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CEYLONESE AND THE UNIVERSITY COMMISSION.

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WE HAVE BEFORE THIS COMMENTED on the Report of the University Commission in a general way and pointed out why we are unable to accept the main recommendations of the Commission. In this issue we propose to deal with one of the controversial points raised by two leading Ceylonese members of the Commission. Referring to the Halls of Residence and Hostels, the Hon. Sir G. S. Schneider and the Hon. Mr. G. A. Willie, neither of whom is either a Buddhist or a Hindu, state in their dissent that:—"The difficulties inherent in the proposal to appoint Wardens acceptable to different religious bodies, apart from its insufficiency for the purpose in view, would appear to justify adherence to the original proposal to allow denominational hostels, whose positive influence for good are certain, while their tendency to foster religious differences is largely hypothetical." None but those who are interested in seeing our youths atheists, and agnostics would like to see every semblance of a religious life absent in the Halls of Residence attached to the University. In the Report itself it is admitted that "in Universities, themselves non-sectarian, it is the normal practice to give a recognized status to denominational hostels; that many parents attach great importance to religious influences and environment in the education of their children; and that to deny the opportunity for such influences would be regarded in some quarters as a mark of extreme religious intolerance." Yet in the same breath the Report lays down that "no residential accommodation should be provided wholly or partially by individual denominations." Here is certainly a mark of extreme religious intolerance, if any. As the Burgher Knight and Mr. Wille have pointed out, there are difficulties inherent in the proposal. It leads to interference on the part of denominational bodies who are allowed to have a say in the matter of appointing Wardens. Moreover if no suitable Warden is found, the whole thing topples down. The mere appointment of a Warden is insufficient for the purpose in view. A single Warden cannot create the religious influences and environment to which so many parents attach such a great importance. We challenge any member of the Commission to prove that the positive influence for good of a denominational hostel is not certain. It is however recommended that "the denominations should be permitted to build and maintain at their own charge places of worship on sites leased at a nominal rent for the purpose on the University Site." This is like thinking of God only on Sundays. We want our young men to think of God not only in their places of worship but also in their homes, in their colleges and even in their Halls of Residence. We Hindus have peculiar difficulties and we resent the interference of others in this matter. We cannot model our lives to suit others. We have certain religious observances like *Sandhya* and *Arati* which cannot be performed in all sorts of places. We observe certain restrictions with regard to our diet. These observances are strictly binding on one who leads a *Brahmacharya* or student life. We cannot really understand why in our own country and in our own University, we cannot lead our own lives but should seek to fashion it after the model of atheistic Europe. Why should we add to political bondage, cultural and spiritual bondage also? If our University cannot stand for all that is best and noblest in our culture and tradition, we would rather not have it. In our opinion, this refusal to recognise denominational hostels is a veiled attempt to put down Hindu and Buddhist awakening. Our young men are to be cut off from all home influences and all religious influences and are to be under the direct guardianship of Eu-

ropeans or Europeanised Ceylonese. Hereafter Ceylonese need not go to London and Paris to become spiritual bankrupts. Our future University will do it very neatly and there will always be a set of our men, not necessarily European Missionaries, to aid and abet in it. We would like to know whether the only way to secure a certain admixture of those belonging to different religious faiths is to pack all and sundry into some Hall of Residence. Cannot these young men meet on the playing fields or in their clubs? How are the various communities getting on in Ceylon? Have they been flying at each other's throats? It is very unfortunate that the members of the Commission have not adduced any tangible proof that their fear that denominational hostels will tend to foster religious differences is justifiable. Their conclusions are "hypothetical" and therefore stand altogether condemned.

The members of the University Commission have allowed a loophole by which denominational bodies might, if they so desire, escape out of the difficulty. They have suggested provision for licensed lodgings. We like to know whether it would be impossible for some of these licensed lodgings to develop into regular denominational hostels. The Commission takes the view that "the method of meeting the denominational difficulty by permitting particular religious bodies to provide their own hostels is the one most likely to emphasize separatist and sectional tendencies." We take the view that the Commission is out to suppress the faiths of the people. We can understand its pessimism when it says that "there would be a danger that denominational hostels might out of rivalry increase unduly and tend to empty the University Halls." In other words, it is afraid that denominational hostels would be a grand success. Then why should it not limit their accommodation instead of suppressing them altogether? The Commission recognizes "that the principle of the religious neutrality of the University is axiomatic." We ask whether it is observing religious neutrality to deprive Hindus and Buddhists of the opportunity of living according to the tenets of their own religion. The history of British rule in this country as well as elsewhere affords ample material to find out what religious neutrality consists in. We cannot really understand why the policy of the University should be different from the policy of the Government which controls it.

The Northern Assizes.

FIRST SESSION FOR THE YEAR.

FIVE CASES IN THE CALENDAR.

The first criminal session of the Supreme Court (Northern Circuit) for the year 1929 commenced today (Monday) at the Jaffna District Court house presided over by Mr. Justice L. C. Dalton.

In the morning Mr. Justice Dalton attended Service at St. Mary's (Roman Catholic) Cathedral. At about 11 a.m. His Lordship mounted the Bench when a *posse* of constables under the command of Mr. Da Silva, Inspector of Police, presented arms.

The following are the members of His Lordship's Staff:—

Registrar: Mr. R. O. Proctor; Interpreter: Mr. T. Velayutham; (Sinhalese) Mr. Kure; Crown Counsel: Mr. H. Dasenayake; Private Secretary: Mr. T. L. F. Mack.

FIRST CASE: ONE OF ATTEMPTED MURDER.

The *Fozal* Northern Province, Mr. J. D. Brown, then handed over the mandate and declared the session open. Mr. Brown was also accommodated in the Bench. There are, up to the time of writing, five cases in the calendar. The first case is one of attempted murder committed from the Police Court of Polot Pedro.

Mr. V. Joseph, Advocate, instructed by Mr. K. Muttukumaru, Proctor S. O., defended the 2 accused in the case Mr. A. Ponniah, Principal, Govt. Training College, Copeny, is the Foreman of the Jury.

