

# The Hindu Organ.

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

THE ONLY NEWSPAPER IN CEYLON FOR THE HINDUS  
H.S THE WIDEST CIRCULATION

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## Education in Ceylon since British Occupation.

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"Christian things done in a Christian way will never alienate the heathen" — J. Lawrence.

### BRITISH OCCUPATION

#### CHANGES IN EDUCATIONAL POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION.

With the advent of the British in Ceylon in 1796, the Dutch system of education which in spite of its proselytising policy, must have had beneficial effects on the people, was abandoned. No real effort was made to continue the Dutch system and Government control of public education was restricted to a few schools supported entirely from the general revenue. The absence of an organised system of national education even in England in the 18th century naturally led the British Government in the Island not to make education a complete concern of the state. Nevertheless the heritage bequeathed by the Dutch, of an organised system of state education compelled the Government to allot for the education of the country a small portion of the revenue. The administration of this revenue and the general educational control had four clearly defined stages.

(i) "Principal and King's Visitor," 1796—1834.

The Scholarchon of the Dutch was replaced by the "Principal and King's Visitor," which office was usually held by the Archdeacon. His duty was to inspect the Government schools that survived and regulate all matters concerning them. We need not be surprised at the fact that the supervision of all the schools was left in the hands of one man for the number of Government vernacular schools had decreased to a large extent and English schools were confined to the principal towns. The efforts of the Government to promote education were small, the entire sum expended from the general revenue being limited to £2000/- a year. Consequently all education was practically left in the hands of the different Christian Missionary bodies who conducted a large number of schools without any aid from the Government. The proportion of Mission schools to those of the Government was seven to one. Fortunately this state of things did not continue long.

(ii) The School Commission, 1834—1841.

The Royal Commissioners who visited the Island in 1830 recommended that the Government schools should be placed "under the immediate direction of a Commission composed of the Archdeacon and the clergy of the Island, the agents of the Government in the districts and some of the principal civil and judicial functionaries at the seat of the Government." In pursuance of this recommendation Sir Robert Wilmet Horton issued a minute on May 19, 1834, for the establishment of such a commission, and the first School Commission was established in that year. It was composed of the Archdeacon as President, the Treasurer, the Auditor General, the Government Agent for the Western Province, and the clergy resident in Colombo, as ex officio members. To facilitate the work of the Commission, and to make supervision operative, sub-committees were formed in the four principal towns of Colombo, Kandy, Galle, and Jaffna. The personnel of the sub-committees consisted of the Government Agent, the District Judge, and the clergy

resident in the station. The predominantly clerical character of the Commission was obvious enough. While effectively supervising education in the towns, they resigned it in the rural areas, where 80% of the population lived, into the hands of the different missionary bodies. Nevertheless Government supervision appears to have been genuine and intense interest in it was taken by Sir Wilmet Horton, the Governor of the Island, and by his successor, the Right Hon. J. A. Stewart Mackenzie "who", it is reported, "on one occasion personally conducted the school examination in the Colombo Academy".

By the year 1841 when the School Commission was dissolved there were 38 Government schools with 2040 pupils while the different missionary bodies educated 14,049 pupils in 457 schools. The Central School Commission which succeeded was perfectly justified in reporting of the work done by the missions at this time thus—"They opened schools wherever they laboured and contributed considerably to the spread of knowledge." This they did all at their own expense, no grant or aid coming from the Government. The poor harvest reaped by the School Commission as a result of their labours was obvious from the fact that at the end of seven years they were educating only 2040 pupils and how unfavourably this compared with the 70,000 pupils the Dutch Government had in their schools. Still, the Central School Commission which took charge of the education of the country replacing the present agency under review, recorded in its report for the year 1860, the following estimate of its predecessor—"Whatever may have been the defects of the late Commission it will be found that in their schools the scriptures were read without any objection at all."

(iii) The Central School Commission 1741—1869.

The School Commission just described was suppressed in 1841 by a body with a similar title, the Central School Commission, but of a very different composition. The extremely clerical character of the first Commission together with its failure to spread education in the country forced the Government to make a change. Under instructions, therefore, from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, the Right Hon. J. A. Mackenzie, in a minute dated March 27, 1841, ordered the formation of a Central School Commission "for the instruction of the population of Ceylon". This Commission was to be less clerical than its predecessor, five members out of seven of which it was composed being laymen. The Government Agent of the Western Province was to be one of them through whose agency "their pecuniary transactions were to be conducted". The Commission was assisted in its work by sub-committees which were established at the outset in accordance with the minute of May 26 of the same year.

The period of the Central School Commission which extended to over a quarter of a century, was noteworthy for two significant changes. The first referred to the introduction of English as the medium of instruction,

and the second brought in the principle of "self support". The same minute which directed the establishment of Sub Committees laid it down that the duty of the Commission was to "co-operate in promoting by every means in their power the education in the English Language of their fellow subjects of all religious opinions in the country". This policy was already forebadowed in the time of the School Commission, the body that preceded the one under review, for when it applied for authority to disburse a small sum of money for translating books into the vernacular, Earl Russell in a despatch dated the 20th December 1840 "discountenanced all vernacular education and interdicted the Government from devoting the funds available for education to such a purpose". This policy had a tremendous effect on the educational system of the country by relegating the vernaculars to a very subordinate position from which even today they have not raised themselves to their proper place.

The Commission agreed in principle with the new policy, but only differed as to the time when it should be carried out. In its opinion, the time had not yet come when "new light" could be let in "through a new medium". Nevertheless it should be said to the credit of the Commission that it recognised the importance and value of vernacular education in spite of the fact that the Home Government discouraged it. Consequently it did not abandon vernacular education, but conducted a few vernacular schools which were in the Western Province, and these suffered from the want of proper school houses, furniture, books, and competent teachers.

The second great change in the education policy of the Government came in the year 1845 when the "principle of self-support" was introduced and "interference and contribution of the Government" was confined "to assisting education and not to providing it exclusively as heretofore". In consequence of this policy, the attendance in schools began to fall low, and by 1857 the average attendance in the Government schools went down to 2133 as against 2788 in the previous year. The schools that were most affected by the introduction of fees were the Vernacular ones. The decline in school attendance, the Commission found, was due to the "expectation that the fee will be remitted as before and an indifference to education evinced by the inhabitants of remote locality". By the year 1866 the Government schools of all kinds and grades were 111, of which 88 were boys' and 23 girls', in an average attendance of 8999, and 597 respectively.

