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(THE CHEAPEST WEEKLY IN CEYLON)

PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY!

VOL XV.

JAFFNA: WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 16TH 1903

NO. 25

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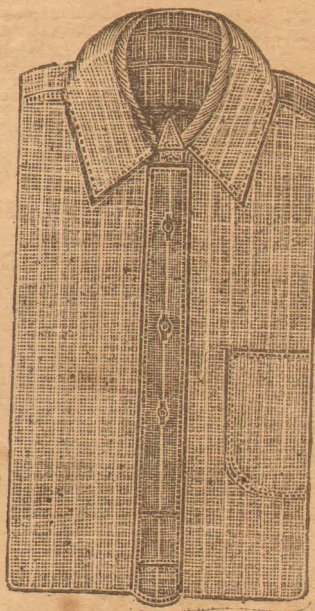
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JAFFNA.

Sealed tenders will be received by Dr. A. B. Santiago, Chairman of the Jaffna Friend-in-need Society Hospital Committee at the Colonial Surgeon's Office Jaffna up to 12 noon on Wednesday the 23rd December 1903, for the supply of diets to the Friend in-Need Society Hospital, Jaffna, during the year ending 31st December 1904.

The tenders are to be made upon forms the particulars of which will be supplied by the Honorary Secretary of the Friend in-Need-Society on or after the 18th December 1903.

M. CARALASINGAM
Honorary Secretary
F. N. S. Jaffna.

7th December 1903.

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THE HINDU ORGAN.

JAFFNA, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1903

CASTE RIOTS IN THE NORTH.

These riots have of late been of frequent occurrence in this District. Mr. R. W. Ievers, the Government Agent of the Northern Province, has called the attention of the Government to these riots in more than one of his Administration Reports; and our late Governor, Sir J. West Ridgeway, in his Review of his Administration, referred also to this state of affairs in Jaffna and quoted a report of the Government Agent on the subject. Mr. Ievers writes:

The last six years have seen a marked advance in a great change which is taking place in the social condition of the people. This may be described as a widespread rebellion against caste rules and caste prejudices. The old slave castes are rapidly becoming richer and more important. Not being so tied down to the land as most of their high caste neighbours, and being often possessed of more energy, they have every opportunity of outstripping them in the race for wealth. The great demand for labour on the different public works has combined with other causes to raise the wages of the ordinary coolie more than 50 per cent., but this is not counterbalanced by a rise in the price of the principal agricultural produces of the province. Further the rural Jaffnese are exhibiting a much greater tendency than formerly to travel beyond the peninsula, to Colombo and other places. The levelling influence of education is making itself felt. A good education can be

obtained for almost nothing in Jaffna, owing to the competition of the various Christian educational bodies, and many of the lower caste people avail themselves of the opportunity. All these causes tend to increase the wealth and influence of the lower castes, and to break down caste prejudice. The low-caste people do not see why they should any longer be debarred from certain privileges which their wealth or education would seem to justify, and to which they are legally entitled, and they are beginning to assert their rights, often forcibly. This is naturally resented by the higher castes, and the result is constant friction, sometimes developing into serious riots and even murder. In fact, this one factor accounts largely for the apparent increase in riot and crime during the last few years.

We agree with Mr. Ievers that increase of riots and crime in Jaffna, during the last few years, is the result of caste disputes, owing to attempts on the part of low caste people to assert equal rights with those whom they had acknowledged to be their masters. But we cannot bring ourselves to believe, as Mr. Ievers says, that it is the levelling influence of education, or the increase of wealth and influence among the low castes that have brought about the "widespread rebellion against caste rules and caste prejudices." It is not during the last six years alone education has advanced among all classes here. The Christian educational bodies have been labouring in this Peninsula for about a century and all castes were equally benefitted by the cheap education imparted by them. Again, it is not since Mr. Ievers assumed the administration of this Province the rural Jaffnese have begun to exhibit "a much greater tendency than formerly to travel beyond the Peninsula, to Colombo and other places". It is a well-known fact that for the last half a century or more Jaffnese of all castes, in thousands, have found employment not only in different parts of Ceylon, but also in India, Burmah and the Straits Settlements. The Increase of caste riots in this District, during the last few years, is not, therefore, due to any sudden change that has taken place in the social condition of the people.

