

# The Hindu Organ

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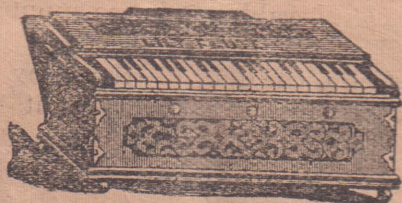
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THE MANAGER



## The Hindu Organ.

JAFFNA, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1899

### Public Health in 1898,

Dr. Allan Perry's remarks on this subject in his administration report of the Medical Department for 1898 is of peculiar interest to the people of Jaffna, as it was an year during which fever of a most virulent type broke out in this Peninsula and carried off thousands of victims, and caused general suffering and distress among them—an epidemic the like of which had not been known in Jaffna to the present generation. Dr. Perry writes:—

Malarial fevers in a virulent epidemic form occurred during the last quarter of the year in the Northern and North Western Provinces. The Island is never free from this disease, which is endemic in many parts, and annually assumes an epidemic character at such times when the conditions are favourable to its propagation and spread; but, except for the epidemic which broke out in the Galle and Matara Districts in the Southern Province during the second half of 1895 and extended to June, 1896, which is referred to in the annual reports of my predecessor for 1895 and 1896, and which was clearly traced to the extensive disturbance of the soil consequent on the extension of the Southern Railway, the Island has not known for ten years or more such an outbreak as occurred in the Jaffna peninsula of the Northern Province and in the Kurunegala District of the North-Western Province. The outbreak at Jaffna occurred during the heavy rains of November and December, when extensive tracts of flat land were submerged, the water becoming stagnant owing to the want of drainage. During these months and also in the first two or three months of the year there is a heavy fall of dew and a marked fall in the temperature of the atmosphere at nights, so that the poorer classes, who are ill-fed, ill-clad, and ill-housed, fall easy preys to obilms and malarial influences. The distress in the district was great and the mortality was high. Quinine was distributed freely throughout the afflicted districts, and large numbers flocked to the dispensaries for treatment. Malarial fever occurred in the peninsula and other parts of the Northern Province in the first three months of the year, also in an epidemic form, but in not greater severity than the outbreaks of former years.

The annual mortality caused by malarial fevers and their sequelae is enormous, and I fear that when the Registrar-General's report is published the year under review will show the highest death-rate from these causes for the last decade. But even the mortality is not the largest evil wrought, for every death represents many attacks, which cause an incalculable amount of suffering and racial deterioration, sapping the life and vigour of the country.

The unanimous opinion of all the officers in whose districts malarial fevers prevailed is that the principal factor was the flooding of low-lying lands and the absence of natural or artificial drainage. Deep drainage improves the soil as well as the health of the inhabitants, and this should be specially attended to in those flat tracts where malaria prevails to an alarming extent. Another preventive measure is the possession of a pure water supply. In many places, especially in Jaffna, water is obtained from wells, the majority of which are polluted by their proximity to cesspit latrines, and no work more beneficial to the welfare of a people can be undertaken than that of providing a wholesome supply of water. The provision of public latrines and improvement of the habitation of the poor are other works which will tend in a great measure to remove the causes favourable to the propagation of malaria. But in our present state of knowledge it is idle to indulge in illusive hopes of the country being ever entirely free from malaria, and till the etiology of the disease is

better known we cannot do more than improve the sanitary condition of the Colony.

As the fever season is now approaching the people here feel apprehensive that the experience of last year will be repeated. The Government has, as far as we are aware, done nothing to prevent an outbreak of malarial fevers in Jaffna or to mitigate their horrors. We must take exception to Dr. Perry's observation in regard to the free distribution of quinine during the last outbreak of fever throughout the afflicted districts. Whatever might have been the case in other districts, in Jaffna it was never done in the sense the P. C. M. O. represent it to be. Even in Government Hospitals and Dispensaries quinine could not be had either for love or money, at times, during the acutest stage of the epidemic; and free distribution of quinine among the villagers was never systematically carried out. Mr. Levers the Government Agent, in his report for the year, finds fault with the Medical Department for not keeping a sufficient quantity of quinine in stock to supply the medical wants of the Province. So much for what the authorities failed to do to mitigate the horrors of the epidemic. What have they done to prevent the recurrence of the epidemic? In our opinion they have done absolutely nothing.

