

THE MORNING STAR.

Vol. 57.

Jaffna, Thursday 22nd of July, 1897.

No. 15.

RIGHTEOUSNESS EXALTETH A NATION BUT SIN IS A REPROACH TO ANY PEOPLE.

RECEIPTS FOR THE MORNING STAR.

Karadive	Messrs. P. Charavanamattu, A. Asenpathom, K. Thillipapalam, J. Valupillai, R. Jacob, M. Murgem, Charles Chinatamy, S. P. Arumugam, D. Sapapathy, D. Kandiah and Dr. K. Visuvanathan	11.00
Straits Settlements	Messrs. A. Ponnampalam and S. Kailasam	4.50
Araly	Mr. Subramaniam	1.25
Kormale	Mr. C. Joshua	2.00
Nebodda	Mr. C. Arunachalam	2.00
Batticaloa	Mr. A. Sannigum	2.00
Straits Settlements	Mr. A. Valupillai	2.25
Kormale	Mr. A. Sannigum	2.00
Batticaloa	Mr. C. Joshua	2.00
Araly	Mr. C. Joshua	1.50
Straits Settlements	Mr. A. Valupillai	2.00
Kormale	Mr. A. Sannigum	2.00
Batticaloa	Mr. C. Joshua	2.00
Araly	The Messrs Leitch '95, '96, '97	6.75

THE CEYLON STEAMSHIP CO. Ltd.

The Company's Steamer "Lady Havlock" is appointed to sail from Kangesanturai for Colombo on the noon of the following dates

Via Point Pedro 9th July.

" " 23rd do.

The "S. S. Lady Gordon" is appointed to sail from Kangesanturai for Colombo on the evening of the following dates

Via Pamban 6th July.

" " 20th do.

W. MATHER & SON.
Agents.

THE JAFFNA COMMERCIAL CORPORATION LIMITED.

OFFICE BANK HALL, SEA STREET, JAFFNA.

The company opens current accounts with sums of not less than Rs 100 and allows interest at 2% per annum on minimum monthly balances of Rs. 500, and upwards.

Fixed deposits received on the following terms—
For 12 months interest at 6% per annum allowed
" 6 " " 5 " "
" 3 " " 3 " "

Approved bills discounted. Money advanced on pledges.

Remittances made to and from Colombo, Colombo Bankers, National Bank of India Ltd. Cheques and foreign drafts and bills of exchange on the Colombo Banks cashed.

Inland and foreign goods imported on Commission.

Office hours from 10-30 A.M. to 4 P.M.

WM. MATHER,
Managing Director

FOR FRESH OILMANSTORES Wines and Spirits

Aerated Waters &c.

FROM FIRST CLASS HOUSES.

Please try

ALEXANDER BROTHERS & Co.
all at Colombo prices

Jaffna, 22nd. July 1897.

THE JAFFNA COMMERCIAL CORPORATION LIMITED.

In connection with our Store Department we are prepared to undertake and sell by public auction any property, Household furniture, Effects &c &c, which may be entrusted to us. If desired we will advance half the value.

For terms and particulars apply to the Manager

The Jaffna Commercial Corporation Ltd

NOTICE.

The first annual general meeting of the Jaffna Commercial Corporation Limited, will be held at the registered office in Jaffna on Wednesday the 28th of July 1897 commencing on 4.30 P. M.
S. T. ARNOLD,
Jaffna, 2nd July 1897. Secretary.

ORDER NISI.

In the District Court of Jaffna.

Testamentary } No. 852
Jurisdiction
In the matter of the estate of the late Vathanayakam daughter of Vathanarai of Sarasalai Deceased.
Kaneapthipillai Chupperamaniam of Sarasalai Petitioner.

Thayalnayakam wife of Chupperamaniam of Sarasalai Respondent.
This matter of the Petition of Kaneapthipillai Chupperamaniam of Sarasalai praying for Letters of Administration to the estate of the above named deceased Vathanayakam daughter of Vathanarai of Sarasalai, coming out for disposal before Samuel Haughton Esquire, District Judge, on the 6th day of July 1897 in the presence of Mr. Tambiah S. Cooke, Proctor on the part of the Petitioner and the affidavit of the Petitioner dated the 2nd day of July 1897 having been read, it is declared that the Petitioner is the step father of the said intestate and as such is entitled to have Letters of Administration to the estate of the said intestate issued to him unless the Respondent or any other person shall on or before the 10th day of August 1897 show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.
Signed this 6th day of July 1897. SAMUEL HAUGHTON, District Judge.

