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ESTABLISHED SEPTEMBER 11, 1889.

(REGISTERED AS A NEWSPAPER.)

PUBLISHED EVERY MONDAY AND THURSDAY.

VOL. XL—NO. 56

JAFFNA, THURSDAY, JANUARY 17, 1929

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FAULTY EDUCATION.

IN THE BLUE BOOK ON HIS RECENT visit to Ceylon, Mr. W. G. A. Ormsby-Gore writes condemning the prevailing system of education as unsuitable to the genius of the people of Ceylon. He says that the chief fault in both elementary and secondary schools has been the over emphasis of the purely clerical and literary traditions, coupled with a neglect of the life and social conditions in Ceylon. This verdict, coming as it does, from the highly responsible officer of the Crown must be a great blow to the prevailing not only in Ceylon but in many other colonies. We have often heard of similar conclusions arrived at by distinguished visitors from the neighbouring continent. India is far ahead of Ceylon even in the matter of English education while Ceylon is still busy with more phonetics and faultless speech. But even in India, with all her universities and technological institutes, the cry is continually raised that the educational system is faulty. In Ceylon we are just beginning to hear that anything is wrong with the golden ladder that culminates in the Cambridge Senior. The result has been appalling. We have, as our asset, a large body of unemployed, disappointed, discontented youths with an English education of a kind and a Cambridge certificate of no commercial or intrinsic value.

A very realistic picture is given by Mr. Ormsby-Gore when he comes to the subject of examinations. Examinations are all good in their way, but in Ceylon we are afraid they have got into the nerves of the people. "The ladder theory", writes Mr. Ormsby-Gore, "influencing as it does even the text books and the curriculum of the lower forms of the elementary schools, and focussing the aim of teachers on getting as many pupils as possible from their schools through to the Cambridge local examinations with all the arts and devices devised to circumvent the probable judgment of a board of examiners in England has had the customary denationalising, demoralising, and intellectually and socially cramping results. The tyranny of the examination system and of an external and written examination system wholly out of touch with the needs, traditions, mental gifts, and aptitude of the people, is writ large."

This indictment is serious enough. A on of the soil could not have pronounced truer verdict. Mr Ormsby-Gore is advocating the very thing which we have been crying for, time in and time out, in the columns of this paper. "90 per cent of the school children receiving education in Ceylon," writes Mr Ormsby-Gore, "are in vernacular schools and only about 10 per cent in English schools. The important point therefore is to prevent the distortion of the educational methods and curricula in the case of the 90 per cent by the indirect effects of the teaching given to the 10 per cent. And further in the education of the 10 per cent there should not be an absolute divergence from or break with the education of the 90 per cent. Elementary vernacular education must almost wholly elate to the life, environment, and experience of the child. Secondary education, while leading through English to an ever widening horizon, must never be divorced from Ceylonese contacts, experiences, and needs." In Ceylon a premium has been placed on the assiduous cultivation of English manners and English ways of living. This may be directly traced to the faulty system of education that is being imparted in the public schools of Ceylon. In Ceylon, now music is to know only English, to know games is to know only cricket, to be well-dressed is to be clad in coat and trousers, in short the standard is always foreign and consequently the Ceylon man has lost all nationality and has reverted back to the

As regards the clamour for "useful" education to which Mr. Ormsby-Gore refers, we are of the opinion that it is due to a desire on the part of the parents either to improve their financial resources or to raise themselves in the social scale by giving their sons an education that will qualify them for some profitable employment. High jobs do always command high offers in the marriage market

and opportunities for better alliances. But these calculating parents do not seem to realise that in their desire to see their sons take a higher social position, they throw on them responsibilities which for lack of means they are unable to bear. Very often bitter disappointment awaits both parents and sons. In a system of education in which all are made to go through the same mill, the question of bent or bias has no place. If, however, the matter has to be remedied we require not the wrong ways of enforcing project methods as is being done in Ceylon but something more substantial than that. We want more technical institutes and trade schools. There can be no doubt that in the matter of vocational education the people of Ceylon have been completely starved. We are told that this idea is being worked out by the Education Department in very important and significant ways. We are afraid it is still on paper only.

EDITORIAL NOTE.

U. D. O. AND FIRE PREVENTION:—We extend to the new Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the U. D. O., Messrs. R. Sivagurunathan and J. A. J. Tisverasingh our congratulations. They are not new to the work nor are they wanting in experience. We expect many things from them during the current year. Not only the questions of effective drainage, water supply, electric lighting, and town planning have to be taken on hand, but such public conveniences as fire prevention, road watering, etc. have also to be provided for. The efficient manner in which the local police fire brigade assisted in putting down the flames and saving property in a recent outbreak of fire in Vandenpennal has induced us to hope that services of this type will become a permanent fixture in Jaffna town and that the U. D. O. will not only encourage all such undertakings but also see that in all public buildings in the area extinguishers are freely supplied. A very useful training in social service could be given to school boys by organising fire brigades in the leading schools within the area. We suggest to the Chairman to hold a conference with the Heads of schools and consider the question in more detail.

LOCAL & GENERAL.

THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL:—A meeting of the Legislative Council will be held at the Council Chamber, Colombo on Thursday, the 24 instant, at 2.30 p. m.

SWearing in of Mr. Justice ARBARI:—Mr. M. T. Akbar, K. O., the newly appointed Justice Judge, took his oath on last Tuesday when the Law Courts at Hulsdorp resumed work after the vacation.

DISPENSARY FOR KARAINAGAR:—A public meeting was held on Saturday the 22nd Dec. at 5 p. m., pursuant to a notice signed by some leading residents of Karainagar at the Subramania Vidyasalai, to consider what steps should be taken to continue the Karainagar Green Memorial Dispensary, which is at the point of being closed by the American Missionary and also to consider the suitability of a Government dispensary for that place.—Cor.

OFFICIAL:—Mr. K. Somasundaram is to be Asst. Asst. Govt. Agent, Colombo, from January 4.

—Mr. E. W. Kannagara is to be Asst. Commissioner of Stamps from January 3.

