

The Jaffna Organ.

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

THE ONLY NEWSPAPER IN CEYLON FOR THE HINDUS

HAS THE WIDEST CIRCULATION

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Education in Ceylon since British Occupation.

A. CUMARASWAMY, M. A. (CAL & LOND) BAR-AT-LAW.

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VI. Measures to Promote Literacy

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So far we have discussed the Town Schools Ordinance. Let us now turn to see what steps were taken to arrest the progress of illiteracy in the rural areas.

[To meet the requirements of these parts, the Rural Schools Ordinance of 1907 was passed, and in accordance with it the Island was mapped out into twenty educational districts, each placed under the charge of a District School Committee for purposes of Vernacular education. The Committee was composed of:—

(A) A Chairman, usually the Government Agent of the district, or in his absence, the Assistant Government Agent.

(B) The Director of Public Instruction, or in his absence, an Officer of the Department of Public Instruction, appointed by him.

(C) One of the Chief Headmen of the district, nominated by the Government Agent.

(D) One or more School Managers, or other persons interested in education in the district, nominated by the Governor.

It is the duty of the District School Committee to prepare schemes for establishing vernacular schools for the education of all male children between the ages of six and fourteen and to enforce compulsory attendance if provision is made for their education within a distance of three miles from their homes. Larger powers of discretion are allowed to the Committee regarding the education of girls. These, between the ages of six and twelve, (and if they are Mohammedan or Tamil girls, between the ages of six and ten,) can be compelled to attend schools under the same conditions as boys. The by-laws of the Committee include special exceptions and qualifications by which girls may be exempted from attendance even within the compulsory period of schooling, as prescribed by the Ordinance, if the Committee finds that the girl is the only help for the parents at home.

The funds at the disposal of the Committee mainly come from the amounts voted for the purposes of education by the Legislative Council, and to a small extent from the grant funds of the Village Committees. The distribution of the funds to the District School Committees from the general revenue is left entirely to the discretion of the Director of Education. With this money the Committee can erect new buildings, or make repairs, and supply furniture to the schools.

So far as creating ad hoc bodies for the purpose of vernacular education, the Ordinance of 1907 follows the Act of 1870 in England, with this difference that while the English School Boards were elected bodies, the Ceylon District School Committees consist mainly of departmental officials and Government nominees. Their scope is so limited to elementary vernacular education, but the funds at the disposal of the Committee being limited, it is impossible for many of them to enforce compulsory attendances since they cannot make adequate provision for it, as the English School Boards could.

The Local Authority did not function as expected. Five years after the passing of the Town Schools Ordinance only one of the three municipalities of the island was carrying out its provisions, and that partially. Only four of the eight towns with "Local Boards", instead of Municipalities, were doing so. The smaller towns which are administered by Sanitary Boards at first came under the Town Schools Ordinance, though in 1909 an important step was taken by the new Ordinance No. 30 of 1909 by which power was given to the Governor to bring any small town or village under the Rural Schools Ordinance instead of the Town Schools Ordinance.

The District School Committees began to function in good earnest within a year and a half of the passing of the Rural Schools Ordinance. Sixteen of these started working, and the four that were left behind were those at Batticaloa, Mullaitivu, Mannar and Jaffna. The Jaffna district was the last one to be brought under the Ordinance, as there were in the area many aided schools. From 1916 onwards education was made compulsory here.

The two Ordinances described above were revised and consolidated by Ordinance No. 1 of 1920. In addition, by this Ordinance the constitution of the Schools Committee was altered to some extent, the principle of election being partially introduced. Each Committee is to consist of not less than six and not more than nine members. In the town areas, wherever there is a Local Authority two members are to be nominated by it and the rest by the Governor of the Island. These elect their own chairman. The new Ordinance thus transfers vernacular education in the urban area from the Local Authority to the newly constituted School Committee. Further, in the rural areas an unofficial element is introduced in the District Education Committees when if they choose can work under the new ordinance by electing their own chairman, but provision is made for the continuance of the school committee to work under the earlier one.

The new ordinance imposes on the parent a penalty of Rs. 10/ or in default of payment, imprisonment (simple or rigorous) for a period not exceeding fourteen days, if he fails to have his child sent to school. The District School Committees are given large powers of framing their own by-laws as to the working out of the provisions of the Ordinance, and on the recommendation of the Board of Education the alternative of imprisonment in default of payment of fines was deleted. Compulsory attendance at school was to be enforced only if a school is found within a distance of two miles from the child's residence. Fines being too hard upon younger children, the Board recommended that as a general rule, no prosecution should be entered for non attendance where the distance from residence to school exceeds one mile in the case of boys and girls under eight and two in the case of children over that age.