ORDER NISI.

In the District Court of Jaffna.

Testamentary } No. 845.
Jurisdiction
In the matter of the estate of the late Vivintapillai wife of Deogupillai Chavarimuttu of Karampan Deceased.
Deogupillai Chavarimuttu of Karampan Petitioner.

1. Chaniakupillai Chusapillai his
2. wife Anantapillai of Karampan
3. Chaniakupillai of do
4. wife Antonipillai do
5. Mariapillai widow of Manueppillai
6. Philippupillai Manueppillai of do Respondents
This matter of the Petition of Deogupillai Chavarimuttu of Karampan praying for Letters of Administration to the estate of the above named deceased Vivintapillai wife of Deogupillai Chavarimuttu of Karampan coming out for disposal before Samuel Haughton Esquire, District Judge, on the 31st day of May 1897 in the presence of Mr. T. C. Changanaraj Proctor on the part of the Petitioner and the affidavit of the petitioner dated the 26th day of May 1897 having been read, it is declared that the petitioner is the widow of the said intestate and as such is entitled to have Letters of Administration to the estate of the said intestate issued to him unless the Respondents or any other person shall on or before the 28th day of July 1897 show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.
Signed this 31st day of May 1897. SAMUEL HAUGHTON, District Judge.

ORDER NISI.

In the District Court of Jaffna.

Testamentary } No. 853.
Jurisdiction
In the matter of the estate of the late Annappillai daughter of Chinatampai Kartigee of Tanaccarakurichi Deceased.
Sinnatampai Kartigee of Tanaccarakurichi Petitioner.

1. Kartigee Saravanamuttu
2. Venayakar Sinniah and wife
3. Alice Sinnappillai
4. Eliatampi Vallipuram and wife
5. Letchumillai all of Tanaccarakurichi Respondents.
This matter of the Petition of Sinnatampai Kartigee of Tanaccarakurichi praying for Letters of Administration to the estate of the above named deceased Annappillai daughter of Sinnatampai Kartigee of Tanaccarakurichi coming out for disposal before Samuel Haughton Esquire, District Judge, on the 12th day of July 1897 in the presence of Mr. Tambiah S. Cooke, Proctor on the part of the Petitioner and the affidavit of the Petitioner dated the 9th day of July 1897 having been read, it is declared that the Petitioner is the father and next of kin of the said intestate and as such is entitled to have Letters of Administration to the estate of the said intestate issued to him unless the Respondents or any other person shall on or before the 27th day of August 1897 show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.
Signed this day of July 1897. SAMUEL HAUGHTON, District Judge.

Local & General.

The Diamond Jubilee Celebration in Perak. The natives of Jaffna who form an important section of the population of Perak took active part in commemorating the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen in Talping, the Head Quarters, led by Messrs. S. Arumugampillai and S. Chelkiesam. These gentlemen are from Nellore and Sandrapur. The former is engaged here in mercantile business and the other is a Government employ. They were both in the General Committee appointed for celebrating the Jubilee and carried out the

different duties intrusted to their care with credit to themselves and satisfaction to every one.
It is not necessary here to give a detail of the proceedings, suffice it to say that our people were not behind hand in showing their loyalty to their sovereign. An address on their behalf was presented, it was printed in gold on fancy paper cut up to resemble a diamond and was to this effect:

To Her Most Gracious Majesty VICTORIA,
Queen of Great Britain and Ireland
and Empress of India.

Your Most Gracious Majesty,
We were assembled on behalf of the members of the Ceylon Tamil Community, who are sojourning in the State of Perak, in the Malayan Peninsula, and are engaged in various pursuits under Government and private institutions, most humbly beg to be allowed to approach Your Majesty on your Diamond Jubilee, and to offer you as Your Majesty's loyal subjects our heartfelt and sincerest congratulations on the happy event.

We beg to respectfully assure your Gracious Majesty that we are most grateful of and thankful for the many great blessings that have been vouchsafed to us under your benign rule, and for the Peace and Prosperity that have characterized Your Majesty's Government in all parts of your vast dominions. We are most thankful to Your Majesty for the justice tempered with mercy, which your Ministers of the Law have always administered in your realm, and in countries which have sought your safe protection, and for the solicitude Your Majesty has manifested at all times towards alleviating suffering and ensuring the material welfare and happiness of your numerous subjects without distinction of class or creed.