Dr. Perry compares the late outbreak of fever in Jaffna to that that occurred in Galle and Matara in 1895-96, and also to the outbreak that took place in Kurunagalla in 1898. Our readers might remember that the outbreak of fever in the Southern Province formed the subject of inquiry by a special Commission; and, if the report published by some of our daily contemporaries be true, a Commission is soon to be appointed to inquire into the sanitary condition and water supply of Kurunagalla also. Why have not the authorities thought it proper to institute a similar inquiry in regard to this District? Although the Civil Medical department is answerable, so far as supplying the medical wants of the public, yet it is, in our opinion, the duty of the Government Agent to make a strong representation to the Government in regard to the adoption of sanitary measures which would prevent the recurrence of the epidemic in this Peninsula and to see them carried out.

"The unanimous opinion," says Dr. Perry, "of all officers in whose districts malarial fevers prevailed is that the principal factor was the flooding of low-lying lands and the absence of natural or artificial drainage. Deep drainage improves the soil as well as the health of the inhabitants, and this should be specially attended to in those flat tracts where malaria prevails to an alarming extent." We have a right to ask if any attempt has been made since the awful lesson learnt by the last epidemic of fever here to improve the drainage of this Peninsula or of the Town. Even most of the existing channels which were deepened in previous years before the advent of the winter season remain in a neglected condition this year without the usual repairs, not to speak of new drains being not opened to improve the sanitary condition of the Peninsula. Surely this state of affairs cannot long be allowed to exist, and the authorities should be urged upon to do their duty before it is too late to prevent the annual loss of thousands of human lives and general suffering among the people. Dr. Perry truly remarks that "Even mortality is not the largest evil wrought, for every death represents many attacks which cause an incalculable amount of suffering and racial deterioration, sapping the life and vigour of the country." Has the Ceylon Government a more paramount and more sacred duty than that of preventing the

evils which the Principal Civil Medical Officer of the Colony thinks will be the effect, if the annual attack of malarial fevers in certain districts be not prevented.

In this connection the following extracts from the report of Dr. A. B. Santiago, acting Colonial Surgeon of the Northern Province, cannot fail to be of general interest:—

Malarial fevers were most prevalent during the first three and the last two months of the year. During these five months the cases treated aggregated 29,188, as against 17,097 during the other seven months. The extensive prevalence from year to year of malarial fevers throughout the Jaffna District with a population of over 308,000 at present has been referred to in previous reports, and I beg leave to call special attention to it in this report, as the fevers prevailed to a very great extent during the latter part of the year and were of an unusually virulent type.

With the gradual increase of dispensaries and the free distribution of quinine through the Government Agent, headmen, vaccinators, and Catholic Missionaries, the suffering population is, I believe, to a great extent provided with medical relief. It is most desirable to devise measures to remove, as far as may be, those causes of the fever which are capable of being eliminated.

The presence of heavy dew, the dampness of the ground, and the impurity of the water so largely consumed are, I apprehend, some of the causes of the fever. The dew cannot be prevented, but the excessive dampness consequent on the rains in November and December can be prevented, and a more wholesome supply of water ought to be provided, at least within the limits of the town and suburbs of Jaffna. I would therefore suggest that the drainage, which is at present very defective, as is evident from the flooded state of the country during heavy rains, should be improved. I would also urge that early attention be given to the question of water supply, mooted several years ago and brought lately within, what is generally believed to be, the range of practical politics. I am in hopes that with an effective system of drainage and a wholesome supply of water much of the fever now periodically recurrent and so generally prevalent would disappear.

The health and sanitation of the town of Jaffna in particular and of the peninsula in general are subjects which I cannot avoid without making this report a very incomplete and imperfect one. In referring to these subjects I cannot do better than quote the opinions already expressed, of the late lamented Dr. Thornhill; Mr. Levers, the Government Agent; Mr. Grant, Provincial Engineer; and Mr. Ormsby, late Acting Director of Public Works, in their official reports for the year 1896, to which I would refer.

Various measures have been suggested, urged, and recommended from time to time, but very little has as yet been done. Of these, two claim special mention. The foreshore reclamation, as affording to the Karaiyur people a dwelling ground more convenient and spacious and nearer the sea than their present abode, where they are so miserably "cribbed, cabined, and confined," would be a capital means of relieving them of their present terrible congestion and of removing all the insanitary conditions arising from this congestion.

