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JAFFNA,

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NO. 43

## GOVERNMENT TO PURCHASE RICE STOCKS

### Proposals to Control Supply

### STATE COUNCIL PASSED TOKEN VOTE

BY approving a token vote of Rs. 1,000 yesterday evening the State Council pledged its support for the Government proposal to purchase stocks of rice now in the hands of wholesale merchants and also buy rice direct from exporting countries for purpose of control.

The present stocks are valued at about Rs. 6,000,000 and Government, after buying them up, will transport it to various places for distribution to approved wholesalers who will in turn sell it to retailers. The suggestion was made that Government should also establish rice depots where rice would be sold at the standardised rates.

The deferred debate on the second reading of the Bill to amend the Food Control Ordinance was resumed after the tea interval and the Bill was passed.

Mr. G. G. Ponnambalam said that there was a strong cleavage of opinion among the Board of Ministers on that matter of Government taking over the distribution of rice.

Steps should be taken to release supplies if there was a sufficient stock of rice. If more releases were made from the surplus, he was certain larger orders for rice would be placed.

Where there were accredited suppliers of rice Government should establish rice depots which would be able to supply a considerable number of people with rice at the prescribed rates. This would prevent a monopoly and automatically check profiteering.

Mr. G. E. De Silva (Kandy) said that it was high time for the Government to take over the control of the importation of rice to the Island. The masses should be regularly informed regarding the maximum prices, etc., through handbills.

The present crisis had been prophesied by him six years ago. In 1919 he had managed the control department in

Kandy, where there was no hitch in the arrangements. Rationing could be carried out successfully.

The members of the Council should ensure that no injustice was done in their respective constituencies during the control period. Food Control Advisory Committees should be formed in the various districts.

The Committees could bring the merchants who infringe the law to book.

#### Other Foodstuffs Too

Mr. A. Ratnayake (Dumbara) said that profiteering would cease, when Government rice depots, were established. He congratulated the Minister for Home Affairs on having requested the Revenue Officers to take the necessary action to prevent profiteering.

The prices of other foodstuffs including sugar were rapidly rising and he suggested that action should be taken in that direction, too.

Mr. David Wanigasekera (Weligama) suggested that all the Railway goods sheds in the provinces should be converted into rice depots where the people could obtain rice at the regulated prices.

Mr. H. W. Amarasinghe (Galle) said that the Minister should give more particulars of the scheme to import rice and take over the supplies in the granaries.

The present proposal alone would not check profiteering. The Government intended to take the place of the wholesale merchant and nothing was done to ensure that the retailers did not indulge in profiteering. The establishment of Government rice depots was the only solution.

The Control Department had bungled the situation at the initial stages. It was the Department that was responsible for starting the panic.

Undue restriction at the source of supply gave rise to unnecessary panic.

#### Lists Unsatisfactory

Mr. S. W. R. Dias Bandaranaike (Minister of Local Ad-

## REOPENING NORTHERN PORTS

### Discussion In Council

WHEN the votes of the Colombo Port Commission were taken up in the State Council Mr. S. Natesan (Kankasanturai) raised the question of re-opening the Northern ports.

Major Kotelawala said that a report would be placed before the Council, along with a supplementary vote. Mr. Ponnambalam: The matter was not discussed in the Executive Committee of Communications.

Major Kotelawala: I cannot produce the minutes now. The Member was not present at the meeting. As far as the Communications Committee are concerned they are in favour of opening up as many ports as possible, even one at Bambalapitiya or Wellawatta if it is practicable.

"The question of the particular port that should be opened up first will have to be decided by the Council and the Board of Ministers," he added.

Mr. Natesan said that the responsibility for selecting the port to be opened first rested on the Minister for Communications and Works and not on the Board.

Mr. Sri Pathmanathan said that the Board of Ministers had decided on re-opening the port of Kayts. He did not now understand the attitude of the Minister of Agriculture. Perhaps the Minister had a special affection for the Speaker in opening the port of Kayts.

