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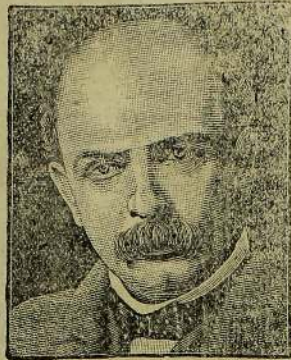
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The Hindu Organ.

JAFNA, THURSDAY, JANUARY 30, 1919

TOTAL PROHIBITION.

The conversion of many of the leading States of the West to the cause of total abstinence from intoxicating liquors and the prohibition of their manufacture or sale is one of the benevolent effects of the war. The experience was gained during a period of great stress and pressure when every unit of man power had to be kept in the highest state of efficiency in the munition works and in the fighting line. It has been found that drink dissipates and decreases human energy while total abstinence tends to conserve and increase it. This point was emphasized in an important manifesto issued to the nation about the beginning of the war, under the signature of many of the leading medical authorities in England and India. The manifesto states that "Alcohol, cocaine, opium, and intoxicating drugs such as bhang and ganja are poisons," that "even a moderate use of these is harmful" that "alcohol lowers the resisting power of the body against diseases," that "those who confine themselves to non-alcoholic drinks and who avoid the use of intoxicating drugs are capable of more endurance," and that "alcohol is in many cases injurious to the next generation." Dr. Alexander Bryce in a lecture he recently delivered before the Vegetarian Congress in England also states that "Alcohol is a poison..... Alcohol not only poisons the body directly, but also indirectly, by preventing the elimination of its waste matter—particularly uric acid. All scientists endorse the views I have just expressed. They also agree that it has no food value."

In spite of the firm support given to total abstinence by such an influential body of modern medical men, and in spite of the fact that all our ancient medical and religious authorities unanimously lend their support to it, it is deeply to be regretted that there should be men among us who are advocates of moderate drinking. The revulsion of popular feeling in Europe and America against drinking has been very noticeable of late. After the commencement of the war, the French Government has enacted laws totally prohibiting the manufacture and sale of absinthe—a cheap and popular intoxicating liquor of France—and also placed effective restrictions on other liquors. In Russia, before the revolution, the Government enforced total prohibition of vodka and other liquors. It was then reported to have produced very beneficial results in decreasing crime and increasing the economic prosperity of the people. If not for the revolution which plunged that unfortunate country into inextricable chaos and misery, it would have afforded us one of the most convincing instances of the utility and efficacy of total prohibition. In England and her Colonies too, stringent laws were in operation during the war, greatly restricting the sale of all intoxicating liquors, especially to soldiers and munition workers.

The action taken by the United States of America in this connection has been the most conspicuous. The announcement contained in a Reuter's Telegram from London dated the 17th instant cannot fail, we hope, to influence and induce our Government to revise its opinion on the question of prohibition. The Telegram states that:—

Church bells are ringing in some States in celebration of national prohibition which will be an accomplished fact a year hence, the necessary three-fourths of the States having ratified the Amendment to the Constitution to that effect. Actually prohibition becomes effective from July 1st as a war measure till the President declares the Army demobilized. It is generally thought that the President will not declare this until the Constitutional Amendment becomes effective. The Amendment makes the manufacture, sale, exportation and importation of alcoholic beverages illegal throughout the United States. Measures are already being taken, fixing penalties for infraction. Federal State Governments will lose enormous revenues by this epoch making step.

The sensible measure adopted by the United States in this instance is indeed an epoch-making one. Under this Amendment Prohibition begins in one year's time, but it is stated to be the opinion of many in the United States that the States will go on a permanent "bone-dry" basis from July 1st when the measure passed last September, enforcing National Prohibition, becomes effective. Many of the States of the Union had adopted Prohibition long ago and some correspondents in our local daily contemporaries bear testimony to the fact that they found it impossible to procure intoxicating drinks in the hotels or in the railway trains while travelling in those States recently. We earnestly wish that such a consummation be attained in our Island too at no distant date, to the lasting benefit of its people.

