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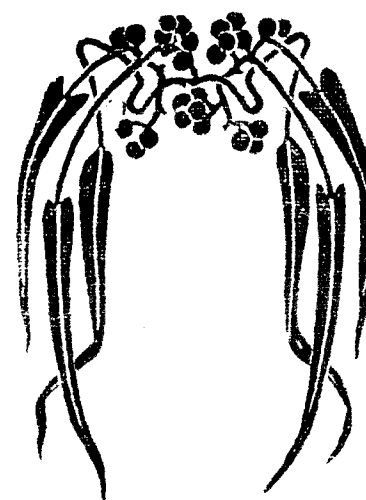
Vol. 1.

No. 7.

P 414

THE ESTATE BUYER

THE ADVERTISERS' MONTHLY
OF SOUTH INDIA



SEPTEMBER
1956

Price 8 Annas

ANNOUNCEMENT

I. —“THE ESTATE BUYER” is now more than six months old... It is still very young.... However, it has somewhat grown and this means that its needs and expenses have simultaneously increased.

Our rates for advertisement have been maintained as long as possible at the very low level at which we had purposely fixed them at the start.

To our regret, we are now compelled to revise these rates, and the Reader will find our new price schedule, together with the terms and conditions, on page 4 of this issue.

Contracts booked previously to the aforesaid increase will of course be carried out at the old rates.

II. —The one thousand copies of “THE ESTATE BUYER” being published at present now barely cover requirements.

In these circumstances, we are unfortunately obliged to reduce the number of complimentary copies sent out each month.

Those amongst the Readers who wish to receive copies of our future issues are requested to fill up and send us, at their earliest convenience, the attached “Subscription” Form.

We thank them heartily in advance for their kind patronage.

THE EDITOR
A. GALLOIS-MONTBRUN

ADVERTISE IN "THE ESTATE BUYER"

Those who read "THE ESTATE BUYER"
will mean business and not recreation

Therefore

YOUR ADVERTISEMENTS WILL HAVE MORE CHANCE
OF
BEING CAREFULLY SCRUTINISED



ONE THOUSAND COPIES

of

'THE ESTATE BUYER'

ARE CIRCULATED IN:

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TIRUCHIRAPPALLI	—	MADURAI	—	TANJORE
COIMBATORE	—	OOTACAMUND	—	COONOR
KODAIKANAL	—	ALLEPEY	—	TRIVANDRUM

ETC.

AND SENT TO:

PARIS:	Centre National du Commerce Extérieur	(3 copies)
"	Chambre de Commerce de Paris	(3 ")
LONDON:	Chamber of Commerce	(3 ")
PRAGUE:	" "	(3 ")
TOKYO:	" "	(3 ")
HAMBURG:	" "	(3 ")
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MARSEILLE :	" "	(3 ")
GENOA:	" "	(3 ")
NEW YORK	" "	(3 ")

THE ESTATE BUYER

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

ANNUAL	..	Inland	Rs. 5—0—0
		Foreign	Rs. 6—6—0
HALF-YEARLY	..	Inland	Rs. 2-12—0
		Foreign	Rs. 3—8—0
QUARTERLY	..	Inland	Rs. 1—8—0
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RATES & CONDITIONS
FOR
ADVERTISEMENTS

I. — ORDINARY PAPER:				Rs. as. ps.
Full Page	...	...	...	15 - 0 - 0
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2. — ART PAPER				
Extra charge per page	...	...	...	12 - 0 - 0
3. — BACK WRAPPER:				
Inside	...	...	...	30 - 0 - 0
Outside	...	...	...	50 - 0 - 0

II. — CONTRACTS:

Rebates on each of the above rates:

- 3 insertions in a year: 10%
- 6 insertions in a year: 15%
- 12 insertions in a year: 20%

III. CONDITIONS:

- a) These rates are valid "per issue", i.e.: for a single insertion.
- b) They apply whatever the text, and whatever the amount of words contained in the space concerned.
- c) The rate is uniform, regardless of the page on which the advertisement is to appear.
- d) Where blocks are to be used, the said block should be supplied by the customer.
- e) While every care will be taken, the Management can take no responsibility for any damage caused to the blocks while in use, custody, or transit.

General

Advertisements



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IS NEARER THIS MONTH
THAN IN THE PAST
32 YEARS

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YES
BUT...

★ ★

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IS NEARER
THAN EVER BEFORE

FOR THOSE
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IN

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SREE LAKSHMI COFFEE WORKS
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FOR GENUINE NILGIRI TEA

WITH PRINCELY
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AND
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Coonoor P. O.
NILGIRIS S. I.

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We stock English and Indian Cables, Fluorescent Tubelights and accessories, lamps of all wattages, all kinds of Ceiling, Table, Cabin and Pedestal Fans, A. C. single phase and 3-phase meters, Watermeters.

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SELVA EMPORIUM

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Grams: "HINDUSTAN"

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PONDY
AND VISIT
FRENCH
BEAUTY
EMPORIUM

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To

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into the manufacture of
every kind of sports goods

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Show-Room

Ready Referencer On The Indian Companies Act, 1956.

BY

JOHN AND ROW, ADVOCATES, MADRAS.

Price Rs. 25/-

The following is an extract from Mr. Tenneti Viswanatham's letter, which speaks to the merits of the book as well as the authors of the same.

"The Ready Referencer published by John & Row is indeed a very valuable book. It is a clear analysis of the provisions of the new Act. It brings together the changes in their logical sequences so that the Directors and Managing Agents can immediately lay their finger on the required provisions whenever they are in doubt as to what is to be done or what the Law on the subject is. Besides, the Referencer is of even greater value to the Lawyer, as one can expect it to be, coming as it does from John & Row, who have been distinguished specialists on Company Law. Likewise the Bench should find it invaluable.