The introduction of some form of self-government, such as a Local Board or a Municipality, would give the Jaffna people themselves the power to improve their dwellings and surroundings and provide themselves with whatever is needful for them on the score of health and sanitation.

But the first measure has, I fear, been shelved for the present owing to its excessive cost, amounting to some Rs 300,000 as estimated by the Director of Public Works, and the second is also deferred owing to the extra taxation which it would involve and the incidence of which would, it is thought, be too heavy to be borne by a comparatively poor people. With the Jaffna railway, which cannot be long in coming, these and other measures will have to be carried out, and I need not therefore urge them for immediate consideration.

But there is one thing for which, I make bold to say, there is an imperative necessity—a crying demand—viz. adequate latrine accommodation, for the Karaiyur people in particular. In the deplorable absence of public latrines, certain roads, drains, and water-courses, especially in the Karaiyur division, are scandalously and abominably filthy all the year round; this great standing nuisance must be abated,

and the only means of doing this is to provide a number of latrines with as little delay as possible.

### THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

The fourth Session of the Legislative Council under the regime of His Excellency Sir J. West Redgeway was opened by His Excellency Sir E. Noel Walker, the Lieutenant Governor, on Wednesday the 4th Instant, when the Lieutenant-Governor delivered the opening Address. We reserve a review of this interesting document for a future occasion. We, however quote, in this issue what His Excellency has said in regard to the last outbreak of fever in Jaffna, and the extension of the railway to the North. Under the head of Sanitation he says:—

During the last quarter of 1898 there were severe outbreaks of malarial fever in the Northern and North-Western Provinces, notably at Jaffna and in the Kurunegala District. These virulent outbreaks were widespread and occasioned much distress and mortality. Their cause cannot be definitely traced, and in this connection it may be mentioned that this Government has complied with the request of the Secretary of State to co-operate with the object of studying the alleged connection between malaria and the mosquito. The necessary apparatus has been sent to about a dozen notably malarious districts for the medical officers to work at the subject, and it is hoped by the medical profession, as a result of these experiments which are being undertaken throughout the whole of the British Colonies and India, that that dread disease malaria, which has caused more havoc among colonies than anything else, will be eradicated, or at any rate controlled. Other parts of the Island were visited by their usual periodical outbreaks of malaria, but there was nothing of particular moment to call for more than the ordinary measures for relief.

Under the head of "Subjects for Consideration" His Excellency says:—

Papers will be laid before you to-day from which it will be seen that the Secretary of State, in pursuance of the resolutions of this Council, has authorized the construction of the whole line of railway connecting the North of the Island with Colombo.

The preliminary steps in the construction of the Northern and of the Kelani Valley extensions are being pushed on, and are perhaps in a more forward state than naturally meets the public eye. It will doubtless have been noticed that the Crown Agents have called for tenders, to be delivered by the 4th January next, for the construction of a railway from Kurunegala to Kankeasanturai.

### THE LATE MR. S. RAMUPILLAI.

It is our melancholy task to chronicle the death of this renowned native physician—the grand old man of Jaffna—which took place at his residence in Vannarponnai on the night of the 8th Instant after a short illness. He took ill with fever only nine days previous to his death, and succumbed to it amidst the universal lamentations and regret of the Jaffna public. Though he died full of years and full of honors, yet few men's death had ever before caused so much regret among the people here as that of Mr. Ramupillai. His name is a household word in Jaffna and his reputation as a skilful and successful native medical practitioner was not confined to Jaffna alone but known in other parts of the Island and South India also.

Mr. Ramupillai was a philanthropist in the true sense of the word. His long and useful life was spent in the service of his countrymen—in affording medical aid daily to hundreds of the poor and helpless free of any charge. It is also a well-known fact that he never demanded even from the well-to-do people his fee for medical attendance. But he accepted what they voluntarily gave him. Although he was 82 years old at the time of his death yet he was ever active and would gladly respond to any call to attend a patient at whatever distance from his residence and at any time of the day or night. It is said that even on the day he got his fatal illness he had been in his usual rounds to the houses of about half-a-dozen patients.

