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## The Hindu Organ.

JAFFNA, THURSDAY, APRIL 5, 1917.

### EDUCATION OF THE HINDU PRIESTHOOD AND THE NEED OF AN ORIENTAL COLLEGE IN JAFFNA.

Among the reforms that have been engaging the attention of those who are working for the Hindu revival movement in India, the reform of the Hindu Priesthood is one of the most important. It has been recognized that education should be the lever with which the intellectual and spiritual status of the priests could be elevated, and accordingly, Hindu leaders and Hindu ruling princes have set about to organize schemes and measures to facilitate this object. In the Benares Hindu University, a Faculty of Hindu Theology has been organized and it is supported by large special endowments to provide education in higher Sanskrit studies and Hindu Shastras. The Board of Sanskrit studies in Bengal of which Sir Ashtutosh Mukherjee is the President, holds annual examinations and grants degrees and medals to the successful candidates. The Board receives a large financial subsidy from the Government, and very often the Governor of Bengal takes such a keen interest in the institution that he himself presides over its annual convocation and addresses encouraging words to the candidates. The Hindu students who receive their education in the many Sanskrit Colleges affiliated to this Board are generally aspirants to the priestly order. Similar facilities are provided in many other parts of India for the higher education of Hindu priests. Organizations of Religious Communities, Heads of Mutts and leading Hindu Temples, take a prominent part in this work. In many of the Hindu states, notably in Baroda, the education of the Hindu priesthood is attended to in a systematic manner.

Turning now our attention to our own island, we find that our Buddhist brethren have made better provisions for the education of Buddhist priests. The Vidyaaya Oriental College in Colombo conducted by Ven'ble Sri Gnanasara, High Priest, and the two or three other Oriental Colleges conducted by Buddhist Priests, afford facilities to priest students to acquire higher Theological education. These Buddhist Colleges receive annual Grants from the Government and an annual examination is held and diplomas granted to successful candidates. There are several Buddhist Priests who are well educated in their religious lore and take a lively interest in guiding the spiritual progress and religious interests of the laity. The Government too, recognizes the worth and abilities of the leading Buddhist Priests and pay them equal respect with the ecclesiastical dignitaries of the Christian Churches, in all State functions. There is still vast room for improvement among the Buddhist Clergy and we are gratified to note that our Buddhist brethren are alive to these defects and are working to remedy them. The Clergy or the Sangha is still in an unorganized state and efforts must be made to organize them under a central ecclesiastical authority with power to ordain priests and to admit or expel members and to exercise disciplinary measures calculated to elevate the status of the priesthood.

We have been lead to make the foregoing introductory observations on the subject principally with the object of impressing its importance on the attention of our readers. Improvement of the priesthood has engaged the attention of the Hindu public for a long time in the past. Sri la Sri Arutunga Navalar succeeded in his time in effecting several important reforms in this direction. About the time the Jaffna Hindu College was founded by the Saiva Paripalana Sabai, about twenty-five years ago, a Priests' Class also was started in the College with the object of educating and training Hindu Saiva Priests, both of the Brahman and Saiva Vellala castes. The students were taught and fed free of charge. The class was continued for about two years but ultimately it had to be given up for want of financial support. Ever since that time the subject has been engaging the attention of the public. Quite recently, letters on the subject of

Priests' reform from the pen of two prominent Hindu workers, appeared in our columns and awakened considerable public interest. Classes for Hindu priest students are now conducted by the Chief Priests of the Maviddapuram Kandaswamy Temple and the Keerimalai Nankuleswarar Temple as well as in the Saivite Vernacular Schools at Vannarpannai, Neervely and other places. But the education imparted in these institutions are not of a high order. An efficiently staffed Oriental College, imparting higher education in Tamil and Sanskrit, on Saiva lines, so as to qualify candidates for the Saiva priesthood is, therefore, an important condition for the improvement of our priesthood. We earnestly hope, the want will soon be supplied.

### THE RELIGION OF THE ANCIENT TAMILS.

(By S. Sabaratnam Mudaliyar.)

ARYAN VIEW.

PART THIRD.

CHAPTER XXXII.

NORTHERN HINDUISM.

The Aryan view, or more correctly, the South Indian Brahminic view of the religion of the Tamils, is itself greatly misleading. The Brahmins of South India, especially the Smartha Brahmins, are votaries of the Aryan form of the Hindu religion, and if one would converse with one of them for a few minutes, he will be able to find out at once how contemptuously they look down upon the Tamils and their religion. Although these Brahmins are themselves Davidians, although the religion of the Tamils fully recognizes the importance of the Vedas and are based wholly on the Sanskrit Agamas, and although these Brahmins claim the right to officiate as priests in the temples of South India which would not have been brought into existence if not for the Agamas, still they despise the religion of the Tamils and even the Agamas on which the religion is based—and the reason is not far to seek. Sanskrit being the language used in all religious rites and ceremonies, and Sanskrit being more akin to the North Indian dialects than to those of South India, these Brahmins think that they should be aided by the North Indian cult in all their religious persuasions. But they do not seem to realize the fact that in the North, the higher form of the religion has almost become extinct, and only the portions relating to material gains are retained there.

The religion of the Tamils draws largely from the Gnanakanda or the Upanishat portions of the Vedas which are amplified and systematised in the Agamas. Very little is known of these Agamas at present in the North, and if the North Indians have any idea of the Agamas, it is only a misconceived idea that they are identical with what are known there as Tantras. Of course the Agamas are also known as Tantras, but the Tantras that are known in North India are the objectionable Vama Tantras which have nothing in common with the Saiva Agamas upon which the religion of the Tamils is based.

These Saiva Agamas cannot, however, be said to be entirely foreign to North India, although they are not known there at present. The Vedanta Sutras of Badarayana clearly indicate the existence of these Agamas long before the time of the Sutras, and it is said that "the earliest concretion of the Agamic doctrine as a code of systematic dogmatics had its birth in Kashmir under the name of Spanda and Pratyabinja Darśanas". There is evidence in the Agamas and in the Puranas of early period that the Agamas were systematically studied in North India where there were institutions specially established for imparting instructions on the higher path of Agamantha. It is said that the five Rishis who were initiated by Srikantha, viz, Gosika, Kasipa, Baradwaja, Gautama and Agastya with their four disciples Sanatku-mara, Sanaka, Sanatana and Sananta had an Asrama known as Amarthaka on the banks of the river Godaveri, and later on there were three other Asramas, viz, Pushpakiri, Kolaki, and Rana Patra that branched off from Amarthaka and were located around the temple known as Mantrakalishvaram on the banks of the Godaveri. The existence of the temples at Benares, Gokarna, Sripurpatha and other places in the North cannot be accounted for if the Saiva Agamas were not known there; and we have evidence in the Vedas themselves to prove the existence of the Agamas in the early days.

