

The Hindu Organ

(THE CHEAPEST WEEKLY IN CEYLON)

PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY!

VOL. XV.

JAFFNA: WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 28TH 1903

NO. 18

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17th November 1902.

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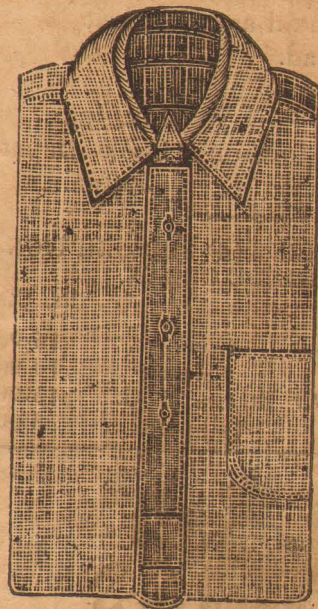
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THE HINDU ORGAN.

JAFFNA, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 1903

THE PERMANENT MEMORIAL.

It would have been seen from the proceedings which we published in our last issue of the meeting of subscribers to the Ridgeway Memorial Fund held on Saturday last in the District Court House under the presidency of Mr. J. P. Lewis, acting Government Agent, that a Hall in the Esplanade of Jaffna called the "Ridgeway Memorial Hall" will be the Memorial to perpetuate the Memory of His Excellency Sir J. West Ridgeway who has given us the Great Northern Railway. It was a decision unanimously come to by the meeting, and we have no doubt, it will meet with the cordial approval of all Jaffnese in and out of Jaffna.

Undoubtedly a statue would be the most appropriate and fitting Memorial to His Excellency, but for whose earnest and able advocacy this Railway, as Mr. Lewis well remarked in his opening speech, would still be the subject of agitation by the people, instead of being as it is now almost an accomplished fact. Judged by the feeling of gratitude shewn by the Jaffnese in all parts of the Island at the time of the opening of the first section of this Railway, and the enthusiasm with

which subscriptions were raised at that time, not only in Jaffna, Point Pedro and Chavakachcheri, but also in Colombo, Kandy, Matale and Batticaloa, it was thought that the amount required for a statue could have been easily collected. But several causes have contributed to that expectation being not realised. Mr. R. W. Allegacoon who got Rs 10,000 subscribed for the fund in Point Pedro and Chavakachcheri alone was transferred to Chillaw before the whole amount was actually collected. Had he remained here for a few months more he would have collected the whole amount promised instead of the Rs 5000 which he left in the Bank when he went to Chillaw. Mr. Advocate Kanagasabai paid a well-merited compliment to Mr. Allegacoon in the course of his speech at the Court House meeting and said that but for the sum which he had collected the Memorial even in the form of a Hall could not be thought of. Again the injustice and insult involved in the appointment of Mr. Crown Counsel Templer as acting Attorney-General over the Tamil Solicitor-General, soon after the opening of the first section of the Railway, were looked upon by a very large portion of the Tamils as a slight on the community and damped the ardour of not a few who were ardent supporters of the cause of raising a suitable Memorial to His Excellency. And last, but not least, His Excellency also became, for a time at least, unpopular with a large section of the Tamils, in connection with the re-appointment of the Tamil Member when the seat last fell vacant. The objection to the re-appointment of the Hon'ble Dr. Rockwood was not so much in regard to the eminent Doctor's fitness for the office, as it was to the autocratical manner in which it was made and the insincere reasons given by His Excellency for re-appointing him for a second term of office.

Owing to the causes above enumerated the collections for the permanent Memorial fund which was started under very happy auspices and promised at that time to become a great success, did not make subsequently much progress. The amount now available for the memorial is about Rs 8000, including Mr. Allegacoon's collection of Rs 5000. It is expected that about Rs 3000 would be coming from outstations, making the whole amount Rs 11000.

A Public Hall is a great want in Jaffna and the "Ridgeway Memorial Hall", when it is completed, will not only perpetuate the memory of His Excellency but will also supply that long felt want and be an ornament to the Town. Although momentary passions and prejudice have greatly interfered with the success of the movement to the degree it was originally intended, yet it is a great relief and satisfaction to find that there is a reaction of feeling here in regard to the question of erecting a suitable memorial to His Excellency the Governor, and that it is in a fair way of being accomplished. We earnestly appeal to our countrymen, especially to those in outstations, to send in their subscriptions to the Parent Committee in Jaffna, to enable them to complete the Hall in a style worthy of the occasion and the Governor who has granted to us the inestimable boon of railway communication with the Metropolis of the Island. By raising the Memorial the Jaffnese will greatly raise themselves in the estimation of the Government and the public as a grateful people who appreciate at its true worth a benefit done to them.