The story for the prosecution is that on the 10th day of August, 1928, one Thampan of a village in Polot Pedro went in the early morning to the fields for work. Feeling the pinch of hunger and espying a pot of toddy at an adjoining palm-tree, he climbed on the tree. Ponniah Kathan and his brother Nagan who observed that way saw Thampan on the top of the tree. They waited at the foot of the tree for Thampan to get down and are said to have cut him in the neck and the shoulder.

The trial is proceeding.

LOCAL & GENERAL.

NEW TWO RUPEE STAMP:—A new kind of two-rupee stamp has been issued from Monday last. It is bright red in colour, with the imprint of the King's likeness in green. The former two rupee stamp was yellowish in colour.

DEPT. OF PUBLIC TRUSTEE:—The Government considers the necessity of organising an Accountancy Branch in the Department of Public Trustee and appoint a qualified Accountant on the salary of £420 30-570 per annum, subject to his studying the system of accounts in the office of the Official Trustee in Bombay, and perhaps one other centre in India, for five or six weeks.

DENTAL AND MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS.—Last Friday's Gazette publishes lists of Licensed Dentists, Dental Practitioners and Medical Practitioners in Ceylon. The difference between the Licensed Dentists and the Dental Practitioners is that the former are legally entitled under the Ordinance, while the latter are qualified, to practise Dentistry and Dental Surgery.

DOMESTIC SCIENCE CERTIFICATES:—Nineteen girls from Jaffna have passed the Examination for Junior and Senior Domestic Science Certificates held on December 3, 1928 and the 2 following days. Juniors—16, Seniors—3.

TO DETECT WOMEN SMUGGLERS:—The Principal Collector of Customs recommends the appointment of a female searcher on a monthly salary of Rs. 20 as there is reason to suppose that there is smuggling by women at Talaimannar.

CHANGES IN THE SECRETARIAT:—His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to sanction the following appointments consequent on the grant of leave to the Hon. Mr. A. G. M. Fletcher, from February 27th. The Hon. Mr. F. G. Tyrrell to act as Colonial Secretary, Mr. C. V. Brayne to act as Controller of Revenue.

NON CEYLONESE FRANCHISE:—At a meeting held at the Town Hall, Colombo, on Saturday last, an emphatic protest was entered against the extension of the franchise to non-Ceylonese without an abiding interest in the country. Mr. W. A. de Silva, an ex-President of the Ceylon National Congress, and a member of the Legislative Council, presided.

OFFICIAL:—Mr. R. S. V. Ponnier to be, in addition to his own duties, Addl. District Judge and Addl. Police Magistrate, Mannar.

INQUIRERS UNDER C. P. O.—Mr. S. Valiparam of Kallakurichy, to be, in addition to his own duties, an Inquirer for Ponnar, during the absence of Mr. P. Rajagopal.

MR. V. OBEILLAH, Manager of Pachchilappai, to be, in addition to his own duties, an Inquirer for Karschohi, during the absence of Mr. S. M. Coomarasuriar.

REVENUE OF THE ISLAND:—The actual revenue received by the Colonial Treasurer for the financial year 1927-28 was Rs. 134,134,953, as compared with Rs. 129,358,916 for the previous year 1926-27.

REGISTRATION OF A SCHOOL:—The Changanai East (Saiyappakkam) Vernacular Mixed School which is under the management of Hon. Mr. Rajaratnam, General Manager of Schools, Hindu Board of Education, has been registered as a grant in aid school with effect from February, 1928.

CEYLON UNIVERSITY COLLEGE:—An Entrance Scholarship Examination will be held at the University College, Colombo, commencing on April 2, 1929. Last date for the receipt of applications is February 28, 1929.

STAGING OF "RAMA'S EXILE"—The members of the Jaffna Sarasvathy Vilasa Sabha will stage the pathetic chapter entitled "Rama's Exile" (*Ayodhya Kanda*) dramatised by Pandit V. Sambandhan from the well known Indian Epic, "Ramayana" at the Royal Theatre, Vannarponnai East, on Saturday, February 23, commencing at 8.30 p.m. The proceeds of the staging will be in aid of the Thirupulvey Saiva Orphanage Building Fund, under the Hindu Board of Education.

MEDICAL:—Dr. R. W. Crossette Thimbliah, has taken up duties as Medical Officer of Health at Kegalle.

DR. O. T. OBEILLAH, who was on Special Itinerating duty in the North Central Province, has been appointed to act as Medical Officer in charge of the Watawala Hospital in the Central Province.

ANOTHER CEYLONESE CIVIL SERVANT:—Mr. S. D. Coomaraswamy who was successful in the Hary term Bar examinations held recently in England (mention of which was made in the columns of the "Hindu Organ" of January 28,) is on his way to Ceylon after competing successfully in the Civil Service Examination.

REPORT OF SALARIES COMMITTEE:—At Thursday's meeting of the Legislative Council Mr. M. M. Subramaniam asked:—When will the Report of the Salaries Committee be brought before the Legislative Council for consideration? The reply was as follows:—The report has been referred to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, whose reply is awaited.

Government's Forest Policy

MOTION TO PREVENT EXPLOITATION

In the Legislative Council on last Thursday three motions by Mr. E. R. Tambimuttu in regard to the exploitation of the valuable forests in the Eastern Province, the revision of the Forest Ordinance, and the dismissal of a Forest Ranger came up for discussion. The following are the motions:—

(1) That the Government do appoint a Commission or Select Committee to inquire into and report on—The system of exploitation of the valuable forests in the Eastern Province of Ceylon and especially the procedure adopted by the Forest Department in selling what are called rejected timber whereby the Government contractor is enabled to secure for himself large quantities of valuable flowered satin and other logs of large dimensions as shown by the photographs already submitted to the Honourable the Colonial Secretary, timber worth over Rs. 50 a cubic foot being sold for less than 25 cents per cubic foot.

(2) That this Council is of opinion that the revision of the Forest Ordinance recommended by the Forest Committee in their report published as Sessional Paper I. of 1928 long overdue and calls upon Government to introduce the Bill without further delay.

(3) That all papers in connection with the dismissal of B. S. F. Lobb, Forest Ranger, be placed on the table of this House.

After 2 days' discussion the motions were adopted without a division. The Council then adjourned till Thursday next.

MATRIMONIAL.

