

The Hindu Organ.

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NOTICE.

Young Men's Hindu Association.

The Hindu Students' Camp, 1916.

The Annual Hindu Students' Camp will be held this year at Keerimalai on the 24th, 25th, and 26th instant.

Hindu students desiring to attend the camp are requested to apply to the Secretary Y. M. H. A. (Central) before the 15th instant.

M. S. ELIATAMBY,
Secy. Y. M. H. A.

2-12-16.



The Hindu Organ.

JAFNA, MONDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1916.

THE INDUSTRIES COMMISSION.

It is, we believe, the duty of every thoughtful citizen to assist, as far as it lies in his power, in the labour of the Commission now sitting on the condition of the Industries of the Island. The Commissioners will doubtless invite well-known publicists and others whom they have reason to consider as specially acquainted with the question to give evidence before them or otherwise communicate their views to them. It is likely there may be several gentlemen who have quietly studied the various aspects of the question, modestly keeping themselves aloof from the public eye. We would suggest to such as these the immense service they will be rendering the Government and the country if they submit their views to the Commission. We must, however, beg some scribes whose aspirations to publicity persuade them to engage themselves in pursuits far beyond their wits not to hamper the Secretary in the performance of his duties by trotting out their pet schemes and ill-considered plans. It is the nature to foretell what the labours of the Commission will end in; but it is certain that the report of the Commission will reveal to discerning eyes the urgency of many reforms and innovations which can hardly be undertaken by private agencies. The duty of the Government to inaugurate new channels for the developments of the resources of the Island will be made patent although financial consideration may stay the hand of the executive awhile. It is deplorable that only a few of our publicists have given their thought to a subject so intimately bound up with the welfare of their country as our Industries. Means and measures based on insufficient data and jumbled up without reference to the special local conditions are likely to prove futile and fruitless. The customs and manners of a people, their prejudices and weaknesses, must be considered as much as the resources and the relations between capital and labour in a given locality. The tendency to transplant in Ceylon industrial reforms devised and adopted in India may appear sound and expedient; but while we may save the exchequer the expense of an expert who may after all succeed in proving or improving nothing, yet it must be borne in mind that the conditions in Ceylon are not now similar to those obtaining in India and that education on Western lines has done more in Ceylon to upset the old order of things than it has in India. Society was divided into various classes—we will not say castes—and each class had a service to Society assigned to it so that each class by long and hereditary practice developed skill and expertness in those services most necessary to Society. Society was almost self-sufficient. Whether this is a condition to be aimed at by any Society we shall not discuss in view of the fact that the present War has made many theorists to revise their views. With the introduction of education on Western lines the old divisions have naturally been swept away and the tendency to rush into the learned professions such as the Law and Medicine has asserted itself to a degree too painful to reflect. To the various other causes which have contributed to keep the Ceylonese out from embarking their intelligence and capital on commercial and other enterprises must be added the extraordinary preference for the learned professions and the consequent disrepute into which other professions have fallen in the estimation of the educated youth of the country.

Any innovation which does not reckon with the present prejudices and susceptibilities of the people in any village may attract by its novelty, but is not likely to grow and thrive. It behoves, therefore, the Commissioners to institute a detailed inquiry into the conditions, social and economic, which govern the few industries still surviving and the causes which have crushed many others and sapped the vitality of those now languishing for lack of capital or market. An industrial survey of the various provinces will alone answer the purpose.

SUBSCRIBERS

PLEASE NOTE

The annual subscription to the "Hindu Organ" is payable before 31st December of each year—July to June. Subscribers who have not paid their subscriptions yet for the current year (July 1916-June 1917) are earnestly requested to remit their dues before

31st December 1916.

We are obliged, owing to unavoidable circumstances caused by the War, to cease forwarding the Paper to such of our subscribers who fail to remit their subscriptions before the aforesaid date.

THE MANAGER,
"Hindu Organ."

LOCAL & GENERAL.

THE WEATHER.—A few showers of rain fell on Saturday last. It was drizzling yesterday and the weather is clear today.

THE RURAL SCHOOLS ORDINANCE, 1907.—Toukkai, Karachchi, Punakari, Pallavarayan-kaddu and Delft have been brought under Parts II, III, IV, and VI, of the Rural Schools Ordinance.

NEW DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE.—Mr. F. A. Stockdale, who has been appointed Director of Agriculture, Ceylon, in succession to Mr. R. N. Lyne, arrived in Colombo on Friday last, from Mauritius, accompanied by Mrs. Stockdale and two children.

EXCISE CHANGES.—Mr. A. T. Evaris Asst. Superintendent of Excise, Jaffna, has been transferred to Batticaloa. Mr. V. Sarayana-muttu from Batticaloa succeeds him.

CHEAP TICKETS.—During the ensuing Holidays, First, Second, and Third Class Return Tickets at Single Fare for the Double Journey will be issued at Anuradhapura, Mannar, Talaimannar, Vavuniya, Pallai, Kodikamam, Jaffna, and Kankasanturai, to Stations more than 50 miles apart, from Friday, December 15, 1916, to Sunday, December 31, 1916, both days inclusive available for return up to and including Sunday, January 7, 1917. Passengers from Kankasanturai, Jaffna, Kodikamam, Pallai, Vavuniya, and Anuradhapura by the afternoon Train to Stations on the Seaside Line, and for beyond Negombo will be allowed to resume the journey by the first train on the following morning from Maradana and Negombo. Passengers proceeding to Jaffna, by the 1 P.M. Train from Nannu-oya on December 23 will be allowed to re-book, if necessary, from Pol-gahawela to Anuradhapura, Vavuniya, Pallai, Kodikamam, Jaffna, and Kankasanturai by the connecting Special Train. Cheap Tickets will not be available in the Jaffna Line Portion of the 6.25 P. M. train from Maradana on December 23.

THE MANDAPAM COOLY CAMP.—The Hon. Mr. F. Bowes, C. M. G., Principal Collector of Customs, the Hon. Dr. G. J. Rutherford, P. C. M. O., and I. G. H. and Dr. J. E. Snodgrass and Dr. W. P. Norris, the Hookworm experts, inspected the cooly camp last week.

CEYLON CUSTOMS RETURNS.—For the first ten months this year—shows a net increase of Rs. 7,558,761, to which the export duties on tea, cacao, cardamoms and rubber have contributed no less than Rs. 5,244,495; while the increase in the duty on coconut products has been Rs. 718,246, compared with the first ten months of 1915.

PERSONAL.—Dr. M. M. Coomaraswamy, F. R. C. S. (Eng.) L. R. C. P. (London), of Colombo, paid a visit to Jaffna last week, in connection with the illness of Mrs. Annamalai, grand-daughter of Mr. T. Ponnampalampillai. Mr. T. P. Masilamany, Editor, "The Peoples Magazine" Colombo, and uncle of Mrs. Annamalai accompanied him. We are glad to note that Mrs. Annamalai is improving.

