

The Jaffna Organ.

"Arise! Awake! and stop not till the goal is reached."

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HAS THE WIDEST CIRCULATION

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(Y. 7. 19-18-1-32.)

Order Nisi.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 7929.

In the Matter of the estate of the late

Thavasi Kumar of Chiviateru West

Deceased.

Sinnakoty widow of Kumar of Chiviateru

West.

vs. Petitioner.

1 Paropathy widow of Nagan of

Chiviateru.

2 Sinna'bambay Thambo and wife

3 Vallippillai of do.

4 Kumar Arumugam of do.

5 Vyravi Arumugattan and Wife

6 Beethavan of do.

7. Ponnammah daughter of Kumar of

do and

8 Kumar Veluppillai of do.

Respondents.

This matter of the Petition of the abovesaid

Petitioner praying that the 4th Respondent be

appointed Guardian ad litem over the 7th and 8th

Respondents and that Letters of Administration

to the estate of the deceased be granted to the

Petitioner as his widow coming on for di probat

before D. H. Balfour, Esquire, District Judge,

Jaffna, on July 16, 1931, in the presence of Mr.

R. Subramaniam, Proctor, for Petitioner and the

affidavit of the Petitioner dated July 8, 1931

having been read, It is ordered that the 4th

Respondent be appointed Guardian ad litem over

the 7th and 8th Respondents and that Letters of

Administration to the estate of the deceased will

be granted to the Petitioner unless the respondents

appear before this Court on September 14, 1931

show cause to the satisfaction of this Court to

be contrary.

Sgt. D. H. Balfour,

District Judge.

The 4/6 day of July 1931.

O. 265. 10 & 14.

R. Papyah.

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Y 14. 12-11.3-32.

Auction Sale.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.

Under Mortgage Decree No. 25247

Under and by virtue of the commission

issued to me in the above case, I shall

offer for sale for the amount decreed

therein poundage and costs on September

30th, Wednesday 1931 at 10 a. m. at the

spot.

1. Land situated at Karampan called

Marusparuththanai in extent 15 lms. V.

C. with well and other plantations and

bounded on the East and North by property

of Annammah widow of Chelliath,

West by the property of Ponnammah wife

of Anthoniappillai and South by property

mentioned under 2 herein. Of the whole

hereof an undivided one half share

2. Land situated at do called Marusparuththanai

in extent 7 1/2 lms V C and

bounded on the East by the property of

Thangam wife of Sappiah, North by the

1st property mentioned ab va, West by

the property of Anthoniappillai wife of

Santhiappillai and others and South by the

property of Mariyamattu wife of Saviri-

muttu. The whole hereof

3. Land situated at do called Vaddu-

vill kkerne kkokilaku in extent 16 lms

V C with well and house and bounded

on the East by the property of P.

Mariampillai and shareholders, North by

the property of Ventharkoon Saveri-

muttu and others, West by tank and

South by road. Of this an undivided

29/40 share but with absolute right to the

said house

4. Land situated at do called Paravai-

pulam in extent 27 lms. PC and 11 kls with

well and bounded on the East by the

property of Sellam wife of Saverimuttu,

North by the property of A. Mariam-

pillai and others, West by the property

of V. Kaadiah and others and South by

the property of Nigammah wife of Sappi-

ah and others. The whole of this-

5. Land situated at do called Naik-

koddanthalu in extent 12 1/2 lms V C. of

this exclusive of the North-western extent

of 3 lms V C. the remaining extent of

9 1/2 lms V C with houses, well and other

plantations and bounded on the East and

North by road, West by the property of

Thangakuddy Barbara wife of Soosappillai

and South by the property of Visalaahy,

wife of Kaadiah and by lane. The whole

of this and share of Margosa and Thathai

trees standing at the western boundary.

J A SETHUPATHY,

Auctioneer & Commissioner

"Sethupathy Vasa"
Jaffna. (Mis. 861 10th.)

Forest Department Advertisements

The Divisional Forest Officer, Northern Division, Jaffna, will sell by public auction 100 palm and 15 acacia logs at the Depot on Tuesday September 15, 1931 at 9.30 a.m., at per notice dated August 21, 1931, appearing in Government Gazette of the 28th August, 1931.

Office of the
Conservator of Forests,
Randy, 4th Sep. 1931.
(G, 108-101b)

J. D. SARGENT,
Conservator of
Forests.

The Hindu Organ.