It is therefore clear that the Agamas were very popular at one time in North India, and the construction of the temple

at Ramesvaram by the Aryan Prince Rama in the second Yuga fully supports this view. In course of time, however, the tide of thought that rolled over the Northern part of India fluctuated from time to time and gave prominence to one or the other of the various schools of Vedic Philosophy at different periods; and in the tumult for supremacy among these different schools, the Agamantha seems to have been forgotten.

The Vedas, as I have often said are very general in their exposition of the truth, and they have a good deal of mysticism about them which has to be unlocked, if one wishes to arrive at the exact truth. Truth cannot be seen in different ways, and the one way in which Truth has to be seen cannot be said to be an angular vision. People in the lower plane have not the capacity to see the Truth in its genuine form, and the Vedas are therefore very general in their explanation of the Truth which lies concealed in them in a mystic form which has to be deciphered with the help of the Agamas. We know that in schools, only a general idea of History, Geography, Mathematics or Science is given in the lower classes, while exact and more detailed ideas are reserved for the higher classes. The instructions imparted in higher classes cannot therefore be condemned as angular visions. It is on account of this general aspect of the Vedas, they admit of different interpretations, while their true interpretation is reserved to the Agamas. The Vedas are intended for a larger circle of people, while the Agamas are intended only for the qualified few. The qualified few became very rare during the latter half of the third Yuga, and as a result, the Agamas were slowly forgotten in North India, and the Vedic shastras and the Vedic rites were much popularized there. When the Kali era opened, and materialism started its ascendancy, the Vedas, which were material in their external form, became the ruling guide of the North Indian life; and the value attached to the Vedas was so much enhanced at one time that there arose a sect who even rejected the theory of the existence of a supreme being and believed in the eternity of the Vedas, and in the efficacy of the Vedic rites. These were the Nirisvara Mimamsakas who fully acknowledged the authority of the Vedas. This movement gave rise to a rival sect, the Mayavadins, who maintained on the authority of the same Vedas, that the whole jagat was God and that there was nothing besides God. According to this theory, Man himself was God, and the people therefore thought that, God as they were, it was not necessary for them to observe any moral duty. This was highly dangerous to the human society and it was at this crisis came up Buddha who threw over board all idea of God, and all respect to the Vedas and maintained that Dharma or moral duty is the guiding principle of the whole jagat. It must be observed that the theory of Buddha was more or less the same as that of the Mimamsakas, and it is therefore clear that Buddha only revived the Mimamsa theory, but with only this difference—that the Mimamsakas accepted the authority of the Vedas while Buddha rejected it.

During all these upheavals in the North, the Agamantha was carefully preserved in the South, and this has always been the religion of the Tamils, as they have been on a higher level in the plane of spirituality. It was therefore that the Tamil land was able to produce saints who put down the heresies of the Buddhist and other sects. The fall of Buddhism was entirely owing to our saints Tirugnanasampanthar and Manikkavasa-gar and latterly to Sri Sankarachariar whose name is revered even to-day in North India. Sankara himself was a Dravidian by birth and he proceeded to North India and finally eradicated Buddhism by his able exposition of the Vedic truths. He had, however, to make his stand, on the same level as the North Indian Hindus were at the time, so that his expositions may be effective on the people of the North. He therefore espoused the cause of Vedanta, which was mistaken for Mayavada by the North Indians of that time. As they were not ripe for the higher path of Agamantha, Sankara did not have any discourse on that subject with them. He was, however, fully alive to the superiority of Agamantha, and this is evident from the fact that in his Andaalagiri and Savundiryalagiri, he gives full expression to his convictions of the highest truths of Agamantha. He was besides a regular worshipper of temples and a strong believer in the Agamic rituals as his successful life of religious propagandism would clearly shew.

The North Indians, however, had not the eyes to see the sublime beauty of Agamantha, as they were not sufficiently advanced in the plane of spirituality. Their sole object being material gains, the material aspect of the Vedic religion appealed to them more appropriately than the Siddhanta Philosophy of South India; and matters have taken such a turn that at present they are not even aware of the existence of the South Indian Philosophy. The South Indian Philosophy, again, enforces strict rules for our spiritual uplift, and the North Indians—or at least the South Indian Brahmins who admire the North Indian cult—find it much easier for them to follow the Vedantic creed. And in their ignorance of the depth and soundness of the Siddhanta Philosophy, they despise it whenever they can. The Kaliyuga Dharma having placed the North Indians on a higher level in the material plane over the South Indians, they have taken upon themselves, as irony of fate would have it, to teach religion itself to the South Indians. The North Indians have of course acquired a better knowledge of English, and the modern generation of South India who have a mania for English, think that whatever is told in English is true and correct. They do not realize the fact that they are heirs to the best religion in the world, and that they have fallen innocent victims to the oratory of the North. There are young men of our land who are enamoured of the lectures of Swami Vivekananda and others who had not the remotest idea of our Agamantha. I must give great credit to the revered Swamin for the valuable services rendered by him in the West on behalf of our Vedic religion, and I must also give ample credit to our youngmen for taking a liking to the lectures of the great Swamin in preference to the dangerous attacks on our religion by western propagandists; but I must point out to them that they are heirs to a much higher religion and that it is a great pity that in their boom for the English language, they are divesting themselves of the greatest boon conferred on them by God in the form of their indigenous religion.

### LOCAL & GENERAL.

**THE WEATHER.**—We had a heavy shower of rain on Tuesday afternoon.

**THE JAFFNA SARASWATI VILASA SABAI.**—This well-known amateur Dramatic Company will put on the boards their favourite play "The redemption scene of Harichandra" on Saturday 7th inst. at the Ridgeway Hall. We understand that this is specially intended to honour the members of the Tamil Union Cricket and Athletic Club and the public will be admitted by tickets and a shield will be presented by the Sabai to the Union.

