

The Maker of "The Hindu Organ"

Wielded His Pen To Advance No Personal Cause

I am thankful to the Editor of the Hindu Organ for having given me an opportunity to write an appreciation of Mr. A. Sabapathy both as a public man and as an Editor. It is but fitting that the centenary of his birth should be celebrated by the Hindu Organ, for it is his work as editor that possesses the main significance for the present generation. Except for a year or two at the beginning he served as honorary Editor of the paper for thirty-three years without a break. He may in fact be said to be the maker of the Hindu Organ, and his position in this respect may be compared to that of Mr. C. P. Scott of the Manchester Guardian or of Mr. Kasturi Ranga Iyengar of the Madras Hindu, though on a smaller scale. To have done honorary service for over thirty years without any allowance is itself praise worthy. He maintained a very high standard

By

N. SANGARAPILLAI
B. A. (Lond.)

of journalistic integrity and honour, from which he never deviated. He never espoused an unworthy cause or glossed over the failings of the Government or of any official to curry their favour. No good cause ever found him lukewarm or indifferent. In his clear, trenchant style he exposed injustice and misgovernment wherever he found them without mincing his words. He never wielded his pen to advance any personal cause. He was a close student of Ceylon and Indian politics and showed a clear appreciation of the political and social developments of his time.

In his days the dailies of Ceylon did not enjoy the wide circulation they now command. There were very few libraries or reading rooms. Consequently the weeklies like the "Hindu Organ" and the "Morning Star" were able to play a higher role in educating public opinion and in the ventilation of public grievances than they do at present.

Sabapathy—A Distinguished And Venerable Name

Extract from a speech delivered by Mr. R. Sri Pathmanathan M.A. (Oxon), on the 11th of May, 1924, at the Kalutara Town Hall. He was addressing the Tamil voters of the Kalutara District, in the course of his election campaign as a candidate for the Western Province Tamil Seat.

"The history of the Legislative Council during the last fifty years, is the life work of one Tamil, the Hon Sir P. Ramanathan. The Tamils have done yeoman service in the cause of political reforms and I cannot understand why this seat has been so bitterly fought by its opponents. In this connection, I wish to pay my tribute to the memory of the Hon Mr. Sabapathy who has just passed away. As Editor of the "Hindu Organ", his work in the cause of the uplifting of his countrymen is well known: his services in the retention of the Colombo Tamil Seat are even greater than those of the father of the Congress; it was the Jaffna Association of which Mr. Sabapathy was President that fought for us at the early stages of the controversy; it had all the travail pain of child-birth; others gloated over the golden child when born. If I were asked to point out a man who represented the Jaffnese soul in its transparent honesty, in its pertinacity and stamina, in its absolute disinterestedness, I would point to the gentle sweet-tempered and loving Sabapathy. In the words of the Latin poet, he leaves behind him "clarum et venerabile nomen"—a distinguished and venerable name.

sent. The "Hindu Organ" has all along made no mean contribution towards awakening the religious and political consciousness of the Jaffna public.

Mr. Sabapathy's services as a public man merit our grateful remembrance no less than his editorial work. In his days there were no elections with their tale of corruption, party and personal rancour and unscrupulous propaganda. Political life had none of the stress and competition of the present day. Men of means and

leisure occasionally met and sent memorials to the Government for some concessions or made representations to the Government Agent for the removal of some grievances. There was hardly any political activity or movement in which Mr. Sabapathy did not play an important role. He was for a very long time the Secretary of the Jaffna Association. He served as Secretary of the Hindu College Board of Directors from the very beginning and succeeded Mr. V. Casipillai as Manager on the latter's resignation. He was also Secretary

of the Saiva Paripalana Sabha for life. He served as Tamil member of the Legislative Council for a full term with great acceptance to all sections of the people. His career as a politician was uniformly marked by the same integrity and public spirit as his career as a journalist. When a crisis overtook the Malayalam tobacco industry in Jaffna, it was through his strenuous efforts that the crisis was

averted and the industry on which the livelihood of a large section of the Jaffna population depended was saved from ruin. Very few men in those days could lay claim to such a long record of self sacrificing service to the country. The Hindu Organ and the Saiva Paripalana Sabha, as well as the Hindu College have every reason to be grateful to Mr. Sabapathy for his unselfish services.

HE WAS HONOURABLE IN EVERY SENSE



THE LATE MR. A. SABAPATHY

A SHINING EXAMPLE OF SELF-CULTURE

A Patriot - Editor Who Established a Tradition

The Saiva Paripalana Sabha celebrates this year the Centenary of its Founder-Member, A. Sabapathy who gave his self-less service to the country through the Sabha as Honorary Editor of "The Hindu Organ" for well over a third of a century. A noble life indeed for his successors in the Editorial Chair of the only Hindu weekly News and Views paper in Ceylon to emulate!

Sabapathy was one of those patriotic stalwarts like Nagalingam, Casipillai and Pasupathy Chettiar, who, valiantly responding to the clarion call of the great Sri la Sri Arumuga Navalar, the first of Saiva Reformers of the Tamil Nad of modern times threw themselves forward to the

service of Hindu-Ceylon in all department of national life more particularly Tamil

By

T MUTTUKUMARU
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language, Hindu Education and Saiva Religion.

Sabapathy had from his boyhood a decided bent for life as a social worker through journalism. He they say, encouraged by his uncle Dr. M. Covington contributed articles on social questions to the press of the time. Fortunately perhaps for Sabapathy and for "The Hindu Organ" his health stood in the way of (Continued on page 8)

IN RETROSPECT

HONOURING THE GREAT DEAD

(HINDU ORGAN EDITORIAL OF MAY 12, 1924)

When men who are admittedly considered great in a country are added to the majority, it is the duty of the people who have been benefitted by their labours to honour them duly and perpetuate their memory. We regret that our people are very backward in the matter of honouring the great men who have passed away after serving their country long and faithfully and adding to its prestige by their character and achievements. If the patriotic services of the distinguished men of our country who have died are not appreciated by the people and their memory cherished and perpetuated, it will indicate that our people do not possess gratitude and the faculty of appreciating what ought to be duly appreciated, and have not come to that degree of civilisation in which such appreciation will be heartily and spon-

This Editorial suggestion has long remained a mere wish—Ed.

taneously manifested. We regard this want of keenness in our people in appreciating the noble and self-sacrificing lives of those who have died as not merely a reproach on their national character, but as highly prejudicial to their national advancement and welfare. It is a fact well worth bearing in mind that in Western countries and in some advanced countries in the East, the memory of the great personages who have passed away is carefully perpetuated with the double object of doing honour to them and benefitting the countries in which they lived and worked. Statues and monuments are erected, institutions established and scholarships founded, all at

very great expense for the purpose. While some of these remind the people of those countries of the great lives lived by the distinguished men and serve to keep alive the feelings of deep affection which the people have for those great men and stimulate the fit ones among the people to follow and emulate their noble examples, others in addition to that contribute materially to the intellectual, moral and economic advancement of the people.

We regret that the people of this country generally let the memory of their great men fall into oblivion. It cannot be given as an excuse for the serious ramiseness that there have not been enough great men in our country. We are of opinion that Jaffna has produced a few at least who may be well regarded as among the greatest men in Ceylon

Besides, it is not the degree of greatness which counts. In every walk of life there have been men and women who, though they have not all of them risen to greatness, yet deserve to have their memory perpetuated according to the services they have rendered to the country.

It has been a heavy calamity to this country and the entire Island that two of her most distinguished and most patriotic sons have departed this life within the past six months. The memories of the late Sir P. Aranschalam and Mr. A. Sabapathy, J. P., must be enshrined in the hearts of our people for ever for their unparalleled services to their motherland. Their memory should be cherished with the deepest gratitude and the greatest affection by the people for whose highest and lasting welfare they spent themselves to the very end of their earthly existence. We are sure that never within living memory, or in the period covered by the recorded history of Jaffna or Ceylon, have two such patriotic Tamil men flourished who have not only done remarkable services to the country, but have added lustre to the great Tamil community of Ceylon by their spotless private and public life and their matchless, self-sacrificing services. We feel that it will be a shame and a reproach on the people of this country if they do not manifest their deep indebtedness to them by some abiding monuments which will perpetuate their glorious memory.

We fervently hope that the leading men in this country will speedily concert measures with a view to giving effect to our suggestion.

