

The Hindu Organ

(THE CHEAPEST WEEKLY IN CEYLON)

PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY!

VOL XV.

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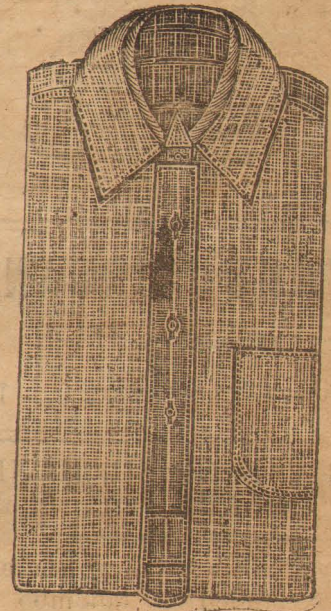
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THE HINDU ORGAN.

JAFFNA, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1903

THE ARRIVAL OF SIR HENRY
BLAKE.

His Excellency Sir Henry Blake, our new Governor, landed in Colombo from Hong Kong with Her Excellency Lady Blake, on the morning of the 3rd Instant and assumed the Government of the Island. He was accorded a most hearty and enthusiastic reception and has created an excellent impression by his noble and dignified bearing, and by his sagacious and appropriate utterances. Elsewhere we publish the Addresses presented to His Excellency by the Legislative Council, the Municipal Council, the Chamber of Commerce, and by the Headmen of the Western Province, with His Excellency's reply. It will be seen that the reply is brief and to the point, showing His Excellency to be a man of action and not of words. It is worthy of remark that it fell to the lot of the Tamil Member, the Hon'ble Dr. Rockwood, as the senior unofficial Member, to read the Address of welcome from the Legislative Council, as the same privilege was conferred on Mr. P. Coomaraswamy, the then Tamil Member, to read the Address of welcome to Sir J. West Ridgeway in 1896. Having, in our last issue, had our say more fully on our new Governor, we have only once more to offer His Excellency our most hearty welcome and wish him a successful and prosperous administration of the Colony.

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—There was heavy fall of rain here on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Instant, and our tanks, ponds, and wells are now full of water. On the night of the 3rd and on the 4th stormy weather prevailed and several trees were blown down in all parts of the district. These rains have to some extent improved the condition of our paddy crop, but, generally speaking, the prospects of the paddy crop of this year in the Jaffna District are not very promising, the plants having already become diseased owing to the strong blowing of the South-west wind, and absence of rains for a few weeks, in October last. The prospects of the Varagu crop are excellent.

The Government Agent—Mr. Lewis the Government Agent, has returned from circuit. He goes again on circuit in a few days to Chavakachcheri and Point Pedro.

The District Road Committee—The election of the unofficial members of the Jaffna District Road Committee will take place in the Jaffna Kachcheri on the 16th Instant.

The Kadduvan Riot Case—This case ended on the 5th Instant after four days trial in the conviction of eight out of the twenty accused, and they were each sentenced by the District Judge to 7 months rigorous imprisonment except one accused who was sentenced to 21 months rigorous imprisonment owing to two previous convictions against him. This is, as our readers are aware, a caste riot case, in which the accused Vellalas prevented a Kavadi procession of the potter caste people proceeding to the Maviddapuram Kandaswamy Temple with music, and in doing so broke the drum of the musicians and the kavadi of the potters in the presence of the Maniagar and five minor Headmen.

The Loss of Another Native Vessel—Intelligence has been received here of the loss near Negapatam of Brig. "Sivagama-Letchumy" belonging to two Chetty Firms in Jaffna and a native merchant of this place. She was on her way to Jaffna from Cocanada with a cargo of 70 caris (11,200 bushels) of paddy, besides sundries such as gram, gingily, &c., and having encountered the storm of the 4th Instant after passing Negapatam, was driven ashore at Velaganny, four miles from Negapatam, and became a total wreck in a few hours. The whole cargo was lost but the crew saved their lives. The loss to one Chetty Firm here alone which owned the larger share of the ship and three-fourths of the cargo is estimated at Rs 25,000. But the Firm being a very rich one will not in any way be affected by this loss. Two other Brigs which left Cocanada with full cargo of paddy simultaneously with the ill-fated

"Sivagama-Letchumy" arrived here on the 7th Instant narrowly escaping a similar fate, by throwing overboard paddy of the value of about Rs 2000 from each vessel. By the total loss of two vessels with paddy bound to Jaffna and by paddy being thrown overboard by those that escaped destruction at sea, about 25,000 bushels of paddy failed to replenish the stock of food grains here. The price of paddy and other food grains has, therefore, considerably risen in Jaffna.

