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HINDU ORGAN

JAFFNA.

NOTICE.

I do hereby give notice that the Power of attorney granted by me to D. C. McLelland of Vannarponne in his favour on or about the 10th of December 1902 is cancelled from this 23rd of May 1904.

G. W. M. McLELLAND.



THE HINDU ORGAN.

JAFFNA, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1, 1904.

PUBLIC WORKS.

The Hon'ble Mr. F. A. Cooper, Director of Public Works, having left the Island on nine months furlough in March 1903, Mr. L. Creasy was in charge of the Department during the remaining portion of the year. We learn from Mr. Creasy's report for the year 1903 that Rs 5,319,241-77 were spent by the Department during the year, of which Rs. 463,488-62 were the cost of establishment.

The total expenditure in the several Provinces was as follows:—

Province.	Rs.	c.
Western...	2,187,968	81
Central...	701,803	6
Northern...	240,118	49
Southern...	329,713	3
Eastern...	295,036	72
North-Western...	272,066	70
North-Central...	178,676	93
Uva...	285,744	35
Sabaragamuwa...	365,125	6
	4,855,753	15

The total length of metalled, track metalled, gravelled, and natural roads during the year in each Province was as follows:—

Province	Miles
Western...	362-95
Central...	658-54
Northern...	518-90
Southern...	320-89
Eastern...	350-46
North-Western...	435-37
North-Central...	312-81
Uva...	377-61
Sabaragamuwa...	322-78
	3,660-81

Of which the length of metalled roads was 2,357-14, made up of 315-06 in the Western Province, 541-66 in the Central Province, 315-90 in the Northern Province, 234-39 in the Southern Province, 161-25 in the Eastern Province, 183-66 in the North-Western Province, 112-47 in the North-Central Province, 250-78 in the Province of Uva, and 191-97 in the Sabaragamuwa Province.

The average cost per mile of maintenance of metalled roads in the several Provinces was as follows:—

Province	Metalled Rs.
Western...	799
Central...	630
Northern...	289
Southern...	619
Eastern...	547
North-Western...	486
North-Central...	417
Uva...	661
Sabaragamuwa...	668

It would thus be seen that the maintenance of metalled roads in the Northern Province costs, on an average, much less than it costs in the other Provinces, in fact not even half the cost in some of the Provinces, and that the total expenditure in this Province on account of Public Works is also the lowest compared with the other Provinces excepting the North-Central Province. We fail to see why the Northern Province should have been so niggardly treated by the Government in the matter of road upkeep and other public works expenditure. We have more than once, in these columns, pointed out the great injustice thus done to this Province in the Govt. not incurring sufficient expenditure to maintain our roads in a satisfactory condition. They present a starved and neglected

condition, compared with their state some years ago. One cannot feel surprised that they are so, considering the paltry expenditure incurred in their upkeep. Since the railway work commenced in Jaffna cooly hire has gone very high, and it can no longer be said that the expenditure on roads in this Province is kept within these low limits on account of the cheapness of labour here.

The Jaffna District was once noted, not only for the net work of its roads but also for the sound and satisfactory condition in which they were maintained. Though those roads still exist, yet they now present a miserable condition with ruts and holes, and sides more like mud paths which become impassable soon after the fall of a shower of rain.

The Jaffna-Kankasanturai road which is 11-50 miles in length is a case in point. This is the most important road in this Peninsula and the traffic on it is the heaviest. In years gone by, this road used to be repaired thoroughly once a year, not the middle track only but the whole width except the side drains, with materials of the best kind—stones broken and durable. For some years past, however, the repairs are confined to the middle of the road, to a track nominally of 15 feet but actually about 10 feet, leaving 10 feet on either side unrepaired for years. Even these repairs are not thoroughly, satisfactorily, or timely done. The metal now used is pebbles dug up from gravel pits, and not broken stones, and, therefore, not durable. A few months after the repairs had been effected, ruts and holes are created, which remain unattended to till the next general repairs. We fail to see why the Department cannot effect temporary repairs on this road, at least on that portion of about 3 miles on the Jaffna side which has to bear larger traffic than the other portion. We were shocked to find in November last, the busiest portion of the road, between the Grand Bazaar and the Chetties quarters, under water, having been so worn off without timely repairs as to allow water to remain over it, to the great inconvenience of the public. We have a right to know why only the middle of this much used road is repaired leaving for years successively twice that width on either side to take care of itself.

