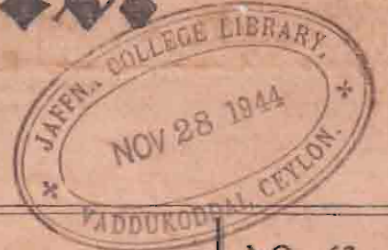


# THE Hindu Organ.

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NO. 63.

## THE JAFFNA SARASWATHY VILASA SABHA

### THEIR COLOMBO TOUR IN 1916

(By M. Ramalingam)

II

"Sakuntala" or "The Lost Ring" the second in the repertoire of the Jaffna Saraswathy Vilasa Sabha written in three acts by Pandit V. T. Sambandan, the comic actor of the Sabha, was staged at the Tower Hall, Maradana, on Monday, April 3, 1916 before a large audience.

It may be mentioned that this was the first play written by the Pandit. The Sabha did the correct thing in having whole-heartedly supported a local enterprise. This encouragement induced the learned Pandit to follow up Sakuntala with two more plays, Pathukapattabishkam (in 1919) and Seethapaharanam (a few years later).

The songs for Sakuntala were composed by the late Mr. K. C. Nathan, Proctor, the last of a succession of erudite scholars in Tamil. Although the writer comes of the same village as Mr. Nathan, he was not lucky enough to have been benefitted by the wealth of the latter's learning. There was a solitary occasion on which the writer had the rare privilege of listening to a Kathaprasangam delivered by Mr. Nathan at Ambalagoda, towards the latter part of 1928.

The cast of the play included the following talented actors Mr. M. Sabaratnasinghe (Visvamitran), the late Mr. V. M. Krishnaswami (Menaka), the late Mr. T. Thambipillai (Kannavar), the late Mr. S. Sabapathy and the late Mr. M. S. Muttukumaru (Kannavar's disciples) Vidwan K. Ramalingam (Dushyanthan), Mr. P. Vythialingam (the Prime Minister) the late Mr. Rajah Arulampalam (Sakuntala), Messrs T. Ponniah and C. Arumugadas (ladies in waiting), the late Mudaliar C. Rasanayagam and Mr. T. Annamalai (Chetties), Messrs S. Nadarajah and C. Murugesu (Fishermen), Messrs S. Sabaratnam, A. Rajaratnam and W. F. Ratnagopal (Guards), Mas. B. Arunachalam (Sarvadamanam), Mr. C. Nadarajah (Governess), and the late Mr. C. W. Chinnappillai (Prakapathi). The roles of Kamandu Vithushakan and Durvajar were filled by Pandit V. T. Sambandan, the author.

The play was produced by the author himself, while the stage direction was, as usual, entrusted to the late Mudaliar C. Rasanayagam. It was the Mudaliar who initiated the writer into Historical Research, and if the history of this very tour is satisfactorily traced, the writer is indebted to the learned Mudaliar for the achievement. There is a humorous reference to

the Mudaliar that, having shaved his moustache to act the role of the chettiar in this very play, he avoided his elder sister (Mrs. Hallock) for a couple of weeks until it grew again.

"The part Sakuntala", says the "Morning Leader" of April 4, 1916, "was ably portrayed by the late Mr. Rajah Arulampalam. The part Dushyantha was taken by Vidwan K. Ramalingam whose excellent singing secured for him a rousing reception. The other actors too went through their several roles very creditably."

III

According to the programme of the Sabha, "Rukmangathan" should have been taken up as the third play for staging. But, at the request of the Colombo public, the Sabha staged on Wednesday April 5, 1916, at the Tower Hall, Maradana, Mayanakandam (Harischandra), a classical play which is typical of the combination of historical interest and dramatic excellence. Despite threatening weather, a very large gathering was present. This alone was sufficient testimony to the impression created by the Sabha on the two previous occasions.

The plot of Harischandra is so widely known that it is superfluous recounting it here.

According to the "Ceylonese" of April 6, 1916 "the play was a 'swinging success', and the audience were kept spell-bound, interested from the rising of the curtain to the ringing down of the same. The title role of Harischandra was filled by Mr. V. Ramanathan, who gave a superb rendition of the difficult part, while his singing was a special feature of the performance. Mr. Navaratnam who took the part of Sandramathy the consort of Harischandra, was quite lady-like in his deportment acting and singing and throughout captivated the audience. The minor parts too were well filled, and the performance was declared a splendid success."

