CEYLON.

The Colonial and Indian Exhibition, 1886.

(Essay by Thomas C. Watkins.)

The Island of Ceylon—known in the remote ages at different periods of its history as Sarendib, Taprobane and Lanka—lies between 5 deg. 53 min. and 9 deg. 51 min. north latitude and 79 deg. 42 min. and 81 deg. 55 min. east longitude; lying southeast of the southern extremity of Hindustan and separated from it by Palk Straits, which is a narrow channel, only available for vessels of light draught. The Portuguese were the first Europeans who settled on this island and held possession of a portion of it from early in the sixteenth to the middle of the seventeenth century. The Dutch disputed the possession of it with the Portuguese, and in A.D. 1656 finally expelled the Portuguese from the island and continued to govern the maritime Provinces for 140 years, while the Central or Kandyan provinces remained under their native rulers. The English in turn disputed the Dutch possession of the island, and in 1796 the last stronghold of the Dutch at Colombo capitulated to the English, and the island became part of the British possessions in the Eastern seas. The Kandyan monarchs still continued to rule in the interior, until in 1815 the King of Kandy was ultimately deposed, and the whole island brought under the Crown Colony system of Government, of which it is at present the largest and most completely organized representative. The entire area of the island is about one-sixth less than that of Ireland and contains 25,365 square miles; the extreme length is 271 miles, and the entire breadth 137 miles. At the close of 1885 the population was 2,825,000. The proportion of Europeans to natives is less than two per thousand. The natives are divided as follows: 1,920,000 Sinhalese, 687,000 Tamils, 182,000 Moormen, other native races, 13,000; Burghers, or natives of European descent, 18,000; Europeans, 5,000. The Veddahs are supposed to be a remnant of

THE ABORIGINES OF CEYLON.

They have no fixed habitations, roaming about the forests of the southern and eastern provinces, living in caves and hollow trees. Their dialect is different from the Sinhalese language, and they have very little intercourse with each other. The Maldive Archipelago is a group of coral islets, sparsely inhabited by a race of Sinhalese origin, speaking a broken dialect of Sinhalese. It is tributary to Ceylon, and the Sultan sends an ambassador there annually. These islands are difficult of access, and intercourse with them is quite limited. An interesting ethnological collection from these islands was exhibited in the Ceylon court of the Exhibition. Ceylon is decidedly healthy for a tropical country; from its insular position the climate contrasts favorably with that of India. There are no extremes of temperature, and throughout the low country the thermometer varies but little the year round. The mean temperature at Colombo is nearly 81° Fahrenheit. There is, however, considerable difference in the daily temperature in the hill districts. The coolest months are December and January; the warmest are March, April and May. Sir E. Tennant, who resided on the island for years as Lieutenant-Governor, in his interesting and valuable work on the colony, writes: "There is no island in the world, Great Britain itself not excepted, that has attracted the attention of authors in so many distant ages, and so many different countries, as Ceylon. There is no nation in ancient or modern times possessed of a language or literature, the writers of which have not at some time made it their theme. Its aspect, its religion, its antiquities and productions have been described by classic Greeks as well as by those of the lower Empire, by the Romans, by the writers of China, Burmah, India and Cashmere, by the geographers of Arabia and Persia, by the mediæval voyagers of Portugal and France, by the annalists of Portugal and Spain, by the merchants and the adventurers of Holland, and by the travellers and topographers of Great Britain." Tennant's own enthusiastic description of the island is summed up thus: "Ceylon, from whatever direction it is approached, unfolds a scene of loveliness and grandeur unsurpassed, if it be rivalled, by any land in the universe. The traveller from Bengal, leaving behind the melancholy delta of the Ganges, and the torrid coast of Coromandel, or the adventurer from Europe recently inured to the sands of Egypt and the scorching headlands of Arabia, is alike entranced by the vision of beauty which expands before him, as the island rises from the sea, its lofty mountains covered by luxuriant forests, and its shores, till they meet the ripple of the waves, bright with the foliage of perpetual spring." The speed and comfort with which a trip to Ceylon can be made now on the