The average cost per mile of maintaining this road was Rs 261. Even if you spend double that amount and keep the road in a good condition, the average cost will not equal the expenditure in other Provinces. If the most important road in the Province could be so neglected and kept in so bad a condition it would not be strange if other roads are maintained in a worse condition. We earnestly hope that our Provincial Engineer will urge on the Government the necessity of voting larger amount for Public Works expenditure in this Province and also see that our roads are maintained in a better condition.

In conclusion we quote from the report the following reference to the water supply to the Town of Jaffna:—

Mr. R. W. Smith has been seconded to examine, report, and estimate for various water supplies in the Island. He has been engaged during the year in Jaffna. The surveys and levels are completed, the site selected for sinking shafts to test the supply of water has been fixed at Tirunelveli, about 3 miles from Jaffna. Pumping operations have been carried out, but unfortunately the heavy rain impeded progress. The plans and estimates are now being drawn up, and it is proposed to carry out further tests directly the next dry season sets in.

LOCAL & GENERAL

Hindu College—The Empire Day was celebrated with great *eclat* by the students and teachers of the Jaffna Hindu College. In the morning there were various sports and some of the boys who took

part in the games did their part very creditably. At 10 a. m. the teachers and students assembled in the great upstairs hall for the celebration meeting. The eyes of every one were attracted by the names of the countries, colonies and dependencies making up the British Empire stuck on the walls all round the hall. The meeting was commenced by the singing of the National Anthem. Two addresses were given, one in English by the Principal and the other in Tamil by the Fundit. The Principal explained to the boys the rights and privileges which we now enjoy under the British rule. Songs in Tamil composed for the occasion were sung accompanied with music by the boys, whose jolly faces and loud cheers gave expression to the feeling of loyalty which these little sons of Jaffna had for their noble King. At 1 p. m., refreshments were served, and about three hundred boys and teachers partook of cakes, and fruits and enjoyed themselves in honour of their Sovereign.

Firing of gun in the Fort—A gun is being now fired daily in the Jaffna fort at 12 o'clock in the noon. We think it would be more useful if guns be fired also at 5 o'clock in the morning and six in the evening as it is done in some other places.

Mr. J. Scott—Mr. J. Scott, the Office Assistant, Jaffna Kachcheri, went to Kaits on Saturday, and after inspecting the Customs and the Lighthouse at Karaitive returned to Jaffna on Sunday evening.

Registration of dogs—The "Dogs Ordinance" will be brought into force in the Jaffna Town from the first July next and all dogs will have to be licensed or their owners will be prosecuted.

The Cart-tax at Kankasanturai—We hear that the cart tax imposed at Kankasanturai has been reduced from 50 cents a trip to 50 cents a day and that the Nattucottai Chetties being satisfied with this concession are now sending their vessels to Kankasanturai which they formerly declined to do so owing to the imposition of this tax.

The great Pujah of the Nagaram—The Pujah of the Nattucottai Chetties at Jaffna in their Kadirasan Temple took place on Monday last when thousands of the poor were fed and given rice and curries at a cost of about Rs 1000.

Registrar of Births and Deaths—We understand that Dr. M. Chellappah has been recommended by the Government Agent, for the appointment of Registrar of Births and Deaths, Jaffna Town, in succession to the late Dr. M. Candyah.

His Excellency the Governor—His Excellency Sir Henry Blake has quite recovered from the accident which confined him to his bed for some days at Newaraliya.

Tobacco—The cutting and curing of tobacco is now carried on in all parts of the District. The outturn is below the average. But it appears that though the crop is short, yet the price will be high.

COLOMBO.

