

The Hindu Organ.

"Aetsei Awake! and stop not till the goal is reached."

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HAS THE WIDEST CIRCULATION

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JAFFNA, MONDAY DECEMBER 13 1926

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THE HINDU ORGAN.

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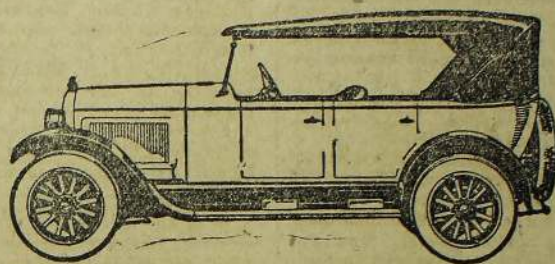
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Mis. 935.

The Hindu Organ.

JAFFNA, MONDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1926

THIRUVEMBAVAI
AND
CHIDAMBARAM.

THIRUVEMBAVAI IS THE FESTIVAL THAT usually takes place during the Hindu month of December and symbolises the dawning of the day in the Devaloka. As it symbolises the dawning of the day, the cool hours of the mornings, during the ten days during which the Thiruvembavai lasts, are devoted to special worship and pujahs in Hindu temples. It is usual for these of the Pandaram class to go along the streets, during the early hours of the morning before day break, singing the Thiruvembavai songs, blowing conches, and beating gongs. The Thiruvembavai songs are songs sung by St. Manickavasagar, who is said to have been inspired to sing them by the sight of women rising before dawn during this festival and awaking each other and going to the tanks and rivers to bathe. This festival is observed in all Hindu temples but it is at Chidambaram that the festival takes place on the grandest scale.

The principal festivals at Chidambaram are six in the year, when the abhishekams or the anointing of Nadaraja Moorthy takes place; but the two most attended are the Thiruvarthirai Darsanam which is the Thiruvembavai festival and the one taking place in the month of June called the Ani Thirumanjanam. The latter month is also the month during which the Gurupoojah day of St. Manickavasagar falls. Chidambaram is, in a way, very closely associated with the life of St. Manickavasagar, for it is at the temple at Chidambaram that he is said to have miraculously vanished.

It is said that the Dhikshitar or Brahmin priests, whose sole property the temple at Chidambaram is, were at first unwilling to admit the sacredness of the inspired songs of St. Manickavasagar. It must be mentioned by the way that the Dhikshitar do not belong to the class of ordinary Brahmins. They form a unique sect and have no connection with any other classes of Brahmins. The management of the Temple by the Dhikshitar is worth a study by itself. They constitute a thorough democracy. There is no headman at all and no hereditary rights. Each male born, after his fifth year, has a vote and equal rights as any other person in the management of the Temple. They were originally said to have been 3000 in number but their number is now considerably less. They are a very independent lot. It is no wonder therefore that even St. Manickavasagar, a Brahmin by birth, was treated with scant courtesy by these priests. Nothing daunted, St. Manickavasagar requested all of them to repair with him to the Nataraja shrine, promising to expound the meaning of his hymns there. Accordingly, all of them went there. St. Manickavasagar also set his foot at the doorstep of the inner sanctuary. Immediately there appeared a dazzling light and the form of St. Manickavasagar vanished. Then and then only the Dhikshitar realised that St. Manickavasagar was the Chosen One of God. Thence forward, they set up an image of St. Manickavasagar in a corner of the sanctuary and even to this day this image accompanies the images of Nadaraja Moorthy and Sivakama Sathary on the processions round the Temple.

St. Manickavasagar is specially remembered as having put down Buddhism and established Saivism on a firmer footing in South India. Whatever it is, even without the association of the name of St. Manickavasagar with Chidambaram, the latter is by far the most sacred temple in all India. It is perhaps the only temple to which reference is made even in the Upanishads. There are extensive lands in Jaffna dedicated by pious devotees to this Temple. Even at Chidambaram there are Madams, buildings, tanks, and paddy fields endowed by Hindus from Ceylon.

On the 20th of this month is the big Darsanam at Chidambaram when the image of Nataraja is exposed to view in the thousand pillared hall at Chidambaram, after having been anointed with gallons and gallons of milk, honey and perfumes, and then decorated with the Temple jewels worth several lacs. Millions of people will be gathered there and the sight is indeed a most inspiring one.

It is not given to every one to be bodily present at this great festival at Chidambaram but it is possible for all to regard these ten days as sacred days and meditate upon the Lord that lives in the Chidambaram of our hearts and pray to Him even as St. Manickavasagar did in the following stanza:—

"தந்தை தன்னைக் கொண்டு தென்னைச் சக்கர வாகன கோலோ சூதா
நந்தமொன் றினிலாவான் தம்பெற்றே
னியா துநீடுபெற்ற தென்னைப் பாத்
தினையே கோலிக்குண்டைப் பெருமான்
நிறுப்பெருங் துணை நிறுவனே
மெய்க்கையேயே சாவுடலிடக் கொண்டா
யானி தந்தையே துணைகொண்டே."

[It was Thyself Thou didst give and me thou didst take. Beneficent Lord! Who is the gainer? Endless bliss have I gained. What hast Thou gained from me? O Lord that hast made my heart Thy temple, Siva, Dweller in the great holy shrine, O Father, Sovereign, Thou hast made Thy abode in my body. For it I have naught to give in return.]

EDITORIAL NOTE.

We publish the following extract from the speech delivered by Lord Inchcape at the 86th annual meeting of the MISSIONARY EFFORTS. Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company held in London recently:—

"He believed the antagonism to British in China was largely due to our sending missionaries to that country. Missionary efforts among unconverted peoples were doubtless fully justified; but China's ancient faiths were as sacred to the Chinese as Christianity was to the English."

We are glad to note that the English Statesmen are now coming to realise that the Missionaries so far from promoting the peace and happiness of the country in which they reside are only creating antagonism and dissension wherever they go. We hope that our rulers in Ceylon too will realise that Hinduism is as sacred to the Tamils as Christianity to the English, and will not countenance the mischievous efforts of the Missionaries to undermine if not destroy the influence of the Hindu Religion.

LOCAL & GENERAL

Y. M. H. A. CENTRAL.—Under the auspices of the Y. M. H. A. (Central), a public meeting of Hindus will be held at the Ganesegaram Hall, Jaffna Hindu College, tomorrow at 6 p.m., to consider ways and means to reorganise the Y. M. H. A. movement. Sir Ambalavaser Kanagasabai, the President, will take the chair. All are cordially invited.

