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(THE CHEAPEST WEEKLY IN CEYLON)

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We have the pleasure to bring to the Notice of the Subscribers to the *Hindu Organ* and the public in general that Mr. S. S. Vytilingam who was connected with our Printing Press for the last two years has been appointed Travelling Agent for the *Hindu Organ* in the place of Mr. N. Ponniah who has resigned. He is authorised to collect the subscriptions (arrear as well as current) due to the paper, to enlist new Subscribers and to sign bills and receipts on behalf of the Manager, *Hindu Organ*. It is earnestly hoped that the public will cordially support the efforts of the Sabha to strengthen the position of the *Hindu Organ* as the only Hindu Newspaper in Ceylon.

P. CARTHIGASAPILLAI
(Manager, *Hindu Organ*)

Jaffna 3rd July 1901.

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Ceylon Technical College,
Colombo, 3rd June, 1901.

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THE HINDU ORGAN.

JAFFNA, WEDNESDAY, JULY 10, 1901

The Cigar Strike.

Competition—one of the predominant evils which affect society in the West—has

made its inroads on the social system of the Eastern nations. In ancient times, society in the East, particularly in India and Ceylon, was constituted on the basis of caste. Each trade and each handicraft was the charge or privilege of a special caste. The members of one caste were by social rules, if not by positive laws, debarred from undertaking the trade or calling of another caste. Indeed, one of the grounds on which the caste system is defended is, that it is a sort of trades-union. But times have now changed; most of the countries in the East are under the rule or control of Europe. With the introduction of European commerce and European civilization, Asiatics have imbibed European modes of thought and habits of thinking, so much so that society in the East is now partly constituted on the basis of free trade and unlimited competition and partly on that of birth or caste. While the trades known to ancient times are still in the hands of particular castes, such as weavers, dyers, smiths, barbers, washers, &c., those brought into existence during the last one or two hundred years, are the special privilege or charge of none.

The manufacture of tobacco into "cheroots" and the trade in them are not perhaps more than a century old. Cigars are made by boys and young men belonging to the lower middle and peasant classes, and the members of any caste can, without losing their caste or dignity, take to cigar-making. The same is the case with the trade in tobacco and cigars. It is regulated not by the ancient system of assigning particular trades, callings, and handicrafts to particular sections of society, but by principles governing modern commerce. At the present day, everybody is free to embark upon commerce as upon agriculture.

During the first three quarters of the last century, the trade in tobacco and cigars flourished, and those who were engaged in it reaped large profits. At that time, living was comparatively cheap, and the cigar-makers were content to receive wages ranging from 25 to 50 cents per thousand cigars. On the one hand, the profits were immense, on the other hand, the wages were adequate, judged by the cost and standard of living then in vogue. During the last two or three decades, however, too many persons have entered upon cigar-trade with the result that the profits realized have grown smaller and smaller. The margin now left to the cigar-merchants is so small that sometimes they lose even a part of the interest on their outlay. Add to this, the cost of living has doubled and trebled in Jaffna, while cigars are sold at the same price as twenty-five years ago. If the merchants raise the price, buyers will perhaps go in for Manillas, Havannas, &c., more frequently than now. For, it is a well-known fact that the cheapness of the Jaffna cigars compared with those of foreign make, is one of their chief recommendations.

As if the disadvantages and discouragements already experienced by the merchants are not enough, we come to understand that the cigar-makers, have struck work owing to a refusal on the part of their masters to increase their wages. The trade in tobacco and cigars is in a depressed state now, and that of all years the present one ought to have been chosen for the strike is most ill-advised.

We do not lose sight of the fact that farm-coolies and other labourers now earn 50 to 75 per cent more than what they earned ten or fifteen years ago. The question is put, we think with good reason, why the cigar-makers alone of all workmen continue to be paid their wages according to rates which ruled about fifteen or twenty years ago. In our opinion, some enhancement of their wages may be

made in order to enable them to meet the increased cost of living. But to bring about this result, they must set to work with moderation and patience. To demand an increase, they must select that period of the year when cigar merchants will not require all their moneys for the purchase of tobacco. It is most unfortunate that the month selected for the strike is the one in which tobacco merchants lay out all their available capital on the purchase of tobacco. It is a question why the tobacco-purchasing-season has been chosen for the strike, if the object of the strikers is to benefit themselves without injuring their masters. They would have done well if they had waited for a few months more, when merchants will have leisure to consider, and money to meet, their demands; and it would have been still better if they had waited for a prosperous year. Until some satisfactory explanation is forthcoming as regards the year and the month chosen for the strike, we must think with many others that handicapping the business of the merchants is one of the objects the cigar makers have had in view. Though the demands of the strikers are, to some extent, just, the circumstances attending their action are far from commendable. The principle of the combination may have been well conceived, but in arranging the details, the cigar makers have blundered, and annoyed their masters—a fact which shows the absence of good counsellors among them.