Mr. Advocate Norton in Colombo—This eminent lawyer and jurist is at present in our midst in connection with the 'Peris Will Case.' The advent of Mr. Norton to Ceylon has certainly reformed the Colombo Bar, especially in regard to the mode of delivery and cross-examination. It is idle to deny that the best of our lawyers have hopelessly failed to stand with him even for a short while. One look like that of a lion accompanied by some remark is quite enough to put any man into confusion. Here is an instance which will ever be remembered in the Colombo courts. Some time ago, Mr. Norton's opponent—one of the best in the Metropolitan bar, in the course of his well-prepared speech said "Now your Honor will see that what is sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander" Up Mr. Norton stood, down went his spectacles, and straight went his roar "What, I don't see any gander, but I see only a goose here" Immediately the famous lawyer lost his equilibrium, and drowned himself into the sea of confusion. Another famous lawyer told us the other day in a private conversation that if there were any one among them who could possibly combat with Mr. Norton, it was Mr. P. Ramanathan and nobody else.

Personal—Mr. Ratnam Mailvaganam, son of the Laird of Copay, who is prosecuting his studies for the bar and who had been to Jaffna for the holidays, has returned, and looks quite hale and hearty.

A question for the lawyers—A is tried for murder, and acquitted. On being acquitted, he lifts up his right hand, and says "This is the hand, my lord, that committed the murder". Thus saying he marches out triumphantly. Can he be arrested at once and tried again for the same offence?

Laugh and grow fat—(1) Some years ago a fat fellow asked old Sir Francis Burdett, while in Parliament, for some position, saying "Don't you remember me? I used to be a page?" "Well" responded Sir Francis "You have grown into a volume"

(2) A gentleman while making a speech, inadvertently stepped forward and off the platform. To the peals of laughter that greeted his unlucky fall, he claimed that any speaker had a right to come down to

the level of his audience.

(3) Diogenes being asked what beast bite was most dangerous, answered "Of wild beasts, that of a slanderer, of tame, that of a flatterer."

(4) French way of complimenting the old lady. "Ah madam, you grow every day to look more like your daughter."—Cor.

THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR.

London, May 20.—A great deal of heavy skirmishing has taken place on the Liao-tung peninsula, with severe loss on both sides.

A Japanese official despatch states that the landing of troops began yesterday at Taku-shan.

London, May 21.—General Kuropatkin, in a despatch from Liao-yang, dated the 19th instant, reports that a detachment of Cossacks drove the Japanese to within eleven miles north of Feng-huang-cheng, the fight lasting six hours.

Though officially discredited, it is persistently stated at St. Petersburg that the cruiser "Bogatyr" has been totally wrecked in a fog outside Vladivostok.

A similar report has reached Tokio.

Admiral Togo reports that some gunboats, torpedo-boat destroyers, and torpedo-boats reconnoitred Port Arthur last night, despite a hot cross fire.

The gunboats were slightly damaged, but there were no casualties.

Admiral Witgert reports that three Japanese torpedo-boats, on the 16th, approached the scene of the Japanese disaster, when the "Novik" went out and drove them off.

This shows that the entrance to the harbour is practicable for large vessels.

General Stoessel reports that the Russian casualties at Kin-chau, on the 16th, were 160.

The enemy's advance on Kin-chau has been arrested.

"Reuter", wiring from Tokio, says that the Japanese at Taku-shan yesterday surrounded and routed a squadron of Cavalry seven miles north of Taku-shan, killing and wounding many.

"Reuter" wires from Mukden that the Japanese main body, estimated at 70,000 men, is stationary considerably south, of the Russians covering Liao-yang.

The Russian forces and defences are daily strengthening.

London, May 22.—"Reuter", wiring from St. Petersburg, says a telegram from General Sakharoff shows that the Japanese advance on Liao-yang has been resumed. He reports the movements of several detachments at different points up to fifty kilometres north-west of Feng-huang-cheng.

Their horses and infantry are reported to be much exhausted.

"Reuter" wiring from Tokio, that during Admiral Togo's reconnaissance at Port Arthur to Friday, a Russian shell struck the torpedo-boat destroyer "Akatsuki," killing one officer and 24 men.

After repeated conferences of bankers and Ministers and Elder Statesmen, the former have accepted the terms of the new popular loan at five per cent, of a hundred million yen, to be issued at 92.

London, May 23, 5-37 p.m.—The "Daily Chronicle" in a despatch from Tokio says that over 900 were drowned in the "Hatsuse" and "Yoshino."