Tree Tax Or Taverns Or Neither?

What Is Your Opinion?

The Special Committee to investigate the working of the Tree Tax System in Jaffna will be grateful if you will give it your considered opinion on the following questions, with full details of all or any concrete facts or statistics which have led you to your conclusions:-

1. Has the Tree Tax System in the N. P. proved useful or harmful? Could you give concrete proof or illustrations of such effects? Should the system go on or not?

2. Which is better and which is worse? The Tree Tax System or the Tavern System? Would you recommend or oppose reopening the Taverns?

3. If you oppose both, can you suggest any other use, by which tappers and Tree owners may get from trees in Jaffna an income equal to that got by producing liquor?

4. Would the result of abolition of the present use involve serious financial want?

5. What are the defects if any, or benefits in the Tree Tax System in vogue at present as opposed to the Tavern System as affecting: (a) the tappers (b) the tree owners (c) the consumers of liquor (d) the general public.

6. What method should you suggest for removing

(Continued on page 6)

— Astrological

WEEKLY FORECASTS

— 'SRI PATHY' —

FROM 4-4-54 TO 10-4-54

ARIES Aswini, Barani, Kartikai 1st part [Medha Rasi]

Be careful of your father's relatives during this week. Health upsets and mental worries are also shown. Financially a good week. Social success promised week end.

TAURUS Kartikai 2, 3, 4, Rohini, Mirugasirisha 1, 2 [Idapa Rasi]

There will be some trouble in the office during this week. Ill health is also shown. Beware of accidents. Strangers will be helpful more than relatives or friends.

GEMINI Mirugasirisha 3, 4, Thiruvathirai, Punarpusam 1, 2, 3 [Mithuna Rasi]

There will be no domestic peace during this month. Quarrels with wife and her relatives possible. You will have to work hard for your success. Atmosphere in office also will be disturbing. Financial tension will ease week end.

CANCER Punarpoosa 4, Poosa, Ayilya [Kataka Rasi]

A very good week for finances. Gains through lands also promised. You will triumph over your competitors. But all is not well on the domestic side.

LEO Maha, Poora, Uttira 1, [Singha Rasi]

Health will remain a problem for some time. Abdominal complaints likely. Mental worries also shown. Beware of scandals and secret enemies.

VIRGO Uttira 2, 3, 4, Atta, Chittirai 1, 2 [Kanni Rasi]

Your relatives will be causing you some anxiety. Troubles through vehicles also likely. You will lack in your comforts. But all is well on the professional side.

LIBRA Chittirai 3, 4, Swati, Visaka 1, 2, 3, [Thula Rasi]

Gains through lands promised this week. You will steer clear of most of the obstacles that confront you. Petty troubles in the office likely week end.

SCORPION Visaka 4, Anusha, Kellai [Vrischika Rasi]

You will be quick to pick up quarrels this week. Expenditure will be on the rise. But you will get enough to meet them. Friends of the opposite sex will prove very helpful.

SAGITTARIUS Moalam, Pooradam, Uttiradam 1. [Thanu Rasi]

Health upsets likely. Scandal mongers will be creating some trouble. You will find it difficult to keep your temper under control.

CAPRICORNUS Uttiradam 2, 3, 4, Thiruvonam, Avittam 1, 2. [Makara Rasi]

You will find it difficult to meet your rising expenditure this week. Friends will help you out of difficulties. Beware of secret enemies. Socially a good time.

AQUARIUS Avittam 3, 4, Satayam, Pooraddati 1, 2, 3. [Kumbha Rasi]

Go ahead with your ventures. Financial gains promised. With a little effort you can achieve much. Fame and triumph over competitors also promised.

PISCES Pooraddati 4, Uttiraddati, Revati. [Meenu Rasi]

Do not court unpopularity this week. Better to keep aloof from your relatives. Financial troubles also likely. Do not overspend.

SABAPATHY CENTENARY MEMORIAL MEETING

The public meeting organised by the Saiva Paripalana Sabha, Jaffna to celebrate the centenary of the late Hon. Mr. A. Sabapathy will be held at the Sabhai Navalar Hall, College Road, Neeraviady, Jaffna on 3-4-54 at 5 p. m.

Chairman: HON. MR. S. NATESAN.

Speakers: 1. Sir Kanthiab Vaitthyanathan
2. V. Veerasingham Esqr., M. P.
3. T. Muttusamipillai Esqr.
4. C. Ponbambalam Esqr.

ALL ARE CORDIALLY INVITED.

A. ARULAMBALAM,
Hon. Secretary,
Saiva Paripalana Sabha,

That Powerful Pen

Total Prohibition

[THE LATE MR. A. SABAPATHY'S EDITORIAL
ON JANUARY 30, 1919]

The conversion of many of the leading nations of the West to the cause of total abstinence from intoxicating liquors and total prohibition of their manufacture or sale is one of the benovolent effects of the great war. The experience was gained during a period of great stress and pressure when every unit of man power had to be kept in the highest state of efficiency in the munition works and in the fighting line. It has been found that drink dissipates and decreases human energy while total abstinence tends to conserve and increase it. This point was emphasised in an important manifesto issued to the nation about the beginning of the war, under the signature of many of the leading medical authorities in England and India. The manifesto states that "Alcohol, cocaine, opium, and intoxicating drugs such as bhang and ganja are poisons," that "even a moderate use of these is harmful" that "alcohol lowers the resisting power of the body against diseases," that "those who confine themselves to non-alcoholic drinks and who avoid the use of intoxicating drugs are capable of more endurance" and that "alcohol is in many cases injurious to the next generation." Dr. Alexander Bryce in a lecture he recently delivered before the Vegetarian Congress in England also states that "Alcohol is a poison.....Alcohol not only poisons the body directly, but also indirectly, by preventing the elimination of its waste matter—particularly uric acid. All scientists endorse the views I have just expressed. They also agree that it has no food value."

In spite of the firm support given to total abstinence by such an influential body of modern medical men, and in spite of the fact that all our ancient medical and religious authorities unanimously lend their support to it, it is deeply to be regretted that there should be men among us who are advocates of moderate drinking. The revulsion of popular feeling in Europe and America against drinking has been very noticeable of late. After the commencement of the war, the French Government has enacted laws totally prohibiting the manufacture and sale of absinthe—a cheap and popular intoxicating liquor of France—and also placed effective restrictions on other liquors. In Russia, before the revolution, the Government enforced total prohibition of vodka and other liquors. It was then reported to have produced very beneficial results in decreasing crime and increasing the economic prosperity of the people. If not for the revolution which plunged that

unfortunate country into inextricable chaos and misery, it would have afforded us one of the most convincing instances of the utility and efficacy of total prohibition. In England and her Colonies too, stringent laws were in operation during the war, greatly restricting the sale of all intoxicating liquors, especially to soldiers and munition workers.

The action taken by the United States of America in this connection has been the most conspicuous. The announcement contained in a Reuter's Telegram from London dated the 17th instant cannot fail, we hope, to influence and induce our Government to revise its opinion on the question of prohibition. The telegram states that:—

Church bells are ringing in some states in celebration of national prohibition which will be an accomplished fact a year hence, the necessary three fourths of the States having ratified the Amendment to the Constitution to that effect. Actually prohibition becomes effective from July 1st as a war measure till the President declares the

Army demobilised. It is generally thought that the President will not declare this until the Constitutional Amendment becomes effective. The Amendment makes the manufacture, sale, exportation and importation of alcoholic beverages illegal throughout the United States. Measures are already being taken, fixing penalties for infraction. Federal State Governments will lose enormous revenues by this epoch making step.

The sensible measure adopted by the United States in this instance is indeed an epoch-making one. Under this Amendment Prohibition begins in one year's time, but it is stated to be the opinion of many in the United States that the States will go on a permanent "bone-dry" basis from July 1st when the measure passed last September, enforcing National Prohibition, becomes effective. Many of the States of the Union had adopted Prohibition long ago and some correspondents in our local daily contemporaries bear testimony to the fact that they found it impossible to procure intoxicants.

(Continued on page 6)

RELIGION AND LIFE

By G. K. SUNDARA SASTRY B. A. B. T.

RELIGION is the science of life. It explains clearly in our every-day life the cause and the effects of our thoughts, words and deeds. The law "As we sow so we reap"—is eternally true. This law is immutable. The word "chance" or "luck" is a misnomer to a good student of Saiva religion.

