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NO. 46.

## TREE TAX SYSTEM IN THE NORTH

### Has It Been A Success?

#### VIEWS OF HEADMEN AND PROMINENT RESIDENTS

THE Tree Tax system continued to operate throughout the Revenue District of Jaffna in 1938. No radical changes in the working of the system or of the rates of tax, obtaining in 1937 were made during the year under review, beyond the annual revision of specified sweet and fermented toddy areas in villages needing them, says the Acting Excise Commissioner in his Administration Report for 1938. The Commissioner further says:—

The Amending Ordinance No. 25 of 1938 came into operation on July 28, 1938. By section 5 thereof, powers were given to Excise Officers in the tree tax areas to cut the spadices of trees from which fermented toddy was found to be drawn without payment of tax, with certain safeguards to be observed against improper exercise of these powers. Judiciously handled, this amending Ordinance should prove an effective weapon in the hands of the Excise Officer in combating the illicit tapper and safeguarding the tree tax revenue. No occasion, however, arose for invoking this power during 1938, as by the time the Ordinance came into force, the flowering season of the palmyra palm for 1938 was over.

#### Public Opinion in Jaffna regarding the Tree Tax System

During 1938, several public meetings were held in Jaffna to discuss various topics like crime and temperance. At several of these meetings the tree tax system came in for much criticism, both favourable and adverse.

At an anti-crime meeting held at Uduvil, Mr. V. Muttacumaru, Vice-Principal of Parameshvara College, disagreed with those who said that the introduction of tree tax was one of the causes of the increases of crime in Jaffna. He declar-

ed that the tree tax system was better than the tavern system. He, however, advocated a system of customer's licences.

Mudaliyar N. Velupillai speaking at the same meeting, described palmyra toddy as a harmless beverage, particularly as the food of the poor and the hard-working labouring classes. He further stated that there was very little opportunity for the Excise Officers to resort to corrupt practices, and that the officers of the Excise Department had earned a much better name for themselves since the advent of this system.

At meetings held by the Jaffna Central Temperance League several speakers condemned the system chiefly because (a) toddy was permitted to be sold in sheds and (b) there was no restriction regarding the hours of sale. There were several other objectionable features from the temperance point of view, viz., unrestricted tapping and drawing hours; sales to women and children; tappers tapping in several gardens, &c.

The Government Agent held a conference of the Chief Headmen of Jaffna District on October 10, 1938, at the Jaffna Kachcheri. The following are some of the conclusions arrived at:—

- (a) Toddy is a food, and there is a legitimate demand for it;
- (b) The advantages of the tree tax system are—
  - (i) People who want toddy for legitimate food purposes get it without difficulty and get it without having any social stigma cast on them;
  - (ii) Better chance of getting toddy quite fresh, due to competition among the sellers and also as the toddy is sold at the tree foot;
  - (iii) Except possibly in Valikamam West there is no

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## Remittances Abroad

### Restriction Regulations

THE public are warned that there are severe penalties for the infringement of regulations governing remittances to certain places abroad and that cur-rency transmitted in contra-vention of the regulations is liable to forfeiture.

The regulations prohibit remittance by money order to places outside the British Empire, and to Canada, Newfoundland, Hongkong, British Honduras and the Sudan, without a permit from the Controller of Exchange. Application forms for permits can be obtained from the Controller of Exchange at the General Post Office, Colombo, and from the Post Offices at Kandy, Galle, Nuwara Eliya, Ratnapura, Kurunegala and Jaffna.

The sale of British postal orders is suspended except on a permit issued by the Controller of Exchange.

It is illegal to enclose in any postal packet being sent out of Ceylon any currency notes without a permit from the Controller of Exchange.

#### India Excepted

A sum not exceeding Rs. 100 in Ceylon or Indian currency notes may, however, be remitted without a permit to British India.

It is also illegal to send by post out of Ceylon without a permit from the Controller of Exchange securities, which include shares, stocks, bonds, debentures, debenture stock, and Treasury bills, but this ban does not include a bill of exchange or a promissory note other than a promissory note of a Government.

Applications to the Controller of Exchange should give particulars of the securities and the purpose for which they are to be transferred out of Ceylon.

## NO ANXIETY OVER FOOD STOCKS

### FOOD CONTROLLER'S OPTIMISM

#### SCHEME TO CONTROL IMPORTS

AT present the stocks in the Island of essential commodities, such as sugar and butter, are normal and there is no indication that the effects of the War on shipping will in any way seriously interfere with supplies of essential food-stuffs in Ceylon, states a communique issued on Saturday by the Food Controller.

During the last two weeks large quantities of many of the essential food-stuffs have reached the Island and the position of stocks is therefore at present quite satisfactory.

Steps are now being taken by the Food Controller to prepare schemes for controlling the import and distribution of most of the essential foodstuffs and, though it is unlikely that it will at any time be necessary to enforce these schemes, full details are now being worked out to be in readiness to meet any eventuality.

