

The Hindu 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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THE HINDU ORGAN.

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X. 60.

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Y. 62.

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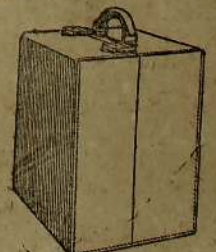
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H. 61.

The Hindu Organ.

JAFFNA, MONDAY, JANUARY 30, 1928.

CHRISTIAN PRETENSIONS.

THE "MORNING STAR" IN ITS ISSUE OF the 20th instant opened its campaign against the Hindu Education Movement by misrepresenting its aims and methods and by maligning some of the leaders who are associated with it. In the following issue it proclaims in phraseology of sounding brass and ringing cymbal the magic power of the Christian religion for renovating human society and calls on the Hindus to accept the superior claims of its founder. These blatant assertions are so incessantly made both in the Christian Press and the Pulpit that it is necessary to examine them in the light of modern scholarship and historical research. "It (Christianity) has taught men", says this Protestant paper, "the value of human personality, and has been opposed to slavery and to all social and race distinctions, and has elevated the status of women and children. It has taught a higher conception of God and purer forms of worship." Has Christianity raised the status of women? Has it opposed slave trade and all social and race distinctions? Has it taught a higher conception of God and purer forms of worship?

Christianity was founded by a Jew, and its apostles were Jews. Among the Jews as well as among the tribes that belonged to the Semitic family woman was despised and she occupied a very low position in society. That was so at the time of Jesus. No doubt he had certain disciples among the fair sex, but nowhere in the Gospels has he raised a word of protest against the treatment meted out to the woman. In the early Church apostolic authority was used to perpetuate the Jewish notions about the status of the woman in society. A new Church was founded at Corinth. Among the new converts there had been Greek women who had enjoyed a large measure of freedom in the pagan society. They appear to have asserted to have the same right and privileges in the new Church, but Apostle Paul struck at the root of this woman movement within the Church and condemned her to a condition of perpetual servitude and tutelage. In the 11th Chapter of the 1st Corinthians thus says the Apostle: "For a man indeed is not to cover his head for as much as he is the image and glory of God but the woman is the glory of the man. For the man is not of the woman; but the woman of the man. Neither was man created for the woman but the woman for the man." Many of the Greek Fathers who had brought with them into the early Church the humanistic ideals of Hellenic culture were helpless and had to submit to the apostolic authority. The Latin Fathers having taken their inspiration from the Apostle were no less unjust to the woman. Tertullian thus says of the woman: "Thou art the devil's gate, the betrayer of the tree, the first deserter of the divine law." Similar views had been held by the learned Saint Augustine. The various Church councils which represented the collective opinion of Christendom gave no relief whatever for the woman.

In the pagan society and under the pagan law the position of the woman was entirely different. "Led by their theory of natural law," says Sir Henry Maine in his classic Ancient Law, "the jurists had evidently at this time (circa 130 A. D.) assumed the equality of the sexes as the principle of their code of equity." After describing the degree of liberty won by the Roman women, he goes on "Christianity tended somewhat from the very first to narrow this remarkable liberty." "The latest Roman law," says the same authority, "so far as it is touched by the constitutions of the Christian Emperors bears some marks of a reaction against the liberal doctrines of the great Antonine jurists." What is the position of the woman in the Canon law as developed by the Christian Church? "The Canon law," says the same authority, "in no one particular departs so widely from the spirit of secular jurisprudence as in the view it takes in the relations created by marriage. This is in part inevitable since no society was in part inevitable since no society which preserves any tincture of Christian institutions is likely to restore to married women the personal liberty conferred on them by the middle Roman

law; but the proprietary disabilities of married women stand on quite a different basis from their personal incapacities and it is by the tendency of their doctrines to keep alive and consolidate the former that the expositors of the Canon law have deeply injured civilisation." Finally this writer points out that those legislations which had kept the longest and the strictest in touch with the Canon law had been the most harsh in their treatment of women.

The Reformation which the Protestants regard as the beginning of the new religious movement maintained the same attitude towards women. It is unnecessary to quote the views of John Knox or Martin Luther on this subject. Even in the enlightened New England States in America which are regarded as the palladium of human liberty and liberalism the position of women remained unaltered in the common law of the land until the middle of the nineteenth century. In the eye of the Common law she remained practically a chattel in the hands of her husband. And yet the "Morning Star" has a hardihood to proclaim to the world that Christianity raised the status of women.

The women emancipation movement in the West was a matter of the nineteenth century. It was carried out and accomplished independently of and in spite of the Christian Church. Many causes have contributed to its success. In the latter half of the eighteenth century the ideas and theories of the free-thinkers of France profoundly affected the European society. They brought new ideals, new thoughts and new angles of vision both in the affairs of the State and social matters; and people began to think and act unhampered by the conventions of the Church. Secondly nineteenth century witnessed one of the greatest intellectual revolutions. John Fiske an American writer in his book "Idea of God as affected by modern Knowledge" makes an admirable summary of the rapid growth of knowledge during the three quarters of the nineteenth century and affirms that the addition to the stock of human knowledge was greater during this period than all the centuries put together. Thirdly the humanitarian movement due to the greater social, intellectual and commercial intercourse among the nations of the world contributed not a little to the growth of humane feelings and to the removal of injustice and disabilities wherever they were found.

The women emancipation movement was mostly led by free-thinkers and some members of the Quaker community which is the least conventional and the most puritanic of the Christian sects. J. S. Mill, George Eliot, Harriet Martineau, Mary Wollstonecraft were some of the foremost workers in this field and they were all free-thinkers. In America this movement was opened by a woman named Frances Wright, a free-thinker. The early workers in this field had to face clerical opposition.

In 1840 a band of noted American women speakers was invited to speak at the anti-slavery Convention at London. But they were refused the opportunity of speaking at the instigation of the English clergy who regarded women's participation in the Convention as a "violation of the ordinance of the Almighty God" as revealed by St. Paul.

