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(THE CHEAPEST WEEKLY IN CEYLON)

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NO. 30

NOTICE.

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NOTICE.

I hereby cancel the power of attorney No 3063 dated 8th July 1895 granted by me on behalf of my children Annapooranam and Vallipuram in favour of Sinnapilly daughter of Oolagar Valliar of Oorikadu Valvettiturai, Jaffna.

18th January 1905
Koslanda.

K. V. Vairamuttu.

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THE HINDU ORGAN.

JAFFNA, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25, 1905.

WAYSIDE STOPPAGES.

Of the innovations introduced in the working of the Jaffna Railway by the railway authorities, from the beginning of this year, is the stopping of the train for a few minutes at Tellipallai and Kokuvil for the convenience of passengers who wish to travel by the train from those places. This is undoubtedly a move in the right direction which is sure to produce beneficial results. We are glad to learn that there is already some increase in the passenger traffic of the Jaffna-Kankasanturai section, though not yet to the extent desired or expected.

The train will be more largely used by the public from these two places, if the fare charged is for the actual distance travelled. Instead of which the fare now charged for passengers who entrain themselves from these stoppages is,

in some cases, for more than double the distances actually travelled. The distance from Kokuvil to the Jaffna Station is about two miles. But the present rate for passengers between Kokuvil and Jaffna is as follows:—

1st class	—48 cents.
2nd class	—32 cents.
3rd class	—16 cents.

The above is the rate from Chunnakam and Jaffna, a distance of a little more than 5 miles. We wish to know what people on earth would pay this rate of fare, that is 24 cents a mile for first class, 16 cents for second class, and 8 cents for third class, and enjoy the luxury of travelling by railway. It is the opinion of competent authorities that the ordinary railway fares are too high and should be reduced to the level of Indian rates, to make our railway popular and more remunerative. But what shall we say of the extraordinary charges now levied for passengers from the two stoppages on the Jaffna-Kankasanturai line, which are eight times the rates prevailing in India and more than double the rates obtaining even in Ceylon. This is surely, to say the least of it, impolitic, and inexpedient; and the people cannot be blamed if they refuse to use the railway under the present conditions.

What is said of travelling by train from Kokuvil to Jaffna and vice versa, applies to passenger and other traffic between these two stoppages or any station from them. From Tellipallai to Kankasanturai also the distance is about two miles. But the railway fare is as between Kokuvil and Jaffna. He will be an idiot who will pay this exorbitant rate and travel by train between these two places.

Again, there is the famous Chunnakam market which is about 3 miles both from Kokuvil and Tellipallai. A very large number of people will daily avail of the train to go to and return from the market, if the railway fare be for the actual distance travelled. The poor people, however, cannot afford to pay the rate now levied which is, for Kokuvil passengers, the fare between Jaffna and Chunnakam, and, for Tellipallai passengers, the fare from Kankasanturai.

We earnestly hope that Mr. Greene, the General Manager, will see the impolicy, if not the injustice, of the present arrangement, and order the reduction of the rates for passengers travelling from the stoppages at Kokuvil and Tellipallai to the ordinary rate, that is for the distance actually travelled by the passengers.

We wish also, in this connection, to bring to the notice of the railway authorities that, even under the existing arrangement, there will be a large increase of passengers from these stopping places, particularly from Kokuvil, when the Port of Kankasanturai is opened in March, and when the tobacco season commences in April. One cannot judge of the importance of Kokuvil by the number of passengers that entrain or alight there during the months of January and February.

ary. It is when the whole line is opened to Colombo, the importance of this place will be fully disclosed and the necessity of building a Station there will also be acknowledged.

Our Subscribers in Arrears.

Will kindly note that the XVth Volume of our paper has closed and it is more than 6 months since the XVIIth Volume commenced. Still we regret to note that many of those subscribers who are in arrears, have not yet made up their minds to settle their accounts. Although we waited for a sufficiently long time, expecting settlement, we were sadly disappointed much against our wish. We had therefore to hand over our accounts to our Proctors, who have commenced to issue "Letters of Demand" to our defaulting subscribers. Steps have also been taken to sue some of our very bad pay masters.

Our local and outstation subscribers are, therefore, requested to take note of the above and promptly pay up their arrears; and thus save us from the unpleasantness of taking legal steps against them.

THE MANAGER
HINDU ORGAN.

LOCAL & GENERAL.

The Weather—The days are very hot and the nights very dewy. The paddy plants are dying for want of rain. The crop this year will be a great failure if rain holds off for some days more.

Health—The health of the place is not now very satisfactory. Fever, measles, diarrhoea and other diseases are prevailing here and there, and the authorities will do well to look to the sanitation of the place.

The Government Agent—Mr. J. P. Lewis who left here on circuit on the 10th Instant, accompanied by Mr. Sabaretam, Chief Mudaliyar of the Kacheri, returned to Jaffna on the 23rd Instant.

