

The Hindu Organ.

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THE ONLY NEWSPAPER IN CEYLON FOR THE HINDUS

HAS THE WIDEST CIRCULATION

ESTABLISHED SEPTEMBER 11, 1889.

(REGISTERED AS A NEWSPAPER.)

PUBLISHED EVERY MONDAY AND THURSDAY.

VOL. XXXIX—NO. 64.

JAFFNA, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1928.

PRICE 6 CTS.

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Y. 62.

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H. 61.

The Hindu Organ.

JAFNA, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1928.

GOVERNMENT SCHEME FOR LIQUOR CONTROL.

IF THERE IS A GOVERNMENT MEASURE which is a calculated insult to the self-respect of a people and a deliberate defiance of public opinion, it is the scheme formulated by the Government for the control of intoxicating liquor in Jaffna for the consideration of the Legislative Council in pursuance of its undertaking given to it on the 20th October, 1927. The people of Jaffna asked the Government to promote temperance, but on the other hand it has given them a scheme which will only increase intemperance. They asked the Government to declare the possession of any kind of intoxicating liquor illegal as a logical consequence of the verdict of the people given at the various local option polls, but they are now asked to accept a scheme which will again flood the country with drink, to abolish which the people have incessantly worked for the last one decade.

No scheme for the control of intoxicating liquor will be acceptable to the people of Jaffna which will nullify the good work done in the past and will not effect a real improvement in the existing state of affairs. Under the existing laws the manufacture and sale of toddy are made illegal. Possession of any quantity of toddy over a gallon also falls under the same category. Even this possession is illegal if it is proved that it was illicitly manufactured or transported. The burden of such proof is on the prosecution. In the case of arrack, any sale and the possession of any quantity over two bottles are declared illegal. As regards foreign liquor there is no restriction on possession but it is only sale that is prohibited. If possession of any quantity of any kind of liquor is declared by the Government to be illegal then prohibition by law can be regarded as an accomplished fact. Towards this goal the temperance workers directed their energies. The vast majority of the people in Jaffna has declared in its favour both at the local option polls and in the many public meetings held to support prohibition. The Government has been informed in no uncertain terms by the representatives of the people both before and after the debate that nothing short of prohibition will satisfy the majority of the people. In the face of all this we cannot understand how it has made up its mind to submit a scheme which is really reactionary and mischievous.

Toddy as pointed by us on previous occasions is a demoralising drink. It stupefies the mind and enervates the body. The victim of toddy becomes lazy and dull and incapable of any noble endeavour. It has destroyed peace and happiness of families and has brought poverty and want in its train. The criminal statistics of the Jaffna courts constitute the best evidence of the beneficial effects of temperance work. Lease of 14,000 palmyra trees as suggested by Government for tapping fermented toddy will not only undo the good work accomplished so far but also it will bring back those past evils in a more aggravated form. Under the old law there was only one tavern in a village or group of villages. Under the scheme in question facilities and opportunities for toddy drinking are increased and multiplied by legalising the establishment of a tavern in every palmyra grove. We are sure that the Legislative Council will never be a party to this dexterous manoeuvre to flout the wishes of the people.

As regards foreign liquor and arrack, their possession, consumption and use, except for religious, medicinal and industrial purposes, are prohibited for those domiciled in the Jaffna Peninsula. The effect of this is destroyed by the two provisions which immediately follow making exception in the case of non-domiciled residents in the Jaffna Peninsula and giving power to the Government Agents to decide all questions of domicile subject to an appeal to the Governor in Council. We are sure that the Europeans, Burghers, Sinhalese and the Indians will come under the non-domiciled community. Thus every domiciled Jaffna man who can afford to have a Sinhalese or Indian man-servant or

maid-servant can always have his arrack or foreign liquor without any difficulty. The general upshot of this scheme will be to give arrack or foreign liquor to every Jaffna man who can afford to have a non-domiciled servant and to direct those who cannot afford this luxury to the taverns under the palmyra trees. It is a virtual re-establishment of the drink traffic in its pristine glory. This is to be the fate of the measure of social benevolence initiated by the representatives of the people.