The Christian Church maintained its traditional opposition to this movement, even so late as the eighties of the last century. Yet the "Morning Star" trumpets forth to the world that Christianity raised the status of women.

THE MORNING STAR AND THE HON. MR. RAJARATNAM.

II

The "Morning Star" in its issue of the 20th inst. further complains that the Councillors presided over meetings where the object has been to wipe out without any notice schools which have been in existence for many years and instances the opening of a Saiva school at Araly North. Our contemporary considers it legitimate for the Hindus to educate their children in their own schools and admits that it is the bounden duty of the Hindus to help themselves in the matter of education of their own children without clinging to the apron strings of other religions. In the same breadth it finds fault with the Hindus for doing the very thing which it considers legitimate. Public meetings over which the Councillors presided were held not to wipe out Christian schools but to provide education for Hindu children in Hindu schools.

The description of the "Morning Star" of the opening of the Araly school may be graphic but the facts stated there are not true. A Saiva Manavar Sabai was organised at Araly long before the opening of this school. Every Friday lectures were delivered at the Murugamoorthy temple where the imperative necessity of education of Hindu children in Hindu schools had always been emphasised. A month prior to the opening of this school a public meeting was held in the same temple presided over by Mr. T. Saravananth. The present writer was also present and addressed the meeting. It was then decided to open this school during the following Navarathiri Week. Patriotic and energetic young men of the place worked wholeheartedly and earnestly for the realisation of their hopes. The plans of the Hindus were all known to the Christians of the locality; but the latter took little notice of it on the supposition that the school was a Hindu school. On the 27th September, 1925, the new school at Araly was opened at 11 a.m. The Member of the Western Division who is a Hindu and a distinguished son of the village, presided on the occasion. A few Christians were also present. The late Sanmuga Upathiayar, a gentleman four score years old, and father of the Tamil Pandit of the Jaffna College, who is a Christian, addressed the people and thanked the people that he had lived to see the day of the opening of a Saiva school where the children could learn the Thevaram and Thiruvasham which constitute the priceless heritage of the Saiva people. The school was opened not three months as stated by the "Morning Star" but six months prior to the annual inspection of the adjoining Mission school. Sometimes afterwards the organisers of this school were requested to close it till the annual inspection of the other school, but that request was refused as it was too late.

In the same issue reference is made to a telegram sent by some leading men of Vaddukkottai on behalf of the people to the Government and some Council members. They protested against the proposed building grant to the Jaffna College on the ground that such grant was necessary for the development of Hindu colleges, that the said College was a proselytising institution and that the Hindu students were compelled to study Christian scriptures and to attend the Chapel Service every morning and Sunday School and Sunday Services every week. After this telegram students are allowed to go to their houses every Saturday and return to the College on Sunday evening or Monday morning. The former rule permitting the students to go home only once in every six weeks is now annulled. This telegram was sent by gentlemen who occupy responsible positions and enjoy the confidence of the people of Vaddukkottai and the adjoining villages, as time was insufficient for the summoning of a public meeting. The Chairman of the Village Committee was a signatory to this telegram. At a meeting of the Committee a certain member questioned the conduct of the Chairman in this matter. But on seeing the attitude of the other members who were inclined to support the Chairman the matter was dropped immediately and that is how "the people's indignation" ended. If the decision of the Village Committee has been taken on that day the Editor of the "Morning Star" knows as much as anybody else how it would have gone.

Noted Hindu Hours and Days.

DURING THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY, 1928

(FROM THE 19TH DAY OF Thai TO THE 17TH DAY OF Maasi or Pirapava).
Kalyanatham, 6029.

RAHU KALAM.

Monday	7.30 a.m. to 9.00 a.m.
Tuesday	9.00 " " 10.30 "
Wednesday	10.30 " " 12.00 noon.
Thursday	12.00 noon " 1.30 p.m.
Friday	1.30 p.m. " 3.00 p.m.
Saturday	3.00 " " 4.30 "
Sunday	4.30 " " 6.00 "

The Dragon's Head (Rahu) eclipses the Sun causing loss of light and vitality and therefore important undertakings should not be commenced at the hours stated above.

Kannappa Nayanar Guru Pooja	February, 2
Piratharom	3
Full Moon	5
Thai Poojam	"
Maasi Poojam	13
Navami	Parts of 13 & 14
Sani Piratharom	" of 14 & 15
Maasi Siva Rathiri	18
New Moon	21
Parkind Suththam	22
Karthikai	27
Ashvini	29
Navami	29

LOCAL & GENERAL.

DISPLAY OF FEATS OF STRENGTH:—Mathajiraj Rajasheg, a Rajput of Bombay and a physical culturist, assisted by one Nallashamby of Vannarapponnai East will display several items of feats of strength and acrobatic performances at the Jaffna Hindu College this evening commencing at 4.30 o'clock.

ACTING CROWN PROCTOR:—Mr. A. Oatharavulu J. P. U. P. M. Crown Proctor of Jaffna, being confined to bed owing to serious illness, Mr. K. Kanagasabai, Proctor S. O., has been appointed to act as Crown Proctor. Mr. Kanagasabai has been acting in the same capacity previously on several occasions with great acceptance.

A NEW JUSTICE OF THE PEACE:—Mr. M. Somasundaram, Manisgar, Islands Division is appointed a Justice of the Peace for the same division.

ANOTHER CADET IN THE C. O. S.:—Mr. H. O. Cocks having been selected by the Secretary of State as a Cadet in the Ceylon Civil Service is attached to the Colombo Kanabheri.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:—Dr. V. N. darsaj, Medical Officer of Health, Northern Province is appointed a member of the Manar and Mullaitivu Sanitary Boards in place of Dr. R. W. O. Thambiah.