We assure Your Majesty that our heartfelt prayers will ascend to the God of all nations on this Your Majesty's Diamond Jubilee that He may prolong your Majesty's life and that of the illustrious members of your family for many years; and that the blessings of genuine Happiness, Peace and Prosperity may prevail wherever Your Most Gracious Majesty's benign rule extends.

It was signed by Messrs. S. Carthikesam, Vyramuttu and others.

I may add that certain members of our community moved with a view of raising funds to establish a scholarship as a memorial. Though nothing has yet been decided I have every reason to believe that the proposal will again be brought forward shortly and carried into effect.

Point Pedro. Mr. F. A. Marteenz who just retired after 50 years service is made an unofficial Justice of the Peace in consideration of his faithful services. **The Government Agent.** Mr. Fisher was not able to complete his tour, through Mullative, Vavonia, Mannar and Delft, owing an accident at Mullative. He was obliged to return to Jaffna, from Mullative by sea to Point Pedro, where he landed on the 16th inst.

Kachcheri. Mr. Sabaratnam has assumed duties as the 2nd Interpreter and Mr. Paul Nicholas as the 5th clerk.

T. N. S. Hospital. We have been informed that Dr. Grenier will sever his connection with this institution shortly, and that Dr. Solomon, a Civil Medical Officer, will succeed him as the visiting surgeon of the Hospital.

Courts. The District Court House has been white-washed and equipped to receive the Supreme Court, on the 23rd inst. The District Judge expects to enjoy a short holiday during the Sessions. The office rooms of the District Court will shortly undergo a thorough repair. Mr. Stroy, the Secretary is arranging to celebrate his copper wedding on the 30th inst.

Indian Ceylon Famine Fund. The total of this fund up to the 13th inst. amounts to Rs. 125,308.

Obituary. We have to record with much regret the death of Mr. Sapapathy, District Engineer, on the 13th inst. at his residence at Mallakam; and on Saturday the 10th inst. Mr. E. Modir Vettivalupillai, Notary Public died at Vannarponne. Both of them died of diabetes.

JAFFNA COLLEGE. Rev. Theodore A. Elmer M.A. arrived by the coach on the 16th inst. and has taken up duties in this Institution. The quarter-centennial of the College is to be celebrated on the 4th of Aug. The usual public prize-giving will take place at 5.30 p.m. to be followed by sports at 5 p.m. In the evening will be the Prize Giving, and the special commemoration of the twenty fifth year of the College. There will be an Alumni meeting in the forenoon of the same day at 11 A.M. to be followed by an Alumni dinner. All who have studied one year or more in the College, will be made welcome at this gathering even if they do not get special invitations. The public generally are invited for the afternoon and evening.

THE PRESIDENT AND THE QUEEN.

President McKinley, in making known the appointment of Gen. Nelson A. Miles, the commander of the United States Army, to represent it at the Queen's Reign celebration in London, paid a handsome tribute to Her Majesty. Said he, "Americans have always considered Queen Victoria as a woman quite as much as a Sovereign. They have regarded her as a model English woman, whom the women of English speech everywhere have revered and copied. She has shown by her own example how far reaching are woman's duties and how faithfully they can be performed—even under the anxieties of her exalted station. Great Britain under this remarkable ruler has enjoyed great prosperity. The people of the United States are like for the prosperity of Queen Victoria, for the great and good woman who wears here so well we cherish a sincere and profound respect."

உதயதாரைக.

நீதி இராச்சியத்தாரை உயர்த்தும், பாவமோ எந்தச் சனங்களுக்கும் இகழ்ச்சி.

௫௭ ம் புத்தகம்.]

யாழ்ப்பாணம், திருச்சி ௨௭ ஆடி ௧௯௭௭

வியாழக்கிழமை.