SAIVA MANGAYAR SABHAVI.—The Second Anniversary Celebration of the Jaffna Saiva Mangayar Sabhai was held on Sunday the 12th inst at Ramasathan College, Chunnakam commencing in the noon. Mr. S. Sivapathasantharam B.A., Principal, Victoria College, Chulpetram, delivered a lecture in Tamil on "Service." This was followed by the reading of the Report by the Secretary and the election of office bearers for the ensuing year. A Fancy Fair was held in the afternoon. In the evening the male members of the College Staff put on boards the Hindu religious story of Salub Mangayar Karai to the entire satisfaction of the vast audience present including ladies and gentlemen. The celebrations came to a close at about 8.30 p.m.

CAMBRIDGE CERTIFICATE EXAMINATIONS.—The second Cambridge Junior and Senior Certificate Examinations are being held in different centres throughout Ceylon, having commenced on last Saturday and will be continued the whole of this week. In Jaffna the examinations are being held in different Colleges far and near so that the students may not be put into unnecessary inconvenience as regards travelling. All the boys both Junior and Senior are accommodated in St. Patrick's, St. John's, Jaffna Central, Manipay Hindu, Paramashwara, Jaffna and Hartley Colleges; and the presiding examiners being Messrs. H. S. Perera, S. Kandiah, M. Thambipillai, D. S. Sivaratham, K. S. Arulando, T. S. Durairajah and S. K. Rajasingham respectively. The girls are accommodated in the Chundikuli and Ujvil Girls' Schools; the presiding examiners being Messrs. A. Ponniah of the Ceyna Training College and K. Kandiah respectively.

A. P. M. BATTILOLO.—Mr. J. Kadramambay, is to act as Additional Police Magistrate at Battilola, from December 13 to 18, 1926.

Continued up.

By The Way.

Here I am again, at the old game stringing together bits of ideas that come and go. I confess I was rather long in making my appearance. I recalled the words of a Japanese Baron who is reported to have said that Indians would still be a great nation if they talked less. Truer words were never spoken. Tomorrow we shall put through our resolution to revive the Y. M. H. A. The Hon'ble Sir A. Kanagasabai will guide our deliberations. This warning is necessary for I am aware there are in our midst not a few workers whose views are of the ultra-extreme type. To these I say it will be worse than useless to open fire when Sir Ambalavaser is in the field. Fend off? By all means. Let us celebrate the event tomorrow by frankly ignoring our difference in the past. This is no time for correct English or garish artificiality. Work is an anti-toxin for artificiality. Let us be less formal and more real in our views and work. The work before us is great and needs serious heads and willing hands. There is tremendous energy lying locked up in the world of our youth and it needs only a tiny outlet to pour itself out in surging perennial flow. Signs are not wanting to show that a chapter of glorious activity and joyous self-reliance is opening before us. When youth wills, who can gainsay? What can withstand its rushing, tumbling, tearing onward rush. Yes, onward! I have received letters from various parts of the Island and the F. M. S. commending the proposal to revive the Y. M. H. A. I am certain the commendation will be followed by co-operation. I turn round to every point of the compass and I see no obstruction anywhere. Once the mind is made up, the rest follows as night the day.

It may not interest many of your readers, Mr. Editor, but I feel I owe it to the movement that I should make sacrifices in certain directions—but that that is a personal matter and I do not like to parade my weaknesses or virtues. This, however, you will permit me to state that I would not consider any sacrifice too great for the privilege of serving the youth of our land.

13th December 1926.

M. S. E.

Continued.

NAVALAPITIYA HINDU SCHOOL.—The Kathi-resan Hindu Vernacular Mixed School at Navalapitiya under the management of the Hon. Sr. P. Ramasathan, has been registered as a grant-in-aid school as from October, 1925.

JAFFNA U. D. C. LICENCE RATES AND BY-LAWS.—The same "Gazette" published as required by "The Local Government Ordinance No. 11 of 1920" the licence duties and the by-laws connected with them, made by the Jaffna Urban District Council, approved by the Local Government, Colombo and confirmed by the Governor in Executive Council.

PROPOSED HOSPITAL FOR KAYTS.—It is understood that the Public Work Advisory Board has recommended that provision be made for 40 beds in the proposed Hospital at Kayts, which is to be constructed at a cost of nearly Rs 157,000.

A. G. A. MULLAITIVU.—Last Friday's Gazette announces that Mr. P. Saravanan, C. C. S., has been appointed to the office of Assistant at Mullaitivu to the Government Agent, Northern Province; District Judge, Commissioner of Requests, Police Magistrate etc. Mullaitivu. Vice Mr. R. Jones Bateman transferred to Kandy, with effect from December 7, 1926, until further orders.

ONE HEAD OVER TWO DEPARTMENTS.—The same Gazette announces that the Hon. Mr. T. Reid, the controller of Indian Immigrant Labour, has been appointed Rubber Controller etc. in addition to his own duties, with effect from December 3, 1926, until further orders.

MEDICAL.—Dr. T. Kunaratnam who recently obtained his F. R. C. degree at Edinburgh, has proceeded to Europe to visit the Berlin and Vienna Hospitals.

COLOMBO MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS.—At the Municipal Election contest held on Thursday last in the City of Colombo for St. Paul's Ward, Pettah, Dr. E. V. Ramam, the sitting Member was returned by a majority of 114 votes. This was a triangular contest; the other candidates being Dr. R. Saravananmuttu and Mr. J. H. Rasiah Joseph, Proctor.

STAMP DUTY FOR RECEIPTS.—Owing to the recent reduction in inland postage a question has arisen locally whether it is necessary that the affixing of 6 cent stamps on receipts should be continued. The stamp duty remains unchanged. It is, however, worthy of official notice to consider the reduction of the stamp duty. If one of the Hon. Members take up the question in the Legislative Council, then the reduction could be brought about.

Continued up.

A Long-Felt Want.

BUILDING WITHOUT A PLATFORM.

NAVATKULI—CENTRE OF MANY VILLAGES.

A meeting of the inhabitants of Navatkuli, Kattadi, Nuvavil, Koppay, Irupalai, Narvadi and Chivivakuru, resident in Colombo, was held on the 9th instant at 6 p.m. at "Suga Vasa", Slave Island, in order to make representations to the General Manager of the Railway about the pressing need for a platform at the Navatkuli Railway Station.

