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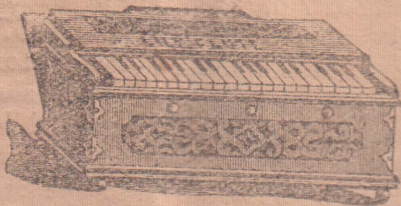
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THE MANAGER

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA
ORDER NISI.

Testamentary.

No. 1019

Jurisdiction.

Class I

In the matter of the Estate of the late
Thankamuttu-amma widow of Murukesapillai of
Vannarpannai.

Deceased.

Sellappa Kanakaretnam of Vannarpannai

Petitioner.

Vs

1. Sapapatippillai Kantaiya and his wife
2. Sivakamasuntari-amma of Vannarpannai West

Respondents.

This matter of the Petition of Sellappa Kanakaretnam of Vannarpannai praying for Letters of Administration to the Estate of the abovenamed deceased Thankamuttu-amma widow of Murukesapillai coming on for disposal before C. Eardley Wilmot Esquire, District Judge, on the 9th day of October 1899 in the presence of Messrs Casippillai and Kathiravelu Proctors on the part of the Petitioner and affidavit of the Petitioner dated the 6th day of October 1899 having been read, it is declared that the Petitioner is the father and the minor 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 20th day of November 1899 show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

Signed this 9th day of October 1899.

Sigd/ C. Eardley Wilmot.
District Judge.

The Hindu Organ.

JAFFNA, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 1899

The Lieutenant-Governor's
Opening Address.

Owing to pressure on our space we were able in our issue of the 11th Instant, to refer but briefly to this address and to quote only such portions from it as had a direct bearing on subjects connected with this Peninsula. We now revert to the subject with the object of reviewing it in greater detail and to place before our readers the present financial position of the Colony and other important public matters touched in the Address.

As is to be expected, in consequence of the absence of the Governor from the Colony, the Address of the Lieutenant-Governor does not contain any sensational announcement of policy of the Government, as had been the case in regard to the Opening Addresses delivered by His Excellency Sir J. West Ridgeway, but it is an eminently satisfactory exposition of the state of public affairs in Ceylon, of which he is now in temporary charge. Of the financial condition of the Colony he says:—

It is my pleasing part to congratulate the Council on the continuance of prosperity, as indicated in the maintenance of the revenue on its long-established and very moderate rates of taxation. For the first eight months of the current year two-thirds of the amount estimated for 1899 have on the whole been collected—there being deficiencies in some items and excesses in others—and my expectation from the indications in daily official information are that the total of 25 millions will be quite reached by the close of the year. A comparison with the same period in 1898 is equally satisfactory. Notwithstanding the reductions of rates and taxes, estimated as representing a sum of Rs 431,300, the increase for 1899 is Rs 119,943. The excesses are Rs 281,762 under the head of Customs, Rs 26,723 of Port dues, Rs 76,370 of Fees of Court, and Rs 11,465 of Land Sales; while the deficiencies are Rs 11,021 in Licenses, Rs 27,502 in Postal, Rs 11,182 in Railway, Rs 11,607 in Rents, Rs 166,888 in Interest, Rs 42,813 in Miscellaneous Receipts, and Rs 5,363 in Sale of Government Property. The only two items calling for com-

ment on account of their amounts are Customs on the one side and Interest on the other. In the former, the increase is pretty equally spread over the items of grain, spirits, oil, and other goods, while there is a deficiency in cotton manufactures, which is more than accounted for by the reduction this year of the rate of duty. The receipts from Interest are smaller by reason of the absorption of the cash balances in advances on account of Loan Works, and of the necessity of fortifying the depreciation fund of the Currency Notes in consequence of its having fallen below the limit prescribed, and of thus diverting from revenue a portion of the interest receipts. That relates to the immediate position of the revenue.

As regards the actual Receipts and Expenditure in 1898, it will have been observed from the published statements that the former (Rs. 25,138,669) exceeded the estimated amount by Rs. 1,727,669, and those of the previous year by Rs. 1,133,147, thus nearly maintaining the annual average rate of increase of one and a half million of the four preceding years. The increase was in every head of revenue, being however not continued at quite the same rate in Customs, Licenses, Fees of Court, Railway, and Sales of Property, but being higher in Port Dues, Postal, Rents, Interest, and Land Sales.