MAGNIFICENT STEAMSHIPS

on that line induce many besides merchants and planters to visit this most interesting island. Those in search of charming tropical scenery and vegetation, the lovers of archæology, the naturalist or sportsman, will each reap a rich reward, and find ample scope for their enterprise, well repaying the time and trouble of the journey. The scenery and vegetation are rich in all that delights the eye, while no country in the world can boast of a more varied and beautiful insect life to occupy and delight the naturalist. Elephants, leopards, wild buffaloes, bears, wild boars, deer of many varieties, with snipe and other wild fowl in profusion, will supply occupation for the sportsman. To the archæologist the many ruined cities, with their stone carving and clear, close-cut inscriptions, offer almost endless variety and intense interest. Amongst the numerous old ruins of the cities which flourished thousands of years ago, perhaps the most wonderful are those of Pollonnarum and Auradhapura in the centre of the island. The latter was the chosen capital of King Panduk Abhaya, 437 B. C., and continued to be the capital for twelve centuries. Ancient historians say that the outer walls of that city enclosed 250 square miles, and was completed in the first century of the Christian era. Nothing but the ruins with their interesting records in stone and the large Dagabas now remain, except the sacred Bo tree, which still flourishes. Major Forbes, in his work entitled "Eleven Years in Ceylon," states that in the reign of King Devanampya Tissa, which commenced 307 B.C., Anuradhapura received the collar-bone of the Gautama Buddha, his begging dish filled with relics, and a branch of the Bo tree under which he attained Buddhahood. This branch, being planted, has flourished for nearly 2,200 years, and is now considered to be the most ancient tree in the world of which there is any authentic record. It is held to be sacred throughout the Buddhist world, and is the goal of many a long pilgrimage. Even the fallen leaves are treasured up by the pilgrims and carried to distant lands. There are about three-fifths, or, say, 1,700,000 of the population, which are Buddhists. Colombo, on the southwest coast, is the capital of the island now, with a population of nearly 120,000. A breakwater was recently completed, under the supervision of Sir J. Coode, at a cost of £650,000, which affords ample protection to ships of the largest size, which can lie there now in safety throughout the heaviest monsoon. It has thus become a first-class port, and from its unsurpassed geographical position it is destined to become the great centre of the commerce of the Eastern seas. Colombo lies 2,500 from Aden, 600 miles from Madras, 900 miles from Bombay, 1,400 from Calcutta, 1,600 from Singapore and 3,000 distant from Hong Kong and from Western Australia. Before the construction of the Colombo breakwater, Galle, on the south coast, was the port of call for the mail steamers, but the natural harbor of the island is Trincomalee, on the northeast coast. This has been for many years the rendezvous of Her Majesty's ships on the East Indian station, and still remains so; it is easy of access in any kind of weather, and has a safe and most magnificent anchorage. We turn to the products of the island now, and find that in ancient times Ceylon was known as the land of pearls and precious stones. The search for gems is still continued actively, and the value of those discovered is considerable. This mining and that for plumbago is entirely in the hands of the natives. Plumbago or graphite mines are worked largely in the western province. The product is exported principally to Great Britain and the United States, where it is used in the manufacture of pencils, crucibles and portable furnaces. There were 12,000 tons of plumbago mined and exported in 1882. The pearl fishery, though dangerous and uncertain, is in fortunate seasons a valuable item in the exports of the country. In the last