Mr. N. Kanapathipillai of the Railway Department was voted to the chair and Mr. S. Ponnappah of the P. W. D. was elected Secretary. After the notice convening the meeting was read, the Chairman explained the object of the meeting and called upon Mr. S. Ponnappah to move the resolution requesting the G. M. R. to be pleased to take early steps towards the construction of the platform, and this was duly seconded by Mr. A. Obellah and carried unanimously. Then a sub-committee consisting of the President, the Secretary, and Messrs E. J. Rajaratnam, S. R. Sathaseevan and A. Obellah was elected to draft a memorial to the G. M. R. and forward same. It was also decided to forward copies of the memorial to the Hon'ble Members of the Legislative Council, representing the North.

A Farewell At Mullaitivu.

DEPARTING A. G. A. ENTERTAINED.

Mr. R. Jones - Bateman, Assistant Government Agent, Mullaitivu was entertained at Mullaitivu on the evening of the 3rd instant at a farewell function by the public officers and the chief and minor Headmen of the Maritime Patuses and Vavuniya North prior to his departure for Kandy as Assistant Government Agent there.

A group photograph was taken with Mr. R. Jones - Bateman as the central figure. Later he was entertained at a tea party at the Mullaitivu Reading Room where refreshments were served to those present.

Messrs M. Salvadurai, O. Canapathipillai and N. Velupillai voiced the sentiments of those present and spoke highly of Mr. Bateman's gentlemanly qualities and the good works which he had done while he was in charge of the administration of the District during the last two years.

They wished him and Mrs Bateman a very pleasant and prosperous time in his new station and thanked the officer for the courtesy and kindness which he had shown to promote the interest of the District.

Mr. Bateman replied suitably and thanked all present for the honour done to him and said that it has been a pleasure to him to promote the interest of the District.

Mr. Bateman left for Vavuniya on the 7th instant where he was entertained at a farewell function by the public there on the 8th instant. He left for Kandy on the morning of the 9th instant to assume duties as A. G. A. there.

Mr. P. Saravananmuttu, the new A. G. A., assumed duties at Mullaitivu on the 7th instant.

Continued.

WEATHER.—After an interval of a few days of clear skies, there is rainfall in Jaffna. The skies are frequently cloudy and refreshing showers come down daily. The recorded rainfall at the Jaffna observatory this morning is 41 in and that of this year is over 40 inches. Last year's recorded rainfall was about inches.

FAREWELL FUNCTION IN F. M. S.—On the eve of his transfer to the Office of the Engineer Ways & Works F. M. S. Railways, Kuala Lumpur, Mr. Nagalingam, Clerk, Singapore Naval Base Railway, was entertained on Monday the 29th ultimo, at about 8 p.m. at the Kim Chua Hotel, Johore Bahru, to a farewell function by the staff of the Singapore Naval Base Railway. Suitable speeches were made by several gentlemen present dwelling on the sterling qualities of the guest. Mr. Nagalingam replied feelingly. The function came to a close at about 9.30 p.m.—Cor.

ARUMUGA NAVALA MISSION.—His Holiness Ambalava Navalava Gnanasambanthas Parakkathi Swamikal, who claims to be a disciple of the veteran Hindu Religious Reformer, Sri-La Sri Arumuga Navalar, delivered an interesting and instructive lecture on "Arumuga Navalava Mission" on Saturday, the 4th instant, at the Veddakudai Hindu English Institute, with Sir A. Kanagasabai in the chair. The lecturer emphasised very much that Jaffna was in bad need of a mission like the Arumuga Navalava Mission, which he proposes to inaugurate, to encourage Hinduism and improve the people. Mr. Sivapathasantharam spoke next endorsing the lecturer's views. The meeting terminated late in the night with a poojah performed to the four Saiva Saints and Sri-La-Sri Arumuga Navalar.—Cor.

Health Unit For Jaffna

DEMORALIZATION OF AREA FOR WORK

A Public Meeting of the residents of Jaffna was held at the Jaffna Kachcheri last week with Mr. T. B. Russell, Government Agent, in the chair.

Mr. Russell said they were all present there that day to consider the desirability of starting Health Unit work within the urban area of Jaffna. In selecting the area, the following points had to be kept in mind: The area should have a population of 20 to 30 thousand, and there must be an assurance of co-operation by the public. The Health Unit was formed at Kuluva because of the ready co-operation promised and the enthusiasm evinced by the Assistant Government Agent, the Chairman of the Urban District Council and the planters.

THE PERSONNEL OF THE UNIT.

The Personnel of the unit was selected by the Department of Medical and Sanitary Services and was to be under the control of the Medical Officer of Health, and the Urban Council would pay the salaries of the Sanitary Inspectors who would be working in its area. The Council was also requested to pass the necessary by-laws to assist the work.

Six Sanitary Inspectors would be needed for work in the Jaffna Urban District Council's area, three for the urban area, two for the rural area, and one to be an Entomological Assistant for anophelis survey and control in the whole area. The Health Unit would be doing this work on behalf of the Council.

U. D. C. CHAIRMANS REMARKS.

Hon. Mr. A. Canagaratnam, Chairman, Jaffna Urban District Council, said that he was not against the formation of the Health Unit, but he felt that the opposition engineered against the most primary sanitary measures of the Urban Council made him very difficult. The Urban Council was trying to introduce the dry-earth latrines in a large number of houses. Irresponsible busy bodies went about raising a clamour against the Council's action. A Ratspayers' Association had sprung up out of a meeting that was to consider the question of dry-earth latrines. That Association wanted the Urban Council to erect public latrines for private use. The rich people were at the bottom of all the opposition, hoping to evade paying the cess levied rate.

The Chairman said that the best thing was to enact legislation, which would make the rich pay for the poor.

Mr. Canagaratnam, continuing, said that the voters knew their rights and privileges and boldly threatened to vote against members who advocated sanitary measures such as the dry-earth latrines.

Ultimately it was agreed that a Health Unit should be established to work in the area consisting of Vannarponnai Bass and West, Bothamalai, Anakkottai and Kariyer.

Excise Offenders Discharged.

INSPECTOR ACCEPTS APOLOGY.

Before the Police Magistrate of Mullaikam, the case came up for trial in which Excise Inspector N. Thiruvannam of Kankesanthurai charged V. Sargapillai and his servant V. Sankarapillai with having used criminal force and obstructed him in the discharge of his duties.

