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(H. 13 10-1-32)

Order Nisi.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 7816

In the Matter of the estate of the late
Alvapillal Kumaraswamy of Pulley West
Deceased.

V. Alvapillal Bangavapillal of Pulley West
Petitioner.

- 1 Ponnammah widow of A. Kumaraswamy of do
- 2 Veshthippillal widow of Alvapillal of do.
- 3 Kanthiah Kanapathippillal of do and wife
- 4 Alvapakkiam of do.
- 5 Alvapillal Maragun of do now of No. 75,
Oodolly Road, Railway Ipoh

Respondents.

This matter of the Petition of the abovesaid
Petitioner praying for Letters of Administration to
the estate of abovesaid deceased Alvapillal
Kumaraswamy of Pulley West, coming on for
disposal before D. H. Balfour, Esquire,
District Judge, Jaffna on April 22, 1931, in the
presence of Mr. K. Arulambalam, Proctor,
on the part of the Petitioner and the affidavit
of the Petitioner dated January 12, 1930
having been read, It is declared that the

Petitioner is a brother 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 May 27, 1931 show sufficient cause to the
satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

May 14, 1931

Time to show cause extended to 2nd Sep. 1931

O. 261 27 & 31.

Sgd. D. H. Balfour,
District Judge.

Sd. D. H. Balfour,
District Judge.

Order Nisi.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 7880

In the matter of the estate of the late

Oumarasaroor of Nellore

Deceased,

Ponnampalam Nagalingam Thirunavukarasu

of Nellore

Ve

Petitioner

1. Al Kavalay widow of Ponnampalam of Nellore
2. Ponnampalam Kumarasaroor of Do. Presently of Royal Yacht Club, Colombo

Respondents.

This matter of the Petition of the Petitioner

abovesaid praying for Letters of Administration

to the estate of the abovesaid deceased coming

on for disposal before D. H. Balfour Esquire

District Judge, on February 18, 1931 in the presence

of Mr. M. Somasubramaniam, Proctor on the part

of the Petitioner and the affidavit dated February

18, 1931 having been read; It is declared

that the Petitioner is one of the sons and heirs

to 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 September

2, 1931, show sufficient cause to the satisfaction

of this Court to the contrary.

August 21, 1931.

O 261 27 & 30.

Sgd. D. H. Balfour,
District Judge.

Sd. D. H. Balfour,
District Judge.

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The Hindu Organ.



JAFFNA, THURSDAY, AUGUST 27, 1931.

RESIGNATION OF THE LABOUR GOVERNMENT.

THE POLITICAL CRISIS IN GREAT Britain which developed with such dramatic suddenness last week has culminated in the resignation of the Labour Government. The immediate cause for this unexpected development is the failure of the Labour Cabinet to obtain the support of the Trade Union leaders for its proposals to balance the Budget for 1931-32 by effecting retrenchment in those services which the Trade Union regards as vital and necessary for the welfare of the working classes and by a additional taxation which should fall equally on all classes.

The Labour Party though larger than any one of the other two parties is yet a minority as against the combined strength of the Conservatives and the Liberals. It has to depend on the support of one or other of the opposition parties to carry out any of its measures in Parliament.

The balancing of Budget for 1931-32 was a serious problem for the Labour Government. The net surplus due to Britain in normal years on international account has been officially estimated to be £138,000,000. Last year that surplus fell to as low as £39,000,000. In the current year it is feared that instead of a surplus there might be a deficit. The estimated deficit for the coming year was £120,500,000. Faced with such a huge deficit a minority Government should put forward such proposals for balancing the Budget as would meet with the approval of at least one of the opposition parties. For that reason an expert Committee was appointed in February last by the House of Commons to make recommendations to the Chancellor of the Exchequer for effecting forthwith all practicable and legitimate reductions in national expenditure consistent with efficiency of the services. The Chairman of the Committee was Sir George May and it was composed of seven members, none of whom was a member of the House of Commons. The majority of the committee recommended drastic economies in various services and activities of the Government. The anticipated saving from its recommendations amounted to about £96,000,000, of this nearly £66,500,000 is to be contributed by effecting saving in the unemployment insurance benefits. Saving of £13,000,000 is to be effected under the head of Education. Under the National Health Insurance a saving of £1,000,000 is to be effected. The Trade Union Executive regards these services as vital to the interests of the labouring classes and therefore opposed the proposed economies in the above services.

The Labour Cabinet realising the opposition of the Trade Union to some of the recommendations of the May Committee appointed a sub-committee of the Cabinet to consider its recommendations and evolve a scheme whereby the burden of taxation and retrenchment will fall equally on all classes.

The Scheme should be such as would satisfy all Parties if it is to be passed by the Parliament. Mr. Macdonald and Mr. Snowden carried on prolonged negotiations with the Trade Union leaders as well as with those of the opposition Parties. But they failed to carry the

Trade Union leaders with them for their proposals and, therefore, they had no alternative but to tender the resignation of the Government to His Majesty the King.