In our humble opinion these riots are due, in a great measure, to a change of policy on the part of the local authorities in regard to caste rules and caste privileges as observed in this District. Though all subjects are equal in the eye of the law, yet the British Government have been obliged as a matter of policy and expediency to uphold country customs and to acknowledge the superiority of one caste over another. The Ceylon Government Regulation No. 18 of 1806 provides that "All questions that relate to those rights and privileges that subsist in the said Province (Jaffna) between the higher castes, particularly the Vellalas on the one hand, and the lower castes, particularly the Kovias, Nalavas and Pallas on the other, shall be decided according to the said customs and the ancient usages of the Province". After repealing the greater portion of that Regulation the Government has, for good and sufficient reasons, allowed the above quoted section to remain in the statute book of the Colony. From the time of the British occupation of this Island, successive Government Agents, Mr. P. A. Dyke, Mr. H. S. O. Russel, and Sir William Twynam, pursued the policy as laid down in that Regulation. Whenever low castes attempted to arrogate to themselves privileges belonging to higher ones and a disturbance was threatened, these officers of Government prevented breaches of public peace in the villages by enjoining on the Headmen the necessity of seeing the country customs observed. The pursuance of that policy, not only prevented the occurrence of caste riots in the country but also maintained excellent relations among the different castes.

But Mr. Ievers introduced a different policy in regard to caste disputes, which though it may look in the abstract to be

a more just and enlightened policy for a British official to adopt, is the source of the evils connected with the increase of caste riots in this District. In his opinion we are disposed to think, everyone is at liberty to do whatever he likes, without any regard to the ancient usages and customs of the country as to caste rules and privileges. Most of the riots in question are the result of attempts made for the first time by men of low castes to arrogate to themselves certain privileges which were denied to them by country customs, such as using music in public processions, riding in carriages, &c.. These people, when they begin to rub shoulders with men whom they had acknowledged to be their superiors, approach the authorities with Petitions stating that they apprehend a riot on the occasion of a procession which they wish to have with music, and praying for protection against the interference of their quondam masters. The authorities promptly, without any inquiry as to precedents, not only issue the required license but also order the Headmen to be present on the occasion and to see that the procession is carried on to suit the views of the Petitioners. The poor Headmen, to escape dismissal from office, array themselves on the side of those who seek their protection and do everything to carry out the order of their superiors. This exasperates the other villagers, and the result is a riot, on many occasions, in the presence of the Headmen themselves. A number of otherwise quiet and peaceable villagers are then charged and sent to jail. But, to judge from the frequency of caste riot cases in our courts, the severe punishment meted out to the rioters in these cases have had no deterrent effect in the country and have not restrained the higher caste people from interfering with lower castes when the latter assert claims to privileges which belonged only to the former.

We do not think that the authorities will succeed by any measure in eradicating the caste feeling in the country. As long as the caste system exists, policy and expediency require that some deference should be paid to the deep rooted feeling and prejudice of the people. It is the interference of the authorities with caste rules and privileges which have existed from time immemorial that have brought about increase of riots and crime in a place where the greatest harmony prevailed among the different castes. We do not advocate a policy that would have the effect of denying equal justice to all subjects of His Majesty. But what we contend is that the Government should not so lightly think of destroying social distinctions, and that by their attempt to do so in this District they have created a state of affairs which, to say the least of it, is not advantageous either to the Government or to the people at large. The encouragement now given by the local authorities to every caste to do whatever it likes with their active assistance, at the risk of creating riots and disturbances, is, in our opinion, as impolitic and inexpedient, as the giving of premium to higher castes to oppress the lower ones. In every country social distinctions exist, and the privileges enjoyed by one caste or class, by whatever name you may call it, is denied to the other. His Excellency Sir Henry Blake has said in his farewell speech at Hong-Kong that his duty as Representative of the Sovereign was not to destroy social distinctions, but to show that, under the British flag, justice was pure and unpurchasable, while, all from the highest to the poorest coolie were free to think, speak, and act as they liked as long as they obeyed the laws. We do not think that it is impossible to maintain social distinctions and at the same time to do equal justice to all castes and creeds under

