

Hindu Organ

(THE CHEAPEST WEEKLY IN CEYLON)

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(See Hindu Organ of March. 23. 1904)

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THE HINDU ORGAN.

JAFFNA, WEDNESDAY, MAY 25, 1904.

THE EASTERN PROVINCE IN 1903.

Among the Administration reports for 1903 already issued from the Secretariat is the one for the Eastern Province by Mr. C. M. Lushington, acting Government Agent of the Province. The revenue for the whole Province has increased from Rs 464,597-05 in 1902 to Rs 480,737-82, i. e., an increase of Rs 16,140-77. In the Batticaloa District the revenue shows a considerable increase of Rs 43,620-17, having amounted to Rs 287,133 16, against Rs 243,512-99 in 1902. In the Trincomalee District there is a falling off of Rs 27,479-40. Mr. Lushington considers the revenue of the Batticaloa District to be very fluctuating. Taking the years (1884-1892) prior to the abolition of the grain tax, the average was about Rs 297,000. The average for the quinquennial periods, 1891-1895 and 1896-1900, was respectively Rs 295,214 and Rs 302,895. Though the revenue of 1903 exceeds that of 1902 by Rs 43,512-19, yet it has fallen below the average of both the quinquennial periods, 1891-1895 and 1896-1900. Mr. Lushington is unable to explain the drop, as he was not acquainted with the finances of the District previous to his assumption of duties as acting Government Agent in the year under review.

Mr. Lushington's remarks under the head "Food Supply" are very interesting. He says:—

Most people in Ceylon have heard of the great irrigation works of the Batticaloa District and of the vast extents of paddy land irrigated by those works, but it requires a personal visit to the district to enable one to realize what figures fail to convey to the mind. A drive along the South Coast road from Kalmunai to Karunkoddittivu in Akkarai pattu, a distance of 14 miles, and thence along the road to Sakamam tank comes to one as a "revelation." On the east side of the road are densely populated villages situated in coconut gardens, with here and there a large estate. On the west side of the road, almost as far as the eye can reach, is a vast stretch of paddy land extending without a break, not merely for the 14 miles mentioned, but north and south of that distance. Nor is that the only stretch of paddy land. All along the western shore of the Batticaloa lake are vast tracts of paddy; along the north-western side of the Badalla road are the tracts irrigated by Rugam tank and its connected works, extending practically to the Naddur lake.

With regard to the rice production of this district

my inquiries have shown that 35 bushels per acre is a fair average crop, and that the yield is frequently as much as 55, 60, and 65 bushels per acre for irrigated land.

I have gone into the figures carefully. I had a careful return made, village by village, of the extents of the fields, extents cultivated in 1903, and the area cultivated amounted to 70,224 acres of paddy land, and taking the yield at 35 bushels per acre the out-turn of the district amounted during the year to 2,457,840 bushels of paddy, equivalent to 1,228,920 bushels of rice. The figure sent to the Director of Irrigation last year was 75,534 bushels of rice.

The exports of paddy by sea amounted to 96,302 bushels, and of rice to 192 bushels, and very large quantities are sent by cart to the Province of Uva. The export by sea is just double the quantity exported last year, while the import of rice (for the consumption of Europeans and the higher classes) has decreased by 3,854 cwt., which is equivalent to 6,550 bushels or 13,100 bushels of paddy.

Batticaloa is not only a country of rice fields but also of cocoanut palm. Of the produce of the cocoanut palm 133,600 nuts were exported coastwise, and 70,000 to Indian ports. Of copra 30,946 bags, valued at Rs 30,297 were exported coastwise, and 896, cwt. valued at Rs 7,793, were exported beyond the seas.

The sanitary condition of the people of Batticaloa as well as of Trincomalee was excellent. There have been no epidemics of any sort either in the Towns or country sides of the two Districts. Fever also did not seem to have prevailed there to the extent it prevailed in Jaffna during the latter part of 1903. In Batticaloa there were 292 deaths fewer than in 1902, and in Trincomalee there were 884 deaths against 1,166 births.

