

The Hindu Organ.

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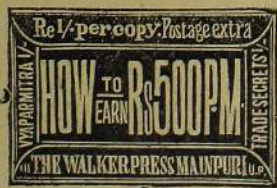
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Notice.

Whereas Thillayampalam Chelliah and wife Viyaadachi of Vaddukkodai East together with Sangarapillai Ponnampalam of Vaddukkodai West were sued in case No. 13325 of the District Court of Jaffna, upon a writing obligatory dated the 27th day of May, 1914, to recover the sum of Rs. 691-25 with further interest on Rs. 500/- at the rate of 8 1/2 per cent per annum from the date of action-till payment in full and costs of action, and whereas summonses could not be served on the said Thillayampalam Chelliah as he is reported to have gone to Singapore. Notice is hereby given that the said Summonses will be served on his said wife in lieu of service on him and that Decree nisi will be entered for Plaintiff unless appearance be shown on the 7th April, 1919.

Jaffna, S. SITTAMPALAM, March 20, 1919. Proctor for Plaintiff.

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The Hindu Organ.

JAFFNA, MONDAY, MARCH 24, 1919.

LOCAL OPTION AND THE INACTIVITY OF JAFFNA.

As our readers are well aware, the Government has given to the inhabitants in every locality in the Island the power and the right to choose by their voting whether they desire or not the existence of the taverns in their midst for the sale of toddy, arrack, or foreign liquors. This is indeed a valuable privilege, though it has been circumscribed with a number of conditions which have somewhat lessened its usefulness in practical realisation. It has been our practice to quote the policy of the Indian Government in the matter of granting certain popular privileges, as a model for our Government to adopt. But in Local Option we in Ceylon are in the enjoyment of a right for which Indians have long been clamouring, and which has not yet been conceded to them. It is the duty of the Ceylonese therefore to make the best use of the opportunity which has been given to them for effecting their redemption from the drink evil. Perhaps there is no country in the East which has so far departed from its ancient ideal of life in this respect as Ceylon, and it is well and proper that Ceylon was given the right of Local Option before any other part of the British Empire in the East.

The concession of this valuable right has been followed by a vigorous campaign in favour of abolishing the numerous drink taverns. This is a healthy sign. The Temperance Societies and the Total Abstinence Leagues in Colombo and in the Sinhalese Districts have been most forward in leading the campaign. The result has been that in the past two years since the introduction of Local Option, several drink taverns have been abolished as a result of the voting by the inhabitants. This shows that the sense of repugnance to the drink habit which every respectable Ceylonese entertained but a few decades ago, is not now dead. True that it remained dormant for a time, but under the stimulus of the new spirit of revival and reawakening, the old sense is reasserting its sway over the people. Let us all fervently hope that it will, before long, lead to the total eradication of this evil which is fast leading the people in the path of physical, moral, and economic deterioration. Judging from the experience gained by the practical application of the Local Option rules in the past, one cannot hope for the total redemption of his country from the

drink evil if the authorities do not make the necessary alterations that will make those rules more helpful to the people in the exercise of their privilege.

The inactivity of Jaffna in the midst of this active campaign in Ceylon for the reduction of taverns, through Local Option, is remarkable. Barring the noble exception of a very few places like Karaitivu and Alavetty, Jaffna has been for the most part inactive in the past. The dates for Local Option pollings are drawing nigh, and yet, there is no stir, no organized preparation in the town or villages to educate the public in order to enable them to exercise this right to their advantage. Of course every one among us is fully alive to the dangers of this growing evil and to the necessity of abolishing the numerous taverns in the country which are the prolific sources of this evil. But then, however ardent and sincere this wish may be, it cannot result in the practical abolition of the taverns, unless the people are prepared to give an organized expression of this wish at the polling booth.

From our news columns in the last issue, our readers would have noticed that July 31st, this year, is the last day for lodging the objections to the continuance of any toddy tavern in any given area for the rent period 1920-21. The objection should be in writing and be signed by 25 per cent of the road tax paying inhabitants of the area, and each signatory should affix the number of his road tax receipt for the year with his signature. The polling day and time will then be notified by the Government Agent, of which at least 20 days' previous notice shall be given. It is provided that the place at which votes shall be recorded shall be within the area, if such an arrangement is practicable or convenient. It is also provided that informations as regards the boundaries or definitions of areas can be obtained from Kachcheries and that division officers shall allow voters or any person interested in the ballot, to inspect the returns prepared by them under sections 4 and 9 of ordinance No. 31 of 1884, and to take copies thereof. Voters shall have power to vote only for or against the total abolition of toddy taverns in an area, whichever they desire, but they shall not have the power to vote for the reduction of the number of taverns in that area. If it is found in the ballot that 75 per cent of the road tax paying inhabitants of an area are opposed to the existence of a toddy tavern or taverns within such area such tavern or taverns shall be abolished for the rent period 1920-21.

As we have stated above, July 31st is the day before which objections should be lodged in respect of toddy taverns in Jaffna. The dates for lodging objections in respect of arrack and foreign liquor taverns will also be notified later, but they cannot be far off. There is therefore no time to lose for our countrymen in organizing the necessary measures in this connection. Every one should now be warned to keep his road-tax receipt safe. In the Local Board Wards and in every village, strong Committees should be organized to make the necessary arrangements to lodge the objections on July 31st, and to make arrangements for the tendering of the votes on the polling day.

Before closing this article we would urge one more reason on the attention of our readers, in favour of abolishing the drink traffic. It is an economic one. In the production of toddy and arrack a large labour force is engaged. If these labourers are released from this work, it must result in a great impetus being given to food-production and other agricultural industries in the villages. In Jaffna a large class of the most industrious and hardy labourers are engaged in the production of toddy. If only our countrymen would exert together and relieve these poor toiling brethren of ours from their present pernicious occupation, and convert them into good prosperous peasants, what great benefit will that be to the development of agriculture in Jaffna as well as in the adjoining irrigable tracts of the Wannu.

LOCAL & GENERAL.

THE WEATHER.—The rains that fell last week were general throughout the District of Jaffna. The heat has been greatly mitigated.