British rule. If people of an admittedly low caste be told by the authorities, when applications are made to them for assistance and interference on their behalf, that the Government would not help them in doing anything that is new and contrary to country customs, but that equal justice will be done to them in His Majesty's Courts and protection will be given to them by His Majesty's Officers if they are oppressed by any one, we think there will be no caste riots in Jaffna and the relations between the different castes will be of a happy and cordial character.

It is very strange that the British officials who fret and fume at the mere mention of caste privileges and distinctions among the Tamils of Jaffna do not seem to know that, in several British Colonies, Asiatics, even if they be British subjects and persons of education, enlightenment, and wealth, are not allowed to walk on the same pavements as used by the Europeans, to travel in first or second class railway carriages, to reside in all places they like except at certain locations assigned to them, in short to enjoy equal privileges as citizens of the British Empire. These officials are themselves very particular even in Ceylon that distinctions and privileges, should be accorded to them as members of the ruling caste. But they are bent upon destroying social distinctions and privileges among the native subjects of His Majesty, though they have the sanction of British legislation in Ceylon. They are welcome to bring about this change, if they can peaceably do it. But the result of their active interference with time honoured country customs is, as admitted by the authorities themselves, increase of riots and crime in a district noted for their absence till a few years back.

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—The days are now fine and the nights cold and dewy. There was a drizzling shower this morning, but the weather cleared in the evening.

The Chetties and the Ceylon Steamship Company—We understand the Chetties and the other owners of goods that came by the last trip of the "Lady Gordon" are very much dissatisfied with the claim now made by the owners of that steamer for 25 per cent of the value of those goods landed here to make compensation for the loss of a few packages by fire which was due

to their own neglect. If the claim is persisted in, it is said, the Chetties will apply to the B.I. Company to run a steamer of theirs between Jaffna and Colombo.

The Government Agent—Mr. Lewis is on circuit accompanied by the Chief Mudaliyar. He is at Point Pedro today, and will return to Jaffna on the 20th instant.

The Jaffna District Road Committee Elections—These elections took place at 11 a.m. today in the Jaffna Kachcheri, when Mr. Charles Strantenberg was re-elected as Burgher Member, and Mr. A. Sapapathy as Native Member, for another term of three years. There was no applicant for the European Membership, and it is hoped that Mr. C. M. Chinniah, the sitting Member, who has done excellent service as a Member of the Committee, will be re-appointed by the Provincial Road Committee.

S. S. "Jaffna"—This little steamer of the Jaffna Steamship Company is now in Colombo to undergo repairs. It is said that the repairs will be soon carried out at a cost of about Rs 4000. It is also said that the leakages in the steamer are due to the bad fitting up by those who undertook the work and that a claim will be made for damages against them.

Clerical Examination—Out of sixty candidates who appeared for this Examination from Jaffna only four have come off successful, of whom three are from the Hindu College, viz, K. Ratnasingham, V. Thamby, and T. Velauthan. We publish the full result elsewhere.

Hindu College—This College will close for the "Pongal holidays" on Friday next.

The Ceylon Manual, 1904—We have received from the Secretariat a copy of this excellent publication compiled by Mr. Herbert White, C. C. S. We thank the Government for it.

The Ceylon Law Review—We have to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the September-October number of this periodical which contains valuable legal informations of a varied and interesting character. Our readers are aware that Mr. Isaac Thambyah is the Editor of this Review.

