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TREE TAX IN JAFFNA DISTRICT

DROP IN REVENUE LAST YEAR

UNLICENSED SWEET TODDY TAPPING

THE Tree Tax system continued to operate throughout the Revenue District of Jaffna in 1939, and there was a drop of Rs. 30,323 in revenue as compared with the previous year, according to the Administration Report of the Excise Commissioner for 1939.

The Commissioner adds:

The only substantial changes in 1939 were (a) the prohibition of sale of toddy in sheds, specially erected for such sale, in unapproved lands, such as those in proximity to public markets, temples, schools, &c., and (b) the repeal of the regulation, except in the case of the Vadamaradchi Maniagar's Division, regarding the total prohibition of the possession or transport of toddy except under a licence. Jaffna District thus came into line with the rest of the Island, permits being now required for possession or transport, only if the quantity of toddy is in excess of 1 of a gallon.

Unlicensed Sweet Toddy Tapping

The tapping of palmyra trees for sweet toddy without licences was continued in Vadamaradchi Division throughout 1939. Thirty-five cases of unlawful manufacture of fermented toddy in the unspecified sweet toddy areas of that division were detected as against 25 in 1938. It is needless to state that such cases will increase manifold after October 1, 1940, with consequent loss of tree tax revenue, when absolutely unrestricted tapping for sweet toddy and tapping for tax-paid fermented toddy in the same land will be in operation throughout the whole of Jaffna District. In the Puloly Udaiyars Division and the Point Pedro Sanitary Board town area, where the experiment of tapping (free) for sweet toddy and for tax-paid fermented toddy promiscuously on the same land was con-

tinued, 21 detections of manufacture of fermented toddy under cover of sweet toddy licences were detected, but a good deal of such manufacture must have remained undetected.

The cutting of spadices of trees unlawfully tapped for fermented toddy, under the power taken in July, 1938, by amendment of section 36 of the Excise Ordinance, was resorted to in only 5 instances during 1939. There was no necessity for more frequent recourse to this power, as taxes due were paid and the trees in question duly licensed, as soon as a detection was made,—offenders in such cases being dealt with by a composition fine.

Statistical Results of Tree Tax System

The revenue in 1939 was Rs. 377,992 as against Rs. 408,315 in 1938—a drop of Rs. 30,323 or—7 per cent. The main reasons for this drop are:—

(1) unseasonal rains in April and May resulting in spadices of female palmyras being spoilt;

(2) failure of tobacco crops and consequent financial distress;

(3) abolition of a number of sheds for sale of toddy, especially within the Urban District Council limits of Jaffna; and

(4) the growing demand for setting apart sweet toddy areas in place of fermented toddy areas.

The tree tax revenue per head of population for the whole of Jaffna District works out at Re. 1.06 in 1939 (Re. 1.08 for financial year 1938-39) as against Re. 1.14 in 1938 and Re. 1.20 in 1937, while under the tavern system the per head rent in 1936 was Re. 1.56.

Consumption of Tree Taxed Toddy

Assuming that the average yield per season was the same as last year, i.e., 15 gallons per

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SMOKE—ITS USES IN WAR

IT HELPED GERMAN ARMIES TO VICTORY IN FRANCE

(BY J. S. HALDANE)

ONE of the weapons which have helped the German armies to victory in France has been smoke. So far they have not used poisonous smokes, but they have screened their attacks in immense clouds of smoke which hid the sun for many miles behind the French lines, and concealed their tanks until it was too late to fire at them.

A smoke is a collection of particles, either solid or liquid, of a certain degree of fineness, suspended in air. When the particles are large enough to be visible, as in the case of dust or coarse mist, they fall fairly quickly. Very small particles such as molecules of a vapour, stay suspended indefinitely, while smoke may hang about for days.

Just the same is true of suspensions in water or any other liquid. Very small particles, such as molecules of sugar, are dissolved. Very large ones form a mud which soon settles if it is heavy. But intermediate particles, such as those in milk, blood, the milky fluids which you get by mixing some disinfectants with water, or solutions of gum or egg-white, settle very slowly if at all.

These intermediates are called colloidal solutions or suspensions, and have very interesting properties. If the particles are about the size of a wave length of light or a little smaller, they scatter light in a peculiar way. The same smoke looks brown when you see the sun through it, and blue when you see the sun shining on it.

This is because the blue rays in the sun's white light are more scattered by the smoke particles than the green, yellow and red rays of longer wave length. Colloidal suspensions in water often behave in the same way.

Smoke particles keep up in the air because they are constantly colliding with the molecules of air, and this prevents them from falling. They may

lose their motion and stop on hitting a solid, particularly if it is cold. That is why smoke often condenses on the plaster of a wall where it is cooled by a water pipe.