HINDU PROCESSION AT NEGOMBO:—The Annual Hindu Procession at Negombo will start in the morning of the 4th proximo from Devi Mariammai Kovil at Sea Street and will proceed to Sri Ganeswara Temple at Dawa-tagahawala, Mahabunipilly, where it will stay for 2 days and return at about 1 p.m. on the 6th proximo and reach the temple at midnight. The licence to conduct the procession has been issued on the same conditions as before. The procession must pass St. Mary's (Catholic) Church at Main Street before 6 p.m. The Police authorities have requested the Chairman of the Negombo Urban Council, who is a Catholic, to assist them in maintaining order at this particular Church on the 6th proximo when the procession go past it. It will be remembered that last year on the 19th of January when the Hindu procession went past St. Mary's Church there were scenes of Catholic irreligious animosity and rowdism and the Police finding the situation beyond control had to summon the Military to bring under control the unruly mob that thronged the Church compound and streets and hurled stones and bricks on the Authorities. It was only after the arrival of the Guncere that the procession was allowed to go past this Church.

Ceylon Legislative Council.

UNIVERSITY SITE DEBATE.

The first motion on the agenda of the meeting of the Legislative Council on Thursday, the 2nd February, is that of the Hon. Mr. M. T. Akbar on the University Site. It reads as follows:—

That the recommendations of the University Site Committee published in Sessional Paper V. of 1927 be adopted, including the recommendation that the University should be founded in the Dumbura Valley on the site selected by the Committee, or in the alternative that the University be established on the west side of the Mahaweliganga, within the Municipal limits of Kandy immediately opposite to the site selected by the Committee.

TEACHERS' PENSIONS.

The Hon. Mr. S. Rajaratnam has given notice to the following question:—
Will the Government be pleased to make a statement with reference to—

(1) The step the Government has taken since the Report of the Select Committee on the Teachers' Pension Scheme was received by the Government; and

(2) When the Government proposes to pay the pension to the teachers.

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT SHOULD GO.

Hon. Mr. D. S. Senanayake is to move—
That in the opinion of this Council capital punishment should be abolished in Ceylon and the necessary amendment in the law introduced at an early date.

RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT.

Hon. Mr. T. M. Saharatnam is to move—
This Council is of opinion that for the better Government of the Island and the happiness and contentment of the people, the constitution of Ceylon should be amended by the early inauguration of Responsible Government and that with a view to giving effect to this resolution a Select Committee be appointed to draft and submit to this House a constitution acceptable to the country.

OBITUARY.

MRS. S. PERIATHAMBY.

The death took place on Friday the 27th inst. at 7.30 p.m. at her residence in Vannarapponnai West of Thankammudi wife of Mr. S. Periatthamby, Town Overseer, Kandy. The deceased lady was ailing for some time and in spite of the best medical treatment and careful nursing she passed away at her 57 year leaving besides her husband to bewail her loss, two sons, Mr. S. P. Rajanayakam of the Kandy Post office and Mr. S. P. Selvadurai, a student now in England prosecuting his medical studies, and son-in-law, Mr. S. V. Vallalagam, Office Assistant, Batticaloa Kanabheri. The funeral took place on the following day and was largely attended. We extend our condolences to the members of the bereaved family.

Views of the Jaffna S. P. Sabai MEMORANDUM TO THE COMMISSION

HINDUS ARE THE AGGRIEVED PARTY.
(Continued from our last issue)

Following are four out of the five Annexures appended to the Memorandum, the full text of which has been published in these columns, submitted by the Jaffna Saiva Paripalana Sabai to the Special Commission on Constitutional Reforms. Annexure A is a copy of the full text of the Memorandum issued by Governor Sir William Manning in 1919 defining the educational policy to be adopted by the Government. The Annexure has not been reproduced here as the Memorandum in question is too well known and also rather voluminous.

Annexure B.

STUDENT CLANDESTINELY REMOVED

Extracts from the letter of Brother Aloysius to his agent Parameshvaram, a boy of Victoria College.

"I thank you sincerely for the kindness you showed me the other day and for your kind letter. I could not have written to you earlier since I had to attend Court. You know Mr. S. induced the father of the boy to take action against me. All that I did for the boy is to make him happier with an eye to his future prospects. The boy is now with the parents against his will. He is not allowed to study at St. Patrick's."

"If the boy is willing to run away to St. Patrick's where everything is waiting for him, the Rector will receive him very kindly. I shall send a man. He may accompany him. I am very anxious about the boy. I have incurred so much expense on him. Now the whole world looks upon my action as something bad. But I shall feel amply rewarded if you only speak to the boy and get him to write to me. I am sure you will do this favour for me. If you want me I shall come over there. I am not willing to the boy. But I want you to speak to him. I hope to hear an immediate reply from you. Let this be strictly private and confidential."

Annexure C.

RELIGION AND POLITICS.

EXTRAORDINARY CORRESPONDENCE.

PATRIARCH PRIEST AND LAY COUNCILLOR.

The following was Mr. W. N. Gurney's letter to the Mr. F. Obeyesekere:

Dias House, Matara,
27.6.27.

Dear Mr. Obeyesekere, I understand you gave Rs. 2,000 towards the new Buddhist English School at Weligama.

If this is so, I must tell you that I think I am entitled to ask for some explanation.

I am told you are a Churchman, and Weligama is situated in the parish of Matara—of which I am the Priest in charge.

This new Buddhist school, I think I may say without fear or contradiction, is not needed. It is about 1/4 of a mile from Holy Cross English School, which has been in existence for many years. I have been requested to take legal action to prevent this school being opened, and am instructed that it is contrary to one of the regulations in the Code that in a small place like Weligama a school for English education should be opened at so short a distance from the school already in being. I refused to take any action in the matter—preferring to let things take their course rather than give local Buddhist an opportunity for assuming the role of martyr.

Holy Cross School has cost me much money this year. The staff has been increased and improved and the new furniture supplied has been a big item. Repairs have been effected to the building, and there will be a heavy deficit at the end of the school year.

I think it is inadvisable that the new Buddhist school is distinctly "Anti Christian," and is being erected as an "opposition" establishment in Weligama.

