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## CEYLON'S FOOD SUPPLY

### Island's Dependence on Foreign Countries

#### RATIO OF LOCAL PRODUCTS TO IMPORTS

BY J. C. DRIEBERG,  
Dip. Agric., (Poona)

IN view of the intensive action that is about to be taken to increase the production of food crops in Ceylon, a consideration of the figures presented in this article in regard to supplies which are brought in from abroad may prove of interest and some value. Fortunately accurate statistics are available in the Ceylon Customs Returns from which official source the figures quoted are taken. Unfortunately, however, statistics relating to cultivated food crops in the Island are not available—even those for the paddy industry are of doubtful accuracy—so that it is not possible to compute the extent of domestic production and to arrive at a ratio of local products to imports. Whether or not it is intended to make Ceylon self-supporting in the matter of all or any of the food crops, the information herein presented should prove of value in a consideration of this question and of the country's dependence upon outside sources for her supplies. In arriving at the per capita figures, the population of the Island has been taken as six millions; and in regard to home produced rice the yield is estimated at 30 bushels of paddy per acre per annum and the cultivated area taken as 850,000 acres.

The total value of imported foodstuffs, inclusive of fish and meat, amounted in 1938 to Rs. 98 millions or Rs. 16.30 per head of population. Omitting fish, as not being an agricultural commodity, which accounted for Rs. 14 millions or Rs. 2.30 per head, the value of vegetable and animal foodstuffs was Rs. 84 millions or Rs. 14.00 per head. Meat—beef, mutton, pig products, live animals for food, and eggs—was valued at Rs. 1 2/5 millions which works out at 23 cents per head. The

value of vegetable products alone, therefore, amounted to Rs. 82.6 millions or Rs. 13.87 per head. Of this sum a little over 66 per cent. or Rs. 55 millions, working out at Rs. 9.20 per head, was the value of rice and paddy imported in 1938. Sugar accounted for Rs. 8 millions or Re. 1.30 per head, leaving Rs. 19 1/2 millions, equivalent to Rs. 3.37 per head, for the rest of the vegetable foodstuffs. Table I shows the total value and the value per head of the different classes of commodities imported in 1938. From this it will be observed that over half the total food bill is set against the staple food rice. Each head of the population paid in 1938 over Rs. 9.00 for his supply of foreign rice. Table II shows that 18 1/2 million bushels of rice and paddy converted into rice (actually 10 1/2 million cwt. of rice and 172,000 cwt. of paddy) were imported and that this was equivalent to 3 1/10 bushels per head. At the accepted rate of half a bushel per head per mensem this suffices for a period of 6 months. Home production is estimated at 12 1/2 million bushels of rice equivalent to 2 bushels per head sufficient for 4 months. This affords a total of 5 1/10 bushels per head from both sources. The main source of our supplies is Burma to which country we remitted last year the large sum of Rs. 33 1/2 millions equivalent to Rs. 5.70 per head. British India claims a sum of nearly Rs. 15 millions, and Siam Rs. 6 millions. Less quantities were also imported from Cochin China and Straits Settlements. Further discussion will not be entered into as the problem of the rice industry is a subject which is both big and complicated and merits a separate treatise. Of

(Continued on page 4)

## JINNAH, THE POLITICAL PUZZLE

### STRANGE BEDFELLOWS

(By Lanka)

Madras,  
27th Jan. 1940.

NEITHER to Gandhiji, nor to Congress, nor even to Hindus, will Mr. Jinnah give quarter as long as breath lasts in his body. One could see this determination progressing from severity to sturdiness as the days pass by. Quite a good number of people in India seem seriously to think that Jinnah is off his head, but whether he is off or not he has betrayed a strange fear of Congress. By playing upon the exitable feelings of the less informed Muslims by an appeal to base emotions he has created a more or less solid block of Muslim opposition. Just more than two years ago a visitor from Ceylon told me that he feared Jinnah would organise the Muslims into a solid opposition to Congress. Being right here on the spot and reading almost everything that is printed and hearing much that is not I laughed at his reading of the prospects. He has proved right now! Unfortunately for Muslims Jinnah has not done them any real service, he has been all the time engaged in picking holes in Congress, and further fresh holes that he has shifted from position to position and made the Muslim case as vague as even it might be. He has thrown overboard more political theories in the last six months than ever were imbibed by the Muslims in the fifty years, so desperate is the man. As every passing item of news suggests a solution of the political problem between the British Government and Congress Jinnah gets more and more furious. The secret is that Mohamed Ali Jinnah should be recognised as the sole representative of the Muslim League which has to be recognised as the only representative body of Muslims in India. If Congress can do that Jinnah may be appeased!

#### Petty-minded Politicians

In the kaleidoscopic changes that take place in the country's

political alignments one gets nowadays some ludicrous views that remind one of schooldays. Subhas Bose strikes a discordant note and carries on propaganda for his Forward Bloc as distinct from the orthodox Congress. Opponents of Congress feel it their duty to gather round him, forgetting that Bose is a Congressman to the core. This nondescript crowd sometime ago attempted to welcome Bose in Madras and were promptly pulled up by Forward Bloc volunteers and shown their proper place. Recently Dr. C. R. Reddi an old Congressman who has in latter days been critical of Congress was entertained at dinner by Madras Muslim Leaguers. Madras Justicites, Self-Respecters, non-brahmins and Anti-Hindimem worshipped at the feet of Mr. Jinnah because he was opposing Congress. Mr. M. R. Jayakar, an old Congressman, lately Judge of the Federal Court and now in India Council, came to Madras but was received by the same crew as pay obeisance to Jinnah. What strikes me as funny in the extreme is this ranging of men on opposite sides merely for the sake of political opposition, and all parties, making political divisions also bars to social amenities. Poor India!

