

representing 25,933 scholars (19,929 and 6,054 girls), showing a decrease of 30 schools and an increase of 2,706 scholars. It is encouraging to note that, while the average enrolment of scholars in Government schools is 93 and in grant-in-aid schools 82, the figures fall to 40 in private schools and to 4 only in pansala schools. The average cost per head to the revenue of each boy in a Government school was Rs. 4.91 during 1895, as compared with Rs. 4.89 in 1894, while the average cost of each girl in a Government school was Rs 3.65, as against Rs. 3.69 in 1894. In grant-in-aid schools each scholar cost the Government Rs. 5.10 in 1895 as compared with Rs. 2.97 in 1894.

The marked progress education has made in Ceylon during the last quarter of a century

is judged from the fact that in 1870, when the grant-in-aid system was introduced, there were but 150 Government school's representing 826 scholars and 2 grant-in-aid schools with 8201 scholars. The amount of grant earned by schools in 1870 was Rs. 34,355 as against Rs. 279,870 in 1895. There were during the year under review 808 Government, Aided, and Un-aided school, in the Western Province, 567 in the Central Province, 476 in the Northern Province, 618 in the Southern Province, 202 in the Eastern Province, 711 in the North-Western Province, 98 in the North-Central Province, 232 in the Uva Province, and 103 in the Province of Sabaragamuwa; and the proportion of children under instruction to population was respectively for those Provinces 1 in 11, 1 in 25, 1 in 11, 1 in 17, 1 in 18, 1 in 31, 1 in 38, 1 in 45, and 1 in 35. It is worthy of remark that out of 477 Government schools there was not one school in the Northern Province, all of them being distributed in the other Provinces — 213 in the Western Province, 59 in the Central Province, 75 in the Southern Province, 9 in the Eastern Province, 27 in the North-Western Province, 14 in the North-Central Province, 10 in the Uva Province, and 70 in the Province of Sabaragamuwa.

The amount voted for the service of the Department of Public Instruction in 1895 was Rs. 645,578 and the actual expenditure was Rs. 632,819.

There were 350 grant in-aid schools in the Northern Province,—20 English schools, 5 Anglo-Vernacular schools and 325 Vernacular schools. Of these 68 belonged to the Church of England, 63 to the Roman Catholic Mission, 50 to the Wesleyan Mission, 136 to the American Mission, 3 to Independent Catholic, and 30 under private Management,

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

THE WEATHER—Rain still proves tantalizing. Except for some drizzles on one or two occasions, it may be said that no rain has fallen here during the year. Such a prolonged drought as the present one is almost unprecedented. Our fields are still unploughed and unsown, although this is the time of weeding. The prospects of the paddy crop are indeed very gloomy. Not a blade of grass is to be seen anywhere. The price of straw has risen considerably. Reports reach us of the miserable condition of cattle in all parts of the District and it is said that a large number of them is dying in certain parts. Our ponds and tanks have become entirely dried up, and water in our wells runs short. Cultivators complain that there is not sufficient water in the wells of their gardens to water the plants in them. If rain holds off for another fortnight all hopes of paddy cultivation in Jaffna this year must be given up, not to speak of the devastation which this drought is causing and will further cause on trees and plantations here.

Matrimonial—The marriage of Mr. S. Thambiah Pillai Proctor of the District Court, and eldest son of Dr T. Sivapragasam Pillai of Vannarponnai, with Miss Muttuswamy, third daughter of Mr. S. Muttuswamy, the well-known landed proprietor of Puttoor, took place on Friday the 11th instant. A large number of friends and relations accompanied the bridegroom from his house at Vannarponnai to Puttoor where the nuptial ceremonies were performed at 2 P.M. according to the Hindu rites. The bride and bridegroom returned to Vannarponnai the same evening, and for four days friends from different parts of Jaffna called at the bridegroom's house and offered their congratulations to them. We tender our hearty congratulations to the happy pair and wish them long life and happiness.