The recently launched Russian battleship "Orel," which stranded immediately at St. Petersburg owing to her great draught again stranded at Cronstadt on the 19th instant and her stern has since sunk deeply owing to the unexplained opening of her bilge pipe.

The ship is now badly strained.

—The Ceylon Independent.

COTTON EXPERIMENT STATIONS, NORTH-CENTRAL PROVINCE.

(Extract from the Report of the Director
of the Botanic Gardens.)

In view of the probable early opening of the Northern Railway, and the extension of irrigation works in the country served by it, it becomes of importance to discover what crops can be grown to profit in this dry region. The soil is good, and should be able to produce most tropical crops, given sufficient water. At the same time there are many crops better suited to dry than to wet districts, and among these cotton is one of the most important. After careful consideration it was decided to try experiments with this product, supplemented by others with other products likely to succeed in the dry zone. Owing to the ravages of the boll-weevil and other causes, there is a great shortage of late in the American crop, and at the same time the growth of the mills in the United States is consuming more and more of the crop in that country, so that the price has risen very much and the supply to Lancashire has been seriously curtailed. An organization of all interested in cotton in that county has been formed, under the title of the British Cotton-growing Association, to encourage the growth of cotton in British Colonies and render Lancashire comparatively independent of the American supply. The support of the Colonial Office has been secured, and help in the form of seed, advice, machinery, provision of expert American cultivators, &c., is being given to many experiments in West Africa and other colonies. While in America and England I devoted considerable attention to this question, and obtained interviews with the Chairman, Secretary, and other members of the Association, and with merchants and others, and enlisted their aid in case of any trials being made in Ceylon.

The position in Ceylon is briefly this. Cotton of the South Indian type is grown in small quantity as a chena crop in the north, and is sold at low prices to the Jaffna carters returning from Matale; these men carry it to Jaffna, where it is used in the hand-looms still existing there. A considerable quantity, amounting to about Rs. 200,000 in value, is annually imported into Ceylon for local use; this is chiefly of the

Indian short-stapled kinds, and might well be supplied from local sources. With the opening of the line the Colombo market will be thrown open to cotton cultivators in the North. The object in view in the cotton experiments is thus two-fold: (1) to determine whether Indian cotton can be remuneratively cultivated by villagers for the local market, and to find out the best kind of this cotton to grow, and the best ways of treating it; and (2) to determine whether cottons of long staple, such as are required for the Lancashire market, can be profitably grown, with or without irrigation, in the dry regions of Ceylon.

In company with Mr. L. W. Booth, the Government Agent of the North Central Province, to whom I am very greatly indebted for the interest he has taken in the work, and the very valuable assistance he has given in starting it, I made a tour through the districts where land was available under irrigation tanks, and finally chose for the headquarters of the experiments a block of 150 acres under the almost completed tank at Maha-iluppalam, 12 miles east of Talawa station, on the road leading thence to Kekirawa. The land lies immediately under the bund of the tank and along the main irrigation channel, is covered with forest, and has good soil, but chiefly of the red type. In South India cotton is almost solely grown on the black cotton soil, which is much more retentive of water, requiring no irrigation. Of this soil there is little in the districts of North Ceylon immediately adjoining the railway, though it is not uncommon about Mannar and elsewhere. To supplement the very small area of black soil at Maha-iluppalam a second small block of 20 acres, composed of good black soil, has been reserved at the point where the railway crosses the Kanadara-oya, near Ambagaswewa, about 15 miles north of Anuradhapura. This has already been sown, during the October rains, with Tinneveli cotton seed, obtained through Messrs. Ralli Bros. Agent at Tuticorin, Mr. Pericles Acatos, to whom I am indebted for very valuable aid in my tour in South India undertaken last September for the study of local methods of cotton cultivation. A further 8 acres have been cleared at Maha-iluppalam and sown with this seed. American seed has been obtained through the good offices of the firm of Messrs. Paton, MacLaran & Co. of Liverpool, acting for the British Cotton-growing Association, and Egyptian similarly through Messrs. Carver Bros. of Alexandria. Early in 1904 it is hoped to get a superintendent appointed, more jungle cleared, irrigation channels opened, and the foreign seed sown. Belts of jungle will be left to divide the cottons and interplanted with rubber and cacao.