[சங்கியை, கரு]

இலங்கைப் புதைக்கப்பற்
கொம்புனி (விமிற்றேட்)


 சீர்தக் கொம்புபயிராரின் “வேழகோடன்”
 என்னுங் கப்பல் பின்புறத்தேதிகளின் காக்கே
 சுற்றறையிலிருந்து பாய்மன்பழியக் கொழு
 க்புத்தப்போகுகேக்கின்ற—

ஆடி மீ 6 உ ஆடி மீ 20 உ

“லேடி அவலக்” என்னும் சப்பல் பின்வருத்தேதிக
 விந காங்கேசன் தறையிலிக்குப் பருத்தித்துறைவழியாய்த்
 தொழும்புக்குப்போக இருக்கின்றது.

ஆடி மீ 2 உ ஆடி மீ 23 உ

W & MATHER, & SON. Agents.

விளம்பரம்.

மாண்புமாய ஆஸ்பத்திரிக்கட்டிடவேலைக்கு பணமாய்
சலுகைப் பதவியைவைக்கின்றேனவையையுபயோகிப்பதற்கு
தடுத்தக் கொடுக்கப் பிரியமுள்ளேன் அவைகளைப் பற்றிய
விபரங்களை மாண்புமாயிலேத்தும் டாக்டர் T. B. Senthil
யிடம் அறிந்துகொள்ளலாம்.
மாண்புமாய 20, அக்ட. T. B. Senti.

T. B. Scott,

SCHOOL BOOKS FOR SALE.

புத்தக விளம்பரம்.

உலபத்தீயாதரிசி Mr. G. C. Thampapillai எத்பல
நாள் இறந்தவர்கள் மடம், உம், கூட, இது தமது கண்ணி
நாள் இலக்கணம் பூமிசாஸ்திரம்; வித்தியாதரிசி Mr. A.
Van Geylenberg எத்பலவாசுதெய்யப்பட்டார் தமது
கண்ணிநாள் சிவத்தந்த வாகடம் பீரீயுள்ளவர்கள் வட
திருச்செட்டை மிதிக்காவிட்டால் Mr. M. Buell இடம்
பெற்றதெனினாலும். V. P. Post வாழ்க்கைத் தெ
நெடுவெள்ளாவம். Batticolta, October, 1st 1895

பக்கக விளம்பரம்

காலஞ்சென்ற ஏழாயிரம் உபாத்தியாயரால் இயற்றப்பட்ட வாசிணப்புத்தகங்கள் விற்பனைவுக்காயத்தம். உதய தாரைக் கருணாநிதிப் பதிப்பகம்.

உதயதாரைக.

காசு எம் ஸ்ரீ ஆடிமீ 22 ந் வ

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

செனேதிப்பாளியை நிராகரித்து, உத்தரவிட்டு, பூதக
விநாயகிப்பாளியாக கருத்துப்போட்டவராக வரையறுக்கப்பட்டு
விடுவதை தடுத்து நிறுத்தப்போகும்படி சென்னை உயர்
நீதிமன்றம் உத்தரவிட்டிருப்பதை தெரிவித்து, வரும்
வாரத்தில் சென்னைக்கு குற்றஞ்சாட்டு யுக்திக்கு சென்னை மாகா
னத்தின் எந்திரப்பாளியாக நிராகரிக்கப்பட்டு பின்னர் சென்னை
தேர்தல் வகைகளை உட்படிக்கவைக்கக்கூடிய பரிசீலனை
தொகுப்பாக உட்படிக்கப்பட்டு தாமதப்படுத்துவதற்கான
பரிந்துரைகள் குறுக்கிடுவதற்கான நடவடிக்கைகளை
கருத்துக்கு உட்படுத்தப்படுகின்றன. மேலும், அந்த
நிராகரிப்பை, அரசாங்கம் உட்படுத்தப்பட்டு பரிசீலனை
செய்து அதற்கான நடவடிக்கைகளை மேற்கொள்ளும்

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

விளம்பரம்.

1898-ம் ஆண்டுத் தேர்தல்களில் உள்ள ஆகத்திற்குள்ளும் வந்ததற்குமுற்படுத்த தேர்தலையாவது சாமாக்கனக் கொடுப்பதற்காக கோரித்தேடி ஒப்பந்தமேயே விதப்பமுள்ளவர்களிடமிருந்து "கொள்குத்து ஒப்பந்தக் கேள்விக்கடத்தாகின்" இதற்க்குத்தேர்ப்பு 1897-ம் ஆறு துறையி-26-ம் பக்கப் பத்திரம்மேயேவென்குத்து ஏற்றுத்தெரிந்துள்ளபடி. மறுபடியும்த்தெரி 1891-ம் ஆறு துறையி 20-ம் தேர்தலெக்கொண்டவரையென்குத்து "அகெற்" பத்திரம்மேயேயுது அறையுது.