**THE JAFFNA INDUSTRIAL ASSOCIATION AND CO-OPERATIVE CREDIT SOCIETY.**—The annual general meeting of the above society was held at the Mission School at Golasmith Street on the 2nd inst. As previously arranged Mr. F. A. Stockdale, Director of Agriculture and Industry and Registrar of Co-operative Credit Societies arrived punctually at 10.30 a.m. accompanied by Mr. V. Muttucumar, Inspector. There was a good attendance of members. Mr. Stockdale was received by Mr. Sivakolundu, Proctor, S. C., President of the Society. The accounts were audited and balance sheet passed. It appeared from the accounts that several loans were made and recovered and many articles of industry (jewelry, wood work, brass work, dyed cloths) were made and sold or supplied to order by the Society. A sum of Rs. 25 out of the profits was carried to reserve fund. Thereafter the meeting commenced with the Director in the chair in the course of which he addressed the meeting in English which was interpreted by Mr. Muttucumar. Mr. Sivakolundu was re-elected President and Treasurer, S. Kandiah Teacher, Secretary and Committee Members were also elected for the coming year. The meeting terminated with a vote of thanks to the chair.

**A HINDU CALENDAR IN ENGLISH.**—We acknowledge with thanks the receipt of this annual publication in the form of a sheet Almanac, for the Hindu Year Pingala—1917-1918. The author, Srimat S. Sadasivakurugai, is the son of the late Srimat Suppiah Kondavil who was for a long time Saiva Prasastraker under the Jaffna Saiva Paripalana Sabai. He is well-known as an Astrologer and Priest. He has brought out the calendar in a neat handy form giving many useful Astrological informations on auspicious hours &c., and the publication being in English, will be useful to all nationalities.

**A LECTURE ON THE WAR AND ITS SIGNIFICANCE.**—Mr. C. Arulambalam, Advocate, Jaffna, delivered an interesting lecture on this subject last Saturday at Sri Parvathi Vidyalalai, Chivitaru, under the auspices of the local Y. M. H. A. Mr. A. Canagaram, Proctor S. C., presided. Messrs. V. Mudaliyar Kanagaratnam, K. S. Chandrasegarampillai and E. Brodie offered appreciative remarks.



**EXTRA PROSECUTIONS.**—On the 30-d of March two men of Alaveddy were charged with illicit tapping and drawing of today at the Mallakam Court and were fined Rs. 25 or three weeks' rigorous each. A man of Navaly was charged with illicitly selling fermented toddy. The accused pleaded guilty and was fined Rs. 50 in default six weeks' rigorous.

**DEATH OF H. E. THE GOVERNOR'S SON.**—We regret very much to record the death which took place at Bombay last Sunday after an operation, of Mr. S. L. Anderson, youngest son of H. E. the Governor. He was only recently on a visit to his father at Colombo. Our deep condolence with H. E. the Governor and other members of the family.

**ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY.**—The annual General meeting of this Society (Ceylon Branch) was held at the Museum Library Hall, Colombo, at 9 p.m. last Saturday, Sir. P. Arunachalam presiding. After the transaction of business, Mr. P. E. Peris read a paper on "Naga Dips and Buddhist remains in Jaffna."

**PERSONAL.**—Mr. Retna Maitavaganam, Manager of Valligam East, left this for Colombo on the 4th instant and the Senior Udaiyar of the Division, Mr. V. Kandiah of Kepyai, has been appointed to succeed him as Manager from the 4th to the 11th inst.

—Mr. S. Candhiappillai, Pundit, Education Office, Colombo has come to, Jaffna for the holidays and is staying at his residence at Candorady.

**MATRIMONIAL.**—A pretty wedding according to Hindu rite took place at Badulla on the morning of the 29th instant at the palatial residence of Mr. B. P. Chelliah, the popular Shroff of the Bank of Ceylon Ltd., in the midst of a host of relatives and friends. The contracting parties were Mr. K. Somasundaram, Proctor S. C. and Srimathi Maneswary Ammal the second daughter of Mr. B. P. Chelliah. Festivities had been going on for several days previously at the bride's residence which had been tastefully decorated according to oriental style, a style suggestive of beauty as well as sublimity and grandeur. The bridegroom who had arrived at Badulla some days previous to the event was housed along with those of his relatives who had accompanied him from Jaffna, in a decent bungalow at Longdon Road. As it was arranged that the bridegroom should leave in procession for the bride's residence from the Jaffna Union, the popular institution which is doing immense service to the Jaffnese in Ceylon, a beautiful pandal had been put up in front of the Union building. Just before the auspicious moment the bridegroom left in a grand procession composed of numerous elephants, devil dancers and a host of torchlight bearers for the bride's residence. The bridegroom had as his bestman Mr. C. Ratnasabapathy, the Deputy Shroff of the Ceylon Bank and son-in-law of Mr. Chelliah, while the bride was attended by Mrs. Valantham, the sister of the bridegroom and by Mrs. T. Ponnampalam of Passara. A band of native musicians got down specially from Jaffna for the occasion discoursed a capital selection of music. Light refreshments were served *ad lib* while Mr. Chelliah paid the best attention to his guests who enjoyed a very pleasant time. The guests departed at the small hours of the morning after the usual distribution of Pansu Puri and sprinkling of rose water. The happy couple were the recipients of hundreds of congratulatory telegrams and presents. There was a remarkably large attendance which included a good many Tamils, Sinhalese, Malays, and members of Natal, Kona, and other, all holding high positions of trust and responsibility in life, which indicates the wide popularity of the Shroff and the high esteem in which he is held by Members of all communities.

**THE VISIT OF SRIMATH SWAMI VEDACHALAM.**—We understand that the Colombo friends and disciples of Srimate Swami Vedachalam of Pallavaram, of Madras, are taking steps to invite the Swami to deliver a course of lectures in Colombo. The Swami is now on a tour in Southern India, delivering lectures on Saiva Siddhanta and kindred subjects, and is expected to be in Ceylon in about a month's time. We hope that other parts of Ceylon too will take steps to have lectures delivered by this able exponent of Saiva Siddhanta.

**Y. M. H. A., KOCKUVIL.**—The ordinary meeting of the above Association was held on Saturday the 31st ultimo at 6.30 p.m., in the Kockuvil English School with Mr. E. Chelliah in the chair. The minutes of the previous meeting being read and confirmed. Masters V. Thambiah and A. Nadarajah gave recitations. Then Mr. S. P. Rastiah delivered an interesting lecture on "Co operation". Appropriate comments were offered by Masters A. Nadarajah and R. Nadarajah, students, Kockuvil English School, Mr. V. Manikavasagar, Student-at-Law and Mr. K. Perambalam. The proceedings came to a close at about 8.30 p.m., with the speech from the chair and singing of Devaram. —Cor.