SUCCESSFUL PEARL FISHING SEASON,

in 1881, the shore of the Government amounted to £59,900. The same primitive system of gathering the pearl oysters exists, as perhaps Noah or some of his sons may have practiced. When the "Superintendent" reports an oyster bed fit for fishing, Government proclaims a fishery to commence on a given day, by that date the arid, and at other times deserted coast-land at Arippu, on the northwest coast, wears the appearance of a hustling town, filled with people of various races and occupations—including divers and boatmen from the coast of Coromandel, pearl merchants from India, China and Malaya, with a numerous crowd of pearl dealers and traders of all classes ready to turn an honest penny if possible. A limited number of boats and divers are licensed; every oyster is gathered by the hand of the diver, no dredge or instrument of any kind is used. The Government exacts two-thirds of all the oysters gathered for royalty, which are sold by public auction at the close of the days' fishing. The manufacture of salt still remains a Government monopoly and produces a profit of from £80,000 to £90,000 per annum. The salt is sold by the Government at four shillings and eightpence per hundred weight. This monopoly, like very many heavy duties imposed by our present wasteful and extravagant Government on numerous prime necessaries of life, which compels thousands of the poorer classes of our people to suffer on account of their coal, their clothing, their woolen and cotton goods being taxed with excessively higher duties, while the rich people who wear fine goods do not pay as high duties on different articles consumed by them exclusively. Oh! we hope to have an honest Government soon, then Ottawa will be forsaken by a little army of land grabbers, boodlers, bribers and thieves. No more rebellions then, for there will be an honest Government in power, which will keep faith with our red men, and will not, with cruelty unheard of, starve them to death, and deprive the half-breeds of their lands. Heavy taxes on the common necessaries of life are admitted by all honest political economists as unjust, and can only be justified by the absolute necessity of raising money to build public works, which will benefit the great masses of the people in a greater degree than the high taxes will injure them, as in the present instance in Ceylon, where, if the circumstances of the country were such as to make it possible for the Government to dispense with the

REVENUE DERIVED FROM THE MONOPOLY,

it would be done away with at once, but the relation between the general revenue and the requirements of the island is such that it would be difficult to abandon the revenue derived from salt, without at the same time giving up the execution of public works of vital importance to the country, for opening up communications with the interior, so as to give a full equivalent to the farmers by greatly reducing the expense of the transportation of their produce to the markets of the world. The importance of this course of procedure may be realized from the fact that, until a comparatively recent date, there were districts in the island where the cost of transport added fully 200 per cent. to the price charged by the Government for salt at the seaboard. Gold and silver mining, and ivory and tortoise shell work are important native industries, as are also making pottery, mats, fans and wood-carving. The beautiful woods indigenous to the island give great scope to the ingenious native carvers and cabinet makers; the most valuable woods are ebony, satin wood, calamander, jak, nedun, palai, iron-wood and hahuilla. The exhibits of these woods in the Ceylon Court are very interesting, and will repay an inspection. There are enormous quantities of fish frequenting the shores of the island, especially in the southwest and north Provinces, which are thickly peopled, and have the appearance of an almost endless village, the inhabitants of which are thriving, as their wants can always be satisfied by a few hours' fishing with the most primitive appliances. The Sinhalese are, however, mostly an agricultural race, and the vast majority of them are engaged in tilling the soil. The stupendous works commenced 500 years B.C. and continued by successive monarchs of Ceylon in the construction of innumerable reservoirs or tanks for storing the rainfall for irrigation purposes, testify to the great importance attached to agriculture in ancient times. The great tank of Kalawewa submerged an area of over forty miles in circumference. The retaining "bond" or earthwork is more than twelve miles in length, with a thickness of 300 feet at the base. The Legislature has for some years voted considerable sums annually from the general revenue for the repair, maintenance and improvement of these tanks, and to smaller works, thus greatly promoting the interest and happiness of the rural population. The Sinhalese farmers have confined their labors lately to the production of staple articles of food, such as rice and other cereals, cocoa, gardens of areka palms,