VAITHESPARA KUBUKKAL—PONNAMBIKALAMMAL

A pretty wedding took place on the 21st ultimo at "Kallasa Giri", Ponnalaikkadduvan according to Hindu rites, the contracting parties being Brahma Sri P. Vaithesparakurukkal of Pilliar Kovil, Kandy and Srimathi Ponnambikalammal Chellakurukkal of Ponnalaikkadduvan, sister of Mr. K. O. Balasubramania Iyer, Secretary, Vivekananda Society, Colombo, and Mr. K. O. Somasundara Iyer, Sub Post Master, Ponnalaikkadduvan. —Cor.

Vivekananda Society, Colombo.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The Twenty sixth Annual General Meeting of the Colombo Vivekananda Society will be held at the Society Hall on Saturday, the 23rd February, 1929 commencing at 3 p.m.

The following items among others in the agenda will be gone through:—Report by the Managing Committee; Alterations to Rules No. 6, 7, 9, 11, 13 and 14, to be moved by the Hon. Secretary; Election of Officers, other Members of the Committee, and Auditors for the ensuing year; Estimates for the year 1929; Questions and Motions.

PROMOTION TO THE CIVIL SERVICE:—His Excellency the Governor has been pleased, with the approval of the Secy. of State for the Colonies, to sanction the promotion of Mr. T. Sam de Silva (late Chief Clerk, Galte Kachoberi), to Class V. of the Civil Service, with effect from the 3rd April, 1929, vice Mr. C. Rasanayagam retiring.

STATE MORTGAGE BANK:—The Committee appointed to inquire into the establishment of a State Mortgage Bank is drafting an ordinance to give effect to their recommendation favouring the establishment of a bank. The Draft Bill will soon reach Government and a discussion on the subject may be expected before the next Budget debate. The Committee, it is said, has recommended a bank with a capital of ten million rupees invested in debentures and half a million rupees to be given by Government as a working capital. The management will be vested in a Board of Directors.

A NEW ADVOCATE:—On Wednesday last before Mr. Justice Dalton and Mr. Justice Akbar, Mr. C. Ponnambalam appeared and took his oath as an Advocate. Mr. Justice Dalton congratulated the new Advocate and wished him success at the Bar. Mr. Ponnambalam is the son of the late Mr. A. Gathiravelu, Crown Proctor and Additional Police Magistrate of Jaffna and a brother of Mr. O. Sittampalam, Police Magistrate, Matara. He is an old Royalist and while at the Law College, secured the first place in the Intermediate and the Final Examinations winning several prizes.

LAW COLLEGE RESULTS:—The following are among those who have been declared to have passed the Advocates and Proctors' first examinations held in January, 1929:—*Advocates' First:* (1) J. Sitharam, (3) A. Sambandhan, and (5) W. M. G. Spencer. *Proctors' First:* (2) O. Padmanathan, (3) O. Vaidyalingam, (5) J. F. Ponnambalam, and (8) O. Muttukumaraswamy. *Scholarships:* The scholarship of Rs. 480 in the Advocates' first examination tenable for one year has been awarded to J. Sitharam. The second scholarship of Rs. 240 in the Proctors' first examination tenable for one year has been awarded to O. Padmanathan.

IF POSSIBLE, CEYLONSE AS WARDEN.

The Committee appointed by His Excellency the Governor on September 11th, 1928, to consider and report on the proposal to establish a Ceylon Students' Hostel in London, have sent in their report.

The personnel of the Committee:—Messrs. M. T. Akbar, Acting Attorney-General, Chairman; A. G. Wijeyekoon; A. Manadeva; D. S. Senanayake; W. A. de Silva; and R. Maris.

The Report states:—

According to the figures furnished by the Director of Colonial Students to Professor Maris, (Principal, University College, Colombo) there were in November 1926, about 150 Ceylon students in London and between 75 and 100 more in other parts of the United Kingdom.

Mr. W. A. de Silva, the Honorary Secretary of the Association of Ceylon Students in Great Britain and Ireland, estimated in July, 1927, the number of students in London at 148 (99 of whom attended institutions in the West Central District), and about 70 in the Provinces. These figures, are of course, only approximate and the numbers are bound to increase year after year. The Ceylon students in the United Kingdom are all of them young men between 20 and 27 years of age and are taking up a course of studies for the various professions.

They are students, therefore, spending from four to seven of their most impressionable years in a strange land away from the influence of parents or guardians and relatives. On their return to Ceylon they will be the leaders of the intellectual life of the Colony. It is, therefore a question for the Government to consider whether it should not contribute something towards the care, guidance and welfare of these young men.

STUDENTS' OBJECTION.

The objection that the Ceylon students in London offer to the establishment of a hostel under the supervision of the Government can easily be understood. One of the main reasons why Ceylon students go to the United Kingdom is for the purpose of broadening their outlook by coming into contact with the best aspects of English life. In the words of Rev. Mr. A. G. Fraser, they should go "into close contact with English and English people."

The students who go to England from Ceylon are not mere schoolboys, and they naturally resent anything that savours of interference with their liberty of action. Any system that exposes them to strict disciplinary supervision will not be tolerated by them. We cannot therefore recommend the establishment of a hostel to house all the Ceylon students in London under one roof and under the constant supervision of a warden, who will be responsible to the Government of Ceylon for the care and well-being of the students under his charge. As stated by Rev. Mr. Fraser, "a Ceylon Hostel" of this type "would form a Ceylon Colony," and this would prevent the students coming into contact with English home life. A hostel of this kind would not commend itself to any reasonable person. On the other hand, the students go to a country where the conditions are entirely different to those of their homeland, and it is very disappointing that they are allowed to shift for themselves without any guidance from those who can supply them with information.

Some of the difficulties that Ceylonese students experience on arrival in London are—(a) The finding of suitable accommodation. Many students at present go to some boarding houses where there is a fellow student, and in some cases these boarding houses may not be of the most desirable type; (b) The gaining of admission to a College or Institute. Nobody seems to make it his business to interest himself in the new arrivals; (c) The want of a common meeting place, with the result that many of the Ceylon students have to seek refuge in the Gower Street Indian Hostel; (d) The want of some person to whom the student can appeal for assistance and advice in times of sickness or difficulty; (e) The difficulty of getting introductions to the various athletic and other clubs; (f) The impossibility of getting into contact with English home life; and (g) The difficulty parents now find of having some responsible person on the spot who will keep in touch with the students.

