

# THE Hindu Organ.



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NO. 4.

## Tyranny of Missionaries

Mr. S. Arunachalam, Teacher, Driehers's College, Chavakachcheri, giving evidence before the Select Committee on Official Languages, advocated the immediate introduction of the national languages as the official languages each language to be the official language of the respective areas. But for all governmental transactions and inter-departmental purposes both languages should be adopted. As regards international dealings, the witness said that the medium should be the language of the country with which Ceylon would have more dealings namely Hindi.

As regards education he suggested that after the 3rd standard children should be made to study the other national language and English be made optional after the 5th.

In reply to a question put by Dr. Kannangara the witness replied that owing to the tyranny of the missionaries no Hindu could go up to the top on the staff of a Mission school.

Mr. P. Ragupathy and Mr. T. Muthucumaran, giving evidence on behalf of the Ceylon Tamils Association were of the opinion that both languages should be the official languages and English should also be in addition to the two during the transition period. They were for the continuation of the present scheme of education with the change of making English compulsory from the 3rd to the 5th standard and afterwards optional. In the University English should be continued as the medium of instruction. As regards the judiciary they favoured the immediate introduction of the national languages.

## Trifling with Justice

S Thambithurai, Advocate, said in the course of his evidence that if the Committee seriously considered the question of nationalisation he would suggest the making of the national languages compulsory after the 3rd standard.

With regard to the judiciary, the witness observed that the introduction of the national languages at present would amount to trifling with justice. Education should precede the change and it should be a natural evolution and not a forced one. The matter if left to posterity would be better.

The witness wanted to know from the Chairman why it was suggested in the questionnaire that the codification of the laws should be preferably in one. "If you ask me" the witness said, Tamil is the best language economically.

## Federation with India

Mr. K Shanmugam, Bar-at-law, in the course of his evidence, said that some irresponsible witnesses

## Official Languages Question.

### WHY CODIFICATION OF LAW IN ONE LANGUAGE PREFERABLE?

#### Chairman Unable To Answer

had urged that Sinhalese should be the only official language -

**Chairman:** Tamil and English as well.

**Mr. Shanmugam:** If it is so, I say that Tamil should be the only official language.

**Chairman:** Then, are you too an irresponsible witness?

**Mr. Shanmugam:** If Sinhalese is to be the only official language, then the Northern and Eastern parts of Ceylon will have to federate with India.

Continuing the witness said that he was in agreement with the decision of the State Council that Sinhalese and Tamil should be the official languages of the Island. He was also in favour of the immediate adoption of the national languages in proceedings of the law courts.

**Mr. S. N. Rajadurai, Advocate,** giving evidence next said that English could not be dispensed with until proficiency had been attained in the national languages. It was not possible to fix a period of time for the transition as it depended on the progress made in the national languages and educational system.

With regard to the judiciary Mr. Rajadurai observed that, by the examination of witnesses in English the clients had not suffered.

**Dr. Kannangara:** But the general opinion is that people have suffered.

**Mr. Rajadurai:** If they have suffered for many years, why not suffer for another 25 years?

Continuing Mr. Rajadurai wanted to know who was responsible for the suggestion that the codification of the laws should be, preferably in one language.

**Dr. Kannangara:** Perhaps someone suggested in the memorandum.

## English Must Remain

Mr. J. V. Chelliah, Retired Vice-Principal, Jaffna College, giving evidence next, said that the mother tongue should be made compulsory up to the 5th standard and that in the post primary classes the mother tongue and English should hold an important place. Sinhalese could be made an optional subject because it was necessary that the people should be more in touch with the world through English than with the Sinhalese brethren through Sinhalese.

He was also of the opinion that no school leaving certificate should be issued to a student unless he had passed in his mother tongue. It should be the same with regard to the Entrance Examination. The medium of instruction at the University should absolutely be English. No degree should be awarded unless

a severe test in the mother tongue had been passed.

Inter-departmental business should be in English and Governmental dealings with the public should be in the mother tongue. But old government servants should never be expected to learn another tongue.

As regards the judiciary, the witness was of the opinion that the practice of conducting proceedings in the vernacular at Village Tribunals could be, if possible, extended up to the District Courts. But the Supreme Courts should not at all be touched.

## Radical Change in Laws Necessary

Mr. R. U. Proctor, Retired Chief Tamil Interpreter to the Governor giving evidence, said that he would prefer to have English for international purposes. He felt that in some way or other English, being a world language, must be retained. A college or university exclusively for such purposes was necessary. As regards inter-departmental work he was of the opinion that the quality of work would not require a very high standard in the government.

Referring to the judiciary, Mr. Proctor said that the Britishers had evolved a system of justice suited to their own sense of justice. But British Law, he felt, was not suited to Ceylon; Ceylonese sense of justice was different. Patience and a master's hand were required to effect the transformation. It was possible to examine witnesses in the vernacular provided the judges had an adequate knowledge of them. He suggested a radical change in the system of laws that obtains in the country at present. To effect such a reform one had to retrace his steps back to 1500.

As regards the University the medium of instruction should continue to be English until such time as there was a good number of textbooks in the national languages.

## Eruptions of Soulbury Report

Mr. C. T. Navaratnam, Proctor, giving evidence next, said that English ought to continue to be the official language of the country until the different races of the Island were united. If at this juncture the decision of the State Council were implemented, it would be to the detriment of the country.

The mother tongue would be the medium of instruction in the primary classes. After that it should be English.