I am told that a Mr. De Baram, a School Inspector, is very much in favour of it. He is an ardent Buddhist, so I cannot blame him, but you, Sir, as a Christian will give me, I hope, some explanation of your support for the establishment of this not needed Buddhist school within a quarter of a mile of our long established Church school at Weligama.—Believe me, Yours very truly,
(83) W. N. Gurney.

MR. OBEYESEKERE'S REPLY.

The Bounda, Colpetty,
30th June, 1927.

Dear Father Gurney,—Your letter of 27th June, 1927 received.

But that I consider your letter prompted by excess of zeal I should characterize as a bit of gross impertinence.

I have yet to learn that a Territorial Member of the Legislative Council in attending to the crying needs of the majority of his constituents, out of an allowance received by him from public funds and which some was promised by him to be spent for the benefit of his constituency, has to explain anything to anybody.

Are you aware that Buddhists consider that their children are as much entitled to religious training as those of Christians?

Are you aware that they have, in the past, only sent their children for education to places which inevitably have a prejudicial tendency, because they were left with no option?

Are you aware that, however valuable the educational work done by Christian missionaries in the past, Buddhism declines to be spooned after longer (in regard to the education they wish their children to receive) by Christians who claim that the "three symbols of the Christian religion" are the Church—the symbol of Christian spiritual uplift; School of mental; Hospital—of bodily care?

Words like these were stated at "Rheinland" with reference to the activities at Donipally of the D. M. Mission by the Archbishop.

Buddhists rightly claim provision for education as of right. They need not be at the mercy of a Christian enterprise. My father, whose work in Christian work, has taught his children how to act in all matters dealing with the uplift of people regardless of caste, race or religion.

Who who seek for their children facilities for instruction in English must receive it without any necessity to seek it in a religious environment antagonistic to their own religion.

In the past artificial administrative props were resorted to drive Buddhists and others to the arms of Christian institutions.

People very rightly decline to allow education to be used to give a foreign and undesired twist to their children's religion.

So long as the country was destitute of educational aids, people were prepared to pay a price for getting education for their children—that price was the risk they ran of their children breaking with the parents' faith.

Whatever our private religious beliefs may be, we must know that to steal children from their parents' faith by art design, trading on the difficulties that confront parents who wish to secure education for their children, is more criminal than the conduct of men who daily go to jail when misfortune of necessity drives them to theft.

Cacidity alone can justify such conduct. The doctrine that the end justifies the means has been responsible for much wrong, but few wrongs can be greater than that perpetrated by the studied campaign to see education imparted only in Christian schools. I can be no party to such criminal conduct and I shall try to see to it that every child in Ceylon gets education and an education founded on religious principle—and that religious principle—the principle of one's parents' religion, unless a parent, in spite of the presence of instruction given by his own denomination, freely seeks the aid of other institutions.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) Forester Obeyesekere,

Annexure D.

RELIGIOUS ELEMENT IN ELECTIONS.

A CANDID DENIAL.

Extract from the leading article of the "Morning Star" dated 28th Feb. 1925.

"We are in receipt of a letter from a Hindu protesting against the introduction of the religious element in the election contest in the Eastern Division of Jaffna. We have made careful inquiries and find that at least as far as the association against two very prominent individuals are concerned, there is no evidence whatever to support it. And as to the charge that the people of the Division did not rise above religious prejudice the election figures rather show that a large number of people did rise above it. We are encouraged to know that Mr. Sandarassagala polled as many votes as he did, as it shows the appreciation of some of the leading people of the Division of his ability and his service to the country. In our opinion, the deciding factor in the contest was local influence, and especially that in the Mullaitivu section. We cannot say that the local standing of a candidate should not weigh with the electors in the choice of a representative. Indeed, we have always taken up the position that residential qualification is necessary for real democratic representation. For a truly democratic Council should consist not merely of the best men but the most representative of men also. Mullaitivu for instance, has been one of the most backward of the Districts of Ceylon, and its wants have not been, we are afraid, looked after properly. We hope that Hon. Mr. Sabaratnam will consider himself a representative of the District in a very real sense and help the people in all ways. Our congratulations to Mr. Sabaratnam."

Annexure E.

THE IRANAMADU SCANDAL.

INCIDENT SERIOUS: PROSECUTION IMPRACTICABLE.

PROPERTIES TO BE RETRANSFERRED.

In the Legislative Council on Wednesday, July 21, 1926, the Hon. Mr. F. A. Obeyesekere asked:—In regard to the alleged conversion of certain prisoners from Hinduism to Roman Catholicism and the alleged transfer of prisoners' property to a clergyman and his successors in office, in connection with the commutation of the prisoners' capital sentences, will the Government be pleased to state—

- Did such commutation of death sentences, as a matter of fact, take place?
- Did such alleged conversion take place?
- Did such alleged transfer of property from the prisoners to be vested in a clergyman and his successors in office take place?
- Did any consideration pass either for the conversion or for the transfer of property?
- If so, what was that consideration?
- Will the Government be pleased to use its offices with the Roman Catholic Church to restore to the prisoners their freedom of conscience and their property?

NO OFFICIAL INFORMATION.

The Hon. The Colonial Secretary replied:—(a) The sentences of death passed on five of the prisoners were commuted and two were confirmed.

(b) The Government has no information on the subject.

(c) Government is informed that one of the prisoners and his wife and the relations of two of the other prisoners transferred certain lands in favour of one Father Seminapillai Gnana-prasara, Parish Priest of Nallur Church, and his successors.

CONSIDERATION SET: MONEY UNPAID.

(d) and (e) The consideration set out in the deeds executed by the above parties is Rs. 1,000, Rs. 500 and Rs. 250, but according to the attestation clauses no money was paid and the Government has reason to believe that the deeds were executed in the expectation that Father Gnana-prasara would endeavor to obtain commutation of the sentences passed on the prisoners.

No representations on behalf of the prisoners have been received from Father Gnana-prasara, Father N. Perera, who visited the prisoners in Jaffna gaol, put forward a plea for mercy on the ground of their profession of innocence and their gentle behaviour.