No one need be surprised at the attitude of the Government. It is a rude reminder to every one that the country is ruled by a body of officials who are not responsible to the people and who cannot understand and appreciate their feelings and wishes. These officials belong to a race to which alcohol is the very breath of life. It forms a necessary part of their social life and etiquette. "Alcohol," says Mr. Arnold Bennett in an article contributed to the 'Sunday Pictorial' in August, 1926, "is one of the greatest institutions of the civilised world. It is an object of almost universal affection. It has been the accompaniment of all the finest social events in history. For thousands of years it has celebrated every triumph and softened every defeat. A liquid with its unique record deserves a better fate than to be prohibited. To prohibit alcohol would be to show an obvious lack of the historic sense." A high British official, Sir Basil Blackett was, perhaps, actuated by similar sentiment when he expressed the hope in 1925 in the Indian Legislative Assembly that when the masses of India were sufficiently educated they would come to understand the advantages of moderate drinking. The Ceylon officials too are perhaps following in the footsteps of Sir Basil Blackett by trying to impose the virtues of their alcohol civilisation upon the people of Jaffna. It is stated that the debate on the Government scheme will take place on Thursday next. The fate of prohibition in Ceylon is involved in this important debate. By fighting for prohibition in Jaffna the representatives of the people will only advance the cause of prohibition for the entire Island. We hope the Unofficial Members in Council will show a united front against the Government which is now attempting to go counter to the opinion of the people.



The Late Mr. A. Cathiravelu.

By the death of Mr. A. Cathiravelu, J. P., U. P. M., Jaffna loses an eminent jurist, an ardent patriot and a great and devoted Hindu. Mr. Cathiravelu belongs to a distinguished family some members of which adorned the legal profession and contributed not a little to the growth of unofficial public opinion in Jaffna.

Mr. Cathiravelu received his education in St. John's College, Jaffna and after a brilliant scholastic career decided to join the legal profession as it is the only profession which has afforded wide and free scope for the aspiring Ceylonese talent. In 1889 he commenced his practice as a Proctor in the Jaffna Courts. After a time he joined his distinguished uncle Mr. V. Caspillai as a junior partner in the firm known and styled as Caspillai and Cathiravelu, Proctors. Ever since its formation it has been one of the leading firms of Proctors in Jaffna and commanded a large and lucrative practice. It maintained a high standard of professional honour and stood for all that is noblest in the traditions of the legal profession. The high legal attainments of a practitioner like Mr. Cathiravelu did not long remain unrecognized. When Mr. Caspillai retired from practice Mr. Cathiravelu was appointed Crown Proctor and was made a Justice of the Peace and an Unofficial Police Magistrate for the Jaffna District.

After the re-opening of the minor Courts at Mallagan the Jaffna Magistrate had to be away from the Jaffna Police Court for three days in a week. Such absence of the Magistrate from Jaffna caused considerable inconvenience and hardship to those who go to the Courts

with their grievances. Owing to the outbreak of war the Government was unable to appoint a permanent Additional Police Magistrate. At this juncture Mr. Cathiravelu notwithstanding the heavy pressure of professional work came to the help of the Government and acted as Additional Police Magistrate for more than a decade with great acceptance to the Government as well as to the public.

Mr. Cathiravelu was a gentleman who possessed wide sympathies and liberal outlook of life. His ardent desire for public service could not be checked or repressed by the pressing calls of professional work. In the eighties of the last century the seeds which Sri-la-Sri Arumuga Navalar of revered memory had sown began to bear fruit in more than one direction. Under the leadership of a band of intrepid patriots the dormant Saiva community was stirred up to activity. It was this decade that saw the organisation of the Jaffna Saiva Paripalana Sabha, the establishment of the "Hindu Organ" and the Hindu High School (now known as the Jaffna Hindu College). The opposition of the Missionaries only added strength and vigour to the Movement. When young Cathiravelu returned to Jaffna after completing his legal course he threw himself heart and soul into the Movement and contributed not a little to its success. For a number of years he edited this paper along with the late Mr. A. Sapapathy with great ability and satisfaction to the public. The tribute which Mr. Sapapathy paid to Mr. Cathiravelu as co-editor of the "Hindu Organ" in its Silver Jubilee number is published elsewhere for the information of our readers.

When the Local Board was established in Jaffna, Mr. Cathiravelu was elected as a Member for a number of terms until he retired in favour of Mr. C. Arumugam, Advocate.

Mr. Cathiravelu was a warm supporter of the Hindu Board of Education. He served on the Committee of the Board from its inception and was its Vice-President from last year. He is one of those who made the movement popular by addressing many a meeting in the villages.

