

PASSENGERS TO AND FROM CEYLON.

ARRIVALS.

Per SS. "Peiho," from Marseilles—Mr. Wilkelvos, Mr. and Mrs. Burnside 2 children and servant.
 Per SS. "Poonah," from Southampton—Lieut. E. H. Seymore, Lieut. L. P. Cardin, Mr. Barker, Dr. and Miss Loos, and Mr. S. P. Louis.
 Per SS. "Dorunda," from London—Mrs. Bain and infant, Mrs. Jansey, Serjeants Marshall, Raeburn and Roberts, Mrs. Raeburn and 4 children, Messrs. Turner, Spence, Patterson, Dando, Dale and Elliott.
 Per S. "Vega," from London—Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Cave, Mr. and Mrs. J. Fraser, child and native servant, Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Mitchell and three children, Mr. and Mrs. Moyses and three children, Miss May, and Messrs. Andrew Lansdowne, Alfred Bremner, N. Macfarlane, H. W. Layard, Francis Edwd. Hyde and Chas. Strachan.

DEPARTURES.

Per SS. "Djemnah," for Marseilles—Mr. and Mrs. Lawrie, Messrs. Bourget, Churchward and Pianucci Eugene.
 Per SS. "Malwa," for Australia—Capt. F. Fuller, Messrs. Stouchewer, Stopford Sackville and Bell.

TO ARRIVE.

Per M. M. steamers—Mrs. Reeves, Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Talbot and servant, and Messrs. C. H. S. Carew, H. S. Saunders and friend, and H. J. Payon.
 Per SS. "Eldorado" from London—Rev. E. Rigg, Miss Hay, Mr. and Mrs. Egan, Miss L. G. Houghton, and Miss E. C. Weymouth.
 Per SS. "Almora" from London G. Elwes.
 Per SS. "Orion" from London—Mr. and Mrs. Arthur B. Wiggin, Mrs. Glenny, three children and nurse.

WARNING.—We think it right, in view of a continued flow of young men from Europe to Ceylon, to mention that the supply of planters—of Managers and Assistant Managers on plantations—is greatly in excess of the requirements of the Colony at present. Some of us have experienced that many young men now out of employment are anxious to leave Ceylon for the Australian Colonies. The case of young men commanding capital is, of course, different: there being favourable opportunities for investment for the cultivation of new if not old products in Ceylon. But young men with energy and wits, rather than money, ought not to come here where many European planting Colonists at this moment cannot obtain employment.

HEADS OF INTELLIGENCE.

FROM APRIL 12 TO APRIL 20.

Our most welcome item of news this week is that sent by our London agents, to the effect that the contract for the Nanuya section of the Dimbula-Uva Railway has been accepted. We expect the successful tenderers are Messrs. Nowell and Manning.

We understand that His Excellency the Governor and Lady Longden will probably leave Nuwara Eliya on the 1st May. The ball to celebrate Her Majesty's birthday will be given on Friday, the 28th May, at the Pavilion, Kandy.

The return of a Liberal majority has disappointed many here, Conservative Government servants in particular, but we believe that a larger number of colonists welcome the return of the party of progress to power, especially if it is determined to maintain the position of England as a Great Power, while securing peace, as far as possible.

The pearl fishery up to the 17th instant had resulted in R153,000 being deposited in the hands of the Government. The pearls are of good size and have sold at from R7 50 to R12 per 1000.

The interruption of the telegraph in the Mannar Gulf during the past few days has once more shown the necessity of an extra and separate cable between Colombo and Tuticorin. This will form one of the subjects for discussion at a special general meeting of the Chamber of Commerce on Friday next, the other questions being that of the Melbourne Exhibition Commission and the Colombo harbour defective pilot system.

There seems to be a contest for the position of Commissioner for Ceylon at the Melbourne International Exhibition, several candidates having applied for the post. An assistant Commissioner will also probably be appointed.