In this connection, the writer would be wanting in his duty if he failed to express his deep sense of gratitude to Mr. V. Ramanathan. Mr. Ramanathan was greatly responsible for creating in the writer a genuine interest in Tamil Drama. It was his desire to see locally written plays staged in preference

(Continued on page 4)

## GREATNESS OF HINDUISM

### Are Conversions For Material Considerations Justifiable?

### Capital Punishment Abolished In Travancore

A vigorous defence of Hinduism against what, according to him looked very much like a concerted move on the part of certain groups or interests to discredit the great faith in the eyes of the world for the purpose of achieving extraneous ends, was made by Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar, Dewan of Travancore, delivering the commemoration address of the Temple-Entry Proclamation at Trivandrum on Nov. 12. Sir V. T. Krishnamachari and Mr. and Mrs. Papworth were among those present on the occasion.

The Dewan said, at the outset that the Temple-Entry Proclamation was inaugurated by the young, farsighted, benevolent Ruler of the State with the advice of his mother in order to effect not only social reform, but also to bring about a religious revival. Drawing attention to the essential continuity of the great social uplift movement inspired by His Highness, the Dewan mentioned that His Highness had just set his signature and seal to another proclamation abolishing capital punishment in the State. This was the first time in India or rather in Asia that such a step has been taken with the single exception of the State of Andhra. The proclamation carried out the inner ideals of the great Hindu faith which stood upon the four pillars of Ahimsa. This led the speaker on to his theme of foundation of the Hindu belief. According to him, a true Hindu was also a true Christian and a true Muslim and in any case, he saw no hostility between his creed and the fundamental tenets of those religions. Islam according to his personal conviction, was the only truly democratic faith that was actually functioning in the world of to-day. The Dewan added that he read with some amusement as well as pain of mind the editorial in the *Deccan Times* in its issue of October 29, asserting that the aspirations of the Muslims in Travancore were being ruthlessly crushed by the Dewan of the State who was against Pakistan. "Pakistan is a political problem—a transitory, impermanent, and I venture to add, an artificial problem. Therefore many, including myself, have controverted it. But it is a different story with the faith and principles of Islam" declared the Dewan.

Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar categorically denied as false a number of statements made in a London

newspaper, which is the accredited magazine of the Catholic community of England and a Calcutta paper. He had demanded an apology from the London paper through appropriate channels. These allegations suggested *inter alia* that the Travancore Government officially issued as school-text his book "World Religions" wherein it was alleged, Christ and Christianity were belittled if not ridiculed. The Dewan assured the gathering that the book had not been and would never be prescribed as a school-text. Another allegation, that the Muslims and Hindu parties in the State had joined forces to push Christians out completely in the general election was dismissed by the Dewan as a mischievous lie. Actually, the largest single communal group in the Legislature to-day was the Christian group.

The Dewan asserted that these theories of persecution were all wrong. He added: "I shall fortify myself by saying that what I have said about Travancore is open to verification, but I am apprehensive that what is taking place is part of a wider movement which is designed to denigrate a great community."

### Right To Convert

Turning to another aspect of the matter, the Dewan said that it had been stated that Christianity and Catholicism in particular, was a militant and converting faith. So was Islam and therefore it was argued that anything which prevented the grant of full facility for conversion to Christianity or Islam should be regarded as improper and sinful and as offending against the law of man and of God. The speaker was prepared to grant that every human being had a right to exercise his persuasive powers and powers of advocacy to appeal to the highest and best instincts in another human being to induce him to think and act on the same lines as himself. But if conversion was undertaken as a wholesale mass movement or was based upon hope or possibility of temporal advantage or was done merely to procure or manufacture statistics, favourable to a particular community, such a form of conversion would be opposed and had been opposed by every great Christian writer or thinker. Quoting from the Gita as to such changes, he said that to jettison a faith that had been one's own and take up another faith was

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## Hindu Organ.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 1944