It is only right to say that Mr. Lewis, the acting Government Agent, has earned

the thanks of the people of Jaffna by identifying himself with the movement and piloting it to the practical shape it has now taken. Mr. Kanagasabai only expressed the sense of the Meeting when he, in proposing the first Resolution, referred in glowing terms to the active part Mr. Lewis, Mr. Allegacoon, Mr. C. Tirunavukarasu, the Honorary Secretary, and Mr. Tampo, the Honorary Treasurer, have taken in connection with this Memorial.

SELF-GOVERNMENT FOR FIJI

It will be seen from the London Letter of the Correspondent of the "Amrita Bazar Patrika" which we publish elsewhere that the Fijians will soon be granted self-Government. The form of Government now existing in that Island is very similar to the constitution of Ceylon, which has not undergone any material change or reform for the last three quarters of a century. But Fiji which has become a British Crown Colony within the last quarter of a Century is to have self-Government, if the information supplied by the London Correspondent of the "Amrita Bazar Patrika" be true. It is for want of systematic and earnest agitation in Ceylon that we are allowed to remain with a form of Government as established in the early part of the nineteenth century. His Excellency Sir J. West Ridgeway's term of office is drawing to a close, yet nothing is known of the result of the recommendations which His Excellency said in the Legislative Council he had made to reform our Executive and Legislative Councils.

EXTRACTS FROM MR. R. W. IVER'S REPORT FOR THE NORTHERN PROVINCE FOR THE YEAR 1902.

Village Tribunals and Committees did not exist in the Province until one was established at Vavuniya when the Assistant Agency was removed to Mullaitivu. During the year another was established for the island of Delft in consideration of the isolated position of the island and the limited means of the inhabitants. The Maniyagar of the island has been made the President on a salary of Rs. 880 per annum for the combined post. Rules under section 6 of the Ordinance No. 24 of 1889 have been framed and passed, and the Tribunal so far works satisfactorily. The Tribunal at Vavuniya is doing good work, and the people seem to appreciate it.

HORSE ESTABLISHMENT.

	Rs.
Revenue	1000
Expenditure	1050

There were 30 foals born during the season, but of these five were born dead, and there were sixteen deaths, caused chiefly by want of grass for the mares and foals.

The present stock consists of—	At Delft.	At Iranativu
Stallions	3	
Brood mares	59	
Foals	16	
Young stock		41

Since the commencement of the breeding experiment in 1898 the total expenditure has been Rs. 6,190-36, and the revenue Rs. 8,839-80, leaving a profit of Rs. 2,649-44.

The financial results of the year would be better had I not decided to keep back ponies from sale until they are between three and four-year old; of course they will come in for sale in 1903.

The year 1902 was a disastrous one in Delft for both cattle and horses. The usual April-May showers having failed, the overstocked pasture was exhausted, and the water supply ran short on the plains. Consequently the weak cattle and horses had to travel over 4 miles to the only available water at Saraputti, and then return to the plain to pick up the scanty herbage. In result the reports show that the villagers lost 1,364 head of animals (see remarks under head "Health of Cattle"), and 5 mares and 21 foals of the Government stock died.

The rains began in October, and continued until the end of December to such an extent that the pasture grounds were completely flooded. Only the sandbank round the Island afforded shelter and a precarious food supply. The people assert that such a flood has been almost unprecedented in their recollection.

Delft island is in extent 18 square miles, excluding the salt lakes. The "village" pasture land may be estimated at 7,000 acres, the "horse plains" 3,000 acres, and the village compounds 1,000, a total of 11,000 acres, but of this a great