TOBACCO.—The prospects of the Jaffna tobacco crop are excellent. The cultivators encountered some difficulty in planting owing to disease of plants in the nurseries. But it has been overcome and the planting has been completed, though a little later than in previous years. The recent rains have done much good to the crop.

PERSONAL.—Mr. A. M. K. Tampoe, i. c. s., Sub-Collector and Joint Magistrate, Madanapalle, who hails from Jaffna, is appointed to act as Collector and District Magistrate, Chingleput on Mr. J. F. Bryant's transfer to the Nalgiri district.

—“M. Mail”, March 18.

POLICE SPORTS, JAFFNA.—which took place at the Police Grounds, Esplanade, Jaffna, on the 23rd instant commencing at 2 p. m. was a great success. Those who attended to witness the function comprised the elite of the Jaffna Society. The Police Band from Colombo was in attendance and enlivened the occasion by discoursing sweet music. The sports which were of a various character were continued till 6 p. m. to the great enjoyment of the public. Miss Twynan distributed the prizes. The Tattoo which began at 9.15 p. m. and continued till 10.30 showed that the Jaffna Police have developed wonderful powers of performance in this feat also. The success of these sports are greatly due to Mr. W. A. I. Ekanayaka, Inspector of Police.

OFFICIAL.—The Hon'ble Mr. R. E. Stubbs, the Governor elect of Hongkong and Mr. E. B. Danham, Director of Education, Ceylon, leave Colombo for England on the 5th proximo.

COUNCIL LANGUAGE.—“Bengalee” writes.—At the last meeting of the Madras Legislative Council, the Hon'ble Mr. B. V. Narasimha Iyer sprang a surprise upon the Governor and the official and non-official European members by reading his speech in the Tamil language. The President Lord Pentland pointed out that as Tamil was not the official language in this Council, he must disallow the speech. But the Hon'ble Mr. Narasimha Iyer refused to speak in any other language except Tamil. The incident shows which way the wind of nationalist feeling in the country blows at present. But it illustrates at the same time that Lord Pentland has not been a diligent and careful reader to the Reforms Report drawn up by the Secretary of State and the Viceroy, which is such a valuable acquisition to the political literature of the country. If His Excellency consults the Reforms Report, he will find it distinctly stated that there is no reason why the proceedings of the Provincial Council should not be conducted in the language of the province. We should like to know whether Lord Pentland has taken a leaf out of the book of Lord Carmichael and learnt the Tamil language. The official members must, we presume, have at least nodding acquaintance. The European merchants and traders cannot be altogether ignorant of the language of the province. Lord Pentland might well have allowed the precedent before he shook the dust of the province off his feet. But he was inexorable. We believe a time is coming when the languages of the country are bound to receive official recognition in the Councils and the sooner it comes, the closer touch the Councils will have with the heart strings of the people.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL COMMISSIONER DUE IN JUNE.—The new Archaeological Commissioner, who is being selected by the professors at Home, is said to be arriving in Ceylon early in June. The Archaeological Survey will definitely be resumed when he comes. Government is not aware who the new Commissioner is or of the date of his arrival.

STRAITS AND CEYLON CURRENCY.—The public are reminded in the Government Gazette that the rate of issue of money orders issued in the Straits Settlements on India and Ceylon is Rs 152 equal \$100 plus 1 per cent commission, and that the rate of payment of money orders from India and Ceylon is Rs 160 equal \$100.

—“Straits Times”, March 8.

SINHALESE NOTARIES' EXAMINATION.—An examination of candidates qualifying to be Notaries to practice in Sinhalese began on the 20th instant at the S. C. Registry under the Council of Legal Education. Mr. F. C. Loos, Secretary of the Council, presided. Four candidates took up the examination.

RAILWAY ADVISORY BOARD.—The constitution of the Railway Advisory Board, has been altered, as follows:—Mr. Bernard Senior, Chairman, the General Manager of Railways, Messrs. J. Lochore and F. E. Mackwood, nominees of the Chamber of Commerce, Lieut. Col. T. Y. Wright, Planters' Association nominee, Mr. E. L. de Mel, C. B. E. Low-Country Products Association nominee, Mr. E. G. Adamaly, representative of Ceylonese trading interests. The Office Assistant to the G. M. R. will act as Secretary.

A STRANGE PHENOMENON.—Excitement was caused yesterday morning, among the Buddhists, &c., by the appearance of “Budu Ross” about the pinnacle of Mutiyangana Temple Dagoba. Hundreds came from all over town and suburbs to witness the rare vari-coloured streaks of light. The halo is said to be acknowledgement of holy Buddhist relics in that shrine. More probably it is due to the radiation of heat waves from the heated copper or brass of the pinnacles after rain.—Badulla Cor., March 18 “Ceylon Observer”.

Y. M. H. A. PETTAH.—The Second Annual General Meeting of this Association will be held in the library and reading rooms on Wednesday the 26th instant commencing from 6-30 p. m.

F. M. S. GANG ROBBERS.—Ipoh, March 10.—A gang robbery took place at Chenderiang at 1 a. m. on Sunday. It is reported that 100 robbers surrounded the Police Station, each one constable inside, looted a goldsmith's, also a pawnshop and a private house. The total booty is \$15,000. The details are not yet confirmed.—“Straits Times”.

TAMIL WEDDING IN IPOH.—A correspondent writes:—A pretty wedding took place on Monday last at Mr. Sheikh Adam's Bungalow, Silibin Road Ipoh, when Mr. A. Pasupathy, of the Posts and Telegraphs Department, F. M. S., was married to Miss K. Pakiam, sister-in-law of Mr. A. V. Moorthy, of the Ipoh Post Office. The marriage rites were performed in Hindu style by the Brahmin priest of the Chetty temple. The ceremony was fixed for 9 p. m. by which hour the bungalow, which was beautifully decorated with flags and bunting, was quite full. After the ceremony all present were treated to light refreshments. Lavish hospitality prevailed and the large gathering spent a very enjoyable time. The bridegroom is a brother of Mr. A. V. Moorthy and of Mr. A. T. Rajah, Chief Clerk of the Survey Office, Seremban, and a brother-in-law of Mr. P. Nagalingam, of the Supreme Court, Kuala Lumpur. Amongst those present were Doctors W. A. Rogers and S. Arasaratnam, Mr. and Mrs. J. V. Lambert, Mr. and Mrs. S. R. Arumugam, Mr. and Mrs. S. H. T. Welch, Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Osthriam Pillai, Mr. and Mrs. S. Subramaniam, and Messrs. S. Saminatha Pillai, S. Seenivasagam, S. Chelliah, S. Sabapathy, K. Kumarasamy and K. C. Thamby.