Smoke particles generally have an electrical charge which keeps them apart from one another, and prevents them coalescing into particles of soot. One way of condensing smokes is by attracting them to something of an opposite electric charge. Another is by mixing a smoke whose particles have the opposite charge.

It seems likely that the chemists and physicists employed by the Nazis have been studying smokes pretty intensely. The French and British troops could not see through the smoke clouds in France. But it is possible that some of the Nazis could. For smoke which will stop visible light rays will often let through infra-red rays, with which photographs can be taken. If these photographs could be developed in a few minutes, this might be extremely advantageous.

Among the most interesting of smokes are those of arsenical compounds, such as diphenylcyanarsine. These are made by heating the compound in question, and are mostly only moderately poisonous but intensely irritating to the nose.

They will go through the charcoal filter of a gas mask, but are stopped fairly completely by felt pads. The attachment recently issued for respirators is intended to stop smokes. It will probably stop most of the known types of poisonous smoke. But if the Nazis have been able to produce a smoke with finer particles than those used in the last war, some of these may get through.

If so, they may cause irritation of the nose, and sneezing, but even if they do, it will be better keep your respirator on

(Continued on Page 6)

NOTICE
IN THE DISTRICT COURT
OF JAFFNA
Testamentary Jurisdiction
No. 5408

In the matter of the Estate of the late A. R. AR. S. M. Somasundram Chetty. Deceased.
It is notified that the abovenamed Somasundram Chetty (deceased) as Trustee of the Temple situated at Colombuthurai, Jaffna, known as 'The Palani Andavar Temple' was in possession of a sum of Rs. 8,444/47 as Trustee of the said temple and as such trustee has appropriated the said amount for his private business purposes and as such the present trustee of the said temple has made an application to this Court why the said sum of Rs. 8,444/47 should not be paid in full for the benefit of the said temple and that an inquiry on that behalf into the said application will be held at this Court at 10 a.m. on the 21st day of October, 1940.

By order of Court,
J. N. Culanthaivelu,
Secretary.

This 1st day of October, 1940.
(Mis. 130. 17-10-40.)



Hindu Organ.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17, 1940

A NEW SALES SOCIETY

THE JAFFNA-MALAYALAM Co-operative Sales Society has proved to the people of the North the usefulness of similar societies to further the well-being of industries which are languishing for want of proper organisations to find them markets, or are suffering great disadvantages owing to merciless exploitation by middlemen. The cultivators of the Malayalam tobacco are now relieved of much worry and exploitation, since the advent of the Society which is successfully eliminating the curse of middlemen from the business. We are happy to find that the residents of Vadamaradchi have also inaugurated a Chillies and Onions Sales Society to find market for these garden produces and to encourage their cultivation. It is a very wise step, in that the new Society, if worked well, should be able to give a fillip to the cultivation of these vegetables which are being ousted from the local market by Indian onions and chillies. There was a time when onions were cultivated on a large scale in the peninsula and particularly at Vadamaradchi where the soil is specially suited for it. The cheapness of the Indian variety and the lure of comparatively better profit from tobacco have induced the cultivators to take increasingly to the cultivation of tobacco, neglecting the raising of onions and chillies in their gardens. The prospects for Jaffna tobacco are not at all promising. The market for this produce has been steadily narrowing both locally and outside. It will not be wise, therefore, to

continue its cultivation on any large scale in the future. The Assistant Registrar of Co-operative Societies, who spoke at the inaugural meeting of the Chillies and Onions Sales Society, in fact advised the farmers at Vadamaradchi to give up the cultivation of tobacco, as markets could not be found for it and exhorted them instead to take to the cultivation of chillies and onions, giving the guarantee that good markets could be found for them. As one who is well informed on matters of this nature, his advice is worth taking with confidence. Unlike tobacco, chillies and onions are a daily necessity and form part of the food of the people. As such there will always be a demand for these. The import figures should convince one of the good market there is in Ceylon for these two articles. Annually we import from other countries, particularly India, large quantities of these commodities, over and above what is produced locally. In the month of September alone this year we imported dried chillies to the value of Rs. 223,755 and onions, Rs. 157,737. The local production is inadequate to meet the demand. The fear of foreign chillies and onions ousting local products needs no longer discourage the cultivator; there is the Agricultural Quotas Bill which helps greatly the consumption of local agricultural products against the unrestricted flow and competition of foreign products. The Sales Society now inaugurated at Vadamaradchi should prove very useful in finding markets for chillies and onions and thus encourage their extensive cultivation in the country. We congratulate the residents of Vadamaradchi on their wise move and hope the success of their efforts will inspire others to similar economic undertakings.

**ORIENTAL MUSIC
ACADEMY
WELLAWATTE**

Wellawatte, 10-10-40.

The Navaratri celebrations in the form of Poojas to Saraswathy, the Goddess of learning, during nine successive nights commencing from the 1st October, 1940, came to a close yesterday.