The expenditure in 1898 was Rs. 22,843,852, having exceeded that of the previous year by Rs. 1,209,474, and principally under the heads of Survey to the extent of Rs. 100,220, Medical Rs. 179,176, Military Rs. 76,374, Postal Rs. 97,613, Railway Rs. 301,953 and Public Works Rs. 205,573. Such increased expenditure must have contributed largely to the convenience and accommodation of the community and have promoted the development of the Island to the benefit of all classes.

The surplus of Revenue over expenditure in 1898 was thus Rs. 2,294,837, and made up the balance available for appropriation at the commencement of the current year to the accumulated amount of Rs. 4,524,923, exclusive of a sum of Rs. 809,156, partly lent to local authorities and partly recoverable as arrears of revenue and as overpayments.

The total net amount of public debt of the colony at the end of 1898 was Rs. 55,125,949, a little over two years' revenue. The trade of the colony also has increased with the increase of the public revenue the value having increased in 1898 by Rs. 12,367,465 over that of 1897, or at the rate of 7 per centum, of which Rs. 1,794,878 was in imports and Rs. 10,572,587 in exports. In shipping the total tonnage continues to increase and has reached an aggregate of 3,605,706 tons, while the numbers decrease owing to the displacement of sailing vessels and to the increasing size of steamers. The value of coal used by steamers has risen from Rs. 8,000,008 in 1896 and Rs. 7,425,532 in 1897 to Rs. 9,725,070 in 1898.

His Excellency after referring to the satisfactory progress made in the Harbour Works in Colombo and the Topographical and Cadastral Surveys carried on in different parts of the Island, enters at length on the sanitary condition of Colony. We quoted in our issue of the 11th Instant His Excellency's remarks in reference to the outbreak of the fever epidemic in Jaffna in 1898. It is a grievous disappointment to the people of Jaffna to find that beyond some interesting experiments to be conducted with the object of studying the alleged connection between malaria and mosquito, the Government does not seem to take any early steps to prevent the recurrence of the epidemic this year, by improving the sanitary condition of the Peninsula. These experiments are all very good in their way, but not a day should be lost in adopting those measures which the Government Agent and the Colonial Surgeon of the Province, and the Principal Medical Officer of the Colony have in their administration reports considered necessary to prevent the recurrence of the epidemic and the consequent suffering and mortality that took place here last year. It is strange that His Excellency should think that the cause of the outbreak of these malarial fevers

cannot be definitely traced, after the opinion of the Officers above mentioned had been definitely and strongly expressed to the effect that the bad drainage of Jaffna chiefly accounted for its deplorable sanitary condition.

His Excellency makes special mention of the fact that during the last twelve months no single case of cholera has been known to exist in the Island, which is unprecedented in the annals of Ceylon at least for the last ten years. The Lieutenant-Governor attributes this to the closing of the North Road coolie route and to the special arrangements that exist for the introduction of coolies and other like immigrants via Tuticorin, Colombo and Ragama Camp.

His Excellency gives in the Address a detailed account of the precautionary measures which have been successfully adopted to keep off plague from Ceylon and the preparations that are in progress to cope with this fell disease, should it unfortunately be introduced into the Island.

Reviewing the statistics of crime His Excellency is opinion of that the year 1898, compares favourably with the previous year. In 1898, 2007 persons were tried in the Supreme and District Courts against 2,201, in 1897. In respect of less serious offences tried in the Police Court the number of offences have fallen from 76,635 in 1897 to 71,226 in 1898. The number of offences against the person shows a decrease of 16 per cent and the number of cattle stealing 18 per cent.

In regard to the question whether corporal punishment acts as a deterrent to the use of the knife His Excellency is inclined to the belief, judging from the decrease in the number of acts of violence, that the object of the punishment is gradually being attained. This is a question on which there is much difference of opinion. It is a heroic remedy prescribed by His Excellency Sir West Ridgeway to put down crimes of violence in the Island; and it is a notorious fact that while it has gradually attained its object, it has had also injurious effects in promoting the institution of false cases, and innocent men being at times convicted and sentenced to flogging. According to His Excellency's own showing that out of 355 cases in which the Magistrates sentenced accused to flogging in 1898, the sentence was set aside by the Supreme Court in 63 cases and remitted by the Governor in 23 cases. We think it should not be compulsory, as it is now, on the Magistrates to inflict lashes on the accused convicted by them of causing injuries with knife, but they should be given discretionary powers in this respect.

