

# The Hindu Organ

(THE CHEAPEST WEEKLY IN CEYLON)

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## THE HINDU ORGAN.

JAFFNA, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 1901

### Prison Statistics:

#### The Ratio of Prisoners Of Each Race to 100,000 Of Its Population.

The Solicitor-General compiles his report from the returns furnished by the Inspector-General of Police, District Judges, Police Magistrates, and others, and unless these officials "shuffle", the Solicitor-General who only arranges the returns statistically cannot "shuffle", and even if he does so, the "shuffling" can be easily detected. If the statistics published by the Solicitor-General or other heads of Departments are not palatable to any community, the safest thing to do is not to compile or publish the statistics at all. But to favour one community is in the highest degree unjust. Europeans are the rulers of the Island, and if they do not desire that the state of crime amongst them should be recorded, the best course to be pursued is to expunge their name altogether from the Solicitor-General's or Inspector-General's Report. Instead of doing this, the Government has, at the instance of the General European Member in the Legislative Council, undertaken to show partiality to Europeans. It may be said that Europeans being our rulers, they are entitled to special consideration. If they rest their claim to special treatment on this ground, *cadit quaestio*. But this is exactly what they do not do. They tell us that under the rule of England all races and all communities are treated alike and are accorded the same rights and privileges. Europeans cannot certainly find fault with us if we take them at their word and expect them to treat alike the native races and the members of their own nationality in the consideration and decision of public questions.

We are led to make the above observations in view of what fell from the lips of the General European Member and His Excellency the Governor in the Legislative Council both in 1900 and this year as to the Prison Returns contained in the Solicitor-General's Report. The Inspector-General ascertains from the prisoners under his charge their nationality and religion and furnishes them to the Solicitor-General, who tabulates them and strikes out a ratio of prisoners of each race to 100,000 of its population. In the years 1895, 96, 97, 98, and 99, the number of Europeans sent to jail was 34, 38, 37, 33, and 21 respectively. The number of Europeans in Ceylon being 6,400, the ratio of European prisoners per 100,000 Europeans for the quinquennial period ending 1899 was 515. This ratio by far excelled that of the native races. A section of the European community led by the *Times* waxed wroth at it and with the reporter. Their position was that among the resident European population there was practically no crime and that the convicts admitted into jail were sailors and other members of the floating

population. It must also be remembered that the Solicitor-General knowing very well the peculiarities and susceptibilities of the European mind took especial care to add in a note that the ratio shown as regards Europeans was largely made up of convictions from the floating European population. In spite of all this, the *Times* was lashed into a fury at the Tamil Solicitor-General, and the Hon: G.F. Walker taking the cue from the 'Times' questioned in the Legislative Council not the correctness of the Solicitor-General's figures, but his audacity in classifying the heaven-born European merchants and planters with sailors and others. The Governor yielded to the representations of Mr. Walker and the *Times*, and promised to see that the matter complained of was set right in the report for the year 1900.

In the Report for 1900, the Solicitor-General loyally following the instructions of the Government omitted Europeans entirely from the column relating to the ratio of prisoners of each race to 100,000 of its population, and recorded in another place only the bare fact that 21 Europeans (the same number as in 1899) were convicted in the Ceylon courts and sent to jail in 1900. Now, even those who are most hard to please would have been satisfied with this action of the Solicitor-General, but the "Times" whose anti-native instincts can never be appeased wrote something this year too which Mr. Walker re-echoed in the Legislative Council last week. The Hon: the Attorney-General, himself a European, protested that all that could have been done to save the "honour" of Europeans had been done, and that unless Europeans were entirely omitted from the Report, it would be almost impossible to meet the wishes of the Hon: Mr. Walker. In reply to a question from His Excellency the Governor, the Attorney-General however said that it was possible to distinguish between resident and non-resident European convicts, which perhaps will be done next year. But what is amusing to us is the attempt made by the *Times* and Mr. Walker to disown their connection with the Europeans in the shipping and other walks of life. Sailors are as much Europeans as are planters and merchants.