**Y. M. H. A., VADDUKODDI.**—Under the auspices of the above Association, the religious classes are being regularly conducted on Tuesdays by Mr. V. Kandiah. "Tirukural" and "Tiruvallupayan" are the text books used. The boys appear to take a very keen interest in religious discussions. The Association has opened a reading room and with the object of putting it on a permanent basis, has appointed a committee to collect funds.—Cor.

**Y. M. H. A., SANDILIPAY.**—The "Vandana Kathana Vidyasalai" Hall was again the scene of a very interesting and instructive "Katha Prasanga" by Mr. P. Selvadurai. The subject was "Karakkai Ammar Sari-thiram", and the lecturer did justice to the subject, to the entire satisfaction of the over-crowded audience.—Cor.

**BIG JAPANESE FIRM TO OPEN A BRANCH IN COLOMBO.**—It is stated that the big Japanese firm, Mitsui, Bussan, Kaisha Ltd., which is perhaps the best known Japanese firm in the world, having branches almost everywhere, will be opening a branch in Colombo shortly.

**P. W. D. CHANGES.**—Mr. W. J. Price, District Engineer, Kandy, has been transferred to Trincomalee. He will leave Kandy for his new station about the middle of this month. Mr. E. W. Cade, District Engineer, Batticaloa, will succeed Mr. Price.

**OBITUARY.**—It is with the deepest regret that we have to record the untimely death of Mrs. Arunachalam, wife of Mr. C. Arunachalam, son of Mr. A. Chellappapillai, Sub-Collector, Valvettiturai, which sad event took place this morning at Valvettiturai. The remains will be removed this noon to Vannarponnai to the residence of Mr. S. Thambiahpillai, Proctor, S. C., father of the deceased. The funeral takes place this evening. The deceased was a young lady of rare attainments and was married only about two years ago. We offer our heartfelt condolences to Mr. Thambiahpillai and others who bemoan her loss.

—We regret to record the death of Mr. N. Tiliampalam, Retired Clerk, Jaffna Kachcheri, which event took place at his residence at Nallur on Tuesday last. His son Mr. T. Rajayyakam, Clerk, Police Department, Colombo, and his grandson Mr. Tiliampalam of the General Post Office, Colombo were present at the funeral. Our condolences to the bereaved.

—We are sorry to record the death of Mrs. F. Watson in Colombo on the 1st inst. She was the mother of Mr. W. R. Watson of St. Thomas College and Proctor S. G. Watson and a sister of Mr. Nevins Selvadurai. We extend our heart-felt sympathy to the bereaved.

—We regret to record the death of Mr. V. Maltavarathar, Physician and Landed Proprietor, which occurred at Udaval on the 16th ultimo. The deceased had been ailing for over a week and in spite of the best medical attendance passed away at the ripe old age of 75. The deceased gentleman was a brother-in-law of Mr. C. Arumugampillai David, Licensed Surveyor and Leveller, and Dr. C. Theyyacarayar, cousin of Dr. M. Kylasapillai and an uncle of Mr. M. C. Arumugan of the Jaffna Survey Office. He leaves behind a widow, one son and an only daughter to bemoan his loss. The funeral was largely attended.

#### THE TAMIL UNION CRICKET AND ATHLETIC CLUB.

This well known Club is expected to visit Jaffna during the Easter and a series of interesting programme has been arranged. The entire arrangement is in the hands of Mr. W. F. Ratna Gopal who is sparing no pains to make the tour a success. We understand that the Government Agent, the Hon'ble Sir Ampalavar Kanagasabai and a few other gentlemen have offered prizes. The programme of the tour is as follows:

##### PROGRAMME.

**Friday April 6th.**  
Arrival by train 7.42 p.m.  
**Saturday April 7th.**  
Whole day cricket match vs. The Combined Colleges.  
7 A.M. to 11 A.M. Play.  
11 A.M. to 2 P.M. Breakfast with Mr. Retna Gopal at "Ratna Giri".  
2 P.M. to 6 P.M. Play.  
6 P.M. Garden party, Dramatic Entertainment and presentation of "Souvenir Shield" by Saraswathi Vilasa Sabab.  
**Sunday April 8th.**  
Picnic to Mandaitivu given by Mudaliyar C. Rasanayagam.  
Start at Jaffna jetty 5 A.M.  
Arrival " " 7 P.M.  
**Monday April 9th.**  
Whole day cricket match vs. The Jaffna Sports Club.  
6.30 A.M. to 11 A.M. Play.  
11 A.M. to 1.30 P.M. Breakfast with Mr. W. Duralawamy, Vice President J. S. C.  
1.30 P.M. to 6.15 P.M. Play.  
6.15 P.M. to 8.15 P.M. "At Home" by Maniagar V. M. Mathukumaru at "Homakuda."  
**Tuesday April 10th.**  
Visit to Point Pedro and Valvettiturai Sugar Refineries. Arranged by Mr. M. Kanagasabai, Sub-Collector, Jaffna Customs.  
Start from "Ratna Giri" 6 A.M. by Car.  
Breakfast at the Magistrate's Bungalow at Point Pedro.  
Arrive at Jaffna 4.45 P.M.  
6 P.M. to 6 P.M. Soccer vs. The Jaffna Sports Club and presentation of Prizes.  
Musical Entertainment.

#### Y. M. H. A., JAFFNA.

**THAMIL SECTION.**—A very largely attended public meeting of chorist rollers and traders was held at the Vidyaspara Vidhyalayam on Saturday the 13th ultimo. There were present about 500 people. Mr. M. S. R. Singha, B.A., was voted to the Chair and Mr. E. K. Sivabramaniyer, B.A., delivered a stirring and eloquent Tamil address on "Saiva Paripalanam". This was followed by an earnest appeal by the Chairman in the course of which he exhorted the people of Jaffna to unitedly work for the industrial and spiritual regeneration of our countrymen. The following gentlemen were elected office bearers: President: Mr. V. S. S. Coomaraswamy, B.A.; Vice President: Mr. T. Nagamuttu; Secretaries: Messrs. S. Ampigapagar and C. N. Dava-rajahn.

**INITIATION.**—On the morning of the 7th instant a Siva Theeksha ceremony will be held at the Vidyayalayam. In the evening a Sangeetha Kathaprasangam will be held in the same place.