#### Fractional Divisions!

AWKWARD problems for India rise from all quarters, more thickly in recent days. Congress the most solidly organised party with widely spread influence has now an enemy behind every bush, and even in its own ranks animosities and differences are the rule, and all these come to the front at a time when the High Command thought they could make a deal with Britain. In the south which till now presented a single front the Andhras are trying to get their province before the main object is so much as clearly defined. Feelings have been strained between them and Tamils by propagandist literature from both sides. No

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## DENTAL NOTICE

S. Imai, (Japanese Dentist)  
Colombo,

will be at Jaffna at Tiruchelvam Buildings, Main Street, Jaffna, from 7th to 16th February, 1940.  
(Mis. 208. 5-2-40).

## FOR SALE

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(Mis. 265. 5 & 8-2-40)



## Hindu Organ.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1940

## IRRIGATION FACILITIES FOR JAFFNA

JAFFNA MAN HAS BEEN MADE to believe that the question of an irrigation scheme for Jaffna is but a chimerical pursuit. We wish seriously to ask the question: has any earnest thought ever been given to this subject? The answer is obvious. All the rain water that nature pours on Jaffna is allowed to run to waste; it does the Jaffna man more damage than benefit. It has been the woeful experience of the toiling cultivator for the past so many years that he gets either a miserly dole of rain, inadequate for his requirements, or an excess of it which deprives him of even the little return he hopes to get for his arduous labours. Man's ingenuity and all the scientific knowledge the world possesses today have been of very little avail to this arid peninsula. And so the Jaffna cultivator, like the washerman's mule, carries the burden of his helplessness, day in and day out, without pausing to analyse the predicament he is in. It is a relief to find that the thinking section of the people are beginning to realise it. The Jaffna Association at its recent committee meeting discussed the question of a combined flood outlet and irrigation scheme for the peninsula and has decided to take up the matter with the Minister for Agriculture and Lands. We are constrained to observe in this connection that it

is the authorities who have been largely responsible for the indifferent and unhelpful attitude towards this vital problem of irrigation, an attitude based on the presumption that the contour of the peninsula would not permit of any irrigation scheme. As a layman one has but to bow to an expert's opinion on this question. We are yet to hear that serious consideration has been given to this affair by experts who have unequivocally condemned this peninsula to the lot that it now enjoys. Some schemes have been suggested by laymen who have taken the cue from countries similarly situated like Jaffna. It will not be wise and helpful if these are dismissed as fanciful. We urge that due consideration be given to these with a genuine desire to give Jaffna a scheme or schemes of irrigation that would best suit conditions in the peninsula. If that day comes, the proverbial industry of the Jaffna cultivator will multiply manifold to convert this arid land into smiling fields and shining orchards. Let us hope this question will ever be kept alive till a solution is found.

## Tellipallai Murder Case

The Tellipallai Murder Case has after a protracted trial at the Midland Assizes ended in the conviction of the three accused. The triple murder coming on top of a series of crimes committed in Jaffna during the past year caused not a little sensation, striking terror into the hearts of law-abiding and peace-loving people. The murder was so ingeniously committed that, it appeared at the moment, the culprits left behind no clue which could help the Police in bringing them to book. We who felt called upon sometimes to criticize the Police in the public interest deem it our duty in this instance to commend them for the vigilance and skill they have exhibited in unravelling what appeared to be a mystery. But for the effective and timely steps they took to trace the criminals, this gruesome murder might have gone the way of many another in the past to swell the number of unsolved murders in Jaffna. We feel, we are but echoing the feelings of the public in this matter, when we offer our meed of praise to Inspector Attygalle for his smart work in connection with this case.

## Urban Ratepayers' Central Association

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the Jaffna Urban Ratepayers' Central Association will be held on Wednesday the 7th instant at 5 p. m., at the Association's Office, 73 Stanley Road, to consider among others, the increased assessment rates.

## Tellipallai Triple Murder

### Death Sentences on All Accused

Kandy, Friday.

After deliberating for over two hours, the Jury brought in a unanimous verdict of guilty against the first accused Karaly Muttiah in the Tellipallai murder case.

Against the second and third accused, Natchebiram Selliah, and Saverimuttu Anthonipillai, the Jury brought in a verdict of six to one on the same counts.

The Jury added a rider to the effect that they considered the evidence of Rasakutty and Kurunathy very unsatisfactory.

In reply to the Judge, the first accused said:

"I don't know anything about these murders. I beg for mercy"

The second accused also begged for mercy.

The third said: "I was away at Killinochy and my father made an entry at the station. My father, being angry with me, did not care to retain Counsel to defend me."

Mr. Justice Mosely passed sentence of death on all three accused. Referring to the Jury's rider, he said that he would forward it to the Attorney-General for any action he thought fit.

The Judge also exempted the Jury from service for five years.

The silence after sentence was passed was broken by the wailing of Cecilia, the first accused mistress.

### What They were Charged with

The Tellipallai triple murder trial lasted for sixteen days at the Midland Assizes, having been transferred there from Jaffna at the request of the accused, who felt that strong local feeling aroused by the crime might in some way be prejudicial to them.

They were charged with having conspired with others unknown in or about November, 1938, to commit offences of house-breaking by night by entering the house of Thambar Sinnathamby, robbery and the murder of Thambar Sinnathamby, Vairavy Kanden and Sinnacheby Kandiah and, in pursuance of the conspiracy on November 15, 1938, with having committed the murder of the three persons last named.