All these difficulties have been met in the case of other Colonies and Dependencies of the British Empire. For example, the Indian Government has provided an establishment known as the Indian Hostel at 21, Cromwell Road. There is another Indian Hostel at Gower Street run voluntarily by the Young Men's Christian Association, and an Indian Home in Edinburgh. The Burmese students too have a house of their own.

The best organized of these institutions is undoubtedly the one at 21, Cromwell Road, about the work of which there is a very useful report by its Home Management Committee for the year April 1926 to March 31, 1927. There are only 20 beds in the Institute accommodating 25 students, and yet the report shows that nearly 300 students were housed during the year 1926-27. The new arrivals from India and from other parts of the United Kingdom totalled 485 during the same year, and the daily average of residents was 285. The exact number of the Indian students in 1927 the United Kingdom cannot be estimated, but the figures must be well over 1,000 a year.

(Continued on page 4).

Roughly understood that the King is now able to read occasionally. The King is on ordinary diet and is taking plenty of nourishment.

Rugby, Feb. 13th.

It is learned that the Queen hopes to go to London next week to visit the British Industries Fair.

SLOW PROGRESS CONTINUES.

London, Feb. 15th.

A bulletin issued today states:—Despite the inclement weather, the King continues to make slow progress. His Majesty has increased in weight since his departure from London.

PRINCE OF WALES WITH THE KING.

Rugby, Feb. 15th.

The Prince of Wales spent six hours with the King today at Craigwell House, Bognor. His Royal Highness afterwards returned to London.

DOUBTS OF YORK'S ILLNESS.

A medical bulletin regarding the Duchess of York says that Her Royal Highness, though convalescing quite satisfactorily from the recent attack of influenza, will be unable to fulfil any engagements for the next week or two.

—'Times Cuttings'.

Gruesome Story from Kayts.

SICK WOMAN DROWNED IN WELL

HUSBAND AND SON CHARGED OF MURDER

Kayts, Feb. 15th.

A man named Santhiboo, of Naran-hal, his son, Lazarus, and a man named Andrew, were produced today before Mr. V. P. Radich, Police Magistrate at Kayts, it being alleged that they caused the death of the former's wife, Solomy, by drowning.

Mr. J. R. G. Betsch conducted the prosecution, Mr. A. Swamphill, watched the interests of the accused.

It would appear that the woman, who had been ailing for a long time was carried alive to a well by her husband and son, aided by their neighbour, Andrew, and thrown into it, stones being attached to her body.

After she had died Lazarus got into the well and brought the body out with the help of his father. The body was replaced on the bed after a change of dry clothing.

Her death in ordinary circumstances was announced, and the funeral took place at the Naran-hal Cemetery.

Subsequently an anonymous petition was sent to the Kayts police.

Mr. Betsch investigated the matter and a boy named Antony was produced before the Magistrate who recorded his evidence in chambers.

The accused were remanded and a post-mortem examination was ordered to be made by Dr. Sabapathy after examining the remains. The inquiry was fixed for February 23rd. —'Times of Ceylon'.

Non-stop Volcano.

OVER 3,000 ERUPTIONS IN 24 HOURS.

Batavia, Jan. 18th.

The island volcano of Krakatau is more active and as many as 3,135 eruptions, some reaching a height of over 2,000 feet, have been counted in the past 24 hours. At night time the glowing pieces of lava thrown up present an impressive spectacle, while the sea in the vicinity is in a state of almost continual up heaving.

[Situated in Banda Straits about half way between Sumatra and Java, the Krakatau volcano has been in a state of almost continuous eruption of varying intensity for many months past. In the great eruption of August, 1883, two thirds of the island was blown to pieces and upwards of 85,000 lives were lost.] —'Times of Ceylon'.

Demarcation of Jaffna Town.

POLICE FORCE & U. D. C. LIMITS.

The limits of the town of Jaffna within which a Police Force has been established about the month of May, 1885 were specified and defined.

The limits have been now specified and defined as below in last Friday's Gazette.

The administrative limits of the Jaffna Urban District Council have also been specified and defined in conformity with the undermentioned demarcation:—

From the Fort (Jaffna) by the shore of the lake westward to the junction of Jaffna Kavaliti road and road connecting Kayts and Punnial roads by the latter road eastwards to its junction with the Jaffna Punnial road by that road to the south-west corner of the tract of fields called Paddivali along the western boundary of these fields, along the boundary between the villages of Vannarponnal West and Kakkavil and of Vannarponnal East and Kakkavil to the Brown road, by that road to its junction with Nanchimarkovil road by the latter road to its junction with Pallal road by that road and then along Nanchimarkovil road to its junction with the Point Pedro road and the boundary between the J. F. division and the Valikamam East division to the Ummamudi road along that road to its junction with Anandavadi road by that road to its junction with the paddy fields, then along the inner limits thereof to the lane known as Tanaravadi clungal, along that lane till it meets the lane known as Mathipakkalclungal by that lane till it meets the Central road, by that road eastwards till it meets the lane known as Keraladi clungal by that lane southwards till it meets the lane known as Narunclungal by that lane till it meets the railway line and then along the railway line eastwards till it meets the western boundary of the coconut estate commonly known as Mr. Price's estate, along that boundary to the shore of the lake, by the shore of the lake to a point 20 chains on the east from the junction of the Metaravakulam road and the Beach road from that point by a straight line to the south eastern corner of the Reclamation road, by the Reclamation road westward to the south western corner of the Reclamation road and from that corner by a straight line to the Fort.

advocate of America, who is on a visit in Ceylon delivered an address at the Tower Hall, Colombo, on Friday last on the question of drink.

Dr. C. A. Hawavitarana, who presided, extended a hearty welcome on behalf of the people of the country, to Mr. Johnson, the friend of the cause of temperance on his second visit to this country.

MISSION OF GOOD WILL.