### SCHOOL MANAGERS IN COUNCIL

DR. A. P. DE ZOYSA, A MEMBER of the Executive Committee of Education, moved in the State Council on the 15th inst that "it is desirable that members of the Executive Committee of Education should not be managers of schools or teachers in assisted schools." The arguments advanced in favour of the motion by some members were that if, in the Executive Committee, a member was an interested party as a manager or teacher, even though the member might not take advantage of his position, the public would be disposed to criticise him. It was, they said, incongruous that managers and principals should at one time be under the control of the Director of Education and at another time they should, as members of the Education Committee, be able to control the same official. One member went to the extent of saying that there were occasions when members of the Executive Committee cornered schools for themselves and that their position was a dishonourable compromise. He, therefore, moved an amendment that no member of the State Council should be manager of an assisted school. The motion was supported by Mr. A. R. A. Razik, Mr. G. G. Ponnambalam, Mr. Simon Abeywickreme, and Mr. R. S. S. Gunawardene. Mr. W. Dahanayake was the one who moved the amendment and Mr. J. R. Jayawardene seconded it. Those who spoke against the motion and the amendment were Messrs. D. S. Senanayake, A. Mahadeva, S. Natesan, P. De. S. Kularatne, T. B. Jayah, A. Ratnayake and H. W. Amarasuriya. The Minister of Education did not commit himself either way. Though he agreed with the principle of the motion, he said that managers of schools had been most useful to him in his committee.

We are inclined to agree with those who opposed the motion, on the ground that it is men who are interested and engaged in educational work, either as managers or as principals, who will be most useful in the Committee of Education. They alone will know how the code of regulations affects the schools in the practical working of it, where really the shoe pinches and whether the Department carries out its work faithfully to the spirit and letter of the law. They not only represent the needs of the country in the Committee but serve as representatives

of their teachers and of the parents of the children in their schools. This will no doubt be irksome to some officers of the department, as no monkeying with the regulations will be possible as long as managers and principals are on the Executive Committee of Education. We know that, in the pre-Executive Committee days, a large number of circulars used to be sent out by the Director of Public Instruction only to be recalled as soon as some headmaster pointed out their absurdities contradicting the code regulations. After managers and principals entered the Executive Committee no such ridiculous orders go out, because the members of the Committee understand what they are about. With regard to the contention that managers and principals are interested parties and should not, therefore, be members of the Committee, it was pointed out by those who spoke against the motion that by a similar argument planters and agriculturists too should not be members of the Executive Committee of Agriculture. If we extend the argument to its logical conclusion we think no member of the Committee; of Local Administration should be Chairman of an Urban Council or Village Committee; no member of the Executive Committee of Labour, Industry and Commerce should be an employer of labour or interested in industries or engaged in commerce. Similarly no member of the Executive Committee of Home Affairs should own an arrack distillery, be a shareholder in a firm dealing in foreign liquors or be a member of a temperance organisation.

As to the argument that a manager has at one time to take orders from the Director of Education and at another has to control him, it is no more incongruous than the position of a bank manager. The bank manager too is controlled by the directors and shareholders of a bank, but his word is law when they deal with him as depositors or borrowers. Moreover, there is no question of managers taking orders from the Director of Education. They are not paid servants. The Director only sees to it that certain rules and regulations are duly carried out and for this purpose he issues instructions. To say that if a member of the Executive Committee, who is a manager, goes to the Director begging for his requirements and receives a rebuff, he will wait for his turn when the Director comes before the Committee, is meaningless. Such a manager, bereft of principles, even if he were not a Council member, could get mean things done through a friend in the Committee if he were so disposed. Again to say that one must be above suspi-

cion, the best way to secure this is not to avoid this or that committee but to live a life that will be above suspicion.

The debate has been postponed for this week and we think the Council will do well to leave the question alone until we see what type of constitution we are going to get. The system has worked for fourteen years and there is no use in trying to alter it at the tail-end. Moreover, we wonder whether the Council has the power to disqualify any member or to say that he should do this and not that without an amendment of the Order-in-Council. We have a peculiar Constitution which confers on the same body legislative as well as administrative duties; and no member elected by the people, as Mr. Senanayake said, could be disqualified by the Council from doing a particular work in the Council, for which he is most suited.

### STATE-OWNED ARRACK DISTILLERY

The Minister for Home Affairs, Mr. A. Mahadeva, sponsored last week in the State Council a motion that a State-owned distillery should be immediately established outside the present distillery area. The idea seems to have been as hastily conceived and decided on by his Executive Committee as the motion is loosely worded. A distillery for what purpose? It might as well mean a distillery for distilling salt water. However, as it was the Home Minister who asked for it and not the Minister of Local Administration, members started debating the subject on the assumption that it was an arrack distillery which the Home Minister wanted the Government to own.

