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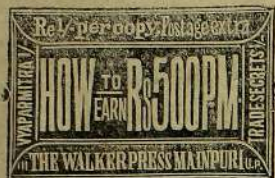
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The Hindu Organ.

JAFFNA, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1919

"A REPROACH TO JAFFNA."

Our daily contemporary, the "Ceylon Morning Leader" of the 23rd ultimo contains a special article by a "Passive Sympathiser" on the temperance movement in Ceylon, in the course of which the writer of that article makes some well-deserved reflections on the Jaffna leaders for the apathy they have shown in regard to the local option question. Elsewhere will be found that portion of the article referring to them. The writer in the "Morning Leader" not only shows a full grasp of the subject but is evidently one who takes a good deal of interest in the social, moral and political welfare of the Ceylonese.

Our esteemed contemporary in an editorial note makes the following remarks under the above heading:—

We have no space to-day to do more than invite public study of the special article published elsewhere from the pen of a "passive sympathiser." There are remarks in his article which

special concern the Jaffna people and their leaders. The failure of Jaffna had not arrested our attention, but now that the point is raised, we do not see how the Tamil leaders in the north can vindicate themselves against this reproach.

We need hardly say that the thanks of the people of Jaffna are due to our contemporary for having so prominently brought to their notice their great lapse in regard to this important question—their failure to take advantage of the privilege of local option granted by the Government to put down the evil of drink which is undoubtedly on the increase in Jaffna. We join with our contemporary in deploring the fact that while the people in the South are showing such commendable activity in regard to the temperance movement, we in the North should observe a policy of masterly inactivity and allow the demon of drink to get a firmer hold in places which had been till recently noted for the temperance habits of the people. It is not so much the people as their leaders who are to blame in this matter. The Karaitiv and Alavetty people have done much in the cause of temperance and we feel sure that when today taverns are brought under the operation of local option they will show renewed energy and see that these taverns in their midst are abolished.

We had felt ourselves before reading the "Morning Leader" articles that the leaders in Jaffna had not done their duty in the temperance cause, especially in connection with local option. The leading article on "Total Prohibition" which appeared in our issue of the 30th ultimo, written before reading the "Morning Leader" articles in question, concluded as follows:—

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 today 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.

We earnestly hope that the Jaffna Association will bestir itself and appoint a Sub-Committee to interest itself in the matter, or an independent Society will be started at once to carry on the work connected with local option. Otherwise our community will not only become greatly demoralised by the increase of drunkenness in the country, but also sink low in the estimation of other communities. As we pointed out in the article above quoted early steps should be adopted to educate the people in regard to the new privilege conferred on them.

LOCAL & GENERAL.

THE GOVERNMENT AGENT.—Mr. B Horsburgh, the Government Agent returned from circuit in the Peninsula on exemption duty of Saturday last.

JAFFNA HINDU COLLEGE.—The annual meeting of the Board of Directors of the Jaffna Hindu College took place on the 1st instant. The Hon'ble Sir Ambalawane Kanagasabai presided. The report of the Secretary, the Balance Sheet and Budget having been adopted, Directors in Section B retired and they were re-elected. The changes in the office bearers were the election of C M Srinivas Mudaliyar and Mr. S Rajaratnam, Advocate, as Secretary and Assistant Secretary, respectively.

THE SUPREME COURT SESSIONS.—The first Original Sessions of the Supreme Court for Jaffna commenced today at 11 a.m., the Hon'ble Sir Anton Bertram, the Chief Justice, presiding. There are four cases on the calendar.

THE LOSS OF A NATIVE VESSEL.—The Brig "Victoria," which was abandoned by the crew owing to a leakage in the vessel, with a cargo of timber, midway between Rangoon and Madras, belonged to the local Chetty firm, M K P R. The value of the vessel without the cargo is Rs. 40,000.

A LECTURE.—Dr. Norris, Hookworm Expert, will deliver a lecture on the Hookworm disease today at the Central College Hall, Jaffna, at 6.30 p.m. Mr. B Horsburgh, Government Agent, will preside on the occasion.

THE SUPERINTENDENT MINOR WORKS, JAFFNA.—A meeting of the Provincial Road Committee took place tomorrow to make a selection out of a large number of candidates for this responsible office.