Mr. Johnson whose address was interpreted into Sinhalese by the Rev. G. A. F. Senaratna began by expressing his happiness in coming again to Ceylon and said that he did not come there that evening to talk about the drink business or anything else. 'The drink problem' he said "and it is up to you to settle it in your way. I come to Colombo on a mission of goodwill, to tell you about how we don't with the problem in America. This is important because those interested in selling liquor, have spread all over the world, all sorts of false rumours regarding America. The history of the world has been largely a series of struggles to get rid of great social wrongs. Not more than a hundred years ago the seas of the world were infested with pirate ships. For a thousand years pirate ships sailed under the black flag destroying ship and human lives. Finally all the peoples of the world got tired of that sort of thing, and they put a stop to it. How did they stop it? They stopped it by enacting and enforcing prohibition laws. Had it not been for the laws prohibiting piracy on the high seas, why will we have piracy all over? Now the high seas are safe for commerce to day, because of the prohibition laws."

THE SPREAD OF PROHIBITION.

Continuing he mentioned, how slavery was abolished by prohibition laws, and said that he was sure every great wrong of that sort had been stopped by prohibition laws and not in any other way. They, in America put a stop to the liquor business in exactly the same way, by prohibition laws. After two hundred years of suffering endured not by the drunkards, but by their wives and children which helped a few drink sellers to get rich, the American people, after trying all forms of licensing and other methods of controlling liquor, at last adopted prohibition. Prohibition had now spread to 12,000 towns in America and 32 out of 48 States. Some of the people who were against prohibition took the people of America to be a pack of fools and called prohibition a failure. He would assure them that the Americans were a people who if they find a piece of machinery won't work, discarded it and tried another. If there were a law which did not work, they would repeal it and try another. If they read the newspapers they would find that very many Americans discarded their wives when they found that they would not suit. (Laughter.) In America they discarded the licensing systems because they failed and adopted prohibition, which had proved successful. Prohibition was the commonest thing in the world. Every law was prohibition. If they removed the prohibition laws from the Penal Code there would be nothing left. All the liberties they enjoyed now were enjoyed under the protection of the prohibition laws. Every scientific authority in America of any standing, who had investigated the question had reached the same conclusion, namely that there was less liquor drunk in America now than the quantity consumed ten years ago. The Prohibition Law against liquor was passed ten years ago and adopted in the Statute Book and since then there had been five congressional elections and no effort was made to repeal the prohibition law by any congressman, though the Congress had the power of repealing any law by a simple majority of one. There were two reasons for that, first they did not want to, and second they would lose their jobs if they did (Laughter). They would not be elected again if they voted against prohibition. Each time the people responded by electing a drier Congress, than the one before. So that they had now the driest Congress they ever had in the history of America. At the last election for the first time in history the issue was drawn in the Presidential fight. It was a drawn clearly between "Drys" and "Wets." The "Dry" was elected by a majority of 6,300,000 votes that was Mr. Hoover and the "Wet," Mr. Smith was elected to stay at home—(laughter)—and he had publicly stated that he had withdrawn from politics for ever. (Laughter.)

CONDITIONS IN EUROPEAN CITIES.

After referring to the conditions in London, New York, Paris and Munich, he said that in London there was three and a half times more drink arrests every year than in New York. London had been taking the beer cure for 2,000 years and that was what it had to show. In France where they said people drank wine and were happy, he said that Paris which was about half the size of New York, had more than twice the number of drink arrests than in New York every year. France had been taking the wine cure ever since the days of Christ and the days of Lord Buddha, and that was what she had to show. In Munich the greatest beer drinking spot in the world, had been so for 600 years and a statement made by a member of a Committee showed that there were no less than 10,000

Continued up.

Curzon has introduced a Bill in the House of Commons to legalize marriage between persons either of whom are under the age of 16. The present legal minimum ages in Great Britain are 12 for girls and 14 for boys.

LEYDEN FIRE DISASTER:—The recent fire at the Town Hall of Leyden which completely gutted the building, destroying priceless treasures which had treasured there for centuries, recalls the many historic associations of Leyden, Holland, from the time of the Spanish dominion over Holland. The Town Hall that has been destroyed, is said to have been one of the finest architectural designs in Europe. It was built about the year 1550 or earlier, and contained many valuable pictures of the great masters, besides some excellent furniture.

THE EMINO COMMISSION:—The Emino Commission and the General Committee arrived in Rangoon on last Friday morning, after a week's tour in Upper Burma, and left for Mandalay the same afternoon.

\$5,000 WORTH NECKLACE:—A boy crossing Sloane Square in the West End, London, on Thursday last, espied an apparently valuable necklace, which he picked up and hurried over to the authorities. The necklace consists of seventy five graduated pearls with a diamond clasp, and weighs 462 grains. Its worth five thousand pounds sterling and was lost on December 2, by Lady Guthrie when she motored to town to go shopping in the Regent Street neighbourhood. The lucky youth pocketed five hundred sterling, the advertised reward. —'D. N.'

OBITUARY.

Mr. S. C. K. RUTNAM.

We regret to record the death which took place on Monday last at his residence in Charemont Road, Wellawatte of Mr. S. C. K. Rutnam, M. A., the founder and the first Principal of the Central College, Colombo. The funeral took place on the following day and the remains were interred at the General Cemetery, Borella.

Mrs. R. P. OBELLIAH.

It is with feelings of regret we record the death which occurred at Badulla on the 8th inst. of Mrs. Obelliah, wife of Mr. R. P. Obelliah, Sheriff, Bank of Ceylon, after a long illness. The funeral was attended by a large gathering. The pyre was set fire to by her son Master C. Thiruketheesan. We extend our heartfelt condolences to the members of the bereaved family.

Hindu Board of Education.

The fifth annual general meeting of the Hindu Board of Education will be held on Saturday the 23rd inst. at 8 p.m. in the Jaffna Hindu College Hall.

AGENDA.

1. Thevaram.
2. Confirmation of the minutes of the previous annual general meeting.
3. Secretary's Report.
4. Treasurer's Balance Sheet.
5. Election of Directors (Class III).
6. Election of Office-bearers.
7. Thevaram.

Hindu Board Office, M. S. RASARATHNAM
Jaffna 11 Feb. '29. Hon'y. Secretary.
Mis. 1386.

THE MAILS.

(G. P. O. Colombo.)

RECEIPTS.

London Mails per the O. L. "Orford" are due on Saturday, February 23, and per the P & O "Moldavia" on Saturday, March 2.

Straits & China Mails per the N. Y. L. "Hakone Maru" are due on Wednesday, February 20; per the R. L. "Patric" on the following day (Thursday), and per the M. M. "Sphinx" on Tuesday, February 26.