deal is mere coral stone. Cattle, sheep, and goats are more than double this number. The land can only carry one beast to the acre where there is good pasturage, so that it is clear that Delft has double the amount of beasts it can feed. But no cattle disease occurs, and the only natural check on production is death by famine. The people will not sell their cattle except at a ridiculous price, based probably on the recollection that when the Government cattle were in the Island the breed was preferred; so they ask Rs. 20 to Rs. 25 for these degenerate cattle. I had one bull killed and weighed, and he scaled 59 lb. Similar animals could be purchased on the mainland for Rs. 8. to Rs. 10, and they make no use of the cattle. They run wild. I am now having them branded under the Gansabha-wa rules to endeavour to make ownership certain and ascertain the actual numbers. But while I was trying to improve matters in the interest of the cattle and the horses, a few persons, instigated and supported in Jaffna, proceeded to enclose the pasture lands, over which the village cattle and horses graze in common, by asserting ownership to the horse enclosures on the plains. These plains were formerly kept for the sole use of the Government stud, and were cut off from the inhabited part of the island by a wall. These attempts at encroachment I firmly resisted. The Legislative Council was appealed to by the would-be encroachers, but my action in securing the pasturage land as common pasture was upheld. A good deal of heat was imported into this somewhat trivial matter. I have therefore thought it well to deal with it at some length.

I consider it only right to refer to the very commendable public spirit of Mr. V. Vallipuram, a native gentleman of Jaffna, in providing a "chattiram" and a well in the Grand Bazaar for the comfort and convenience of natives who visit the town. On a previous occasion he largely contributed towards the erection of a latrine for the use of the public near the Grand Bazaar, and then applied to me for permission to build a "chattiram" or "native resthouse" with a well for the public. Permission to use a site in the market ground was readily granted by the Provincial Road Committee, and a commodious upstairs building and a substantial well were constructed at a very considerable cost.

OUR SUBSCRIBERS. PLEASE NOTE.

1. We are very sorry that our earnest appeal calling for prompt payment of arrear subscriptions due to the Hindu Organ has not had the desired effect. The 15th September last, was the date, before which we asked our subscribers to remit the subscription in full, due for Vol. XIV. We tender our thanks to those who responded to our call, but to those who treated our appeal with studied indifference, we mean to give them another date, viz.,

31ST DECEMBER 1903;

before which date, we earnestly solicit each and all of our subscribers to remit their dues to this paper in full.

2. Our subscribers in arrears are particularly requested to note that, unless they pay and settle their dues before the 31st December 1903, their names will be struck off our list of subscribers and in due course steps will be taken to recover them.

LOCAL & GENERAL

The Weather—Welcome showers of rain have fallen in all parts of the Jaffna District, and the paddy plants are very much benefitted by them.

The late Mr. G. S. Johnpillai J. P.—In our last issue we chronicled the painful incident of this gentleman who was Crown Proctor, Jaffna, having been suddenly taken ill with a stroke of paralysis and carried to his house from the District Court House after the Memorial Meeting at which he spoke and took a prominent part. It is our melancholy task now to have to record his death which took place on the morning of the 23rd Instant.

Mr. Johnpillai was the eldest son of the late Mr. Solomon Johnpillai who was Editor and Proprietor of the *Ceylon Patriot*. He successfully practised his profession as a Proctor in Colombo for several years and came to Jaffna his native place, about four years ago as Crown Proctor. He was made a J. P. on the recommendation of the present District Judge of Jaffna. He was an earnest and powerful speaker and

was very conscientious and zealous in the discharge of his duties as a lawyer. He leaves behind a widow and three children to whom we offer our heartfelt condolence at the irreparable loss they have sustained.

The Crown Proctorship—We are glad to learn that Mr. Sanders, the District Judge of Jaffna, has recommended Mr. T. Changarapillai J. P., Proctor of the Supreme Court, for the Crown Proctorship, Jaffna, which has been rendered vacant by the untimely death of Mr. Gabriel Johupillai. Mr. Changarapillai had for some years performed the duties of Crown Proctor with very great acceptance till he gave up the appointment to act as Police Magistrate of Kaits about four years ago. By reason of his seniority, his position at the Bar, and above all, his honesty and gentlemanly qualities, Mr. Changarapillai is preeminently qualified to be again appointed Crown Proctor.

Digest of Cases—We have received Specimen Pages of Digest of Cases, 1895—1903, compiled by Mr. K. Balasingam, Advocate, son of Mr. Kathiravalupillai, retired Police Magistrate of Kaits. A perusal of these pages has satisfied us of its great usefulness to lawyers and even to Judges and Magistrates of our Courts. The author has undoubtedly bestowed much labour and pains in the preparation of this work and we commend it to the public.