ஜே. எஸ். வண்டாஸ்குற்றல்
அயிட்டிங் சிலில் மெடிக்கல் ஓவ்லிசர்.
பிரதான சிலில் மெடிக்கல் ஓபிசர்கத்தோர்.

முடிக்குரிய காணி விற்பனுவலிளம்பரம்

[illegible]

மாட்டுவிலக்கடிதலுள்ள ராஜ்யத்தைக்குட்பட்ட பணியில்
ஒத்தகாலமாகக் கருதுவது போன்ற, காவரத்திலில் முன்னி
தரவேண்டும், தயாபெ, குறிப்பிதும், பதிகத்திலில்
மேற்றலுள்ள ஒத்தகாலத்திலும் தயா குப்பதிகத்திலும்
செயல், மற்றவகையிலும் தயா பதிகத்திலும் விற
கப்படுக.

எரிடத்தும் கேட்டறியலாம்.
 P. E. Pieris, தேர். ஞானசேகர
 யாழ்ப்பாணம் உச்சேரி, ௪௮௧௭ ஸ்ரீ ஆடி மீ ௧௪௨.

விளம்பரம்.

[illegible][illegible]

காயாகவாதக் குளிகை.

[illegible]

பூத் தீக்கார்.—Bootho Tucker.—இரட்சகன்ய சேவனத்

THE JAFFNA MUSEUM.

The advantages of having in some central place a collection of articles illustrating all that is peculiar to a people or community are so evident, that it is not strange that such collections are found in most large centres of population. Yet such museums, as they are called, have always been first started by private enterprise, and very few were begun before the present century. The word *Museum* denoted a temple dedicated to the muses, and referred particularly to collections of works of art. But it has come to mean a building containing a collection of interesting objects of almost any kind. The British Museum in London is the largest in the world, covering several acres, and devoted chiefly to antiquities from all parts of the world.

Colombo has a Museum quite worthy of the name, a noble edifice and well filled with objects of interest from all parts of the Island. This might be thought enough for the Colony which is not a very large one, but the Northern Province is very different from the southern and central parts of the Island, not only in people but in products, and is quite worthy of a museum to itself. It has been left to a private individual, as in so many other cases in Europe, to take up the matter. Sir William Twynham K. C. M. G. has for years been collecting articles of interest, which are now arranged in cases in the "Nutsell" on the Beach, and make a museum worthy the name, and one in which more can be learned of the Province in a day, than by years of ordinary life.

There are twenty two cases, some of them double, arranged in four rooms, and filled with the exhibits. These glass cases, popularly called almirahs, a word which comes from the Greek *eleemosynarium* or place for keeping alms, we made, each of a different kind of wood the products of the Province. Some of them are very beautiful, especially the flowered satin, but the palmarah and coconut are quite unique, as also the tamarind. Some of the less common woods are quite attractive in appearance. In one case there are more than 100 specimens of woods of the Province, mounted as slabs on a vertical axis, so that the two sides may be seen by rotation, and labeled with botanical name, common name, and Tamil name, together with the weight per cu. foot. In the adjoining case are the fancy canes, for which Jaffna is noted, made in alternate pieces of many kinds, also of areca nuts, and even of palm leaves, as well as of various kinds of wood.

The first thing that strikes one's attention on entering the Museum is a case containing a model of a pearl-fishing boat, showing all the diving operations going on. One man is descending with his foot on the weight, another is scraping the shells together on the sea bottom, and still another is sending up his bag of oysters, while the crew on board are each doing his work in a life-like way. Even a shark is seen approaching a diver. In the same case is a similar illustration of clam divers. In an adjoining almirah are pearl-fishing objects, the stone, the net, the oysters, etc. There is a curious specimen of sparrow caught by a pearl oyster, which suddenly closed on the unsuspecting bird while it was looking for food at the water's edge. Two other cases are filled with sea shells and corals collected at the fishery. Another has all kinds of articles used in other kinds of fishing, including clam fishing and turtle fishing, hooks and harpoons, spears and nets. There are also specimens of the curious jewelry made from the conch shells, which are exported in such large quantities to India. These bracelets and necklaces are worn to funerals because of the strange custom requiring all jewels worn on such occasions to be broken, and put on the pyre. The next enclosure has large life-like models of catamarans in full sail one representing the mail-boat to South India, the men mail-bag and all appearing in every detail.