Marriage—Mr. V. Vaitalingam a clerk in the Fiscal's Office Jaffna and a brother of Mr. V. Saunugam, Head Clerk, Police Office, Jaffna, was married on the 5th Instant to a daughter of Mr. Cartiganu of Kaladdy. We wish the newly married young couple happiness and prosperity.

Next Year's Pearl Fishery—Capt. Sam. Edwards who came recently from Europe will take charge of the dredging operations under the control of the Master Attendant. In the next fishery, we understand, dredgers will be used for diving operations instead of divers. There is a rumour to the effect that there will be no fishery next year.

Fire—A fire broke out in the Spinning and Weaving Company mills, Wellawette, Colombo, on the 1st Instant and a considerable quantity of cotton was burnt. The damage caused by this fire is estimated at Rs. 10,000.

A Royal Visitor to Ceylon—Princess Louise Schleswig-Holstein is leaving England to spend the winter in Ceylon. She will be away from England until the end of April. Princess Louise since her divorce from her husband had lived in an unpretentious house in South Kensington with a devoted friend with whom she is now about to visit Ceylon.

Educational—We hear that Mr. R. H. Leembruggen Inspector of Schools, Jaffna, will retire from service at the end of the current year and that Mr. C. H. Kriekseek of the Royal College, Colombo, will succeed him. Mr. Leembruggen was in the Government Service for about 37 years. His first appointment was as Head Master of the Matara Boys' English School. 13 years after he was appointed Principal of the Colombo Female Seminary which was a leading institution for girls in Colombo and was abolished twenty years ago. He was then appointed as a Clerk first in the Attorney-General's Office and afterwards in the Secretariat. In 1892 he was appointed Inspector of Schools.

—Mr. S. K. Lawton, is leaving for South India on special order, to take some Photographs and to visit sacred places. During his absence his son Mr. K. R. Lawton who had been trained under Messrs Skeen & Co of Colombo will attend to the local Photographic business.

COLOMBO.

Welcome to Sir Henry A Blake—We extend a most cordial welcome to Their Excellencies Sir Henry and Lady Blake to our land, who landed this morning at 8 o'clock. This is full Moon day, and further we have the authority of a famous astrologer to say that this is a most propitious day—propitious for both the ruler and the ruled. Judging from appearance, H. E. appears to be an ardent lover of justice, independence, and fairplay; and judging from H. E.'s past history, we can safely say that a new era has dawned in the history of the natives of Ceylon. The policy of H. E. in regard to administration can be made out from the speeches which H. E. delivered recently in Hong Kong.

We cannot also pass this opportunity without saying a word about H. E. Lady Blake. H. E. is a pretty old lady, and H. E.'s face is full of love—indeed love is not the word to express it.

A great Journalist bound home on leave—Mr. Scott Coates, the popular Editor of the "Ceylon Independent", left for home a couple of days ago, on 6 months leave. It is idle to deny that he had done yeoman service to this country during the last eight years he was employed as editor of that paper. The tree that bearest most is stoned at most says a Tamil proverb. As such, he had to face many a libel case in the District Court of Colombo brought about by his bold, fearless, and independent editorials, and he faced them boldly and successfully. It must also be gratefully acknowledged that the interests of the Hindu Community have been always safeguarded by him. We wish him a pleasant voyage and happy time at home.

A whole house converted to vegetarianism—We may be pardoned, if we should at times refer to domestic life of individuals, for nothing pleases us more

than noting reformation among the Tamils—reformation of whatever nature it may be. It is with the greatest pleasure we learn that a whole house of about seven or eight souls in a certain part of this city has been now converted to vegetarianism through the benign influence of one of their old friends, who is now in their midst after an absence of about five or six years. Really a good example to follow.

