

1405

THE BUSINESS CHRONICLE

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF PRACTICAL INFORMATION.

VOL. I NO 7.

Madras, 29th July 1922.

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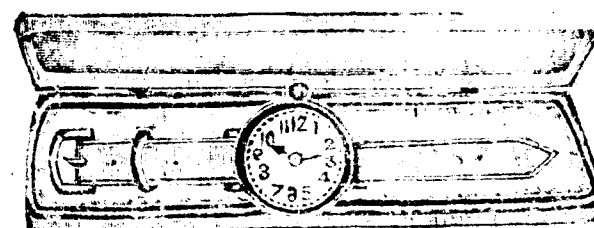
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Vol. I]

MADRAS, 29th JULY 1922.

[No. 7.

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"BUSINESS CHRONICLE,"

by Chetty St., G. T. Madras.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Kenya Again!

The recent pronouncement of Major Wood, the Colonial Under-Secretary, in the House of Commons, goes to second in unmistakable terms the memorable utterance of Mr. Winston Churchill at the East African Dinner that the highlands of Kenya are to be reserved for the whites. To those that have followed closely the methods of the Colonial Office, the nonchallant utterance of Major Wood will not come as a bit of surprise. In the course of his harangue, while emphasising the point that Kenya should be a *White Colony*, the Colonial Under Secretary referred to an "understanding on which the settlers were induced to settle there." We frankly admit that the above subtle reference is almost in the neighbourhood of a poser for us. But we believe the reference was to Lord Elgin's despatch of 1908 to the effect that *original grants of Crown lands should be issued solely for Europeans for reasons of administrative convenience.*" Evidently the gallant apostle of a "White Kenya Policy," forgets that the same despatch had a similar reference to Indian settlers. It contained a warning to the Kenya authorities against legislation calculated to affect the status of Indian settlers. It is inexplicable as to why the whites should have a monopoly of the highlands. With the Colonial Office laying down clearly their Anti-Indian Policy, we wonder what the outcome of the much projected mission of the Rt. Hon. Mr. Sastri will be. In the face of the stubborn attitude set up by the Colonial Office, not even the zeal of a curzon can make bricks without straw. Evidently the dominion tour of the Rt.

(Continued on page 71.)

CASHEW NUTS.

Among the edible nuts produced in the British Empire, the cashew nut is worthy of note as one that has recently been attracting increasing attention in the United Kingdom. It is the fruit of an evergreen tree, *Anacardium occidentale*, Linn. (Nat Ord. Anacardiaceæ), which is native to South and Central America and the West Indies, and is now found more or less plentifully in the tropics generally, especially in India, Indo-China, the Malay Peninsula, the Philippine Islands, West and East Africa, and Madagascar. It exists in small numbers in Australia.

The tree, in the wild state, is of somewhat irregular and spreading habit, but under cultivation its growth is more upright; it attains a height varying in different countries from about 16 to 30 or 40 ft. It seems to grow best on a soil which withstands drought well, though its productivity may sometimes be increased by suitable irrigation. It prefers low altitudes, but in the immediate neighbourhood of the sea its form tends to be stunted, and it does not generally flourish so well if it is exposed to excessive wind. In India its habitat is mainly in the coastal forests, especially in the Goa District.

It is quick growing, and may bear fruit as early as its third or fourth year, though generally not in great quantity till its eight or tenth year. The flowers are small, rose-coloured, and aromatic. In Madagascar flowering begins about February, and the fruits are mature about June; in other countries flowering may commence in December, and the fruits ripen as early as April or May. In Brazil and in Portuguese East Africa, the tree is reported to be in fruit about January. The tree is usually grown from seed, but can also be propagated by grafting or layering.

The fruit is kidney-shaped, greenish at first, dull grey when ripe, and about 1 to 1½ inch long. The stalk, immediately below the fruit, undergoes a remarkable swelling and forms a fleshy, pear-shaped receptacle, considerably larger than the fruit itself; this receptacle known as the "cashew apple," and sometimes incorrectly as the "fruit," is red, yellow, or sometimes white, according to the variety of tree.