The Jaffna Commercial Corporation—This has been launched into existence under the happiest and most encouraging circumstances. The opening ceremony on the 8th instant was

a success. The Government Agent, the District Judge, a large number of people representing the wealth and intelligence of the District was present testifying to the interest all classes of people here take in the promotion and success of this institution. A Bank has been the crying want of Jaffna, and we hope that the Jaffna Commercial Corporation will supply this want. Great credit is due to Mr. Mather and other gentlemen who have successfully floated this company and opened it for business. We understand that more than 700 shares out of the 1000 shares of the company have been already subscribed for. Young Jaffna—Dr. Chelliah Panl, son of Dr. William Paul of the Jaffna F. N. S. Hospital, has returned to Jaffna after a most successful and brilliant career in the Medical College Madras. He has carried the Gold Medal of the year for distinguished success in the M.B.C. & C. M. Examination and also several Prizes. We hope he has a bright future before him.

The Jaffna District Court—Ellankainaya Mudaliyar, Interpreter of this Court who was called upon to retire from the 15th instant and was on full pay leave up to that date, resumed duties yesterday, the Government having failed to appoint a successor to him. It is believed that the amalgamation of the District Court and the Police Court of Jaffna is under the consideration of the Government, and till that is done no new Interpreter will be appointed for the District Court.

The Supreme Court—The Criminal Sessions will be opened here on the 18th instant. There are six cases on the calendar. The officers of the Supreme Court composed of Mr. Browne, Commissioner of Azize, Mr. Swan Registrar, Mr. Prins Private Secretary, Mr. Senathiraja acting Crown prosecutor and Mr. Kailasapillai Tamil Interpreter arrived here today from Trincomalee by the Lady Havelock.

The Post Master General—Mr. Pennycock and his assistant Mr. Vane are expected to arrive here shortly on a tour of inspection. We hope they will recognise the claims of Vannarponnai for a regular Post Office, instead of the Receiving Office which was opened here in the beginning of this year. They will see by the number of letters now posted in this office that it will be, if converted into a Post Office, second in importance only to the central Office in the Town, amongst the Post Offices of the Jaffna District.

Personal—Mr. Van Houten, Assistant Superintendent of Police and Deputy Fiscal has returned to Jaffna from Colombo on the expiration of his leave. It is only right to say that Messrs. Murugaso and Thambipillai, as his locum tenens in the Fiscal's Office performed their duties satisfactorily.

—Dr. Ebell, Assistant Colonial Surgeon also has returned to Jaffna, and taken charge of his duties, relieving Dr. Candyah who was acting for him.

The Governor—His Excellency Sir Joseph West Ridgeway is now on a visit to the Southern Province. He has been accorded everywhere a right loyal welcome. It is said that His Excellency's next tour will be to the Northern Province soon after the close of the approaching session of the Legislative Council. He will, we feel sure receive a most hearty welcome from the inhabitants here.

Tobacco—Contrary to the general expectation the merchants are now purchasing tobacco here in right good earnest. This is owing not to any rise in the price of Jaffna tobacco in the Travancore market, but to the belief that the outturn of this year's crop here is below the average. Though the area cultivated with tobacco this year was more than the area cultivated in previous years, yet it is estimated that the outturn will be nearly two thousand candies less than in 1895. The price paid here now is, however, less than the price in the two previous years.

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RAMBLING NOTES.

I congratulate the Jaffnese for having a Bank of their own at last. The opening ceremony was enlivened by the presence of Messrs. Ivers and Cameron. Mr. Cameron was the first to open an account in the new Bank.

The vast number of people present and the interest they took in the new venture on the opening day portends a successful future for this undertaking. Whatever it may be, to make the bank really a financial success and to give it the "guarantees of stability and general utility" much depends on the managing director. I hope Mr. Mather, whose business qual-

ifications are well known, will realise the expectation of the people.