## MATRIMONIAL

### SINNATHAMBY--DURAI SWAMY

The marriage took place on the 22nd January at 6-30 a. m. at the bride's residence at Aiyankovilady of Mr. M. Sinnathamby, Boarding Master, Jaffna Hindu College, with Miss Kanagalaxmy, daughter of Mr. K. Duraiswamy.

A largely attended reception was held on the next day at the bridegroom's residence. The reception at the bride's residence on the following day was also largely attended.

### MAHESAN--KANDIAH

The marriage of Mr. N. Mahesan, L. E. E., eldest son of the late Mr. V. A. Nadarajah of the Forest Department, with Miss Parameshwari, eldest daughter of Mr. K. Kandiah of Manipay and grand-daughter of the late Gate-Mudaliyar T. Karalapillai, and the late Mr. S. Kanagasabai, Udayar, was solemnised at the bride's residence at Manipay on the 29th ultimo at 5 p. m. There was a large attendance at the ceremony and later at the reception at the bridegroom's residence at Neeraviady, Jaffna.

## Congress President in Jaffna

### Reconciliation Effort

## Interviews Leading Men

MR. G. C. S. Corea, President of the Ceylon National Congress, was in Jaffna last week end in connection with some public engagement.

He took this opportunity of visiting and meeting several leading men here and exchanging views on the political situation. He is understood to have scolded them as to what concession the Tamils desire in order to make them co-operate with the Board of Ministers and Congress in the demand for political reforms.

The opinion of local leaders is that Sir Baron Jayatilaka, on behalf of the Board of Ministers, and Mr. Corea, on behalf of Congress, should make a public declaration that they accepted the principle that the Northern and Eastern Provinces should have a much larger representation than they have now. Isolation, distance from the seat of Government and lack of proper development were suggested as reasons.

It is learned that Mr. Corea generally accepted these reasons. It is felt that Mr. Corea is very anxious to secure the co-operation of the Tamils.

It was pointed out to Mr. Corea that so far officially no such declaration had been made. The Jaffna Association had invited Sir Baron to make such a declaration, but up to date nothing had been done.

It is also learnt that the local leaders assured Mr. Corea that they would co-operate with the Sinhalese leaders and even join the Congress if such a declaration, which was acceptable to the Tamils, were made.

Mr. Corea was told plainly that the majority of Tamils did not agree with Mr. G. G. Ponnampalam's views, but that they were supporting him in his political demands, because the Sinhalese had not made any declaration showing a spirit of generosity towards the Tamils.

Mr. Corea with a few other Congressmen is expected to come back to Jaffna to have further talks with leaders.

## Mooloya Shooting Commission

### Jaffna District Judge To Hold Inquiry

Mr. C. Coomaraswamy, District Judge, Jaffna, has been appointed by the Governor to be a Commissioner to inquire into and report upon the shooting of Govindan at Mooloya Estate, Hawahela, on January 10 this year.

## Jaffna Friend-in-Need Society

The Annual General Meeting of the Jaffna Friend-in-Need Society was held on the 29th January 1940 at the Jaffna Town Hall at 4.45 p. m. Mr. R. B. Naish, President, presided.

## Personal

Adigar A. Naganather is now in Kandy and has been advised by his doctors to prolong his stay there till the 20th instant.



## MUDALIAR C. RASANAYAGAM

### A Short Sketch of His Life and Works

By K. Sittampalam

**M**UDALIAR C. RASANAYAGAM is one of the most distinguished sons of Jaffna in recent times. His death on 17th January, 1940, marks the passing away of a notable landmark in this country. There have been more illustrious men in the field of politics and administration, more erudite pundits and literateurs, great spiritual leaders and revivalists. But there have been very few indeed who combined in such a remarkable degree his exemplary life and extensive learning, his historical researches and social interests, his curiosity to learn and desire to impart his knowledge to others. His tastes were simple, his aims were lofty and his achievements of no little account. He was a great patriot and believed very much in the cultivation of a dynamic national culture. His aim was to regenerate interest in this culture by a proper appreciation of the history of this land. He was convinced that our past was great and glorious and his contribution towards kindling an interest in the study of it is worthy of remembrance.

#### II

Mudaliar Rasanayagam was born on October 22, 1870 at Navaly, 4 miles away from Jaffna. His father Chellappa was a clerk in the Public Works Department. He belonged to that excellent stock of landed gentry from Jaffna who have since the Mid-Victorian days been gradually weaned from their setting. By virtue of their fertile brains they have, thanks partly to the early Missionary efforts at education, increasingly taken to the cultivation of English letters and the Public Service, needless to say with indifferent results on the more 'educated' youths of a later generation. After his Tamil education, young Rasanayagam went up to the St. Thomas College, Colombo, where he passed the Junior Local Examination with honours in 1885 and in the following year carried away the Mathematics Prize. Although very few details pertaining to his extra-curricular activities are now available, it may well be surmised that he was a 'favourite' at school, seeing that an unfailing sense of humour and a cheery smile on his countenance were characteristic of him since his early age to the last days of his life.

#### III

After a brief period of temporary service Mr. Rasanayagam was appointed to a permanent clerkship under Government on January 1, 1891. His career in Government Service was not without distinction. He served in various capacities in the Clerical Service, notably as Secretary of the District Court, Jaffna, where in 1917 he was of immense assistance to Dr. Paul E. Peiris in the course of his excavations at Kantherodai and Chunnakam and his historical researches practically all over the Peninsula and the Islands.

In recognition of his meritorious service he was invested with the rank of Mudaliar in 1920. In September of the same year he was appointed a Deputy Registrar of the Supreme Court and three years later promoted to the Civil Service and

transferred as Extra Office Assistant to the Jaffna Kachcheri. He remained in this post until his retirement in April 1929.