The Commission earnestly entered into the task of educating the people of the Island, but soon found itself handicapped by the limitations brought upon it by the changes in the policy of education. Unlike the previous Commission (1834—41), the Central School Commission, while establishing and conducting its own schools, in some measure recognised and aided the efforts of the different missionary bodies. It started its work with very laudable ambitions and endeavoured to do every thing in its power to spread education. But unfortunately instead of actively stimulating a demand for education, the Commission passively permitted it to rise of itself, and the Missionary bodies were the only people who actively exerted themselves to establish schools. Nevertheless, the Commission did not hesitate to come forward to give assistance for the furtherance of education. The Report of the Commission for the year 1842 says that "Wherever an opening for the establishment of a new school had manifested itself, the Commission came forward with ready assistance." This policy, the Commission extended not only to towns but also to villages and to private estates "wherever unequivocal proof may be afforded by the inhabitants or owners that a school if established will be regularly attended even by 20 children." Assistance to the Missionary bodies for spreading education was offered on a very reasonable and sensible condition. All that the Commission required of the Missionary bodies was that in their schools religious instruction should be non-sectarian but founded upon general principles. "The grand basis of Christianism," in the words of Lancaster of Monitorial School fame, "is broad enough for the whole of mankind to stand and

join hands as children of one family." In justice to the non-Christian section of the population which formed the majority, the Commission gave the parent the right to withdraw his child from the religious instruction class which was directed to be held in the first hour of the day. Most of the Mission bodies conformed to this preliminary condition for grant offered by the Commission who expended a considerable sum of money. Unfortunately it was only the Roman Catholic Mission, the largest Missionary body in the island that found itself unable to conform to this regulation.

The Central School Commission sincerely endeavoured to spread education. Its activity was directed to all grades and kinds of instruction. It not only concerned itself with elementary education but attempted to impart "superior education." For this purpose the Queen's College was established in Colombo which was said to "hold a respectable place among the Colleges affiliated to the University of Calcutta." Some of its students seem to have earned a name for the College as well as for themselves in one of the Colleges in Calcutta. The Report of the General Commission of Public Instruction in Bengal for the year 1839—40 speaks of them thus—"Ten Christian students have been sent to the College, (Bishop's College, Calcutta), by the Ceylon Government and reside in the premises and the College Council express their approbation of the diligence, the rapid progress in study, and the excellent conduct of these young men". Scholarships were instituted, a Junior Queen's and a Senior Queen's each carrying £12 and £20, per annum, tenable for 8 and 4 years respectively, at the Queen's College. Prizes were offered—Turner prize, for proficiency in Classical and English Literature, and another for mathematics. An annual examination was instituted in 1863 with a view to encourage and direct the course of study. The Commission did not lose sight of the absolute necessity for training masters for their elementary schools and Mr. George Lee, a member of the Commission, compiled from Stowe's "Training System" a set of regulations best adapted for the establishment of Normal Schools, three of which were established in Colombo, Negombo, and Kandy respectively. Finding that the system of education in Ceylon was not sufficiently practical, the Commission established three Central Schools with a commercial bias in Colombo, Galle, and Jaffna, for which purpose "Dr. Muir of Edinburgh, Mr. D. Stowe of Glasgow, and Dr. Kay Shuttleworth" were requested to "select three qualified Masters". The Commission assisted in the establishment of Industrial Schools which were opened in Kandy and Nuwer Eliya in 1858, and took charge in 1860, of the one carried on in Colombo by Rev. Mr. Tournetas. These lasted only a few years. The problem of proper class books was partly solved by a supply of the "Irish National Society's works" and an English-Sinhalese, and Sinhalese-English dictionary was compiled in 1846.

The Commission started with vague aspirations and an undefined area of possible administration and organisation. It had no Central responsibility and therefore no coherence. Hence it was *ab initio* doomed to failure inevitable to all such amateur boards. The commission attempted too much and achieved too little. The quality of the education given was ill adapted to the wants of the people. The Queen's College imparted a too classical instruction. The only industrial school which the commission conducted was closed by the year 1866. Elementary schools, Central schools, had long been opened in many parts of the Colony yet from a mistaken notion as to the kind of education to be imparted in them as also from the general inefficiency of the educational staff employed in many of them the pupils attending these schools were not receiving that sound, systematic and practical education which alone would be of use to them in after life. There was all the appearance of instructing the people of Ceylon, and indeed all grades of it, yet but little substantial good had been achieved. Consequently the Sub-Committee of the Legislative Council appointed as a result of the resolution of Mr. (afterwards Sir) M. Coomaraswamy, recommended the dissolution of the Commission in favour of a Department of Public Instruction under the control of a Director.

(To be Continued.)

## ORDER NISI.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.  
 Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 7064.  
 In the Matter of the estate of the late  
 Rasammah wife of Valramattu Chelliah of  
 Vaddukoddai East, late of Singapore.  
 Deceased  
 Valramattu Chelliah of Singapore by his Attorney  
 Vinsanthambay Valramattu of Vaddukoddai.  
 Vs.  
 Petitioner.  
 Minor,  
 1. Chelliah Thuralajah and  
 2. Velanther Sabapathipillai of Vadduk-  
 koddai East

Respondents.

This matter coming on for disposal before  
 D. H. Balfour Esquire, District Judge on the  
 22nd day of September 1931 in the presence  
 of Mr. P. Chappathipillai Proctor on the part  
 of the Petitioner and the said and Petition  
 of the Respondents having been read.

It is ordered that the abovesaid 2nd Res-  
 pondent be appointed Guardian ad litem over the  
 minor 1st Respondent for the purpose of pro-  
 tecting his interest and of representing him in  
 this case and that the petitioner be granted  
 Letters of Administration to the abovesaid  
 deceased unless the Respondents abovesaid  
 or any other shall on or before the 18th day  
 of November 1931 show sufficient cause to the  
 satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

Egd. D. H. Balfour,  
 District Judge.

October 3, 1931.  
 Extended for  
 9th March 1932  
 C. 839. 8 & 7.