Mr. R. W. Ievers—We understand that Mr. Ievers, the Government Agent of this Province, who is on leave in England has sent in his papers for retirement from the service from the beginning of this year, and that he is not expected to return to Ceylon as expected.

The Superintendent of Police—Mr. H. L. Dowbiggin, the Superintendent of Police, will leave Jaffna for Colombo after the Supreme Court sessions, and he will be succeeded here by Mr. Bowes who was here for some time as Assistant Superintendent of Police.

The Supreme Court—The first criminal sessions for Jaffna for the year 1905 commenced today, the Chief Justice presiding, Mr. Nelson, being Registrar, Mr. Maartensz, Crown Counsel, Mr. M. S. Ramalingam, Tamil Interpreter, and Mr. de Silva Sinhalese Interpreter. There are 6 cases on the Calendar, and the sessions is likely to last till the 31st Instant. The following are the cases awaiting trial:

Case No 1, Jaffna, accused, Beligahamalege Geris appu. Charge Theft.

Case No 2, Chavakachcheri, accused Vairavan Veerani and 3 others of Mautavil. Charge House breaking and theft.

Case No 3, Mallegram, accused Vaiti Sebastian of Myliddy. Charge Murder.

Case No 4, Mannar, accused, Marian Mannar of Olaitoduvai in Mannar. Charge Murder.

Case No 5, Point Pedro, accused Velupillai Mallavagum and 2 others of Valveddutarai. Charge Robbery and Hurt.

Case No 6, Kayts, accused Ramasamy Annamalai and others of Karampan. Charge Robbery and Hurt.

Marriage in High Life—The marriage of Mr. Arumuga Mappana Mudaliyar, eldest son of Mr. T. Chaggarapillai, and Manager of the Nellore Kandaswamy Temple, with Miss Vialadchi, eldest daughter of Mr. R. Ponnambalam of the Jaffna Fiscal's Office, takes place to-day at 2. p. m., amidst great demonstrations of pomp and joy. We wish the newly married couple long life, happiness and prosperity.

A Post and Telegraph Office for Chunnakam—We commend to the careful attention of the authorities the communication on this subject in another column. A good case is undoubtedly made out for the establishment of a Post and Telegraph Office at Chunnakam. We earnestly hope that the Postmaster-General will grant the prayer of the people of those villages in regard at least to the establishment of a Post Office, leaving the Telegraph office to follow after a few months experience of the Post Office.

Accidental Death—While two coolies were digging the bottom of a stone wall on the 20th Instant at Vellantheru it came down unexpectedly and crushed one of them. He was taken out of the debris with some difficulty and removed to the F. N. S. Hospital where he died after a few hours.

Tobacco—The planting of tobacco is being actively carried on in all parts of the District. The fine weather which now prevails is very favourable to the planting of this product. Last year excessive rains damaged the nurseries and hampered planting in due season. The nurseries are now, we understand, in excellent condition, and the prospects of tobacco this year are excellent, unless rain falls in unfavourable seasons and spoils the crop.

The Attorney-General—The Hon'ble Mr. A. G. Lascelles, the Attorney-General of Ceylon who is away on leave is returning to Ceylon in March.

The Postmaster-Generalship—A Correspondent writes to the Ceylon Independent:

"On dit that Mr. P. Arunachalam who is at present on furlough in England has been offered the appointment of Postmaster-General, in place of Mr. H. L. Moysey who retires from the service shortly."

The Auditor-General—Mr. Ellis, the Auditor-General, is going home on nine months privilege leave in April and it is said he will be succeeded by Mr. R. W. Ievers who is expected to return to the island in April.

The Jaffna Total Abstinence Society—This society is arranging to have two big total abstinence meetings at Jaffna. One is to be held at the Chetty Street English High School on the 28th inst, commencing at 4 P. M. Mr. James Hensman B. A. will preside.

The other meeting is to be held at the Hall of the Jaffna Central College. Mr. Edmund Walker Alderman of Bedford and head of Messrs Walker Sons & Co. Ltd. who is coming by the S. S. "Lady Havelock" on the 31st inst. will preside at the meeting to be held on the 31st inst. at 4 P. M.

Mr. M. Sanmugam—This gentleman who was in charge of works in connection with the repairs of the Rugam Tank in the Batticaloa District has been promoted to the office of Chief Irrigation Engineer North-Western Province. We congratulate Mr. Sanmugam on his deserved promotion.

Land Registrar's Office, Batticaloa—Mr. N. Sabapathy of the Registrar's Office, Kurunegala, has been appointed a Clerk in the Registrar's Office, Batticaloa, in the place of the late Mr. M. Duraiappa.

The Police Court Trincomalie—Mr. J. R. Canagaratnam is appointed to act as Commissioner of Requests and Police Magistrate Trincomalie during the absence of Mr. W. L. Kindersely on leave.