DESPATCHES.

London Mails per the O. L. "Orford" will close on Wednesday, February 20, and per the R. L. "Patric" on the following day (Thursday).

Straits & China Mails per the N. Y. L. "Hakone Maru" will close on Wednesday, February 20; per the S. M. N. "Pictet" on Saturday, February 23, and per the M. M. "Porthos" on Monday, February 25.

Continued.

drunkards in Munich burdened upon the people of that city. In conclusion Mr. Johnson said: "Please remember that America is going to hang on to what she has got, until some nation, some people, some power, develops some system of dealing with the drink traffic that will not suffer when compared with the results of our own prohibition policy." (Cheers.)

A few questions were asked to which suitable answers were given. With a vote of thanks to the speaker, the meeting terminated.—'Q. D. N.'

FUNERAL OF DOWAGER QUEEN OF SPAIN:—February, 11th was the day of the funeral of Queen Marie Christine of Spain.

EXTRAORDINARY MOTOR CAR:—A motor car has been specially built on suspension lines for Major Segrave, with which he hopes to create the world's speed record. It is a twelve-cylinder car with Napier engines, costing £15,000.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIND IN AFRICA:—Great importance is attached by Archaeological experts to the discovery in the Transvaal of fossils of a primitive man and of a huge buffalo in the same stratum. This is regarded as positively proving the existence of primitive Pre-neolithic race in South Africa contemporaneously with the glacial extinct species of the buffalo *Bubalus Bainesi*.

DEATH OF GANDHI'S GRANDSON:—Basklal Harilal Gandhi, grandson of Mahatma Gandhi, died at New Delhi, on February 8. The boy, who was three for the last six months teaching splinting at the National University fell ill about a month ago with typhoid. The funeral was attended by a large number of Hindus and Moslems. Mrs. Gandhi, who was specially called there, has been greatly upset on account of this tragedy.

GANDHI'S AUTOBIOGRAPHY:—A London message states that Mahatma Gandhi has sold to the Macmillan Company of New York the full book rights in English of his autobiography, "My Experiments with Truth." It is said that the price paid is in the neighbourhood of a lakh of rupees, which Mahatma has decided to hand over to the Khadi propaganda.—"C. D. N."

NIZAM OF HYDERABAD'S GIFT:—The Nizam of Hyderabad has placed Rs. 25,000 at the disposal of the Government of Madras to be distributed among deserving charitable concerns of this Presidency in order to commemorate his recent visit to Madras.

ALLEGED SEDITIONARY SPEECHES:—Buland Sahasrabhai, a Member of the Congress Working Committee, was arrested at Madras, on February 8 on a charge of making seditionary speeches. He was produced before the District Magistrate, who demanded security for bail. Sahasrabhai declined furnish bail and was remanded in custody.

JAPAN'S 124TH BIRTHDAY:—The Emperor Hirohito, who was crowned in November last, is Japan's 124th BIRTHDAY.

WORLD'S LARGEST STEAMER:—The Cunard Company is to construct a steamer of about 60,000 tons which will be the largest vessel in the world.

WEST TO EAST BY TELEPHONE:—Experiments are being arranged for establishing telephone service linking Great Britain, Australia, India and South Africa.

INTERNATIONAL POSTAL CONGRESS:—The Prince of Wales is expected to open the International Postal Congress to be held in London in May, which will be attended by representatives of practically every civilized State.

HOMES OF THE APPLE:—In Virginia it has been estimated that there are over 11 million apple trees. It is no wonder that there is a gigantic harvest, and that exports are made to all parts of the world.

VICE-ROY ON THE INDIAN POLITICAL SITUATION:—A report states that H. E. the Viceroy is anxious to discuss the political situation with prominent Congress leaders. It is stated His Excellency will shortly send for Pandit Motilal, Sir Tej Bahadur, Mahatma Gandhi and Pandit Malaviya early in March or just before his departure for England. No confirmation is available.

ANCIENT TURKISH CITY ON THE DECLINE:—Adrianople, the ancient Turkish city, is now the victim of a remarkable stroke of destiny. At the Peace of Lusanne, it was cut off from its upland, and the number of its inhabitants has now declined from 120,000 to 30,000. The citizens are evacuating the town and settling down on the other side of the adjacent Greek frontier.

RELIGIOUS ENDOWMENTS AND DEVADASIS:—The Madras Legislative Council has passed the Bill introduced by Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddi to amend the Hindu Religious Endowments Act, for enfranchising the inams of lands or assignments of revenue, for the services rendered by Devadasis.

BAN ON TEA AND COFFEE DRINKING:—According to a message from Belgrade tea drinking and coffee drinking in Government offices has been forbidden by a drastic decree relating to civil service issued by Zikofitch.

ATTEMPT ON MEXICAN PRESIDENT:—A bomb exploded under a train carrying President Portesillo of Mexico between Comanfort and Rinconillo. A locomotive and two coaches were overturned and a fireman was killed. The President was not safe.

PLOT TO OVERTHROW TURKISH GOVERNMENT:—The trial of the thirty-six men charged with forming a secret organisation with the object of killing members of the Turkish Government and overthrowing the present regime ended in five being sentenced to be hanged and sixteen to various terms of imprisonment. The others were acquitted.

RADIUM FOR LONDON HOSPITALS:—Two grammes of radium worth £24,000 were received by the London Hospital from two anonymous donors, who are unknown to each other. Both are said to have already made generous anonymous gifts to this hospital. One has given more than £70,000, and other who gave £50,000 three years ago, has now presented an additional £13,000 for the maintenance of a radium laboratory.

EUROPE SWEEPED BY ICE WAVE:—An ice wave is sweeping over Europe. Reports from the various hospitals state that the coldest winter in living memory is being experienced. Shipping is at a standstill in the Baltic and North Sea ports, and on the Rhine. Seventy ships are ice-bound in the Baltic and 60 off the coast of the Elbe. Numerous islands are isolated. In many parts of the Continent train communications are badly disrupted and a number of trains are stranded in the snow. A balloon manned by three Germans was blown across the North Sea and crashed at a village 20 miles from Aberdeen. The balloonists were slightly injured. Grim details of a case of cannibalism were received in London from Heligoland.

A Visit to Thiruvavadhurai. Ceylon Students' London Hostel.