The Inspector stated in his evidence that on the 12th October last, he went to the village of Karampan and inspected the garden of the first accused. He saw seven paddy trees with pots. He got the pots lowered in the first accused's presence and on examination found that the trees were tapped for fermented toddy. He warned the first accused and reported the matter to the Assistant Superintendent of Excise. Subsequently at his request witnesses inspected the second's garden again to see if his warning had been heeded. On 15th November last, witnesses saw two paddy trees in the second's garden with pots hanging. Witnesses sent his son to fetch the headman and went with him to the second's garden. The second accused said that his master would see them a little later. Witnesses waited for some time, and as the first accused did not turn up, he wanted to examine the trees, when the second accused objected to their doing anything during his master's absence. When the Excise Sergeant insisted upon examining the trees, the first accused Sargapillai came upon the scene and ordered the Sergeant to clear out of the garden. When witnesses told the accused that the Sergeant was acting under his orders, the first accused held the Sergeant by the throat, and the second accused pushed him away. When he intervened, the accused ordered him out and had the gate locked.

The counsel for the defence mentioned to the Court that he had advised his clients to tender an apology to the complainant, and express their regret at what had occurred. His clients would undertake to render every assistance in the future to the Excise officers, and would refrain from acting in the matter they are alleged to have acted.

The Inspector informed the Court that the accused had apologized to him and that he would not press for punishment.

The Magistrate discharged the accused with a warning.

CORRESPONDENCE

Y. M. H. A.

To The Editor, "Hindu Organ."

Sir,

It is indeed very gratifying to see that steps are being taken to make the central Y. M. H. A. which was doing very good work some years back, a living force among the Hindus in Jaffna. When people belonging to other religions are organizing themselves to safeguard their interests and claim special privileges for them in matters political, educational etc., we Hindus would become the laughing stock of others if we confine ourselves at the present moment to mere speech making, or writing a few appeals to the Hindus in some of the local papers.

Now is the time of action—concentrated action—to mobilize our forces and do real 'Hindu propaganda work' in every nook and corner of the country. Want of organized efforts and a policy of drift among us are responsible for the present onslaught of other religions on our society. In India, the Arya Samaj, the Brahma Samaj, the Hindu Mahajana Sabha, the Hindu Sava of Calcutta and other Hindu Societies have been rendering immense service to the Hindus in various ways. Some societies like the Hindu Sava of Calcutta, realizing the necessity for aggressive work have directed their activities towards the reconversion of Christians and other non-Hindus to Hinduism.

If we Hindus here keep quiet allowing things to take their own course, the very existence of Hinduism here would be jeopardized and there may come a time when there will be no Hindu worth the name in this country. Is it not the duty of our Hindu leaders to come out of the recession and guide us in organizing Hindu societies of the type in India for making our young men love their religion, culture etc. by keeping them away from the influences of men who are out here for proselytizing them.

Is it fresh in our minds what amount of good work the central Y. M. H. A. was doing amidst us for some years under the guidance of Mr. M. S. Elathambay? Even a man in the street is fully aware of the fact that his contagious enthusiasm and persuasive advocacy had much to do in making the Y. M. H. A. do a good deal of constructive work both in and outside Jaffna. It is very encouraging to know that he has made up his mind to put fresh life and vigour into the Central Y. M. H. A. and make it do effective work among the Hindus like the Hindu Sava of Calcutta. The Association is also fortunate in getting the ardent support of Mr. M. S. Rajaratnam in all its activities. We are sure that under the guidance of these tried and earnest workers, better days are in store for the Central Y. M. H. A. At no distant date this Association is sure to have Hindu Missionaries in all Hindu centres to preach Hinduism to non-Hindus and teach Hindu religion to Hindu boys. It is essential that there should be a branch of the Y. M. H. A. in every village for protecting the interests of the Hindus and for getting their children educated in Hindu Schools.

We appeal to our great leader Sir A. Kanagasabai to take a bold stand on behalf of the Hindus and do all he can to further the interests of this Association without caring for the criticisms or attacks of (sic) interested persons. This is the occasion for our Council Members to show by their action (and not lip sympathy) that as Hindus they are interested in all movements organized for the benefit of the Hindus.

Will all the Hindu young men bury their personal differences and rally round their leaders to help them in making the Y. M. H. A. a real dynamic among the Hindus in this country.

Jaffna,
12.12.26.

Yours etc,
A. S. R.

NORTH CEYLON EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION.

ANTI-HINDU ACTIVITIES EXPOSED.

To The Editor, "Hindu Organ."

Sir,

We were anxiously awaiting Mr. J. K. Channamkam's reply to the Hon. Mr. Rajaratnam's charges against him as appeared in the Hindu Organ of November 1st, and are disappointed to read now Mr. Channamkam's explanation, which is as unconvincing as it is misleading. I cannot consider the explanation as anything but an attempt on subterfuge and an endeavour to bamboozle facts. He concludes his tedious reply by saying 'if anyone in replying to the above should resort to "bilingualism," I shall not undertake to mislead the printer's ink.' He has of course anticipated that his unconvincing attempt would meet with criticism so nearly as to contain even "bilingualism," and therefore I will not trouble poor Mr. Channamkam with hunting after fresh materials for a further subterfuge. I should however say that he would have done well, if he had satisfied the readers with more explanation against some of the charges, such as the election of a President, nominations to the Board of Education, and the rejection of several applications for membership including those from the lawyers. An impartial reader will, I am sure, not fail to observe

Continued up.

INDIAN & FOREIGN

AEROPLANE EAGLE COLLISION—It is said that a huge golden eagle collided with the Royal Mail Aeroplane at Eiko (Nevad.) a few weeks back. The Hindustanaviature collided head foremost with the machine with the result that it killed the eagle and knocked down the front wing strut of the plane had to use his skill to prevent the machine from overturning and then to make a forced landing.

LARGE MINE FAN FOR S. AFRICA—The Darban Navigation Collieries of South Africa have recently ordered one of the most powerful mine fans yet constructed. This fan, which is "Sirocco" and is being built by Davidson and Co., Ltd. of Belfast, will be capable of dealing with 700,000 cubic feet of air against a resistance of 7 in. water gauge, and requires a steam engine of 1,200 horsepower to drive it. When working at full load the fan will be moving no less than 3,400 tons of air through the many miles of underground airways every day.