(Sd.) Tenneti Viswanatham
Chairman, Advisory Commission,
(Company Law Administration)

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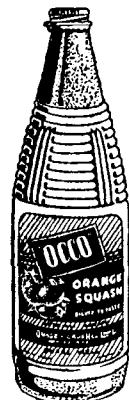
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G. G. Industries (Chocolates and
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PLEASE PAY US A VISIT
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Always Available:

ALL VARIETIES OF WHISKY-BRANDY
GIN-RHUM-WINES AND BEERS.

VERANDAH GARDENING

*(Reprinted with permission from the Journal of the Agri-Horticultural Society,
Madras Vol. I. N. 3.)*

An essential feature of horticulture in the tropics is what may be called verandah-gardening, which in some cases, especially in towns, may cover the entire gardening scope of a bungalow. Nothing brightens a bungalow so much as a verandah furnished with well-grown and choice plants, and these may be considered almost as indispensable to a verandah as the latter is to a bungalow.

The successful growth of plants in a verandah depends to some extent on aspect and situation. Many beautiful foliage plants, which become stunted or scorched by the sun on the south side of a bungalow, may grow luxuriantly in a shady north verandah. Ferns are generally best suited to a shady northern aspect. It is often advisable, however, to change the plants occasionally, as may be gauged by their indifferent or unevenly developed-growth, from north to south or *vice versa*. All plants growing in a verandah should be frequently turned round in their position, so as to equalise the effects of light, otherwise their growth will be onesided. Overcrowding of the plants should always be avoided,

RUBBER PLANTS



High yielding plants
both budded
and
clonal
are available

M/S. THUMPASSERRY ESTATES

Phone 36 :: :: PUNALUR.

FLOWERS, SEEDS & GARDENING

INSPECTION AND ADVICE ON HORTICULTURE

Excellent Layout,
Lawn, Shrubberies, beds etc.

By

M. M. KUPPUSWAMY

41-A, Parthasarathi pettah

MADRAS-6

(Continued from page 10)

for space as well as cleanliness is essential to their well-being. The foliage should be syringed frequently, occasionally sponged, and all dead, sickly or superfluous growth removed. The pots or tubs should not be ungainly in size, or of grotesque appearance and should be raised off the ground and placed on neatly arranged and concealed bricks.

Everybody experiences at one time or another the difficulty of keeping plants in good condition in a room, for, however carefully tended, these sometimes sicken or become discoloured. Frequently the cause is excessive watering, but it may also be due to insufficient daylight or excessive artificial light. Therefore, the plants should be placed out of doors at night and during the early part of the day, especially during dull or rainy weather. This has also the effect of keeping the foliage clean and healthy.

Certain plants are more adapted for growing under cover than others. Plants such as Ferns, Begonias, Gloxinias, palms, etc., should predominate. Hanging baskets of ferns, Asparagus, Torenia, Zebrina pendula, Verbena and perennial creeping-balsam, will add to the beauty of the verandah.

GARDEN IN THE SHADE

(Reprinted with permission from the Journal of the Agri-Horticultural Society, Madras Vol. I N. 3.)

Getting good garden effects in the shade isn't too difficult if we can either use plants that require or prefer shady conditions, or so modify those conditions as to compensate for the lack of sunlight. There are different kinds of shade—depending upon the different factors that cause it.

Shade caused by two buildings standing close together is generally dense, continuous, and accompanied by lack of moisture because the area is shielded from rain. In such locations it is hard, often impossible to grow much of anything, even weeds. Moreover, such places are often used as walks, so the best solution of a problem of this sort may be a pavement of bricks, cement, gravel, or what you will.

Awnings, either fixed or movable, cast shade accompanied by lack of water, unless those of the movable type are raised whenever rain is on the way. If this is undesirable because of possible damage to windows or porches, the only alternative is to water the sheltered bed or border as often as necessary.

Shade cast by a hedge or fence, and by trees, is the commonest type and the easiest in which to grow plants since it is usually "broken" or shifting, hour by hour, as well as season by season. While the lack of sunshine is partly responsible for the poor growth in such places, most of the trouble is caused by the roots of the larger plants taking the lion's share of the available moisture and nutrient materials from the soil. This can be overcome by (a) fertilising the ground sufficiently to feed both large and small plants, and (b) root-pruning the trees, clearing the flower beds of the severed fibrous root masses, and afterwards, preventing more roots from invading the area by means of an 8-inch-wide galvanized iron shield inserted its full width into the ground along the side of the bed towards the tree. By the time it has rusted away, the tree may have established its feeding root system in another direction. **Work into the ground each year a considerable amount of rotted cow manure and some bone meal, together with an occasional application of chemical fertiliser.**

There are many plants that can be used in such situations, provided there is an ample supply of moisture. Among the best are Begonias, Caladiums, Anthuriums, Ferns, Alocasias, Dracaenas, and other shade-loving plants. Put them into fairly large pots. Chrysanthemums of all kinds do well in partial, though not deep, shade. Indeed, it may cause them to bloom earlier than they otherwise would. Plants grown under or near trees and fed more heavily than is necessary in the open, should be divided and replanted every year or two.

PONDICHERRY TOWN



THE STATUE OF DUPLEIX

*

(Continued from the previous issue)

In January 1674, Monsieur Bellanger de l'Espinay applied for an assistant. François Martin was sent to him. They worked together for about eight months, after which Monsieur Bellanger left Pondicherry in the hands of François Martin, supported by eighty of his compatriots.

In 1676, a small bastion was erected.