#### New Stocks

Under the Essential Commodities Reserve Ordinance stocks of sugar and flour will shortly be obtained. The desire to assist and co-operate, which has been clearly demonstrated by the importers of these commodities, has in a large measure assisted the Food Controller and made it possible for these reserve stocks to be rapidly brought into the Island.

There is therefore no cause for anxiety regarding the stocks of any of the essential foodstuffs but it must be borne in mind that during the next few weeks it is probable that there will be a slight increase in prices. This is due to the increased shipping freights and war risk insurance.

A careful watch is, however, being kept to prevent profiteering and if any profiteering in any commodity occurs immediate action will be taken to control the prices of these commodities.



## Hindu Organ.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1939

### FOOD PROBLEM

IT IS ONLY IN TIMES OF crisis like the present one is forced to realise the precariousness of depending on others for the necessities of life. Though nothing like any shortage of food supplies is likely to be experienced in the immediate future, the prolongation of the war should certainly bring about a situation when Ceylon, if she continues in her present indifference towards food production, will have to repent for her lack of foresight. The Great War of 1914 gave an impetus to food production; but the miserable failure of many unplanned schemes of opening up forest lands for paddy cultivation ruined a large number of pioneers physically and financially, discouraging many another from venturing on similar schemes. The lesson of the Great War was soon lost on the people and food production became neglected. The result has been the continued dependence to a dangerous degree on foreign supplies. The Minister for Agriculture and Lands has been making great efforts to improve this situation and his enthusiasm in the matter is praiseworthy. His food production drive should certainly place Ceylon in a better position. Its results have not proved adequate to the enthusiasm and money expended on it, for it lacked careful planning. It is nevertheless heartening to think that the experience of the past failures and his unabated zeal for the cause, will make the Minister realise his ambition of a self-contained Ceylon. But for the present, to meet the exigencies of an uncertain future, the people of Ceylon would do well to conserve all the foodstuffs available in the country and not to place reliance on outside sources. Speaking of the North in particular, we are glad to say, that despite nature's niggardliness, there are a number of food products in the District which a false idea of civilisation has made the people detest and neglect. We refer particularly to the products of the palmyrah palm and to grains like varagu, kurakkan etc. and to garden produce like tapioca and other roots. It is the boast even today of the peasant that no famine can drive him to starvation so long as there is the palmyrah in the land. It will be carrying coals to Newcastle if we enumerate the food value of the many

products of the palmyrah. Our countrymen will be well-advised to conserve all that nature has especially given to this district and to produce as many of the foodstuffs in their garden as possible, devoting at least half as much attention as they do to tobacco which has now an uncertain prospect. They should bring under cultivation every available piece of land, and thus render the country unassailable in the matter of food supplies during any emergency. It is encouraging to note that those who own paddy fields have seriously taken to cultivation this year. It is thus possible to raise the necessary foodstuffs in the district itself. The present crisis is in a sense a blessing. It is helping the people to realise the importance of producing first things first.

### MOTOR BOAT SERVICE TO INDIA

FROM TONDAIMAN-AR

### AUTHORITIES AGREEABLE TO ONE WAY PASSENGER SERVICE

It is understood that the authorities are willing to allow a steam or motor boat service for passengers from Tondaiman-Ar to India.

On representations made by the Tondaiman-Ar Harbour Committee, the Minister for Communications and Works, is understood to be agreeable to giving permission to run a steam or motor boat from Tondaiman-Ar to India. In the absence of a quarantine camp at Tondaiman-Ar, the Committee has not asked for permission to carry passengers from India to Tondaiman-Ar. The passengers who will avail themselves of this route might return by any sea route established by Government or by the Tondaiman-Ar route. The Tondaiman-Ar boat will be able to bring goods from India on its return journey.

The Tondaiman-Ar Harbour Committee are of opinion that they can get a larger number of passengers for India from Tondaiman-Ar than from any other port in Jaffna owing to its central situation and its proximity to India.

### Profiteering at Araly

The Hon'y Secretary of the Maha Aikya Sabha, Vaddukoddai, writes:—

This Sabha has brought to the notice of the Government that a remote village like Araly also is not without unscrupulous traders exploiting the war situation by raising the price of not only rice but other commodities as well. It looks as if prices are soaring higher and higher. Among other things the Sabha has asked a list of the prosecutions launched so far by the local Vidhan to find out what action the Government is taking besides merely issuing orders—which alone will not help the helpless villagers from being hoodwinked.

## DIVISION OF POLAND BY GERMANY & RUSSIA

### Germany Paying Enormously for Pact with Russia

### GERMAN ANXIETY OVER WESTERN FRONT

London, Saturday.

THE German right wing party is reported to be worried by the disappearance of the promised buffer state in Poland, and the bogey of Communist doctrine creeping into Germany looms large in their eyes.

In the reported division of Poland Germany gets approximately what Prussia had, and half Austria's share in the partition among Prussia, Russia and Austria a century and a half ago. Russia's includes three provinces already conquered by Germany and all the Galician oil fields and effectively closes the Hungarian border.

