

**C.S.R.**  
DEPEND ON THE MARK  
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**OHMA WATER**  
THE CEYLON CHEMICAL WORKS (Rgd.)

# THE Hindu Organ.

(The Only Newspaper in Ceylon for the Hindus)  
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The **C.S.R.** Mark of  
**C.S.R. Quality**  
ASK FOR THESE THEY ARE THE BEST  
**ROSE WATER**  
**LAVANDAR**  
THE CEYLON CHEMICAL WORKS (Rgd.)

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## ROTARY TALK

### RENT RESTRICTION

#### New Act No Cure For Existing Ills

"RENT Restriction" was the subject of an address by Mr. J. Vincent Mendis at the last meeting of the Rotary Club of Colombo. Rtn. President S. Pararajasingam presided.

In the course of his talk Mr. Mendis said:

A Rent Restriction Act was passed by Parliament with effect from the 1st of January this year.

This Act does not apply to all premises as in the wartime Ordinance, but excludes such premises as are authorised to collect higher grades of rentals. They are called "Excepted Premises". In the city of Colombo, those Excepted Premises are residential houses of an Annual Value in Nov. 1941 of over Rs. 2,000/-, and business premises of over Rs. 6,000/-. In other Municipal and Urban areas "Excepted Premises" are those of proportionately lower rents. Among the main provisions in the New Act we find the Authorised Rent for premises coming under this Act, is based on the 1941 Rental Value, called Standard Rent, to which is allowed the addition of a 10%, and the excess per month of taxes in 1949 over 1941.

Additions to this are allowed at 6% on cost of structural alterations and improvements; 25% of the Standard Rent for fully furnished houses; for any repairs done at the written request of a Tenant, half of the cost in excess of one month's rent is allowed to be added in 12 monthly instalments to the rent of the Tenant.

Other main provisions are that a Premises may be let in separate parts but the aggregate of the

## GAMPAHA BY ELECTION

### Two Leftists Among Four Candidates

Four candidates submitted their nomination papers for the Gampaha Seat in the House of Representatives, rendered vacant by the death of Mr. D. D. Karunaratne.

They are:  
Mr. P. P. Jayewardene (UNP)  
Proposer: Mr. N. H. D. N. A. Dias, Seconder: Mr. D. A. Lewis Hamy,

Mr. C. A. Mathew (LSSP),  
Proposer: Mr. S. M. A. J. R. Perera, Seconder: Mr. U. S. Fernando.

Mr. Forrester Obeyesekera (Independent Socialist), Proposer: Mr. C. de Saram, Seconder: Mr. S. A. M. A. D. P. Senanayake.

Mr. Edmund P. Samarakody (BSP), Proposer: Mr. S. W. Fernando, Seconder: Mr. D. Solomon.

July 23 was tentatively fixed for the by-election.

rent must not exceed the Authorised Rent of the Premises.

A Tenant may not sublet the premises, or any part of parts of it without the prior consent in writing of the Landlord. If he does so the Landlord is entitled, through Court, to eject him and his sub-tenants.

#### Landlords' Obligation

A Landlord may not discontinue or withhold any amenities previously enjoyed by a Tenant.

If a Landlord fails to carry out repairs or redecoration, a Tenant may apply to the Rent Control Board to direct him to do so within a specified time. If he fails to comply, the Tenant is authorised to do so and recover the cost, by setting it off against the rent payable by him.

When a Landlord does not issue proper receipts for rents paid, the Tenant may apply to a Rent Control Board to be allowed to pay the rents to the Board.

Continuance of tenancy to the members of his family on the death of a tenant, is provided for, on a member of the family giving written notice within 10 days.

Ejection of tenants has been made more difficult except for non-payment of rent. Steps may also be taken to eject a tenant, if he has himself given notice and does not quit, or if he is guilty of conduct which is a nuisance to the neighbourhood. If the Landlord claims the house for his own occupation or for a member of his family, the Court on being satisfied may give a decree for ejection, but in doing so, specify the name of the new occupant, and such person, a member of the family, must come into occupation within one month, and having entered into occupation must not vacate within one year. In default, the tenant has the right to apply to Court to reinstate him in the premises.

A tenant should on no account pay or offer to pay to the Landlord nor should landlord, accept any commission, premium, or other pecuniary consideration, nor an advance exceeding 3 months rent.