A Christian Preacher—who had been for the last many years carrying on the trade of preaching in stentorian voice the religion of Christ in the streets, and corners, and crossings of Colombo, is now committed to the debtors' jail at Haltsdorf. True enough, to take his own word, which by the way was his sole hobby, he was "saved by Christ," but who can save him now but the Hindu Chetty to whom the Christian evangelist owes Rs. 5,000, on a dishonoured cheque. It is indeed in anticipation of deviations of this nature from the proper path, the sage Rishis of old forbade trading upon religion.—Cor.

THE NORTHERN RAILWAY.

HOW TO MAKE IT MORE POPULAR.

It is stated that suggestions and decisions have been made as follows to render the Northern Railway, i. e., that section of it which is now used more popular than at present:—

1. The General-Manager of the Railway has been requested to submit an estimate of the cost of giving railway access to the Grand Bazaar, Jaffna.
2. With a view to utilising the line more than at present it has been decided to erect a fence round the Customs' premises at Kangasanturai and to levy a toll of 50 cents on carts passing inside the premises.
3. An intermediate station between Kodigamam and Pallai is considered not absolutely necessary at the present juncture.
4. The General Manager has been requested to adopt as an experiment the system of wayside stoppages.

THE RAKASIANOOL CASE.

JUDGMENT.

IN THE POLICE COURT OF JAFFNA.

On this 26th day of November 1903 at Jaffna within the Jurisdiction of the said Court, Kandar Velupillai of Vasavilan is convicted before the undersigned, one of the Magistrates of the said Court for that he the said Kandar Velupillai did on or about December 1902 at Vasavilan within the Jurisdiction of the said Court, print for sale an obscene pamphlet called Rakasianool in Tamil (Secret Science) and thereby committed an offence punishable under Section 285 of the Ceylon Penal Code and that he the said Kandar Velupillai in the month of August and September 1903 had in his possession the said obscene pamphlet entitled "Rakasianool" in Tamil (Secret Science) for the purpose of sale and thereby committed an offence punishable under Section 286 of the Ceylon Penal Code and I sentence the said Kandar Velupillai for the said first offence under Section 285 to pay a fine of one hundred Rupees (Rs 100) to be paid and applied according to law, and if the said sum be not paid on or before the 30th November 1903 I sentence the said Kandar Velupillai to three months rigorous imprisonment and I sentence the said Kandar Velupillai for the second offence under Section 286 of the Ceylon Penal Code to pay a further fine of fifty Rupees and in default to undergo a further rigorous imprisonment for two months.

The following are the reasons for my decision.

The first question to be decided in this case is whether the pamphlet called Rakasianool in Tamil (Secret Knowledge), is obscene?

Having read the book in question myself and having heard the witnesses called on both sides, I am decidedly of opinion that in this case the "Tendency of the matter charged as

obscurity" "is to deprave and corrupt those whose minds are open to such immoral influences and into whose hands the publication may fall." The words I have quoted above are the words of Cockburn C. J. found on page 256 of Maine's Commentaries on the Indian Penal Code, Edition of 1886. Further I am of opinion that the pamphlet in question "would suggest to the minds of the young of either sex, or even to persons of more advanced years thoughts of a most impure and libidinous character" and these quotations are stated by Maine to constitute obscenity.

The subject matter of this pamphlet from first to last is obscene and objectionable and the way the objects are printed is still more objectionable. It is true, the pamphlet is written, not in vulgar Tamil, but in a somewhat high style; however the matter is easily understood by anyone who knows the Tamil language—the context explaining the meanings of the high words used, and it is not the less obscene on that account.

The fact of a similar book having been published in India or elsewhere, does not rob the pamphlet in question of its obscene character. I do not quote passages from the pamphlet to shew the obscenity of the publication, as I condemn the whole book, and am of opinion that it ought never to have been printed.

All the chief witnesses for the prosecution condemn the book as obscene and unworthy to be read by the young and the unwary, and that, if they do, impure thoughts will be suggested to their minds and their immoral passions excited.

Among the witnesses called for the defence,

Mr. Allan Abraham, the first witness, said in cross examination. "This book, in my opinion, will excite some to lust and deprave their morals. I will not permit this book in schools."

This in law constitutes obscenity.

