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P. CARTHIGASAPILLAI
(Manager, *Hindu Organ*)

Jaffna 3rd July 1901.

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Colombo, 3rd June, 1901.

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THE HINDU ORGAN.

JAFFNA, WEDNESDAY, JULY 24, 1901

Peons And Messengers In Public Offices.

The peons and messengers in Government Offices are a very useful body of men; for the due conduct of public business their services are as necessary as those of the clerical staff. If the latter are "the brazen wheels" of the Government, the former are not less so, so to speak. The peons, and messengers are generally drawn from the middle classes, and as citizens and public servants they enjoy the respect of the people at large.

The salary of this useful body of public servants was fixed at Rs. 10 a month, long ago—perhaps soon after the British occupation of Ceylon. In those days, living was comparatively cheap, and the material comforts of life were limited. Ordinarily, a sum of Rs. 10 was more than sufficient to meet the cost of living even of a wealthy man. Simplicity in food and dress is one of the distinguishing characteristics of Orientals, and at a time when European civilization, especially European modes of living, had not made its inroads on native society, the wants of the people were not many. Such things as the depreciation in the value of silver and the fall in exchange, were unheard

of in the good old days, and even if the merchant had to face such problems, the ordinary native, whether well-to-do or not, who lived in a simple style, was quite unaffected by them.

The case is entirely different at present. The inhabitants of towns, as most of our peons and messengers are, are obliged to make use of goods imported from Europe or manufactured by European merchants, and the exchange question stares them full in the face. Cotton goods, coffee, tea, wheat, &c., fall in this category. The value of home-made articles such as chairs, tables, almirahs, &c., with which even the average native has begun to furnish his house, has doubled and trebled. Both Indian and home-grown paddy, which is the staple article of food among the Tamils, now sells at 50 per cent more than what it was sold for, some twenty-five years ago; and the price of every other article of food has increased. And on occasions of sickness, the services of qualified medical men have to be secured. Instead of the "congee" of the olden days, the "qualified" doctor prescribes broth, extract of meat, barley water, peptonised milk, &c., &c., *ad libitum*. An ordinary case of sickness costs from twenty-five to one hundred rupees.

It ought to be borne in mind that a change has taken place not only in the price of food stuffs and articles, but in the quality of food. This twofold increase can be met only by increased earnings on the part of the people. The wages of coolies and labourers engaged in agricultural and other operations, has risen to fifty per cent more than it was a few years ago. It ranges at present from 37½ cents to 62½ cents. Artisans like stone-cutters and others receive from 60 cents to one rupee, but the peons and messengers in the public offices, whose style of living is, and ought to be, higher than that of coolies and ordinary artisans, have to be content with only 33½ cents a day. This is an anomaly which ought to be removed as early as possible. The Civil Service has had its exchange compensation allowance, the Clerical Service has had its increase, a section of the minor headmen, who were formerly unpaid, are now remunerated for their work. The only public servants whose pay has been stationary, are the peons and messengers in the public offices. Assigning twenty-five working days to a month, the peons ought to be paid at least Rs. 12-50 per mensem, at the rate of 50 cents a day. It may be said that there are people who are willing to offer their services for Rs. 10, and that those who are not satisfied with their present salary may give up their posts. This reasoning will hold good in the case of every office under the Crown, big or small. There may be people who are willing to work as clerks at half the salary now attached to such posts. Still, in order to preserve the dignity and prestige of the Clerical Service and to enable the clerks to live well, the Government will not so much as think of a reduction. On the contrary, an addition has been made to their salary. If a person consents to accept a pay which is not adequate for his work, he is sure to recoup the difference by foul means. The argument urged against an increase cannot at all hold water. We hope that the Heads of Departments in Jaffna will take into consideration the grievances of peons and messengers and recommend to Government some increase in their pay.

THE DECLINE OF TAMIL LEARNING.

