

The Hindu Organ.

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—(Y. 8. 1-81 12 32) (C.)

ORDER NISI.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.

Testamentary Jurisdiction No 7940

In the Matter of the intestate estate of the late Thangammah widow of Patrick Ponniah Hubert of Mallegam Deceased.

1. Subramaniam Ananthar and wife
2. Nagammah of Mallegam presently of Kuala Lumpur by their Attorney Karthegear Kandiah of Alaveddy

Petitioners.

1. Sivakankai wife of Karthegear Kandiah of Alaveddy
2. Subramaniam Thiragarajah of Mallegam
3. Subramaniam Kumaraswamy of Kalmunai in Batticaloa
4. Vairavanather Thammootharampillai of Ak karappattu Batticaloa
5. Vairavanather K. R. Annapillai of Forest Office Nowara-Eliya
6. Vairavanather Thillalampalam of Education Office-Colombo.

Respondents.

This matter of the petition of the above named petitioners praying for Letters of Administration to the estate of the above named deceased Thangammah coming on for disposal before D. H. Balfour, Esquire, District Judge, on August 3, 1931 in the presence of Mr. S. Ilayathurai, Proctor on the part of the Petitioner and the affidavits of the Petitioner dated August 3, 1931 having been read: It is declared that the petitioner is the attorney of the said Ananthar and Nagammah heirs of the said intestate and is entitled to have Letters of administration to the estate of the said intestate issued to him unless the Respondents or any other person shall, on or before October 5, 1931 show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this court to the contrary.

Signed this 17, day of September 1931.

O. 278. 1 & 5,

Egd. D. H. Balfour,
District Judge,

WIT & HUMOUR.

—O:—

"How did you get to know your second husband?"
"Oh, it was most romantic. He ran over my first in his car."

* * *
Old Giles was busy whitewashing his barn with a brush that had but a few bristles left in it.

The squire happened to pass by, and, pausing to wish his tenant "good day," noticed the brush.

"Why don't you get a brush with a few more bristles in it?" he said.

"What for, sorr?" asked Giles.

"Why, man, if you had a decent brush you could do twice as much work," ventured the squire.

"Mebbe so, sorr," said Giles; "only, you see, I ain't got twice as much work to do."

* * *
"What is the difference between capital and labour?"

"Well, if I lend you ten shillings, that is capital for you; but when I try to get back, that is labour for me."

* * *
Dealer in second-hand Cars: "What's matter with the car you brought last week?"

Victim: "Well everything makes a noise but the horn."

* * *
Husband: "I see that out of every hundred persons fined for travelling without a ticket, eighty-five are women."

Wife: "There! That shows that women are more economical than men."

* * *
"What did you get for your birthday, Mike?" asked Pat, meeting him in the street.

"A pair of opera glasses."

"And are they good?"

"Good? Why, you see that church about a mile from here? Well, these glasses bring it so near that you can hear the organ playing."

* * *
"Yes" said the self made man, "I was left without a mother and father at nine months, and ever since I've had to battle along for myself."

"How did you manage to support yourself at nine months?"

"I crawled to a baby show and won the first prize. That was the way I started."

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Y. 11. 12-11-32.

Order Nisi.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 7833.

In the matter of the estate of the late
Rasammah wife of Kandiah of Poley East
Deceased.Kanapathipillai Vallipuram of Poley East
Vs.
Petitioner.

1. Kandiah Sivagunam
2. Seemandy daughter of Kandiah
3. Vallipuram Komarasamy of do and
4. Vallilgam Kandiah of Vannarponnai

Respondents

This matter coming on for disposal before D. H. Balfour Esquire, District Judge, Jaffna, on Feb. 20, 1931 in the presence of Mr. M. Esurupatham, Proctor on the part of the Petitioner and the affidavit of the Petitioner having been read; It is ordered that the abovesaid 3rd Respondent be appointed guardian-ad-litem over the minors the 1st and 2nd Respondents and that the Petitioner be declared entitled to have Letters of Administration to the estate of the said intestate unless the Respondents or any other person or persons interested shall appear before this Court on July 22, 1931 and state objection or shew cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

Sgd. P. C. Villavarayan.
District Judge.

June 10, 1931.

Extended till 7 10 31.

Sgd. D. H. B.

D. J

(O. 274 1. &5.)

The Hindu Organ.



JAFFNA, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1931

JAFFNA IN 1930—I.

WE PUBLISH ELSEWHERE THE INTERESTING observations which Mr. E. T. Dyson, Government Agent, Northern Province, makes in his Administration Report of the Jaffna District for 1930 regarding the food supply and the general condition of the people during the year under review. The most noteworthy fact is the decrease in the import of paddy and rice from India and other countries overseas. The quantity of paddy and rice imported in 1929 was 750,498 cwt. and 266,745 cwt. respectively, while the quantity imported in 1930 amounted to 415,798 cwt. of paddy and 233,841 cwt. of rice. This marked decrease is attributed to the successful harvest reaped during this year in the Jaffna district and the development of the Iramadamu Irrigation Scheme. In our opinion, these figures constitute very strong evidence that Jaffna, in particular, and Ceylon in general can be made self-supporting in the matter of its food-supply if a systematised and generous policy should be adopted by Government in encouraging paddy cultivation.