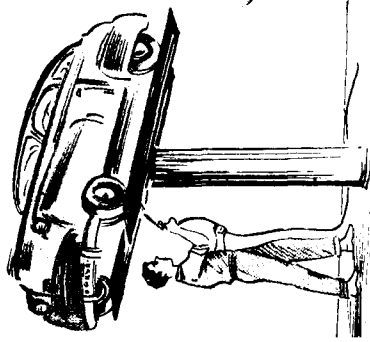
In 1677, a "Firman" confirmed the prerogatives granted to the French.

In 1689, the French were authorised to fortify Pondicherry.

In 1690, they obtained the right to collect the Customs Duties levied in Pondicherry.

On the 8th of September 1693, Pondicherry was seized by the Dutch, with whom the French were at war in Europe. Following the Peace Treaty of Riswick (1697), Pondicherry was returned to the French by the Dutch and, thereafter, became an independent French Settlement.

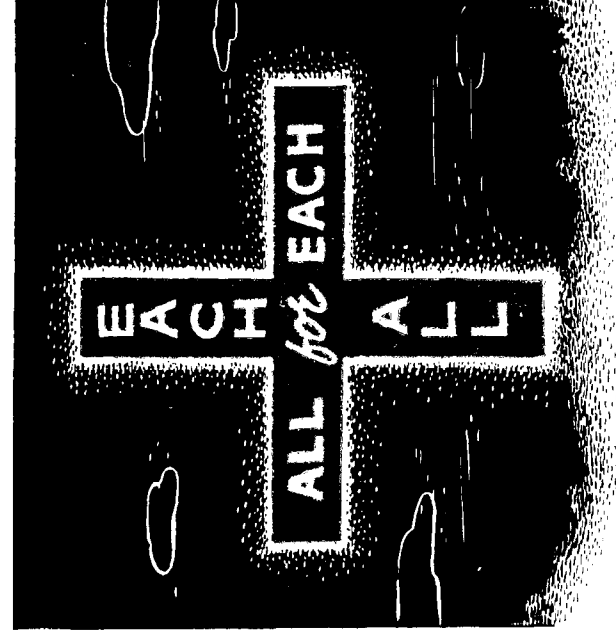
(Continued on page 16)



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of Service

Just as you take your car to a good service station and have a thorough check-up, at regular intervals, it is time that you buy another good service from us also.

The best service you buy, whether in Motor, Accident or Fire Insurance is undoubtedly from INDIAN MUTUAL; indeed it is you who are going to govern this Society and you should particularly know that the INDIAN MUTUAL is your own every policy-holder being a shareholder automatically when he takes up a policy with us. To cut it short, INDIAN MUTUAL is evidently a Society, the members working together for mutual advantage.



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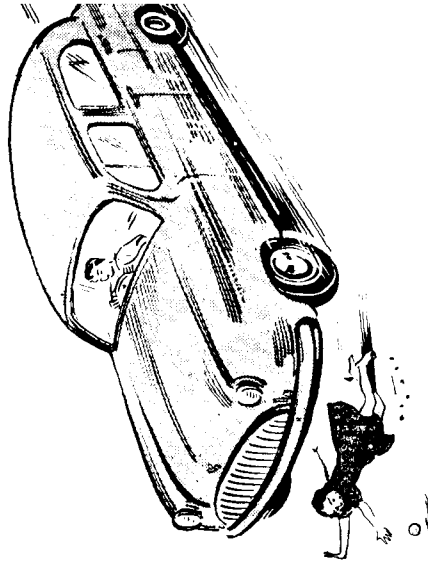
Working together for mutual advantage, the members of the INDIAN MUTUAL GENERAL INSURANCE SOCIETY LTD., solely the policy-holders-every new member finds the Society, a great addition in their social life. EACH FOR ALL, ALL FOR EACH, this organisation works to be of mutual help and benefits.

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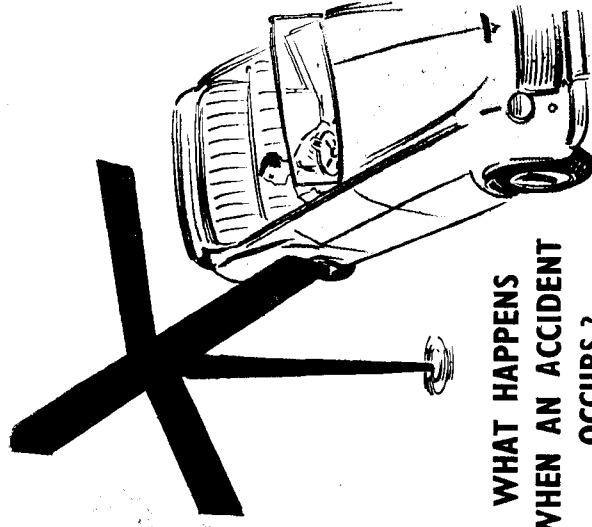
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WHAT HAPPENS WHEN AN ACCIDENT OCCURS?

1. Injury or loss of life to third party.
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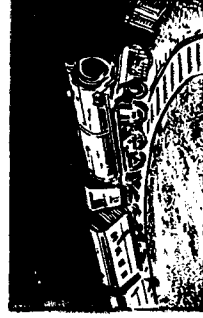


Everyone of us will admit that deaths due to accidents are alarmingly on the increase.

Newspapers everyday feature an AIRCRASH here, a DERAILMENT somewhere and a drowning tragedy elsewhere. The reasons may be attributed to the enormous increase in traffic and risky nature of modern transport. Human ingenuity constantly researches and



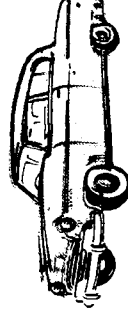
invents new devices to prevent accidents and makes travel accident-proof; nevertheless accidents do occur involving *loss of lives and property*. These accidents do not, and should not, as a matter of fact, prevent people from travelling frequently or making use of speedier forms of transport in pursuit of their own business. However every-one wishes to travel with ease of mind. We can be wise and take ample cover and secure FREEDOM from anxiety.