The celebration in this connection conducted by the Oriental Music Academy, Wellawatte, provided opportunities for several distinguished musicians (including Samasthana Vidvan S. Sankarasivam, Vidvan Venkatasamy Raju of Madras Radio, Sangeetha Bushanam Balasubramanian Iyer, Vidvan Shanmugam, Velautha Bagavathar, Veeva Sitharam, Flute M. Ananda Iyer. Messrs. T. S. Mani Iyer, P. Mudaliyar, T. N. Nadaraja, M. Chelliah, Misses. Subbadra Devi, A. Nageswary, Rani Savundranayagam, K. Vijayaladchumi, Mr. S. Kulandavelu and S. Sethukulasin-gam), all of Colombo to entertain with vocal and instrumental items the large crowds of music lovers who attend the Poojas regularly.

(Cor)

**THE HINDU BOARD OF
EDUCATION**

ITS FRIENDS AND FOES

(BY "WAYFARER")

(Continued from our issue of 3-10-40.)

Parameshwara's Repudiation

IT is a pity that the teachers of Parameshwara College have taken Mr. Rajaratnam's allegations too seriously and rushed to the press repudiating them and characterising them as 'absolutely false'. There was absolutely no need for this precipitate haste. Do they not, month after month on the 10th day, affix their signatures on a five-cent stamp swearing truly and solemnly that they had received their full salaries. If, in spite of this legal transaction, there are people who doubt that full payment has been made, the teachers should treat these vile critics with the contempt they deserve. Besides, we are told, that teachers at Parameshwara receive special payments on such days as the New Year, Deepavali etc. Certainly the teachers at Parameshwara are a happy lot occupying a proud and privileged position and should be the envy of their less fortunate brethren in other schools. The teachers at Ramanathan College have been wiser. They have preserved a dignified silence and let truth speak for itself.

Voluntary Contributions

The most serious charge against Mr. Rajaratnam is that he made forced contributions from Tamil school teachers. The contributions were never received by Mr. Rajaratnam. They were paid either to the accountant or to the treasurer of the Board. The amounts were entered in the books and receipts were duly given. Therefore, the charge of receiving forced contributions should actually be made against the Board and not against Mr. Rajaratnam; and if this charge is proved, it is the Board which ought to be punished and not Mr. Rajaratnam. The Board consists of the leading Hindus of Jaffna. The accounts are open to the public. The treasurer is a proctor of the Supreme Court. The auditors are holding responsible positions under government as office assistants. The teachers working under the Board are all members of the Board, and as the work of the Board cannot be carried on with only the Government grant, the teachers contribute to its funds. Those who have bungled in the management of the institutions so richly endowed by the late Sir P. Ramanathan, and so generously helped by Government with a building grant of Rs. 80,000, should realise what it would cost to run 99 institutions with 500 teachers, and without any endowment whatsoever. Is it a crime, if teachers imbued with the lofty ideal of preserving all that is best in their religion against the onslaughts of firmly entrenched missionary bodies which carry on their work with almost demonic relentlessness, should support the Board with monthly contributions?

What Missionary Bodies Do

We understand the American and C. M. S. Mission Tamil School teachers contribute about 5 per cent of their salaries every month for the Pastors' fund. There are many Hindu teachers in these schools.

In most cases, the pastors are the managers of these schools. Thus not only Christian teachers but also Hindu teachers contribute towards the salaries of their pastor-managers. There is no direct payment in these schools and so we have to assume that 5 per cent is deducted before the salaries are paid. In the case of out-station schools, the copies of the money orders of the remittance of salaries should help us to find out whether this practice prevails or not. The Hindu Board teachers receive their salaries direct from Government and come all the way from Pungudutive or Delft or Vavuniya to Jaffna to pay their subscriptions. Recently, Miss Scowcroft admitted that her teachers, for five years, gave 5 per cent of their salaries towards the Building Fund. The teachers at St. John's College, we understand, are contributing, and have undertaken to contribute for 5 years, 5 per cent of their salaries monthly towards the building Fund, on the understanding that the amounts so contributed would be paid back to them in monthly instalments, at the end of that period. After all we cannot draw a distinction between building funds and other funds. All funds are school funds which the managing body could expend on the schools in general. We know what percent of the students in mission schools are Christians? Then why penalise the Hindu teachers for supporting a Hindu Organisation whose only asset is the loyalty and self-sacrifice of its employees?

(To be Continued)

ATHLETICS

India vs. Ceylon

For the first time in the history of athletics in Ceylon, a contest between India and Ceylon will take place on the 25th and 26th instant. A trial meet was held in Colombo on Monday last to select athletes to represent Ceylon.