Wanni was the granary of the Island in the past. The numerous ruined and disused tanks which lie scattered throughout this area attest to the past prosperity of this district and indicate that under proper development schemes its past glory can be restored to the benefit of the entire Island. According to the Schneider Report of 1812, the Giant's Tank area in the Mannar district supplied nearly one million bushels of paddy. Further, during the Dutch period, Jaffna depended mainly upon Wanni for the excess of its requirements in the matter of food-supply. Restoration of tanks and development of colonisation schemes should be undertaken if we are to stop the drain that is now going on from this country for buying the staple food of the people.

The people are by nature industrious, says the Government Agent in his report. But according to the same authority paddy cultivation suffers in this district owing to the shortage and high cost of labour. In our opinion, the industrious people of Jaffna are fast losing their industrious habits through the remittances sent from abroad. The extent of

paddy land cultivated in Jaffna peninsula is almost the same as that cultivated about a century ago. But in the earlier days our ancestors never complained of shortage or high cost of labour, though the population at that time was less than half the present day population. In those good old days dignity of manual labour was realised and co-operation in the matter of farming was regarded as a virtue. Owing to wrong ideas of the values of life created by English education life of idleness and ease is regarded as sign of respectability. There is ample scope for employment in the Jaffna farms and yet considerable number of young men complain of unemployment! We agree with the Divisional Inspector of Schools that more English schools are in existence in this district than are required. Further, the system of education that is now in vogue should be replaced by one that is most suitable for the local needs and conditions. In our opinion the payment of grant should be made dependent on the provision by school authorities for agricultural and industrial training. It is by such training that the dignity of manual labour can be brought home to the student population.

Apart from paddy, manioc and the edible products of the palmyrah palm form important food for a large section of the people. But unfortunately the people have begun to neglect the edible products of the palmyrah palm as a source of food supply. We are glad to note in the report that the possibilities of these food products are to be investigated and the matter is receiving the attention of the Agricultural Department.

The fruit grown in Jaffna, says the Government Agent, has a reputation for delicacy of flavour and generally commands a good market. But the local supply of fruit is entirely unsatisfactory. Apples and grapes from foreign countries command the local market. Locally grown oranges have become a thing of the past and the people depend on Vavuniya or Maho for their supply of oranges. There is great scope for the cultivation of fruits and we hope enterprising farmers will take to it.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

A Reasonable Complaint

We draw the attention of the Chairman of the Urban Council to a certain complaint published in our last issue. The road from Ooddumadam runs through paddy fields until it touches the Jaffna Kayts road. The former is being widened by the U D C. But the contractors who are in charge of it are bringing earth from the sea shore for the purpose of widening it. This will undoubtedly damage the paddy fields. We are sure the Chairman will look into this matter and order the contractors not to use earth from the sea shore for widening this road.

Strike of Rickshaw Coolies

The rickshaw coolies who ply their trade in the Jaffna Urban area are a hard-working and law abiding class. They have always served the public with great acceptance and the public has been entirely satisfied with their services. We are informed that recently they are subjected to considerable harassing and annoyance by some members of the Jaffna Police Force. A number of prosecutions has been entered against them for the so called breaches of some by-law or other. We are unable to understand how the rickshaw coolies who have been hitherto performing their services very satisfactorily have suddenly become the object of Police vigilance and the target of Police ire. The rickshaw coolies are now expressing their grievances by calling a strike. The public is greatly inconvenienced by it. On inquiry we learn that they have genuine grievances against the Police. We invite the attention of the Superintendent of Police to this matter and hope that he will hold an inquiry into their grievances and grant them the necessary relief.

Rickshaw Pullers' Strike in Jaffna.

NO HIRING RICKSHAWS
AVAILABLE.ALLEGED ILL-TREATMENT
BY POLICE.

All of a sudden, yesterday morning, it was found that no hiring rickshaws were available. The rickshaws that took lawyers to courts and children to schools yesterday morning did not as usual turn up in the noon to take them home for their breakfast. It is said that many children in schools who used to go home for their noon meal were deprived of their meals, for there was not a single rickshaw available. The Rickshaw wallahs called a strike with such suddenness that the public was taken by surprise.

The strike, it is said, was provoked by the alleged ill treatment by the Police of the rickshaw pullers during the last few days. It is alleged that on Tuesday evening a rickshaw-puller was severely handled by a police constable for keeping his rickshaw at the portico of the Jaffna Station and thus causing obstruction. It is also alleged that the constable tied the hands of the rickshaw puller behind his back and took him to the police station where he was put in the lock up till yesterday. He was brought to court yesterday and charged before the additional Police Magistrate, Mr. P. C. Villavarayan.

The police moved for bail but the Magistrate refused it and fixed a date for trial.

It is now understood that it was only after the aggrieved rickshaw puller narrated details of the ill treatment he had had at the hands of the Police that his colleagues called a strike immediately and paralysed the rickshaw traffic in town. It is said that the strikers belaboured a rickshaw man who knowingly or unknowingly plied his rickshaw for hire.

The strike is still continuing, and it is understood representations will be made to the Government Agent today by the rickshaw pullers.

Cambridge Junior Exam

ABOLITION UNDER CONSIDERATION

"The question of the abolition of the Cambridge Junior Examination was again brought up for discussion," states the Director of Education in annual report. "The board considered that the retention of both examinations superfluous, and requested the Examinations Board to report on what modification were necessary in the English School Leaving Certificate syllabus if the Cambridge Junior Examination were discontinued."

Revised Rates to Come into Force in December

REDUCTION OF SEASON TICKET FARE LIKELY

The revised fares on the Railway and the increased season ticket rates will not be brought into force until December, says the "Times of Ceylon".

