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## SUBSIDY TO MALAYALAM TOBACCO INDUSTRY

### Two Jaffna Members Oppose Grant to Society

#### ONE LAKH VOTED BY STATE COUNCIL

THE State Council approved on Tuesday a grant of Rs. 100,000 for the Jaffna Malayalam tobacco industry.

When the State Council went into Committee to continue the discussion of the Budget estimates, Mr. D. S. Senanayake (Minister of Agriculture and Lands) referring to the proposed grant of Rs. 100,000 to the Jaffna Malayalam Tobacco Co-operative Sale Society Ltd., said that if certain steps were not taken the Jaffna Tobacco industry was likely to suffer. That grant was being given for the purpose of assisting cultivators who were struggling hard.

Although the demand for Jaffna tobacco was getting less and less, they could not let Jaffna give up the cultivation of Tobacco. It was necessary in the interests of the cultivators to assist them to grow other kinds of tobacco such as pipe and cigarette tobacco.

He felt that the most satisfactory way of granting relief to the industry was through the Co-operative Society.

Mr. Senanayake read out a telegram to the effect that middlemen were responsible for the opposition put up by Mr. Natesan and Mr. Ponnambalam for the grant of that vote.

Messrs Ponnambalam, Natesan and Sri Pathmanathan: Who sent the telegram?

Mr. Senanayake: Mr. T. C. Rajaratnam.

Mr. R. Sri Pathmanathan: O an American!

Mr. Senanayake: We have Americans, Frenchmen and others.

Mr. Senanayake then read out an editorial from the Jaffna "Hindu Organ."

Mr. Ponnambalam wanted the documents from which Mr. Senanayake read out to the House earlier.

Mr. Senanayake handed Mr. Ponnambalam a paper.

Mr. Ponnambalam: I don't want rags.

Speaker: The Member wants those official documents.

Mr. Ponnambalam: The one

from which he was reading.

Mr. Senanayake: I got a report from the Co-operative Society and there was reference to certain private transactions in that report.

Mr. Ponnambalam: I don't want any private documents. There was one from which he read and I want that.

Speaker: Can the Minister remove that document from the file?

Mr. Senanayake: I am sorry Sir, I cannot do that.

Mr. Ponnambalam insisted on having that report.

Mr. Senanayake said that it was a report from the Registrar of the Co-operative Society.

Mr. Ponnambalam: May we know the year that report was published?

Mr. Senanayake: It is a document sent from the head of a department to the Minister. I cannot make it public as there was reference to dealings of other people.

Mr. Ponnambalam: Give us the general report dealing with the question of this particular Co-operative Society.

Mr. Senanayake: I can give any information but I cannot give any report.

Speaker: I cannot compel the Minister to give any report as he states that it is partly confidential and partly general.

Mr. Ponnambalam: Is it fair and constitutional to read a report and withhold it from members?

#### Open to Inspection

Speaker: As a rule they are open to inspection but as the Minister states that it is confidential I cannot compel him to give it.

Mr. A. Mahadeva said that cultivators in Jaffna would do well to join the Malayalam Tobacco Sales Society and he would like to see them sending their tobacco through the Society. If, however, they were not anxious to join that Society, was it fair, and could they force the cultivators to join it?

Mr. G. G. Ponnambalam referred to certain rebates which Mr. Senanayake mentioned in his speech.

The Speaker interrupted to correct Mr. Ponnambalam.

Mr. Ponnambalam: Never mind.

Speaker: Order. The member should not say never mind and pro-

## One Thing And Another

By Panangkodai

I think that little war in these columns should cease now that after the heavy firing with logic and Latin and the smoke-screen of red-tape partiality for inane precision by Pilakkodai, I must own defeat. Kamerad.

A press communique in the Indian papers issued by the Madras government recently recalls to mind our lamented M. S's efforts for the betterment of our land. M. S. in his days used to insist on Jaffnese planting trees on roadsides and fields, that would mean wealth to the country without involving much labour in the process. Tamarind trees and casuarina were some he suggested. The Madras government communique mentions the advantages to be had by planting Myrabolans (Kadukkai) a produce that South India used to supply the world in large quantities. It is also used in tanning locally. Those of our politicians who are panting to make a name can well turn their attention to things that are intended to benefit the people. If they could go into the country and tell the people how they could improve their condition economically and show them the initiative and supply them with necessary information, they would be doing real service to the country, instead of demoralising the people by election stunts and tricks. Now here is a tip. They could do worse than write to The Provincial Silviculturist, Forest Department, Ootacamund, or to the Forest Utilisation Officer, Madras, for full particulars about this Myrabolan cultivation. Perhaps the soil in the Northern Province could prove very suitable for this tree. I am sure collecting myrabolans will be more beneficial to all concerned than gathering votes.

ceed when I interrupt him.

Mr. Ponnambalam said that there was a mischievous assumption on the part of certain people that Mr. Natesan and himself were opposed to the Malayalam Society. That was wrong. He was not at all concerned in the working of the Society.

As for the telegram which was read by Mr. Senanayake it had been sent by a disgruntled politician who did not produce an ounce of tobacco.

He was neither a grower nor a trader of tobacco but was a myrmidon of the politicians of the South.

As for the "Hindu Organ" he characterised it as a "gutter rag" and asked whether it was fair for the Minister of Agriculture and Lands to ask them to accept what that paper said against the considered views of his colleagues.

Mr. G. G. Ponnambalam (Point Pedro), continuing said that the cultivators preferred to sell their produce outside the sales society. No culti-

(Continued on page 5)

## NO REASON FOR INCREASE

JAFFNA AND RICE PRICES

DEPUTATION MEETS GOVT AGENT

A revision of the prices fixed for the sale of rice in Jaffna was urged by a deputation of the Jaffna Association which met the Government Agent last Sunday and complained about profiteering.