By the year 1927, there were 81 school committees working both in the town and rural areas. The reports of these various authorities speak of the work they have done, but remain silent as to the work that remains to be done. This appears to be a wrong procedure; they could have done better to survey the work that was to be done and to construct a scheme which could be carried in due time. This want of a pre-conceived plan is perhaps responsible for the kind of reports they publish every year which give the figures of the number of schools in their area with the number of children in them. But what is more of interest, and importance in the matter of compulsory education is not so much the numbers that are at school as the number that are not. A haphazard attempt seems to have been made by some of these Committees to take a census of school-age children in 1926; it was not of much value for the different committees failed to carry out this enor-

mously important work in the same year, and for want of reliable facts one is unable to find out the precise number that is not at school. The rise in the progress of literacy as revealed by the Census report of the year 1921, shows that an appreciable amount of work has been done in the matter of reducing illiteracy by the various Committees, but it also shows the larger amount of work that yet remains to be done. It is not only in the rural areas where travelling is difficult and population is scattered, that there is more illiteracy, but also in the town areas there is an appalling number of children not attending school. In 1925 it was found that nearly 10,000 were not attending any school in the municipal area of Colombo.

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There is always great demand for education in the Island and the Ceylon parent is anxious to give his child an opportunity to learn the art of reading and writing. He is intensely practical, and wants to give his child an education that could be converted into money. Vernacular education gives little opportunity for this, and consequently there is a great demand for English even in vernacular schools. The result is that the vernacular schools are soon abandoned by the children in favour of English schools and the upper classes in the former become disproportionately attenuated. As far back as 1910 this was so, and the demand for English and more English is intense today. The following table gives the figures for the various standards in the vernacular schools, Government and aided, for the year 1910:

Government vernacular schools.	Aided vernacular schools.
Standards, No. of Pupils.	Standards, No. of Pupils.
1 20,338	1 25,605
2 15,028	2 20,214
3 9,511	3 15,917
4 5,684	4 9,676
5 5,282	5 5,579
6 1,761	6 2,350
7 84	7 1,021
8 472	8 482

The decrease in number beyond the third standard is most marked in the Jaffna peninsula. Here the classes above the third standard are depleted by the transfer of large numbers of children to English schools which abound in the place. Writing in 1921 on the parent of J. J. and his desire for an English education to his child, the Inspector of schools said: "He (the parent) realises that English education is a valuable asset and is readily convertible into cash. Hence it is that hundreds of parents of the farming or labouring class who have themselves received no English education, insist on an English education for their sons. This education is often acquired in a spirit of self-sacrifice, parents, brothers and sisters undergoing hardships at their homes in order that at least one member of their family may receive an English education."

The steady progress in the percentage of literacy in the island is a convincing proof of the parents' desire to give their children an education, and of the progressive work that is being done by the various Education Committees. The progress of literacy is as follows:

Year	Male	Female
1881	24.6	2.5
1891	29.9	4.4
1901	34.7	6.9
1911	40.4	10.6
1921	48.6	18.0

The total percentage of literacy as it stood in the census year of 1921, was 34.2.

The present compulsory system of education so far as it extends in the vernacular no doubt helps to wipe out the blot of illiteracy in the country. But taking into consideration the local conditions of the country, the feeling arises that not much good return can be expected from such a kind of education. The children leave the vernacular school before they can derive any permanent benefit from it. Besides, a purely vernacular education does not enable them to take their proper place in the economic life of the country. They go back to their place in life to be "sawers of wood and drawers of water" notwithstanding the kind of education they have had, for it is to them of no education they have had, for it is to them of no practical use. A child educated in the vernacular only has absolutely no chance of bettering his position in life, beyond getting a teacher's position in a vernacular school, if he becomes duly

Continued up

Notice of Sale

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA

Case No. 1121

Sethupillay widow of Nannithamby and Manikkam Somasundaram both of Changanai

Plaintiff

Vs.

Ledchumipillai widow of Ambalavanar of Changanai Defendant

Under and by virtue of the Commission issued to me in the above case I shall put up for sale by public auction on the 18th day of April 1932 at 9 a.m. for the recovery of the amount stated therein poundage costs etc, shown at the respective spot the property hereinafter mentioned:

All that piece of land situated at Changanai within the jurisdiction of this Court called Karanthan in extent 8 lms V C and 16 kls. with well and bounded on the East by the property of Punitham daughter of Arunasalam, North by the property of Nagammah wife of Nagalingam, West by the properties of Sinnathamby Ponnah and Sethupillai wife of Thambipillai and on the South by lane.

M KUMARASURIER,

"Sugasthan" Commissioner
Chulipuram, 13th March 1932
Mis 477 17th

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.

Continued

qualified. For nothing else does this education fit him, and as we have seen, many do not remain to complete even this education. Even here, the vernacular teacher with a knowledge of English is preferred. It is this condition of affairs that underlies the cause for English education. To meet this demand the new syllabus of studies introduced in 1928 substituted the teacher in a vernacular school to begin English in the 4th standard. This remedy was worse than the disease.