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85356

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4. Persons in the management of large industries who have to face labour troubles.
5. Scientists working in Research and Manufacturing Laboratories.





ANANDA RANGAPILLAI
Dubash to Dupleix

✱

(Continued from page 13)

François Martin presided over its destinies until his death which occurred in Pondicherry on the 31st of December 1706. During that period, the place developed considerably both in size and importance; monuments and houses were built. Pondicherry at that time numbered 700 Europeans, 300 Eurasians and about 30,000 Indian inhabitants.

From 1706 to 1721, no important change took place in the Territory. M. Dulivier, who took over from François Martin, and M. Hebert were successively Governors.

During the years 1721-1735, Pondicherry realised a period of activity and organisation. M. Lenoir was its Governor until September 1735. The town was extended towards the South and fortifications surrounding the place were commenced. New streets were opened, and new buildings and houses were erected.

(Continued on page 22)

Advertisements for:

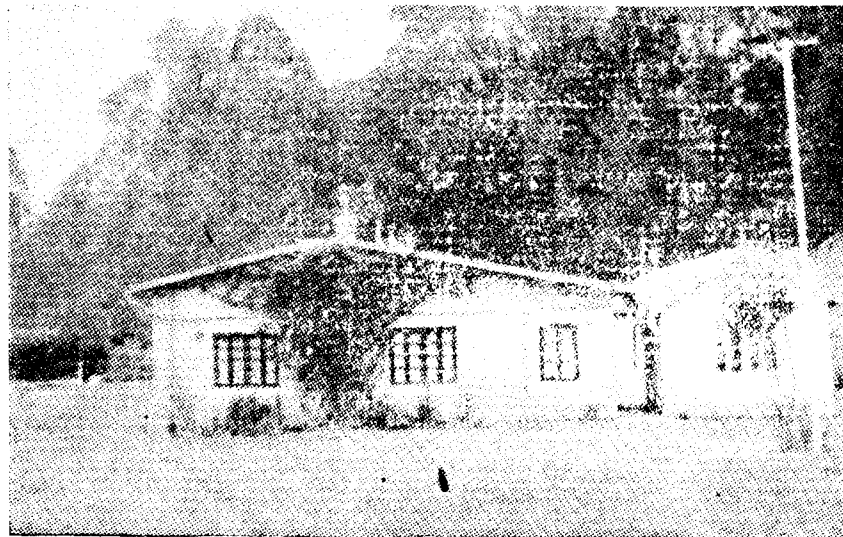
ESTATES - LANDS

&

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An attractive modern Bungalow
KNOWN AS
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KOTAGIRI



BUILT ENTIRELY OF STONE

Within 15 minutes' walk of St. Luke's Church, Post Office, English Club and Upper Kotagiri shopping centres.

ACCOMMODATION

Hall, Drawing Room, Dining Room, Study, Bed Room No. 1 (with bathroom), Bed Room No. 2 (with bathroom), Pantry, Store Room and Kitchen. The latter contains electric and oil cookers. The bathrooms have long English baths, basins supplied by electrically heated water tanks, and up-to-date modern sanitation.

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Two well built quarters adjacent to the house. There is a modern servants' latrine situated over septic tank which is in good order.

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There is a spacious garage near the house.

FURNITURE

The house is fully furnished and has curtains, carpets etc. The bedrooms contain 3 beds with good mattresses, and cupboards—both shelf and hanging.

FOR FURTHER PARTICULARS

Apply to:

Messrs KING & PARTRIDGE
SOLICITORS
OOTACAMUND :: NILGIRIS

FOR SALE

"VALLEY VIEW"

Quill Hill—Upper Coonoor. A well built, double storied house in Quill Hill, healthy locality near Hebron's School, consisting of: 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, upstairs. Dining room, Drawing room, Pantry, Store, Kitchen, wood godown, water boiling room, glassed verandah, downstairs. Furnished—Electric light, and water laid on in all bathrooms, kitchen and garden. 4 Servants' quarters with open verandah and separate servants' latrines. 93 cents of land with wooded trees. Rs. 23000/-. No offers.

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**THE ESTATES & HOUSE
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CORNWALL ROAD
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An estate of about 10 acres
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Havelock Road

Beautifully suited for building purposes and well wooded with wattles and other trees. Store room with tile floor and four rooms. The whole surrounded by strong wire fencing and a well.

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SOUTH INDIA.

"Ibex Lodge", Glenmorgan Nilgiris

Excellent farm covering 30 acres under bluegum, potato and vegetable cultivation, situated on bus route 15 miles from Ootacamund at an elevation of 6500 feet. Ideal for tea planting.

With large solidly built bungalow, furnished comprising sitting, dining, two large double bed with attached dressing and bathrooms and two single bedrooms with attached bathrooms, pantry, store-room, kitchen etc.

Electrified with running water and modern sanitation.

Four roomed cottage, two large garages, big cattle sheds, six servants' godowns, poultry houses and a block of four rooms.

For particulars apply to:
M/s KING & PARTRIDGE,
Solicitors, OOTACAMUND. S. I.

FOR SALE

A PROPERTY COMPRISING
TWO BUNGALOWS

Standing On

**THREE & A HALF ACRES
OF LAND**

For further particulars

Please Apply to:

A. E. SHUTIE
Real Estate Agent
"The Grove"
WALTAIR
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FOR SALE

"BLAIR ATHOL"—COONNOOR

A nice furnished bungalow with garden situated in Upper Coonoor, a few minutes' walk from Sim's Park, Coonoor Library and Coonoor Club.