**MANIPAY Y. M. H. A.**—The fortnightly Kathaprasangam was performed on the 3rd instant at 6 p.m.

**CONFERENCE.**—At the conference of branch Secretaries held on the 1st instant it was resolved to (1) Appoint Mr. S. Shivapada-sundaram B.A. as Visitor to the Branch Association. (2) Engage the services of a preacher for the Association. (3) Open a night school at Keerimalai. (4) Hold the conferences quarterly hereafter. (5) Appoint Religious instructor to Hindu prisoners in the Jaffna Jail.

**THOLPURAM Y. M. H. A.**—A public lecture on "Social Service" will be delivered on Saturday the 7th instant at 6 p.m., by the Secretary, Central Y. M. H. A. —Cor.

#### CORRESPONDENCE.

##### STUDENTS' ACTIVITIES.

It is pleasing that, wherever we go, and wherever we turn, we see a vigorous and new awakening among students—a new life of enthusiasm and devotion dawning on the face of Young Lanka. Students whose hearts are kindled by the fire of patriotism open their eyes and see their sense of duties and responsibilities to their motherland. Their enthusiasm and activities are not confined within the limit of books but extends to a wide area outside. The demand for higher Education and a University is becoming more and more prominent. The Call of Lanka will be truly responded to by students in Schools and Colleges. The Lanka of tomorrow is in the Schools and Colleges of today. Lanka hopes to receive comfort and consolation at the hands of students and students alone. Students of today are men of to-morrow. They are useful citizens who possess in their heart of hearts a sense of duty to Lanka. Students are working with all their might in Schools and Colleges under able and loving teachers and principals, and they must be turned to the best account. When good and sufficient opportunities are offered to them, surely they avail themselves of the opportunities.

Amongst Associations brought into light for the benefit of the students we may mention the "Congress of Literary Associations" in Colombo, which hold its meetings yearly. Its members take real interest in inviting members of other literary associations attached to Schools and Colleges. The members are for the most part students. They take part in debates and discussions—social, literary and political. In Associations like these students show their ability to lecture and discuss on subjects of vital importance to country and humanity. This year marked a change for the amelioration of students. It is a blessing that, His Majesty the King Emperor's Government has brought to force for the improvement of boys. "The Rural Schools Ordinance" which enables them to read in schools. The very minute they become students, a feeling of duty to Young Lanka fills their hearts.

The Ceylon Boy Scouts movement, which has been very recently introduced to Jaffna by our worthy Government Agent, Mr. Horsburgh, has made Jaffna once more laudus. It is founded on the basic principles of service. This movement affords the boys a training which enables them to live a well-ordered and well disciplined life of service. Their manner of living is simple. They perform services to Crown, humanity and country. Legality and order is their motto. The ideals are given in the following beautiful lines, which each boy tries to get by heart that he may always remember them and act up to them. They have to be,

Trusty, loyal and helpful  
Brotherly, courteous, kind  
Obedient, smiling and thrifty  
Pure as the rustling wind

Every scout is in duty bound to perform at least one act of service every day, and their uniforms and badges remind them of the obligation. The sight of a number of boys doing drill, marching and submitting themselves to all kinds of hardships and labour in their ideal of service is indeed a delightful sight to Young Lanka. Such kind of servants are truly noble and patriotic to Lanka. These are men who have sprung forth from the fountain of duty and service.

Literary Associations are found in almost all Schools and Colleges. In these Associations students with real earnestness discuss questions of literary character. In addition to literary subjects, they must try to study and discuss the History of our land. For which a separate association for the study of History should be formed.

Another new and useful acquisition to students is the organization of the Y. M. H. A. in Jaffna. This Institution has been recently started by the leading leaders of Jaffna for the benefit of the students. Subjects of all kinds of lectures, discourses, moral, religious and social sciences and the fruits of the works. This Institution though young in its state is doing enormous and useful work in the form of organising Branch Associations at different centres in Jaffna for the benefit of men and boys in such centres. The members of the Y. M. H. A. who are really spirited, anxiously try to have it in a special building constructed for the purpose and think of collecting funds for the same. Its members urge the "Importance of Initiation Ceremony" at different centres.

The last and the most important one is "The Hindu Students Camp" held at Keerimalai annually for the benefit of Hindu students. There all the leading residents of Jaffna, and students from outstations meet for three days and here the lofty ideals of union in all departments of life is realised.

These activities show what possible chances are open to the students. We are glad that the students have made good beginnings on all these lines and wish our brethren would urge the students to seek further outlets for their enthusiasm and activity.

S. SHANMUGHAN.

#### KEERIMALAI.

This ancient and sacred place of the Hindus is now, almost daily growing in importance and is much frequented by a large number of people on account of its sanctity and sacredness. What was once a lonely and dreary place with thorny bushes and prickly pear, has now become a smiling one, having beautiful Temples, magnificent Madams, a School and a reading room. The wealthy and charitably disposed gentlemen of this place are now doing all they can to make it still more attractive, but any more Madams or Temples will be of no use, and will be considered rather superfluous and useless waste of money. There are many other things which are to be urgently attended to, by these wealthy and charitable gentlemen, and if they are perfected, they will increase the usefulness of the existing Madams and add more to the comfort and convenience of those who visit the place, particularly for recruiting their health. I therefore, desire to make a few practical suggestions in the form of an earnest appeal for the improvement of the place. It is for the Hindu public to give their due attention, and if they consider it feasible, the sooner the work is undertaken the better.

The three large and spacious Madams on the southern side of the road, founded by Srinivas Kathiravalpillai, K. Vythilingam and A. Kriśnanpillai, where most of the health-seekers take their residence, are now hidden from sea view, by the small, dilapidated, old tottering Madams, dotted here and there and by the small huts of the Pandarams. These old Madams without any repairs for years together, not only mar the beauty of the place, but prevent the occupants of the above Madams from enjoying a free blowing of the sea-breeze. All these huts, Madams and trees lying on the northern side of the road in front of these 3 Madams may therefore be removed by paying some compensation to owners of the huts. Then the whole lot of land lying in front of these 3 Madams will be an open space in which a small play ground or a Tennis Court may be put up. A metalled approach Road from the Sea to the Main Road must be constructed. The bullock carts and horse carriages that take the visitors to that place should not be allowed to remain in the open space, but should be kept in a "Gala", put up at some distance from the Madams.