—Mr. T. Sangarajasekaram, son of the late Mr. N. Thiagarajah, left for England by the "Mongolia" on Friday with a view to entering the London University to study medicine.

—Mr. James Ignatius Busbnell Bastiam-pillai of the Telegraph Department, Jaffna, has been promoted as second class Telegraph and Telephone Inspector from 1st November, 1916. He is at present attached to the District Telegraph Inspector's Staff, Northern Division, Jaffna.

MATRIMONIAL.—The marriage of Mr. S. Navaratnam, son of Mudaliyar S. Sabaratnam J. P., Deputy Fiscal, Jaffna, with his cousin Miss Ratoa Ammal Thambipillai, will be celebrated at the bride's residence at 11.30 P. M. on Saturday the 9th instant. The Reception will be held for two days at the bridegroom's residence. Although there are no invitations issued, the function is expected to be a grand one, considering the popularity in which the Mudaliyar is held by the public.

NEW GOVERNOR OF BENGAL.—The Earl of Ronaldshay has been appointed Governor of Bengal in succession to Lord Carmichael.

INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS.—The Reception Committee of the Indian National Congress met at Kaiserbag, Baradari, on the 26th Nov. to elect a Chairman in succession to the late Pundit Bishan Narayan Dhar. The Hon. Mr. Jagat Narayan was unanimously elected. The Congress will sit on the 26th, 28th and 29th December and the Subjects Committee will meet on the 27th. Over 650 members on the Reception Committee have been enrolled till now. The delegates from Madras, Bengal and Bombay will be accommodated in houses.

NEW INDUSTRIES.—It is understood that important developments in connection with new industries in Ceylon will take place shortly, including the establishment of a China-making industry. In the meantime the Mineralogical Department has found substantial deposits of monazite, a substance which is in great demand at the present moment, and a start has been made in working it in two districts in the Southern Province and in Kudaramallie in the North. The necessary plant for the magnetic separation of the mineral has been ordered and as soon as this arrives it is expected that a considerable quantity of material will be supplied from Ceylon. Monazite is largely used for gas mantles. In the past it has come chiefly from North Carolina and Brazil, but lately it has been obtained in commercial quantities in Travancore.

THE ANNIVERSARY SRADHA.—Of the late Mr. S. Arnoasalam the original founder of the present Vivekananda Mixed School was attended with special functions. The children were sumptuously feasted at the Manipay Vivekananda Hall and Brahmins and the poor treated in memory of Mr. Arunasalem who can be said to be the pioneer of the several Hindu activities in South Manipay. The memories of many good self-sacrificing men in different parts of Jaffna should be kept alive as patterns for future generations. Mr. A. Swaminathipillai, the eldest son of Mr. Arunasalam, bore the expenses and it will be good if similar functions are annually observed in the name of founders of educational and charitable institutions, preachers, authors and other benefactors. —Cor.

OBITUARY.—We regret to record the sad death of Mr. S. Sinnadurai, 2nd Clerk, District Office, Remban, Negri Sembilan, brother-in-law of Mr. T. Nallagaram, Chief Clerk, Ayer Angat Estate, which occurred at the early age of 21 at his residence at Malla-kam on the 26th ultimo in spite of the best medical treatment. Our deepest sympathy with his bereaved mother, brother, relations and friends.

THE LABOUR QUESTION.—The publication of Lord Hardinge's despatch to the Secretary of State for India on the subject of Indentured Labour is having a salutary effect on planting opinion and we are glad to find praiseworthy attempts being made to persuade the community to set their house in order without waiting for the interference of the Government. The cooly owes many of his troubles to the system of advances which binds him to his employer as effectually as indenture. Very often it happens that a cooly is unable to leave the estate because he cannot repay the money that had been advanced to him. So, he takes to bolting without any ceremony whatever, and is sent to jail for his trouble. There are, however, other evils that must be removed before the labour system of the Island can command the respect of the public and that are at present a fruitful source of harassment to the cooly. The labour laws of Ceylon, as we have pointed out more than once, have to be made more humane and more consistent with the rights of British subjects. —The Ceylonese, Nov. 29.

THE NOTARIES ORDINANCE, 1907.

His Excellency the Governor, in exercise of the powers vested in him by section 30 of "The Notaries Ordinance, 1907," and with the advice of the Executive Council, has been pleased to make the following rules 35 (j), 35 (j) and 35 (k) as addition to section 29 of the above-mentioned Ordinance, in lieu of the rules numbered 35 (a) and 35 (j) published in the Government Gazette No. 6,755 of March 24 1916, which are repealed.

RULES REFERRED TO.

35 (k). Every deed or instrument which shall be executed or acknowledged before a notary shall be attested by him within 48 hours of execution or acknowledgment, and such attestations shall be signed and sealed within the same space of time. In computing this period, Sundays and public holidays shall be excluded.

35 (j) In the register of deeds kept under rule 23 of section 29 the particulars of each deed shall be entered immediately after it is executed; in no case shall the entry be delayed beyond the day following the day of execution of deed, except when such day happens to be a Sunday or public holiday.

35 (k). Provided, however, that a notary who is prevented by sickness from complying with either of the foregoing rules shall not be guilty of a breach of these rules, if he notifies the fact of his illness forthwith to the Registrar of Lands of the district in which he practises, furnishing at the same time in proof of such illness a certificate obtained from a medical practitioner registered under Ordinance No. 2 of 1905 —Gazette.

THE SARASWATI LITERARY ASSOCIATION.

The Thirteenth Half Yearly General Meeting of the above Association was held on Saturday 25th November, 1916, at the Association Hall. Owing to the unavoidable absence of the President, Mr. W. T. Jagasothy, Vice-President took the chair.

The meeting commenced at 6 P. M. and in spite of the very wet weather there was a good attendance. The minutes of the previous Half Yearly General Meeting and of the Extraordinary General Meeting held on Saturday 27th May 1916 having been read and confirmed, the Secretary read the report of the committee for the half year ended 31st October 1916. Comments on the report were made by Dr. S. K. Chinniah, Messrs. Sivaprakasam, A. V. Gulasingham, and J. B. Ediramanasinghe.

The Chairman in moving for the adoption of the report made reference to the unavoidable absence of the President Dr. M. M. Coomaraswamy and stated that he, had been present, would have addressed the meeting on the report with a grace and ability all his own. The chairman in the course of his stirring speech pointed out that the interest shown by the members and the excellent work done during the last half year should serve as a great encouragement and impetus for all of them to take more interest in the Association and urged on the members that they should make greater use of the meetings for the benefit of themselves and of others.