Apart from the larger question of the making of citizens, the mere problem of removing the "grave blot of illiteracy" yet remains unsolved to an enormous extent. At the present rate of progress it will take almost a quarter of a century to solve this very elementary problem. In the year 1927 there were 487,487 pupils in all the various schools. This attendance represents not much more than 50% of the children of school-going age. In the words of the Committee appointed in 1927 to consider the reorganisation of the staff of the Education Department, "nearly 500,000 boys and girls of this country are growing up in ignorance, having no facilities of any sort provided for their education." The obstacle that stands in the way of making greater progress is the familiar one of "lack of funds", for as we have seen the money voted for this purpose by the Legislative Council is not sufficient to meet the required demand. In this connection, we are reminded of the opinion expressed in 1848 by the Central School Commission that, "It is as all events to the interest of a Government to educate those whom it governs. Every shilling laid out in the furtherance of such an end may well be expected to bring back interest a hundred fold". Events do not show that we have realised the significance of this statement made as far back as 1848 by a body which was then administering and directing the education of the Island.

The Hindu Organ.



JAFFNA, THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 1932.

OUR LAND AND OUR FOOD.

OUR ESTEEMED CORRESPONDENT, MR. K. Sivapatham, in a letter published in our last issue drew the attention of our readers to our agricultural policy and exposed the faults which have hampered the progress of food-cultivation in the Island. Few readers will disagree with the conclusions arrived at by Mr. Sivapatham. We trust that every parent interested in the welfare of his children and publicist working for the common weal will examine a little closely the precarious nature of our economic stability. We hugged to our bosom the fallacy that we were rolling in plenty during the years the balance of trade was in favour of this Island and "got accustomed" to buying from India all our food requirements. The present depression has demonstrated to us in a manner more convincing than any economist could do, the shifting character of our economic foundation. When the planting enterprise or industry which is largely owned and controlled by British capitalists is hit, we are hit too. Our economic destiny must abide the ebb and flow in the tide of prosperity of the English shareholder. Our fate is linked to his in the petty services rendered by us and in his contribution to the general revenue of the country. He is a favoured tax-payer: the revenues of the country are generously spent in providing assistance to his industry. Roads and railways, post offices and hospitals, experiment stations and expert advice, even freight and markets, are secured for him. The policy of Government has been to serve the interests of the planter even at the risk of neglecting, even sacrificing, the interests of the permanent population of the country. Whole departments have been set up and special legislation to safeguard British industries have been added to the statute-book with the sole view of protecting the interests of the British investor.

We cannot grudge the British planter the advantages he enjoys. He is articulate, out-spoken and knows how best to prepare his case and press it to the utmost. He believes in organising his forces and his demands cannot be lightly ignored. His strength does not lie in his prayers or petitions but in the conviction that Government is his servant and he knows how to get his servant to serve him. If his just demands are not complied with, he does not resign himself to his fate but acts like a good Karmayogi and contrives to bring to bear every influence and pressure in his power on the situation.

In its constant attentions to the needs of the planter, Government became entirely oblivious to its duty by the people of this country. It is not to be wondered at that the enterprising planter seized hold of the Agricultural Department and made it serve his own special interests. Government was powerless to refuse to obey the will of the planter.

The villager dispossessed of his holding moved his hut from the capitalist's zone and built a settlement for himself and his dependents. The food he cultivated was barely sufficient to carry him through longer than four months. Paddy cultivation gradually ceased to be a paying concern. Sentiment and, perhaps ignorance, kept him behind his plough and his bullocks, though his faith in them waned.

The planter who is resourceful in conserving his interests found imported rice cheaper than country-rice. Even Government, one of the largest employers of labour, saw no injustice to the local farmer in distributing imported rice to its labourers.

The paddy cultivator is inarticulate, has a horror for Governmental authority and considers himself fortunate if he escape the notice, benign though at times, of the powers-that-be. He knows not to organise his strength, but tradition has instilled into his blood the advantages of co-operation, some aspects of which have been preserved to him in the shape of customs. His voice does not reach the legislatures of the country and his miserable life is lived in the seclusion of outlying villages, which officers have not the time or the inclination to penetrate even in these days of speedy travel. He suffers in silence and departing leaves behind sons and debts to keep his memory green and carry on his traditions.

Imported rice has elbowed country-rice from the market and however much Dr. Yonngman, the Director of Agriculture might extol the virtues of country rice and exhort the patriotic sons of Lanka to eat country-rice, the 'taste' for Muttusamba will not easily die away so long as imported rice is cheaper. Patriotism, which burns a hole in the pocket, never has a chance to thrive. The Government cannot protect the local paddy-growing industry with a duty on imports, for, then the urban populations will rise up in vociferous protest against raising the cost of the poor man's food. It might not be difficult to persuade the townsman whose attitude towards the countryman is now markedly changed, that the poor man for whom he evinces so much solicitude stands to gain by the enhanced duty. But, it will be a stupendous task to overcome the objection of the employer of labour who, at the present time, has to cut down costs of production to the lowest possible limit. In times of general prosperity his objection is based on economic shibboleths and Government have never been strong enough to over-look the feelings of the planting interests.