TWO UDAILYARSHAS.—On Saturday last at Kankesanural the Government Agent filed vacancies in the Udaiyars of Chunnakam and Kankesanural by appointing for those offices the Vidhan of Kanderodai and the Vidhan Kankesanural respectively.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT.—We acknowledge with thanks the receipt from the Government, of a copy of the "Proceedings of the Legislative Council of Ceylon" during 1918.

H. E. THE GOVERNOR'S PERSONAL STAFF.—H. E. the Governor has been pleased to appoint Lieut. G. H. L. Dudgey, O. M. R., to be temporary Extra Aide de Camp, on his Personal Staff—"Gazette."

EXCHANGE OF DUTIES.—An exchange of duties between Mr. W. L. Kindersley, Registrar General, and the Hon. Mr. C. S. Vaughan, G. A., C. P., has been sanctioned, for a month.

CURRENCY NOTES AND STAMPS FOR COLOMBO.—The B. I. "Onepa," which arrived on the 31st ultimo from London, brought five cases of currency notes and seven cases of stamps for Colombo.

POULTRY CLUB EXHIBITION.—There was much activity at the Public Hall, Colombo, on the 31st ultimo, affording a novel experience for a large number. Various factors contributed to the unusual scene of bustle. It was the Ceylon Poultry Club's annual exhibition; and a record show it was. It meant a day spent with the dozens of the poultry farm and some really excellent specimens were on view. The crowing of cocks, quacking of ducks; cooing of pigeons combined to produce a weird chorus, strange within the walls of the Public Hall. All previous records have been broken in the number of exhibits, for, of birds alone, there were over 400; and 50 new pens had to be provided by Messrs. Smith, Campbell & Co. The hall was not large enough to accommodate all the exhibits, some of which had to be kept out. Indian and Malay game classes filled best; and of the game varieties these had the largest numbers. The outstation birds arrived in Colombo by train, and were removed to the Hall in perfect condition. Special care had been taken to guard against any damage to the plumage of the poultry, and all comfort had been provided in the large cages in which the birds were brought to the Show.

HYDRO-ELECTRIC SURVEY.—The P. W. Department has taken up in earnest the question of husbanding the different falls in the Island (which are run to waste now) for the purpose of utilising them to provide necessary power to supply towns with electric light and power. For this purpose, Mr. Wimalasundera, D. E., is now touring the island, making a Hydro Electric Survey, and it is understood that among others the sources of Laxapana and Aberdeen Falls (in Maskeliya and Watawala Districts respectively) are being investigated, with a view to supplying power and light to Colombo.

LOCAL OPTION AT KALUTARA.—The last batch of areas in which there are six taverns was taken in hand on the 15th. The polling concluded on the 25th at the Kalutara Town Hall. The following were the results for the different tavern areas:—Alubomulla 93 per cent., Bolgoda 89 per cent., Pallimulla 84 per cent., Talpitiya 79 per cent., Pattiya South and Oruwella 87 per cent., and Dasasara Kalutara and Welapura Kalutara and Katukuruna 2 votes only.—Kalutara Cor. Jan. 27.

—"Ceylon Daily News"

DEPARTURE OF OFFICIALS.—The Hon. Mr. R. E. Stubbs, Colonial Secretary and Mrs. Stubbs and family; Sir Anton Bertram, Chief Justice, and Lady Bertram; and (probably) the Hon. Mr. Justice Shaw, with Mrs. and Miss Shaw, are leaving Ceylon by the "Osterley" on March 25. Mr. M. Kelway Bamber, Government Chemist, is going on leave for six months by the first opportunity. It is not yet decided who will act.

SALE OF AN ELEPHANT.—The tame elephant, "Rama," belonging to the estate of the late Chas de Soysa, was sold by auction a few days ago to Mr. L. W. A. de Soysa for Rs. 3,200. The animal is considered to be the second best tame elephant in the island. On Monday last, a she elephant, belonging to Mr. J. W. Illangatileke, Notary Public of Kandy, gave birth to a baby elephant, on his property, Asgiriya estate. It is a very rare occurrence for an elephant in captivity.

KANDY RATEPAYERS AND REDUCTION OF RATES.—The Kandy Rate-payers' Association memorialised H. E. the Governor, on December 18th, asking for a reduction in the assessment rate. An unfavourable reply has been received from His Excellency by Mr. George E. D. Silva, Secretary.