At another side of the room is a very cleverly constructed palmarah tree, with a man preparing to ascend, the fruit, leaves, and man's implements all very perfect. Then there are all the products of the palms, mats, baskets, books, and all the hundred and one useful articles which the palm furnishes. In the next room is a complete model of a house, a yard long the thatch alone being wanting. In another place is a house entirely constructed of palm-sticks and leaves. There is a striking model of a cart with oxen, which with many of the other ingenious models was procured by the Batticaloa Manager, some of them copies of specimens sent to the Colonies Exhibit in London a few years since. One glass case has

a large figure representing Harichandra decked in all the glory of bright colors, tinsel, and imitation jewelry; such as may be seen in the representations of Tamil dramas. His wife and others also are present, also a peon, a Moorman etc. One almirah has specimens of pottery, together with a potter's wheel. The room which has the wood specimens has also a case with the mineral products of the Northern Province, another with bottles of the various grains. Then there are drugs and tobacco, knives and bows, deer horns, bear's claws, an elephant skull, etc. etc.

In a back room is a collection of ancient bricks and stones from the ruins in the jungle and elsewhere.

Last but not least we should mention the giant wooden figure of Samson, on the front veranda, which was once the figure-head on the prow of the barque "Sansone," wrecked a few years since at Kankasanturi. In the adjoining premises one is interested to notice the pelican, a tall blue heron and several smaller ones, a porcupine, etc.

The practical Jaffnese might not think it money well spent if the Government were to have such a collection, but we believe that it would be both useful and interesting. It is a pity that the plans for an Agricultural show fell through some years ago. We hope the time may not be long before there may be a suitable building with a good permanent collection, and this would make much easier the temporary exhibition, which in time would contribute to the lasting exhibit. The work of a taxidermist would add much to such a collection, though stuffed birds and animals have a rather precarious existence in such a climate as this.

Jaffna has hitherto been so difficult of access that there have not been many visitors from abroad, but with the advent of the railway they will multiply apace, and among the other "lions" of the place they should be able to see a Museum, whether through commendable private enterprise or public wisdom.

EVOLUTION.

The writer in the "Guardian" continues his desultory remarks on Evolution, and criticizes what we said concerning bees. We did not bring them forward as a proof of evolution. We merely replied to what he said about them. He said first that bees were the same now as 2000 years ago, and then that bees could not develop because the workers were neuter. We said in substance, "That is just it, because working bees are neuter they cannot develop and therefore the fact that they are the same as 2000 years ago is no argument against evolution." Whether they came to that state by a previous development or not does not bear on the question. So far as these facts are concerned they might have done so. There is here no "begging of the question." In his later article he asks "why" bees have no further development, forgetting that he himself gave reason why, in his previous article.

What further he says about lack of time for development, lack of variation, reverting to types etc. does not call for a reply. We may not know the true explanation, but such trifling difficulties do not bear with any force on the doctrine of evolution. We have presented the arguments for that, in a series of facts which are absolutely unexplainable in any other way. These facts are minor ones, which may be explained in any of several ways, and which is the true one does not especially concern us. Moreover we have given the testimony of three, amongst those most competent to know, who assert that all scientists consider evolution to be proved. This being the case why should we dispute over trifling difficulties on this side or that. It is like bringing forward the rise of sap in trees, or the ascent of a balloon to disprove the doctrine of universal gravitation. The various inadequate theories of those who hold to evolution no more disprove its being a fact, than the various absurd methods of explaining the laws of gravitation discredit the reality of those laws.

ROAD FROM PONARU TO MANNAR.

DEAR SIR,
Did you ever hear of the existence of a time-honored road from Ponaruru to Mannar, over which the Tamil King's ministers and ambassadors passed with valuable and precious presents to the Kandian Kings?

I travelled over the road lately. It is a short and direct course to Mannar, but the state of the road is indeed horrible. It is a wonder that the Government with all its liberality, has entirely forsaken this road without even putting on a handful of earth in the way of forming the same. I believe our energetic Government Agent had to travel over the road last month. Surely he must have taken a note of this important road. So also our Provincial Engineer had to pass over this road from Mannar this month. There is no doubt now that these two Heads of Departments will surely take some remedial course, to alleviate, cruelty to animals and humanity.