—Mr. J. N. Arumugam is to act in the Office of District Judge, Commissioner of R.quests, and Police Magistrate, Tangalle, from January 5.

JAFFNA POLICE MAGISTRACY:—Mr. J. Light, Police Magistrate, having been transferred to Batticaloa as Asst. Govt. Agent etc., Mr. V. P. Redlich has assumed duties as Commissioner of R.quests and Police Magistrate, Jaffna, Kaye, and Mahakam on January 8.

INQUIRY INTO SUDDEN DEATHS:—Mr. Anandhar Arumugam is to be an Inquirer for the Udayar's division of Tutukkal in Puna-kal-Tutukkal in place of Mr. V. Kanapathipillai, deceased.

CHANGE OF SCHOOL MANAGEMENT:—Mr. Chelappah Eikthambay has been appointed manager of the Thaddateru Vernacular Mixed School in place of Mr. K. Sivaprasadam.

DEPARTMENTAL EXAMINATION IN THE CLERICAL SERVICE:—The following are among those Clerks in Class II of the Clerical Service who have passed the examination qualifying them for promotion:—D. R. Gunasekaram, District Court, Kegalla, A. Kandiah P. W. D., Colombo, V. Kandiah and V. A. Kumaraswamy, Excise Office, Colombo, S. Selvaratnam, Police Court, Tangalle, A. Suntheram, Labur Office, Colombo, A. Theodorantham P. W. D., Colombo, and S. Vrasipallai Land Registry, Mannar.

LAND SALES AT MANNAR:—The Asst. Govt. Agent, Mannar, will put to auction etc. thirteen allotments of Crown land in the Mantal South division and twenty-nine allotments of Crown land in the Mantal North division on February 27 and 28 at the Circuit Bungalow, Uyilankulam and at the Village Council Meeting Building, Adamparan respectively.

Alaveddy Saiva Valipa Sangam

ELEVENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The eleventh annual general meeting of the Alaveddy Saiva Valipa Sangam, was held in the Ganothaya Vidyasalai on Sunday the 30th of Dec 1928, beginning at about 5 p. m. with Mr. J. T. Sadasiva Iyer, Inspector of Schools, in the chair.

The meeting commenced with the singing of Devaram. Votes of condolence were passed on the deaths of Messrs. T. Sapapathipillai and R. Kanapathipillai, who were Treasurer and Secretary respectively of the association for a long time. The Secretary presented the Report for the year.

A series of items in the forms of songs, recitations and essays were contributed by the children of the three Hindu schools of the Village. Two of the important items contributed were the story of 'Emanathas' dramatised by the children of the Alaveddy English School and the story of Kannappa dramatised by the children of the Ganothaya Vidyasalai.

Prizes were awarded to the children of the three schools on the results of an examination held by the Saiva Valipa Sangam, in accordance with a syllabus drawn by it.

The most important item of the day was a lecture on "தொழுது தென்னும்" by Mr. M. S. Rasaratham, Advocate.

Mr. Rasaratham began his lecture by giving instances of Western scientists, logicians and physiologists, who attempted in vain to prove the non existence of God, with the help of modern instruments and proceeded to point out that man could not realise God with his sense organs. The story of Saba-lahama pandithar (சபலாஹமபண்டிதர்) was quoted to show, that a thorough study of the Shastras alone is not sufficient for true realisation.

Various instances from Kandapuram the story and works of the four Saiva Saints and even from works of Western thinkers, were taken to show that only a heart full of feeling, hope, fearlessness etc could know what realisation is like. At last the lecturer pointed out that the easiest and best way of realising God is by means of "தொழுது தென்னும்."

The Chairman offered remarks and summarised the various points emphasised by the lecturer. The meeting terminated with a vote of thanks to the lecturer and the Chairman.

Some of the noteworthy features in the Report are:—

Under the auspices of the Sangam, the Gurn Poozhis of the four "சமயகுருவர்" and the four "சந்தானகுருவர்" were celebrated in various parts of the village. About Rs.800/- have been spent in this connection by raising of subscriptions.

Lectures on "திருவருடயம்", "திருமுறைகள்", "திருநாள்போவார்", "செய் சண்டேவர்" were delivered under the auspices of the Sangam, in different parts of the village by Swami Mahadevan, Messrs. J. T. Sadasiva Iyer, Inspector of Schools, Baritha Sarathy Iyer, and S. Kathiravelu respectively.

The annual examination held by the Sangham in all the Hindu schools of the village based on a syllabus issued by the Committee at the beginning of each year.

The members of the Sangham are deeply indebted to the financial help rendered by people of Alaveddy and those employed in the various parts of Ceylon, Burma, Straits Settlements and F. M. S., and hope that they will continue to help them in future too, to carry on this noble undertaking.—Cor.

HINDU STUDENTS' MOVEMENT:—Under the auspices of the Hindu Students' Movement, Sir Ponnambalam Ramanathan, K. O., will deliver an address on "The Injunctions and Prohibitions of 'Santana Dharma'" at "Kayam," Guildford Crescent, Cinnamon Gardens, on the 20th insttant, at 4 p. m.

IMPROVEMENTS TO MANNAR KACHCHERI BUILDING:—The Government Agent, Northern Province, reports that improvements to the Kachcheri at Mannar are urgently required in order to alleviate the unhealthy and uncomfortable conditions under which the Kachcheri staff are compelled to work at present. The Finance Committee is invited to sanction a supplementary vote of Rs. 5,500 which amount is considered necessary to carry out the improvements.

I. G. P.'s INCREASED SALARY:—A proposal to increase Mr. H. L. Dowling's salary will be placed before the Finance Committee on Friday. The Salary attached to the post of Inspector General of Police is £1,400—50—1,350. The scale of increased salary is £1,600—50—1,750. The Finance Committee is to be invited to agree to the necessary financial provision being made to give effect to the proposal.

