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## THE HINDU ORGAN.

JAFFNA, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 1904.

### THE JAFFNA POLICE

The Police force in Jaffna was a quiet and useful body as long as Mr. J. Rudd was at its head. With his retirement most of the Sergeants and Constables, who were men of vast local experience, have also been transferred to other stations till, the present force here is composed mostly, from officers to the ranks, of men who are utter strangers to Jaffna. They show greater zeal than discretion in the discharge of their duties, and the consequence is that the Police are now very unpopular here.

Since of late we have heard serious allegations against some members of the Police force to the effect that certain persons arrested and taken to the Station were assaulted there by the Police. There was a great uproar at the time of the riot in front of the Sivan Temple at Vannarponnai, owing to a report that most of the accused arrested by the Police were roughly handled by them on their way to and in the Station. While we commended the taking of active steps to put down rowdism by all legitimate means, we protested at the time against the high-handed proceedings of the guardians of public peace. Again a respectable Moorman, a few weeks ago, charged a Sergeant and Constable in the Police Court of Jaffna with assault in the Police Station. Though this man was taken to the Station without any injury on his person, yet he had a swollen back when he was released. But the Police Magistrate disbelieved the evidence led to prove the charge, and acquitted the accused. He, however, fined the Moorman on the charge preferred by the Police of creating a disturbance outside the Court House. This had a demoralizing effect on the Police, and their conduct is now causing great dissatisfaction among the public.

Some members of the Police force here are said to have become very unruly and insolent and seem to think that they can do anything in Jaffna with impunity. It is said that a young man, son of a local Headman at Vannarponnai, was, a few days ago, abused, insulted, and intimidated by a Sergeant in the presence of several people for no offence committed on that occasion by him. This young man complained of this to the Assistant Superintendent who requested him to come to the Station with his witnesses for an inquiry to be held there. We are informed that when the complainant and his witnesses went to the Station, not only were they insulted there before the arrival of the Assistant Superintendent, but the carriage in which they went was also seized as obstructing the public thoroughfare, and the horsekeeper, on being charged in the Police Court, was fined cents 50. The horsekeeper then went to the Police Station to take his carriage back which was detained there, but he came up running to the Police Court and complained to the Magistrate that he was assaulted in the Station by the Police when he asked them to allow him to remove the conveyance. The Magistrate was very prompt this time and he proceeded at once to the Station and held an inquiry. But the horsekeeper was unable to identify the Policemen who assaulted him as they were not among those produced before him. There were cases last week in the Police Court in connection with these incidents, but the accused Policemen were acquitted.

We, however, learn that a Sergeant against whom there have been several complaints and a Constable have been transferred to Colombo as the result of a departmental inquiry held by the Assistant Superintendent of Police. It behoves Mr. Dowbiggen,



who is an energetic officer, without being unduly influenced by considerations of prestige of the force, to make an example of any member of it who is guilty of high handed proceedings and oppression, to be a deterrent to the whole body of the Police. If the complaints against the men transferred were true, they deserved other punishment than mere transfer, which cannot have a salutary effect either on them or on the other members of the force.

Since the above was in type we have learnt that a Constable who was drunk and not on duty at the time created a great disturbance at Vannarponnai on the Jaffna-Kankesanturai road, near the first mile post, on Monday evening, molesting the passers-by and threatening to stab them with a knife which he held in his hand, and that he was after dark set upon by a number of rowdies and seriously assaulted. We have only to say that, if the Police are thus let loose, without adequate check or control, the consequence will be serious—rowdyism will increase, and people, failing redress of their grievances at the hands of those constituted to do it, will learn to take the law into their own hands.

### THE REPORT OF THE NORTHERN PROVINCE BY MR. J. P. LEWIS.

(continued from our last issue.)

#### V.—HEALTH OF PEOPLE.

There was no outbreak of any epidemic in 1903. There was a good deal of what was reported to be fever in Chankanai and the neighbouring villages in November, but there are reasons for believing—so I was informed at the Manipalai hospital—that it was nothing more or less than influenza, and there was certainly influenza in Jaffna about the same time as I learnt from experience. Later, the fever in Valikamam West assumed a malarial type. There was a heavy death-rate, especially among children in the fishing village of Pasaiur in Jaffna in December, due more to the mode and conditions of life of the people in an unhealthy time of the year, when protection from chill and damp is specially needed, than to any other cause.

The health of the Pearl Fishery camp at Matichukkaddi was much worse than that of the rest of the Province during the Pearl Fishery time, and fever prevailed there to a great extent (see Pearl Fishery Report). Many people who contracted fever in the camp suffered from it for protracted periods on their return home, and many of them died. Unsuitable food was one of the causes that contributed to the various cases of disease there.