We are proud that a Jaffna schoolboy viz. A. Ratnasingham, of Jaffna Hindu College, came out first in the Long Jump event at the trial meet. He cleared a distance of 21ft. 6½ ins. He is easily the best long jumper in Ceylon at present and we feel certain that he will do his best in the India-Ceylon meet and thus bring honour to himself, his College and to his country. (cor.)

**Ceylon Thanked for
War Contributions**

A press Communique from the Governor's Office states:-

The following telegram received from the Secretary of State for the Colonies is published for general information:-

"On behalf of His Majesty's Government I should like to send congratulations on the splendid way in which all sections of the Community have united in support of the Government War Purposes Fund and other War appeals. It is a great encouragement to us in this country to know we have such a generous backing from Ceylon."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Mr. S. Rajaratnam And The Hindu Board

Sir,—As one who interviewed Mr. B. H. Aluwihare, M.S.C., along with three other head teachers of Hindu Board schools in order to place our grievances against Mr. S. Rajaratnam and to protest against his reinstatement as general manager of Hindu Board schools, I desire to acquaint the public with certain facts which would throw more light on this much discussed question.

I was a member of the Board of Directors of the Hindu Board for more than ten years since its incorporation. I was its hony. secretary for two years and a member of the Executive Committee for more than five years. Without any consideration for my services to the Board and my position as principal of the Saiva Training School, Mr. Rajaratnam dismissed me from service for not carrying out an order which, in the opinion of my colleagues of myself and that of others holding similar positions, could not be carried out with a clean conscience. To save me from ruin I made representations to the Director of Education against the dismissal and in the inquiry that followed Mr. Rajaratnam was found guilty of several charges. Later, I was restored to my post and Mr. Rajaratnam was removed from the office of Manager. Since then Mr. Rajaratnam has been hostile and vindictive towards me and other teachers who have been sympathising and siding with me. Several attempts have been made to undermine my authority, especially by setting up a section of my staff and some old students to carry on a campaign of malicious propaganda against my conduct as principal and by unnecessarily interfering with the internal administration, to the detriment of the school. An attempt was even made to dislodge me from my post by giving notice to the staff that the training school might be closed in 1940 and that we were at liberty to seek work elsewhere. Similarly Mr. Rajaratnam, even after he ceased to be manager, was instrumental in getting several other teachers punished for not carrying out his bidding.

Feeling that the position of the teachers would not be safe if Mr. Rajaratnam became Manager again and having failed to get the help and protection of the Hindu Board Committee, some teachers who had genuine grievances which were proved to be true at the departmental inquiries, sought the help of Mr. Aluwihare and a few other members of the State Council to bring to light the findings of the Department in the several inquiries held into complaints made from time against Mr. Rajaratnam. We made no false statements or misled Mr. Aluwihare against the Hindu Board. In fact we had no intention to say anything against the Board or any other officer of the Board except Mr. Rajaratnam. There was no hatred, jealousy or inborn wickedness involved in our attempt to get justice done.

Mr. Rajaratnam seems not to understand the purpose for which an affidavit was given to Mr. Aluwihare by Mr. V. Nadaraja, a teacher of the Board. One of the conditions imposed by the Executive Committee of Education in connection with the

proposal to reinstate Mr. Rajaratnam was that no contributions should be collected from the teachers by the Board, and the affidavit was given in order to prove that the conditions were not observed. Mr. Rajaratnam does not now hesitate to proclaim openly that the Board has decided not to accept the condition that only Rs. 10 should be accepted from the teachers. This shows that the Board under the direction of Mr. Rajaratnam is bent on continuing the practice of making levies from the teachers, not being satisfied with the annual subscription of Rs. 10. Under these circumstances the teachers, the bolder ones, had no other course open to them except to get their grievances ventilated in open council. In this connection it must be noted that several representations were made to the Director by teachers that they were forced to give contributions.

The working expenditure of the Board including Mr. Rajaratnam's allowance of Rs. 4500 has gone up to nearly Rs. 8000 per annum, and this amount cannot be found except by making the teachers contribute. They therefore feel that they will be relieved from the necessity to contribute, if the working expenses of the Board are reduced by finding some one who will serve the Board without such a big allowance as is given to Mr. Rajaratnam. Surely there has never been any dearth of men prepared to render honorary work as manager of schools or as secretary of the Board.

Yours Etc.,
S. SWAMINATHAN.

Saiva Training School, Jaffna.
10-10-40.