When very large sums are expended in tracing, surveying, constructing, and completing some of the road in one year, why does not Government allow year by year a moderate sum at least for the completion of this vital

important road, a road leading to Mannar the rice producing centre in the Mannar District.

Besides these benefits, large sums of money are being expended in the restoration of the Giant's Tank, and 350 other Minor Tanks are to be filled up from the Giant's Tank, and about 50,000 acres of land will become irrigable, and when these works are become a fact accomplished then the congested population, about 300,000, living in the Peninsula of Jaffna, need not look for their staple article of food from India, but from Mannar District, and this produce must be conveyed via the Ponaruru-Mannar road only, and this road must necessarily be the vitally important means of communication. Hence it is necessarily incumbent on our Government to take steps to open and metal the thoroughfare.

Some one might say that there is a way for ingress and egress to Mannar by Sea, and even Government authorities might think so, and thus postpone the construction of this important road.

There is no use of travelling by sea to Mannar, as it is not possible to go and return immediately, unless two Steam Boats ply between Jaffna and Mannar up and down daily. If this road is not constructed there is great disadvantage to the villagers living all along the road. Besides Jaffnese cannot be induced to buy lands and settle in the Mannar District, when the Tank is completed.

If the works connected with the Giant's Tank progress at the present rate, there is no doubt, the works will be completed in two or two and a half years.

Yours truly, ARJAY PARROT.

THE COMMERCIAL COMPANY LIMITED.

We give below the first report of this Corporation, and we are glad to congratulate them on the good showing they are able to make. A net profit of Rs. 2118, is very good. We understand that money is only loaned on the best security which is determined by three experienced men. It must be a great advantage to Jaffnese to be able to borrow money without having recourse to the usurers who are so common, and to whom so many have had to forfeit their property. We wish the new company every success.

THE REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS OF

The Jaffna Commercial Corporation Ltd.

For the period ending 30th June 1897.

Although the incorporation of this Company took place on 4th July 1896, its operations commenced only on 8th September 1896, so that our report covers a period of but 9 months and 23 days. Our first annual general meeting having been fixed by the articles of association for July, we have to present our first report so early as now.

During the period ending 30th June 1897, twelve meetings were held by the Directors and important matters were considered and decided. The Company's chief and foremost business has been Banking business, and the Directors have the satisfaction of reporting that its success in this department is steadily increasing.

The Company has also engaged itself in trading business, which, however, is still in its initiatory stage. Messrs. Tetley and Whitley of Manchester have been sending cotton goods to the Company from England, and as we have arranged to sell them here at Colombo prices, our success in this department is certain to be of no ordinary magnitude. The Chetties and other local Traders are gradually becoming our customers and we are sanguine that at no distant day we shall have the monopoly of the cloth trade in Jaffna.

Messrs. Tetley and Whitley, both of whom are among our own shareholders, are entitled to our best thanks for the invariable help and courtesy shown to us. We have had also some work as commission agents in boots, shoes and saddlery and this is an additional source of our income.

A large number of European and native gentlemen have opened current accounts, and a sum of Rs. 90,608 97 has passed through our hands by way of deposits. Bills and notes to the value of Rs. 121,310 74 have been discounted by us, and a considerable business has been done between Colombo and Jaffna by way of transmission of money. Rs. 104,364 69 has passed through our Colombo Bankers, the National Bank of India Limited, to whom we have to express our feelings of indebtedness.

Our gross profits so far amount to Rs. 4021 22 and the nett profits to Rs. 2118 19. We are therefore in the happy position to recommend, within so short a time as we have had before us, that a dividend of 10 per cent. per annum from the last date of payment be paid to such of the shareholders as have paid all the calls made, 5 per cent. to those who have paid only the application and allotment moneys, and that the balance, about 15 per cent. of the nett profits, be carried to a reserve fund.

We trust that our shareholders will feel much satisfied with the results already obtained and that no efforts will be spared by one and all of them to increase our capital, and thus enable the Company to present a still more satisfactory report at the next annual meeting.

According to the Articles of association, the present board of Directors retire, but are eligible for re-election.

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