It is not definite, says the paper, whether the increase in the rate of season tickets will be brought into force at all. The increase has been approved by Government and the Railway Advisory Board, but in view of existing conditions and the opposition the proposal is receiving it is most likely to be considered again.

The delay in the introduction of new fares, is said to be due to the large amount of printing which has to be done.

The Jaffna Art Teachers' Society.

FIRST ANNUAL MEETING.

The First Annual General Meeting of the Jaffna Art Teachers' Society will be held on Saturday the 10th October 1931 at 9 a.m. in St. John's College Art Room.

Mr. J. T. Solomon, Art Master, St. John's College, Jaffna and General Secretary of the J. A. T. S. will deliver an address on "The Drawing Teacher and his prospects."

S. R. Kanagasabai Esq., Asst. Inspector of Art and President of the J. A. T. S., will preside.

News & Notes.

—O—

Mr. J. J. Jacob, Accountant, Post and Telegraph Department, has been appointed Assistant Auditor General with effect from June 25th, 1931, vice Mr. D. E. Gorettilke promoted Auditor General.

A woman voter, Murugupillai Ithirani of Kalmunai was fined Rs 2/- for false personation at the polling station at Kalmunai during the recent Batticaloa South election.

Mr. A. J. Bamford, Superintendent of the Colombo Observatory, will be retiring this month from service under the new conditions of retirement. Another officer who, it is learnt, will retire under the same conditions is Mr. H. Ross Cottle, Government Printer.

The Federal Reserve Board, has announced that the United States' monetary gold stock on September 9th has reached £1,000,000,000 nearly half the monetary gold in the world. Money in circulation in the United States at the same date totalled £1,018,500,000.

According to Renter, a communique announces the creation of a Franco-German Economic Commission assisted by a permanent Secretariat, which will meet in Germany or France as is found desirable to consider all economic problems and seek new means of disposing of each others products.

A scathing indictment of the treatment meted out by the white majority in the United States to the Negro minority is made in a reference to lynching by Wickersham Commission, which has been investigating crimes and prisons in America. "Foremost among the crimes against the Negro" says the report "is that form of organised mob violence popularly known as lynching." Between 1882 and June 30, 1930, 3533 negro lives were lost through this form of crime, although since 1919, there had been a marked decline in the number of lynchings.

"The population of the world is increasing by 12,000,000 a year" said Sir Leonard Hill, President of the Association of Sanitary Inspectors and late director of the department of Applied Physiology in the National Institute of Medical Research, London, speaking at a sanitary Inspectors Conference. "This cannot continue. A far less cruel world can be brought about by the national limitation of the birth rate; but if the whites are going to lessen breeding, they must see that the coloured races are taught the methods of limitation."

Workmen's Compensation Ordinance.

DRAFT SAID TO BE READY.

It is learnt that a Workmen's Compensation Ordinance will shortly be placed before the State Council. The draft of such an Ordinance is said to be ready and may come up for the consideration of the Executive Committee of Labour, Industry and Commerce, at its next meeting.

Employment of Non-Ceylonese Graduates.

SANCTION IN EXCEPTIONAL CASES.

Only in exceptional cases should sanction be given by the Department of Education for the employment of non Ceylonese graduates, was the recommendation made by the Board of Education at its meeting held on Saturday last.

The Board deferred indefinitely consideration of the Report of the Committee on the revised salaries of teachers in assisted English schools.

Jaffna Commercial Corporation

CHARGE OF ALLEGED
IRREGULARITIES.

A STORMY MEETING TO WIND UP
COMPANY.

An extraordinary general meeting of the shareholders of the Jaffna Commercial Corporation, Ltd., was held on Thursday last at 4 p.m., at the offices of the corporation, with Mr. V. Gaspillat in the chair. The corporation had resolved a month ago to suspend payment and to wind up the company voluntarily. Two police constables and a sergeant had been posted to see that no others than the shareholders were allowed admittance. Messrs. W. O. Bodie, Managing Director, Messrs. Bodie and Co., Colombo, F. E. Vaid, Bombay, C. Krishnakumar and A. O. Lawton, some of the largest shareholders, were present. Several Europeans in England were represented by proxies sent to Mr. Vaid.

Mr. S. O. Arnold, the secretary, read the minutes of the previous meeting. Mr. Vaid, before the minutes were confirmed, asked a question of the chairman. He said that he wished to point out a serious irregularity. The Jaffna Commercial Corporation, it was stated in the minutes, held shares. That was tantamount to the reduction of the capital to that extent. Messrs. Ford, Rhodes and Thornton had pointed out the irregularity in question four years ago in their report. Still that irregularity continued.

'No Doubt an Irregularity.'

Chairman: That ought not to be. It is no doubt an irregularity.

Mr. S. O. Arnold: The shares in question were bought by the corporation with the special permission of the Registrar General.

Mr. Krishnakumar: That statement has to be proved. Even if there was a letter from the Registrar General, I submit that he had no authority to do so.

Mr. N. Thammotharampillai: I move the adoption of the minutes, Sir.

Chairman: But there is this question. You all admit this irregularity? Do you want to approve of this irregularity?

Mr. J. K. Arnold: How many shares were bought by the Corporation? I do not think the number is such as to affect a division of the House.

Mr. Vaid: It is not a question of number, but of principle.

Chairman: What do you propose to do?