The 2nd witness Rev. J. T. Appapillai said

"I wont object to my unmarried brother or sister reading this book, provided I think that they will make a proper use of it. If I have any suspicion that they may make a misuse of the book I will not give it to them."

This shews that the information contained in this book is liable to be misused.

The 3rd witness D. A. Pararasasinghe Modr.

"Boys and girls under 18 years of age ought not to read the book in question, for this book will give them unnecessary ideas into their heads and will excite carnal desires in them to some extent. This book ought not to be given into the hands of young persons under 18 and into the hands of the unwary. This book will poison their minds. I will not give this book to my children until they are about to marry."

This witness has clearly proved that the pamphlet in question is obscene.

The 4th witness Charles Dutton stated.

"The unwary and those liable to excitement of passion ought not to read this book. There is a class of people in Jaffna to whom this book ought not to be given.

"The harm which the book now in question may produce is excitement to lust."

The 5th and last witness Visuvanather Ramalingam says in one word that the book is good and useful to all manner of people; with which statement, no sensible person will feel enamoured.

The second question is whether the accused printed the book for sale.

(1) The book or pamphlet on the first page of its cover says that it was compiled from certain books by K. Vulupillai of Vasavilan (accused) and printed at his (the accused's) Sayasri Sarathapeedenthira Press.

(2) It is proved by Katigasar Appakutty the 3rd witness for the prosecution that the aforesaid Press is in the accused's own house at Vasavilan and the 4th witness Christopher Mootatamby Chellappa proved that the accused is the owner and proprietor of that press.

(3) It is proved by the said 4th witness C. M. Chellappa, and by the accused's Declaration dated 2nd Sept. 1902 filed in the District Court of Jaffna, certified copy whereof, is filed in evidence, viz, document marked A5, that the accused was prior to 17th Feby. 1903, the editor and proprietor of a Tamil newspaper called "the Jaffna Native Opinion" and in its issue of 2nd Feby. 1903, the accused has published a notice with his own signature, advertising the

book or pamphlet in question for sale, in which he states that he published the said book and that the same may be had for 25 cents at the aforesaid Press.

The facts sufficiently prove to my mind that the accused was the person who printed the pamphlet in question for sale in his own Press.

The next question is whether the accused has in his possession the said pamphlet for the purpose of sale.

The aforementioned notice in the accused's newspaper, "The Jaffna Native Opinion" proves beyond a doubt that he keeps the book for sale and besides, there is the evidence of the 2nd and 3rd witnesses for the prosecution that there are hundreds of these books or pamphlets in an almshouse in the accused's house at Vasavilan and that they are being sold by the accused's own servant and agent Nallatamby mentioned by the 2nd and 4th witness and that these pamphlets were actually sold by him in Sept. last as proved by the 2nd and 3rd witnesses.

I pronounced the Verdict and recorded it immediately after the evidence for the defence was closed on the 19th Inst. I wished to read up the evidence recorded in the case and the Documents.

I further order under section 417 of the Criminal Procedure Code, that all the books or pamphlets now in custody of the Court or in possession of the accused Kantar Valapillai in his house or elsewhere be all destroyed. Viz: the pamphlet entitled Rakasianool in Tamil (secret science) and if an appeal be lodged, the said books be all brought into Court and kept securely till the decision of the Supreme Court shall be known.

Signed T. M. TAMPOO (P. M.)

NOTES FROM SELANGOR.

It is my pleasant duty to send you some notes about the place of our sojourn in the interest of those who are concerned with the Straits going men of the North of the historical Langka. Kuala Lumpur, the Metropolis of the Federated Malay States or Malaya Peninsula, is daily growing in importance in point of mercantile and industrial undertakings. With the increased facilities for travel such as carriages, jinrikishas and Motor-Cars it makes a stranger to feel as if he is in the centre of civilization. The connection of the three protected Malay States by Railway is the chief promoting cause for such a steady improvement of Kuala Lumpur. Journeys which should have been prolonged for days with their accompanying discomforts can now be performed in less than two days, a distance of about 300 miles from one end to the other. Perak one of these States is newly connected by Rail with Penang and Province Wellesly.