Notwithstanding these onerous official duties he was unremitting in his devotion to his true love, namely historical research. Indeed his official position served much rather as an excellent foil from which he set about his life-work with confidence and security. It was the springboard from which he leaped into the pond of scholarship.

#### IV

Mudaliar Rasanayagam was a student to the end of his days. In all his scholarly life he was getting from others whatever they had to offer and was giving to them of his best in return. His extensive scholarship in Tamil and his wide knowledge of foreign literature bearing on Ceylon which are writ large in the pages of his writings are undoubtedly the result of years of persistent and intelligent study. Apart from his own personal bent his close association with men so absorbingly interested in historical research as Mr. H. W. Codrington and Dr. P. E. Peiris and with such scholars as Sir P. Arunachalam cannot fail to have been of decisive influence in drawing him into the field in which he found his metier. He was a self-made man with all the characteristic merits and faults of such men. He was constructive and original but on occasions he seemed to be clever and ingenious. While giving a connected history of Jaffna for nearly 2000 years he set down a few things which patriotism rather than cannons of historical criticism would justify.

#### V

All his writings were the product of his maturer years. It is convenient to deal with them in two periods—(i) 1916—1926 and (ii) 1929—1939.

The beginning of the first period coincides with his first connection with the Royal Asiatic Society (Ceylon Branch) and culminates in 1926 with the publication of his magnum opus, "Ancient Jaffna". This period was preceded by years of hard study and was most fruitful in that all his historical researches and writings fall within it. Having been associated with Dr. P. E. Peiris in the discovery of important historical 'finds' in Jaffna, he wrote "Nagadipa in the Tamil Classics" in 1917—Vide Vol. XXVI of the Journal of the Ceylon Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society. During this period he contributed, inter alia, the following monographs:—

The Tamil Kingdom of Jaffna and the Early Greek Writers, The Identification of the Port of Kalah

Origin of the Pallavas (published in the Indian Antiquary)

Alageswari Period (published in the Ceylon Literary Register (3 Series Vol II)) This throws a flood of light on points which remained obscure or were glossed over in the Sinhalese Chronicles.

He also brought his scholarship to especial usefulness in decipher-

(Continued on page 5)

## Hints for Social Service

### Mr. G. A. Wille's Message to Manipay Social Service League

**M**R. G. A. Wille, M. S. C., sent the following message on the occasion of the first anniversary celebrations of the Manipay Parish Social Service League:

As I find I am unable to be present at your annual meeting, at the request of your Secretary I send you a message, one of congratulation on the work done, and of good wishes for success in the work still before you.

While usually the alleviation of poverty is the motive behind a social service organisation, the impulse to the establishment of your League seems to have come from the wave of crime that recently overtook Manipay and its neighbouring villages and which you appear to have now stemmed; and if that is an omen of the kind of work your League is out to do, namely improvement of the mental and moral standard of the poor, the omen is of course a very auspicious one.

#### Final Justification

That is after all the final justification of all social service work. If while it helps the poor it does not lead them on to a better outlook on life, it may help to stereotype and even intensify the evils which accompany poverty. We cannot hope to do away with the inequalities of life, and the poor we shall always have with us. The bulk of people will not have an excess of income over expenditure except what by their own unaided efforts, by the practice of thrift, they may be able to secure; and poverty so redeemed by the glorious privilege of being independent, as the poet sang, may have its virtues and even its blessings. It is the poor in that sense that, our Master said, we shall have always with us. But poverty with its sub-human, degrading conditions such as your League is intended to relieve, is a blot on our civilisation, especially at a time when the rights of human personality are theoretically acknowledged as they never were before; and that is why Dr. Samuel Johnson, that embodiment of commonsense, said, though he said it some two hundred years ago, that poverty was a great enemy of human happiness, and not merely because of the physical conditions of poverty, but because as he emphasised, they make some virtues impossible and others difficult.

#### Immediate Benefits

Your Secretary asks for my advice as a former President of the Ceylon Social Service League of Colombo. Very little advice is needed as you have begun well and on right lines, and if your members can only sustain their enthusiasm, much good ought to result from the efforts of your League. The Dispensary and the proposed Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic will find much scope for immediate benefits to the poor, while the instruction in health subjects and the food production and drainage schemes should train them in those habits of self-help, and lead to that feeling of self-respect, which are the foundation of true social progress. Even the provident fund you

## Soviet Threats to Br. India

### No Indications of Invasion

London, Feb. 2.

In regard to the reports which have appeared from time to time in the British and the Continental Press of alleged Soviet threats to British India, Reuter's diplomatic correspondent is able to state on high authority that at present there are no indications whatever of any threatening concentrations of Soviet troops in the neighbourhood of Afghanistan through which any threat to India from the north would almost inevitably have to be directed.

Competent military quarters point out that in any event the invasion of Afghanistan or Iran from the north—as a first step against British interests in Asia—would today present even greater difficulties than in historic times.

#### Obstacles in Afghanistan

A modern mechanised army would find almost insuperable obstacles in Iran or Afghanistan, particularly in the latter country where the absence of railways, the poor-ness of the roads, high mountains and fierce, independent Afghan guerilla fighters in the mountains fanatically determined to defend the Moslem faith against what they regard as the "materialism" of the West, would combine to assure that any invader from the north will face the extremely difficult problem of a lengthy campaign.

contemplate should be a success if the poor can be made to realise the benefit of putting by something, however small, regularly. How the savings mount up will be a revelation to them, besides giving them a feeling of self-reliance and protecting them against falling into debt with its perpetual anxieties and worries and paralysing despondency.

