

# The Hindu Organ.

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

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HAS THE WIDEST CIRCULATION

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## Highly Detrimental to Best Interests of Island.

CEYLON CHETTIARS ON INCOME TAX.

The Ceylon Nattukottai Chettiars' Association passed the following resolution on income tax at a meeting held in Colombo yesterday:—

"This Association views with grave concern the introduction of the income tax at this critical period of acute economic depression, as it would result in great hardship to the merchants and bankers, who are already suffering, and feels that it is highly detrimental to the best interests of the Island."

## The Indian Demand.

GEN. SMUTS SPEAKS OUT.

The Indian position at present was far more important and perhaps the most dangerous problem facing the country, declared General Smuts, before leaving for South Africa to day.

Great Britain must make up her mind to go pretty far in satisfying India and the sooner the better, as the present favourable situation for settlement might not last long.

He was convinced that Mr. Gandhi was sincerely anxious to come to a fair settlement and his power, while it lasted, would be an enormous asset to Britain in her efforts to arrive at a settlement.

Mr. Gandhi spoke for a large part of India and would deliver the goods as no other Indian leader could. Every effort should be made now to prevent further misunderstanding and recrudescence of disorder in India, with all the misery to which it might lead.

Force was no remedy and neither the modern spirit nor the British temper would permit the application of a real policy of repression. The Conference, if it was unable to come to a conclusion of its labours now, should adjourn at such a stage and such a spirit of mutual understanding and goodwill that its work could almost immediately be resumed and pressed to a conclusion.

Neither the communal question nor the reservations appeared to him to form an insuperable bar to the early grant of an Indian constitution, but perhaps even more important at present was the spirit of mutual trust and understanding and avoidance of any action which might have created suspicions between Indian and British leaders.

Gen. Smuts was convinced that both sides honestly meant to come to a settlement and that was a priceless asset in dealing with an extremely difficult situation. He was sure that the British people would regard with goodwill every effort to accelerate a settlement and keep Indian a contented member of the Commonwealth.

## Order Nisi.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 7990

In the matter of the estate of the late  
Nallammah wife of Nagamany Eliastamby  
of Alaveddy

Deceased.

Saravanamuttu Ponniah of Alaveddy  
Vs.  
Nagamany wife of Saravanamuttu Ponniah of Alaveddy

Respondents.

This matter of the petition of the abovesaid Petitioner praying for Letters of Administration to the estate of the abovesaid deceased Nallammah wife of Nagamany Eliastamby coming on for disposal, before D. H. Balfour, Esq., District Judge on the 26th day of October 1931 in the presence of Mr. S. Ilayastamby, Proctor on the part of the Petitioner and the affidavit of the Petitioner dated the 14th day of October 1931 the having been read: It is declared that the Petitioner is the brother-in-law of the said intestate and is entitled to have Letters of Administration to the estate of the said intestate issued to him unless the Respondent or any other person shall, on or before the 9th day of December 1931 show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

Sgd. D. H. Balfour,  
District Judge.

November 6, 1931.

O. 804, 26 & 30.

## Increase of Customs in Tariff.

BOARD OF MINISTERS GET BUSY.

SUGAR AND RICE.

In accordance with the undershiking which they gave when H. E. the Governor sanctioned a temporary reduction of the salaries of public officers, the Board of Ministers have given close consideration to the question of securing increased revenue from Customs duties and it is learnt that their decisions will be placed before the State Council in the near future.

Rice, sugar and flour are mentioned as food-stuff on which the duties are likely to be raised. In the opinion of the Financial Secretary, it is possible to obtain a considerable sum from an increased Customs tariff.

The duties on oil, stationery and books other than literature, are also likely to be raised rather appreciably.

The liquor duties will probably stay as they are. In September last alone there was a reduction of four lakhs in the estimates owing to the reduced consumption of excisable liquor.

It will be remembered that early this month H. E. the Governor, in a message to Council, stated that the Secretary of State had instructed him, provided that he could obtain an undertaking from the Board of Ministers that they would introduce an Income Tax Bill as soon as possible and would at the same time take such steps as might be practicable to secure increased revenue from the customs duties, to prepare and submit to him for his prior approval a measure imposing a temporary levy on the salaries of public servants.