VISIT TO THE STOCK GARDENS.—H. E. the Governor, accompanied by the Hon. Trefusis, visited the Stock Gardens on the 29th inst. He was received by Mr. Stockdale and Mr. Drieberg. He inspected the office and was keenly interested in the exhibitions of the Beekeepers' Association. Mr. Crozier explained the apparatus used in beekeeping and also the different methods employed to keep bees. The Governor was shown a number of hives of bees at work and was also shown a queen bee.

PELMADULLA RAILWAY EXTENSION.—The Railway Extension from Ratnapura through the Pelmadulla District has been such a source of convenience to planters, since the first section to Dala was opened, fit to goods and later to all description of traffic, that there has been a clamour for the opening of other Stations. Mr. M. Cole Bowen, Chief Construction Engineer, who had been confronted with many difficulties arising through the War, by the shortage of men, money and material, has risen to the occasion, and not only residents of Pelmadulla, but the entire Province of Sabaragamuwa will learn with much satisfaction that the three new stations Wapotha, Kahawatta and Opanaika—are to be opened to goods traffic from March 15th. As is well-known planters are chiefly concerned in the transport of their produce, which has now to be carted from distant estates to Dala Station, 6 1/2 miles from Ratnapura. In six weeks more 15 additional miles of rail will be in use.

L. O. P. A. VISIT TO EXPERIMENT STATION.—Members of the L. O. P. A., including Mudaliyar Rajapaksa, Dr. H. M. Fernando, Mr. George E. de Silva and others toured the Experiment Station on the 30th ultimo. They were shown round the different plots by Mr. Stockdale and Mr. MacMillan.

BOARD OF AGRICULTURE MEETING.—At the Meeting of the Board of Agriculture held on the 29th instant in the Planters' Hall, H. E. the Governor presided. Others present included: the Hon. Messrs. Vaughan, Tilakaratne, Dr. Fernando, H. Meedeniya, and Moonesinghe, Bishop B. Ekmsyer, Messrs. F. K. D. A., Dinuwille Disawe, E. Bevan, J. C. Ratwatte, Stockdale, Petch, A. W. Winter, Andrew, Long Price, Stevens, Sturge, L. H. S. Piers, C. Drieberg (Secretary) A. B. Thomson, Mac Millan, Vassileff, Mudaliyars Rajapaksa, Illangakoon, Reys, Gaster, and Shorten, Messrs. W. A. de Silva, George Silva, Dr. Hewitson, Rev. Father Casperz, and Mr. Gerard Joseph. H. E. the Governor arrived attended by the Hon. Robert Trefusis and Sir Solomon Dias Bandaranaike. Mr. Stockdale submitted a statement of accounts. The Progress Report was taken as read. Estimates for 1919 were submitted by Mr. Stockdale, after which the Board of members for 1919 was elected. The Hon. Dr. Fernando read a paper on paddy cultivation under the trunks from the economic standpoint. His Excellency said thanks were due to Dr. Fernando for the valuable paper. He did not wish to make any remarks, as the next paper dealt with food supplies, and called on Mr. W. A. de Silva to read the paper on Production and distribution of food supplies. Mr. Thomson read the paper on the Board of Agriculture, Mr. Drieberg that on suggestions for securing larger food supply in the near future, and Mr. Moegoda on the improvement of paddy cultivation. There were short discussions on each paper. H. E. the Governor, at the close said it was desirable that two organisations be formed, one for major products: tea, rubber and probably coconuts, and the other for minor products or village products. On each one of these, the Departments of Agriculture, Irrigation, Land Settlement and also Forest should be represented. On both Boards, planters dealing in major products, should be represented. He also invited criticism and communications from those present, before he reconsidered the re-organisation. —"Ceylon Observer."

THE INDIAN CENSUS.—The decennial census will be taken in India in 1921, and preliminary arrangements are under consideration.

A SAFETY BOTTLE LAMP.—We have received with thanks from Mr. H. W. de Silva of Cullen Factory, Badulla, an improved "Safety Bottle Lamp" with an automatic extinguisher. Mr. de Silva invented the lamp himself, and has secured a patent for it. In Mr. de Silva's invention the danger caused by the upsetting of the lamp is counteracted by the automatic extinguisher which covers the stopper and drops off the moment the lamp is upset, the light being immediately extinguished. There is also a device inside the lamp which prevents the oil being poured out when the lamp is upset. It is mentioned that the Badulla Local Board has already ordered a considerable number of these lamps.