These are some of the main features of the Rent Restriction Act.

#### Housing Shortage Problem Still Exists

If you expect the Rent Restriction Act to induce or encourage people to build more houses to rent out, you will be disappointed. This Act is definitely not a cure for the housing shortage. It does not encourage people to build, for few people would want to become landlords, unless they are philanthropically minded. Building houses costs 300% above normal pre-war cost, but

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### Portuguese Administration In India

#### Quit Goa Demand

Mr. S. B. D'Silva, presiding over the National Congress of Goa which commenced at Belgaum demanded that "the Portuguese should unconditionally quit Goa, which is part and parcel of India."

Mr. D'Silva added: "We earnestly urge upon the people of India to press upon their Government to take in hand the problem of Goa, Goan people are Indians first, last and all time and never Portuguese."

Welcoming the declaration of the Indian National Congress that no foreign pockets would be tolerated on the Indian soil, Mr. D'Silva said that the Government and people of India would help the unarmed Goan people in their struggle.

Mr. D'Silva called upon the people of Goa to close their ranks and strengthen the National Congress and co-operate with all forces that worked towards the coveted goal of freedom.

The two-day session of the Congress met in an atmosphere of disappointment and resentment as on the eve of the session news was received here from Goa that passengers bound for Belgaum were arrested by the Portuguese Government on the suspicion that some of them were delegates to the Conference.

The Karnataka Congress Leader, Mr. Gangadhar Rao Deshpande, who was to have inaugurated the session, could not attend due to indisposition.

### Calcutta Election Clash

#### Police Fire: One Killed

Police opened fire in South Calcutta on June 5 to quell a disturbance by a crowd which broke up a Congress election meeting and set fire to a furniture shop and two State buses. One person was killed in the firing.

About 25 persons, including some prominent Congressmen, were injured when the crowd hurled incendiary bombs shoes and sticks soon after the meeting commenced.

The meeting was held to support the candidature of Mr. Suresh Chandra Das, the Congress nominee in the by-election to the West Bengal Legislative Assembly from South Calcutta. Polling is on June 12.

A section of the crowd began hurling shoes and sticks at the audience 15 minutes after the meeting, which was being held at Deshpriya Park, commenced. They then threw crude bombs, breaking up the meeting.

Following these incidents, a crowd marched to a furniture shop in Rash Behari Avenue, smashed the window panes and set fire to it.

The election is being contested by four candidates, namely, Messrs Suresh Chandra Das (Congress), Sarat Chandra Bose (Socialist Republican), D. K. Roy Chowdhury (Democratic Vanguard) and S. C. Roy (Independent).

## PERSONAL

Mr. T. Arumainayagam, proctor has been appointed J. P., U. M. for the Jaffna District.

Mr. Alfred Swampillai, Proctor has been appointed J. P., U. M., for the Jaffna District.

## PEACE

One who has realized that existence, destruction and chance are in the nature of things, easily, finds repose, being unperturbed and free from pain.

Knowing for certain that Ishwara is the creator of all and that there is none else here, one becomes peaceful with all his desires set at rest within and is not attached to anything whatsoever.

Knowing for certain that adversity and prosperity come in (their own) time, through fate, one is ever contented, has all his senses in control and does not desire or grieve.

One who knows for certain that this universe is but an illusion and a nothing, becomes desistless and pure intelligence, and finds peace as if nothing exists.

Salutations to That which is bliss itself by nature, calmness and effulgence with the drawing of the knowledge of which all delusion becomes like a dream.

(From the Vedanta Kesari)

### THE LAND'S END OF INDIA

#### Captivating Cape Comorin

CAPE Comorin is the land's end of India. It is the southernmost tip of the country as Mount Kailas in the Himalayas is the northernmost. Situated in Trava core, it is fiftyfive miles from Trivandrum, the capital. A dustless concrete road, the longest in India, leads one to the Cape.

The unique feature of Cape Comorin is that three oceans meet there—the Indian Ocean, the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea. Here one can view sunset and sunrise, as also the moon emerging from behind the waters to dip again in its coolness after it has finished its nocturnal round. Cape Comorin is famous both as a beauty spot and as a place of pilgrimage. Here the swirling waters of a bay, a sea and an ocean frisk along the picturesque beach flanked by tall and stately coconut palms.