The financial crisis which faces Great Britain today is of such a character that it cannot be met by a single Party. In view of it a General Election cannot solve the difficulty. The only alternative is the formation of a National Government composed of the three Parties. Such a Government has been already formed with Mr. Macdonald as the Prime Minister. The personnel of the new Government has been announced. It is very unfortunate that Mr. Wedgwood Benn is no longer the Secretary of State for India and his place has been filled by a Conservative. But the fact that Mr. Ramsay Macdonald is the Premier and will preside at the plenary sessions of the Round Table Conference and Lord Sankey will continue as the Chairman of the Federal Structure Committee should remove all misgiving regarding the attitude of the new Government towards the Indian question. We hope that the new Government will tackle the financial problems successfully and the difficulties which face the British people today.

Hambantota Colonization Scheme.

SIXTY FAMILIES ALREADY IN THE COLONY.

The Hambantota Colonization Scheme which came into operation recently promises to attract many families. If only the authorities and the Executive Committee of Home Affairs under whose administration this matter is passed give the necessary thought and attention to it. Already sixty families have been attracted by this scheme and as many as 240 acres of Crown land comprising both high and low lands have been colonized. Each of these families has been allotted one acre of high land and three acres of low land. Before being sent out to the Colony each family is given Rs 25 for the purchase of vegetable seeds and essential implements. This money should be returned to the Government when the cultivation begins paying.

It is stated that the settlers are quite contented with their lot and are very enthusiastic in improving their lands.

Reduced Railway Fares.

FREIGHT ON COUNTRY RICE TO BE REDUCED

It is understood that a reduction has been sanctioned in the railway fares both in passenger fares and freight rates. But the fares for season tickets are said to have been raised.

It is understood the return ticket is also abolished except in the case of week end and excursion tickets. The return half of the week end ticket is also to be available earlier than the Monday following the issue of the ticket.

It is also understood that the rates for the transport of country grown rice and paddy have been altered.

The present rate of four cents a ton mile for eight ton loads over distances of 150 miles is to be altered to four cents a ton mile over distances of fifty miles. Smaller loads are to be charged eight cents a ton mile instead of ten cents a ton mile.

National Dress in Jaffna.

TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION'S RESOLUTION.

The Jaffna Teachers' Association has passed the following resolution on national dress:—

"This Association calls upon all teachers in the Island to give up foreign dress, and adopt a dress that is consistent with their national self-respect."

National Dress in Jaffna Post Office.

The national dress spirit has also caught the staff of the Jaffna Post Office. The Post Staff, numbering 30, excluding the Postmaster and the uniform staff, in accordance with a recent decision of theirs, have been attending office twice a week, Friday and Saturday in national dress.

The Jaffna Boycott.

GOVERNMENT AGENT'S ADVICE TO BOYCOTTERS

LET NO HATED INFLUENCE ECONOMIC BOYCOTT

The cry of boycott in Jaffna reminded him of the cry of "Long live Mussolini," which he had heard in Italy during his visit to that country some years ago, remarked Mr. E. T. Dyson, Government Agent, Northern Province in concluding his speech at the prize-giving function held at Hariley College on the 22nd inst:

He did not know, Mr. Dyson said, the exact position of the political boycott at the present moment, but he had read certain reports of meetings got up to launch an economic boycott of certain foreign-made articles, such as cigarettes, kerosene oil and sugar. If the people of Jaffna preferred the use of jaggery to that of sugar, or home-grown tobacco to cigarettes, they had perhaps little cause for quarrel with them, although he doubted whether their lamps were adapted to the use of coconut oil. But in all these things, he would ask them to emphasize the point of view that their actions were rather directed to strengthen their own resources than to damage those of others out of hatred for them. After all, these foreign-made articles had not been thrust on them, but on the other hand, they had enjoyed them in the past.

Bad System of Education.

NEED FOR A CHANGE.

WHY A COUNCILLOR GAVE UP TEACHING

As a revolt against a system of education which only meant teaching a number of children up to a certain standard and leaving them high and dry unfit for any walk of life, Mr. A. Ratnayake, a member of the Executive Committee on Education had to give up the teaching profession.

This is the view expressed by Mr. Ratnayake at the second anniversary celebrations of the Government Teachers' Association held at Ananda College last Saturday. He further said that his conscience would not permit him to continue to carry on the regulations of a Code that had this effect:

He asked the teachers to endeavour to change the system of education into one that would benefit the people of this country.

Archaeological Commissioner.

POST TO BE FILLED.

It is understood that the post of the Archaeological Commissioner of Ceylon is to be advertised in India and Great Britain with a view to filling the existing vacancy with an officer with special training in the subject.

State Council Ceremonial.

WIG AND MACE.

It is learnt that the House Committee of the State Council has recommended that the Speaker should wear a silk robe of dark red colour, resembling the colour of claret with old gold facings, as well as full-bottomed wig.

The Speaker is to have the option of wearing or omitting the wig when presiding over the ordinary meetings of Council, but he is required to wear it on ceremonial occasions.

It is also learnt the Committee favoured the adoption of the use of the Mace and instructed the Secretary to write to the Kandyan Art Association enquiring what the cost would be and for other information regarding the making of a Silver Mace with a gilded Crown.

Jaffna U. D. C Assessment Rate

MOTION FOR REDUCTION BY ONE PER CENT.

Mr. K. Soma undersham has given notice of the following motion to be brought forward at the September meeting of the Jaffna Urban District Council:—

That in view of the state of general depression in the Island and the poverty of the rate payers in the Town this Council resolves to reduce the assessment rate by one per cent for the year 1932.

News & Notes.

A Reuter's message states that the treaty of mutual neutrality and non-aggression between Soviet Russia and Afghanistan has been ratified by the U. S. S. R.