Though our Island is not so far advanced in its Excise policy as the United States, we should congratulate ourselves that it is far in advance of India and the Native States in this respect. Local Option is a boon that has not yet been granted to India. We should thank our Government for having granted us this privilege, however handicapped it may be in its practical operation. Though in Jaffna this privilege has not yet been availed of, we are glad to note that in some of the Sinhalese towns and villages the people have made use of it to effect their redemption from the drink evil. It has been made applicable to toddy as well as to attack taverns from this year. The Total Abstinence Central Union at its half yearly general meeting held at Colombo last Saturday has adopted a resolution asking for Government Prohibition as in America. It has also made several requests from the Government for facilitating the working of Local Option. Jaffna too should wake up and organize itself for the work. The road tax payers who are enfranchised for Local Option should be educated and informed of their privilege and the mode of exercising it. The old national ideal of total abstinence, which has been losing its hold, should be revived, and every one should be convinced of the fact that unless the progress of the drink evil is arrested there is no hope of our countrymen regaining their former physical, intellectual, and spiritual strength.

LOCAL & GENERAL.

S. P. O. A. JAFFNA.—The Hon'ble Mr. A. Sapapathy, who has been the Hony. Agent of this Society for the last nine years has owing to increased other duties and responsibilities, resigned his connection with the Society, as from the 1st proximo, and Mr. N. Selvadurai, Principal, Jaffna Hindu College, has consented to accept the Hony Agency which has been offered to him. Mr. Selvadurai was the first Hony. Agent of the Society in Jaffna and it was on his appointment as Headmaster of Trinity College, Kandy, in 1909, Mr. Sapapathy succeeded him in that capacity.

DR. PAUL PIERIS' APPOINTMENT.—We understand that at the meeting of the Colombo Bar Council held on the 27th instant the resolution brought by a member condemning the appointment of Dr. P. E. Pieris to the District Judgeship of Colombo as a violation of the principle and practice governing the appointments to the District Judgeships of Colombo and Kandy was rejected. Another motion urging the removal for the future of the reservation in favour of members of the Civil Service mentioned in the dispatch of Sir Michael Hicks-Beach was adopted. It seems to be the feeling at Hulseford that the time has come for the Secretary of State to concede the right in its entirety to the Bar. A Committee was also appointed to consider and draft a scheme by which this principle might be extended to the District Judgeships of the other stations.

H. E. THE GOVERNOR AT THE NAYANMAR-KUDU HOSPITAL.—H. E. the Governor, with the Government Agent and party, paid a visit to this well-known Ayurvedic Hospital on the 13th instant. A beautiful Pandol was erected at the entrance and the whole premises was gallily decorated in honour of the occasion. His Excellency went round the whole building and appeared to be much pleased with all the arrangements, and with the unique character of the institution. Mr. V. S. Suppiah Pillai, the Chief Physician and Surgeon in charge of the Hospital, and his forefathers for several generations enjoy

a name in Jaffna, specially for their surgical skill. His Excellency was informed of the work done in the Hospital, and of a difficult surgical operation lately performed there by Mr. Suppiah Pillai, in the case of an order of the Government Agent. His Excellency the Governor and the Government Agent recorded in the Visitors' Book their high appreciation of the work done at the Hospital.

RETIREMENT OF RAO BAHADUR K. V. LINGAM PILLAI.—We give in another column an article from our Madras daily contemporary, "Justice", on the retirement from the Indian Postal Service, of this distinguished Ceylonese. Mr. K. V. Lingam is one of a Jaffna family of distinguished Postal Officials in India, his uncle the late Mr. V. Kanagasabai Pillai having been a First Grade Superintendent of Post Offices, and his younger brother Mr. K. Amirthalingam Pillai, being now a Superintendent of Post Offices at Vellore S. India, and has been a Personal Assistant to the Post Master General, Madras, some years ago. Though it is stated that he has decided to settle in Madras, we are sure that Ceylon will get the benefit of his ripe experience and learning, equally as India, in all undertakings of national benefit. We wish Mr. K. V. Lingam a long, happy, and useful life, in his retirement.

PERSONAL.—Mr. C. Muttukumaru, the well known Tamil Physician of Jaffna who has been practising in Colombo at the invitation of many influential gentlemen of that city, is now on a short visit to Jaffna. He is staying at his residence in Vannarponnai and will, we understand, return to Colombo in a few days.