SAIVA SIDDHANTA PHILOSOPHY.

A correspondent from Copen writes as follows:—

The Malayan Saiva Siddhanta Sangam at Kuala Lumpur was able through its energetic and enterprising Hon. Secretary, Mr. A. Elagunathan, to have a reprint of the invaluable lecture known as *Saṃgama and Paramahansa Swamikal Nalvar Pirapamam* (Saiva Siddhanta Philosophy and the Majesty of the Fane Saiva Saints) delivered by the late Sri S. S. Sabapathy Navalar, (of Copen North) Vidvan, Thiruvavadhurai, Athanam, and published about forty years back in his journal "Gnanamiratham." This reprint was the first pamphlet of the above Sangam and it was published during November, 1926. In the following year the Sangam got published the second edition of *Thiravida Pirapamam* (Tamilian Culture), the first edition of which was published in 1899 by the author himself, the late Sabapathy Navalar. This booklet depicts the majesty of the Tamil language and its literature.

Having obtained a long desire to visit the Athanam at Thiruvavadhurai, South India, the Sangam where the late Sabapathy Navalar was the Tamil Vidvan (Pandit) for several years, Mr. Sivagurunathan, who is a nephew of the late Navalar on the maternal side, availed himself of an opportunity in December last. Mr. Sivagurunathan came to Jaffna in the latter part of Nov. on long leave for his marriage, which was celebrated on the 14th of December, 1928 with Miss Sundarambal daughter of late Mr. Arumugam Chettiar, Jewel Merchant, Vannarponnai. Ten days after his marriage he left for India to be present at the Nadesar Arthira Dharianam at Chidambaram. From there he visited several other shrines one of which was the Athanam at Thiruvavadhurai. Here he was given an audience to the President of the Athanam, Mr. Sivagurunathan presented a copy of the 2nd edition of *Thiravida Pirapamam* and was presented in return with silk shawls by the President who appreciated much the indefatigable zeal evinced by him towards the Tamil language and its literature.

Man Aged 153 Years.

OFFICIAL VISIT TO HIS HOME.

Cairo, Jan. 17th. An official deputation which included the Provincial Police Commandant and the Director of Education—according to Arab newspapers—yesterday visited a skeleton-like Arab, aged 153, living in Fayum, near Cairo.

The man, who lives in a tiny room six feet square, is in complete possession of his senses. He stated that he remembered Mohammed Ali, who massacred the Mamelukes (in 1811), driving through the streets of Cairo. He said that he became a soldier when he was a young man of forty, and declared that his youngest son was a youth of twenty six. The old man retains an interest in politics, and declares that more rights are enjoyed under the present rule than under that of the century before last.

The man was born in 1776—the year of the American declaration of Independence, George III. was King of England, Louis XVI. was King of France, Napoleon was only a young artillery officer. Nelson had just completed (1776) his voyage to the Arctic regions, and Trafalgar was twenty nine years away.

—Times of Ceylon.

A Mysterious Tunnel.

SECRET PASSAGE OF MING EMPERORS.

Workmen opening up a hill outside Nanking city to make way for the new road connecting Hsiakwan with the Sun Yat sen Mausoleum, have discovered a mysterious tunnel. It is built of huge blocks of solid stone and is about seven feet high and a little more than a yard wide. Because of its situation between the famous Ming Tomb and the old Ming Palace, it is thought that through this tunnel the body of the first Ming Emperor might have been taken to its real burying ground. At the time of this Emperor's death Nanking, then the Chinese capital, had thirteen gates, and when his body was to be buried thirteen coffins were carried out of the city, each one going through a different gate. The idea was to make it impossible for his enemies to find his remains when his dynasty ended. There are those who believe that the Emperor was not buried in any of these tombs, but elsewhere. Even if the tunnel may not lead to the actual burying place, it seems almost certain that it is the passage way to the tomb of some member of the Ming dynasty. The authorities have not yet decided whether to excavate the tunnel.—Tribune, L-here.

"Prabuddha Bharata".

The February number of the "Prabuddha Bharata" contains many interesting and readable articles. The opening article is an unpublished letter of Swami Vivekananda in which he dwells on some of the essentials of his faith. The thought-provoking editorial contains an answer to the vexed question whether religion is to be shared, if the country is to be freed from foreign domination; the article is however likely to arouse much controversy. Notes of Conversations with Swami Turiyananda are profound and soul stirring. Sanskrit Culture in Modern India is the insertion of a speech delivered by M. M. Haraprasad Sastri, M. A., C. I. E. Hon. D. Litt. as the President of the Oriental Conference held in Lahore last November. New Light on Dream Psychology deals with dream problems from Upanishadic standpoint. The practice of Religion contains practical suggestion for the guidance of those who want to build their religious life. Those interested in scriptures will find the English translation of *Ashvamedha Samhita*, that powerful and yet simple Sanskrit treatise on Advaita Vedanta, a profitable reading.

ATTEMPT ON THE LIFE OF PRESIDENT GOMEZ: Six ambushed men fired on a motor car in which President Gomez of Venezuela was travelling in a suburb of Caracas. The President's escort retaliated and killed all six.

(Continued from page 3.)

We are of opinion that a hostel should be established for the benefit of Ceylon students and that it should not purport to provide accommodation for all Ceylon students in London, but should be an establishment with room for about 20 students. The warden should act as an adviser to the students and he should be prepared to meet new arrivals and give them advice and guidance if they wish to have them and not otherwise. The word "guidance" is not to be interpreted in the sense of disciplinary control, and the warden would have to use great care and tact in the exercise of his functions. To a Ceylon student coming for the first time to London, such advice and guidance from the warden should prove invaluable. Rooms should be provided temporarily at the hostel for these new arrivals until a managing committee, in which the students should be represented, would be in a position to get suitable accommodation elsewhere for each new arrival. Such a hostel will also be invaluable as providing a common meeting place for Ceylon students, resident not only in London but all over the United Kingdom, whenever they happen to visit London. Officials making a temporary stay in London and those interested in Ceylon could meet the students at the hostel and deliver lectures, etc. Further, a common luncheon room should be provided at which the students taking up courses in the various colleges and institutes in the neighbourhood can have a cheap lunch. It may be noted in this connection that nearly 70 Ceylon students take their lunch every day in the Indian Hostel at Gower street.