Mr. Vaid: We depend on your decision. This is the way things are done in this unparalleled institution.

Mr. J. K. Arnold: This question should have been raised at the first meeting.

Mr. Vaid (emphatically): An irregularity does not become regularity by elision of time.

Mr. J. K. Arnold: I admit that it is an irregularity, but what good will come out of this discussion?

Mr. J. T. Solomon: The question now before us is clear. Should we accept the minutes or not?

Mr. S. Krishnakumar: I suggest that an entry be made in the minutes accepting the irregularity pointed out by Mr. Vaid.

The Secretary, Mr. S. O. Arnold made an entry.

Mr. W. E. D. Mather: Sir, this has been going on for the last ten years, and no shareholder has objected to it.

Mr. Edward Mather (Managing Director) said that the Registrar General had written to the corporation granting permission to buy the shares. I am unable at this moment to lay my hands on the letter in question.

Mr. Vaid: I wish Mr. Mather's statement to be recorded.

Mr. S. O. Arnold (Secretary): Previous notices of this point should have been given. Let us formally vote on this question.

Mr. Vaid: There is no amendment before the House.

Dissipation of Funds.

Mr. Vaid, continuing, said that he desired an explanation on another important question. He was informed that a large amount of the corporation's funds had been dissipated by two of the employees in league with corrupt account depositors. The amount so dissipated amounted to between Rs. 40,000 and Rs. 50,000. He should like to know how much of that amount had been recovered. How was it that the fraud had not been detected for one year or so? He was told that one of

Continued on p. 2.

Gandhi's 63rd Birthday.

CELEBRATIONS IN JAFFNA.

Mahatma Gandhi's 63rd Birthday will be celebrated in Jaffna tomorrow evening.

A public meeting will be held at the Perumal Kovil grounds at 6.30 p.m. presided over by Mr. W. D. Rajawamy, at which speeches will be made on the life and work of Gandhiji. At this public meeting which is convened by leading men from all parts of Jaffna will be inaugurated a new association to be known as the North Ceylon National Association, the objects of which were published in the last issue of the 'Hindu Organ'.

A procession also will be taken in honour of the birthday, with Mahatma's portrait in a decorated kid kam starting from the office of the Vancorpore Young Men's National Association at 4 p.m. and reaching the Temple at 6.30 p.m.

Celebration of Gandhi Week.

HAWKING KHADDER IN COLOMBO.

At an Executive Committee Meeting of the Dushabandha Society, it was resolved to celebrate the Gandhi Week from the 2nd to 8th October, 1931 by holding meetings and hawking Khaddar by the Society Volunteers, in response to the call of President Vallabhai Patel.

At a Conference of Khaddar Dealers in the Society Hall, it was decided to divide the City of Colombo into different wards, each ward to be entrusted to a batch of four volunteers who will go about hawking Khaddar. The dealers have agreed to entrust the Society with the necessary amount of Khaddar and to take as little profit as possible on the sales during the "Week". Many influential citizens, Indians as well as Ceylonese, are expected to personally go about selling Khaddar, and the Society requests all those sympathetic towards the cause of India and her starving millions to help us in the disposal of Khaddar which has accumulated at Ahmedabad, thus blocking money and throwing several men and women out of employment.

A public meeting will be held in the Society Hall on the 2nd October to inaugurate the Gandhi Week where the programme will be explained and a Mass Meeting will be held on the 4th idem, at the Price Park, the details of which will be notified later.

—Cor.

Continued.

these employees had been sent away, while the other who should have been charged before the criminal courts was retained in the service of the corporation and, what was most surprising, employed in a higher post.

Mr. William Mather (interrupting): Let the minutes be confirmed.

Mr. Vaid: Before we go on to that I want this record.

Mr. W. E. D. Mather: Your question can be discussed when the balance sheet is considered.

Mr. William Mather: Let the minute be confirmed.

At this stage there was some confusion and no explanation was given by the chair to the question put by Mr. Vaid.

Mr. Vaid: We will be content with the recording of this question.

Secretary: I have recorded that Mr. Vaid has put the question.

Mr. Edward Mather moved a resolution to the effect that in view of the losses sustained by the Corporation during the past five years, owing to the unprecedented depression, the Corporation be voluntarily wound up.

Mr. C. H. Cooke, J. P., seconded.

Mr. Vaid suggested that the losses were not confined to five years but to eight years.

Mr. Mather quoted figures to show that that was not correct. In 1925, for instance, the gross profits were Rs. 95,000 odd, while the net profits amounted to Rs. 11,000.

Mr. Vaid was not satisfied with the statement and persisted in maintaining that the loss extended over eight years.

The resolution was ultimately put to the house and carried unanimously.

The next item taken up was the consideration of the annual report and balance sheet. Mr. Vaid objected to this item being taken up before the next item, the mode of winding up, which was part of the resolution already passed was considered. He moved that the consideration of the annual report and the balance sheet be postponed till the question of how the Corporation should be wound up has been decided.

Mr. C. Krishnakumar seconded.

Mr. Mather read the report of Messrs. J. E. David and Co., auditors as well as the correspondence between Messrs. David and himself, with regard to certain statements in the report.

(Continued on page 4)

The Equal-Seating Trouble.

HOW A FIRM HAND FOUGHT
AGAINST PREJUDICE.