The present bathing ghat is very narrow and cannot accommodate all those who go there to take their holy ablutions. The water therein at times stagnates owing to bad construction and cannot be clear and pure unless the sea be at its ebb tide, when the people in large numbers including sickly persons with all sorts of dangerous diseases rush in to bathe and thus the water becomes dirty and polluted. What should be done immediately is to cut open the tail end of the stone construction and the fountain be allowed to have a direct flow into the sea and the southern side of the fountains must be cut deep and extended to a little distance.

Among the large number of people who occupy the Madams for the sake of their health most of them are very sick and weak. Some of them even cannot walk to a little distance. For the call of nature, a healthy person can manage outside the Madam, but a sick person who cannot walk and expose himself to the hot sun particularly at this season, finds himself in an uncomfortable and awkward position as the Madams are devoid of water closets. A few W.C.s within the premises on dry system is a "Sine qua non". If the founders of the Madams supply this urgent want, it will be a great relief to the suffering sick people.

After the introduction of the train service a large concourse of people, on all auspicious days, used to congregate here from long distance, and the hardships they endure to procure proper meals is indeed very great. What is served to them on such occasions are not wholesome meals. Half boiled rice and vegetables cooked in alloyed utensils are served to them in crowded rooms in the most undesirable manner. What is wanted at the present is a pucca Hotel, say by the name of "Nagalesar Hotel" with a magnificent uplift. I fear building run on purely regular line. A hotel in that some way laugh over the idea of a Hotel in Jaffna. If some of our big capitalists form themselves into a Syndicate and invest a decent amount in this undertaking it will be greatly amount in the Hindu Public as well as by the orthodox Indian Visitors who pay an occasional visit, and the investment cannot fail to bring dividends, and spiritual entertainments and dinners can be had here. A plan of the building and the management of the Hotel, I am sorry, cannot be described here in detail as it will occupy a large space.

The Government authority must be approached to open a Post Office and to extend the train services.

With these few suggestions I beg to close this earnest appeal, with a Prayer to the Almighty to bring these to a speedy accomplishment.

EN. FOX.



TELEGRAPHIC SUMMARY.

The War.

THE BRITISH FRONT.

London, March 31.  
F. M. Sir J. D. Haig reports:—We captured Houdecourt and progressed considerably Eastwards of the village. We also took possession of Marteville Vermand and Soyecourt. Our Artillery forced the enemy to retire from St. Eulie, which we occupied. We captured the villages of Jeumont Herouly and Hervebecourt. We captured positions in the neighbourhood of Omeunet-mun and Haininlejeud after killing or capturing the whole garrison. We successfully raided North-East of Neuville-St. Vaast, Eastward of Loos and Northward of Ypres, destroying several dugouts and taking some prisoners. We repulsed a hostile raid in the neighbourhood of Neuville-St. Vaast.

SUBSTANTIAL WEEK-END PROGRESS.  
Reuter's correspondent at Headquarters, telegraphing this afternoon, says:—We made considerable progress in the week-end, substantially deepening the bulge in the direction of S. Quentin, and biting into the enemy defences between the Croisilles and the Bapume-Cambrai road. The Germans stoutly defended the village of Houdecourt, twelve miles South-East of Bapume, which we took after hand-to-hand fighting in which the enemy suffered heavily. This place is tactically valuable. The Germans are certainly carrying out their threat to employ prisoners close to the firing line. Two Russians escaped into our trenches at Ypres yesterday.

THE ADVANCE CONTINUES.  
London, April 2.  
Reuter's Headquarters correspondent, telegraphing this afternoon, says we are still advancing. The enemy opposition was weaker along the southern part of our new front; consequently we made the biggest advance in this sector, while from Baas north to Arras every gain was the result of hard fighting. We seized a hill which lay within four miles of Cambrai. S. Quentin Road, while further south our advance reached a point barely four miles from the centre with S. Quentin in the triangle. The greater resistance lay between Croisilles, Viancourt and Queant. Two more posts were captured after a fierce struggle. In bombing posts protecting these positions every German was killed and a company of infantry captured every man in the regular nest of outposts two miles from Croisilles. Counter-attacks were severely punished by the fire of a field battery, the presence of which was presumably unsuspected by the Germans.

London, April 1.  
F. M. Sir J. D. Haig says: We took 1,200 prisoners in March 1, 1917. Germans, sixteen officers, three field guns, twenty five trench-mortars and sixty machine-guns. We took 4,600 prisoners from January to March. We occupied in the morning Savy, four miles Westward of S. Quentin after considerable fighting. We inflicted heavy casualties. We occupied in the afternoon Savy Wood, one mile Northward of the village. We captured Verdellies, on Saturday night and Epehy and Peveliers in the morning. We progressed North-Westward of Croisilles and raided during the night Northward of Rocquincourt, North Westward of Neuville-St. Vaast and South Westward of Ghynoix, inflicting many casualties. There was considerable air fighting on Saturday. We destroyed two German aeroplanes and drove down three others. One British is missing.

THE FRENCH FRONT.

London, April 1.  
A French communiqué records an Artillery duel of considerable violence on the Somme and the Oise and sensible progress during the night North and South of Ailette, particularly North East of Margival.

London, April 2.  
A French communiqué says:—Between the Somme and the Oise there was intermittent Artillery work between the Ailette and Leon road. We captured several systems of trenches and strong points East of Neuville-sur-Margival. The enemy after a vigorous defence were driven back to the outskirts of Vanxillon and Taffaux, suffering heavily. 108 were taken prisoner and four machine-guns were captured. Both Artilleries were most active West of Maisons-de-Champagne.

London, March 31.  
A French communiqué says:—South of the Ailette we successfully attacked the enemy's positions at different points on the front from Neuville-sur-Margival to Vregny, advancing considerably and brilliantly capturing important points d'appui despite energetic defence. Our machine gun fire was incessant, with very serious enemy losses. Five violent night counter-attacks against the position we captured yesterday West of Maisons-de-Champagne.

A French communiqué says:—There was feeble Artillery fire North and South of the Pise. The enemy North of Saisons twice counter-attacked their last positions North East of Vregny. Both were stopped dead by our fire. On the left of the Meuse the Artillery destructively bombarded German positions at Hill 804. German aeroplanes dropped bombs on Dunkirk, killing two civilians.

BRITISH AND RUSSIAN DEMOCRACY.

London, April 1.  
Three great meetings in London yesterday passed resolutions congratulating the Russian democracy. The most influential was at Queen's Hall, presided over by Viscount Bryce and addressed by the Ministers Messrs. Fisher and Lloyd. The largest was at the Albert Hall presided over by Mr. Lansbury.

MORE PEACE TALK.