KATHADY SAIVA AIKYA SANGAM:—At a monthly meeting of the Kathady Saiva Aikya Sangam (Colombo Branch) held on the 9th insttant at No. 4 Nelson Road, Wallawalla, a lecture on Saivism was delivered in Tamil, by the President, Mr. Ponnambalam. The lecturer after tracing its origin gave a detailed account of its growth and the setbacks it received at various stages and concluded by saying that Saivism had a great message to give to the world at large and advised all its followers to regard Service to their religion as their immediate concern.—Cor.

Vaddukkoddai Murder Mystery

POLICE MAGISTRATE'S FINDINGS.

COLOMBO DOCTOR'S REPORT.

Mr. J. Light, Police Magistrate, Jaffna, who had been conducting the inquiry into the Vaddukkoddai murder mystery, and is now transferred has left the following observation on record:—

As I am leaving Jaffna on transfer, I wish at this stage to place on record the observation that nothing has emerged which indicates that the coroner's verdict is ill-founded. I have given all possible facilities to likely witnesses. But they merely furnish unsubstantial speculations. Nothing worth the name of evidence is forthcoming in support of this speculation. The tragedy undoubtedly shocked local opinion which brought forth a host of spirit causes theories e.g. the Iracudu affair, and has not addressed itself to the actual circumstances of the present case. Humanly speaking one should not exclude diverse possibilities, but as for the evidence both of persons and circumstances, there is nothing in the case which conflicts with the theory that Thangaburai Aiyer committed suicide after killing his wife and children. If there are further developments I shall view them with interest. The report of Dr. Paul, obtained at the instance of the Criminal Investigation Department is filed in the case. It supports the theory that Thangaburai Aiyer committed suicide. Further the absence of any signs of disturbance in the tiny room in which the tragedy culminated or of blood or blood stained foot prints in the compound and the trivial nature of Thangaburai Aiyer's injuries are indications that the tragedy was not the work of outsiders and that an able bodied man like Thangaburai was not a resisting party.

CHILD'S KNIFE.

The fact that the blood stained knife found in the room belonged to one of the murdered children is another important circumstance. There is no difficulty as to the exact manner in which Thangaburai Aiyer would have hanged himself. The position of the bed in relation to the beam from which he was found suspended is exactly what one would associate with the suicide theory. The other theories involve suppositions which are not supported by the circumstances as we find them.

SUSPECT'S BAD RECORD.

The suspect, Sellathurai, has a bad record. There is no doubt that the tragedy is in part at any rate, a consequence of his ill-fitted intimacy with Thangaburai Aiyer's sister. Local opinion has sought to infer a criminal responsibility from this and I have been urged to keep him under continued remand "on suspicion." There has been a tendency to support the doctrine of "speculative detention" as it might be called. It appears to be necessary to remind those who sponsor it that such a procedure is foreign to the proper administration of our system of criminal law; and those who press for it should address themselves to its implications.

DR. PAUL'S OPINION.

Dr. S. O. Paul, Senior Surgeon, General Hospital, Colombo after perusing the post mortem report says: "I am of opinion that death was due to suicidal hanging for the following reasons, viz:—

"1. The post mortem appearances of oblique mark round the neck, the streaks of dried saliva on the chest and abdomen, protruded and bitten tongue, congestion of lungs and brain with the right side of heart full of dark blood, congestion of the larynx, discharge of semen suggest suspension in the vertical position during life and death due to combined asphyxia and pressure on the blood vessels of the neck.

"2. Blood stained palm and soles without sufficient wounds in the body of the deceased before his death had trampled on the pool of blood where the dead bodies of the woman and child were, and the blood staining in the palms suggest an active participation of the deceased in the murder of the woman and child.

MORE NATURAL.

"3. The manner in which the rope was secured round the beam and the neck is in favour of suicidal hanging. No murderer can hang an able-bodied person by first throwing over one end of the rope round the beam and then draw both ends together and form a loop round the neck without considerable assistance from more than two or three confederates.

It would be easier and more natural for a murderer to strangle a person and then tie a rope round his neck and then put the other end of the rope over the beam and pull the body up.

The abrasions on the knee can be accounted for if he had to kneel down to cut the throat of his wife.

The incised wound on the back of the index finger and the skin deep wounds on the inner surface of the terminal phalanges of the three outer fingers of the right hand are difficult to explain, but they are neither in favour of suicide or homicide. The linear abrasions on the dorsum of the left hand also belongs to the same category."

lives and property are very large.

APPROACHING PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS:—The present British Parliament has entered the fifth and last year of its allotted span; and the date of the general election is now the subject of general interest.

MADRAS GOVERNOR VISITING COLOMBO:—H. E. the Governor of Madras left on Monday the 14th inst. on a visit to the Laccadives, Cochin and Trichopoly.

STATISTICS OF STREET ACCIDENTS:—It is stated that, from 1918 to 1928, no fewer than a million street accidents have occurred in England, 40,000 proving fatal. Approximately a quarter of these casualties are to children.

PUNJAB EX-SOLDIERS DOING SATYAGRAHA:—A body of ex-soldiers, mostly Sikhs, are reported to be lying on a Lahore roadway, doing Satyagraha in consequence of their failure to interview the Governor of the Punjab to represent their grievances.

INDIAN PUBLIC SERVICES COMMISSION:—The final draft of the Public Services Commission Bill is ready. As soon as the sanction of the Government of India is obtained, it will be introduced into the Legislative Council.

HURRICANE & TIDALWAVE IN JAPAN:—A hurricane and tidalwave have destroyed hundreds of houses in the coastal villages in Nagata Prefecture, Japan. A severe earthquake occurred throughout the province of Kyushu.

DRINK EVIL IN BOMBAY:—In order to help them to carry out their avowed policy of prohibition, the Government of Bombay will introduce a Bill to amend the Bombay Abkari Act of 1878 so as to get control over possession of *Mhowra* which in districts where it is grown is used in large quantities by illicit distillers and in other districts is frequently imported for a similar purpose.

Hindus and the Holy Mantras

EVERY ONE CAN UTTER THEM.

SANCTION OF EMINENT PANDITS.