Salt for Jaffna—40,000 cwts of salt are expected here in the course of next week from Madras by a B. I. Steamer, to supply the deficiency of salt here. Several tenders were received in the Kachcheri on the 26th Instant for the landing of this quantity within five days of the arrival of the steamer which will anchor further off from Mandaitivu and near Palaitivu. The tender of Mr. S. Chinniah which was the lowest, being Rs 2 48 per ton, was accepted. Considering the long distance at which the steamer will anchor from shore it is said that 50 cargo boats should be employed daily to land the 40,000 cwts of salt within the stipulated time.

The Assistant Registrar-General—Mr. Morgappah the Assistant Registrar-General, having returned here on Sunday last from Mullaitivu by the "Jaffna" left for Colombo today by the "Lady Havelock."

The S. S. "Jaffna"—This little steamer after three trips between Point Pedro and Trincomalee has now come to Jaffna, the weather no longer permitting the landing of passengers and goods at Point Pedro. It is said she will now run between Jaffna and Mannar.

The Government Agent—Mr. Lewis who returned here from a long circuit on the 14th Instant was down with malarial fever for a few days and is now convalescent. Those who accompanied him on this circuit, Mrs. Lewis, the Chief Mudaliar, and the Superintendent of Minor Works were also almost simultaneously attacked with fever on their return to Jaffna and recovered.

The Glanville Murder—We are glad to learn that His Excellency the Governor has commuted the sentence of death on the two men convicted for the murder of Mr. Glanville to 20 years imprisonment.

New Advocates—Messrs S. Nadasajah and Sunatamby Thambapillai were on the 21st Instant enrolled and admitted as Advocates of the Supreme Court of the Island of Ceylon. We wish them a brilliant and successful career.

Obituary—We regret to chronicle the death of Mr. W. Tambipillai, the well known general Broker and Commission Agent, which took place at his residence at Navaly after a long and painful illness on the 26th Inst. We tender our heartfelt sympathy to the bereaved widow and others who bemoan his loss.

Theft—A daring theft was committed on the night of the 23rd Inst. at the house of Mr. S. Sivagurunathar. After Mr. Sivagurunathar retired to bed somebody entered into the sleeping apartment and removed four bangles and a gold waist string from his two little children. The ornaments stolen are worth about Rs. 120. Vannarponne is becoming notorious for theft and we hope the authorities will soon take prompt measures to put a stop to it.

Death by Drowning—A corpse was found in a well adjoining a Hindu Temple at Kockavil West on the morning of the 25th Inst. It was identified to be the body of one Kanapathippillai of Vannarponne who went to the above temple to witness a festival that was going on there on the previous night. An inquest was held and a verdict that he died by accidentally falling into the well was returned.

CASTE.

Dewan Bahadur R. Ragoonath Row writes:—Caste is order. "Order is Heaven's first law and this confessed, some are and must be greater than the rest." Caste in some shape and name or other prevails in every country on the face of the globe. It consists of birth, pro-

fession and virtues. Where all these three combine, one is of the fullest or highest caste. Where birth and virtues alone exist, his caste is secondary to the first. Where heredity is wanting and the other two exist his caste is secondary to the second. Where two are wanting and one simply virtuous his caste is wanting to the previous ones. Where birth and profession alone exist and virtues wanting he is of inferior caste to the last mentioned. Where there is birth or profession and the other two component parts are wanting he is of the lowest caste.

This is the caste defined in Hindu Religious works of authority.

One descended from a saint practising any noble profession for securing others' salvation saving another's body or wealth not for the sake of his livelihood and possesses the 8 great virtues prescribed is of the highest caste. Such a descendant with the possession of the virtues without profession being less useful to humanity is of a lower caste. Heredity has been proved to possess some eminence where that is wanting he cannot claim to be of the highest caste. Mere birth or profession alone cannot claim a superior casteship.

It being so why castes should be denounced by the world be learned people, I cannot understand. Each qualification has its peculiar privileges allowed to it by common consent but they are not the means to obtain salvation. They are social and not religious rights. All foreigners and many Indians confound these two rights and denounce caste and the religion of the Shaster. There have been many who, though born in the lowest birth, have been canonized as saints and are worshipped by all the castes. Similarly though born in noble families many have been cast away as unworthy of any respect. A Brahmin by birth alone may be killed without being guilty of a Bahmanicide. Such is the Shaster abutment.

The great Buddha was also of this opinion and has advocated this view. (See Sacred Books of the East Vol. X Part II Suttampata Uravagga 7 Vasalusutta—Page 21.)—Hindu.

"SELF-GOVERNMENT" FOR THE FIJIANS.