Every public man is really an adviser to the Government. Such advice should be given fearlessly and in a spirit of disinterestedness. Mr. Cathiravelu is one of the few who has attained the high standard of public virtue as described by Singama Sura in Skanda Purana in the following lines:—

மன்னவர் செவியுடன் மடுத்த தாமரை
நன்னெறி தருகுவதோர் கெழு நீதிமயம்
சொன்னவர் அமைச்சர் கிணைவர் மேலுயர்
சொன்னவர் வினாறுதவர் முகங்கின் றுந்

Mr. Cathiravelu was always noted for fearless independence and courage of his convictions. Whether in the Local Board or outside he never sacrificed his convictions or conscience either to curry favour with the Government or to win the applause of any section of the people in order to promote his own interest. He never obscured or evaded vital issues by niceties of distinctions or pompous verbosity, nor was he ever enigmatic in his utterances like some of our leaders. He never hesitated to call a spade a spade.

The death of such a leader is really a loss to Jaffna. Mr. Cathiravelu is no longer with us in person but he leaves behind him an enduring example of public spirit and noble devotion to public weal which will always be remembered and cherished by the people of Jaffna. We extended our sympathy to his uncle Mr. Caspillai, the only surviving link with the historic past and also to the other members of the bereaved family.

Public Notices.

A PUBLIC LECTURE:—Mr. M. S. Rasaratnam, Advocate and Editor, "Hindu Organ", will deliver a lecture on *Siva Thondu* at the newly started Vernacular Branch School adjoining the Tiruvasakamamooru Moorthy Nayanar English School, Karainagar, today (Monday) at 6 p. m. The Hon. Mr. W. Duraiswamy will preside.

PERSONAL:—Mr. R. Sivagurusathar, Proctor S. C. and Notary, Chairman, Urban District Council, Jaffna, left for Colombo on Tuesday last on a short visit and is expected back tomorrow (Tuesday).

—Dr. K. Goomaraswamy, Medical Officer, Karvaag F. M. S. has come on four months leave and is staying at his residence at Vadukottal.

—Mr. O. C. Somasekaram, Proctor S. C. of Columbarural, Jaffna, is to be a Notary Public practising in the English Language throughout the judicial division of Dumbura.

DRAWING CLASSES FOR VERNACULAR TEACHERS:—We understand that Drawing Classes for Vernacular teachers will be held on Saturdays from 9 to 11 a. m. at the following centres commencing from Saturday 18th February 1928:—Jaffna Central College (for men and women); Chunnakam Ramanathan College (for women only). The classes will be conducted for a period of 9 months (36 sittings). Drawing Certificates will be issued to those who pass the examination at the end of the course. Only teachers who have put in at least 20 lectures before next December will be eligible to send applications for the examination. Teachers who have once attended a similar course and sat for the examination but failed to get a pass will be permitted to sit for the next examination, if they put in at least ten lectures in this year's course.

Y. M. H. A., COLOMBO:—A special meeting of the Y. M. H. A., New Bazaar Ward, Colombo, was held at the union room of the Association at Belmont Street, Colombo, on the 12th February, 1928, at 7 a. m. to consider if capital punishment should or should not be abolished and also to consider the advisability to distribute books to each member of the Association with a view to keep the members in constant touch with the high ideals of Hindu literature. After much discussion it was agreed in respect of the matter of capital punishment to submit the final views of the Association to all the Hindu Sabhas of the Island, viz. "Capital punishment is necessary in case of intentional, deliberate and well planned murder and not otherwise," and thereafter the decision of the said Sabhas should be conveyed to the proper authorities for necessary action. As regards the 2nd item (distribution of books to the members) it was decided unanimously to immediately inaugurate a library under the auspices of the Association for the purpose of circulation of Books and Magazines only amongst those members who reside within the Ward limits of the Association.

Control of Liquor Traffic

GOVERNMENT SCHEME FOR JAFFNA

TAVERNS FOR TODDY

The following are extracts from the Government scheme for the control of liquor in the Jaffna Peninsula as outlined in the text of a motion which the Hon. the Colonial Secretary is to move in the Legislative Council this week:—

FOREIGN LIQUOR AND ARRACK

In the Case of Persons domiciled in the Jaffna Peninsula.—The possession, consumption and use of foreign liquor and arrack shall be prohibited, except in cases where the Government Agent, Northern Province, may by permit, the issue of which shall be in his sole discretion, authorize such possession, consumption or use for religious, medicinal, or industrial purposes only.