## "Swearing" Incident in Court.

CATHOLIC REFUSES TO TAKE OATH ON  
PROTESTANT BIBLE

An unusual incident occurred this week at the Additional Police Court of Colombo, when a leading practitioner, who was summoned as a witness, refused to take his oath on a Protestant Bible. "I do not consider my oath sacred unless I take it on a Catholic Bible," protested the Proctor.

The Magistrate seemed inclined to think that the Proctor was drawing a distinction without a difference and questioned whether the witness was going to "shake the foundation of the Police Court".

"No," said the witness, "It is not a question of shaking the foundation of the Police Court but one of Principle. I, as a Catholic claim the right to take my oath on a Catholic Bible."

Counsel for the prosecution, also a Catholic, interjected, "His word is as good as his oath, Sir."

Proctor: I desire to take the oath on a Catholic Bible.

The Interpreter Madallyar produced the required Bible which he had fetched from the adjoining Court, and the Proctor was sworn.

It may be mentioned that the Proctor later presented to the Additional Police Magistrate with a copy of a Catholic Bible.

The Magistrate, in accepting the same with thank, desired his Interpreter Madallyar to see that the Bible was used when occasion arose.

## Jaffna Commercial Corporation

RECENT MEETINGS FOLLOWED  
BY LAWSUIT.

An action has been filed in the District Court of Jaffna, by Mr. F. E. Vaid, of Bombay, Mr. W. O. Brodie and Mr. E. O. Kriekenbeek, of Colombo, through the Proctor, Mr. F. Bastonjee, of Colombo against Mr. Edward Mather, of Jaffna, and the Jaffna Commercial Corporation, Ltd., for an order declaring that the proceedings of the meetings of the Company held on September 24th and October 15th were irregular and for an injunction restraining Mr. Edward Mather from acting as liquidator.

Summons have been issued on the defendants returnable on November 26.



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Hindu Education Week

December 24th—31st.

## The Hindu Organ.



JAFFNA, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 1931.

### JAFFNA U. D. C. ELECTIONS.

IN A PROVINCIAL TOWN LIKE JAFFNA, an event like the Urban District Council Triennial Elections goes a great way to break the monotony of a long spell of political inactivity. The nominations took place on Saturday last. Two out of the eight seats have been already filled up. Mr R. R. Nalliah, J. P., the sitting member for Ward No 1 has been returned unopposed. He is a gentleman who commands the confidence of the voters in that area and they could not have selected a more experienced person than he to represent their interests. Mr. A. M. Brodie, who was returned unopposed for Ward No. 4 is new to the Council. But he is just the person who may be expected to bring new blood to the Council. He is one of those who vehemently opposed the introduction of a Health Unit for Jaffna and he is reported to be in favour of reopening taverns. Whether his entry into the Council will soon teach him to change his views is a matter of conjecture. We have no doubt that Mr. Brodie will acquit himself well and with that conviction we extend to him, as we do to Mr. Nalliah, our hearty congratulations.

As for the remaining Wards, with the exception of Ward No. 3, every sitting member is being challenged by newcomers. Even the present Chairman, who is a long-standing member, has a rival in the person of Mr. S. Patarajah, Proctor and Notary Public. We are glad to note that though there is brisk canvassing of voters going on in each of these Wards, yet the work is being carried on quietly and peacefully. The only outstanding feature is the broadcasting of leaflets urging the claims of rival candidates purporting to originate from disinterested parties but very probably engineered by interested persons. They are in strange contrast to the simple and straight forward statements contained in the manifestos issued by some of the candidates. Often the claims urged are quite extraneous and could in no way help the candidates themselves. The writer of a pamphlet, for example, cannot understand why members of only a particular profession are often returned. We hope that they are returned not because of their profession but on account of their fitness to represent the voters who elect them. Again it is urged that experience counts for nothing and that new blood should be introduced every time. We think both are necessary. There are some, the benefit of whose past experience is valuable, while there are others who could certainly bring fresh inspiration and a happy change of outlook. Both are necessary for progress. We hope that voters will be guided by no other consideration than the capacity on the part of candidates to understand correctly the problems of the city and the ability to tackle them in the best interests of the people inhabiting it.