JAFFNA, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1931

TREE TAX.

"What is it," Mr. S. Rajaratnam asked at the Tree-tax Conference "that the Government thinks about when it speaks of a tree-tax?" Neither the Government Agent nor the Excise Commissioner has definitely stated at the Conference the nature of the scheme which they have in view regarding the introduction of tree-tax in certain parts of Jaffna. The Excise Commissioner which reported after the closure of taverns in Jaffna favoured the tapping of a limited number of trees for the consumers whom it is difficult to wean from their craving for toddy drinking. According to it the number of trees should be limited and that no sale should take place at all, and that licence should be applied for by the consumer. But if the Government has in view a scheme of tree-tax, mentioned by Mr. S. Shivapadhasundaram in his able article published elsewhere, the tree-tax system is much more dangerous than the tavern. Instead of one tavern in a locality, there will be taverns in every palmyrah garden, and the consequence of such a step will be disastrous for the cause of temperance and the well-being of the people.

It is admitted that toddy is an intoxicating liquor and should be restricted. If toddy is not an intoxicant and it is the food of the people, as contended by some champions of toddy-drinking, then there is no reason why the food of the people should be taxed and restrictions should be placed on its manufacture. The Government itself is aware that it is an intoxicant and should be restricted. But if the scheme agreed upon a few months ago for tree-tax should be introduced, the country will be flooded with toddy and it will encourage intemperance. We are glad that Messrs. S. Shivapadhasundaram, S. Rajaratnam and Mr. C. K. Swaminathan have opposed such a scheme.

The taverns had been closed by local option. People have declared by their vote that they don't want toddy. If a new system to provide toddy should be introduced it should be done by the method by which the taverns were closed.

Let the people declare in open poll that they want toddy, and the best way to obtain it is not by taverns but by tree-tax system. The attempt to introduce it without local option should be resisted. We are sure that it will be opposed even by the State Council whose sanction is necessary to bring about a change in the local option rules.

The privilege of local option had been obtained after a strenuous fight and prolonged agitation. It gives the right to the people to exercise some control over the liquor traffic in this country. But if the tree-tax system should be introduced, the people will be deprived of this valued privilege. Even if the experiment fails, there is no way to remove it. The public will have to depend on the mercy of the executive for its removal.

The Government Agent closed the conference by announcing that the majority in conference were in favour of the tree-tax. Does this conference represent the opinion of Jaffna? Its representative character will be challenged. This is pointed out by Mr. Shivapadhasundaram in his article. We hope the Government will not act on the opinion of a packed conference.

The Tree Tax System.

WHY IT IS BAD

Mr. S. Shivapadhasundaram, Principal, Victoria College, writes:—

A conference was held yesterday (5th) at the Jaffna Kachcheri presided over by the Government Agent for the purpose of ascertaining Jaffna opinion regarding the imposition of tree tax on toddy. The Excise Commissioner also was present. The assembly included gentlemen of various shades of opinion ranging from total prohibition to free toddyism. Therefore it was possible for the two officers to ascertain the different views on the subject, to weigh the arguments and decide the question on the merits of the arguments. But the scope of the conference may not necessarily be the opinion of Jaffna, as the assembly was probably not intended to be truly representative of Jaffna. A conference can be truly representative only if the members are nominated on a numerical basis. If disparity of numerical representation can ever be perfect, it was perfect in the conference. Of the gentlemen present, who were neither chief headmen nor members of the Excise Advisory Committee the majority came from the neighbourhood of the Jaffna Kachcheri. The single Vidhan of Manipay had three representatives, whereas the whole Maniagar divisions such as Vadamarsahy East and West, Valigaman North and East did not get three each though a few years ago each of these divisions was two Maniagarships. The disparity might have been due to the absence of the gentlemen who were invited. But a numerically representative conference was neither necessary nor easily summoned. I give below with my comments the views expressed at the meeting.

Toddy not a Food.