CIVIL SERVANTS GOING ON LEAVE.—Mr. C. V. Brayne, A. G. A., Kelutara has applied for leave from April 1st. Mr. W. L. Murphy, A. G. A., Hambantota, has also applied for leave. It is understood that he will leave in August.

C. G. R. PROMOTION.—Mr. M. Kanagasiam, Chief Clerk, D. T. S. Office, Anuradhapura, has been promoted to the first class of the Railway Clerical Service on the ground of special merit as from 1st October 1918, on an initial salary of Rs. 1860/- rising to Rs. 2700/- by annual increment. He is an old boy of the Jaffna Hindu College.

Y. M. H. A. SANDILIPAY.—Under the auspices of the above Association a lecture on (சாத்திரம்) was delivered by Mr. M. S. Elnamby, Advocate, on the 15th instant. The meeting commenced at about 6.30 p.m. with Mr. C. Murgasapillai, Proctor, as president. The lecturer with his usual eloquence held the audience spell-bound for about three hours. Remarks were offered by Mr. Ramenathayyer. The meeting came to a close at about 10 p.m. with a few remarks from the chair.

—Cor.

AGRICULTURAL SHOWS.—Three Agricultural Shows are to be held in Matale District next month under the auspices of the Matale Food Production Committee. The first is at the Berron Memorial Hall on Saturday (Feb. 8th), the 2nd at Rattota on Saturday (15th) and the 3rd at Paldeniya on Saturday (22nd). Messrs. R. Senior-White and Allen B. Thomson are Joint Secretaries. Mr. Senior-White, however, had to proceed to Pusa to be present at the All India Agricultural Conference—so the work has fallen on Mr. Thomson, who is heartily supported by A. G. A. and the Ratemahatmayas. The shows are not to be confined to village produce and will be opened each day at noon.

HOMER PIGEONS IN CEYLON.—At the C. V. R. A. Rifle Meet held last week at Hunupitiya some Homer pigeons were put to the test of conveying messages to Colombo. The pigeons belonged to Mr. W. P. D. Vanderstraaten. Four pairs were despatched from Hunupitiya with some of the results and a private message and of these three pairs arrived at Mr. Vanderstraaten's bungalow with the message. The other pair reached Mr. F. Ginger's residence at Mutwal, where they were at one time, but were sent out again and reached their present owner's residence.

THE COMING TAMIL LEXICON.—The latest issue of the progress reports on the work of the Tamil Lexicon Committees show that at the present rate of progress the Lexicon will be completed by the end of March. It is over five years since the compilation was taken in hand and the work is occupying a great deal more time than was originally anticipated by the public. The Chairman of the Committee has kept himself in touch with the Tamil literary world by frequent tours and personal interviews and has made every attempt to profit by the criticisms. Up to date over 50,000 words have been finished and this comprises two-thirds of the work. The Tamil public (says the "Madras Mail") will have reason to be grateful to the University authorities and the Government and to the members of the Committee when the Lexicon is finally issued, for it will be a most up-to-date and comprehensive work of its kind, profiting as it has done by all the researches in the field of comparative philology since the monumental work of Professor Wilson.

BOMBAY STRIKE OVER.—The Bombay Labour strike has practically ended. All the mills opened yesterday morning and the workmen quickly resumed their work. The absentees were few. A large percentage of the Mint hands are still holding out.

IRON WORKS FOR MY-SORE.—Mr. Porio, iron expert, is expected next month in India, when he will work out details of the Mysore Government iron scheme and carry out installation of machinery at Bankipur, where the Mysore Government iron works will be located. The scheme, it is understood, is entirely financed by the Mysore Government, and its management will be under the control of a Board of three representatives of the Mysore Government and two of the Tata Iron and Steel Company. The Company will act as agents of the Mysore Government for the manufacture of pig iron.—"M. Mail," Jan. 23.