We cannot conscientiously say that judging by its performance during the few years of its existence that the Jaffna U. D. C. has achieved anything much. At the same time we feel that the blame does not lie entirely on the side of the Council. The majority of the people are very conservative. They have a wholesome dread of taxation and increase of rates in any form. In addition, the city is poverty-ridden. It is not a big commercial centre. Rural conditions still prevail in most parts of the city. There has been always a certain amount of opposition to every undertaking and there is not that willing co-operation on the part of the public which we should expect in a progressive city. We know, for instance, how much opposition the U. D. C. had to overcome when the dry-earth latrine system was introduced. Even now the system is only a partial success. According to modern ideas sanitation can be most effectively carried on only by persuasion and willing co-operation of those whom it is intended to benefit. In this matter, unfortunately, the Jaffna U. D. C. is greatly handicapped.

A city is a miniature state but it differs from the state in one respect. In a city the predominant interest is chiefly commercial. A city is essentially a place of business and commercial activity. But the city corporation itself need not necessarily be commercial in outlook. A parsimonious policy causes a city to stagnate. Signs are not wanting to show that the Jaffna U. D. C. is determined to go ahead. A beautiful gesture on the part of the U. D. C. was the acceptance of a lower tender for the Grand Bazaar Market rent foregoing a sum of about Rs. 3000/- for the sake of a principle. This is a tradition worth keeping and we hope the new Council that meets after 5th December will keep it up.

The Electric Scheme is now almost an accomplished fact. It is left to the new members, that arrive after 5th December, to inaugurate a good water-supply scheme. To them is also left the work of finding a new home for the Council. A Government Kachechi atmosphere is not very conducive to the health of a budding self-governing unit. The Ridgeway Hall site being the nerve-centre of Jaffna should prove an ideal one for the location of a Town Hall without which the U. D. C. can no longer keep up its dignity and self-respect especially in view of certain recent happenings.

We have often seen the sorry spectacle of voters falling foul over certain public questions of the very representatives whom they had chosen. This is a great pity. It is the duty of voters to see that they return men whom they could implicitly trust, so that once they have elected them, they might rest satisfied that their interests are in safe hands. Men must be chosen rather for the courage of their convictions than for their adaptability to circumstances. A candidate must, among other things, be above the average in ability, knowledge, worth, and character. Otherwise he could never prove an efficient leader. A leader must rather lead than be led by the nose. We have no doubt that the voters will rise equal to the occasion and choose the very best men to be their chosen representatives and their trusted leaders.

### Urban District Council Elections.

#### A CORRECTION

In our issue of November 23, 1931, we regret to have omitted the name of Mr. V. A. Duraisappah, who is contesting Ward No. 3 with Dr. S. A. Vettivelu and Mr. R. Subramaniam, owing to an oversight. Nomination paper proposed by Mr. C. C. Somasegaram, Proctor and seconded by Mr. O. T. Solomons was handed to the presiding Officer on his behalf.

### Portrait of Sir P. Ramanathan.

TO BE UNVEILED BY GOVERNOR TODAY.

It is reported that a portrait of the late Sir Ponnambalam Ramanathan will be unveiled by His Excellency the Governor to day at 5.15 p. m., in the State Council Chamber. It will be recalled that the first anniversary of Sir Ponnambalam falls to-day.

### Right of Appeal in Election Cases.

ARGUMENT BEFORE THREE JUDGES ON POINT OF LAW

NO APPEAL FROM THE ORDER.

APPEAL COURT RULING.

A Court of three Judges heard the arguments of counsel on the question whether there is a right of appeal from an order made by a Judge of the Supreme Court at an election petition inquiry.

This is an appeal of Mr. S. D. D. Tillekewordena, a voter of the Avasawala Electoral District against the judgment of the Chief Justice, dismissing with costs his petition against Mr. F. A. Obeyesekere, Deputy Speaker of the State Council. Delivering the judgment of the Court on Wednesday, Mr. Justice Garvin said "The objection to this appeal upon the ground that no appeal is available from the order of the Election Judge made under the provisions of Section 78 of the Order in Council is sound and must be upheld. The appeal is accordingly dismissed. The respondent is entitled to the costs of appearance, which will be taxed in the highest class allowed in the Supreme Court".

### King's Counsel.

LIMIT OF MEMBERS WITHDRAWN.

The Hon. the Attorney General has written to the General Council of Advocates intimating that His Excellency the Governor having considered the representations of the Council, directed him to inform the Council, that the Secretary of State has agreed to the withdrawal of the limiting of the number of appointments of practising Advocates as King's Counsel to five. He has accordingly authorised the Governor to make from time to time recommendations for submission to the King for such appointments.