### The Jaffna Urban District Council. NOTICE.

SEALED TENDERS addressed to the Chair-  
 man, Urban District Council, Jaffna, marked on  
 the envelope "Tender for Supply of Metal" will be  
 received at this office up to 12 noon on Saturday  
 the 19th March 1932 for supplying and consolida-  
 ting 1144 cubes of dug out metal, 875 cubes of  
 broken metal, and 70 cubes of gravel.

The rate for supply and consolidation should be  
 given separately.

Tenders should be made on forms to be obtain-  
 ed at this office on deposit of Rs. 10/- which will  
 be refunded when the agreement is entered into.

The successful tenderer will be required to  
 furnish security, the amount of which will be  
 determined by the Chairman and to enter into a  
 contract within a week of the acceptance of the  
 tender.

Further particulars may be obtained at this  
 office.

E. T. HITCHCOCK,  
 Secretary, U D C

(G 187 3rd)

## The Hindu Organ.



JAFFNA, THURSDAY, MARCH 3, 1932.

### IMPERIAL PREFERENCE FOR CEYLON.

HE THE GOVERNOR WAS THE FIRST  
 among Colonial administrators to convey  
 to the Secretary of State for the Colonies  
 the assurance that Ceylon was prepared to  
 accept Imperial Preference in the  
 matter of her tariff schemes. When  
 the Hon. the Financial Secretary introdu-  
 ces legislation to give sanction to the  
 scheme, he need not expect any strong  
 opposition from any section of the State  
 Council. Maudlin sympathy will gush  
 out in support of the proposal which in-  
 volves the recognition of membership in  
 the Great British Commonwealth.  
 Words have hypnotised our councillors in  
 the past and "slogans" will continue to  
 fascinate them. So long as we are not  
 masters in our own country and our  
 affairs have to be managed for us by our  
 guardians we can only beg and pray that  
 they may be pleased to take into consi-  
 deration the evils flowing from the  
 scheme. In a very real sense there is  
 preference already for British Empire  
 goods. The Crown Agents who make  
 large purchases year after year on  
 behalf of the Government and for which  
 service are paid a commission, are not  
 likely to overlook the interests of the  
 British manufacturer. Heads of spend-  
 ing Departments in Ceylon are Britishers  
 and need not be reminded of their duty to  
 their mother country in making up their  
 abstract of requirements.

The acceptance of the principle of  
 Empire Preference will benefit only the  
 tea industry which is almost entirely in  
 the hands of British capitalists. It will  
 preclude the permanent population of this

country from buying its necessities and  
 luxuries in the open world market  
 by the discrimination in tariff sought to  
 be made in favour of the British Empire  
 manufacturer and impose additional  
 burdens on the consumer. Such discrim-  
 ination is further likely to induce Ger-  
 many and U S. A. which now consume  
 the bulk of Ceylon produce to resort to  
 retaliatory measures and in the end ruin  
 the only industry which may be said  
 to be in the hands of the Ceylonese.

Before this country approves of Empire  
 Preference as a cardinal principle of its  
 fiscal policy it would be relevant to con-  
 sider whether such acceptance would be  
 conducive or detrimental to the growth  
 of manufacturing industries in this Is-  
 land. Truckling to the British planter  
 this country finds itself dependent wholly  
 on India for its food and by thoughtless-  
 ly accepting Empire Preference we  
 might have to resign ourselves and pos-  
 terity to the position of producers of raw  
 materials. Although the initiative in  
 fresh taxation is the peculiar privilege of  
 Government, yet the British Chancellor  
 has proposed the creation of a Board to  
 advise on the degree of protection to be  
 afforded to the industries in England.  
 May we suggest to the Honourable the  
 Financial Secretary to create a Board to  
 act as guardians of the consumer's inter-  
 ests?

### The Rejected Bills.

WILL THE GOVERNOR CERTIFY?

COUNCILLORS ON METHOD OF  
 PROTEST.

Government's intentions in regard to the  
 two rejected Bills, the Income Tax Amending  
 Ordinance and the Salaries Levy Bill, are not  
 yet clear.

A Minister of the Council told a press  
 representative that the intimation to the  
 agenda was a sufficient declaration of the  
 Governor's intentions, and he (the Minister)  
 doubted whether any definite announcement  
 on the subject would be made in the House.

On the other hand, it is pointed  
 out by some members of the Council,  
 says the "Times", that according  
 to the Order in Council a declaration of  
 certification has to be made in the House,  
 and, in fact, they have been considering some  
 method by which they could protest against  
 the use of the Governor's powers in this  
 connection when the declaration is made.

It is expected that an announcement of  
 policy will be made at the meeting of Council  
 next week.

### Defalcation in Education Department.

LARGE SUM SAID TO BE INVOLVED.

The morning "Morning Leader" under-  
 stands that a serious defalcation has just  
 been brought to light in the Education  
 Department. It appears that moneys due  
 to be lodged in the Bank have systemat-  
 ically not found their way there, while  
 credit slips in support of deposits have in  
 all cases been filed on record.

The amount involved is said to be large  
 and the fraud, it would appear, has been  
 discovered by mere chance on the death  
 of an officer in the Accountants Branch of  
 the Department. Investigations are on  
 foot.

### Buddhist Drive in England.

INITIAL STEP TO CONVERSION.

London, Feb. 28

Buddhism was expounded by an English  
 playwright and Japanese poet to a crowd-  
 ed gathering at the Duchess Theatre to day.  
 The organisers of the meeting claimed it  
 to be the initial step in a big drive by  
 Buddhists in this country, who include  
 several famous men and women, to convert  
 Britain to Buddhism.

Mr. Clifford Bax, the playwright and Mr.  
 Komal, the Japanese poet, who has lived in  
 London for 20 years, addressed a cosmopolitan  
 audience, which included actors and actresses,  
 ex, Japanese, Chinese and Indians, one ex-  
 Commander of submarines during the war  
 and Hindus including Brahmans.—"Hindu".

# The Jaffna Boycott of the State Council.

## Should Jaffna Lift the Boycott?

J TYAGARAJAH M A, L L B.