The report having been adopted, a presentation was made to Mr. N. Velupillai one of the Secretaries, who got married recently, as a token of the sincere regards and the best wishes which the members of the Association had for him.

Hearty votes of thanks to the press and the retiring officers were unanimously passed.

Light refreshments were then served *ad lib* to all present.

This being over, the election of office bearers for the next half year resulted as follows:—

President: Dr. M. M. Coomaraswamy, F. R. C. S. (Eng.) L. R. C. P. (London).

Vice-Presidents: Messrs. M. A. Arunandam, B. A., Advocate, V. Thamy, W. T. Jagasothy, T. P. Masilamany and Dr. S. K. Chinniah.

Secretaries: Messrs. S. Vaidyalingham and S. Subramaniam.

Treasurer: Mr. K. Kanagasabapathy.

Assistant Treasurer: Mr. V. Ponniah.

Librarian: Mr. M. Rasiiah.

Auditor: Mr. C. Muttucumarau.

Committee Members: Messrs. K. A. Veeravagu, C. Gurusamy, A. R. N. Razeem, M. Tambiah, S. Thamy, N. Velupillai and P. G. Thamyappah.

Some new members were elected, and the alteration of certain rules of the constitution and the addition of a Bye law were then considered.

The meeting terminated with votes of thanks to the chair.

KANDY TAMILS' LITERARY ASSOCIATION.

The Sixteenth Half-Yearly General Meeting and Social of the Kandy Tamils' Literary Association was held at the "Tamil Home" Kandy on Saturday the 25th instant, when the President, Mr. V. M. Saravanamuttu, Proctor, S. C. M. M. C., occupied the chair. The hall was tastefully decorated. A large gathering of members and visitors was present.

The "Social" was gone through first and the General Meeting commenced at 6 P. M. The Managing Committee's report, Hostel committee's report, Treasurer's Balance Sheet and the Hostel Committee's Cash Statement were read and adopted. Comments were offered on the reports by Messrs. K. Coomaraswamy, S. Sabaratnam and V. C. M. Ayathurai. A vote of thanks was passed to the news papers.

The taking over of the Kandy Tamils' Sports Club, which was amalgamated with the Association a month ago, was gone through next. A report on the working of the Club was read by the Secretary. After the retirement of the office-bearers and Committee Members came the election of office bearers and Committee for the current half-year and resulted as follows:—

President: Mr. V. M. Saravanamuttu, Proctor, S. C. M. M. C., Vice-Presidents: Mr. A. Vallipuram, Shroff, National Bank, Advocate J. N. Vathavaram, M. A. B. L., Doctor J. M. Somasundaram, Mudaliyar N. N. Thamocharam and Mr. V. C. M. Ayathurai, Secretary: Mr. L. S. DoraiRajah, Assistant Secretary: Mr. C. R. Sanmugam, T. N.

asurer: Mr. S. Sabaratnam, Assistant Treasurer: Mr. V. Nadarajah, Captain of cricket: Mr. P. Rajanayagam, Vice Captain: Mr. S. Subramaniam, Captain of football: Mr. C. T. Solomon, Vice-Captain: Mr. V. Kothirathar, Ground Secretary: Mr. M. Ramalingam.

Committee Members.—Besides the office bearers, Messrs. S. Sabaratnam, S. Periyathampi, K. Chellathurai, S. Sivagnanasundaram, S. Somanathipillai, J. A. J. Ondatjie, K. Coomarasamy, J. S. Rajaratnam, P. Thambirajah and A. Vijayaratham.

Hostel Committee.—Messrs. S. Sabaratnam, S. Periyathampi, K. Chellathurai, S. Anandhasundaram and M. Ramalingam.

Auditor.—Mr. S. Annappah.

Librarian.—Mr. A. Vijayaratham.

Messrs. S. Anandhasundaram and A. Vijayaratham were elected as delegates to represent the Association at the forth coming Congress of Literary Associations.

Messrs. S. K. Thambiyaiyah, V. M. Sinniah, P. M. Ponnusamy, S. Nagaratham, M. Paramanathan, W. Votiveluppillai, M. Arasakone, S. Chinnathampi and K. Vairamuttu were enrolled as members.

The meeting terminated at about 9 P.M. with a vote of thanks to the chair.

A PROPOSAL TO RENDER INTO ENGLISH THE "TOLKAPPIAM" THE OLDEST CLASSIC EXTANT IN TAMIL.

Mr. T. Ponnambalam Pillay, M. A., S., Retired Excise Superintendent, Travancore, has addressed the following letter to His Highness the Gaikwar of Baroda:—

May it please Your Highness, It may be in the recollection of Your Highness, that the writer of this letter was introduced to Your Highness by your minister Mr. V. P. Madhava Rao, C. I. E., in July 1915, during Your Highness's visit to Courtallom, and that Your Highness was graciously pleased to favour me with two interviews in both of which, the subject of discourse happened to be the antiquity of the Dravidians and of Tamil, their language. In the course of the conversation, Your Highness was pleased to inquire as to the oldest classical work extant in that tongue, and I had the honour to reply that it was the Tolkappiam. When I then briefly dwelt on the nature and importance of the work, it further pleased Your Highness to ascertain of me, whether I could have it rendered into Mabratiti. I submitted in reply, that it would not be possible to find a scholar well versed both in Tamil and in Mabratiti. Your Highness was then pleased to give me the option of having it done into English, the lingua franca of India, and I undertook to do so. Since the day I received Your Highness's command, I have, with a view to secure manuscript copies of the work and its commentaries, been in communication with scholars in this Presidency, and in Ceylon, (where alone, the stream of Tamil scholarship flows free and untainted). I was also on the look-out for a suitable agency to accomplish the task of translation. I have now arrived at some definite conclusion, and venture therefore to approach Your Highness with this memorial.

2. As Your Highness has already expressed, Tamil is one of the oldest languages of the world, and it flourished in India, at the time of the advent of the Aryans, when they carried thither those fragments of the earliest portions of the Rig-Veda, that scholars are in a position to date as far back as 10,000 B. C. But unfortunately no works of the primeval age, are now available in Tamil, owing to the violent and terrific inroads of the sea which occurring at two distant landmarks of time, engulfed a vast continent in the South of Asia which now forms the basin of the Indian Ocean. One of these overflows answers to the Biblical deluge of Noah's days (about 3,500 B. C.), and the other is said to have taken place seven thousand years prior to that date. Not only did these distinctive floods once for all hide from human view the glorious capital cities of golden gates, (Madura and Kapadapuram), wherein Pandya monarchs had treasured up the most splendid products of their hoary civilization, but they washed away even the last vestiges of the grand libraries of science, arts, and literature, which the first two Tamil academies had reared up through eons of culture and development. The last cornerstone, that was vouchsafed as a foothold for posterity, is the Tolkappiam which has been the only real source of inspiration of the student of Dravidian sociology, for the past three thousand years.