Y. M. H. A. PULOLY, POINT PEDRO.—Under the auspices of the above Association a public lecture was held on Friday 21st instant at 7 p. m. when Mr. A. S. Nagalingam, Paadit, delivered an interesting inspiring and instructive lecture in Tamil on “தமிழ்ச் சான்றிதழ் மதத்தொடர்பு”. In the course of his lecture he pointed out that the present degraded position of India and Ceylon is due to the lack of Vernacular Education which feeds those who seek after religion, philosophy, and commerce, and said that the principles relating to the admirable inventions of Germany were borrowed from India. He blamed those parents who send their children to Christian schools where the Hindu religion is criticised by the Christian teachers who know nothing of the Agamas or Suruthies and where the plastic minds of the youngsters are turned away from the right path. He asked them in the most appealing manner to send their children to Hindu Schools where Tamil is taught. He, having pointed out to the audience that there is an Ordinance to the effect that no student should be taught Scripture if the parents object, and having asked the parents to ward off the onslaught of the Missionaries, he resumed his seat. The meeting began and ended with the singing of Devaram.

—Cor.

Y. M. H. A. CENTRAL, BATTICALOA.

INAUGURATION OF A BRANCH ASSOCIATION AT NAVATKUDAH.

At a special meeting convened by Sri S. Ganagasabai Ayer and the Young Mens Hindu Association Batticaloa on Sunday the 16th, March 1919 at 5 p. m., in the premises of the Navatkudah Hindu Temple, a branch Association was organised with great enthusiasm. A very large number of Savites of the place and several members of the Central Y. M. H. A., including the Secretary, the Treasurer, and one of the Vice-Presidents were present. After the Secretary had briefly explained the objects of the Association and the rules of its constitution, Sri La Sri P. Siva Sarma Kurukkal was voted to be the chair and Mr. P. Subramaniam was elected Secretary pro-tem. Messrs. N. D. N. Masilamany, S. V. Theivanayakampillai, and N. C. Kasupathipillai strongly supported the movement and the meeting unanimously agreed to the formation of a branch Association at Navatkudah. The following gentlemen were elected Office-bearers for the current year. Directors Messrs. S. V. Theivanayakampillai, R. W. Seenithamby, N. C. Kasupathipillai, N. D. N. Masilamany, V. Sabapathipillai, Udayar, and S. Kanagasabai Ayer, Secretary Mr. K. Ponusamy, Asst. Secretary Mr. M. Kumaraiyah, Joint-Treasurers Messrs. N. Seenithamby and R. W. S. Velupillai, Committee Messrs. M. Kanapathipillai, N. K. Kulandaivloo, E. S. Santhirasekaram, S. Sinnathambay, K. Poopalpillai, P. Subramaniam, R. W. S. Retnam, A. Nagapper and C. Kadramathamby. The Chairman and Mr. K. Arunachalam then addressed the meeting on the great work they have before them calling on the Young men especially to be earnest and sincere in their work. The meeting came to a close at about 7.30 p. m. with the singing of Devaram. It is earnestly hoped that the Young Savites of other parts of the district will awake before long, and organise branch Associations in their centres.

—Cor.

KOCKUVIL Y. M. H. A.

The Second Annual General Meeting of the Kockuvil Y. M. H. A., was held on Sunday the 2nd instant at 5 p.m. at the Kockuvil Hindu English School Hall with Mr. E. Kandiah, B.A., in the chair. The Committee's report of their work during the past year having been read by the Secretary and approved, the following officers for the ensuing year were elected:—President: Mudaliyar S. Sabaratnam, J. P.; Vice-President: Messrs. E. Kandiah, B.A., E. Chelliah and A. Mudir. Somaskander; Secretary: Mr. A. Muttutambay; Treasurer: Mr. V. Nadarajah; Assistant Treasurer and Librarian: Mr. T. Chinnatambay; Committee Members: Messrs. V. Manickavasagan, K. Chellathurai, K. Chinnatampalam, K. Kandiah, E. Culantavolu, C. Sandrasegaram and N. Chellappah.

The rules of the Association revised by the Committee were then considered and adopted.

REPORT.

The Managing Committee beg to submit a short account of the work done by the Association during the year ended 31st December, 1918.

MEMBERSHIP.

The number of members on the Roll on 31st December, 1918, was 36 as against 26 at the end of the last year showing an increase of 10 members. To further increase the number of members the committee suggest that natives of the place who are employed in different parts of Ceylon and elsewhere should be invited to become associate members of the Association during the ensuing year.

Mr. A. Mallavaganam who was one of the Secretaries of the Association and an ardent worker, was transferred to Ratanpura in April 1918.

THE MANAGING COMMITTEE.

The Managing Committee met five times during the year and transacted the business of the Association.

THE ACTIVITIES OF THE ASSOCIATION.

During the year under review an attempt was made to extend the usefulness of the Association by holding public meetings in different centres in Kockuvil and Thavady, and the first of such meetings was held at the Nanthavai Amman temple, at which Mr. M. Sabaratnam Singhe, B.A., delivered a lecture in Tamil on the Greatness of the Saiva Religion.

One of the noteworthy achievements of the Association during the year is the opening of a Library and Reading Room for the use of its members.

The study of Peria Purana was also inaugurated under Pandit Somaskandapillai one of the Vice-Presidents of the Association and was conducted regularly every week; but with the outbreak of the Influenza Epidemic it was temporarily suspended. A Religious class also was added to the programme of work and although the class was actually held on two or three occasions it met with a premature death owing to the want of a teacher and the less interest evinced by the members.