An ardent Saivite knows that he is the product of his past thoughts, words and deeds. So he is careful about his future for his present thoughts, words and deeds determine his future joys and sufferings.

இவர் பல சா.சி.ப. காண்க கோழிப்பார் சிலர் பலர் கோலாநவம்"

Indeed the needy and the poor are many in this world. This is so because those that do 'Tapas' are a few and those that do not do 'Tapas' are many. (Kural Ch. 27. Sl. 270). Indeed the words of our Valluvar have gone further

deep into the core of our hearts.

"அந்தா நிதுவென வேண்டி சிலைச பொறுத்தானே அந்தா னிடட." (Kural-Ch. 4. Sl. 7.)

"Ask me not, what will profit a man if he is righteous? Look at the bearer of the palanquin and him that rideth on it." It is the righteous deeds (thoughts and words too) done in the past births that have made the one rider and the others—who failed to make proper use of their births become the bearers of the palanquin.

Indeed good 'Karmas' yield sweet fruits while bad 'Karma' yield bitter fruits. Thus if life is to be made perfect a good Saivite is doubly careful both to entertain only clean and chaste thoughts, utter pure words and perform noble deeds. He then makes himself wonderfully happy and

A MASTERFUL EDITOR

(By A. V. Kulasingam, Advocate)

(Mr Kulasingham was one among the distinguished line of Editors who ably maintained the high tradition set by the late Mr. A. Sabapathy)

In the early part of 1909 when I was a Junior clerk in the Govt. Service in Malaya I used to contribute to the columns of the *Hindu Organ* a series of notes on current events under the pen name of 'Scribbler'. These were my first contributions to newspaper columns. The late Mr. A. Sabapathy was the Honorary Editor of the *Hindu Organ* at that time. I threw up the Junior clerkship on July 22, 1909 and returned to Jaffna. One of the first things I did on my return was to see Mr. Sabapathy at his residence at Thalaiyali. On seeing me he remarked: "On reading your notes I thought you

radiates peace, power and prosperity.

A good student of Saivism knows fully well that the prosperity of the world depends upon 'Agriculture'. He cannot despise food. He cannot waste food. "Annam Na Nindyat—Annam Baha Kurirtha" (Taitiraya Upanishad). The wise and wholesome sayings of Avonyar are ever inspiring to him. e.g சிவாததேயன் வகாததேயி—seek honour, seek the plough—தொழுதுண் கூவ யிறுமுது னினிது—to live by the plough is sweeter than to live by serving etc.

In these days of 'Grow more food campaign', a Saivite gives all attention to gardening and agriculture. He is economical in his every day life. He is the very embodiment of simplicity in dress and diet. He wears dress more to keep himself warm and comfortable. His food is simple. He is fully aware of the sanctity of life. He is a strict vegetarian.

"கொல்லான்பு லாலை மறுத்தானைக் கைப்பி எல்லா உயிருஞ்சுதொழும்"

All creatures will join their hands together, and worship him who has never taken away life, nor eaten flesh. He becomes the centre of love.

The birth of a Saivite is a blessing to the world. Let Saivites, guard their thoughts, words and deeds, learn to appreciate the greatness of agriculture, respect the sanctity of life and cultivate love.

Let Saivites, thereby flourish and Saivism—prosper.

would be a big man but you look a very thin young fellow" He was very appreciative of the notes I had been writing and finding that I was at a loose end invited me to go on writing the notes for the *Hindu Organ* on the princely salary of Rs. 15/- a month. I gladly accepted the invitation and joined the staff of the *Hindu Organ*. Mr. Sabapathy was a masterful Editor and he used to keep a somewhat tight hold on whatever I wrote. As a publicist few journalists of today have come up to his standard. His editorials were not perhaps always couched in the best of language but he had a forthright manner in dealing with any subject he took up. He wrote and wrote till he won. Many a public cause he made his own in the columns of the *Hindu Organ* and his advocacy savoured more of the battles of a crusader than of the day to day work of a journalist. He never had what Lord Morley called the 'academic tip' but he made up for this by the fervour and constancy with which he supported the causes in which he believed.

I drifted later on to Colombo and became the Editor of more than one Colombo Daily. It was then that I put forward the suggestion that Mr. Sabapathy should have a wider sphere of activity as one of our representatives in the Legislative Council. He was, I believe, nominated and did excellent work. Whenever he visited Colombo he used to stay with a relation of his at Ward Place and used to visit me in whatever editorial sanctum I occupied for the time being and we used to discuss practically every topic of public interest.

The late Mr. Sabapathy had a character which may well become one of our greatest traditions. His occupation was that of a tobacco merchant on a very large scale, but his interest in public affairs and his devotion to the interests of the people led him to make use of the columns of the *Hindu Organ* in the propagation of his faith with a fearlessness which is rare in this country. I sometimes wonder at this distance of time whether Jaffna will have many more like him.



திருவிழா நாளம்.

சமச்சிவாயவே ஞானமும் கல்வியும்
சமச்சிவாயவே நானறிவிச்செய்யும்
சமச்சிவாயவே நானறிந்தேத்தமே
சமச்சிவாயவே சந்தேகநீகாட்டுமே.

திருவிழா நாளம்.

Hindu Organ

FRIDAY, APRIL 2, 1954

Treasure These Thoughts

This is the first lesson to learn: be determined not to curse anything outside, not to lay the blame upon any one outside; but be a man, stand up, lay the blame on yourself. You will find that is always true. Get hold of yourself.

OUR ILLUSTRIOUS GUIDE

TODAY, April 2, is the centenary of the late Mr. A. Sabapathy and is, therefore, a memorable day. The birth centenary of an illustrious patriot most necessarily be so. With feelings of legitimate pride we take our memory across the eventful century and review a glorious chapter in the history of Tamilakam.

They must have been men of farsighted wisdom who had entrusted Mr. Sabapathy with the responsible duty of guiding the *Hindu Organ* immediately after it was first established six decades ago. For within a few years of Mr Sabapathy's assumption of full responsibility as Editor of this journal, it had become a necessary national institution that provided for the progress of the people in general and for the promotion of Saiva Culture in particular. Years rolled by and the *Hindu Organ* marched on manfully. When in 1921 the unswerving hand of death claimed Mr. Sabapathy captive, it was discovered that there had been a journalist who had worked unflinchingly for full thirty three years and had wielded his powerful pen for the common weal. It was a rare achievement for a journalist to have fruitfully devoted the flower of his manhood to the cause of the general advancement of the people.

The secret of the success of this remarkable journalist lay in the fact

that his mind knew no fear and therefore his pen glided smoothly and forcefully. His words took their source in deep conviction and clear conception of men and matters. And that was why social workers, politicians and leaders sought the wise counsels of this great man.

And when in the plenitude of his power as an influential journalist Mr. Sabapathy entered the Legislative Council the elder statesmen found in him an able colleague. His subtle grasp of problems and pleasing ways of gentle persuasion soon brought him to the forefront in the political sphere and that stalwart statesman Mr. P. Ramathan lost no time in enlisting Mr. Sabapathy as his trusted lieutenant in the Legislative Council. He proved his mettle splendidly when he voiced the feelings of the people on matters that affected their welfare.

A great and ideal leader, Mr. Sabapathy had handed down to the generations that followed him a proud heritage worthy of unreserved emulation. But has history done justice to the memory of this illustrious patriot?

H. BOMB HORROR

The tragedy of the post-war period is that both the U. S. and the U. S. S. R. in their mad march for supremacy in destructive might make frantic efforts to pose as custodians of peace. The atomic experiments in the Siberian wastelands and the H. Bomb tests in the Pacific play ground have left behind information that is sufficient to prove that the Communist group and its counter part are both unlawful associations of nations. If America and Russia have become uncontrollable by any known method of constitutional persuasion then are we to understand that the only way the problem can be best solved is for some satellite nation to precipitate the final war and allow nature to rearrange itself on the ashes of destruction?

The Red ideology is a dangerous canker but the non-red H Pill remedy is worse than the disease. The U. N. has no justification for its existence so long as humanity is being treated as trash and scientific research is utilised to strike terror into the hearts of all living beings.