As a result of this policy of indifference on the part of Government, we find ourselves today compelled to buy all our food and curry-stuffs from India. The necessity to be self supporting with regard to our food in normal times will be admitted by everyone. If we were a manufacturing country with Colonies to provide raw material for our factories and protectorates for our markets, then the position might be excusable. Even if it were desirable, this country can never aspire to the position of a manufacturing country. Could we afford to look on with composure when the very back bone of the country is getting diseased? It is possible to adumbrate ambitious schemes to achieve self-sufficiency with regard to our food but such schemes are bound to fail without the whole-hearted support of Government. The Government holds in its hands the money, men and machinery necessary to give paddy cultivation the necessary stimulus. Government will not move unless it is compelled to do so. Is it in the power of the elected members of the Council to force the hands of the Government? Do the leaders of the people realise the plight to which the people of this country have been reduced?

Even England which is certain of getting her food from other parts of her empire is taking steps, by payment of subsidy and other encouragement, to bring under cultivation a million or so of acres of land which have remained uncultivated since the great war. If a rich and manufacturing country like England is taking steps to assure her home-production of food the necessity to safeguard and advance the interests of paddy-cultivation in a poor country like Ceylon is much greater, especially so when about two thirds of the country remains covered with jungle and irrigation tanks lie scattered all over the country. Students of economic problems in the Island have over and over again emphasised the importance of paddy cultivation for the Island, and among these, notably Mr. K. Balasingham whose contributions on the subject cannot fail to arrest the attention of the least amongst us.

Governor Manning realised the impli-

Prehistory.

Rev. Dr. T. Isaac Tambyah.

(A Lecture delivered before the Jaffna Historical Association on February 20, 1932.)

Recently I have been taking liberties with History. My endeavour to fill in the inter-spaces of facts with the probabilities of fiction appear not to have given grave offence to lovers of truth. When I peopled ancient Trincomalee, in the days of Sambasiva, with saints and sinners; restored a temple to what might have been its original dimension; decorated dry bones of four hundred years ago with the distinctness of flesh and blood; and generally embellished unrecorded happenings with the splendours of a mendacious imagination, I won the confidence and credulity of many intelligent, and even intellectual, persons. Men and women regarded my chapters as unadulterated history; some have even asked to examine the *Chronicles of Kailayar*. Truly the wicked have their reward: the Secretary of the Jaffna Historical Association had me elected one of its Vice Presidents. But dignity has its danger: came the honour of a request to address the Historical Association. Behold your victim.

I.

History we know, but prehistory? 'Historical' comes from history, and so may 'pre-

history' come from prehistory. Every school boy knows the horrors of history and its insistence on accuracy of chronology, and why has not somebody (in the Education Department preferably) devised text-books of graded agony in that vague realm of knowledge called "prehistory"? As history has its past, prehistory has its pleasures. To illustrate. That William the Conqueror landed at Pevensey in 1066 A. D. is a fact definitely fixed for the torment of schoolboy memory from one generation to another. Or, that John Lackland signed the Magna Charta on June 15, 1215 (I forget at what o'clock) is another item of terribly precise historic ascertainment and most profitable acquisition. But in prehistory everything is gloriously uncertain, and affords the learned abundant scope for a capacity for vagueness. There are no troublesome dates in prehistory. Take the case of a great prehistoric character like the Pithecanthropus of Java. He lived, the experts tell us, 500,000 years ago. This is easily remembered and you may, if you like give his age a colouring of greater precision if your assert that he died 478599 years ago! He left no diary. There were no newspapers in those days in Java. No contemporaries of Mr. Pithecanthropus have left behind them records or reminiscences of his time! Yet, scientists have materials from which they deduce this gentleman's life history. What are the materials? In 1894 in Trinid, in Central Java, a portion of a skull, a high bone, and two teeth in fossiliferous beds, and later part of a lower jaw and tooth, were discovered. That is all. Yet, that little seems sufficient to write a character sketch of this great prehistoric celebrity. Owing to the fragmentary nature, however, of his remains and the scantiness of collateral evidence, there is no unanimity of opinion among savants as to this personage's status in prehistory. But what is prehistory?

Prof. McCordie has written two very heavy volumes entitled 'Human Origins: A Manual of Prehistory.' The sub-title, he says, is due to his treatment of cultural evolution. In the preface we read:

The term "history" is applied to the record of man's doings as revealed through written documents: the term "prehistory" is applied to the human period antecedent to the historic. Back of prehistory lies the great field of the geological past. Prehistory therefore is a middle term, a link connecting history with geology; it is a field the boundary lines of which are still in process of determination.