The committee think that such a class will contribute materially to the study of religion and hope that during the ensuing year steps in this direction will be taken.

In pursuance of a resolution of the committee an attempt was made to collect funds for starting a Saivite Vernacular School at Kockuvil. An appeal was accordingly made to the Hindu Public impressing on them the paramount importance of such a school for imparting education to children on religious lines and a few have subscribed to the fund. The matter was however postponed for a more favourable time, when trade and the cost of necessities of life resume normal conditions.

MEETINGS AND LECTURES.

Ten ordinary meetings including meetings of the Literary Branch of the Association, and five public meetings were held during the year. At the public meetings lectures on important religious subjects were delivered by Messrs. C. Arulambalam, Advocate, E. K. Divasubramaniam, J. B. A., M. Sabaratnam Singhe, B.A., A. Mudir, Somaskandapillai, Pandit, and J. M. Nallasamy Pillai, B.A., B.L.

LIBRARY AND READING ROOM.

There are 139 books both literary and religious, donated by members and well-wishers and are placed at the disposal of the members.

The Association hitherto depended on the munificence of members and others for its supply of newspapers. While being thankful for these contributions, the committee suggest that the Association should subscribe to one or more papers from its funds. The committee also take this opportunity to observe that the members of the Association do not make much use of the Library.

FINANCE.

The Receipts on account of the subscriptions during the year amounted to Rs. 59/18 and the expenditure amounted to Rs. 57/34 leaving a balance of Rs. 1/84.

The committee beg to bring to the notice of members the poor financial state of the Association which largely contributed to the very little progress the Association has made and which requires immediate improvement by payment of arrears of subscriptions and by voluntary contributions.

CONCLUSION.

The committee feel that more useful work could have been done with greater enthusiasm and sympathy on the part of members in particular and the Hindu Public in General.

The committee beg to offer their grateful thanks to the gentlemen who have helped them in their work by lectures and donations of books &c.

For and on behalf of the Managing Committee

A. MUTTUTAMBAY, Secretary.

PUBLIC DINNER.

TO THE HON. MR. R. E. STUBBS.

H. E. THE GOVERNOR PRESIDENTS.

The farewell dinner to Mr. Stubbs by the public of Ceylon came off at the Galle Face Hotel last night. The management of the hotel served an excellent dinner. When it was over.

H. E. the Governor—proposed the toast of H. M. the King, which was drunk with enthusiasm.

The Hon. Mr. E. B. Williams—proposed the toast of H. E. the Governor, expressing thanks to H. E. the Governor for his presence there that night, and so kindly identifying himself so fully with themselves in that gathering.

The toast was drunk with enthusiasm.

His Excellency—replied.

The Hon. Mr. P. Ramanathan, K. C., C. M. G., senior Unofficial Member of the Legislative Council, then proposed the guest of the evening, the Hon. Mr. R. E. Stubbs.

The Hon. Mr. Stubbs—replied, and the gathering then broke up.

We regret we are unable to report the speeches on this interesting occasion. The Committee's arrangements for the Press, were—up to a late hour—such as no self-respecting newspaper could put up with. They involved extreme discourtesy to the profession, and were such as the promoters of the "Victory Dinner" and many another dinner in Ceylon never made, or would have thought of making. Though we protested during the afternoon, these plans were adhered to up to the time this office closed yesterday; and though at the last moment the decree was altered so that the Press should be accommodated in the dinner hall (and not outside) and at the main table, we were not informed until too late an hour for the instructions already given—that the dinner should not, under the arrangements, insisted on as unalterable, be reported—to be cancelled, and for the representative previously allocated to the work to be notified and to attend.

—The "Ceylon Observer," March 21.

SUBSCRIPTIONS RECEIVED IN AID OF THE FLOOD RELIEF FUND.

Table with 3 columns: Name, Rs., Cts. Includes entries like Previous received (18,527 43), Mudaliyar Naganather, J. P., U. P. M. (100 00), Hon. Treasurer, Tamil Union, Nuwara Eliya (100 00), Mr. S. Vijaratnam, Pekan (100 00), Mr. S. Vijaratnam, Pekan (2nd instalment) (40 00), The Ceylon Saiva Paripalana Sabal (842 80), Per Mr. E. J. Rajaratnam, Puttalam (130 00), Per Hon. Mr. A. Sapapathy from Port Swettenham (1000 00), Per Hon. Mr. A. Sapapathy from Kuala Kubu (597 80), Per Hon. Mr. A. Sapapathy from Tapah (2nd instalment) (500 00), Per Hon. Mr. A. Sapapathy remitted by Dr. S. Manikam of Pacit Buntar (266 60), The Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China, Penang (538 08), Per Mr. Nevins Selvadurai from Old boys, Hindu College (50 00), Per Mr. R. Seenivassagam, Hon. Secy. F. R. C. Kuala Lipis (599 81), The Tamil Union Nuwara Eliya (2nd instalment) (80 00), Per Mr. V. Sinnathurai, Vaddukoddi (150 00), Mr. A. Cathiravelu, J. P., U. P. M. (10 00), Per Hon. Mr. A. Sapapathy, Seremban (343 52), Per Hon. Mr. Sapapathy, Parit Buntar (2nd instalment) (66 65), The Kandy Tamil Association (2nd instalment) (500 00), Per Mr. V. Visuvalingam, Mannar (109 42), Per Hon. Mr. A. Sapapathy from Epop (2nd instalment) (820 00), Mr. S. Velanthan, North Siam (50 00), Mr. C. B. Thambiah, Jaffna (10 00), Per Dr. M. Intyre, Kuala Lumpur (2nd instalment) (1000 00), Per Mr. A. Canagaratnam, Editor, "Ceylon Patriot" collection made by Singapore F. R. C. (including 5000 Dollars contributed by the Govt. of Straits Settlements) (9743 63), A Sympthiser from Malay States (22 66), The Government of Federated Malay States (8750 00), Per Hon. Mr. A. Sapapathy from Malay States (13 83), Per Hon. Mr. A. Sapapathy from Klang (650 00), Mr. P. C. Nicholas Mudaliyar (5 00), Per Rev. Bro. Groussault O. M. I. (2nd instalment) (42 50), Messrs Sinnatambay and Sellamuttu's free gift of 50 bags of rice (1150 00), Total Rs. 46358 23.