It was announced at a meeting of the Executive Committee of the All Ceylon Youth Congress, that a Western Province Youth Congress will be held in October, which will be attended by members of Indian Youth Leagues.

To accelerate the Five-Year Plan, the Soviet Government is recruiting 6000 skilled United States workmen for service in Russia. Two thousand workmen, it is stated, have already been hired.

A mango tree was planted in a Buddhist school garden in Ratnapura by the Hon. Mr. A. F. McLamure, the Speaker of the State Council, as a commemoration his first visit, to his mother country, Ratnapura, after his election as the Speaker. The residents of Ratnapura gave him a grand reception.

For the first time, says a report, mangoes are now on sale in London in a fresh condition. They are gathered in Egypt and despatched a day after by the Imperial Airways flying-boat leaving Alexandria for London. They arrive at Corydon 60 hours after leaving Egypt and are conveyed immediately by motor-car to the West-End being on sale the same evening.

Mr. A. Ratnayake, a Member of the State Council, said that as a student he had spent 2700 hours studying Greek but never met a Greek in all his life to speak to, and he had spent 3000 hours learning Latin, a language dead for thousands of years. Had he but spent those hours, he repented rather too late, in learning Sinhalese, Sanskrit or Pali he might have been happier. But he consoled himself with the excuse that he was the victim of the faults of a system for which he was not responsible.

It is understood, says a Madras message, that there is a move to urge on the Madras University authorities the desirability of its taking up the higher teaching work in Tamil and Sanskrit, without confining their activities to mere research. This has become all the more important, continues the message, in view of the proposal of the Director of Public Instruction for the abolition of honours course in Sanskrit. The Board of Studies is stated to have already drawn up a syllabus for higher studies in Tamil. The subject may be brought up in the first instance before the Academic Council.

Harrowing details of the flood disaster in China are available. Deaths, as the result of the Yangtze-Kiang flood, are said to be nearing 2,000,000 mark. Hunan and Hupen are vast sheets of grey muddy water and stretch as far as the eye sees. Thousands of refugees cluster like flies to the dykes and gradually succumb to starvation and exposure. 30,000 square miles are inundated in Hupen and 5,000,000 persons are homeless and destitute, while in Hunan 2,000,000 persons are destitute and 20,000 square miles are inundated. It is estimated that 1000 die daily in Wuchang city and their bodies are thrown into the river with dead dogs, monkeys and horses.

Novel System of Conservancy.

BORED-HOLE LATRINES AN IMPROVEMENT ON PIT SYSTEM.

A new type of latrine, an improvement on the pit system, economic, and claimed to be absolutely sanitary and clean is being introduced in Ceylon through the magnanimity of the Rockefeller Foundation which has allotted 2000 dollars for the purpose of sanitating a set of villages in Ceylon.

The Jaffna U. D. C. will do well to consider the advisability of introducing this system which it is hoped will meet with the approval of the people.

The new type of latrine costs about ten rupees each and is a considerable improvement on the pit system of latrines. It consists of a very simple device in boring a hole in the earth by means of a special auger to a depth of about 20 to 25 feet, the diameter being 16 inches. A special plate is placed over the hole and a super structure of zinc, wood, brick or any other material is constructed over it and the latrine is complete. The depth of the hole depends on the nature of the soil, and it is stated that in Java, where practically every home is provided with such a latrine, a device has been made for the auger to bore even through a rock. It is claimed on behalf of this system of latrines that it is considerably superior to the pit latrine, gives out no offensive odour and could be constructed from 15 to 30 feet from the house and that no flies can breed in it owing to its depth. It is claimed to be absolutely sanitary and clean.

The Department of Medical and Sanitary Services has already taken steps to popularise this new type of latrine and has installed about 280 of them in the Health Unit area of Yatuwara in the villages of Arambegama, Parakatawa and Siyambalgoda.

The only expensive item in the construction of these latrines is the special type of auger that is necessary for the purpose of boring the holes. At present there are only a limited number of them and anyone who wants to construct a latrine of this type has to borrow it from the Medical Officer of Health in charge of it. It is proposed if the movement to install such latrines becomes as popular as it promises to be to purchase more augers and supply them to the Medical Officers of Health so that they might lend them to those who want to construct such latrines.

Liquor Traffic and Hindu Temples.

TEMPLE TREES LET FOR TODDY TAPPING.

One of the many ways in which some of the trustees of religious institutions abuse those trusts was brought to light in regard to two temples in Madras. The 'Indian Social Reformer' in its editorial note says:—

Two of the most important Hindu temples—one a Shiva and the other a Vishnu temple—in Madras City have, contrary to the precepts of the Hindu religion, rented the coconut trees in their lands to toddy tappers. A crowded public meeting was held in the premises of one of these temples to protest against this public scandal. Messrs Rajagopalacharya and Satyamurthi denounced the conduct of the Trustees of the Temple in scathing terms. We trust public opinion, now that it has been aroused to this monstrous practice, will compel the Trustees to cancel the leases. Mr. Rajagopalacharya mentioned several examples of persons and institutions who have at much sacrifice voluntarily foregone the income from the liquor trade. The Theosophical Society at Adyar has a large number of coconut trees but they have never been let for toddy-tapping. The 'Hindu' and 'Swadeshamitran' newspapers have given up a large income from liquor advertisements. The 'Reformer,' we may add, has never accepted liquor and tobacco advertisements and this not as a sacrifice but as a part of its policy. Mr. Rajagopalacharya rightly contrasted the conduct of the Trustees in refusing admission to anyone and letting the trees to be tapped for toddy. We do not think that the Trustees have been knowingly guilty of this outrage on the Shastras and the Agnes, but evil is wrought by want of thought as well as by want of heart.