3. The word "Tolkappiam" is a compound of three simple words. Tol, Kappu and Iyam, the first of which means hoary, the second, protection and third science, so that the acceptation of the whole is the "venerable science of protection." This beautiful appellation with which Tamil genius has dignified Grammar is the indication of the high function of that science, as understood by the Tamils.

4. The Tolkappiam is divided into three parts: (i) Orthography, (ii) Etymology and Syntax combined, and (iii) Science of literature and prosody. It is this last part, which gives us a scientific survey of the empire of ideas, of which the ancient Tamils were born citizens. It is as well a clear index of the mighty growth of Tamil genius at a time when all the rest of the world was groping in the twilight of science. In it we discern the germs, which in later times developed into stupendous systems of social customs and supreme philosophy.

5. Although in vigour and dignity of style, it has no parallel in literature, the terse, antiquated metre of the work is a characteristic of an age of literary development, corresponding to the period of sutras in Sanskrit. Being abstruse in form and of such an ordinary student so difficult of mastery, it is to the scholars who attempt to master it for the mere love of knowledge at a time when the most patient and searching study of the vernaculars, goes unrewarded. With all the anxiety that the work bears of immense value, should not be relegated to the cool shade of neglect, the loving students of Tamil are not in a position to redeem it from unmerited oblivion.

6. The British Government have done their best, to further the cause of Vernaculars in this Presidency, by encouraging their cultivation and preserving old and rare books in them. It is un-

reasonable to expect them to do more. In the case of Tamil, however, they have shown it a special favour, by undertaking the preparation and publication of a complete lexicon, at an immense cost, and I hope that in the course of time, the same favour will be extended to other languages. As brilliant examples of individual European workers in the same field, the names of such benefactors as Ellis, Draw, Taylor, Brown, Gundert, Pope and Percival may be mentioned and they are of honoured memory amongst the Dravidians.

7. Of the five main languages of the Dravidian family (viz., Tamil, Telegu, Malayalam, Canarese and Tulu) the last is practically in its spoken form alone; Canarese flourishes under the worthy patronage of the Maharajah of Mysore and his Government. Malayalam possess devoted patrons in the Rulers of Cochin and Travancore. (A small percentage of Tamils owe allegiance to the latter, and to that extent, His Highness has done what he could for the support of Tamil) Telugu bids fair to thrive best in the hands of the champions of the Telugu academy, and the Andhra movement. The only Indian Ruler whose subjects are purely Tamil-speaking, is the Rajah of Pudukotah. It does not appear that he has done anything to encourage its cultivation beyond establishing ordinary schools, and periodically contributing a small sum of money towards the maintenance of the Tamil Sangam at Madura, which labours under the influence of Sanskritists.

8. Of the territorial magnates in this part of the country, the Sethupathi Rjas of Ramnad, have always been devoted patrons of Tamil learning, and during the last century, a large number of rare literary master-pieces in Tamil have owed their existence to the zeal and enthusiasm of these Sethupathis. The present honourable Rajah evinces deep interest in Tamil, and is the President of the Tamil Sangam mentioned above. But from the way in which Tamil has been subordinated to the Sanskrit in that assembly, I fear that the former has no much chance in that quarter.

9. Next, I may refer to the Dravidian monasteries or mutts, some of which are very wealthy. In accordance with the aims of their founders, they were once centres of literary and spiritual culture, where the disciples and followers, drank at the fountain of true knowledge; while the heads of those mutts bound to lead an ideal life of celibacy and saintliness, were true to their principles, and preserved their reputation, they were revered as gods on earth by princes and peoples all over the land. Again as they kept alive the flame of sacred wisdom, the beautiful gifts of our pious ancestors, knew no bounds. But the moment they lost the confidence of the public, the free flow of endowments, came to a stop. But their position having been financially strengthened by centuries of vast endowments, they feel themselves secure as it were, on their beds of roses, never caring even in the slightest degree for the thorn of public opinion beneath. They never look back to the days, when their more famous predecessors strained every nerve for the collection and preservation of rare manuscripts in the language; but calmly witness their huge libraries in part eaten away by white ants, and in part denuded of precious volumes by stealers of books. Suffice it to say that the Tolkappiam has no chance with the present heads of these mutts, nor with their successors.

10. Amongst others there is a class of rich money-lenders that go by the name of Nattukottai Chetties. They are of pure Dravidian descent and still retain the primitive customs and manners of their ancestors. No doubt, they are very charitably inclined, but their charity is mis-directed, at times. Thanks to their limitless munificence, many a dilapidated temple has been repaired and rebuilt. The fault is that some times they pull down historic edifices which call for no repair, and lavish large sums of money which had better be utilized for better purposes of far-reaching importance. Funds thus ill directed towards indiscriminate charity, would be enough to endow more than one university. The interest which they evince in the advancement of Tamil, is not very conducive to the furtherance of researches, and the publication of rare classical works, whose existence in future can be ensured only by passing them through the press.

11. There are other wealthy men of whom also the same tale has to be retold. With respect to the general Tamil public, lack of patriotism and want of co-operation, are their outstanding features, and so long as they persist in bringing into play their silly jealousies and petty prejudices, they cannot at all be expected to advance the cause of their mother tongue. Among men of English Education, those of Aryan descent are for the smothering the vernaculars under the pressure of Sanskrit, which they look upon as their divine mother tongue. Their partial attitude has induced the senate of the university of Madras to hold the vernaculars as a discount. On the other hand, a handful of English knowing Dravidians, are indeed, most eager, to bring to light the literary treasures of bygone times, but least furnished with the funds indispensable for the realisation of their cherished dreams.

12. In the predicament in which we are placed, it is admitted by all the lovers of Tamil, that Your Highness's coming forward to set within the reach of the literary world at large, the golden key of the Tolkappiam, which is of untold service in opening up the invaluable treasures of classical Tamil, is an intervention of Providence. In this connection, the reflective remarks of Dr. Pope, is noteworthy. "Classical Tamil is very little studied, yet this key alone can unlock the hearts of probably ten millions of the most intelligent and progressive of the Hindu Races." Your Highness's desire to have the ancient classic published in English, in spite of its being of no direct interest to Your Highness's subjects, is a patent mark of Your Highness's unbounded generosity and stern fidelity to the cosmopolitan ideal that, we all being citizens of one and the same fatherland, our interests, though seemingly different, should be harmonised and viewed in the light of common concerns. Here it should be born in mind that the current of Indian civilisation is fed by two streams of culture, Aryan and Dravidian, and that the latter is the older and the wider of the two. To the student of ancient history it is a truism, that the Dravidian race and language were once dominant all over India and that they have left their impress on the nations and speeches beyond the limits of the Dravidian country, so that the facts, that Your Highness's subjects are, in part, of Dravidian descent, and that Tamil has influenced Marathi too to a certain extent are to my thinking, some of the reasons for regarding the

publication of the Tolkappiam as a matter of common interest and public benefit. Here in confirmation of my views, I beg to submit that the Aryans class Marathi under the head of Dravida and say that it is one of the five dialects forming that group, perhaps leaving out of consideration the Tulu, as it has no script of its own.