WILSON DAM NEAR BOMBAY—The Governor of Bombay on December 10th opened the Bhandarkar Dam, which henceforward will be known as the Wilson Dam, on the Western Ghats, at a height of 270 feet, the second highest in the world. It is designed to irrigate 220,000 acres of district in the Deccan, which hitherto has been particularly liable to famine, the cost of the whole scheme being 151 lakhs of rupees.

PRINCE OF WALES TO VISIT CANADA—At the opening of Parliament at Ottawa the Governor-General, Lord Willington, announced that the Prince of Wales had accepted the invitation of the Canadian Government to visit Canada in 1927, in connection with the Jubilee celebration of the Canadian Confederation.

Local Govt. Board, Colombo.

THANKS FOR DEPARTING MEMBERS.

The following are the minutes of the sixty-eighth meeting of the Local Government Board held at the Colombo Kachcheri on Thursday, December 2, 1926, at 9.30 a. m.

Present:—The Hon. Mr. R. N. Thaine, President, the Hon. Mr. J. Strachan, the Director of Public Works, the Hon. Dr. J. E. M. Bridger, Director of Medical and Sanitary Services, Mr. A. J. Wickwar, Surveyor General, the Hon. Mr. M. T. Akbar, K. C., Solicitor General, the Hon. Mr. A. C. G. Wijeyekoon, the Hon. Mr. G. A. Wils and Mr. J. H. Maadeniya, Adigar.

The minutes of the sixty-seventh meeting having been circulated were confirmed.

Considered Circulation Paper No. 40—by laws made by the Kalutara Council relating to its cemeteries. The by laws were approved.

Considered and approved by laws made by the Negombo Council regarding buildings.

Considered and approved the model by laws adopted by the Matsale Council.

Considered and approved by laws relating to license duties made by the Matsale Council.

The Board approved under section 53 (1) an application from the Negombo Council for acquisition of land for a Motor Bus Stand.

ALLOWANCES FOR OFFICERS.

The Board considered a proposal made by the Panadura Council for the assignment of allowances to its staff. The Board did not approve of the proposed house allowance, and considered their allowances on a percentage basis should be adhered to. The travelling allowance to the Works Inspector and the allowances to the 23d and 5d clerks were approved.

Correspondence relating to the proposed Town Survey of Panadura was considered, and the Board resolved to recommend that Panadura be added to the priority list of Town Surveys.

The Board sanctioned under section 141 (b) the water rate imposed by the Ratnapura Council for 1927.

G. A. N. P. AS EX OFFICIO MEMBER.

The Board considered an application from the Jaffna Council for the appointment of Mr. T. B. Russell as an ex officio member of the Council for 1927. It was resolved to obtain further information and to consider the application at the next meeting.

The budgets of the Jaffna, Kalutara, Negombo, Panadura and Ratnapura Councils for 1927 were tabled.

Rolls made by the Kalutara Council regarding the Rat houses were considered. It was resolved to circulate the papers among the members of the Board.

The Board considered and approved by laws made by the Jaffna Council relating to markets.

A vote of thanks to the Hon. Mr. J. Strachan and Mr. A. J. Wickwar for the valuable services rendered by them to the Board was passed unanimously.

Continued.

the animals displayed in some of Mr. Channamkam's actions, and what I deplore is the fact, as Mr. Channamkam himself laments over in his concluding portion that the hands of political progress must surely be at a stand still, when there are leaders, to guide the destiny of Mother Lanka, of questionable and repugnant behaviour.

The anti Hindu feeling especially in the North is not a thing of today. We have heard evidences of it during the time of Sri. L. Sri Arumuga Navalar and during the time of the late lamented Mr. Advocate A. Nagalingam. We have also not forgotten the days of the election campaign conducted in favour of the Veteran Knight, when the elite of Ceylon wanted to send him to the first Eminent Ceylonese Seat in the Legislative Council.

May Mother Lanka not suffer further for bigotry, want of wisdom, liberality and good sense in her sons.

Kula's Lamp,
4.12.26.

Yours etc,
"Still hopeful,"

The State Mortgage Bank.

HON. MR. K. B. SINGHAM'S REPLY.

The following is the first portion of the exhaustive and effective reply made by the Hon. Mr. Basingham at the Legislative Council debate on his motion for the establishment of a State Mortgage Bank for Ceylon. As will be remembered this motion was introduced by Mr. Basingham in the Legislative Council on the 25th ultimo and after discussion was taken up in the next meeting on December 2. After a hard fight the motion was passed by an Unofficial majority all the Officials voting against it.

'The Director of Agriculture said that the report of the Committee of 1919 recommended that funds should be placed in the hands of the Government Agents for making advances to land owners and that the Government considered the proposal impractical. If he had carefully read his own report he would have noticed that the recommendation was that Government Agents were to take charge of the funds to begin with and that in due time the State Bank should be established. In my case, the proposal to charge the Government Agents with this duty was not mine, but the Director's own. When I moved in Council I asked for a State Bank to aid food production and I did not suggest the intervention of G. A's. He agreed however to the Director's proposal and he did not think that there was anything impractical about it. I will tell you how the trouble arose. Sir John Fraser who was Government Agent refused to have anything to do with it and advised against it. He was not, as he frankly told me subsequently, going to do the spadework for a State Bank that was to follow. He was not interested in the development of the country by agriculture, but by founding cities (laughter)—the great city of Gampaha with its stadium and amphitheatre and parks and drives for a population that was to come.

INDIA'S ONWARD PROGRESS.

It might interest Hon. Members to hear that so late as August 1925 the Director of Agriculture set his signature to a report (Seasonal paper 5 of 1926) where the recommendation of the 1919 Committee was in effect re-asserted. 'The Committee is in favour of loans being given by Government on the lines of the Indian Land Improvement Loans Act of 1883 and the Agricultural Loans Act of 1884 to land holders, provided that security is good and that there is efficient machinery instituted to ensure that the money so lent is spent on the land or house building.' You might like to know what provision is made in the Indian Act referred to in the report. Let me quote again from the same report. 'The Government of India set apart every year crores of rupees to be given out as loans to cultivators under the Land Improvement and Agricultural Loans Act. Loan for improving land is spread over a number of years sometimes extending to 35 years. This is in addition to what is given out by Co-operative Credit Societies.' The Government has turned down the recommendation of 1925 also as impractical. To-day the Director of Agriculture after putting his signature to two reports in 1919 and 1925 gets up here to warn the house against accepting my motion on the ground that a State Mortgage Bank will come into conflict with the Co-operative Credit Movement which is the one thing required for the development of the Island. The Director of Agriculture is the Registrar of the Co-operative Credit Societies and I want to know what he has done since 1920 when the Government turned down his report for the promotion of the Co-operative Movement to which he now pleads his faith. It is necessary to examine this spurious plea rather critically. Let me quote some figures from the latest report for 1924-1925. There were in that year 257 societies. Of this number 11 were to be wound up, 7 had not yet started, 9 had been recently formed. There were therefore only 230 societies with 30,548 members. The total sum given as loans to the members is Rs. 330,504 which works out at Rs. 11 per member.