The magnitude of Germany's surrender clearly indicates the anxiety regarding the Anglo-French attack and the supreme need of moving the greatest possible number of troops westwards.

A message from Paris says that the Press of neutral countries has expressed the opinion that Germany is paying an enormous price for her pact with Russia.

According to a message from Moscow, the German radio has announced that the Rumanian Government has decided to intern President Moseicki.

According to reports from Basle 25 per cent. of the men holding the Siegfried Line are ill. Many are suffering from angina and rheumatism caused by bad air-conditioning and water filtering through the concrete. Others are suffering from stomach trouble caused by bad food.

### Repulsed

A Paris communique states "Towards the end of yesterday afternoon enemy attacks on the positions we had captured east of the Saar were repulsed. During the night there was great activity on the front, particularly between the Saar and the region south-east of Zweibrücken, and on the Lauter."

On the Eastern front fighting continues, says a message from Poland, and the Poles are resisting German attacks with determination. The strongest resistance by the Poles is between Warsaw and 15 miles northwest of Warsaw. A Polish communique says that the morale of the troops is excellent.

The Poles made numerous attacks on German lines on the east bank of the Vistula and they also repulsed several German attacks.

German aviation losses in Poland have amounted to 1,000 planes, according to the French military mission attached to the Polish army, states a telegram received from Riga. It is stated that 600 were shot down

and the remainder were compelled to make forced landings.

East of Warsaw the Soviet troops are said to be advancing.

### Polish Commander Captured

On Thursday the Commander of the Polish Army in the Corridor, General Bortnowski, and his entire staff fell into German hands when German troops cleaned up the woods at Bzure. "After heavy fighting with desperately resisting enemy," states the communique, "we succeeded in crossing the road on the south-east bank of the Vistula between Modlin and Warsaw, thus separating the two towns. Several thousand prisoners were taken."

"In the west there was only slight artillery action at isolated points. A French plane was forced down by anti-aircraft fire near Saarbrücken."

The communique admits that a German plane was shot down during an aerial combat.

### Supreme War Council Meets

London, Friday.

General Walther von Brauchitsch, reputed to be one of Germany's best strategists, is reported to have arrived on the Western front. According to Belgian reports from Berlin, many Germans believe that this will be followed shortly by a big German push in that region.

Two meetings of the Supreme War Council of Britain and France took place in England this morning and this afternoon. They were attended by M. Daladier, the French Premier, M. Daladier, the French Minister for Munitions, General Gamelin, the Commander-in-Chief of the land forces, Admiral Darlan, the French Naval Commander-in-Chief Mr. Neville Chamberlain, the British Premier, Lord Halifax, the British Foreign Secretary, and Lord Chatfield, Minister for Co-ordination of Defence.

It is officially announced that the developments since the meeting on September 14th on French soil were reviewed and the effect on the future course of the events estimated. There was full agreement on the course to be followed, both to meet these developments and to give effect to the allied plans.

The Council considered the question of munitions and supplies and an agreement was reached on the procedure of co-ordination and on perfecting the arrangements made by the two Governments.

The meeting occurred in a Sussex

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## HOUSE PURCHASE LOAN SCHEME

NEW SCHEME FOR PUBLIC SERVANTS

### CONDITIONS OF LOANS

**T**HE House Purchase Loan Scheme organised by the Public Service Mutual Provident Association to help its members to live in houses of their own is to be made more attractive.

An entirely new set of rules for the operation of the scheme has been drafted. The Governor has sanctioned the scheme and the rules "subject to their being considerably improved in form and operated in accordance with an agreed interpretation."

Mr. E. H. Davies, the President of the Association, who was largely instrumental in formulating the scheme, is at present away on leave in England and is expected to make further investigations in regard to the working of such schemes in England so that the Ceylon scheme may be developed accordingly.

Loan of Rs. 9,000

According to the new draft rules a member is to be helped to purchase a residential house if he does not possess one already by being granted a loan of about Rs. 9,000, or one-fourth of the hypothetical pension payable to such member on retirement at the age of fifty-five.

As a condition precedent to the grant of a loan a member has to take out a life insurance policy for the amount of the loan and also a fire insurance policy for a similar amount, and assign both policies to the Association by way of security for the loan to be given.

If the title deeds of the property to be purchased are satisfactory the property will be appraised and the amount of the loan to be granted decided upon by the Committee of Management of the Association. A deed of transfer of the property is then to be executed in favour of the applicant who will immediately mortgage it to the Association.

The payment on the life and fire insurance policies are to be made annually in advance by the Association and are to be recovered monthly from the salary or pension of the member.

The capital together with interest at 6 per cent, also to be recovered monthly until the maturity of the life insurance policy when any balance that may be then due on the capital and interest on the bond will be paid out of the money recovered on the insurance policy.

### Re-payment of Loans

The loans are to be repayable over a term of fifteen or twenty years and no loan is to be granted to any pensioner or any applicant over 45 years of age.

All the loans granted are to be reconsidered every two years with special reference to the then state and value of the properties mortgaged.