The Colombo Fort Canal is at last being partially filled up, and an elaborate underground tramway is proposed to take its place, the space occupied by the canal being covered by roadway, adding greatly to the convenience and comfort of the Grand Oriental Hotel, but taking R70,000 from the Treasury. The remaining part of the Canal will still be a nuisance. The whole canal should have been filled up and a new one cut from the Lotus Pond to the harbour to cost R150,000. All the Colombo papers protest against this waste of money.

The rumours set afloat regarding the Governor's departure for Europe on leave at an early date are, it seems, unfounded. An Executive Council is to be held on 4th May and it is said His Excellency will remain here until the close of this year, when the Hon. J. Douglas will assume the government as Lieutenant-Governor. A few days ago Reuter telegraphed the announcement that Lord Gifford, formerly here as captain in the 57th Regiment, had been appointed Colonial Secretary for this colony. Such an absurdity was, however, afterwards denied, although the appointment of the young officer to some post in the Colonial Civil Service is anticipated here.

The surveys and valuations for the suburban line to Mattakuliya, Colombo, have been completed, and we hope soon to hear of a commencement of this

line, which will undoubtedly pay a good percentage upon the capital expended. The value of the house property to be taken up along the route is said to be under R100,000. The traffic will be confined to passengers.

We issue as a supplement the first paper made public here by Dr. Trimen, the new director of our Botanical Gardens, the subject being india-rubber-yielding trees.—Capt. Gorman has been installed as Provincial Prior of the Ceylon Freemasons.—The "Vega," which has brought the young man Bremner, charged with embezzlement, arrived at Colombo on Sunday morning.—Harwood's Royal Marionettes are performing in Colombo, and Mr. Shorter, the billiard champion, has commenced a series of games here.—Another murder has been committed in Colombo, and if the murderer can be caught in time he will probably add to the large number of criminals now being tried at the Colombo Criminal Sessions. Our new Queen's Advocate Mr. B. L. Burnside, took the oaths on assuming his office at the Supreme Court yesterday, before Chief Justice Cayley.

OUR EXPORTS.—We cannot report extensive shipping transactions during the past fortnight. Last week the "Ava" took away nearly 4,000 cwts. of coffee for London, and this week 2,036 cwts. of plantation have been taken by the "Narenta" for the Continent. The consignments of cinnamon have been rather large, the "Ava" having taken about 9,000 lb., and the "Vorwarts" 10,000 lb. The barque "Chagford" loaded a cargo of plumbago and coir for London, but beyond these consignments there has been little to record. The "Duke of Devonshire" leaves for London to-day with a cargo of 500 tons of produce. The total quantity of coffee shipped to the 19th April was only 437,049 cwts. against 603,828 cwts. last year; of coconut oil 175,396 against 111,679 cwts; cinnamon, 1,030,193 lb. against 851,328 lb.; coir, 43,843 cwts. against 46,615 cwts.; cinchona bark, 292,312 lb. against 101,169 lb.; tea, 14,496 lb. against 31,421 lb.

RAINFALL RETURN FOR COLOMBO.

(Supplied by the Surveyor General.)

From	1880	Averages for 10 years
Inch	Inch.	
1st to 31st Jany. ...	5.79	3.32
1st to 28th Feb. ...	4.51	1.63
1st to 31st March ...	9.18	5.84
1st to 30th Apl. ...	14.62*	9.60
1st to 31st May ...		13.91
1st to 30th June ...		8.39
1st to 31st July ...		5.76
1st to 31st Augt ...		4.25
1st to 30th Sept. ...		5.22
1st to 31st Oct. ...		13.41
1st to 30th Nov. ...		11.21
1st to 31st Dec. ...		5.82
Total...	34.10	88.36

* From 1st to 20th April 1880 14.62 inches

FROM THE CEYLON OBSERVER.

April 19th, 1880.

SUPREME COURT.

(This Day.)