Mr. Senanayake: I object to that statement. I would ask you, sir, to ask the Member to withdraw it. I do have some affection for the Speaker, but I think the Member must respect the Speaker.

Mr. Sri Pathmanathan: There is no insinuation. It is only a friendly feeling. There is absolutely no insinuation.

ministration) said that as far as he had understood the scheme, it was proposed to buy up all the stocks of rice amounting to six million rupees and to transport it to various places, where it would be held by approved wholesalers. The wholesalers in return to sell it to retailers.

The approved lists he declared were very unsatisfactory and he did not know how the difficulty was to be overcome if these lists were not enlarged.

Mr. H. F. Parfitt (nominated) said that he saw from the observations that the Government proposed to purchase direct from exporting countries. He only hoped the Minister would utilise the existing organisation in Ceylon for the purchase of this rice instead of purchasing it direct from Rangoon.

If the Government did so it would get into a mess without the

(Continued on page 3)

## GRANT TO MALAYALAM TOBACCO

### One Lakh Vote In Council

### TWO JAFFNA M. S. C.'s OPPOSE GRANT TO SOCIETY

Colombo, Saturday 9

Mr. Huxham introduced a new sub head for Rs. 100,000 to provide grants to the Jaffna Malayalam Tobacco Industry.

Mr. S. Natesan (Kankasanturai) said that if at the present stage all producers were compelled to join the co-operative society in order to receive grants, it would cause much hardship. He suggested that all grants should be made unconditionally according to the stocks held by each person.

Mr. Huxham said that practical difficulties would be encountered if the suggestion of Mr. Natesan were to be adopted. It was advisable to give the grants through the society.

Mr. G. G. Ponnambalam (Point Pedro) said that, of the tobacco produced in Jaffna for the Travancore market, only a fraction went through the Sales Society.

He wished to know whether it was the intention of the Board of Ministers to subsidise the industry as a whole or to boost up a co-operative society for purposes of their own.

Mr. Ponnambalam said that without the aid of the Co-operative Society Government machinery could be set up to ascertain the 'bona fide' exporters and subsidise them. The difficulties made out by the Financial Secretary were merely illusory. He would vote for the deletion of that sub-head under the present circumstances.

Mr. Senanayake said that the Co-operative Sales Society had been established to eliminate middlemen and ensure the safety of the industry. The Government had already spent nine lakhs on behalf of the Society. Their desire was to help the cultivator and not the middleman.

At noon Council adjourned till 2.30 p.m. today.

## ILLAVALAI TRIPLE MURDER CASE

### Committed to Supreme Court

Mr. R. Ramachandran, Magistrate of Mallakam, committed to the Supreme Court, Karaly Muttiah, Nadehettiram Chelliah and S. Anthonipillai, who are charged with the murder of Mr. Thampar Sinnathamby, land owner of Illavalai and his two servants and theft of about Rs. 10,000.

The accused stated that their case should be heard outside Jaffna.



## NOTICE

This is to notify that I, A. S. Vallipuram now at Central Accountant's Office P. & T., Kuala Lumpur, revoke my Power of Attorney granted in favour of Mr. S. Elayathambi, Proctor, S. C. from the date hereof.

Sgd. A. S. VALLIPURAM,  
K. Lumpur,  
16-8-39.  
(Mis. 132. 4 & 11-9-39)

## Order Nisi

IN THE DISTRICT COURT  
OF JAFFNA  
held at Point Pedro  
Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 66 PT.  
In the matter of the Estate of the  
late Alvappillai Kathirgamar of  
Puloly East Deceased.  
Chellammah widow of Kathirgamar  
of Puloly East.

Vs. Petitioner.

1. Kathirgamar Sivagnanasunderam
2. Kathirgamar Sivapathasunderam
3. Pillainar Velupillai
4. Ambalaviar Veeragathippillai all of Puloly East

Respondents.