The Government Agent began by asking the members not to consider the question of free toddy and total prohibition but to discuss the relative merits of the tavern system and the tree tax system. He evidently rejected the consideration of free toddy, because toddy is not a food but a stimulant and intoxicant and should therefore be restricted. Even small children have seen the effects of toddy in the incoherent talk and the unsteady walk of drinkers. Nobody denies the presence of alcohol in toddy and the poisonous nature of alcohol. Some recommend it as a drug. But there must certainly be other drugs just as good but without such injurious properties. Besides, a drug must be prescribed and used only as a drug. There were some gentlemen in the assembly who even resented the use of the term 'Anti Temperance Party', even when there was no evidence that they were meant. So jealous they were to be included in the temperance fold. Government itself places restrictions on the use of toddy by taxing it and by limiting the place and time of its sale. I think it was a Governor or a Colonial Secretary who once proclaimed that the Ceylon Government was a great temperance organisation. We must therefore have before us the view that toddy is not a food and that its use should be restricted when we consider the advantages and disadvantages of the tree tax system.

The Tree-Tax System.

Though no definite scheme was put forward by the Excise Commissioner, most of the supporters of the tree tax seemed to have had in their minds the proposal put forward by a body of men appointed by the Government Agent a few months ago. Its chief features seem to be the following:

1. Every man who drinks toddy is entitled to tap or get toddy tapped in one tree and pay a tree tax.
2. The excess may be sold indiscriminately to any one. Neither the possession nor the transportation of toddy by any one is illegal.
3. A tapper may tap not more than 20 trees.
4. Sweet toddy also shall be taxed but more lightly.

Rule No. 1 is a direct violation of the principle of restricting the use of liquor. Every drinker has toddy in his own home all the twenty-four hours of the day.

Rule No. 2 presumes that one tree is too many for one drinker and allows the indiscriminate sale of toddy to any one, at any time, at any place. If every drinker gets a tree, the excess must be thrust on non-drinkers. This means that non-drinkers must be canvassed for drinking and be converted to drinking. This business is neither temperance nor anti-temperance. It is a mission for the propagation of toddy, to make toddy drinking universal. The supporters of this tree tax system would reduce the Ceylon Government from its position of a great temperance organisation to a P. T. mission.

Taverns n Homes

Rule No. 3 makes every tapper's home a tavern. A tree can yield on an average of five bottles a day. If Government does not require a drinker to become a criminal, it can allow the average man only one bottle a day, half a bottle in the morning and half in the evening. Even if it allows two bottles, there are three bottles left from each tree. This makes 60 bottles a day for the disposal of the tapper in his house to novices. At half a bottle each, 120 men will go to his house every day. This is enough to make his house a tavern. The tree tax system thus multiplies taverns and should be opposed by the opponents of taverns. That is, it will have no supporters.

Rule No. 4 penalises sweet toddy for no fault of its own. Most of the Maniagars unreservedly condemned this rule. One Maniagar supported it because he did not realise the value of it to the people, just as I myself was ignorant of it till a few months ago. In April last, I happened to stay in a village which is not over rich and I found out from the talks I had with the people that it formed their morning and noon meal during the season. They complained that climbers were reluctant to tap sweet toddy as it was less paying than fermented toddy, and they also referred to certain restrictions recently imposed on it by Government. In these circumstances it is the duty of Government to give a bounty to sweet toddy. How injurious to tax food for the benefit of a poison! And after all what is the benefit to toddy by the taxing of sweet toddy? They say that toddy will be tapped in the name of sweet toddy. But is not toddy being illicitly tapped every day in non-tavern areas without the sacred name of sweet toddy? Has Government been able to stop it? Is it not able to stop it? The pots remain in the trees twenty-four hours a day for weeks and months. Is not the Vidhan able to see them? In fact the Excise Inspector and the Vidhan see the pot long before it is hung on the tree, their permission is usually obtained beforehand. No enlightened Government which realises the value of sweet toddy, would ever impose any kind of restriction on sweet toddy. A benevolent Government would like to encourage it by giving a bounty.

It may be asked whether if these objectionable features are removed, the tree tax system may be adopted. It has two inherent evils and can be removed only along with it.

Women and Children Drinkers

The tree tax system takes the toddy to the consumer's house. This leads women and children also to form the dangerous habit. I have not yet heard of women going to taverns. But a few do drink, proucing it stealthily from taverns. No one fails to see the truth "How oft the sight of means to do ill deeds, makes ill deeds done". One member of the conference said "Those women who have been drinking will continue to drink. But those who do not drink will not drink." He wants us to believe that the former never acquired the habit of drinking toddy but were born with toddy pots in their mouths. Hitherto the woman has been in her senses and has been managing the household in spite of her drinker husband. If the man and the woman both drink, who will take care of the children and who will pay for the drink of both? The tree tax system blinds the other eye also of the man who is already blind in one eye.