Matrimonial—The marriage of Mr. Advocate S. Kanagasabai with Miss Parupathachy, daughter of Mr. M. Namasiyayam, took place in Colombo on the 14th inst.

Also on the same day the marriage took place at Mannar of Mr. S. Sapapathy Pillai with Miss Puvanepari Ammal daughter of Mudaliyar Mr. Canagaratnam, Secretary, District Court of that place.

Mr. Ponnusamy Udayar of Colombaham was married on the 10th inst. to a daughter of Mr. Sittampalam of Colombaham.

We wish the newly married couples long life, happiness and prosperity.

Life of Sri Sankaracharya—We learn that Mr. C. N. Krishnasami Aiyar M. A. L. T. has written and published a life of Sri Sankaracharya.

The Imperial Fortnightly—We have received a copy of this periodical published in Delhi.

THE CLERICAL EXAMINATION.

THE RESULTS.

The following candidates have passed the Examination held in September last for admission into the Third Class of the Clerical Branch of the Public Service:—

H. Abeyratna, K. C. Allagarajah, C. Arasaratna, J. B. Ariyaratnam, L. B. Caspersz, O. W. d'Alwis, G. E. Dirckze, K. B. Dissanayake, J. W. de Silva, E. B. Fernando, H. A. Gounatilleke, G. A. de S. Goo, natilleke, A. L. Gunaratna, J. Gunasekera, V. H. Herat, P. P. Hubert, S. H. A. Jayawickrema, H. M. Peris, A. Ponniah, V. E. A. Poulter, K. Ratnasingham, C. D. A. Sherrard, C. E. E. Stork, V. Tamby N. T. A. de S. Waidyaratna, T. Welanthan, W. E. Wijesekera.

The following Officers of the Fourth Class have also been selected for appointment to the Third Class, in terms of paragraph 9 of the notification dated 10th July, 1903, irrespective of examination:—Mr. Barnabus Paranjothy, Head Clerk, Immigration Department, Panamban, Mr. J. B. Perera, Clerk and Translator, Fiscal's Office, Colombo, Mr. J. H. de Silva, Chief Clerk, Police Court, Tangalla.

FIRE ON THE "LADY GORDON."

CAUSED BY A CASE OF NITRIC ACID.

A serious fire occurred on board the S. S. "Lady Gordon" shortly after eight o'clock yesterday morning and consequently the vessel, which was appointed to sail round the Island at two o'clock yesterday afternoon, was unable to get away.

From what we have been able to gather, it appears that about 20 minutes past eight o'clock a dense smoke was seen to rise from all corners of the hold, wherein a large quantity of cargo had already been stowed. In a few minutes the smoke became so intolerable that no one could venture down the hold, and the hatches were covered up. Two steam hoses and a hand hose were rigged up without delay, and water was directed on every part of the hatches whence smoke was issuing. The

harbour tug "Samson," with Capt. Rankine promptly went alongside and her hose was placed on board but it was not needed, as the fire was got under in about three quarters of an hour.

When the hatches were examined it was not difficult to discover the cause of the fire. Stowed away amongst a quantity of ordinary merchandise such as potatoes and cases of whisky, was a small wooden box, which still smouldered. It was opened and in it was found a large bottle of nitric acid used in photography. The bottle was covered with saw-dust. The heat of the hold, it is thought, must have caused the acid to combust spontaneously.

THE SURVEY OF THE CARGO.

Captain Legge, the Master-Attendant, boarded the vessel at one o'clock yesterday afternoon and held a survey. This morning another survey will be held of this damaged cargo at the Coastwise Warehouse,
—Ceylon Independent.

PROVINCIAL ROAD COMMITTEE N. P.

Jaffna Nov. 28, 1903 at
2. P. M.

Present

The Chairman
The Provl. Engineer N. P.
C. Strantenbergh Esq.
S. Sabaratnam Mudir. and
The Secretary.

Proceedings and Resolutions.