"Certain elements are trying to impose on the Tamils the eruptions

of the Soulbury Report," said the witness. "At the courts too," he said, "there need be no change." The present system may go on."

The Northern Province Teachers' Association stated in their memorandum submitted to the Select Committee?

"We may observe that the adoption of both the languages on terms of parity will unify the Sinhalese-speaking and Tamil-speaking peoples, while, on the contrary, the imposition of a single language like Sinhalese will aggravate communal differences, and will be viewed as a denial of a fundamental right. We take it that the Sinhalese people seek to substitute their language for English on the ground that the continuance of a foreign language hinders national regeneration. That very argument holds with greater force against making Sinhalese the only official language, as far as the Tamil speaking population of Ceylon is concerned for, while English is a window to world culture, Sinhalese is not. And it must not be forgotten that the Tamil-speaking population of Ceylon is not an insignificant minority, but number nearly two and a half millions.

Referring to the suggestion that the codification of the laws should be preferably in one language, the memorandum stated?

"We are strongly of opinion that the entire body of law should be codified in both Sinhalese and Tamil, and protest emphatically against the suggestion that it be done in one language only. It is again a denial of a fundamental right."

## By Slow Stages

Dr. S. Subramaniam, Retired Provincial Surgeon, Dr. C. Kandiah, Medical Supt., Civil Hospital, Jaffna and Dr. K. Cathiravelu gave evidence on behalf of the Clinical Society, Jaffna.

Dr. Kandiah, who acted as spokesman of the deputation, stated that inter-departmental business should be conducted in English for the present. The period of transition should be over 25 years. They were also of the opinion that both national languages should be the official languages.

Both languages should be taught compulsorily from a very early stage.

(Continued on page 5)

## New Year Day At Jaffna Jail

The Jaffna Saiva Paripalana Sabhas, as usual, making arrangements to help the prisoners at the Jaffna jail to celebrate the Hindu New Year day on Saturday next. Religious worship lectures on Saiva religion and good conduct and feeding of the Hindu prisoners will be among the chief items of the celebration.



## NOTICE

There will be no issues of the **Hindu Organ** on the 16th and 19th inst. on account of the Hindu New Year holidays. The Office and Printing Works will be closed from the 13th and re-opened on the 19th inst.

MANAGER.



## Hindu Organ

FRIDAY, APRIL 12, 1946.

### THE NEW YEAR

OUR New Year *Viya* begins tomorrow. It also marks the beginning, let us hope, of a new era of peace and prosperity. During the past six years New Year days failed to bring the usual joy and happiness to our homes. Starvation, death and destruction held all parts of the globe in their grip. Now that the enemies of mankind have been destroyed, humanity will be able once more to live in freedom and security. But the aftermath of war still remains. Ceylon is confronted with a grave scarcity of food and clothing. The position in India in regard to food is not much better. During the coming year the people of our Island will be compelled by the force of circumstances to concern themselves with the question of food and cloth more than they ever did before.

The year that is coming to an end has seen many changes in the private, social and political lives of our people. The blunders of the Government have brought into existence a blackmarket in all commodities which shows no sign of disappearing. It is here that surpluses are being sold and necessities bought by a great number of consumers. It will be the duty of all those who are genuinely interested in the public weal to examine closely and impartially the relation of official policy to this phenomenon, so that, at least hereafter, this country may be able to avoid social and economic experiments which do not make for the happiness of the people.

Socially, peace has brought in its train incipient signs of unrest and a desire for greater freedom and equality as between man and man. The new spirit must be guided along proper channels so that society in our midst may acquire a greater degree of cohesion than it had possessed hitherto. The causes of this change are not far to seek. In the main they must be sought in the improvement brought about by the war in the economic condition of a class of people who never before enjoyed their present measure of prosperity.

This improvement has led to certain untoward results as well. The drink habit is on the increase and so are violent crimes. Criminals who had found lucrative employment in the service of the military or local defence organisations are now free to devote their attention to questionable methods of making easy money.

In the field of education the year *Parthipa* has seen violent changes. In most schools free education, the greatest experiment of the century, and the adoption of the mother-tongue as the medium of instruction in the primary classes, have revolutionised our system of education. Formerly many a school had to starve for want of children; unemployment was rife among the teachers; but now the scales have been turned. But, at the same time these changes in our system of education have also given rise to certain pressing problems. Are the parents of our children to shape the latter's future? Or are they to hand over all responsibility to the State and sit with folded hands? Is the spiritual value of the education given in schools belonging to the denomination of the majority of the pupils to be smothered and extinguished? These are some of the questions which many a parent is asking himself and on the answer will depend the future trend of our educational policy.

Politically, the Tamils have received a setback which is unprecedented in the history of the Island. Out of the 95 seats in the new Parliament, the Ceylon Tamils can count upon securing only one-eighth. There is another development which is far more sinister. The policies initiated by the Ministers threaten to impose on the people of this Island, regardless of race or creed, a dictatorship which is the very negation of that democracy to which we are looking forward under the new Constitution. Taxes have been increased and the mis-handling of public funds which has been a prominent feature of the last 15 years shows no sign of abating.