For some time past persistent efforts have  
 been made by the anti boycotters to secure  
 another Nomination Day for Jaffna, and the  
 movement, it appears, has now reached a  
 climax. It is opportune, therefore, for those  
 interested in the welfare of Jaffna and in  
 her reputation for political sagacity to take  
 stock of the situation. Have the Tamils who  
 have contributed so much to the political  
 progress of this Island, some of whose lead-  
 ers actually originated the movement for  
 self government, become suddenly bereft of  
 statesmanship and political judgment? Can  
 their attitude towards the New Constitution  
 be explained in that manner? Or is their  
 attitude rather due to the fact that they  
 possess a clearer vision, and a greater  
 capacity for sacrifice than the impulsive and  
 generous people of the South? The answer  
 to this question will depend upon the suc-  
 cess or failure of the attempt which is now  
 being made in certain quarters to re-enter  
 Council.

The necessity for the boycott in May last  
 year cannot be disputed, whatever difference  
 of opinion there may be as to the manner in  
 which the boycott was called into being.  
 It may be that it was introduced too  
 suddenly and that its full implications were  
 not clearly explained to the four electorates  
 which are now unrepresented. It would  
 have been certainly better had the people  
 of the South too been consulted. Had such  
 consultation taken place in time a few more  
 electorates might in all probability have  
 joined the people of the North and strength-  
 ened the movement. These admissions may  
 be freely made and yet the essential  
 soundness of the case for a boycott will  
 not be affected.

### The Case for the Boycott

The case for the initiation of the boy-  
 cott last year was that in theory the  
 New Constitution was both retrograde  
 and unworkable and that therefore there  
 was no justification for giving it a  
 trial and involving the Island in a  
 recurring expenditure of a million rupees.  
 In support of this attitude there were  
 the opinions of some of our eminent  
 and disinterested politicians like Mr.  
 Samarawickrema and of great constitutional  
 authorities like Professor Keith in England  
 and Sir P Sivassamy Iyer in India who have  
 testified to the reactionary nature of the  
 Constitution. In fact such was the original  
 view of our Legislative Councillors too until  
 the diplomacy of Sir Herbert Stanley and  
 the firmness of Lord Passfield (who order-  
 ed the Council to accept the scheme of  
 Reforms as a whole or to reject it at  
 their risk) induced them to accept the  
 Constitution by a majority of two votes.

The boycotters condemned the Consti-  
 tution as retrograde because under it the  
 Council lost its control over (a) the public  
 purse; (b) over the Public Service; (c)  
 because the Governor's powers were en-  
 hanced, while those of Council were limited.  
 They condemned the Constitution as un-  
 workable (a) because its cardinal fea-  
 ture was the novel committee-system; (b)  
 because the Board of Ministers was not  
 a real Cabinet which may be  
 appointed and dismissed by the Council,  
 but an irresponsible body without power.  
 They also objected to the introduction  
 into the Order-in-Council of certain re-  
 actionary features like the provision  
 relating to the salaries of the Officers  
 of State which were not contemplated by  
 the Donoughmore Report.

### Stronger Today.

Since the boycott is an accomplished fact  
 today, it is incumbent on those who are  
 seeking to lift it to prove that the boycotters  
 are mistaken and that their decision should  
 be reversed. But this the anti boycotters  
 have failed to establish. On the other hand  
 the case for the continuance of the boycott is  
 even stronger today than it was a year ago.

## The Present Position.

A GNANA PRAKASAM B A, ADVOCATE.

As the request of the Editor of the paper  
 I state below my opinion about the Jaffna  
 Boycott and its present position:—

### What has Jaffna gained by the Boycott?

It is too late to inquire whether the  
 boycott of the State Council was in the best  
 interests of Jaffna or not. Apart from the  
 loss of Rs 1600 per month which might have  
 been received by the Jaffna members and  
 which is a trifle compared to the alternative  
 loss of their self-respect, it cannot be demon-  
 strated that the inhabitants of Jaffna have lost  
 anything substantial by the boycott.

### Will the Jaffna Boycott Help the rest of the Country?

The trend of events indicates that the  
 who a of Ceylon stands to gain by the nega-  
 tive verdict of Jaffna's momentous plebi-  
 cite. Has not the very mention of boycott  
 by the inhabitants of Egoda Uyana made a  
 firm Governor relax his strongly expressed  
 determination to enforce the Punitive Police  
 tax?

### Why did Jaffna Non-co-operate?

The rejection of the Donoughmore Consti-  
 tution is a proof of Jaffna's appreciation of  
 political value. The present constitution  
 gave the natives of Ceylon the panoply of  
 office, not the reality of power. If the  
 constitution gave any real power to the  
 inhabitants of Ceylon, Jaffna would have  
 voted for it. But the constitution invested  
 all the power in a handful of foreigners.  
 What Jaffna wanted for Ceylon was the  
 substance of self-government. The rest of  
 the Island for the time being was satisfied  
 with the shadows of office. All people are  
 not quick to understand.

### What is the Present Situation?

Of the present situation one fact is certain:  
 Jaffna has not lost her honour by the boycott.  
 Jaffna's inhabitants, by their prudence, have  
 been saved from the repeated insults and  
 humiliations to which the elected represen-  
 tatives of other parts of Ceylon have been  
 subjected by the ruling bureaucracy. It may  
 be added that official insolence would not  
 have been so exasperating if the Donough-  
 more Scheming was rejected by the whole  
 country.

### When will the Boycott end?

If there is to be a termination of the boy-  
 cott, it must be an honourable termination.  
 The boycott which has been inaugurated by  
 the unanimous consent of the people must  
 be concluded by a similar approval of the  
 inhabitants of Jaffna. Co-operation will  
 come only when the purpose for which non-  
 operation was launched has been achieved,  
 viz: the removal of two negative defects of  
 our form of government: (1) Not concen-  
 trating in the hands of the representatives of  
 the people sufficient power to fulfil the  
 necessary offices of a government and (2)  
 not developing adequately by exercise the  
 active capacities and social feelings of the  
 citizens. (See chapter VI of J S Mill:  
 Representative Government).

Nearly one year's working of the Constitution  
 has justified all our worst apprehensions.  
 Never has political prophecy been fulfilled in  
 an ampler measure than in regard to our  
 State Council. Never have theoretical  
 objections to a constitution proved to be  
 truer in the light of its practical working.  
 Never, I may add, has the political future of  
 this country been sacrificed more shamelessly  
 for the sake of personal aggrandisement and  
 greed of power.