ACCOMMODATION:

Side open Verandah, 4 Bedrooms with bathrooms, 1 Single bedroom with bathroom (two bathrooms with modern sanitation and with hot water boiler) Drawing room, Dining room, Glazed room, Pantry, Kitchen with godowns attached, store-room, Garage, Firewood godowns.

OUTHOUSES:

There are 2 rooms with small verandahs 1 Bathroom (could be converted into a small cottage).

GODOWNS:

Four at the back.

PRICE

Rs. 26,000/- or near offer.

EXTENT:

0.25 Cents or thereabouts.

INSPECTION BY APPOINTMENT

For further particulars apply to:

Messrs. KING & PARTRIDGE,
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OOTACAMUND. :: NILGIRIS.

"WISTANSTOW", OOTACAMUND.

Elevation 7500 feet above mean sea level.

The bungalow is actually on the Downs and on a naturally level site.

Golf Club 400 yards - English Club 2½ miles - Excellent centre for hunting, shooting, fishing and golf.

Two storeyed bungalow with twelve rooms fully furnished, bathrooms with modern sanitation.

Electricity and water.

Compound of 5 acres - Stables, garages, fowl houses, dog kennels etc.,

Further particulars from

M/s KING & PARTRIDGE,
OOTACAMUND. S. I.

For Sale

"PRIMROSE HOUSE" OOTACAMUND

A solidly built and fully furnished bungalow with modern amenities overlooking Ooty lake with an extent of over 5 acres of land.

Accommodation consists of:

Drawing room, 2 Dining rooms, 6 Bedrooms with attached bathrooms—pantry, kitchen, outhouses—Beautiful garden and Tennis court.

For further particulars apply to:

M/S KING & PARTRIDGE, SOLICITORS,
OOTACAMUND :: NILGIRIS, S. I.

FOR SALE

"UNDERFELL" - OOTACAMUND

A large well built and well furnished 3 suite bungalow with modern sanitation situated off the Coonoor Road and a few minutes walk from Charing Cross.

ACCOMMODATION : Each suite containing sitting room, 2 bedrooms with dressing and bathrooms attached—kitchen, pantry and outhouses.

ELECTRIFIED - Municipal water available.

Attractive garden and very nice view.

EXTENT : 1.97-7/8 acres.

For particulars apply to:

M/S King & Partridge, Solicitors, Ootacamund,
NILGIRIS, S. I.

(Continued from page 16)

In 1735, the famous Governor Dumas took over the local Government. The fortifications were completed and improvements were made in the town. Outside the town, the roads leading to Pondicherry were repaired and enlarged. The building of a new Government House was started in 1738.

On the 17th August 1736, due to a clever diplomatic move, Dumas obtained from the Great Mogul Mahomed Shah a "Firman" authorising him to mint money.

Following the fall of the Great Mogul, the Nawab of the Carnatic, Dost Ali Khan, became engaged in a war against the Mahrattas. Dost Ali Khan and his son, Hassan Ali were killed. A panic followed these tragic events and refugees started to pour into Pondicherry at the rate of one, two and even three thousand a day. Amongst them were the widow of Dost Ali Khan and all her family. To offer them refuge was to provoke the enmity of the Mahrattas against the French; not to give protection to these unfortunate victims of fate would have been tantamount to dishonour. Dumas did not hesitate: he received the Nawab's family with great honours and put them under the protection of the French Flag.

After various events, including skirmishes with the Mahrattas around Pondicherry which was threatened by an army of eight thousand of their horsemen, these latter retired into their country and the second son of Dost Ali Khan paid a visit to Pondicherry.

The Great Mogul, as a sign of satisfaction and gratefulness, granted to Pondicherry several territorial increases taken in the vicinity, and made Dumas a Nawab and a Mansebdar. At the request of Dumas, these titles were declared transmissible to his successors. Hence the Governors of Pondicherry were thereafter "Generals" of the Great Mogul with all the prerogatives attached to these dignities.

On the 20th of October 1741, Dumas retired to France.

On the 14th of January 1742, DUPLEIX, that legendary figure whose name is indissolubly linked with that of Pondicherry, landed, was saluted by 21 salvos of guns and was taken in great state to the Fort and thence to his residency....

We cannot do better now than leave the rest of the narrative to a remarkable Diarist, ANANDA RANGAPILLAI, the Dubash of Dupleix.

Ananda Rangapillai's Diary commences on the 6th of September 1736, i.e., several years before the arrival of Dupleix, while Dumas was still Governor of Pondicherry.

This Diary was written in Tamil, and it was not until 1904 that an English translation of the same was made by order of the Government of Madras.

With the kind permission of the said Government, we are starting in this issue the reproduction by instalments of the above translation.

The Reader will find in Ananda Rangapillai's Diary valuable information on the most important events of the period concerned as well as picturesque details on the mode of life of those days.

We shall have reached our goal if we can succeed in arousing our Readers' interest and in contributing, within our modest means, to the spreading amongst the Public of some of this country's past colourful History.

THE EDITOR

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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

PUBLIC (GENERAL-B) DEPARTMENT

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THE PRIVATE DIARY OF ANANDA RANGA PILLAI,

DUBASH TO

JOSEPH FRANÇOIS DUPLEIX,

Knight of the Order of St. Michael,

AND

GOVERNOR OF PONDICHERRY

A RECORD OF MATTERS POLITICAL, HISTORICAL, SOCIAL,
AND PERSONAL, FROM 1736 TO 1761.

TRANSLATED FROM THE TAMIL BY ORDER OF THE GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS,
AND EDITED BY

SIR J. FREDERICK PRICE, *K. C. S. I.*,

Late of the Indian Civil Service.