HONOUR THE SWIMMER HERO

A sea is a sea be it the English Channel or the Palk Strait. To brave the breakers and to swim to the other shore is a heroic achievement. And Mr. Navaratnasamy had performed the unparalleled feat of crossing the Palk Strait, a distance of thirty one miles in twenty seven hours of valiant swimming

The Island of Sri Lanka may be a tiny speck in the map of the mighty world and the Palk Strait may be an insignificant dot over it. Nevertheless the heroic feat of Mr. Navaratnasamy by reason of the hazardousness of the effort, the prowess of the performance and the uniqueness of the achievement cannot but become a matter for universal acclamation and world recognition.

It has to be conceded and we hope the World News Agencies would do well to remember that Mr. Navaratnasamy ranks with the conqueror of the Mighty Himalayas. He subjugated the shark infested stormy sea by the bravery of his breast-stroke both in the power of endurance and in the glory of the achievement of something that had not been achieved hitherto. The non-stop speed merchants of the air who establish records, the Olympic champions and others of like description shoot into international prominence by means of their physical endeavour and unquestioned valour. Mr. Navaratnasamy has earned universal fame by a similar feat of matchless powers of endurance and skill and has joined the band of record breakers in sport and skill. We heartily congratulate the world champion.

Veteran Statesman Retires

For reasons of declining health Shri C. Rajagopalachari, the Premier of Madras, has requested the Government to relieve him of his Ministerial responsibility. Shri Kamraj Nadar the President of the Tamil Nad Congress Committee has been elected Chairman of the Parliamentary Group in preference to Shri C. Subramaniam, Minister of Finance in a contest. The fact that Shri Kamraj is a member of neither the Council or the Assembly has created a constitutional difficulty.

SAPAPATHY, THE PUBLIC WORKER PAR EXCELLENCE

IT was the right thing for Jaffna to cherish the memory of its leading citizen of the last sixtyfive years and celebrate his centenary. Mr S. T. M. P. Sithamparanatha Chettiar who, I think, suggest this idea first deserves our thanks. If one looked back into the files of the *Hindu Organ* since its inception right down to the mid-twenties of this century one would find a record in its columns of the many-sided public activities of Mr. A. Sapapathy. As merchant, public man, editor, Secretary of the F. N. S. member of the Local Board, Secretary of the Jaffna Association, Manager of the Hindu college, Member of the Legislative Council, spokesman of the tobacco growers, manufacturers and merchants, important functionary in all public movements, Mr. Sapapathy had crowded his life with public service of many aspects and left his impression every one of them. And yet he was a reserved quiet man—a rather paradoxical phenomenon to us who are struck by limelight and beat the big drum so often.

I believe he was instrumental in getting for Jaffna the Local Board, the first lesson in local self-government under the old dispensation. As long

[By LANKA]

as he was in the L. B. he saw to it that it was premier in the Island. His position as editor of this paper gave him a very responsible status, and it can be said with certainty that he used this position to improve every one of the institutions which gained his attention... and how numerous they were.

I think the Sapapathy era in Jaffna public life and his story was perhaps the fullest, for any man of public work in numerous directions. His study and evaluation and criticism of public affairs were of a remarkably high order of diligence, purpose and worth. When circumstances in the early years of the century and in the next decade took him via that Legislative Council to an Island-wide platform he emerged as a sound and sober leader who contributed to the public good and inspired respect all round.

From the time of the contest for the election of the "Educated Ceylonese Member" as the sole elected representative in the reformed Council, and his vigorous support to Sir Ponnambalam Ramanathan, his worth as a politician had been recognised in the metropolis, and metropolitan public men; not to speak of the Ponnambalam brothers, sought his advice and collaboration. It was during that time that the late Mr. J. M. Hensman publicly testified to the worth of Mr. Sapapathy as a publicist

who devoted care and thought to whatever he spoke or wrote and weighed every word and statement.

Perhaps a calm evaluation of the contribution he made as editor to the shaping and growth of public opinion in Jaffna and in Ceylon, will put him very high in the roll of journalists,—there was hardly any subject or event of importance that had not been handled by him in those spacious days, from the status of a Headman to the decorum of a Government Agent, from the savages of floods in far off villages to University education. In the output of good, solid public work there has hardly been another period in the history of the *Hindu Organ*, which was more glorious.....this I say without meaning any disrespect to the brilliant first editor or the many who succeeded him in the chair.

His yardstick of probity, fairness and dignity in public life he used with inflexible determination, but he never used any clap-trap or cliché in his arguments. Ponderous and perhaps pedestrian in style, Mr. Sapapathy studiously and scrupulously avoided light-heartedness or humour—his demeanour was dignified seriousness in whatever he spoke or wrote or did. But neither did he spare anything or anybody in his criticism where they deserved it. Government Agents and officers often came under his scrutiny. It was once supposed (wrongly, I think) that the attacking editorials in the H. O. dealing with Government and the people's urge for self-government were written by his colleague Mr. A. Cathiraveloo, another co-worker whose ill-health did not permit his continued association. Those were the days of the "Indian Uprost", and the *Hindu Organ* not only published important news and reports from India but carried some strongly-worded editorials. Some of the local pundits who practised the soft art of praising the British bureaucrat and basking in his glory, attempted once to point to the editorials of the H. O. as the evidence of a "seditious" movement in Jaffna. It so happened that Mr. Sapapathy vigorously opposed a public reception to a high Government Official in Jaffna at a particular time and a certain section of the people were ranged against him, as the "loyalists". In a contemporary of the H. O. the title of the next editorial was "What Befell a Loyal motion", referring to the result of Mr. Sapapathy's influence in preventing the public reception being held.

To Hinduism and its growth his contribution through the

(Continued on page 5)

PRESS PLAUDITS

FROM THE CEYLON DAILY NEWS

"The Ceylon Daily News' sends cordial greetings to the 'Hindu Organ' on the occasion of the centenary of Mr. A. Sabapathy and has pleasure in associating itself with the special issue in commemoration of this distinguished son of Jaffna, whose record both as a politician and as a journalist is still remembered with pride."

G J PADMANABHA

FROM THE VEERAKESARI

The 'Hindu Organ' is to be congratulated for publishing a special number in memory of one of its

great Editors for thirty three years and a fearless patriot, late Mr. A. Sabapathy. This Birthday Centenary Memorial Number will, I am sure, prove to be very useful for people like me to know more about his greatness and try to follow his footsteps. He took to journalism not as a mere profession but as a sacred service to humanity and his Great Religion. May his memory be ever green so that we and posterity may strive to be worthy of the great heritage he has left for us by his noble and exemplary life of service and sacrifice. May Sri Lanka produce many more Sabapathies.

K. P. HARAN

HIS SELF-LESS SERVICE

(A Message from the eminent educationist and vigorous politician, Mr. C. Sunthalingam M. A., B Sc, Member of Parliament, for Vavuniya).

It was my great privilege to know personally the late Mr. A. Sabapathy. I had perforce to decline his kind invitation to become the Principal of Hindu College when I resigned from the Civil Service in 1922. I had by then promised to join Mr. Kularatne at Ananda. At the time Mr. Sabapathy was a member of the Legislative Council as one of the Representatives from the North. He belonged to that rare class of Public Men who subordinated their self-interest to the commonweal. Notwithstanding the many difficulties, social, economic, educational, political and religious, of his generation, when colonialism was at its height, he persevered and persisted in his lofty ideals. But for the unstinted and unremunerated services of men of his type the self-respect of the Hindus of the North would never have been maintained. For my part I cannot forget that his selfless service served as an inspiration to a number of his junior contemporaries among whom I happened to be one myself. I often wish we could have that quality of leaders again in Jaffna. We can never forget his services to the Hindus of Ceylon. We must always cherish his memory with gratitude.

FROM THE SUTANTIRAN

I am glad to have this opportunity of paying my humble tribute to the memory of the late Mr. A. Sabapathy, on the occasion of his centenary edition of your esteemed paper. Although I was a mere child when Mr. Sabapathy passed away in 1914, I have heard a good deal from people who have seen him and watched his work at close quarters, of his services to the country and his reputation as a public

man. It is but fitting that the centenary of this great son of Jaffna should be observed and particularly by the 'Hindu Organ' with which he was actively associated as Editor for thirty three years.

Sabapathy is, verily, a name that deserves to be remembered by posterity. As Editor of the 'Hindu Organ', as Manager of the Jaffna Hindu College and as the Second Tamil

(Continued on page 4 A.)