(To be continued.) S. D. STANISLAUS, Secretary and Treasurer, Flood Relief Committee.

Local Board Office, 12th March 1919.

FURTHER EMPLOYMENT OF CEYLONESE IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE.

(Continued from our last issue.)

II.—TREASURY.

13. At the present time the Accountant and his two Assistants are all officers recruited in Europe or from other Colonies. We consider that at least the posts of the Assistants might be filled locally. We deal with this matter further in a later paragraph of this report, as also with the similar question of the Assistants in the Audit Department.

III.—PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

14. In the case of this Department, the question is not one of making use of the local material that exists, but of obtaining more local candidates qualified for appointment. The fact that the last five men appointed to be District Engineers have been natives of Ceylon shows that an open door is offered to local talent; what is needed is a larger supply of young men trained in Engineering.

IV.—IRRIGATION DEPARTMENT.

15. There is not a single Ceylonese among the Engineers of this Department, and we believe that there has not been one since the Department was constituted—a fact which is much to be regretted, as it would seem obvious that a department which is brought closely into touch with cultivators who are ignorant of English is essentially one in which the employment of natives of the country would be useful.

16. The impression appears to exist that this state of affairs is due to a deliberate policy of exclusion of non-Europeans. This is not the case; and the only reason for the absence of Ceylonese from this Department is the lack of any qualified candidates. It would appear that Ceylonese who have been trained as Engineers prefer to enter the Public Works Department; and in these circumstances, it does not seem possible to

suggest any remedy beyond that already indicated, of increasing the number of young men qualified as Engineers. We would advise, however, that careful consideration should be given to the possibility of promotion from the rank of Chief Irrigation Inspector to that of Engineer.

V.—SURVEY DEPARTMENT.

17. Our opening remarks on the Public Works Department apply equally to the Survey Department. In the case of this Department the question is not one of making use of the local material that exists, but of obtaining more local candidates qualified for appointments. These are at the present moment four Ceylonese in the Assistant Superintendents' Class. The last two vacancies have been filled by them. All these officers rose from the grades and passed the Final Senior Examination. The average time taken to reach this class was eighteen years.

18. Appointments to the higher branches of the Department are made from England, or locally by promotion out of the lower grades of the service.

(a) Appointments from England.—Candidates are selected, as a general rule, from those who hold University degrees, or have served an Engineering Apprenticeship, and after passing an entrance examination they receive a technical course of instruction at the Ordinance Survey Office at Southampton; they are then required to pass out on the subjects of the course, and are then appointed as Probationary Assistant Superintendents of Surveys on a three years' agreement by the Secretary of State.

(b) Local Appointments to the above class are made from those in the Grade Surveyors' Class, who qualify themselves by passing the Senior Departmental Examination, and are considered otherwise fitted to hold a supervising appointment.

19. As regards (a), the only suggestion we have to make is that these officers should be required to pass the technical subjects of the Departmental Senior Examination during the term of their agreements, and that, in addition before being placed on the Fixed Establishment, they should pass an examination in colloquial Sinhalese or Tamil. It is, and has been, open to any Ceylonese to qualify himself and obtain an appointment in this manner.

20. As regards (b), we suggest the adoption of the following system:—Candidates should be selected by a special Competitive examination, after which they would be admitted to the Survey Department Training School. On passing out of the school after one year's training, they should be appointed to be Probationers in the Survey Department, receiving the same rate of pay as Third Grade Surveyors. On his passing the Junior Examination, a Probationer's salary should be raised to the level of that of a Second Grade Surveyor, and he should be eligible to take up the Senior Examination, on passing which he should be entitled to the next vacancy in the Assistant Superintendent's Class, provided that his conduct has been satisfactory. The shortest period in which this appointment could be reached is three years. This may be considered equivalent to serving an apprenticeship, with the advantage that the local probationer is paid a salary from the time that he passes as a student.

21. If this system is adopted and proves a success, we suggest that a definite proportion of vacancies in the Assistant Superintendents' Class should be reserved for persons recruited locally. The proportion must depend on the number of qualified candidates who come forward, but we suggest that 50 per cent. should be regarded as the figure to be aimed at.

VI.—LAND SETTLEMENT DEPARTMENT.

22. The Settlement Officer and his principal Assistants are members of the Civil Service. This arrangement can on no account be altered, and, therefore the question of increased opportunities of employment for Ceylonese does not arise. There is, however, a class of Additional Assistant Settlement Officers, which now consists of three Europeans. At present the strength of the Settlement Department has been so reduced owing to the absence of Civil Servants on active service that the class of Additional Assistant Settlement Officers is larger than is necessary, since only one Additional Assistant is required for every three regular Assistants. It is, however, highly desirable that this Department should be brought up at least to its full former strength as soon as circumstances permit, and, if possible, should be increased so that the important work of land settlement may be completed within a reasonable period. When this is done, there will be occasion for the services of more Additional Assistants, and we consider that this affords a proper field for employment of Ceylonese, provided that suitable candidates can be obtained. We consider that such candidates might be found either in the higher ranks of the Clerical Service, or among the junior members of the legal profession.

VII.—FOREST DEPARTMENT.

23. The importance to Ceylon of its valuable forests makes it essential to employ fully qualified Forest Officers, and for such qualification a very high standard of technical training is required, for which reason the Department has in recent years been recruited in the same manner as the Imperial Forest Service of India, by the selection of candidates with a scientific education, who are then required to pass through the Forestry course at one of the English Universities. (The one exception since this system was introduced has been the appointment of Mr. A. B. Fontyn, who had served for nearly thirty years in the Department.)