The deputation consisted of Messrs V. Veerasingham, S. Appadurai, V. S. Karthigesu, N. Chelvadurai and the Rev. James M. Mather.

The deputation urged that the prices fixed for the sale of rice in Jaffna required revision. It was pointed out by the deputation that ordinarily the price of rice in Colombo was higher than in Jaffna because rice was imported to Jaffna direct from India and Burma and not via Colombo.

The deputation also urged that it was not sufficient to fix prices and that proper arrangements should be made to supervise sales and see that people did not pay more than the fixed rates.

At a meeting of the Jaffna Urban District Council held at the Town Hall, presided over by Mr. Sam A. Sabapathy, Chairman, Mr. C. Ponnambalam said that the Council ought to consider the question of profiteering.

#### An Interview

The Chairman said that Mr. Ratna Gopal, the Superintendent of Works had submitted a memorandum suggesting the appointment of the Chairman of the Council as one of the Deputy Food Controllers for the Urban Area. As he was an elected member it was not desirable that he should be a Deputy Food Controller. He had, however, interviewed the Government Agent and brought to his notice the hardships the poor were undergoing.

The Council resolved to place all the field officers of the Council at the service of the Government Agent for detecting such offences.

Mr. Ponnambalam suggested that the traders should be made to post up price lists and to issue receipts in duplicate.

There was no reason why the price of rice in Jaffna should be Re. 1.25 over the Colombo price as that commodity was imported direct from India. Rice should be cheaper in Jaffna than in Colombo.

The Chairman replied that he had already brought the matter before the Government Agent who had informed him that the Government contemplated stopping direct import of goods to Jaffna temporarily.





**Hindu Organ.**

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 1939

**COMMODITY PRICES FOR JAFFNA**

WE ARE GLAD THAT THE Minister for Labour, Industry and Commerce has cancelled the prices he fixed, under the Food Control Ordinance, for foodstuffs in Jaffna and Batticaloa in view of the fact that these two districts get their foodstuffs direct from the exporting countries and there is therefore no excuse to fix enhanced rates for Jaffna with the Colombo prices as the basis. It is also a fact that certain commodities could be procured cheaper in Jaffna than in the metropolis. The Minister readily admitted the mistake and has made amends for it by immediate cancellation of the enhanced rates fixed for the two Districts. Yet it is sad to reflect that the scare of the food control and the enhanced rates which were in force so long have told heavily on the meagre resources of the people of Jaffna who rushed in large numbers and made their purchase at higher rates in order to be prepared for an emergency. It is nevertheless gratifying that, though belated, the Minister has shown sympathy towards the poor people of Jaffna and Batticaloa and has transferred the responsibility of fixing the prices to the Provincial Governments concerned. The Government Agent of this Province, who is also the Deputy Food Controller for the Jaffna District, has issued an Order in last Friday's Gazette, under the Ordinance, fixing the maximum prices of the varieties of rice that are in use in the District. The revised prices which are published elsewhere are brought almost to the level of the Colombo prices. This revision will mean much relief to the people here. One omission in the Order is the non-fixing of the respective weights of bags of rice which, we trust, will be rectified in a subsequent order. This is quite essential in order to check any foul-play. The Order enjoins on traders the displaying of a price list in their shops in order to safeguard the buyer from the profiteering of unscrupulous traders. We have yet our doubts if profiteering can be effectively checked. Profiteering is a strong tendency found generally among business men against which it should be the concern of the Government to guard the poor people. The mere fixing of

maximum rates would not appreciably help the people. A strict adherence to the rates should be enforced by all means possible; without which, we fear, it will prove of little benefit to the people. The headmen and the police should be charged with this duty. We are glad to note in this connection that the Jaffna Urban Council has offered the services of its inspectors to assist the authorities in the task. Greater attention in this matter should be paid in the villages where, without strict watch, the retail dealers would become virtual dictators of prices. It is the villages, more than the towns, that require closer supervision.

**BUDGET ON WAR BASIS**

**ECONOMIES IN GOVT DEPARTMENTS**

**SECY OF STATES' COMMUNIQUE**

THE budget for 1939-40 which is now being considered by the State Council, will be revised in certain respects in order to effect "war savings."

The Treasury, in a circular to all heads of departments, requests immediate reports regarding possible economies in every possible direction.

These proposals will be placed before the Board of Ministers as soon as they are made available.

The Treasury states that in consequence of the present war with Germany, Government is under the necessity of considering very carefully what economies can be made in Government expenditure and what services should be curtailed or suspended during the continuance of hostilities.

A communique from the Secretary of State states that in the United Kingdom the Cabinet has decided to arrange the country's affairs on the basis that the war will continue for at least three years and has called upon departments in the United Kingdom to submit their plans for expenditure on this basis. Similar action is necessary in Ceylon.

*Continued from Column 4)*

*Maniagar's Divisions, and the Islands Maniagar's Division (the Islands of Pungudutivu, Nainativu, Analaativu and Eluvaitivu only)*

Description	Maximum Wholesale Price per Bag	Maximum Retail Price per Bushel	Maximum Retail Price per Measure
	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.
Milohard (Arakan)	10 60 (2½ bls.)	4 36	0 15
Rose	11 83	4 83	0 16
Muttu	12 20	4 93	0 16½
Broken			
Raw Rice	13 77 (3¼ bls.)	3 78	0 13

**GERMANY CAUSES WIDESPREAD DAMAGE TO POLAND**

**Civilians Killed by Bombing**

**FRENCH FIGHTING IN GERMAN TERRITORY**

London, Saturday.

EIGHTEEN German bombers dropped 200 bombs at Vilna, killing a large number of civilians, including women and children, and causing widespread damage, according to the Warsaw radio. The report adds that Molodetchno, near the Soviet frontier, was also raided.

On the Western Front fighting is now almost wholly confined to German territory. The Polish Air Force claims that it has completely destroyed a German aerodrome at Foznan (Posen), while the German High Command admits that the invaders are held up at Kutno.