ASSISTED BY

K. RANGACHARI, B. A.,

Superintendent of Records, Government Secretariat, Fort St. George.

Volume 1.

PREFATORY NOTE

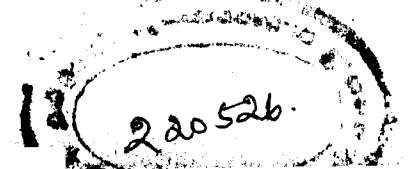
The following points are noted for the information of readers of this and subsequent volumes of the diary:—

- (i) The Christian dates follow the New Style, which, though not adopted by the English until 1753, had been in use by the French for considerably more than a century anterior to the time that Rangapillai wrote.
- (ii) Blanks, and incomplete sentences, as well as passages which owing to the perishing of the manuscript have become undecipherable, are denoted by dots. A footnote explains the exact circumstances of each case.
- (iii) Words etc. inserted by the Editor are indicated by square brackets.
- (iv) The transliteration of Indian names is in accordance with the system adopted in the publications of the Madras Government, an exception being however made in the case of well-known places, which are rendered in the ordinary form.
- (v) The circumflex has been used in preference to the acute accent, to indicate long vowels.
- (vi) *Madras, Fort St. David, Porto Novo, Sadras and St. Thomas' Mount* have, for convenience' sake, been substituted for the native names by which they are referred to in the diary. For the reasons assigned in appendix I, the French word *Mascareigne* has been used for Rangapillai's *Masukkarai*.

J. F. P.

GENERAL INTRODUCTION

ANANDA RANGA PILLAI was born on the 30th March 1709 at Perambûr, a suburb of Madras, in which city his father, Tiruvêngada Pillai, carried on business as a merchant. Somewhere in the early part of 1716, Tiruvêngada Pillai emigrated to Pondicherry, taking his family with him. This he did at the suggestion of his brother-in-law Nainiya Pillai, then *Courtier*, or chief native agent at that place, for the French. The invitation was sent at the request of M. Hébert, who was at the time Governor there. Tiruvêngada Pillai was accompanied by some other wealthy and influential merchants of Madras, their object being to establish and promote commerce in their new home. Under the management of the two relatives the trade of Pondicherry increased rapidly, but a severe check was ere long given to this, owing to M. Hébert having preferred certain charges against Nainiya Pillai, who was cast into prison, and died there—it is said—of ill-treatment. His son Guruva Pillai, and his brother-in-law, fearing the resentment of the Governor, fled to Madras. The former, having travelled by way of England to France, laid his grievances before the Duke of Orléans, who was then Regent, with the result that, in February 1719, M. Hébert was sent home under restraint. In the meantime, Guruva Pillai was made much of in France, embraced Christianity, was appointed Chevalier of St. Michael, *Courtier*, and head of the Indian subjects of the French at Pondicherry, for which he soon after took his departure. Prior to his arrival, M. de la Prévostière, the successor of M. Hébert, had induced Tiruvêngada Pillai to return. He then brought with him five other wealthy and capable merchants, and their families; and from that time forward the affairs of the Company grew and prospered. About the close of 1724, Guruva Pillai died without issue, and Tiruvêngada Pillai followed him in June 1726. M. Lenoir came in September of that year, for the second time, to Pondichery—upon this occasion as Governor. He had previously entertained a strong regard for Tiruvêngada Pillai, and on hearing of his death, employed Ranga Pillai, whom he considered a very promising young man, to continue the work on which his father had been engaged. This he did to such good purpose that M. Lenoir decided to appoint him native head of the French Factory at Porto Novo, where large quantities of blue cloths were, thanks to his exertions, manufactured, both for the Company, and for private traders. With a view to still further extend the commerce of the French, Ranga Pillai established at his own cost, at Lâlâpêttai and Arcot, large trading posts which were soon carrying on a brisk business in the exchange of European goods for the merchandise of the country. M. Dumas, who succeeded M. Lenoir in 1735, seems to have had a favourable opinion of Ranga Pillai, and to have placed confidence in him. The success which had hitherto accompanied the commercial operations of the French was, however, destined to receive a severe blow; as, in 1740, an irruption of the Mahrattas took place, and put a stop for some appreciable time to all manufacture and trade. Porto Novo was raided and sacked, and the country, far and wide, became a prey to the invaders. Fighting, though not actually with the French, was still going on, when, in 1742, M. Dupleix arrived as Governor. As he was employed at Pondicherry from 1720 to 1731, he had no doubt then known both Tiruvêngada Pillai and his son, and from the time that he assumed office, Ranga Pillai rapidly rose to power. His influence with M. Dupleix—which he apparently exercised honestly and with judgment—was very



marked, and he was evidently treated by that great man with full trust in his integrity and capacity. The post of *Courtier*, commonly called *Chief Dubash*, which had been occupied by Guruva Pillai, had, after his death, fallen into the hands of another family. This was probably the result of the desire of the priests, who at that time exercised much influence, that the position should be held by a Christian—a persuasion to which the surviving members of Guruva Pillai's family did not belong. When M. Dupleix became Governor, one Kanakaraya Mudali held the appointment. This individual regarded Ranga Pillai with much jealousy, as he plainly saw that he was supplanting him in the good graces of his master. Death however removed him, in 1746, from the scene, and towards the end of 1747 Ranga Pillai—having in the interval exercised to all intents and purposes the entire functions of the office—was appointed his successor. Whilst holding this position, he received from time to time honorific titles from the Subahdar of the Deccan; and he continued in office even after the downfall of his patron, M. Dupleix, which may be held to date from the close of the year of 1754, when M. Godeheu arrived as Commissioner. From that time, however, his power and influence with the governing body steadily declined, although he was still looked upon by his countrymen as their head. This and constant ill-health apparently caused him to become remiss in the performance of his duties, and he was finally removed from office, in 1756, by the then Governor M. de Leyrit. His diary makes no direct mention of this incident, although it refers to his successor as being the chief agent of the Governor in obtaining bribes, draws a vivid picture of the corruption and intrigue which followed the disappearance from Indian history of M. Dupleix, and is replete with expressions of disgust at the manner in which the administration of the French was carried on. He lingered on until the 12th (not the 11th, as stated by M. Vinson) of January 1761, and died four days before the surrender of Pondicherry to Colonel Coote, which took place on the morning of the 16th January of that year. He left no sons. Two were born to him, but both died during their childhood.