No Local Option.

Another inherent evil of the tree tax system is that its suppression by local option would be impossible. The tree tax throws on every drinker the option to take toddy or to give it up. It is a matter of individual option, and local option for the suppression of tree tax in a locality is a contradiction in terms. Once it gets in, it gets in for ever and multiplies. The locality would be doomed.

The supporters of the tree tax system have ascribed three evils to the tavern system. Drinkers gather in large numbers in taverns and as a result of this there will be free fights. Under the tree tax system, they say such large numbers cannot assemble and there will be no possibility for such fights. This is a wrong calculation. No doubt there is greater possibility for the beginning of a quarrel in a large crowd. But as under the tree tax system there are far more taverns and more drinkers, the total number of altercations that will begin under the tavern system will be less than those under the tree tax system. But the advantage of a large crowd is that there is greater chance of a fight being prevented or stopped than in a small crowd. So the argument against the tavern system applies with greater force to the tree tax system.

News & Notes.

According to the latest estimate one million Chinese died as a result of the recent floods of the Yellow River in North Honan.

Mr. Shankut Ali boarded the 'Rajputana' at Port Said and conferred with Mahatma Gandhi and the Nawab of Bhopal.

Mr. K. C. Roy, founder of the Associated Press of India and the most senior journalist in India died on the 7th inst. He fainted while in the Legislative Assembly and was removed to the Ripon Hospital where he died. Death was due to a stroke of paralysis. The next day the Assembly adjourned as a mark of respect.

Mahatma Gandhi and other delegates to the Round Table Conference are, it is understood, to be afforded special police protection towards which arrangements are being made by Scotland Yard. There is no special significance about this step, says a Reuter's message. These precautions are always taken in the case of distinguished visitors.

Interesting speculation as to the future of Messrs. MacDonald, Snowden and Thomas is made, says Reuter. When the Government resigns, it is understood, His Majesty will offer them peerages. Opinion is also expressed that Mr. Snowden will accept, while Messrs. MacDonald and Thomas will refuse. Mr. MacDonald may withdraw temporarily from political life, after which he will possibly be strongly pressed to allow his name to be submitted to the King as Viceroy of India, in place of Lord Willingdon, who, for reasons of health, is not expected to serve his full term.

Desiring to participate in the reduction of national expenditure, King George, has sent a message to the Prime Minister declaring that he intends to reduce the Civil List expenditure by £50,000 while the mercery lasts, says a Reuter's message. The Prince of Wales has also informed the Premier that he will contribute £10,000 from his income for the same purpose. The King also writes to Mr. MacDonald to say that the other members of the Royal Family are all desirous of making reductions in their grants during the crisis. The King's Civil List amounts to £170,000 per annum. He also receives an income of £60,000 from the Duchy of Lancaster. The Prince of Wales is making a personal gift, as his income of £70,000 is derived solely from the Duchy of Cornwall.

Obscenity.

It was also pointed out that those who go from the tavern use very obscene language and sometimes molest people on the road. This is a result not of the tavern but of the toddy. This is a lesson that must be brought home to those who glibly talk of the food value of toddy and to the apostles of the legitimacy of drink. The man who drinks in the tree tax tavern also goes along the road as much as the man who goes from the tavern of the tavern system. Another advantage claimed for the tree tax toddy is that it will be fresh and therefore less poisonous and less injurious. The Provincial Surgeon said that mixing of fresh toddy with old toddy is bad. If there is old toddy in the usual tavern there can be also old toddy in the tree tax tavern also in the same proportion. The fresh toddy that will be mixed with it the next day will be in the same proportion and the mixture will be equally poisonous. But the supervision of the large tavern by the Excise Department will be more effective as such taverns are few and there is thus less danger in the large taverns than in the tree tax taverns.

I have pointed out that the tree tax system (1) does not restrict drink in any way (2) propagates the drink evil, will make it universal and permanently ruin the country and (3) will mercilessly starve those who depend on sweet toddy. I have also shown that the evils attributed to the tavern system will be found in the greater intensity in the tree tax system. The choice between the tree tax system and the tavern system is therefore easily made.

Mahatmaji at Aden.

PILOTS THE "RAJAPUTANA."

FIRST DUTY INFORMAL CONFERENCE.

Aden, Sep. 8. S. S. "Rajputana" with Mr. Gandhi on board arrived here at 4 a. m. today.