NIPON YUSEN KAISHA REPORT.—The report of the Nipon Yusen Kaisha (the Japan Mail Steamship Company, Limited), presented to the shareholders at the half yearly ordinary general meeting, states:—The net profit, after providing for the depreciation of the fleet, insurance and ships' structural repair funds and war taxes, amounts to Yen 53,691,467, including Yen 1,009,026, from the last account. The Directors now propose that this surplus be appropriated as follows:—Legal reserve fund, Yen 2,635,000, special reserve for War risk and depreciation of vessels to be built and purchased, Yen 20,000,000; special reserve, Yen 100,000; dividend equalization fund, Yen 8,500,000; Directors' and Auditors' fees, Yen 630,000 dividend (10 per cent per annum), Yen 2,632,320; extra dividend (50 per cent per annum, Yen 13,161,600; fund for the training, protection and encouragement of seamen, Yen 1,000,000; pension fund, Yen 2,500,000; leaving a balance of Yen 1,632,547 to be carried forward to next account.

LORD SINHA.—London, Jan. 14.—Mr. Bupendranath Basu has telegraphed to the Premier:—"All India rejoices and thanks you for Sir S. P. Sinha's appointment. You have appealed to the imagination of India and done, what the greatest Moghal Emperor, Akbar, did in the sixteenth century. I join my personal thanks." "The Times" says:—"The question of Sir S. P. Sinha's title is being discussed. Lord Sinha of Calcutta is favoured. The "Daily Telegraph" says:—"Sir S. P. Sinha has all the qualifications necessary for his important position in the administration. He has not only done good work, but is much respected by all his acquaintances as a scholar and a jurist. His appointment, combined with a Peerage, is a striking instance of imaginative insight into political conditions. The elevation of Sir S. P. Sinha to a Peerage is a fresh example of the honesty and liberal character of our policy regarding India. By making an Indian Under-Secretary for India, we prove beyond doubt our generous ambition to promote everywhere the future welfare of India."

COMMERCIAL CLASSES AT THE TECHNICAL SCHOOLS.—The Commercial Classes to be held by the Education Department to prepare students for the London Chamber of Commerce Junior and Senior Ceylon Chamber of Commerce Clerical and other examinations will commence by next week. About 200 students have applied to be enrolled and on Friday all assembled at the Technical Schools when Mr. E. B. Dentham, Director of Education, addressed them, and consulted them as to the hours suitable for holding the classes. The hours 5.30 to 7.30 p.m. were considered suitable. The subjects taught will be English, Shorthand, Typewriting, Book-keeping, Accountancy, Methods and Machinery of Business and Commercial Geography has been dropped. Specially qualified instructors will conduct the classes. The date and time of opening will be notified later.

IS THE EX KAISER A MILLIONAIRE?—There seems to be little doubt that the answer is in the affirmative, writes a Bombay contemporary. "William the Sudden" always had an eye to the main chance, despite his historic idealism, and his income was never less than £900,000 per annum. He received half-a-million in cool cash from Germany for the site of the Opera House in Berlin and had large holdings in the Hamburg Amerika line and in the Reichsbank and Krupp's. His personal jewellery alone is said to be worth a fortune. The interesting question is where is the fortune hidden?

INDIA AND THE WAR.—Bombay Jan. 23.—A correspondent of the "Times of India" in a letter to that paper quotes figures from an English paper showing what enormous supplies of agricultural and other produce have been sent from India to England, France and Italy during the past four years. They include 47 lakhs of tons of various foodstuffs, 30 lakhs of tons of wheat and 25 lakhs of tons of oil and oleseeds. The correspondent says: "These India gave gladly, ungrudgingly, even gratefully to England in her time of supreme trial. She felt pride in the service she was able to render, but now that her granaries are exhausted, her resources overdrawn and she is faced with famine, and now that the Shipping Controller is able to release freight, cannot the Government of India take at least two dozen of these released ships on Blue-book rates and utilise them to bring rice from Burma, sugar from Mauritius and Java, coal from Calcutta and thus alleviate the hardships of the people?"—"M. Mail."

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T. S. K.

NATIONAL COLLEGE.