We have already quoted His Excellency Sir Noel Walker's remarks in his opening Address on the subject of railway extension to Jaffna. Reference was made in it to a Despatch of the Right Honourable the Secretary of State giving his final sanction to the construction of the whole line of railway from Kurunagalla to Kankasanturai. We publish this Despatch elsewhere and have no doubt that it will be read with very great interest by every one who has the welfare of the Island at heart, and specially by the people of the North.

THE MANIAGARSHIP OF VALIGAMO NORTH.

We understand that the Government Agent has called upon Mr. Chinnappa, the Maniagar of Valigamo North, to send in his papers for retirement as Mr. Ievers considers him unfit for further service. As far as we are able to judge, Mr. Chinnappa is well able to discharge his duties to the satisfaction of the public. True that he was not in good health for some time after his return from Colombo, where he had been for the Queen's Birth Day celebrations, but he has now completely recovered from his

illness, and the public are fully satisfied with the manner in which he discharges his duties. He has been Maniagar only for about five years, and if he should be made to retire at the end of the year, he shall not have earned his pension. The Udayarship which he held for several years before he was made Maniagar is not a pensionable appointment. We hope that the Government Agent will re-consider his decision and allow Mr. Chinnappa to continue in office for a few years more. It is said that one of the reasons why Mr. Chinnappa is called upon to retire is that the services of a younger man is required at the time of the Government acquiring lands for the Railway. In our humble opinion this is a reason for retaining Mr. Chinnappa's services rather than discontinuing them. How can a new and untried Maniagar be of greater help to the Agent in acquiring lands than Mr. Chinnappa who has been Udayar and Maniagar successively? We do not make these observations in a carping spirit. Indeed, we have been always loath to say anything which may be construed as savouring of hostility to the action of the Government Agent. Our purpose in writing these few lines is to indicate to him the trend of public feeling.

But if for some incapacity or other which is not known to the public, the Government Agent considers that Mr. Chinnappa should be made to retire in the public interests, it is to be hoped that a suitable successor will be appointed in his place. Valigamo North is one of the most important divisions of Jaffna. It is not a division answering to the description of Delft, Karachchi, or Vadamarachchi East. Valigamo North is inhabited by some of the most respectable and influential families of Jaffna. It extends from Thavady to Kangesunturai which is a very important and rising port. The historic Maviddapuram Kandaswami Temple where thousands of people assemble during the annual festival, not to speak of the Keeremalai temple, is situated in that division. It is not sufficient that the gentleman appointed as Maniagar is a native of that division. He must be a man belonging to one of the leading families of the division. In point of caste, wealth, and influence he should not be an inferior to any other resident in the division. To command the respect of the people at large, the chief headman must not only belong to a leading family, but be in affluent circumstances. One who depends solely on Government pay for his living will not be acceptable to the community.

Mr. Visuvappa, the son of the present Maniagar, acted with much acceptance to the public as the Maniagar of the division during his father's absence in Colombo, and the people will be well satisfied with his appointment. Among minor headmen there is Mr. Kurunather Ponnampalam and perhaps one or two others. We may also mention Mr. Sina-tambar, the son of a former Maniagar, and Mr. Sivasambo, the son of the late Mr. Kathiritamby Mudaliyar. Mr. Mathavelupillai is another eligible gentleman. These gentlemen have sufficient experience of the division, having spent all their lifetime there, and are in close touch with the people. Besides these gentlemen there are others residents in the division who will worthily fill the post. We hope the Government Agent will, in the event of Mr. Chinnappa being made to retire, make a selection acceptable to the people in every way. The gentleman appointed as the chief headman of Valigamo North must be a person holding in that division a high position in Tamil society. We hope that the appointment will be conferred on a deserving person.

THE JAFFNA F. N. S. HOSPITAL.