As regards Government employment, your readers are aware, that opportunities for outsiders are very limited. Sometime back when the Clerical Scheme was introduced by the Patriotic Government it was declared that the Clerical Service will be open to all nations without distinction of caste, colour or creed. Preference, however, is now naturally given to the sons of the soil or to the lads who received their education in Straits as an encouragement to further the cause of Education. Therefore it would be advisable to state that the lads who intend to seek their prospects here, must possess extraordinary knowledge to stand the test which is a competitive one. The only Department that offers work is the F. M. S. Railways. Let intending youths pay special attention to their hand-writing as theirs is very poor compared with the print-like writing of the majority of Chinese and Eurasian classes.

With the progress of the time, it has been a drawback with our Hindus not to have taken steps to improve their Religious status. It is gratifying to find that a Religious meeting was started in August last at the initiative of Mr. R. Arumugam of the Sanitary Board, and regular meetings are held weekly at his quarters, when an essay on Religious subject is read. Meetings commence and close with the singing of Devarams. The following are the subjects that have already been dealt with: "Language", "Our Life", "Union is Strength", "Charity", "Image Worship, the Lives of Saints "Manikavasakar, Thiruganaa Sampanthar, Thiruvavookkaraso, Sundramoorthy and Kannaappar", "Transmigration of the Soul", "Vegetarianism", "Virtues of Viboothi" and "Fate".

It is clear that the above are some of the important subjects for an ordinary Hindu to know. Mr. Saravanamuttu Pillai, the well-known Tamil Prndit of Jaffna, who is now here is adding further light to this gathering by his remarks and lectures on many abstruse points.

It should also be mentioned that Mr. Ampalavannapillai is another acquisition to this Religious gathering. Fostering of religious sentiments was a long-felt want and it has been supplied. It is through Mr. R. Arumugam's goodness of heart and geniality that this meeting has been so well-conducted in spite of our proverbial apathy in bettering our position. This meeting has already been the cause of awakening in many a spirit to study the Religion which has been so sadly neglected.

In this connection it reminds me of the Selangor Ceylon Tamils' Association which is in existence for over 2½ years with practically little work. The leading members are not labouring for the achievement of its object of building a Temple. Although a land was acquired sometime back, yet no further progress is visible owing, it is said, to apathy and want of interest on the part of the Committee.

While Mr. R. Arumugam is unable to bring any better results as Secretary of the S. C. T. Association,

he has left his chances and time at the disposal of the new movement for religious development a move in the right direction. It is to be hoped that he will continue this Religious meeting and will ultimately make arrangements to establish a Religious Reading Room in the Temple Land with the co-operation of other Saivites.—Cor.

(To be continued.)

Kuala Lumpur, 26th Nov. 1903.

THIBETAN EXPEDITION.

(Continued from page 92)

The Governor wished he might long continue to illumine the world with his presence; and was hopeful that the friendship which had formerly subsisted between them would not be diminished, but rather that it might become still greater than before; and that by his continuing to show kindness to my countrymen there might be an extensive communication between his votaries and the dependants of the "British" nation. The little creature turned, looking steadfastly towards me with the appearance of much attention while I spoke, and nodded with repeated, but slow movements of the head, as though he understood and approved every word but could not utter a reply. The parents, who stood by all the time, eyed their son with a look of affection, and a smile expressive of heartfelt joy at the propriety of the young Lama's conduct. His whole regard was turned to us; he was silent and sedate, never once looking towards his parents, as if under their influence at the time; and with whatever pains his manners may have been formed so correct, yet I must own his behaviour on this occasion appeared perfectly natural and spontaneous, and not directed by any action or sign of authority.

"The scene in which I was here brought to take a part was too new and extraordinary, however trivial, if not absurd, as it may appear to some, not to claim from me great attention and consequently minute remark.

"Teeshoo Lama is at this time about 18 months of age. He did not speak a word, but made most expressive signs, and conducted himself with astonishing dignity and decorum. His complexion is of that hue which in "England" we should term rather brown, but not without colour. His features good, small black eyes, an animated expression of countenance; and altogether I thought him one of the handsomest children I had ever seen."

So there are many things in Heaven and Earth which are beyond the knowledge of philosophy. Fancy an infant of 18 months holding a Durbar with dignity and decorum!