The pericarp, or "shell," of the nut is externally hard and leathery; internally it is cellular, and contains a dark brownish acid, oily juice, which has a powerfully irritating action on the skin. The kernel, which constitutes about 20 per cent. of the nut, is covered

with a thin yellowish or greenish grey skin; the flesh is a clear white.

The kernels have a bland taste; they are eaten in the countries where the tree grows, and are esteemed as a dessert nut in Europe. They are used, after roasting, as a constituent of nut chocolate, and have other applications similar to those of the almond, in confectionery.

The kernel oil is of non-drying character; it is pale yellow in colour, and has a bland taste, which is considered equal to that of almond oil. Determinations of its chemical and physical constants, by different observers are not in very good agreement, but the figures recorded mostly lie between the limits shown in the following table, which also includes the constants of almond oil:—

	Cashew-nut oil.	Almond oil.
Specific gravity	0.911-0.916	0.917-0.919
Saponification value.	182-195	189-195
Iodine value <i>per cent.</i>	77-85	93-101

There is good market for cashew kernels in the United Kingdom, as well as in the Continent; they are shipped in considerable quantities from Portuguese East Africa to European ports; shipments received in London are, however, mainly from Bombay.

The kernels are always shipped without the shells, the nature of the pericarp oil rendering the shells highly objectionable. Decortication is effected by slightly roasting the nuts, which has the effect of causing the shells to split open, rendering their removal less difficult. The roasting operation has to be conducted with care, as the pericarp oil gives off a vapour which is very injurious to the face and eyes. The roasting has the effect of making the kernels keep better, but it converts the white colour of the flesh into pale yellowish-brown.

The kernels generally come on the European markets in cases containing 2 cwt. or 100 kilograms. The price fluctuates considerably, depending upon the supply of almonds; when these are scarce, as at present, the demand for cashew kernels increases and the price rises in consequence. Early in the present year the Indian kernels were quoted in the United Kingdom at 55s. to 65s. per cwt. Blasted "peeled" kernels (i.e., kernels with removed) are also shipped from India in small quantities, and com-

price; they were quoted at about 72s. 6d. per cwt. at the beginning of the present year.

Cashew nut has not, up to the present, been used as a source of oil, the price obtainable for the kernels for confectionery and other edible purposes being prohibitive to the oil-mills.

In addition to the kernel, the tree yields other products which are utilised locally. The pericarp juice is used in India by natives for medicinal purposes, and for preserving the floors of houses, carved wood, and books from the attacks of white ants; and the Andaman Islanders use it for preserving fishing nets. Its chief chemical constituents are cardole and anacardic acid, which are present to the extent of about 10 per cent. and 90 per cent. respectively in the ether extract; it is to the former that the peculiar irritant properties of the juice are due.

The cashew "apple" is succulent, and is eaten as a fruit either raw or cooked, in the countries where it occurs; it can also be made into a preserve. In Brazil, Portuguese East Africa and some other countries, a wine is prepared from the juice by fermentation, and a spirit is obtained from the wine by distillation. Both the wine and the "apple" itself are considered to have antiscorbutic properties.

The bark of the tree exudes a gum, which is only partially soluble in water; it is said to be used in book-binding both in India and in South America and to be effective in keeping away destructive insects. The bark also contains a milky sap, which turns black on exposure to air and is used in countries where the tree grows as an indelible ink for marking linen. The sap is also stated to be used as a varnish and, like the pericarp juice, for preserving fishing nets.

The wood of the tree is fairly hard and of a reddish brown colour, and has a limited use as a timber; according to Mr. R. S. Troup in his *Indian Woods and their Uses*, it weighs 35 lb. per cubic foot, and is used in India for boat building, as well as for making packing cases. *Bulletin of the Imperial Institute.*

THROUGH MY SPECTACLES.