London, March 31.  
Ambassador.—The Russian Foreign Minister, interviewed by the semi-official *Freidenkheit*, states that the Central Powers are ready to negotiate a Peace honourable to our enemies as well as ourselves. Moreover, if the negotiations fail, the War can continue. Coming after numerous reports of new Austro-German Peace moves this declaration is regarded as most significant.

AUSTRIA GLAMOURS FOR PEACE.

London, April 1.  
According to a Vienna telegram the Austro-Hungarian Press, following the Foreign Minister's

lead, clamours for Peace, declaring M. Czernin's proposal offers an honourable settlement.

FRANCE AND THE SUBMARINE WAR.

London, March 31.  
Paris (official).—During the week ended March 25th 874 merchant ships entered French ports and 793 left. Two above 1,000 tons were sunk, and five under 1,000. One was unsuccessfully attacked. Seven fishing boats were sunk.

THE DOMINIONS' ROYAL COMMISSION.

London, March 27.  
The final report of the Dominions' Royal Commission expresses the view that existing organizations are inadequate to deal with matters of joint interest to the Empire as a whole, such as the scientific development of the Empire resource, the deepening of harbours on a co-ordinated plan, improved mail and cable service, and the preparation and publication of statistics. Therefore it recommends the establishment of an Imperial Development Board, representing not only the United Kingdom and Dominions, but India and the Crown Colonies and Protectorates. In the initial stages the Board should be advisory. The following representation on it is suggested:—The United Kingdom, India, Crown Colonies and Protectorates, seven and South Africa, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Newfoundland, one each. The report declares regarding the scientific development of natural resources that it is vital that the Empire should be placed in position enabling it to resist any pressure which a Foreign Power or group of Powers could exercise in time of Peace or War through the control of essential raw materials and commodities. A Complete Survey should accordingly be made of the relations between Empire production and Empire requirements of such materials. With reference to such materials and commodities as are mainly produced and controlled outside the Empire (sic), cotton, petroleum, nitrates and potash, the most careful enquiry is needed regarding the possibility of new sources of supply or finding substitutes within the Empire. The survey and investigations in this respect should be entrusted to the Imperial Development Board, which should work through existing departments in the United Kingdom, self-governing Dominions and local Scientific Departments and the Imperial Institute. For India, the Crown Colonies and Protectorates the Report emphasizes the necessity of cheap, speedy and efficient transport and recommends larger vessels and larger harbours. Therefore improvement schemes should be supervised by the Imperial Development Board. It suggests improved mail facilities and quicker routes and some measure of Government control of the steamship companies regarding freights. Cheap-cabbing is described as an urgent necessity. The Report states that the Dominions' opinion favours state control of the Imperial wires. The Commissioners recommend the state acquisition of a Trans-Atlantic cable. A considerable reduction of Press rates is proposed, to enable the wide dissemination of Imperial News. Dealing with the trade questions the Commissioners advocate the speeding up of the intelligence system, the periodic holding of Inter-Imperial Exhibitions and the unification of legislation, particularly of the patents, trade marks and companies' laws.

IN MESOPOTAMIA.

London, March 31.  
Mesopotamia (official).—Our troops since Mar. 19th, operating Northward and North-Eastward Baghdad have been actively engaged in pushing back the enemy and consolidating the positions. Our troops and also the Russians, verging on Khamidin, encountered considerable difficulties, we owing to the bridging of a number of canals and rivers, and the Russians through snow and the retreating Turks' devastation. Our troops encountered considerable forces who showed enormous resistance, but inflicted severe losses and captured prisoners, foodstuffs and supplies. We occupied Shahroba on March 23rd after lively fighting and heavily punished the enemy in the Dila river region, at Jebel-Harrin and Kizilroba. On the 25th we occupied Daltwah. Sinajah and the rich productive areas thirty five miles North of Baghdad. We occupied Fallajah, thirty-six miles Westward of Baghdad on the 19th the Turks offering little opposition and retreating to Hit.

GERMANY AND THE MEXICAN PLOT.

London, March 30.  
In the Reichstag Herr Zimmermann, replying to the Socialist, Herr Baerens' criticism of the embitterment of relations with the United States, said he had instructed their Minister in Mexico to take steps to negotiate a Mexico-Japanese Alliance against the United States, but the instructions will only become operative if the United States declared War on Germany. Carranza would not have learnt of those instructions yet if the United States had not published them in an objectionable manner. The leakage was being investigated. After complaining of the United States' hostile attitude he proceeded to defend the endeavour to enlist the support of nations notoriously antagonistic to the United States. When he thought of the Mexico-Japanese Alliance, he was guided by the consideration that the German troops already have to fight a superior enemy force.

GERMANY AND FRANCHISE REFORM.

After the debate in the Reichstag on emergency taxation the House adopted the taxes. But both Socialist Parties voted against them after a statement by Herr Bernstein, emphasizing the Neutralists' hostility towards Germany. Referring to the demand for franchise reform, Herr von Bethmann-Hollweg said that the speeches had not convinced him of the possible beginning of the reform of the Prussian franchise. It was a most serious matter to decide such a matter while millions of men were in the trenches.

BRITISH REVENUE.

London, March 31.  
The revenue for the year amounted to £578,427,582 sterling, an increase of £286,660,758. The expenditure for the year was £2,198,112,710, compared with £1,559,168,887 last year.

THE BELGIAN FRONT.

London, April 2.  
A Belgian communiqué says:—There was continuous Artillery work on the whole front, especially in the region of Dixmude.

THE RUSSIAN FRONT.

London, April 1.  
A wireless Russian official despatch says:—We repulsed attacks in the Kribaba, Jacobeni and

Valeputna road regions. Our aeroplanes' gun fire burnt an airship in the Odobetschi region. Twenty-two of our aeroplanes bombed Brailov, causing dock fires.

RUSSIAN GOVERNMENT AT THE FRONT.

London, April 1.  
Petrograd.—The whole Government has gone to the Headquarters front.

MINISTRY OF MUNITIONS EXTENDED.

London, April 1.  
A new branch of the Ministry of Munitions has been established with Sir Lionel Phillips as Controller to deal with the examination and development of mineral properties in the United Kingdom with the exception of coal and iron, likely to be specially valuable for the purposes of the War. An Advisory Committee of nine will assist the Controller.

"ALNWICK CASTLE'S" BOATS MISSING.

London, March 31.  
The Union Castle Co. announces that three of the "Alnwick Castle's" boats are missing.

FIGHT WITH THE "MOEWE."