LOANS NOT USED FOR AGRICULTURE.

Of loans to members it is interesting to note that the American Mission Agents Society took Rs. 81,234. Government Printing Office Co-operative Credit Society took Rs. 28,084. Buddhist English School Society took Rs. 4,844. Kandy Singhaes Young Men's Association Rs. 5,540. Department of Agriculture Rs. 4,693. Malaya Wesleyan Mission Workers Rs. 2,826. Jaffna Wesleyan Mission Agents Rs. 2,831. About 80,000 Rupees or exactly one fourth of the total amount lent, was lent to persons who were not interested at any rate directly in the development of land, or in any other industry, but who were employed in Government and other offices. Of the balance Rs. 125,512 came out of the Batticaloa Paddy Bank. Let me tell you how Mr. Brayne got his money for the Batticaloa Paddy Bank. It was by prohibiting the rice growers of Batticaloa under the Defence of the Realm Act from exporting their paddy to Colombo or Jaffna during the rice crisis. The result was that when rice was selling in Colombo at Rs. 10 or 11 a bushel, the poor paddy growers of Batticaloa came out to part with their rice at about 4 Rs. to Government. It is the unfair profits so gained by Government that became the capital of the Paddy Bank with which Mr. Brayne subsequently financed Co-operative Credit Societies on the failure of the Paddy Bank. If you take away these and other like sums, you have about Rs. 100,000 lent to those really engaged in Agriculture. Let me now tell you what sum the Government has contributed to the Co-operative Movement in 1924 1925; only Rs. 16,250. We complain that while the country is stagnating for want of capital, Government is taking away the contributions of the people in Savings Banks, Loan Board and Widows' and Orphans' Pension Fund, amounting to over 80 million Rupees, and investing them out of the Island. The reply of the Director of Agriculture is, 'I am working very hard at the Co-operative Movement. I have got the Government to pay Rs. 16,000 last year. Please do not stop the outward flow of capital.'

(To be continued.)

Path of Progress.

If we are to make progress, we must not repeat history but make new history. We must add to the inheritance left by our ancestors.

M. K. G.

University Education.

VENRACULAR MEDIUM OF EDUCATION.

WHAT A MODERN UNIVERSITY SHOULD BE!

The following is an extract, appearing in the December number of the 'Welfare', from the Convocation Address delivered recently at the University of Mysore by Sir P. C. Ray of the Calcutta University.

The outstanding difference between the ancient or mediæval University and the modern is the merely cultural aspect of the former and the cultural and vocational traits of the latter. In ancient and mediæval times, the difference between University and school education were less noticeably regulated both as regards extent and object. This was possible as many of the learned professions had not then been clearly outlined nor had so many come into existence. The system offered a more or less satisfactory solution of the ordinary educational requirements of the people of the time, the higher learning being mostly sought by those who had "scholarly instincts." With the coming into existence of many learned professions later on, social and economic necessity led many more to seek training in these higher institutions (or Universities) but when the former became disproportionate to the demand, and some of the Universities, through want of proper perception, allowed their halls to be used as 'maisons' and not 'mines' unsuitable character of the modern system became apparent.

ADVANCEMENT OF LEARNING.

We thus notice the more thoughtful Universities changing their character from an 'examining' body to a 'teaching' one. I confess that a certain amount of 'examining' trait must exist in all Universities as the business of life requires that we must judge. But to lay more stress on this than on the creative side of human intellectual efforts would reduce them to the condition of commercial coaching establishments. There must be separate institutions for such particular *faits* as training for the competitive Civil Services, but here in the University our motto should be 'Advancement of Learning.'

GENERAL EDUCATION FOR INTELLECTUAL ADVANCEMENT.

I shall not try to prove that unless such distinctions are introduced into our educational system, the functions of our Universities would be too unwieldy and that a clear demarcation between the school and University efforts is, under a healthy condition, inevitable. As I have said on many occasions we cannot in life escape an assortment, be it biological or intellectual. Whilst biological selection often ruthlessly puts aside the infirm and the weak, in the intellectual world, goaded by social instincts and the idea of social or state responsibility, an effort is made to equip a man on the score of his intellect. To sharpen the intellect or illuminate the mind up to a certain extent is not difficult with most men, but intellect that can create is a rarity, and the development of such an intellect if undertaken in an organisation must needs be different from the less gifted ones. Whilst general education is a necessity—so beautifully represented in the Soviet Educational Poster by a blind man about to fall down a precipice—and to day a birth right with most, the higher cultural centres are useless for their immediate purpose. The demarcation is thus clearly based upon intellectual capacity.

ITS TWO FOLD PURPOSES.

I have already indicated that most Universities exist for two purposes: for the training of men and women for certain professions, and secondly for the sake of pure learning. It is obvious how the functions of the two, though different both physically and morally, are quite interdependent. True, the practice of existing knowledge may do for a number of years, sometimes for a generation perhaps, but soon its effects weaken and new knowledge is realised to be a necessity in the life of mankind for its very progress. Thus the merely practical education in the Universities would have to be filled and given a direction by original research. Between the unalloyed investigator and the practical utilitarian there are necessarily many gradations which fill up university activities, and I would rather that each understood his vocation, so that pure learning could flourish and for ever continue to replenish the bowl of human understanding. If this is our ideal, our methods of achieving the same must be shaped accordingly.

EVILS OF FOREIGN LANGUAGE AS MEDIUM.