In the Case of Persons not domiciled in the Jaffna Peninsula.—The Government Agent, Northern Province, may by permit, the issue of which shall be in his sole discretion, authorize the possession, consumption, or use of such amount of foreign liquor or arrack as may appear to him to be reasonable in each individual case.

The Government Agent, Northern Province, shall decide all questions of domicile in the first instance, subject to an appeal to the Governor in Council.

TODDY

The Excise Commissioner may subject to an appeal to the Governor in Council against refusal of a licence, issue licences to tap palmyra trees in the Jaffna Peninsula:—

- For the drawing of sweet toddy, subject to the rules in Schedule A; and
- For the drawing of fermented toddy, and the sale or disposal of such toddy at the tree foot, subject to the rules in Schedule B: Provided that not more than 15,000 trees shall be licensed for the drawing of fermented toddy.

The Government shall be authorized to employ Customs and Excise staff and to incur expenditure as shown in Schedules C and D. (These two schedules have been deleted.)

SCHEDULE A.

TAPPING PALMYRA TREES FOR SWEET TODDY.
Applications for licences to be made in a form prescribed by the Government Agent, obtainable from the Assistant Superintendent of Excise or the Range Inspector. A fee of 25 cents in stamps for each tree to be forwarded to the Assistant Superintendent with the application.

Licences to be issued by the Assistant Superintendent for those villages only which are specified in the appendix, to bona fide manufacturers of jaggery or to owners of palmyra trees desirous of tapping their trees for sweet toddy or leasing them for such tapping.

The Assistant Superintendent to mark trees covered by a licence when issued, and no tree to be tapped or prepared for tapping until so marked.

Licences not to be issued to persons holding licences to tap for fermented toddy, and licences not to tap for fermented toddy any trees covered by their licence.

Licences to expire on September 30 next following date of issue.

Sweet toddy to be drawn only in pots freshly coated with lime, and no other pots to be kept on the trees.

Sweet toddy to be removed from the trees only between sunrise and sunset and to be made into jaggery as soon as removed.

No toddy to be kept between sunset and sunrise except in the pots on the trees.

Licences may be cancelled or suspended and flowers may be destroyed, if any breach of conditions of a licence, or any offence against the Excise Ordinance, is committed by the licensee or his employee, and no fresh licence will be issued without the permission of the Assistant Commissioner of Excise.

The Assistant Superintendent may refuse a licence to an applicant on proof of illicit tapping of any of the applicant's trees.

The owner of land on which illicit tapping takes place, or, if such land is leased, the lessee, and any person resident upon such land shall be guilty of an offence.

Appendix

VILLAGES IN CHIEF HEADMEN'S DIVISIONS.
The following Chief Headmen's divisions have been created for the purpose of the scheme:—

Tenmarachchi, including the villages of: Idankarochchi, Karampakarochchi, Mendavil North, Mendavil North, Navatkadu, Varani North, Varani South.

Vadamarachchi West, including the villages of: Alval North, Alval South, Alval West, Imaynam, Polikandy, Puloiy East, Puloiy South, Thannakarakurichchi, Thumpal.

Vadamarachchi West, including the villages of: Vavudedy, Varathupama.

Vallamam North, including the villages of: Channakam, Erali, Myndu North, Myndu South, Palai, Thumpal East, Thumpal North West, Thumpal South West, Thumpal South, Vavilam.

Vallamam West, which consists of: Mathagal, Periyavilam, Sivavilam.

SCHEDULE B.

FERMENTED TODDY & TREE FOOT SALE.
Applications for licences to be made on a form obtainable at the Kancheri, and to be presented at the Kancheri with a fee of Rs. 12 for each tree. Not more than 20 trees to be included in one licence.

Continued up.