CINNAMON, COFFEE, VEGETABLES AND FRUITS,

such as plantains, pine apples, custard apples, mangoes, oranges, limes, melons, bread fruit, etc. The most prosperous branch of farming operations, however, and that which has been the greatest stimulant to the prosperity and progress of Ceylon, thus enabling the Government to undertake the construction of railways, and intersect the island with splendid roads and bridges, is the extensive coffee plantations in the hill districts. Nearly one-fifth of the island is comprised in the hill, or mountain zone. The highest peak of the range is Pidurutalagala, which is 8,296 feet high. The most interesting and best known is Adam's Peak. The majority of the plantations lie at an elevation of between 2,000 and 5,000 feet above the sea, where the climate is well nigh perfection, and the luxury of the planter's bungalow, with its European comforts, surrounded by roses and geraniums, with English fruits and vegetables, can be most justly appreciated after the heat of a journey from Colombo to the hill stations. The coffee plant is not, like cinnamon, indigenous to Ceylon; but there were few native hamlets formerly in the low country who had not a few coffee bushes growing around their doors; but it was not until about 1830 that European enterprise was first directed to the cultivation of coffee in the island. Since then it has been carried on with varying success until 1875, when the export of coffee reached nearly 1,000,000 cwts., representing at the ruling prices then about £5,000,000 sterling. The excessively large returns on the capital invested drove forest land up to extravagant prices, and Crown lands, at an upset price of a pound an acre, sometimes sold at auction at from £20 to £24 an acre. This mad land fever did not continue long unchecked. In 1878-79 the coffee bushes suffered from the effects of a fungus known as "leaf disease" so severely that the crop was greatly diminished, and the planters began to turn their attention to other crops better adapted to the climate and soil. Cinchona and tea have each been cultivated successfully, but the planters look to tea now as the great prospective source of their future wealth, the cultivation of which will, they think, retrieve their fortunes and bring back prosperity to the Island. There were over 100,000 acres of tea plants under cultivation in 1877, and the export of tea has risen already from 2,105 lbs. then to 9,000,000 in 1886. The prospect is so bright at present that planters are digging up large plantations of coffee bushes, and planting tea in their places. It is expected that within six years the exportation of tea will reach 40,000,000 lbs. No country can boast of a better supply of laborers, who are chiefly brought from India. The Sinhalese peasants are excellent domestic servants; they are good at chopping down trees and clearing jungles, also in digging for irrigation purposes, and works enforced under the Village Communities Act, but very few of them will undertake the routine work of labor on the plantations. Ceylon has therefore become the favorite resort of immigrants from the Malabar and Coromandel coasts, who flock over in thousands and settle on the estates. There are no unnecessary restrictions, and the coming and going of these laborers are made as free and easy as possible. Public "rest houses" and hospitals are provided by the Government at easy distances along the central road running from Kandy to Jaffna, by which most of the immigrants find their way to the plantations. In years when

THE CROPS OF COFFEE OR TEA

are abundant, as many as 150,000 Coolie laborers will migrate to Ceylon in one year and return to their native villages after the crops are harvested to spend the money they have earned in providing for their families, and then at the approach of the next harvest immigrating again to help to save it. In addition to coffee, cinchona and tea, cocoa is becoming an important item on many of the plantations, and the quality produced is very superior. India rubber, tapioca, vanilla and other tropical products are also successfully grown on many properties. The extensive cultivation of cinnamon and cocoanut palm is in the hands of natives; both thrive best in the low country near the sea. For many years the export of cinnamon was a Government monopoly, but now there are not any restrictions on its growth or export. In 1883 there were 2,335,000 lbs. of cinnamon exported. The cultivation of the cocoanut palm, which is applied to so many multifarious uses, is the most important production amongst the Sinhalese of the low parts of the island. The liquor he drinks is distilled from its sap, the kernel of the nut is necessary for use in his daily curry, the milk of the nut is the beverage offered to every visitor; his lamp is fed by the oil it produces; his fishing nets are manufactured from its fibre, as is also the rope wherewith he restrains his goat or cow from straying away, while the rafters of his house, the thatch of the roof and the window-blinds are made from its leaf and wood. The extensive cultivation of this palm and its immense value to the 3,000,000 islanders, and to the outside world, may be gathered from the facts already named, that its various products are a