The French are well entrenched in German territory and their aeroplanes are conspicuously better than those of the Germans. It is significant that the Germans are setting up a barrage only by heavy artillery. Field guns are more accurate but might be overrun by French tanks if they moved within range.

This morning's French communique says that the night was active in numerous sectors of the front. There was very strong strong enemy artillery action in the area south of the Saarbrucken. Our troops made some advances east of Moselle. A strong enemy counter-attack with artillery preparation in the area adjoining the lower valley of the Nied was repulsed.

The Western Front is becoming increasingly interesting. Military observers welcome the new French attack on Sierck as putting additional strain on the Germans. General Gamelin is proceeding with great caution and, not underrating the German strength. It is generally believed that the French are already in a position to announce the fall of Saarbrucken but are waiting to complete encirclement in order to avoid the risk of any setback.

**Soviet-Japanese Truce**

Moscow, Saturday.

Japan and the Soviet have agreed to an armistice regarding the Manchukuo border warfare which has been waged sporadically over a number of years between Soviet-Mongolian and Japanese-Manchukuoan forces.

The terms, according to the official news agency, include maintenance of the line existing as at 10 a.m. G.M.T. on Friday, the exchange of prisoners, and a meeting of two representatives from each side at a very early date to establish the disputed frontier.

**Maximum Prices for Rice**

**Prescribed Rates for Jaffna District**

MR. R. B. Naish, Deputy Controller of Prices, Jaffna District, has fixed the maximum prices of rice for the different areas in the District.

He further directs that a bag of any rice, other than broken raw rice, shall contain not less than 2½ standard bushels, dry measure; a bag of broken raw rice shall contain not less than 3¼ standard bushels, dry measure; the word "measure" shall mean the standard (cut) quart (1/32 bushel), dry measure.

The Deputy Food Controller also directs that the proprietor or other person in charge of every store or boutique in which rice is stored for sale shall display and keep displayed in a prominent place in such store or boutique, where it may easily be seen by all persons entering such store or boutique, a notice setting forth the maximum prices of the several descriptions of rice.

The following is the schedule of prescribed maximum prices for rice in the various divisions of the Jaffna District.

**JAFFNA MANIAGAR'S DIVISION (including Jaffna U.D.C. Area)**

Description	Maximum Wholesale Price per Bag	Maximum Retail Price per Bushel	Maximum Retail Price per Measure
	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.

Milohard (Arakan)	10 40 (2½ bls.)	4 28	0 14½
Rose	11 63	4 75	0 16
Muttu	12 0	4 90	0 16½
Broken			
Raw Rice	13 57 (3¼ bls.)	3 73	0 12½

*Vali. W.; Vali. N and E. and Tenmaradchi Maniagar's Divisions and the Islands Maniagar's Division (Exclusive of the Islands of Pungudutivu, Nainativu, Analaativu and Eluvaitivu.)*

Description	Maximum Wholesale Price per Bag	Maximum Retail Price per Bushel	Maximum Retail Price per Measure
	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.

Milohard (Arakan)	10 52½ (2½ bls.)	4 33	0 15
Rose	11 75½	4 80	0 16
Muttu	12 12½	4 95	0 16½
Broken			
Raw Rice	13 69½ (3¼ bls.)	3 76	0 13

*Vadamaradchi and Pachchilaipali-Karachchi Maniagar's Divisions.*

Description	Maximum Wholesale Price per Bag	Maximum Retail Price per Bushel	Maximum Retail Price per Measure
	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.

Milohard (Arakan)	10 55 (2½ bls.)	4 34	0 15
Rose	11 78	4 81	0 16
Muttu	12 15	4 96	0 16½
Broken			
Raw Rice	13 72 (3¼ bls.)	3 77	0 13

*Delft and Punnakari-Tunukkai (Continued on Column 2)*



## JAFFNA AND BATTICALOA PRICES

MINISTER ADMITS MISTAKE

### OUTSTATION PRICES TO BE CANCELLED

Colombo, Friday.

Mr. G. C. S. Corea, Minister of Labour, Industry and Commerce replying to various criticisms levelled at the emergency food and price control measures, when the budget estimates of his Ministry were being considered in Committee, admitted that it had been a mistake to fix the rice prices for Jaffna and Batticaloa, with the Colombo price as a basis, because rice was imported there direct and not through Colombo.

He announced that from today he would cancel all the outstation prices and ask the Government Agents to fix suitable prices for their respective districts.

Mr. A. Mahadeva asked the Minister why an extra sum of Re. 1.50 had been charged on a bag of rice particularly in view of the fact that most of the rice consumed in Jaffna does not come from Colombo.

Mr. E. R. Tambimuttu said that it was the same thing in Trincomalee, where not much rice from Colombo was consumed.

Mr. Corea said that he had fixed prices for outstations on figures supplied by the Government Agents.

With regard to Jaffna a serious mistake had been committed, and he had immediately cancelled the prices and ask the Government Agent to fix the prices. In Batticaloa too, he did the same thing.

"Tomorrow I shall cancel all the rates for the outstations and ask the respective Government Agents to fix prices," he said.

## London Examinations Postponed

A communication from the Examination Department of the London University, relating to the postponement of the London University examinations usually held in the latter part of the year, has been received by the Acting Director of Education.

The postponement is indefinite owing to the war.

The examinations are the Intermediate Laws Examination, the LL.M. and M. Sc. examinations.

No decision has been arrived at regarding the Inter-Arts and Inter-Science Examinations.

## Personal

Mr. A. Mahadeva, M. S. C., has been nominated an unofficial member of the Local Government Board.

Mr. S. Ramalingam who was serving in the Malayan Volunteer Regiment while employed in the Railway Department, Kuala Lumpur, has been awarded long and meritorious service medal by the Malaya Government. He was also the recipient of several cups and trophies for shooting and other competitions. Mr. Ramalingam has now retired from service and has taken up residence at Udoville.