The Minister's whole argument was that the consumption of arrack in the country had considerably increased in recent years. The present distillers were unable to undertake the production of more than 600,000 gallons a year. To day they were at the mercy of distillers who were able to point a revolver at the heads of the Executive Committee and insist on their own terms. The only way of meeting that threat was to build their own distillery on Government account. So far so good. The Minister did not tell the House and the country what the capital cost of the distillery would amount to and whether there would be a need for it after the end of the war. The Financial Secretary only gave out a vague hope that the net gain during the first year itself would pay for the whole cost of the distillery. On similar optimism a number of factories have been recently established all over the Island (except in the North and the East) by the Government and it remains to be seen what their ultimate fate will be after the war.

We are told that the average monthly consumption of arrack in the Island for the five years prior to 1941 was 32,500 gallons and that there was a phenomenal increase after March, 1942 showing a consumption of 93,556 gallons for October, 1942. The difference is undoubtedly abnormal but the latter figure itself is not very high in our opinion. Taking the figures of twenty-five years ago we see that

in 1920 the total number of gallons of arrack and foreign liquor sold in Ceylon amounted to 96,246 gallons per month. Considering that the population of the Island had increased by nearly 33 per cent during the last quarter of a century and that money is cheap now, 93,556 gallons of arrack, in the absence of foreign liquors, is by no means high. It has remained so low because of the shortage of supply and high cost. What we desire to emphasise is that it is only a temporary and passing phase. In 1920, the consumption of arrack alone was about 85,000 gallons per month, and when it came down to an average of 32,500 gallons in the five years previous to 1941, it clearly shows that it was cheap liquors from Japan and Germany that were gradually driving out arrack from the market and almost killing the industry. Will not the same thing happen again once the war is over? The abnormal increase of arrack consumption from the 1936-40 average to that of 1942 was entirely due to the practical cessation of import of foreign liquors. The Minister must also take note of the news published a week ago that whisky is going to be exported soon from England as freely as before. If cheap liquors again begin to flow into the country after the war, will there be a need for the Government arrack distillery? It will be understandable if the Government proposes to take over all the present distilleries and nationalise the industry. There will be nothing immoral in such an action as Mr. Senanayake fears there will be. The Government already controls the manufacture and trade. It can as well undertake the production and licitly supply the legitimate demand with pure spirits. There is no sense in owning one distillery and competing with private distillers for a short time only.

### RAMANATHAN DAY

#### "Ceylon's Most Illustrious Son"

At the Ramanathan day celebrations held on the 21st inst. at the Vivekananda Society hall several speakers in paying tributes to the memory of the late Sir Ponnambalam Ramanathan said that it was a great pity that he was not living today at a time when the country was about to undergo great constitutional changes and men with leadership were required.

Sir Gerard Wijeyekoon recounted instances of intimate contact with Sir Ponnambalam during two sea voyages he had made with him. He said he was Ceylon's most illustrious son and the people in Ceylon, particularly the Sinhalese, would always remain grateful for what he had done for them.

He dwelt at length on the career of Sir P. Ramanathan at the Ceylon Bar. All the giants of the Bar at the time respected him as a very tough and skilful opponent. As a statesman in the old Legislative Council Sir P. Ramanathan was a unique personality. Possessed of perfect composure and self-confidence, and with a style which was both lucid and compelling, he was unrivalled as a political debater.

Mr. T. B. Jayah and Mr. N. Nadarajah, K. C., also made references to his great statesman-

## INTERNAL PURCHASE SCHEME

## COMPLAINTS FROM A SMALL SECTION ONLY

## DR. W. M. CLYDE'S REPORT

The following is a passage from the Report on "The Food Situation in Ceylon" by Dr. W. M. Clyde, Food Adviser to the Colonial Office, published in Ceylon yesterday after receiving the approval of the Secretary of State.

The Internal Purchase Scheme remains Priority Number One on the Food Front.

The success of the Internal Purchase Scheme during the past year has been most encouraging as the figures show:—

1942	9,000 tons rice
1943	26,540 tons rice
January-August, 1944	29,340 tons rice

There is a prospect of reaching a total of 40,000 tons of rice for the year. This encouraging success, of course, is largely due to the introduction of the new regulations in April. It is due also to the enthusiasm of those officials, including Government Agents and Assistant Government Agents (Emergency) who have communicated their enthusiasm and a sense of the urgency of the Internal Purchase Scheme to their executives.