Europeans having gained their point at the hands of His Excellency the Governor and the Legislative Council, it is now the turn of the Tamil and the Moorish communities to press on their attention the "injustice" involved in classifying the resident Tamil and Moorish convicts with the convicts drawn from among the immigrant Tamils and Moors. The Ceylon Tamils are essentially a law-abiding people, and there is not the slightest doubt that it is the non-resident Tamils that swell the number of Tamil convicts. The same must be the case with the Moors. The local Moorish man is proverbially industrious. Very seldom is he sent to jail. It is the Muhammadans employed as lascars and in other capacities, who are all non-residents or immigrants, that largely contribute to the "criminality" of the Muhammadans. If the Government will not use two weights and two measures, if they are true to their professions, if they mean what they say, if they wish that the native races should take them at their word, it is incumbent on them to take the necessary steps to distinguish between resident and non-resident Tamils and Moors. The Inspector-General of Police can ascertain the "residence" or "non-residence" of Tamils and Muhammadans in the same way that he ascertains that of Europeans. We await to see what action the Government will take. The "Times" also, if it is an

impartial paper and is not actuated by hatred of the Tamil Solicitor-General, will leave no stone unturned to secure to the Tamils and Moors the same treatment as is accorded to Europeans.

Before concluding, we shall add one word for the edification of the Editor of the *Times*. Has he studied the criminal statistics of his own country and compared them with those of India and Ceylon? If he sets to himself this task, he will be informed that in Scotland for instance, which is the most "godly" part of the United Kingdom, crime is seven times greater than it is among the "natives" of India.

### LOCAL & GENERAL

**Weather**—There was plenty of rain all over the Peninsula during the week.

**Agricultural Operations**—Farmers are busy weeding their paddy fields. Owing to want of timely rain, weeds have got the better of the paddy plants in several villages and are more numerous than in past years. Though the plants have been scorched up by the sun in some parts, the harvest prospects of the Peninsula as a whole do not look to be bad.

**Clerical Examination**—This Examination will be held on the 27th January 1902. The centres of examination will be Colombo and Jaffna only.

**Kerosine Oil**—A Colombo company having opened a store in Jaffna, Kerosine oil is being sold by them at a much cheaper rate than by the local traders. The oil is being taken in carts and vended by retail at the very doors of those who want it. Many of the local traders being unable to compete with the company have withdrawn from the trade. If the oil sold by the company is of the same quality as that hitherto sold by the Jaffna traders, certainly the reduction of the price from 20 cents to 12 cents is a great boon.

**Jaffna Maniagar**—Arrangements are being made for according a grand reception to the Maniagar on his return from Colombo after being invested with the rank of Madaliyar of the Governor's Gate.

**Mr. M. B. Swampillai**—This well-known merchant of Jaffna has proceeded to Colombo to transact some business of importance.

**Our Shop-keepers**—There has been a large exodus to Colombo of Jaffna shop-keepers during the week. They have gone there to buy Christmas goods for sale in Jaffna.

**The Northern Railway**—The Chief Resident Engineer, Northern and Uda Passelawa Railway Extensions, arrived at Jaffna on the 6th Instant and has been going over the line to see how far the work has progressed.

**Plague Regulations**—A modification has been made in the plague regulations of 24th November 1900 to the effect that it shall be lawful for the Government Agent, Northern Province, to permit labourers for the Government Service to land at Koyts after due medical examination, and, if necessary, segregation.

**Dr. H. A. Moraes**—Our Colonial Surgeon has proceeded on a circuit to the Mannar and Mullaitivu districts and will be back in Jaffna only about the latter part of the month.

**The Telegraph Department**—Telegraphic communication between Jaffna and Colombo was at a standstill last week owing to the cable between Poonakari and Kalmunai having gone wrong.

**Mr. E. W. F. Ponnutamby**—This gentleman who is a surveyor in the North-Central Province is on a visit to Jaffna.

—It is on the cards that Mr. M. S. Rajakarier will be shortly married to Miss Charlotte Ollegasegaram a daughter of Mr. T. P. Ollegasegaram, Head Clerk of the Jaffna Customs.

**The Murder Case from Chundicully**—The inquiry into this case has been concluded, and the proceedings have been forwarded to the Attorney General.