## Tactics Expose Their Insincerity

### Jaffna Tobacco Tangle

The "Ceylon Observer" has the following leader in its issue of the 14th inst:—

A certain liveliness marked the State Council's discussion of the grant of Rs. 100,000 to help Jaffna tobacco cultivators out of their present difficulties. The Minister of Agriculture emphasised the need for extending this aid to a depressed industry through a recognised central agency and thus ensuring that it reached the cultivators without interference by middlemen. This policy appears to be endorsed by responsible sections of the Jaffna public. But the Minister's mere mention of such an endorsement seems to have thrown certain representatives of the Northern electorates into a fine frenzy of protest and recrimination. As soon as the Minister read a telegram criticising the attitude of the Members for Point Pedro and Kalkesanturai, there was an excited demand for the disclosure of the name of the sender of this telegram. When the name was revealed, a strange tangle was levelled at the critic in question, who was accused of being an "American" Jaffna Tamil. Not to be beaten in racial banter, the Minister promptly retorted with an intriguing reference to the existence of "French" Jaffna Tamils as another phenomenon. This was perhaps intended to lend piquancy to the latest phase of the communal comedy.

The animated discussion on this tobacco grant has at least revealed the interesting fact that the members from the North are not a team that always pull well together, and that the antics of some of them receive few plaudits from the saner sections of Jaffna opinion. In this particular matter of helping the tobacco industry, two of them were strangely and stoutly opposed to the subsidy being given to a Co-operative Society, which has promoted the interests of the cultivators by establishing a central selling agency. A third did not seem too sure of his ground. These Councillors prefer to run the risk of having middlemen profit by the Government grant rather than ensure the welfare of the industry as a whole. The principle of a State grant in these circumstances may be entirely wrong. But if it is to achieve the object of relieving hardship there should be no opportunities left for questionable practices due to faulty organisation. It is not surprising that Councillors who are constantly beating the communalist drum should grow deaf to the dictates of fairplay or commonsense and adopt tactics that expose the insincerity of their avowed desire to save a languishing industry from ruin.

## NOTICE

THE HINDU BOARD OF EDUCATION, JAFFNA

J/Thimirevelly Muttukumbay Veliyasalai

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

A. Chellappah,  
General Manager.

Hindu Board Office,  
Jaffna, 7-9-39.

(Mis. 139A 11 & 18-9-39.)

## POPULATION OF CEYLON

5,864,000 AT END OF LAST YEAR

### TWO-HUNDREDTH OF ASIA

THE estimated population of Ceylon was 5,810,000 at the middle of 1938, and 5,864,000 at the end of that year. The rise during the year was 54,000, as compared with 102,000 in the previous year. The population of Ceylon is a two-hundredth part of the population of Asia, and ranks above Scotland and below Bulgaria, says Mr. C. E. de Pinto, in his Report on Vital Statistics for the year 1938.

#### Population by Race

A rough estimate of the population of the Island by race as on the census date of 1931 is given below:—

Race	Estimated Totals.
Europeans	9,153
Burghers and Eurasians	32,315
Sinhalese	3,473,090
Tamils	1,417,477
Moors	325,913
Malays	15,977
Others	32,564
	5,506,871

#### Colombo Town

Race.	Colombo Town.
Europeans	3,340
Burghers and Eurasians	15,887
Sinhalese	127,927
Tamils	65,704
Moors	44,240
Malays	7,022
Others	20,035
	284,155

#### Natural Increase

The excess of births over deaths amounted in 1938 to 85,090, as against 91,862 in 1937. The natural increase figures for the five years 1934-1938 and the corresponding rates are shown below:—

Year.	Natural Increase (Births minus Deaths).	Rate of Natural Increase per 1,000 of the Population.
1.	2.	3.
1934	79,443	14.3
1935	—12,068	—2.2
1936	69,021	12.3
1937	91,862	16.1
1938	85,090	14.9

In the subjoined table the natural increase rate of Ceylon is compared with that of certain other countries:—

Country.	Period.	Rate of Natural Increase.	Birth Rate.
Japan	1932-36	23.6	31.2
Madras Presidency	1932-36	13.2	36.9
Ceylon	1934-38	14.1	35.9
Italy	1933-37	9.3	23.0
United States (Registration Area)	1932-36	5.9	16.9
England & Wales	1933-37	2.6	14.7
France	1933-37	1.	15.5

## "Implement Declarations"

### Gandhiji on Congress Attitude toward War

Wardha, Saturday.

Commenting on the Congress Working Committee's statement on the war situation, Mr. Gandhi reveals that he has found himself alone "in seeking that whatever support was given to the British should be given unconditionally." He says the Committee felt that the nation had not imbibed the non-violent spirit requisite for the possession of that strength which disdains to take advantage of an opponent but, in stating the reason for its conclusion, the Committee desired to show the greatest consideration to the English. The author of the Working Committee statement, says Mr. Gandhi, is Paadit Nehru, "who is a friend of the English people. Indeed, he is more English than Indian in his thoughts and make-up. He is more at home with Englishmen than with his own countrymen." Mr. Gandhi hopes that all the other political parties and communities will join the Committee's demand for a clear declaration of policy from the British Government with such corresponding action as is possible amidst martial conditions. Mr. Gandhi adds: "The recognition of India, and for that matter all those who are under the British Crown, as free and independent nations seems to be the natural corollary of the British profession as to democracy. If the war means anything less, the co-operation of dependent countries can never be honestly voluntary unless it is based on non-violence. All that is required is a mental revolution on the part of British statesmen. To put it still more plainly, all that is required is honest action to implement the declarations of faith in democracy made on the eve of the war and which are still being repeated from British platforms. Will Great Britain have an unwilling Indian dragged into war or a willingly co-operating with her in the prosecution of the defence of true democracy? The support of Congress will mean the greatest moral asset in favour of England and France."