#### VI.—SANITATION

The sum of Rs. 4,000 granted by Government as an annual vote for the sanitation of Jaffna and the peninsula proved inadequate for the purpose in 1903, and an additional sum of Rs. 400 had to be applied for in December. This was partly owing to the cost of two new latrines which had been completed during the year, and part of which, together with the upkeep, had to be paid for from this vote. Practically only a sum of Rs. 86 a month is available for scavenging the town. It is obvious that a sum that was sufficient for Jaffna 20 years ago is insufficient now with a population that has increased by 22 per cent., and the remedy is not to ask Government for more funds, but for Government to establish a Local Board at Jaffna.

A latrine was opened at Kayts, paid for by subscriptions of the people, who objected to Kayts being brought under the operation of the Small Towns Sanitary Ordinance. The latrine is at the end of a stone causeway which runs into the harbour. This causeway has been damaged by the rough weather of December and requires repair, and further subscriptions will be necessary. One latrine is inadequate for Kayts, and the place itself requires scavenging periodically. It remains to be seen whether any further subscriptions are forthcoming; if not it must be made a "small town." Two similar latrines are to be built at Pt. Pedro this year from funds accumulated under the sanitary rate, and at Valuvettiturai one, when sufficient funds have accumulated under it.

A great part of the peninsula is very low-lying, some portions of it are actually below the sea level. From this cause, when there are exceptionally heavy rains, as in December last, great inconvenience and damage are done by floods, more especially as many of the people build their houses in places that are certain to be under water in wet weather, and this is aggravated in some cases by the blocking up of public channels and of channels passing through private lands by the owners of the compounds through or near which they pass. There were many cases due to all these causes in the peninsula in December, especially in Point Pedro, Kodikamam, Karativu, and

in Jaffna itself, roads (and in one instance the railway) having been cut through to drain off the water.

Where these channels are "drains or ditches belonging to or appertaining to a road," they come under the definition of 'road,' and 'road' again under the definition of 'thoroughfare' in the Ordinance of 1861, and the obstruction can be dealt with under that Ordinance; but hitherto there has been a difficulty felt in proceeding against persons obstructing channels passing through private compounds or channels which do not come under the definition in the Road Ordinance, and the persons aggrieved have attempted unsuccessfully to get their grievances removed by criminal prosecution.

I propose, however, in future to deal with such cases under sections 59 and 60 of the Irrigation Ordinance, No. 23 of 1889, which, it is clear, refer not to irrigation channels, but to all channels, water-courses, ponds, and tanks in general, section 61 providing for irrigation channels. The power conferred on the Government Agent should prove very useful in the Jaffna peninsula, but in many places where houses are built no drainage is possible, and it would be an excellent thing for the people both in Jaffna and in the peninsula and in the Mannar and Mullaitivu Districts, who insist on building houses in low-lying places, if they would copy the example of the people of Penang and build them on piles.

In some instances the culverts provided in the main and minor roads are too small to carry off the storm water, which is the result of the heavy rains at the end of the year. They are sufficient under ordinary circumstances, but do not provide against floods. The result is that the roads are cut, and this practice has been tolerated for years, but I think it better that the defective culverts should be gradually replaced year by year by effective ones, and new culverts opened where they would be advantageous to the drainage.

The police seized 622 stray dogs at Jaffna, of which 509 were destroyed, 12 died, and 102 were redeemed. The dog Ordinance, No. 25 of 1901, is to be introduced into the towns of Jaffna, Point Pedro, Mannar, and Mullaitivu in 1904.

#### JAFFNA WATER SUPPLY.

Pumping operations under the supervision of Mr. R. W. Smith, of the Public Works Department, were resumed in August at the well at Thirunelveli, three miles from Jaffna, selected by the Director of Public Works, a steam pump being used. The well was deepened to 40 feet, and two tunnels opened at the bottom level from opposite sides of the well. The quantity of flow increased daily and uniformly as the excavation proceeded, until a point was reached when the pumping machinery was unable to deal with the flow of water and reduce the level sufficiently to allow the men to work in the headings. On the data obtained final plans and estimate are now being framed. The water has been found to be of excellent quality. It is to be hoped that Jaffna may shortly obtain a good and sufficient water supply.

(to be continued)

### LOCAL & GENERAL

**The Weather**—The rain still holds off. There is not a drop of water in any of the tanks in the town and the suburbs, viz, the Pullukulam by the side of the Clock Tower, Vannankulam near the Grand Bazaar, and Ariakulam close to the Railway Station. The upper layer of earth in these tanks is now being collected by the people and removed to fields and gardens to be used as manure.