13. Now I shall proceed to the most important part of my duty. On the work in question, there are five commentaries which are as valuable as the text itself. The text contains the germ of which each commentary is the development in the spirit of the age in which it was written. Considerable light has been thrown by them on the ancient states of society and cardinal questions have been treated both from the Aryan and Dravidian standpoints. Of these commentaries, only one has been published as a whole, and another in part alone. The rest are in manuscripts. As regards the question whether only the text or the commentaries in addition, should be rendered into English, my humble view is that the production in English should be the text with all the available commentaries. It would be unintelligible if the text alone were published. Besides, their omission would deprive the public of the benefit of a knowledge of the views of ancient writers with respect to men and manners of their days and the days of the Tolkappiam. There is a good deal of valuable information in them, which would go a good way to revolutionise South Indian Sociology.

14. When the publication of commentaries has been settled it will be time to search for, transcribe and compare manuscripts, the owners of which are, in most cases, so narrow-minded that notwithstanding long and importunate requests, they are unwilling to part with the book even for a short period. The next business will be the arrangement, collation and interpretation of the same. When this is done, the work of reproducing in English, each verse with its annotations, may well begin. Here, I beg to suggest that it is advisable to start with Poruladhikaram, the third part of the book which is also the biggest, most useful and most important. [Kindly refer to para 4] After finishing this portion, the translation of the other two parts may be taken into consideration, although the materials in respect of them should be ready at hand, as they would serve to elucidate portions of Porul, and it would be cheap to collect and collate them along with it.

15. When these preliminaries are settled, we have to determine the agency for carrying out the business. In the first place, a gentleman of sound scholarship in English and Tamil should be selected. He should not only do the translation, but also hold himself responsible for the whole work, by undertaking the superintendence of the establishment and conducting the necessary correspondence. Secondly, two erudite Pandits well versed in the Tolkappiam literature, should be secured. Their duty should be to collect collate, compare, and interpret the copied and other manuscripts, discuss with the translator, and make the text and commentaries ready for translation. They should be assisted by two copyists, who should prepare transcripts of all the available manuscripts, that cannot be secured on loan. As good deal of correspondence has to be carried on with learned societies and individuals for information and suggestions, an English clerk is necessary. As the work of translation progresses, the services of a person who could type both in English and Tamil will be required for copying purposes. To assist all these office-bearers, an office attendant should be engaged. I need hardly submit that an office house with convenience necessary for the transaction of business and the safe custody of all the books and papers, is urgently needed. A small library of books of reference, is also necessary; but as I propose that the work should be done at Madras, the extensive public libraries of the place, may be made use of with advantage.

16. With respect to emoluments, the scholar who is to supervise the work and do the translation, should be above immediate want. As his colossal work gives him an opportunity to distinguish himself in the literary world, he should not look for any return for the services he renders. But as he should not go entirely unrewarded for the sacrifices he makes, if it pleases Your Highness, at the conclusion of his labours, he may be granted a honorarium. The work should not, however, tell upon his purse in any way. As he will have to do some travel in search of manuscripts, and consult other scholars, Your Highness should be generous enough to meet his touring charges. As Pandits who have devoted their life to the study of Indian languages, live, as a rule, from hand to mouth, those whom it is proposed to employ, should be paid at the rate of Rs. 50 and Rs. 35 per mensem respectively. The English clerk and the typist should be paid at the rate of Rs. 25 and 20. The pay of the attendant may be fixed at Rs. 10 a month. To secure a proper house or room in a central locality in a city like Madras, a sum of Rs. 40 is the ordinary rate of rent that should be paid a month. In order to carry on the work, there must be a supply of stationery, and two typing machines, one for English and the other for Tamil. To meet the demands, as well as the travelling charges of all the employees but the attendant a lump sum may be sanctioned at the outset and it may be revised afterwards in the light of experience gained. The establishment may be maintained for a period of two years, within which I hope the work may be finished. The financial statement in para 20, which is an estimate of monthly expenditure during that period, does not, of course, include the printing and publishing charges of which I hope to submit the estimate when called upon to do so.

17. Here I should not fall in my duty to Your Highness by refraining from making an important suggestion. From the scheme I have submitted, it will be seen that when the English rendering of the Tolkappiam is completed, the Tamil Text and the commentaries which are mostly in manuscripts, will be ready for publication, and I presume that, when printed this mass of manuscripts will obtain the size of eight volumes of five hundred quarter pages each. In case these were not printed and published, a good deal of labour bestowed on the work under the auspices of Your Highness, would be lost and I do not expect any Tamils to come forward to take up the work. It is therefore my prayer to your Highness, to complete your generosity by causing the Tamil text and their commentaries also to be published, and thus lay the foundation of a Gaikwar Tamil Classics series, in order that it may be followed up by other publications from the sale proceeds of these volumes. This is what Sir

Robert Chalmers, the late Governor of Ceylon, did wish regard to a rare and important Pali work which saw the light of day only after his advent. I shall not say more as I fear that I have already encroached too much upon Your Highness's generosity.

18. With reference to the chief agency, I have after mature consideration and consultation with my friends, come to the conclusion that one Mr. K. Subramania Pillai, M. A., B. L., of Tinnevely, a vakil of the High Court of Judicature, at Madras, is the proper person to supervise the whole business and undertake the translation of the Tolkappiam. He has taken the degree of Master of Arts in English and Tamil literature. For the latter, he took up the sister dialect of Malayalam as his second language, and thus he possesses a knowledge of three languages. As a student, record is brilliant. He is a gold medalist of the Tamil Sangam at Madura, for high proficiency in Tamil, and carried away the Owell and Morehead prizes from the Madras University, for the same scholarship. Further owing to the high standard of general proficiency, he appears to have carried away the highest prize from the Presidency College during the year he graduated, and it is needless for me to refer to the other innumerable prizes he obtained. Thus he is not only a scholar, but also an enthusiastic worker, in the field of research into matters Dravidian, with a view to unravel South Indian History. I am particularly anxious that he should take up the work, as he is young and has not lost the habit of close study. For Your Highness's chief agent in the matter, should not take on trust all that the Pandits tell him. He should closely examine everything by himself, and come to decision only after a full discussion of the doubtful points. This requires considerable study on his part. In order to enable him to do the work satisfactorily, he should be given a free-hand in selecting the rest of the staff in consultation with other scholars. When the whole scheme is settled, and the Chief Agent is appointed, Your Highness should be pleased to relieve me of all responsibility, and connection with the work. An occasion requires, I am prepared to give him my advice; but he should be at liberty to take it for what it is worth.