The draft rules and the amended conditions of the scheme are to be considered at a meeting of the Association today.

## LEAVE, MINUS PAY!

Ceylon Planters' Rifle Corps to be Given Leave

"The Times of Ceylon" understands that on Saturday next the entire Ceylon Planters' Rifle Corps will be given leave without pay and allowances. This means that while there will be no cost whatever to the country, every Officer and man will in effect still be mobilised, and subject to military discipline. They will, of course, be liable to recall at a moment's notice.

It is understood that similar action is foreshadowed with other Units, but Commanding Officers have been asked to forward lists of hardship cases—(that is men who if they are sent on leave without pay or allowances, will be destitute.)

In all probability such men will be retained, while preference in all cases is to be given to married men with dependents

## Nazi Money Seized in India

Bombay, Saturday.

Rs. 105,000 in Indian currency, alleged to be the Nazi Party's fund for activities in India, was found by the Special Branch of the C.I.D. during a search in Bombay, at the residences of Count von Doenhoff, the German Consul-General; Dr. Zimmer, the Commercial Attache; and Herr Rissman, Secretary to the Consul-General.

The money was found among the belongings of Dr. Zimmer. The search at the Consulate and the residence of Herr Rissman, adjoining the Consulate continued till late at night.

The affairs of the German Consulate have been handed over to the Swiss Consul.

Movements of the German Consulate officers and staff have been restricted, the Consulate officers being put under restraint. A guard has been posted around their residences.

## Assistant Food Controllers

Mr. L. E. H. Schokman, Supervisor, Economic and Industrial Survey, Department of Commerce and Industries, has been appointed Assistant Food Controller with effect from September 21, 1939, in addition to his own duties.

Mr. C. W. Nicholas, Assistant Commissioner of Excise, has been appointed an Assistant Food Controller with effect from September 16, 1939, in addition to his own duties.

## THE ROAD TO PEACE

AMERICA TO REVISE NEUTRALITY ACT

### MR. ROOSEVELT'S FOUR OBJECTIVES

Washington, Friday.

At this afternoon's momentous session of Congress, called by the President to consider revision of the Neutrality Act, Mr. Roosevelt enumerated his four objectives as:

- (1) Restricting American ships from entering the war zones,
- (2) Preventing American citizens from travelling in belligerent vessels or in the danger zones,
- (3) Requiring a foreign buyer to take the transfer title in America for commodities purchased by belligerents and
- (4) Preventing war credits to belligerents.

"The result of the last two objectives," said the President, "will be to require all purchases to be made in cash and cargoes to be carried in the purchasers' own risk. Two other objectives have been amply attained by the existing law—namely regulating the collection of funds in this country for belligerents and maintenance of a licensed system covering imports and exports of arms and ammunition and implements of war. Such arms cannot be carried to belligerent countries in American vessels and this provision should not be disturbed.

"This programme means less likelihood of incidents and controversies which tend to draw us into conflict as they, unhappily, did before we entered the last war. There lies the road to peace."

## Warning by Postmaster-General

The Postmaster-General in a Press Communique says:—

It seems necessary to draw the attention of the public to condition (8) of the licence issued for the working of Broadcast Receiving sets in Ceylon. Under this condition neither the licensee nor any other person either on behalf of or by permission of the licensee shall reproduce or publish in the press or disseminate by any other similar means news and messages sent for general reception by any station and received on a receiving set except the British Official News Service.

Any one who breaks this condition renders himself liable, not only to have his licence cancelled, but also to prosecution under Section 20 of the Telegraph Ordinance—the offence being punishable with a fine of Rs. 1,000/- and other penalties.

## Assistant Censors

Mr. H. A. S. Smith and Dr. I. Sandeman have been appointed Assistant Censors of Postal and Telegraphic Communications, under the Defence Regulations, 1939, with effect from September 6, 1939.

## SEIZED AFTER SEVEN DAYS' WATCH

Beedy Tobacco Worth Rs. 3500

Pt. Pedro, Friday.

A big haul of Beedy Tobacco was seized by the Preventive Officer of the Customs, Point Pedro, Mr. F. C. A. Speldewinde, assisted by Excise Inspector Mr. Van Buren of Point Pedro Station last night off the Valvettithurai sea coast. The party had a very excitable time as the sea was rough and the watch lasted over seven days.

There were 17 bags of beedy tobacco and its estimated cost is Rs. 3500.

## Exhibition of Prints of Western Masters of Painting

Pt. Pedro, Friday.

Under the auspices of the Hartley College Art. Association, an exhibition of Prints of Great Masters of Paintings in the West was held in the Hartley College hall at 10 a.m. today.

Mr. W. J. G. Beling, Inspector of Art, spoke explaining and commenting on some of the Prints exhibited. The lecture was highly appreciated by the pupils. Girls' Bilingual School, Point Pedro Puloly Boys' English School and Hartley College were present.