It is the fashion in Colombo to despise Madras degrees and hence the Colleges in Jaffna have got themselves affiliated with the

Calcutta University. If the curriculum of the two Universities are compared, Madras will be in no way inferior to Calcutta. On the contrary, some of the Madras examinations are decidedly more difficult than the corresponding examinations in Calcutta. However that may be, our educationalists have, in order to please Colombo taste, severed their connection with Madras. Tamil not being a subject of examination in Calcutta, Jaffna students are obliged to take up Latin or some other subject in lieu of Tamil. The result is that all interest in the study of the Tamil language is dying out. To an ordinary Tamil boy who does not expect to join the learned professions, Tamil is more useful than Latin. Even to the boy who aspires to be a lawyer, doctor, or minister, a knowledge of Tamil which is his mother-tongue is a necessary equipment.

Tamil was a compulsory subject in the Clerical Examination till some two or three years ago, but we believe it has been now made optional. So, there is no incentive at all at present for the study of Tamil. The combined action of the Government and the educational authorities in Jaffna has done away with any inducement there was for studying that language. It has now to be studied for its own sake and not because it will ensure the means of success in an examination.

We are led to make the above observations, which we hope to amplify on a future occasion, by way of recommending the formation of an Association for promoting the study of Tamil advocated by our Colombo correspondent in another column. The *Tamil Sangam* has supplied a long-felt want as an examining body. It will add to its usefulness by establishing a College for the teaching of the higher branches of Tamil literature.

THE SUPREME COURT CRIMINAL SESSIONS.

The second Criminal Sessions for Jaffna commenced on the 22nd Instant, Mr. Justice Browne being the presiding Judge, Mr. de Saram, Private Secretary, Mr. Stork, Registrar, Mr. Maartensz, Prosecuting Counsel, and Mr. Ramalingam, Interpreter. There were ten cases on the Calendar. Case No. 1 from the Police Court of Point Pedro was first taken up in which certain Tankam wife of Iliatamby was charged with (1) robbery and (2) voluntarily causing hurt. An English-speaking Jury with Mr. N. Selvadurai Pillai as foreman was empanelled, and Mr. Advocate Kanagasabai defended the accused, who was acquitted on both the counts and discharged.

Another case was disposed of on the same day. Case No. 4 on the calendar, in which three cigar makers of Kanthermadam in Vannarponnai were indicted for robbery of an earring and causing hurt in the act of committing such robbery. This case was tried by the same Jury that tried the first case and Mr. Kanagasabai was the counsel for the defence. The story of the prosecution was that the complainant who is also a cigar maker, on his return home from the Police Court after giving evidence against some relations of the accused, was waylaid at Kanthermadam on the 28th February last and assaulted, and one of his earrings was torn off by the accused. It transpired however, in the evidence of the prosecution itself that there was a general fight between the accused and their friends on the one side and the complainant's party on the other, and that the earring was not robbed by the accused but flew off on account of a blow inflicted on the right ear of the complainant. The jury unanimously found the accused "not guilty." On the 23rd Instant at re-assembling of the Court at 11 A. M., prisoners in case No. 2 who were two youngmen of Navaly were put into the dock, the first accused charged with murder, and the second with voluntarily causing hurt. Mr. Kanagasabai defended them. The story of the prosecution was that there was an altercation between the deceased and the father of the second prisoner in a paddy field at Navaly when the two accused appeared on the scene and the 2nd accused wrenched a bundle of fibre which the deceased had with him at the time and assaulted him with it. The 1st accused took a stone that was on the ground and flung it at the deceased which felled him to the ground,

and when the accused was on the ground the same accused caused another wound on the head with another stone. The deceased was removed to the Hospital and died two days afterwards. The Jury of which Mr. A. Krishnapillai was foreman found the 1st accused guilty of culpable homicide not amounting to murder and recommended him to mercy on account of his youth, and the 2nd accused of causing hurt, and His Lordship sentenced them respectively to 7 years' and 6 months' rigorous imprisonment. A witness for the prosecution in this case who made statements different from those made in the Police Court was given in charge of the Fiscal to be produced before the Judge the next day.