Sir,—Mr. S. Rajaratnam has made his defence to the charges brought against him in the State Council by a speech at a Tamil School in Vannarponnai. His defence consists mainly of a laboured attempt to justify his actions on the ground that others have committed similar offences. If there are other managers of schools of his type, the teachers who have suffered at their hands can appeal to the Director of Education for remedy. But Mr. Rajaratnam cannot shield himself behind such pleas, nor can the responsible members of the Hindu Board allow the continuance of the evils complained of if they are to save themselves and the Hindu community from the charge that an incredible degree of laxity is allowed by the Board in the management of their schools. The fact that two good men like Dr. Subramaniam and Mr. A. Chellappa have allowed their names to be associated with the management is not an extenuating circumstance. It only aggravates the seriousness of the situation as it shows that even these gentlemen are powerless to prevent the open commission of very reprehensible practices in the management of the Board Schools. Mr. Rajaratnam never denied the facts on which the charges against him were based, and it is known that his removal from office as Manager was ordered by the Director of Education with the concurrence of the Minister of Education who was decidedly opposed to contributions by Teachers. If Mr. Raja-

ratnam had really loved the Hindu Board, he would have withdrawn himself from active participation in the management of schools and allowed others whose conception of morality was more acceptable to the Department to step in and manage the schools without any interference from him. But he frustrated the intention of the Director of Education by getting himself elected organising secretary of the Board on an enhanced monthly allowance of Rs. 400 and continued to function as virtual manager.

A new manager of schools was selected in the person of Mr. A. Chellappa, but he was unable to effect any reform owing to the dominating influence of Mr. Rajaratnam in the Executive Committee of the Board. The malpractices condemned by the Director of Education continued and teachers who were unwilling to pay contributions were persecuted. Complaints were made and the inquiries held by the Divisional Inspector of schools revealed a most disgraceful state of affairs. Undaunted by the adverse findings in these inquiries, Mr. Rajaratnam persisted in his campaign against the Director of Education, and was able to induce Dr. Subramaniam to forward a petition to the Minister for Education for his reinstatement. Under these circumstances the vacillating attitude shown by the Executive Committee for Education in considering the petition sent by Dr. Subramaniam is inexplicable. The Minister should have told the petitioner that, in a matter affecting the administration of such a large number of schools as the Hindu Board has, a departure from strict honesty could no longer be tolerated, and that the decision was final. Instead of laying down conditions for Mr. Rajaratnam's restoration, the Ministry should have taken steps to eliminate the malpractices altogether by requiring his successors in office to observe the conditions imposed on Mr. Rajaratnam. If as Mr. Wille said, all Jaffna was unable to prevent Mr. Rajaratnam working underground, it was due to the fact that the Ministry had failed to act promptly and decisively in the past.

Mr. Rajaratnam's announcement that the Board at a recent meeting had decided not to accept the condition that only Rs. 10 should be accepted from teachers clearly indicates that the Board does not desire to effect any reform except under compulsion.

Na'lur,
11-10-40 Yours etc.
C. K. SWAMINATHAN.

Rate-payers' Nominees

Sir,—At the Executive Committee Meeting of the Jaffna Urban Rate-payers' Central Association held on Tuesday, the 15th inst., the following names were selected as the Association nominees for the election which is to be held on the 30th November, 1940:—

Ward No. 1. Mr. Emmanuel Thiruchelvam
" " 2. Mr. Mathews Jacob
" " 3. Mr. Murugear Sinnathurai
" " 5. Dr. V. S. Ramanathan
" " 6. Mr. Kandavanam Aiyadurai
" " 7. Mr. Ramalingam Sivagurunathan
" " 8. Hathi S. M. Aboobucker
Yours faithfully,
C. NABARAJA.
Hon: Asst. Secretary.

Stanley Road,
Jaffna, 17-10-40.

(Continued on Page 5)

Chillies and Onions Sales Society

Registrar Assures Markets

New Society Formed at Vadamadachy

Point Pedro, Monday.

The residents of Vadamadachy under the auspices of the Vadamadachy Co-operative Union met on Saturday the 5th. October 1940 at 6 p.m. at Vigneshwara College Hall, Karaveddy, to inaugurate the Chillies and Onions Sale Society.

Mr. A. Kandavanam proposed Mudlr. K. Chinnathamby to the chair and it was seconded by Mr. J. T. Solomons.

The Chairman then briefly explained the purpose of the meeting and stressed the necessity of doing something to better the lot of the farmers of the District.

Mr. C. Ragonathan, Asst. Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Jaffna, speaking next briefly pointed out that the cultivation of Onions and Chillies could be profitably undertaken as the soil of Vadamadachy was well suited for it. Further they could well afford to have three harvests a year. This cultivation could be done in any place if a well was near about. He then exhorted the farmers present there to give up the cultivation of Tobacco as markets could not be found for it, but to take to chillies and onions as he could guarantee good markets for them. He then pointed out that it would be useless if they would go out of Vadamadachy for purposes of cultivation till every inch of ground in the area was made productive.

Mr. Mathavan, Representative of the Marketing Board, who was called upon to speak next endorsed what the previous speakers had said and requested them to form a Society for the furtherance of the cultivation and sale of chillies and onions.