Several eminent Brahman Pandits have deliberately given their opinion in favour of Pandit Madan-mohan Malaviya's attempt at initiating every Hindu irrespective of his caste or creed. Many there who purposely, for some interest or other, so long raised a hue and cry against this movement of great importance will now feel the intensity of the fact that they are not the only trusted custodians of the Shastras and they will find that without their aid it is also possible for the nation to get a sanction from the renowned Pandits of India who have really felt an urgent need for propagating this movement and to carry on constructive work in the shape of Sangathan. They have accordingly issued a manifesto (Vyavastha patra) to the effect that every Hindu, be he a woman or a Shudra, has the equal right to utter the holy mantra with Pronava, i.e. 'Om Namah Shivaya' and 'Om Namah Narayana'.

"A. P. Patilka"

Indian Science Congress.

A MATHEMATICAL PRODIGY.

Mr. V. Venkatachar, Mysore, read a paper on Jan. 7, on the investigation into the method of work of Shannanna, a mathematical prodigy. The following is a summary of the paper:

Introductory:—Shannanna, who shows extraordinary quickness in mental arithmetic, is 40 years old. He has had no education beyond the III Form, in which class he failed a number of times. He shows an extreme lack of interest in everything other than numbers. He is considered to be a mental defective by his parents and neighbours. He attributes his mathematical feats to divine interference and spends several hours in meditation and worship. While doing the problems, he chants some mantras and sways his body to and fro in the manner of a medium. The experiment was undertaken to obtain insight into the method of work employed by the 'prodigy'.

Procedure:—The problems given were—multiplication, division, finding the squares of given numbers, conversion of ples into ruppes, giving week days for given dates, etc. The response and the reaction times were noted by the experimenter. Besides Shannanna, 4 mathematical graduates of proved high ability were tested in the same manner.

Results:—The average reaction time of the 'prodigy' was found to be about 2 to 4 times quicker than those of the others, with but one exception. The questions which were found to be difficult by the normal subjects, (judging by the reaction times), were also experienced as difficult by the 'prodigy'. These facts would appear to preclude the hypothesis of short-cut methods and of telepathic communication. He appears to have recourse only to the ordinary arithmetical methods. His remarkable quickness of work might be attributed to his ability to keep numbers steadily before his mind, without the help of paper and pencil. —Ibid

One of the disabilities of the so-called untouchables is that they are denied the right of worship in temples or in company with caste people. We welcome the efforts of Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya who it appears has started a movement for purifying the untouchables and imparting to them the sacred mantras from Hindu Scriptures. In Banarasi he succeeded in the presence of a large gathering in initiating three hundred of the untouchables. A similar attempt at Calcutta met with much opposition from the orthodox Pandits. Pandit Malaviya gave them a patient hearing, wore them in their arguments with their own weapons, the shastras, and proceeded with the ceremony. The following account of it will be of interest. "It did one's heart good to see Pandit Malaviya radiant, though emaciated, sitting on the ground in true orthodox style, initiating the humblest members of the Hindu society, as well as the Brahmanas, Kshatriyas and Vaishyas. About 250 men received purification, among whom about 150 were untouchables. Owing to the lateness of the hour the rest had had to stand over for another chance. The faces of those who received the mantras beamed with joy and a feeling of reverent gratitude as they listened to the *Upadesha*." It is not clear what is the position of those initiated in this manner. If this movement seeks to remove the disabilities of religious worship with regard to the untouchables, it should be welcomed. It will go a long way towards the removal of the social curse, and the fostering of the spirit of brotherhood in the Hindu community.

Religion of Reason.

CONDENSED FROM

"FOUNDATIONS OF FAITH."

To love justice and mercy; to pity the suffering; to assist the weak; to forgive wrongs and remember benefits; to love truth and liberty; to cherish wife, child and friend; to make a happy home; to love the beautiful in art and nature; to cultivate the mind; to be brave and cheerful and make others happy; to fill life with the splendour of generous acts and the warmth of loving words; to discard error and destroy prejudice; to receive new truths with gladness, and cultivate hope; to do the best that can be done, and then to be resigned—these are the essentials of the religion of reason, the creed of science.

These and much more are the aim and object of the Order of Love or 'Prima Samaj.' Kiplan, Chonnakam. —Lovejoy.

"Send for Mahatma Gandhi."

ANGLO INDIAN ADVICE TO VICEROY.

In the course of a leading article, "The Pioneer", writes:—

At the earliest possible moment let him (the Viceroy) send for Gandhi, Motilal Nehru and Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru. Let him hear from these three men a plain straight forward account of the temper of the country and the desperate nature of its anxiety. Like many another Viceroy he is, we believe, in close and in personal touch with His Majesty the King-Emperor, who has often on Indian political matters displayed a greater measure of tolerance and sympathy with his Indian subjects than have many of his ministers. Let Lord Irwin inform the Crown of the dangers that lie ahead. The sole dividing partition that exists between the moderate element of this country, and the extremists is a belief in the ultimate wisdom and generosity of the British people. This demarcation is rapidly becoming fainter. It is not too late, even at this eleventh hour, for the barrier to be strengthened. If the Viceroy were able to announce to the Legislative Assembly His Majesty the King-Emperor's personal pledge that Dominion Status will be granted to India, there can be little doubt but that the widespread conservative elements in the land will once more rally round the Government, and do their best to work out a peaceful solution. Among those elements the foremost would be Mahatmaji. The benefits would be mutual and immediate. The revolutionary movement in the country would be isolated and left in the air; and there would still be a chance of preserving India for the British Commonwealth of Nations. If some such step is not taken, the future will be bleak indeed. The Government of India and the British Government must remember one powerful and determining factor in the whole situation. They cannot refuse independence by Rowlatism; they cannot reconquer India by physical force. The public opinion of the world, and what is most important of all, the public opinion of America, is against them. Their one hope is the moral conversion of their political view, and the essential preliminary step is for Lord Irwin to get into touch with the three leaders we have mentioned.