The Late Mr. A. Cathiravelu

AN ONE TIME CO EDITOR'S TRIBUTE

The following tribute to Mr. A. Cathiravelu appeared in the Silver Jubilee Number of the "Hindu Organ" published in June, 1915:—

"Mr. A. Cathiravelu took a very prominent and leading part as joint Editor from the early part of 1891 to July 1893 when he practically severed his connection with the paper and Mr. A. Sapatapathy became sole Editor. In fact he contributed during this period of joint Editorship more articles to its columns than Mr. Sapatapathy. The former again joined the staff as co Editor in July 1893 when the paper was converted into an English Weekly, the Tamil being separated and published as a fortnightly, and continued to be so for a few years after the "Hindu Organ" was enlarged in size and improved in form in July 1906. Though Mr. Cathiravelu ceased to be joint Editor between July 1893 to July 1899, yet he very readily acted as Editor more than once during the absence of Mr. Sapatapathy from Jaffna and did not lose his interest in the "Hindu Organ". Owing, however, to increased professional duties he has not been able during the last seven years or so, to continue his connection with the paper. The "Hindu Organ" and the Hindu community are under very deep debt of gratitude to Mr. Cathiravelu for coming to the rescue of the paper soon after the death of Mr. Chelappah Pillai and editing it with great public spirit, conspicuous ability and at considerable self-sacrifice for such prolonged periods as those during which he was connected with the "Hindu Organ". We think we correctly and truly summarized Mr. Cathiravelu's services in connection with this paper and his worth as an Editor in the following paragraph which we wrote in the course of an Editorial reviewing the past history of the "Hindu Organ", which appeared in its issue of the 10th July 1913, when the first number of the bi-weekly edition was published:—

"The 'Hindu Organ' has had no paid Editors. Its first Editor was that erudite scholar and eminent journalist, the late Mr. T. Chelappah Pillai, B.A., B.L., retired Chief Justice of Travancore, whose learned articles at the start were very much admired by the public and established a status to the paper. Ill health having compelled him to retire from the Editorship in about 18 months of the founding of the paper, a short interregnum followed; and then at the request of the Siva Pattalam a cabal whose property the paper was, as it is now, Mr. A. Cathiravelu, Proctor, and the present writer, as joint Editors, undertook to edit it, till a better and more satisfactory arrangement could be made. Mr. Cathiravelu continued to be a very valuable colleague, for several years. In fact his articles were characterized by breadth of view, vastness of information, and soundness of judgment, maintaining the reputation of the paper as a useful and impartial organ of the public. He, however, owing to the growing needs of his professional duties, has been unable for some years past to take part in the editing of the paper, although in times of need his services were ungrudgingly given."

Continued.

Applicant to deliver receipted application to the Assistant Superintendent of Excise, who issues the licence and has the trees marked. No trees to be tapped or prepared for tapping until so marked.

Licences to expire on September 30 after date of issue.

Fermented toddy not to be drawn in areas reserved for sweet toddy licences.

Fermented toddy not to be removed from the garden where it is drawn, but acid or consumed before sunset, and if not so sold or consumed, to be destroyed at the tree foot before sunset.

Fermented toddy to be kept during the day only at the tree-foot or in an open shed in the garden where it is drawn.

Drawing and possession of fermented toddy after sunset to be prohibited.

Possession of stale toddy, and mixing of stale toddy with fresh toddy to be prohibited.

Toddy found in the possession of any person contrary to the rules may be destroyed.

Licences may be cancelled or suspended and flowers may be destroyed if any breach of conditions of a licence, or any offence against the Excise Ordinance, is committed by licensee or his employee, and no fresh licence will be issued without the permission of the Assistant Commissioner of Excise.

Persons twice convicted of illicit tapping or illicit possession or sale of toddy to be ineligible for licences.

The Assistant Superintendent may refuse a licence to an applicant on proof of illicit tapping of any of the applicant's trees.

The owner of land on which illicit tapping takes place, or, if such land is leased, the lessee, and any person resident upon such land shall be guilty of an offence.

Notice.

The undermentioned Government timber lying at the Jaffna Depot will be sold by public auction on the spot by the Divisional Forest Officer, Northern Division, Jaffna on Monday, March 5, 1928, at 9 a.m.

Lot I. 100 Palm logs.

" II. 60 Balm logs.

" III. 50 Balm assortings.

" IV. 3 Tons Sola pieces.

For further particulars, please see Notice appearing in Govt. Gazette No. 7,080 of 17th February, 1928.

J. D. BARGENT, Conservator of Forests.

Office of the Conservator of Forests, Kandy, February 14, 1928.