It, therefore, behoves not only all true and patriotic Tamil leaders but also every thinking man and woman in our Island to search their hearts and see whether they have done their duty by their country in the past. So far as the Tamils are concerned, the failure of the Tamil Congress should not blind them to the great service rendered by that body under its able leaders. It is on the foundation of this failure that a new policy has to be built up which will enable the Tamils to contribute their legitimate share to the sum total of national progress. It is also quite possible that the New Year will also see the first general election under the new Constitution. The people of Ceylon owe it to themselves to exercise the ut-

### Excise Commission

## TREE-TAX SYSTEM A SUCCESS

### G. A.'s CONSIDERED OPINION

The Government Agent, Jaffna, the Superintendent of Police, the Asst. Excise Commissioner and the Superintendent of Excise were of the opinion that the tree-tax system was definitely a success in Jaffna.

The Commission consisting of Messrs. A. F. Molamure (Chairman), P. de S. Kularatne, Thomas Amarasuriya, S. Natesan, R. S. S. Gunawardena and H. de D. Z. Sirwardena with Mr. G. W. Nicholas as Secretary commenced its sittings at the Committee Room of the Town Hall last Wednesday morning.

The Government Agent, Mr. C. Coomaraswamy, giving evidence first, stated that though he did not make a special study of the tree-tax system he found that it worked very successfully. There was no evidence of any increased intoxication. Nor was there any signs of women drinking. He, as a little child, was allowed to take toddy as a medicine. The objects for which the tree-tax system was introduced were definitely achieved.

The Pallas and Nalavas who were the toddy-tappers were well off after the introduction of the tree-tax system. There was a considerable increase in their incomes. If any attempt were made to control the price of toddy, it would be to create a black market in toddy. He also favoured the increase of the tax on trees.

As regards arrack the Chairman made the suggestion that all sales of arrack by the bottle at the tavern should be stopped and only sold by foreign liquor shops to registered consumers.

Mr. Coomaraswamy feared that the bottles would find their way into the black market again by the renter appointing his own nominees. He could evolve a nominee system of his own.

Mr. Molamure said that, however, they would not go out of the local option area, because all registered consumers will have to show sufficient proof that they were from that particular area.

Continuing Mr. Coomaraswamy said that it was quite possible that the tree-tax system provided an easy access to the student population to drink. But it was his considered opinion that on the whole the tree-tax system worked very successfully.

R. S. S. Gunawardena: The students in Colombo are found drunk on the streets.

Mr. Osman de Silva, Superintendent of Police, Jaffna, in his evidence stated that there were 59 cases of drunkenness for last year in the Northern Province. He was not aware of any women or children drinking toddy. There was also a decrease in crime, but he was not able to say that the decrease was directly due

most care in selecting their representatives. It will be the duty of the Tamils to see that their representatives are men who will permit nothing to stand in the way of their serving the interests of the country as a whole and of giving their own people the protection which circumstances may require. It is a great responsibility. It cannot be discharged by any one calling to his aid the corruption that has hitherto degraded every election campaign. It is our earnest hope that the leaders of the people will realise their duty to guide and educate the masses on right lines. We wish our readers a happy and prosperous New Year.

to the tree-tax system.

Mr. V. S. Karthigesu, Proctor, J. P., U. M., giving evidence next observed that the Thenmaradchy Mahajana Sabha, of which he was president, represented two-thirds of the Jaffna District and that that area was in a highly neglected condition. The members representing that area in the State Council never cared to visit the place.

He was for the retention of the tree-tax system with certain improvements to it. He would prefer to have toddy marts that would be under the supervision of Excise officers.

"My ideal is total prohibition" he said, but he would prefer the lesser of the two evils.

He wanted the Commission to make a note of the strong protest he entered against the suggestion that Jaffna women were drinking. There was a tendency for students after their 15th year to drink. The figures submitted by the Police for cases of drunkenness could not be accepted as a conclusive proof of the fewness of the cases of drunkenness. He urged that severe sentences should in the future be imposed for illicit tapping of toddy. He also alleged that Excise officers were compounding such offences.

Mr. A. Murugesu, Superintendent of Excise, stated that the tree-tax system worked very successfully and that the objects for which the system was introduced, namely, fresh toddy and decrease gregarious drinking, were achieved. Because toddy was available very freely there was no drunkenness. There were no signs of increased intoxication.

"Toddy is the only noon meal to many", said Mr. Murugesu.

Mr. T. P. Wadugodapitiya, Asst. Commissioner of Excise, Jaffna, said that he had never seen women or children drinking. The tree-tax system worked very successfully. He was also of the opinion that it could be introduced into other parts of Ceylon as well. There was much opposition to the tree-tax system in Jaffna on account of social and caste systems prevailing in the Peninsula.

He also stated that there was corruption in the Excise Department, but it was very much less than it was before.

Mr. S. P. Nadarajah, Member, Urban Council, Jaffna said that the tree-tax system was much better than the tavern system and that the former was the cause of the emancipation of the depressed classes. There were, he admitted, certain difficulties in the functioning of the system in Jaffna town, but they could be eliminated. In the interests of the future generation certain safeguards should be taken. The question of women and children drinking, if it was so, was a social one.

He favoured the introduction of a dual control in the matter of licensing trees, and permits for the tapping of sweet-toddy. He felt that a slight increase on the taxes on trees tapped for toddy would not have any effect. He also felt that the salary scales in the Excise Department should be revised immediately, because poor pay was an added inducement towards bribery and corruption.

Mr. V. Kandasamy, Secretary, Vaddukodai Welfare League, giving evidence on behalf of the League, said that he was in favour of the re-introduction of the tavern system. He did not at all favour the economic upliftment of any section of the people by a vicious trade.