UNIVERSAL NECESSITY

in the daily life of the island population, while the exports of the oil, copra and fibre exceed £700,000 in value annually, and the revenue derived from the excise duty levied on the "arrack" (spirit) distilled from the sap exceeds £170,000. With a fixed determination on the part of the local Legislature to continue without interruption an annual grant from the public funds for the restoration of the ancient irrigation works, and thus make Ceylon again independent of foreign importation of rice, with a similar determination to push the railway system into the heart of the planting districts, so as to give cheap and easy transport to the seaboard, this beautiful island—from its grand geographical position, its excellent harbor accommodation and healthy climate—is destined to receive again its ancient Brahmin title of "The Pearl on the Brow of India; or, Lanka, the Resplendent." The Ceylon Court, occupying the western end of the North Court, is 150 feet long by 50 feet wide. The decorations on the walls and roof of the court, in which yellow, the sacred color of Buddhism, predominates, are strictly Sinhalese in their character. The dado round the court reaches nine feet high above the floor; it is ornamented with representations of the mythological animals—the elephant, lion, bull, horse and goose—as they appear sculptured on ruined monuments in the ancient cities of Ceylon. Higher up, a frieze, a yard in width, is covered with Sinhalese paintings, depicting some of the more popular birth stories of Buddha; the frieze is surmounted by an ornamental cresting and depending from the roof-plate are fringed draperies. The Gantama Buddha or Buddhist god, is represented on the west wall of the court, facing the entrance, by a figure in *alto reliero* ten feet high, seated in the conventional attitude of contemplation. Beneath the figure of Buddha, on either side of the word "Ceylon," are representations of the Buddhist, the sun and moon. The gateway at the west end of the court is conspicuous for beautiful carvings in relief, executed in ebony, cocoanut and tamarind, which are amongst the principal cabinet woods of Ceylon. This gateway is the *fac simile* of one carved in stone at Yapahu, an ancient royal residence of the Sinhalese monarchs. The porch through which the court is entered at its eastern end is of teak wood, and was built by Sinhalese workmen in Ceylon; the pillars with their elaborate carvings being faithful representations of portions of the King's Audience Hall at Kandy. The floor is laid in ornamental mosaic work. The wall which flanks the porch on each side (as well as that outside the court, between it and Old London) have been designed to represent as nearly as possible the massive walls which surround the Dalda Maligawa (or Buddhist Temple of the Sacred Tooth) and other structures, both religious and secular, in Kandy. In the open space between the Ceylon Court and Old London and facing the Indian palace is the Ceylon Tea House, which gives a vivid idea of the style of Sinhalese timber architecture. It stands upon a raised terrace, the floor of which is laid with ornamental tiles; the south side and west end of the building are beautifully decorated with exceedingly effective mural tiling. The frieze ornaments are composed of the leaves and blossoms of the tea plant, and those in the band above the

DADO, OF LOTUS FLOWERS.

In each of the four side bays is a framed painting on tiles, the subjects being a view of Colombo from the harbor; Strathellie Estate, factory and bungalow; Galboda Estate, showing the Oriental process of weighing tea, and a view of Devon Estate, Dumbula, showing bungalow and waterfall. Upon the wall there is a painting representing a Tamil girl picking tea. The woodwork has been painted and decorated to harmonize with the architecture, yellow being the predominating color, relieved by red, which has been adopted for the color of the devices painted thereon. Seven Sinhalese men were brought over from Ceylon to the Exhibition. Of these four were employed as attendants on customers at the Ceylon Tea House, and they undoubtedly formed one of its most attractive features. They were typical speciments of the low-country Cinhalese, and wore their national costumes. Their habit of wearing combs in their hair, which was tied in a knot at the back of their heads, is the height of fashion in Ceylon, and a curious characteristic of that country. The chief man of the party, a goldsmith by trade, Wimalasurendra, is one of the most expert workmen at his trade to be found in Ceylon, and as such has been honored by the Government with the native rank of Muhandiram of his caste. Two of them are carpenters, having been specially selected for their great ability in their profession; the most of the superior carving exhibited, in cabinet woods and in plumbago, was executed by them. Ceylon made a most imposing display of her various productions, of which the under-named are a few: Natural objects, such as ores and minerals, building stones, gems, pearls, pearl oysters, corals, horns, tusks and hunting trophies. Food products, such as rice, tea, coffee, cocoa, spices, paddy, dry grains, starches, vanilla, jafna moss, sugar, jaggery, arrack and rum, preserves and pickles, beche-de-mer, edible birds' nests, dried fish, salt, drugs and medical substances, as cinchona bark, medicinal preparations and native medicinal plants and medicines; raw products and manufactures consisting of oil seeds and oils, essential oils, resins and