**Dr. S. Halleck**—On the eve of his departure from Trincomalee Dr. Halleck was presented

with a purse by his numerous patients and friends in that Town.

**Pearl Oysters**—Captain Donnan has returned to Colombo from Slavaturrai with a large number of Oysters. The Oysters are to be sent to Professor Herdman for his inspection.

**Daring Criminals**—The persons who made a way with the turban worn by a headman in Valigamam North when passing by the Sivan Temple road have been arrested and brought to justice. It is said that there is a goodly number of previous convictions against them.

**The North-Western Province Agency**—Mr. H. L. Crawford has been appointed Government Agent of the North-Western Province vice Mr. C. A. Murray who acts as Treasurer. Mr. Crawford will at the same time act as Commissioner under the Buddhist Temporalities Ordinance.

**Obituary**—We deeply regret to record the untimely death of Mr. S. Joseph, Head Clerk, Fiscal's Office, Negombo, who was a Jaffna gentleman of considerable parts. At the time of his death he was also the Deputy Fiscal of Negombo. We express our condolences with his widow and children.

**The Incidence of Taxation**—A Commission has been appointed by His Excellency the Governor to consider the incidence of taxation in Ceylon. The Commissioners are the Hon. Messrs Figg, Walker, Campbell, Loos, and Abdul Rahman, the Hon. Dr. Rockwood, and Messrs Bois, Ferguson, Rosling, Bevan, de Soysa, and Sanmugam. We are glad to find that Mr. Sanmugam is coming to the fore front. The Government would have done better if they had appointed more Tamils and Singhalese to the Commission. While acknowledging the importance of the European community as merchants and planters, we cannot but observe that six is too large a number for them considering that the Singhalese, Tamil, and Moorish communities are represented by only five gentlemen.

**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.

CORRESPONDENCE.

R. B. M. IN REPLY.

To  
The Editor of the "Hindu Organ"  
Sir,

I find to my joy and surprise that you take objection to one of the many suggestions I have made in connection with my remarks on "our English-educated young men" which appeared in your issues of the 9th and 23rd ultimo. I say joy, because you have, though unintentionally, given me occasion to throw some light on a suggestion, which, in regard to its importance, stands foremost; and surprise, because you who, as a learned Editor, ought to know better the value and importance of that suggestion, and the dire necessity for its adoption, should have, in an off-hand way, condemned it as an unwise one, which would bring loss to their treasury if adopted by Government.

Well then you commence your criticism with the query, "Does our correspondent suggest that the Government should assume the role of the merchant?" Be pleased to know, sir, that there is incongruity in your query, arising from your assuming what I never expressed in any one of my two letters. We all know as we do our alphabet that the only object of a merchant in carrying on his trade is to get as much profit as he can for his own aggrandisement. What I suggested was that Government should so price the paddy and rice which they should buy from where they could be had cheap, that the profit might go to meet only the expense of importation, and the salaries of those whom they would appoint to sell that paddy and rice for them, as it was done in the time of Mr. Dyke who had a paddy department attached to the kutchchery to sell the paddy collected as tax levied on paddy crops. Will such a beneficent act to relieve the suffering poor of their distress make Government or even any compatriot "assume the role of a merchant"? "Can he quote any precedent?" is your next question which you cannot now put to me as I have already shown your assumption

to be wrong although it is easy for me to quote not one but many precedents to show you that Government do "assume the role of a merchant" in many instances. Lest I unnecessarily occupy your space and waste my time, which is my estate, let me give you but one. Look at please the many Government dispensaries both in our Island and in other countries in which not only medicines but combs, hair brushes, perfumed soap, hair powder, pomade for dressing the hair and many other such luxuries are got out direct from England and sold by dispensers to get profit for the money invested on them, although a dispensary as defined by lexicographers, "is a place where medicines are dispensed, especially to the poor, gratis."