The entire Indian community in Aden gave Mr. Gandhi a stirring welcome upon his arrival. Indians were to have tendered him a big banquet but as "Rajputana" was 12 hours late they decided instead to present an illuminated address, voicing the appreciation of his leadership.

The address compares Mr. Gandhi to the greatest religious teachers of the world.

He was cheered lustily as he went ashore in a launch accompanied by Mrs. Naidu and Mr. Mubach'ev Desai just as daylight was breaking over Aden's rock crested shores.

Mr. Gandhi spent a busy time ashore before the ship left at 9 a. m.

A large crowd of Indians, wearing Gandhi caps awaited the arrival of the ship since midnight and raised cheers as she steamed alongside.

Mr. Gandhi disembarked at 5-30 a. m., with the other delegates and taking advantage of the cool morning air made a series of visits to various points in the town where he was given an enthusiastic reception.

On arriving at Crater at 7 a. m. he was presented with an address wishing him success at the Round Table Conference and also a purse containing £825 for the good of the cau. s.

In his response Mr. Gandhi showed himself not wholly satisfied with the amount, saying that he had expected much more from Aden merchants.

Addressing the audience in English and Gujarati he stressed the importance of the solution of the Hindu Muslim communal problems.

Mr. Gandhi then called on the Acting Resident and had breakfast with leading merchants before returning to "Rajputana".

Gandhiji's Interest in Nautical Matters.

Mr. Gandhi's trip from Bombay was a cruise until to-day Captain B. Morton Jack on "Rajputana" permitted him, stired in the customary lein-cloth to pilot the big liner while the Captain stood over him.

"I hope I do not excite the boat and drown everybody," he asked Mr. Gandhi laughingly as he turned the wheel from port to starboard. He then tried out various nautical instruments after which the Captain conducted him to the engine room, Radio Department and Chartroom, explaining the mechanical function of each device in which Mr. Gandhi exhibited the unalloyed interest of a schoolboy.

Deeply Touched by Captain's Hospitality

Mr. Gandhi appeared deeply touched at the Captain's demonstration of hospitality and courtesy. Up to this time it was remarked by his friends that Mr. Gandhi appeared homesick and neglected in his little cabin in the stern of the boat.

A constant companion of Mr. Gandhi is the ship's cat, which he feeds with goat's milk and which shares his mattress during nights.

His Highness the Nawab of Bhopal, Pandit Malaviya and Miss Blade, who were indisposed during the voyage, are now fully restored.

Complete Escape From Seasickness

The first four days of the trip were extremely rough and only hardy travellers like Mr. Gandhi escaped seasickness.

Quaint Piece of Luggage.

No quainter traveller than Mr. Gandhi has probably ever travelled in a British ship. From the moment he embarked at Bombay he was the object of intense interest not only because of his fame, personality and unconventional habits but because of his odd assortment of luggage. This consisted of half a dozen home-rpun kurta-cloths and dhoties, three spinning wheels, several tin pots and pans from Yerwada prison to which Mr. Gandhi seems to be devotedly attached despite their gloomy associations, ten gallons of pasteurized goat's milk, a bundle of papers, copies of proceedings of the last B. T. C., a straw mattress, a dollar watch of American make, a sweater, a few blankets and a copy of Henry D. Thoreau's essay on Civil Disobedience.

For curiosity-awakening quality Mr. Gandhi's luggage was exceeded only by that of Pandit Malaviya which included a large quantity of mud and water from the Ganges.

Mr. Gandhi follows exactly the same routine in the ship as on the shore, rising daily at four in the morning praying, promanading, writing, answering correspondence, meditating, conferring with Pandit Malaviya, Mrs. Naidu, and Sir P. Pattari and partaking of the same frugal meals.

No Fixed Programme for R. T. C.

He has apparently not yet formulated any fixed programme for R. T. C.

"I shall prepare nothing in advance. Everything will come to me spontaneously when I see Mr. MacDonald and other delegates to the R. T. C. in London," said Mr. Gandhi to the Reuter's correspondent on board "Rajputana".

Provided the conference does not break down at the start over fundamentals Mr. Gandhi expects the session to last until 1st November.

Continued up.

Law as a Profession.

ITS ATTRACTIONS.