Though he was for total prohibition, he would prefer the lesser of the two evils, namely, tavern-system,

(Continued on page 5)



**SAIVA MAHA SABAI,  
KURUNEGALA**

Saiva Siddhanta Shastras to be translated by Swami, Vipulananda

The sixteenth anniversary of the Kurunegala Saiva Maha Sabai was celebrated in the Sabai Hall on the 31st ultimo under the presidentship of Mr. T. Chinniah. Proceedings commenced at 9-30 a.m. and continued till nightfall.

At the business meeting held in the morning, the following office-bearers were elected unanimously for the ensuing year:—Patron: Mr. P. Thambyrajah, Proctor; President: Mr. T. Chinniah; Vice-President: Messrs. A. Subramaniam, S. K. Alvapillai, and M. Swaminathan Hony. Secretary: Mr. S. Sadacharam; Asst. Secretary: Mr. K. Kasilingam; Treasurer: Mr. S. Nagalingam; Asst. Treasurer: Mr. P. Chinniah; Librarian: Mr. K. Paranjothy; Auditors: Messrs. P. Mylvaganam and K. Tharmarajah.

The following were elected members of the executive committee:—Messrs. T. Seevaratnam, S. Rasiab, S. A. Murugesu, K. Muthalithamby, K. Thanotharampillai, S. Manikarajah, V. Alvapillai, K. Kanagaratnam, S. Kahirgamaththamby, V. A. Chelliah, and Dr. S. Murugesapillai.

In the afternoon, Mrs. Ehambi-hai Karthigesu, Miss. Saraswathy, Messrs. M. Swaminathan, K. Tharmarajah, C. Selvanayagam, P. Naidu and R. Kasilingam entertained the audience with carnatic music. This was followed by a lecture on "Nenchu Vidu Thoothu" by Srimath Swami Vipulananda under the presidentship of the patron Mr. P. Thambyrajah. Swamiji dwelt on the essence of "The Saiva Siddhanta Philosophy" as exemplified in "Nenchu Vidu Thoothu" and exhorted the audience to study it. He struck a personal note and said that at the request of the "Thiruvavaduthurai Atheenam" he would soon start translating the Saiva Siddhanta Shastras into English for the benefit of those who cannot study them in the original. Just before the commencement of the lecture, Swamiji unveiled in the Sabai Hall a photograph of the late Mr. Vairamuttu Sithambarappillai (retired Superintendent of Minor Roads) who was one of the founders of the Sabai.

**Another Step Forward**

The Maternity Ward of the Co-operative Union Hospital Society Ltd, built at a cost of about Rs. 24000/- was declared open in the presence of a large gathering of members and well-wishers by Dr. S. Subramaniam J. P. at 5 p.m. on 30-3-46.

Dr. C. Chelliah the President of the Society said that it was not only a privilege, but an honour to all of them to have in their midst one who was held in high esteem by everyone in Jaffna. He reminded those present that the foundation stone for the Administration Block was laid by that large-hearted gentleman in 1937. His touch always brought prosperity to the Hospital and as such Dr. C. Chelliah thought that there was none more worthy than that venerable doctor to give another touch to the institution. He had great pleasure in calling upon Dr. Subra-

**LAND FOR SALE**

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA No 212 Guardianship.

The following two lands are for sale. Intending buyers shall make their offers in writing stating the prices (in words and figures) to the Secretary, District Court, Jaffna or to the undersigned to reach him not later than 30th April 1946

1. All that piece of land situated at Araly East (touching North and South) called "Konthaiyan Vayal and Kamalankudai" in extent Thirty Nine Lachams of paddy Culture and four and three fourth Kulies (39 Lms. P. C. & 4, 3/4 Kls) on the West and bounded on the East and North by the property of the heirs of Bagavathiammah wife of Sabaratnam, West by the property of Nagammah wife of Ponniah and South by the property of Manikkam wife of Visuvalingam.

2. All that piece of land situated at Araly South called "Konthaiyan-vayal" in extent Sixteen and a quarter Lachams of Paddy Culture (16, 1/4 Lms P. C.) and one fourth share of the well standing therein and bounded on the East by Channel, North by the property belonging to the Vannai Vaitheesparan Temple, West by the properties of Ponnambalam Kandiah and another and South by the property of Nagammah wife of Ponniah

M. R. KARALASINGHAM, Proctor & Notary.

Jaffna, 30-3-46. (Mis. 19, 12.)

**BUSINESS**

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T. N. RATNAM  
82, Ampang Street,  
Kuala Lumpur,  
F. M. S.

(Mis. 9, 9-4 to 13-5-46)

maniam to open the ward (apause.)

Dr. Subramaniam opened the ward and walked round the building followed by a host of others. In the course of his speech he said that to achieve success co-ordination of three vital factors was essential namely the State, the community or joint-effort and the individual. He thanked the committee for having invited him.

Mehandiram M. Krishnar referred to the sterling qualities of the honoured guest and said that every one in Jaffna knew of the moral and financial contributions the veteran doctor had lavishly made to a number of institutions.

Dr. K. Kathiravelu in wishing the hospital accelerated progress said that the institution was the only one of its kind in the world. The members were fortunate in having as their President a selfless worker in the person of Dr. C. Chelliah whose untiring efforts alone were responsible for what the institution was that day.