He retained to the last his wonderful memory. He treated daily hundreds of patients, without keeping a record of the medicines given or the ingredients prescribed. Yet he was never known to have made a mistake or to have asked the patients or their friends anything to refresh his memory. His patience and equanimity of temper were very remarkable. He was never known to have lost his temper or entertained even professional jealousy. He would very gladly and without any objection or remark go back to treat a patient, even after his attendance was superseded by the treatment of other Doctors. It was not, therefore, surprising that the man who was endowed with such noble qualities as rarely to be found in others, in addition to his skill and reputation as the best native medical practitioner in Jaffna, was highly esteemed and respected by the public without distinction

of caste or creed. It may safely be asserted without fear of contradiction that few if any, in Jaffna, were so much loved and respected as Mr. Ramupillai was.

Mr. Ramupillai was eminently a safe medical practitioner. Even English Medical Practitioners in Jaffna who would run down native treatment as quackery would speak of Ramupillai's treatment with respect and reserve. Persons of the highest position, education, and enlightenment in Jaffna were among those who reposed implicit confidence in his skill as a medical practitioner and availed of his services in that capacity, whenever they were required.

Truly a good and great man—in fact a man who has not left his compeers behind—has passed away. What makes the grief more poignant is the circumstance of there being no one at present in the family to carry on the noble work which Mr. Ramupillai had performed for more than half a century. His nephew and son-in-law, Mr. Sittambalam Kandapillai on whom the public had great confidence as a physician had predeceased his uncle about two years ago. The deceased's only son Mr. Sivasupramanier who had also a good training under his father, has now been incapacitated for the last two years by an unfortunate malady, from practising his profession. In Mr. Ramupillai's death not only native medicine, has lost the man who has upheld its prestige and reputation, but Jaffna has been deprived of one of her noblest son's whose life was consecrated to the disinterested service of his countrymen and whose like they will not soon see again. In conclusion we have to tender our deepest and heartfelt sympathies to the bereaved relations.

### LOCAL & GENERAL.

**The Weather**—A shower of rain fell yesterday which is sufficient to revive the dying paddy plants.

**Public Health**—Stray cases of fever are reported from all parts of the Peninsula. It is greatly feared that with the approaching wet and dewy season there will be a recrudescence of the fever epidemic that occurred last year.

**The Maniagarship of Valligamo North**—We understand that Mr. V. Chinnappa, Maniagar of Valligamo North has been called upon by the Government Agent to submit his papers for retirement. We hope Mr. Vissuvappa who is a son of the Maniagar and who acted for him during his illness will be chosen to succeed his father.

**THE JAFFNA HOSPITAL**—It has been finally decided by the Government to take over the management of the Jaffna Friend-in-Need Hospital. Those best able to Judge have suggested such a course and whatever the sentimental objection of subscribers in Jaffna to let a "People's Hospital" to be carried on by other than the people, it has to give way to a more practical and a more efficacious management, namely that of the Government. The matter has been finally decided and provision is to be made for taking over the hospital in next year's budget.

—Ceylon Examiner.

**Point Pedro Hospital**—The Government has decided to build a new Hospital at Point Pedro. The supply Bill for 1900 makes provision of Rs. 15,000 for the building and Rs 5000 for the purchase of a site. We believe the Puloly Hospital which is at a distance of two miles from Point Pedro will be given up.

**Obituary**—We regret to record the death of Mr. Philippiah of the Jaffna Kachcheri Post Office which took place on the 5th Instant at his residence in the Jaffna Town. We tender our heartfelt sympathy to the bereaved family.

**Mr B. Constantine**—We hear that Mr. Constantine, the Assistant Government Agent Mannar intends going home shortly on leave.

**Executions**—Of the three men sentenced to be hanged during the last sessions of the Supreme Court the Myliddy murderer has been already hanged. The jury having recommended the other two to mercy and the presiding Judge having endorsed the recommendation in regard to the fisherman who murdered his wife at Kokuvil West, their case was under the consideration of His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor and the Executive Council. It has now been decided to hang them both on the 16th Instant.

**The Chief Justice**—Sir W. Bonser who is due next month in Ceylon brings out with him Mr. Ambrose Elton as his new Private Secretary. Mr. Elton is a Barrister and eldest son of Sir Edmund Harry Elton, Bart.

**Transvaal**—Our extract on the fourth page on the "Strength of the English and Dutch in South Africa" will be found to be very interesting and instructive particularly at this junctive, when so much active preparations are being made by the British nation to make war with the Transvaal. To judge from the latest news the commencement of hostilities is expected at any moment.