#### Study of Social Conditions

There is one aspect of social service work which should not be overlooked—the exact study of social conditions. If a start is made by a band of lone visitors with the worst quarters of your district, first having a map or diagram of them made, you will be able to accumulate a fund of necessary knowledge for use by those immediately charged with administering relief. It will also be the basis of that propaganda which is required for bringing home to the authorities and those educated and better-off the needs of the poor; for without their co-operation, only a small impression can be made on a comparatively vast evil. Openings for more extended service in order to make the lives of slum-dwellers in particular brighter and more hopeful, whether by securing for them (1) better living conditions and (2) some of the more elementary amenities of civilized life (in the form of entertainments or playgrounds or recreative resorts) or (3) education (general or industrial for the young, or in the form of popular instruction for adults) will suggest themselves to you as you go forward. These will help to place the poor in a better economic and moral condition, and be the first step towards making them accessible to ideas of manhood and womanhood on a higher plane.



## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## The Appointment of Maniagars in The Early Sixties

Sir,—The policy of Mr. P. A. Dyke, the "Rajah of the North", in filling vacancies in public offices tended to an indefinite and almost vexatious delay that the central Government was frequently called upon to interfere in the matter and cause such vacancies to be filled. Not that Mr. Dyke took delight in leaving vacancies unfilled: he would rather have a vacancy unfilled than fill it with a poor hand, unfit to perform the duties attached to the post. The result was, a vacancy would lie unfilled for months together till Mr. Dyke came across some suitable person.

He described the Maniagars as the virtual Assistant Agents of the respective divisions and strove hard to make their remuneration in salaries and percentage allowances equal to, if not higher than, that of other subordinates. Yielding to the general outcry to recognise the claims of men, who had received English education for public employment, he conferred the offices of Maniagars of Jaffna and Valigamam upon men who were able to read and write English and made every effort to improve their position and status in the service.

Immediately after Mr. Dyke's death, his successor Mr. Russel, announced that he would fill the vacant post of Maniagar of Valigamam West. There were numerous applicants for the office and the emoluments attached to the office were a salary of £15 and other emoluments amounting to £112. Among the applicants were Mr. L. C. Graves, an enterprising gentleman and extensive proprietor of lands in Jaffna, Mr. Ponnampalam, Shroff of the Oriental Bank at Kandy, Mr. E. Cornelius, the Surveyor of the Road Committee, Mr. S. Sittampalam, an Overseer of distinction in the P. W. D., Mr. Iranganthar, English and Tamil writer in the Jaffna Kachcheri and son-in-law of the late Maniagar, Ambalavanar who was English Accountant in the Grain Department, Mr. Mc Instry of Mulletive and last, not least, Mr. Breckrenridge of the Batticotta High School (now Jaffna Col-

lege). It was not an easy task to decide on the claims of such a galaxy of candidates.

On 16th December, 1867, Mr. Russel met the applicants for the office of Maniagar of Valigamam West at the Government Bungalow in Changanai. It must have been a very splendid sight, as there were nearly 90 candidates from different parts of the country. Of the applicants, some withdrew and a few others did not attend the interview. From the applicants present, Mr. Russel selected Messrs. L. C. Graves, Ponnampalam, G. H. Hallock, Iranganthar and V. Sinnathamby and addressed the people on the qualifications necessary for a chief Headmen. Having caused a diary entry of the late Government Agent to be read and explained to the people by Kanagaratna Mudaliyar, he paid a graceful tribute to the abilities of the departed worthy and expressed his intention of following the policy which Mr. Dyke in his long experience had found to be the best.

Exception being taken to some of the number selected, Messrs. Ponnampalam and Graves were chosen by him as the most eligible candidates for the post, on the score of wealth, influence and efficiency, caste or rank being of secondary consideration, in the estimation of the late Agent. He stated, however, that it was represented to him by an anonymous petition that Mr. Ponnampalam was a sickly person. On subsequent inquiry and personal inspection he was satisfied of the truth of the statement and, as Mr. Graves had not that disqualification even, he considered him as the fittest candidate for the post. This was received by the people with great satisfaction as was apparent from the demonstration made by them in his favour. Mr. Graves was accordingly appointed Maniagar of Valigamam West.

Yours faithfully,  
Ayodhiya, M. Ramalingam.  
Alexandra Road,  
Wellawatte,  
25th January, 1940.

## CEYLON'S FOOD SUPPLY

(Continued from page 1)

Rs 8 millions paid out on imported sugar, Rs. 7 millions went to Java alone for 1½ million cwt. of refined sugar, smaller quantities of which were also obtained from Portuguese East Africa and Hong Kong. Of unrefined sugar imported to the extent of 55,000 cwt. and valued at Rs. 369,000, it is significant that nearly 21,000 cwt. classified as jaggery, were imported from British India at a cost of Rs. 167,000. With the removal of the restriction on tapping for sweet toddy, it is to be hoped that the jaggery industry will come into its own again and prevent a lakh and a half of rupees going out of the country. Intensive propaganda and facilities for improved manufacture and marketing, however, are required.

Onions comprise both the Spanish type (popularly termed "Bombay" onions in Ceylon) and the small, red or curry "onion" which, properly, should be designated "shallot." If the former type cannot be grown in the Island, there certainly is no reason why the latter should not. The question of price is probably the deciding factor, and if this is so, it may be worth while considering whether a bounty should not be paid to cultivators in order to save even fifty per cent. of the Rs. 2 millions which go out of Ceylon annually for this essential commodity.

Whether anything can be done in the matter of raising potatoes which claimed Rs. 1½ millions last year awaits consideration.