Under "Legislation" for the Trincomalee District Mr. Lushington says "I would again draw the attention to my former reports recommending that an Ordinance be passed legalizing the election of managers or trustees of Hindu temples where there is no trust deed regulating the succession of managers."

Under "Work other than Routine" Mr. Lushington says:—

I was Assistant Agent of Trincomalee until 23rd November, 1903, having been first appointed in October, 1896. In May last I received instructions to take over charge of the whole Province, in addition to my duties as Assistant Agent of Trincomalee, and on the 20th May went to Batticaloa to take over the cash and stamps in the vault from Mr. Haughton, who had to go to Kandy to attend the Conference of Government Agents, and left on the 27th May. Returning to Trincomalee, I worked off as far as possible all the circuit work of that district to the end of June, paying a visit to Batticaloa in the middle of June for the purpose of hearing seven criminal cases committed for trial before the Government Agent in his capacity as Additional District Judge. I finally left Trincomalee on the 2nd July to take up my headquarters at Batticaloa, travelling this time by land. After that, paper work was sent to me daily in bags from Trincomalee, the routine work being efficiently carried on by Mr. Carbery, who was gazetted Additional Assistant Agent in addition to his own duties as Assistant Collector of Customs, Police Magistrate, and Commissioner of Requests. I paid two more visits of eleven days each to the Trincomalee District at intervals of six weeks in August and October, holding meetings of the Local Board, hearing District Court cases, and visiting Kuchchaveli and Madawachchiya on circuit.

In November I went to Colombo to attend the last levee held by Sir West Ridgeway and his farewell meeting of Council, returning by land, and on the 23rd of that month I was relieved of the Assistant Agency of Trincomalee.

In addition to the ordinary routine duties of the many departments under me, I have since I came to Batticaloa paid special attention to the salt question, including the sale of salt imported from India.

The chena question and the Veddhas have also been the subject of much thought and of lengthy correspondence with Government.

The question of the improvement of the status of the headmen from the Vanniya downwards has also occupied much time and thought. The Vanniya are underpaid, receiving far lower emoluments than the chief headmen of other provinces, and their salaries should at least be placed on the level of those now paid to Ratamahatmayas, even those of this Province.

Police duties occupy much time, as every step in the proceedings in all cases of serious crime is reported to the Government Agent.

The working of the Thoroughfares Ordinance take up much time, as those who are entitled to exemption will not come up to claim exemption before the end of March; and when I arrived in the district in July I found no less than 3,201 warrants had still to be dealt with. These I reduced to 509 by the end of September, and most of those then remaining as

defaulters were reported to have left the district.

EMPLOYMENT OF INDIANS
IN HIGHER OFFICES.

It will be seen from the article published elsewhere under the above heading which we quote from the *Hindu* of Madras that there is great alarm and dismay among the European community of South India at the employment of Indians in some of the higher appointments in Madras which have been till recently held by Englishmen alone. Indians have been and are High Court Judges and Collectors of Provinces, which has not roused such bitter feeling among the Anglo-Indians as some recent appointments in Madras have caused. Sir Subramania Iyer, one of the Judges of the High Court of Madras, has been appointed Vice-Chancellor of the Madras University; Sir Bishyam Iyengar who has recently retired under the sixty years rule from a Judgeship of the High Court has been appointed acting Advocate-General; Hon'ble Mr. Sankara Nair has succeeded Mr. Powell as Government Pleader; Mr. N. Subramanian is the Administrator-General; and last but not least Mr. Sivasamy Iyer has been elected by the fellows of the Madras University Representative of that University in the Legislative Council of that Presidency—a seat which had been always held by Europeans since it was created under the Indian Councils Act of 1892.

Of the five Indian gentlemen so honoured by the Government of Madras, four are Hindus, and one, Mr. N. Subramanian, is a Christian. Our contemporary of the *Morning Star* would be interested to know that they also include the two "Brahmin Justices", whom he denounced in unmeasured terms in connection with the Tinnaively conversion case.