24. This method of selection makes it difficult to obtain Ceylonese candidates, and it seems improbable that any will be obtainable, unless any of the Government Science Scholars are prepared to take up Forestry as a profession. We suggest, however, that, without abandoning this method of recruiting, which provides the highly trained officers who are necessary to the Department, a subsidiary method is possible, which would enable Ceylonese to enter the Department. We suggest the establishment of a class of Probationers selected from young men who have had a good school education in science. These Probationers should be required to work for two or three years as Foresters, in order to obtain a knowledge of the working of the Department, and then, if they show good prospects of becoming efficient Forestry Officers, should be seconded for a period of training at the Forestry Research Institute at Dabra Dun, on the lines laid down for the Indian Provincial Forest Service. A Probationer who has passed satisfactorily through this course at Dabra Dun should be appointed as Assistant Con-

MALAYA NEWS.

F. M. S. GOVERNMENT'S DONATION.—In response to an appeal made recently by Dr. E. T. Mac Intyre, M. D., President of the "Jaffna Flood Relief Fund" committee, to the Federated Malay States Government, a sum of five thousand dollars has been contributed out of the public funds. This amount has been cabled direct to the Ceylon Government.

The Ceylon Tamils of the F. M. S. desire to express their thankfulness to the Government for the sympathy shown in so practical a way by relieving the distress in Jaffna. —"M.M."

THE POWERS AT WORK.—The tendency of the civilised world more or less towards the establishment of universal brotherhood, democratic institutions and equitable claims in every sphere of life, has enslaved our mental vision, and young men of now-a-days think that in freely applying such principles to everything, they could raise themselves in the scale of modernism. No doubt, our Bhastras bear strong testimony in this respect and that too with double force. Are we going to meddle with it until another generation comes to take the lead, or make use of the powers that are conferred on us under the guidance of Divine Providence? This question comes from a particular class of people whose knowledge of our past and present history seems to be onerous. If we study the conditions of our society we find three factors working in it to bring about some sort of permanent adjustment with modern conditions of life. First, the conservative factor, comprising people who are never willing to leave old grooves, unless very much forced to do so; secondly, the progressive factor or the party of progress, who are impatient to bring society into line with the modern world; thirdly, the circumspensive factor, or cautious people who are suspicious of modernism. Whether these factors are necessary to foster healthy development in collective life is another question. A harmonisation in this direction is urgently needed. We are not what we were and we shall not be what we are. Time alone can work out this harmonisation.

THE CEYLON ASSOCIATION.—The Ceylon Association, Taiping, held its 18th Annual General meeting on Thursday the 27th ultimo. The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, the president, in a short speech, emphasised the necessity of supporting such a national organisation which has been rendering very great and valuable services to the Ceylonese community.

Then the election of office-bearers for the ensuing year took place. The important feature of the day was the rising in strength of the members of the liberal school. The self-sacrificing spirit manifested in the utterances of the Hon. Secretary must inspire all of us for further activities, because there is no man so weak, so selfish as not to think that in the service of the motherland, his joy is greater than all personal joys.

MY LETTER TO "A NEW-COMER".—While agreeing with your correspondent who wrote in your issue of the 20th ultimo about the importance of promoting unity among the Jaffnese of Taiping and about the necessity of affording relief to our distressed countrymen in Jaffna, I take leave to differ from him when he questions the absence in this beautiful city of a Hindu Temple. I say without fear of being contradicted that there are exactly half a dozen Temples. It would be the height of madness if we do not take into consideration the practical side of the question. What is the use of multiplying Temples? Have we lost all our common sense?

Your correspondent thinks that the Taiping Jaffnese are wanting in public spiritedness to form the vanguard of communal progress. True, we have here neither a Gokhale nor a Ghandi. But there are many eager and enthusiastic gentlemen of ripe experience, who wish to join hands with the youngsters and whose services have not, so far been secured. His knowledge of the Y. M. H. A. and Y. M. L. A. is limited. They are organisations, solely intended for the mental, moral and spiritual culture of juvenile members. In my humble opinion the success or the failure of the Y. M. H. A. depends both in our mode of talk and in our method of work. However, we cannot avoid the truth. The Y. M. H. A. is too pugnaciously respectable. Some have even objected that even among the younger ranks there is too much of "youthful presumption." Well, let it go.

Your correspondent passes some severe strictures on certain phases of the Jaffnese character. May I add one more? Self-deprecation, and want of self-confidence have been the cause of our degeneration. He will, therefore, do well to give up a little of this virtue.

GENERAL.—Among the many Tamil novels published in Malaya "Baba Subramaniam" is one. The title is in itself pure, simple, and above all, sacred. Moreover, the semi-identification of the novel with the author is a thing to be admired. It will be of some use to the readers of the "Hindu Organ", if I mention the truth which the novel professes to teach. From the beginning to the end, it displays a sort of sarcastical allusion of literary transaction, and falls short of expectation when it begins to describe something against the high character of the Jaffnese.

"Disunion among Jaffna Tamils in Taiping." We find more to disprove in the foregoing. We do not say Colombo Tamils, Batticaloa Tamils, Trincomalee Tamils or Jaffna Tamil; but we do say Ceylon Tamils and Indian Tamils and often by the general appellation of Tamil. We can even say Jaffnese, but not Jaffna Tamils. Is this union?

—What is the best Government? That which teaches us to govern ourselves.

—At a committee meeting of the "Selangore Ceylon Tamil Association, it was unanimously decided to raise fund for the purpose of awarding scholarships to students of the proposed technical school.

Taiping, 12-3-19.

NEWSMAN.

servator of Forests on his return to Ceylon. In order to encourage good work, and to fit Ceylonese of this class for the highest appointments in the Department, we suggested further that an officer who has shown exceptional capacity might, after a short period of service as Assistant Conservator, be given special leave to enable him to obtain a Diploma of Forestry at an English University.

(To be continued.)

—The Ceylon Observer, March 12.

TELEGRAPHIC SUMMARY.

The War.

THE PEACE CONFERENCE.

London, March 10.

Paris.—Belgium's claim against Germany has been submitted to the Reparation Commission. It amounts to between 14 and 16 hundred million sterling.