If we begin by critically examining our methods in India (not only in your University) the first outrage that we find we committed was in making a foreign language our vehicle of instruction. It is surprising that this principal reason for one intellectual sterility was not discovered till very recently, and it is still more surprising to find that some of the well known educationists of the time continue to regard this relegation of the English language to an inferior position as fraught with disastrous consequences. To avoid misconception, I must here, once for all, make it clear that the study of English or other important foreign languages is by no means discouraged, they open up newer vistas of thoughts and ideas; there is no need of entertaining the fear that the language in which Shakespeare and Milton wrote will be left unutilized. Only it must not be looked upon as the medium of instruction. A man of education must, in the first place be one well up in all the minimum of time if he does so in a language he learned to lip in, while sucking his mother's breast—the language of his nursery. Arithmetic, History, Economics, Politics, Logic and Geography, in short the book of knowledge, can readily be mastered in one's own vernacular. That should be the first stone in our educational edifice if we want to build well and high.

PROPER SECONDARY EDUCATION.

Every one will admit that with an improved and broadened form of secondary education, the functions of the Universities will be stripped of many of their unnecessary appendages, making them far real progress. The mechanical portion of training which ought really to be finished in the school stage, but which unfortunately is carried on to the University forms, will then greatly disappear and make these Universities real centres of learning and culture. I fear a good deal of explanation is necessary at this point, mainly because the present University system is as yet so full of routine details that its function is not

Conspicuous.

Fight Against Tuberculosis.

THE VALUE OF FRESH AIR.

HEALTH LETTER No. V.

We publish below for the information of our readers the fifth health letter of the series issued by the Ceylon Medical Department on behalf of the King Edward VIIth Anti-Tuberculosis Campaign:—85% of cases of Tuberculosis if taken in hand early can be arrested or cured and sent home to normal life and work.

HOW CAN THIS BE DONE?

1. By seeking early medical advice and by following it.
2. By recognising that the fundamentals of the treatment of Tuberculosis are fresh air, sunlight, good food, rest and cheerfulness.
3. By remembering that yet there is no specific treatment for Tuberculosis.
4. The Sanatorium is the ideal place where treatment should be carried out for the early cases. Where people cannot afford all the expense of domestic treatment this is essential. A short stay even, will be of benefit as thereby the patient can learn the correct mode of life.
5. If the patient wishes to be treated at home let him follow implicitly the advice of his doctor. Keep out of doors, sleep out of doors, take every advantage of the open. You can get well in your own town or village. Climate is not essential. "Consumption is caught anywhere and can be cured anywhere."
6. Once the disease is arrested the patient must live a careful life.
7. Tubercular patients should remember that they are suffering from a communicable disease. When coughing or spitting they must be careful to see that they are not sources of infection to others. Cover your mouth when you cough. If suffering from the disease carry a pocket spitting cup. There is no royal road to the cure of consumption. It requires patience, persistence, and courage. On the co-operation of the patient with the doctor depends his cure.

The Spinning Wheel.

If you want National Regeneration, if you want to have National Education, if you want to identify yourself with the masses (if you want to utilise your odd moments, then you cannot but take to the simple thing, "Spinning Wheel."

M. K. G.

Continued.

very far removed from that of a Secondary School. Even in the post-graduate stage there are some who would insist on definite exercise! I do not for a moment suggest that in the Universities under the cloak of freedom of choice of study any indolence should flourish. The habit of industry in addition to intellectual capacity should form the primary condition of continuance in the University. All that is implied is that the numerous compulsory class lectures and exercise that from to day the basis of education in the Universities should be abolished if the intellectual capacity of University students is to develop. No doubt the lecture system gives an appearance of work, but if the student is himself willing to utilise his time, he would in most cases find that he gets through more work by absorbing himself from these compulsory lectures. The greatest disadvantage of the compulsory lecture system arises from the fact that those that attend can only under exceptional cases ask question to clear their difficulty, and as is only natural, the teacher only explains his own view-point. To remedy these evils,

THE TUTORIAL SYSTEM IS BEING INTRODUCED

In some Universities; but although this latter partially supplements the incompleteness of the former method, its general effect, as far as I am aware, is more of the nature of coaching without intellectual effort. Just consider the opposite system where the student is only given the names of some books and some questions on the problems dealt therein; he reads them, digests them and develops his own answers to the questions by process of thinking which is his own, and then in the College Seminar discusses them from his own point of view with his colleagues and professors, preferably in limited groups. I am sure under these circumstances his powers of analysis as well as synthesis will be better developed, and his efforts, though in some in the beginning, will soon enable him to carve out his own intellectual empire. All these, however, presuppose a sound secondary education.

RESEARCH WORK BY PROFESSORS.

The question may be asked, if the lecture system be abolished, what should be the function of professors? The answer is obvious—the function of the professors should be mainly original research. Where he feels he has something new to impart, he lectures, he discusses and thus keeps the spirit of enquiry for ever alive and growing in this intellectual democracy. In the words of Bertrand Russell, skill in pedagogy in University teaching is no longer important.

I may be now allowed to review in short the workings of my own University. I mean that of Coochab, from the point of view of the ideals laid down above. While regretting that our secondary system is most deplorably deficient, for which the medium of education is not inconceivably responsible, the post graduate system developed by this illustrious educationist, the late Sir A. B. Mukherjee, approaches my conception of University ideal. Its highest ideals are continuous with absolute intellectual freedom, the full realisation of which is unhappily being hampered by financial inadequacy. I shall not be guilty of high treason against my Alma Mater if I choose to infer that to meet this inadequacy, we have been forced, to a certain extent as any rate, to keep both the secondary and degree courses of instruction tied to one apron strings. The effect of such a system is that healthy elimination for which I stand, is secured only partially, and necessarily

Continued up.

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Q. 75

Continued.

the beneficial effect of the post graduate system is reduced. In those sections of the post graduate department, for instance, the science sections, where limited accommodation practically ensures rigorous elimination, where the munificence of far seeing donors have placed teaching and research on a comparatively sounder base, the record of work and the output of original contribution are by no means unworthy. The workers to the College of Science, students and teachers alike, come into that intimate contact with one another which is truly characteristic of an intellectual democracy. On the other hand, in the Arts section where by the very nature of circumstances already alluded to, the elimination is far less, though the teachers themselves are a distinguished brotherhood, each contributing to the stock of human knowledge worthy of their position, the mass of students lose that most important of all opportunities.

THE CONTACT WITH THE INNER WORKING OF THE TEACHER.

That I consider as the greatest loss in a University system! While hoping that improvement of the lower forms of education will soon remove these difficulties in our University system, I cannot help noticing with regret that in the executive organisations of our academic system, the student element is entirely absent. Nothing teaches a man more than responsibility, and the feeling that he is of the system. In Soviet Russia, this method of introducing the student element in the executive bodies of schools and colleges has been productive of such good results that we outsiders who really care to make our educational institutions part and parcel of our organic growth, should lose no time in adopting this novel system.