The Director of education in his annual report writes:—

"Reference was made in last year's report to the new Coded rule which provides that no pupil who is in attendance at any school should receive differential treatment on account of race, caste, nationality, or creed. The introduction of this rule created uneasiness in certain parts of Ceylon and at first it received a certain amount of opposition from a few Managers and teachers. The Board of Education, however, maintained very strongly that the rule should be enforced or grant should be refused. The agitation against its enforcement was to a last extent purely local, but it resulted in certain cases of schools being burnt down by the opponents of the policy of the Department. The firm attitude adopted by the Government has resulted in the disappearance of practically all opposition and every school which is in receipt of grant has now to certify that no differential treatment is given to pupils on account of race, caste, nationality, or creed. The objection to the admission to school of children of certain castes is deeply rooted in the traditions of certain areas of Ceylon, but notable progress has been made in overcoming this long-standing prejudice, and the indications are that in a very short time the principle of giving equal educational opportunities to all children irrespective of race and caste will not only be accepted but appreciated by the bulk of the population."

State Mortgage Bank.

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF
DIRECTORS.

A Press communique states that His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to appoint Mr. J. A. Tarbat to be Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Ceylon State Mortgage Bank for the year 1931.

Singapore Finances.

DEFICIT OF 21,500,000 DOLLARS

A deficit of 21,500,000 dollars was announced by the Governor of the Straits Settlements, Sir Cecil Clementi, in his Budget speech, says a Singapore message.

It was also announced that all temporary allowances of officers and pensioners would cease on January 1.

The Council, has agreed to increase the duties on petroleum, tobacco and liquor.

Farewell Function at
Navatkuli.

RAILWAY OFFICER FETED.

Mr. M. Sundaram of the C. G. R. Navatkuli was given a most hearty send off by the public of Navatkuli and Kalthady on the 28th inst. The attendance was both large and representative of the aristocrats and the masses of the villages served by this station and testified to the popularity and acceptance of the services rendered by Mr. Sundaram. The proceedings commenced at about 3.30 p.m. at a specially erected Pandal for the occasion and Mr. S. Karthigesu presided and speeches were made by Messrs. S. Eliakumby, Sabapathipillai, and Raiman, who paid eloquent tributes to the striking qualities of character of Mr. Sundaram and one made pointed reference in saying that "If all officers of the C. G. R. were so cordial to the public as Mr. Sundaram has been here, the B.R. competition would not at all affect the revenue of the railway."

After refreshments, Mr. Sundaram was garlanded by Messrs. D. P. Seevaratnam and S. Thiruganab and a grand procession followed with Poom-Pandal, music and fireworks from which amidst grateful cheers of the public Mr. Sundaram entrained to his new station Alawa.

—Cor.

Notice to Correspondent.

MR. R. CHELVARAYAN:—We are unable to publish the interview sent by you, as it should be authenticated by the gentleman who gave it.

The Boycott Movement
in Jaffna.

INCONSISTENCY OF COUNCILLORS.

Under the auspices of the Tallipalai East Young Men's Salva Association a lecture on 'The Present Situation in Jaffna' was delivered by Mr. J. Tyagaraja, M.A., LL.B., Barrister at law, on Sunday, the 27th September, 1931 at 6.30 p.m. in the Tallipalai Mahajon English High School Hall. Mr. T. S. Thiruganab, Notary Public, Manager of Schools and Patron of the Association presided on the occasion.

Mr. Tyagaraja delivered a very eloquent address touching chiefly on one aspect of the present situation in Jaffna, namely the boycott movement. He dwelt at length on the past, the present and the future of the boycott movement in Jaffna and congratulated those who were responsible for the boycott on the success with which their noble efforts have been crowned. He said most emphatically that under the circumstances the Jaffnese could not have had recourse to any other device in order to give expression to their dissatisfaction in regard to the constitution that has been forced on them. He regretted that the leaders in Jaffna had committed a great blunder in that they had not enlisted the sympathy and support of their Sinhalese brethren in the South some of whom at least he was sure would have joined the boycott movement most willingly, if only they had been approached in time and made to understand clearly the grave danger of accepting the Donoughmore Scheme and taking part in the State Council. He gave a full description of the inconsistency and lack of independence of some of the Ministers and found fault with them for their collaboration with the three Officers of State in certain matters against the interests of the country. He explained to the audience very humorously that the election of the Ministers and the members of their committees was done by a method of permutation and combination in a mysterious manner and that there was a good deal of jaggery and lottery practised during these elections. In the course of his speech he said that the members of the State Council had missed a golden opportunity in that they had not done what they ought to have done when His Excellency the Governor made use of his powers of certification for a trivial matter like the passage allowance, although it was meant clearly that he should use these powers only in regard to matters of paramount importance.

The speaker said that in about two weeks' time the members of the State Council had another chance of showing to the Government the futility of the present constitution and that was during the second reading of the budget. Whatever motives others may attribute for the unprecedented action of the Jaffnese, the lecturer said that the Jaffnese had done splendidly well in having started the boycott movement which he was of opinion bore ample testimony to the intelligence, foresight and courage of the leaders in Jaffna. Mr. Tyagaraja assured the audience that at least Ollaw, Negombo and Batticaloa would have joined the boycott movement, if only the Jaffna leaders had cared to approach them in time. Finally the lecturer wished that the Jaffnese should not lose heart and that they should carry on the boycott with redoubled vigour till they were granted a more practicable constitution which was admittedly better than what they had.

Messrs. T. C. Rajaratnam, Proctor and T. N. Subbiah Proctor, offered suitable remarks endorsing all that the lecturer had said. The meeting then terminated at about 9 p.m. with the concluding remarks of the Chairman and a vote of thanks to the lecturer by Braha Sree Sivakadabakkurakkal.