You will notice that prehistory is, in the sphere of acquirable information, a region the very boundaries of which are in process of being defined. In history we have ready-made facts: in prehistory facts have to be made. There are expert manufacturers who have a whole science to themselves, Anthropology. Thus in the case of our Java friend it is candidly admitted that the society remains were not found together but too far apart to be claimed to belong to one party. Yes, Dr. Eugene Dubois of Batavia reconstructed and restored a fully developed anthropoid, man, gave him a name and said great things of him. We are not told that any part of his flesh was found or of the contents of his brain-box. But lo! behold! the enterprise of J.H. Moregor has given us his photograph and savants have discoursed on his (not Mr. Gregor's) mind! How this creation of Mr. Pithecanthropus strikes the man in the street is best stated in the words of Mr. G. K. Chesterton:

It is quite true that we have even there limits chiefly about man when he unmistakably appears as man. We cannot affirm this or anything else about the alleged animal originally connecting man and the brutes. But that is only because he is not an animal but an allegation. We cannot be certain that Pithecanthropus ever worshipped because we cannot be certain that he ever lived. He is only a vision called up to fill the void that does in fact yawn between the first creatures who were certainly men and any other creatures that are certainly apes or other animals.

A few very doubtful fragments are scraped together to suggest such an intermediate creature because it is required by a certain

Barma is asking for self government and in any case it is settled that the new Constitution for Barma will provide for the separation of it from India and our appeal to Barma for rice in the event of a failure of crop cannot be supported merely on the ground that Ceylon estates are giving employment to Indians. We believe that the remark of Lord Hardinge, the then Viceroy, to the Ceylon Deputation about the preference given to the cultivator of tea and rubber is still fresh in the memory of the people of the country.

The situation demands drastic remedies and there is no prospect of the planter growing penitent for his sins in the past and Government does not seem willing to do what in other countries would be regarded as the plain duty of a Government towards its people. There seems to be no gleam of hope anywhere.

Continued up

THE BOYCOTT AND MR. SWAMINATHAN'S ISOLATION.

M. A. MASILAMANI, ADVOCATE.

The "Times of Ceylon" of the 10th instant contains an extraordinary letter from the pen of Mr. Swaminathan. The purport of the letter apparently is to prove that the Jaffna Boycott is an intellectual and futile thing and the sooner it is lifted, the better it would be for the welfare of the country.

But yet there are two sides to a question and I read the letter carefully with the sincere object of finding out whether some of us who advocated the boycott may after all be wrong and Mr. Swaminathan who claims to be "one of the most thoughtful and responsible men in Jaffna" may be right.

The Boycott question was thrashed out carefully in the columns of the "Hindu Organ" and other papers and many arguments alleged in favour of it, but Mr. Swaminathan studiously avoids discussing the pros and cons.

"Ghastly grim and ancient Raven, Tell me what thy lordly name is, By the Night's Plutonian shore, Quoth the Raven "Never more."

I am afraid that like the Irishman in the story Mr. Swaminathan "has put his foot in with his clumsy tongue." One is at a loss to find out what he is really driving at.

The shade of Sir R. Mananthevan would revisit the glimmers of the moon to see the jokers masquerading as a lion,—the mannikin posing as a superman.

Mr. Swaminathan writes that: "This fatal step (the boycott) was condemned by the most thoughtful and responsible men of our community but even they at that time hesitated to condemn a policy which was bound to bring nothing but disaster to the Tamils of Jaffna."

Continued

philosophy; but nobody supposes that there are sufficient to establish anything philosophical even in support of that philosophy.

(To be Continued.)

GOVERNOR CERTIFIES REJECTED BILLS

"PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE"

Mr. Bandaranaike's Adjournment Proposal.

The Income Tax Amending Ordinance and the Salaries Levy Bill which were rejected by the State Council have been certified by Governor as of paramount importance.

The Speaker of the State Council delivered two messages, dated the 15th instant, from the Governor yesterday afternoon.

In the course of his message re the Income Tax Amending Ordinance the Governor says: "I am compelled by the responsibility placed on me by the Constitution to take steps in accordance with the provision of the Order in Council to secure an amending of Section 8 of the Income Tax Ordinance which will exempt from taxation the interest on all Ceylon Government loans raised before the date on which that Ordinance came into force."

The Council's decision in regard to the proposals relative to the Board of Income Tax, the taxation of sums reserved in computation of pensions, appeals to the Board of Review and prosecutions by private persons has been accepted by the Governor.

Enabling Bill.

Referring to the Enabling Bill the Governor says: "Having regard to the serious state of the finances of the Government, I feel obliged to take action under paragraph (1) (b) of the article of the Order in Council and accordingly hereby declare this Bill to be a matter of paramount importance."

Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike said that he would in the course of the day move the adjournment of the House as a protest against the Governor's decision.

(Continued)

of Jaffna is he the sort of man who will take up cudgels and shatter the sorry scheme of the Donoughmore Commission.

Mr. S. is like a frog in the well. It is clear that he does not follow the trend of affairs outside the Peninsula. Everywhere the most thoughtful and responsible among the Sinhalese are praising the wisdom and foresight of the Tamils.