The rise and fall of empires in the past will lead one to conclude that no nation can hope to live eternally. The civilisations of the Nile and the Euphrates disappeared long ago; the Greek and the Roman empires lie in dust; and many other empires too numerous to mention had tumbled into ruins. But the civilisation of the Hindus, though which arose in the basin of the Ganges, survives threatened with extinction several times, and to the present day. We are told that all material civilisations will perish in as much as they contain the seeds of decay within them, but that our civilisation being spiritual will last for ever. The chief and vital force of our civilisation is religion. The essential elements of civilisation are knowledge, religion, as well as social beliefs, customs, manners and tastes. Religious knowledge is the most important and determining factor, because it influences and modifies all other factors. What distinguishes us from all other nations, whether ancient or modern, is the advance we have made in spiritual philosophy. The late Swami who is a product of the Hindu culture said that the aim of our civilisation is the perfection of divinity in man-soul culture being our chief aim, we still regard religious knowledge as of primary importance and secular knowledge as subordinate to it. Hence it is that our beliefs and customs, tastes and manners have a spiritual significance. Hence it is that we are often accused by foreigners as being too much otherworldly. This charge is levelled against us because we neglected those branches of knowledge which contribute towards material prosperity. But in fact our ancestors were as well advanced as the Greeks and Romans in those sciences and arts which make for industrial prosperity. While keeping religion in the forefront of our attention we can develop those elements of culture which had been neglected by our race lately. Whatever changes may be introduced into our customs and beliefs to suit modern conditions of life, we must try to preserve the essentially spiritual character of our civilisation. If we want to preserve it from decay. What we have acquired from our ancestors we must hand down to the next generation.

Culture is transmitted from one generation to another through various channels, the chief of which are home, schools, temples, and voluntary organisations. The struggle for existence has become keener than ever before and the science of living has advanced to a great extent. Consequently the parents cannot be expected to co-operate with the teachers in training the youth of our country. Nor can we look to the priesthood of this peninsula for any assistance in this matter. The rituals of our religion are mere dry husk to the youthful inquirer whose scientific temper will not be satisfied by the venture. Some guesses are made by our ignorant priests as regards the spiritual significance of those rituals. The voluntary Associations in our midst are of recent origin. So schools are the chief medium for infusing national culture into the minds of our youth. They are the most fit place for imparting religious instruction, and it is here the teacher can instil into the pliant minds of the youth those ideals for which the Hindus are conspicuous, such as simplicity, reverence for elders, piety, vegetarianism etc.

The tone or atmosphere of the College must be such as to foster Hindu ideals. Christians will naturally like to send their sons to Christian schools. Mohammedans will put their sons in Mohammedan schools. The Hindu parents will naturally select Hindu Schools for their sons. The Hindu Colleges now existing in Jaffna can be counted on the fingers of one hand, and they are not sufficient to provide accommodation for all the Hindu youths who are desirous of receiving education. Consequently Hindu parents are under the painful necessity of sending their sons to Christian institutions. How will a Hindu boy fare in a Christian school? He will be taught the scriptures the tenets of which he will not care to follow. Moreover he will have no knowledge of his own religion. The upshot of it is that he grows up an atheist or at best a free thinker. Any man in the street will tell us that the influence of religion in moulding the character of a youth is very great. The most dangerous period in a man's life is his youth. That is the period in which a man sows wild oats. It is not the cold principles of morality that will enable a youth to overcome the temptations that may beset him but it is the inspiration of religion. Religious discipline is necessary to steel the mind of a young man against the snares that may come in his way. The path of duty now lies clear before the Hindu parents. We must make up our minds to establish all over Jaffna the required number of national colleges with the object of imparting education on national lines to every Hindu youth whether Brahman or Panchama. Each of these institutions must be placed under the control and management of a Board of Directors elected by the people of the locality in which the institution is situated. The activities of all these boards must be co-ordinated by a central Committee of Education appointed by the people and the Committee should advise the boards on matters educational.

The funds necessary for carrying out such a scheme, can be easily obtained. Where there is a will there is a way. National schools have as much a claim on our charity as temples, for in the former we learn to know, love, and worship God. They are as much consecrated to God as temples. Any contribution made towards the founding of a national school is as good as offerings made to a temple. So numerous are the temples in this peninsula that there is sure to be one or two within a call's distance of every house. Therefore, we must now bend all our energies towards establishing the required number of national colleges or Hindu Colleges. Temples by the way must be nationalised. The new Trust Ordinance is intended to prevent any unscrupulous manager or priest from converting temples into money making places. But that is not enough. The temples must be brought under the management and control of the people, who can devote the surplus income to purposes of education. We must be united. We must organise ourselves, for the whole world is on the eye of great changes.