In India the Anglo-Indians get alarmed at the rate "natives" are being employed in offices of great trust and responsibility hitherto held by Englishmen. In Ceylon also a similar feeling exists among the Anglo-Ceylonese, not on account of such appointments having been already made, but owing to the fear that, under the just and impartial Administration of His Excellency Sir Henry Blake, deserving sons of the soil would be promoted to offices which have not been up to now given to them. The questionable tactics of the *Times of Ceylon*, in allowing a correspondent to say in a spirit of alarm that Mr. P. Arunachalam would soon be given a Government Agency by the present Governor and the Editor adding a foot-note treating such reports as fantastic dreams never to be realized, are attributable to that cause. It remains to be seen whether or not the natives of Ceylon, if they are qualified to higher offices in other respects, are to be denied here by reason of their colour the privileges which their brethren and fellow subjects in India enjoy.

LOCAL & GENERAL

The Weather—The wind is blowing now steadily from the South-West, and we think the big monsoon has already set in.

The Government Agent—Mr. J. P. Lewis who remained at Kankesanthurai after his return from Marichikaddy came to Jaffna on Saturday evening.

The New Railway Station—The Railway authorities are intending to extend the Kankesanthurai-Jaffna line from the Jaffna customs to the Grand Bazaar and to build a new station in the latter place. The line from the Jaffna Customs to the Grand Bazaar will, we hear, pass through the esplanade.

Accidental death—A boy living near Chenia Street aged about 12 years was beaten by his father for some mischief he had committed. As soon as he was beaten he took ill and was taken to the F. N. S. Hospital where he died after a few days. A post mortem examination was held and the spleen was found to be very much enlarged. The Police Magistrate who held the inquest has sent

independence are wellknown in Jaffna where in his capacity as Store-keeper of the Jaffna F. N. S. Hospital he was the means, in the eighties, in bringing to light several abuses in the management of that Hospital. Though the then managing Committee, in its subserviency to the then Government Agent and Resident Surgeon, sacrificed him, yet the public knew that Mr. Manicam was right and was a martyr in a just cause. It is, therefore, a matter of great satisfaction to us that even in a strange country Mr. Manicam's public spirit has not deserted him. Ed. H. O.)

INDIANS IN HIGH OFFICES.

Our morning contemporary, the *Madras Times*, has, in a leading article yesterday, called attention to the appointments of Indians to high offices in the public service and unhesitatingly asserts "that there must be something rotten in the state of Southern India for a time to have come when their (Indians,) claims to the honours conferred upon them are held to be superior to those of possible European candidates for the several offices." We extremely regret that our contemporary should have given expression to the above sentiments:—

sentiments which are likely to accentuate race antagonism and make the administration of India by a foreign agency much more difficult than it is. If, after a century and more of British rule, Indians are still unfit to hold high offices in the service of the country, that rule stands condemned. In the words of Sir Thomas Munro "the aim of the British administration of India was to be to raise the minds of the natives, to raise their character and to render them worthy of filling higher situations in the management of the country, so that in fullness of time Indians would be able to frame a regular government for themselves and to conduct and preserve it. We believe that in spite of various opposing factors, of which Anglo-Indian journalism is one, this aim has been kept up and that the British Government in India has, by the establishment of Universities and Colleges subordinate to them, and by the department of education created a vast class which in the future will be of immense importance for the good of the country." Again, as observed by Sir Thomas Munro, "if superior acquirements do not open the road to distinction, it would serve no other purpose than to show the educated classes more clearly their fallen state and that of their countrymen; and the Government would naturally have their hatred in place of their attachment; this feeling would be communicated to the whole population and to the native troops and would excite a spirit of discontent too powerful for us to subdue or resist." And this principle was accordingly recognized in the Proclamation issued by Her Imperial Majesty the late Queen at the time she assumed the sovereignty of the Government in India. The Public Service Commission which enquired into the subject during the administration of the Marquis of Dufferin found that appointments thrown open to the natives of India were not sufficiently liberal, and recommended that some high offices should be made available solely for the natives of India. The Police Commission consisting of five eminent European members and two Indians reported recently that natives of India should be employed as far as possible in the Police Department. They said:—"It is more than desirable—it is incumbent on the Government—to use native agency to the utmost extent possible." The Queen's Proclamation, the recommendations of the Public Service Commission and all other promises notwithstanding, the Government in India has been slow to throw open higher appointments to natives of India. While the fact remains that the authorities in India have shown a callous indifference to the claims of the sons of the soil, to complain of higher appointments being given away to them in preference to Europeans would seem to militate against decency. The mere statement of this objection is its own condemnation. It is the plain duty of Government to secure the most efficient service they can, and to this end it is necessary to aim at an honest fulfilment of the words proclaimed in the name of the Sovereign "that as far as may be our subjects of whatever race or creed be *freely* and *impartially* admitted to offices in our service, the duties of which they may be qualified by their education, ability and integrity to discharge." There can hardly be any doubt that there are at this day natives of India eminently qualified to fill almost all the high appointments under the Crown. More than a quarter of a century ago Sir Bartle Frere observed:—"Wher-