In almost every part of the Empire, even the most backward, the people are getting something which will uplift them in their own self-respect and elevate them in the scale of nations. The Irish are making vast strides; the quite recent South Sea savages who inhabit the Fiji Islands are to have self-Government, only India receives nothing, and much of that which she had has been taken away from her. The Irish and Fijians are advancing in the manner I have indicated, not merely as an act of grace from their alien rulers, but as an answer to much speaking. If only India would speak often and speak loudly she, too, would get what these others have got. The real reason why Lord Curzon has concentrated his attention in Indian Administration to matters outside the political and normal welfare of the people is—he being the kind of man he is—the fault of the Indian people themselves. They have, with the courage of sheep, accepted the disdain and neglect of the higher things of life which the Viceroy has taken no steps to conceal. From the point which Lord Curzon is notorious for taking, his conduct is fully justified. He has grandiose schemes, schemes evolved from his inner consciousness; if the people were willing to accept these and not force their own conceptions upon him, why should he trouble to put himself in line with the people? Let me tell the story of the Fiji success as it appears in the news just published. The petition of the inhabitants of Fiji, it is stated, for representative government has been granted. Upon the advice of Mr. Chamberlain, the King "very graciously" received it, and so fit to accede to the request made by his subjects in the Pacific. Hitherto the government of the Fiji Islands has been carried on by a Legislative Council of six official and six non-official members, all nominated by the Crown, that is, by the Colonial Office while the Governor of the Colony had, as President of the Council, an almost unlimited power to do what he liked. Now, says the "Morning Advertiser," there are to be eight members of the Council elected by the people of the Colony, natives as well as settlers, and the President is only to have a casting vote. The number of nominated members will, probably, be increased to eight until such time as complete representative government can be granted to the Islands. Mr. Sutherland, the Acting Colonial Secretary in Fiji, in a letter dated August 13, makes the announcement that the King has given his consent, and adds: "When the new Royal Warrant is received the question for qualification for suffrage and for election, and the term for which members should hold their seats, will be submitted to the Legislative Council for discussion and for the necessary legislation. The President of the Legislative Council will not in future have a debating vote, but only a casting vote, but the number of the official members will be increased." —A. B. Patrika.

THREE MONTHS WITH HARD LABOUR FOR CAUSING A HEADACHE.

THE SO-CALLED JUBBULPORE ASSAULT CASE.

The feeling, that pervaded the European community in the eighties of the last century, was that it was the Babu, who was at the root of all evils, and that Lord Ripon was his patron. Almost the same unfortunate feeling, we regret, has seized the Anglo-Indians of the present time. It is the Babu and his friend, Lord Curzon, who, in their opinion, are responsible for the Bain case: It is to please him that His Excellency moved the High Court to enhance the punishment of Mr. Bain: It is to honour the same party that the Viceroy insulted the Ninth Lancers and so strongly deprecated the maltreatment of the helpless Indians by the British soldier. What is still more deplorable is that even judicial officers, no doubt unconsciously, are being saturated with this spirit of racial prejudice; and several of them have displayed it too clearly when delivering judgments in cases between Indians and Europeans.

In the Rennick case, the trying Magistrate referred to "virulent abuse" by the "native" press, which means the press conducted by the Babu. In the case of Private Casey, Mr. Justice Robertson of the Punjab Chief Court was still more pronounced in his views. He not only condemned the "native" press for representing "the British soldier an exemplar of brutality"—a totally unfounded and uncalled-for assertion—but also the conduct of the authorities for their attempts to bring the accused soldier to justice. The same spirit has also been manifested by the Cantonment Magistrate in the so-called Jubbulpore assault case, which we are going to notice presently. Need we, however, assure the Anglo-Indian public that the "Babu" has nothing to do with the Bain and other cases, and that Lord Curzon is not his patron or friend? We are anxious to impress this fact upon them, because, we see nothing but unmitigated mischief all along the line from the temper into which they have worked themselves up from circumstances which have no foundation on fact and which exist only in their heated imagination.