After a lengthy discussion Mr. S. Gurusamipillai proposed that a Chillies and Onions Sale Society be formed. It was seconded by N. S. Sinnathamby and was unanimously passed. Then the election of Office bearers, (protem) took place and it resulted as follows:—

Chairman: Mudaliyar K. Chinnathamby.

Committee: Messrs. S. Vettivelu, E. Kandiah, C. Vytilingam, S. Gurusamipillai, T. Sadasivam, S. Ramanathan, T. Kandasamy, A. Sundram with Mr. K. Velautham as Convener.

The meeting then terminated with a vote of thanks to the representatives and Officers of the Co-operative Societies, Inspector of Co-operative Societies and the chairman, proposed by Mr. S. Gurusamipillai and seconded by Mr. A. Sundram. (Cor.)

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INQUIRY UNDER TRUST ORDINANCE

WITNESS EXAMINED

In pursuance to the Commission issued by the Government Agent of Northern Province the Commissioners held inquiry into the subject matter of the petition of those interested in the Maviddapuram Kandaswamy Koyil and recorded evidence of ten witnesses at the Hindu Bilingual School of Maviddapuram. The following witnesses gave evidence:—

S. Arulanandapillai of Maviddapuram stated that his ancestors started the Skantha Shasdy festival in this temple about 120 years ago and that the present Manager who is the respondent to their petition had disturbed the arrangement on account of pecuniary considerations and that this temple was one built out of funds collected from time to time.

C. Rudrapathy of Tellipalai stated that all the affairs of the said temple were very well known to him as he was supervising the building operations of the western Kopuram in his capacity as the Co-executor of the late Ananthar Nagalingam of Kankasanturai for over three years and that the late Nagalingam had paid to the respondent about Rs. 3000/- during his lifetime for this purpose and that he had spent about Rs. 13000 on the building of the Kopuram and that the annual income of the said temple would approximately come to about Rs. 25000 and that the poojahs and festivals in this temple were not conducted properly by the present manager and that large amounts were collected by the said manager for building the Kopuram from the public outside Jaffna and Ceylon, although this Kopuram was built out of funds of the late Nagalingam of Kangoon fame.

V. Subramaniam, a pensioner of the F. M. S. Government, of Mallakam stated that at the request of the present manager he had collected and paid about Rs. 1800 for the special purpose of building a Pillayar shrine inside the temple premises and supplied a gold plate of five sovereigns for the consecration ceremony. Whereas the said shrine was not perfected nor consecration ceremony ever performed.

S. Sinnadurai of Maviddapuram stated that his ancestors had been conducting one annual high festival in this temple and that he had collected large sums of money along with the present manager for the purposes of building the granite main shrine and that he had settled disputes between the present manager and other priests of this temple. The witness gave evidence at length about the mis-management and misappropriation of the funds collected by the respondent, and that the temple affairs, poojahs &c were not conducted properly to the satisfaction of the worshippers and that most of the income of this temple were spent by the respondent in unnecessary litigation as he was seen in the Courts right through his life.

S. Rajaretnam, pensioner from F. M. S. Government residing at Alavetty, Jaffna, stated at length about several wrongful acts of the respondent and collection of funds from the public from time to time. He had given a donation to the temple a "Velautham" of gold and

this donation was now found to be missing or not in existence. Most of the temple funds were spent by the respondent on unnecessary litigation and on the members of the respondent's family for weddings, jewels and other family matters.

K. S. Kanagarayar, Proctor S.C. & Notary Public of Tellipalai who is a regular worshipper, stated that the Maviddapuram Kandaswamy Koyil was a Public Hindoo Saivite place of worship and built out of contributions by the public from time to time and that originally the keys of this temple were in the custody of certain leading vellalas of Maviddapuram whose descendants were even now conducting the first day ceremony of the Annual High festivals of this temple. He also produced a deed executed in the year 1876 by representatives of the Hindu Public of Jaffna whereby the present respondent was appointed as manager and High priest of the said temple and the father and grand-father of the respondent accepted this deed of appointment by signing it and consented to manage the affairs of this temple subject to the control and supervision of these representatives of the Hindus and to render accounts of the income and expenditure of this temple to the public and to return all the properties of the temple to them whenever called upon by the public. He also spoke about the donations and contributions made by the members of his family and about the unnecessary expenses of the respondent in litigation.

A. Kulotungar of Tellipalai who conducts all the ceremonies on the 13th day of the Annual High festivals of this temple and who is a regular worshipper of this temple stated that he had been performing one annual high festival for several years and that the worshippers were not satisfied with the performance of Poojahs &c. and that the musicians were not paid regularly and that there were no servants to look after the lights and to supply flowers and garlands to the deities and that he had settled disputes between persons who conducted festivals and the respondent manager and that all the income of the temple were wasted on unnecessary litigation and on procuring Indian boys and girls to marry some members of the respondent's family and that large amounts were collected by the respondent in the name of Kandaswamy and that no account had been published to enable the Hindu Public to know how the temple funds were spent by the respondent.