Sapapathy, The Public Worker Par Excellence

(Continued from page 4)

paper and by personal example was immense. His crossing swords with the Missionaries was a regular feature. He refuted their arguments with quotations and authorities that confounded them. I remember one editor on that side once tried a mild dig at Sapapathy. Seeing the wealth of italics in his articles that editor wrote in reply, "we see that italicising is the strong point of our Hindu contemporary, and so much of it, so often. We are not impressed. Try some other type". The man who hated humour and considered its use fatal to the success of any public cause or leader never took any notice of this chaffing. The italics continued, and there was Mr. S Sivagurunathar to see to it, as assistant editor. By the way, I must mention here that the assistant editor, an even more serious person, so valiantly helped the editor in the conduct of the paper that his record in the service of the H. O. is very high.

As a man, Mr. Sapapathy was courteous, considerate and helpful, not playing to the gallery, not promising everything to everybody. Is it any wonder that he is remembered by the public at large? The Jaffna agriculturist and tobacco grower and merchant would ever be grateful to this sound son of Jaffna for many an act of service. The last act of public service I think, was when he journeyed to Delhi on behalf of Jaffna tobacco.

The reader will excuse a small personal intrusion here, before I finish. I consider myself fortunate in having lived at a time when the great Sapapathy ruled public life in Jaffna. As a regular contributor to the Hindu Organ from Malaya while yet young I earned his encouragement. The urge through the then Manager, Mr. S. Kandiah Pillai, to write more, and still more, came to me frequently. When I returned to Jaffna on a brief holiday, during the floods of 1918, I wished to pay my respects to Mr. Sapapathy and obtained an appointment in his crowded engagement. To suit my own convenience, however, I made bold to call on him on an earlier date at his house. He was not at all ruffled but gave me plenty of time. In those days we in Malaya had a way of fighting our private quarrels there in the columns of the Jaffna press, chiefly the H. O. I was anxious to learn from him that I had not done anything to merit his displeasure. No, certainly not, he said, and suggested that I should take a more active part in working for the H. O. Three years later when I had gone to India the offer came to join the staff, and Mr. Sapapathy went far to persuade me. Other circumstances came in the way.

If anything can remain as a living monument to Mr. Sapa-

THE VETERAN JOURNALIST

Who Helped To Build The Nation

THE Tamils of Ceylon are celebrating this week, the Centenary of a great patriot whose services to his country can never be forgotten. We have already celebrated the centenaries of Sir Ponnampalam Ramanathan and Sir Ponnampalam Arunachalam and it is fitting that we should celebrate the centenary of Mr A. Sabapathy.

Mr Sabapathy, occupied a very prominent place in the public life of Jaffna for nearly half a century. He identified himself with all the activities and movements which aimed at promoting the social, educational and political welfare of the Tamils of Ceylon. His services to the Tobacco Industry of Jaffna should be written in letters of gold. He was himself a merchant and he worked assiduously to promote the tobacco industry of Jaffna which was in a flourishing condition during his time

By

K. Navaratnam,

Secretary, Kalamalayam

Mr Sabapathy was the editor of the Hindu Organ till the time of his death. Through the columns of the Hindu Organ, he not only worked for the social and religious progress of the Hindus of Jaffna, but also guided public opinion towards the realisation of full responsible government. He was not a revolutionary in politics. He never held any extreme views which tended to promote revolution or radical changes. He was a moderate in politics and believed in working towards self-government through peaceful means. Though he was a contemporary of great leaders like Tilak, Lala Lajpat Rai, Bipin Chandra Pal, Surendranath Bannerjee, he preferred to follow the methods of Gopala Krishna Gokhale, the founder of the Servants of India Society and leader of the Moderates. Mr Sabapathy believed more in practical work than in fiery speeches. He was not an orator, but a persuasive speaker who always succeeded in winning his case by his honest endeavours and sincerity of purpose. He

pathy's services it must be the vigorous establishment of the Hindu Organ as a powerful organ of public opinion in Ceylon. Events and circumstances have led us, perhaps, away from the path trod by him, but we cannot be very much off the track.

never attended a meeting or a debate in the Legislative Council without studying the relevant facts connected with the issues in hand. He always carried conviction into the minds of his hearers by marshalling sufficient facts and figures.

Mr. Sabapathy's contribution to the civic life of Jaffna was great and varied. He served in almost all the committees appointed by the Government for the amelioration of the social and economic condition of the people of the Peninsula. He was a member of the Jaffna Local Board for six years; a member of the Jaffna District Road Committee for about sixteen years; a member of the Excise Advisory Committee of the District; a member of the Managing Committee of the Jaffna Friend-in-need Society's Hospital.

His services to the cause of Hindu Education are very great and enduring. The pre-eminent place which the Jaffna Hindu College and its affiliated Colleges are occupying today in the field of Hindu Education in the Island owe not a little to the foresight and persevering zeal of Mr. Sabapathy. He was instrumental in procuring the services of such brilliant and eminent educationalists like Messrs Sanjiva Rao, Shiva Rao, Gupta and Subramania Iyer. He brought back Nevins Selvadurai from Trinity College, Kandy and co-operated whole heartedly with him in building up the Jaffna Hindu College as the Leading Hindu Institution of the Island.

Mr. Sabapathy was a Tamilian in the true sense of the term. He lived a simple life of service and sacrifice in the light of his own understanding. He never posed as a scholar nor as a leader. He never missed an opportunity to serve his countrymen. He won the admiration of the successive Government Agents of the Province and the Governors of the Island by his honest and self-less service. All the Government Agents of the Province sought after his advice and guidance. He was always firm in his decision and never swerved from the path of duty. His integrity and honesty were never questioned by any one and he maintained a high sense of duty both in his public and private life.

Mr. Sabapathy was an ideal leader and a sincere patriot. His services to his country men will ever be cherished by generations to come. He will go down to posterity as a nation-builder and statesman.

MY BENEFACTOR

(By MUHANDIRAM E. P. RASIAH,
Treasurer, Sabapathy Centenary Celebrations)

To few men in any country had it been possible to become the leader, successively of a large and growing tobacco trade, of local bodies and finally of the Legislative Council; to fewer still in a country where such democratic institutions had been newly planted, the late Hon'ble Mr. A. Sabapathy had discharged, to the admiration of all, with distinction the responsibilities of all these roles. If Mr. Sabapathy had reached to so lofty a peak in the summits of life such honours did not "drop like gentle dew from heaven". He had won them all by right of unselfish service and intrinsic worth alone. A man of great personal charm in whom blended, in pleasing proportion, all that was best in the East and the West.

Let me however leave it to worthier and more competent hands than myself to deal with the various aspects of his public life. I shall content myself by touching on another aspect which had remained hidden from public gaze, but not less significant—his enthusiastic efforts that had set many a family (like mine) in the proper path of progress.

My father, the late Eragu-nather Ponnuru, while in his teens had earned a reputation or rather a notoriety as a Chandiya in the village of Punnalaikadduvan. His relatives had boycotted him and his neighbours had disliked him. So he had decided to bid good-bye to his native village and to seek his fortune elsewhere. Friendless and penniless he had set out into the wide world and one fine day had walked into Thalalayal and had found a hospitable welcome in the late Mr. Sabapathy's paternal home. He made himself agreeable and so useful to them that he began to be treated, more or less, as a member of that household. Mr. Sabapathy, who was affectionately called at home as 'Ponnu', was himself in his teens then.

So both these Ponnus had developed a friendship that lasted throughout their life time, although temperamentally, educationally and in outlook, they happened to be vastly dissimilar. While one thought that "Might was right" the other despised that maxim; one was a fighter, the other was a mild, meek, well-behaved youngster; both were giants—one physically, the other intellectually—yet both Ponnus had got along smoothly, despite the fact the one had been mischief bent, and the other had been bent on reforming the former.

Those were days of chivalry—none had believed in stabs in the dark or hitting below the belt. Invariably, due

notice had been given of an intended assault and at the appointed hour the assailant and the assailed had met and fought it out—never resorting to lethal weapons. Punnalaikadduvan Ponnuru had almost daily got into such scrapes; but through the influence of Thalalayal Ponnuru's elders, cases had been settled or those that went to trial were thrown out for want of evidence.

Mr. Sabapathy, finding his efforts at reforming his friend unsuccessful, had seen to it that this Chandiya joined the Police Force. By an irony of fate, this constant breaker of the Law and Peace became the Guardian of the Law and the Custodian of Peace and for about 35 years had rendered satisfactory service to Government in various parts of Ceylon—all on account of the efforts of this Sabapathy. Looking back after his retirement from service my father used to wonder, how this frail, mild youngster could have noosed, as it were, and tamed a bull-elephant of his type and made a man of him.