We quoted in our issue of the 11th Instant a paragraph from our contemporary of the "Examiner" to the effect that the Government had already decided to take over this Hospital under their immediate charge. We are now in a position to state that such is not the case. It is true that the Government Agent recommended this step to Government but they have not yet made any final decision in the matter. A meeting of the Committee appointed to consider and decide the question of retaining the Hospital under the management of the Friend-in-need Society was held in the Committee Room of the Society on Friday the 20th Instant, when a resolution was unanimously passed, after the perusal of

the correspondence that passed between the Government Agent and the Government, to the effect that the Government be asked to allow the Colonial Surgeon of the Northern Province to become a member of the Managing Committee of the Hospital and to supervise its working. In our opinion this measure is the best solution of the present difficulty. It will put an end to the anomaly of a purely lay Committee managing the affairs of a most important hospital, and also relieve the Government Agent of much of his responsibilities in this respect. We hope Mr. Levers will now see his way to heartily recommend this proposal to the Government, as it will satisfy not only those who clamour for the conversion of this Hospital into a Government Hospital but also those who would retain it as a people's Hospital. In the early days of this Hospital, under the regime of its founder the late Mr. Dyke, the Colonial Surgeons of the Province had a seat on the Committee, and the management of the Hospital was very satisfactorily done. It was after such controls were removed this hospital has become the subject of frequent complaints on the part of the public and the scene of unseemly quarrels and differences among its medical officers.

LOCAL & GENERAL.

The Weather continues threatening. It has been raining incessantly for the last one week. The paddy plants in several places have been submerged, as the rains commenced soon after sowing, and before the plants had grown enough to withstand the flood. It appears that the North-East monsoon has already set in.

Public Health—Fever has commenced this year earlier than in previous years. The persons who are now attacked are mostly those who had fever last year.

The Registrar-General—Mr. Arunachalam is now in our midst having come to Jaffna on a tour of inspection. He will leave for Colombo on the 1st proximo by the "Lady Havelock."

The Chief Justice—Sir J. W. Bonser has arrived in Colombo with Lady Bonser and resumed duties. Mr. Browne who acted as the Junior Puisne Justice of the Supreme Court has been Gazetted as Commissioner of Assize to preside over the Colombo Criminal Sessions of the Supreme Court which is now being held.

The Legislative Council—At the meeting of the Council held on the 18th Instant several important business was transacted. The Tamil member made important motions in regard to the coach service and the salary and appointment of the Supreme Court Judges. We hope to revert to these subjects on a future occasion.

Mr. V. S. Gurunatha Pillai—We are glad to find that this gentleman who is a native of Jaffna, being the son of a late Maniagar of Poonaryn, has been appointed acting District Forest Officer, Tinnavelly South India, in the place of Mr. Bryant, who has been granted furlough for one year with effect from 1st November 1899.

The Secretariat—Mr. A. G. Clayton who is to re-organize and supervise the working of the Colonial Secretary's Office arrived in Colombo on the 20th Instant and assumed duties of his new office which he will hold for about 12 months.

Subordinate Civil Service—Mr. Weeracoon heads the list of those who presented themselves for the last competitive examination. He gets 7444 marks out of a grand total of 11,000.

The War—Hostilities have already commenced in South Africa between the British and the Boers. Instead of waiting till their country is invaded by the British the Boers have crossed the frontier and commenced hostilities. They have occupied some strategical positions and attempted to capture Ghechoe where a general battle took place on the 20th Instant resulting in the defeat of the Boers. But it was very dearly purchased, costing the life of General Symons, and several officers and men on the British side. The Boers on the other hand have cut off the communication of the

British between important towns and have captured an armoured train with several men and provisions. The Imperial Parliament was opened on the 17th Instant, and amendments to the Address of Her Majesty the Queen, censuring the conduct of the Ministry in bringing about this war has been rejected by overwhelming majorities. Whatever pluck and daring the Boers might show, they are sure to be crushed by the mighty power of the British nation.

SELECTIONS.

IMPORTANT DESPATCH FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE ON RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION AND IRRIGATION WORKS.

The Right Hon. J. Chamberlain, M. P., to the Officer Administering the Government of Ceylon.
Downing Street, July 22nd, 1899
Ceylon.—No. 222.

SIR,—I have taken advantage of Sir J. West Ridgeway's presence in this country to confer personally with him on the subject of Public Works Expenditure in Ceylon, more especially in connection with Railways and Irrigation, and I propose in this despatch, in continuation of previous correspondence, to state briefly the conclusions at which I have arrived, and which it will be the duty of the Governor on his return to commend to the Legislative Council.