Thatched houses, inhabited by simple fisherfolk, nestle among the palm groves. These people excite the admiration of the visitors by their skilled manipulation of their craft over the breakers. Long wooden logs, three or four, tied together with no sails or protection on the sides against waves and breakers, are the simple vessels in which brave and hardy fishermen rough it out to earn their livelihood.

#### Sea-Fed Swimming Pool

The beach is extremely well suited for sea bathing. There is also a beautiful sea-fed swimming pool with all modern amenities. Along the shore the soft sands that stretch far out into the interior have a fascination of their own. They are multi-coloured—white, black red and deep crimson. During the day, the bright rays of the sun fall on the sand dunes giving it glimmering effects. Beautiful no doubt, they have commercial value as well. These mineral sands on the beach like Ilmenite, monasite etc. are coco collected and used in the manufacture of paints, mantles, titanium pigments etc.

At the Cape is the famous rock named after Swami Vivekananda, the great Philosopher of India. In his quest after truth the Swami arrived at the Cape after long wanderings. Fatigued and without a pie to pay for a ferry, he swam across the waters to one of the outlying rocks. There he sat in meditation for days. It is said that as he sat rapt in thought he got the inspiration to visit America and to carry the message of India across the seas. The rock now bears his name.

There is another huge rock far out in the sea which is named after Lord Kitchner, a famous military figure and a former Commander-in-Chief of India. When Lord Kitchner visited the Cape, he could not resist the temptation of a plunge in the sea. He swam across the turbulent waters to one of the rocks to see the three seas in confluence.

Another place of historic interest is the "Vattakotta" or

the round fort. Here the Dutch tried to establish themselves but were eventually driven away by the Travancoreans. Surrounded on one side by water and in the midst of rocks and cliff, the fort has a touch of antiquity about it and an eerie atmosphere prevails there.

#### Temple of the Virgin Goddess

The quaint little temple of 'Kanya Kumari', the Virgin Goddess, abutting on the sea where thousands of pilgrims come all the year round to worship, is one of the big attractions at the Cape. Lapped by the waves which beat on its outer walls, the temple is said to be about four thousand years old.

Although from the outside it gives the impression of a fortress within its walls there is architectural beauty to feast the eye—richly decorated heavy columns, stone pillars and exquisitely chiselled statues, delicately carved ceilings.

There is also a famous Roman Catholic Church here. St. Francis Xavier, the Jesuit Philosopher who was in India for many years visited the Cape in 1544 and built a Church on land generously given by the Maharaja of Travancore. Today the population of Cape Comorin is mainly Catholic.

Eight miles from the Cape is the temple of Suchindram. Its lofty tower covered with carvings and sculpture of great beauty and daintiness has been admired by architects and lovers of art.

—Indian Information Services.

### Mr. Ariyanayagam's Discourse on Rural Development

Mr. E. W. Ariyanayagam, N.D. B. Ed. (Edin) F. R. S. A. Member Central Advisory Board of Education Government of India delivered a valuable lecture on "Rural Development" at the Navaly Rural Government school on Wednesday the 1st June, 1949 at 7 p. m.

He expressed that people are not advancing but retarding in all activities and impressed that they should concentrate on spiritual development, economical and self supporting living. He explained how Basic Education is carried on in India and requested one and all to concentrate on Agriculture, Cottage Industries, Spinning and Weaving in every house.

Mr. V. Mahesan presided.

The meeting terminated with a vote of thanks by K. Kulandaiyvelu the Secretary of the Society.



## Hindu Organ

FRIDAY, JUNE 10, 1949

### Treasure These Thoughts

"Truth, purity and unselfishness—wherever these are present, there is no power below or above the sun to crush the possessor thereof. Equipped with these, one individual is able to face the whole universe in opposition."

—SWAMY VIVEKANANDA.

### LAW COURTS

THE LAUNCHING OF THE anti-bribery drive in the Law Courts and the formulation of a scheme to conduct Court proceedings in Sinhalese and in Tamil have been envisaged by Dr. L. A. Rajapakse, K. C., Minister of Justice. To achieve the object of eradicating bribery, notices will be posted up in every Law Court in the Island setting out the legal fees payable to members of the Court staff; there will be also notices indicating to the public that duly signed receipts should be obtained for any fees paid to members of the Court staff; steps will be taken to detail an officer of Court to attend to all public inquiries and to assist members of the public who seek legitimate information. The action proposed by the Minister is commendable, the co-operation of the public is essential to achieve good results.