BISHOP OF JAFFNA INTERVIEWED.

The Bishop of Jaffna, when passing through Colombo on his way to France, was interviewed on this subject by the Governor and the Attorney General on the 5th instant and informed them that he had already sent written instructions to J. H. G. directing that the prisoners should be returned to their wives. Up to date this instruction has not, Government is informed, been carried out.

Continued up.

Famine in Sight.

THIS YEAR'S CROP A FAILURE.

TIMELY ACTION BY AUTHORITIES URGED.

The failure of the North East Monsoon has affected the paddy and other crops in the Northern portion of the Island.

The impending occurrence of a famine in Jaffna consequent on the failure of the rainfall continues to cause anxiety. A serious situation is threatened by the shortage in the rice supply, which looks itself to be a serious one. In fact, the rice supply in the commodity in all centres. Inflated prices are already in evidence and there is considerable dissatisfaction amongst the poorer classes.

PROFITING SHOULD BE CHECKED.

A growing demand is making itself felt that Government should promptly meet the contingency by importing sufficient quantities of rice from India and Burma. It is recognized that the normal imports do not suffice for the present to meet the almost unprecedented requirements of the villagers. The situation is becoming critical that the authorities should control and supervise the distribution of rice to prevent profiteering and to ensure that the bags are not tampered with in transit as there have been frequent instances when they arrived under measure.

The chief embarrassment confronting the labouring population is due to the strain on their financial resources occasioned by the necessity of purchasing imported rice at high prices, deprived as they are of the supply of home grown paddy with which they normally eke out their daily earnings, which are generally insufficient to cover the total cost of maintaining their families. This aspect of the position is aggravated by another factor—growing unemployment owing to the lack of cultivation.

Consequent to the failure of the paddy crops the shortage of straw is keenly felt, and is having a serious effect on the well being of cattle.

DEARTH OF SEED PADDY.

The dearth of seed-paddy presents an especially serious problem for the future, and the Department of Agriculture is appealed to take immediate measures for the systematic collection of seed-paddy from all sources available throughout the island and its economic distribution amongst the Northern cultivators at reasonable prices. Another measure of relief that is being urged is that every acre of land under cultivation where rainfall is fairly satisfactory should be systematically tapped and put under rice cultivation.

Moolai Funeral Procession Case.

RESULT OF APPEAL.

Judgment was delivered in appeal on Thursday last in the case from the Jaffna Police Court, which was the outcome of preventing a funeral procession going past a temple at Moolai belonging to the Thimilais.

It would appear that some weeks back the priest of a temple belonging to the Moolai was conducting a procession conveying the corpse of his wife to a crematorium. The procession entered a lane which passes a temple belonging to the Thimilais, of whom figures as the accused in the case. The accused persons or some of them with others prevented the procession passing. The accused contended that what they objected to was the procession passing the temple to the beat of tom-toms. It was admitted that the procession had no license for music. The husband of the deceased woman stated that the accused threw stones and injured certain persons in the procession. The procession reached the temple at about 8 p. m. and the obstruction of the procession was maintained till the arrival of the Manager at 5 p. m. the next morning. Ultimately the barriers of the tier left the place and the Manager got a cart and the corpse was carried away.

The accused were charged on three counts and the Magistrate after a lengthy trial convicted the first two accused on all counts in the indictment and sentenced each to six months' rigorous imprisonment on each count, sentences to run concurrently; the third, fourth and fifth accused on the first count and each to undergo six months' rigorous imprisonment; and the sixth and seventh on counts one and two and each for three months' rigorous imprisonment on each count, the sentences to run concurrently. The rest were acquitted.

His Lordship held that the first five accused were rightly convicted of being members of an unlawful assembly.

The convictions of the 1st, 2nd, 6th and 7th accused under the second charge were quashed. The convictions of the first and second accused on the third charge were quashed. The action of the first five accused did not seem to His Lordship to be deserving of severe punishment. Each of the first five accused were sentenced to pay a fine of Rs 100 with the alternative of six weeks' rigorous imprisonment. The case of the sixth and seventh accused was serious. After the Manager had succeeded in pursuing the complainant's party to proceed without music, those two intimidated the barriers from carrying the tier and His Lordship saw no reason to interfere with their sentences.

Calendar for 1928.

Copies of wall calendar for the year 1928 has been received at this office from Messrs. Norton & Co. (Spartan Type Foundry), of Choolai, Madras, Agents for John Kidd & Co's Printing Works and leading type foundries and makers of printer's requisites.

Continued.

Government takes a very serious view of this incident, but is advised that no prosecution under the Penal Code is practicable.

NOT THE FIRST TIME.

Mr. Obeyesekere: Arising out of that answer may I ask, is the Government aware that this same Father Gnana-prasara has committed the same malpractice on a former occasion?

The Colonial Secretary: The Government is aware that allegation of a similar practice has been made against this same Father, but it has no proof to that effect.

A University for Tamil Nadu.

COMMITTEE'S FAVOURABLE DECISION.

TRIOBY TO BE HEADQUARTERS.

The committee appointed by the Government to consider the question of a separate university for the Tamil Nadu met yesterday morning at the office of the Landholders' Association, Koyapetiah, Mr. P. T. Rajan, M.L.C., presiding. About 25 members were present. The question whether there is a necessity for establishing a Tamil University was taken up for discussion. It is understood that Mr. Krishna Rao Bhoonsle brought forward a definite proposal urging the need for such an university. The discussion on the subject was not over, when the committee adjourned.

The discussion was resumed, when the committee met again in the evening with Dr. Meston in the chair. The proposal that there should be a separate university for the Tamil district was finally carried, it is understood, by a narrow majority. The headquarters of the university was next considered and a good number of members were of opinion that Trincomopoly should be the headquarters. The question of centres was also discussed and the majority of the members were in favour of six places. Further discussion on these points was adjourned to the next sitting of the committee.

A small sub-committee was formed to investigate the financial aspect of the question. After this question is settled, the type of university to be recommended will be considered. —"Hindu" 27.1.28.