It has been apparent to me, in my circuits, that the new regulations have been generally accepted without resentment. Indeed with many small cultivators they are by no means unpopular. The complaints seem to come from a small section of the community.

I have tried to bring it home to officials and to members of the public, both privately and publicly, that the restrictions, though severe, are not more severe than the international food situation warrants; that, though every effort will be made to maintain the food imports into Ceylon, no one can guarantee that they will be maintained; that Ceylon has been fortunate in having some rice all these years of war, whereas some countries rice-eating like Ceylon, have had no rice at all for a very long time; that the war has not touched the soil of Ceylon; that, whilst many other countries have been devastated by war, Ceylon has been able to pursue her agriculture in peace; that a special responsibility, in the comity of the United Nations, devolves upon those countries that have escaped invasion and bombardment: that we are all dependent

upon one another: that the cultivator is dependent upon those who supply him with the means of cultivation and the essential services without which he could not cultivate; that the person who retains, or obtains on the Black Market, food to which he is not entitled is a traitor to the cause for which many of his fellow-country men have given their lives.

At the conclusion of the meeting a member in the audience raised the question of the statue which had not yet been erected although it was now 15 years since Sir Ponnambalam had died. Mr. Nadarajah said he understood the authorities responsible for the erection of the statue were making arrangements and that it would be erected in the near future.

upon one another: that the cultivator is dependent upon those who supply him with the means of cultivation and the essential services without which he could not cultivate; that the person who retains, or obtains on the Black Market, food to which he is not entitled is a traitor to the cause for which many of his fellow-country men have given their lives.

I have, at the same time recognised the difficulties of the cultivator, with limited material resources, and have spoken appreciatively of his acceptance of stringent restrictions and privations, and the contribution of which the Government has made to the war effort on the Food front by introducing the present Internal Purchase Scheme regulations. I have spoken plainly but I trust understandingly and with regard to what seems to me best in the interests, not of particular districts or provinces, but of the country as a whole.

It was agreed that a letter of appreciation of the whole-hearted and fruitful services which they had rendered to the Internal Purchase Scheme be sent by the Government to the Government Agents of the North-Central and North-Western Provinces.

It seems to me important, for the success of the Internal Purchase Scheme,

(a) that Mr. O'Regan Assistant Civil Defence Commissioner (Internal Purchase Scheme), continue his circuits,

(b) that he have an adequate and efficient staff in Colombo,

(c) that the services of Mr. Mitchell continue to be available to the Internal Purchase Scheme Department,

(d) that Internal Purchase Scheme propaganda be provincial as well as Island-wide, and

(e) that there be no relaxation in the present Internal Purchase Scheme regulations.

I record my appreciation of the good work done by Mr. O'Regan. The post that he occupies will, I feel sure, continue to be one of the highest importance so long as the period of emergency lasts.

## SOULBURY COMMISSION

The Government announce that the Commission under the chairmanship of Lord Soulbury, which is to visit Ceylon towards the end of this year in connection with constitutional reform, is constituted as follows:—

Lord Soulbury; Mr J. F. Rees Vice-Chancellor of the University of Wales and Principal of the University College of South Wales and Monmouthshire; and Mr. J. F. Burrows, retiring President of the National Union of Railwaymen

Mr. Trafford Smith, of the Colonial Office, has been appointed secretary.

The Commission hopes to leave by air for Ceylon towards the end of December.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Constitutional Reform

Sir,—If our constitution is to be planned for a unitary system of government, the need for a bicameral legislature should appear absolute. The account of experience of other countries can hardly be valuable, unless it shows some definite and practical directions in which that experience can be embodied in our constitution. The analogy of the House of Lords of Great Britain shall have no bearing on the conditions or needs of Ceylon. On an equitable system of franchise, our State Council should, for a long time, remain a miscellaneous mosaic exhibiting multiple shades of differences of castes, vocations, races, languages, religions etc. The State Council would be a composite assembly of groups of divergent views and aims. It should be hard for a single-chamber legislature to organise the cross-currents of views and ambitions of the various groups and direct them in parliamentary channels single-handed. Our indigenous customs, conventions and sumptuary laws should point to the advantage of imparting influence from within. The upper house should impart such an influence, both wholesome and constitutional. In some countries in Europe where the group system prevails, the upper house has been found very useful in winning over the scattered groups and creating a conciliatory atmosphere in the popular house. Joint sittings of both the houses on important occasions have become a feature in those countries. What the upper house is expected to possess (if constituted on conditions below) was described in Rome as *auctoritas* a kind of high influence.