Bribery cannot be eradicated from the Law Courts without removing its root causes; if one examines the origin or cause of bribery one would find that bribery was resorted to as a means of overcoming the Law's delay which is proverbial. To cite an example, if a plaintiff obtains judgment declaring himself entitled to a land with a house or buildings, he will not be able to have decree entered and writ of possession issued in the case in the normal course before two or three weeks elapse after the date of judgment; if the plaintiff wants decree to be entered and writ of possession issued on the very day judgment is delivered, he wants the favour of speedy action from members of the Court staff; and in the end he gives something by-the-way of remuneration to those who help him; there cannot be any doubt that however justifiable the object of the plaintiff might be, the remuneration paid by him is a bribe; unless and until it becomes possible for a litigant to have speedy redress for his grievances legitimately, bribery will remain. The public ought to cultivate patience and the queue habit; if one wants preferential treatment one has to resort to under-hand means.

The Minister of Justice hopes to introduce legisla-

tions with regard to processes and charges being framed in Sinhalese and Tamil; steps will be taken to issue processes in the language of the person on whom such processes have to be served; the first step in the scheme of conducting Court proceedings in Sinhalese or Tamil will be the examination of witnesses in their own language. The ultimate object is to have Court proceedings in the language that will be understood by the parties concerned and steps will be taken in slow stages to introduce Sinhalese and Tamil as languages of the Courts. There is hardly a Court of original jurisdiction in the Island where any one of the three languages, Sinhalese, Tamil or English can be dispensed with. The need for interpreters and stenographers who understand all the three languages and can discharge their duties satisfactorily cannot be over-emphasised; the same interpreters and stenographers should be able to interpret and record in all the three languages; otherwise unnecessary expenditure will be caused by employing additional staff. It should be there-fore noted that while recruitments are made for posts of interpreters and stenographers care should be taken to select persons who are conversant with all the three languages.

### THE NORTHERN RAILWAY

It is a welcome relief that the Railway Authorities have at long last decided to work according to a revised timetable which provides for additional trains and a faster service. If the transport problem in this Island has become annoying both to the Government and to the public it is because that the latter have not been reckoned with by the former in the provision of facilities for travel and in the making of regulations relating to transport. The Road Transport and the Railway, each under the control and supervision of a separate Minister in a Cabinet whose watchword is 'collective responsibility', have not been so far so co-ordinated as to enable the public to enjoy both means of transport equally well, but have been inadvertently allowed to develop as two parallel forms of travel in a manner quite unacceptable to modern requirements.

Urged by a sense of collective war effort the public understood the difficulties that naturally arise in an emergency situation and willingly subjected themselves to all privations. But post-war reconstruction which was expected to make up for past lapses and to provide the people with social and public amenities has remained a mere catch-phrase. If not all at least a few of the several drawbacks which discredit the Railway in the public eye such as the inadequacy of platform accommodation, and waiting facilities could have been taken up for immediate attention. But that has not been done. During the past few years a number of rail-halts had to be converted as stations because the demand was so pressing and urgent, it

That was as it should have been. But what is inexplicable is that the Railway Authorities should have failed to realise the fact that what the public wanted was not a change in the status of the stopping place but the provision of facilities which a railway station normally was expected to have.

There are a number of these improvised stations studded all along the Northern Railway where the travelling public experience great inconvenience and discomfort, owing to the lack of proper platforms and waiting rooms. It is common knowledge that the night mail train to and from Kankasanturai is of a considerable length with four sleeping cars, a refreshment car and two cars with only first and second class accommodation collected together in the centre and with a few third class carriages at either end. This particular train formed in the manner described above is twice as long as the length of the platform in these rail-halt-improvised stations. The result is that only the sleeping cars and the refreshment car and first class carriages come alongside of the platform leaving the third class carriages flung far and wide apart. Imagine the plight of a man running pell-mell up and down with a lopsided load of sundry packages, followed by prancing little children, a worried mother with an infant in arms, in a hurried search for a compartment with a door and a handle to open it. Add to it the effort of the man in helping all the members of the family into the compartment within the all-too-short space of a few minutes. The inevitable whistle is blown and there still remain on the ground below parcels and also a few passengers. The driver and the guard if they be large-hearted oblige but only by stealing a few minutes from the scheduled time.