### 300 YEARS OLD

A Hata Yogi has been the centre of attraction at Lucknow since last week. A Bengali resident of Benares, named Babu Puran Charan Chatterji, has brought the Yogi from Benares. He is said to be over 300 years old. We saw him the other morning in the house of Lala Sheo Narain, close to the temple Sidh Nath Mahaden, and attempted to have a talk with him but he expressed unwillingness to speak. The left hand of the Yogi is almost dried up, the nails four inches in length, having become rickety; the right hand remains on the right breast and is constantly moving; the face and the hair are those of a man of 90 years. He cannot be placed in a sitting posture. He is given milk and fruit twice in 24 hours. Hundreds of people flock to the Yogi with numerous presents.—*Lucknow Paper.*

### THE PROPOSED AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT.

THE COMMISSION OBTAIN FURTHER TIME.

We gave some time ago the text of the report of the Commission appointed to consider the advisability or otherwise of starting an Agricultural Department, the recommendations of the Commission being that an Agricultural Board should be formed; that experts should be got out; and that the School of Agriculture should be shifted to Kandy. We now learn that the Commission has obtained an extension till the end of the current month, owing to the report not having been returned from England, whither it was sent for the approval of Mr. F. R. Ellis and Mr. Willis, the Director of the Botanical Gardens. —*The Times of Ceylon.*

### TELEGRAPHIC SUMMARY.

#### THE TRANSVAAL CRISIS.

London, October 1st.—The Boers have now a force of 4,500 men concentrated at Volksrust, including 500 Germans who have volunteered for service.

London October 1st.—The whole of the Natal local forces and a great part of the police have gone north. The Berkshire Regiment have been despatched to Naauw Poort.

London, October 1st.—Two thousand Boers are mobilised on the frontier near Mafeking.

A Boer Camp has also been established near Vryheid where a great force will be mobilised, probably on Monday.

Hostilities are regarded as imminent.

London, October 2nd.—Various reports are current but most of them concur that the Boers are rapidly massing their forces near Charlestown and Mafeking, the latter place being especially exposed to attack.

The scarcity of water in Bechuanaland and Rhodesia is causing the Military authorities much anxiety.

The *Times* says it will be impossible, after what has happened, that the Boers should remain armed whilst the Uitlanders are unarmed.

London, October 2nd.—The price of Consols fell one per cent. in London to-day, chiefly owing to the general impression that an issue of twenty-five millions is impending.

The Queen will hold a Privy Council on Saturday and Parliament will probably be convoked for the 17th instant.

London, October 4. (received 10-45. p. m.)—The *DAILY TELEGRAPH* says it is believed that the Government will ask for a credit of ten millions sterling, of which three-and-half millions already have been expended and the remainder will enable the Government to continue the operations in South Africa until February.

London, Oct. 4. (received 10-45. p. m.)—There is a lull in the news from South Africa, owing to delays on the Transvaal wires from all points.

London Oct. 4. (received 10-45. p. m.)—The Imperial authorities at Mafeking have armed the Civil Guard thus overriding the Cabinet, whose apathy is the subject of much criticism.

London, Oct. 4. (received 10-45. p. m.)—The transport "Secundra" has arrived at Durban from Bombay. The Troops on the ss. "Lalpoora" have been landed and proceeded to the front at once.

London, Oct. 4. (received 9. a. m., 5.)—The Government have chartered the Peninsular and Oriental steamers "Formosa" and "Oriental" to convey troops to the Cape.

London, Oct. 4. (received 9. a. m., 5.)—The steamer "Nubia" also goes to the Cape, instead of taking out Indian reliefs.

London, Oct. 4. (received 9. a. m., 5.)—The Transvaal has seized half a million of gold, which was going to Capetown, and also retains possession of about 400 railway trucks belonging to the Cape.

London, Oct. 4. (midnight) (received 3-30. p. m., 5.) Strong rumours are current that the Transvaal has sent an ultimatum to the British Government, demanding the withdrawal of British forces from the frontier within 48 hours.

It is even stated that the limit has almost expired.