A correspondent signing himself "a pedestrian" writes to the J. C. Guardian complaining of aather accusing the Government for not allowing the Resthouses situated along the Central Road to be used by the weary passers by. He says that the Resthouses seems to have been built only for the rich and not for the poor. It is not so. Rest houses are intended for every body who pays their charges whether they are rich or not. That is, NOT for those who CAN AFFORD TO PAY but to THOSE WHO PAY the charges. And he concludes his letter by mentioning that MADAMS should be built along the Road for the convenience of the passengers who go by cart or otherwise. In this I am quite at one with the correspondent, as I know the amount of difficulty the passengers are put to for not having halting places in the way.

SWAMI VIVEKANANDA IN LONDON.

(continued from our last issue)

(INDIA)

"I suppose a Hindu could never persecute."

"He never yet has done so; he is the most tolerant of all the races of men. Considering how profoundly religious he is, one might have thought that he would persecute those who believe in no God. The Jains regard such belief as sheer delusion; yet no Jain has ever been persecuted. In India the Mohomedans were the first who ever took the sword."

"What progress does the doctrine of essential unity make in England? Here we have a thousand sects."

"They must gradually disappear as liberty and knowledge increase. They are founded on the non-essential, which by the nature of things cannot survive. The sects have served their purpose, which was that of an exclusive brotherhood on lines comprehended by those within it. Gradually we reach the idea of universal brotherhood by flinging down the walls of partition which separate such aggregations of individuals. In England the work proceeds slowly, possibly because the time is not more than ripe for it; but all the same, it makes progress. Let me call your attention to the similar work that England is engaged upon in India. Modern caste distinction is a barrier to India's progress. It narrows, restricts, separates. It will crumble before the advance of ideas."

"Yet some Englishmen, and they are not the least sympathetic to India, nor the most ignorant of her history, regard caste as in the main beneficial. One may easily be too much Europeanised. You yourself condemn my of our ideals as materialistic."

"True. No reasonable person aims at assimilating India to England; the body is made by the thought atiles behind it. The body politic is thus the expression of national thought and in India of thousands years of thought. To Europeanise India is therefore impossible and foolish task; the elements of progress are always actively present in India. As soon as a useful government was there, these have always been themselves. From the time of the Upanishads to the present day nearly all our great teachers wanted to break through the barriers of caste, caste in its degenerate state, not the original em. What little good you see in the present caste is to it from the original caste, which was the most social institution. Buddha tried to re-establish in its original form. At every period of India's history, there have always been great efforts made to break down caste. But it must always be we who help to build her up again. It is a great and continuation of past, assimilating helpful foreign ideas wherever they may be found. Never can it be they; growth must come from within. All that England can do is to help India to work out her own salvation. All progress is the dictation of another, whose hand is at India's throat, is valueless, in my opinion. The highest work is degenerate when slave labour produces it."

"Have you given any attention to the Indian National Congress?"

"I do not claim to have given much; my work is in another part of the field. But I regard the movement as significant, and heartily wish it success. A nation is being made out of India's different races. I sometimes think they are no less various than the different peoples of Europe. In the past, Europe has struggled for India's trade, a trade which has played a tremendous part in the civilisation of the world; its acquisition might almost be called a turning-point in the history of humanity. We see the Dutch, Portuguese, French, and English contending for it in succession. The discovery of America may be traced to the indemnification the Venetians sought in the far distant West for the loss they suffered in the East."

"Where will it end?"

"It will certainly end in the working out of India's homogeneity, in her acquiring what we may call democratic ideas. Intelligence must not remain the monopoly of the cultured few; it will be disseminated from higher to lower classes. Education is coming and compulsory education will follow. The immense power of our people for work must be utilised. India's potentialities are great, and will be called forth."

The Swami is a man of distinguished appearance. Tall, broad, with fine features enhanced by his picturesque Eastern dress, his personality is very striking. Swami is a title meaning master; Vivekananda is an assumed name implying the bliss of discrimination. By birth, he is a Bengali, and by education, a graduate of Calcutta University. The Swami has taken the vow of Sanyasa, renunciation of all property, position, and name. His gifts as an orator are high. He can speak for an hour and a half without a note, or the slightest pause for a word. Towards the end of September his lectures at St. George's Road will be resumed for a few weeks before his departure for Calcutta.

C. S. B.