This is not all. The waiting room which is a pathetic apology for what that gay term connotes, is nothing but an old and dilapidated railway carriage condemned into the insignificance of unserviceable articles by the audit officers but dragged out of the oblivion into public gaze to serve as a resting place for railway travellers. How far it satisfies public taste can be judged by the number of passengers making use of it.

The inconvenience to the traveller does not end with that. He has no means of knowing anything about the delays and late-coming of trains owing to want of telephone facilities. A train may be late by a few minutes or by several hours, but the traveller will have to curb his impatience and look up in the vast airy expanse above for intuitive knowledge about the movement of trains.

We are obliged to invite the immediate attention of the Railway Authorities to these most urgent needs of the travelling public. and to impress on them that if the Railway is expected to survive the present crisis it should aim at speed, convenience and comfort to the public and economy because it is an elementary

duty of the Government to provide the public with the minimum facilities of comfort and convenience for the money they recover from the people directly as railway fares and indirectly as taxes.

THE LATE  
MR. V. NAGALINGAM

We regret to record the untimely death of Mr. V. Nagalingam, B. A., Principal Kokuvil Hindu College. Mr. Nagalingam was a graduate with double Honours of the Calcutta University; he joined the staff of the Jaffna Hindu College in 1917 and was from then till his death on last Tuesday, but for a short period, a teacher in the employ of the Board of Directors, Jaffna Hindu College; he was Editor, Hindu Organ for about 5 years and advocated a policy of co-operation with the majority community. He was a great teacher of English, History and Logic; he was greatly loved by his students. He was a great philanthropist, and never hesitated to help poor boys whom he knew or taught with school fees, books and wearing apparel. He was appointed Principal, Kokuvil Hindu College a few years ago and he worked hard day and night for Kokuvil Hindu College which was raised to Grade 1 last year; with the co-operation of his staff and the public, he succeeded in acquiring an extensive land in extent about 3 acres and putting up additional classrooms for his school; he found more than 50% of the total cost which exceeds one lakh of rupees. Old boys as well as present boys of Jaffna Hindu College and Kokuvil Hindu College will for ever remember with gratitude this great son of Lanka. We extend our heartfelt sympathies to his widow and children.

### Minister Ponnambalam Plans Multi-Purpose Projects

By engaging American technical experts, for the construction of an island grid of dams across Ceylon's rivers Mr. G. G. Ponnambalam, Minister of Industries, Industrial Research and Fisheries, intends taking full advantage of President Truman's offer to assist under-developed countries.

This new project is expected to provide continuous and productive labour to thousands, who would be formed into mobile labour forces. Mr. Ponnambalam explained that the damming of the rivers would deal effectively with such problems as flood protection, soil erosion, irrigation, re-afforestation and the generation of hydro-electric power for industrial purposes. Mr. Ponnambalam further explained that the availability of hydro electric power would attract as well as indigenous capital. The overall effect would be the raising of the standard of living.

The Minister stated that the standard power for an uni-purpose scheme was 10,000 kilowatts. If the scheme were multi-purpose, 2,000 or 3,000 kilowatts could not be regarded as uneconomical since the capital investment would be divided among the five or more projects of each scheme. Commenting on the financial policy that should be adopted for this industrial expansion, he advocated borrowing in boom times, rather than during slump periods.

## Agricultural Statistics in Ceylon

Importance of Agriculture in the Economy of Ceylon before.

STATISTICS in our island is not a sphere in which we can claim a proud position even among the countries of South-East Asia. Quantitatively statistical data in our island are meagre and cover only a small part of a few sectors of our economic and social life. Qualitatively they are more deplorable than their scantiness. Trustworthy records are rare and the need for precision and accuracy is scarcely felt. Even the scanty data we have are mostly antiquated and little effort is made to make them up-to-date.