19. In conclusion, I beg to thank Your Highness, for the honour Your Highness was pleased to confer upon me. I am aware to whom I am mainly indebted for it. It is generally said that the vally of the Cauvery has been very prolific in the production of a sage, and there is no doubt that it did produce a large number of them. But no one can gainsay that, in the largeness of heart, none excelled your minister Mr. V. P. Madhava Rao. Though born of the highest caste and one of the most respectable families in that region, he has been the friend of all classes alike, and found merit even beyond the narrow sacerdotal circle. His cosmopolitan spirit was such that, while at Mysore the Mohammedan population there desired him to represent them in the council, and he did so to their entire satisfaction. When the caste of Reddis, a class of Telegu speaking Dravidians, arranged a conference of their own in the District of South Arcot in order to concert measures for the amelioration of their condition, he was there to advocate their cause. It is therefore no wonder that Mr. Madhava Rao should have, unasked, taken the trouble to introduce the humble writer of this letter, to Your Highness, the only qualification that he is a Dravidian: one of the forty millions of that class in the Presidency, and it pleased Your Highness to accord him as such and honour him as such with two interviews to converse upon the antiquity of that nationality and their language. I beg again to thank Your Highness and Your minister for all this kindness. I regret that I am unable to requite that condescension by myself undertaking the work which Your gracious Highness has uppermost at heart. For I feel that I am not equal to the task. In the first place, I do not possess the scholarship which the subject requires; and in the next, my age is a bar to take up such an arduous work.

20. The following is the financial statement referred to in para 16.

Table with 2 columns: Description and Amount. Includes Staff (Superintendent and Translator, Pandit, English clerk, Typist, Copyist, Attender, Travelling charges, House rent, Contingencies) and Total sum for 2 years (Rs. 9800 or Rs. 10,000 in round numbers).

At the outset, two typewriters, one in English and another in Tamil, should be provided; and for this purpose, I put down Rs. 500. Also a sum of money amounting at least to six month's contingencies should be advanced at the beginning; or a permanent advance fund may be created. In the above statement, I have not made any reference to the printing charges or to any honorarium, which it may please Your Highness to pay the Superintendent and translator, when he brings his arduous task to a close.

21. Presuming Your Highness's sanction, I propose after ten days of the despatch of this letter to Your Highness, to circulate copies of it amongst scholars and learned societies, and place the same at the disposal of the press for the following reasons:

- i. To court a criticism of the scheme.
ii. To invite scholars to come forward to take up the work of the superintendent and translator if they happen to be more competent than my nominee.
iii. To proclaim to the Tamil public, that the Tolkappiam and its commentaries will be ready for publication, and that any patriotically inclined person or body of persons, may take upon themselves the work of printing and publishing the same.

I beg to subscribe myself, Your Highness's most obedient devoted servant, T. PONNAMBALAM

Siva Silem, Alwarurichi, Tinnevely District.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE CASTE SYSTEM AND THE ANCIENT TAMILS.

Dear Sir,

I have read with some interest the article that appeared in the "Hindu Organ" of the 27th inst. on the above subject. The writer Mr. Maylvaganam would have done well had he waited sometime. Sabaratna Mudaliyar has said that he would deal with what is known as the view of modern Tamils in part IV of his interesting contributions, and Mr. Maylvaganam should have tied it then to see what the Mudaliyar has to about that view.

Although the Mudaliyar is sure to defend his position better, I wish to point out to Mr. Maylvaganam that the Mudaliyar put forwards only facts as supported by the Shastras and that he does not advance any opinion of his own. I know that not only Mr. Maylvaganam but there are several others who wish that the Tamils had no caste, so that they may claim fraternity with the people of the West; but wish cannot override facts. Facts are stubborn and they cannot be got over.

Mr. Maylvaganam quotes the opinions of Pandit Savari Roayan and others in support of his fanciful theory. I will only ask him to contrast with these opinions the opinions of such eminent Sanscrit and Tamil scholars as Sivagnanasambanthar and others and also the opinions of those high spiritual souls like Thirugnanasambanthar and others whose opinions, if we discredit at all, we can have no religion.

It is true that the Tamils had their *Ullavar* and *Idavar*, *Iravalar* and *Umanar*. So had their *Viravalar* and *Pasar*, *Chitpar* and *Karugar*. Will this in any way go to show that they had not their *Anthanar* and *Arasar*, *Vanigar* and *Velalar*? The ancient Tamil classics clearly show that the Tamils had their *Varunasarana Dharma*. The same *Tolkappiam* which speaks of *Ullavar* and *Idavar* speaks also of *Anthanar*, *Arasar* etc., etc. Not only *Tolkappiam*, all the ancient Tamil classics bear ample testimony to this fact. If Mr. Maylvaganam thinks that these evidences are not trustworthy, let him produce some more trustworthy evidence in support of his theory. He cannot expect to establish a theory without evidence.

The people of the West are of course fond of novel theories, and our modern Tamils who have taken a fancy for European ways are anxious to imitate the West in this respect too. They do not realize the fact that, unlike the West, they have an excellent tradition behind them, and that they inflict a great harm on that tradition by indulging in fanciful theories without studying the question properly. The Western religious views are undergoing a change from time to time and our people mistake this for a mark of civilization in their case also. Of course the Western views must change, because they have no sound foundation. Is that a reason for us to change our views also although our systems are based on the solid rock of a great tradition?

Even in the West, changes of views in questions connected with religion will not be made rashly. The questions will be studied carefully and minutely before any change is made; but our modern Tamils do not take the least trouble to study the question by a thorough research into the Sanscrit and Aryan literature, but dance to the tune of a few Westerners who are just beginning to have a glimpse of the East and who are making experiments of their understanding of the Eastern Philosophy on the mistaken line of Western materialism.

It is very noteworthy that Indian scholars who have made a sound research into our literature have the greatest regard for our tradition, while the young generation—or at least a portion of them—simply because they happened to have some idea of English—think that our tradition is not worth a straw! I am indeed very sorry for this state of things, and I do not know what fate awaits the Tamil community!!