## Messrs. Brown & Co., Sue Jaffna Resident

Messrs. Brown and Co. Ltd. of Colombo sued Mr. C. A. Candappa-segaram of Vannarponnai, Jaffna, for alleged sale of goods and delivery to the defendant and for work and labour executed at the request of the defendant. The value of the said goods and the said work amounted to Rs. 81/50, the total claim against the said defendant being Rs. 85/60.

This case was taken up for trial before Mr. V. L. St. C. Swao, Commissioner of Requests, Colombo, on the 13th instant.

The action was dismissed with full costs as it was held that the Colombo Court of Requests had no jurisdiction to try this case. (Cor.)



# NORTH CEYLON TAMIL TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

## Special General Meeting

Jaffna Sunday.

Consequent on a requisition signed by 438 members and forwarded to the Secretary requesting him to convene a Special General Meeting of the Association to consider the action of the Committee in having decided that the Special General Meeting of the 19th August, 1939, was un-constitutional and the resolutions passed at the meeting were in-effective, a Special General Meeting of the North Ceylon Tamil Teachers Association was held yesterday morning at the Vaideshwara Vidyalayam.

Mr. S. Swaminathan, President of the Association, took the Chair. There was a gathering of about 800 members.

The Chairman in his opening address detailed the events that led up to that meeting.

Then Head-Master Kanapathipillai of the American Mission School, Atchuveley, suggested the idea of peace and advised the Meeting to elect *denovo* member or members to represent them on the Board of Education.

Mr. P. Ragupathy B. A. then moved "This House is of opinion that the constitutionality of the Special General Meeting of the 19th August and the *ultra vires* nature of the Committee meeting of the 2nd September be not gone into but the House do directly proceed to the recommendation of names to the Board of Education and to the election of a Sub-Committee to oppose the proposed grading and raising of Quota. On being seconded by Mr. N. Sethupathy the motion was carried unanimously.

The chairman congratulating the House on the wisdom of their decision called upon the house to move resolutions concerning recommendations for nominations to the Board of Education. Thereupon Mr. S. Nalliah proposed that only one name be submitted by this Association for nomination to the Board of Education. Mr. V. A. John Pillai seconded. Mr. M. Vaitialingham proposed that three names be submitted by this Association for nomination to the Board of Education. On this being seconded, Mr. P. Ragupathy moved that this House is strongly of opinion that 75% of of the seats in the New Board of Education should be reserved for the representatives of Teachers and that the North Ceylon Tamil Teachers' Association should get at least three seats on the Board of Education as an amendment to Mr. Vaitialingham's motion.

Mr. John Pillai seconded. Mr. Vaitialingham agreed to this amendment. After a lengthy discussion it was suggested that the motion be now put.

Mr. John Pillai contended that the first motion of his had been unanimously accepted by the House. The President said that no voting had yet been taken on either of the motions and said that he would then proceed to the voting on the first motion. The President ruled that votes for and against be each counted twice, it being a very crowded House, and appointed four people to count the votes. The votes for were then counted once. The num-

ber recorded was 368. The President asked the House to put up their hands for the count to be taken a second time. Then on second thought he asked these people to put down their hands and wanted the opposition to vote, declaring that it would not be counted now but that he would like to have an idea (a voice—"nonsense" another voice—"Tom Foolery"). Hands went up on all sides. Mr. John Pillai at this stage said that he was too hungry and left the Hall. The Catholic Teachers followed. No sooner than people left the President suggested that the meeting be adjourned. (a voice—There is no motion to the effect, Sir.) The President continuing said that he was inclined to use his power as President to adjourn the meeting. (a voice—Sir, why don't you yourself move the adjournment motion and put it to the House) The President declaring that he was adjourning the meeting in his capacity as President followed Mr. John Pillai out of the Hall.

Immediately Mr. P. Ragupathy moved that Mr. K. Muttukumaraswamy Pillai B. A., the Vice-President, do take the Chair. This was seconded and Mr. Muttukumaraswamy Pillai took the chair and explaining to the House that he was continuing from where Mr. Swaminathan left, called for the votes of those in favour of the first motion—11 voted. The opposition was then counted—402 voted, a few remaining neutral. The chairman declared the first motion lost. Then the second motion was put to the House and was carried *nem con*. Then Mr. Ragupathy moving that five names be submitted giving the order for nomination to the Board of Education, said that it was necessary to submit five names because some of these may be nominated in other capacities. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously. Vidwan Subbiah then moved "That the names of Messrs. S. Rajaratnam, Advocate and Patron of the Association; P. Ragupathy B. A. (Hons); J. V. Chellappa, Manager American Mission Tamil Schools; Miss Evelyn M. Intyre, Acting Principal, C. M. S. Girls Boarding School, and Very Rev. Father. Emilianuspillai, General Manager of Catholic Schools, be submitted in the above order for nomination to the Board of Education". Mr. M. Vaitialingham seconded and was carried unanimously.

Then the following: Messrs. S. Rajaratnam, P. Ragupathy, the Secretary, Rev. Father Siagarayer, Messrs K. Muttukumaraswamy Pillai, V. R. Retnam and E. Ramalingam were elected to serve on a Committee to interview the Minister and the Education Committee and see that the grading and the raising of quota may not come to law.

A few resolutions giving directions to the Office bearers and the Committee for their future conduct were also passed.

### Letters to the Editor

#### "Gutter Rags"

Sir,—The "gutter" politician from Pt. Pedro seems to think that everything that opposes his views is a product of the gutter. His uncalled for remarks about the "Hindu Organ" simply because it expressed views contrary to his, exhibits his lack of culture, good taste and facts. Long before this pigmy politician saw the light of day, the "Hindu Organ" has had already a record of service to the Tamils and the country worthy of a national journal.