Mr. C. P. Thamotheram B. A., Principal, Hartley College, and Patron of the Association presided and S. K. Spalding proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Beling for the interesting lecture which had enabled them to appreciate the true greatness of the Western Art. The vote of thanks was carried with acclamation. (Cor.)

## Personal

Mr. C. Sittampalam has been appointed to the office of Assistant at Hambantota to the Government Agent, Southern Province, from September 19, 1939.

"Mr. V. S. C. Singham of Messrs. Singham Bros. & Co., (Ceylon), Consistory Buildings, Main Street, Colombo, arrived in Bombay by S. S. Victoria to organise a branch office at Bombay under the name and style of Messrs. Singham Bros. & Co., (India), at Dubash Mansion, 12 Kumpta Street, Ballard Estate, Bombay, mainly handling the imports of Ceylon products and exports of Indian manufactured goods to Ceylon. It would be remembered that Mr. Singham was a resident of Shanghai for the last 10 years, where he was the Managing Director of Messrs. Singham Bros. & Co., Ltd., at Shanghai. Mr. Singham comes from Tellippallai West, Jaffna". (Cor.)

## TREE TAX SYSTEM IN THE NORTH

(Continued from page 1)

evidence that the recent increase in crime in the Jaffna District is directly connected with the tree tax system—the tree tax system being made the scapegoat for an increase in crime, which is actually due to other causes;

(iv) Drinking of toddy by school boys of 16 years of age and upwards is exceptional and does not amount to a serious or widespread social evil;

(v) System has resulted in an increase in the material well-being of the depressed communities, and this is setting up social stresses which have something to do with the dislike for the tree tax system which is felt by those communities which have a higher social standing.

The following excerpts are from letters received from Unofficial Excise Officers and other permanent residents on the system:

Mr. V. Sivapragasam, U. E. O., Valvettiturai:—

".....The system is certainly better than the tavern system as regards drunkenness and disorderliness....."

Mr. V. V. V. V. V. V., Principal, Manipty Hindu College:—

"There is decrease in drunkenness. The system cannot be blamed for disorderly conduct".

Rev. J. S. Mather, Hon. Secretary, Jaffna Temperance League:

"When compared with the old tavern system, there is now a great increase of drunkenness.....The present system has improved the economic condition of tappers, and this has impoverished other classes, and hit had farmers who complain everywhere that an labour is now available for work in farms.....At the present time, all gain goes to the tapper and he is daily getting richer and richer, and the State is poor, and is deprived of its rightful share".

The Maniagar, Tenmaradchchi:—

"There is increased consumption of toddy, but there is no drunkenness....."

Mr. V. E. Rajaratnam, Member, Village Committee, Valveddi:—

"When compared with the tavern system there is increase of drunkenness at present among the old as well as the young people and even among students and fair sex....."

The Magistrate at Mallakam thinks that the increase of crime in the Jaffna District was not due to the tree tax system, and states that, as far as he was able to judge, very few cases, if any, that came before his Court were the result of excessive toddy drinking.

### Possession, Sale, and Transport

In the Jaffna Urban District Council area there is a paucity of trees in certain areas to meet the local demand. Licensees are

compelled to lease trees on lands of respectable residents. The latter do not permit the sale of toddy in their lands. Provision has, therefore, been made for issuing permits for the transport and sale of such toddy at other unobjectionable open lands. This has so far worked satisfactorily, though it is open to abuse by toddy from unauthorised sources being also brought to the same spot for sale therein. The only method of checking this is by making rough verifications of stocks found at such places with the estimated yield of the trees licensed for same. Such detections have been made in 1938, and the licensees dealt with departmentally.

Toddy cannot be possessed or transported, in any quantity whatever, except under a permit. In the Jaffna Urban District Council area, no less than 3,094 such permits were issued in 1938, ostensibly for the delivery of toddy at customers' houses. There is little doubt that this privilege was much abused. Several permits were obtained on the pretext of supplying customers—bogus as well as genuine—but the toddy was hawked about for sale. Detection of such abuse is difficult as the licensee is wide awake and it is only accidentally that he is brought to book for selling his toddy *en route*. It has been fairly common for persons to transport toddy from one place to another, even without permits. Special patrols had to be carried out in order to check this. In the majority of these cases, the transporters are usually the licensees themselves, who had not applied for transport permits. At the time of writing, this regulation has been rescinded, except in regard to the Vadamaradchchi Maniagar's Division, thus bringing the possession and transport of toddy in the remainder of Jaffna District into line with the rest of the Island. It is necessary to continue the restriction in the Vadamaradchchi Maniagar's Division where the experiments of promiscuous tapping for sweet and fermented toddy and of tapping for sweet toddy without a licence are being carried out.

### Adulteration of Toddy

There were no cases of adulteration of toddy reported during the year 1938. This does not imply that there were no such cases, as it is quite possible that some licensees did adulterate their fresh toddy with stale toddy—especially during the rainy season and when there was overflow of toddy in the District. In any case, even if there were such instances, they must have been few and far between, as no tree tax licensee can habitually, do so, and yet retain his custom for long. There can be little doubt that the tree tax system has, generally speaking, done away with the sale of adulterated and stale toddy and has fulfilled the main purpose for which it was introduced, viz., of making fresh and wholesome toddy available to the toddy drinker in Jaffna.