Formation of National Government in Britain.

LABOUR GOVERNMENT'S RESIGNATION

THREE-PARTY CABINET FORMED

Rugby, Aug 24th. The political crisis ended today with the announcement that the Prime Minister had tendered his resignation to the King, who asked him to form a new National Administration.

Mr. Ramsay MacDonald accepted and kissed hands on his appointment as head of the National Government.

A series of important conferences preceded this announcement. These conferences began with a visit to Buckingham Palace early this morning by the Prime Minister, Mr. Stanley Baldwin (the leader of the Conservative Party) and Sir Herbert Samuel (acting leader of the Liberal Party), at the invitation of the King, and at its conclusion the first official intimation was given that the formation of a National Government was under consideration.

On returning to 10, Downing Street, the Prime Minister met his Cabinet colleagues of the outgoing Administration, the members of which placed their resignations in his hands. The Parliamentary Under Secretaries and holders of other minor posts in the late Government tendered their resignations later, and after a further conference with Mr. Baldwin and Sir Herbert Samuel, the Prime Minister again went to see His Majesty.

The following statement was then issued from 10, Downing Street:—

'The Prime Minister this afternoon tendered his resignation to His Majesty, who entrusted Mr. Ramsay MacDonald with the task of forming a National Government on a comprehensive basis for the purpose of meeting the present financial emergency. Mr. MacDonald accepted the commission and is now in conference with Mr. Stanley Baldwin and Sir Herbert Samuel, who are co-operating with him in the constitution of such Administration.'

The New Cabinet.

Rugby, Tuesday.

Soon after six o'clock this evening the composition of the new Cabinet was announced from 10, Downing Street. Mr. MacDonald had previously visited the Palace and had an audience of the King lasting 25 minutes.

The Cabinet will consist of the ten following Ministers:—

- Prime Minister: Mr. J. Ramsay MacDonald (Labour). Lord President of the Council: Mr. Stanley Baldwin (Cons.). Lord High Chancellor: Lord Sankey (Labour). Chancellor of the Exchequer: Mr. Philip Snowden (Labour). Home Affairs: Sir Herbert Samuel (Liberal). Foreign Affairs: Lord Reading (Liberal). Dominions and Colonies: Mr. J. H. Thomas (Labour). India: Sir Samuel Hoare (Cons). Health: Mr. Neville Chamberlain (Cons.). Board of Trade: Sir P. Cunliffe Lister (Cons.). —Observer.

Passages Vote.

WHY MINISTERS VOTED.

A justification of the action of the Board of Ministers in having voted for the passage allowance was given by Hon. Mr. O. W. W. Kannangara, Minister for Education, at a reception given to him in Galle. He said that the Ministers as a body of honourable men had to discharge obligations devolved on them by the old Government. The new Governments of every civilised country recognised and discharged debts incurred by their predecessors.

As a reason for the Ministers not having explained their position when the vote was rejected by the State Council, Mr. Kannangara said they were under a solemn pledge of secrecy.

Taunt at Members.

Mr. Kannangara, on the other hand, found fault with those councillors who voted for the rejection of the Passages Vote. He said that they should have walked out, to work for a better constitution, but they did nothing of the kind and preferred to be in Council.

Personal.

Mr. V. Rajah of the Customs, Kuala Lumpur, is now in Jaffna on four months' leave and is staying at his residence at Meclai.

The Spoken Tamil of Jaffna

ITS CHARACTERISTICS AND PECULIARITIES

We publish below an interesting article contributed by Mr. N. Narayana, B.A., B.L., L.T., Professor of Sanskrit, Jaffna Hindu College. The Spoken Tamil of Jaffna contributed to the Literary Supplement of the 'Madras Hindu'. The article is written from historical and phonological standpoints. It is bound to provoke differences of opinion in certain matters:—

'The literary Tamil of Jaffna is almost the same as the literary Tamil of South India, but there are striking differences between the spoken Tamil of Jaffna and the spoken Tamil of South India. The nature and scope of these differences are sometimes misunderstood by people who do not have a first hand, living acquaintance with both. Mr. O. R. Srinivasa Iyengar, for instance, has said in a recent review that in Jaffna 'you find the vernacular in its purest, most grammatical and pedantic shape' (the Hindu Educational Supplement for May 31, 1931, p. 6.) This is not altogether correct; for, though the vernacular of Jaffna is to some extent more grammatical than the vernacular of Tamil India, it is neither more pure nor in any sense pedantic. In the spoken Tamil of the average Jaffna man there is, perhaps, more of Sanskrit than in the spoken Tamil, say, an Indian Vellore, there is also an admixture of Sinhalese, Portuguese, Dutch and English words. As for pedantry, though the charge may, perhaps, be partly true of people who wish to create an impression, it cannot be proved against the ordinary Jaffna man, who speaks in a style which is quite natural and homely.

Historical.