S. SenathiRajah of Tellipalai who conducts the 12th day ceremonies during the Annual High festivals of this temple stated that he and his ancestors had been regular worshippers of this temple and that this temple had been from time immemorial a public Hindu temple and had been recognised by the public as such and that there was no one to attend to the daily duties of the temple such as cleaning utensils, lighting lamps, supplying garlands and flowers and that the musicians were very irregular as they were not paid by the respondent and that the present manager demanded big amounts for conducting festivals and Abishekams in this temple and that generally the Hindus were not willing to perform any vows in this temple on account of the conduct of the present manager.

S. Chellappapillai, Retired Inspector of Police, (Indian,) now residing at Maviddapuram stated that he had paid Rs. 100 at the request of the present manager towards the expenses of the granite shrine and that the present manager had showed him a book in which several Hindus had subscribed towards this fund and that he would not have paid a cent

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

(Continued)

JAFFNA 'PLANE FUND CONTRIBUTIONS

Sir,—I have had a perusal of the lists of contributions towards the Jaffna 'Plane Fund published in your issues of the 8th August and 23rd and 30th September 1940 and I find that the wealthy public and the Government Servants and Pensioners who are drawing high salaries and pensions had not fully responded to the call. Some of them had not contributed even Rs. 100 each. While others who can ill afford had been persuaded (perhaps too much persuaded) to contribute high amounts, the Government Servants and Pensioners who draw high salaries and pensions had not been sufficiently persuaded to contribute fairly good amounts according to their salaries and pension. Some such persons had contributed even Rs. 10, Rs. 20 and Rs. 25. I also find that officers who received recognition at the hands of Government had not contributed sufficiently. It is the Government Servants and Pensioners who should contribute liberally as they are immensely benefited by the benign British Government. I would therefore earnestly appeal to those responsible in this matter to approach those Government servants and pensioners who draw high salaries and pensions

if this temple was a private property of the respondent.

M. Thidaveerasingam, of Pallai in Tellipalai stated that his grand-father had donated lands and erected a Madalayam by the side of the courtyard of this temple and that the present manager had removed the tiles and roofing of this madam and utilised them for his private purpose and had allowed the madam into ruins for want of repairs although he had collected incomes from these lands even now and had cut down and removed several palmyrah and other trees from these lands and that the Kerney attached to their madam had been closed up by piling refuse and by using it as a latrine. The Poojahs were not conducted at the proper times. The deities were not annointed nor cleaned daily, nor decorated with garlands &c. The flower garden of the temple had been converted into a betel garden and the "Chenkalaneer" tank into a refuse bin.

This inquiry was postponed for the 13th October 1940. (Cor.)

to pay a second contribution to make up at least Rs. 100 or Rs. 200 according to salaries and pensions they draw.

Yours etc.,

K. SIVAPRAGASAM.

Sivapragasam Road,
Jaffna 11th Oct. 1940.

The Indo-Lanka Provident Insurance Co., Ltd.

(In Liquidation), Madras

Sir, I shall be glad if you will be so good as to publish the annexed letters in your valuable journal for the information of the several Policy Holders of the abovenamed Company, which has gone into liquidation now.

Thanking you,

I am,

Yours etc.,

C. A. CANDAPPA SEGARAM.

Jaffna, 27th Sept. 1940.

From

The Official Liquidator, The Indo-Lanka Provident Insurance Co., Ltd., Triplicane, Madras.

To

Mr. C. A. Candappa Segaram, "Thanneerchal", Vannarpennai West, Jaffna. (Ceylon)

Sir,—With reference to your letter to the Registrar, High Court, Madras, d/-13.9.40, which has been forwarded to me for disposal, I have to inform you that I have taken out an Application with reference to the rights of the policy-holders outside British India and it is pending consideration of the High Court.

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd).....

Official Liquidator.

Madras, 27th Sept. 1940.

Colombo, September 30, 1940.

Sir,—With reference to your letter of the 28th instant, I am directed to state that investigations regarding the above concern are being made and that a further communication will be sent to you in due course.

I am, Sir,

Yours obedient servant,

(Sgd).....

Secretary to the Minister for Labour, Industry and Commerce.

NOTICE

TO PERSONS WITH RELATIONS IN THE MALAY STATES

By writing the letters "G L T" before the address of Telegrams to Malaya they are accepted at the Special Cheap Rate of Rs. 3-50 for 12 words, plus 30 cents for each extra word.