As we anticipated, the Governor strides  
 the Constitution like a Colossus dwarfing  
 into insignificance members and Ministers  
 alike. Firstly with regard to the situation  
 created by the boycott. His Excellency ac-  
 cording to the best legal opinion, has acted  
 unconstitutionally. Either the four Jaffna  
 seats are "vacant" according to Section 15 of  
 the Order in Council, in which case another  
 Nomination day should have been fixed for  
 Jaffna, or those seats are not "vacant"  
 within the meaning of section 15 in  
 which case the Council is not legally

constituted. In the latter event His Excellency should have cured the defect by securing the necessary amendments to the Order-in-Council. He has adopted neither of these alternatives. Not only has he ignored the legal consequences of the boycott, but he has also treated Jaffna as if she were politically non-existent. Furthermore he has certified the vote for passage allowances once and he has intimated his intention of certifying it again this year. After setting aside the considered decision of the State Council in regard to the Police Levy in Egoda Uyena, he has in consequence of the unanimous expression of opinion of the Council at a second debate undertaken to reconsider the question. He refused to accept the recommendations of the Council in regard to the Salaries Levy Bill. On the contrary he attempted to introduce it into Council a second time and failed. Finally, after giving his assent to the Income Tax Bill in the form in which it was passed by the Council, His Excellency sought to amend some of its important provisions by a method which, according to Mr Samarawickreme is unconstitutional and is akin to sharp practice. In this attempt too he has been frustrated, because the Council has rejected the Income Tax Amending Bill by an overwhelming majority. It is however expected that His Excellency will place both this Bill and the Salaries Levy Bill on the Statute Book by exercising his reserve powers. So it will be seen that in all vital questions the Governor has intervened and overruled the will of the Council. Surely a Constitution under which even a sympathetic Governor like Sir Graeme Thomas is obliged to act so autocratically must be pronounced a failure.

**Fatal Defects in the Constitution.**

If the working of the Constitution has shown us that the Governor is the effective ruler, it has also shown us that the Board of Ministers and the Council possess really no power. The Board has turned out to be merely an ornamental body controlled and overshadowed by the three Officers of State on the one hand and disowned by the Council on the other. Again every sitting of the Council has made its impotence more evident. After functioning for nearly a year the Council has been able to achieve nothing beyond sanctioning additional taxation. Although the exchequer is empty and the public are groaning under the burden of heavy taxation, the Council succeeded only last week in passing a pious resolution requesting the Governor to appoint a Retrenchment Commission. Whilst public officers are retiring by the score and drawing commuted pensions and compensation for loss of careers, the Council has no votes in withholding these payments even from men like Major Walker who have been found guilty of maladministration of their Departments. Thus the reality is infinitely worse than our anticipations, and the practical working of the Constitution has not only demonstrated its worthlessness beyond the shadow of a doubt, but it has also proved that what were merely theoretical objections a year ago are fatal defects today.

**"Abandon All Hope, You Who Enter"**

The fact that the Constitution is still functioning is no proof of its success, but it is only proof of the determination of our Councillors to cling to their seats at any cost. The men who entered Council with a view to ending it or mending it have done neither. And since mending the Constitution from within appears to be an impossibility, it is difficult to see what purpose will be served by returning the 4 Jaffna representatives to Council at this juncture. Surely the disillusionment of even the most ardent supporters of this impossible Constitution ought to make the would-be members for Jaffna realise that they can achieve nothing by entering Council. In the face of all that has happened how can their position, if they co-operate, be any different from that of the present members? In fact the desire to enter Council at this stage is contrary neither with one's self-respect nor with the best interests of the Island. Therefore if the boycott is lifted the best men are not likely to come forward. On the contrary, those who seek election under the present conditions will be men who if elected are most likely to succumb to the temptation of clinging tenaciously to their seats even when it is their duty to resign. As a warning to such men there should be inscribed on the portals of the Council Chamber the words which greeted Dante as the entrance to Inferno "Lasciate ogni speranza, voi ch' entrate." "Abandon all hope, you who enter."

**Doubly Right Today.**

Jaffna non co-operated even before the Constitution was given a trial because she was convinced of its futility. In she going to co-

**Vivekananda Society, Colombo**  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

**DEPRESSED CLASSES AND TEMPLY ENTRY.**

The 26th Annual General Meeting of the Vivekananda Society was held on Saturday the 27th February, 1932. The meeting commenced at 8 p.m. with Mr. A. Mahadeva in the chair, and there was a large gathering of members present. The notice convening the meeting having been read by the Secretary, the Minutes of the last ordinary and the Annual General Meetings were read and confirmed.

The Report and the Statement of Accounts for the year 1931 were adopted with some comments. The election of Office-Bearers resulted as follows:—President: Mr. A. Mahadeva; Vice Presidents: Mr. M. Moothathambay, Mr. A. Sallamuttu, M. B. E. Mr. R. Mahadeva, Dr. G. Wignarajah, Dr. C. Sivasthamparum, Mr. O. Perumalpillai, Dr. V. K. Paramanayagam, Dr. M. J. Appasamy, Dr. T. Nallanathan and Mr. A. Chelappah; Chairman: Mr. R. Mahadeva; Manager of the Vidyalayam: Mr. A. Mahadeva; Local Manager: Mr. S. Somasunderam; General Secretary: Mr. V. T. S. Sivagananathan; Correspondence Secretary: Mr. V. Ramanathan; Literary Secretary: Mr. T. Ramanathan; Religious Activities Secretary: Mr. A. Vaidyantham; Treasurer: Mr. T. Rajanayagam; Assistant Treasurers: Mr. V. Saibasiyam and Mr. T. Doraiswamy; Librarian and Controller of Book Depot: Mr. R. Virabilingam; Assistant Librarians and Controllers: Mr. S. K. Sinnatambu and Mr. K. Sabaratnam.