2. A great increase of revenue such as has fallen to the lot of Ceylon of recent years makes it desirable, if not necessary, to consider not merely whether this or that particular work should be undertaken, and this or that item of expenditure incurred, but what general financial policy should be pursued for some years to come, on the assumption that a continuance of existing conditions may reasonably be anticipated.

3. It is obvious that if the revenue of a community largely exceeds the expenditure, and if the excess appears likely to recur, whoever is responsible for the finances must make up his mind whether it is better to reduce taxation or to increase expenditure. In the case of Ceylon, at the present time, I am satisfied that in the interests of all classes the second is the preferable alternative. It is true that there are in Ceylon taxes which invite criticism on their merits, and the anomalies in the system of taxation taken as a whole are considerable, but, as a matter of fact, as far as I can gather, the residents in the island, rich or poor, is lightly taxed, and the natives more especially—whose claim to relief would perhaps be strongest—existing taxes to be re-adjusted and modified—will it seems to me, gain more by continuing to pay the salt and road taxes and the import duties on grain, provided that the receipts from such taxes are judiciously expended, than by being relieved of some portion of these imposts, but losing their value in roads, railways, irrigation works, and hospitals. Much has been done for Ceylon in former years but much remains to be done, and I am of opinion that for years to come the true policy will be to lay out money—carefully and wisely—rather than to reduce taxation.

4. Where public works will in all human probability be immediately remunerative, there can be little or no objection to borrowing the whole sum necessary to execute them, on the ground that the investment is a good one and that the sooner the work is carried out and begins to pay the better; but there are other public works which may not be immediately remunerative, though indirectly they must confer a great boon on the country and its people. Such, for instance, in Ceylon are the Northern Railway and some irrigation works. That a railway ought, sooner or later, to be carried to the North to connect the Jaffna peninsula with the centre of administration, to give an outlet for its dense population, and to open up central and northern districts, some of which may not yet have received as large a measure of care and attention as other parts of the Island, would hardly be disputed even by those who oppose the immediate construction of the line. That the restoration of tanks and water-courses, large and small, ought to be vigorously prosecuted is also to my mind not open to question; but in either case I do not look for an immediate profit, unless it be from the northern most section of the railway in question.

5. In such cases I hold that it is the duty of the Government to regard the undertaking as suitable investments for surplus balances and for expenditure out of current revenue as far as current revenue can be made to suffice. Borrowing for the purpose should be curtailed as much as possible, lest the Colony be burdened with an annual charge for debt on account of works which may give no direct return for some years to come. I have spoken above of assuming that a continuance of existing prosperity may be reasonably anticipated. If such an assumption, however, were falsified, the course which I suggest would, at the worst, result in locking up for a time the savings of past years and not in the far more serious encumbrance of a largely increased debt.

6. The subject of the Northern Railway has given rise to much correspondence and considerable controversy. Other railway extensions have competed for consideration, and the question has widened out into a general survey of Railway policy in Ceylon. Meanwhile, any delay which has taken place has been

compensated for by closer study of the matter, and also by accumulation of further surplus revenue. I have already given consent to the immediate undertaking of the southernmost section of the Northern Railway, and also to the construction of the northernmost section on condition that the estimates framed of this latter section showed a reasonable prospect of paying from the first, which condition has now been fulfilled.

This left outstanding the intermediate section between Parantan and Anuradhapura to be made at a future date. It has, however, been so strongly impressed upon me by my professional advisers that, if the line is to be made at all, it should be made as a whole and as speedily as possible, that I have now decided that it is best to adopt their views, and have authorized the Crown Agents, when the necessary preliminary steps have been taken by the Consulting Engineers, to advertise for tenders for the construction of the whole line, though no contract will be actually entered into until a vote of the Council has been obtained.

7. I trust that this will be regarded by the Legislative Council as the best solution of the question under existing circumstances. I cannot, of course, hope that all members of the community will at once agree with the view which I have taken, but they will recognise, I doubt not, that it has been taken after the fullest consideration of the question from all sides.

8. I do not intend to argue again points which have been abundantly discussed. The question of gauge has been decided on professional advice, and on my receiving an assurance from those best qualified to judge that it is not so much the width of the gauge as the character of the line laid upon it which determines the expense.

This line of Jaffna I regard as a main line of Ceylon, and on the main line of Ceylon it is held—and in my opinion, held rightly—there should be no break of gauge.