We have among our cigar merchants men of ability, intelligence, education, and sound business principles, who may be trusted to arrive at a proper solution of the problem now confronting them. If 50 cents was the average wages of a cigar maker twenty years ago, some increase may be now deemed necessary. We are told that an increase of 5 cents was made a few years ago, so that the wages now stand at 55 cents for thousand cigars—the largest number one can make in a day. If this increase is held adequate by the merchants, we do not wish to place our opinion in opposition to theirs. But some gentlemen unconnected with the trade think that an increase of 15 or 20 per cent on the original wages of 50 cents is reasonable in view of the changes time has brought about. If the merchants decide to give an increase, it may be postponed till a more favourable season—say till next year. They must also take care to see that the cigar-makers do not constantly demand an increase, and that any compromise now entered into is made binding on them for the next ten years at least. We hope that, on the principle of give and take, a settlement satisfactory to all parties will be come to, and the dead-lock in the manufacture of cigars put an end to. The strike should not be allowed to dislocate trade any longer.

LOCAL & GENERAL

The Auditor-Generalship—Mr. F. R. Ellis, C. M. G., Government Agent of the Western Province, has been appointed Auditor-General of Ceylon.

An Accident at Sea—A boat which was sailing to Nainativu capsized last week and two of the passengers were drowned.

Obituary—We extremely regret to record the death last week of Mrs. A. M. Thiruchelvar, the wife of Mr. A. M. Thiruchelvar, one of the well-known merchants of Jaffna.

A Medical Appointment—Dr. J. S. Johnpillai of the Civil Medical Department has been appointed Medical Officer of Mullaitivu. We congratulate him on his appointment.

Mr. Advocate Wendt—Mr. Advocate H. L. Wendt was called to the English Bar in June

last. He is the first gentleman ever called to the Bar *in absentia*. He was in England in 1895 and returned to Ceylon after keeping three terms. At that time three terms were not considered sufficient for a Ceylon advocate to be enrolled a Barrister. Since then, the rules have been altered and the keeping of three terms by a Ceylon advocate is now held to entitle him to be called to the Bar. Mr. Wendt's presence was dispensed with as a special favour. In this connection, we might say that Mr. Ramanathan is the only gentleman ever called to the Bar without being obliged to keep a single term or eat a single dinner. In 1887, on the day he was admitted a student he was also called to the Bar.

A Death by Drowning—A Moorish girl about seven years old accidentally fell into a well at Moor Street and was drowned.

The Fiscal's Office, Jaffna—Mr. Sivaganathan who was on sick leave has resumed duties.

The Public Instruction Department—Mr. E. A. Seneviratne, Inspector of Schools, will act for Mr. Ashley Walker on his going away on leave preparatory to retirement.

The First Buddhist Barrister—Mr. Charles De Silva Batuvantudave of Colombo has been admitted a Barrister at-law. He is a son of Pundit Batuvantudave, and the first Barrister among the Buddhist Singhaleses, just as the late Sir M. Coomaraswamy was the first Barrister among Hindus both of Ceylon and India. The late Sir Henry Dias was the first Asiatic Barrister.

The Supreme Court—Mr. Justice Lawrie who is now acting as Chief Justice retires from the 29th August next. Though it is not likely that the permanent Chief Justice Sir Winfield Bonser will return, his retirement or promotion will not take place before the year is far advanced, so that another Acting Chief Justice will have to be appointed. Either Mr. Moncreiff, the Junior Puisne Justice, or Mr. C. P. Layard, the Attorney-General, will act as Chief Justice on Mr. Lawrie's departure.

Mr. S. Supramaniam—This gentleman who holds an important position in the mercantile firm of Messrs. Walker & Co. of Colombo is now in our midst.

Mr. F. S. Appiah—Mr. Appiah who is a clerk under Messrs. Walker, Sons, & Co., Ltd. of Colombo, is come down to Jaffna on a fortnight's leave, and is in the midst of his friends and relations at Manipay. He is an old student of the Hindu College, and was for some time the Vice-Captain of the College Cricket Club and a prominent hony member of the Manipay Wananthil Gymkhana Club.