Sir, you say again,—I do not know where you studied it—that "if Government undertakes the importation and sale of paddy and rice, their price will increase rather than decrease. Any work undertaken by Government costs more than it does if undertaken by a private individual or company." Would fire when touched by Government emit more heat than it would when touched by "a private individual or company." It is however, true that people have more regard for high Government functionaries than they have for one another. Suppose our Governor gave notice of his intention to pay a visit to Jaffna, what do you think would be the "machinery engaged",—touse your metaphor,—by our Government Agent to have pandals erected here, there, and every where with first rate decorations and dazzling illuminations at night fall, and how much money would all that cost Government? Would it be more than what it would have cost if undertaken "by a private individual or company"? Let precedents answer this for us both.

Again you aver that "the merchant does not reap more than a small margin of profit." If this is so, then how do you account for the Nattacotai Chetties leaving their native place for countries far away, as if for good, buying large buildings so as to serve both as dwellings and godowns, building every where they go huge temples at a very great cost, and at the same time being ready to lend large sums of money to our countrymen on promissary notes? If the profit they "reap" is not such as to enable them to do all these, will our rich countrymen use them as their bank to deposit their large sums of money in their cash boxes or rather bins? If trading on tobacco which is not one of the necessaries of life, and on wheat which does not grow here, could make many a poor become rich within a few years, why not trading on a large scale on paddy and rice on which live both the rich and the poor, make Government with the help of their "machinery", the headmen, yield a profit to relieve, at least to some extent, their poor subjects of their misery and distress? To dilate more on your animadversions I think, is not necessary, and so let me bring my refutations to a close.

Requesting you to be good enough to publish the above without mutilating it, in your next issue.

I am  
You as ever  
R. B. M.

4th November, 1901.

THE BRAHMANS OF CEYLON.

To  
The Editor "Hindu Organ" Jaffna.  
Sir,

There is no denying the fact that the Ceylon Brahmans of the present day have become so degenerated mentally and morally that they don't occupy in society the position which they ought to occupy. Notwithstanding the fact that they are a most intelligent class of people even at the present day, the Goddess of Learning has taken leave of them, and hence their position in society has practically become nil. There was a time when they were not only the doctors of religion, but also the chief advisers of the Government and the leaders of society. But with the advent of foreign powers into our land, and the consequent neglect of learning, their position has become low. The effects produced on their minds by the cruelties of the Portuguese and the Dutch have not yet been altogether wiped away.

The Brahmans of Ceylon do not sail with the times as their brethren do in India. In the beginning of the 20th century, when every nation and every community is advancing, it is impolitic for the Brahmans to continue in their lethargy and conservatism. They must rise up

from it, and get to the top again. In order to attain their former prestige, they must again invoke the aid of the Goddess of Learning. They must learn English. That is the whole secret of success under British rule. Let them give up the idea that English education contaminates the mind or morals of one, if the Brahmans are imbued with any such idea. True that foreign conquest, introduction of European civilization, and the so-called Christianity introduced from Europe have done much injury to Hindu society, and upset it altogether in certain respects, but I should think it is for our own good. The Hindu social structure of the Puranic age cannot hold good in the altered circumstances of the 20th century. It does not necessarily follow that what was working well and to the good of society in those days should be so at the present day. But the fundamental principles upon which the immortal Rishis of old constructed the Hindu society are such that they hold good in the case of all peoples and all countries and at all times. These fundamental principles are the principles underlying our social system minus so many local customs and prejudices, and "don't-touchism", which latter, as Swamy Vivekananda says, "is an unorthodox superstition which has interfered with national efficiency." The leading men of India having found the shallowness of the social system of the West, and the evil consequences of following it, are now re-constructing Hindu society basing it of course upon the principles originally promulgated by the Rishis. Unless we also follow them in the same track "waking up from our age-long sleep, we cannot take our true rank in the hierarchy of nations."