Dr. C. Chelliah disowned these laurels and attributed the progress of the hospital to the co-operation and harmony that existed among the members and staff and the splendid work done by Dr. M. O. Chacko and Dr. N. T. Sampanthan.

The programme ended with a vote of thanks by the Hon Secretary Mr. V. Subramaniam.

**NEW YEAR  
CONCESSION SALE  
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To 23rd APRIL  
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**OPENS AT ESPLANADE JAFFNA  
on Friday, 12th April 1946  
at 9-30 p. m.**

under the distinguished patronage and presence of  
**C. COOMARASWAMY Esq., C. C. S.**  
Government Agent, N. P., Jaffna.

RATES:— Family Box (4) Rs 25/- Single Box Rs. 7/-  
Reserved Rs 5/- Rs. 3/- Rs. 2/- Gallery Re. 1/-

**DAILY 2 SHOWS AT 6 AND 9.30 P. M.  
SATURDAY AND SUNDAY MATINEE AT 3 P. M.**

Mis. 10, 9-4 to 30-4-46.

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(Mis. 15, 12-4 to 11-9-46.)

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(Mis. 24, 4, 12/1-17/9) P



# Parameshvara College Carnival

## AND

# SILVER JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

(AT THE COLLEGE GROUNDS DAILY FROM 4 P. M.)

### 14th TO 20th MAY, 1946.

WILL BE OPENED BY  
**HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR**  
 On Tuesday 14th May, 1946 at 5-00 p. m.

### EXHIBITIONS

BY THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRIES  
 " THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
 " THE CEYLON GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS  
 " THE GOVERNMENT AGENT AND D. R. O's. OF JAFFNA (ARTS AND CRAFTS)  
 " THE EDUCATION OFFICER AND INSPECTORS OF SCHOOLS OF JAFFNA (EDUCATIONAL)

### AMUSEMENTS

Merry-Go-Round; Giant Wheel; Mat-Slides; Aeroplane-Swing;  
 Games of Skill (Twenty Kinds)

### CHILDREN'S SECTION

DWARAKA—All enchantments of Lord Krishna's Court and other festivities in galore  
 RAMANATHAN COLLEGE SECTION—Music, Drama and Tableaus

### MUSIC AND CONCERTS

BY RENOWNED AMATEURS AND PROFESSIONALS, AND BY JAFFNA SCHOOL CHILDREN



### MUTH-THAMIL VILA

LECTURES BY EMINENT SCHOLARS, MUSIC RECITALS AND DRAMAS

**Srimathi M. S. Subbulakshmi**

OF ALL-INDIA FAME, AND PARTY

WILL GIVE RECITALS

(EXACT DATE WILL BE ANNOUNCED LATER)

### DANCES

By Well-Known Artistes from India

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LEADING FIRMS OF JAFFNA, COLOMBO AND MADRAS

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EXQUISITE DELICACIES PROVIDED BY EXPERT LADIES OF JAFFNA, COLOMBO  
 AND OTHER PLACES.

Special Buses and other forms of transport will be available  
 till late in the night.

REMEMBER IT IS IN WESAK WEEK.

**This Carnival is about the biggest planned out in Jaffna.**

THERE WILL BE ENCHANTMENTS THAT YOU HAVE NEVER SEEN BEFORE.

S. Natesan,  
 President.

C. N. Deva Rajan,  
 Publicity Secretary.

S. Sivapathasuntharam; M. R. Karalasingham,  
 General Secretaries.



## Official Languages Question

(Continued from page 1)

English should also be made compulsory for higher studies

In conclusion he observed that the process of changing over should be gradual and transition be spread over a long period.

Mr. S. R. Kanaganayagam, Advocate, and President, Nationalist Tamils, lead the deputation of that body. The following are extracts from the memorandum of the Nationalist Tamils' Committee:-

"The imposing of the language of one people upon another, according to History, has been the preliminary step taken by imperialistic conquerors like the British, the Japanese and Germans to impose their imperial domination, on the subject peoples with a view to destroying their national consciousness. That such an outrageous suggestion, to make Sinhalese the official language of the Tamil-speaking peoples should have emanated from responsible Sinhalese on the eve of Ceylon attaining Dominion Status passes our understanding. We trust it was motivated purely by questions of expediency and the outcome of immature political thinking. We realise that suggestions of this kind are the inevitable result of the communal way of thinking fostered in this country by communal organisations in the recent past."

"The Tamils were among the earliest to react against this state of affairs and Tamils consistently supported the cause of National Self-Government in the full hope that their fundamental rights and liberties in regard to language and culture would be restored. But the suggestion to impose the Sinhalese language on the Tamil-speaking people or in any other way to give a sub-ordinate position to the Tamil language in Ceylon, will shatter the national aspirations of the Tamil people. Any such attempt to give their language a sub-ordinate place in their own country or to impose the Sinhalese language on the Tamils would be looked upon as a gross denial of their fundamental rights. The Nationalist Tamils Committee feels it their painful duty to warn the Government against such undemocratic act as they shall be compelled to resist this suppression of national rights."

The suggestion to have both Sinhalese and Tamil as official languages is not without precedent in other countries. The linguistic groups in Belgium as found in the 1925 Census is as follows:-

French only 2,850,825; Flemish only 3,185,100; German only 16,863; French & Flemish 967,813; French & German 45,206; Flemish & German 2,336; French, Flemish & German 33,862.