—Cor.

Effect of Britain's Financial
Policy.

NEW BASIS OF BUSINESS IN
CEYLON.

A financial correspondent to the Ceylon Daily News says that Colombo business houses importing goods from Germany and other Continental countries have received advices to the effect that, in future, business must be done on a dollar basis and not on a sterling basis as hitherto.

This is of course due, says the correspondent, to the fact that the value of the pound has depreciated by about 25 per cent since England abandoned the gold standard a week ago.

Posibilities of Fruit-Growing.

JAFFNA'S DELICIOUS FRUITS.

AGRICULTURAL POSSIBILITIES.

Mr. E. T. Dyson, Government Agent, Northern Province, in his Administration Report for 1930, says:—

"The supply of food generally was ample. Paddy is the staple food of the district. Local crops which were more plentiful than the previous year were as usual supplemented by imports from India and Burma as well as from other parts of Ceylon. Imports of paddy and rice from beyond the sea and coastwise fell from 750,498 cwt. and 266,745 cwt. in 1929 to 445,793 cwt. and 238,811 cwt. respectively in 1930.

The decrease in the import of paddy is obviously due to a successful harvest both under Manavari cultivation and under the Irramadu Irrigation Scheme.

The price of paddy and rice fell from Rs. 3 and Rs. 7.50 per bushel in 1929 to Rs. 2 and Rs. 6 respectively in 1930.

People's Industry.

Except for the area irrigable under the Irramadu Scheme, paddy cultivation throughout the district is solely dependent on rain. The people are by nature industrious, ample land is available, intensive cultivation is practised, but the prospects of a harvest are always uncertain owing to the uncertainty and uneven distribution of rain. Paddy cultivation in this district is ceasing to be a paying concern owing to the shortage and high cost of labour, the cheapness of imported paddy, and the difficulty of maintaining the agricultural livestock, the dung of which is the only cheap manure of poor farmers.

The cultivation of manioc, one of the chief foods of the poorer class, was taken up extensively.

The prices of the raw root as well as of the flour were normal.

Dry Grains Less Popular.

Dry grains were cultivated in certain divisions as a rotation crop in paddy fields or tobacco gardens. Of these kuskkan was cultivated more largely than in the previous year. There was a drop in the prices of dry grains as a result of the fall in the prices of paddy and rice. These grains are gradually losing in popularity as a food.

The edible products of the palmyra palm which at one time constituted a very popular food of about 75 per cent. of the population, are now neglected.

In spite of the view of many thoughtful people that such neglect has operated detrimentally to the general health of the community.

At a conference held by his Excellency the Governor at Jaffna with the Chief Headmen of the district it was urged that the possibilities of these food products should be investigated, and the matter is now receiving the attention of the Agricultural Department.

Fruit Possibilities.

The supply of fruit is unsatisfactory. As usual plantains and mangoes were cultivated widely. The cultivation of oranges has been much neglected. Grapes and pineapples are grown on a small scale in certain divisions. The masses do not seem to appreciate the part fruit should play in an ideal diet. There is ample scope for their cultivation to be undertaken on businesslike and scientific lines. The fruit grown in Jaffna has a reputation for deliciousness of flavour and generally commands a good market.

The supply of vegetables was satisfactory. The surplus over local requirements was exported to other parts of the Island. The Government farm at Tirumell sets a good example in the cultivation of fruits and vegetables generally, and does a little export trade in certain varieties of vegetables. English vegetables are also cultivated in this farm during the wet season, and supply local needs.

Encouragement.

In order to encourage the cultivation of fruit and vegetables, a market show was organized at the Kodikem market in the month of May, and cash prizes amounting to Rs. 100 and certificates were awarded by a Committee of Judges appointed by the Government Agent for the best products in each section. Funds for the purpose were supplied by the Director of Agriculture. Competitions were also organized by the Agricultural Department in the cultivation of onions and chillies, and cash prizes amounting to Rs. 100 were awarded for the best products.

Tobacco is the most popular product of the Jaffna cultivator. It is the only product cultivated on a commercial basis, and is principally of the chewing variety. The chief market is Travancore. The prices were below normal, and the industry is not so flourishing as it was a decade ago. During the year a stock of 16,665 cwt. was exported beyond the sea of the value of Rs. 655,240 as against 28,241 cwt. of the value of Rs. 1,265,565 in the previous year. The quantity exported coastwise was 2,844 cwt. of the value of Rs. 37,510 as against 8,841 cwt. of the value of Rs. 67,125.

Cigar.

Cigar manufacture which was one of the earliest industries in Jaffna and once the most flourishing industry has of late fallen on evil days. Abnormal multiplication of local factories, high

Continued up.

Off Gold Standard.

EFFECT ON INDIAN FINANCES.

Mr. K. M. Pur Kiyasba, economist and Publicist who is intimately connected with the Indian business circles in Calcutta, interviewed by a "Free Press" representative regarding the present financial crisis stated:—

"The public seems to have been needlessly stampeded into a panic. The peremptory announcement of three consecutive holidays under the Negotiable Instrument Act is absolutely unconnected with any suggestion or suspicion of a deterioration in the position of credit institutions. Nor is the 'impasse' attributed to any of the financial operations of the Government of India themselves. The situation will probably appear in a clear perspective from the following facts:—

For months past there has been a heavy efflux of gold from Great Britain. The gold resources of the Bank of England were so depleted that the British Government found it necessary to relieve the Bank of England from the obligation of exchanging gold currency or bullion against paper sterling. The sterling in the circumstances has ceased to represent gold and has become an inconvertible currency or a pure token of exchange.