This infant was regularly installed when he was three years of age. During this ceremony the whole Buddhist world in Central Asia was represented, China playing the leading part. Purnanand was present when the ceremony was conducted; and his description, which was published, shewed the great power that the Lama wielded in Central Asia. We shall publish that description hereafter. Does he yet possess the same influence as he did before? If so, he will prove, not altogether a despicable foe.

—The A. B. Patrika.

PRESENTATION OF ADDRESSES.

THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ADDRESS.

The Hon. Dr. Rockwood then stepped forward as the senior Unofficial Member of the Legislative Council, and read the following address; the rest of the members also standing in a group.—

To His Excellency Sir Henry Arthur

BLAKE G. C. M. G., & Co.

May it Please Your Excellency,—We, the Members of the Legislative Council of Ceylon, beg leave to tender to Your Excellency and to Lady Blake our loyal and hearty welcome, together with our respectful congratulations on your Excellency's appointment as Governor of this Island.

We gladly assure Your Excellency of our desire to co-operate most cordially with you in all measures having for their end the welfare of the people of this country, and the advancement of the Colony, and we venture to express the hope that Your Excellency's term of office here may be as prosperous as that of your illustrious predecessor.—By order of the Council, Clerk to the Legislative Council.

Legislative Council Chamber, December, 3rd, 1903.

THE MUNICIPAL ADDRESS.

Mr. A. S. Pagden, Major and Chairman of the Municipal Council, then read the Municipal Address, which was as follows:—

To His Excellency Sir Henry Blake G. C. M. G., Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Island of Ceylon and Dependencies thereof.

May it Please Your Excellency,—We, the Chairman and the Members of the Municipal Council of Colombo, beg leave to offer to your Excellency a loyal and cordial welcome to this city together with our respectful congratulations on Your Excellency's appointment to the Government of the Island.

We confidently anticipate that under Your Excellency's rule Municipal institutions will receive every encouragement and support, and that by wise and careful measures of reform the privileges and responsibilities of local-self government will be developed and extended.

We desire to assure Your Excellency of the devotion and loyalty of all classes of this community to The Sovereign, and of their earnest desire heartily to co-operate with His Majesty's Representative in all measures calculated to advance the dignity of the Crown and the well-being of His Majesty's subjects.

Finally, we wish Your Excellency and Lady Blake health, happiness and prosperity.

We have the honour to be, Sir Your Excellency's most obedient servants.

The Municipal Address was done on parchment lined with heliotrope satin. It contained the royal coat of arms on the top margin and a view of Colombo harbour at the bottom. A delicate scroll work border ran round the Address, and at intervals were depicted the Municipal Council crest, the old Dutch crest of Colombo, the Town Hall and a view of Labugama. As a bright piece of colouring it presented a marked contrast to the Chamber of Commerce Address, which was elegant in its simplicity. Mr. Kaule of the Surveyor-General's Office was responsible for the Execution of this address.

THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

ADDRESS.

Six Members of the Chamber of Commerce then stepped forward, headed by the Hon. Mr. W. H. Figg, who read the following address:—

To His Excellency Sir Henry Arthur Blake G. C. M. G. Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Island of Ceylon with the Dependencies thereof.

May it please Your Excellency.

The Ceylon Chamber of Commerce takes this opportunity of cordially welcoming Your Excellency to Ceylon and of offering its hearty congratulations on your assumption of the Government of this Island.

As representing the mercantile interests of Ceylon, the Chamber of Commerce desires to assure Your Excellency of its readiness at all times to cooperate loyally with His Majesty's Representative in all measures calculated to promote the commerce, welfare, and the prosperity of the Colony. (Sgd.) W. Henry Figg Chairman, Ceylon Chamber of Commerce; F. M. Simpson, Secretary.

The address presented by the Chamber was executed by Mr. M. W. Kaule, of the Surveyor General's Office. The text was written in script on drawing paper, mounted on light blue satin. A gold embossed border all round served as an exquisite frame-work, in which two lozange shaped spaces were cleverly introduced containing sketches of a coconut palm and palmyrah palm respectively. The top of the address was embellished with the monogram of the Chamber of Commerce, and the bottom with a vignette of the Colombo harbour. The whole was surmounted by the coat-of-arms. As a piece of chaste workmanship it may claim to be one of the best productions of the artist's talent. It was enclosed in a plain silver-roll—or bamboo-shaped—casket, which bore the inscription: Address to H. E. Sir Henry Blake, G. C. M. G., presented by the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce, 3rd December, 1903.