Mullaitive—Mr. John Scott who was in Jaffna as Office Assistant to the Government Agent and who was transferred to the Colonial Secretary's Office as a Vacat is now appointed to act as Assistant Government Agent District Judge Police Magistrate &c, Mullaitive.

A Muhammadan Barrister—Mr. M. L. Akbar B. A., L. L. B., the first Muhammadan Barrister of Ceylon who returned to Ceylon on the 23rd Instant after a brilliant scholastic career in England was accorded an enthusiastic reception by the leading members of his community in Colombo.

The Law Examinations—The Preliminary, Intermediate and Final Examinations for Proctor Candidates commenced in Colombo on the 24th Instant.

The late Mrs. Somanader—We deeply regret to have to record the death of this lady, wife of E. Somanada Mudaliyar and sister of Mr. R. W. Allegacoon, Police Magistrate of Chilaw, which occurred in Batticaloa on the 17th Instant at the age of 38 years. She was an amiable and accomplished lady and her loss is irreparable to the family. We offer our heartfelt condolence to the bereaved husband, children, brothers and other relations who bemoan her untimely death.

The "Indian Economist"—We have to thank the Proprietors of this monthly journal for sending us its first number. It is published in Calcutta and is devoted to industry and commerce. It cannot be denied that there is a distinct call for such a Magazine in India, since there is not one of its kind in the whole Continent, though newspapers and other periodicals have multiplied themselves during the last few years. The number before us contains an introduction and several interesting and instructive articles dealing ably with commercial and industrial subjects. With the view that the journal may be vastly read by the rich and the poor alike the subscription has been fixed so low as Rs 2. per annum. Considering the size of the publication and the value of the literary matter which it contains, it would be one of the cheapest and most useful periodicals in existence.

A POST AND TELEGRAPH OFFICE FOR CHUNNAKAM.

In the first part of 1904 a representative and influential public meeting of the residents of over 10 villages around Chunnakam was held at the Candarodai English High School hall, and according to the resolutions passed therein a memorial was sent to the Postmaster-General asking him to open a Post and Telegraph Office at Chunnakam. The grounds on which the Post and Telegraph Office was asked for were strikingly clear and important. The memorial emphasised the central and prominent position of Chunnakam, the want of a Post and Telegraph Office for a very wide area around the said village, the increasing importance of the said villages, the attraction which the people in this area and elsewhere daily find in the village of Chunnakam on account of the great market, the Railway station, the Lunatic hospital for women and children, &c &c. To these may be added the increase of wealth and education and the flowing in of money from Straits, South India and other places daily. It must also be observed that almost every house within this area has at least one of its members abroad seeking their fortune, mostly in the Straits, South India and different parts of Ceylon which has necessarily increased letter communication and Money Order business by leaps and bounds from what it was about 10 years ago. Under these circumstances the pressing necessity of a Post and Telegraph Office is unquestionable. Neither can it be denied that, if opened, it will be one of the best paying Post Offices in Jaffna. It is earnestly hoped that the Postmaster-General will take into his consideration all these facts and open a Post and Telegraph Office at Chunnakam at the earliest possible opportunity.

Yours truly,
M. Naganather.

Chunnakam.
18th January 1905.

KARADEEVE THIRUGNANASAMBANDA MOORTHY NAYANAR ENGLISH SCHOOL.

The celebration of laying the corner stone of the proposed new building of the Karadeive Saivite English School was held on the 11th instant with great eclat in the old shed belonging to the school. There was a very large gathering of Hindu gentlemen who are interested in the school. Mr. and Mrs. Lewis who kindly gave their consent to be present on the occasion and to perform this important function were taken in a grand procession to the spot. There an address was read by Mr. K. Sidamparapillai, an old student of this institution, and the Government Agent replied in suitable terms. He said that he was greatly pleased to find that the people of Karadeive were interested in the cause of education and further said

that he was all the more pleased to lay the corner stone of the school on behalf of Sir William Twynam, for the hall which is to be the main part of this new building is to be designated "The Twynam Hall". It is to be noted here that Mr. K. Visuvanathan who donates the largest sum for the erection of the new building received the kind permission of Sir William Twynam to call it after his own distinguished name—a name which is deeply impressed in the mind of every individual in the peninsula for his many kind and generous acts for the welfare of its people. Then the corner stone was laid by Mrs. Lewis whose presence on the occasion was very encouraging to the people. Then Mr. Aromogam, a law-student of Karadive, expressed, on behalf of the people, their sincere gratitude at the presence of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis and called for three hearty cheers for them. They left the place highly pleased, with all they saw and heard. The celebration which commenced at about half past ten came to a close at about half past eleven. Among those who were present were Mr. Subaratna Mudaliyar, the popular Mudaliar of the Kachcheri, and Mutiah Mudaliyar, the Manisgar of the Islands, and several other headmen of the place.