The following qualifications for membership of the Upper House are suggested for consideration:— age 40 and over; high educational qualification, merit of service and experience, property or income qualification. The Upper House should be 60 per cent elected and 40 per cent nominated. Its members should hold their positions for a longer term than the popular representatives and one third of the members should retire by rotation at stated periods say once in 3 years, if the span of life of the House be fixed at 9 years. The two houses should legally possess equal powers. The number of members of the Upper House should not be less than half of that of the Lower House. On occasions of deadlock in the Lower House joint sessions should, in the first instance, be arranged and matters discussed. There shall be no penal dissolution of the upper house. The upper house should be invested with power both to amend and reject financial bills just like ordinary ones. The special privilege of the upper house shall be safeguarding of the rights of the minorities and watching the interests of the public services. A permanent committee of the upper house should constitute a court for impeachments of peccant ministers and for trial of public officers on duly framed charges.

Yours etc,  
R. C. P.

## The Villoondy Crematorium

Sir,—The letter by R. C. P. appearing in your issue of the 9th inst. would have been read with disappointment by many. In the present case the method adopted by the Nalava community was certainly not the best, but the counter measures taken and the subsequent opinions expressed by responsible men like the Chairman, U. C. and R. C. P. forbode a gloomy future for Jaffna. As one hailing from a place in the extreme north of the peninsula where about 10 years ago the Palla community who used to bury their dead were not merely allowed but also helped by the higher castes by the supply of firewood etc. to cremate their dead in the same ground, I am at a loss to understand all this fuss about this objection to cremation by the Nalava community who I understand have been burying their dead in the Villoondy crematorium. If burial is allowed I fail to see why cremation should be objected to at least in that section where they have been burying as advised by the G. A.

What is worse still is that R. C. P. seeks to justify these practices and restrictions on religious, social and historical grounds. I am afraid he cannot succeed in doing that on any of the above grounds. According to early Tamil literature there was division of labour among the Tamils as there is bound to be in any advanced and ordered society based on geographical and other considerations, but there was no room for conceit, contempt or intolerance on the part of one section towards another, all which were quite foreign to the genius and civilisation of the Tamils. They were all gradual later developments due to North Indian Aryan influences which were responsible for the downfall of the Chola empire and other Tamil kingdoms and the subjugation of the proud, warlike and imperial Tamils by petty Telugu chiefs in the 14th century. There is ample evidence in Portuguese records that the untimely downfall of the kingdom of Jaffna was due to these very same defects. This is how "the social structure of the Tamil race has stood the test of time."

If we cannot learn lessons from our own history and from the events taking place in the world in general and in India in particular, then God have mercy on the people of Jaffna. There will soon be several little Ambedkars in Jaffna and perhaps another Senpabap Perumal from the South, in spite of the lamentations of R. C. P. and others of his ilk.

Yours etc,

C. Nagalingam,

119, St. Sebastian Hill,  
Colombo.

## FOR SALE

Flower pots in four sizes.

Apply to

Wm. Mather & Sons,  
Jaffna.

(Continued from page 1)

a serious responsibility—not responsibility that one should shirk if the real call came, but certainly not one lightly to be embarked upon. 'I myself believe that if there had been conversion effected from Hinduism to any other form of faith, it is the right and duty of those who feel strongly on the eternal validity of the Hindu faith and way of life to strive to reconvert those who had left the fold, provided that the same tests and conditions are applied to reconversions as to the original conversions.'

Speaking not as a Hindu but as a guardian under His Highness, away, of the interests of all His Highness, subjects. Hindus, Christians, Muslims alike, Sir C. P. Ramaswamy Aiyar said, he felt it was the duty not to allow Government machinery, agencies or funds to embark on this vitally necessary task of reconversion but what was needed was a burning faith and enthusiasm, and organising energy. If, however, funds were needed for organising a body of missionaries to work among the people for this purpose, Hindus of the State should ensure that they would be forthcoming and every effort in this direction should be taken. To say so however was not to assail other faiths. The law of toleration and hospitality was mutual and reciprocal. Therefore he held that the Temple-Entry Proclamation would not have served its purpose fully unless it emphasised the following points: (1) Universality and catholicity of the Hindu faith. (2) Necessity as far as possible to stay with that faith unless and until a personal and irresistible call came to embrace any other form of religion, (3) Recognition that we had been ill-treating and placing wrongful disabilities on the great mass of the population of the country and finally (4) Devising ways and means for the purpose of pulling these masses out of the clutches of despondency and giving that redemption without which we shall never be redeemed.