### River Water for Drainage.

NEW RESERVOIR FOR COLOMBO

SCHEME BEFORE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL.

It is understood that a proposal which aims at removing the periodical complaints of water shortage in certain localities of Colombo has been worked out in detail by an Engineer of the Colombo Municipality and has been submitted to the authorities. The proposal is to have a separate reservoir for supplying water for drainage purposes, and thus restrict the Labugama supply for drinking and other house hold purposes. At present the quantity of water used for drainage purposes and for flushing drains etc is very large and that good drinking water is thus wasted. It is proposed to have a reservoir near Kollonnawa and water "boosted" up from the Kelani River. New mains of course, will have to be laid and house connections will have to be made from there for drainage purpose.

### Ministry of Agriculture.

NEW SECRETARY APPOINTED.

It is reported that Mr. E. W. Kannangara, C. O. S., Additional Asst. Govt. Agent, Colombo K. Ochober, has been appointed Secretary of the Executive Committee of Agriculture and Lands, relieving Mr. T. D. Perera, C. O. S., who goes to the Treasury in connection with the Income Tax.

### No Special Rights Wanted.

EUROPEAN MISSIONARIES' LETTER.

It is reported that ten representative British Missionaries on furlough in England belonging to the different missionary bodies, had addressed a letter to the Press, referring to the present discussions of the rights of Europeans. They say:—"Speaking for ourselves, and expressing the mind, as we believe, of most of our Colleagues in India we wish to make it clear that we missionaries desire no special political privileges as Europeans in India."

## News & Notes.

It is reported that the Railway Department has closed down the Running Bungalow at Trincomalee as a measure of economy.

Mr. V. Muttuthamby, Station Master, Jaffna died on Monday, November 27, and his body was cremated the same day at the Punnalai Kadduvan Crematorium.

The Financial Secretary, Sir W. Woods moved the first reading of the Income Tax Bill at the meeting of the State Council held on Tuesday, the 24th inst.

It is reported that Mahatma Gandhi has booked his passage, and will be leaving England by the 12th December, travelling overland from England via Geneva, where he will visit Romain Holland.

It is reported that proposals for balancing the Budget without recourse to Income Tax have been placed before the Board of Ministers by an organisation called the Political Economy Committee.

It is announced that with the approval of His Majesty the King-Emperor, the Prince of Wales has graciously pleased to inaugurate the proceedings of the Burma Round Table Conference.

It is reported that Mr. R. L. Perera, K. C. the Colombo Advocate has been appointed to act as Commissioner of Assizes owing to the illness of Mr. E. W. Jayawardene.

The Women Franchise union intends inviting the Rt. Hon. Mr. Lloyd George and party to be present on the occasion of the reception to be accorded to Mrs. A. F. Molamure, the newly elected Woman Councillor of the State Council.

Mr. C. V. D. S. Corea, Police Magistrate Point Pedro has been transferred to Galle. He was give a warm farewell by the leading residents of Point Pedro. Several speeches were made, and Mr. Corea replied suitably.

The annual tribute of the Maldivian Government will be presented to His Excellency the Governor on the 27th inst. at 11.30 a.m. by the Maldivian Ambassador, on behalf of His Highness the Sultan of the Maldives.

Dr. H. M. Peiris has filed particulars of the charges against the election of Dr. R. Sarayanamuttu to the Colombo North Seat in the State Council, with the Registrar of the Supreme Court, on Monday afternoon.

It is reported that the Honourable Katherine Plunkett who has lived in the reigns of five sovereigns and once nursed by Sir Walter Scott, celebrated her 111th birthday last Sunday, feasting with her relatives in Ireland. She is quite healthy, and ate heartily.

A public meeting of the Mercantile Service was held to protest against the high rate of school fees, and urging on the authorities the urgent necessity of reducing the school fees at this critical time, with the option of revising the same, when times improved.

A sentence of four years imprisonment with hard labour was passed on W. H. de Silva, until recently an assistant Cashier at Messrs Miller and Co. at the Colombo Assizes, for having falsified the accounts, and committed criminal breach of trust in respect of a sum Rs. 1198.58, belonging to his employees.

Answering to a question raised by Mr. V. S. Wikramanayake to table the Communications between the Governor and the Secretary of State relating to a cut in the salaries of public servants, the Chief Secretary replied that the correspondence is confidential and cannot be tabled.