PROSPECTS OF GETTING MUTTU SAMBA.—There is every likelihood of Ceylon receiving supplies of Muttu Samba from S India about March or April. The harvest of the last July's sowing is estimated to yield 75 per cent. of the normal crop. There will be a slight delay in harvesting, but S. I. experts are confident it will at least yield 75 per cent. Usually the rice is ready for export in February, but this time it will be March or April. This crop having proved successful, there is reason to hope that the Madras Government will withdraw the prohibition that came into force owing to the shortage of supplies.

INDIAN LECTURER FOR OXFORD.—London, Jan. 20.—Mr. K. C. Mukherjee has been appointed Lecturer in Philosophy at Oxford University.—"M. Mail."

AYURVEDIC CONFERENCE.—Dahli, Jan. 27.—The annual Ayurvedic Conference began last evening, about two hundred practitioners attending, of which one hundred and thirty attended from other parts of India. Hakim Ajmal Khan of Dahli as Chairman of the Reception Committee welcomed the delegates and emphasised the importance of Ayurvedic

and Tibi systems of Medicine and suggested unity of action to bring their difficulties and grievances to the notice of the Government and seek their help. Kaviraj Unacharan Kaviraja or Bonares, in the course of his presidential address in Hindi, after alluding to the victory of the Allies and the untimely death of Prince John, dwelt upon the importance of Ayurvedic system of medicine, which he claimed as a part of Hindu religious revelation and also as a developed science. The system has had eight branches including surgery. Concluding he urged upon the conference to unite and develop Ayurvedic education and claim from Government recognition and help and also appealed for public support.

PLEASURE FLIGHTS ROUND CALCUTTA BY AEROPLANE—Calcutta Jan. 29.—Messrs. Spalding & Co. of Calcutta, are now registering applications for pleasure flights by aeroplane round Calcutta, at charges of Rs 50 for adults and Rs 25 for children. The aeroplane, which the Company expect will arrive about the end of March, is one of the largest constructed and is equipped with four Rolls-Royce engines aggregating about 1,200 horsepower, and giving a speed of 120 miles per hour. An "Empire" representative, who made enquiries, says that the Company hope to start shortly a daily service from Calcutta to Darjeeling and an aerodrome and landing ground on a space of 100 acres are now being prepared at Dum Dum from which flight will commence. It is calculated that the journey from Calcutta to Darjeeling will be made in three hours and the fares, when the service starts, will be about Rs 80 for each passenger. Passengers will be carried from Calcutta to Sitguri in the larger planes of the service and from Sitguri to Darjeeling in smaller planes. This change at Sitguri is necessitated by the lack of landing space in Darjeeling sufficiently large for bigger machines. Other services to be opened, include Calcutta to Puri in about three hours; Calcutta to Ranchi; Calcutta to Dacca; Calcutta to Delhi via Bhopal, Benares, Allahabad, Calcutta and Umbalga, Calcutta to Lahore and on to Rawalpindi and Peshawar, with a service from Umbalga to Simla and Calcutta to Chittagong and Rangoon. The larger planes will carry 25 passengers, and smaller ones 14 passengers. The former have a range of 400 miles and the latter 600 miles.

JOURNALISM IN BENGAL—There is considerable commotion in the journalistic deities of Bengal. The "Bengalee" has practically been bought over by the Hon. Maharaja Sri Mahindra Chandra Nandy of Kasimbazar. The "Bengalee" has a long history behind it. It was started more than half a century back by Babu Girish Chandra Ghose who was considered to be their source of political inspiration by men like Mr. W. C. Bonnerjee and Babu Behararam Chatterjee. Gradually it drifted into the hands of Babu Surendra Nath Bannerjee when he took his big jump from the Civil Service to Indian politics with the help of Babu Boopendra Nath Sen. Surendranath converted the weekly "Bengalee" into a daily organ and later on became its sole proprietor. The Maharaja is a man of modest education and unbounded ambition who has— to quote his own words—"burnt his fingers on many an occasion." With the "Bengalee" goes to the Maharaja the "Bengalee" the Bengalee daily started by Surendranath to counteract the influence of the "Basumat" which is the organ of Nationalism in Bengal. The "Searchlight" writes:—A well-informed Calcutta Correspondent writes to say that the "Bengalee" has been sold to the new proprietary body—of which the Maharaja of Kasimbazar is the principal shareholder—for two lakhs, half of which has been paid down to the Hon'ble Mr. Surendra Nath Bannerjee and the balance is to be paid off in instalments. Mr. Bannerjee will remain life-editor and will receive Rs. 500 a month, but the joint editor Babu Pritish Chandra Roy, will draw the almost princely salary of Rs. 1,000 a month. At present the latter is the "Private Secretary" of the Maharaja Sahab, and it is believed that it is due to his good offices that the re-organization of the "Bengalee"—which will take effect from the first of the next month—has taken shape on the lines set forth above.