It is not out of place to give a history of the school in connection with this memorable day. This school was established in 1887, the object being to impart primary education in English to the children of Karadive. The school has been self-supporting for the last 17 years and now needs the aid of Government to place it on a permanent footing. Many young men who are employed in the Straits and many others who prosecute professional studies will testify to the good work of the school. It is high time for the old students and wellwishers who are in the Straits and elsewhere to wake up and to help the head master Mr. Siambay whose untiring exertions the school was able to show such signs of good progress so as to enable him to complete this undertaking which he has in hand.

An Old Boy.

BALANGODA.

16-1-04.

As it was considered necessary after due deliberation to form a "Jaffnese Union Society" to promote the interests and welfare of the Jaffnese employed here, a meeting was held on Meddekaude on the night of the 13th instant. The following were present Messrs. R. Asai Pillai, V. Soma Sundaram, V. Sivacolonthoo, C. Chappiah, M. Thambiah, A. Sithampara Pillai, V. Thambimooto, M. Appucatty, and C. Nagantham. Mr. R. Asai Pillai was elected chairman and Mr. V. Soma Sundaram Secretary. A prearranged essay was read by Mr. C. Chappiah on Unity. Remarks were made by Messrs. V. Soma Sundaram, V. Sivacolonthoo and R. Asai Pillai. At the beginning and the close of the meeting Thevarams were chanted by Messrs. V. Soma Sundaram and C. Chappiah. To suit the convenience of the members it is proposed to hold the meeting at different places. After the meeting was over all the members of the society were entertained to dinner by Mr. R. Asai Pillai. The next meeting will be held on Ruisagalle on the 28th instant. —Cor.

FREE COPIES OF PRABUDHA BHARATA To the Editor "The Hindu Organ"

Sir,
May I ask you to publish the following lines in your valuable paper?

A kind friend has given us one year's subscription for 50 copies of *Prabudha Bharata*, wishing that a copy may be sent free of charge to such libraries, colleges and schools as would like to have it. The Manager, *Prabudha Bharata*, Lohaghat P. O., Almorah, will be glad to send to any such institution a copy of the paper each month from January to December 1905 on receipt of an application, countersigned by the head master or principal in case of schools and colleges, and by a leading citizen in case of library.

Yours, faithfully
R. Chandra
Manager.

9th January 1905.

THE WAR.

London, January 13—Eight Russian squadrons of an Infantry Regiment and twelve guns surrounded the Commissariat Station at Niuchiating to the north of Yinkow on the 12th, but were repulsed, losing at least 80 men. Steps are being taken to intercept the rider's retreat.

Stoessel bade farewell to the troops at Port Arthur today. He thanked all for their heroic defence and said the Japanese terms were the best he could obtain. He accepted all blame for the surrender.

Bombay, January, 14—The Japanese Consul has received the following:—A Russian detachment with twelve guns and eight squadrons, appeared and attacked our commissariat station at Niuchiating on the 12th, but was repulsed on all sides. A small body of Russian cavalry on the night of the 11th, crept into the districts of Anshandun, Hancheng and Yenkw Tashikiao and slightly destroyed the railway, which was immediately repaired.

London, January, 24—The Times' correspondent at Tokio says that the surrender of Port Arthur is inexplicable. There were no signs of privation there,

and the prisoners number upwards of 24,000 excluding the sick and wounded.

General Stoessel arrived at Nagasaki this afternoon where he was welcomed by the Governor and a Guard of Honour.

The Japanese Press and public are sharply criticising France for permitting the prolonged stay of the Baltic Fleet at Madagascar.

The Tsar, in an order of the day to the Army and Navy, announcing the fall of Port Arthur, eulogises the glorious garrison, whose heroism Russia has witnessed with pride. Peace be to the ashes of the dead and glory to the living. Our enemy is bold and strong, and a struggle at such a distance is indescribably hard, but Russia is powerful and has undergone harder trials and always emerged more powerful. While lamenting our losses, we must not become distracted. With all Russia I trust the hour of victory will soon dawn. I pray God to bless the troops and fleets, and enable them to uphold the glory of Russia.

London, January, 15—Reuter, wiring from Tokio, says that the Russian Note to the Powers, regarding China's neglect of the neutrality laws, is regarded there as absurd, seeing that a Russian cavalry raid was made on Chinese territory. It is felt that China's weakness and constant failure to enforce neutrality must relieve Japan of her obligation to observe the restrictions which Russia herself ignores. Japan must protect herself against a repetition of the raids, whose success would be due to the violation of neutral territory.

The Novos Vremya publishes a telegram from Java stating that the Japanese have established a base at Labuan and that the cable has ceased working for the purpose of concealing the fact.

London, January 16—Activity is being resumed along the Shamo where the Japanese are heavily bombarding Russian positions on both sides of the railway. The weather is warmer, favouring a resumption of operations.