Refuting the allegation that we were persecuting anyone or any religion, the Dewan pointed out that while Travancore in particular had never indulged in religious intolerance or persecution, emancipation of Roman Catholics in a country like England took place only so late as 1829. 'I think I elucidated the points sufficiently clearly to show that what had been done by this State and what had been done by the rulers in the whole of India has been to tolerate and allow everyone to preach and hold his faith. There had been no great religious persecution in India initiated by followers of the Hindu faith after the Buddhist period and God willing, there will be none to the end of time. But it is not part of any holy man or ecclesiastical dignitary to prevent other faiths from embarking on the same proselytising policy as they themselves follow. If there is a converting religion, ours by reason will become a converting or rather reconverting religion. If they will make conversion a personal and individual act arising from a personal message, we shall not quarrel but if they resort to mass conversions, Hindus will and must organise for mass reconversion on the same basis.'—Hindu.

The Jaffna Saraswathy Vilasa Sabha

(Continued from page 1)

to imported ones that prompted the writer to undertake the production of his two plays.

The late Dr. M. Sinnetamby was "at home" to the members of the Jaffna Saraswathy Vilasa Sabha at his residence, "Coniston", Kynsey Road, Colombo on Friday the 7th April, 1916, from 5 to 7 p. m.

IV

The President and members of the Lanka Subodha Vilasa Sabha, Colombo, took the opportunity to entertain the members of the Jaffna Saraswathy Vilasa Sabha to tea at the Public Hall Colombo, on Saturday, April 8, 1916, from 4.30 to 7.30 p. m. A large gathering was present in response to invitations issued earlier and a very pleasant and convivial evening ensued. Mr. K. Sathasivam received the guests at the door and showed them into the hall. Light refreshments were served in profusion. Later in the evening the members of the Lanka Subodha Vilasa Sabha entertained the guests with two scenes from "Umbalanathan". The actors acquitted themselves with credit.

After the second interval (during the play) the Honourable Mr. K. Balasingam, on behalf of the Tamil Union C. & A. C., made a presentation of a silver cup filled with sweet-smelling flowers to the late Mudaliar V. M. Muttucumar, the Honorary Secretary of the Jaffna Sabha. While presenting it, Mr. Balasingam thanked the amateurs for the excellent treat in "Nadaka Tamil" provided by them during their week's stay in Colombo.

"It was said of old", said Mr. Balasingam, "that the human race was composed of two divisions or classes—marked and womankind. That classification is probably intended for all times; but during the last week we saw that men had become more qualified to impersonate women and to outshine the latter. The proper division of human beings will be those who were so unfortunate and unprogressive as not to appreciate the efforts of the Sabha. (Applause). It is indeed a pleasure to have the members of the Saraswathy Vilasa Sabha in our midst and have them give us their year's experience in the histrionic world. They had done a good deal to counteract the demoralising tendency of the professional actor. (Applause). They have to a large extent studied oriental music in the main and induced a revival of Tamil literature. It is well-known that we are on the threshold of a new era in our national literature—the Plezaththan era, as it were of Tamil literature. In India, Mr. Sambandan's plays receive well merited praise. In Ceylon, we have playwrights like Mr. Chinnappillai of Jaffna who have produced plays which would flourish as long as the Tamil language flourished. Those in Colombo, the Lanka Subodha Vilasa Sabha have their own playwrights (Applause). I feel sure that the performance in public will greatly revive Tamil literature."

It is worth pointing out that even the Saguna Vilasa Sabha of Madras which was started much

earlier than the Jaffna Sabha (or other Sabhas started later) could not have boasted of having had among its members as many playwrights as the Jaffna Saraswathy Vilasa Sabha had. To mention a few:

The late Mr. C. W. Chinnappillai, the late Pundit K. C. Nathan, the late Mr. S. Sabapathy, Pundit V. T. Sambandan-Vidvan K. Ramalingam, Mr. V. Ramanathan, Mr. C. Arumugason.