ever I go I find the best exponents of the policy of the English Government and the most able co adjutors in adjusting that policy to the peculiarities of the natives of India among the ranks of the educated natives"; and no one, not even the worst sceptic, can deny the rapid advance the country has since made in the matter of education. We naturally feel, therefore, that, even as it is, much more might be done to employ competent Indians in high offices if those who have the distribution and control of patronage were really in earnest in their professions of anxiety to see Indian agency more extensively employed. There is nothing in the rules to prevent this; on the contrary long before the gracious promises of the Queen's Proclamation it was expressly enacted in the 87th clause of the Act of William IV, 1833, that no person "shall by reason only of his religion, place of birth, descent, colour or any of them, be disabled from holding any place, office or employment."

Our contemporary assumes that educated Indians admit that they are not yet prepared for the rule of leaders. Is it unreasonable to expect our contemporary to quote instances where the admission has been made? Or has the vision been conjured up by the writer's imagination? From our experience of the Indian population, our close intimacy with them and the knowledge we have thus obtained we can unhesitatingly affirm that there is not a single native of India who is not conscious that if the Government of the country is to be an organism instead of a mechanism it is to-day it should be attained not by the exhibition on the part of the rulers of arrogance born of limited knowledge, but by the removal by the practical logic of facts of the popular belief that Englishmen are determined to allow the Indians no share or voice in the government of their country.

Our contemporary next questions the appropriateness of some of the honours recently conferred on natives of India. As regards the Vice-Chancellorship which has fallen on our distinguished countryman Sir S. Subramania Aiyar, it is said that a successful pleader and a Hindu of the Hindus is not the right sort of man to be a Vice-Chancellor and that a strong European should occupy the position. Evidently the writer of the article knows Sir Subramania Aiyar only as a lawyer and a Hindu. It is admitted on all hands that he is a highly cultured man and has spared no pains to make himself acquainted with the various problems of Indian administration. He has taken a deep interest in the question of education, and by his position as a leader of the Indian community in this Presidency and by his attainments is eminently fitted to worthily fill the post. As to the Advocate Generalship the remarks of our contemporary borders upon the ludicrous. While admitting the erudition and talent of Sir Bhashyam Iyengar our contemporary questions the appropriateness of appointing as Advocate-General men who are neither Europeans nor Christians. But we fail to see the inappropriateness of such an appointment and our conviction is strengthened by the very argument brought forward by the writer to support his theory. If a non-Christian is not competent to give opinions on ecclesiastical law, much less will a non-Hindu be to give sound opinions on the many intricate questions of Hindu and Mahomedan Law. As questions of ecclesiastical law are few and far between, while those of Hindu and Mahomedan law are more common it may be argued that Indians are better fitted to fill the position of Advocate-General. As regards the Administrator-Generalship a calm consideration will show that the question of colour does not enter into the merits of the appointment. The property in trust is not the property of Europeans only. The vast portion of the property belongs to the natives of India and as such they are as much entitled to fill the post as Europeans are. In every case taken by our contemporary the appointment has been conferred on the right sort of man and unprejudiced observers would fail to discern any unsuitability in them. To our contemporary, however, it shows that if these appointments are properly held, as we have shown they are, there must be a sad dearth in this Presidency of merit amongst its European citizens. While on the one hand we do not admit that the appointments referred to above have been made solely on account of this cause, holding as we do that they are the natural outcome of a progressive administration tending to a recognition of the claims of the sons of the soil, we are at one with our contemporary in thinking that there has been a considerable deterioration in the calibre, capacity and character of Europeans coming to this Presidency. Where have we now men of the calibre of Sir Thomas Munro, Mr. Justice Holloway, Mayne or Norton or Sullivan, Sir Henry Stokes or Hudleston, Arbuthnot or Pelly, Powell, Thompson or Porter,