M. K. Sankarapillai, B. A.

TELEGRAPHIC SUMMARY.

The War.

THE PEACE CONFERENCE.

London, Jan. 23.

Paris.—Mr. Barnes, member of the War Cabinet, explained to British pressmen today that the Conference felt it must deal with international labour questions, hoping to lay the foundation of more humane conditions of labour. Both employers and employed would be consulted. Questions which were ripe for settlement included hours of labour, minimum wages, a half holiday and protection of children from profiteering. He said the proposals included the constitution of a Commission which would be charged with the duty of convening a special international conference, including representation of the employers and work people, as early as possible.

A communique says that the British Empire delegation met for two hours at the Hotel Majestic in Paris. Those present were Mr. Lloyd George, Mr. Balfour, Mr. Barnes, Lord Reading, Sir M. Hankey, the Dominions' and Indian delegator, also Capt. Clement Jones, Secretary and Mr. Christie and Captain Brebner, Assistant Secretaries. The representatives of the Great Powers reassembled this morning, but did not discuss Russian or Polish affairs. The wireless station on the Eiffel Tower began at two this morning to transmit invitations to influential groups in Russia to send three representatives to Prinkipo. The Inter Allied Commission charged with communicating with the Russian Emoyas has not yet been appointed, but it is understood that it will include no personage who exercised diplomatic functions in Russia. The Military delegation to Poland where General Barthelemy already is will probably be chosen from the Allied Generals on the spot. Four civilian delegates from the United States, Britain, France and Italy have not yet been designated.

French newspapers continue to criticise the Supreme Council's decision regarding Russia, but some commentators suggest that President Wilson merely desires by forcing the Bolsheviks to show their hand to prepare the world for action against the Bolsheviks as he prepared America for action against Germany.

London, Jan. 24.

M. M. Hinkoff, ex-Russian Minister, in an interview with Reuters in London, deplored the invitation to the Bolsheviks. He said the only way to settle the Russian problem was to overthrow the regime of the Bolshevik robbers and out-throats by the Allies supplying arms and munitions to the patriotic Russians. A telegram from Paris says that Prince Loeff interviewed by "L'Intransigeant" opposed the invitation to the Bolsheviks, but Reuters learns that the general inclination of Russians in Paris is to accept the invitation as harmless and possibly advantageous.

Paris.—A communique says:—The President of the United States, and the Prime Ministers and Foreign Secretaries of the British Empire, France and Italy and the representatives of Japan met at the Quai D'Orsay from 3 to 5.15 p.m. today. The Mission of the Allied and Associated Powers to Poland was first discussed and it was agreed that M. Pichon should prepare draft instructions to the Mission for the approval of the representatives of the Powers. It was agreed that one Press representative for each of the five great Powers should be permitted to accompany the Mission. The question of territorial readjustments in connection with the conquest of the German Colonies was then taken up. Sir R. Borden, Mr. Hughes and General Smuts, the latter representing General Botha and Mr. Massey, were present and explained the particular interests of their respective Dominions. As regards these questions a message to "The Times" from Paris says:—It is understood that the Dominions have been asked to send a representative to Prinkipo and Sir R. Borden has been approached in the matter. It is probable that General Botha will go with the other Mission to Poland. At the Colonial discussion General Smuts, on behalf of South Africa, claimed German South-West Africa, upon which point there is full agreement. Great Britain is willing to accept some form of Neutralisation for Togoland and Kamerun, and even German East Africa. The only point, therefore, for discussion was the fate of Samoa and the Pacific Islands. Japan some time ago proposed that the equator should form the limit for the Japanese Southwards. This would give Japan the Caroline and Marshall Islands.

Paris.—The public sitting of the Peace Conference tomorrow should make an important advance. Five big questions will be raised and referred to the expert Inter-Allied Commission for the performance of the necessary spadework. Firstly, the League of Nations; secondly, International Labour Legislation; thirdly, the personal responsibility for the War; fourthly, reparation and indemnities; and fifthly, the Internationalisation of certain Ports, Rivers and Railways.