NOTICE.

I, Sinnathamby Veeragathypillai of Thondamannar owner of the Barque called Mahomed Bass No. 4 of 1919 of Cocanada have changed her name as "Siva Subramania Puravi" to be registered De-Novo at the Port of Jaffna. Mis. 1143.

A CARD.

W. F. Ratna Gopal.

Engineer	Licensed
Architect & Builder.	Surveyor & Leveller.
Undertakes Plans, Estimates Supervision & Valuation of Buildings.	
Araly North, Vaddukudai.	Office { 1st Cross Street, JAFFNA. Phone No. 184
Mis. 1149.	

BEST CALICUT TILES.
CROWN and STAR Brands.
Covering Largest Space
Elegant, Light, Strong and Cheap.
EM. THIRUCHELVAM,
Agent,
Main Street, Jaffna.
Y. 63.

Order Nisi.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 6389.

In the Matter of the Estate of the late Aramugam Ponnampalam of Eluthumaduwai South

Deceased,
Meera Mohideen Begm Sultan Abdul Cader of Vannarpallam west presently of Eluthumaduwai South

Petitioner.
Vs.
1. Valapooranni daughter of Ponnampalam (minor) and
2. Ponnaschey widow of Ponnampalam both of Eluthumaduwai South
Respondents.

This matter of the Petition of the above-named Petitioner praying that the said Respondent be appointed Guardian ad Rem over the 1st Respondent for the purpose of acting on her behalf representing her and protecting her interest in the matter of the Administration to the estate of the deceased be granted to him coming on for disposal before G. W. Woodhouse Esquire, District Judge, on October 26, 1926, in the presence of Mr. S. M. Appabekker Esquire on the part of the Petitioner and the affidavit of the Petitioner dated October 23, 1926 having been read: It is ordered that the 2nd Respondent will be appointed Guardian ad Rem over the 1st Respondent and that Letters of Administration will be issued to the Petitioner as a Creditor of the deceased unless the Respondent appears before the Court on April 13, 1927 and show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

G. W. Woodhouse,
District Judge.
March 21, 1927.
This Order Nisi is extended to the 21st February 1928.
Q. 1899.

ACTION AGAINST PROFITEERING

IMPORTANT MOTION DEFERRED.

The following are the Minutes of Proceedings and observations made by Members at a General Meeting of the Jaffa Urban District Council held at the Jaffa Kachcheri, on Saturday the 21st January, 1928, at 9 a.m.

Present: Mr. R. Sivagurunathan, Chairman; Mr. R. Subramaniam, Vice Chairman; Mr. H. E. de Kretser, Provincial Engineer, N. P.; Dr. E. W. Scharenguel, Provincial Surgeon, N. P.; Messrs. T. H. Crossette, R. Kanagasabai, R. R. Nalliah, P. Moses, C. Arulambalam, K. Somasundaram, V. S. S. Kumaraswamy and the Secretary.

The minutes of proceedings of the Special Meeting held on the 6th January, 1928, having been previously circulated to the members of the Council were taken on read and confirmed.

IMPENDING PADDY CROP FAILURES.

Pursuant to notice Mr. C. Arulambalam moved the following motion that stood in his name:—
"That as there is an impending failure this year of the paddy crop of the Jaffa District and adjoining areas, and as it is possible that the scarcity in the supply of locally produced paddy may be taken advantage of by local dealers in paddy and rice to enhance to an unconscionable extent the prices of paddy and rice, and as it is possible that the Council could consider whether it will not be advisable to adopt measures in consultation with Government to prevent the sale prices of paddy and rice within the Jaffa Urban area being increased to an unconscionable extent, whenever an indication appears to that effect in the market."

Mr. R. Somasundaram seconded.
After discussion the consideration of the motion was deferred with the consent of the mover and the seconder.

INCREASED RATE OF ASSESSMENT.

The Council went into committee to consider the Sanitation Committee's report re Conservancy Rate. After discussion the Council resumed and Mr. R. R. Nalliah moved that the present assessment rate be increased by 2½ per cent throughout the Urban area.

Mr. T. H. Crossette seconded.
Mr. C. Arulambalam moved as an amendment that the matter be deferred for the next meeting.
Mr. R. Subramaniam seconded.
The amendment was put to the house and lost 5 voting for and six against.
The motion was then put to the house and carried 6 voting for and 8 against.

[The object of the motion was that the present assessment rates be increased by two and a half per cent, in order to have the conservancy charges included in the assessment rates.]

Mr. Arulambalam said that the motion was not in order as it was not on the agenda.

The Provincial Surgeon observed that the motion was being discussed for the last six months and it was useless postponing it any longer.

Considered letter dated 8th December, 1927 from Messrs. Van Sarden & Wright, Colombo.

Mr. R. R. Nalliah moved that the Secretary do give the required information.

Mr. T. H. Crossette seconded.—Carried.

Considered petition dated 6th December 1927, from K. Sittampalam late ren or Grand Bazar, Jaffna.

Mr. T. H. Crossette moved that the application be refused.

Mr. P. Moses seconded.—Carried.

Considered letter from the Director, the Asiatic Petroleum Co., Colombo, dated 16th November, 1927 re lease of a plot of land for Bulk Petrol Service Station in Jaffna.

Mr. C. Arulambalam moved that the company be written to that the first two conditions referred to in their letter are accepted and that the third condition cannot be accepted.

Mr. V. S. S. Kumaraswamy seconded.—Carried.

TOM-TOM BEATING LICENSES.

Considered letter No. C. L. 1420 of 21st November, 1927 from the Government Agent, N. P., re issue of licenses to beat tom-tom &c.

Mr. R. R. Nalliah moved that the Government Agent be written to that the Council has no objection to the Government's proposal to transfer to Local Bodies the powers provided in section 90 of Ordinance No. 16 of 1865 and No. 14 of 1924.

Mr. C. Arulambalam seconded.—Carried.

Considered Chairman's memo dated 19th December, 1927, re acquisition of two strips of land for Kambartani Road.