This matter coming on for disposal before Simon Rodrigo, Esquire Additional District Judge, Jaffna on the 3rd day of August, 1939 in the presence of Mr. M. Esurapadham Proctor on the part of the Petitioner, and the Petition and Affidavit of the Petitioner having been read.

It is ordered that the 3rd Respondent be appointed Guardian-ad-litem over the minor the 1st Respondent and the 4th Respondent over the minor the 2nd Respondent for the purpose of representing and defending the said minors in the Testamentary Proceedings in this case, that the Petitioner be declared entitled to take out Letters of Administration as widow of the deceased and that Letters of Administration be issued to her accordingly unless the Respondents or any other person shall appear before this Court at Point Pedro on or before the 25th day of August, 1939 and shew sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

This 3rd day of August, 1939  
Sgd. S. RODRIGO  
Addl. District Judge.  
Extended and reissued for  
15-9-39  
Intd. S. R.  
A. D. J.  
(O. 41. 7 & 11-9-39)

## Order Nisi

IN THE DISTRICT COURT  
OF JAFFNA  
held at Point Pedro  
Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 97 P.  
In the matter of the estate of the  
late Sinnathambiar Arumugam  
Kannappillai of Thunnalai  
South Deceased.  
Annappillai widow of Kandapper  
Chinniah of Thunnalai South

Vs. Petitioner.  
Kannappillai Arumugam Alias  
Vadivolu of Thunnalai South

Respondent.

This matter coming on for disposal before Simon Rodrigo, Esquire Additional District Judge, Jaffna on the 7th day of August, 1939, in the presence of Mr. M. Esurapadham, Proctor on the part of the Petitioner, and the Petition and affidavit of the Petitioner having been read.

It is ordered that the Petitioner be declared entitled to take out Letters of Administration as heir of the deceased and that Letters of Administration be issued to her accordingly unless the Respondent or any other person shall appear before this Court at Point Pedro, on or before the 15th day of September, 1939 and shew sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

This 25th day of August, 1939  
Sgd. S. RODRIGO  
Addl. District Judge  
(O. 42. 7 & 11-9-39)

## Manager's Notice

The Offices of the "Hindu Organ" and the Saivaprakasa Press will be closed on Tuesday and Wednesday for the Nallur Kandaswamy Temple THER and THEERTHAM festivals, and there will be no issue of the paper on Thursday.

MANAGER.

11-9-39.

## NOTICE

THE HINDU BOARD OF  
EDUCATION, JAFFNA  
J/Thinnevely Muttuthamby  
Vidyasalai

Students for the Thamil S. S. C. Examination of August, 1940 and 41 will be admitted to the above school on or before the 1st October, 1939. Over-aged students are also admitted.

A Chellappah,  
General Manager.

Hindu Board Office,  
Jaffna, 7-9-39.  
(Mis. 139 A 11 & 18 9-39.)



## Hindu Organ.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1939

## INDIA AND THE WAR

THE CONGRESS WORKING COMMITTEE at its meeting today at Wardha is expected to define its attitude towards the war in which Britain and her allies are fighting Hitlerism in Europe. There can be no doubt that the Congress will give a correct and clear lead to the country, exhibiting the far-sighted statesmanship which one has learned to associate with that National Organization. Gandhiji—the acknowledged leader of India—has already expressed his sympathy with the ideals for which Britain and France have stood up against the much vaunted might of Nazi arms. He is reported to have observed: "It almost looks as if HERR HITLER knows no God but brute force." In these words GANDHIJI has finely described the spirit which has so long animated the actions and attitude of the Nazi leader. What he means perhaps is that the war that is now raging in Europe is intended to establish the paramountcy of the moral law as against sheer brute force. It is to be expected therefore that the Congress, standing as it does for non-violence and freedom for all peoples, will range itself on the side of the Democracies and extend her moral and material support to Britain so as to ensure the triumph of the moral law.