Leguminous seeds comprising beans, gram, and pulses were imported at the rate of 11½ lb. per head and absorbed no less than Rs. 3½ millions. These were imported mainly from British India and Burma as well as China. But it surely is an anomaly that we should allow imports under this head from Siam and Java to the value of Rs. 37,000 and Rs. 13,000 respectively, and even from the Straits Settlements to a less extent. There is a very strong case for the extensive as well as intensive cultivation of leguminous food crops in Ceylon, "the straw" and chaff of which form good material as food for stock.

The bill for currys has always been a high one and amounted in 1938 to Rs. 4 1/5 millions; and of this sum a little over 60 per cent. or Rs. 2½ millions went on the single commodity "dried chillies" which were imported at the rate of 3½ lb. per head of population. It may not be possible to grow in Ceylon many of the crops which were grouped under this head, but chillies are certainly a possibility and, as in the case of curry onions, it seems necessary to offer a subsidy to growers of this crop. The bulk of the currys comes from British India to which country a sum of Rs. 2,692,000 was paid in 1938. Nearly half this sum went on chillies alone. It is scarcely conceivable that we should allow dried chillies to the value of half a million rupees to be imported from the Straits Settlements.

Garlic and turmeric to the va-

lue of Rs. 234,000 and Rs. 155,000 respectively, were imported in 1938, the former from the Straits Settlements chiefly and latter from British India. It will be seen that, if both these crops are grown in Ceylon, nearly 4 lakhs of rupees may be retained in Ceylon.

The value of imported tamarind was Rs. 265,000, and in addition to British India this commodity was also obtained from Java and the Straits Settlements. Is all the available tamarind in the Island collected and marketed or does much of it go to waste? Some inquiry seems desirable as also a consideration of the question of planting it as a roadside tree as is done for miles along the highways in the Madras Presidency.

In looking through the returns of last year one is struck by the extraordinary fact that no less an article than pepper, which a few years ago was being exported from Ceylon to the value of Rs. 4 lakhs was actually imported from the Straits Settlements and British India to the extent of 2,700 cwt. and 260 cwt. respectively. The value of these quantities was Rs. 38,000. The market for Ceylon pepper has been down during the past few years and imports dropped to nil; but what became of available stocks and how is it that this has not been marketed locally to avoid imports from abroad? Enterprise is decidedly lacking in Ceylon, as well as appreciation of home-grown produce. But, fortunately, the Government Marketing Department is slowly but surely coming to the rescue of the country. Under the heading "fruit" are included fresh and dried fruit and fruit preserved in syrup and in the form of jams and jellies. The value of these imports in 1928 was Rs. 1 1/10 millions, of which sum a little over 50 per cent. was remitted to Australia. Fresh fruit, chiefly apples and grapes, came mainly from Australia and the United States of America. Dried dates accounted for nearly a lakh of rupees, but, unfortunately, the local boutiques are flooded with stuff of very poor quality which is retailed at 10 cents and even less a pound.

Of oils and fats for human consumption, Australia sent frozen and tinned butter to the value of Rs. 545,000, and Holland, vegetable ghee to the value of Rs. 123,000. The value paid per head of population for these commodities is 16 cents which is not high, but account must be taken of the large consumption of locally-produced coconut milk in cooking of which no estimate is possible.

Cakes, biscuits and confectionery, the bulk of which came from the United Kingdom, accounted for nearly one million rupees.

The bill for prepared cocoa is unaccountably small and shows that the nutritive value of this important article of diet is not sufficiently appreciated in Ceylon.

Java exported to Ceylon not less than Rs. 500,000 worth of coffee beans and British India Rs. 29,000 worth of beans and roasted coffee in 1938.

The total payment and the amount paid per head of popula-

(Continued on Page 5.)

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**IN THE MADRAS HIGH COURT**

(Before Gentle, J.)

**INSURANCE CO'S APPLICATION REJECTED**

His Lordship disposed of an application, the first of its kind under the Indian Insurance Act, filed by the Indo-Lanka Insurance Co., Ltd. for the return of the sum of Rs. 50,000 deposited with the Controller of Currency under the Indian Life Insurance Act of 1912, which, by virtue of the recent Insurance Act (which came into force on 1st July 1939), had become transferred to the Reserve Bank of India.

The Company was originally doing provident insurance business and was registered in 1923, under the Provident Insurance Societies Act 1912. In 1935, it changed its memorandum with court sanction and took powers to issue life policies for sums in excess of Rs. 500. In pursuance of its amended memorandum, it granted a number of policies till April 1939 for sums exceeding Rs. 500. The company made a deposit of Rs. 50,000 as aforesaid, in compliance with section 4 of Indian Life Assurance Act, 1912. The Superintendent of Insurances wrote to the company that they had not deposited one-third of the premium received in respect of the policies for less than Rs. 500 and requiring them to deposit the same forthwith. The company claimed that as the policies of this latter description were issued on the dividing principle, they were obliged to appropriate 75 per cent of the premia received in respect of them during every quarter for division among the policies which had matured during that interval. They were not in a position to make the deposit demanded, and were not legally bound to do so. As the Superintendent of Insurances did not accept this contention, the company changed its memorandum with the sanction of the court, so as to confine its powers to the issue of policies of Rs. 500 and less. After some correspondence with the Government of India, the present application under section 9 of the Insurance Act (IV) of 1938 was filed by the company for the return of the deposit.

The application was based on the ground that the company had made adequate provision for the discharge of their liabilities in respect of policies exceeding Rs. 500 in face value and that they had confined their business only to provident insurance. Out of the sum of Rs. 50,000 deposited with the Reserve Bank, Rs. 5,000 might be reserved as deposit as required for provident insurance business and that the balance of Rs. 45,000 be refunded to them.