Mr. R. Subramaniam moved that the Chairman's action be approved and that sum of Rs. 27/70 be voted under head B 7.

Mr. R. R. Nalliah seconded.—Carried.

SHADE TREES Felled.

Considered papers re cutting of shade trees by Mr. T. Ramanathan.

Mr. K. Somasundaram moved that the matter be dropped.

Mr. P. Moses seconded.—Carried 2 voting against.

[The cutting down of shade trees by Mr. T. Ramanathan was discussed at some length. The Chairman explained the situation. Mr. Ramanathan had requested the office to cut down the shade trees in question. The late Chairman had allowed the application. The Superintendent of Works had actually cut down one of the trees when complaints were received that the cutting of those trees involved hardship to the large number of coolies who were employed in the Customs. The Chairman then suspended further action. In the meantime, Mr. Ramanathan got the trees cut down. Correspondence passed between Mr. Ramanathan and the late Chairman. Mr. Ramanathan finally agreed to pay Rs. 25 to the Council. In spite of reminders there was no reply when Mr. Ramanathan was asked to pay the money. Mr. Ramanathan observed that Mr. Ramanathan had defied the Council and taken the law into his own hands. He did not approve of the suggestion on the part of the members that the matter be dropped. The Provincial Surgeon also objected on principle.]

QUESTION OF EXTENDING U. D. C. LIMITS.

Considered letter No. N. T. 21 of 9th November, 1927, from the Assistant Superintendent of North, N. P. Jaffna re Urban District Council limits.

Mr. R. Subramaniam moved that a committee be appointed to go into the matter and report.

Mr. C. Arulambalam seconded.—Carried.

Considered letter dated 23rd December, 1927 from Mr. V. M. Nagalingum re the current drain opposite the factory.

Mr. R. R. Nalliah moved that the matter be deferred and that a report be obtained from the Sanitary Inspector as to where the factory water is at present allowed to flow.

Mr. R. Subramaniam seconded.—Carried.

Considered Chairman's memo re case No. 19283 D O Jaffna.

Mr. R. R. Nalliah moved that the Chairman's action be approved and that a sum of Rs. 110/- be voted for the present under head E 1 b.

Mr. K. Kanagasabai seconded.—Carried.

CONSTRUCTION OF NEW ROADS DEFERRED.

The consideration of the petition dated 21st December, 1927 from Mr. N. Subapathy and other residents of Vannarpinnai North East re the conversion of a lane into a metalled road was deferred.

Considered letter No. 1 of 7th January, 1928 from the Provincial Engineer, N. P. Jaffna re side drains with connected papers. Mr. K. Somasundaram moved that the Provincial Engineer be requested to communicate with the Director of Public Works regarding the necessity for the work and obtain the vote as early as possible.

Mr. R. R. Nalliah seconded.—Carried.

Considered Chairman's memo dated 29th December 1927 re buildings along a proposed road leading from Kankasantal Road to Cherila Street parallel to and South of Hospital Road.

Mr. R. Subramaniam moved that the papers be referred to the Road and Buildings Committee for report.

Mr. V. S. S. Kumaraswamy seconded.—Carried.

Considered letter dated 26th December 1927 from Mr. R. Subramaniam, Chetty Street, Nallur re opening up of a new road.

The Chairman moved that the matter be referred to the Law Committee.

Mr. R. R. Nalliah seconded.—Carried.

Considered application dated 1st November 1927 from Mr. S. T. L. Leathar of Vaddikoddi East to erect temporary sheds along Kankasantal Road.

Mr. K. Somasundaram moved that the application be refused.

Mr. P. Moses seconded.—Carried.

RIDGEWAY HALL & PUBLIC FUNCTIONS.

Considered and sanctioned the sale of rents to be charged to let out the Ridgeway Hall for Public functions.

In this connection an application made by Mr. V. Ponnusamy of Chavakkacherry, Proprietor of the Jaffna Picture Palace to grant him one year's time to continue the Picture Palace was considered.

Mr. R. R. Nalliah moved that Mr. V. Ponnusamy be allowed to continue the Picture Palace for another year and that he be requested to keep the hall and grounds in good condition. The rent in this case to be charged at the same rate as was levied by the Hall Committee viz. Rs. 2/ per diem.

As regards the scale of rents Mr. R. R. Nalliah moved that the scale adopted by the Hall Committee be approved viz:

Rs. 10/- a day for meetings and other public functions.

Rs. 8/- a day for the use of Government e.g. holding District Courts etc.—Carried.

Considered the appointment of an officer of the Council under section 188 (1) of Ordinance No. 11 of 1920 to verify on oath the annual accounts and statement of assets and liabilities.

Mr. K. Somasundaram moved that the Secretary be appointed.

Mr. K. Kanagasabai seconded.—Carried.

PAPERS TABLED.

The following papers were tabled:—

(1) Papers re Fixed Deposit of Rs. 15,900/- in the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.

(2) Letter No. 1505 of 24th December 1927 from the President, Local Government Board re Health Unit for Jaffna.

(3) Chairman's message dated 31st December 1927 to the members and staff of the Council.

(4) Papers re transfer of Rs. 85/- from E 1 (a) to E 1 (b) in respect of payments made in 1927.

(5) Letter dated 12th January 1928 from Mr. C. Arulambalam re Town Inspection.

As regards (6) the Chairman's action was approved.

As regards (iv) the transfer was approved.