At 4 P. M. on the same day case No. 6 was taken up before the same Jury that tried case No. 2. The accused who is a carpenter of Vannarponnai was charged with house-breaking by night on the 15th March last. He was accosted on the night in question near the Grand Bazaar by two constables who were then on the beat and asked where he was going from at that late hour, 3 A. M. He being unable to give a satisfactory account, the constable examined his person and found in his possession a bunch of keys and a chisel. He was taken to the Police Station and locked up there for the night. At 8 O'clock the same morning, information was received that the Office of the Agent of the Ceylon Steamship Company was entered into by some thieves, and the Office Table was tampered with and the only thing removed from it was a bunch of keys. The accused made a statement in the Police Court admitting the burglary but naming another carpenter as the principal in the commission of the offence. The accused who was defended by Mr. Advocate Thambyah withdrew that statement by saying that he was compelled by the threats and intimidation of the Police to make it to the Magistrate. The Jury retired and brought in a unanimous verdict that the accused was guilty of having been in possession of stolen property knowing it to have been stolen. The Judge refused to accept it and the Jury were asked to say whether they believed the original statement of the accused or not. His Lordship further said that if the Jury believed it they were bound to convict him of burglary. The Jurors retired again and unanimously brought in a verdict against the accused on the counts of the indictment. At the request of Mr. Thambyah sentence was deferred till the next day.—Cor.

LOCAL & GENERAL

A Garden Party—Mr. S. T. M. Pasupathy Chettyar, the well-known landed proprietor and the treasurer of the Saiva Paripalana, Sabhai, Jaffna, gave a garden party on the 20th Inst., at his new bungalow at Anaikottai. There was a large gathering of friends and well-wishers, whose presence testified to his worth and popularity. Refreshments were freely partaken of by all those who were present.

Mr. S. K. Lawton—This well-known gentleman has completed the 25th year of his career as a photographer. From small beginnings he has risen to a leading position as a Photographer. Not only his popularity and winning manners, but his great skill in the art has brought about a steady increase in the work. We understand from a contemporary that the out-put of this month is expected to exceed 4000 copies. Very great credit is due to Mr. Lawton for carving out for himself a new career in Jaffna, without proceeding along beaten tracks, as is the case with the generality of Jaffnese.

The Land Registrar's Office, Jaffna—The vacancy caused by the death of Mr. Thuraiappa, Searcher, has been filled up by the appointment of Mr. Sabaretnam, a son of the late Mr. A. Sinnaiyah, Stamp Vendor, and a promising young man.

An Accident—Some coolies engaged in the work of building the bridge at Uppar in the Railway line, slipped into the sea owing to a machine having given way during the process of fitting the materials for the bridge. About half a dozen of them sustained injuries more or less severe.

A Fatal Accident—A boy was found dead in the Maddu Tank two weeks ago.

Personal—We are glad to welcome back Mr. A. Modr: Venasitamby who is employed as a clerk at the Land Office in Sunge-U-Jong. He is a son of the late Ampalavana Modr: Maniagar of the Islands. He is now at Araly among his friends and relations enjoying his well-earned

ed holiday, after a spell of eleven years' hard work.

The Public Instruction Department—Mr. Henry Fernando, one of the Masters of the Royal College, has been appointed acting Inspector, of Schools in the room of Mr. Seneviratne who acts for Mr. Walker.

The District Court Criminal Work—There has been a steady increase in the number of cases committed for trial before the District Court of Jaffna since the last three or four years. We think that the statistics for 1901 will show the largest increase, in any year. The number of cases now tried by the District Judge is double of what it was about ten years ago. Whether this increase is due to a greater number of cases being committed to the District Court than before, or to crime being rife in the country, can be made out only when the Solicitor-General's Report for 1900 is out.

—Mr. E. J. Mearling, Sub-Inspector of Village Tanks in Manaar, has been appointed as Inspector in Vavonia, in the room of Mr. N. gamuttu, who has been transferred to Batticaloa as Chief Inspector of the Tanks there.

—Mr. C. Vettivelo, Adigar of Mantai Patta in Mannar, has sent in his papers for retirement. Mr. Piraisudi, his son, is acting for him. Most probably, Mr. Piraisudi will be confirmed in the post. The son's appointment will be a fitting recognition of the father's long and faithful services to Government and the people.