## SELECTIONS.

## BRITISH AND DUTCH IN SOUTH AFRICA.

The first article in the *Fortnightly* for August is an interesting paper with this title by Mr. H. A. Bryden. The view that Mr. Bryden takes of the balance of forces is not a cheerful one; but on the other hand there is always a comfort in knowing the worst when this is set out by an informed and dispassionate authority as Mr. Bryden certainly is; and the interest of the question which he deals with is at this moment patent. His belief is that people in England do not generally realise the seriousness of a rupture in South Africa, first because they do not remember that the Dutch greatly outnumber the British, and secondly because they do not take into account how closely the Dutch in Cape Colony, the Free State, and the Transvaal are allied to each other. The fact that there are not more than about 250 surnames among all the Boers put together shows how closely the people of these three communities must be related in blood as in sentiment. Mr. Bryden analyses the population question thus:—

In the Cape Colony alone there are, roughly, 230,000 Dutch Afrikaners (Boers, as we call them), as against 126,000 British, German, and other white races. The bulk of these 146,000 are, of course, British, but the disparity in numbers is self-evident. Of these Dutch Afrikaners, almost all are settled upon the soil as pastoral farmers, agriculturists, and wine and tobacco growers. And, despite the fact that the game in Cape Colony is nothing like so plentiful as it used to be, nearly all the male Boers of the old Colony still frequently handle the rifle, and may be reckoned good shots. It is, I think, more than probable that at least 50,000, able-bodied Dutch farmers, good veldmen, and riders, and expert from their youth up with the rifle could be raised in Cape Colony. Of the other whites the same thing cannot be said, at least one-half of the British are engaged in towns. Some small portion of the males of this urban population may be accustomed occasionally to the use of firearms (more often the short-gun than the rifle), the bulk are not. The Cape Mounted Rifles number some 824 officers and men. Of the British rural population, chiefly settled in the midland and eastern provinces, of Cape Colony, not more, I think, at the most favourable computation than 10,000 or 12,000 fighting men could be mustered. How would those men take sides? The British could, of course, be depended upon to a man. But at the present crisis, I fear it is more than probable that in the events of a war with the Transvaal to enforce the franchise and other demands large numbers of the Cape Dutch farmers would side with their kinsmen beyond the Vaal while others would, although not perhaps taking the field, sympathise with the Dutch forces. At all events, in the present state of Dutch feeling at the Cape, with a parliamentary majority absolutely hostile to Mr. Rhodes (who will never again be trusted by the Cape Dutch farmers as a body), it would be folly not to reckon with the possibility of a strong party of Boers taking up arms in support of the Transvaal. The Cape railways to the interior, it is to be remarked, run through vast districts where few Englishmen are to be found and where Dutch malcontent farmers could, and probably would, tear up the lines and break our communication with the coast. I do not say that anything like all the Cape back-country Boers would take sides against the British. I do not believe that they would. Many of them, are loyal enough, and many more would, before moving bethink themselves of the very real risk of a forfeiture of their farms. But, on the other hand, there comes a time when neither pains nor penalties, nor the fear of ruin, will deter men of the strong and clannish Dutch type. Such a crisis occurred in the Transvaal in 1880, and it is not to be concealed that since the Jameson Raid, the tide of Cape Dutch sentiment has been running strongly in sympathy with their kinsmen beyond the Vaal River. In the event of a racial war, these stolid yet stubborn, back-country farmers of the Cape would undoubtedly form a grave factor in a very difficult position. Put the males capable of bearing arms, out of a total population of 230,000 even at 50,000—probably the number would be nearer 60,000. Here, then, is a considerable army corps of first-rate irregular horse, capable, as are all these farmers, of moving rapidly about the country, providing their own arms and commissariat, and capable, until large reinforcements arrive from England, of dominating a great portion, if not the whole, of Cape Colony, as well as of cutting off railway communication with the interior. These farmers possess plenty of horses; each man bears a good rifle, which he has been accustomed all his life to use; and the bulk of them are compared with European troops, fine shots. Most up-country Boers in the Cape Colony can still go out with two or three cartridges and make certain of bringing in a springbuck, or some other antelope, behind the saddle. The 12,000 British farmers (a very liberal estimate), would, of course, also provide a very fine body of irregular mounted troops, but they would, as I have shown, be largely outnumbered by the Dutch levies, which in South African warfare, would be at least as effectual as themselves. The 5,000 Colonial volunteers chiefly British, would inevitably be required for the defence of the various towns to which they belong.

In the Orange Free State the total white population is about 80,000, mainly Dutch, and the number of able-bodied Boers liable to be called out for service was, at the last census (1890) more than 17,000. At the present time there cannot be much less than 18,000 Dutch farmers capable of taking the field; of British colonists capable of using arms, there cannot in the Free State certainly, be more than 1,000. Most of the Free State Boers have had plenty of practice at game; all of them are well used to the rifle and practised horsemen; and they may be looked upon as at least as dangerous adversaries as the Transvaal Boers.