**The Jaffna Kachcheri**—Mr. J. Scott, Office Assistant, Jaffna Kachcheri, goes next month to Newara Eliya on one month's leave. On his way to Newara Eliya he will present himself for the Civil Service Tamil Examination to be held in Colombo next month. During his absence his duties will be attended to by Mr. Southern who is shortly expected here from Colombo.

**The Manipay Post Office Defalcation Case**—This case is committed for trial to the District Court.

**Lands available for cocoanut and tobacco cultivation**—The Government Agent notifies in the Gazette that lands suitable for cocoanut and tobacco cultivation are available in the Jaffna, Mullaitivu, and Mannar Districts.

**Lawlessness at Kokuvil West**—We understand that great lawlessness prevails in this village. The burning of fences and the cutting of fruit-trees at night times have been for some months past of almost weekly occurrence. But owing to the inefficiency of the village Headman, the rowdies who are the authors of these mischiefs have not been brought to jus-

tice. On the night of the 20th Instant a godown by the side of the Jaffna-Kankesanturai road between the 2nd and 3rd mile post was set fire to by some person or persons unknown. The damage done to the building was not much, as the cadjans with which it was thatched were removed before the fire spread throughout the building. But the damage to articles stored in the godown is estimated at Rs 1000. No clue has yet been obtained as to the perpetrators of this dastardly act. But a man who was loitering on the road late that night has been arrested on suspicion and is in custody.

**The New Maniagar of Tenmaradchi**—Mr. Muttukumarasamy has arrived from Colombo and assumed duties as Maniagar of this important division, in succession to the late Saravanamuttu Mudaliyar. We have no doubt that the new Maniagar will be a bright example to the Headmen in general in point of ability and above all, honesty and integrity, in view of the fact that he becomes a Chief Headman after holding some important appointments in the clerical service. He is sure to earn, as he is expected to do, the esteem and respect of the public as well of his superiors and will also render a service to his country, if he will be proof against the temptations of his new office and establish a name as one of the very few Headmen who are not corrupt.

**The Temperance Movement**—We are glad to learn that a Temperance Meeting was held at Achchuveli on the 24th Inst. to consider the question of the increase of drunkenness in the Parish and to adopt measures to prevent the people from indulging in that pernicious habit. It is the first meeting of the kind in the Jaffna District and was held in the Hindu School under the auspices of the leading Hindus, Protestants and Catholics of the place. We now hope that similar meetings will be held in other villages and an organized effort will be made, as it is done in the Sinhalese Districts, to promote the cause of temperance in this District.

**Our late District Judge**—It is reported that Mr. W. R. B. Sanders, our late District Judge, who is now on furlough, will be returning to the Island in December next when he will succeed Mr. R. B. Hellings as Commissioner of Requests, Colombo.

**The Boer Maxim Gun**—The Boer maxim gun sent by the Secretary of State as a gift to Ceylon in recognition of the services rendered by the Ceylon Contingent will be kept in Kandy.

**The District Judgeship of Colombo**—Mr. Joseph Grenier, District Judge of Colombo, will shortly proceed to England on six months leave of absence, to qualify himself as a Barrister-at-law.

**The departure of Lord Curzon to India**—The departure of Lord Curzon to India is postponed owing to the serious illness of Lady Curzon.

### HINDU COLLEGE

In addition to the Prizes given to the successful students for general proficiency in English and Tamil, on the occasion of the distribution of Prizes which took place on the 12th Instant the following is a list of special Prizes awarded with the names of the gentlemen who contributed towards them.

#### SPECIAL PRIZES.

Drawing	Mr. A. Chinnappah
Tamil	late Mr. C. W. Cathiravelu Pillai and by Mr. S. Kathiresu
Recitation (Senior)	Mr. M. T. Kanagasabai
(Junior)	Mr. N. Ponniah
Clerical Examination	Mr. S. Kandayah
"	Mr. A. Talayasingham
Reading II	Mr. A. Sabapathy
" IV	Mr. V. S. Ponnampalam
" V	do
Latin F. A.	Mr. G. H. N. Tampoe
Same F. A.	Mr. W. Duraisamy



Mathematics F.A. Mr. S. R. Muthucumaru  
 English Entrance Mr. R. Kandiah  
 English F. A. Mr. Isaac Thambiah  
 Composition F.A. Mr. C. Thirunavukarasu  
 Hand writing 2nd Std. Mr. A. Canagaretnam  
 Hand writing Senior class, Mr. M. Caralasingham  
 For passing the Senior Local Examination Mr. A. Kanagasabai  
 For passing 8th Standard, in all subjects Mr. M. Asaipillai  
 Punctuality College Dept. Mr. T. M. Tampoe  
 Punctuality School Dept. Mr. V. Casippillai  
 Character Prize VIII Std. Mr. V. Casippillai  
 Character Prize Mr. A. Kanagasabai  
 Character Prize Kanmaniammal Senior money Prize do do Junior Mr. V. Murugesapillai  
 Religious Knowledge Mr. K. Velupillai  
 Singing of Devaram Mr. M. Thatparanatham  
 Puranam Reading Mr. R. Marimuttu Upathyar  
 4 Prizes for passing the F. A. Messrs. K. Sivapiragasam  
 T. C. Changanapillai  
 S. Thampiah Pillai  
 A. Cathiravelu.