The Madras High Court—The Hon. Sir V. Bashyam Iyengar, B. A., B. L., Kt., Additional Member of the Legislative Council, and twice Acting Advocate General, Madras, has been appointed a Judge of the High Court of Madras in succession to the Hon. Justice Sheppard, retired. Sir V. Bashyam Iyengar's appointment will raise the number of native judges to two, Sir S. Subramania Aiyar, K. C. I. E., who is now on leave, being the Senior Puisne Justice. The Madras High Court is composed of six judges, of whom two are natives. Why can't the Government of Ceylon follow suit and appoint to the Supreme Court a native Judge? Since the British occupation of Ceylon there has been only one native judge of the Supreme Court—the late Sir Henry Dias. The Burghers, who are the descendants of Europeans cannot be regarded as natives, and their appointment cannot redound to the credit of the native race, though the appointment of Burghers also ought to be welcomed as they are permanent residents of the Island.

The South African War—Skirmishes between British troops and Boers are going on as ever. It seems that the war is not likely to come to an end at an early date. The pacification of the Transvaal seems to be a matter of time. Though our fortunes are cast with the British and we wish the success of the British arms, we cannot conceal our chagrin at the fact that the reason why the native Indian troops have not been put in the field in Africa is to please the Boers and such of the British Whites as are actuated by "colour" feeling. The British do not employ their own troops against the enemy in order to conciliate racial prejudices!! How are the mighty fallen!!! Here is a nut for Christian Missionaries to crack.

THE DEAF HEAR.—No. 463 of *The Illustrated 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.

REGISTRATION OF HINDU MARRIAGES IN THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

The well known Post Master of Krian Mr. V. Arunasalam of Batticottai East requested the District Magistrate, Krian, Perak, that his sister's marriage should be registered here as is done in Ceylon. After the explanation made to the District Magistrate as to the system of Registering Hindu marriages in force in Ceylon, by his Clerk Mr. C. S. Maniar, the District Magistrate was kind enough to recommend the matter to the Government, and now we are informed that the British Resident of Perak has referred the scheme to the Legal Adviser of the Federated Malay States, and we hope that this scheme will come into force as early as possible.

Many of our enterprising Hindu young men who are already married in the Straits Settlements are earnestly awaiting to register their marriages.

We pray our almighty "Siva" to grant us every success in this undertaking.—Cam.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Editor of
The "Hindu Organ"

Sir,

It is, indeed a hopeful sign that attempts are being made in India to rescue the Classical Literature in Tamil from early extinction, by printing and publishing portions of it. There is much valuable information locked up in old manuscripts which, if not collected and published now, may be lost in a few decades more. The sad fate of the great South Indian language in the past is known to every Tamilian on the neighbouring Continent and Ceylon. Once, the sea washed off thousands of manuscripts deposited in the library of the second Capital of the Pandian Kings, and most of what remained fell a prey to the barbers of Anti-Hindu conquerors in the thirteenth century. It is said that many of the existing manuscripts are in such a state of decay that unless early steps are taken to print them they will be lost to the Tamil world at no distant date. Our dear old Tamil is not behind any language in the world in respect of dignity and polish of diction, exactness of terminology, and copiousness of vocabulary. No nation can ever make any progress which coldly allows its mother tongue to fall out of use. I suppose that our Jaffna young men do not hope to turn out Europeans, even if it be possible. There cannot be any national expansion without a corresponding expansion in its natural medium of thought. I propose that an association be formed for the set purpose of publishing in book forms all the extant classical works in Tamil, be they Saivite, Jainic, Buddhist, Vishnuvite, or Christian. The undertaking is a national one, and every Tamilian, irrespective of creed or sect, should co-operate to make it a success.

A Jaffnese

19-7 1901.
Colombo

SELECTIONS.

WE EXTRACT THE FOLLOWING FROM THE LONDON CORRESPONDENT'S LETTER TO THE HINDU.

HONOURS TO DEPARTED INDIANS IN ENGLAND.

