

The Hindu Organ.

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HAS THE WIDEST CIRCULATION

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H. E. THE GOVERNOR'S VISIT TO JAFFNA.

THE VISIT OF THE GOVERNOR OF THE Island to a District far removed from the Metropolis is an event that is looked forward to by all classes of people with great interest and hope.

The people of Jaffna who are said to be more Oriental in their outlook than many other peoples in the Island still refuse to give up the time-honoured custom of asking the ruler for favours notwithstanding the altered conditions of affairs in which the Governor is no longer an autocrat but gradually approximates to a position of a constitutional ruler.

His Excellency was in Jaffna for a week. He brought us no gift but few Governors have captured the imagination of the people of Jaffna so much as Sir Herbert Stanley.

At Nainativu the gentle words of advice of His Excellency and his genial presence had succeeded in settling the long standing dispute between the Hindus and the Moors and restoring peace and harmony.

The feeding of the poor which took place on Friday the 9th inst in honour of His Excellency's visit was a new departure made this time. At this function, too, His Excellency the Governor and Lady Stanley were present and showed their genuine desire to accommodate themselves to Oriental ways by taking the spoon themselves and serving the rice to a number of poor men and women who sat in front of them.

Another matter which will endear His Excellency to the people of Jaffna is the great sympathy which he had expressed in his addresses to the students at Parameshwara and Jaffna Hindu Colleges, for the promotion and study of Sanskrit and Tamil literature and of Tamil and Ceylon history in our schools and colleges.

to the people of this country at a time when imitation of the West is becoming a ruling passion in Jaffna. We can assure His Excellency that the Tamils will always extend their co-operation and support to him in making his administration redound to the prosperity of the country and strengthening the bond of union between this country and the British Empire of which it is a part.

EDITORIAL NOTE.

CONGRATULATIONS.—The reception that was accorded to His Excellency the Governor on the occasion of his visit to Jaffna was an unequalled success. For the first time in the history of Jaffna the organisation of the arrangements connected with it had been entrusted to a committee predominantly unofficial.

LOCAL & GENERAL.

PERSONAL.—Mr. T. C. S. Jayaratnam of the Indian Civil Service and Mrs. Jayaratnam arrived from England on Saturday last.

WORLD TOUR PARSE CYCLISTS.—Three Young Parses who left Bombay on October 15, 1923 on a round the world tour on push bicycles arrived in Colombo on Monday last.

Y. M. H. A. ST. PAUL'S WARD, COLOMBO.—The first general meeting of the above Association was held in the Association Hall at "Devandragiri," Adoral Street, Colombo on Saturday the 11th instant.

TRAIN COLLISION IN UP COUNTRY.—A train collision very similar to the collision at Gampaha two months ago occurred at Galboda in the early hours of Sunday morning when a light engine dashed into the second up night-mail from Colombo.

FAREWELL FUNCTION AT MULLAITIVU.—A grand farewell function was held at the Mullaitivu Reading Room at 4.30 p.m. on the 29th ultimo, on the eve of the departure of Mr. N. Velupillai, the genial Kacheheri Modarar of Mullaitivu on transfer to Jaffna Kacheheri as Second Interpreter.

EARL DERBY AVOIDS DEATH DUTY.—The Earl of Derby, sold a great part of his Lancashire property, including practically the whole town of Bolton to one Mr. Philip Hill, for about £1,750,000 to avoid the heavy death duties payable on his death.

Special Commission in Jaffna.

DEPUTATION OF JAFFNA ASSOCIATION.

Representatives of the Jaffna Association gave evidence on Tuesday last before the Special Commission on reforms, which sat in the District Court.

The delegation included Hon. Messrs. W. Duraiswamy, S. Rajaratnam, A. Ganagaratnam, Messrs. C. Arulampalam, J. V. Chelliah, T. B. Nalliah, M. S. Rajaratnam, N. Selvadurai, V. Ramalingam and A. Wanigasoorier.

Mr. Duraiswamy began by describing the geographical peculiarities of Ceylon. He emphasized the fact that "all Ceylon is divided into three parts"—comprising the Low Country Provinces, the Kandyan Provinces and the Tamil District of the North. Those, he declared, were ancient divisions both socially, politically and for administrative purposes and were inherited by different races with special traditions, social customs and ways of living.