Your paper, Sir, is doing signal service to the Community by being a check on the dictatorial tendency on the part of Mr. Ponnambalam in trying to impose on others his views as those of the community as a whole. It would be dangerous and suicidal to the Tamils to allow immature and inexperienced politicians to pose as undisputed leaders of the community.

Let Mr Ponnambalam know that in respect of services to the Tamils, he stands much lower in the estimation of the public, when compared to the signal services done to the Tamils by the "Hindu Organ" for more than fifty years.

Yours truly,  
S. T. RAJAH.

Jaffna  
16.9.39.

#### Profiteering in Jaffna

Sir,—Jaffna gets its supply of all foodstuffs including rice and paddy by steamers and sailing vessels direct from India and Burma. Before the enforcement of the Food Control all foodstuffs were sold here at or even cheaper than the prices prevailing in Colombo. It is therefore not understood why the authorities should have fixed here Rs. 1-25 per bag or 1 1/4 cents per measure of rice over the maximum rates fixed for Colombo. The maximum fixed for Colombo for the several grades of rice should be more than enough for the stocks in the hands of the local merchants in Jaffna.

Until the stocks are purchased and taken over by the Government as proposed, it is necessary that the Minister for Labour, Industry and Commerce should cancel his previous order and fix for Jaffna the same rates as those he has decided upon for Colombo.

Only the merchants are profiteering. They are reaping a harvest at the expense of the poor man and are enriching themselves. There is no justification whatsoever for the increase in Jaffna since rice, paddy and other foodstuffs are imported into Jaffna direct from India and Burma and not through Colombo nor by train. The earlier the mistake of the Minister re the prices of rice and other foodstuffs in Jaffna is rectified, the greater would be the benefit conferred on the poor people.

Yours etc,  
A. Theodoramma Moorthy.

1st Cross Street,  
Jaffna.

#### Reopening Of The Jaffna Ports

Sir,—As a resident of an adjoining island to Kayts, I should be more interested in the opening of the Port of Kayts for passenger traffic. But I feel that the opening of the

### Prices of Currystuffs

#### Maximum Fixed for Colombo

Maximum prices have now been fixed for currystuffs. These prices, which apply only in the Colombo area, are as follows:

Dry Chillies (Tuticorin): wholesale Rs. 125 per candy of 525 lb., retail 25 cents per lb.

Dry Chillies (Singapore): wholesale Rs. 95 per candy, retail 19 cents per lb.

Dry Chillies (Calcutta): wholesale Rs. 85 per candy, retail 17 cents per lb.

Coriander: wholesale Rs. 52 per candy, retail 12 cents per lb.

Mathe Seed (Sinhalese "Uluhal"): wholesale Rs. 30 per candy, retail 9 cents per lb.

Cumin Seed (Cyprus) (Sinhalese "Suduru"): wholesale Rs. 125 per candy retail 27 cents per lb.

Cumin Seed (Bombay) and Karachi) (Sinhalese "Suduru"): wholesale Rs. 115 per candy, retail 23 cents per lb.

Fennel Seed (Sinhalese "Maduru"): wholesale Rs. 90 per candy, retail 22 cents per lb.

Tamarind with seed: wholesale Rs. 20 per candy, retail 7 cents per lb.

Tamarind without seed: wholesale Rs. 22.50 per candy retail 8 cents per lb.

Tamarind—pure: wholesale Rs. 30 per candy, retail 10 cents per lb.

Saffron (Turmeric): wholesale Rs. 80 per candy, retail 18 cents per lb.

Garlic (Hong Kong): wholesale Rs. 60 per candy, retail 16 cents per lb.

Garlic (Singapore): Rs. 45 per candy, retail 14 cents per lb.

Onions, Bombay: wholesale Rs. 6 per cwt, retail 7 cents per lb.

Maldiva Fish (Kundira): wholesale Rs. 38 per cwt., retail 45 cents per lb.

Maldiva Fish (Mafe): wholesale Rs. 33 per cwt, retail 43 cents per lb.

Onions, Red: wholesale Rs. 20 for 5 cwt, retail 6 cents per lb.

Mustard (Ceylon): wholesale Rs. 4.75 per bushel of 52 lbs., retail 21 cents per measure.

Mustard (Bombay): wholesale: Rs. 4.50 per bushel of 52 lbs., retail 19 cents per measure.

Mustard (Karachi): wholesale: Rs. 4 per bushel of 52 lbs., retail 18 cents per measure.

Dhal (Kasali): wholesale Rs. 11.50 per 200 lbs., retail 15 cents per measure.

Dhal (Mussorie): wholesale Rs. 15.50 per 200 lbs., retail 17 cents per measure.

Pepper (Black): wholesale Rs. 6 per bushel of 40 lbs., retail 23 cents per measure.

Part of Kankasanturai would be more serviceable to the Island as a whole and the Peninsula in particular, as there are already transport facilities by the Railway and direct road communications. Unlike Kayts, Kankasanturai is favoured with a good water supply, extensive lands and is more centrally situated.

I hope the Government would seriously consider before opening any Port in the Northern Provinces, the general interests of the people.

Yours etc,  
K. KALLASAPILLAI.

Mandaitivu.

September 10, 1939.



## The Jaffna Association

### Annual General Meeting

The annual general meeting of the Jaffna Association was held on Saturday the 16th inst in the Town Hall, Jaffna. Anticipating fresh developments in respect of policy, about a hundred and fifty fresh applicants for membership were present. But the old stump of the Association adopted short circuit tactics which, though successful to the extent of hurriedly electing a new Executive, created a confusion which was the chief feature of the proceedings. No business items were considered. The new executive departed in haste leaving a trail of hot air and abuse.