I have so far then pointed out four of the main defects of our University educational system: the medium of study, the absence of elimination, the system of compulsory lectures, and the non-participation of students in the organisation. Of the many other defects probably the one that deserves next consideration is the notion of regarding Universities as preserves for certain hall-marked people. This exclusiveness had any meaning so long as we believed that our system of preparatory education was infallible and that we could include within its fold all our educable people. Such claims are on the very face of them absurd, and when once we admit that,

THE UNIVERSITIES SHOULD FUNCTION AS GREAT RESEARCH CENTRES.

their portals should be opened wide to anyone, hall marked or not, who has given evidence of originality or keenness. It will be difficult to assert for any educationalist that such catholicity will not make for much progress. On the contrary, knowing what a minute fraction of our people are receiving education, the hopeful uncertainty of full many a flower is born to blush unseen, would justify this departure from the orthodox notion of exclusiveness. If one took a census of the greatest of world's men and women, I fear he would be surprised to discover that the majority of them owe very little to Universities or indeed to any educational system. Shakespeare knew little Greek and less Latin. Our Kabir Chandra Sen and Rabindra Nath, Sarat Chandra Chattopadhyay, the prince of novelists and story-writer, Girish Chandra Ghose, the foremost of our dramatists never crossed the threshold of the University. Whilst on the one hand, therefore, the charge of handling mediocrity in the University system is not altogether unfounded, the current Emersonian aphorism that 'Universities are hostile to genius', on the other hand, not wholly justifiable. Whilst Universities should be anxious to invite real workers for human progress, we on our part should see that they are rendered independent to do so. If I may quote from Mr. Wills, 'they (future Universities) will offer no general education at all, no graduation in arts or science or wisdom. The only students who will come to them will be young people who are specially attracted and who want to work in close relation as assistants, secretaries, special pupils, collateral investigators with the devoted and distinguished men whose results are teaching all the world.'

Mahatmaji's Autobiography.

EXPERIENCES IN CALCUTTA.

The following is a further chapter from Mahatma Gandhi's autobiography appearing in last week's 'Young India':—

From Madras I proceeded to Calcutta where I found myself hemmed in by difficulties. I knew no one there. So I took a room in the Great Eastern Hotel. Here I became acquainted with Mr. Ellertorpe, a representative of 'The Daily Telegraph.' He invited me to the Bengal Club where he was staying. He did not then realise that an Indian could not be taken to the drawing room of the Club. Having discovered the restriction, he took me to his room. He expressed his sorrow regarding this prejudice of the local Englishmen, and apologised to me for not having been able to take me to the drawing room.

I had, of course, to see Surendranath Banerjee the 'Idol of Bengal.' When I met him he was surrounded by a number of friends. He said: "I am afraid people will take no interest in your work. As you know our difficulties here are by no means few. But you must try as best you can. You will have to enlist the sympathy of Maharajas. Mind you meet the representatives of the British Indian Association. You should meet Raja Sir Pyatimohan Mookerji and Maharaja Tagore. Both are liberal-minded and take a fair share in public work."

I met these gentlemen, but without any success. Both gave me a cold reception and said it was no easy thing to call a public meeting in Calcutta, and if anything could be done, it would practically all depend on Surendranath Banerjee.

MISTAKEN FOR A WANDERING JEW.

I saw that my task was becoming more and more difficult. I called at the office of the "Amrita Bazar Patrika." The gentleman whom I met there took me to be a wandering Jew. Bangabai went even one better. The Editor kept me waiting for an hour. He had evidently many interviewers, but he would not so much as look at me even when he had disposed of the rest. On my venturing to breach my subject after the long wait, he said: "Don't you see our hands are full? There is no end to the number of visitors like you. You had better go. I am not disposed to listen to you." For a moment I felt offended but I quickly under stood the editor's position. I had heard of the fame of Bangabai. I could see that there was a regular stream of visitors there. And they were all people acquainted with him. His paper had no lack of topics to discuss, and South Africa was hardly known then.

However serious a grievance may be in the eyes of the man who suffers from it he will be but one of the numerous people invading an editor's office, each with a grievance of his own. How is he to meet them all? Moreover, the aggrieved party assumes that the editor is possessed of a lot of power. Only the editor will know that his power can hardly travel beyond the threshold of his office. But I was not discouraged. I kept on seeing editors of other papers. As usual I met the Anglo-Indian editors also. "The Statesman" and the "Englishman" realised the importance of the question. I gave them long interviews and they published them in full.

GROWTH OF UNEXPECTED FRIENDSHIPS.

Mr. Sanders, Editor of the "Englishman" claimed me as his own. He placed his office and paper at my disposal. He even allowed me the liberty of making whatever charges I liked in the leading article he had written on the situation whose proof he sent me in advance. It is no exaggeration to say that a friendship grew on between us. He promised to render me all the help he could and he carried out the promise to the letter and kept on his correspondence with me until he was taken seriously ill.

Throughout my life I have had the privilege of many such friendships, which have sprung up quite unexpectedly. What Mr. Sanders liked in me was my freedom from exaggeration and my devotion to truth. He subjected me to a searching cross examination before he began to sympathise with my cause, and he saw that I had spared neither will nor pains to place before him an impartial statement of the case even of the White man in South Africa and to appreciate it.

My experience has shown me that we win justice quickest by rendering justice to the other party.

ABRUPT RETURN TO SOUTH AFRICA.

The unexpected help of Mr. Sanders had begun to encourage me to think that I might succeed, after all, in holding a public meeting in Calcutta, when I received the following cable from Durban: 'Parliament opens January. Return soon.'

So I addressed a letter to the Press in which I explained why I had to leave Calcutta so abruptly, and set off for Bombay. Before starting I wired to the Bombay agent of Dada Abdulla and Co. to arrange for my passage by the first possible boat to South Africa. Dada Abdulla had just then purchased the steamship "Courland" and he insisted on my travelling on that boat, offering to take me and my family free of charge. I thankfully accepted the offer and in the beginning of December I set sail a second time for South Africa, now with my wife and two sons and the only son of my widowed sister. Another steamship 'Naderi' also sailed for Durban at the same time. The agents of the Company were Dada Abdulla & Co. The total number these boats carried must have been from eight to ten hundred passengers. Half of these were going to the Transvaal.

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