At present, oriental students find great difficulty in getting admission into colleges and institutes in the United Kingdom, and the warden will be of immense help to them in interviewing heads of colleges and institutes and in making provision for their admission. For this purpose the warden should be given a travelling allowance. The managing committee will also be of great benefit to the Ceylonese students by obtaining introductions for them to the various athletic and other clubs in and about London.

The students themselves acknowledge the need of such a hostel in London. In a report submitted on January 15, 1927, by a sub-committee appointed by the Association of Ceylon Students in London they state as follows:—"It is now generally agreed that the need of a hostel for Ceylon students in England is almost beyond argument or discussion. The project has been hanging fire for the past eight years. Since it was first mooted the number of students has been rapidly increasing and promises to increase even more rapidly in the future. It is eminently desirable that a knowledge of the standards and modes of life adopted by the better classes here should be part of the education sought by them in this country. For this purpose the average boarding house is no proper medium of instruction."

We recommend that a hostel should be established on the lines mentioned above and that a house be rented in a central place easily accessible to the various colleges and institutes in London, say, in Russell square or Bedford place. The expenses connected with such a hostel should be borne by the Ceylon Government.

The success of the whole institute would, of course, depend on the personality of the warden, and we can trust the Government to appoint a suitable person. In the words of Rev. Mr. Fraser, "he should be a keen man given enough salary to enable him to get students circling round him. He should be a man acceptable to the Ceylonese students who take an interest in the same things as they are interested in here. If you can get a good Ceylonese, so much the better. He should get to know good lodgings and also English people of the right sort who are ready to help Ceylonese, and he should be able to introduce newcomers to such people. A committee should be formed to help him consisting of men like Edwin Bevan and women like Miss Barton. The work should be done through an approved person who should not act as an official but as a friend, and who should have the least possible reporting to do. Students will not have reports sent about them; and they are quite right. Trust your man and let him work as a friend; and if possible he should be a Ceylonese." This is an extract from a letter sent to Mr. A. O. G. Wijeyekoon in August, 1926. As a matter of fact Rev. Mr. Fraser was at that time against the establishment of a Ceylon hostel; but he was then, apparently, thinking of a hostel to house permanently as many of the Ceylon students in London as possible. Our report above will show that it is not a hostel of this kind that we advocate.

We also think that the warden should be entrusted with the care of Government scholars, which is now undertaken by one of the Crown Agents. Parents may in some cases care to take the opportunity of appointing the warden guardian of their sons in financial and other matters in England.

We do not think that we are required to work out in detail the cost that will have to be incurred by the Government in the establishment of such a hostel. But there is one point which we might mention, and that is that the charges should be so moderated as to make it possible for the average student to make use of the hostel.

As there seems to be some opposition to the establishment of a hostel on the ground that it will benefit only rich students, we would like to state that, in our opinion, this hostel, if established would be of greater use to the student of moderate means rather than the rich student. The well-to-do parents can make satisfactory arrangements in England for the care and protection of their sons so long as they are prepared to spend, but it is the less fortunate parents who, for want of funds, cannot make such provision, with the result that their sons are greatly handicapped.

Mr. A. Mahadeva, has signed the Committee's Report subject to this rider:—

My assent to the proposal to establish a hostel will depend on the expenditure required for founding and maintaining a hostel of the type suggested. If the cost to the revenue will not exceed an initial capital expenditure of £1,000 and a recurrent expenditure of £1,000 a year, I shall not object.

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Mis. 1384.

Order Nisi

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 6827.

In the matter of the Intestate Estate of the late Asena Maricar Meera Sahib of Vannarponnai West in Jaffna.

Deceased. Othuman Nichechia widow of Asena Maricar Meera Sahib of Vannarponnai West in Jaffna.

Plaintiff. Vs. Asena Maricar Asena Sahib of Vannarponnai West in Jaffna.

Respondent.

This matter of the Petition of the abovesaid petitioner praying for Letters of Administration to the estate of the abovesaid deceased be issued to her coming on for disposal before J. C. W. Rock Esquire, District Judge, Jaffna on July 4, 1928 in the presence of Mr. S. M. Aboubucker, Proctor, on the part of the Plaintiff and the affidavit of the Plaintiff dated July 2, 1928, having been read; It is ordered that Letters of Administration to the estate of the abovesaid deceased be issued to the Plaintiff as widow of the said deceased unless the abovesaid Respondent shall on or before August 7, 1928 at 10 o'clock in the forenoon appear before this Court and show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

July 23, 1928. J. C. W. Rock, District Judge.

This Order Nisi is extended to 6th November 1928. James Joseph, A. D. J.

This Order Nisi is extended to 4th December 1928. James Joseph, A. D. J.

This Order Nisi is extended to 21st February 1929. James Joseph, A. D. J.

O. 1629.

Order Nisi.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 6870.

In the matter of the Estate of the late Annammah wife of Nagamuthu Kanapathipillai of Nereely.

Deceased. Nagamuthu Kanapathipillai of Anacolai, presently of Divisional Transportation Office, Maradana, Colombo.

Plaintiff. Vs. 1. Secayampikal daughter of Kanapathipillai of Colombo.

2. Kanapathipillai Wamadeva of do.

3. Guanapikhal daughter of Kanapathipillai of do.

4. Kanapathipillai Kallayanathan of do.

5. Subramaniam Thambapillai of Manipay.

Respondents.

This matter of the Petition of the abovesaid Plaintiff praying for Letters of Administration to the estate of the abovesaid deceased coming on for disposal before J. C. W. Rock Esquire, District Judge, on August 27, 1928, in the presence of Mr. C. A. Niles, Proctor, on the part of the Plaintiff and the affidavit of the Plaintiff dated August 25, 1928, having been read, It is declared that the Plaintiff is the lawful husband of the said intestate and is entitled to have Letters of Administration to the estate of the said intestate issued to him unless the Respondents or any person shall, on or before December 18, 1928, show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

December 21, 1928. James Joseph, District Judge.

The Order Nisi is extended to 19th February 1929. J. J.

O. 1028.

Printed and published by M. S. Rasanayagam, for and on behalf of the Proprietors, the Jaffna Saiva Paripalana Sabai, at their Press, the Saiva Prakash Press, Vannarponnai.