"The King has had a quiet day. The local condition makes steady progress. There has been a slight increase in strength. No bulletin will be issued tomorrow morning."

DEFINITE TURN FOR THE BETTER

London, Jan. 10th. It is generally conceded in Palace circles that the King has, at long last, taken a definite turn for the better.

The absence of the official morning bulletin is considered to be a very encouraging sign of His Majesty's progress.

RAY THERAPY TREATMENT APPLIED. Ray therapy treatment was applied to the King this evening.

MILK AND CREAM FOR THE KING. Daily supplies of milk and cream is to be transported (from Holland) by aeroplane to London for the King.

The first consignment was sent today.

ANOTHER STATIONARY PERIOD.

Rugby, Jan. 11th. It is pointed out in Palace circles that although the King's condition, for the time being, is stationary, there is no cause for dissatisfaction.

The previous stationary period, which started last Sunday and went on for 72 hours, was followed by a good bulletin which mentioned an increase in the King's strength.

CONDITION UNCHANGED.

London, Jan. 11th.

A bulletin issued at 8.15 p.m. states:—

"The King has had a restful day."

"There is no change to report in His Majesty's condition."

"The next bulletin will be issued tomorrow evening."

QUIET AND UNEVENTFUL DAY.

London, Jan. 12th. Renter learns officially that the King passed a quiet and uneventful day, marked by slow improvement, but without any definite change in His Majesty's condition.

It is understood that satisfaction is felt at the course of events.

RAY TREATMENT REPEATED.

No bulletin about the King was issued today. Doctor Howitt and Dr. Woods have again applied ray therapy treatment, and Sir Stanley Hewitt again stayed the night at the Palace.

The last mention of any definite improvement in the condition of His Majesty, who took to his bed on November 21st, was on Wednesday night, when the bulletin said: "The local condition makes steady progress, and there is a slight increase of strength."

ACIDOPHILUS MILK FOR THE KING.

The milk which is being sent to Buckingham Palace for His Majesty is a special dairy preparation known as acidophilus milk, for weak digestions.

It is obtainable only in Holland.

"MAKING SLOW PROGRESS"

London, Jan. 14th.

A bulletin issued at 11 a.m. states:—"The King is making slow progress. The next bulletin will be issued on Tuesday evening."

"PERIOD OF ANXIETY NOT YET PASSED."

Rugby, Jan. 14th.

Today's bulletin about the King is the first since Wednesday night in which any definite improvement in His Majesty's condition has been mentioned.

It is reiterated that the period of anxiety has not yet passed.

ANOTHER QUIET DAY.

London, Jan. 15th.

A bulletin issued at 8 p.m. states:—"The King has had a quiet day."

"The progress previously noted, though slow, continues."

"The next bulletin will be issued on Thursday morning." —"Times Cutting."

H. M. Queen's Illness.

SLIGHT ATTACK OF COLD

London, Jan. 12th.

Renter is authoritatively informed from Buckingham Palace that the Queen has a slight cold and is keeping to her room.

RECOVERY ANNOUNCED.

Rugby, Jan. 13th.

It was stated authoritatively at Buckingham Palace today that the Queen's cold is better, but Her Majesty is keeping to her room.

The Queen became indisposed on Friday. Her Majesty has not left the Palace since Thursday. It is a very rare occurrence for the Queen to be indisposed, as she enjoys excellent health.

Her Majesty has stood with great fortitude the strain imposed upon her by the protracted illness of the King, but it is believed that this strain, coupled with the trying weather, made her liable to contract a cold.

No bulletin regarding the Queen's condition will be issued.

The burdens, both national and domestic, imposed on the Queen have been greatly increased during the King's illness. She has had to preside over the Council of State, and has signed innumerable documents. Much of her time has been spent in the sick room, seeing that every detail that might add to the King's comfort was carried out, and helping the other nurses.

Her Majesty's afternoon drives were taken mainly with a view to preserving her health and strength for her many duties.

SPECIALIST ATTENDING THE QUEEN.

Dr. Geoffrey Secombe Hoit, an ear, throat and nose specialist, is attending the Queen.

London, Jan. 15th.

The Queen has practically recovered from her cold. —Ibid.

ON GEORGE IN DISPOSED.

London, Jan. 17th.

Prince George is suffering from a slight cold and is keeping to his rooms.

PRINCE OF WALES HUNTS.

London, Jan. 14.

The Prince of Wales today hunted with Quorn hounds, motoring from his farm at Nottingham, where he spent the week-end.

The Duke of York motored from Northampton to the Pytchley meet.

London, Jan. 15th.

Prince George's cold is much better.

MATRIMONIAL.

MUTTUOUMARU—GRANAPPOONGOTHAY.

The engagement of Muttuoumaru and Granappongothay will take place on Monday, January 21st at 10.30 a.m. at Mr. V. Muttuoumaru's house, Professor Zaitia College, Colombo, and late of the Jaffna Hindu College with Miss. Granappongothay, second daughter of Mr. T. Kallanapillai, Manager, Navalur School, Vannarpoonnai.

Experiment in Prohibition.

PROPAGANDA AGAINST DRINK IN MADRAS

Madras, Jan. 7.

The Hon'ble Mr. Muthiah Mudaliar speaking at Vellore explained that the Madras Government have undertaken propaganda against drink as an experiment in prohibition. This propaganda has been undertaken in the full hope that drink would be reduced to as great a minimum as possible. Though the fact that it has been undertaken along with the administration of Excise might look contradictory, he said it was not so. Government put a ban on drink, but if people wanted drink they should pay for it. —Ibid

OBITUARY.

MR M S MUTTUOUMARU.

We regret to record the sad and untimely death of Mr. M. S. Muttuoumaru, Assistant Editor, "Indhuathanam" on last Sunday night at his residence in Cossipally after a brief illness. The funeral took place the following afternoon and was largely attended. The deceased gentleman who was about forty years of age at the time of his death was of an amiable disposition and was methodical in all his actions both public and private. He leaves behind to himself a loss a young widow, three daughters, and a host of friends and relations. Though his association with the "Indhuathanam" was a short, yet during the one year he had been in office he won the esteem and love of his colleagues at the Satya Prakash Press. As a mark of respect for the deceased the offices of the "Hindu Organ" and the "Indhuathanam" were closed at 12 noon on Monday. We extend our heartfelt condolences to the members of the bereaved family.