Ceylon lies very close to South India—the shortest distance between the two countries being about 20 miles across the seas. In spite of this proximity and in spite of the fact that Buddha Gaya and Chidambaram are in India, the bulk of the people of Ceylon have always been too conservative to pay a visit to India. Wave after wave of Indian invasion—more often peaceful than violent—has swept over Ceylon, but, in most cases, the invaders have settled down in the land and become absorbed in the original population. It is only in recent times that Indian immigrants—more particularly merchants—have been like birds of passage, coming and staying for short intervals, but going back in the end to spend their last days in India. These people, though in daily contact with the permanent inhabitants, have, in thought, speech and conduct, remained aloof from them, influencing, and being influenced by them, if at all, only in a small degree. So far as North Ceylon is concerned, this floating population is confined mostly to Jaffna town and few of the bigger villages; therefore, the thought, speech and manners of the people inhabiting the other areas of the Province have remained almost unaffected by external influences.

Who are the permanent inhabitants of this Province? The ancient chronicles of Ceylon record that the aboriginal inhabitants of Ceylon were Yakkas and Nagas; we know too little of them to speak with certainty. But the earliest human inhabitants of Ceylon known to history were settlers from India. One batch came from North India in the 6th century B.C. under Prince Vijaya. The members of this batch were the progenitors of the Sinhalese race. Vijaya married a Pandya Princess, and this matrimonial alliance with the Tamils of the east coast of India was the precursor of many more. The Tamils who came into Ceylon in connection with these alliances could not have been many, and all of them were later on absorbed into the Sinhalese race. But a century or two later than Vijaya, there came others from India who disputed the sovereignty of Ceylon with Vijaya's successors. These were known as the Tamils or Malabars—the two words being interchangeable. This interchangeability of the two words is full of historic significance, for it shows that, at the time when these invasions were first recorded, i.e., about the century A.D., the Malayalam language and the Malayalam race had not separated from the Tamil language and the Tamil race. In later days, too, there were many invasions of Ceylon by the so-called Dravidian race; but these invasions were called after the distinctive names of the invading races—such as the Kannadas, the Telugas, the Cholas and so on.

For centuries after these invasions, the whole of Ceylon was the scene of frequent warfare between the Sinhalese and Tamils, Jaffna being very much nearer Tamil Nadu than other parts of Ceylon. Jaffna became, naturally enough, the refuge of the Ceylon Tamils in times of adversity, till, in the end, it came to be their settled home. Two important facts have now to be noted about these early Tamil settlers.

(Continued on page 4)

A Mysterious Cobra?

BITES CHILD IN MORE THAN 50 PLACES.

The Ratnapura Correspondent of the 'Ceylon Observer' writes:

Bites in more than fifty different places on the feet on Sunday last and again on the head on Tuesday by a cobra which the villagers believe to be a reincarnation of a dead enemy of the family, a child of three died on Wednesday.

It appears that the parents of the child used constantly to beat larger heads with a neighbouring family. In one of the frequent brawls the head of this family is said to have threatened vengeance even after his death. The maker of this threat died just about a year ago, and on several occasions recently a cobra was seen prowling about the house of the child's parents.

On Sunday last the child's father had gone to the fields. The mother left the child in the house and went to a neighbouring house. To her horror, on her return she found her child lying unconscious on the ground and a cobra creeping away from the house. The child had been bitten in more than fifty places, all below the ankles.

Under the treatment of a veterinarian the child was fast improving, when on Tuesday night the child was again bitten by the cobra on the head. At midnight the child started crying out. A lamp was lit, and the cobra was seen creeping away. The child died the following day.

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(Misc. 350, 27—26/9/31)

ORDER NISI.

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 7918.

In the matter of the Estate of the late Saraswathi wife of Namasivayam Ilayathambu of Kondavil, Jaffna late, of Taiping in the Federated Malay States.

Deceased.

Kathiravelu Ponniah of Kondavil

vs. Petitioner.

- Miscr 1. Ilayathambu Alagaratham 2. Nagemmah wife of K. Ponniah 3. Namasivayam Ilayathambu all of Kondavil Respondents.

This matter of the Petition of the above-named Petitioner praying that the above-named 2nd Respondent be appointed guardian ad litem over the minor the 1st Respondent and for Letters of Administration to the estate of the above-named deceased Saraswathi wife of Namasivayam Ilayathambu coming on for disposal before D. H. Balfour Esquire, District Judge, on June 29, 1931 in the presence of Mr. P. K. Ramaswami, Proctor on the part of the Petitioner, and the 1st Respondent of the Petitioner dated June 22, 1931 having been read: It is declared that the Petitioner is the father of the said interdicted and is entitled to have Letters of Administration to the estate of the said interdicted issued to him unless the Respondent or any other person shall on or before September 3, 1931 show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

July 17, 1931.

Sgd. D. H. Balfour, District Judge.

O. 263, 27 & 31.

World Economic Depression:

PSYCHOLOGICAL RATHER THAN PHYSICAL.