Mr. Justice Dias having left to conduct the Criminal Sessions at Chilaw (while Mr. Justice Berwick presides over that of Badulla), the Chief Justice took up the Colombo Sessions to-day. Two cases were tried:—one of alleged rape, in which after a patient trial the prisoner, a Sinhalese man, from Kotte, was found not guilty; the other of theft from a house in Bambalapitiya; one prisoner, a Sinhalese peon being pronounced not guilty, while the other a Tamil coolie, being found guilty, got 6 years penal servitude.

SWEARING-IN OF THE QUEEN'S ADVOCATE

The sitting of the Supreme Court (Criminal Sessions,) Chief Justice Cayley on the Bench, was this day interrupted for a few minutes after 1 p.m. in order that the Hon. B. L. Burnside might be sworn in as Queen's Advocate. Mr. Burnside (who is a tall, handsome man, "bearded like the pard" and in the prime of life,) was accompanied by Mr. Deputy Queen's Advocate Ferdinands, and there were in Court representing the Bar Mr. Advocate Templer (prosecutor in the cases of the day), Advocates J. Grenier, Dumbleton, Wendt, and several proctors. All in attendance in the Court, with the English-speaking and native jurors, stood while the Queen's Commission was read by the Registrar of the Court (Mr. Loos). The oaths were then taken by Mr. Burnside:—that of allegiance to the Queen and his oath of office as Queen's Advocate for the colony; and afterwards similar oaths as an Advocate of the Supreme Court.

THE CHIEF JUSTICE then said:—"Mr. Queen's Advocate, I give you a cordial welcome to this country, and you have my best wishes in assuming the important duties of your office."

THE QUEEN'S ADVOCATE said:—"I must thank your Lordship for the very cordial welcome which you have extended to me and I beg to assure your Lordship that nothing shall ever be wanting on my part in my office of Queen's Advocate and as an Advocate of this Court to earn not only the confidence and personal regard of the bench, but of the people of this most important Colony."

Bowing to the Chief Justice and the Bar, the Queen's Advocate then retired.

THE EMBEZZLEMENT CASE.—Alfred Bremner was brought up by Mr. Lansdowne the detective from England, this day, before the Justice of the Peace, Mr. Nevill, on the charge of theft and embezzlement on the sworn information of Mr. Charles Grant and remanded to Nawalapitiya to the Justice having jurisdiction to act in the matter, the offence having been committed and the chief witnesses being residents of Nawalapitiya. The investigation will take place on Mr. Elphinstone's arrival on the 24th. It is intended, we understand, to bring the accused to trial at the present Session of the Supreme Court.

COOLY MEDICAL ORDINANCE:—THE DOCTORS DISAGREEING.

The following resolution was passed at a meeting of the Hunasgiriya Medical Aid Committee on the 15th instant, at which there were present:—Messrs. H. Kerr, Joseph Fraser, John Thomson, J. F. Moir, and F. Fowke, Dr. Lawrance, and Hugh Fraser.
 "That Dr. Lawrance's reply to Dr. Coghill's report of his inspection of the District Hospital on the 8th January 1879, as published in a supplement to the Ceylon Observer of 23rd February 1880, be sent to the local papers for publication, accompanied by a few observations from the committee on the same report."

In forwarding for publication Dr. Lawrance's reply to Dr. Coghill's report, the committee would point out that Dr. Coghill's remarks under the heading "Conservancy" are inaccurate. The committee deliberated on the matter long ago, and were told by the District Surgeon that the closets outside were of no use whatever, as they were never used, and that night stools were preferable; these were accordingly provided and what was found to be useless ceased to have attention.

In the matter of "Diets" he is again inaccurate. The cost of dieting at the date of his inspection was 25c per diem, and "extras" were never charged to "General Assessment," but to the estates to which the patients belonged.

The concluding portions of his "Note" are still further so inaccurate as to be of little value. "European Superintendents and their families" are not "remarkably well attended to," for the happy reason that they have not required such attendance on them as could possibly interfere with the interests of the cooly. "Two for the planter and one for the cooly," an expression the authorship of which the committee have no means of verifying, is so inapplicable to the district of Hunasgiriya that the committee cannot refrain from saying that Dr. Coghill has been singularly wide of the mark in the opportunity he has chosen for airing an unhappy reminiscence of one, to whom, doubtless, he wishes to pay a high even if peculiar compliment.