Now to the Jubbulpore case, in which Driver Towing of the 52nd Battery R. F. A., charged a syce named Peer Bux in the same Battery with assault, and which has resulted in the usual manner, that is to say, the conviction of the latter and his incarceration with hard labour for three months. We say "usually," for, judging from the results of numerous cases between the Europeans and Indians, one can at once see that when the European is the offender he is acquitted or very lightly punished, and when the Indian is the accused, he not only rarely, if ever, escapes but is punished with a severity unknown in any other country. Those, who are in this way bringing the administration of justice into contempt, are not friends but enemies of British rule in India; for, the strongest pillar, upon which the Indian Empire rests, is the faith of the people in the purity of justice administered by the rulers of the country. Nothing should therefore be done to create a suspicion, in the minds of the Indian public, that there is one sort of justice for the Indians and another for the Europeans.

The judgment on the Jubbulpore assault case is published elsewhere. We have not the whole record of the case before us; but, the remarks of the trying Magistrate will clearly show the frame of his mind, when he pronounced judgment. The facts are simple enough; but, the way the Magistrate has drawn his conclusions from the evidence is most striking. The version of the complainant is that the syce hit him with a head collar, simply, because, he had asked him to "keep it clean." The version of the accused is that, it was not he who had assaulted the complainant, but it was the complainant who had struck him, because he put off cleaning the head collar for a time.

The question was thus reduced to one of belief or disbelief of the two different stories, on the part of the trying Magistrate. Who told the truth—syce Peer Bux or Driver Towing? Both brought their witnesses—the syce two or three of his countrymen, and the driver two of his own. Like the complainant and the accused, their witnesses also gave two diametrically opposite versions. The European witnesses deposed that the syce had assaulted the complainant without any provocation whatever, while the witnesses for defence said the complainant was the aggressor. In short, to quote the words of the judgment, "both sides are positive as to what they saw."

The duty of every Judge, under the above circumstances, was to give the benefit of the doubt to the accused and dismiss the case, to weigh the probabilities and find accordingly. But the Cantonment Magistrate of Jubbulpore

came to decide, in an extraordinary manner, that the syce and his witnesses had lied. It seems that Lieutenant Webber came to enquire into the matter a few minutes after the altercation; and the accused did not at that time complain to him that he had been struck by Driver Towing. "His silence at that moment," remarks the Magistrate, "shows that he was in fault." But, the accused, when asked by the court, gave a very satisfactory explanation why he did not report the fact to Lieutenant Webber. He said "the rule is to report first to the Jemadar and the Jemadar takes the complainant before an officer."

The above, as we said, would appear to be a very satisfactory explanation to most men; but fancy the way it was disposed of by the Magistrate. "It is clear to my mind" says he "that this explanation was an after-thought." But, Mr. Cantonment Magistrate, where is the evidence to justify you in the conclusion that the explanation was an after-thought. He quotes none in support of his theory. His conclusion, we may thus take it, was based not upon any evidence but evolved out of his inner consciousness; and, on this imaginary ground, namely, that the explanation was an after-thought, the syce was condemned to suffer three months' rigorous imprisonment!

Let us now weigh the probabilities of the case. Is it believable that a native syce was bold enough to assault a European absolutely without any provocation? Even that is not the exact prosecution story. We are asked to believe that a syce assaulted a European, who had done him no harm, in the presence of two other Europeans, and these three Europeans, if they did not turn their other cheeks to be struck did not utter a word of protest? Who will, after this, deny that the millenium is not at hand! The Cantonment Magistrate, however, found no difficulty in believing this story of the complainant and his two witnesses as true, while the simple explanation of the accused, referred to above, as well as the evidence of his witnesses seemed to him to be incredible. Now, if you take it for granted that what a "Native" says is a lie, and that a European is always truthful, where is the necessity for a judicial trial? Why not at once send the "Native" to jail as soon as a complaint is lodged against him by a European.

We have yet to come to the most interesting part of the judgment. The Magistrate having satisfied his mind, in his own way, that the "accused did cause hurt with a head collar," felt himself very much troubled with the question of punishment: "Fine or imprisonment" was the great problem before him. The light within him, however, enabled him to solve it easily. Has not Lord Curzon issued an order preventing a soldier from "raising his hand to a native?" Therefore, he concluded, "the same rule should apply a fortiori to a follower (syce)." "Here we have a syce of the Battery remarks the Magistrate, not only assaulting a British soldier for no reason at all," but the "the soldier kept his temper and his conduct is very commendable." Then again, who knows that the Babus may raise a subscription for the syce, if he is only fined and pay the money for him? Thus, fine, according to the Magistrate would be no punishment to him. The Court "therefore directs that Peer Bux be sentenced to three months rigorous imprisonment!"