- I. Read and approved proceedings of last meeting.
- II. Laid on the table file of papers relating to Pt. Pedro R. H. previously circulated among the Members of the P. R. C. (N. P.) with Supt's Estimate for Rs. 440.
Resolved that the estimate as regards the two bed rooms and the room adjoining be approved, the remainder of the estimate to be carried out if the experiment proves satisfactory.
- III. Laid on the table the file of papers re
(a) Improvements to Kaits resthouse.
(b) Mettalling road through compound at Pallai Rest House.
Resolved
(a) That the estimate as regards the windows be approved and that the question of the doors be post-poned.
(b) That the estimate of Rs. 20-., for Mettalling road at Pallai R. H. be approved.
- IV. Laid on the table estimate for Rs. 43-87 submitted by the Maniagar of Pachilaipali (and connected papers) for fencing the back portion of Pallai R. H. premises and for planting cocoanut trees therein.
Resolved that an estimate for Rs. 37-62 be passed.
- V. Laid on the table estimate for Rs. 71-., submitted by the Maniagar of Tenmaradchy (and connected papers) for planting the land at Chavakachcheri next to the resthouse with cocoanuts.
Resolved that the estimate for Rs. 71-., be approved.
- VI. Resolved that a sum of Rs. 3-., a month for Pallai and Rs. 6-., a month for Chavakachcheri Rest-houses be allowed for watering the cocoanuts.
- VII. Laid on the table the file of papers repairs to Government Bungalow at Nainativu previously circulated and approved by the Members of the P. R. C. (N. P.)
Resolved that the estimate for Rs. 45-70 be approved (subject to reduction if necessary.)
T. B. Russell
Secy. P. R. C.

RETIREMENT OF

N. M. VENAYAGA MUDALIYAR
POST AND TELEGRAPH MASTER,
POINT PEDRO.

(From a Correspondent.)

Mr. Venayagam is the son of the late Mr. Nagapper Mootatamby and was born at Point Pedro on the 4th March 1844, and was educated in the Wesleyan Mission English School Point Pedro and the Government Normal School Madras. He was at the age of twenty employed as an Entry Clerk at the Customs Point Pedro for about two years, and was thereafter a Teacher for sometime in the Wesleyan Mission English School at Point Pedro, where he received his education.

On the 3rd July 1867 he opened the late Pt. Pedro Grammar School, which was Registered by the Department of Public Instruction as a grant-in-aid high school and which was so ably managed by him as to have deserved the following encomiums passed by the then Director of Public Instruction and now the Governor of Mauritius, Sir Charles Bruce in his Administration Report for the year 1879. "Nor must I forget to mention, as an earnest of a growing national interest in education, a private school at Point Pedro, under the management of Mr. N. M. Venayagam, in which school building, apparatus, discipline, and instruction leave little to be desired." This English High School was in existence for about 25 years, and subsequently amalgamated with the Point Pedro Mission English School at the special desire of the Director of Public Instruction.

He also opened a vernacular middle school at Point Pedro in 1872 which is carried on uninterruptedly for the last 32 years, and wherein a very large number of boys are still receiving gratuitous tuition. It must also be stated that many natives of Point Pedro and its vicinities who are at present here as well as in places abroad holding high Offices under government owe their education to the above schools.

Mr. Venayagam was appointed Post Holder of Point Pedro on 1st May 1871, and when the Postal Department was re-organised in 1877, he was made a Post Master of the 3rd class while all others of the same salary and length of service, in the Northern Province were put to the 4th and 5th classes. In 1891 when the Telegraph line was extended to Point Pedro, he was appointed Post and Telegraph Master, he having qualified himself, by self study, in signalling and Telegraphy, an exceptional course in his case, while all others are invariably either required to go through the Colombo Telegraph School or sent to offices where there is no telegraph work. With the introduction of Telegraph business, he was given an Assistant, and the business in all its branches, Money Order, Savings Bank, Telegraph, Registration and parcels, having been on the increase yearly, a second Assistant was also given him in 1901.