#### COLOMBO.

The Ananda College Prize Distribution—Nearly a fourth part of a century ago, it was proposed by certain Hindus and Buddhists to found a college in Colombo. Accordingly money was raised from both sides. But owing to certain difference of opinion as to management, the Hindus had to withdraw from the field. Then the Buddhists founded what is now known as the unostentatious Ananda College. Since then it was making slow but steady progress. It can now legitimately claim a high status for itself and yea an equal one with the other colleges of the metropolis. The creditable performance of G. K. W. Perera in the recent University Scholarship Examination amply justifies this statement.

The universal rejoice by the Buddhist community over the triumph of Perera was abundantly manifested on the occasion of the usual annual prize-distribution on Saturday last. There was an unusually large gathering of Buddhists—males and females. There were present amongst them that veteran Colonel Olcott the founder of the College, that great friend of the people, Mr. P. Ramanathan—his "staunch friend and co-operator" as the Colonel said, that great pure-minded chief Priest, Sri Sumangala, and that indefatigable Buddhist M. L. C. Mr. Hullugalle, who has earned the gratitude of the Buddhist people, indeed, more than any of his predecessors had done.

The chief function of the evening being over, brilliant speeches were made by these gentlemen. They all unanimously expressed the idea that they were not the least satisfied with what they had done till then. They were determined to see to its finish the reformation they had started. The degenerated Sinhalese, the tailor-made Sinhalese, the shallow-minded and irreligious Sinhalese who had been drowned into the ocean of damnable materialism of the west must be saved. The Sinhalese, properly speaking, have no necessity to slavishly imitate the Westerners. The Westerners had no virtue which the ancient Sinhalese, and much more the Tamils, had it in the olden days. Imitation means weakness. They must hold their own against others. They must preserve their individuality. Let them take a lesson from the Japanese.

Mr. Ramanathan and the local press—Mr. Ramanathan, we believe, is one of the few Ceylonese who in his early days swallowed the Western civilisation wholesale as did the leading men of Bengal. Having risen to its highest pinnacle, having enjoyed the cream of the best of the English society, he compared the Western civilisation with the eastern and found out the shallowness of the former, and the soundness of the latter. He returned back to his original civilisation as did the Bengalees. He has studied the principal nations and their languages past and present, their rise and fall. He is a warm patriot, and no one has hitherto done to Ceylon more than he has in different directions. Hence his opinion on social or national questions affecting the interests of the true natives of Ceylon must carry considerable weight as it has been always accorded warm reception by the majority of the natives of Ceylon. The usefulness of the local press is well known. The attitude of a portion of it towards Mr. Ramanathan needs no mention. His bold and successful stand against it is patent. Its criticism on the speech of Mr. Ramanathan in the Ananda College is illogical as it is not unexpected, is mis-representing as it is virulent. What more are we to expect from anti-natives? Mr. Ramanathan is too high for them to be fooled. He cannot be moved an inch from his ground by their persistent abuse and misrepresentations.

Mr. Ramanathan as leader of the natives—On Sunday evening there was a mass meeting in connection with the temperance movement at the Racquet Court. There was a large number of people about twelve thousand in number coming from different parts of the Island such as Matara, Galle, Kandy, Matale etc. Mr. Ramanathan presided and made an excellent speech. The meeting being over, the people proceeded to the Galle Face in procession with tom-tom and torch lights, and dispersed there after an hour's merry-making.

Our late Governor—Sir West Ridgeway is at present putting up in some out-of-the-way place in England. He is trying hard for popularity—Lady Ridge-

way contributing her share. But it is a pity that "the greatest Governor of Ceylon" has not as yet been given some post by the British Government.

The Government Agent N. P.—Contrary to expectations, we understand that Mr. Levers is returning to the Island as Government Agent N. P.

Mr. Burrows—Mr. S. M. Burrows we understand goes to Australia on two months leave. On his return he is likely to go to the North as G. A. If it should happen so, need we say that he will be another Dyke—an ideal Rajah.—Cor.

#### BATTICALOA.

14th September 1904.