In the Transvaal, out of a population of between 30,000 and 85,000 Dutch, there are, roughly, about 22,000 Boer burghers ready and capable of taking the field at an hour's notice. The total British population which includes a very large Jewish element, chiefly concentrated at Johannesburg, does not exceed 90,000 souls, men, women, and children. Of this number it is not probable that more than 8,000 males

could be found possessing any other than the most elementary knowledge of the rifle. Nor indeed, as the Johannesburg rising of 1896 showed, are there arms and ammunition ready at hand even for 3,000 men. I fear the offensive or defensive power of the British in the Transvaal must be reckoned, under present conditions, almost as *nil*.

In British Bechuanaland the white population is little more than 3,000. Of this number a considerable proportion is gathered in the towns of Vryburg and Mafeking. The scanty white rural population is chiefly Dutch. The thousand or so of men capable of bearing and using arms in this colony would be pretty evenly divided between British and Boers.

In Natal the total white population was at the last census (1891) less than 43,000 of which 17,000 were gathered at Durban. It may have increased now to 45,000. In Natal alone, of all the different countries of South Africa excepting always Rhodesia, would the available British fighting force, if we include the Imperial troops quartered in this Colony, be likely to be in a numerical superiority over the Dutch colonists. The total available colonial British (used to rifle-shooting, and capable of tackling the Dutch) could not exceed 6,000 men; the fighting Boers of Natal might number a possible 1,500 men. In Rhodesia, about 2,000 excellent fighting men most of whom have had experience, within the last few years, of veld warfare, would probably be available on the British side. But it is to be remembered that the settlers of Matabeleland and Mashonaland are living in the midst of a lately hostile and only partially-conquered native population and the depletion of the British forces in these regions would involve grave risk to the scanty white population. Some two hundred Dutch Afrikaners fought side by side with the British during the Matabele insurrection of 1896, and fought with the greatest good will and spirit. It is a thousand pities that there is not more of this feeling throughout South Africa. As a rule, British and Dutch thoroughly misunderstand one another. They have many excellent traits in common. They are largely of the same blood, sprung mutually from Nether-Teuton stock; and, as in the last Matabele war, they are quite capable of becoming excellent good friends. Probably the best thing that could happen for the real union of the British and Dutch in South Africa would be a great native war in which the whites would be compelled to unite in a common defence. It would be a trying and costly experiment, but I firmly believe that it would be from the point of view of a real and lasting South African union, a successful one. It is impossible to say, looking at the vast native population of South Africa, that such a day of trial may not in the future be in store for British and Dutch.

An abstract of the foregoing estimate shows the following figures:—

AVAILABLE SOUTH AFRICAN FORCES— BRITISH AND DUTCH.			
	British.	Dutch.	
Cape Colony	17,000	50,000	
Orange Free State	1,000	18,000	
Transvaal	3,000	22,000	
Natal	6,000	1,500	
British Bechuanaland	500	500	
Rhodesia	2,000	300	
Imperial troops in South Africa at the present time, say	10,000	—	
Totals	39,500	92,300	

These figures, as Mr. Bryden contends, show that the South African question is capable of taking a phase that might be very awkward for Britain. Even though we could hold the ports and principal towns the rural districts—in the event of the supposed combination of the Dutch—must pass into the hands of the Boers. In the long run, however, the power and resources of the British Empire must prevail, and South Africa would be reconquered. But what after that? Mr. Bryden quotes Mr. F. C. Selous, who knows the Boers better than any other Englishman, as predicting that in that event we should only have prepared for ourselves a state of constant unrest and insurrection. It may be said that this would wear out with time; but Mr. Bryden thinks it would only grow more serious with time—for the following reasons:—