THE PATRIOTISM OF O HANA SAN.

A RUSSIAN SPY AND HIS JAPANESE WIFE.

There is a good deal of quiet tragedy connected with the long outstanding settlement of accounts between Japan and Russia.

The political relations of the two countries have never been of the most cordial, but that circumstance has not prevented much pleasant social intercourse between individuals, for in his private capacity the much-abused Russian has many good points. Indeed, it is very curious to note that the majority of foreigners—not even excluding Anglo-Saxons—who have been brought into frequent contact with the Russians are strongly disposed to sympathise with them in the present war. A friend writes from Port Arthur before the outbreak of hostilities: "These people are more akin to me than the Japanese. Their religion, their magnificent literature, their music, their kindly and hospitable nature, all appeal to me. In Japan I was always sensible of a barrier between me and the most intimate of my Japanese acquaintances; here I have already made several close friends."

All this, irrespective of the merits of the quarrel, since these seem so abundantly clear that it is difficult to imagine that an Englishman uninspired by selfish motives, would deliberately and with full knowledge of the facts take the side of the Russians, or advocate their claims though, as intimated above, some secretly cherish a hope that they may not be too badly beaten by the remorseless Japanese lest European prestige should suffer.

NO PERSONAL HOSTILITY.

I doubt whether the Russian has ever been personally unpopular among the Japanese. Baron Rosen himself, the late Russian Minister at Tokio, enjoyed the genuine esteem of all classes and at the International Club was invariably the centre of a group of native friends with whom he would engage in lively conversation or play a game of billiards. The Russian Ecclesiastical Mission is among the strongest in Japan and the Cathedral at Surugadai, Tokio, a conspicuous object of the great metropolis. The Russian language being one of the most difficult in the world, Japanese has, perhaps, fewer terrors for the Russian than for the average foreigner, while the Japanese on their side have been so alive to the value of a practical knowledge of Russian as to pirate Alexandrow's Russo-English Dictionary and to sell the same at a quarter of the original price.

But I opened this letter with an allusion to

tragedy, and it seems to me that the expression is not too emphatic to describe the sudden rupture of private ties that has been so frequently entailed by the grim drama now in course of presentation before a world audience. Take this little incident as an example of the sort of thing I mean.

A JAPANESE PANDORA.

M. was a Russian, married to a Japanese, and living at Yokohama. He spoke Japanese almost like a native, and was in almost every respect an affectionate husband. The wife, who may be called O Hana San, appeared fond of her husband, and all went well until late in January, when even the most sanguine had abandoned hope of peace. For some time before this, however, O Hana San had noticed that her husband, though frank and open in most things, attached great importance to a sort of despatch-box, which he never allowed to leave his side for an instant. Even under normal circumstances this fact would have excited her curiosity both as a woman and a Japanese at that, but as a reader of the vernacular Press she was well aware that there were such beings as Russian spies in existence, and that although her husband was ostensibly a teacher, she really knew nothing of his antecedents.

Patriotism is admittedly the grand passion of the Japanese. In feudal days it took the form of loyalty to a lord; and no true Samurai would hesitate for a moment as between the claims of a blood relation and those of his chiefs. To-day the Emperor is the great over-lord, and O Hana San, though she loved her foreign husband, could not doubt as to where her duty lay. A Japanese proverb has it "Chushin jikun ni tsukaru." "A faithful servant will not serve two masters," and acting in this belief O Hana San determined to gain possession of the despatch-box and see what it contained. So one evening she took advantage of a certain Russian weakness and made poor M. terribly drunk, and seizing the box hurried off to the nearest police-station. Here she told her story and the inspector commended her for her patriotic action.

DOMESTIC TEAGECY.

The box was broken open, and sure enough contained numerous maps and plans of Japanese fortifications and naval ports, besides several valuable Russian documents bearing upon the enemy's military and naval schemes. O Hana San was praised more than ever, but she had lost her home and her husband. As for the latter, the papers say he woke up from his drunken stupor to realise his irreparable loss of both wife and papers, and left Japan without waiting to take leave of his friends.