A student fired three shots from a revolver at M. Trepoft, the ex Chief of Police when bidding farewell to the Grand Duke Sergius at Moscow railway station last evening, but no damage was done. It was announced on Saturday that M. Trepoft had been relieved of his post and his services had been placed at the disposition of General Kuropatkin. A rumour of the assassination of M. Trepoft was current at St. Petersburg several hours before the actual outrage took place.

London, January, 16—Reuter's correspondent, wiring from Port Arthur, says the scenes following the surrender were disgraceful. Men loudly protested that the position had been thrown away and it is evident from the stores that the surrender was unnecessary and that the fortress could have held out for months longer. There were 25,000 troops all able and willing to fight. General Stoessel is now much blamed for the disgraceful conclusion of a splendid defence which practically ended with the death of General Kronsrachenko.

London, January, 17—Japan is constructing a first-class armoured cruiser at Kure.

Kuropatkin, reporting the cavalry raid, says the Japanese outflanked a column of Russian Cavalry which was retiring northward, when an engagement ensued. The Japanese suffered severely from the fire of the Russian Artillery. The Russians retired in good order, losing five officers and 50 men, killed and wounded.

It is stated at St. Petersburg that General Miaschenko's cavalry has regained the Russian lines with their wounded.

General Stoessel and 245 officers sail from Nagasaki for Europe.

Notwithstanding the resentment at Tokio over the prolonged sojourn of the Baltic Squadron at Madagascar, there is unlikely to be any further outcome of feeling which, it is believed, is based upon a misapprehension regarding French neutrality regulations. The latter differ totally from the British and place no limit on the stay of a belligerent in French ports unless accompanied by a prize. It is moreover pointed out that the Japanese may enjoy similar advantages at Saigon.

London, January, 18—Reuter at Tokio says the Japanese have captured the British steamer *Bawtry* carrying contraband from Kioochan to Vladivostock.

The German steamer *Bengalia*, with a cargo of coal for the Baltic Squadron, has struck a rock off Madagascar and sunk. The *Bengalia* was said to have sailed with 12,000 tons of Welsh coal from Cardiff for Batavia.—ED. C. O.

An official Japanese reports says a Japanese detachment surrounded and dispersed the Russian cavalry with whom there were many Chinese, west of Niuchwang on the 14th. The Russian casualties were over 300.

The great strike of ironworkers and kindred traders at St. Petersburg is assuming a menacing aspect. 50,000 men are already out on strike and all work has ceased in the Government dockyards on the Neva. The whole movement is directed by a capable organisation.

The Times' Port Arthur correspondent says the inspection of the Russian warships in the harbour has shown that the *Peresviet*, the *Poltava* and the *Pallada* and the *Bayan* may be saved at great expense and difficulty. The *Retvizan* is hopeless and the *Pobieda*, doubtful. The *Sevastopol* is sunk in 150 feet of water.

—The Ceylon Observer.

WALKERSONS & CO. VS. THE JAFFNA STEAM NAVIGATION CO.

EXPERT EVIDENCE.

In the action instituted by Messrs. Walkersons & Co., Ltd., against the Jaffna Steam Navigation Co., expert evidence was heard yesterday by Mr. Felix R. Dias, Additional District Judge. To enable the Judge, Counsel and witness to better understand the points, a model of the "Jaffna," built in teak, was produced in Court. The facts of the case are these. Messrs. Walkersons & Co., Ltd., state that in February 1903, they agreed to build for the defendants a composite steam boat, called the "Jaffna," which they got

down in pieces from England, according to drawings and specifications supplied by the defendants, at a cost of Rs. 14,192-50. They executed the work in a workmanlike manner to the satisfaction of the defendants. Further, they supplied various articles for its equipment, paid the survey and registration fees at the defendants' request, and executed some extra work which amounted to Rs. 7,849. The vessel was delivered on the 5th October, 1903, and the defendants paid Rs. 14,192-50, but failed and neglected to pay for the extra work, though often requested. In December 1903, the "Jaffna" was sent to them for certain repairs. In effecting those repairs, they provided certain materials and incurred expenses amounting to Rs. 954-13. They therefore claimed Rs. 18,218-54 due to them, including interest, for the extra work and the repairs done. The defendants in their answer admit that the plaintiffs agreed to build a boat for them, but deny that they promised the plaintiffs to pay for any extra work beyond those mentioned in the estimate and say that there was a distinct understanding between plaintiffs and defendants that the plaintiffs should not charge for any extra work. They further deny that the plaintiffs erected the boat according to the drawings and specifications supplied by the defendants. They also deny that they requested the plaintiffs, during the progress of the work, to do any additional work. The work was not done in a workmanlike manner or to the satisfaction of the defendants. They did not request the plaintiffs to supply various articles or to pay the survey and the registration fees. Further the defendants say that they entrusted the work to the plaintiffs to erect the boat according to plans and specifications supplied by the defendants, and the plaintiffs being quite ignorant of the work did the same so unskillfully and in such a manner, and contrary to instructions in the plans and specifications that the defendants could not navigate for more than three weeks. The plaintiffs, contrary to all rules of ship-building, used copper sheeting to the hull of the boat below the water line, and in consequence, the boat was seriously damaged by galvanic action, to the defendants' loss of Rs. 40,000. They also incurred damages in consequence of the plaintiffs' delay in giving delivery of the boat and the loss was Rs. 2200. They therefore claimed in reconvention Rs. 42,200 as damages due to them.