### Sale of Toddy in Sheds and in Objectionable Places

This has been the main objection raised by the Temperance

Association and others to the tree tax system. Steps were taken to remedy this by the issue of a Correction Slip to the Tree Tax Departmental Orders prohibiting the licensing of trees in unapprovable places such as in close proximity to public bathing places, schools, temples, market places, &c., and also prohibiting the sale of toddy in sheds on such lands or on lands bordering main roads. Local bodies have also readily co-operated with this Department by not issuing permits for the erection of such sheds in unapproved places or without first consulting this Department. The refusal to licence trees in such unapprovable places resulted in numerous petitions and complaints from applicants. In some such cases refund of tree tax already paid was recommended where substitution at an unapproved place was not possible. This will probably affect the tree tax revenue, but it cannot be helped, as the general good of the country has to be considered in preference to revenue.

The Department has, however, not felt it necessary to prohibit the erection of sheds in unobjectionable places, provided the toddy collected and sold therein was the yield of the individual tapper concerned. Such sheds are merely erected for the protection of the toddy from being exposed to the elements and it would make no difference whether such toddy was sold in the open or under cover. Besides, the licensee cannot be denied the elementary right to protect his property from sun and rain or provide his customer with such shelter.

### Restriction of Hours of Sale

This has been urged repeatedly by Temperance Associations and even at the Conference of Chief Headmen held by the Government Agent on October 10, 1938. This matter had previously been considered at the public conference held prior to the introduction of the scheme, and dropped as it was found that it would be impossible to give effect to it with the excise staff available. It has been found that sales till late at night occur only at a very few places. Toddy is over by about 7 p.m. in the majority of cases. It

is only at the fishing centres that sales take place till late at night to fishermen who return late after their fishing is over. This matter was carefully considered by the Executive Committee of Home Affairs which decided that the effect of prohibiting sheds in objectionable places should be watched before introducing any further restrictions or amendments in the system as at present obtaining.

### Order Nisi

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF  
JAFFNA

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 761.

In the matter of the Intestate Estate of the late Anne Nallamma wife of Reginald Francis of Changanai

Deceased.

1. Gnanapragasam Joseph and wife

2. Grace Annam both of Alaveddy Vs. Petitioners

1. Reginald Francis of Changanai

2. Lourdes Antoniette Joyce Selvamalar Selvanayagam of St. Cecilia 4th lane Wellawatte

3. Bede Cecil Alagarajah Selvanayagam widow of Nicholaspillai Selvanayagam of do

Respondents.

This matter of the petition of the petitioners coming on for disposal before C. Coomaraswamy Esquire, District Judge, Jaffna on the 14th day of July 1939 in the presence of Mr. S. Ilayathambi Proctor, on the part of the petitioners and the affidavit and petition of the petitioners dated 12th and 14th day of July 1939 having been read.

It is ordered that the abovenamed 4th Respondent be appointed Guardian-ad-Litem over the 2nd and 3rd Respondents minors and the petitioners as the brother-in-law and sister and an heir respectively of the said deceased be declared entitled to have letters of Administration to the estate of the said deceased and that the same be issued to them accordingly unless the abovenamed Respondents or any other person shall on or before the 25th day of August 1939 appear before this court and show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

This 18th day of July 1939.

(Sgd.) C. Coomaraswamy,  
District Judge.

25-8-39

Order Nisi extended for 29-9-39.

(Sgd.) C. C.  
D. J.

(O. 45. 21 & 25-9-39.)

41 YEARS

of

INSURANCE SERVICE IN CEYLON

has earned for the

EMPIRE OF INDIA

LIFE ASSURANCE CO., LTD.

Well Merited Confidence and Eloquent  
Tributes from

MANY EMINENT CEYLONESE POLICY HOLDERS

This is a testimony, by which the ever growing popularity  
of the "EMPIRE OF INDIA" can be judged

The security offered by this Company is absolute  
and unexceptionable

LOW PREMIUMS

POLICIES IN FORCE EXCEED  
CLAIMS PAID  
ASSETS

RS. 140 MILLIONS  
RS. 57 MILLIONS  
RS. 50 MILLIONS

Branch Office for Ceylon:

Imperial Bank Building,  
COLOMBO.

Head Office:

Empire of India Life Building,  
FORT, BOMBAY.

## The Jaffna Association General Meeting

(Letter to the Editor)

Sir,—I am prompted to state a few facts pertaining to the General Meeting of the Jaffna Association held on Saturday, the 16th instant, at the Town Hall.

I was not present at the said meeting as I had already resigned from the Association owing to the fact that my views invariably conflicted with those of the Acting Chairman and his supporters.

Mr. P. Nagupathy's proposing my name for the Presidentship was unauthorised as he never obtained my permission for doing so. In fact I would never have allowed him to drag my name into the affairs of the Association as it is now conducted. It was highly improper and irregular on his part to have done so.