That is why they are clinging to their seats with desperate tenacity incapable of the kicks and affronts from the Government side. They have sold their self-respect and independence for a mess of pottage, for a paltry salary or the panoply of office without the power.

Mr. S does not realize that the State Council is at present a pandemonium where diverse interests clash: the Ceylonese versus a foreign Government, the former deprived of all power and the latter with all power and the capacity and willingness to use it ruthlessly in the teeth of public opinion.

The State Council is likely very soon to burst of itself like a huge bubble and if the Sinhalese are not wise enough by bitter experience to join Jaffna in boycotting the Donoughmore Scheme, Ceylon will be more politically retrograde than the worst Colony in the British Empire.

(Continued up)

THE JAFFNA BOYCOTT

ROUND TABLE CONFERENCE OF TAMILS

Ceylon Tamil League's Move

At a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Ceylon Tamil League held recently a sub-committee has been appointed to make necessary arrangements to convene a round table conference of Tamils to discuss the Jaffna boycott and the reforms of the Donoughmore Constitution.

The sub-committee consists of Mr H. A. P. Bandrasagara, K. C., the Rev. J. S. Mather, Messrs R. Nadarajah, J. P., V. M. Saravananthulu, S. R. Sathasevan and H. I. Ramachandra.

It has been decided that prominent Tamil leaders from all parts of the Island as well as representatives of the Jaffna Association and other Tamil Associations should be invited to the Conference.

The venue of the Conference has not yet been decided upon.

(Continued.)

jointly boycott the scheme what will follow? The Government will be unmasked and will be reduced to an autocracy as bad as that of the Romanoffs. They will be compelled to give the Ceylonese a constitution with which they will be satisfied.

At present the Ministers have presented a humble petition to the Secretary of State to take pity on their plight and if they fail to get redress they may regain once more their bedraggled self-respect and drop the Council like a hot potato.

What does Mr. Swaminathan hope to do in such a Council? Like the prodigal son he wishes to tell himself: "I will arise and go to my father" but when he goes there he will receive not the fatted calf nor the gorgeous robes but the whips and scorns and the insolence of office.

What appears to be an objectionable feature in Mr. S's effusion in the "Times" is his clamour in showing up the Jaffnese in a bad light and in trying to cloud the lustre of Sir Ramanathan's name. When the rest of Ceylon are coming round to the view that the Jaffna Boycott is justifiable and should be followed by the rest of Ceylon Mr. S. comes forward and proclaims from the house-top: "The Jaffnese are all dunder-heads. They are not capable of initiating a boycott what was done by the youth under the sway of the eloquence of one of the foremost women martyrs of India's freedom."

Why I feel that Mr. S. has done a great disservice to his countrymen is that he should have gone with his rusty wisdom to the "Times of Ceylon" and thereby given it an opportunity to have a fling at the Jaffnese. Mr. S. knew the proper market for his wares. Says the Editor of the "Times" in his editorial column: "If we are to believe Mr. Swaminathan the people of the Jaffna peninsula at present are controlled by emotionalism. Men whom one would expect to find in the forefront have been content to obey the clamour of babes and sucklings."

Another objectionable feature in Mr. S's letter is his reference to Sir P. Ramanathan. The way of the sage is not for the reptile to comprehend. It was Sir P. Ramanathan who condemned and condemned outright the Donoughmore scheme. He would have been struck dumb with amazement if he had lived to see the Order in Council inaugurating the State Council.

(Continued up)

CEYLON UNIVERSITY.

FUNDS DEPOSITED IN LOCAL BANKS

In reply to questions by Mr. E. W. Abeygunasekera, in the State Council, the Financial Secretary replied:

The money set apart for the Ceylon University Building and Equipment Fund is placed in fixed deposit in the local Banks.

The deposits earn interest and the interest is credited to the Fund and re-deposited so that the fund earns compound interest.

Vernacular School Inspectors.

KNOWLEDGE OF THE LANGUAGE ESSENTIAL.

In future only Inspectors with an adequate knowledge of the vernaculars will be selected to inspect Vernacular Schools was the purport of a letter from the Director of Education, tabled at the monthly meeting of the Vernacular Teachers of the Panadura Total.

Personal

Mr T. M. Tambyrajah, Station Master, F. M. S. R., Sugei Besi, is retiring after 26 years of service and intends to leave for Ceylon by the end of this month.

Obituary

MRS KATHIRAVELU

The death occurred on Monday the 7th instant at the age of 75 at Tholpuram of Mrs. Kathiravelu, wife of Mr. Kathiravelu and grand mother Mr. A. Arunasalam late of the Medical and Electrical Departments, F. M. S. The funeral was largely attended.

Continued

As to what he would have done then must be gathered from what he did before. "Universal suffrage" said he "would pack the house with dolls and idiots". Had he lived he would have been the first person to inspire a crusade against the whole scheme.