It is well known that there are politicians in India who would exploit this difficult and delicate situation, fondly pinning their faith on the doctrine that "England's difficulty is India's opportunity." But we feel sure that the Congress leaders who are noted for their magnanimity and statesmanship will

set their face against this crude doctrine without indulging in bargaining at this critical moment. On this momentous question the Congress Committee will be guided by the advice of their leader—Mahatma Gandhi. In this connection we are glad to note that the Congress is closing its ranks so as to be able to speak with one voice and act unitedly in the name of India. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru observed in the course of an interview: "It is perfectly true that in a conflict between democracy and Fascism and aggression on the one hand our sympathies must inevitably lie with the side of democracy and we cannot tolerate with pleasure ideas of victory for Fascist and imperialist aggressors." He has however taken care to qualify his statement with the following observation: "The real test is whether this struggle for democracy and freedom does not lie in the loud enunciation of principles, but in practice." The British Government and the Viceroy are statesmanlike enough to realise the significance of these words. It is their duty at this critical juncture to do everything in their power to make India feel that she has the right and the power to give her whole-hearted support to the cause of Britain and her allies. Such a gesture on the part of Britain will make India pool all her resources and take her rightful place in this momentous war.

## Proposed Grant to Tobacco Industry

We are surprised at the attitude of two of the Northern Councillors as regards the vote of Rs. 100,000 proposed to be granted to the Jaffna Malayalam tobacco industry. The grant, according to the Financial Secretary, would be made through the Jaffna Malayalam Co-operative Sales Society. The two members opposed this procedure and wanted the grant to be made independent of the Society. The one sees hardships in the Government procedure and the other does not like the Government boosting up the Society. We wish these members realised the parlous state of the industry and the need to organise it and ensure its future through a central marketing agency. Only thus can the industry be saved and the cultivator ensured a reasonable return for his efforts. We reiterate our faith that only the Society and not the middlemen can achieve it. The groundless objections of the two Councillors, we are afraid, might, as Mr. G. G. Ponnambalam would rather have it, cause the vote to be deleted. We would ask these Councillors not to view the question from the point of view of the middlemen but from the point of view of the industry as a whole and of the poor cultivators who stand most in need of relief. There is nothing in the way of every cultivator and every trader joining the Society and thus ensuring the future of the industry. We wholly endorse the policy of the Government in the matter and hope the baseless fears of our Councillors would not deprive the poor cultivator of his chance of getting the much needed relief. The hope of the industry lies through the Society and the Government would be well advised in helping the Society in all ways possible. We hope the State Council will pass the Financial Secretary's motion.

## "ABSOLUTELY FALSE"

## REPORTED FALL OF WARSAW

## PHOTOGRAPHING SIEGFRIED LINE

Paris, Saturday.

THE Polish Embassy in London stigmatizes the reported fall of Warsaw as "absolutely false" and says that the Germans were pushed back and there is no threat to the capital.

London, Saturday.

A French communique reports intense activity on a 100-mile sector in the north, where the Maginot and Siegfried lines are separated by four to six miles.

French troops reached a point where minefields occurred and the air forces, co-operating with the land attack, took complete photographic records of the Siegfried line. These will be studied for weak points.

French troops are also breaking through in the south and the German populations in frontier towns are being evacuated to Cologne.

A vote of credit for £500,000,000 was issued today by the Treasury "for the efficient prosecution of any war in which Britain may be engaged, and for maintaining supplies and services essential to the community".

## German Claims

Berlin, Saturday.

Claims that the Polish province of Poznan is being occupied without any resistance are made in a communique issued by the German High Command, which adds: "The German Army yesterday attacked all the Polish routes in retreat, west and east of the Vistula."

"With the exception of some Polish fighters over the Vistula between Sandomierz and Warsaw, the Polish Air Force is not much in evidence. In the west two French war-planes were shot down over the German area."