The true explanation for the present depression seems to be psychological rather than physical, and the change from the boom to the slump is generally due to errors of judgment and business miscalculation, opines Dr. P. J. Thomas, University Professor of Economics in the course of a lecture on "World Economic Depression" delivered at the Y.M.C.A. Auditorium, Madras. The following is a summary of his speech:—

Depression is not a novel phenomenon. During the last 150 years, booms and slumps, more or less severe have often broken out, periodically, according to some, the period being every 7 or 10 years and generally they are regarded as phases of the "trade cycle" which brings in its train rising prices, increased production, boom or else, slump and depression, one following the other with some degree of rhythm and regularity. Economists disagree on the cause of such cyclical fluctuations in business, some even connecting them with sunspots and vagaries of the moon. The true explanation seems to be psychological rather than physical, and the change from the boom to the slump is generally due to errors of judgment and business miscalculation. This is inevitable in the modern industrial system, seeing that production takes place mostly in anticipation of demand, often for a distant market or for markets liable to rapid fluctuations in fashions and requirements. Miscalculations are thus inevitable. According to some theorists, this is aggravated by the tendency to excess of saving over investment, and according to others, by the inefficient flow of purchasing power due to an improper distribution and use of the income from industry. Whatever be the explanation, it would appear that a tendency to under-consumption is inherent in the existing industrial system and this gives the motive power to the trade cycle.

On the question whether the present trade depression is connected with cyclical fluctuation opinions are divided. When one considers over the stock market boom in U.S.A. which brought about the Wall Street crash of October 1929 and the various circumstances that preceded and followed it, one is bound to suspect that the present slump is quite possibly a phase of the trade cycle, although it cannot be denied that it is more intense and more widespread than most depressions in the past. This difference may be due to random factors, political and economic, which cumulatively aggravate the slump and is also due to the increasing interdependence of the different countries.

Disequilibrium Between Supply and Demand

After the war there arose a disequilibrium between production and consumption between supply and demand. Production went on unabated but purchasing power lagged behind not only owing to the inherent tendency already noted but owing to the disparity between the prices of raw materials and those of finished goods. Encouraged by the boom prices during the war, and undeterred by the sudden slump in 1919-20 the production of raw materials was put on at a rather rapid pace; and a further stimulus came from improvements in methods of production, the increasing mechanization of agriculture, and the consequent fall in production costs. Thus world's visible wheat supply increased by more than 50 per cent between 1926 and 1930 and the acreage under cotton alone rose from 33 million acres in 1913 to 48 million acres in 1919. But prices had gone down, and this fall affected the purchasing power of the agriculturist, the more so as the prices of finished goods he purchased had not gone down to any appreciable extent. And agriculturists form the bulk of world's population. However, the crop shortage of wheat in 1924 and 1925 and of cotton in 1926 and 1927 and the Federal Farm Board's operations maintained the prices of those raw materials to some extent, and the temporarily successful efforts at valuation brought about a rise of price in rubber and coffee. But this did not keep up the balance between agricultural and industrial prices was radically disturbed. The stock market boom in the U.S.A. 1927-29 and the orgy of speculation kept up the show for a time. Bank credits were piled up and the system of instalment selling gave a temporary stimulus to demand. As optimism prevailed in the U.S.A. which is today the biggest and richest market in the world, the rest of the world caught the contagion and optimism spread everywhere. But the boom was built upon wild speculations and miscalculation and such madness could not go on for long. The crash came in October 1929 and plunged not only U.S.A. not only America but the whole world in the abyss of a dire depression. As is the boom, so is the slump. The boom went up to dizzy heights, and the slump is proving equally intense and abnormal.

Contributory Factors

Among the contributory factors that aggravate the intensity and extent of the depression are tariff, political unrest, trade union action, international indebtedness, and the monopolistic action of cartels and trusts. By these influences, international trade is impeded, prices of finished products are kept high, wages are rigidly maintained at previous levels, taxation rates high, and old

Continued up.

"Will Gandhi Compromise?"

Under the above heading, Rev. John Hayes Holmes of America writes an article in the "Unity of Chicago", and in the course of it, he says that Mahatma should not make any compromise on any essential matters and the article is concluded thus:—

It is to be remembered that Gandhi, by statesmanship as consummate as his heroism is sublime, has now led India to a position in which a man less strong than himself must hold out till what he asks is granted. For India is now committed to the cause of freedom, exactly as America was so committed in the Revolutionary War. After Lahore, and the Declaration of Independence, and the raising of the national flag, the nation cannot retreat even if she would. She has put her hand to the plow, and cannot look back. After all that has happened, all that has been proclaimed, all that has been suffered, India would become the laughing-stock of the world, and the contemptuous joke of Englishmen, if she should take less than what she has set out to gain. Worse than this, by any policy of compromise or surrender, she would become the shame of her own people. Her martyrs would cry out from their graves. Her tears in her myriad prison cells, the blood on her countless paving stones, would find tongues to clamour their reproach. If India is to survive at all, she must survive in spirit—worthy of her cause, faithful to her dream, whole in soul, if not in body. Of all living men to day, the Mahatma must see and know this fact, and therefore will not forget it.

But not India alone but the world has issue here! There are some things that cannot be compromised. The freedom of a nation is one, for it is either free or it is not free. The soul of a people is another, for it is either true, or it is not true. The sanctity of a cause is still another, for it is either served, or it is not served. Gandhi has won the allegiance of millions of men and women outside his own country and thus untouched by his own nationalistic cause, through that higher cause of love, and non-violence, and soul force, which, alone in history, he has made so peculiarly his own. He is to day the guardian of this universal cause of the spirit, as well as of the specific cause of India. When he sits at London, he will sit as the representative of the millions of his own land who see in him their liberation from subjection, but also of unnumbered millions in other lands who see in him their liberation from violence, and war, and hate and death. Gandhi has taught mankind a better way of life. Can he make that way succeed, and then withdraw? It is this which he must answer in London. And if he fails, the heart of the world will break!