In no other field, perhaps, are the inadequacy, inaccuracy and meagreness of statistical data so marked as in agriculture. Yet agriculture contributes the major part of our national income and gives succour to the biggest section of our population. According to Dr. Das Gupta's estimate of our national income our export trade, which consists mainly of our agricultural products, together with the products retained for our domestic consumption, accounted for 67 per cent. of our national income in 1937. The latest occupational statistics we have are for the year 1921, which gives the percentage of population depending on agriculture as slightly less than 65. The population census reports of 1921, 1931 and 1946 give the percentages of rural and estate population as 87, 86.8 and 84.8 respectively. Most of these people may be regarded as directly or indirectly dependent on agriculture. Thus we may say that agriculture today supports more than four-fifths of our population. In view of this preponderating importance of agriculture in our economy, the lack of statistical data relating to agriculture is surprising indeed.

### History of Agriculture Statistics in Ceylon

The oldest statistical records of Ceylon's agriculture are to be found in the Ceylon Blue-Book. Up to the year 1922, the Blue-Book contained an imposing array of statistical tables relating to wage-rates of agricultural workers in different districts, acreage, output and prices of various agricultural crops and the number of livestock. Very little credence, however, was placed on these tables. The village headmen merely guessed the figures and filled in the returns from which these tables were compiled. The accuracy of these tables, therefore, varied with the imaginative power of these village potentates. As early as 1864, the Ferguson's Handbook and Directory commented on the reliability of the Blue-Book figures as follows:—

"There is a sad want of uniformity in preparing these state-ments. One Agent omits what another includes... That Govern-ment statistics should still be in so imperfect a condition in Ceylon is little to the credit of the Colony, which now compares unfavourably even with the conti-nental India in such matters. Compared with the careful records kept by the Australian colonies and New Zealand, ours are wretched indeed. Let us hope that ere long an extension of the functions and operations of the Registrar-General's Department may enable us to wipe away the stigma." Eighty-five years have gone by since this passage was written, yet the "stigma" remains just as it was

The same Directory wrote in 1876-78. "The returns of the native headmen of local grain production carry condemnation on their very face; they are utterly unreliable." In 1908, while reporting on rice cultivation in his province, the Govern-ment Agent of the Western Province wrote as follows: "The Blue-Book returns... are compiled by the Vidane Arachchies and are not absolutely accurate though for the most part probably near the mark". Strangely enough in the next page he quotes an example of contradictory figures in the Blue-Book and concludes, "Some inaccuracy in the Blue-Book Returns for 1907 for this Korale is, I fear, to be suspected".

By 1920, the figures compiled by the Vidane Arachchies were so much discredited that L. J. B. Turner, the first Director of Statistics and Census, stopped publishing these figures, and conducted an agricultural census in 1921 and again in 1924. The reports of these census operations were not published, but figures were quoted in the Blue-Book and in other official publications. Since 1923 the acreage figures obtained from the 1921 and 1924 censuses were repeated in the Blue-Book year after year and all other information regarding Ceylon's agriculture were dropped. In a Sessional Paper in 1928, Turner wrote, "It seems probable that any decrease in in-accuracy can only be obtained at considerable cost and it has to be established that the expenditure would be justified by the extent to which the figures are used and by the importance of an im-provement in their accuracy". Turner's comment was a sad reflection on the government's attitude towards our agriculture, which was—as it is today—the main prop of our economy.

In 1946, along with the popu-lation census, a production cen-sus was also undertaken. Figures relating to acreage have been published so far. It is hoped that in the final report more de-tailed information on the lines suggested in this article, would be available.

It is interesting to note that the first attempt to take an agri-cultural census in Ceylon was made by Sir Ponnambalam Arunachalam in the year 1901, seven years before England thought of taking such a cen-sus. The attempt did not meet with success, for, at that stage of statistical knowledge and general backwardness, col-lection of accurate and complete data was not easy. However, the deep insight into the fundamental problem of our economy, that has been overshadowing all other problems since then, and the 'farsightedness' that he displayed in taking such a census at such an early date, when even population censuses were regarded by many as useless luxury, is surprising indeed. The succeeding census officer did not think it necessary to carry on Sir Ponnambalam's unfinished work. As a matter of fact, the full significance of the role of agricultural statistics was never realised in the same way as Sir Ponnambalam did, till about half-a-century later.