The Russian spy is sometimes apocryphal, but, on the other hand, he sometimes exists. The spy is not necessarily a Russian, for Muscovite gold has not always been powerless to sap the virtue of the weaker-minded and more avaricious Japanese. Early during the progress of hostilities a quarter-of-a-mile stretch of the railway between Amori and Sendai was blown up by Russian agents, three of whom were arrested, and only a few days ago a Japanese was sentenced by the Yokohama court to a long term of imprisonment for an unsuccessful attempt to secure military and naval secrecy. This fellow was in the pay of a Russian naval attache, and for upwards of five years had been paying large sums to the draughtsmen at places like Yokosuka and Kure for maps and plans of the defences. The humorous aspect of this true story is that the draughtsmen, so far from betraying their trust, had merely betrayed the spy, to whom, with the connivance of the authorities, they had all along supplied false plans and sketches.

There is likewise the story of the Russian resident of Tokio who knew no word of Japanese, but was one day caught by a friend of mine in the act of writing a long communication in that heart-breaking script known as the "socho," or "grass character," which is a sealed book to nine hundred and ninety-nine foreigners out of a thousand.

LORD CURZON'S PROCLAMATION.

Thus sayeth, according to the Patrika, George Nathaniel Curzon, Baron of Kedleston, in the county of Derbyshire, Ireland, P. C., D. L., G. M. S. I., G. M., I. E., by the Grace of Heaven, Viceroy and Governor-General of India:—

In the fifth year of Viceroyalty I issue these commands:—

"I. Whereas contentment has been the principal characteristic of men of learning in the East, whose sages and saints have always lived in forests and mountains, which are better suited to spiritual culture than towns and cities, and have never been known to care for wealth, honour or office, and whereas their degenerate sons have lost all love of learning for learning's sake, and have been crowding the portals of our Universities solely for securing admission into the public services of the Empire, much to the hindrance of their spiritual culture for which their forefathers were so noted in the past and still admired in the West, and whereas it is necessary to revive among them spiritual culture and love of learning for learning's sake we in compassion for the people of India, do hereby order that "in the highest interests of a liberal education," they should never be allowed to appear in competitive examinations for the public service which shall be abolished, so that they may remain phi-

losophers all their lives, while we shall appoint "Poor Whites," who cannot pass examinations and are therefore fit to serve the Government, to appointments now open to the Indians.

II. Whereas Indians have always lived for the life hereafter than for the present life, and whereas, disobeying the injunctions of their holy Rishis, they are imitating the material West and seriously jeopardising the salvation of their souls, which they used to value above all earthly things, we, in compassion for them, do hereby order that none of them shall henceforth be eligible for any public office which carries with it a salary of Rs100 or upwards, and we hope, all Indians, loyal as they are, will not mind this small temptation of wealth, even if it goes against them in the world to come; for the public service of the country, which is intended for their benefit by keeping their bodies and souls together, so that they may fast, pray and meditate cannot be carried on without some co-operation on their part.

III. Whereas our Finance Minister is drawing more money from the country than we can afford to spend even by our Delhi Durbar, Tibetan missions and Memorial Hall, and whereas it has been rightly pointed out by our Honorary Colleagues headed by the Maharatta Brahmin whom we take this opportunity of holding forth as an ideal to be followed by all native officials who clamour for increase of their salaries, as he was quite content with less than Rs100 a month, that it will be an act of injustice to our native subjects not to spend the same in the country we in compassion for them do hereby order that additional posts be created in all departments for Europeans, and among them some new Lieutenant-Governorships, Viceregal Memberships, Director-Generalships and so forth, and we hope all native subjects of light and leading will approve of this act of ours, solely intended for the benefit of their country.

IV. Whereas the Rishis of India have enjoined their countrymen to shun wealth as poison and whereas the Indians of the present day have forgotten that wholesome advice, we in compassion for them do hereby order that no native of India outside the ranks of the public service should be allowed to have more wealth than what is required for the bare necessities of life; for that will be detrimental to their spiritual growth; and whereas it is necessary for their own spiritual culture as well as for performing acts of loyalty and paying revenues to the Sircar that they must live, we do hereby further order that they be fed at the expense of the State in time of famine, and for the same reason, we do also order that they must not be killed by any Englishman; and be it known to all that we in our anxiety to protect the lives of the natives of India punished a whole regiment of the "Whites," one of whom killed a native of India, because the latter failed to supply them with women.