"Ready for Peace" says Goering

Berlin, Saturday.

Field-Marshal Goering, addressing himself to Mr. Neville Chamberlain in a speech at a Berlin munition factory, said that Germany was ready for peace. "It rests with you, Mr. Chamberlain, to say the word for life or death, but never again shall there be a Versailles", he added.

He had no objection to British planes dropping leaflets. Let them drop a single bomb, and reprisals would follow. The pamphlets were obviously the work of German traitors & Jews, so excellent was the German.

Poland would be conquered in four weeks, he declared, and then 70 divisions would be transferred to the western front.

## Nehru on this Crisis

Calcutta, Saturday.

"At this stage it is right and proper for nationalist India to speak with one voice and act in a united way," said Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru to journalists on his arrival in Calcutta this morning.

Nehru added: "I earnestly hope that Congress will act worthily in this hour of crisis and thus advance the cause of India's freedom and also the world's freedom."

## Court of Criminal Appeal

The Ordinance to provide for the establishment of a Court of Criminal Appeal will come into operation at the end of this month.

This Ordinance, it will be remembered, was passed by the State Council on July 13th, 1938, and received the Governor's assent nine days later.

The judges of the Court of Criminal Appeal will be the Chief Justice and the Puisne Justices of the Supreme Court.



# MAXIMUM PRICES FOR RICE

## Rates of Increase for Jaffna Areas

THE Minister for Labour, Industry and Commerce has, under the Food Control Ordinance, ordered that the maximum retail prices which may be demanded in any area shall not exceed the prices mentioned in the schedule given below. He further directs that a bag of any rice other than Broken Raw Rice shall contain not less than 80 measures; a bag of Broken Raw Rice shall contain not less than 93 measures. The rates of increase are fixed on the maximum prices prescribed for Colombo Municipal area.

The following schedule applies to different areas in the Jaffna District:

	Rs.	c.	c.
Velvettilarai	1	45	2
Poel Pedro	1	25	1 1/2
Kayts	1	41	2
Nannativu	1	41	1 1/2
Pungudativu	1	61	2
Analaativu	1	41	1 1/2
Karalativu	1	41	1 1/2
Valani	1	41	1 1/2
Aliaippiddi	1	41	1 1/2
Nallur	1	26	1 1/2
Kokuvil	1	26	1 1/2
Manippai	1	31	1 1/2
Vaddukoddai	1	36	1 1/2
Chankanai	1	36	1 1/2
Pandaterippu	1	41	1 1/2
Uduvil	1	31	1 1/2
Mallakam	1	31	1 1/2
Tellipattai	1	35	1 1/2
Mayliddi	1	40	1 1/2
Achekuveli	1	41	1 1/2
Puttur	1	41	1 1/2
Neerveli	1	36	1 1/2
Kopay	1	31	1 1/2
Navakuli	1	23	1 1/2
Chavakachcheri	1	18	1 1/2
Kachchai	1	15	1 1/2
Mirusuvil	1	12	1 1/2
Varany	1	25	1 1/2
Udappiddi	1	45	2
Kandlaiveli	1	30	1 1/2
Puloly	1	30	1 1/2
Kudatana	1	35	1 1/2
Chempianpattu	1	17	1 1/2
Mullipattu	1	12	1 1/2
Puloppalai	1	7	1 1/2
Malamalai	1	12	1 1/2
Karachchi	1	2	1 1/2
Panakkai	1	46	2
Pallavarayankaddu	1	56	2
Tannukai	1	20	1 1/2
Delfi	1	56	2

## Colombo Municipal Area Prices

The prescribed maximum prices for rice in the Colombo Municipal area are as follows:

Milchard No. 1: Wholesale per bag Rs. 9-50; retail per bag Rs. 9-80; retail per measure 13 1/2 cents.