The weather—We have had no rain for the last few months and the days have become almost intolerably warm. Most of the wells have failed and the people suffer from scarcity of water. The land wind occasionally blows very hard. The paddy crop (Kalapokam) has failed owing to want of rain and the price of coast rice has considerably risen. People say that they have never endured such kind of weather.

Medical—Dr. Chalmers, the Registrar of the Medical College who was sent by the Government to investigate into the causes of malaria has come and gone. He arrived here on the 8th Inst from Jaffna, visited the civil Hospital and after making some investigations left this on Saturday the 10th Inst. Dr. Griffin the acting P. C. M. O. and I. G. H. is now here in our midst having come by land on inspection duty. He visited the Jail and the Civil Hospital yesterday and proceeded to Kalmunai today.

The Batticaloa Sivite School—The remarks made against this institution in your Tamil supplement sometime back by a Colombo correspondent is almost unfounded. It is still under the management of the Hindus and has not been brought under the mission management as your correspondent says. It may not be out of place to mention that a large and representative meeting was held on Sunday the 11th Inst in the school bungalow to consider what steps should be taken to place the Institution under proper management. A managing committee was formed with Messrs Valmurgu, retired President Villages Tribunal, and Kanagasabai, Kachcheri Modr., as President and vice President respectively, Mr. S. Selliah of the P. W. D. as Secretary, and Mr. R. V. Markandu as Treasurer. We are almost sure that this Institution will prosper well under the able management of this committee and be the means of popularising our religion among the masses who are now much taken up by western thoughts and ideas.

P. W. D.—Mr. C. Kandiah who was the District Engineer's Clerk at Vavonia arrived here on 8th Inst and has assumed duties as the second clerk of the Provincial Engineer's Office, Batticaloa.

Postal—A Receiving Post Office will shortly be opened at Illepaiaidichani a village which is some 14 or 15 miles away from the town on the Lunugala, Batticaloa Coach road.

Scholastic—The Teachers Certificate Examination commenced here on the 13th Inst under the supervision of Mr. Vaucylenberg Inspector of Schools, and Rev. Mr. Garrett of Kalmunai. —Cor.

#### THE WAR.

London, September. 18.—Reuter, wiring from Tokio, says General Oku reports that 13 Russian prisoners were made at the battle of Liaoyang and 30 horses, 5,892 rounds of artillery and 659,930 rounds of rifle ammunition, beside quantities of rifles, prisoners and accoutrements were captured. Generals Kuroki and Nodzu made no prisoners and captured 1,290 rifles, 1,464 rounds of artillery and 637,880 rounds of rifle ammunition beside various stores and implements.

Reuter at St. Petersburg wires that, in reply to a message from the Tsar, congratulating the army on the battle at Liaoyang, General Kuropatkin says the Manchurian army is animated by one desire: to beat the enemy and justify the confidence of the Tsar. He adds that the departure from Liaoyang was indispensable.

Bombay, September. 18.—The Japanese Consul at Bombay has received the following:—Marshal Oyama reports that the prizes at Liaoyang are immense and still under investigation. The result of examination up to the 17th is as follows:—Rifles 3,588, ammunition thereof 1,638,730, shells 10,056, ammunition carts 1,269, shovels 15,985, ploughs 5,639, axes 2,570, signalling machines three, portable telephones six, cans of beef 18,915, timbers 17 inch diameter 2,500, rice 2,000 koku, horse gram 13,620, koku, flour a tobusand koku overcoats 6,400, Materials for light railway; implements for coal mines, telegraph and telephone wires, and kerosine oil was also among the other things, and 13 prisoners were captured.

London, September. 20.—General Mistchenko, commanding the Cossacks, has had daily skirmishes recently and sustained a number of casualties.

The Russian military authorities unanimously expect Kuropatkin to make a stand at Mukden for political—if not for strategical—reasons.

Reuter at Shanghai says the Japanese fleet co-operated in the attack on Port Arthur. It is reported the Japanese captured two important forts. According to accounts from Chifu, a sudden renewal of the Japanese attack was not expected by the Russians. The Japanese had retired along the greater part of the line after the last general assault at the end of August, but retained four supplementary forts on the north-east. Two of these were only fifty yards from Erlungsham.

Reuter wires from Chifu that a general attack on Port Arthur began yesterday before daybreak and continued till dark. It was apparently directed on the main forts to the north-east. General Stoessel telegraphs that the garrison on the night of the 16th repulsed two attacks on the redoubts protecting the water works.

General Kuropatkin reports that a reconnaissance on the 17th established that the Japanese occupied the village of Bamaputse with a brigade and twelve guns and were being reinforced. Large forces of Japanese from Liaoyang already crossed to the right bank of the Taitee.