V. Whereas Sankara, the great Indian sage and philosopher, with whose writings we have been made familiar by our Hon. Colleague the great Orientalist, Mr. Risley, has laid it down that "fortunate are surely the people in rags"; and whereas the people of India, in spite of their contact with material West, have still great spiritual potentialities in them, and whereas the British Government, in whose hands through Divine Dispensation the destinies of the Indian Nation have been placed for all time to come, will not consider its mission fulfilled unless it has been able to raise this once ancient and noble race by whose side we Westerners are mere children of yesterday, we lay it down for the future guidance of all our officers in various departments that it should be the aim of one and all of them to do all in their power to constantly put before the Indian people the ideal set for the above and to make them as speedily as possible to attain it, so that as soon as they shuffle off their mortal coils, their souls will not have to transmigrate from one place to another, but will at once attain Nirvana or final Beatitude the goal of ambition of all natives of India from the time of Lord Buddha, who is respected alike in the West as in the East and whose life we have read in the "Light of Asia" by Sir Edwin Arnold and whose image we have ordered to be preserved in the Victoria Memorial Hall intended for the preservation of all that is glorious and inglorious of the Indian people, and out of respect for whose memory, we have ordered our trusted officer Colonel Younghusband, to march to Thibet and meet face to face with the Lamas, who have been all along longing for the land of Nirvana, with our Maxim guns and magazine rifles.

Thus we issue this Pious Proclamation in conformity with the Ancient Law of the East, for though belonging to the West, we are more Asiatic than the Asiatics themselves.

EUROPEAN JURORS AND THE ACQUITTAL OF PRISONERS.

REMARKABLE CASE IN THE PUNJAB.

A case of an unusual kind, which has raised once again the question of racial partiality of European juries in India, has just been disposed of by the Chief Court of the Punjab. Sergeant D. McMillan and Corporal H. Graham, of the Oxfordshire Light Infantry were tried at Umballa on the 24th March last by Mr. T. J. Kennedy, I. C. S., Sessions Judge of Umballa, with the aid of a Jury, upon charges of theft and of dishonestly receiving stolen property. The jury were unanimously of the opinion that the offences had not been proved against the accused. The Sessions Judge disagreed with this verdict, and submitted the proceedings to the Chief Court. The case came before the Hon'ble Sir William Clark, Chief Judge, and the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Chatterji, C. I. E., on the 3rd instant, Mr. Alwayne Turner, Government Advocate, appeared on behalf of the Crown and Mr. Gouldbury, Advocate, represented the accused.

The Judgment of the Sessions Judge, which came before their Lordships of the Chief Court was remarkable for the following concluding paragraph:—"For the reasons stated I consider the verdict of the Jurors in the case is a perverse verdict against the weight of evidence, that the case was a bad case of theft from a shop, punishable under Section 380 of the Indian Penal Code; that the accused were guilty of this offence, and the verdict of acquittal was clearly, and undoubtedly wrong, that it was probably, dictated by race prejudice and sympathy with the accused on the part of the European jurors, and that the native juror, a wine and spirit dealer having money transactions with Europeans allowed his judgment to be overborne by the others. To accept the verdict and acquit the accused would involve a gross and unmistakable miscarriage of justice, especially when the offence has been committed in a big Cantonment, and would tend to encourage the commission of crime by soldiers, who, after seeing an acquittal in a clear case of this kind, might be encouraged to commit crime in the hope of escaping with impunity the consequence of their misdeeds. I, therefore, under Section 307 of the Criminal Procedure Code, submit the case to the Chief Court of the Punjab, stating my opinion that the accused have been guilty of the offence punishable under Section 380 of the Indian Penal Code.