French was the official language till 1898. As a result of the Flemish agitation since 1840 the act of 1898 provided absolute equality for the Flemish language in legislative and administrative spheres. In 1912 a private Bill provided for converting the University of Ghent into a Flemish University, in 1914 elementary education in the Flemish Districts was guaranteed in the Flemish language. All these acts provided the Flemish Belgians absolute equality of treatment not merely in law but in fact. It however did not separate the Flemings from their Walloon compatriots, nor did they form themselves into separate political parties. By guaranteeing equality of treatment the French-speaking and the Flemish-speaking peoples instead of being divided were unified.

"In South-Africa the most important provision in the Constitution is that both English and the Dutch (Africans) languages are official languages of the Union, and are treated on a footing of equality."

"In Switzerland by the Federal

Constitution of 1874 German, French and Italian are recognised as "National Languages" for the purpose of debates in the Federal Parliament and for the public notification of Federal Laws and Decrees. The main linguistic groups in Switzerland as per Census of 1920 were as follows:-

German speaking	2,750,622
French ..	824,320
Italian ..	238,544
Romanesch ..	42,940
Other languages	23,894

It will be noticed that though the French and Italian populations are only 21.2 per cent and 6.1 per cent respectively, the French and Italian Languages are given equality of treatment. National official languages with parity of status with the German language spoken by 70.9 of the population.

The resolution of the State Council seeks to adopt both Sinhalese and Tamil as official languages. This Select Committee was appointed with a view to exploring ways and means of implementing the said resolution. It is therefore irregular and improper on the part of the Select Committee to encourage evidence on the basis of one official language. The Nationalist Tamils Committee on behalf of the Tamil-speaking people of this country enters an emphatic protest against the attempts in the course of this inquiry to sabotage in any way the object of the original resolution of the State Council."

"The Nationalist Tamil Committee would urge on the Select Committee the advisability of securing authentic and first hand information concerning the transition from English to the national languages that is taking place in some of the Indian States and Provinces. The Committee should specially study the case of States and Provinces where more languages than one are at present in use—authentic information concerning the use of English, Malayalam and Tamil as official languages in the State of Travancore will be very illuminating. The Committee may also find it extremely useful to gather information concerning the use of two or more official languages in Canada, South Africa, Belgium and Switzerland. The Committee would find it also useful to study the transition to national languages that are imminent in India. The position of English and Hindi in the future self-governing India will undoubtedly have lessons for Ceylon."

"The Select Committee may recommend at this stage that immediately it be made permissive to use Sinhalese and Tamil languages in the transaction of business with the general public—for example in regard to public inquiries, interviews, correspondence, notices, circulars etc. Any recommendation to make it mandatory should be introduced in the form of legislation."

"The changes in official languages should not jeopardise the prospects in regard to transfers or promotions of the public servants already in service. The principle of safeguarding the rights of public servants in service in the event of similar changes is embodied as one of the articles of the constitution of the Union of South Africa. In regard to new entrants sufficient notice (say of a period of not less than 5 years) should be given to enable students and schools to adapt themselves to the new situation. Examination Boards should be carefully planned and set up and steps should be taken to avoid discrimination on the plausible plea of lack of proficiency in the national languages."

"The policy in regard to official languages and the principle of equality of treatment for both Sinhalese and Tamil languages should be embodied explicitly as one of the articles of the new constitution. It will allay the fears of the Tamil-speaking peoples and prevent in the future any tinkering at fundamental linguistic

## The Elephant Rock At Kurunegala

BY R. C. P.

A. V. M's reference to the Elephant Rock is interesting. The *Gala Bandara Temple* at the foot of it, shall always remain as a memorial to the tortuous diplomacy of the Sinhalese courtiers of the middle ages. The Jaffna King Arya Chakravart—was lord paramount over the princes. Bhuvanaka Bahu I who was raised to the throne by the Ariyan soldiers in 1277 A. D. fixed his capital at Subhagala (Yapah). He secretly nursed the ambition to have the Wannis under his sway. To realise his ambition he must have an ally to pick the chestnut from the fire. So he sent an embassy to a King of Persia at Yemen—a Muslim. In his missive to the King, he stated that he was the Lord of the Ceylon Pearl fisheries and had a powerful fleet. Sending the Persian King valuable presents, he said that his kingdom might be deemed as the Persian King's own. He asked his alliance. The Ariya Chakravarti got wind of the purpose of the embassy. Before the embassy could reach Persia, Arya Chakravarti invaded Subhagala, took the venerable Tooth-relic and all the solid wealth that was at Subhagala and returned. At this period the Jaffna Kingdom was a unit of a confederacy, the chief of which was Kubasahera, King of the Pandyas to whom the Tooth-relic was sent. Bhuvanaka Bahu I disappears and Subhagala passes to the sovereignty of the Jaffna King. The *Vaipavimalai* puts down the cause of the war to the unwarranted claim of Bhuvanaka Bahu to the Pearl Fisheries. The Sinhalese capital moved on to Kurunegala and Parakrama Bahu III became the King. The embassy returned with a Persian lady who was intended to be the Queen to Bhuvanaka Bahu. Her retinue took up quarters at Mal'owa pitiya at the Northern gate of the new palace, and she becoming the queen of the successor of Bhuvanaka Bahu. Wati-ma (Fatima) Kumaraya was the prince born to this queen. This prince was to succeed to the throne as was usual in those days for a powerful ally to impose it as a condition when two royal families were joined in alliance.