As a small boy, whenever I had met the late Mr. Sabapathy, he had treated me as his own son and had given me sound and sincere advice. During the seven years I had been stationed at Pt. Pedro as an Excise Inspector, he had been in the habit of honouring me with either personal visits or affectionate letters wherein, inter alia, he had asked me for supplies of curd for the *தண்ணீர் பூசும்* that he used to conduct year after year at his estate at Valalai during the Sella-chchannitibi temple festivals. I had seen to it that regular supplies of curd had been made available for about a week every year—perhaps the only opportunity I had had whilst working as an Excise Officer, to make a contribution towards a charitable cause.

Some years prior to Mr. Sabapathy's demise, my brother Mr. E. P. Chelliah had figured in a Supreme Court Trial as the only important and material Crown witness in a case of defalcation committed by a temporary clerk, in a government Department Mr. H. A. P. Sandrasegara, K. C. in defending the accused, had kept my brother for some days in the box. H. A. P. had a bull-dog tenacity in pursuing a point and was a terror to witnesses, who used to faint under his searching cross examination; but this crown witness had remained unshaken and the accused had been convicted.

Almost a month later, the same Sandrasegara had appeared against me at Pt. Pedro in an Excise case. He had kept me too, for a couple of days in the witness-box.

ting drinks in the hotels or in the railway trains while travelling in those States recently. We earnestly wish that such a consummation be attained in our Island too at no distant date, to the lasting benefit of its people.

Though our Island is not so far advanced in its Excise policy as the United States, we should congratulate ourselves that it is far in advance of India and the Native States in this respect. Local Option is a boon that has not yet been granted to India. We should thank our Government for having granted us this privilege, however handicapped it may be in its practical operation. Though in Jaffna this privilege has not yet been availed of, we are glad to note that in some of the Sinhalese towns and villages the people have made use of it to effect their redemption from the drink evil. It has been made applicable to toddy as well as to arrack taverns from this year. The Total Abstinence Central Union at its half yearly general meeting held at Colombo

His merciless cross examination of me at certain stages had been so severe, that the Judge had stepped in, and had characterised it as almost amounting to bullying of the witness. The accused had been convicted and given the maximum sentence of a fine of Rs. 1000/- and 6 months' R. I.

A few days later, much to my surprise Mr. Sabapathy had called on me at Pt. Pedro in his horse-trap, and had offered me his warmest congratulations, remarking "While your late father had recourse to his brawn to beat down village bullies, I am glad to find his sons availing of their brains to beat down the legal bully" These words still keep ringing in my ears and that of my brother.

Whenever I had occasion to visit him at Valalai, I had given expression to my admiration of his sea-side resort, where a perennial supply of ozone emanating from the open expanse of the Bay of Bengal, used to refresh and rejuvenate him. Noticing my being enamoured of that place, he had remarked that some day he would make me his neighbour there. True to his word, his son and heir Mr. S. Kanagaratnam, had been good enough, long after his father's demise, to transfer me an adjoining property situated on K. K. S—Pt. Pedro Road. Every time the members of my family or myself go up to this land for a change, we fail not to recall with love and respect the memory of this great son of Jaffna and in particular our Benefactor and send up our sincere prayers to Heaven. May God's grace attend his soul!!

His grand-son, Masi Ananda

TOTAL PROHIBITION

(Continued from page 3)

last Saturday has adopted a resolution asking for Government Prohibition as in America. It has also made several requests from the Government for facilitating the working of Local Option. Jaffna too should wake up and organize itself for the work. The road tax payers who are enfranchised for Local Option should be educated and informed of their privilege and the mode of exercising it. The old national ideal of total abstinence, which has been losing its hold, should be revived and every one should be convinced of the fact that unless the progress of the drink evil is arrested there is no hope of our countrymen regaining their former physical, intellectual, and spiritual strength.

The clarion call during the dawn of the twentieth century was for Total Prohibition. And today in the mid century there is TOTAL DRINKING & disguised in the Tree Tax System. From the sublime to not merely the ridiculous but the sinful!

—Ed

Tree Tax Or Taverns or Neither?

(Continued from page 2)

the defects, if any in the Tree Tax System.

7. What alterations would you suggest in the Tree Tax System now in operation in the Jaffna District.

8. If you are not in favour of the present Tree Tax System, what alternative system do you recommend? Do you recommend the re-introduction of the tavern system instead?

9. What legal or administrative amendments, if any, do you consider necessary for the more efficient working of the Tree Tax System.

Reply should be addressed to: The Secretary, Special Committee to investigate the working of Tree Tax System in Jaffna, Excise Commissioner's Office, Mc Callum Road, Colombo 10.

Replies to the questionnaire should reach the secretary on or before 10th April 1954.

Kumara Raja, a quiet well behaved youngster of extraordinary intelligence, has gained entrance to the Varsity. We entertain the hope that ere long he would graduate with distinction, and follow the footsteps of his grandsire and become not only an intellectual giant but also a beloved benefactor of mankind.

Auction Sale

on 12-4-54 at 9 a. m. at 400, Alvai North, pledges pawned from 1-11-51 to 7-4-53 with K. Rajaretnam and G. V. Kumaraswamy unredeemed. Pt Pedro.

K. MUTTUCUMARU IYER

Auctioneer

(M. 285, 26 & 2)

ORDER NISI

IN THE DISTRICT COURT
OF JAFFNA

Testamentary Jurisdiction
No. 1733

In the matter of the intestate estate of the late Anna-pooraniammah wife of Thampaiya Sinnathamby of Vilvantharu, Jaffna.

Deceased.

Thampaiya Sinnathamby of Vilvantharu, Jaffna.

Petitioner.

Vs.

Minor- 1. Tharmaladchumy daughter of Thampaiya Sinnathamby of do.

2. Candiah Chellappah of 33, Wilson Street, Colombo.

Respondants.

This matter coming on for disposal before A. E. R. Corea Esquire Additional District Judge, Jaffna on the 17th day of March 1954 in the presence of Mr. C. Thillaiampalam proctor on the part of the petitioner and on reading the affidavit and petition of the petitioner.

It is ordered that the abovenamed 2nd respondent be appointed guardian-ad-litem over the minor the abovenamed 1st respondent and the petitioner be declared entitled to Letters of administration to the estate of the abovenamed and the same issued to him accordingly as the lawful husband of the abovenamed deceased, unless the abovenamed 2nd respondent or any others interested shall appear before this court on or before the 9th day of April 1954 and show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this court to the contrary. It is further ordered that the abovenamed 2nd respondent do produce the said minor 1st respondent in court on the said date. This 17th March 1954.

Sgd S. Rajaratnam

District Judge

27-3-54

Drawn by

Sgd. C. Thillaiampalam

Proctor for Petitioner

(O. 193, 26 & 2)

EDUCATIONAL—et cetera

NOT A BENEVOLENCE BUT AN INVESTMENT

UNION COLLEGE PRINCIPAL ON FREE EDUCATION

[MR. L. P. Thuraiatnam, Principal of the Telipalai Union College, in the course of his Prize-day report made some interesting comments on 'Free Education' and 'Swabasha'. Relevant portions are reproduced here.]

Free Education is being assailed and it will continue to be assailed for years to come. But for our part we hope that it has come to stay. At a time when the country is in dire straits it is but natural for financial experts as well as the average citizen to rethink the country's fiscal policy and see how the budget could be balanced. In attempting to do this it is also natural to look at the biggest single item and suggest a cut there. And when this item is 'Education' it is easy enough to suggest the cut. The vote for a bridge will not be cut because everybody knows that a river cannot be crossed without a bridge. A loss of Rs. 18 million on a commercialized railway will be accepted because any drastic retrenchment would mean chaos in transportation and consequent upsurge in the country. A reduction of the P. W. D. vote in September means bad roads in January with consequent discomfort to us and damage to our streamlined cars. In all these cases the results are immediate and tangible. But in the case of education the consequences for the country, though serious, are remote and intangible.