The Tamil community is very much indebted to the Mudalyar for explaining the basic principle of the caste system, that system being of primary importance for the regulation of our society, and that system being attacked at random by our so-called reformers and by foreign missionaries.

The law of heredity and instinct which the Mudalyar has put forward in support of the caste system seems to have very much puzzled Mr. Maylvaganam, who does not seem to realize that all "congenital variations, environments and nurture" are all subject to the great law of heredity and instinct. Mr. Maylvaganam cannot ignore the law of nature and depend upon artificiality. Surely he cannot make an ass a horse!

T. KAILASAPILLAI,
Manager, Saivappiragas
Vidyasalai and President
of the Siddhanta Sama-
jam, Jaffna.

80 11-16.

VERNAacular AS MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION IN SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES.

Sir,
This is a subject that gives a little thought now and then to the verbose among Ceylonese (if I be permitted to use the epithet). It is not very strange that we have among us men who advocate the introduction and imitations of foreign customs, language and conventionalities, and denounce everything that is one's own, if not alsoance, with a profession of fallacious logic, and act we have to thank, since they awaken national enthusiasm to see the logic of the other. I believe, I will not meet with any objection, say that the first language we ever heard was vernacular, and every person will know that there is no other language on earth than one's own, to facilitate the speedy understanding of

any subject however abstruse it might be, unless the language is primitive with a lack of large vocabulary of words. To say that Tamil and Sinhalese are not rich enough with a large scope of expressions, forgetting the sublime literature, literary and spiritual, they possess, is nothing but a child's argument.

It is invariably remarked by Inspectors of Schools and others, that the failure of students in School and public examinations, and entrance examinations to Government offices is due to the want of knowledge of the English language. They recommend that the proper foundation of English should be laid in the Elementary schools, when the mind of a young boy could be easily built up, and good teachers especially those whose mother tongue is English should be employed. Others recommend that, for the improvement of English in pronunciation and good composition, students should entirely give up their speaking in the vernacular, and conversation in English should be enforced. Many Colleges in Jaffna, have taken up this gospel advice to the detriment of the Tamil language. There are some, but they are very few, who suggest that the course of instruction at school should be extended by one or two years, during which period special attention should be paid to acquaintance with the English language.

Dr. Mackichan at the convocation address delivered by him as the Vice Chancellor of the Bombay University replied to the Indians who demanded the introduction of the vernacular as medium of instruction as follows:—

"The views to which I have given expression are not intended to lead any countenance to those over-zealous vernacularists who are beginning to demand that in the University Matriculation Examinations, answers should be allowed to be written in the Students Vernacular in all subjects except English. Those enthusiasts have scarcely realised how much confusion they are proposing to introduce into the Examinations of the University nor how seriously the carrying out of this proposal would imperil the future success of every student. In the University there is and can be only one medium viz: "The English Language".

Dr. Mackichan has entirely forgotten himself and his country. How many English men can he count who would be able to write answers in Tamil, at the Matriculation examinations of the London University, if that language was taught to English boys as English is taught to Indian boys?

All these and other suggestions are good and wholesome, if the ultimate object of education is to gain the mastery of the English language and the English language alone.

In the first place, education is not a monopoly of any one language, nor anything more than a medium of expression and understanding. Then it is obvious that one's Vernacular is the best suited for the purpose. It gives room to save a lot of time which is being spent in the mastery of a foreign language full of technicalities and exceptions.

The purpose of education is to make one to think, say, and act in the way that will lead him to moral and spiritual advancement. It is a preparation to Citizenship; and as English cannot answer all the purposes, it is but foolish, that it is given undue importance as if it were, that the mastery of the language is the ultimate goal of the Ceylonese.

What ever reforms and changes the educationist might bring, no amount of instructions can ever be efficient, until vernacular is made the medium of instruction.

This unscientific system of instruction that prevails in India and Ceylon is unheard of in any part of the world. Turkey, Russia, Spain, and Portugal, though they are far backward in progress, yet have adopted their vernaculars. In schools and Colleges in Japan even the most abstruse scientific subjects are delivered in the vernacular. In Russia, German was once the language of the Military and scientific sections, and French of Politics. In England, in the times of Norman and other early kings, French was the language at court and school. All those anomalies had been now done away with.

Although our languages, Tamil and Sinhalese, younger to no language of the world, are in need of text books in science, mathematics etc., yet as they are closely related to Sanscrit, many hidden works on Astronomy, Physics, Chemistry, Botany and Mathematics, found in that language can be easily rendered into the vernacular if only the educated men of Ceylon, with the co-operation of the Indians work for it. Professors Bose and Ray, too well known in the scientific world, have already shown themselves in no way inferior to the scientists of the west, and if only they communicate their thoughts in their vernacular, we would not be late to have many text books in science and other subjects.

Although it is very undesirable to keep a foreign language as medium of instruction and learning in Colleges in Ceylon, yet owing to the impossibility of such a reformation in Ceylon at present, the introduction of the vernacular as medium in elementary schools should be urged. The present system is ruinous to the progress of the student. How can it be possible for a boy, who hears and talks a different language at home to successfully grasp the English language which is vastly different. The support and encouragements that are given to the cultivation of English practically rob off the interest and importance, the Ceylon student should give to his mother-tongue. The present system slowly and steadily cuts off our reverence towards our noble past, traditions, customs and habits, and impoverishes our language. It aims at making ourselves Europeans, as aliens to all that is oriental, which it cannot fully succeed. On the other hand it can only introduce into the world a set of men who have the virtues of neither but the vices of both.

While urging a deep study of our language I do not at all set aside the English language which is far more precious than useless. But it should be given its proper place in the school curriculum.

"Maheswari Vasa",
Colombo, 80-11-16.

Yours truly,
C. Guna Ratnam.

TELEGRAPHIC SUMMARY.

The War.

TWO MORE ZEPPELINS DOWNED.

London, Nov. 28.
(Official).—In yesterday night's raid bombs were dropped in Yorkshire and Durham. An airship was brought down in flames off the Durham coast. Another airship dropped bombs in the North Midlands counties. It was repeatedly attacked by aeroplanes and guns and appeared damaged, but apparently succeeded in effecting repairs near the Norfolk coast. It proceeded East at high speed but was attacked nine miles out at sea at a height of 8,000 feet by four Naval aeroplanes and an armed trawler, and brought down in flames at 6.45 in the morning. The casualties and damage are believed to be slight.

An aeroplane downed the first airship at 11.45 P.M. The second had not reached the coast before daybreak owing to its slow speed, which was increased after passing the gunfire of the land defences which claim to have hit it.

London, Nov. 27.
The air raid occurred at midnight. Some of the airships apparently lost their bearings and wandered aimlessly.