[BY "WAY FAREER"]

The Hague to the Hap

Like the 13 other conferences after the Armistice, the Hague conference has rushed to the scrap-heap. Thanks to the efforts of hard headed businessmen, the conference did not die a lingering death! The causes for the break up

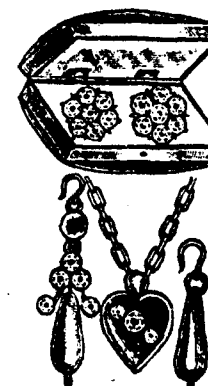
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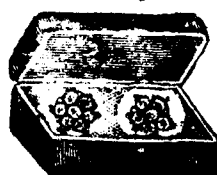
are clear. As soon as the conference met, the Russian Delegates put in a demand for £341,000,000 as the irreducible minimum to be paid within a period of 3 years for the reconstruction of Russia. This huge and impossible demand startled the Allies to a considerable degree. It was not possible for Britain, France and Belgium to pay £350 millions to the already swelling pre-war debts of the Soviet, at a time when the Allies were in dire need of the same. The Russian's refusal to be reasonable on the question of private property was the second cause for the inevitable collapse of the conference. Sir Phillip Lloyd Greemes was not far from right when he said, while winding up the conference, that credits and property guarantees were interlinked. The third question on which the conference split, was the recognition of war debts. The Russian attitude exposed the Soviet desire to evade a reasonable settlement. The invincible stupidity of the Soviet Delegates is responsible for the breakup of this conference and I am sure, will in no way ameliorate the condition of the Starving millions of Russia. If such a policy is prolonged there will be no hope of reconstructing Russia.

The Present Situation.

That the causes for the present muddle in the political situation of this country are due to the absence of a constructive political programme and first rate leadership in the ranks of the national movement have been pointed out on many an occasion by various writers of to-day. The latest is from the pen of Evelyn Roy, who in the course of an interesting article to the *Labour Magazine* for July 1922, on the "De-bacle of Gandhism" makes a few worthy assertions which deserve to be scrutinised. After discussing in detail the causes that led to the present political muddle, Evelyn Roy, says that the Indian movement is lacking in sound leadership and that the labour classes like farmers and others must be brought under control by the leaders of the Indian movement. At the same time—an impartial critic as he is—Evelyn Roy condemns the Government's notion in arresting Mr. Gandhi by saying that "Mr. Gandhi in goal is a powerful instrument, promoting a violent atmosphere than Mr. Gandhi outside the prison bars." Sincere students of Indian politics must not fail to scan this article, the point of that well informed writer.

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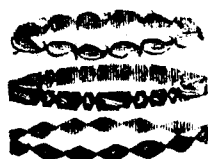
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THE COMMERCIAL AGENT

Mr. Horniman in Exile.

Mr Benjamin Guy Horniman, the able editor of the '*Bombay Chronicle*,' was taken from his sick-bed on 26th April 1919, under instructions of the Government of Bombay, on the ground of his having infringed some section of the Defence of India Act—an act meant to deal with the enemies of British Empire in war time—and safely despatched to English shores with official valets to attend on him. It is indeed a strange irony of fate that, the friend and favourite of Indian nationalism should have been refused a passport to India. One can write volumes on the yeomen services rendered for the cause of India by Benjamin Guy Horniman who has adopted India as his motherland. Time and space do not permit me to indulge in a review. The monster meeting held in Bombay the other day to protest against the attitude of the Government of Bombay towards Mr. Horniman has some interesting information for our consideration as it throws a luminous flash of sidelight on the legitimate indignation of the people of Bombay—nay, of the whole of India.

I have no doubt that Sir George Lloyed will turn over a new leaf and in no distant date Mr. Horniman will be in our midst.

JOLLY JOTTINGS

[BY FUNNY FELLOWS.]

The House of Commons is open to the Public once a week. And yet the Housing Problem remains unsolved!

The *Swarajya* has taken to write a series of sketches under the caption; 'Our Portrait Gallery.' "Why not borrow an eminent artist" queries our office cat.

The London Letter published in the *Madras Daily Express* of July 22nd is stated to have been written in London on July 29th 1922. If the above fact, even the latest scheme "Service,"—to come to Bombay from 22 Hours—is but a vanishing myth!