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The following graphic and poetic account of her experience during her American visit sent by Shrinani Sarojini Devi to the current number of "Young India" will, as Mahatmaji says, be read with interest:—

"I have been three weeks in this wonderful New World where every hour has been an event; but this is the first time that I am sending you a real letter.

"I am writing to night from the charming old town of Cincinnati which is called the Gateway of the South, where long ago lived a very noble woman who dedicated her genius to the deliverance of the Negroes from their pitiful bondage. I have just returned from interpreting to a large audience (whose parents and grand parents knew Harriet Beecher Stowe) the days when she was writing the poignant "Uncle Tom's Cabin" the message of the "Mystic Spinner"..... There were women, deeply responsive, there were earnest and thoughtful men engaged in varied avocations of education, law, business, medicine, literature, the Church and Statecraft..... When the meeting ended they came up to me in the usual American fashion to which I have now found myself accustomed and said each in his or her own way and vocabulary, "You spoke as one inspired and brought us a message that must inspire our lives always." Mine was, like Harriet Beecher Stowe's, also a message of deliverance from bondage. Another version for another land..... The gospel of the Mystic Spinner as interpreted by a Wandering Singer was, from first to last, from the initial to the ultimate word, the evangel of self deliverance from every kind of personal and national, economic, racial, intellectual, political and spiritual bondage. Could it be anything less—and yet find in me an interpreter, do you think?

A YOUNG NATION'S CHALLENGE.

"These three weeks in the New World have been a period of veritable delight and revelation. This young country and this young nation have made a profound and intimate appeal to my heart my imagination, my vision understanding and faith..... and through all the incredible tumult and turmoil of daily existence, I find the spirit of a valiant and vital Seeking, seeking, seeking for some truth, some realisation, finer and higher than the Old World has yet conceived or expressed..... And though to day stone and steel and gold be their only symbols, they express the challenge and dream of youth in all its unspent and invincible courage, ambition, power and in violent pride..... It is the birthright and the destiny of youth to end up just such a challenge to the old. It is to me so moving and so inspiring and I watch with a president's tenderness and trust..... through what anguish and sacrifice and renunciation must this new young world find fulfilment of the Vision of Beauty, Truth and Victory..... You will say (so you will not say anything so foolish, but others may and will) that after all I am a poet, rhapsodising in my usual way..... But I have never replied so greatly before that I am a poet and that the life I carry in my hand opens all doors and all hearts to my knocking..... Gates of brass shall not withstand one touch of that Magic Wand....."

"I confess I never expected such a welcome and such warm hearted and immediate response from all sections of the people..... public and private appreciation friendliness and enthusiasm..... I am so particularly grateful that all the groups of men and women I specially wish to reach in a more personal association than is possible in public meetings do not wait for me to approach them, but do me the delightful honour of seeking me out themselves. So that in this brief time I have been privileged to establish the most cordial relations with those whose minds and personalities mould and influence public opinion in America—scholars, writers, politicians, preachers and men of affairs and splendid women who live their wealth, rank and talent in the service of fine national and international causes for the progress of humanity. Jane Adams, of course, is the chief among them..... Her famous Hull House set in the midst of the slums of Chicago is as much a centre of contemporary American history as the President's White House at Washington. Do not imagine that my personal "contacts," as they are called are confined to any one section of the American people. I have reached the lowest and I hope their hearts, of the as yet disinherited children of America, the coloured population..... the descendants of those whom Abraham Lincoln died to set free..... I break my heart to see the helpless, hopeless, silent and patient, bitterness and mental suffering of the educated Negroes..... They are so cultured, so gifted some of them so beautiful, all of them so infused with earnest and sensitive appreciation of all that is authentic in modern ideals of life..... and yet, and yet..... there is a bar sinister upon their brow..... They are the socially and spiritually outcast children of America..... Last night in Chicago I went to see a play called "Porgy"..... It was so much a play as a transcript from life, written and acted by Negroes..... It is so simple, so true, so heart breaking. There is nothing quite like it in the whole range of modern literature. It is all the tears and all the this laughter of the race and I think it will educate the American white races to a broader comprehension of equality and humanity more powerful than even "Uncle Tom's Cabin" did during the days of slavery.

WILL INDIA BE FREE?

"Among so many and such diverse types of meetings I hardly know which to choose for you as the most interesting. But there are three out of last week's programmes that had an especial significance. One was the wonderful banquet at the International House in New York given by the Indian community and attended by about 400 representative Americans. One was an immense gathering in the Town Hall of New York when I spoke on "Will India be free?" (The title was chosen by the Association for Political Education) and the same evening there was a vast assembly at the World Alliance for Peace banquet all were

Continued up.

Hindu religious practices are healthful to man. Since to ancient India the necessities of life were supplied by nature, and men had no want—man avoided the heat of the tropical sun by taking to cool shades of forests and caves of mountains, the parallel of solitude in which gentleness and asceticism always thrive. These they were breathing the pure cool air, and finding their rest in contemplation of the Divine Lord. Religious thoughts and philosophical speculations attained their greatest height, and human attention was focused on the development of mental culture. The literacy and the faculty of understanding the terse Sanskrit aphorisms containing hygienic principles peculiar to that age had led to the happy blending of religion and customs conducive to physical well being, as the beginnings of hygiene are traceable to Vedic texts.