His Lordship, in dismissing the application with costs upheld the contention raised on behalf of the Government of India. The Government of India contended that on its issuing policies for sums exceeding Rs. 500 from 1935 onwards, the company became subject to all the provisions of the Indian Life Insurance Act, 1912, and that the deposit of Rs. 50,000 was in respect of all the policies issued by the company inclusive of those for Rs. 500 and less. The policies for Rs. 500 and less and those over Rs. 500 did not form different classes of insurance business within the meaning of section 9, and, as the company had not made any provision for discharging their liabilities in respect of policies for Rs. 500 and less, they were not entitled to the refund. His Lordship, further, held, accepting the interpretation put by Counsel for Government of India on the terms of policies issued prior to November 1937, that such policies which had lapsed, could be revived at any time on payment of the unpaid premia and that the period of such revival was not limited to two years as contended by the company. In this view, His Lordship held that in respect of such policies also the requirements of section 9 were not complied with.

(Hindu)

**Mudaliar C. Rasanayagam**

(Continued from page 3)

ing correctly for the first time Vijayabahu's Inscription at Polonnaruwa, which is written in a mixture of Tamil and Grantha characters called the Manipravalam style—vide C. B. R. A. S. vol. XXIX No. 77. He similarly deciphered correctly the inscription at Nainativu.

Notwithstanding all these notable contributions the Mudaliar's claim to be gratefully remembered by posterity lies in his life-work "Ancient Jaffna". There are those who deny the historical value of considerable portions of the book but when it is remembered that it is perhaps the first systematic attempt at history concerning North Ceylon and that other historians had obviously not always done justice to this part of the country and her inhabitants, the immensity of the author's task will be readily realised. The book is a model of perseverance and contains a mine of information much of which would perish if not put on record for purposes of history. The author also helped to remove a number of misconceptions which were prevalent and, well aware as he was of the shortcomings of his work, he expressed the hope that younger men would take up the task and carry on the search for historical truth. The most remarkable thing about this work is the synthetic mind which the author diligently applied to the collection and collation of so much disconnected data into a reliable and readable history of Jaffna.

**VI**

Early in the course of his researches the Mudaliar found out that a good many of the old and valuable books and manuscripts in history and Tamil which were not procurable locally could be seen at the British Museum. It was mainly this desire to see the books and documents which impelled him to undertake his voyage to England on retirement in 1929. Many another man at his age would have chosen the less arduous course of remaining at home "to enjoy a well-earned rest." But the Mudaliar braved the seas and brought back home photostat copies of several valuable historical documents and Tamil works.

His keenness for historical studies was rivalled only by his love of Tamil literature. The most important works of the second period are in Tamil and are intended to popularize the knowledge of local history. The following are the main writings:-

History of Jaffna (in Tamil) 1933.

History of British Period (in Tamil) 1934.

History of the Nagas (in Tamil). Kataragama—a Historical Sketch, 1935.

Selected and Translated Tamil Documents in the Archives, 1937.

Yalpana Vaipava Malai—edited and published in series in the Education Gazette, 1939.

He also compiled a bibliography of books printed and published in Tamil which contains a stupendous list of names of nearly 35,000 works the compilation of which occupied the major part of his retired life. He has donated this to the Madras Library Association.

**VIII**

Apart from his literary and historical studies he had other wide

**Order Nisi**

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 811

In the matter of the intestate estate and effects of the late Mutbupillai wife of Arumugam Sinnappu of Urumpiray Deceased.

Arumugam Sinnappu of Urumpiray Vs. Petitioner. 1. Velluppillai Sinnathamby and wife 2. Sinnaththankam both of Urumpiray Respondents.

This matter coming on for disposal before C. Coomaraswamy Esquire District Judge Jaffna on the 8th day of December 1939 in the presence of Mr. A. Subramaniam Proctor on the part of the petitioner and the affidavit of the petitioner having been read:

It is ordered that the petitioner as husband of the deceased be declared entitled to take out Letters of Administration to the Estate of the deceased and that Letters of Administration be issued to him accordingly unless the respondents or any other person shall on or before the 24th day of January 1940 appear and show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this court to the contrary.

Jaffna the 10th day of January 1940 Sgd. C. Coomaraswamy, District Judge.

January 24, 1940.

Time to show cause is extended till February 14, 1940.

Intld C. C. D. J.

(O. 71. 1 & 5-2-40)

and varied interests. He served as an active member in the Historical Manuscripts Commission, the Museum Committee, and the Broadcasting Advisory Board. He did not a little to promote and popularize broadcasts in Tamil. He also identified himself with many socio-religious organizations. A devout Hindu, his devotion to his religion found expression in all his writings, particularly those he contributed to the "Hindu Organ". For a considerable time he was the guide, philosopher and friend of the Saiva Mangayar Kalagan, which is making a good start in the direction of Hindu education in Colombo. He was exceedingly sociable and enlivened the company in which he found himself by his cheerful spirits, suave manners and kindly disposition. The sparkle in his eyes and the smile in his face were an index of his happy life. Fortune smiled on him and he was always ready to help those who went to him in need.

Three days prior to his death he was present at the Thai Pongal Day Meeting of the Hindu Students' Movement. He made himself quite at home in that gathering of exuberant youths, conversing and partaking of the milk they served, calling it half-humorously "the milk of human kindness." In the course of conversation he referred to his stay last December in an Estate off Trincomalee in the vicinity of which he had seen a cave which seemed to him to be of archaeological interest.