Free Education was perhaps first conceived in this country as a kindly benevolence. To many this still remains its only virtue. And when the country cannot afford this charity what is more obvious than to give it up? But Free Education in a democratic country means much more than mere benevolence. Unfortunately, there is a very inadequate appreciation of the philosophy of Free Education in the minds of many people. We have passed from colonial government into independence. We have set before us the ideal of democratic government. We say we

have faith in the sovereignty of the people. All this is dangerous unless the people are enlightened. Leadership in a totalitarian country is strong in proportion to the ignorance of the people. Leadership in a democracy is strong in proportion to the enlightened intelligence of its people. Thomas Jefferson once said, "If a nation expects to be ignorant and free it expects what never was and never will be". Hence Free Education is not a benevolence. It is an investment which a democratic state makes in order to perpetuate itself and to promote its interests. Democratic sentiments are imbibed by children in association with each other and not in isolation. Children of all classes and castes and economic condition have to come together if they are to develop an understanding and sympathy for the common man. Hence education has to be free and universal.

A country is ready to resort to the costly expediency of war in order to defend itself. Will it not be wiser to provide for an education directed to prevent the recurrence of war? A country is compelled to maintain a large Police Force in order to mitigate the delinquencies of Society. Will it not be wiser to provide for an education which reforms the internal condition that gives rise to these evils. The state cannot be bettered unless the individual is first bettered himself. Popular education reduces crime. It reduces poverty. It reduces disease. It is an investment which pays large dividends. We may almost say, "Give Free Education to a people and all these things shall be added unto them."

Education, universal and free, should be devised so as to cater to the different abilities, needs and aptitudes of the children if i

is to return the highest dividends. All the raw material we have in our schools is good for something. We must discover that something and give every child an education appropriate to its maximal development. We cannot "put a lot of heterogeneous ore through a process that was devised to refine only a limited kind." Though the difficulty has been recognized we have so far failed to provide an education appropriate to each child. The Selective Test of 1952 was rechristened the Fitness Test of 1953 but the results for the children have been none the less disastrous. The dump heap of ejected failures is growing without any one feeling any special responsibility for the situation. We would suggest that the Fitness Test be scrapped and the curriculum so reorganised that every normal student is enabled to get an S. S. C. certificate.

The medium of instruction in the Post-Primary classes is another burning question on which there seems to be some confusion of thought. From our experience during the last one year when we tried Tamil as the medium of instruction in the sixth standard and from the experience of some of us earlier with a system of bilingual education we have no doubt that a child learns better in its mother tongue. Learning becomes more concrete and meaningful and even fascinating. The hurdle of a foreign language no longer remains between a child and the knowledge it has to acquire. No faithful teacher with a good knowledge of the subject matter and a spark of patriotism will find it difficult to discover, if need be, and to acquaint himself with the technical words involved in the teaching of his special subject. As far as Tamil is concerned much spade work has been done in this direction across the Palk Strait and the benefits of the research are at our disposal. On the other hand, to speak quite objectively, we must concede that the standard of English is fast deteriorating. We cannot view the situation with equanimity. The world is shrinking and no country can live in isolation. Knowledge is free and at our disposal but we must possess the means of appropriating it. Therefore, we must not lightly throw away the tradition of Eng-

lish we have had in this country. Hence the problem before us is how we can arrest the deterioration in English while imparting education in the mother tongue. We must recognize that a certain amount of deterioration cannot be avoided and that we can never recover the standard of English we had 15 years ago in our schools. Ceylon cannot be 'a little bit of England' any more. But we must in our own interest see that the standard does not fall below a certain minimum. That minimum may be defined as what is required for the purpose of comprehension, for communication and for trade and commerce. A delicate balance has to be set up between the national languages on the one hand and English on the other. Any one who wants to have it one way will be as much to blame as any one who wants to have it the other way. Let us set about this problem at a safe speed. If we must fly, let us fly by a Constellation and not by a Comet. I would suggest that we stop with the 8th Standard now and wait for (1) a fair supply of bilingual trained teachers, (2) an adequate number and variety of text books in the national languages and (3) a corresponding adjustment in the University requirements. There is a lot of wisdom in the words, "a few steps now and a few steps later on."

ORDER NISI

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA
Testamentary Jurisdiction
No. 1709

In the matter of the intestate estate of the late Thyal nayaki wife of Kandapilla Velayutham of Karukampalai Tellippalai West, Jaffna Deceased

Kandapillai Velayutham of Karukampalai Tellippalai West Petitioner
Vs.

1. Sivakamasundari widow of Sivasambu
2. Manonmani daughter of Velayutham
3. Velayutham Kathiravelu
4. Pooranapackiam daughter of Velayutham
5. Velayutham Kumaravelu
6. Velayutham Ananadavelu appearing by their Guardian-ad-litem
7. Sachasivam Nadarajah all of Tellippalai South West Respondents

This matter coming on for disposal before A. E. R. Corea Esquire, District Judge, Jaffna on the 13th day of January 1954 in the presence of Mr. S. Nadarajah, Proctor on the part of the petitioners

TENDER NOTICE

Co-operative Hospital Society Ltd Moolai.

The Secretary, Co-operative Hospital Society Ltd, Moolai invites tenders which should reach him not later than 12 noon on 8. 4. 54 for the Construction of (1) a ward and (2) a Store room for the above Hospital from Contractors registered with Government for Rs. 30,000/- or over.

2. Tender forms are available at the Co-operative Hospital Society Office, Moolai and all intending tenderers may visit the said office, inspect the plans, specifications and bills of quantities and render themselves thoroughly conversant with the nature of the works to be performed. Tender forms will be issued up to 12 noon on 6. 4. 54 on production of a receipt for Rs. 50/- for each form from the Cashier of the Moolai Co-operative Hospital Society Office. Deposits will be returned to the unsuccessful tenderers after the successful tenderer has signed the agreement and on the return of the Specification form issued with the tender form; and to the successful tenderer after the work has been satisfactorily completed.

3. All particulars could be obtained from the Secretary, Co-operative Hospital Society Ltd, Moolai during office hours.

4. The said Secretary acting on instructions of the Board of Management reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders and does not bind himself to accept the lowest tender. Envelopes should be marked "Tender for Construction of Hospital Ward" or "Tender for Construction of Store room" (as the case may be) on the left hand top corner.

R. K. Arulampalam
Secretary, Co-operative Hospital Society Ltd, Moolai. 25 March 1953
(M 287. 2.)

and the affidavit and petition of the petitioner having been read

It is ordered that the abovenamed 7th respondent be appointed guardian-ad-litem over the minors. The abovenamed 3rd to 6th respondents for the purpose of representing them and acting on their behalf in these proceedings and that the Petitioner be declared entitled to administer the said estate as the lawful widower of the deceased and that Letters of Administration be issued to him accordingly unless the respondents shall appear before this Court on the 15th day of February 1954 and show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

This 13th day of Jan 1954
Sgd. S. Rajaratnam
District Judge
15-2-54 15-2-54
Time to show cause extended to 15-3-54
22-3-54
Time to show cause extended to 5.4.54
Drawn by
S. Nadarajah
Proctor for Petitioner.
(O. 194 26 & 2)

A PATRIOT—EDITOR WHO ESTABLISHED A TRADITION

(Continued from page 1)

his becoming a lawyer. Circumstances thus made Sabapathy to dedicate his whole life to the service of the Motherland through 'The Hindu Organ' the Jaffna Association and crown his public life as an Honourable Member representing the Tamils in the old Legislative Council.

Sabapathy attracted public notice for the first time as an enthusiastic member of the Saiva Paripalana Sabai when it launched in 1889 the first Hindu journal in Ceylon under the distinguished editorship of the late T. Chellappapillai a retired Judge of an Indian High Court and established a year after the premier Hindu Institution of Ceylon as the Hindu High School which grew up to be the Jaffna Hindu College. Though he played a part of no mean importance as a member of the Board of Directors of the College and as its Manager for several years, his claim for greatness and for posterity's cherished remembrance rests chiefly on the pre eminent place he occupied in the public life of Ceylon in general and Jaffna in particular as the Editor of 'The Hindu Organ' coupled with his other allied political activities. That Sabapathy filled a large place in the public life of Jaffna is seen from the fact that he was the President of the Jaffna Central Temperance Association and Secretary of the Jaffna Association in its early years and later its President. It was this Jaffna Association, one of Ceylon's oldest political associations that was in the fore front of the constitutional agitation for Political Reform and when the educated Ceylonese (Sinhalese, Tamils and others) obtained for the first time the right of electing the first Ceylonese Representative to the Legislative Council, it was 'The Hindu Organ' and 'The Ceylon Patriot' under the able editorship of A. Sabapathy & A. Canagaratnam respectively that backed the candidature of P. Ramanathan, 'the people's man' with their forcible and convincing editorial rejoinders to the vituperative outpourings of the Ceylon Morning Leader and other Dailies of Colombo against Ramanathan. Even at this distance of time, the election speeches of the late Sir P. Ramanathan and the purposeful editorials of Sabapathy and Canagaratnam give a student of the political history of Ceylon highly refreshing and reinvigorating reading.