London, September. 21.—General Kuropatkin reports that the Japanese on the 20th attempted to turn the Russian extreme left, which consists of a strong force occupying Daling Pass—east and south-east of Mukden. The Japanese twice attacked and were twice driven off. The turning movement was checked by the cavalry with machine guns.

Reuter's correspondent wires from Mukden yesterday that a battle is imminent. The Japanese are advancing with eight, and possibly nine divisions. The tall millet has been mostly harvested, affording a better field to fire over the flat plains. The river Hun is the Russian direct front.

Reuter's St. Petersburg correspondent says it is reported that four warships purchased from the Argentine Republic have arrived at Libau.

#### THE DENATIONALISATION OF THE SINHALESE.

Mr Ramanathan's speech at the Ananda Collage last Saturday, of which we give a translation elsewhere deserves to be carefully pondered over by all who are interested in the preservation and welfare of the Sinhalese Community. There is not the least doubt that our people are being gradually denationalised. The process has been going on for the last four centuries but never was the pace quicker than at the present day. We are little by little losing all the traits that used to characterise us as a race, and the probabilities are that unless the national spirit is revived and preserved we shall soon become a class of non-descripts, contemptible in the eyes of the world.

It is against this fate that is imminent that the Solicitor-General sounded his note of warning; and notwithstanding his critics in the English press—he has done a service to the Sinhalese Community by crying halt to them and asking them to consider whither they are tending. The best traits and traditions of a race are inseparably bound up with its language. When a people so far forgets itself and its past history as to neglect and spurn the study and use of its own language, it may be safely predicted that that people will not for long preserve its identity. Mr. Ramanathan poured ridicule—and it was richly deserved—upon the so-called leaders of the Sinhalese who could not talk in their mother-tongue and who prided themselves upon their English 'style.' Such men we have undoubtedly amongst us and their number, we regret to say, is increasing. Not seldom we come across men of position and influence standing up before an audience of their countrymen with a shameful confession of inability to talk in Sinhalese. Such degeneracy exists nowhere else in the world except perhaps among the descendants of the Negro slaves in America. But in the case of the latter it was long separation from their home and the cruel tyranny of circumstance that drove them to the degraded position of a race without a language of its own.

The Sinhalese people, however, have never laboured under such unhappy circumstances, but still influenced by the pernicious example set by men of position and influence they have neglected their mother-tongue and discarded their customs and manners in servile imitation of the Europeans. This aping of the English brings us neither honour nor profit. The Sinhalese man who goes about travestying in his talk and dress the ways of the Westerner makes himself ridiculous and despicable in the eyes of the very Englishmen whom he feebly attempts to imitate. The English are a patriotic people, who love their country and everything connected with it with an intense love. They cannot but look down with contempt upon a race which so readily gives up its national characteristics. And then how much it costs us, this aping of the English man! How unhappy have we become by abandoning our simple ways of living for the sake of European fashions! It will of course be said that it is too late in the day to attempt to stem the current. We do not think so. The result of our work during the past twenty years



or so in the field of education and religion ought to encourage us to extend our efforts to the sphere of social reform. The Sinhalese Buddhists have rescued their faith from the very jaws of extinction. They have at the same time successfully carried out a large scheme of education for the welfare of their children. Mr. Ramanathan in his speech at Ananda College, merely called upon them to turn their attention to the preservation of the national spirit and sentiments which are now threatened with extinction.—"Sandaresa".

### MONSTER TEMPERANCE MEETING.

#### AT THE RACQUET COURT.

INTERESTING SPEECH BY MR. P. RAMANATHAN. Temperance meetings, both small and great, have been held in Colombo and at various outstations during the past few months, but none perhaps of these meetings, have aroused so much interest as the one held last evening at the Racquet Court, Pettah, when there were expected to be present, besides the members of the different Temperance societies in Colombo, representatives from those at every outstation. It was also expected that there would be a gathering of about 20,000 people, and these expectations were more than realised. By 4.30 P.m., the grounds of the Racquet Court presented one sea of heads surrounding a large-sized *marquee* which had been specially erected for the accommodation of the leaders of the temperance movement. At one end of this *marquee* was a *dais* on which were seated Mr. P. Ramanathan, the Solicitor-General and Col. H. S. Olcott, who has specially come over to the Island from India in connection with the movement. In the body of the shed was a large gathering of the leading members of the different societies. Those present included Messrs Horace de Kretser, J. C. Jansz, P. A. Silva, D. S. Wijesinghe, John de Silva, L. S. Amarasekera, W. Arthur de Silva, W. Stephen de Silva, Mr. and Mrs. D. B. Jayatileka, Mohandiram, A. S. F. Jayasekera, Messrs. Wm. Silva, Marshall, Andrew Perera, Martinus Perera, Louis Perera, J. L. Miranda, O. Don Bastian, J. S. Perera, Batuwantudawe, Dr. Saravanamuttu, Muhandiram A. Mendis, Messrs. D. P. Jayawardena, L. Kuruppu, W. L. Ratwatte, K. B. Nugegoda, Muhandiram Richard de Silva, Mudaliyar Irving Goonewardena, D. T. Weerasuria, and many others too numerous to mention.