The scouring of the teeth and the scraping of the tongue with marga or ascetic tooth stick, a fresh one every morning cleans the mouth. The use of these tooth sticks is more wholesome than that of a tooth brush which is impossible to keep clean as their bristles sooner or later get rotten and impregnated with disease germs, dust and dirt and introduce new germs every time the brush is used to dislodge the old ones. Fasting, the key to renewed youth and longevity is practised as a religious observance on Ekadasi, Ekadasi and other important holy days and serves to prevent and cure disease. Morning ablutions followed by Suryanamaskaram serve to clean the body, promote absorption of energy from the sun's rays, and build resistance. Arobhasa and work-hippers are enjoined to bathe and clean clothes before entering the sanctum of a temple. The lime washing of houses on festive occasions, and the daily scrubbing of floors and scouring of culinary vessels promote domestic cleanliness. The bonfires made on Hogi festival day have been devised to destroy by fire all dirt, useless dirty and germ infected articles before going in for a new stock. The pilgrims' trust acquired journeys by foot to holy places in the plains and on hills, the circumambulation of temples, and prostration before Gods increase hardiness and muscular endurance. The offering of incense in temples from germs free copper vessels with springs of antiseptic talai plant disinfect the mouth and throat of worshippers. The burning of camphor and frank incense purifies the atmosphere. The restriction of diet of holy men to rice and vegetables helps them to maintain the even tenor of their spiritual lives. Sea-baths indulged on Ekadasi days tone up the system.

The Jews among other nations of the world enjoy superior health and immunity from disease by reason of their religion abounding in hygienic precepts, which they scrupulously observe. They destroy by fire all domestic impurities. —"Health"

Continued.

deceased with the flag of all the free nations..... I was there as a private last minute guest of Dr. and Mrs. Hain; but I was not permitted very long to remain in a private guest. I was taken up to the high table on the dais to sit amongst all the dignitaries of Church and State and Foreign Legations..... and of course I was called upon to speak..... A greeting from the East the Chairman called it..... I spoke..... briefly—but what was in my mind..... a somewhat startled but an honest audience..... Where, I asked, among all the flags of large and little, old and new, Western and Eastern nations on the wall, was the flag of India?..... And what was the significance of where was the reality of all talk about world peace when one fifth of the human race was still in political subjection?..... Enslaved India, I said, would continue to be a danger to world peace and make all talk of disarmament a mockery. Until they could hang India's banner dyed in the red of her hope, the green of her courage and the white of her faith among other world symbols of liberty, there could and would be no real peace in the world.....

"I understood that several speakers next day at the final session of the Peace War Conference took my speech as the text of their own speeches and said that I had set a most noble and vital issue that they could not afford to ignore.

"My programme is very crowded. Tomorrow I go to Detroit, then back to New York, where among other engagements I am asked to speak on the Great America's National Thanksgiving Service by the Joint Chaucer and Serenaders at Carnegie Hall. The Chief Rabbi and Dr. John Haynes Holmes were both very eager for me to participate in this truly and peculiarly American Annual Feast which corresponds to our harvest Festival.

"After I go on the road" as they say again including Canada, where I shall be by the time this unconsciously long letter reaches you.

GRANTING TO INDIA'S MYSTIC SPINNER.

"You will forgive my length because you have brought it upon yourself by wanting 'long love letters' as you call my little old lovey town has wrapped itself in slumber. I seem to be the only keeper of vigil amidst a world of sleep..... It is midnight here but already the dawn is breaking over the Sabarmati and its waters are the mirror of the untroubled and gold.

"And through me the New World sends back a greeting—of love for the Mystic Spinner and admiration for the Land whose people a set out on the way of self deliverance from their servile bondage.

"Good night..... While I have been writing page upon page to you this little old lovely town has wrapped itself in slumber. I seem to be the only keeper of vigil amidst a world of sleep..... It is midnight here but already the dawn is breaking over the Sabarmati and its waters are the mirror of the untroubled and gold.

"I wish I were watching that morning rose and gold. But do not let my whisper of home-fulness become a loud clamour. Home-fulness is unworthy, it is not of an ambassador who bears a Great Message."

The following is a further instalment of Gandhi's autobiography as appearing in "Young India":—

I do not regard my participation in Congress proceedings at Amritsar as my real entrance into the Congress politics. My attendance at the previous Congress was nothing more perhaps than an annual ritual of allegiance to the Congress. I never felt on those occasions that I had any other work cut out for me except that of a mere private, nor did I desire for more.

My experience of Amritsar had shown that there were one or two things for which perhaps I had some attitude and which could be useful to the Congress. I could already see that the late Lokamanya, the Deshabandhu, Pandit Motilal and other leaders were pleased with my work in connection with the Punjab Inquiry. They used to invite me to their informal gatherings where, as I found, resolutions for the Subjects Committee were conceived. At these gatherings only such persons were invited as enjoyed the special confidence of the leader, and whose services were needed by them. Intellectuals also sometimes found their way to these meetings.

There were for the coming year two things which interested me as I had some aptitude for them. One of these was the memorial of the Jallianwala Bagh massacre. The Congress had passed a resolution for it amid great enthusiasm. A fund of about five lakhs had to be collected for it. I was appointed as one of the trustees. Pandit Malaviya enjoyed the reputation of being the prince among the big game for the public cause. But I knew that I was not far behind him in that respect. It was while I was in South Africa that I had discovered my capacity in this direction. I had not the unrivalled magic of Malaviya for commanding princely donations from the potentates of India. But I knew that there was no question of approaching the Raja and Maharaja for donations for the Jallianwala Bagh memorial. The main responsibility for the collection thus fell, as I had expected, on my shoulders. The generous citizens of Bombay subscribed most liberally and the memorial trust has at present a handsome credit balance in the bank. But the problem that faces the country to day is as to what kind of memorial be erected on the ground to sanctify which Hindus, Mussulmans and Sikhs mingled their blood. The three communities, instead of being bound in a bond of unity and love, are, to all appearances, at war against one another and the nation is at a loss as to how to utilise the memorial fund.