As regards the League of Nations, Mr. Lloyd George will move a resolution affirming the recognition of the principle of the League, after which various draft schemes will be referred to the Inter-Allied Commission. It is confirmed that the British plan is practically identical with that of General Smuts' pamphlet, while President Wilson's is a combination of the British, French and other schemes, notably that of Smuts, which has profoundly impressed President Wilson.

DRAFT OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

London, Jan. 15.

Paris.—The following communique is issued here:—The following draft of the League of Nations resolution was submitted to today's full Conference:—

Clause A.—It is essential to the maintenance of the world settlement, which the associated nations are now bent to establish, that the League of Nations be created to promote international co-operation, to ensure fulfilment of accepted international obligations and to provide safeguards against War.

Clause B.—The League should be treated as an integral part of the general Peace treaty, and should be open to every civilised nation which can be relied on to promote its objects.

Clause C.—Members of the League should periodically meet in international conference, and should have a permanent organisation and Secretariat to carry on the business of the League in the intervals between the conference. The

Conference, therefore, appoints a Committee representative of the Associated Governments to work out the details of the constitution and functions of the League. Regarding breaches of the laws of War, it is proposed that a commission composed of two representative apiece from the five Great Powers and five elected by other Powers be appointed to enquire into and report on, firstly, the responsibility of the authors of the War; secondly, facts regarding breaches of the laws and customs of War committed by the Germans and their allied forces on land, at sea and in the air; thirdly, the degree of responsibility for these offences attaching to particular members of the enemy forces, including members of the General Staff and other individuals, however highly placed; fourthly, the constitution and procedure of the tribunal appropriate for the trial of these offences; fifthly, generally, with regard to cognate matters regarding reparation. That a Commission be appointed, not exceeding three representatives apiece from each of the five Great Powers, and not exceeding two apiece from Belgium, Greece, Poland, Rumania and Serbia, to examine and report on, firstly, the amount for reparation which the enemy countries ought to pay; secondly, what they are capable of paying; thirdly, the method and form and time within which payment should be made. Regarding industrial and labour questions it is proposed that a Commission be appointed composed of two representative apiece from the five Great Powers and five representatives to be elected by the other Powers to enquire into the conditions of employment from the international aspect, and consider the international means necessary to secure common action on matters affecting the conditions of employment, and to recommend the formation of a permanent agency to continue such enquiry, and in consideration with and under the direction of the League of Nations. The draft of the following resolution was also submitted:—"That a Commission, composed of two representative apiece from the five Great Powers, and five representatives to be elected from other Powers, be appointed to enquire into and report upon the international regime of ports, waterways and railways."

INDUSTRIAL UNREST.

London, Jan. 23.

200,000 Yorkshire miners struck today, demanding 20 minutes complete cessation of work for a meal time instead of taking meals in relays which avoided stoppage. The Coal Controller tonight granted the demand of the men who are resuming work.

The Conference of engineers and shipbuilders has come to an agreement, and the men are recommended to resume work immediately on the understanding that there will be another Conference next week.

London, Jan. 24.

A Clyde Joint Committee has approved the arrangements for a shipyard strike on January 27th for a forty-hour week. Glasgow Municipal workers decided to join the strike.

GERMANY.

London, Jan. 24.

Amsterdam.—A telegram from Danzig says that Von Hindenburg, replying to the appeal of the Municipality to protect West Prussia, promised to do everything to prevent Danzig and the German Eastern marshes being torn from the German Empire. He said he had long since taken the necessary steps to protect the menaced Province. The "Lokal Anzeiger" says that Hindenburg will transfer his headquarters from Cassel to Kolberg beginning in February.

London, Jan. 23.

Amsterdam.—According to a Berlin message the election returns up to last night were as follows:—German Nationals, 83; Christian People's Party, 80; German People's Party, 22; German Democrats, 74; Majority Socialists, 160; Independent Socialists, 23.

M. Radek has reappeared on the scene.

London, Jan. 24.

Amsterdam.—A Berlin official statement says that the final results of the elections in all the 87 constituencies for which 421 Deputies are elected, are:—Majority Socialists 164, Centrists 88, German Democrats 77, National People's party 34, Independent Socialists 24, German People's party 23, and eleven non-party members.

Amsterdam.—A state of siege has been proclaimed at Hamburg owing to a Spartacist outbreak.

IRELAND.

London, Jan. 24.