Sabapathy's work as Member of the Legislative Council is characterised by his contributions revealing wonderful tact and sturdy commonsense coupled with a team spirit of co-operation with other M.L.Cs under the leadership of the Ceylonese member who

led the unofficial opposition to the Colonial Governor who presided over the Council and the decided official majority. And in those days when 'var-sity' educated politicians were yet in the making simple sincere souls like Balasingham, Kanagasabai and Sabapathy educated in the hard school of experience had the stamina and the grit to present a United Front against the Governor's Government of the day.

For 33 long years, Sabapathy was the Editor of 'The Hindu Organ'. His writings on tobacco trade, temperance, Hindu Education or political questions of the day show him to have been a well-informed writer keeping himself abreast of current trends in social, economic or political life and bringing to bear an independent mind free from bias on all problems of life. Sabapathy created thus some of the noblest journalistic traditions for 'The Hindu Organ'

ORDER NISI

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 1740 T.

In the matter of the intestate estate of the late Rajaratnam Subramaniam of Vannarponnai East, Jaffna, who died in London

Deceased. Between. Spencer Rajaratnam of Vannarponnai East, Jaffna. Petitioner

And Kanthimathammal, wife of Spencer Rajaratnam, of Vannarponnai East, Jaffna. Respondent

This matter coming on for disposal before A. E. R. Corea, Esquire, Additional District Judge of Jaffna, on the 26th day of March, 1954, in the presence of Mr K. Aiyadurai proctor on the part of the petitioner, and the affidavit of the petitioner dated the 26th day of March, 1954 having been read,

It is ordered that the above named petitioner, as the father of the deceased, be and he is hereby declared entitled to have Letters of Administration to the said estate issued to him unless the Respondent or any other person or persons interested shall, on or before the 4th day of May, 1954 show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this court to the contrary

This 26th day of March 1954

Sgd. A. E. R. Corea
Additional District Judge

Drawn by
K. Aiyadurai
Proctor for Petitioner
(O. 198 2 & 9)

Silver Jubilee

Mr. S. Kandiah of the Staff of Karainagar Hindu College was felicitated at a function held to celebrate the Silver Jubilee of his teaching service at the Nadarajah Memorial Hall on Wednesday (24-3-54)

Mr. N. Sabaratnam the President of the Teachers' Guild who presided paid glowing tributes to the meritorious services of a teacher who devoted himself to his task without any ostentation and was imbued with high ideals. Mr. K. Chidambarampillai of the Staff, an Old Boy of Mr. Kandiah exhorted the students to emulate their veteran teacher in his genuine thirst for knowledge. The proceedings were enlivened by Pandit S. Kanapathippillai, Lecturer Saiva Training College in a stirring speech Mr Kandiah suitably replied

ORDER NISI

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 1734 T

In the matter of the Last Will and Testament of the late Thambippillai Sinnathurai of Tirunelvely North Jaffna Deceased.

Annaopillai widow of Thambippillai Sinnathurai of Tirunelvely North, Jaffna Petitioner. Vs.

1. Thangaratnam daughter of Sinnathurai
2. Sinnathurai Kandiah
3. Sinnathurai Murugaiyah
4. Sinnathurai Soppiramaniam
5. Sinnathurai Arumugam
6. Maheswary daughter of Sinnathurai and
7. Sinnathurai Vadivel. all of Tirunelvely North, Jaffna and
8. Thambippillai Ayathurai of Hope Estate, Hewa beta. Respondents.

This matter coming on for disposal before Spencer Rajaratnam Esquire District Judge, Jaffna on the 17th day of March 1954 in the presence of Mr S. Visuvalingam Proctor for the Petitioner and the affidavit of the Petitioner having been read.

It is ordered that the 8th Respondent be appointed Guardian-ad-litem over the minor 1st to 7th Respondents for the purpose of protecting their interests and of representing them in these Testamentary Proceedings and that the Last Will and Testament of the abovenamed deceased be declared proved and petitioner be declared entitled to probate thereof issued to her as Executrix named therein unless the Respondents or any other persons appear before this Court on the third day of May 1954 and state objections to the contrary.

It is further ordered that

ORDER ABSOLUTE

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA

Testy No. 1716.

In the matter of the last will and testament of Suro-dram Manikkam of Thinnavelly East Deceased

1. Ponniah Kathiresu and wife.
2. Nallammah both of Thinnavelly east Petitioners.

This matter coming on for disposal before Spencer Rajaratnam Esquire District Judge Jaffna on the 3rd day of February 1954 in the presence of Mr. K. V. Sinnathurai proctor on the part of the petitioners and the affidavit of the petitioners and of the witnesses to the last will dated the 23rd day of January 1954 having been read; It is ordered that the petitioner be declared entitled to have probate of the last will and testament of the abovenamed as the 2nd petitioner is the sole legatee and Executrix in terms of the will filed of record in this case and that the said will be declared proved and probate be issued to the petitioners accordingly Sgd. Spencer Rajaratnam District Judge, Jaffna. Jaffna this 3rd day of February 1954. (O. 195. 2 & 9).

the minors do appear in Court on the said date.

The 17th day of March 1954 Sgd. SPENCER RAJARATNAM District Judge.

Drawn by Sgd. S. Visuvalingam Proctor for Petitioner. (O 199 2 & 9)

ORDER NISI

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 1731

In the matter of the intestate estate of the late Ramalingam Ganasekaram of Urumpirai Deceased Ponnachchy widow of R. Ganasekaram of Urumpirai Vs. Petitioner, Minor 1. Vasanharathey daughter of Ganasekaram Minor 2. Kalaivany daughter of do. 3. Moothathambiy Ehamparam all of Urumpirai Respondents

This matter coming on for disposal before S. Rajaratnam Esquire District Judge Jaffna on the 15th day of March 1954 in the presence of Mr. T. Gunaratnam Proctor on the part of the petitioner and the affidavit of the petitioner dated 27th January 1954 having been read:

It is ordered that the abovenamed 3rd respondent be appointed as guardian ad litem over the minors the 1st and 2nd respondents for the purpose of this case and that the petitioner be declared entitled to have letters of administration to the estate of the abovenamed deceased and the same issued to her accordingly unless the respondents or others interested shall on or before the 3rd day of May 1954 appear before this court and show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this court to the contrary.

And it is further ordered that the petitioner do produce the said minors in court on the said date.

This 15th day of March 1954 Sgd. S. Rajaratnam District Judge (O. 196. 2 & 9)

THE JAFFNA MUTUAL BENEFIT FUND Ltd.

(Established 1918)

BANKERS.

Authorised Capital Rs. 800,000.00
Amount of Calls made Rs. 134,367.00

SHARES: 8000 shares of Rs. 100/- each. 75 monthly instalments of Re. 1/- per share will earn Rs. 100/- for each at the end of the period. Shares issued all times.

CURRENT ACCOUNTS opened and interest allowed at 1% per annum on the average monthly balance when it does not fall below Rs. 500/-.

FIXED DEPOSITS received for periods of 3, 6, 9 and 12 months and interest allowed at 1, 2, 4 and 6 % respectively.

DRAFTS issued on the National and Imperial Banks to Colombo and the Principal cities of India. Remittances to and from F. M. S. by special arrangements.

INDIAN MONEY bought and sold
LOANS on the security of Jewels a speciality. Part payments accepted.

FOR FURTHER PARTICULARS APPLY TO:
S. KANAGASABAI, Shroff.

வாங்குமுகில் வழாது பெய்க மலிவனஞ் சரக்க மயன்சன் கோங்குறை யக செய்க குறைவிலா அயர்கன் யாழ்க் சகம்மை யநக்க கோங்க் சந்நலம் வேர்வி மல்க மேம்மைகொள் ளைவ தீதி யினக்குச வுலக வெங்கலம்.