London, March 29.  
Copenhagen.—A vivid story of the stout resistance the British steamer "Otaki" offered when attacked by the "Moewe" on March 10th is told by released Neutral members of the crews who have arrived from Berlin. They state that a regular engagement was fought. The "Moewe" was hit by seven shells, one of which struck her two feet below the saloon, where a number of Neutral prisoners had congregated, killing two German soldiers. The "Moewe" caught fire and it took three days to extinguish it. Ultimately the "Otaki" surrendered. The crew went on board the "Moewe." The "Otaki's" Captain, First Officer, Chief Engineer and two of the crew and of the "Moewe" six of the crew and also two Hindu prisoners were all killed during the fight. The British prisoners already on board the "Moewe" were forced within iron doors in the quarters. German soldiers, armed with hand grenades, prevented them from reaching the deck. The "Moewe" on the occasion was cruising outside Capetown and on another off Rio de Janeiro. It turned homeward via Newfoundland and the North Atlantic when coal ran short. The British prisoners were kept under strict surveillance and isolated from the others. The "Moewe" carried four big guns and five torpedo-tubes. It was fitted with high masts which were removable and dummy funnels which could be unshipped. She was repeatedly repainted in different colours and also had a sham steering-wheel. At night the masts were set as if she were a cruiser and she went at full speed. By day she steamed slowly. The "Moewe" passed Elsinore on March 2nd and entered the Sound. On arrival at Kiel the British officer prisoners were sent to Karlruhe and the men to Westphalia.

A GERMAN RAIDER.

London, April 4.  
Rio de Janeiro.—The "Cambonne" on the morning of March 20th in latitude 20.10 South longitude 28.05 West sighted a sailing ship which approached rapidly. The sails were suddenly lowered at 2,000 yards and the German flag displayed, accompanied by a cannon shot. A German officer and armed seamen boarded the vessel, seized the papers and invited the Captain to board the cruiser. The Captain of the French sailing-ship "Duplex" says though ill he was roughly treated by the Germans who pillaged the ship for four hours. The Germans told fantastic stories to depress the prisoners, for instance, that France was about to be overwhelmed by six million Germans and that Russia was dismembered. The "Seadler," 2,800 tons, square rigged, with a speed of twelve knots, concealed guns and two gasoline launches, which were kept in the hold till past the danger zone after leaving Germany. Only a seaman was detained prisoner. A Dutchman who refused the paper money offered him for working in the raider's galley. Eleven ships were sunk.

REFUGEES ABOARD.

London, March 31.  
Rio de Janeiro.—There were 285 refugees aboard the "Cambonne." The sunken ships number nine, including the sailing-ship "Charles Gouddet." Another resisted but was obliged to surrender after the engineers were wounded.

MANY LIVES LOST.

Rio de Janeiro.—The French barque "Cambonne" has arrived with 200 British, French and Italian sailors belonging to vessels sunk by the German raider off Trinidad. The raider is described as a sailing-ship with a gasoline engine. She is probably one of the "Moewe's" captured ships. The survivors state that many lives were lost in connection with the sinkings.

A CAPTURED AMERICAN VESSEL.

Rio de Janeiro.—The raider is probably a captured and converted American barge laden with mines and armed with two guns, quick-firers and wireless, commanded by Count Ucker. The survivors relate that the raider was renamed the "See Adler" and provisioned for eighteen months. She hoisted the Norwegian flag on sighting merchantmen and then displayed the German ensign when her prey was within range of the guns.

AMERICA PREPARING FOR WAR.

Washington.—The Cabinet will hold a final sitting, before the special meeting of Congress, on April 2nd. Various members have submitted reports on the steps taken to prepare for War, showing everything possible was being done to co-ordinate the country's resources. The general impression is that America is about to enter into the War actively, Herr Von Bethmann-Hollweg's speech being the last straw.

London, March 31.  
Stockholm.—The new Cabinet has been formed. Senator Schwartz is Premier. In a statement of policy he said the first duty was to continue the policy of impartial Neutrality.

GERMAN SOCIALISTS ACTIVE.

A DEMAND FOR A REPUBLIC.  
London, April 1.

In the Reichstag, the Socialist, David, asserted separate Peace with Russia was not easy as the Chancellor imagined. He demanded the creation of a constitutional and democratic State. The Socialist Ledeboer said if the Kaiser advised the Tsar in 1905 no longer to oppose the people's demands why does not the Chancellor venture similarly to advise the Kaiser "We regard a Republic as an inevitable development of Germany" (uproar). History is marching with seven league boots. The German people are irredeemably patient. (Shouts of Treason.)

The President cautioned Ledeboer who continued that the Reichstag must have a voice in concluding Alliances, Peace treaties and declarations of War. Chancellors must be dismissed when the Reichstag demands it.

Amsterdam.—There were stormy scenes in the Reichstag on March 30th, Socialists, amid shouts of "Treason" declaring a Republic in Germany was inevitable, and demanding larger powers in the Reichstag on Foreign policy.

A POLITICAL CRISIS THREATENED.

The fact that all the Socialists in the Reichstag voted against the Budget is variously commented on. Some papers regard it as the manifestation of a new anti War movement. Others consider it was a prearranged move to delude Russian Socialists into offering Peace. A telegram from Amsterdam supports this view, stating that Herr Von Bethmann-Hollweg, prior to his speech, consulted the Party leaders. Comments in the German papers, telegraphed to Reuter's Amsterdam office, show that they are generally hostile to the Chancellor and that German domestic politics may become a factor in the international struggle. The *Forwards* says the Chancellor still does not recognise the seriousness of the times, oblivious of the fact that domestic reforms are now the main question in foreign politics and it is declared to be impossible that Germany shall remain politically the most reactionary of all the belligerents. The *Berliner Tageblatt*, which is Moderate Liberal, declares that Herr Von Bethmann-Hollweg's policy of procrastinating and promising is most regrettable. The *Vossische Zeitung* heads an article: "The Hesitating Chancellor" and demands that Government shall respect the convictions of the majority of the Reichstag.

REFORM WANTED.

It is noteworthy that the question of reform was raised during the debate on the Foreign Estimates, even the National Liberals hoping that the Crown would respect the tendency of the moment regarding the franchise. Finally the Reichstag, by 227 to 33, adopted the National Liberal motion appointing a Committee of twenty-eight members to examine constitutional questions, especially popular representations in the Reichstag and the latter's relation to Government.

—The Ceylon Observer.

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