TURKEY AND THE ALLIES—London Jan. 14.—The Aga Khan, Messrs. Abbas Ali Baig, Amir Ali, A Yusuf Ali, A S Anik, M H Isphahani and a number of other Moslems, in a letter to Mr. Balfour, protest against the responsible suggestions that Constantinople should be handed over to a Christian State or internationalised. They point out that this directly conflicts with the principle of nationality and would cause grave dissatisfaction among Moslems all over the world. They affirm that Constantinople is now in all essentials, a Moslem city and the signatories are confident that no racial or religious prejudices will be allowed to impair the trust of Moslems in the good faith of the Allies, and that the settlement of this momentous world problem will be based on the principles of justice and equity and national unity laid down by Mr. Lloyd George and President Wilson. From the Northern borders of Syria proper to the Aegean and Black Sea, along its Southern littoral as far as the frontiers of Azerbaijan, the population of roughly twenty millions is in some districts exclusively and in others preponderantly of the Turkish race and Moslem faith.

The population of Thrace is also preponderantly Turkish. The whole of this territory, with Constantinople as its capital, should be left in the hands of the Turkish Nation, in accordance with the recent declaration of the Premier. The signatories at present express no opinion with regard to other provinces of Turkey, but urge that whatever may be the ultimate settlement of the Armenian question, the rights and interests of the large Moslem population in Armenia should be safeguarded. They should be protected from persecution and at least be placed on equal footing with the non-Moslem population.

LOCAL OPTION.

Such taverns as were not extinguished by abstinence are now doomed under local option. The village—the Sinhalese village—has done splendidly. I specify the Sinhalese village, because the Northern people have shown the strangest failure. There is no part of Ceylon where the people are reputed to be more public-spirited. Political enthusiasm rises to a greater height in Jaffna than in any part of the Island. It is from the Tamil members in the Council that we hear oftentimes about temperance and "dry estates" and total prohibition. The leaders of Jaffna make speeches on the subject, their representatives lodge objections, their newspapers preach temperance. Yet, while the obscurest Sinhalese districts have held successful Local Option Polls, there has been not one objection lodged in Jaffna, with the result that not one poll has had to be organised.

It is not as though there were no need for temperance agitation in Jaffna. Its record is most discouraging. Today taverns have doubled their consumption, and instead of today restraining the habit of drinking spirits, the consumption of arrack has risen ominously by 50 per cent. The consumption of toddy has jumped 200 per cent. Yet the people are doing nothing. Either the Jaffna people are backward in public spirit or their professions of temperance are misleading. They all want the reforms and are demanding more members than their numbers justify. But what is the good of their asking for political power if they show themselves unfit to use the powers which have been granted already?

The contrast between the Tamil rural population and the Sinhalese rural population is most depressing and prejudicial to the reputation of the Tamils for superior public interest and political ardour. That is a point which ought to be forced on the consideration of the Jaffna Press and political leaders. It is a matter that calls for urgent consideration for, in my opinion, the failure of the Jaffna Province to organise even one solitary local option poll is most discreditable to the Tamil community.

"Passive Sympathiser."

—The Ceylon Morning Leader.

THE "GAZETTE": JAN. 31.

Mr. D. H. Balfour to act, in addition to his own duties, as O. A. to the G. A., S. P., from Jan. 29, until the return of Mr. T. Goonetilleke to duty.

Mr. J. E. B. Pereira to act as P. M. and A. D. J. Colombo, vice Mr. W. H. B. Carbery, for three days from Jan. 30, or until the resumption of duties by that officer.

Mr. C. L. Wickremesinghe to be, in addition to his own duties, A. D. J., Kallutara, with effect from Feb. 1.