The statistics of bigger rubber and tea estates are available in the Ferguson's Directory from very early periods. These figures are believed to be reliable. Nothing is, however, known of the small and middle producers of

(Continued on page 3)



**Tamil Union's Jubilee Year**

The 50th annual general meeting of the Tamil Union C and A.C. took place at the club pavilion recently with the President Mr. P. Saravanamuttu in the chair. The minutes of the 49th annual general meeting and the Secretary's report were read and adopted. The Chairman in his remarks drew the attention of members to the fact that this was an important year to them it being the 50th anniversary of the club. The meeting unanimously decided that the club should celebrate the occasion in a fitting manner. The Chairman expressed the hope that each and every member would do his part to make the Jubilee celebrations towards the end of the year a success.

The election of office bearers for the year 1949/50 then took place.

President: Mr. P. Saravanamuttu (Re-elected).

Chairman of Committee: Mr. P. Saravanamuttu (Re-elected), Hon. General Secretary; Mr. C. J. Gulasekharan; Hon. Treasurer: Mr. S. Cumarasamy.

**ORDER NISI**

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA  
Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 1000

In the Matter of the Estate of the late Sabapathi pillai Ganapathipillai of Taiping in the State of Perak, Malayan Union, deceased.

Sabapathipillai Sambantha Moorthy of Chulipuram, Jaffna  
Vs.  
Petitioner.

1. Sinnacuddy Ramalingam and
2. wife Marimuttu, 3. Nagamma, widow of Eliyaiatamby Manickam
4. Arumugam Nadarah and 5. wife Apraimpillai
6. Suntharampillai Ponnampalam all of Changana West Respondents

This matter coming on for disposal before R. R. Selvadurai, Esq. District Judge, Jaffna. on February 9, 1949, in the presence

**ORDER NISI**

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA  
Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 1050

In the matter of the estate of the late Rasamany wife of M. Kurusamy of Nallur, Jaffna

Deceased  
Murugesu Kurusamy of Nallur, Jaffna  
Petitioner

- Vs
1. Gnanasavundary daughter of Kurusamy,
  2. Pathmavathy daughter of Kurusamy, and
  3. Thaiyalmuttu widow of Murugesu, all of Nallur, Jaffna Respondents

This matter coming on for disposal before S. S. J. Coonasekera Esquire, District Judge of Jaffna, on the 16th day of May, 1949, in the presence of Mr. S. Visuvalingam, Proctor on the part of the petitioner and the affidavit and petition of the petitioner dated 16th May, 1949 having been read:

It is ordered that the abovenamed 3rd Respondent be appointed guardian-ad-litem over the minors the abovenamed 1st and 2nd Respondents, and that letters of administration to the estate of the deceased Rasamany be issued to the petitioner unless the Respondents abovementioned or any other person or persons interested shall appear before this Court on the 4th day of July, 1949 and show cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

It is further ordered that the said minors be produced in court on the said date

This 16th day of May, 1949,  
Sgd, S. S. J. Coonasekera  
District Judge.  
(O 28, 10 & 14)

of Mr T. Vannianathan, Proctor, on the part of the petitioner; and the affidavit and petition of the petitioner having been read:

It is declared that the petitioner is the brother and heir of the said intestate and is entitled to have letters of administration to the estate of the said intestate issued to him, unless the respondents or any other person shall, on or before March 11, 1949, show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this court to the contrary.

This 9th day of February, 1949,  
R. R. Selvadurai  
District Judge.

Order Nisi extended to 17-6-49.  
Sgd, S. S. J. Gunesegara  
District Judge.

(O. 24, 7 & 10)

**RENT RESTRICTION**

(Continued from page 1)

the rent you can get on a new house will hardly bring in one per centon your investment.

On the other, hand is the Tenant in a happy condition? There is no doubt that he who has no house of his own, has great cause for thankfulness if he is fortunate enough to get one on the lawful *Authorised Rent*, which situation envisages an *upright* Landlord. I trust there are *more* of this type than of the *other*, otherwise I would lose faith in my countrymen. But it is said that the worst housing racket that ever was, is existent today.

Persons in need of houses are quite familiar with the demand of an Advance Premium varying from Rs. 1,500 to 5,000, which does not go against rent, nor is a receipt issued for the payment. It is a *gift or consideration or gratuity or commission—whatever you may like to call it.* Against this the Rent Act says, "It shall not be lawful for a Landlord to demand, receive or recover, for a Tenant to pay or offer to pay any amount in excess of the Authorised Rent, or an advance in excess of three month's rent. The penalty is a fine up to Rs. 1,000 and or 6 months' rigorous or ordinary imprisonment. When the Landlord and Tenant act in *collusion* the Law is set at naught.