[Text of the late Chairman's message to the Council:—

"Gentlemen,—At the last meeting of the Council the manifestations of the extremely kind appreciation of my work on the part of those present overwhelmed me that I did not perhaps adequately express my own thankfulness to you all for your kind co-operation which greatly assisted me in my work. For this reason and for the additional reason that some of you were an avoidably absent on that occasion to accept my thanks, I beg leave to send this message to you expressing my profound gratitude to you all for the assistance you gave me. You have upheld the prestige of this Council in such a manner that the Council has been held in high esteem in Ceylon, a fact which greatly redounds to the credit of a local self governing body of this kind in its very inception. The administration had naturally to be carried on very cautiously at the start and I believe the experimental period has been attended with thorough success, on account of the careful handling of questions by you. I fervently hope that what has been well begun will be well done. I have not the least doubt that you will all unite, as you have hitherto done, and by your strenuous endeavours effect necessary improvements in this town and make this town take high strides in the march of progress. With your leave, I may if I can command the time for it, and on necessary matters be briefly furnished from the office, write a review of my five years' administration embodying suggestions based on my experience in regard to details of administration as I believe such a review will be of some use to you. I may add that as a citizen I shall always closely associate myself with the working of the Council and place my all at the service of the Council in any matter in which such service may be desired. With my best wishes to you all and for the continued success and prosperity of the Council."

The following is the text of the message to the Secretary and Staff:—

"While leaving down my office today, I must thank you all for the loyal and hard work you have been doing for the Council which rendered my

Mr. R. Subramaniam moved that a committee be appointed to go into the matter and report.

Mr. C. Arulambalam seconded.—Carried.

Mr. R. Subramaniam moved that the Chairman and Messrs. C. Arulambalam and R. Subramaniam be appointed to the Committee.

Mr. R. R. Nalliah seconded.—Carried.

Considered letter dated 23rd December, 1927 from Mr. V. M. Nagalingum re the current drain opposite the factory.

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The following is the text of the message to the Secretary and Staff:—

"While leaving down my office today, I must thank you all for the loyal and hard work you have been doing for the Council which rendered my

NOTICE.

APPLICATIONS FOR ERECTION OF POSTAL BUILDINGS.

Applications are invited for the lease to Government of buildings to be erected according to the Departmental type plan to accommodate the new Post Offices at Gortina, (W. P.) Nildandahinna (C. P.) Murruman (N. P.) and Kikkawa (N.O.P.)

2. Full particulars may be obtained on application at the Addl. Superintendent of Mails' Office, General Post Office, Colombo.

3. Applications should reach the Postmaster-General on or before the 10th February 1928.

M. E. SIKSHTA,
Postmaster-General.

G. 861.

NOTICE.

MOTOR CAR ORDINANCE No. 20 of 1927. FIRE EXTINGUISHERS.

It is hereby notified for the information of the public that the following types of fire extinguishers have been approved by me for use in omnibuses under clause 23 of the fourth Schedule to the Motor Car Ordinance 1927.

MINIMAX (type D)

FRANK.

CANBEC.

Office of the Registrar of Motor Cars,
C. COOMARASWAMY,
Registrar of Motor Cars,
Colombo, 24th Jan. 1928.

G. 863.

AUCTION SALE

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 6028

Achimmata Widow of Thampet Subramaniam of Valluvedditturai

Administratrix.

Vs.

1. Kulandavala Selvamachiam

2. Mylvaganam Ratoavadielu

3. and wife Nilavelithangam

4. Chelliah Viagaperumal

5. wife Alaganunah and others

By virtue of commission issued to me in the above case I shall sell by public auction the undermentioned property on Saturday 18th February 1928 at 3 p.m. at the spot.

Land situated at Vannar North called Vellathalavai in extent 89 Acres. 4 Perches with coconut trees and bounded on the East, North, West, and South by Crown lands of this undivided ½ share.

Jaffna,

26-1-28.

Mis. 1147.

V. A. Durayappah,
Commissioner.

Order Nisi.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 6367.

In the matter of the Estate of the late Mohamed Sultan Mohideen Nachebia wife of Mohamed Abdul Oader Lebbe Alim Neyna Mohamed Lebbe

Deceased.

Mohamed Mohideen Mohamed Samu Neyna Lebbe of Vannarpinnai West in Jaffna

Petitioner.

Vs.

1. Mohamed Abdul Oader Lebbe Alim Neyna Mohamed Lebbe and

2. Fatmamma Nachebia wife of Mohamed Samu Neyna Lebbe of Vannarpinnai West in Jaffna

Respondents.

This matter of the Petition of Mohamed Mohideen Mohamed Samu Neyna Lebbe the Petitioner above named praying for Letters of Administration to the estate of the above named deceased Mohamed Sultan Mohideen Nachebia coming on for disposal before G. W. Woodhouse Esquire, District Judge, on September 28, 1927, in the presence of Mr. S. M. Aboubaker, Proctor on the part of the Petitioner and the affidavit of the Petitioner dated September 24, 1927, having been read, it is declared that the Petitioner is the father 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 November 29, 1927, show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

G. W. Woodhouse,
District Judge.

October 12 1927.

Extended to 14-2-28.

O. 1400.

administration less difficult than it might otherwise have been. I have always impressed upon every one of you that you have to consider yourselves as citizens while you hold office and that in your respective offices you should realize that you are trusted employees rendering noble service to your fellow citizens. In short I have laid emphasis on the fact that you ought to be an honest and efficient representative of the town and rendering an efficient service. Although the rate payers as represented by the Council pay you salaries to enable you to live and work for them. I have impressed on you that you should not regard your positions as merely honorary but on the other hand you should realize that you are selected trustees entrusted with the duties by a democratic body. I am proud of you that you have, generally speaking, risen to this standard and if I have attained any success in my work as Chairman it is due to this civic responsibility which you have manifested in your work. I fully trust you will always maintain the high tradition and maintain the prestige of the Council as its employees. With my best wishes to all of you."

Mr. RUSSELL'S SERVICES APPRECIATED

Mr. T. Moses moved that the Council do place on record its appreciation of the services rendered to the Council by Mr. T. B. Russell, Government Agent, N. P. who is retiring from service by the end of the month.

M. V. S. S. Kumaraswamy seconded.—Carried.

Order Nisi

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 6688.

In the Matter of the Estate of the late Valluvedditturai wife of Saravannam Chelliah of Nainativu

Deceased.

Saravannam Chelliah of Nainativu presently of Colombo

Petitioner.

Vs.

1. Chelliah Sathasivam and

2. Narayana Vallu