An Executive Committee, a General Committee, and Auditors were appointed. The Draft Estimates for the year 1932 were passed with certain amendments. The following resolution proposed by Mr. R. Karalasingham and seconded by Mr. K. Rajaratnam was passed by a large majority:— "That the Vivekananda Society, Colombo is of opinion that the prevention of the depressed classes from entering the Hindu places of worship is detrimental to the religious and social progress of the Hindus and calls upon the various Hindu Institutions in Ceylon to make every effort to influence the Managers and Trustees of such institutions to admit all devotees into such places, irrespective of caste." Dr. T. Nallanathan, Messrs. S. Ponnappah, K. V. Saibasiyam, S. Manunayagam, P. Subramaniam, and S. Thyagarajah spoke on the motion. The President before putting the resolution to the House expressed his opinion on the subject and briefly spoke in support of it. The meeting terminated at 8 p.m.—Cor.

**Continued**

operate now when the trial has proved that she is right and when the very men who blessed the Constitution admit that it is a failure? How can she go back upon her decision when the Government has not even considered the question of amending the Constitution? Is there any reason why she should now re-enter the very Council which she so decisively condemned a year ago, a Council which is under the sentence of death and which is likely to end its days either by suicide or at the hands of the executioners?

If Jaffna lifts the boycott not only will she betray a lack of sense of proportion and self-respect and forfeit the reputation she has justly earned for herself by the splendid gesture of last May, but she will also prejudice the case for the early amendment of the Constitution. For by returning her representatives to Council she will create the impression that the last vestige of opposition to the Constitution has been removed; whereas if she continues the boycott she will focus public attention on the necessity for scrapping the present Constitution even after public interest in the question has begun to wane in consequence of the settlement of the outstanding differences between the Governor and our accommodating Council. Therefore I trust that Jaffna will "think well, think wisely, think not for the moment but for the years that are to come" before she reverses a decision which was right a year ago and is doubly right today.

**Order Nisi.**

**IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA**  
Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 8023.  
In the matter of the estate of the late Sinnathamby Vallipuram of Kanterodal late of Mandapay Camp.

Deceased,  
Sinnathamby Sinnappa of Kanterodal  
Vs.  
Petitioner,  
1. Vallipuram Somasundaram of Do  
2. Vallipuram Somasundaram of Do  
3. Vallipuram Paramasamy of Do  
4. Vallipuram Gupakshiam of Do

Respondents.

This matter coming on for disposal before D. H. Balfour, Esquire, District Judge, Jaffna on December 17, 1931 in the presence of Mr. S. Halyatambi Proctor, for the Petitioner and the affidavit and Petition of the Petitioner dated December 14, 1931, and December 17, 1931, having been read.

It is ordered that the abovesaid 3d Respondent be appointed Guardian ad-hum for the minor 4th Respondent for all the purposes of this action and of representing her in this case and that the Petitioner be declared entitled to administer the said estate and that Letters of Administration be issued to him accordingly unless the Respondents shall appear before this Court on February 5, 1932, and show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

January 19, 1932  
Order Nisi extended for March 7, 1932.  
February 6, 1932.  
D. H. Balfour, District Judge.

January 19, 1932  
Order Nisi extended for March 7, 1932.  
February 6, 1932.  
D. H. Balfour, District Judge.  
O. 319, 29 & 8.

**Adult Franchise in Ceylon.**  
HOW IT WORKED

**SIR BOURDILLON BEFORE LOTHIAN COMMITTEE**

Sir B Bourdillon, the Chief Secretary of Ceylon, who went to Madras to give evidence before the Lothian Committee was asked the following questions about adult franchise and its effect in Ceylon.

Q: In view of the fact that the electorate formerly consisted of only about 200,000 persons and has now suddenly increased to nearly 1,000,000, has there been any noticeable change either in the type of the individuals elected or the nature of the interests they represent?

A: No, except possibly in Colombo itself, where three labour members have been returned who otherwise might not have been.

Q: To what extent does the majority of the electorate understand the political issues involved in an election?

A: Numbers of electors naturally vote more for persons than for policies.

Q: Has the system of identifying ballot boxes by means of different colours, rather than by the use of photographs of the candidate, or some other method, given rise to any difficulty, in the case for example of persons suffering from colour blindness?

A: No complaints have been reported; the presiding officer is available to assist in such cases.

Q: Are candidates allowed to provide vehicles for transporting voters to the polls?

A: They are not permitted to hire them. Has there been any paucity of presiding officers?

A: No; but some difficulty has been experienced in finding sufficient clerical staff.

Q: What does the holding of an election usually cost?

A: The last election cost about Rs. 3 lakhs. What is the total Mahomedan population of Ceylon?

A: About 319,000.

Q: Are there separate electorates or reserved seats for them?

A: No.

Q: Has there been any complaint that Mahomedans under the existing constitution get insufficient representation?

A: Yes.

Q: How many Mahomedan members are there at present?

A: Two; one elected and one nominated?

Q: How many nominated and how many elected members are there in the House?

A: Eight nominated and fifty elected.

Q: Is there any official bias?

A: No; there are three official members who are not entitled to vote.

Q: Have any women been elected?

A: No.

Q: Was one recently returned on a bye election?

A: Yes.

Q: Are there special polling arrangements for women?

A: There are generally either separate booths or separate cubicles, but no separate entrances to the polling station.

Q: What is the largest number of candidates who have ever stood for election in any one constituency?

A: Six.

Q: Are all the constituencies single-member constituencies?

A: Yes.

Q: In Ceylon are there ever two separate elections at the same time, such as the separate elections which are held in India for the Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Council?

A: No.

**Mrs. Gandhi Released.**

**HER HAPPIEST DAYS IN GAOL**

Ahmedabad, Feb 29,  
Mrs. Gandhi who was sentenced on January 15 last to six weeks' simple imprisonment for subversive activities in the Surat district, was released from Sabarmati Gaol to-day on the expiry of her sentence.

Almost the first question Mrs. Gandhi asked a friend on emerging from gaol was about the health of the inmates by Sabarmati Ashram.

Interviewed by Reuter, Mrs. Gandhi, who looked cheerful, said she had spent her happiest days in gaol. She was given all conveniences due to an "A" class prisoner, including a vernacular daily. She intends interviewing Mr. Gandhi in Yerwada Gaol shortly.

Hindu.