GUMS, DYES AND DYE STUFFS,

tanning substances, fibres and ropes, cotton and silk, mats and basket work, timbers and cabinet woods, tobacco and cigars, india rubber, products of the cocoanut palm and products of the low country estates. Means of transport, such as carriages and carts, boats, agricultural implements, models, etc. Art works of jewellery, gold and silverware, metal ware, carved work in ivory, ebony, cocoanut shell and tortoise shell; porcupine quill work, lace, lacquer work, pottery, furniture and arms. Fine arts, consisting of paintings, drawings, photographs, maps and plans, books, stamps, etc. Ethnology was represented by Buddhist articles, Vedda productions, models of natives and of native dresses, masks, musical instruments, Maldive collections, etc. When we think of Britain's vast dependencies, of the hundreds of millions of people of nearly all races, and inhabiting nearly all climates, we are led to think, for what object the Anglo-Saxon race has been raised up to the very pinnacle of physical, of moral and of religious power. With her colonies encircling the globe, with her language spoken on every shore, with every sea on our earth whitened by the sails of her merchantmen and war ships, distributing the products of her millions of looms, and other innumerable manufactories to the inhabitants of every clime and bringing back in return the varied productions of every land to minister to the wants, and the luxuries of the lords of creation, resident on that little island in the far western seas, whom Cæsar found surrounding their Druidical altars offering up human sacrifices to their gods. What has brought about such an astonishing change? Such a complete metamorphosis in their habits, their lives, their thoughts, their actions? The Bible—that Book of God, applied by His Spirit to the consciences of the masses of the people of that insignificant, little island, inspiring them with supreme love to God, and love for their fellow-creatures as for themselves—has stimulated the race to grand and noble efforts, many being willing and ready to sacrifice their lives in order to rescue their fellow-creatures from the slavery of sin and lead them to the fold of Christ. The religion taught by our Saviour does not consist in emotion. It is love. It is the sword that must slay intemperance. It is the hammer which must kill infidelity. It is the power that must raise the world.

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Since Sir Charles Dilke inherited a fortune from a kinsman bearing the name of Snooks, much fun has been poked thereat. Yet "Snooks" was originally "Sevenoaks and there are families in England now spelling their name "Sevenoaks" and pronouncing it "Snooks." It is claimed in extenuation of the name "Sniggs" that it is only a corruption of "Sevenacres."

Franklin Hinkley, of Fail Mountain, is a good subject for the hair restorers. He was ill for some time with disease of the spine, and the hair of his head, beard, moustache, eyebrows and eyelashes all came out, and there is no prospect of its return. He would make a good photograph to be labelled "Before Using."

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The men employed in gathering spiders' silk near Bhim Teel, India, are supplied with small sticks with which they select the clean webs. The total weight of the webs collected during one season does not exceed 10 pounds. The silk is wound around the sticks, from which it is removed by immersion in hot water.

In consequence of news from the Governor of Herat that the Governor of Turkestan has ordered Iskander Khan with 12,000 men to surprise Herat, the Ameer of Afghanistan has ordered 10,000 men to be in readiness to reinforce the troops at Herat. The Ameer has caused the beheading of Sayad, the father-in-law of the late chief of Kohistan, having discovered that Sayad was in communication with Ayoob Kahn.

The sentry on guard at the powder magazine in Chatham dockyard noticed a man lurking about the magazine on Saturday night. The man not replying to the challenge, the sentry bayonetted him in the thigh. He was found to be an employee named Clarke and was sent to an hospital to be detained as a suspect.

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