The account given here of Ranga Pillai has mainly been derived from a copy of a petition in French, addressed to the Governor of Pondicherry, which has been obtained from the family. In this the petitioner, after recounting the history of his uncle and his services, requested compensation for the losses which his relative had sustained in consequence of his devotion to the cause of the French. It bears no date, but from its contents there seems but little doubt that it was written not long after the death of Ranga Pillai.

What induced him to keep a diary, there is nothing to show. It is very clear that it was never written with the slightest view to publication, or for perusal by others than, perhaps, the immediate members of his own family. It stands unique as a record of the inmost thoughts and reflections of an extremely able, level-headed Oriental, and of his criticisms—which at times are of the freest character—of his fellows, and masters. It is a strange mixture of things trivial and important; of family matters and affairs of state; of business transactions and social life of the day; interspersed with scraps of gossip, all evidently recorded as they came to the mind of the diarist; who might well be dubbed the "Indian Pepys". Homely as is its diction, there are in it descriptions of men and things which are vividly life-like, and passages which are startling; some in their pathos, and others in their shrewdness. That, for some reason or other, he attached much importance to the keeping of a diary is shown by an entry in his journal in which he records having sent to his younger brother, on the occasion of his first mission, on behalf of the Government, to Madras, the materials for opening one, with strict injunctions to keep it regularly, and to note in it carefully everything that occurred. As a record, the diary, though perhaps in parts dull reading, is on the whole a deeply interesting, and probably valuable account of things historical, political, and social appertaining to the period embracing the

rise, the zenith, and the beginning of the decline of the French power in India. Ranga Pillai evidently did not record, day by day, the events which he considered worthy of mention. Sometimes, consecutive entries are to be found; then breaks of more or less length occur; then the events of a single day appear; and then entries are made under one date of the occurrences of several days—probably from notes. The diary is not written throughout in his own hand. The first volume of the original, which covers a period of about nine years from 1736—the year in which he started the chronicle—very largely is, but the other volumes, where originals are forthcoming, have, on examination, been found to be in several hands, with here and there the writing of Ranga Pillai himself. It seems pretty clear that as time went on, and his duties increased, he found himself unable to do the scriptory work which it involved, and employed an amanuensis. There is no change of style or diction until the last few pages are reached. In these the record has evidently been made by some one else, as what was hitherto a diary becomes a narrative which terminates abruptly on the day on which Ranga Pillai died.

The diary was begun on the 6th September 1736, and was written in bound volumes of the size of large account books. After Ranga Pillai's death, his nephew, Tiruvengada Pillai, continued to maintain a record, which runs to the beginning of 1770, and is still in the possession of his relatives. It was not until more than a century after the date on which it was begun, that the existence of Ranga Pillai's diary became known. In 1846, M. Gallois-Montbrun, the father of the gentleman who until recently was Mayor of Pondicherry—to whose courteous help in making search and inquiry regarding the diary I desire here to express my indebtedness—unearthed the manuscript, which, up to then, had lain unheeded in the house of the representatives of the family. M. Montbrun, who took the deepest interest in old vernacular writings, then proceeded to make a copy of it. But he apparently started with selections only; for the volume from which the translation for the Government of Madras was originally made is full of breaks. This was not observed until the actual work of editing was commenced. The omissions then noticed led to inquiry, and it was ascertained that M. Montbrun had subsequently supplied the blanks by a supplemental volume, which, however, was not forthcoming. Further search was made, and this resulted in the discovery of the undoubted originals of volumes I and II. The volume now being published is practically a fresh translation from these. M. Ariel made another copy, which is in the National Library at Paris, but whether this is defective or not, there are at present no means of ascertaining. M. Vinson, apparently under a misapprehension, has stated in his "*Français dans l'Inde*" that the copy made by the late M. Gallois-Montbrun was presented by his son to the public library at Pondicherry. It has been definitely ascertained that this is not the case. It was not until 1870 that an attempt to publish a translation of any portion of the diary was made, when M. Laude had a rendering into French prepared of the account given in it of the siege of Pondicherry, in 1748, by Admiral Boscawen. The journal again dropped out of sight until 1889, when M. Julien Vinson, Professor of the Special School of Living Oriental Languages at Paris, published a translation of some portions of it, which he followed up in 1894 by a volume amplifying these, and bearing the title of "*Les Français dans l'Inde*." This, however, does not go beyond 1748, and is composed of extracts referring only to a few special matters.