Mr. P. Ramanathan, who occupied the chair, in a few words introduced Col. Olcott to the assembly. He had known the Colonel for the last twenty years and he remembered having once invited him for dinner, while invitation however, he was unable to accept owing to the many demands made on his time (Mr. D. B. Jayatilaka interpreted for Mr. Ramanathan.)

Col. Olcott, who was greeted with loud applause, addressed the assembly at great length, Mr. D. S. S. Wickramaratne interpreting his speech into Sinhalese. The speaker said that Buddhists, Christians, Hindus, and all other religionists were bound, as a part of their religion to be temperate; and specially in the case of Buddhists they were bound to be total abstainers. The speaker next gave a few statistics to show what progress the Temperance movements has made and what work it has to do in the future. They had at present 70,000 members who had taken to the total abstinence pledge, but when it was remembered that the population of the Island was 2,330,000 there must be thirty times as many before Ceylon could be called a good country. He had only just returned from Galle where he had to make no less than five speeches, and he had gathered together a few figures with regard to the drink question. The revenue derived by Government from arrack last year was R3,500,000 while the revenue derived from all kinds of liquor was R7,125,000, a sum of nearly R4 had to be added to each man for the difference between the provider and consumer. This gave the sum of nearly R28,500,000. Since the Temperance movement was started the number of stabbing cases had fallen from 543 to 136, theft from 465 to 117, housebreaking from 339 to 71, and cattle thefts from 125 to 25. This was all due to the Temperance Movement. He had found out on his visits to Galle and Veyangoda that at the taverns, where they formerly sold from R75 to R100 worth of arrack a day, they did not sell more than one rupee's worth a day now, and there was, in consequence, less work at the Courts. He had gathered from the Census Report that the Malays were the most criminal race in the Island, the Sinhalese coming after them. The Burghers, the Moors and the Tamils came next in order. This did

not speak well for the Sinhalese, and the only remedy was to give up drink. He next advised them how the R28,500,000 now derived by Government should be used for their own wants and requirements. The chief among these, he said, was the education of their children.

Mr. Wm. Silva was the next speaker. He made a very humorous speech, which he concluded with an earnest appeal to the assembly. He referred to the time when the Christians had started a Temperance Movement in the year 1838. He spoke of the founder of present Temperance Movement, Mr. P. A. Silva, who was called upon the stage and given a seat by the Chairman. He (the speaker) concluded by referring to the failure of semi-tea-totalism and with an appeal to those present to be steadfast total abstainers. His speech was full of wit and wisdom, and was listened to with rapt attention.

### THE GOVERNMENT AND THE ARRACK QUESTION

Mr. Ramanathan next addressed the assembly. He said that it was universally admitted that drink was a very serious cause for crime, and every effort made to put down drink meant an effort towards putting down crime. As those present there that evening had come—with some difficulty and inconvenience, no doubt—they had done something towards putting down crime; in fact, they were helping Government to put down crime. They should know, he thought, the position of the Government in regard to drink. They were owners of land planted with coconut trees, and from the coconut trees was obtained a juice which by distillation was converted into arrack. If the Government did not interfere with this distillation, there would be arrack distilled everywhere and in every house, with the result that there would be too much of it, and the people would be ruined by drinking too much. It was for this reason that from the times of the Dutch down to the present day the Government had taken in hand the regulation of the drink traffic. If the coconut tree was as harmless as a cow, Government would not interfere. They could not distil poison from the milk of the cow but they could distil poison from the coconut tree. Therefore Government had to interfere and see that arrack was distilled in their own presence, and sold in their own presence, and at high prices. He was certain that every officer engaged in the administration of Government would be very glad to see the Government monopoly in arrack given up if it would do any good to the people, but Government dared not do it if the distillation was left unchecked, for the people would be ruined. The Government was in the hands of a benign and cultured nation. Over a hundred years ago slavery was extensively carried on in the West Indies, and in places like Jamaica it used to be a paying trade. Men like Wilberforce had spoken against slavery, and everybody in England was agreed that it was an iniquitous practice. The question was asked what was to be done with the slave owners. Just as the prosperity of Ceylon depended to a great extent on the Tamil coolies who worked on tea estates, the prosperity of the people in Jamaica depended on the selling of slaves. Therefore if the slaves were emancipated, the country would be ruined. So the Parliament decided on a plan. The British Government asked the price of each slave in each country and when they totalled up they found that the value of all the slaves was R300,000,000. The British Parliament paid that R300,000,000 to the Jamaica planters, and asked them to emancipate the slaves. It was the good fortune of the people of Ceylon that they were governed by such a good and generous nation. If everyone of them would promise not to drink, and if they and the generations to come promised to give up the distillation of arrack altogether, it would not be necessary for the arrack monopoly to be carried on under the eye of Government. They should remember that Government was not responsible for the distillation of arrack. It was left to the people, who had demoralized themselves, to give up drinking and distillation. The remedy was in their own hands. If they were able to tell the Government; We are prepared to give up the distillation of arrack, then Government would say, we have done with the monopoly of arrack. That was why he (the speaker) said that they had that day helped the Government in putting down crime by agreeing not to drink. There was one duty he had to perform, and that was to thank them for attentively listening to the speakers; and shewing that they had listened intelligently by punctuating the speeches with applause. He hoped that they would go to their houses with a sense of satisfaction at having done some good to the country.