**Congress Dictator in Council.**  
Nagpur, Feb 29.  
There was a sensation in the Central Provinces Council today when, at 9 o'clock, Mr. Mahadeo Modi, the 18th "Dictator" time the Council and handed Mrs. Ben's statement to the Hon. Mr. Ravi, President of the Council, and began making a speech. Mr. Gole, Superintendent, at once removed him into the lobby, where he was taken into custody—"Hindu".

**Ex-President Patel.**  
Bombay, 29.  
A "Bombay Chronicle" report states that Mr. Vishambhai Patel was taken to Yerwada from Nasik. His health is not satisfactory and it is considered that he may have to undergo another operation. Mr. Patel has removed his beard—"Hindu".

**Northern Assizes.**

**ATTEMPT AT MURDER ENDS IN ACQUITTAL.**

Before Sir Philip Macdonnell and an English-speaking jury with Mr. A. Ponniah as foreman, Tambayah Sundaram of Point Pedro stood charged with attempt to murder Kanapathypillai Ramalingam Ex-cise Sergeant and Vethaparanam Subramaniam, Ex-cise Guard, Point Pedro on May 10th 1931. Mr. M. F. S. Palle, Crown Counsel, prosecuted while the accused was defended by Mr. G. G. Ponnambalam assisted by Mr. J. H. Vanniasitkam instructed by Mr. T. Balakrishna.

The story for the prosecution was that Sundaram went with a knife to the Ex-cise Station to cut Subramaniam. Finding that he could not have his way that day, he returned. Subramaniam and Ramalingam went to the Police Station at about 7 p.m. and made an entry that the accused went to the Ex-cise Station in search of them to cut them. After making the entry as they were going along the road, accused rushed up and cut both and took to his heels.

The defence called the accused and ex-cise Inspector B. B. Lingam to prove that the accused did not stab the Ex-cise Sergeant and the Guard. Mr. Ponnambalam addressing the Jury said that they had in that case on the one hand witnesses for the prosecution who are experienced and trained in the art of giving evidence and as was very often in the case of Ex-cise offences, in the art of giving false evidence. Ramalingam and Subramaniam are the Resonants and Guildenstern of every false case. The artificiality of the evidence beeps the pettylogging minds of the lower squadron of the Police and Ex-cise forces. It is admitted that the accused went to lodge a complaint at the Ex-cise Station to one of the superior officers of the assault on him by Subramaniam. In the absence of officers, Sergeant Ramalingam seems to have treated him with scant courtesy and eventually those of his kind at the Ex-cise Station bodily bundled him out. Immediately the dishonest synthetic instincts of the Ex-cise peons seem to have set to work and they were seen then going to the Police Station and making an entry that the accused was prowling about with a knife. The accused is admitted went there to make an entry, but he refused to do so, knowing the cordial relations that existed between Police constables and the Ex-cise peons. He goes back home to sleep the sleep of the just. These men in the meantime were murderously assaulted in a by-road admittedly on a very dark night in the dense shadows of a palmyra-coconut grove, obviously by the hand of one of whom they had grievously wronged. They failed to identify the assailant. They don't shout out the name of the assailant to the companions going ahead. But on their way to the Police Station their minds leap to the possibility of the accused being the assailant.

From that frame of mind for these gentlemen to convince themselves and definitely to implicate the accused was a very small step. The Police with a number of members of the lower Ex-cise squadron go immediately to the house of the accused and find him fast asleep. arrest him without a spot or trace of blood on his person or clothing. The Police constable is alleged to have picked up a knife which was lying unconcealed within two yards where the accused was sleeping and which was supposed to be stained with blood. Why was this knife not sent to the Government Analyst who is a highly qualified and technical expert maintained on the resources of the colony? They were asked to interfere with the liberty of a member of the peasant cultivator class who form the very backbone of society in Jaffna on the uncorroborated expert testimony of the indubitable constable Ponniah.

They were constituted before God as the only bulwark between the unfortunate accused and the prosecution which had assumed the proposition of a persecution. They were bound by their oath to return a verdict on the evidence placed before them and when the time comes before them to consider the verdict let it be said that they served without fear or favour, ill-will or goodwill and restore the man to the bosom of his aged and ailing parents whose only solace, prop and support he would be in the last days of their life.

The Jury brought in a unanimous verdict of not guilty.

**Income Tax Commissioner.**

Mr. H. J. Huxham, the Income Tax Commissioner of Ceylon, is expected to arrive in Colombo at the end of this month.

**Forest Department Advertisements.**

The Divisional Forest Officer, N. D. Jallus, will sell by Public Auction at the Jaffna Depot the following lots of timber at 9.30 a.m. on Tuesday the 17th March 1932.

Lot 1	...	126 Palm logs.
Lot 2	...	25 Sasin logs.
Lot 3	...	20 Vinanku Poles.
Lot 4	...	1 ton Sasin pieces.

For further particulars please see notice dated 23.2.32 appearing in Government Gazette of 23.2.32.  
J. D. BARGENT, Inspector of Forests.

Office of the Conservator of Forests, Colombo, 29th February 1932.  
O. 185, 3-8-32.

A SHORT STORY.

The Rocks of Kon Esan  
(An Episode)

BY M A MASILAMANI

THE ORISIS

(Continued from the last issue)  
CHAPTER II.

It is the saying of the wise that all salvation comes from the East, and guided by my star and the promptings of the spirit, I found myself in the beautiful city of Trincomallee. It was a beautiful evening in the month of December that I arrived there and as I looked at the city lying clothed in the magnificence of the golden sunlight I thought to myself that it must have been a heavenly architect that planned the city and set it in the bosom of the hills. But what made it so divinely fair was the sea heaving all around in its blue splendour driving its huge foam-crested waves into many inlets embowering fairy scenes of unparalleled loveliness. People talk of Naples, Capri, Monte Carlo, Biarritz, and Capd'Antibes as sea resorts of peerless natural beauty which make the sea live to be called Gold'azure or the azure coast. But they have not seen Trincomallee on a fine December day. The Blue Mediterranean is not a patch on the Bay of Bengal in some of her happy moods. But the Ceylonese are a dull impetuous race. The richest among them go Europe wards just to pose as belonging to the Upper Ten by having set foot on the soil of the conquerors. One Nabob is said to have paid \$500 for the unique distinction of having consulted the King's Physician merely to be told that Europe would not suit him and the best thing for him to do was to return to Ceylon. Such pretentious snobbery is possible only in Ceylon.