The story of floating gold vessel which is alleged to have lured the prince to his doom is a myth. He was invited as head of the State religion to attend to State paraphernalia to a religious ceremony at the Pansala on the summit of the rock. He was done to death there. Thus was the aristocracy of Kurunegala saved, the Sinhalese throne passing to a Mussalman.

There is a myth which claims to account for the shape of the rocks surrounding the town of Kurunegala. A Lunu gala (tortoise) &c. Some animals in a season of drought wended their way towards Wenoruwe tank in search of water. A young girl fearing that they were going to deprive the village people of their water supply, put down a lump of salt in front of the queen and prayed to the gods. Immediately they were petrified.

rights by extremist communal politicians. There are precedents for such constitutional provisions in the constitution of the Union of South Africa and of the Federal Constitution of Switzerland."

## Tree-Tax System A Success

Continued from page 2)

Mr. A. P. Thambyah, President of the North-Ceylon Toddy-tappers' Union, giving evidence, stated that his Union was of 30 years standing and that the reason for the disappearance of the tavern system was the curses of the victimised toddy-tappers. This agitation for the re-introduction of the tavern-system was the aftermath of the Villundi incident.

He advocated the drinking of toddy, because it was good for health. Free licenses should be issued for the tapping of sweet-toddy. The allegation that the price of toddy was exorbitant was not true as the economic condition necessitated it. The price was fluctuating in proportion to the economic condition.

He also wanted arrack distilleries to be established throughout the Peninsula.

Mr. N. Arunachalam was for the retention of the tree-tax system with certain improvements.

Mr. A. M. Brodie was also of the same opinion.

## All-Ceylon Saiva Conference

Under the auspices of the All-Ceylon Saiva Young Men's Central Association, the above Congress will be held at the Jaffna Hindu College Vernacular School Hall on the 18th, 19th and 20th inst. commencing at 9.3 a.m. each day.

On the first day, Mr. S. Shivanadasundaram, B. A. will preside and the welcome address will be delivered by Mr. C. Nagiah. Mr. M. Ganapragasam B. A., B. Sc. Pundit K. P. Ratnam B. A., B. O. L., and Srimathi K. S. Kanchanamalai Ammaiyar will be the principal speakers.

On Friday the 19th inst. Mr. S. Natesan, M. S. C. will preside and Vidwan K. Kartigesu B. A., Messrs S. Balasubramaniam, T. Kumaraswami Pilla, T. K. Sivaguru and Srimathi K. S. Kanchanamalai Ammaiyar will be the chief speakers.

On Saturday Mr. S. Shivadasundaram will preside and the following will be the chief speakers: Messrs A. Thiagarajah, M. A., M. Litt, T. M. Krishnaswami Iyer, Chief Justice of Travancore, V. Kandiah, Srimathi M. Amirthambikai and Srimathi K. S. Kanchanamalai Ammaiyar.

Several resolutions will be passed and prizes awarded to those who came off successful at the religious examinations of the Association and of the South Indian Saiva Siddhanta Samajam.

## WEDDING

### Mahendrarajah—Jayarane

The marriage of MAHENDRARAJAH, son of Mr. K. S. Arulnandhy, Principal, Government Training College, with JAYARANE, daughter of Mr. S. Ambalavanar, Assistant Superintendent of Surveys, will take place according to Hindu rites at the bride's residence at Chetty Street, Nallur, Jaffna on Monday, the 22nd instant, at 9 a.m. Reception at the bridegroom's residence, Neithalankanal, Beach Road, Point Pedro, at 4 p.m. on the same day. Friends and relations are cordially invited to both functions. (Mis. 20, 12)

## CHANGE OF NAME

I Kanagasabai Thambimuttu of Co-operative Office, Jaffna, do hereby inform the Government and the General Public that from today I will be known and sign as Kanagasabai Thuraiappah. (Age 32). 9.4.46. K. THURAIAPPAH (Mis. 18, 12 & 23)



## ORDER NISI

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA  
Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 504

In the matter of the estate of the late  
Sivanakiavathy wife of Kirthikesu  
Thambapillai of Mulla'am

Deceased,

1. Subramaniam Natarajah and wife  
2. Sabhivathy both of Mulla'am

Vs Petitioners:

1. S. Thambirajah and wife, 2.  
Meenadhipillai both of Seramban  
F. M. S., 3. Ramucpillai Nam-  
siyayam Sivsambo of Madras, 4. Ra-  
mupillai Namsivayam Sivaraka-  
sum of Mulla'am 5. Kanakasabai  
Rajasabai of Karativu, 6. Vythilina-  
kam Swaminathan and wife, 7. Leela-  
vathy both of Madras, 8. Ramupil-  
lai Ramanathar of Bidulla (minor)  
and 9. Thambipillai Sabaratnam  
of Jaffna Respondents.

This matter coming on for disposal  
before A. V. Kulasingam Esquire  
Acting District Judge Jaffna on the  
14th day of December 1945 in the  
presence of Mr. S. T. Rajaretnam  
Proctor on the part of the petitioners  
and on reading the affidavit and peti-  
tion of the petitioners.

It is ordered that the abovenamed  
9th respondent be appointed guardian  
ad litem over the minor the above-  
named 8th respondent for the pur-  
pose of representing him and acting  
on his behalf in the testamentary  
proceedings of the estate of the above-  
named deceased and that the peti-  
tioners be declared entitled to letters  
of administration to the estate of the  
abovenamed deceased and that the  
same be issued to them accordingly  
unless the abovenamed respondents  
shall on or before the 27th day of  
February 1946 appear before this  
Court and show sufficient cause to  
the satisfaction of this Court to the  
contrary.