A lady recently asked for my help to secure a house on authorised rent. She confessed she had interviewed 6 landlords who could arrange to give her a house within the next two-months, but in every single case an advance premium, without acknowledgment receipt, and the lowest was Rs. 1,500! She was poor and could not meet the demand. She has to leave the house she occupies with her daughter at the end of June!

**How to Stamp Out Premium Racket**

People say that so long as human nature is what it is, these things cannot be avoided. It is for men of good-will to work for a better world, and it is our duty to do so.

In the course of my travels. I became acquainted with the action taken in another country to meet such a situation. If interpreted according to Ceylon condition regarding Advance Premium as above stated, the following new Section, if added to the Rent Act, would clearly demonstrate it. The new Section should read:

It shall not be lawful for the Landlord of any premises to which this Act applies, to let such premises on rent to a Tenant or occupant after an appointed date, except through the Rent Control Board of that area (or it may be Rent Control Department, whichever may be considered more suitable).

2. On any premises falling vacant the Landlord shall immediately report to the Board with information giving Number of premises, Standard Rent, Permitted increases claimed, if any, under Section 6 b, d, or e. and accommodation available.

3. The Board shall maintain a Register recording such application in strict order of priority according as it is received.

4. The Board shall also maintain a Register recording all applications from Tenants, strictly in order as received, recording the

locality, accommodation and rent, as stated by tenant.

2. The Board shall, at a sitting to which the Landlord as well as the first three tenant applicants are invited, allot the Tenant first in order, unless the Landlord raises any reasonable objection; if such objection is upheld the 2nd Tenant will be selected.

6. Nothing in this section shall preclude a Landlord from giving the house when it falls vacant, to a member of his family, but in such the Board must be informed immediately of the premises being vacant, and the name of the member of the family to whom it is allotted, at least ten days prior to reoccupation.

**Building Societies**

There is no doubt that such a provision will effectively stamp out the Premium racket. The Landlord will get his authorised rent, and honest Landlords may not mind it. But with it also comes the restriction of his freedom to grant such house to a friend, or a tenant of his choice. On the other hand, if such a racket assumes enormous proportions drastic remedies must become necessary. In this way, or in any other, serious consideration must be given to any wrong which makes the situation intolerable, particularly when honest or poorer tenants have no chance, if house goes to the highest bidder in the time of house shortage.

If the housing situation is to be eased, persons who want to build houses for themselves deserve to be helped. Building Societies which sprang up a little time ago, have not shown much progress, as the high cost of material and labour makes their schemes unattractive to men of limited means, for whom they were intended. Even my Housing Scheme in Dehiwela, when the Urban Council 14 years ago built about 20 houses at the entrance to the Zoo, for tenants become owners in 20 years with no other payment except monthly rent, is difficult of repetition owing to high cost.

Man wants food, clothing and shelter as his primary needs. The first two of these can be purchased but for third, a capital is required.


If the State will give loans on nominal interest of 1% to *bona fide* persons who build for their own occupation, and also can supply timber from Crown Forests for a limited period at cost, and take over a quantity of cement free of duty and give them without profit of such persons, and perhaps also help in the matter of bricks which may be turned out at a cheaper rate, a good number of houses will come up to be owned by the people themselves, in addition to the State Housing Schemes. This will release a number of houses for the have-nots, and make for greater contentment and happiness to a larger number of our countrymen.

**Gurupujah At Thiruketheeswaram**

The Gurupujah of Saint Thiruganasambanthamurti Nayanar will be celebrated at Thiruketheeswaram on Saturday, 11th June, 1949. A full day's programme has been arranged for the occasion. Holy Theertbam at Palavi, Special Pujah at the Temple, Gurupujah at the Madam, Devotional Songs and Addresses will form the programme for the day.

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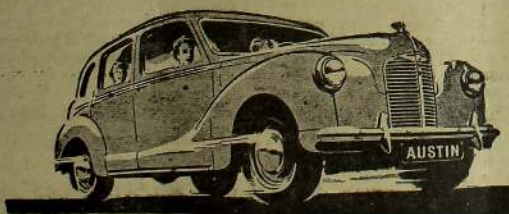
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