Imagine the atrocious nature of the sentence. The evidence, for and against, according to the Magistrate himself, was well balanced. It was impossible to say on which side the real truth lay. No Indian, and perhaps not many Englishmen, will believe that a syce would venture to strike a European. On the other hand, it is natural to suppose that the European was the aggressor. Granting, however, that the Magistrate was right in his conclusion,—was he justified in sentencing the poor man to three months' hard labour? For, the only result of the alleged assault, according to the complainant himself, was nothing more than a headache! "The complainant says," we quote from the judgment, "that the blow was dealt with some force, and that on account of the blow he suffered with a headache afterwards." So, for causing a mere headache, the syce got three months' rigorous imprisonment! According to the Magistrate, the man would have not been dealt with so severely, if the Government of Lord Curzon had not promulgated the order that soldiers should not assault the natives of the soil. We trust the Government will withdraw the circular, so that Magistrates may in future pass lighter sentence upon the people when they came into collision with soldiers.

Let us here enumerate briefly the admitted

facts in the Rennick case. Two of the servants of Major Rennick were accused of theft. Allah Rakha, a house agent, with whose master the Major had a quarrel, was taken to the house of the latter by Police Inspector Mathews, to identify the suspected thieves. He went, because, he was assured of protection by the European Police Officer. As soon as Alla Rakha had identified the men, and the Major came to know who he was, and for what purpose he had come, he felled the man down and beat and kicked him. According to the Police Inspector he committed further outrages afterwards. Major Rennick, who is a gentleman, was thus chivalrous enough to commit a grave assault upon a man, who had gone to his house, at the instance of a public officer and who was alone and utterly helpless, and had given him no cause for provocation. The assault was of such a serious character that some of his clothes showed marks of blood. And what was the punishment meted out to him for this cowardly conduct? A fine of Rs. 100! And the syce was given three months with hard labour for an alleged assault which gave only a headache to Driver Towing. If you administer two kinds of justice—one for European, and another for Indian offenders, then you will teach the gentle and unaggressive people to take the law in their hands. Even a worm will turn round to bite if trodden upon.

—The A. B. Patrika.

NOTICE.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF
JAFFNA.

ORDER NISI

Testamentary }
Jurisdiction } No. 1421

Class I.

In the Matter of the Estate of the late
Lizzie Muttamma Theagarajah of Pandatheruppu
in Jaffna

Deceased.

Sabapathy Albert Theagarajah of Colombo

Petitioner

Vs.

Vairavanathar Seenivasakam of Pandatheruppu

Respondent

This matter of the Petition of Sabapathy Albert Theagarajah praying for Letters of Administration to the estate of the abovenamed deceased Lizzie Muttamma Theagarajah coming on for disposal before W. R. B. Sanders Esqr. District Judge, on the 5th day of October 1903 in the presence of Messrs. Casipillai & Cathiravelu Proctors on the part of the Petitioner and the affidavit of the Petitioner dated the 28th day of September 1903 having been read, it is declared that the Petitioner is the lawful husband of the said intestate and is entitled to have Letters of Administration to the estate of the said Intestate issued to him unless the Respondent or any other person shall on or, before the 11th day of November 1903 show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

Signed this 5th day of October 1903

Sgd. W. R. B. SANDERS

District Judge

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.

ORDER NISI.

Testamentary }
Jurisdiction } No. 1422

Class I.

In the matter of the estate of the late
Muttupillai wife of Nallatampi of Thambagamam
Dceased.

Veeragattiar Nallatampi of Thambagamam

Petitioner

Vs.

1. Vairamuttu Appakkuddi and his wife

2. Vallipillai of Thambagamam

3. Sitamparappillai Pooniah of do

Respondents.

This matter of the Petition of Veeragattiar Nallatampi of Thambagamam praying for Letters of Administration to the estate of the abovenamed deceased Muttupillai wife of Nallatampi coming on for disposal before W. R. B. Sanders Esqr. District Judge, on the 5th day of October 1903, in the presence of Messrs. Casipillai & Cathiravelu Proctors on the part of the Petitioner and the affidavit of the Petitioner dated the 2nd day of October 1903 having been read, it is declared that the Petitioner is the lawful husband of the said intestate and is entitled to have Letters of Administration to the estate of the said Intestate issued to him unless the Respondents or any other person shall on or, before the 11th day of November 1903 show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

Signed this 5th day of October 1903

Signed. W. R. B. SANDERS

District Judge.