Paris.—Admiral Wemyss, who has been entrusted with full powers, has gone to Brussels to meet the German Ambassadors. It is stated that the British are now willing to permit France and Italy to retain their allotment of the surrendered German battleships, but Britain is prepared to sink her own share in order to relieve America of the necessity of carrying out the projected Naval programme under which she would have to spend one thousand million dollars in order to keep her relative place in the world's Navies.

London, March 11.

H. H. the Pope has appealed to the Allies, urging a speedy Peace not humiliating to Germany in order to prevent the creation of a Bolshevik Germany.

London, March —

Paris.—The question of the German Colonies is in abeyance, as the efforts of Conference are concentrated on the settlement of the Preliminary Peace terms. In view of the statements in the French Press forecasting the destiny of the Colonies it is well to recall that provisional decisions so far have been reached only as regards South West Africa, which has been assigned to the South African Union; New Guinea, which has been assigned to Australia; and Samoa, which has been assigned to New Zealand. Concerning the other Pacific Islands there is no indication that the Australians and Japanese have abated their claims, but it is certain that if Japan's case is upheld, as appears probable, much will be done to frame mandates to allay Australian fears. The Japanese appear willing to accept the mandates containing most definite restrictions regarding the naval and military uses of the islands.

London, March 11.

Paris, March 10.—The Supreme Council has decided that Germany be permitted to retain an Army of only 100,000 recruited voluntarily, for 12 years' service, with a definitely fixed armament, but no tanks. She will not be permitted to have an air fleet, and may retain only 15,000 sailors. She will be allowed to keep a few aeroplanes and stocks of material, and munitions in excess of the stipulated quantity must be destroyed and not replaced. It is understood that the report of the Responsibilities Committee recognises the point of view that under the present International Law the Kaiser cannot be tried, however clear his guilt, and suggests that the Conference be entitled to create a Tribunal to try the originators of the War. The report finds no obstacle in International Law to the trial and punishment of the perpetrators of criminal acts in their conduct of the War.

London, March 12.

The papers acclaim the Council's decision to abolish Conscription in Germany as being the most notable episode in the history of the Peace Conference, and a triumph for Mr. Lloyd George. The "Daily Telegraph" says: Till a few days ago nothing so bold and decisive was contemplated. It is the work of one man, and if he had not been the British Premier at this moment this chance would have been missed. The "Daily Chronicle" says:—There is now no risk of perpetuating Conscription in Britain or the United States. We cannot suppose that France and Italy care to cumber themselves indefinitely with Conscription. The "Daily Mail" says:—This is the greatest practical step yet taken towards the discouragement of War. The "Star" says:—The chief credit for this immeasurable human blessing is due to Mr. Lloyd George.

Paris.—The "Temps" states that the prevailing opinion in official circles is that the following will be the allocation of the mandates for the German Colonies:—France for the major part of the Cameroons and Togoland; Great Britain for German East Africa while German South-West Africa will likely be attached to the Union of South Africa. Japan will probably keep the German islands North of the equator, Australia excepting those in the Southern hemisphere having Samoa, which will be attributed to New Zealand.

London, March 15.

Paris.—The Commission on Responsibility for the War has come to the conclusion that the whole conduct of those who planned the War was so outrageous that the Peace Conference might consider the desirability of creating special machinery to deal with them. It declares that no consideration of rank will interfere with justice.

London, March 14.

A telegram from Brussels, dated yesterday, says that Admiral Wemyss has arrived. There will be no discussion at the meeting with the German delegates relative to shipping, at which Admiral Wemyss alone will speak.

RUSSIA.

London, March 8.

Tokio.—Two companies of Japanese infantry and a battery of artillery engaged a Bolshevik force ten times as strong on Feb. 28th North of Alexievsk. After severe fighting the Japanese were practically annihilated. 500 Bolsheviks were killed and wounded. The Japanese defeated a strong Bolshevik detachment on Feb. 28th West of Blagovestchensk.

AMERICAN SOLDIERS' RIOT.

London, March 10.

Twice after the arrest of the dice-players a crowd of American soldiers and sailors and others, each time larger, tried to force an entry into Bow Street Police Station, but were driven back by baton charges. The injured included two American Military Policemen, who were truncheoned when they drew their revolvers to restore order as the constables misunderstood their status and intentions. This incensed the crowd which was already angry at the arrest for indulging in a pastime which is not unlawful in the United States. The American authorities are convening a Board of Inquiry. Eleven of the arrested American soldiers and sailors will be brought before an American court-martial. A number of policemen who charged were blue War chevrons. (Later) The American Service men who were arrested have been handed over to the American

authorities. Four British subjects and Canadians were charged at Bow Street. Two were fined forty shillings for obstructing the police and the others were remanded.

GERMANY.

London, March 10.

Berne.—A telegram from Weimar says that the report of the Government crisis is unfounded. German newspapers state that Scheidemann and Brockdorff and Rantau, though not upholding the same policy, have reached an agreement. Rantau desires passive resistance against the Allies, while Scheidemann is willing to accept the Allied Peace terms.

London, March 11.

Berlin, March 9.—It is expected that work will be generally resumed on Monday. Government troops are masters of the situation, driving back the Spartacists street by street to the East End, but there is still desultory shooting and bombing in the centre of the city where the Spartacists have reached the Central Telegraph Office. The suppression of the revolt has produced an illusory impression of relief which is only temporary.

Paris.—A message from Zurich states that the Government troops have captured Leipzig from the Spartacists.

London, March 12.

Copenhagen.—A message from Berlin, dated the 10th, states that Lichtenberg's Police President, Baron Salmuth, escaped shooting by heavily firing the Spartacists. He states that over 150 people were massacred in Lichtenberg, and that the Spartacists obtained an entry into the Post Office which was strongly garrisoned, after a three-hour bombardment, by trickery. They thereupon disarmed and shot the garrison, but released Postal officials. In Berlin Governmental cavalry captured a Spartacist nest near Michael Church taking 100 prisoners, thirty of whom were summarily shot. The remaining Spartacists who are at present holding out are entrenched in the gardens, cellars and barns, and number about 8,000. They have been broken up into small parties of 10 to 25. The newspapers declare that Government troops are expected to enter Lichtenberg on March 11th.