This 18th day of February 1946.

Sgd. R. R. Selvadurai,  
District Judge.

Time to show cause is  
extended for 9th May 1946.

Intd. R. R. S.  
D. J.

(O. 2, 9 & 12)

## ORDER NISI

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA  
(Sitting at Point Pedro)

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 305PT

In the matter of the intestate estate  
of the late Arumugam Nagamany  
of Puloly East, Point Pedro.

Seellamuthu widow of Nizamany of  
Puloly East, Petitioner.

1. Nagamany Subramaniam, 2.  
Nagamany Ponniah, 3. Nagamany  
Kanakasabai, 4. Sinnathamby Thar-  
malingam, 5. and wife Rasamanic-  
am all of Puloly East

Respondents.

This matter coming on for disposal  
before Eardley Wijeyawardena  
Esquire, Additional District Judge on  
the 27th day of March 1946 in the  
presence of Mr. M. Esurapadham,  
Proctor for the petitioner and on  
reading the Petition and affidavit of  
the Petitioner dated the 26th day of  
March 1946.

It is ordered that the Petitioner be  
declared entitled to obtain Letters of  
Administration to the estate of the  
deceased Arumugam Nagamany as  
widow of the said deceased and that  
Letters of Administration be accord-  
ingly issued to the petitioner unless  
the respondents appear before this  
court on or before the 9th day of  
May, 1946 and show cause to the  
satisfaction of this court to the  
contrary.

This 27th day of March, 1946.

(Sgd) E. Wijeyawardena  
Addl. District Judge

Drawn by  
Sgd. M. Esurapadham  
Proctor for Petitioner.

(O. 6, 9 & 12)

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[M/S 248, 15-3-46 to 14-7-47.]

## ORDER NISI

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA  
Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 376

In the matter of the estate of the  
late Vairamuttu Sundaram of  
Aolchuvay Deceased.

Vairamuttu Saravanamuttu of do

Vs. Petitioner.

1. Ponnammah wife of Ponniah  
and her husband

2. V. K. Ponniah of do  
Respondent.

This matter of the petition praying  
that Letters of Administration to the  
estate of the abovenamed deceased be  
granted to the petitioner coming on for  
disposal before S. S. L. Guanasakere Esq.,  
District Judge of Jaffna on the 24th  
day of August 1945 in the presence  
of Mr. V. Navaratnam Esq. Proctor on  
the part of the petitioner and the  
affidavit and petition of the petitioner  
having been read:

It is declared that the petitioner be  
entitled to have letters of adminis-  
tration to the estate of the said in-  
testate unless the respondents or any  
others shall on or before the 23rd  
day of January 1946 at 10 a. m. show  
sufficient cause to the satisfaction of  
this Court to the contrary.

This 18th day of December 1945.  
Sgd. R. R. Selvadurai,  
District Judge.

Extended to 16-4-46.

Intd. R. R. S.  
D. J.

(O. 7, 9 & 12)

## ORDER NISI

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA  
(held at Point Pedro)

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 304PT.

In the matter of the intestate estate  
and effects of the late Mettath-  
pillai widow of Singaravelu of Val-  
vetty Deceased.

Velupillai Sivapragasam of Karana-  
vai North Petitioner.

1. Singaravelu Karayappillai of  
Valvetty presently of Kandy; 2.  
Sivakumiammah wife of V. Siva-  
pragasam of Karanvai North; 3.  
Rasamayagam Niduvajah and; 4.  
Wife Thangammah both of Sara-  
sala; 5. Sivakkolunthu widow of  
Sabsapillai Sinnathamby of  
Vannarpannai East

Respondents

This matter coming on for disposal  
before E. Wijeyawardena Es-  
quire Additional District Judge on  
the 13th day of March 1946 in the  
presence of Mr. P. Karapathippillai  
Proctor on the part of the Petitioner  
and the petition and affidavit of the  
Petitioner having been read:

It is ordered that the Petitioner  
be declared entitled to take out let-  
ters of administration as the son-in-  
law of the deceased and that letters  
of administration be issued to him  
accordingly unless the Respondents  
or any other person shall on or be-  
fore the 4th day of May 1946 show  
sufficient cause to the satisfaction of  
this Court to the contrary.

This 18th day of March 1946.  
Sgd. E. Wijeyawardena,  
Additional District Judge.

(O. 3, 9 & 12)

## TO THE OLD BOYS OF PARAMESHVARA COLLEGE

Dear Friends,

As it is proposed to hold a meeting of the Old Boys of Para-  
meshvara College in April, 1946 in connection with the SILVER  
JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS of the College, all Old Boys who  
have not yet enrolled themselves Members of the Old Boys' As-  
sociation are requested to send in

- (a) their names and addresses, and  
(b) names and addresses of their friends who are Old Boys

TO THE  
SILVER JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS OFFICE,  
PARAMESHVARA COLLEGE, JAFFNA.

N. B. Literature re the Celebrations will be posted FREE to those whose  
addresses are with us.

JAFFNA,  
16-3-46

YOURS IN SERVICE,  
M. R. KARALASINGHAM  
Hony. Secretary, P. C. O. B. A.

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(Mis. 154, 3-12-45—30-11-46, F)

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