hindu Organ" will be on the 20th instant.

THE GOVERNMENT AGENT—Mr Horsburgh, the Government Agent, who went to Nuwara Eliya and Colombo, during the holidays, returns to Jaffna on the 10th instant.

THE SUPREME COURT SESSIONS—The first Criminal Sessions of the Supreme Court for Jaffna commence on the 3rd proximo. The Chief Justice is expected to preside.

THE REGISTRAR GENERAL—Mr. Kindersley, the Registrar General, is here on circuit and expects to leave on the 15th instant.

CEYLON SAIVA PARIPALANA SABAI—The Junior Scholarship Examination of the Sabai was held on the 8th, 9th and 10th instant at the Jaffna Hindu College under the presidency of C. M. Sincayah Mudaliyar. 8 candidates from different Schools appeared for Examination.

THE CONTROLLER OF REVENUE—The Hon. Mr. A S Pagden arrived here with Mrs. Pagden, on the 10th instant, on a tour of inspection.

PERSONAL—Mr. Lewis Walker, Hon. Secretary, S.P.O.A, who arrived here on the 10th instant, returned to Colombo by the evening train on the 11th.

—Dr. M. Sivadambay who went to India on six months' leave has returned to Colombo and resumed his duties as Superintendent of the Lying in Home.

ON THE SICK LIST—Mr. W. Mudir, Muttuwappal, Member, Provincial Road Committee, N. P. is confined to his room and is suffering from fever. Dr. Jayatilake is attending on him.

THE CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT—It is authoritatively stated that the Hon. Mr. F. Bawa, C. M. G., Principal collector of Customs, has applied for leave and will be leaving in the course of the next month or two. It has not been definitely decided who will act for Mr. Bawa.

THE ROYAL COLLEGE—Mr. C. H. H. H. H., the retiring Principal of the Royal College, will not be leaving before the Term ends, it is his health holds. He will sail for home before Easter.