HUGH FRASER,
 Ch. and Sec., Hunasgiriya M. A. C.

Hunasgiriya District Hospital,
 8th March 1880.

The Chairman, Medical Aid Committee,

Sir,—In compliance with the request of the Committee, I have the honour to forward you my reply to certain statements in the report of the M.I.C.D.

1st. Regarding the cleanliness of the hospital, which he says "must be attributed to the dispenser Tissera." At the time of Dr. Coghill's visit in January 1878, he only found one fault, viz. with the sacking of one trestle bed, which he said was filthy and I knew to be an indelible stain. You may also be able to remember that I asked you to visit the hospital and form your own opinion as to its condition, and you then said you thought it remarkably clean. Had Dr. Coghill been so very careful of the state of the hospital he would not, as he then did, stable his horse in the hospital verandah immediately in front of a ward door, allowing him there to leave his urine and dung. Half-an-hour or even one hour in 12 months gives one little chance to form an opinion correctly.

2nd. The diets are obtained by 'monthly pass book.' This does not mean, as you know, that a stock of provisions is obtained once a month, but that the accounts are paid monthly and provisions are obtained twice a week or oftener, if required. The dieting is not charged at 37c but at 25c, as the ordinance requires.
 3rd. The books "kept by the dispenser" are the admission and diet book and medicine book, and these "were only made up to the 2nd inst." because no further entry, or change in treatment of the coolies, had been found necessary.

4th. a. Able and energetic men, such as our respected M.I.C.D., may be able to visit every estate in this district walking on one day. I am not able to do so riding without very great exertion, and I think I ride pretty fast, and, as you are well aware, a cooly going round the district merely delivering messages and not waiting for answers gets two days' names for so doing.

b. As for coolies dying unattended I can say without fear of contradiction that no cooly has ever been reported sick to me whom either my dispenser or I did not see.

c. I can't say what grounds the M.I.C.D. may have for his assertion that the European Superintendents and their families are remarkably well attended. There has hardly been any case of sickness, certainly not of serious illness amongst them, and in any case my agreement contains a clause binding me not to accept a fee from any superintendent for attendance on him or his family.

Dr. Coghill also says there is no cook or female attendant at the hospital. He omits to state that he has been repeatedly told that the rule here is, for the estate sending a female patient or a high caste one, or any patient requiring extra attention, to send an attendant along with that patient from the estate to which he or she may belong.—I am, your obedient servant,
 P. J. LAWRENCE.

THE ST. GOTHARD TUNNEL.—Some particulars regarding this—the largest tunnel in the world—may be of interest. The total length of the tunnel is 14,920 metres, or 1 2 feet more than 9 1/2 miles. Its width is 6 1/2 metres, or 2 1/4 feet. The undertaking has required for its execution seven years and five months—four and a half years less than the time taken to complete the Mont Cenis Tunnel. The average daily progress was 5 1/2 metres, or 18 feet. The number of holes bored amounted to 320,000, and 490,000 kilogrammes of dynamite were used in blasting. One million six hundred and fifty thousand lbs. were consumed, and 1,450,000 cartloads of debris were taken out from the mountain. The cost of the tunnel is put down at 45,600,000 francs, or 1,824,000 sterling. The work on the Airolo side cost rather less than on the Goschenen side, the amount expended being 21,800,000 francs, or 872,000 sterling. The difference about corresponds with the difference in length done on the two sides, the portion from the Goschenen end being rather more than half. Though the bulk of the work is now accomplished, the tunnel is by no means completed. The finishing operations will take some little time and it is estimated that by the time the tunnel is ready to be handed over for traffic it will have cost altogether about 50,000,000 francs, or 2,000,000 sterling. This will make the cost about 100 francs, or 4s. 10d. for every foot.—European Mail.