Speaking of the attitude of the Tamil community towards the question of representation in the Legislative Council, Mr. Duraiswamy said their claim was for the maintenance of the existing ratio between Sinhalese and Tamils of 2 to 1. He drew the attention of the Commission to the fact that in 1910 at the time of the first serious attempt at reform of the Legislative Council the proposition was: 1 Low Country Sinhalese; 1 Kandyan; 1 Tamil; and after the reforms of 1910 the proportion was changed to: 1 Kandyan; 2 Low Country Sinhalese; and 2 Tamils.

CO-OPERATION BETWEEN COMMUNITIES.

Mr. Duraiswamy went on to describe the various reforms of the Council, and the history of the relations between the National Congress and the Tamil; the late's secession from Congress; the efforts at rapprochement between the two; and the pact that was finally entered into by both sides approving the 1:2 ratio of representation.

He continued: I have stated the history of the conduct and the final agreement arrived at by the two communities. No doubt arrangements of this kind are not building on Concessions, but I am placing these facts before you so that you may know what has transpired. I may add that there is no feeling of antipathy between these two communities at all.

"In asking for the maintenance of this ratio in the Council, we do not for one moment emphasize any opposition by one community towards another. We only wish that this proportion be carried on for some further period during which both communities may work together so that they may of their own accord say they will not any longer insist on the maintenance of any ratio."

"I must say, Sir," went on Mr. Duraiswamy "that the Ceylon National Congress cannot claim to speak on behalf of the Tamil community because we seceded from Congress some years ago. We had again another organization named the Lanka Maha Jana Sabha, among whose members are all the leading members of the Ceylon National Congress—I'm surprised to see, Sir, that the proposals put forward by Congress are not supported by that other body in regard to representation in Council. That Sabha is entirely a Sinhalese organization. It is conducted in Sinhalese and represents Sinhalese people."

THE NEXT STAGE.

Mr. Duraiswamy proceeded then to enlarge on the proposal set forth in the Jaffna Association memorandum for reforming the Executive Council, to which he thought the main attention should be paid at the present stage. When the last reforms were made in 1923 nothing was done with the Executive Council, and it was then stated by the Governor and the Secretary of State that an amendment would be made to carry out the necessary reform of the Executive Council as soon as possible on the present basis of representation.

He dealt with these defects briefly pointing out the ill-effects of a system of government under which an official Executive Council, while not being solely responsible to the Legislature, had a large unofficial majority to deal with in the Legislative Council. It was not conducive to efficient and successful administration. The officials, not

The Tirunelvely Y. M. H. A.

ABSTRACT OF MONETARY STATEMENT.

The following is an abstract of the various items of Income and Expenditure incurred by the Tirunelvely Y. M. H. A. for the year ending April 30, 1927.—

Table with columns for INCOME and EXPENDITURE, listing various items like Balance Brought Forward, Donations, and Printing Expenses.

The amount of donations received for the Tamil Festival conducted during the last annual Festival of Nallur Kanadaswamy Kovil is Rs. 231 11. The expenses incurred for the same amount to Rs. 210 87, leaving a balance of Rs. 20 24.

From the above abstract it will be noticed that a few well-wishers of the Association made donations in response to the appeal made by it for the establishment of a Printing Press. The donations amounted to Rs. 82 60. It is regrettable to note that the balance in hand at the year ending amounted to Rs. 54 29 only. The Association has evidently encroached upon the donations for the Printing Press. This amount should be set apart untouched until the Association finds its way to purchase a Printing Plant.

having a majority, hesitated, although convinced of the justice of their policy, from pressing it on the Council because the Council might vote it down. On the other hand, officials felt reluctant to freely and frankly express their opinions and standing by them in view of the position in which the Official Executive Council was placed.

"In this country's progress," he continued, "it has been placed in contact with several nations, from the British we have acquired large and liberal reforms and freedom of conscience and life. In continuance of the purpose of their mission, I say that that purpose can only be achieved by giving us an opportunity for active participation in the advanced principles of the British constitution."

Mr. Duraiswamy touched briefly on the question of free franchise. Government, he said, must be for society, and the conditions of society, and what they did should reflect the general wishes of society. He thought that a start should be made on the basis of the present franchise. They would be able once they were responsible for the Government of Ceylon, to evolve a scheme of gradual extension of the franchise. They realised that there must be extension, but as present they were satisfied with the existing position.

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