The Lanka Subodha Vilasa Sabha had two playwrights in Mr. K. Cheralingam and Dr. S. K. Chinniah. The former's play Nallathangal was acted by the Sabha on July 24, 1920; the latter was the prize-winner of Rs. 200 offered by Hon. Mr. K. Balasingam on February 21, 1921, for the best Tamil Social Drama.

"The Tamil Union," added Mr. Balasingam, "had desired him to express their appreciation of the Jaffna Sabha's visit in a more tangible form than others. They had requested him to hand over a memento of the visit and asked Mr. Muttucumar to accept the gift of a silver cup, which if it were not of high value, was a sincere appreciation of the Sabha's endeavour to do good to their country and to their language (Loud applause)."

Mr. Muttucumar received the cup and thanked briefly.

(To be continued)

[It may be mentioned that the late Mr. C. W. Chinnappa Pillai, novelist and playwright, was a brother of the great Tamil scholar, the late Rao Bahadur C. W. Thamotheeram Pillai, the Founder and first President of the famous Madras Suguna Vilasa Sabha.

—Ed. H. O.]

ORDER NISI

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 333 In the matter of the estate of the late Annappocraniammah wife of Paramanathar Rajaratnam of Van-

ORDER NISI

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 332. In the matter of the Last Will and Testament of the late Rasamrah widow of Kanagaratnam of Manipay Deceased

C Waitilingam Duraisingham of Manipay Vs Petitioner  
1 Mergalambigal daughter of Kanagaratnam by her Guardian-ad litem the 2nd Respondent  
2 Candaramy Ponnuthurai  
3 Pavalammah daughter of C Waitilingam of do Respondents  
This matter coming on for disposal before Earle Wijayawardene Esquire District Judge on 31st October 1944 in the presence of Mr E M Mathiparanam, Proctor, and the affidavits of the Petitioner and of the witnesses having been read: It is ordered that the Last Will and Testament of the deceased be declared proved and Probate thereof be issued to the Petitioner as Executor named therein and the 2nd Respondent be appointed Guardian-ad-litem over the minor 1st Respondent for watching the interests of the minor in these proceedings unless the Respondent appear before this Court on 12th December 1944 and state objections to the contrary.  
2nd November 1944  
(Sgd) H A De Silva  
(O. 107, 20 & 23) District Judge

narpponnai West, Deceased.  
Paramanathar Rajaratnam of Vannarpponnai West, Petitioner.

Vs.  
1, Rajaratnam Ganesharatnam  
2, Sinniah Sobaratnam of do, Respondents.

This matter coming on for disposal before H. A. de Silva Esquire District Judge Jaffna on 24th of October 1944 in the presence of Mr. S. Patanjali Proctor on the part of the petitioner and the affidavit of the petition having been read.

It is ordered that the 2nd respondent be appointed guardian-ad-litem over the minor the 1st respondent and the petitioner be declared entitled to have letters of administration to the estate of the said intestate as her lawful husband unless the respondents shall appear before this Court on the 1st of December 1944 and show cause to the contrary.

I.E. Wijayawardene, Addl. District Judge.  
(O 103, 20 & 23) 24.10.44

THE JAFFNA MUTUAL BENEFIT FUND LTD.

(Established 1918)

BANKERS.

Authorised Capital Rs. 800,000.00  
Amount of Calls made Rs. 134,367.00  
SHARES: 8000 shares of Rs. 100/- each. 75 monthly instalments of Re. 1/- per share will earn Rs. 100/- for each at the end of the period. Shares issued all times.  
CURRENT ACCOUNTS opened and interest allowed at 1% per annum on the average monthly balance when it does not fall below Rs. 500/-.  
FIXED DEPOSITS received for periods of 3, 6, 9 and 12 months and interest allowed at 1, 2, 4 and 6 % respectively.  
DRAFTS issued on the National and Imperial Banks to Colombo and the Principal cities of India. Remittances to and from F. M. S. by special arrangements.  
INDIAN MONEY bought and sold  
LOANS on the security of Jewels a speciality. Interest charged at 9% per annum (Part payments accepted.)

FOR FURTHER PARTICULARS APPLY TO:

S. KANAGASABAI,

(Y. 164. A. 21-11-41—20-11-44.) (T's) Shroff.