I belong to no party in Jaffna, my views I hold to myself and never try to disseminate them & endeavour to gain supporters for selfish ends. I am sorry I gained unwanted publicity when I never desired it. I hope the public will understand my position.

Yours faithfully,

V. Ponnampalam,

"Padmanithi"  
Urumparai, Chunnakam,  
24th September 1939.

## MADRAS PREMIER LEAVES FOR WARDHA

### Summons From Mahatmaji

Madras, Sep. 21.

The hon. Mr. C. Rajagopalachari left Madras this morning by the Grand Trunk Express for Wardha in response to a summons from Mahatma Gandhi.

The hon. Mr. T. Prakasam and the hon. Mr. S. Ramanathan were on the station platform.

The Prime Minister has programmed to return to Madras on the evening of the 25th instant.

## HUGE ORDER FOR SAND BAGS

### British Govt Want 152 Million Bags

Calcutta, Sep. 20.

An order for 152 million sand bags, in addition to 60 millions ordered earlier this month, has been received by the Indian Jute Mills' Association from the British Government through the Government of India.

The order is expected to be completed by the end of the year and will be executed at the same price as that prescribed for the previous year.

## WIRELESS SETS

### No Restriction Contemplated

A Press Communique of the Information Bureau says:—

Several inquiries have been made whether it is the intention of Government to withdraw radio receiving licences or restrict the possession of receiving sets. The Department of Information desires to assure the public that it is not proposed to interfere with the possession of broadcast receiving sets. It is considered by Government that there is no better means for the reception, of full, accurate and up-to-date information than the possession of a receiving set. The broadcasting of news and information from the Colombo Broadcasting Station will be continued as in the past and house holders are advised to take full advantage of the services provided.

### Expression of Loyalty by Uduvil V. C.

After the Minutes of the previous meeting were confirmed by the Uduvil Village Committee, the Chairman Mr. N. K. Ambalavanar, drew the attention of the members of the Committee to the gravity of the international situation in Europe and the duty which rests on them as subject people of the British Empire to express to His Majesty their loyalty. He added that, as the war on which Britain has now entered was one that was based on sound moral principles it was inevitable that it would emerge victorious and that right would prevail over might and justice over injustice. He also informed the Committee from inquiries made in various parts of the village that there was a general dissatisfaction at the way in which the prices of foodstuffs in the markets in the Uduvil area were raised. As most of the poor people were put to considerable hardships owing to this prevalent evil, he requested the members to visit the market as often as possible with him, and get the assistance of the Police officers to bring to book the profiteers.

The resolutions were then passed.

(1) Mr. S. Ramalingam moved that "This committee on behalf of the Uduvil V. C. Area expresses its abiding loyalty to His Majesty the King and wishes that the nation and the Empire may soon emerge from the war, having vindicated to the world that unlicensed ambition must in the end meet with disastrous results". Mr. C. Nararatnam seconded, the motion was unanimously adopted.

(2) Mr. T. Muttucumaru proposed that "Immediate steps be taken to put a stop to the unjust profiteering and appoint two members for every day to inspect and bring the culprits to book". Seconded by Mr. C. Navaratnam, and unanimously carried.

## Division of Poland by Germany & Russia

(Continued from page 2)

town. The French members flew over to England and back home.

### German Losses in Poland Heavy

Paris, Friday.

Germany has suffered more than 150,000 casualties in the war in Poland, according to M. Girardoux, Commissioner-General of information, in a broadcast.

M. Girardoux said that Germany has lost between 400 and 600 aeroplanes shot down or destroyed and from 600 to 700 pilots killed. He added that nearly all the casualties belonged to shock troops.

The Germans are continuing their indiscriminate bombing, but the Poles continue to struggle valiantly against tremendous odds.

### Turkish-Soviet Pact

Istanbul, Friday.

Bey Suku Saracoglu, the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs, and three high officials sailed from Odessa today en route to Moscow. The Soviet Ambassador to Turkey, M. Terentiff is with them. The Turkish mission is expected to stay for ten days in Moscow.

It is reported that a Turkish-Soviet mutual assistance pact may be negotiated.

Turkish political circles feel that such a pact would guarantee the security of the Black Sea and the Dardanelles.

### Hitler's Secret Weapon

London, Friday.

Herr Hitler's threat, made in his Danzig speech—that Germany possesses a secret weapon—has caused no alarm among British military experts generally.

It is considered that there are few secret weapons in the world and that even if Germany had such a weapon, experts are of opinion that it would not be long before adequate defence against it is discovered.

## NOTICE

I the undersigned hereby give notice that I have on the 20th September 1939 applied to the Government Agent N. P. for the license shown in the Schedule hereto annexed, for the licensing period ending 30th September, 1940 in compliance with Excise Notification No. 200 of the 30th September, 1939.