Such thoughts crowded into my mind as I wended my way along the high road that leads to Fort Fredrick. The thunder of the waves was in my ear. The atmosphere was radiant with a soft lustre and charged with life giving ozone that made the pulse to leap and the heart sing with rapture. There was a sense of expectation within me. A premonition of something that would happen, a warmth, mollenness, buoyancy of spirit which I would never have experienced in the old days in the height of my sensuous raptures when I would have burned with the devastating kisses of devouring months. Here was another kind of feeling, another order of sensation, something immaterial, spiritual, of an exquisite refinement unknown to and unknowable by the mere animal.

As I passed the portals of the Fort I saw herds of deer scuttling off into the undergrowth and thickets that girdled either side of the road. Here and there were arsenals, barracks, flagstaffs, armories and prison-cells once teeming with activity, now the home of innumerable bats and the haunt of the deer. There were ancient cannons in the battlements the external symbol of the fact to kill and conquer, of the European Christian Nations. It was not a fort but a world in itself. I would have liked to live in a hut somewhere under the shade of a tree and lead the life sublime within the sight of the sea and lulled by the breezes that sweep over its blue depths. The romance, the beauty and the wonder that is within the comparatively small space of the fortress is beyond the power of words to describe.

But I had come in search of a wonder within this wonder in quest of the Holy Grail for the fulfilment of a dream. It is said that faith can remove mountains. It was faith that brought me to the three-cornered city—faith in a dream—faith in an invisible direction. When I had reached the road that leads to the Eastern side of the fort I realized that I had found the object of my search. There it was in front of me. The sea rolling under me down below the chasm made by abrupt drop of the rock. As I stood on the precipice and looked down "there it was—the whole picture as in my dream. The vast blue sea with the white breakers rolling forward with their foaming crests crashing upon the shore in estacrats of white foam that spread itself on the shore with a ebbing movement that made a fitting accompaniment to the thunder of the waves. There was the granite shrine within the waters where the breakers seethed and boiled like a sea of foaming milk as if the invisible Gods were churning the ocean for the Waters of Immortality. On a steep promontory facing the shrine thirty or forty feet above the level of the sea stood a Brahman with a beaker of burning camphor chanting an ancient hymn and performing the well known culmination of all Hindu religious ceremony the "Theep Arathanai" in honour of the God worshipped among the rocks of Kon Esan. A short while afterwards a cocoon burst through the air and broke at the entrance of the shrine amidst the cries of Haro-Haro from the worhippers that stood round. So this was the place to which I was led by my dream and I waited expectantly for some event which will give the final direction to my destiny.

(To be continued)

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Order Nisi.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 7971.  
In the Matter of the estate of the late  
Singarayar Machado of Jaffna Town.  
Deceased,  
Nallammal Machado widow of Singarayar  
Machado of do.

Petitioner,  
This matter coming on for disposal before D. H.  
Balfour Esquire, District Judge, Jaffna on  
February 12, 1932, in the presence of Mr. J. A. J.  
Theveerasinghe, Proctor for Petitioner

It is ordered that Letters of Administration to  
the said estate be issued to the Petitioner unless  
sufficient cause be shown to the contrary by any  
person whomsoever on or before March 4, 1932.

Sd. D. H. Balfour,  
District Judge,  
February 22, 1932.  
O. 336, 29 & 8.

Order Nisi.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 7970.

In the matter of the estate of the late  
Kavarammam daughter of Ponnampalam  
Balasubramaniam of Vannarponnai West,  
Jaffna.

Deceased,  
Thangammah widow of Ponnampalam Bala-  
subramaniam of do

Petitioner,  
This matter of the Petition of the Petitioner  
abovenamed coming on for disposal before D. H.  
Balfour Esquire, District Judge, Jaffna on  
November 11, 1931, in the presence of Mr. J. A. J.  
Theveerasinghe, Proctor for Petitioner and the  
affidavit of the Petitioner having been read:  
It is ordered that Letters of Administration to  
the estate of the deceased abovenamed do issue  
to the Petitioner abovenamed as mother of the  
deceased unless the Respondents or others show  
sufficient objection to the contrary on or before  
March 4, 1932.

Sgd. D. H. Balfour  
District Judge,  
February 16, 1932.  
O. 335 29 & 8

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Order Nisi.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 7984.

In the matter of the estate of the late  
Arunasalam Vythialingam of Vaddokoddal East  
Deceased.

Merimuttammah widow of Arunasalam  
Vythialingam of Vaddokoddal East  
Petitioner.

This matter coming on for disposal before  
D. H. Balfour Esquire, District Judge, on the  
12th September 1931, in the presence of Mr. P.  
Canapathypillay,

It is ordered that Letters of Administration be granted to the Petitioner to the said estate unless sufficient cause be shown to the contrary on the 21st October 1931,

Sgd. D. H. Balfour,  
District Judge,  
September 24 1931  
Extended to 29th February 1932,  
O 334 29 & 8

Order Nisi.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 8004.

In the matter of the estate of the late  
Arumugam Ellatamby of Mallakam  
Deceased.

Kasipillal Ambalavanar of Alavetty  
Vs.  
Petitioner,  
(1) Annappillal widow of Ellatamby of Mallakam  
(2) Ellatamby Thambirasa of Do  
(3) Ellatamby Ponnuthural of Do  
(4) Arumugam Kangasabal of Do

Respondents  
This matter of the Petition of the Petitioner praying for Letters of Administration to the Estate of the abovenamed deceased coming on for disposal before D. H. Balfour Esq., District Judge, on the 19th day of November 1931 in the presence of Mr. M. Vythialingam, Proctor, on the part of the Petitioner and the affidavit of the Petitioner having been read, It is declared that the Petitioner is the father in law of the said testator and is entitled to have Letters of Administration to the estate of the said testator issued to him unless the Respondents or any other person shall, on or before the 7th day of March 1932 show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

November 19, 1932.  
O. 337. 29 & 8.  
D. H. Balfour,  
District Judge.

NOTICE.

In order to avoid inconvenience and delay, our friends, who are good enough to send us advertisements, are kindly requested to see that the same are sent to us at least a day earlier than the date of publication.

Manager.

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