Mr. S. Kanagasabai presided. He called upon the organising Secretary to read the notice convening the general meeting. After the reading of the notice Mr. P. Ragupathy raised a preliminary objection against the constitutional nature of the meeting. There were cries of 'sit down' from the audience. The chairman allowed Mr. Ragupathy to have his say. Mr. Ragupathy said that the proper people to convene the general meeting were the general secretaries of the association and that on the contrary the notice was signed by the Organising Secretary. Somebody from the audience shouted out that the Secretaries had resigned. Then Mr. Ragupathy said that if the Secretaries had resigned then the proper officer to convene the general meeting was the president and not the Organising Secretary.

The Chairman explained that at a meeting of the executive committee of the Jaffna Association where the resignations of the secretaries were considered it was resolved that the organising secretary should function as secretary and convene the general meeting. It was done accordingly.

Then the Chairman read out a short speech describing the activities of the Association for the last one year. At the end of his speech the Chairman moved a resolution from the chair affirming the loyalty of the Jaffna Association to His Majesty the King Emperor and declaring the willingness of the Jaffna people to do all in their power to successfully prosecute the war. Mr. S. Kanagasabai vacated the Chair just after his resolution was unanimously passed. Mr. A. R. Subramaniam temporarily occupied the Chair. The election of Office bearers began. Mr. S. Kanagasabai was elected president for the ensuing year. Then Mr. A. R. Subramaniam vacated the Chair and Mr. S. Kanagasabai returned to it.

Messrs. C. Arulambalam and N. Selvadurai were elected General Secretaries.

Mr. Appabharai was elected Organising Secretary.

Messrs. A. V. Ezhasingam, R. Sivagunathan, P. Moses and two others were elected Vice-Presidents.

Mr. V. Manickavasagar Proctor was elected Treasurer.

Mr. P. Sinnadurai and another were elected Auditors.

The executive Committee was elected excluding those who had already resigned and substituting in their places new members.

## Subsidy to Malayalam Tobacco Industry

(Continued from page 1)

vator should be debarred from exporting direct to Travancore.

He explained that he was not opposed to the granting of relief to cultivators but was interested in the future of the industry. The en-

## MR. PONNAMBALAM AND THE "HINDU ORGAN"

The following letter appeared in the "Ceylon Observer" of the 16th inst:—

### "Jaffna Tobacco Tangle"

Once and for all I hope Jaffna realises where Mr. G. G. Ponnambalam stands in respect of the interests of Jaffna. It is quite clear that Mr. Ponnambalam does not represent the Jaffna peasant.

In his controversy with the Minister of Agriculture on the tobacco subsidy question, though he refuted it Mr. Ponnambalam made a clear stand for the middlemen. When the Minister read out an editorial of the "Hindu Organ" he was perfectly sure he was on safe grounds and there is no doubt about it. But Mr. Ponnambalam referred to the paper as a "rag".

I can assure Mr. Ponnambalam that if any newspaper in the North can sincerely speak in the interests of the Jaffna peasant and the people in general it is the "Hindu Organ." The "Hindu Organ" in its editorial took an impartial view because it was not interested either in the Malayalam Tobacco Co-operative Society or in the middlemen. It presented a view that was in the interest of Jaffna's tobacco trade and the poor cultivator who needed help most.

Mr. Ponnambalam seems to have realised that the Minister had a strong weapon in the editorial and so he thought it best to characterise the paper as a "rag."

The Minister of Agriculture can rest assured that sane Jaffna endorses his move completely and appreciates it fully.

K. Sivasubramaniam.

Pt. Pedro, Sept. 15, 1938.

hanced tariff introduced by the Minister for Agriculture and Lands a few years ago had ruined Ceylon's trade with Travancore.

The increased duty on tobacco which had been introduced by the Travancore Government was a retaliatory measure. It was well known that the Dewan of Travancore had stated that there was the possibility of the duty being further increased.

The first thing for the Ceylon Government to do was to negotiate with the Travancore Government and find out ways of placing the tobacco industry on a sound footing.

### Suggestion Refuted

Mr. Ponnambalam refuted a suggestion made by the Minister of Agriculture that Mr. Natesan and himself were fighting on behalf of the middlemen. That was far from their object. They wanted to make earnest efforts to benefit the industry as a whole.

A subsidy, he said, could be given in the form of a deferred rebate as had been suggested by several members.

Mr. R. Sri Pathmanathan said that Mr. F. X. Pereira's brother was the agent of the Malayalam Society and he was trying to push the interests of that Society so that Jaffna cultivators and traders would get a fair profit on their exports to Travancore.

He then detailed the history of the Society and said that the Jaffna traders were more helpful to the cultivators than the Society, which was bound by red-tape and Governmental rules.

Government, he added, should be neutral and should not support any one Society and ignore others. He thought, however that it was neces-

(Continued on Page 6)

## Censure Vote On U.D.C. Members

### Jaffna Ratepayers Prepare for Minister's Visit

A vote of censure on five members of the Jaffna U. D. C. for supporting the proposal to have a Municipality was passed at a meeting of the Jaffna Urban Ratepayers' Central Association held at Stanley Road.

Mr. C. Nadarajah read notes of the interview between the Minister for Local Administration and his Committee, and the second deputation of the Association regarding the municipality.

It was resolved to request the Minister to announce the date of the Executive Committee's intended visit to Jaffna and that two weeks' time be made to draw up a programme. It was also decided to ask Mr. A. Mahadeva, M.S.C. for Jaffna, to arrange matters personally with the Minister.

A committee consisting of representatives from all the eight wards was elected to receive the Minister and his Committee on their arrival and to make all the necessary arrangements.

As the representatives of wards Nos 1, 5, 7 and 8 of the U. D. C., Messrs. R. R. Nalliah, K. V. Sincaduri, S. Patanjali and Sam A. Sabapathy, had in spite of the request of the Association again voted for a municipality at the meeting held on August 26th, the Association unanimously passed a vote of censure on them and also on the nominated member, Mr. C. R. Thambiah, and further resolved that it had no confidence in them.