In 1892, the existence of the diary was brought to the notice of the Government of Madras by Lieutenant-General H. Macleod, R. A. the Consular Agent at Pondicherry, and Professor G. W. Forrest the Director-General of Imperial Records, and it was suggested that the matter which it contained was of such interest and value that it was highly desirable that a copy of it should be obtained; and a translation made of this, and published. The Government, which was then presided over by Lord Wenlock, readily adopted the suggestion, and the

transcription was commenced towards the close of 1892. Lieutenant-General Macleod, who took a deep interest in the matter, arranged for and superintended the work. The comparing of the copy was entrusted to his assistant. It was believed at head-quarters that the transcription was made from the original volumes, but subsequent inquiry has shown that this was not the case, and that the copy which M. Montbrun's father had made was that used. The translation from Tamil was finished towards the close of 1896, and it was then supposed that the Diary was complete from September 1736 to January 1761, but subsequently the lacunae previously referred to were found, and this led to my assistant being sent to Pondicherry to, if possible, compare the portions of the translation in which these occurred with the original. It was then that it was discovered that the copy of the late M. Montbrun was imperfect; that such of the originals as were available had not been used by the British copyists, owing to the difficulty of reading some portions of them; and that not only were some of the original volumes missing, and not traceable, but that portions of M. Montbrun's copy, of which no originals could be found, had disappeared since General Macleod's transcription was made. A prolonged search for what was lacking has been made, but without success; beyond the discovery by my assistant of the originals of volumes I and II, and by the French authorities of the original of the last volume of the diary.

The following statement gives what is believed to be correct information as to what is missing:—

Originals of the diary now extant

- From 6th September 1736, to 30th November 1745.
- " 31st December 1745, to 30th October 1746.
- " 28th April 1750, to 29th October 1750.
- " 24th April 1752, to 5th April 1753.
- " 4th September 1754, to 29th March 1755.
- " 1st April 1757, to 21st September 1758.
- " 12th April 1759, to 8th April 1760.
- " 9th April 1760, to 12th January 1761.

Copies in the possession of M. Gallois-Montbrun for which no originals can be found—

- From 30th October 1746, to 27th March 1747.
- " 28th March 1747, to 27th November 1747.
- " 28th November 1747, to 7th April 1748.
- " 15th April 1748, to 1st September 1748.
- " 2nd September 1748, to 24th November 1748.
- " 26th June 1749, to 16th December 1749.
- " 17th December 1749, to 26th April 1750.
- " 29th March 1755, to 8th April 1756.
- " 10th April 1756, to 31st March 1757.

Portions of the diary for which neither originals nor copies are forthcoming—

- From 25th November 1748, to 25th June 1749.
- " 30th October 1750, to 15th April 1751.
- " 9th December 1753, to 3rd September 1754.
- " 22nd September 1758, to 22nd January 1759.

The diary—in the translation now made—is continuous (as kept by Ranga Pillai) from the 6th September 1736, to the 24th November 1748; after which there is a hiatus of 7 months. It then runs on, without failure, from 26th June 1749, to 29th October 1750, when another break of 5½ months occurs; it is again perfect from 16th April 1751, to 8th December 1753, when there is a gap of 9 months. The last lacuna, of 4 months, occurs between 22nd September 1758, and 22nd January 1759. The total period for which the diary is wanting is 2 years, 1 month, and 15 days. There is no doubt, from inquiries made, that the breaks mentioned represent lost volumes. It is a matter for much regret that so much should be missing. It is possible that something may be found in the copy made by M. Ariel, which is reported to have been one from the original; but from what M. Vinson says this seems rather doubtful.

It is not, I conceive, my business to enter upon any dissertation regarding the period to which the diary relates, or to comment, further than I have, on this interesting chronicle. I regard it as my concern only to attempt to place before the public a fairly readable, and reasonably correct translation, and to explain, by brief foot-notes, such points as might otherwise prove unintelligible to those unfamiliar with Indian words and expressions.

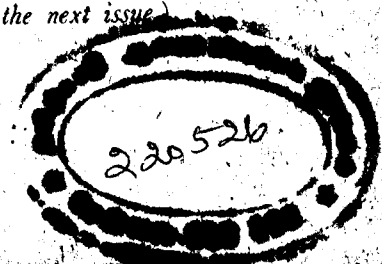
In preparing the diary for publication it has been considered expedient to break the translation up into volumes of convenient length, and to divide these into chapters. As no general index will be drawn up until the publication of the whole is complete, tables of contents have been prefixed to each chapter, and the items appearing in these have been repeated and amplified in the margin of each page. It is hoped that by these means the readers of the diary will have but little difficulty in tracing everything of any moment mentioned in it. The tables of contents are longer and more full than is usual, but it has been thought better, in a work of the peculiar nature of the present, to err rather in this direction, than in that of brevity. A nominal index will be found at the end of each volume.

Particular attention has been paid to the subject of dates; as regards which Ranga Pillai was, no doubt, occasionally—either through ignorance or carelessness—inaccurate. Where corrections have been found necessary, they have been put in the form of foot-notes.

The period covered by the volume now being published extends from the 6th September 1736—when it opens with the quaint preamble of which as strictly literal a translation as is possible is presented to the reader—to 22nd April 1746. M. Dumas, the successor of M. Lenoir, had, on the former date, almost completed his first year of office, and Ranga Pillai, though barely twenty-seven years of age, was head of the family; his father having died some ten years before. How he first came to be employed as a servant of the Company has been already stated in the account given of him, but it was not until M. Dupleix assumed the reins of government that he had anything to do with matters affecting the administration of Pondicherry. He then became, amongst the natives—if not the Europeans also—the right hand man of his illustrious master, and was in constant personal communication with him. In rendering the diary care has been taken to give as close a translation as converting Tamil into readable English will allow, of the many interesting, and often curious conversations between the Governor and Ranga Pillai, which are recorded in it.

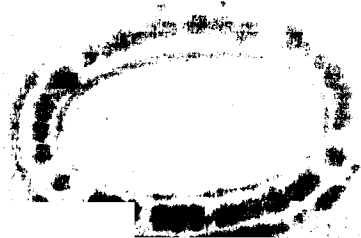
J. F. P.

(The publication of the Diary itself will commence in the next issue.)



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