But Mr. S. reads him according to the stature of his (S's) own mind. What is worse, he is trotted out to fulfil the prophecy of the enigmatic Government Agent who predicted Jaffna's political damnation at the G. O. M's demise. No country's future depends on one man. If Sir Ramanathan goes, there is Mr. Swaminathan. There is magic in the rhyme—a sort of abecedaria—only that and nothing more.

The youth of Jaffna know their job and so do the elders. It will be a splendid achievement for Government if the Jaffna Boycott is called off. The last vestige of opposition to an offending Constitution will disappear. At present the Officials are well-off. If at all any body enjoys autonomy it is the Officials and not the Ceylonese. They only supply the finances. Yet the Officials are not satisfied. They wish to be completely independent of the Council. If the Government so chooses, they can be and will be so ere long under the present Constitution.

It is indeed a very sorry scheme from the stand point of the Ceylonese. Let Jaffna have the credit than of expressing their protest and persisting in it. The rest of Ceylon will follow her example very soon. If the Editor of "the Times" thinks "that it is a matter of perfect indifference whether Jaffna is represented or not in the State Council", what then is the nature of a constitution that can ignore such a glaring hiatus and continues to creep on its belly though one member is cut off?

The last resort left to the Ceylonese is a complete boycott. That will bring the Government to its knees.

Why do I love young men so much? Because they are masters of the whole (16 annas) of their minds, which get divided and subdivided as they grow up. One half (8 annas) of the mind of a married man goes to his wife. When a child is born it takes away one fourth (4 annas) and the remaining one-fourth (4 annas) is scattered over parents, worldly honours, dress, &c. Therefore a young mind can easily know God. It is very difficult for old people to do so.

— Sri Paramakrishna Paramahansa

Roofing.

as important as FOUNDATION ITSELF. Exercise great Care and Caution in the Selection of TILES. There is an all-round RUSH FOR OUR POUND MARK STANDARD TILES, and WHY this demand. BECAUSE our TILES are LIGHT our TILES are DURABLE. our TILES are the CHEAPEST and above all THEY ARE DEAD PROOF against TROPICAL HEAT AND RAIN THESE ARE THE TILES FOR OUR CLIMATE Really a BOON to House-builders and others faced with the problem of ROOFING (Trial Costs a mite but gains a mint of health, happiness and comfort.)

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Y. 21. 10-9/12/32.

Notice of Sale

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA No. 988
Thangamuttu widow of Malavarayar Thambipillai of Tholpuram Plaintiff
Vs.
Karapathipillai Sargapillai and wife Vitaladchi both of Chulipuram Defendants

Under and by virtue of the Commission issued to me in the above case, I shall put up for sale by public auction on Saturday the 9th of April 1932 at 9 a.m. at the spot, the undermentioned property:

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY
All that piece of land situated at Tholpuram called "Nuttuvan" and "Chivunthanai" containing in extent 26 lms P.C. with share of well and bounded on the East by the properties of Katpagam wife of Kandiah and Parupathy wife of Viramuttu, North by the property of Parupathy wife of Viramuttu and Channel, West by the properties of Sinnappillai widow of Ramanather and Sinner wife of Arunachalam and South by the properties of Sinner wife of Arunachalam and Thairavai wife of Viramuttu.

M. KUMARSURIER
Commissioner

"Sugasthan"
Chulipuram
13th March 1932
Mis 475 17th

Notice of Sale

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA No. 626
1 Chelliah Kurukkal Panchadharaiyar
2 " " Nagaraja Iyer both arc minors appearing by their next friend Naryayana Iyer Chelliah Kurukkal of Chittankerni Plaintiffs
Vs
Saravanamuttu Perinpanayagam of Tellippalai East Defendant

Under and by virtue of the Commission issued to me in the above case, I shall put up for sale by Public auction on Saturday the 9th of April 1932 at 2 p.m. for the recovery of the amount stated therein pounceage costs etc shown at the respective spot the property hereinafter mentioned:-

All that piece of land situated at Tellippalai East called Mullathapai in extent 1 lm and 5/8 kls with cultivated plants and bounded on the East by the property of Ponnammah wife of the defendant, North by Ponnammah daughter of Velappillai, West by the property of Ganapathipillai widow of Saravanamuttu and on the South by the property of the defendant together with share belonging hereto of the well lying on the North-western side and the right of using the way and watercourse.

M. KUMARASURIER,
Commissioner

"Sugasthan"
Chulipuram, 14th March 1932
Mis 476 17th

ORDER NISI.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA. Testametary Jurisdiction No. 7995. In the Matter of the estate of the late Saevaratnam wife of Ganapathipillai Navaratnam of Araly South Deceased.
Ponnampalam Ganapathipillai of Araly South Vs. Petitioner.
Minor 1. Navaratnam Nadarajah of Do presently of Katha, Upper Burma
2. Ganapathipillai Navaratnam of Araly South presently Believing Station Master, Burma
Guardian-ad-Item S. Marathappu Nagalingam of Araly South presently Post Master Katha, Upper Burma Respondents.