I had hoped to send you a special account of the most interesting ceremony at the Brookwood Necropolis near Woking on Wednesday afternoon. Also, to have commented upon the singular circumstance that, within two miles of each other in a direct line one with the other as the railway runs, are the only Mosque in England and the only Parsee chapel in which the ancient fire is kindled for worship. And, further, to have added that Sir George Birdwood told me he hoped soon to have a Hindu temple in this country for the many Hindus who visited England. All these things and others of a like character can merely command mention, for other duties have interfered and have prevented my telling the story as I wanted to tell it. I take over the particulars given in the "Daily Chronicle;" they are as follow:—

"A ceremony of peculiar interest to the Indian community in London took place in a pleasant glade of the Necropolis at Brookwood. This was the consecration of the new agiary (or temple) and mausoleum erected in the memory of the late Mr. Nowrojee N. Wadia.

"The new agiary, close to the southern gate, has been erected by Messrs. Cyril Tubb and Arthur Messer, under the direction of Sir George Birdwood, on the plan of some of the similar structures of the palace of Darius; and the mausoleum has been copied from the ruins of the tomb of Cyrus at Pasargadae, as restored by Messrs. Perrot and Chipiez.

"On arrival at Brookwood Station the company went in procession to the chapel ground, where the consecration prayers were said. Sir George Birdwood, K. C. I. E., then delivered an address, in the course of which he traced the history of the Parsees, the modern representatives of the Medes and Persians who have for 3,000 years, through every vicissitude, preserved their common faith. The plot of ground thus laid out, and the buildings, were, he said, at once of the greatest antiquarian interest and of the most solemn and soothing suggestiveness. They not only honoured the memory of the late Mr. Wadia, but all the Parsee dead—nearly thirty in number—who had been gathered there since 1862.

"Sir M. M. Bhownagjee M. P., paid a tribute to the memory of the late Mr. Wadia, after which Mr. N. N. Wadia (a son) asked the Managers of the Zoroastrian Fund to take charge of the agiary and mausoleum on behalf of his mother. Mr. D. Naoroji, formerly M. P. for Finsbury, accepted the trust as chairman of the committee, and the proceedings closed with a speech by Mr. N. J. Moollu, thanking Sir George Birdwood and the company present."

BISHOP WELLDON ONCE MORE.

Dr. Weldon is making full use of his visit to England to enumerate his views on pretty well all phases of Christianity as it may be presumed to affect India and the Indians. Always, however, with one exception. He never seems to look into the Indian Administration of Christian men to find the fruits of the religion they profess. Perhaps he has no inclination to take part in what he must know would be a vain search. At the Dorchester Missionary College, near Oxford, the Bishop said that there appeared too little willingness among

some of the clergy to go abroad. He believed it to be a rule almost without exception that if the call to an office in the Church out of England came to any minister of the Gospel it ought not to be refused. He urged the need that there was in India of a sufficient supply of consecrated men and women. It was his privilege from time to time to enter into friendly conversation with the representatives of the different religions in India, and, if he did not misinterpret their feeling, it seemed to him that in their hearts they thought Christianity was going to win the day. They dreaded it, not so much as a religion, but as a disruption, a complete subversion of the whole social system upon which the Hindu life in India had been based. The "complete subversion of the whole social system upon which Hindu life is based" may be a very good reason for the hesitation thus described. It is no small thing to introduce into a vast and complex society a disruptive force so serious as that which British Christianity, which has superseded real Christianity ensures. The real Christianity would suit India as perfectly and Indian Institutions likewise.

A "CHRISTIAN" MEMORIAL OF THE QUEEN.

Lord Radstock, who is well known in India, as in England, for his strong evangelical opinions and his earnest proclamation of the same, has suggested in the "Christian Age," that the late Queen's death should be commemorated in India by giving a copy of the New Testament in the vernacular to every Indian willing and able to read it. Every individual Christian, it is thought, might help in the endeavour. It may seem to some people that it would be better for Lord Radstock and his friends to persuade the English people to read the New Testament for themselves, to learn its precepts, and, having learned them, to put them into practice. Probably, there are few "New Testament" Christians, that is, Christians who order their life and conduct according to the teaching of that Book, in the whole of Christian England. A little more Christianity in England first, if you please, Lord Radstock!

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