The goldfields of the Transvaal have a life probably of thirty or forty years still to run. For that period Johannesburg will remain, presumably a more or less flourishing city. The Rhodesian goldfields have not yet succeeded, in attracting any very large number of British settlers, and they, too, even if successful, will probably have become worked out in another generation. When gold has been exhausted in these regions the Dutch, who live upon the land, will remain, while a large proportion of the British and foreign element, who now-a-days flock only to the mining centres to make money and come away, will have retired to other and more congenial spheres. It is one of the unfortunate characteristics, of modern life in South Africa that the average British settler will not remain upon the land and content himself with a pastoral or agricultural existence. The life of the veld farmer is too slow, too dreary, and too monotonous for him. He must have excitement. He will prospect for gold, superintend mines, run a store, join the border police, but he will not settle upon the land. Such colonists are not very satisfactory. They are largely migratory. The stolid Dutch, on the other hand, are there always upon the soil, acquiring votes, creeping slowly over the whole surface of South Africa, and retaining,

as in Cape Colony, the balance of political power. These steadfast slow-moving colonists are indeed rooted to South Africa soil, and will always remain so. Succeeding British Governments will have to reckon with them. They are spreading from the Transvaal the Free State, and the Cape Colony into other States, and dependencies. They have acquired a large slice of Zululand. They are steadily forming the rural population of British Bechuanaland, as they have mainly formed that of Griqualand West. They are moving into Rhodesia, and even into far-off Ngamiland. While mining populations wax and wane, these Dutch pastoralists will, apparently, possess themselves of the soil and increase steadily in numbers. There are even people, who know South Africa intimately well, who predict that in fifty years' time the Dutch will far out-number the whole British population of Africa south of the Zambesi.

There is, it is true, a considerable population of British farmers in the eastern provinces of Cape Colony. These are mainly the representatives of that remarkably successful State-aided emigration scheme of 1820, the Algoa Bay Settlement—a scheme which might well be repeated at the beginning of the ensuing century. If the British Government could succeed in attracting to South Africa from these Islands a rural population, which would be content to remain upon the land, to run flocks and herds and cultivate the soil, they would do much for the future peace and welfare of the country. But the right men are needed for such an attempt; men who would work with their own hands; small working farmers who would grapple with the difficulties of the country and be content to live a remote and solitary existence. The average young Briton who goes out to farm in South Africa at the present day is assuredly not fitted for such an existence. A year or two of the life convinces him of the hopelessness of his struggle, and he migrates to the Rand, or tries a wandering, and too often shiftless career, in Matabeleland, Mashonaland, or elsewhere.

This problem of attracting a rural population is assuredly a vital one for South Africa. Present indications point to the probability that in fifty years time the British will be settled in a few coast towns and inland cities, while the Dutch probably in preponderating numbers, will be spread over the whole vast territory south of the Zambesi, and perhaps far beyond. These two races, again, unless some black upheaval has taken place meanwhile, will be living in the midst of native populations vastly superior in numbers to both of them combined, and offering problems infinitely graver and more dangerous than does the tension between British and Dutch at the present moment.

As for the policy of the extreme war party in this country, of abusing and maligning the Dutch Afrikaners of Cape Colony and their leaders—who, after all, have remained peaceable subjects of the Crown for close on a hundred years—it seems to be only too well calculated to drive them into that state of disaffection which, of all things, it is most necessary to avoid. Finally, is, under present circumstances, a war with the Transvaal, to secure yet further concessions than those already offered, justifiable? Looking at all the facts—speaking with a personal knowledge of South Africa extending over three-and-twenty years, and speaking further, as an Imperialist and a conservative—I say unhesitatingly not only that such a war would be unjustifiable, but that it would inevitably mean ruin and disaster for the territories south of the Zambesi. It would leave, beyond all doubt, a legacy of undying hatred and distrust, between the two white races. —The Hindu.

## NOTICE.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA  
ORDER NISI.

Testamentary. }  
Jurisdiction. } No 1013

In the matter of the Estate of the late  
Kanthar Vallipurathanar of Polikandy  
Deceased.  
Vallipurathanar Kanthavanam of Polikandy  
Petitioner.

Vs  
Chinnappillai widow of Vallipurathanar of Polikandy  
Respondent.

This matter of the Petition of Vallipurathanar Kanthavanam the abovenamed Petitioner praying for Letters of Administration to the Estate of the abovenamed deceased Kanthar Vallipurathanar of Polikandy coming on for disposal before C. Eardley Wilmot Esquire, District Judge, on the 14th day of September 1899 in the presence of Mr. S. Subramaniam Proctor on the part of the Petitioner and affidavit of the Petitioner dated the 8th day of September 1899 having been read, it is declared that the Petitioner is the son 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 20th day of October 1899 show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

Signed this 14th day of September 1899.  
Sy/ C. Eardley Wilmot.  
District Judge.

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