Never in all history has one man faced so great a challenge as Gandhi must face in Britain. Never in all history has there been a man so fitted in mind and spirit to answer this challenge, and there-with save humanity. We pray for him who is not only India's but the world's Mahatma, because we trust him, and therefore would help him to stand fast.

Continued.

mark to have to be relinquished by well established industries; the dislocating the international as well as international economic conditions.

The monetary factor is only a contributory influence in the trade cycle, and it becomes a prime factor only in financial booms. The deflation resulting from the return to the gold standard in England and from the fixation of the exchange ratio in India has somewhat aggravated the slump in those two countries. As for the shortage of gold and its so-called maldistribution and sterilisation, they are important factors in the present world situation, but had little to do with the slump in 1929-30. Those who magnify the importance of this factor possibly ignore the present role of gold in the mechanism of exchange and the causes which lead to its distribution between different countries. No wonder that those who are responsible for central banks have not so far pointed out this as the cause of the depression.

In different countries, different factors have deepened the depression. In India and China, the falling prices of silver reduced the purchasing power of the masses. In England, the reduction in export trade, due to the falling off of foreign markets and the comparatively high prices of British export goods, has aggravated the slump. British export prices are still 51 per cent above the pre-war level, while import prices have come within 13 per cent of the pre-war level. Hence the budget deficit estimated at 120 millions, and the adverse trade balance.

It was in Germany, however, that the slump has produced its worst evils. There the situation was complicated not only by budget deficits and by industrial dislocation, but by the growing dependence on short term credits from other countries—a dependence which was due to the destruction of capital by the inflation of 1920-23. The reparation payments are heavy, but unlike other countries, Germany's internal debts are not inordinably small. Nor are reparation payments the only item of foreign debt. A large amount is due to America every year in interest charges for the colossal sums lent to German industry. America's interest in Germany and the Hoover moratorium proposals must be understood in the light of these facts. The Hoover offer was indeed a timely gesture, but it did not stave off the German crisis. The short term credits continued to be withdrawn and matters

Continued up.

The Spoken Tamil of Jaffna.

Continued from page 3

The first is that, whereas the Sinhalese, some time after their settlement in Ceylon, gave up both their original tongue and original faith, the Tamils refused to part with either. The Tamils have ever been true to their ancient heritage. This is one of the determining factors in the history of the spoken Tamil of Jaffna. Contrary to the most part, to remain within the narrow bounds of their peninsular home, the Jaffnese have saved their tongue from some of the more serious idiosyncrasies which afflict the spoken Tamil of South India.

Secondly, the fact that the original settlers of Jaffna were mainly drawn from Malabar gave the history of Jaffna a bias which still marks it off sharply from the Tamil country on the mainland. The face of many a Jaffna man wears a distinctly Malayalee cast. Until very recently, he had his tuft of hair done up into a knot in front. Even now, the women of the lower classes in Jaffna wear their upper cloth around their chest. The Jaffna woman, like her Malayalee sister, enjoys great freedom and takes to intellectual pursuits with great enthusiasm. According to the Thesawaleme (common law of the land), the daughter of a Jaffna man shares his property equally with his sons which seems to mark the transition of society from the matriarchal to the patriarchal state. A strong dose of Malabar influence is to be noticed in the speech of the people too.

Grammar.

The most obvious feature of Jaffna speech is accent. Accent is absolutely lacking in the Tamil of the South Indian. It is well known that Sanskrit was an accented language in ancient times. We can see that spoken Malayalam and spoken Telugu (at least in the Andhrades) are also accented. It is, therefore, natural to infer that early Tamil, too, was accented, and that Jaffnese loyalty to tradition has preserved this notable feature of phonology.

This constant and inveterate habit of accentuation occasionally results in the truncation or transformation of words: e.g. இறக்கு (second) is accented on the second syllable, and this accentuation has almost changed the word to இறக்கு in common speech. Similarly கிண்பு South Indian கிண்பு with its accent on the second syllable, has become கிண்பு.

The accent of the Jaffna man is accompanied by an intonation which is almost identical with Malayalee intonation.

While on the subject of phonology, I must not omit to mention that Jaffna speech still retains the simple interrogative value of "அ" which we occasionally come across in the earliest extant works of Tamil literature but which has died out of modern speech in Tamil India, except where it is coupled with an implied affirmation or negation. For example, where an Indian Tamil would normally ask, "கீசை போனா?" "did you go?"—the Jaffna man would ask quite as normally ask, "கீசை போனா?"

Jaffna speech substitutes "ஆ" for "அ" in most cases in which South Indian speech substitutes "அ" for "ஆ".

The unsoftened Jaffna man is thickly in everything; he is thickly in speech also. For instance, where the South Indian would say தெருவழியை (by the street) the Jaffna man would say தெருவழி where the South Indian would say ஆன் உயாட்டான் the Jaffna man would say ஆன் உயான். But the Jaffna man never talks rapidly so as to swallow up any of his syllables.