Mr. H. J. McCormic, Chargeman and Shipwright of His Majesty's Naval Yard at Trincomalee, which has just been abolished, was the witness examined. He said:—

He said that he surveyed the "Jaffna" about November 1903, in company with Mr. J. G. Chittom, carpenter-Lieutenant of the Royal Navy at the request of the Master-Attendant and made a report on the condition of the vessel. The boat was composite built of iron framing, woodsheeting and an iron flat keel plates about 20 in. in width running the whole length of the vessel and connected to the iron plating at the end. The iron keel plate was laid out first, and the frames put in position, and then the lower struts of planking were worked in. He thought that was not skilful work. As a result of that the seams could not be caulked and they were not watertight, the iron keel plate alone being relied upon for this purpose. The two struts of planks were fastened correctly by 1/2 in. iron nuts and screw bolts which also formed the fastening of the keel plates with the frames. In addition, the keel plates were fastened to the planking between the frames with iron fastenings. The extremities of the boat were built on a wrong principle. His Honour suggested that that might have been done according to the patent. Mr. Williams said that it was a new patent, and the "Jaffna" was the first and the last boat of the kind.

Witness then explained that the ends of the wood sheathing were inserted between the inner and the outer plates. The outer plating extends from the stem and the inner plating is a short piece extending for about half way between the cross frames. It was evident that the outer plating was first put on and the wood sheathing was then worked up against it. None of the ends were caulked, bedded or painted, but were simply fastened by iron nuts and screw bolts passing through the outer and inner plating. Under ordinary conditions, there was nothing to prevent the ends from leaking as the only stop that existed was where the wood sheathing was let on to the iron plating forming a 1/2 inch stop at the end, a quarter inch being the thickness of the iron plate. The wood sheathing was again sheathed over with yellow metal. Such a procedure was contrary to all rules of ship-building.

Cross-examined by Mr. Williams, witness said that that was the only boat of its kind he had examined. In Ceylon waters wood gets eaten up quicker than in European waters. There was only one hole about two feet from the foremost bulk head. Asked whether in galvanic action corrosion does not more especially affect the bent part of the keel witness said that that was not necessary unless the grain of the iron was bad. In this case the keel plate was eaten away nearly all along its entire length but a hole clean through was found in only one spot and that was at the leak. Asked how it was that galvanic action set in so much more in that one place where the hole was, witness replied that it did not necessarily follow that galvanic action showed itself so very much in that one spot, as it was probable that in another week the rest of the keel plate may have shown as bad effects.

The Ceylon Independent.

THE INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS.

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS.

The following is the full text of the Address delivered by Sir Henry Cotton, K. C. S. I., at the Twentieth Session of the Indian National Congress held at Bombay on the 21st Ultimo.

Delegates to the Indian National Congress, Ladies and Gentlemen,—It was well said by one of my predecessors in this chair that the Presidency of the Indian National Congress was the greatest honour that could be conferred by the people of India on one of their own countrymen. I feel that the honour is even greater when it is bestowed on one who is not of your own race or country. I have good reason to be proud of the position in which you have placed me this afternoon. Although I must always be aware that one of your own body would more worthily and adequately discharge the functions of the office, and am conscious that it must be more appropriate for an Indian to preside at the Indian National Congress than an Englishman, I received your invitation to come here as the highest compliment you could pay me, and accepted it not only with a deep sense of responsibility, but also of gratitude and pride in this notable and public recognition of the humble services I have been able to render to India.

CHARACTER OF THE CONGRESS.