9. I have made the above remarks as to gauge because some of those who are in favour of the construction of the Northern Railway are not in favour of adopting the broad gauge. There are others who are opposed to the line altogether, and who gave expression to their opposition at the deputation which I received in March last. So far as that opposition is directed to the line on its merits, I can only say that every attention has been given to the arguments used, and that there must, I fear, continue to be a difference of opinion; but, so far as the undertaking may be represented to be in favour of one interest or injurious to others, I wish to state emphatically that I must decline to treat these questions as matters of bargain between conflicting interests; and I would add that while this railway, as any other, must principally benefit the districts through which it runs and the dwellers in those districts, it has been sanctioned, and any undertaking of the kind should be sanctioned in the interests not of one class only or of one race, but of the community as a whole.

A railway to the north of Ceylon for administrative and commercial purposes is an obvious want. If Ceylon can afford it, the want should be supplied; and I judge that the Colony is now in a position to spend the money and to take the risk.

10. The Governor, while advocating the construction of the Northern line, has advocated also the construction of two other railways, viz., the Kelani Valley and the Uda Pussellawa lines. The former I have sanctioned on a 2 ft. 6 in. gauge, and I have no further observations to make on the subject.

11. The Uda Pussellawa line I declined to sanction, as I intimated to you in my despatch No. 154 of the 27th of May, 1898, on the ground that the estimates when examined and corrected by the consulting Engineers showed that the line would not pay, and that the general and indirect advantages likely to result from its construction were not sufficient to compensate for losing money upon it.

12. Sir J. West Ridgeway, in his despatch No. 84 of the 11th March last, asked me to reconsider my decision, enclosing a further report upon the probable traffic of the line, which showed that in 1901 there should be an appreciable profit, and he forwarded at the same time a resolution of the Legislative Council in favour of making the line on the understanding that Rs. 500,000 of its cost should be contributed out of surplus funds, which resolution was unanimously supported by the unofficial members.

13. This report was also referred to the Consulting Engineers, and I enclose a copy of their comments upon it. There would now seem to be a fair prospect (to quote their words) that "if the line were to be opened for traffic in the year 1901 it would from the outset afford a fair return for the capital expended," and, in as much as the line is in a sense a pioneer line, I feel justified, in view of all these opinions, in now giving my assent to it.

14. The estimated expenditure on the above lines is as follows:—

		R.	R.
Northern Railway	Southern Section ...	4,124,000	
	Intermediate Section ...	3,750,050	
	Northern Section ...	3,186,000	
			11,060,000
Kelani Valley ...			3,400,000
Uda Pussellawa ...			1,181,000
Total Railway Expenditure ...			15,641,000

which there is a reasonable prospect of an im-

Pussellawa, and the Jaffna-Parantan section of the Northern Railway.

15. Sir West Ridgeway has at my request given me particulars of the irrigation works which he considers should be taken in hand in the next few years, and to some or all of which he has made public reference already in the Colony. At a very rough guess he estimates the expenditure which might with advantage be incurred for this purpose at some five million rupees.

16. Previous despatches have shown the importance which I attach to irrigation, and in the strong hope that the works which are in contemplation may, under close professional scrutiny, be successfully carried out, I am prepared, in general terms and with the necessary reservation that each work must be considered on its merits, to sanction the prospective expenditure on irrigation works of about five million rupees, on the understanding that it will be spread over some years to come, and that it will be inclusive not exclusive of the annual appropriation of 200,000 rupees under Ordinance No 6 of 1892.

17. This sum of five million rupees added to the 15½ millions for railway expenditure brings up the total expenditure for railways and irrigation in the next few years to the large amount of between 20 and 21 million rupees, on the greater part of which no direct return can be expected in the immediate future. Of this sum, I consider that one half should be found from past savings and current revenue; and if the receipts remain at their present level there should be no difficulty in fulfilling this condition without trenching on other items of expenditure, seeing that the surplus balances, if I understand right, already amount to several millions of rupees. But, even if there should be some decline in the present prosperity, the Ceylon Government must be prepared, by reasonable reductions in other directions, to set aside year by year sufficient money for the purpose which I have indicated.

18. The maximum borrowing for railways and irrigation will thus be limited to rather more than 10 million rupees, of which it may be taken that the greater part will be on immediately reproductive works. This will be in addition to the sum of Rs 7,500,000 which has, I understand, still to be borrowed to complete the Colombo Harbour Works. The balances at present in hand should of course be used up before any money is borrowed.