THE ADDRESS FROM THE NATIVE CHIEFS.

The last address presented was from the native chiefs of the Eastern Province who were all in uniform. Mr Solomon Seneviratne, Atapattu Mudaliyar, read the Address, which was as follows:—

May it please Your Excellency,—We, the native Chiefs of the Western Province assemble here to-day to welcome you to this Island as its Governor and the Representative of His Most Gracious Majesty the Sovereign of the British Empire.

In doing so we express to your Excellency the heartfelt gratitude of all sections of the native population of this Province for the innumerable benefits which we enjoy under the British rule.

We further express our sincere loyalty to the British Throne, and our earnest desire to ever co-operate towards the successful working of any measures which Your Excellency may deem it expedient to inaugurate for the promotion of the welfare of this Colony.

In conclusion, we beg to express our good wishes for your health and happiness and that of Lady Blake during your sojourn in this Island.—We beg to remain, Your Excellency's humble servants (Sgd.) Solomon Seneviratne Henry Perera, Philip Perera, J. A. Abeyesekara, David Perera, H. D. D. Bandaranaike Walter Dias Bandaranaike, Harry Pieris, L. A. Dassanaike, S. T. Gunawardene, J. A. Weerasinghe, G. E. W. Erakoor, F. A. Wijesekara, Louis Livera, and others.

The address was handsomely done on illuminated parchment, and contained representations of a dagoba, elephant, and a picture of the Colombo Kachcheri.

HIS EXCELLENCY'S REPLY.

His Excellency the Governor, who had remained standing all the while, replied as follows, in a clear and distinctly audible tone:—

Honourable gentlemen of the Legislative Council, Members of the Municipality of Colombo, gentlemen of the Chamber of Commerce and Native Chiefs of the Western District: on behalf of Lady Blake and myself I thank you for the way in which you have welcomed us. I have known and heard a great deal of Colombo, ever since I heard from my dear old friend Sir William Gregory—(applause)—of the disaster which befell the Coffee industry, and of the fortitude with which the Planters of this Island faced the terrible disaster of the fungus disease of the coffee, and of the splendid energy with which they set themselves to restore their ruined fortunes and I find the Island instinct with the same far-seeing capable activity at the present day—an activity that has my entire sympathy, and which it will be my duty as Governor to assist by every means in my power. I have read the many parting Addresses of friendship goodwill and warm appreciation of the good work done by my predecessor Sir West Ridgeway, and I have read his brilliant replies in which he does full justice to the fine qualities of the people of this Island, with which administrative ability however great, must be inefficual. And now, while the God-speeds are still ringing in your ears, I thank you, gentlemen, one and all, for the welcome that you have extended to me to-day as the representative of His Majesty the King, and I earnestly pray that when the time comes when I shall lay down my burden of responsibility, your verdict will be that I have performed the duties of my office in a manner not unworthy of the many able British Governors who have ruled this grand old historic Island for over a hundred years. (Applause.) Again I thank you most heartily and warmly for the kind welcome with which you have received me, and received Lady Blake to this Island. (Applause.)

—The Ceylon Independent.

NOTICE.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.

ORDER NISI.

Testamentary }
Jurisdiction } No. 1437

Class II.

In the matter of the estate of the late Arumugam Ponnampalam of Vannarponnai East.

Deceased.

Ravanna Mana Meyna Kalaiyappapillai of Vannarponnai

Petitioner

Vs

Thaiyalmuttu widow of Ponnampalam of Vannarponnai East

Respondent

This matter of the Petition of Ravanna Mana Meyna Kalaiyappapillai of Vannarponnai praying for letters of Administration to the estate of the abovenamed deceased Arumugam Ponnampalam coming on for disposal before W. R. B. Sanders Esqr District Judge, on the 25th day of November 1903, in the presence of Messrs. Casippillai & Cathiravalu Proctors on the part of the Petitioner and the affidavit of the Petitioner dated the 23rd day of November 1903 having been read, it is declared that the Petitioner is a creditor 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 22nd day of December 1903 show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

Signed this 25th day of November 1903

Signed, W. R. B. SANDERS
District Judge.