In spite of the overcrowding and briefness among lawyers, the legal profession attracts many on account of its independence and altho that it keeps on the continuity of intellectual sympathy, said Mr. K. V. Sesha Iyengar in the first of a series of lectures he delivered in Triplicane.

Mr. Sesha Iyengar in the course of his address said that to the youth who left the portals of the University and faced the future, the problem of a profession was the absorbing problem of life. Many of them were under the stern and perhaps healthy necessity of having to earn their livelihood in life by their labours. In the very nature of the present circumstances the graduate's choice was limited. Engineering and Medicine, Law and Teaching, Government service and employment in business probably exhausted the field of choice. Among the choices, the profession of law exerts a strong fascination on the average graduate of the University. Many of the professions were capable of taking only a limited number. Teaching and Government service had limitation on the entertainment of fresh hands. Medicine and Engineering required long periods of special training. Business was ordinarily not in the young graduate's line and had not so far taken kindly to him. The result was that from many directions the youthful graduate drifted into law whose open portals welcomed every new comer.

Attractions of the Profession.

One explanation of the attraction of the legal profession for the average graduate of the University was that it kept up the continuity of intellectual sympathy. Along with the other determining factors in the choice the similarity of mental occupation between the College and the Court made an easy transition between the two and the student easily glided from the one to the other. It was a profession of fair wages and prizes for the average one and genius with surprises. It afforded continuous education.

One of the attractions of the legal profession was its independence in work, and its comparatively higher scale of remuneration. Leaving aside the fancy fees paid for certain luxury lawyers there was some truth in the popular belief that the lawyers' fees were high even on the basis of skilled employment. Of course there were some other professions in which experts charged at higher rates. But the average Indian client did regard the lawyer's fees as high even with the doubtful prospect of getting it from the losing side. From the lawyers' point of view however they were low and having been fixed decades ago required revision in view of the increased cost of living and growth of expenditure in maintaining professional fitness. This revision had taken place in some branches but not in all. The economic independence of the lawyer was problematical. Few professions were dependent upon such a variety of factors. Goodwill of the Counsel, goodwill of the client, property of the country and the observance of the current professional standards by other members of the fraternity were necessary.

The incidence of luck was a very conspicuous factor in their profession. Luck gave opportunities. It discovered talent. It brought success like into which nothing succeeds in life. In a profession recruited from the cream of University youth they might depend upon it that there were a large number of men of super average ability; but success and ultimate distinction came to a few. Others were absorbed in the swarming ranks of professional mediocrities. But the mediocrities of the legal profession were to a large extent devoid of luck and not of talents. But while the prizes of the profession were attractive enough to the most ambitious youth, there were other

(Continued up)

Continued.

His first duty upon arriving in London, Mr. Gandhi said, would be to confer informally with MacDonald, Mr. Baldwin, Lord Sankey, Lord Peel, Lord Reading and other notable persons and tell them frankly what the Congress seeks.

Playing with Children.

Throughout the voyage, Mr. Gandhi has endeared himself to all, even those opposed to him politically, by the constant attention and affection he shows to the children on board ship. He plays jokes and romps with them as if he is living over his own childhood again, tickling them under the chin, caressing them and telling them stories like a fairy godfather. Throughout the voyage, when the sea was tempestuous and almost everybody else was sea sick, Mr. Gandhi slept on the bare deck. He is so exhausted by his unremitting labour during the last six months that he slumbers deeply, oblivious of even the music, dancing, drinking and deck sports going on around him.

When Reuter's correspondent on board "Rajputana" asked him if the dancing did not disturb him, Mr. Gandhi replied with a twinkle, "I don't listen to the Music of Dancing. I heed only to the prompting of the Goddess of Sleep".

His right hand is giving him considerable trouble, forcing him to write with his left hand. The trouble appears to date from the time he suffered from a stroke but his doctors are not apprehensive.

The Parsee community at Aden presented Mr. Gandhi with a purse containing Rs. 4,000 yesterday at Crater outside the town, where a picturesque ceremony occurred under the National Flag. "Hindu,"

"The Jaffna Boycott."

Continued from page 3

While this disinclination to be a pawn in the political game of the Sinhalese is as laudable as it is natural, it is difficult to see how the refusal to take any part whatsoever in the game will avail. Jaffna Tamils in their struggle against domination. If this feeling was in reality the dictator of Jaffna's political policy, it is incredible to suggest that the leaders of opinion in the North, who are men of considerable experience and sagacity, would not have realised that, however strong the opponents might be, the dangers of the position could not but be lessened if four able representatives occupied seats in a Council, where it is personality that counts and where, owing to the foresight of the Donoughmore Commission, racial feeling and prejudices must inevitably be reduced to the minimum.