Tobacco—Most of the crops gathered this year remains in stock. Merchants do not care to buy them at once as the exports of last year remain unsold in India. The Chetties do not make large loans to the traders as in past years.

Dr. John G. Paton the veteran Missionary to the South Sea Islands paid a visit to Colombo last week.

A New Journal—We understand that a newspaper is to be started in Madras under the name of "The Madras Observer".

THE DEAF HEAR—No. 463 of *The Illustratop World* of 626, Chiswick High Road, London, W. England, contains a description of a Remarkable Cure for Deafness and Head Noises which may be carried out at the patient's home, and which is said to be a certain cure. This number will be sent free to any deaf person sending their address to the Editor.

THE STRAITS.

With references to the robbery case brought at Tapah against Mr. Kanapathy Pillai, Draughtsman, Public Works Department, whereof mention was made in the columns of the "Perak Pioneer" of the 21st May, it is gratifying to note that the Defendant was honourably acquitted by the Senior Magistrate on the 20th May. To do justice to the honour and name of Mr. Kanapathy Pillai, it ought to be stated that all his friends and countrymen stood by him to the very last convinced of his innocence. *Vox populi is vox dei*. The people believed in his innocence, and the result has been in accordance with the wishes of the people. Mr. Kanapathy Pillai's unblemished and spotless character has stood him in good stead in defending the case. Mr. Kanapathy Pillai has been a Government servant for the last eight years, and is a well wisher and devoted patron of the Sivite English School at Karativu East.—Com

CORRESPONDENCE.

To
The Editor, "Hindu Organ"
Sir,

Will you kindly publish the following in a corner of your well-esteemed journal.

It will indeed be very interesting to the Hindu public in general, to learn that a certain gentleman of Panjab, who is an M. A. of the Panjab University, has been preaching for the last 4 months in Calcutta against the conversion of Hindus to Non-Hindu faiths, and advocating the practice of the old Vedic religion of the ancient Hindus. He has, owing to his persistent and indefatigable labours, reaped a good harvest, in spite of every obstacle thrown in his way by some of the anti-Hindus and anti-Hindu preachers here.

It was only yesterday the ceremony of Pirayachittam (பிரயச்சித்தம்) and public confession of Hinduism by 12 Christian well-to-do gentlemen, some of them with their families, took place in the Carzon Theatre. The lost sheep have been regained. It is very pathetic to hear the circumstances under which they had been made to renounce their ancestral religion. The Hindu public to a man are obliged to the Panjabi for his noble work which has yielded splendid results within a few months of his coming over here. The non-Hindus took every step in their power to drive him out of Calcutta. One of them we hear, went so far as to prosecute him in court. There is preaching here on all sides. On one side by Christians, on another side by Hindus, thirdly by Buddhists, and fourthly by Muhammadans, all in the same place, near each other. Such is the state of competition in Calcutta.

It must be the first end and aim of every Hindu father to give a sound education in the Hindu religion to his children and not to allow them to stray from the path of right.

Yours Sincerely
C. B.
Calcutta
27th June 1901.

SELECTIONS.

ENCOURAGEMENT OF HINDU RELIGION IN MADRAS.

The *Hindu* of Madras, publishes the following telegram from a correspondent at Conjeeveram, a very ancient city and important place of Hindu pilgrimage in Southern India:—"The great annual festival is still proceeding. The town is cool and healthy. There were very large crowds this year, and the processions timely and orderly. The district officers were all present. The car ran three days and reached the stand yesternight safe. Mr. Scott, the Collector, won golden opinions from all by his energetic supervision of the car procession and by setting up and practising all ideal of law (*sic*) and liberty of the most perfect order, with least public inconvenience." Now this telegram we consider to be significant in the eyes of those who watch the religious and social evolution of India under the political domination of Christian rulers. Many people think, like Bishop Weldon, that the conversion of India into a great Christian country will be complete within a few years. But test this prediction by the fact disclosed in the telegram quoted above. What takes place in Conjeeveram takes place, no doubt, in all places of Hindu pilgrimage throughout India. Instead of the crowds that periodically throng at these places, and their enthusiasm on these occasions, diminishing in consequence of the causes supposed to operate adversely on the faith of the Hindus, they seem to work in a contrary direction. The railways draw together larger numbers of people, the sanitary precautions of the municipal authorities ward off epidemics, and the presence of the district officers maintains peace and order. None of the dangers and accidents to which distant pilgrimages in former times were subject any longer frighten the pilgrims, and even the inconvenience and expense of travelling long distances have greatly decreased. Christian officers lend their authority and make Hindu processions smooth and safe. We do not know that Mr. Scott is a devout Christian, but he is certainly not a Hindu. Still he contributes as much to a success of a Hindu religious festival as he would do if he were a Hindu. Nor is it a fact that only the classes devoid of Western education constitute the crowd of pilgrims. The so-called educated classes are equally enthusiastic. In fact, far from British rule, permeated as it is by the spirit of Christian civilization as our Missionary friends would say, tending to shake the faith of the people in their ancient religions or methods of worship, the people derive from it numerous facilities, unknown in former times, for a more rational and elaborate exercise of their inherited beliefs and ceremonies.—*Indian Spectator*.