Milchard No. 2: Rs. 9-37; Rs. 9-67; 13 1/2 cents.

Mattu Samba No. 1: Rs. 12-00; Rs. 12-30; 16 1/2 cents.

Mattu Samba No. 2: Rs. 11-50; Rs. 11-80; 16 cents.

Broken Raw Rice: Rs. 10-50; 10-80; 13 cents.

## Growing Cigarette Tobacco

Jaffna, Saturday.

Arrangements are being made to begin experiments in the cultivation of cigarette tobacco in the Pachchilapakkam and Thenmarachy Divisions of Jaffna District.

The experiments will be carried out by land owners under the supervision of officers of the Agricultural Department. Mr. W. M. Rogers, Tobacco Officer of the Department, recently visited the district and inspected the soil in various areas.

With the setting-in of the North-East monsoon in October, small plots in Lonasi, Vannakkeerai, Eluthumadaval, and Meesalai will be cultivated with seedlings supplied by Agricultural Department.

# GOVERNMENT TO PURCHASE RICE STOCKS

(Continued from page 1)

advise of experts. Their knowledge and experience would enable the Government to get rice of a far better quality at a cheaper price.

Dr. N. M. Perera (Ruanwella) said that according to the proposed scheme, all the retailers would be made to buy from the depots. There would, he feared, be chaos if rationing was immediately introduced on account of the unsatisfactory nature of the lists prepared.

## What of Estate Labour?

The headmen themselves had put up boutiques and that would lead to much malpractice. The A. S. P., Avisawella, he was glad to say, had done valuable work in inspecting the boutiques and warning the traders.

He insisted that members should be supplied with the lists prepared for their respective areas in order to ensure that no injustice was done to the boutique-keepers by the officers preparing the lists.

Mr. Geo. E. de Silva (Kandy) brought to the notice of the House how he was referred to the Food Controller who in turn had referred him to the Labour Controller. The reply he had from the Labour Controller was that the Labour Controller had no authority to issue permits until food control was established. The pamphlet referred to by the Labour Controller stated that only Indian labourers would be given rice.

His estate employed Tamils as well as indigenous labour. He could not at all understand what really was being done. Indigenous labour on estates had not been taken into account at all.

Mr. D. S. Senanayake (Minister of Agriculture and Lands) said that there were sufficient stocks of rice available. An abnormal situation had arisen because the people had become panicky as a result of the outbreak of war. Their aim was to see that the stocks of rice they had were eventually distributed.

Mr. S. P. Vythilingam (Talawakelle) said that the situation had now eased a bit. The Control Department was partly to blame for the serious situation. If they had not enforced the quota on aiked householders to lay by a stock such a situation would never have arisen.

He thought it would be better, since they had a two months supply, that they should at least for some time withdraw the quota system.

With regard to prosecutions, they should not prosecute petty traders but wholesalers who increased prices.

Mr. G. A. Wille (Nominated) said that he had grave doubts about the extreme measure of the Government's taking control of rice. They had no organisation to take over that business.

## Food Controller

### Tribute to His Work

Mr. Corea paid a tribute to the Food Controller and his staff for the good work they were doing.

He denied that there had been any bungling on the part of the Food Controller. On the contrary, the Food Controller and his staff had heroically risen to the occasion and done admirable work.

The Executive Committee had

taken early action to control the rice reserve and on Friday night there had been 471,000 bags in the granaries. He assured the House that the rice position was satisfactory and there was absolutely no case whatever for alarm.

More rice was expected from Rangoon soon, but owing to the uncertainty of the time of arrivals a definite date could not be given. In the meantime they were doing their best to conserve as much rice as possible and when more arrived the dealers' quotas would be increased further.

Referring to Mr. Parfitt's remark that all the trouble had arisen as the prices fixed by the Minister were low, Mr. Corea said that there could be no trouble on account of those prices, as he had not acted arbitrarily.