The Brahmans should also learn the Sanscrit language which is indispensably necessary to them—a language which has become much neglected in Jaffna. In this connection, it may be mentioned that the patriotic work of Pandit S. S. Sivapragasam of Neervaly must be cordially welcomed and patronised by every true citizen. It is a consolation to know that he has started a Sanscrit school to revive our sacred language. How grand will it be if our Brahman youths undergo a moral and mental training, get a thorough insight into the Sastras from the learned Pandit, and then undergo a final examination by some Tamil University of South India, before they get the ordination? How grand will it be if all the priests are brought under the control of a central power—say the Saiva Paripalana Sabai. It is indeed very desirable that some such scheme should be formed. For, at present there is absolutely no check upon them. They can break the rules of religion and morality with impunity. It does not surprise me at all to be whispered into my ears by some swallow that a very influential *Kurukkal* of our community lives in open sin. No one is to blame for this, but the non-Brahman community who engage the services of offending *Kurukkals*, and respect them as such. As to this it must be remembered that we are now in the beginning of a revival of Hindu religion and institutions. It remains to be seen whether offending Brahmans will be brought to book, and whether our Brahmans will keep themselves abreast of the times. They are just awakening from a stupor of ages, but not in a satisfactory manner. Their past glory cannot be altogether regained under existing circumstances. The fire of their intellect has been dimmed by centuries of oppression and cruelty, but not wholly extinguished; it waits but the breeze of manly effort, and kindly help to burn once again in the time to come, let us hope, with splendour and lustre.

Yours truly  
Hindu.

Colombo,  
17th October 1901.

SELECTIONS.

CHRISTIAN MISSIONARIES AND ARYA SAMAJ.

If common report is to be believed, the missionaries in Bengal are greatly exercised at the results of the action taken by the Arya Samaj in readmitting Christian converts within the pale of Hindu society. It is but some three years ago since the Samajists introduced this policy, and the number of newly manufactured Christians who have seen the error of their ways and formally gone back to their original faith through the ceremony of purification, is said to number close upon two thousand. Putting the true figure at half or even a quarter of this, it is intelligible that the missionaries should take alarm if their results show signs of melting at such a rate. For the outside world such a movement would also furnish an instructive index of the depth of the conviction that results in the production of a Bengali convert. But the less the real value of a convert, the higher the price the missionary societies

would seem to set upon him, if the story be true which comes to us that a Native Christian who was about to follow the example of his friends and go through the ceremony of restoration to Hinduism was offered a lump sum of a thousand rupees and a billet of a hundred rupees a month to stand fast. What a pillar of Christianity such a person would be, supposing that he fell in with this persuasive appeal to his religious instincts. We cannot suppose, however, that the story is true, if only for the reason that, if such liberality became known, the temptation to other newly made Christians to find that their feet were slipping would be almost irresistible.—Pioneer.

# NOTICE.

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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## IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.

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1. Vaitinathar Ramalingam of Kachchai  
2. Chellachchi wife of Suppaiya of do  
3. Nagamuttu Sellaturai of do and  
4. Kathiresar Nagamuttu of do —Respondents  
This matter of the Petition of Arumugam Suppaiya of Kachchai praying for Letters of Administration to the estate of the abovenamed deceased Chinnamma wife of Ramalingam coming on for disposal before W. R. B. Sanders Esquire, District Judge, on the 17th day of October 1901 in the presence of Messrs Casipillai & Cathiravelu Proctors on the part of the Petitioner and affidavit of the Petitioner dated the 14th of October 1901 having been read, it is declared that the Petitioner is the husband of one the heirs 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 25th day of November 1901 show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

Signed this 17th day of October 1901  
W. R. B. SANDERS  
District Judge.

## IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA

ORDER NISI  
Testamentary } No. 1199  
Jurisdiction }  
Class I In the Matter of the Estate of the late Nagamuttu wife of Kanapati of Delft East —Deceased Naganathar Ramanathar of Delft East —Petitioner

1. Sinnattampi Kanapati of Delft East  
2. Aiyattai wife of Ramanathar of do  
3. Chethnppillai daughter of Kanapati of do  
4. Kanapati Kantaya of do —Respondents  
This matter of the Petition Naganathar Ramanathar of Delft East praying for Letters of Administration to the estate of the abovenamed deceased Nagamuttu wife of Kanapati of Delft East coming on for disposal before W. R. B. Sanders Esquire, District Judge, on the 23rd day of October 1901 in the presence of Messrs Casipillai & Cathiravelu Proctors on the part of the Petitioner and affidavit of the Petitioner dated the 22nd day of October 1901 having been read, it is declared that the Petitioner is the husband of one of the heirs 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 29th day of November 1901 show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

Signed this 23rd day of October 1901  
W. R. B. SANDERS  
District Judge

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