19. The above proposals necessarily anticipate to a considerable extent the future resources of Ceylon, but a review of existing conditions in the Island seems to me to justify a programme of expenditure which will absorb the attention and the resources of the Government for some little time to come, and which will make it incumbent upon those in charge to watch current expenditure with greater care than might possibly otherwise be exercised in the flowing tide of prosperity.

THE PEOPLE OF INDIA: THEIR MANY MERITS BY MANY WHO HAVE KNOWN THEM.

COLLECTED AND EDITED WITH AN INTRODUCTION
BY ALFRED WEBB
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The idolatry of the Hindus is a sore point with most Englishmen, and Europeans generally. I will not allow myself to here enlarge on this topic, nor is it necessary, as the following anecdote will suffice to indicate my own conclusion on the subject, impressed on me, as they have been by many similar experiences of my life in Bombay. The late Hon. Jugonnathjee Sunkersett was a bigoted Hindu, of the most uncompromising temper; but, owing to some service I was able to render him in 1857, I enjoyed his entire confidence, and there is no man in whom I have ever taken a deeper personal interest, or for whom I could possibly have a more affectionate or steadfast regard. We were so intimate, that he would freely admit me to his presence while engaged in private worship with his domestic Brahman; only I sat down on such occasions just beyond the threshold of the door leading from his bedroom—in his Girgaum house—into the room in which he worshipped the ancestors of his family, and the greater deities of the official Brahmanic Pantheon; and seated there opposite me, stripped to his skin, with the images of his gods before him, and the attendant Brahman, and all the utensils of idolatrous worship, he would explain every detail of it to me as it proceeded. Now, the great longing of his heart was that, before he should see death he might be blessed with the birth of a son to his only son Venayekraw Jugonnathjee, familiarly called Rowjee. Years had followed years, but only girls had been born to Rowjee, and the birth of a man child began to appear hopeless. Jugonnathjee Sunkersett himself had visited every shrine in Western India praying for a grandson, and had even extended his pilgrimages to Benares, and I believe to Mattra and Hardwar, for the purpose; and he never saw me without introducing the subject into our conversation. Such was the state of matters when, being on a visit to the hill station of Matheran, and anxious to ascertain the truth of the orgiastic rites that were said to be enacted by the outcast jungle tribes—chiefly cow-herds and cutch [extract of ACACIA CATECHU] collectors—of the locality, before the uncouth altar to "Pishnath (i. e. Pasha-Natha, "Pasture Lord") "Deo," in the dark evergreen grove of Iron-wood trees at "Danger Point," on the west side of the hill, just above, and to the left of "The Waterfall," I concealed myself behind a rent in the stone wall enclosing the grove. A number of poor, abject creatures had gathered there, and were about to kill a sacred-looking cock, when suddenly, who should come trotting into the gloom of the grove, from the opposite side to where I was, but the Hon. Jugonnathjee Sunkersett, followed by a mounted orderly, for he was a member of the Legislative Council of Bombay and two running peons. I thought at first that he was there from curiosity, and was about to go forward to