### VOTE OF THANKS.

Mr. J. C. JANSZ in a brief speech proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Ramanathan and the other

speakers.

Mr. C. DON BASTIAN seconded.

### THE GRAND PROCESSION.

The Racquet Court was so crowded that great difficulty was experienced in forming the procession which was to march down to Galle Face. However, the leaders of the movement worked hard and succeeded in clearing a passage. Close upon seven o'clock the procession started in the following order:—First came about a dozen cyclists, carrying Chinese lanterns, under the leadership of Mr. Martinus Perera. The cyclists corps was followed by the Coronation Band, in front of which was a huge transparency. Next came the members of the various Temperance Societies on foot, walking two abreast and carrying Chinese lanterns. Then followed lines of rickshaws, carriages and buggy carts, all illuminated with Chinese lanterns. The Band played all along the route of procession which was as follows:—Starting from the Racquet Court Main-street Gate, the procession went along Main-street as far as the Belfry at Kaymau's Gate; then it turned to Fourth Cross street up to Norris Road and from Norris Road to Chatham-street. Passing Chatham-street and Flagstaff street the procession marched along the Galle Face lake road and went round by the Galle Face Drive a large crowd of the *hodpolloi* accompanying the procession clapping and whistling and shouting as they went. The procession broke up after 8 p. m. with a display of fireworks on Galle Face.

—The Ceylon Independent.

### "ORDER NISI."

#### IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.

Testamentary

No. 1564

Jurisdiction

In the Matter of the Estate of the late Thankammah wife of Arumugam Kanagaretnam of Navaly

Deceased.

Velaathar Eliatamby of Alavetty

Petitioner.

Vs

Arumugam Kanagaretnam of Navaly, now of Colombo, Assistant Shroff Hong-Kong Bank

Respondent.

This matter of the Petition of Velaathar Eliatamby of Alavetty the abovenamed Petitioner praying for Letters of Administration to the estate of the abovenamed deceased Thankammah wife of Arumugam Kanagaretnam coming on for disposal before H. R. Freeman Esquire District Judge, on the 25th day of August 1904 in the presence of Mr. V. S. Ponnampalam Proctor on the part of the Petitioner and the affidavit of the Petitioner dated the 25th day of August 1904 having been read, it is declared that the Petitioner is the guardian of the minor 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 3rd day of October 1904 show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

Signed this 25th day of August 1904

Sigd. H. R. FREEMAN

District Judge.

### "ORDER NISI"

#### IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.

Testamentary

No. 1568

Jurisdiction

Class III

In the Matter of the Estate of the late Achchimuttu widow of Veluppillai of Uduvil

Deceased.

Naganathar Thampayah of Uduvil

Petitioner

Vs

1. Ampalavanar Naganathar of Uduvil and wife  
2. Chinnachchi of do and  
3. Aiyampillai Muttukumar of Maravanpulo

Respondents

This matter of the Petition of Naganathar Thampayah of Uduvil praying for Letters of Administration to the estate of the abovenamed deceased Achchimuttu widow of Veluppillai coming on for disposal before H. R. Freeman Esquire District Judge, on the 31st day of August 1904 in the presence of Messrs. Casippillai & Cathiravelu Proctors on the part of the Petitioner and the affidavit of the Petitioner dated the 29th day of August 1904 having been read, it is declared that the Petitioner is the guardian of the minor 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 Respondents or any other person shall on or, before the 7th day of October 1904 show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

Signed this 31st day of August 1904

Signed. H. R. FREEMAN

District Judge.