### SCHEDULE

1. Name and address of Applicant: Canagasabai Arulampalam, Medical Hall, Hospital Road, Grand Bazaar, Jaffna.
2. Description of License applied for: Medicated Wines.
3. State whether application is for renewal of existing license or licenses or for a new license or licenses: Renewal of existing license.
4. Situation of premises to be licensed: Room measuring 30' x 12' situated at Grand Bazaar on Hospital Road Jaffna No 224 bounded on the North by Hospital Road, East by boutique owned by Chinnapah, South by lane and West by shop Venus Optical Co.

Applicant,  
Ed. C. Arulampalam.

(Mis. 151, 25-9-39.)

## Pt. Pedro Maha Jana Sabha

Point Pedro, Thursday.

The Executive Committee of the Point Pedro Maha Jana Sabha met yesterday at their Office to make arrangements for their Annual Celebration and to consider the proposal to start a Night School for the Teaching of Sinhalese.

Mr. Sam. T. Solomons, the President, speaking from the Chair suggested that, in view of the War, the celebrations and festivities be postponed as not in keeping with the present situation, but the business meeting be held and business transacted as usual. The suggestion was unanimously accepted by the House, and it was resolved to have the annual General Meeting in December 1939. With reference to the proposed Night School, Mr. Solomons said that it was very desirable that all Tamils should study Sinhalese. A knowledge of Sinhalese by the Tamils, and of Tamil by the Sinhalese would help to bring about better understanding between the Communities, and lead to free dealings. A knowledge of Sinhalese was useful particularly to those who did business in Sinhalese Districts. Mr. Solomons further said that when His Excellency visited Point Pedro a request was made to him to make provision for the starting of a Night School, but, unfortunately nothing had been done. It was not fair to approach the Government for financial help now, and the best thing to do in the circumstance was to ask the Co-Operative Stores of the Sabha to set aside each year a small part of its profits to pay a Sinhalese teacher. The matter was referred to the Annual General Meeting for further discussion. (Cor.)

## Auction Sale

D. C. J. 13978.

Sabapathippillai Kanapathypillai of Manipay

Vs. Plaintiff.

1. Vairavanather Sellathurai and wife
2. Punnithammah of Manipay

### PROPERTIES-

1. All that piece of land situated at Manipay called "Arasenthoddam" in extent 22½ Lms. P.C. is bounded on the East by the property of Sothianather Sornavadivelu Nagamuthar Kandiah and shareholders, North and West by the property of Sabhasivam Ponniah and shareholders, and South by the property of Thamo-sharampillai Nadarajah.

2. An undivided half out of all that piece of land situated at Changanai called "Soolavy" in extent 17½ Lms. P.C. with well and bounded on the East by the property of Ramalingam, Nagalingam, Saravanai Kandiah and Kanagasabai Thillayampalam, North by the property of Sellam wife of Naganathar and shareholders, West by the properties of Sellam wife of Perampalam and Kanther Kanapathy and South by the property of Sinnathangm wife of Sinnathampy.

In terms of the Commission issued to me by the District Court of Jaffna in Case No. 13978, I shall sell the above property by public auction on Monday the 16th October 1939 at about 4 p.m. at the spot.

N. KANDIAH,  
Commissioner,  
Van. West.

(Mis. 150, 25-9-39)

**Order Nisi**

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF  
JAFFNA

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 417.

In the matter of the estate of the late  
Canapathippillai Thambiah of  
Urumpirai Deceased.  
Seevaretnam widow of Canapathippil-  
lai Thambiah of Urumpirai

Vs. Petitioner.

1. Thambiah Paripooranam
2. Thambiah Gauesadasan
3. Thambiah Sivadasan
4. Thambiah Thanapooranam all of  
Urumpirai minors
5. Pasupathippillai Ambalawanar of  
Nugegeda Respondents.

This matter of the Petition of the  
abovenamed Petitioner praying that  
the abovenamed 5th Respondent be  
appointed guardian-ad-litem over the  
minors the abovenamed 1st to 4th  
Respondents and that Letters of Ad-  
ministration of the estate of the  
abovenamed deceased be granted to  
the Petitioner coming on for disposal  
before C. Coomaraswamy, Esquire  
District Judge Jaffna on the 20th day  
of October 1937 in the presence of  
Mr. V. K. Gnanasundram, Proctor on  
the part of the Petitioner and on

reading the affidavit and petition of  
the Petitioner.

It is ordered that the abovenamed  
5th Respondent be appointed guar-  
dian-ad-litem over the minors the  
abovenamed 1st to 4th Respondents  
and that Letters of Administration of  
the estate of the abovenamed deceased  
be granted to the Petitioner as the  
widow of the abovenamed deceased  
unless the Respondents abovenamed  
appear before this Court on the 22nd  
day of December 1937 and shew suffi-  
cient cause to the satisfaction of this  
Court to the contrary.

This 1st day of December 1937.

Sd. S. Rodrigo,  
District Judge.

23-8-39.

Extended for 27-9-39.

Sd. C. Coomaraswamy,  
District Judge.

(O. 44. 21 & 25-9-39.)

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