This meeting passed a resolution expressing its thanks to Messrs. M. Jacob, V. A. Thuraiappah, C. Ponnambalam and K. Aiyadurai, elected members of wards Nos. 2, 3, 4 and 6, and to Kathi, S. M. Abooburker, the nominated member, "for voicing the sentiments of the ratepayers and opposing the introduction of a Municipality."

The draft rules submitted by the committee were adopted. The report of the sub-committee to arrange details for the free reading room was approved.

It was proposed by Mr. C. Arulambalam and seconded by Mr. C. K. Swaminathan, that Chevalier P. Moses should continue as President and Mr. A. Thambirajah as Secretary, until the election under the new rules.

## Order Nisi

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA

Testamentary Jurisdiction, No 766.

In the matter of the last Will and Testament of the late Wijaya-lakshmiammal wife of T. R. Nalliah of Jaffna Town.

Deceased.

Thurai. Ratnam, Nalliah of Jaffna Town.

vs. Petitioner.

1. R. E. S. Nalliah,  
2. W. R. S. Nalliah and  
Minor 3. J. K. S. Nalliah all of do Respondents.

This matter coming on for disposal before S. Kanagasabai Esquire Acting District Judge, Jaffna, on the 12th day of August 1939 in the presence of Mr. C. R. Tambiah, Proctor for the Petitioner and the affidavit of the Petitioner and of the Witnesses to the Last Will and Testament having been read:

It is ordered that Probate of the

## An Orphanage for Girls

The pathetic condition of the five orphan girls of Saravanai and the girl of Sandilipay whose arms were cut off by a villain has brought home to many of us the urgent necessity of an orphanage where such destitute children can be maintained. On 12-8-39 an informal conference of some Hindus interested in such an orphanage was held at the Jaffna Hindu College. The Islands Maniagar and the Udaiyar of Velanai were also present as they were interested in the girls of Saravanai. Those who were present at the conference resolved unanimously to remove the children to a rented house near the Jaffna Hindu College at Vannarpoanai and start an orphanage for Hindu girls. A committee was appointed to give effect to that resolution. The members of the committee are:—

Mudaliyar M. Somasundaram, Islands Maniagar; Muhandiratu S. Candiah, Nallur, Messrs. A. Coomaraswamy, Principal, J. H. C.; W. Ponnudurai, Marathanamadam; S. Adebalingam, Manager, "Hindu Organ"; S. Annamalai Vaddukkoddai; V. Pasupathippillai, Chairman V. C. Pungudativu; K. S. Subramaniam, Teacher, J. H. C.; M. Mylvaganam, Teacher, J. H. C.

Convener Mr. M. Mylvaganam.

We are making the necessary arrangements to bring those children to Vannarpoanai and subsequently form an orphanage. We hope that our countrymen in Jaffna and outside would endeavour to help us to establish this noble institution which is a pressing desideratum of our land.

The problem of the present European crisis should not discourage in any way. We should be ready to promote such a noble and charitable cause under any adverse circumstances. Are we not the descendants of the noble race which produced a Karna who was ready to perform charity even at the sacrifice of his own life?

The girls of Saravanai are now maintained by us at Saravanai where they live at present in a shed erected after house was burnt. The neighbours also lend their patronising care towards those children.

## Hindu Orphan Girls Fund

	Rs.	Cts.
Amount previously acknowledged	384	35
J.H.C. Delft excursion party	6	30
Officers of the G.P.O., C.T.O. & C.E.O. per Mr G. Veeravagu	27	25
Officers of the D. M. & S. S. office per Mr. K. Naganingam	12	75
Sympathisers from Homer's avenue channery, Wellawatta, per Mr. K. Naganingam	6	00

Total 436 65

M. Mylvaganam,  
Jaffna Hindu College.

said Last Will and Testament be granted to the Petitioner as the Executor named therein and that the abovenamed 1st Respondent be appointed Guardian-ad-Litem over the minor 3rd Respondent for the purpose of protecting his interests and of representing him in these Testamentary proceedings unless the Respondents appear before this Court on the 20th day of September 1939 and state objections to the contrary.

The 22nd day of August 1939,

Sd. C. Coomaraswamy,

District Judge,

(Q. 43. 18 & 21-9-39.)



## Subsidy to Malayalam Tobacco Industry

(Continued from page 5)

sary for the well being of the industry that the Society should continue.

The proposition that had been placed before the Ministry was to subsidise the trader and help the cultivator through him. Was there any provision to ensure that the cultivators would get the benefit expected to be given by the traders?

Mr. B. H. Aluwihare (Matala) asked why Government should be asked to give equal subsidies to all. That Society had been specially started by Government to save the cultivator from the private dealer.

### "Misconception"

Mr. S. Natesan said that the difficulty arose over a misconception as to what that vote was for. The Minister had said that it was a grant to the Jaffna Malayalam Tobacco industry. It must be remembered that the industry had many ramifications.

He regretted that the Minister had read a telegram purporting to come from an individual in Jaffna and containing malicious statements against two members of the Council. It was a malicious statement to have said that he had been put up by middlemen.

Mr. Natesan moved that the vote be referred back.

Mr. D. S. Senanayake said that

when he read the telegram and the "Hindu Organ" article he had never taken the telegram to mean that those members were taking sides. His reason for quoting that was to show that they were not only working for co-operative societies but in the interest of all people.

Mr. Natesan said that the Government proposed to subsidise the whole industry but helped only a small section of it.

Mr. Senanayake said that their object was to subsidise a type of tobacco which had a special market in Travancore.

Mr. Ponnambalam: Will the Minister of Agriculture support a Co-operative Society formed by cultivators who are not members of the Jaffna Malayalam Co-operative Society?

Mr. Senanayake said that if all the conditions pertaining to a Co-operative Society were fulfilled, that Society would not be treated any differently from other Societies.

The grant of Rs. 100,000 to the Jaffna Malayalam Tobacco industry was approved.

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