Successive Postmaster-Generals, Assistant Postmaster-Generals, Auditor-Generals and other Inspectors who visited Mr. Venayagam's office periodically from so far back as the time of Mr. Trotter P. M. G., have all expressed their satisfaction of the praiseworthy manner in which his office has been worked particularly his honesty and integrity. It is needless for any details to be given of the approbation of his services, as the very high distinction shown him by the conferment of the title of Mudaliyar on him by His Excellency the Governor Sir West Ridgeway on the occasion of His Majesty the King's Birthday in November last, at the recommendation of his Superior the Hon'ble H. R. Moysey Postmaster-General and Director of Telegraphs, itself speaks of him very clearly. In this connection it must be mentioned that he is the first Tamil in the Postal Department to get this title.

It is gratifying to note that Venayaga Mudaliyar was the first to open a Post Office at Point Pedro and has continued all through his long service of 33 years to remain a Postmaster in his own native place, nay even allowed to keep the office at his own house for 15 years. The Postmaster has had only a very short leave of absence from duty, during his tenure of office, and in 1899 when he fell ill he was allowed the special concession of his son Mr. V. Vadivelu, a passed Telegraphist who was then a signaller at Jaffna being sent to act for him.

He now retires from service at his 60th year, and although his retirement is due in March he was relieved on the 6th Instant, three months privilege leave with full pay having been granted to him by His Excellency the Lieut. Governor.

The Postmaster-General (Hon'ble H. L. Moysey) has further extended his kindness towards the Mudaliyar, and, in consideration of his continued service at his own native place, has authorised a photo of Venayaga Mudaliyar to be permanently hung up in the Point Pedro Post Office.

Nor should it be lost sight of here to make mention of the charitable disposition of the Mudaliyar. His chathiram at Selvachanthu near Tondamansar built by him about 20 years ago is still being visited by many, and periodical feeding of the poor by hundreds is regularly carried on there, and especially during the festive days the accommodation that it gives for the thousands of people that collect there is beyond description, particularly because no other sheds are available there. This is a lasting charitable institution that Venayaga Mudaliyar has established, and it will no doubt make the Mudaliyar's name live in the annals of the whole of Jaffna Peninsula.

Venayaga Mudaliyar entertained his staff of officers and friends to a dinner at his quarters on the eve of his retirement, and on the 6th instant, immediately after being relieved he proceeded to his Chathiram at Sannathy temple and Keerimalai and distributed gifts to the Brahmin priest and fed a large number of the poor.

SIR HENRY BLAKE'S FAREWELL SPEECH AT HONGKONG.

(“South China Morning Post” Nov. 23.)

H. E. Sir Henry Blake, on Saturday, Nov. 21, delivered the following speech at St. Au-

draw's Hall, Hong Kong, in reply to a farewell address from the citizens read by Sir William Goodman, the Chief Justice:—

Sir William Goodman, ladies and gentlemen,—I thank you, and through you the community who have signed this beautiful album for your expressions of goodwill—a feeling that is, I assure you, warmly reciprocated by Lady Blake and myself. You are kind enough to recapitulate certain incidents that have occurred during my administration, and your friendship attributes to me a larger share in the inception and carrying out of those projects than is always my due. The material progress of this great port is secured by the collective energy of the community, and no one realises more fully than I that in such progress I have been the fly upon the wheel. But it is a happiness to me to know that the wheel has been going round merrily, that no sand has been allowed to get into bearings, and that notwithstanding the present universal depression, that will, I hope soon pass away, Hong Kong is as sound and insistent in abounding energy and ever increasing prosperity as when I came among you. I have according to my lights taken the share of the work that fell to my lot, and I accept with gratification your assurance that I have done it to your satisfaction. (Applause.) But to one thing I confess that I shall always look back with the keenest pleasure. I have secured, with the entire concurrence of the Chinese authorities of Canton, that never again shall any man surrendered from under the folds of the British flag be subjected to the harrowing tortures that are still so prevalent in Chinese judicial proceedings. I experienced difficulties in having my views placed before the then Viceroy but it is due to him to say that when they were presented to him he acquiesced with a readiness that did him honour. And in considering the custom that seems to us so inhumanly cruel and so fraught with injustice, we ought not to forget that hardly a century has passed since cruelties as terrible were possible under our own laws until at length our eyes were opened to the injustice and uselessness of the barbarous practice. (Hear, hear.)