Mr. J. E. de Zoysa to act as D. J., A. C. R. and P. M., Negombo, vice Mr. M. S. Seneviratne, on Jan. 29 and 30, or until the resumption of duties by that officer.

Mr. Solomon Fernando to act as C. R. and P. M., Panadura, vice Mr. C. J. S. Pritchett, for four days from Feb. 7, or until the resumption of duties by that officer.

Mr. O. L. de Kretser to act as C. R. and P. M., Matara, and A. D. J., Matara, vice Mr. S. D. Dhondy, from Feb. 1 to 8, inclusive.

Mr. N. J. Martin to act as C. R. and P. M., Chilaw and Marawila; A. D. J., Chilaw; and Assistant Superintendent of the Chilaw Jail, vice Mr. M. Prasad, from Feb. 1, to April 12, or until resumption of duties by that officer.

Mr. A. V. VanLangenberg to act as C. R. and P. M., Gampola, vice Mr. R. B. Naisch, from Feb. 1 to 8, or until the resumption of duties by that officer.

Mr. B. L. Dieberg to act as A. P. M., Avissawella, on Jan. 29, and C. R. and P. M., Avissawella, on Jan. 31, or until the resumption of duties by Mr. C. J. A. Marshall.

Mr. S. Subramaniam to act as A. C. R., Point Point and Chavakachcheri, on Feb. 7 and 8.

STRONGETT MAN DOESN'T EAT MEAT.

In India lives the strongest man in the world. He has proved his strength before Hindu and European audiences, and in India he is greeted as a national hero.

Ram Murti Naidu is 5 feet 6 inches tall and weighs about 210 pounds; his chest measurement is 45 inches, and it has an expansion of nine inches. He can swim for two hours continuously, and ran 12 miles at a stretch.

As a test of his strength, he has an iron chain passed around his shoulders and the two ends of it, bound to a post. He then slowly lifts his shoulders and the chain breaks.

As another test, he has an elephant, weighing about four tons, enter the ring. A plank is placed over Naidu's chest and abdomen and the elephant walks on it and after sawing for several minutes walks off. Naidu jumps to his feet as unconcerned as if nothing had happened.

One of Naidu's feats of strength is his act of "stopping a motor car." By sheer force he holds back a 12-cylinder automobile. An Englishman, not relying on Naidu's automobile, offered his own car and promised the strong man a sum of money and the automobile if he could hold it back.

Ram Murti accepted the challenge. A rope was encircled around his waist and tied to the automobile. Then he asked the Englishman to drive the machine. Ram Murti was carried several feet, but he merely smiled, for he was testing the strength of his rope.

Then he made his stand and the fast-moving automobile immediately was checked. The whole car round with terrific speed, but the car itself did not move forward even an inch.

Some are apt to jump to the conclusion that this Hindu giant of strength eats nothing but the chops and steaks, rare game, birds, and eggs, by the dozen. Naidu never eats meat of any kind, neither fish, nor even eggs. He is a vegetarian.

In the morning Naidu takes a drink made of almond paste, sugar, spices, and cold water. His principal meal, which he eats at 10 o'clock in the morning, consists of a quarter-pound of boiled rice, vegetable curry, and lentil or pea soup.

He eats clarified butter with all his dishes. He never drinks tea, coffee or liquor of any kind. He is fond of cold water, of which he drinks in abundance. At 4 p. m. Naidu takes his favorite pudding made of honey, cream, butter and sugar. Along with the pudding he takes a drink made of milk, wheat bran, almonds and sugar.

After his performances at night Naidu takes a rice, vegetable curry, and lentil soup, the whole weighing not more than a quarter of a pound. As a boy Ram Murti Naidu was a sickling. The reading of the lives of strong men inspired him to become a physical giant.

At first he took up the western method of dumb bell and bar exercises, but soon discovered that his constitution was not suited for that kind of exercise. He adopted the Hindu system of ground exercises.

Constant and regular exercises, and his strong mind, turned him from a weakling into a physical marvel. By experience he discovered that it was neither food nor the form of exercise that made a man strong, but that it was the mind that developed muscles.

Naidu believes, as did Napoleon, that it is mental strength, mental energy and control of the mind that makes a man strong and that a weak mind can never expect to develop a strong body. Naidu's life and strength bear testimony to his theory. Every day for about two hours he practices concentration and meditation, also exercises to increase his power.