Their Lordships of the Chief Court, after going into the whole case, gave Judgment in the following terms:

"We have carefully examined the evidence and heard Counsel at length. It is fully established that valuable property was stolen between 8 and 9 p. m., on the 8th December from Mr. Framji's shop. It was missed at once, and it was ascertained from other sergeants, who were in the shop, that it was the two accused who had just left the shop. They were followed at once to the 12th Lancers Sergeants' Mess. There Graham, as soon as he saw Framji's men, hurriedly made over a gun metal watch that had been stolen to Corporal Rix and made off. McMillan, when questioned went away for a little while and then brought first a lady's gold watch and a paper weight, a metal watch, and, afterwards, a muffineer, a silver flask and some packets of cigarettes. The tumbum in which the accused had come was then searched and a pair of binoculars and 2½ boxes of cigarettes were found there, and next morning two more of the stolen gold watches were found in a privy close to the mess. Graham's explanation about the gun metal watch is that he found it in the tumbum, and when he saw Mr. Framji's men come to the mess he got frightened and made it over to Rix and went off. McMillan's explanation about producing the stolen articles at the mess is that when looking for Graham he found them lying on a table in the verandah. These explanations are incredible in themselves and they are unsupported by any evidence, and they give an impossible account of what happened. There is no other possible explanation of how the stolen articles came from Mr. Framji's shop to the mess except that they came in the accused's tumbum. No one else is alleged to have come from there to the mess, and as the accused themselves admit that Graham found the gun metal watch in the tumbum on the way to the mess, and as some of the other property was found in the tumbum, it is a moral certainty that the stolen property was brought to the mess in the accused's tumbum. It is inconceivable that any but the accused should have put the things there; or taken them out of the tumbum into the mess. McMillan's explanation of having found the things in the mess verandah is entirely futile. Besides, Sergeant Clements and Brigdon, of the 12th Lancers, prove that they saw in the mess a gold watch and a silver flask with McMillan, which, undoubtedly,

were the ones stolen. It is endeavoured by the Counsel for the accused to discredit this evidence but we have no doubt that the evidence is true. On the facts found we think that the conclusion is irresistible that the accused stole the property referred to above from Mr. Framji's shop, and we convict them under section 380 of the Indian Penal Code. We do not think it necessary to endorse all that the Sessions Judge has said about the jury. They are entitled to the most favourable explanation for giving their unsatisfactory verdict, and it is possible that they erred from simple incapacity either incapacity to weigh evidence or incapacity to draw the conclusions which inevitably follow from the proved facts and that they were not false to their oaths. With reference to the sentences we take into account that the accused are men who have done 10 and 12 years' service, and have previously borne good characters. We do not think that when they went to Mr. Framji's they had any intention of stealing anything, but that probably finding the case of valuables open and having taken a little drink they were tempted and fell. Their subsequent conduct was almost childish. Instead of quickly disposing of the property they drove off to the mess, and there McMillan seems to have ostentatiously displayed some of the property. When challenged he gave up at once all he could command, no doubt hoping that the case might be dropped. We also take into account that the accused have been in custody since the 8th February, nearly three months. However, the property stolen was Rs 999 in value, and if Mr. Framji's people had not been so energetic in their action it would probably have been kept. The offence was, therefore, a very serious one. We sentence the accused each to three months' rigorous imprisonment.

—The Pioneer.

NOTICE.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.

ORDER NISI

Testamentary

No. 1520

Jurisdiction

Class I

In the Matter of the Estate of the late Annamuttu wife of Arunasalam of Tanankilappu in Thenmaradchy

Deceased

Naganathar Arunasalam of Maravanpulo

Petitioner

Vs

1. Velayuthar Sinnappillai and wife
2. Ilayapillai of Tanankilappu

Respondents

This matter of the Petition of Naganathar Arunasalam of Maravanpulo praying for Letters of Administration to the estate of the abovenamed deceased Annamuttu wife of Arunasalam coming on for disposal before H. R. Freeman Esquire District Judge, on the 13th 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 11th day of May 1904 having been read, it is declared that the Petitioner is the lawful husband of the said intestate and is entitled to have Letters of Administration to the estate of the said Intestate issued to him unless the Respondents or any other person shall on or, before the 10th day of June 1904 show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

Signed this 13th day of May 1904

Sgd. H. R. FREEMAN
District Judge.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.

ORDER NISI

Testamentary

No. 1515

Jurisdiction

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

Sgd. H. R. FREEMAN
District Judge.