IMPROVEMENT TRUST.

I wish that I could accept the assumption that the Improvement Trust has actually been founded. The scheme has gone home for the consideration of the Secretary of State with my strong advice that it shall be adopted. But great as is the importance of the structural improvement of Hong Kong, there is a matter of greater and more pressing moment that I wish to bring forcibly before you in these last moments before I leave your shores. That is the pressing necessity of utilising the British concession that has been granted for a railway from Canton to the borders of our territory. That concession has been granted to a British syndicate, and it is their duty to utilise it and supply the natural seaport terminus to the great arterial line to Hankow, lest possible developments be sought inimical to the interests of Hong Kong. We have not built up our Empire by being laggards in the race for developments necessary for the expansion of the trade of the world, and letting “I dare not” wait upon “I will” has never conquered a position nor retained it for either men or nations. (Applause.)

PRO-CHINESE.

And now, ladies and gentlemen, I will touch upon a statement that has been reiterated many times during the term of my administration.

That is that I am too pro-Chinese in my views. Well, I hardly know how to answer this. If it means that I have favoured the Chinese members of the community at the expense of the Europeans I deny it most strenuously, and this beautiful address, in which Chinese and non-Chinese have joined, supports my denial. What is the duty of the British Government and what is the duty of His Majesty's representative in Crown Colonies whose prosperity depends upon the common action of the best men among its population? Not to destroy social distinctions, nor to decrease the respect and consideration that ought to be the reward of the educated, the upright, the honest and successful man of every race, but to give equal protection to all, and to bring home the feeling that under the British flag justice is pure and unpurchaseable, and every man through the grades, from the highest to the poorest coolies whom we meet with dull eye and patient industry toiling up from the sea to the

Peak with his loads of sand or bricks, is free to think what he likes, to speak what he thinks and to act as he wills without let or hindrance so long as he obeys the laws that have been made for securing the protection and comfort of the whole community. This is the estimate that I have formed of my duty, and I have endeavoured to carry it out with a keen and abiding sense of my responsibility to my King to this community, and to my own conscience. (Loud applause.) And now that I am about to hand over the reins of Government to my friend, the Colonial Secretary, for whose industry, ability and honesty of purpose I would gladly vouch, were it necessary in a community to whom he is so long and so intimately known, I and my wife bid you good-bye with heartfelt wishes for your happiness and prosperity individually and collectively, and our earnest prayer that the dark cloud of plague that has hung over the Colony for ten long years may be dissipated by the efforts of the devoted workers engaged in combating its ravages, and that the great port of Hong Kong may once more become as healthy as it is beautiful. Good-bye. (Long and continued applause.)

After reading the above, His Excellency continued: I will only add, ladies and Gentlemen that I wish I had seen this sun on the last day of my stay in Hong Kong. But the fact I regret that we leave on so bad a day has its consolation in this, that my friend Mr. May, will enter on his administration under the benevolent influence of a rainy day, which will improve the vegetation and replenish the reservoir, and relieve the Colony of the difficulties of a water famine. (Cheers and applause.)

Whilst His Excellency was speaking his last words to the assembly the strains from the band that was to play him down to the quayside floated into the Hall. The moment was most impressive, and one could perceive the emotion which underlay His Excellency's words. Then he stopped. And for a time the music was drowned in the applause and cheers that came from the assembly. It was the good-bye cheer.

A few minutes later His Excellency and Lady Blake left the hall, and just outside the door Sir Henry reviewed and addressed the Chinese watchmen.

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.