Naidu's control of breath and power of concentration help him to localize his energies in that part of his body where they are most needed. When he snaps an iron chain, holds a four ton elephant on his chest, or stops a 12 cylinder automobile, he drives by force of mind his power of resistance to that part of his body where it is needed.

The life and career of Ram Murti Naidu refute the superstition that none can expect to be strong who do not gorge on meat, morning, noon, and night. Americans should eat less meat and more of rice, beans, vegetables, nuts and fruits. In this way everyone can increase his personal magnetism and strength.

As a Hindu I feel that Americans eat too much. From childhood you have been reared on meat, bacon in the morning, lamb chops at lunch, and beef-steak or chicken, at dinner. If you do not eat meat you feel that you have not eaten at all.

I come from a country where plain living and high thinking is the motto of human life. Our sages of olden days—lives as far back as 2000 or 3000 years before Christ—lived not in palaces or luxurious cities, but in cottages by a river, in a forest or on a mountain and ate neither much nor luxurious dishes.

Sir Rabiindranath Tagore, whose books of poems are being bought in America like the best selling novels, is a vegetarian. He lives mostly on rice and other vegetables.

When you think in the afternoon that you are feeling weak because you could not afford to have lamb chops for lunch, but had plenty of vegetables and beans or rice, you are creating a mental condition which reacts on the physical.

Meat is not necessary to make one strong. Look at an elephant. It is huge, and strong, of course, but it eats no meat. It draws its nourishment and strength from grass and vegetables, fruits and foliage.

The elephant is a vegetarian. So is the horse, the rhinoceros, and the bull. And no animal can surpass the bull in endurance—even in fighting ferocity.

There are races of man, too, who are mostly vegetarians, and they, too, are strong and healthy and have unquestionable power of endurance. The Japanese at home live mostly on rice, beans, and vegetables.

Those who have been in Japan, and have lived with the Japanese, know how simple is their food and how strong are their minds and bodies. For breakfast the Japanese eats one, two or three bowls of rice, bean soup with or without potatoes, beans, cheese and pickles.

For lunch he has rice, fish soup, fried fish and cooked vegetables. For dinner he takes rice, baked or raw fish, and vegetables. The Japanese in larger cities eat meat once in a while, and in the villages almost never.

It is generally thought in Europe and America that meat is necessary to give heat and endurance to soldiers. This is a mistaken belief. There is scarcely a colder country in the world than Manchuria.

The Japanese marched, camped and fought there, with characteristic energy and prowess and moved down the meatless and stalwart Cossacks. Every Japanese soldier carried with him a pound or two of rice and beans.—Weekly Unity.

—Health and Happiness.

MALAYA SPECULATOR.

THAIPUSAM IN SINGAPORE.—While we rejoice to see that, the Chetties, prompted perhaps with religious zeal, have built Hindu temples wherever they go, we cannot help lamenting on the other hand, at some abuses tolerated in these places of worship, on certain occasions. The magnificent celebration of Thaipusam festival, by the Chetty community here, is very amusing. The grandeur and pompousness of the celebration, attract thousands of sight-seers from all directions! The temple door is wide open to men and women of all nationalities, and of all religions. Special invitations are sent to popular individuals—particularly to all Europeans. In the local papers it was also advertised thus:—

"The members of the Chetty community, cordially invite the ladies and gentlemen of Singapore to be present at the Festival of Thaipusam, (the day that God Subramaniam, son of Siva, appeared to his devotees) to be celebrated at this temple at Tank Road on Friday the 17th January, 1919.

PROGRAMME.

Thursday Procession of Silver Car.
Friday Reception.
Saturday Procession of Silver Car and Display of fireworks.

It is simply a very painful affair to see that the temple is polluted in more than one way. People may get in with their boots and shoes, and there is no necessity to invest themselves of these foot-wear. Smoking, chewing betel, and spitting inside the precincts is not uncommon. The *Pongari* may be performing *Archanai*, and yet the puff of tobacco smoke issues from the mouth of the *Tuan* ("gentleman") as if from steam-engine! The burning of the incense is supposed to delight the Gods; but the tobacco smoke, in the opinion of the Chetty is regarded as a substance of superior delight! Another funny item in the sacramental programme is the grade of honour done to the visitors of the temple. Well, if you happen to be a Magistrate, you will be garlanded and taken round the temple under the canopy of a big umbrella, attended by torch light and music, and forming a procession with the help of the curio-city-seekers! If you are a lawyer, a garland of fragrant flowers will be thrown round your neck by Mr. Chettiar with the modesty and smile of a maiden! And the other visitors, if they are stylish, with their neck ties and collars, coats and trousers, will be presented with a small bouquet of flowers each, while their handkerchiefs which perhaps stimulate the olfactory nerves of the Chetties! But if you cannot speak English, and if you happen to wear a tuft of hair on your head, and appear in plain *vesthi*, woe unto you! Go you farther making room for the man in trousers or the woman in skirts to go near "God Subramaniam!" Otherwise, the policeman who on duty there, will unconsciously deposit you towards the yonder wall!