Sir Charles Lawson and Mr. William Digby and a host of other distinguished men who shed a lustre in the various positions which they held. Whatever may be the cause there is a deterioration of the European agency in every department. The deterioration is apparent probably because the character of the Indians has been raised. We shall leave our contemporary to its own humiliations. —The Hindu.

NOTICE.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.

ORDER NISI.

Testamentary }
Jurisdiction } No. 1515
Class II } In the Matter of the Estate of the late
Tangamma wife of Ponnusamy of Colombuturai
Deceased.
Somasundaram Rasiah of Colombuturai
Petitioner.

Vs

Aiyathurai Ponnusamy of Colombuturai

Respondent.

This matter of the Petition of Somasundaram Rasiah of Colombuturai praying for Letters of Administration to the estate of the abovenamed deceased Tangamma wife of Ponnusamy of Colombuturai coming on for disposal before H. R. Freeman Esquire, District Judge, on the 4th day of May 1904 in the presence of Messrs. Casipillai & Cathiravelu Proctors on the part of the Petitioner and the affidavit of the Petitioner dated the 3rd day of May 1904 having been read, it is declared that the Petitioner is the sole heir 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 6th day of June 1904 show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

Signed this 4th day of May 1904

Sigd. H. R. FREEMAN

District Judge.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.

ORDER NISI.

Testamentary }
Jurisdiction } No. 1506
Class I } In the Matter of the Estate of the late
Suntharavalliamma wife of Suppayar of Mallakam
Deceased.
Kumarasami Aiyar Seenivasaga Aiyar of Mallakam
Petitioner

Vs

Ramalinga Aiyar Suppayar of Alaveddi

Respondent

This matter of the Petition of Kumarasami Aiyar Seenivasaga Aiyar of Mallakam praying for Letters of Administration to the estate of the abovenamed deceased Suntharavalliamma wife of Suppayar coming on for disposal before T. B. Russell Esqr. District Judge, on the 25th day of April 1904 in the presence of Messrs. Casipillai & Cathiravelu Proctors on the part of the Petitioner and the affidavit of the Petitioner dated the 25th day of April 1904 having been read, it is declared that the Petitioner is the Guardian of the heirs of the said intestate and is entitled to have Letters of Administration to the estate of the said Intestate issued to him unless the Respondents or any other person shall on or, before the 30th day of May 1904 show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

Signed this 25th day of April 1904

Sigd. T. B. RUSSELL

District Judge

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.

ORDER NISI.

Testamentary }
Jurisdiction } No. 1507
In the Matter of the Estate of the late
Visalatchippillai wife of Murukesar Chinnappoe
of Nellore Jaffna
Deceased
Murukesar Chinnappoe of Nellore-Jaffna
Petitioner

Vs

1. Chankarappillai Thambiah and wife
Chinnathankam of Nellore, Jaffna

Respondents

This matter of the Petition of Murukesar Chinnappoe of Nellore-Jaffna praying for Letters of Administration to the estate of the abovenamed deceased Visalatchippillai coming on for disposal before T. B. Russell Esquire District Judge, of Jaffna on the 26th day of April 1904 in the presence of Mr. S. Subramaniam Proctor on the part of the Petitioner, and the affidavit of the Petitioner dated the 20th day of April 1904 having been read, it is declared that the Petitioner is the 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 2nd day of June 1904 show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

The 26th day of April 1904

Sigd. T. B. RUSSELL

District Judge.