NOTICE.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA
ORDER NISI.

Testamentary }
Jurisdiction } No. 1168
Class II.

In the matter of the Estate of the late Annappillai wife of Marimuttu of Vannarponnai West. Deceased.
Ampalavanar Marimuttu of Vannarponnai West Petitioner.

Ve.

1. Chamugam Chuppiramaniam of Vannarponnai West
2. Marimuttu widow of Chamugam of do

Respondents.
This matter of the Petition of Ampalavanar Marimuttu of Vannarponnai West praying for Letters of Administration to the estate of the abovenamed deceased Annappillai wife of Marimuttu of Vannarponnai West coming on for disposal before W. R. B. Sanders Esquire, District Judge, on the 19th day of June 1901 in the presence of Messrs Casippillai and Cathiravelu Proctors on the part of the Petitioner and affidavit of the Petitioner dated the 19th day of June 1901 having been read, it is declared that the Petitioner is the lawful husband of the said intestate and is entitled to have Letters of Administration to the estate of the said Intestate issued to him unless the Respondents or any other person shall on or before the 23rd day of July 1901 show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

Signed this 19th day of June 1901
Sigd/ W. R. B. SANDERS
District Judge.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA
ORDER NISI

Testamentary }
Jurisdiction } No. 1169
Class I

In the Matter of the Estate of the late Minnarpillai Segu Mathar of Vannarponnai. Deceased
Wanniasingam Thampipillai of Navaly Petitioner.

Vs

1. Meyatheenkandu Sultan Meyatheen
2. Meyatheenkandu Meyatheenpichchai and
3. Petta widow of Sultan all of Vannarponnai West

Respondents.
This matter of the Petition of Wanniasingam Thampipillai of Navaly praying for Letters of Administration to the estate of the abovenamed deceased Minnarpillai Segu Mathar of Vannarponnai coming on for disposal before W. R. B. Sanders Esquire, District Judge, on the 24th day of June 1901 in the presence of Messrs Casippillai and Cathiravelu Proctors on the part of the Petitioner and affidavit of the Petitioner dated the 24th day of June 1901 having been read, it is declared that the Petitioner is a creditor of the said intestate and is entitled to have Letters of Administration to the estate of the said Intestate issued to him unless the Respondents or any other person shall on or before the 30th day of July 1901 show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

Signed this 24th day of June 1901
Signed/ W. R. B. SANDERS.
District Judge

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.
ORDER NISI

Testamentary }
Jurisdiction } No. 1171
Class. V.

In the Matter of the Estate of the late Ampalavanar Supperamaniam of Copay Deceased
Ampalavanar Mailvaganam of Copay Petitioner

Vs

Valliammaipillai widow of Superamaniam of Copay Respondent

This matter of the Petition of Ampalavanar Mailvaganam of Copay praying for Letters of Administration to the estate of the abovenamed Ampalavanar Supperamaniam of Copay coming on for disposal before W. R. B. Sanders Esquire, District Judge on the 29th day of June 1901 in the presence of Messrs Casippillai & Cathiravelu Proctors on the part of the Petitioner and affidavit of the Petitioner dated the 29th day of June 1901 having been read, it is declared that the Petitioner is the brother of the said intestate and is entitled to have Letters of Administration to the estate of the said Intestate issued to him unless the Respondent or any other person shall on or before the 9th day of August 1901 show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

Signed this 29th day of June 1901.
W. R. B. SANDERS
District Judge.

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