This matter coming on for disposal before D. H. Balfour Esquire, District Judge, Jaffna on the 5th day of November 1931 in the presence of Mr. S. Nagalingam, Proctor for Petitioner and the affidavit of the Petitioner dated 25th October, 1931 having been read.

It is ordered that the abovenamed 3rd Respondent be appointed Guardian-ad-Item over the minor the abovenamed 1st Respondent and that Letters of Administration in respect of the estate of the abovenamed deceased be granted to the petitioner unless the abovenamed Respondents or any other person shall on or before the 14th day of December 1931 show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

Sgd. D. H. Balfour,
District Judge.
November 28, 1931.
Extended for 26 2 32.
Further extended for 1 4 32.
O. 842. 17 & 21.

Order Nisi.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA Testametary Jurisdiction No. 7996. In the matter of the estate of the late Nagammah wife of Ramalingam Rasiah of Vaddukoddal West Deceased.
Vairavanather Sapapathipillai of Vaddukoddal West Vs. Petitioner.
1. Sinnappillai wife of Vairavanather Sapapathipillai of Do
2. Ramalingam Rasiah of Do presently of No. 84 Brick Road, Seramban F. M. S. Respondents.

This matter coming on for disposal before D. H. Balfour, Esquire, District Judge, Jaffna on November 5, 1931 in the presence of Mr. S. Nagalingam Proctor, for the Petitioner and the affidavit of the Petitioner dated November 8, 1931, having been read.

It is ordered that Letters of Administration in respect of the estate of the abovenamed deceased be granted to the Petitioner unless the abovenamed Respondents or any other person shall on or before December 14, 1931 show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

Sd. D. H. Balfour,
District Judge.
November 28, 1931.
Order Nisi extended for: 26 2-1932.
Further extended for: 1-4 31.
O. 843 17 & 21.

Summons to Defendant.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA. Paul Daniel of Tellippalai Plaintiff
No. 27201. Vs. Defendant
Class 1. Soosai Everest and wife
2. Ananthay both of Chonnakam
3. Kricio Varsapptregassam of Kopay

To the abovenamed 1st Defendant
Whereas the abovenamed Plaintiff has instituted an action against you in this Court for the recovery of the sum of Rs. 5534 74 with interest on Rs. 5000/- at the rate of 10 per cent per annum from the date of action till payment in full due on a mortgage and to recover costs you are hereby summoned to appear in this Court either in person or by Proctor on the 24th day of February, 1932 at 10 o'clock or the forenoon to answer the abovenamed Plaintiff. And you are hereby required to take notice that in default of your appearing the action will be proceeded with and heard determined in your absence. And you will bring with you or send by your Proctor which the Plaintiff desires to inspect, and any documents on which you intend to rely support of your defence.

Jaffna 23rd day of January, 1932.
Drawn by Sd. B. B. Nalliah, Proctor for Plaintiff.
By order of Court Sd. A. K. Alvaspillai, Secretary Chief Clerk.
Returnable 31 3-32.
By order of Court Sd. K. R. Secretary.

Note 1. Should you apprehend that your witness will not attend of their own accord, you can have a summons from this Court to compel the attendance of any witness and production of any document you have a right to call on any witness to produce by applying to the Court at any reasonable time before trial, and depositing the necessary subsistence money.

Note 2. If you admit the demand you should pay the money into court with the costs of the action to avoid the summary execution of the decree which may be made against your person or property, or both if necessary.

O. 841. 14 & 17.

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(Y. 5. 27-26-11-32.)

Notice of Sale

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA Testametary Jurisdiction No 7596 In the matter of the estate of the late Visaladchippillai wife of Swaminathar Thuraiappah of Chulipuram late of Battu Gajah, F M S. Deceased
Nannithamby Sinniah of Chulipuram by his Attorney Sangarappillai Arumangam of Chulipuram Administrator.

Under and by virtue of the Commission issued to me in the above case I shall put up for sale by public auction, for payment of the liabilities of the estate on the 23rd March 1932 at 9 a.m. at the respective spot the property hereinafter mentioned:-

PROPERTY REFERRED TO ABOVE
All that piece of land situated at Chulipuram called Srianthadai to extent 48 lms. V.C. & bounded on the East by channel and the property of Sithamparam wife of Chuppar, Vallar wife of Ponnampalam and the property of Ambalavanar Swamikovil, North by the property of Kathira-Continued up

velar Kanapathy and Ambalavanar Sinnavar, West by the property of Thairavai wife of Arunachalam, Viramuttu Velanthar's heirs and channel and South by the property of Chellam widow of Sinnappah, Nagamuttu wife of Chinniah, of this 20 lms. V. C. on the South.
M. KUMABASURIER,
Commissioner

"Sugasthan"
Chulipuram, 13th March 1932
Mis 478 17th

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