This is the Twentieth Annual Session of the Indian National Congress, an organisation avowedly national in its name and scope. We meet for the furtherance and discussion of national interests. I see before me a vast number of delegates—the number is deliberately limited for convenience sake—representatives of every community, of every rank and profession, as well as religion, met together are the political leaders of all parts of India. Here you are able to act in concert and to declare in no uncertain accents the common public opinion of the multitudes of whom you are the mouthpiece. You occupy advantage ground of no mean eminence. Here are the voice and brain of the country. Here, before me, are gathered the representative citizens of a great nation. Yours is a position which no failure in your projects and no neglect of your advice can nullify. You are assembled together—highly trained Zoroastrians, wealthy and energetic natives of Ouch and Guzerat, citizens of this splendid city who mould its destinies alike in commerce and in intellectual pursuits; brilliant and patriotic Mahrattas exulting in the glory of your past and your ancestors; Brahmans from Madras, with your keen and subtle intelligence, Babus from Bengal, strenuous and able, who rule and control public opinion from Peshawar to Chittagong; representatives from the Punjab and the United and Central Provinces; Hindus who are exercising an almost indescribable influence by virtue of the living Hindunism which lies at the heart of your national existence; and followers of Islam, comparatively less in numbers but animated by the zeal and vigour and austerity which have always characterised the religious history of your race. We are met here in this great representative assembly to lay before the public and the Government a practical programme of policy which covers, I believe, most of the important political and economic problems of the Indian Empire. We do not pretend to prepare any such policy within these walls. The work of educating public opinion, is carried on throughout the year, and year by year, by means of the Press and the proceedings of local political bodies and Associations. The work is fostered by the pronouncements and speeches of representative Indians who are afforded the opportunity, rare and seldom though it be, of uttering their country's voice in the Council Chambers of the State. In these ways public opinion is formed, a national policy is framed, and in due course it is crystallised into a definite shape. It is our function at the annual meetings of the Indian National Congress to give united and authoritative expression to views on which there is already a consensus of opinion in the country. We are met to-day for such a purpose, and for this duty no organisation is more qualified and none could better be fitted than our own.

LEADERS AND FOLLOWERS.

The Indian National Congress has thus its own functions, which I take it upon myself to say, as a watchful eye-witness from its birth, it has discharged with exemplary fidelity, judgment, and moderation. Yours is a distinguished past. If you have not in any considerable measure succeeded in moulding the policy of Government, you have exercised an immense influence in developing the history of your country and the character of your countrymen. You have become a power in the land, and your voice peals like a trumpet note from one end of India to the other. Your illustrious leaders have earned a niche in the Temple of Fame, and their memory will be

cherished by a grateful posterity. Foremost among them I place the venerable figure of your grand old ex-President, Mr. Dadabhai Naoroji, who, now in the evening of his life, at the age of four-score years, applies himself with unremitting energy and patriotism to your cause. Among those who are lost to us, pre-eminent is Mahadev Govind Ranade, the wise in counsel, whose death we do not cease to mourn. Nor will I omit the name of the late Manmohan Ghose, who has set before us a conspicuous example of practical and re-constructive effort. We have still with us our distinguished Chairman of the Reception Committee, Sir Pherozeshah Mehta, Mr. W. C. Bonnerjee, the first of our Presidents, Mr. Justice Buddhirudin Tyabji, Mr. Justice Sankaran Nair, Mr. Romesh Chunder Dutt, Babu Surendra Nath Bannerjee, and Messrs. Dinshaw Edulji Wacha and Gopal Krishna Gokhale. Why need I mention more names? They are all household words, not only in this Congress Camp, but in hall and hamlet, in the place and in the cottage. Their leadership in India is ably supplemented by the labours of the British Committee of the Congress in England, and it is impossible to speak in terms of too high praise of the self-sacrificing devotion of Mr. Hume and of Sir William Wedderburn, whom it is a pleasure and honour to welcome to-day in our midst. The name of Mr. Hume will always be associated with the origin and growth, the mingled triumphs and defeats of the Indian National Congress. Sir William Wedderburn's unrivalled familiarity with the details of Indian political work in the United Kingdom and his exceptional knowledge of the Bombay Presidency are of the utmost utility to us at the present time. The late Mr. William Digby was not a member of the British Committee, but he was an Englishman devoted in an extraordinary degree to Indian interests; his whole life, indeed, was given up to the cause of India, and I desire from this place to commemorate his services and to acknowledge the profound loss India has sustained by his death.

Patience and perseverance, persistence in good repute and evil repute, earnestness and resolution, these are the attributes of the leaders of a national movement. I make bold to say that they are the qualities which your leaders possess. You may well be proud of them. But the victory cannot be won by leaders only. It is for their followers to give them their loyal and undivided support. You cannot all be leaders. Captains and generals are few in number; the plan of the campaign is designed by them, but success is assured by the obedience and discipline of the rank and file. I speak in no unfriendly spirit when I warn you of the risks you run by petty internal bickerings and dissensions, by unworthy jealousies and ignoble depreciation of the life-long labours of the foremost men of your generation. It is here I lay my finger on the weakness of your organisation. These signs of frailty are natural, inevitable in the nascent growth of your movement. But they are none the less corroding and dangerous symptoms, the existence of which is undoubted, and which it is, at all costs, the duty of all of you who have the glow of patriotism in your hearts firmly to suppress and eradicate.

ENGLAND AND INDIA.