stepped up before the degraded shrine. He was a man, as I have said, of splendid presence, of the Scytho-Aryan type, and there he stood, in the light of a sloping ray of the declining sun, that stole in between the dark trunks of the Iron-wood trees, long-robed, and high turbaned, and girded round the loins, a living presentment for the moment of the "magnificent son of Akbar"; but in another instant he was wringing his hands in an agony of prayer, with the burning tears streaming down his handsome, massive, and now deeply seared face; his wan, beseeching eyes looking straight up toward the heavens. Feeling that I was a spectator of what I certainly ought not to witness, I stealthily withdrew from the spot, strolling on leisurely toward the bazaar. I had not gone on my way more than a quarter of an hour, when, just before reaching the Clarendon Hotel, I became aware of galloping horses approaching me from behind, and presently heard my name being joyfully shouted after me, and almost before I could turn round, the honourable Jugonnathjee Sunkersett and his escort were upon me his face lighted up in the golden gloaming with the most proudly radiant look of gladness. "Oh, Seetjee," I said, responsively to his mood, "you have received good hope of a grandson." "Indeed, yes," he replied, "it is just what I wanted to tell you, Birdwood." "But," I interpolated, "what solid ground have you for your assurance?" His answer was, "Solid ground for assurance? Why God himself has told me!" I was astounded by the reply, and could say nothing for a while—remembering what I had secretly seen—for my emotion, and left him to talk on like a happy child, until by devious paths—but as much as possible, still pressing eastward—we at last arrived at "Alexander (now called Alexandra) Point." This point is a little beyond a mile east from "Danger Point," and commands the whole of the picturesque vale of the Chouk river, trending away south-westward between the main mass of Matheran and its north-eastern spur, called, from its flinty surface, Garbut. The twilight had now passed, in the valley below us, into a purple tint, rising higher and higher to the great grove ("Ram Bagh") of wide spreading mangoes and towering JAMBOLIS, lordliest foliage of the woodlands of Western India, and other fine forest trees, hanging upon the east-side of the hill, half-way down the thread-like track of the old zig-zag ghat road to Chouk. The warm purple mist welled up to this level, but above it the umbrageous top of Matheran was flushed over with the clear reflection from the refulgent orange light yet lingering in the west, turning all its enchanted leafage to a rich mystic green, of gem-like illumination. In the advancing night, thus momentarily irradiated with the still enfolded brightness of departing day, the whole mountain and valley seemed filled as with the visible glory of overshadowing deity; and Sunkersett at once became silent before the profoundly solemnizing wondrous scene. Silently he watched the primitive hill-men returning by the precipitous Chouk ghat road to their scattered huts in the rapidly darkening depths of the valley below, each one, as he advanced to the head of the dangerous ascent, bending lowly down, and reverently, towards the sun's far sunken flame:—

"Through Ages hymned by Hindu devotees."

The tumult of his soul was hushed; and at the last, from its depth, as we turned to retrace our steps homeward, he thoughtfully, but in his frequent oracular manner, observed: "Yes, just as our five fingers go back to one, and the same arm, so all religions go back to one and the same God." Thus closed what was to prove an ever memorable day with him; for, remarkable to relate, with the completion of nine months from that date, a grandson, was born to Jugonnathjee Sunkersett. And then, the great hope of his life having been fulfilled, straightway a change came over him. He was a man of strenuous energy, and the most masterful natural capacity, and undisguised ambition and pride. He was not only the leader of the Hindus of Bombay, but after the death of the first Sir Jamsetjee Jejeebhoy of the whole Native community. But now he laid aside all-worldliness, and unobtrusively, and determinedly, submitted himself to the great desire for death that seemed to have taken complete possession of him; saying on my once venturing to remonstrate with him for thus yielding himself up to die, and, in so saying using almost the very words of the Greek writer: "It is not difficult, Birdwood, but easy; for the road is not crooked, but straight, and not up, and then down, but all downward; and an unfearing man may walk it blindfold." No! he had seen the salvation of God, as sought by him; and now all he wanted was to depart in peace. Soon afterwards he died; and then a very great burning was made for him. I thought it would have given me a cruel shock. But it was attended with none of the horrors, the awful reverberatory furnace, and the repulsive factory-like chimney, and all the soulless mechanism of cremation in Europe. Except that milk was used instead of wine, the ritual was essentially that described by Homer in the burial of Patroclus; and so far from being pained, when it was all over, I looked up into the clear and brilliant heavens above. I was soothed by the reflection that no taint of earthly corruption would ever be associated with the memory of my friend, for all that had been mortal of him was now part of the sunshine around and about me; a consideration naturally suggesting the inspiring hope that if human self-consciousness was indeed immortal, the freed spirit of Jugonnathjee Sunkersett was already with the "Father of Lights," the "Ancient of Days." It is impossible not to be deeply interested in such men, and when you know them, for what they really are, not to have the sincerest friendship and admiration for them. As for their idolatry, my whole mind was changed towards it after that answer given by Jugonnathjee Sunkersett near the Clarendon Hotel:—"Solid ground for my assurance? Why, God himself has told me!"—and this out of the mouth of a man I had just seen apparently praying to a hideous heap of foully-ruddled and stinking stones! Hence forward I knew that there were not many gods of human worship, but one God only who was polyonymous being named according to the variety of the outward condition of things, which are always changing and every where different.—REPRESENTATIVE MEN OF INDIA, SIR GEORGE BIRDWOOD, W. H. ALLEN 1889.

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