**IX**

Mudaliyar Rasanayagam lived the full span of three score years and ten, and died full of years and honours. He had a zest for living and an enthusiasm for work which was the envy of younger men. His patriotism and love for his mother-tongue, his pride in the ancient culture of this land which he helped to understand, and his devotion to his religion will serve as an example to all young men today.

**Ceylon's Food Supply**

(Continued from page 4)

tion for food to the major exporting countries in 1933 are as follows:—

Source of supply.	Total Value of Imports.	Amount per Head of Population.
	Rs. mill.	Rs. c.
Burma	34.0	5 70
British India	24.0	4 2
Java	7.6	1 27
Siam	6.0	0 86
Australia	4.0	0 67
United Kingdom	1.7	0 29
Holland	1.4	0 22
Straits Settlements	0.9	0 15
Other countries	4.3	0 82

The article purports no more than to furnish a preliminary statement regarding the Island's dependence upon foreign food supplies, and will be followed by further one in which will be discussed the practical aspects of local production in order to save as large a proportion as possible of the heavy bill on which Ceylon is committed on the score of food.

TABLE I.

Items.	Total Value.	Value per Head of Population.
	Rs. mill.	Rs. c.
<b>Classes of Food</b>		
<b>Stuffs</b>		
1. Rice and paddy	55.0	9 20
2. Sugar	8.0	1 30
3. Currystuffs	4.2	0 70 (1)
4. Legumes	3.5	0 58
5. Onions and potatoes	3.3	0 55 (2)
6. Milk and milk products excluding butter and ghee taken under 10	2.5	0 43
7. Cereal flour and prepared foods	2.0	0 33
8. Meat (all kinds)	1.4	0 23
9. Fruit (fresh, dried, and preserved)	1.1	0 18
10. Oils and fats (animal and vegetable)	1.6	0 16
11. Cakes, biscuits, and confectionary	0.9	0 15
12. Cocoa and coffee	0.5	0 8
13. Oil seeds (for food)	0.3	0 5
14. Vegetables (fresh and preserved)	0.09	1 1½
15. Fish (all types)	14.0	2 30
(1) dried chillies	Rs. 2½ mill.	=0.38cts.
(2) onions	Rs. 2 ..	=0.33 ..
potatoes	Rs. 1½ ..	=0.22 ..

TABLE II.

Items.	Total Imports	Quantity per Head of Population.
	Quantity	
Rice & paddy converted into rice	18½ mill. bus-	3 1/10 bus-hels
Sugar, refined	1 2/3 mill. cwt.	26 2/3 lb.
Onions	661,000 cwt.	12 1/2 lb.
Beans, gram, and pulses	605,000 cwt.	11 1/2 lb.
Potatoes	270,000 cwt.	5 lb.
Chillies	178,000 cwt.	3 1/2 lb.
Sugar, unrefined	55,000 cwt.	1 lb.
Milk (preserved and powder)	4 1/2 mill. lb.	2 1/2 lb.
Butter and ghee (animal and vegetable)	2 1/3 mill. lb.	1 1/2 lb.
Beef, mutton and pig products excluding preserved game and live animals of which quantities are stated in number)	13,700 cwt.	7 lb.
Fish—dried or salted	380,000 cwt.	7 1/2 lb.
Maldive	86,000 cwt.	1 1/2 lb.

(Tropical Agriculturist)



## Jinnah, the Political Puzzle

(Continued from page 1)

wonder Gandhiji feels that he cannot call another fight with so many disruptive elements all round. That is why he is insisting on the new Independence pledge with spinning and khadar, to see how ready the "army" is, but impatient idealists imagining themselves forward decry his methods.

### Your Insurance Co.

READERS in Ceylon and perhaps Malaya who are interested in the Indo-Lanka Insurance Co., Ltd. of Madras may learn with some concern that this company has reverted to its original business of issuing provident insurance policies under Rs. 500 as a result of a recent judgment in the Madras High Court in an application by the Company for the return of the deposit of Rs. 50,000 made under the provisions of the new Insurance Act. When the Company began to issue life policies, it had to make a deposit with Government equal to a third of the premiums received, besides adhere to certain other conditions. To avoid this restriction the Company asked for the return of the amount already deposited choosing to issue only policies under Rs. 500. The Government refused on the plea that even these policies came under the security condition. The Company made an application to the High Court and judgment was given against the Company on 5th January. I have met persons in Ceylon who are under the impression that the Company has been qualified under the New Insurance Act by suitable securities. (A copy of the report of the proceedings is published elsewhere for the information of shareholders and policy holders.)

No 299

## Order Nisi

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 797

In the matter of the estate and effects of the late Ramanathar Kandiah of Karaitivoe West

Deceased.  
Kandiah Markandoo Karaitivoe West

Vs. Petitioner.  
Kandiah Kathiravelu of Karaitivoe West presently of Federated Malay States.

Respondent.

This matter coming on for disposal before C. Coomaraswamy Esquire, District Judge, Jaffna on the 8th day of November 1939 in the presence of Mr. P. Sabaratnam Proctor on the part of the petitioner and the affidavit of the petitioner dated the 14th day of October 1939 having been read

It is ordered that the petitioner as the son and one of the heirs of the said deceased is entitled to take out Letters of Administration to the estate of the said deceased and that Letters of Administration to the estate of the deceased be issued to him unless the respondent appears before the Court on the 18th Day of December 1939 and show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of the Court to the contrary.

This 15th day of November 1939

(Sgd.) C. Coomaraswamy  
District Judge

Extended for 12-2-40  
(Sgd.) C. Coomaraswamy  
District Judge

(O. 70. 1 & 5-3-40)

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