The whole situation in India arises from this fact, that while the external value of rupee since 1927 was linked to sterling which hitherto represented gold, it is an open question what the rupee should now be linked to. Assuming even that the rupee be maintained on a sterling basis, there is still uncertainty if the present re-pegging rate can be continued. By closing the banks, the Government merely took action against a possible disorganisation of the Indian exchange market. For, the rupee exchange being not placed on an automatic gold basis is always made to remain at a stable level through official action and the Government of India was evidently unable to make up their mind as to the course of action they would follow on the morrow of the crisis in Great Britain.

To estimate the reaction of Great Britain's abandonment of gold standard on the Indian financial and economic situation, it is first of all necessary to realise that sterling has as an effect of the measure, depreciated in terms of gold and gold currencies. Theoretically there is also the chance of its depreciation in terms of rupee. Herein lies the danger of rupee breaking away from the present 18:1 ratio in an upward direction. Should it be proposed to place the rupee on a gold basis, it is obvious that the rupee ratio (expressed in terms of depreciated sterling) must be made to move still further.

The third possible situation is that rupee would remain on a par with sterling both being subject to an equal discount in relation to gold.

In the first event, i.e. to say, if the rupee tend to rise higher than 18:1 and the Government decide to present an upward movement, an expansion of currency will be needed, and trade and business will benefit by such an operation. In this case as also in the third eventually, viz. that rupee remains naturally at the present rate India's export trade with gold standard countries will receive a great fillip. A rise in prices of certain commodities can in the circumstances be confidently looked for. The position, however, will be entirely different if the rupee rate is moved up to the gold level, i.e. to say, its sterling exchange rate is made higher by the proportion the sterling has deteriorated in relation to gold. A period of contraction followed by a still more difficult period of lower prices is certain to ensue in such circumstances.

The abandonment of gold standard by Great Britain which means in other words the depreciation of the value of the rupee has come as an unexpected God-send for the advocates of lower ratio. Economically India has little to lose as an effect of this measure, so long as attempt is avoided of making rupee pure an elusive chase after gold or to be precise, gold value of the sterling.

Continued.

cost of labour, and competition with new factories all over Ceylon, and cheap cigarettes and beddies, are the contributory causes.

Other industries are the manufacture of copra and aerated waters, glass basket work, rope making, dyeing, paddy husking, and oil expressing. These supply only local needs.

Weaving, another of the earliest industries, has almost died out. A revival has been started by the inauguration of the teaching of this industry in a vernacular school at Karativu.

No Distress.

No distress was experienced except in the Island of Delft, where a severe cyclone, which swept over the shores on May 7, wrought considerable damage to property. The tobacco cultivation on the island, which was the mainstay of the people, was totally ruined. Over 1,000 palmyra and coconut trees were blown down. Four cargo boats were seriously damaged, two becoming total wrecks. Relief was afforded to the most needy among the sufferers by the distribution of a sum of Rs. 3,786 granted by Government for the purpose.

The general prosperity of the people is below normal. The prosperity of Jaffna is mainly due

Continued up.

Self-Government in Education.

DANGER OF THE OLD WAYS.

The substitution of the principle of self-government in place of the old ways in education is recommended in the following article called from "Education":—

In this age of experiment in educational methods the principle of self government is coming into its own. This is all to the good, for the imposition of an external authority is only justified if it leads ultimately to the power to exert self control from within. To depend entirely on the discipline of an external system is to weaken the whole personality and to render it less competent to shoulder responsibility when the outward stimulus is removed. The man who can govern himself is alone fit for leadership, and only he can effectively govern others.

The principle of self-government has long been employed for the regulation of the social life in schools. The out-of-school activities have been controlled and managed by some form of the prefectorial system in schools of all kinds. It is, by comparison, only fairly recently that the same principle has been applied within the classroom itself. Here it would seem to those who cannot accustom themselves very readily to new ideas, that such a method must inevitably open the doorway to idleness. To set children, or even University students, to learn by themselves is, to the old-fashioned mind, only to invite them to waste time and achieve nothing. Such an argument entirely overlooks the innate desire for knowledge which is to be found in all men, and which the older systems very often destroyed because they never recognised its existence. For did not the earlier generations of teachers tacitly assume that the average child was unwilling to learn anything, and that only a method not far removed from that of the drill sergeant could produce any result?

Another danger of the old ways is sometimes overlooked. It arises from the relationship in actual class room work between the teacher and his pupils. It is almost impossible for any teacher not to give a bias to his teaching and so make his class reflect and reproduce his own point of view. The teacher's primary function is to instruct, but he must also guide; and often quite unconsciously, his guidance tends to lead his pupils in the paths wherein he himself is most accustomed to tread. The old saying rightly or wrongly ascribed to the Jesuit educators of old, "Give me a child till he is seven, and I care not who has him afterwards," is a witness to the teacher's power of influence. It is, of course, possible that such power may be exercised in wholly beneficial directions, but it is a double-edged weapon which even at its best tends rather to turn out all the pupils according to a common pattern than to allow scope for individual development.