An Irish Centre Party was formed yesterday, with Mr. Stephen Gwynn as Chairman. It includes General Gough and the Nationalists, Sergeant Sullivan, Professor Conway, and the Southern Unionist, Sir Algernon Coote. It aims at self government within Ireland under Provincial Assemblies.

KIAUCHAU.

London, Jan. 23.

Tokio.—In the Diet the Foreign Minister declared that Japan had no territorial ambitions in China or elsewhere. Upon the acquisition of the right of free disposal of leased territory in Kiauchau Japan would restore it to China in accordance with the terms of the Treaty of May 6th, 1915, regarding the Province of Shantung.

RUSSIA.

London, Jan. 24.

Stockholm.—Reports from Petrograd indicate that the Bolsheviks are preparing to evacuate the city. The remaining valuables, &c., are being removed to Moscow. Petrograd is regarded as doomed and will probably be the victim of the robber gangs, deserters and escaped convicts, who have already devastated the town for looting purposes. It is expected that the greater number of interned persons will be executed.

London, Jan. 26.

Stockholm.—A telegram from Petrograd via Helsingfors says that the Bolshevik Government decided, before leaving Petrograd, to burn all the bank account books with the object of destroying every trace of the capitalist regime. The Bolshevik Government prohibited Swiss subjects from leaving Russia and holds the Swiss as hostages while the Soviet diplomats are refused access to Switzerland.

London, Jan. 23.

Rather learns that the Bolsheviks are reported to have captured Orenburg. If this be correct, it is unfortunate, as it increases the difficulties of the Russian Siberian Army and threatens the British force in Trans-Caspia. The main Bolshevik force

will now be able to advance along the railway South Eastward from Orenburg. The situation in Poland is difficult. It is reported that German forces are being sent to Poland to fight the Poles and also that 30,000 Ukrainians, assisted by Austrian and German airmen, attacked the Poles at Lemberg and cut off the city's light and water.

PORTUGAL.

London, Jan. 25.

A telegram from Lisbon, dated the 23rd, says that the forts and entrenched camp at Lisbon support the Republic. Vessels on the Tagus intercepted a Monarchist wireless message from Monsanto to Oporto announcing that Cavalry and part of the Infantry, twenty guns and many civilians from Lisbon had joined the Monarchists. All the political prisoners except the murderer of Sidoneo Pass have been released. A telegram from Lisbon, dated the 24th, says that the troops assembled on the Monsanto hills and unfurled the Monarchist flag. A battery at Lisbon shelled the troops which it is reported were commanded by the ex-Minister, Colonel Mendonca. Bluejackets erected barricades in Lower Lisbon in expectation of an advance of the Cavalry from Monsanto. Antonio Almeida appeared in a motor-car in the Rocio square and the crowd acclaimed him, calling him Defender of the Republic.

London, Jan. 26.

Paris.—Representatives of the Great Powers on the League of Nations Committee are President Wilson and Colonel House for the United States, Lord Robert Cecil and General Smuts for Britain, M. Leon Bourgeois, leader of the French League of Nations movement, and M. Larnaud, Dean of the Faculty of Law, Paris University for France, Sig. Orlando and Senator Scialoja for Italy, Viscount Chinda and M. Ochiai for Japan.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT.

London, Jan. 25.

Sir Albert Stanley, addressing the Huddersfield Chamber of Commerce last evening, said he would be much happier if he could see stronger indications of the restoration of the development of trade in this country. There was plenty of trade to be obtained in the world. It was the deliberate policy of Government that restrictions of control should be removed as rapidly as possible, but restrictions upon imports must be maintained in respect of things vital to our and Allied interests, and the blockade must be maintained until Peace was definitely secured. Government also proposed speedily to end the system of priority if possible early in March. There was more shipping available than cargoes. It was expected that in the summer the world tonnage afloat would equal the pre-war tonnage. Traders might anticipate a very big slump in shipping rates. He thought it was a fair suggestion that Government should restrict imports until the manufacturers were re-established on a Peace footing, and it might be accepted that a Ministry of Commerce would shortly be established. Experienced men had already been invited to join the Board. Sir A. Stanley concluded that strikes were a difficult problem which must be faced and solved.

—The Ceylon Observer.

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