In the matter of inflexions and terminations, the Jaffna tongue reveals certain old features, some of which are akin to corresponding features in Malayalam. For example பரஞ்சை (he says) is frequently to be heard in the speech of the average Jaffna man though the final consonant is not nasalised. இரும்பை (iruppan—they are) for South Indian இரும்பை has an archaic odour about it, though I cannot exactly define it.

The use of the gender, again, follows peculiar lines. Philologists tell us that the neuter gender was the first to evolve in the history of language. This is, in a way, borne out by the Jaffna man's use of the word ஆன் (hey) for ஆன். Sometimes ஆன் is used where the South Indian would use ஆன். I was a for a long time thinking that this usage was merely facetious; I am now convinced it is serious.

(Continued up.)

(Continued.) came to a head in the middle of the last month. The Darmasabha and National Bank, one of the largest banks in the country, closed its doors. Others had to follow suit. The bank rate rose from 5 per cent to 15 per cent. A crisis of that kind cannot be confined within a single country; it must have its repercussions. Hence the immediate action of the great Power, who met in conference to give a helping hand to Germany. The light of capital from Germany was counteracted by the grant to the Reich bank of a credit of 100 million dollars under the auspices of the Bank of International Settlements. Let us hope that the crisis is now passing away

This conviction was fostered by my attention being drawn to such conviction of genders as in என்னை? (என்னை அது?) addressed to both men and women, and in என்னை அது? for என்னை அது? addressed to a woman without any implication of endearment.

The peculiar use of the first personal pronoun of the plural number deserves to be mentioned in this account of grammatical variations. The inclusive pronouns நாம் and எங்குமே are used only in the royal sense as substitutes for நான் and என்னுமே. In all other cases, their place is taken by the exclusive pronouns நான் and என்னுமே. For, instance, when a Jaffna man, speaking to another Jaffna man, refers to their country or language, he would say, எங்கள்நாடு (our country) where a South Indian speaking to other South Indian would say, எங்குமே and எங்குமே.

The use of cases in Jaffna Tamil is at least as noteworthy as the use of gender and number. The dative cases play in Jaffna Tamil the manifold part which the genitive plays in Sanskrit. Wherever one would normally use the accusative or locative, the Jaffna man uses the dative. For instance மட்டுக்கு அடித்தான் for மட்டில் அடித்தான்.

The partiality of the Jaffna man for one set of grammatical forms rather than another makes the South Indian think that the Jaffna man is pedantic. The partiality of the Jaffna man for அடித்தான்? instead of அடித்தான்? and அடிக்கிறான்? instead of அடிக்கிறான்? certainly sounds pedantic in South Indian ears; but these are not cases of real pedantry; the latter would even appear to be bad grammar for அடித்தான் strictly means 'he came' not 'I came.'

Vocabulary.

The differences indicated above are only a few among many which have dug a vast gulf between the spoken Tamil of Jaffna and the spoken Tamil of South India. As if this were not enough, the vocabulary comes in to widen the gulf. As I have stated at the very outset, Jaffna Tamil is made up of a large number of heterogeneous elements. Of course, there is the Malayalam element pointing to the inference already drawn that the original Tamils of Jaffna came from the coast part from the Malabar coast, and at a time when Malayalam had not branched off from Tamil as an independent literary entity. Words like பசு (fur), பசற்தல் (speaking) and others form this element. Then there is a large amount of Sanskrit also e.g., கண்கிழை (talking: வேதம் salary); பரிசரி [(1) barber, and (2) Physician—the view that the two professions were formerly in Jaffna—as they row are in India—combined in the same case]; தயால், corruption of South Indian Brahmin தேசமாம் which is itself an abbreviation of தேசமாம். The South Indian equivalents for these are pure Tamil words. There is the Sinhalese element consisting of words like சில் (a small coin, a half-cent or pie); சோதி (soup); and சிவில் (saucer). There are Dutch and Portuguese words like சிறை (chair), சிதேர் (flee), and அலவாக்கு (crow bar). We have also English words in plenty—such as, எக்கு (berch), சந்தை (cart). There are also non-descript words like குடிபந்தி (pastime, recreation, entertainment) whose etymology cannot be traced. The most noteworthy fact about the foreign element in Jaffna Tamil is its almost entire lack of Persian or Hindustani words. This gives it an appearance of 'purity' so far as vocabulary is concerned. But South Indian Tamil has the advantage of containing few or no Dutch, Portuguese, Sinhalese and Malay words. Its 'purity', therefore, is not really less.

The last thing to be noted about the vocabulary of Jaffna Tamil is its having a very large number of words which, whatever their origin, must now be classed as pure provincialisms. I shall note down here just a few, which are in most common use;—கிழமை (week); தடிமன் (cold); கருத்தம் (sickness) குதம் (store); கூடநகன் (undesirable person)

There is another difference still more striking than these, and that is in regard to their communal currency. In South India, each community has its own peculiar colloquial variations; the speech of the Brahmins is different from that of the Vellala, the speech of the Vellala is different from that of the Nadar, and so on. In Jaffna, however, the same colloquial usage is current among all communities—be they Brahmins, Vellala or Nalava (laddy tapper). The only ground on which I can explain this difference is that, in Tamil India, as in other parts of India, society has evolved on very much more compartmented lines than in Jaffna, as Indian society has been forced into contact with a very much larger number of races, and has more frequently been in firm contact in all the various spheres of life—political, religion, art, science and literature. But, whatever the cause, the result is certainly happier for Jaffna than for South India.

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