Another view that has been advanced in explanation, traces the boycott to the more pronounced caste distinctions that exist in the Northern constituencies. Briefly, it is suggested that caste rivalry and the continual cleaving of the accompanying interests rendered it impossible for any degree of political unity to be achieved and that, as compromise was impossible, the electors preferred to refrain from taking part in a ballot that could only result in the election of a candidate who represented but a minor section of the community. In criticism of this theory, it must be pointed out that, although it is undoubtedly true that caste does play a big part in the lives of the Jaffna people, the degree of unanimity reached in the universal decision to boycott the elections is in itself a contradiction of the usual procedure in connection with matters of caste rivalry. In clashes of this nature, the spirit of passive resignation to a united decision is, to say the least of it, extremely rare.

The Real Reason.

It, therefore, appears likely that this factor can have played only a minor part in the boycott and that the decision primarily arose from a consideration that gained universal support amongst every shade of opinion, irrespective of caste; such a subject for unanimity is provided by Jaffna's considered opinion of the chances of success of the new Constitution. Believing, as the writer is of the opinion they do, that the experiment cannot prove to be anything but a humiliating failure, it is not surprising that the Jaffna people are unwilling to have their names and reputations associated with the disaster. This attitude is by no means unreasonable; it is in fact exactly analogous to the attitude that would be assumed by a business man if invited to become the director of a company which, in his view, must soon be confronted with bankruptcy.

Continued.

prizes indeed equally worth competing for. In this profession they could strive the high ideal of eminent scholarship and ascetic simplicity dear to the heart of every Indian. They could take their share in the large life of the nation as thinker and worker and make valuable contribution to public work in many departments.

Drawbacks.

The profession, however, the lecturer went on to say, was not without its perils and drawbacks. Briefness in the earliest stages was threatening to become a permanent feature of legal practice and the period appeared to be lengthening under the pressure of increased numbers. The precociousness of legal work for all except those of established standing reputation was the uncer- tanties attendant upon changes of local jurisdiction in municipal courts, reactions attending upon current economic condition in society and these added another source of anxiety to the aspiring practitioner. In fairness to the profession it had to be stated that the lawyer was sometimes locked upon an inconvenience by executive officials having to discharge quasi-judicial functions. His availability to all who came to him with a grievance and his espousal of unpopular causes were not appreciated by the lay public as a high souled discharge of professional duties. In this profession, as elsewhere, it was a grim fact that the dominant motive of those who practise it, was the earning of money by easy or difficult means. In spite of the profession being a great and closely organised fraternity, destitution, unemployment and sweating are not unknown. Messrs. Dodson and Frog and Mr. Funkey have their counter parts in the legal profession in India. The lecturer in conclusion touched upon the need for the internal adjustments in the profession and the expansion of its activities in various directions. For one thing the legal profession was yet to take a leading part in the initiation of necessary legislation. Now that the Bar Council Act had vouchsafed a certain measure of professional autonomy and had helped to unify the profession and create a representative Council it was to be hoped that the profession would be enabled to find a solution for the destitute member of the legal bar, the provision of free aid to the deserving poor, the prohibitive court fees system, etc.

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Order Nisi.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 7988. In the matter of the estate of the late Thambu Mattutamby of Irupalai

Deceased, Moonadchy widow of T. Mattutamby of Irupalai Va Petitioner 1. Mattutamby Manikkavasakar of Irupalai 2. Kaddipillai Nagamuttu of Nallore. Respondents.

This matter coming on for disposal before D. H. Balfour Esquire District Judge, Jaffna, on July 30, 1931 in the presence of Mr. R. R. Nalliah, Proctor for the Petitioner and the affidavit of the Petitioner dated July 29, 1931 having been read;

It is ordered that the 2nd Respondent be appointed Guardian-ad litem over the minor 1st Respondent for the purpose of protecting his interests and of representing him in the case and that Letters of Administration to the estate of the abovesaid deceased be issued to the Petitioner as his lawful widow unless the Respondents shall appear before this Court on September 11, 1931 and state objections to the contrary.

Egd. D. H. Balfour, District Judge. August 6, 1931. O. 261, 7, & 10.

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