My other attitude which the Congress could utilise was as a draftsman. The Congress leaders had found that I had a faculty for condensed expression which I had acquired by long practice. The then existing constitution of the Congress was Gokhale's legacy. It had framed a few rules which served as a basis for running the Congress machinery. The interesting history of the framing of these rules I had learnt from Gokhale's own lips. But everybody had now come to feel that these rules were no longer adequate for the ever increasing business of the Congress. The question had been coming up before the Congress year after year. The Congress at that time had practically no machinery functioning during the interval between session or for dealing with fresh contingencies that might arise in the course of the year. The existing rules provided for three secretaries but as matter of fact only one of them was functioning secretary and even he was not a whole time. How was he single-handed to run the Congress office, to think of the future, or to discharge during the current year the obligations contracted by the Congress in the past? During the current year, therefore everybody felt that this question would assume all the more importance. The Congress was too unwieldy a body for the discussion of public affairs. There was no limit set to the number of delegates in the Congress or to the number of delegates that each province could return. Some improvement upon the existing chaotic condition was thus felt by everybody to be an imperative necessity. I undertook the responsibility of framing a constitution on one condition and it was this. I saw that there were two leaders, viz., the Lokamanya and the Deshabandhu who had the greatest hold on the public. I requested that they as the representatives of the people should be associated with me on the Committee for framing the constitution. But since it was obvious that they would not have the time personally to participate in the constitution making work, I suggested that two persons enjoying their confidence should be appointed along with me on the Constitution Committee and that the number of its personnel should be limited to three. This suggestion of mine was accepted by the late Lokamanya and the late Deshabandhu, who suggested the names of Shri Kalkar and I. B. Sen respectively as their proxies. The Constitution Committee could not even once come together but we were able to consult with each other by correspondence and in the end presented a unanimous report. I regard this constitution with a certain measure of pride. I hold that if we could fully work out this constitution the mere fact of working it out would bring us nearer to the assumption of this responsibility I may be said to have made my real entrance into the Congress politics.

REFORMING AFGHANISTAN.—With the suppression of the present "reactionary movement" the Afghan Government would continue with redoubled energy to carry out reforms which would convert Afghanistan into a civilised State.

ONE ARMED PARSIAN WAR HERO—General Gouraud, one armed war hero and Military Governor of Paris who is on a visit to India at the invitation of H. E. the Viceroy, will tour in India for two months and meet General Birdwood whom he had met as a comrade in arms at Dar-danellen where he lost his arm.

TROUBLE IN AFGHANISTAN SUBSIDING.—The Afghan Legation in London states that fighting has ceased in Afghanistan and peace negotiations are proceeding. It is hoped that the country will soon be no more. The Legation denies that a section of the Army revolted and expressed the opinion that foreign women and children who were evacuated by aeroplane will probably shortly return to Kabul.

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Order Nisi.
IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.
Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 6036.
In the Matter of the Estate of the late Wallipallai wife of Maragan of Paloly South
Deceased.
Kannapathar Maragan of Paloly South
Petitioner.
Vs.
1. Maragan Kannapathipillai of Paloly South
2. Maragan Subramaniam of Do
3. Kadiyamar Kadiyamar of Do
Respondents.

This matter coming on for disposal before J. C. W. Rock Esquire, District Judge, on November 2, 1923 in the presence of Mr. K. Subramaniam, Proctor, on the part of the Petitioner and on reading the Petition and affidavits of the Petitioner dated October 30, 1923.
It is ordered that the said Respondent be appointed Guardian ad litem over the 1st and 2nd Respondents and that Letters of Administration to the estate of the above named deceased be granted to the Petitioner as the husband of the said deceased unless the above named Respondents or any other person shall on or before December 11, 1923 show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.
J. C. W. Rock, District Judge.
November 14, 1923.
Time extended till 22nd January 1924.
O. 1612.

Order Nisi.
IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.
Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 6059.
In the Matter of the Estate of the late Sangarapillai Vinnasamy of Inuvil
Deceased.
Negalath widow of Ampalavy Kadiramar of Inuvil
Petitioner.
Vs.
1. Vinnasamy Sannasamy of Inuvil presently of Agstia Estate, Mainle
2. Sannasamy daughter of Vinnasamy of Inuvil
Respondents.

This matter of the Petition of Negalath widow of Ampalavy Kadiramar of Inuvil praying for Letters of Administration to the estate of the above named deceased Sangarapillai Vinnasamy of Inuvil coming on for disposal before J. C. W. Rock Esquire, District Judge, on November 27, 1923 in the presence of Mr. S. V. Chinaiyah, Proctor, on the part of the Petitioner and the affidavit of the Petitioner dated November 10, 1923, having been read, it is declared that the Petitioner is an heir of the said intestate and is entitled to have Letters of Administration to the estate of the said intestate issued to her unless the Respondents or any other person shall on or before January 17, 1924 show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.
J. C. W. Rock, District Judge.
Dec. 18, 1923.
O. 1610.

Order Nisi.
IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.
Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 6068.
In the Matter of the Estate of the late Kndehumamma wife of Chundrampillai of Naval
Deceased.
Arundalam Chundrampillai of Naval
Petitioner.
Vs.
1. Parameswari daughter of Chundrampillai
2. Chundrampillai Sri Kanna
3. Chundrampillai Sri Parma
4. Chundrampillai Sri Tharma
5. Kandaravai Kasipillai of do
Respondents.

This matter of the Petition of the Petitioner above named praying that the above named 5th Respondent be appointed guardian ad litem for the purpose of this case and praying for Letters of Administration to the estate of the above named deceased Kndehumamma his wife coming on for disposal before J. C. W. Rock Esquire, District Judge, on December 8, 1923, in the presence of Mr. E. Maragampillai, Proctor, for Petitioner and the affidavit of the Petitioner dated November 18, 1923, having been read:
It is declared that the above named 5th Respondent be appointed guardian ad litem over the 1-4 Respondents and the Petitioner is the husband of the said intestate and is entitled to have Letters of Administration to her estate issued to him unless the Respondents or any other person shall on or before January 17, 1924 show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.
J. C. W. Rock, District Judge.
December 14, 1923.
O. 1611.

Printed and published by M. S. Basaratnam, for and on behalf of the Proprietors, the Jaffna Sava Paripatana Sabha, at their Press, the Sava Pichana Press, Vannarapallam.