It is true that the reforms we advocate depend for the most part on their adoption by public opinion in England. Recall the case for Ireland! Internal agitation in Ireland was the necessary stepping-stone of reform, but by itself it accomplished little: it was only when Irish agitation forced itself upon English Liberal statesmen and was supplemented by a powerful phalanx of opinion in England, that any concessions were allowed to the sister Island. And so it is in the case of India. The remedy for both countries is the same. The opportunity of a peaceful solution rests in both cases with the English people, who alone have it in their hands to effect a material modification in the attitude of Government through the pressure of public opinion from the Mother Country. In this lies the value of your British Committee in London. Perhaps you do not always recognise the services which have been rendered to your cause by the untiring exertions of the members of that Committee, who unceasingly place the Indian view of Indian affairs before the British public by means of Parliament, the Press, and the platform. The work of this Committee deserves from you more generous support than it has received. It is from this point of view, also, that lies the importance of increasing the representation in Parliament of those who are not only possessed of an adequate knowledge of Indian affairs, but are also imbued with a hearty sympathy for the grievances and aspirations of the Indian people. You owe a deep debt of gratitude to those honourable members who are always willing to

press Indian questions upon the House, of whom I would especially mention Messrs. Schwann and Roberts: Mr. Cairne, alas! is lost to us; but I need not tell you that the number of men in the present House of Commons who combine this knowledge and sympathy may be counted on the fingers of one hand. Remember that it is in the House of Commons that the great questions on which the fate of India depends must be ultimately decided.

MEMBERS FOR INDIA.

We want more Members for India. Yes, indeed! But remember also that the use of that phrase cannot but ring a delusive note. Do not deceive yourself or expect too much. We want to hear more of India in the House of Commons. We want members of the House who will devote themselves to India as an integral and not the least important part of the British dominions, as a portion of the Empire which is not directly represented, and calls, therefore, for their special attention; but we cannot expect from them that undivided devotion to Indian interests to which we are so accustomed in this country from our own leaders. Sir Henry Fowler once declared that all the members of the House of Commons were members for India, but this is the very apotheosis of cant, and we have only to be present in the gallery of the House when Indian questions are under discussion to realise that no statement could be further from the truth. India returns no representatives to Parliament; and even the most friendly members for Parliamentary constituencies are not returned to represent India in the House, but their own constituents. They never can be members for India in the strict sense of the expression, for the first claim upon a member of the House of Commons is, and always must be, held upon him by his constituents.

THE FUNCTIONS OF PARLIAMENT.

Remember, also, what are the relations between the Imperial Parliament and the Indian Government. "It is not our business," said Mr. Gladstone on a memorable occasion, "to advisewhat machinery the Indian Government should use. It is our business to give to those representing her Majesty's Government in India ample information as to what we believe to be sound principles of government. It is also the duty and function of this House to comment upon any cause in which we think the authorities in India have failed to give due effect to those principles; but in the discharge of their high administrative functions, or as to the choice of means, there is no doubt that that should be left in their hands." These words convey a wise warning that the duty of England towards India is to form convictions on the general policy which should guide the Government and to stimulate and strengthen and control the authorities in putting them into practice. They do not imply any abnegation of the responsibilities of Parliament for the good government of India, and there is little echo in them of the pitiful appeal of the Indian bureaucracy to preserve India from Parliamentary interference. But they are a timely reminder to us that the function of Parliament is not to make any attempt to extend its direct rule to India and that the details of administration must be left to the local authorities, upon whom must rest the personal responsibility of giving effect to the general principles which are laid down for their guidance.

THE OPPORTUNITIES OF A GENERAL ELECTION.

All these are qualifications which it is necessary for us to bear in mind, but the great enduring fact remains that the Parliament of Great Britain and the people of England are the final arbiters of India's destinies. It is not in India itself that the fate of India will ultimately be determined. Those are blind, and worse than blind, who ignore or depreciate the importance of the work that devolves on your English associates and on the delegates whom you may send from India to educate and build up the growth of English public opinion in regard to India. The present is one of those critical periods that recur every few years. No one can say precisely when a General Election will take place. But everyone knows that it cannot be much longer delayed, and in all human probability the interval between the twentieth and twenty-first Congress will witness that great upheaval to which we are looking forward in party politics at home, the expulsion of the present Government from office and the formation of another in its place, the appointment of a liberal Secretary of State for India, and the beginning of a period during which it is reasonable to expect not only the undoing of many of the mistakes committed during ten dark years of reaction, but also some definite advance in the work of reconstruction. We stand at the parting of the ways. We see before us a period of hope, of which for so long we have been unable to catch a gleam. But in order that this period may be rendered fruitful much will need to be done, and assuredly one of the first and most important things is that the Indian National Congress should clearly and emphatically put forward its proposals, organise and inspire its forces, and make all necessary preparations for an epoch-marking campaign. (To be continued.)