There has recently been published a book by the Director of Tutorial Classes in the University of Adelaide which describes some experiments in educational self-government that the author has made in schools and at the University. He explains how individuals may be trained to develop sufficient internal resources to resist the mechanisation of their minds and how the educators of a nation may conserve ability and develop it without being either slaves of routine or the supporters of licence. For routine and licence are the Scylla and Charybdis through which the teacher must learn to steer his class. Mr. Mackay advocates training pupils to think and act in groups without timidity and the records of his experiments make interesting reading.

In the working out of the methods advocated in this book, the teacher must be careful never to interfere nor intervene on his own initiative. He must always await the invitation of the class, and even then he must not assert a magisterial authority but help in the unravelling of the difficulty by the class itself. It will be seen that the teacher who adopts such methods needs both courage and patience, the two necessary qualifications of every innovator or reformer. Given these essentials and the background of a clear aim and a wide vision, abundant opportunities will present themselves for sane and purposeful experiments in educational self government.

Continued.

to the enterprise of her sons in the more prosperous parts of Ceylon, and in the Straits Settlements and Federated Malay States. The usual remittances from these parts have of late either ceased or dwindled, and some wage-earners have been thrown out of employment.

A certain amount of unemployment prevails among English educated youths. The only redeeming feature of the depression is the reduction in the cost of living.

The cost of foodstuffs and of clothing has gone down appreciably, although the wages of labour remain stationary. The high cost of labour has operated as an adverse factor in business generally in Jaffna, and in agriculture particularly.

The health of the district was normal during the year. The birth rate was 33.62 per mille, as compared with 32.70 the previous year. The death rate was 21.16, as against 20.82 in 1929.

Jaffna Commercial Corporation

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Continued from page 3

"All Seem to Be Chairmen"

At this stage there was further confusion. Questions were asked and answered, comments were made and Mr. V. Visvanathan shouted out, "You all seem to be chairmen, people with supplementary shares of twenty rupees are trying to do things as they like. We who are seated on this side (Mr. Val's side), any one of us is worth all of you put together."

The voting was to begin when Mr. Val rose to object to certain people voting. He referred to rule 50 of the by-law of the Corporation which stated, "No shareholder shall be entitled to vote at any meeting unless all moneys due from him to the Company are paid."

Mr. Edward Mather contended that that rule referred to indebtedness in respect of shares. Mr. Val: No, no, the rule is plain. Let the Chairman give his interpretation of it.

Voices: We will vote.

Mr. Val: If the Chairman's interpretation is the same as mine, you cannot vote.

Chairman: It is plain, the rule is plain.

Mr. J. K. Arnold: No, Sir. The rule cannot bear that interpretation. The English law is my authority.

Mr. Val (to Chairman): Please give your decision sir. If your interpretation is not the proper one, I'll have to take legal proceedings. Let the Court decide.

Voices: Put it to the house.

Mr. Val: The decision rests with the Chairman or the Court. May I know what your interpretation is sir?

Chairman: I think the rule is clear. Mr. Val's contention is right.

Mr. Edward Mather: I do not accept your ruling, sir.

Mr. Val: I rise to a point of order.

Mr. Mather: I call for a ruling from the house.

Mr. S. C. Arnold: In the past years the debtor to the company had voted.

Mr. Val: If this point was never raised in the past, you, Chairman, had no occasion to rule on this point.

The Chairman repeated that Mr. Val was right, and that debtors could not vote.

In spite of the Chairman's ruling, the votes of those in debt were counted.

The amendment of Mr. Val, on being put to the house, was lost by a majority of over seven hundred.

The motion was then carried.

Liquidators.

Mr. Val then moved that Messrs. Ford, Rhodes and Thornton be appointed liquidators. He stated the terms on which the new liquidators were prepared to work.

Mr. Kriekenbeek seconded.

The Secretary, and Messrs. William Mather and Edward Mather said that the amount of the fees would work out at nearly Rs. 25,000, which was not economical.

Mr. Val assured the meeting that the fees would not amount to over Rs. 6,000 without including the travelling expenses.

Mr. Val, continuing, said that the motion before the house was a very reasonable one. If unnecessary objections were raised, he assured them that in that case the whole question would go to the Courts. He warned them against throwing out the motion by a sheer "arbitrary" majority. Referring to the conduct of the Managing Director, Mr. Val said that when he asked Mr. Mather for a list of shareholders on July 14th, he did not get it until after the middle of August. He had been put off on false pretences all the time. He had despatched two telegrams to Mr. Mather from Bombay. The first was ignored. In the second telegram he said "Beware of dilatory tactics." Then only Mr. Mather sent him a list, but it was impossible for him to approach every one of those in England in the F. M. S., and in Ceylon for their proxies. He had been severely handicapped, otherwise he would have got an overwhelming majority of votes.

Various amendments were suggested, to all of which Mr. Val and his party turned a deaf ear.

Mr. Brodie left the meeting nearly half an hour before this discussion had started. Mr. Val and the others also left the hall leaving Mr. Kriekenbeek.

Those present unanimously resolved that Messrs. Ford, Rhodes and Thornton and Mr. Edward Mather be appointed joint liquidators. In suggesting the name of Mr. Edward Mather, various reasons were urged. Mr. William Mather was of opinion that a chance should be given to Mr. Edward Mather, while Mr. S. Kanagaratnam and Mr. J. K. Arnold stated that Mr. Mather was the most suitable man to recover the moneys lent on landed security.

A second extraordinary meeting has been fixed for October 14th to ratify these resolutions. Times

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