London, March 9.

Paris.—The Government Agents, who have just returned from a month's tour in Germany, where they investigated the food situation and consequent spread of Bolshevism, have reported that the conditions in Prussia and Saxony are very serious. The Russians are regarded as liberators and the possibility of a junction of German and Russian forces on the East front is regarded as in no way remote. Hindenburg's Army, which is nearly 200,000 strong, would be more than sufficient to check Bolshevik dangers if the troops are not already impregnated with Bolshevism. But there is not a single solid Regiment in Germany. The report attributes the spread of Spartacism in Germany to the fact that the Bolsheviks promise food which, the report says, must certainly be sent to Germany (if Bolshevism is to be suppressed). The report suggests that another heavy blow to Bolshevik propaganda would be struck if the Entente forbade any Bank outside Russia to accept roubles for a certain period. The Spartacists would then soon find their funds running short. German business men profess readiness to accept any conditions rather than fall into the hands of the Bolsheviks, but all non-Bolshevik Parties urge the necessity for immediate assistance to (by?) the Entente.

London, March 11.

Copenhagen.—A telegram from Berlin states that furious fighting is still going on. Government troops are methodically surrounding the Spartacists who are well armed and well supported by the people, and still hold many buildings. Government troops are using artillery directed by aeroplanes which are dropping bombs and killing many innocent people. Both sides are killing their prisoners. Women are participating in the orgy of cruelty. Red Cross ambulances are frequently stopped and the wounded thrown out, shot or beaten to death.

London, March 10.

Correspondents in Berlin describe Saturday's air bombing of the Spartacists as worse than any of the London or Paris air raids. Bombs of high explosives were dropped chiefly on Spartacist nests in the underground stations, several of which were destroyed. Huge rainthrowers throwing a ton shell are also used on both sides. Fighting planes cleared the house-tops of the machine-gun nests, flying within 150 feet of the roofs. Aeroplanes dropped food and ammunition on the police, relieving the Government defenders, when desperate under a hail of Spartacist tear bombs, enabling them to hold out until air bombs and howitzer shells smashed the Underground tunnel and subway, annihilating the Spartacist reinforcements.

London, March 13.

Copenhagen.—A telegram from Berlin dated the 12th, says that Government troops have occupied the East end of the city, including the suburbs of Lichtenberg after lively fighting. A considerable quantity of arms was captured. The losses among the Government troops were not heavy. Cases of brutal cruelty by the Spartacists are fully confirmed.

London, March 15.

Bale.—A telegram from Offenburg says that the Food Control Commission on arriving at the village of Windesbaeg was met by a crowd of peasants armed with pitchforks, etc., and was forced to take refuge in the Town Hall. The arrival of troops prevented further disorders. After parleys the Commission was allowed to depart from Innsbruck (sic). A Soviet for Tyrol has been established.

London, March 14.

The seriousness of the situation in Berlin is indicated by accounts of processions of middle-class fugitives with their belongings in wagons fleeing to safer districts. This is the first time Berlin has seen such sights.

London, March 15.

Brussels.—The Germans have agreed to the Allied conditions regarding the surrender of the German merchant fleet.

London, March 15.

Paris.—Germany will pay for the food supplied by gold and the receipts derived from the exportation of certain permitted products. A Control Board of Exports is being established, probably at Rotterdam. Permission to resume North Sea fishing is being given, and steps are being taken to modify the blockade.

Copenhagen.—A telegram from Berlin says that in order to prevent the country being flooded with smuggled Russian money, which the Sparta-

cists are lavishly supplied, the National Assembly has hurriedly passed a Bill forbidding business in Russian money except through the Imperial Bank.

London, March 15.

Copenhagen.—A telegram from Berlin says that Count Bernstorff deputised for Brockdorff and Rantau at the meeting at the Ministry of Finance to discuss the German aims at the Peace Conference. He said that Colonial and Labour questions would probably be the first items for discussion at the Conference. He emphasized Government's strict insistence on Dr. Wilson's principles.

Copenhagen.—A telegram from Berlin dated the 13th, says that according to the Vorwarts, Military experts expect that a Bolshevik Army a few weeks hence will try to cross the East Prussian frontiers, hoping to find food in East Prussia. Many newspapers consider that the Bolshevik danger cannot be exaggerated in view of the Red Army's discipline weakening in Germany through Spartacism.

CHINA.

London, March 8.

Shanghai.—The Peace Conference between North and South China has come to a deadlock. South China demands the cessation of operations in Shensi and the dismissal of the Governor.

EGYPTIAN NATIONALISTS DEPORTED.

London, March 13.

Four prominent Egyptian Nationalists, including two ex-Ministers, are being deported to Malta on a charge of conducting an anti-British agitation.

WAR STILL COSTING 5½ MILLIONS A DAY.

Allahabad, March 20.

A "Pioneer" special cable dated London, March 7th says:—Although fighting ceased nearly four months ago Government is still issuing War bonds. The country is still living far beyond its means. When the Armistice was signed the War was costing seven millions daily. It is now costing 5½ millions. The Army provided by the Bill now before Parliament will cost in the next financial year £440 millions, and although the appropriations in aid reduce the estimates the House of Commons is asked to sanction £287 millions. The total cost of the South African war was three quarters of this sum. The Civil Service estimates amount to £500 millions, the Navy estimates to £149 millions. The total sum for which Mr. Chamberlain will have to budget has been estimated as high as £1,500 millions. The present basis of taxation would not provide much more than half this, even if the excess profits tax is retained unaltered. Moreover Government is now creating two new Ministries of Health and Communications which must cost more millions.

BRITISH NAVAL STRENGTH.

London, March 15.

Paris.—A meeting of the British Empire delegates discussed the League of Nations covenant as affecting British Naval needs. It was agreed that in fixing the future Naval armaments the defensive needs of the scattered British Empire could be adequately met only on a pre-War proportion of the strength of the British Navy to other navies.

—The Ceylon Observer.

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