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(Mis. 106, 5-9-40—)

(T)

TREE TAX IN JAFFNA DISTRICT

(Continued from page 1)

male palmyra tree, 60 gallons per female palmyra tree, and 45 gallons per coconut tree, the estimated consumption during the year 1939, would be in the neighbourhood of 2,154,200 gallons as against 2,342,460 gallons in 1938 and 2,426,790 gallons in 1937. Deducting 20 per cent for bad yielders and losses, the estimated consumption to the nearest thousand during the three years would be as follows:—

Year	Gallons.
1937	1,950,000
1938	1,874,000
1939	1,724,000

Assuming that the estimated consumption in 1936, the last year of the existence of the taverns was 1,730,563 gallons, as reported in paragraph 23 on page 25 of the Report for 1938, it is evident that the consumption of toddy since the introduction of the tree tax system is on the decrease, and is now almost the same as under the tavern system. The introduction of the tree tax system has thus not resulted in increased consumption to any appreciable extent.

The estimated consumption in 1939 per head of population was 4.8 gallons as against 5 gallons in 1938 and 5.5 gallons in 1937, the figure under the tavern system being about 4.9 in 1935.

Order Nisi

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA

(held at Point Pedro)

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 131/P.T.

In the matter of the Estate of the late Mr. Velupillai Sithamparappillai of Valvettiturai
Sinnamany widow of Sithamparappillai of Valvettiturai

Vs. Petitioner.

1. Velupillai Nagappan
2. Velupillai Kandasamy
3. Sithamparappillai Sinnathamby and
4. wife Walliammai alias Sothimuthu
5. Velupillai Nagalingam and
6. wife Parupatham
7. Veeragathiar Kanapathippillai
8. and wife Nagarathnam
9. Vaicamuttu Sivasambu and
10. wife Sinnatangam all of Point Pedro

Respondents.

This matter coming on for disposal before Simon Rodrigo, Esquire District Judge, Jaffna on the 1st day of August, 1940, in the presence of Mr. M. Esurapadham, Proctor on the part of the Petitioner and the Petitioner and affidavit of the Petitioner having been read.

It is ordered that the Petitioner be declared entitled to take out Letters of Administration to the estate of the late Dr. Velupillai Sithamparappillai as widow and that Letters of Administration be issued to her accordingly unless the Respondents or any other person shall appear before this Court on or before the 22nd day of August, 1940 and shew sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this court to the contrary.

This 2nd day of August, 1940.

Sgd. S. RODRIGO

Addl. District Judge.

3-10-40

Extended for 24-10-40

Intd. S. R.

A. D. J.

(O. 60, 17 & 21-10-40)

Smoke—its Uses in War

(Continued from page 1)

if you can, for even a bad respirator stops most smoke particles. One ground for fearing that the Nazis may use arsenical smokes is that they brought up large amounts of arsenic in 1938 and 1939.

The possibility that smoke may be used is one reason why all air raid shelters should be provided with curtains which would render them moderately smoke-proof and gas-proof during a raid where smoke or gas was used.

It is possible though I think rather unlikely, that a smoke may have been invented which is not merely irritant, but deadly, in the relatively small amounts which could be used in an air raid. It seems more likely that arsenical smokes would be psychological weapons like the attachments to bombs which make them howl as they fall.

I shall, no doubt, be accused of spreading panic in this article. I don't agree. I would much rather be attacked with poisonous smoke than with the same weight of high explosive bombs. Panic is very often caused by fear of what we do not understand.

Abolition Of Treasury Offices

The Treasury offices at Tangalle and Chilaw will be abolished as from 1st November, 1940, and all such work as has been done there will be transacted at the Post Offices at Tangalle and Chilaw from this date.

(Press Communiqué)

Order Nisi

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 932.

In the matter of the estate of the late Ratnam wife of Sithamparappillai Sinnathurai of Vannarponnai East who died at Inuvil Hospital, Jaffna Deceased.

Muttukumaru Rasiah of Vannarponnai East, Jaffna Petitioner.

Vs.

1. Sithamparappillai Sinnadurai, Post Master, Vavuniya.
2. Ponnu widow of Thamothearampillai Muttukumaru of Vannarponnai East,
3. Muttukumaru Sanmugavadivelu of do Respondents.

This matter of the petition of the abovenamed petitioner praying for grant of Letters of Administration to him in respect of the Estate of the abovenamed deceased coming on for disposal before C. Coomaraswamy Esquire on the 24th day of September 1940 in the presence of Mr. K. Nadarajah Proctor for petitioner and the application of the petitioner having been read.

It is ordered that the Petitioner be declared entitled to have Letters of Administration to the above estate issued to him accordingly unless the Respondents abovenamed shall on or before the 14th day of November 1940 at 10 a.m. show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

This 15th day of October 1940.

(Sgd) C. Coomaraswamy,

District Judge.

(O. 59, 17 & 21-10-40)

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Y. 65, 1-4-39—31-3-40. (T)

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H. 88, 13-7-39 to 12-7-40.)

(T)

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(Y. 19, 2-5-40 to 1-5-41.)

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Y. 89 A. 21-11-39—20-11-40. (T's)

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