On the last of the three days, an immense crowd of spectators assemble at the esplanade witness the grand display of fireworks which the celebration of Thaipusam will not be complete! And the irreligious Chetties are as fond as the stolidities committed in the name of God Subramaniam! Thus ended the other day, this sacramental festival of yore, after having consumed vast sums of money, which can be utilised for useful purposes. Year after year, the same programme is repeated, and the holy temple is polluted! After all, the Chetties have converted the temple as a grand advertising medium for themselves! The decorated arch at the entrance which was especially made for the occasion bearing the big bold letters "The Chetty Community" will bear testimony. Can something be done to drive better sense into the heads of these men?

RICE SITUATION.—Consequent on the closing of the Rangoon Rice Market and of the poor supply from Siam and other places, there has been a great scarcity of rice in Malaya. The well-established trade in Singapore on the re-export of Rangoon rice to Sumatra, Java and Dutch India has been stopped to the bewilderment of local traders. This created a great demand for Siam and Bangkok rice from the people of Sumatra etc., as an alternative for Rangoon rice. Consequently, Bangkok and Siam rice which is consumed mostly in Singapore has risen to giddy heights. Muttumbar rice rose to \$25 per bag, and the Panang par boiled rice which was formerly discarded as a very inferior quality, rose from \$6 to \$18 per bag. Finding the people in great distress, our Colonial Secretary, the Mr. Hon. F. S. James C. M. G. temporarily relinquished his post, and became the Food Controller for Straits and F. M. S. His mission to Siam is becoming a red tape for rice.

Now, the people are swelling with emotions of joy when they learn that the Food Controller has officially fixed the price for paddy and par-boiled rice. Important regulations, prohibiting the sale and purchase of paddy and rice, exceeding the prescribed rates, are published in the Government "Gazette". The price of paddy is fixed as 13 cents per ganting (about 34 seers), and par-boiled rice \$11.70 per bag of 80 gantings.

The Acting Colonial Secretary received from the Food Controller, Delhi, a telegram to the effect that the Rice Commissioner of Rangoon was being instructed to permit shipments of rice to Straits up to 8000 tons, just enough for local consumption for the first quarter of the year.

THE CEYLON TAMIL ASSOCIATION.—At the ninth Annual General Meeting of the Ceylon Tamil Association, Singapore, held recently, the following officers and Committees were elected:—President—Mr. M. V. Pillai; A. L. L. B., Vice-President—Dr. K. Kramathay Pathy; Hon. Secretary—Mr. S. Kanagasabam; Treasurer—Mr. V. Venkatasamy; Asst. Treasurer—Mr. V. K. Thympillai; Chairman, Literary Department, Mr. A. Somasundaram; Chairman Athletic Department, Mr. S. Subramaniam; Committee: Messrs: S. Muttukumaru, S. Anpalavanar, Dr. S. Nagalingam, K. Sanderapillai and M. Chelliah; Auditors: Messrs: S. Kanagasabam and M. Sivayamparan.

THE JAFFA FLOODS RELIEF FUND.—The Committee appointed in Singapore for this fund, seems to have assumed of late, a modest silence; I wonder, if their enthusiasm and earnestness have gradually disappeared!

Our brethren in Kuala Lumpur, we understand have raised a sum of \$10,000 for the fund. It is indeed a magnificent sum! Will people in Jaffna work honestly and sincerely, in the distribution of money for the distressed?

Another tidings of joy is that our acting Colonial Secretary, the Hon. Mr. George Maxwell C. M. G., has entrusted Dr. J. M. Hand, with a cheque for \$500 as a donation by the Straits Government for the Floods Relief. A sympathetic Government indeed!

Singapore, 21st Jan. 1919, S. O. M. A.