The new scheme which had been put into operation on Tuesday—i.e. first obtaining permits from the Food Controller—had worked very satisfactorily. No doubt there had been a rush at the Food Control Office at the Granaries on Tuesday, but all the retail dealers who had called for rice had been attended to.

He did not think there was need for any other scheme as the one begun on Tuesday worked satisfactorily.

## Experience Speaks

Mr. E. R. Tambimuttu (Batticaloa-Trincomalee) opposed the ration card system and he claimed to be the only member in the House who had experience of Rice Control during the last crisis.

He had served on the last Rice Control Committee and he knew that the card system worked the greatest hardship on the poor people. He would never agree to such a system and he hoped the House too would not adopt such a scheme.

Mr. Corea said that it was proposed to establish Municipal depots in Colombo which would sell rice at price fixed by Government.

The supplementary estimate was approved.

On the motion of Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike (Minister of Local Administration), Mr. K. Natesa Iyer (Hatton) was granted two months' leave of absence on the ground of ill-health.

## Check on Profiteering

The debate on the second reading of the Bill to amend the Food Control Ordinance to check profiteering, which was deferred on Tuesday was taken up after the tea interval.

Mr. G. G. Ponnambalam (Point Pedro) said that the Bill left room for genuine traders to be brought up and prosecuted.

Mr. Geo. E. de Silva (Kandy) said that it was essential for traders to have a register otherwise they would have a flood of bogus contracts.

The Bill passed the second reading and it was then discussed in detail in Committee.

Mr. Ponnambalam said that there should be some indication in the Ordinance that a defence would be open to an accused in the course of a trial. The defence should not be a complete stopper to prosecution.

Mr. Geo. E. de Silva said that they should not allow a trader on the pretext of a contract to withhold the sale of supplies.

Mr. A. Mahadeva (Jaffna)

# AKASH-VANI, MYSORE

## Temporary Suspension

The Broadcast from Akash-Vani, Mysore and Bangalore (70.2 & 310 Metres) are temporarily suspended. They will be resumed again after instructions are received from the Government of Mysore, says a circular letter from the Programme Assistant, Akash-Vani, Mysore.

agreed with Mr. Geo. E. de Silva that the excuse of having a contract would nullify the objects of the Ordinance. That defence might be made available to the wholesaler.

Mr. Tambimuttu said that as the stores in the granaries were allowed to be used for selling rice the traders must be compelled to sell.

## Bona Fide Contracts

Mr. Ponnambalam said that in interpreting the law nobody would look into the opinions expressed in Council.

In the original Ordinance it was contemplated that traders could plead the existence of contracts as a sufficient defence for refusing to sell. It was now proposed to remove that defence.

He suggested that traders should register bona fide contracts with the Food Controller. Such registration could be considered before launching prosecutions.

Mr. B. H. Aluwihare (Natala) said that the fears entertained by certain members were unfounded. The new section intended to tighten the existing regulations.

Mr. Francis de Zoysa (Bala-pitiya) said that if the existence of bona fide contracts was to be accepted as a defence it ought to be clearly incorporated in the Ordinance.

Mr. Corea said that the Ordinance would be useless without the proposed amendment as the traders on the slightest pretext would take up the defence that they had bona fide contracts.

## Safety of Forward Contracts

Mr. H. F. Parfitt (Nominated) said that provision could be made in the Ordinance to force traders to register bona fide contracts with the Controller. Such contracts, if approved by the Controller, would be recognised by the prosecuting authority, the Police in that case. Unless some provision was included to ensure the safety of forward contracts, he would vote against the Bill.

Mr. Corea said that the question of registering contracts was now being investigated.

Mr. Ponnambalam said that forward contracts should not be made a bar to prosecutions. It should, however, be a valid defence.

Mr. Wille proposed as an amendment the deletion of sub-Section (1) of Clause 2 dealing with the "number of quantity demanded."