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Our Telepathic Overseas correspondent asks us to announce that the campaign against Rats will be waged with more severity than ever. We hope the *Madras Mail* will go to their rescue.

The *Madras Mail* and the *Daily Express* are asked by our Puzzle to copy the following Puzzle without acknowledgement in their "Children's Corner"—[which we hope will be safely deposited in the W. P. B. of those journals—"F. F."].

My First is my First
My Second is my Second
My Third is my Third
My Fourth is my Fourth
My whole is not Part
My Part is not whole
Dear Reader! my whole
Please do not find!

Says the *'Independant'*: "Sir George Lloyd came down to Kashmir to cool his brain." And yet the *Madras Mail* writes the Lunatic Assylum is near Kilpauk!

Mr. Doodle, the great-great-grandson of the African Oorang; has given up the answer to the question: "Will Simla Fall?" Poor Comrade!

The special feature of this year's Hockey Tournament is the introduction of the "Press Gallery" which is in the same level of a tree top. Our Reporter has protested against this awkward position lest, he is afraid, people mistake the Press Representatives for the T. P. Fraternity.

Let us hope the M. C. C. authorities will give a scandal!

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Hon. Mr. Sastry amounts to preaching sermons on stones and is less calculated to the interests of our country. Now that the "White-hall Machinery of White Kenya Policy" has thrown us the gauntlet by laying down an anti-Indian Policy and the Sastry Mission has turned to be a huge farce, we are anxious what the next step will be. We wonder whether India will take up the challenge or leave it unanswered.

Mr. HORNIMAN IN EXILE.

We draw the attention of our Readers to the interesting paragraph by "Way Farer" on Mr. Horniman which we publish elsewhere. The treatment accorded to Benjamin Guy Horniman of the *Bombay Chronicle* by the Government of Bombay has aroused a storm of popular indignation all over the country. If repeated protest meetings of prominent publicmen all over India fail to have any effect on the attitude of the Government, what else can we can hardly imagine. We hope the gallant Governor of Bombay will give ear to the public opinion of his presidency at least and set matters right as early as he can.

QUITE LOGICAL.

191296

The *Madras Mail* in the course of a lengthy article intended, we believe, to educate the Anglo-Indian intelligentsia, on the speeches delivered by the Ali India Leaders at the Triplicane Beach the other day makes the following amazing statement which deserves to be scrutinised:

"They (the speakers at the beach meeting) are clever with the cleverness of the Hyde Park stump orator who knows that to abuse his audience and tell lies about his enemies is a certain way of winning and holding their attention." We are neither surprised nor disappointed at the above analogy of the Hyde Park orator drawn by the Mount Road North Cliffe for such a type of logic has been associated with that Paper for so long a time, a few more specimen of which, appeared already in these columns. We ask the Editor of the *Madras Mail* to note that the speaker, the other day did not come with the intention of winning personal fame or drawing audience in thousands as a Hyde Park Stump orator or for a matter of that a gleb tounge south within the Debating Society of a School. We sincerely hope that the day will not be far off when such a type of logic in the columns of the *Mail* will close the shop, give the Devil the key and go on a vergen.

COCHIN MARKET REPORT

(FROM THE COCHIN NEWS AGENCY.)

The following were the closing prices last night, for the various kinds of Malabar Produce :—

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One Month Forward Delivery

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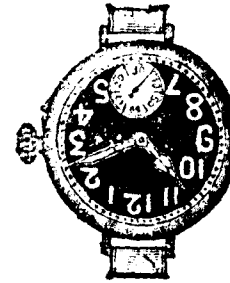
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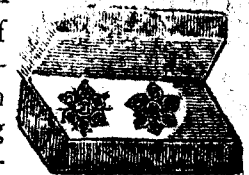
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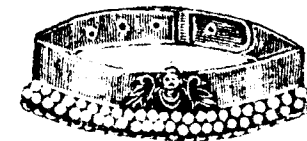
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