London, Nov. 28.
(Official).—Later reports show that aeroplanes bombs injured nine.

(Official).—In last night's air raid the damage and casualties were very slight. Over a hundred bombs were dropped. One woman died of shock. Five men, seven women and four children were injured. Fifteen houses in one town were seriously damaged and twenty slightly. Elsewhere the damage was insignificant. There was nothing of military importance.

(Official).—A hostile aeroplane at a great height above the haze, dropped six bombs on London at noon. Four were injured, one woman seriously. The damage was slight.

London, Nov. 29.
The Admiralty Commodore at Dunkirk is informed by the French authorities that they brought down an aeroplane at 15 on Nov. 28th with two Naval Lieutenants and a large scale map of London aboard.

"CITY OF BIRMINGHAM" SUNK.

London, Nov. 28.
The British steamer "City of Birmingham" has been sunk.

THE SUBMARINE WAR.

London, Nov. 28.
Marseilles.—A steamer which has arrived reports she picked up a wireless from the Italian liner "Duc Degli Abruzzi," which was attacked by a submarine in the middle of the night and escaped in the darkness.

The following steamers have been sunk:—(American) "Chemung," (Norwegian) "Bellelle" and "Visborg," also two French sailing-ships. The steamer "Villemoes Esberg" for Grimsby was captured. The British steamer "Ernstson" was erroneously reported sunk. She was towed to Gravesend.

IMPORTANT NAVAL CHANGES.

London, Nov. 29.
In the Commons Mr. Balfour announced that Admiral Sir John Jellicoe had been appointed First Sea Lord and Sir David Beatty appointed to the command of the Grand Fleet and Admiral and Sir Henry Jackson appointed Admiral and President of the Royal Naval College, Greenwich.

In the Commons Mr. Balfour said that the decisions involving these appointments were taken some time ago but the announcement was delayed for military reasons. There would be consequential changes on the Board of the Admiralty.

COMPULSION OF BRITISH IN THE EAST.

London, Nov. 28.
In the commons Mr. J. C. Wedgwood (Liberal) suggested the compulsion of British whites in India, Egypt, Ceylon and the Crown Colonies. Mr. Bonar Law replied that he was advised there was no reason to think the adoption of the suggestion would add an appreciable number to the Army. Therefore he was not prepared to recommend the necessary legislation.

THE SUBMARINE WAR.

London, Nov. 29.
Washington.—The State Department was informed of the loss of the "Chemung" by the Consul at Valencia. It is believed the case is similar to the "William P. Frye." Damages will probably be adjusted diplomatically.

A BULGARIAN OFFER TO ROUMANIA.

London, Nov. 30.
Amsterdam.—In the Bulgarian Parliament the Premier stated that prior to Roumania's entry into the War, Bulgaria offered not to attack Roumania if the latter would give Dobruja to Bulgaria. Roumania had not replied.

ITALIAN PROTEST TO GREECE.

London, Nov. 29.
Athens.—The Allied Ministers visited the Foreign Minister in connection with Epirus, where Graeco Albanian Guerrillas have been organised to fight the Italian troops. It is stated the Ministers pointed out Greece's promise to punish officers who organised bands had not been fulfilled and said that Italy demanded the recall and severe punishment of the officers.

THE SUBMARINE WAR.

London, Nov. 30.
The sinking of the steamer "Reapwell" is announced. A large enemy submarine attacked the British fishing fleet without warning on the afternoon of Nov. 28th. Two trawlers were sunk by gunfire and bombs and a third disabled and was sinking when last seen. The submarine fired on the boats after the trawlers were abandoned. Shells went overhead. The crews of the three sunk trawlers have been landed.

The sinking is announced of the British steamers "King Malcolm," and "Rorossby," the Norwegian "Perra," the Spanish "Lucienne," and the Greek "Margherita." The British steamer "Maud Elarsen" is believed to be sunk.

THE GREEK SITUATION.

London, Dec. 1.
Athens, Nov. 30.—In reply to Admiral Fournet's

threat to land troops falling compliance with his demands Government tonight has definitely refused to surrender the guns and arms.

Athens.—The situation is unchanged. Admiral de Fournet will land forces tomorrow morning unless the Government abandons their stubbornness meanwhile.

London, Nov. 30.

Athens.—A crowd of rowdies fired thirty shots at the officers of a Venizelist paper smashing the windows. There were no casualties.

THE BALKANS.

London, Nov. 30.

Mackensen's composite force of Austro-Germans and Turco-Bulgarians is reported in a Russian *communiqué* to be nearing Calugareni twenty miles from Bukharest, or ten from the outlying fortifications simultaneously. The enemy is attacking the Danube ferry at Olteniza farther East, apparently with the intention of further enveloping the Roumanians. The battle which will decide the fate of Bukharest is, therefore, imminent.

London, Dec. 1.

A Russian *communiqué* reports a successful offensive along the whole Roumanian frontier South of Kilibaba where the Russians, despite powerful Artillery fire and violent counter-attacks, occupied a whole range of heights.

A Roumanian *communiqué* says:—We are violently attacking on the whole front in Dobruja. There is most violent fighting South of Tlertsi, also in Glavaciov Valley and Neajlov as far as Komana. We took prisoner several hundreds and captured ten machine-guns and some War material. There were lively engagements on the whole front from the West frontier of Moldavia as far as the Buzen Valley.

London, Nov. 30.

Kisief.—Enemy aeroplanes are mercilessly bombing and machine-gunning refugees on all the roads from Busharest and the towns in West Roumania.

COMBING OUT THE YOUNG MEN.

London, Dec. 2.

The Local Government Board have circularised the Military Tribunals that the Government have decided that every man under 26 is more valuable to the forces than to civil employment. Therefore they must not be exempted unless engaged on work essential and of national importance. The policy at present does not apply to agriculture which is being specially considered. It adds the demand for eligibles above 26 is so great that exemption is not justified unless on the strongest grounds.

FAMOUS TRAWLER SUNK.

London, Nov. 30.

The "Provident," one of the Brixham trawlers, sunk by a German submarine on Tuesday, was famous for an heroic rescue of the survivors of the "Formidable" in January, 1915.

THE SALE OF REUTERS.

London, Nov. 30.

A meeting of the shareholders of Reuter's Telegram Company unanimously ratified the agreement whereby the Honourable Mark Napier and Lords Glencomer and Peel, and Sir Jameson have purchased the property and assets of the Company for £550,000 sterling. Mr. Gerald Williams, one of the Directors, presiding emphasized that the names of the purchasers stood for all that was honourable and straightforward in British traditions. Their chief object was to assure Reuter's remaining Imperial, independent and impartial and not connected with any financial undertaking.

—The Ceylon Observer.

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