Mr. D. S. Senanayake (Minister of Agriculture and Lands) said that what was sought was not to exempt all who had contracts but people who had a bona fide defence of contracts.

Mr. Ponnambalam moved as an amendment the addition of the words "it should not be a bar to a prosecution" in the section dealing with contracts.

Mr. Senanayake said that ac-

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## Government to Purchase Rice Stocks

(Continued from page 3)

cording to that amendment a prosecution could be instituted without an offence being committed.

Mr. Howard (Legal Secretary) said that the amendment was meaningless.

Mr. A. Mahadeva (Jaffna) said that since it was an emergency, he thought they could trust the Minister.

### Bill Passed

Mr. Corea said that the legal authority he consulted had stated the section as drafted served the Minister's purpose.

Mr. Dudley Senanayake (Dedigama) said that the issue before the House was whether a contract was an offence or not.

Mr. Bandaranaike suggested the addition of a proviso that it should not be an offence for a dealer to have a quantity necessary for his contract.

The speaker suggested that as the members were divided as to what form the amendment should take that the matter be taken up tomorrow.

Mr. Aluwihare moved that the question be put.

The amendment of Mr. Ponnambalam that a contract should not be a bar to a prosecution was lost.

The amendment of Mr. Willie was withdrawn.

Mr. Bandaranaike, at this stage, moved the adjournment of the debate.

Mr. Susanta de Fonseka (Deputy Speaker) said that since the question had been put, it could not be deferred.

Mr. R. Sri Pathmanathan (Manar) said that he understood from the Director of Commerce and Industries that several fraudulent transactions were taking place and that it was very essential that the Bill should be passed.

Mr. Phillip Gunewardene said that they should not defer the Bill on the suggestion of the Minister of Local Administration as he himself had stated that there would be no.

The Bill was ultimately passed without any amendment.

[This amending bill omits from the Food Control Ordinance the provision which enables a trader who refuses to supply any article on demand and tender payment for it, to plead as a sufficient defence that he had not a sufficient quantity of the article to enable him to supply the demand in addition to the

quantity necessary to satisfy subsisting contracts and the ordinary requirements of his business.

It is also provided that every offence under this ordinance shall be a cognizable offence under the Criminal Procedure Code.]

Mr. G. C. S. Corea moved that the regulations made by the Executive Committee of Labour, Industry and Commerce under Section 4 of the Control of Prices Ordinance No. of 1939 be approved.

The regulations were approved.

[These refer to the furnishing of returns to stocks, maximum prices and quality of article.]

### Order Nisi

#### IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 486

In the matter of the Estate of the late Kanapathypillai Kandiah of Araly North Deceased.

Sinnathangam widow of Kanapathypillai Kandiah of Araly North Vs. Petitioner.

1. Sivapakiyam daughter of Kanapathypillai Kandiah of Araly North
2. K. Balasingham of Araly North.
3. K. Ratnasingham of Araly North
4. Kanapathypillai Velupillai of do the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Respondents are appearing by their Guardian-ad-Litem the 4th Respondent.

To. Kanapathypillai Velupillai of Araly North.

This matter of the petition of the abovenamed petitioner coming on for disposal before O. Coomaraswamy Esqr, District Judge Jaffna, on the 8th day of December 1938 in the presence of Chelladurai Storer Proctor on the part of the Petitioner and the affidavit of the petitioner dated the 14th day of August 1937 having been read. It is ordered that the letters of Administration be issued to the petitioner in this case for the purpose of carrying on this testamentary proceedings unless the 4th Respondent (Guardian-ad-Litem) in this case, shall appear on the 23rd day of December 1939, and show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this court to the contrary.

This 17th day of December 1938

Sgd. C. Coomaraswamy,  
District Judge.

Drawn by,  
Sgd. C. Storer  
Proctor for Petitioner.  
(O. 40. 7 & 11-9-39.)

Nº 571

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