G. 871.

Words of wisdom from far & near

(SPECIAL TO THE "HINDU ORGAN")

"The Hindu is not by inclination a tyrant or oppressor. It gives him no pleasure to cause pain to others. His religion teaches him humanity. His philosophy, his bodily training, his bodily habits are not those of the tyrant."

—Alfred Oatthill (A retired I. O. S.) in his "The Garden of Adonia"

"The only way to world peace is not the League of Nations but a League of Peoples of Earth."

—Major Owen Thomas, Organizer, Peace and Fellowship Society.

"Religion presents itself to man under four aspects; as something to be gone through with or performed; as something to be believed; as something to be studied, analysed or speculated with; and as something to be experienced. In other words, it presents itself as a ceremonial, as a creed, as a philosophy and as a life."

—Rev. J. T. Sanderland, D. D. in "We face" of Deer, 1927.

"The feeling of vigour, of bodily well being, spells more of stimulation and exuberance than the costliest wines and there is no headache the next morning."

—H. M. Stogman in "The Oriental Watchman"

"Power that is the greatest enemy of mankind—the ambition to procure power greater than is already possessed, a desire to widen the borders of a country by conquest, the enriching of a Nation at the expense and suffering of others. That is the secret of the difficulties of the world today."

—H. M. King Albert of Belgium, in "Tit Bits," 14.1.28

"When husband and wife quarrel nothing annoys them more than for the next door neighbour to intervene, and it is the same with Nations."

—A. G. Gardiner in John Bull of 17.12.27

"There is probably no single instance in history of one nation ruling over another and keeping it in subordination, without in the end accomplishing harm to the subjected peoples."

—Mr. C. F. Andrews in "People" of Lahore 26.1.28.

"Every religion has the right to admit to the fold people of other religions by genuine conversion. But all religions ought to be ashamed of travesties of conversion."

—Editor, "Modern Review" February 1928

"I am certain that nowhere in the world peace, security and happiness be found by force of arms. It never has been so secured for the mass of the people."

—George Lansbury, M. P. in "Service" of London.

OBITUARY.

MR. A. CATHIRAVELU.

We regret to record the death of Mr. A. Cathiravelu, J.P., U.P.M., Crown Proctor, Jaffna, on last Thursday night at his residence at Chivietaru after a protracted illness. The funeral took place on Saturday morning and was well attended. He leaves behind him to bewail his loss two sons, Mr. Sivapattam of the Ceylon Civil Service, who is now in England, and Mr. Ponnampalam, Advocate student and two daughters, Mrs. Candish, wife of Dr. C. Candish, J.M.O. and Mrs. Caspillat, wife of Mr. P. Caspillat, Proctor S.O., and a host of friends and relations.

MRS. V. KANAGARAJAH

We regret to record the sad and untimely death of Seervaram, beloved wife of Mr. V. Kanagarajah, Government Surveyor, Naval, Jaffna, which took place at her residence on Thursday last after a brief illness. The funeral took place the following day at the Naval crematorium and was largely attended. The deceased lady is a daughter of the late Mr. Murguesu Udayar of Naval and a niece of Mr. K. Kappillat, Notary Public of Manipay. We extend our condolences to the bereaved husband and the other members of the family.

HINDU BOARD OF EDUCATION.

The annual general meeting of the Hindu Board of Education will be held on Sunday the 26th inst. at 10 a.m. at the Jaffna Hindu College Hall.

AGENDA.

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|-------------|--|
| A. M. | 1. Thevaram |
| 10-11-30 | 2. Confirmation of the minutes |
| | 3. Secretary's Report |
| | 4. Treasurer's Balance Sheet |
| | 5. Retirement of Directors of Section B and re-Election |
| | 6. Election of Office-Bearers |
| | 7. Thevaram. |
| 11-30-12-30 | Conference of Teachers: Discussion.—"Religious Instruction in Schools" |

Breakfast.

P. M.
3-5
Public Meeting.
Speeches on (1) The work before us by Mr. M. S. Rasaratnam, (2) Plan of Campaign by Hon. Mr. S. Rajaratnam and Mr. S. Sivapattamudaram.

5-6-30
Garden Party.
By Order of the Committee, M. S. RASARATNAM.

Honv. Secy.
Jaffna, 16.2.28.
Mis. 1163.

The Northern Assizes.

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT FOR CARPENTER.

At the Jaffna Assizes the sixth case was taken up for trial on the 14th instant before Mr. Justice Allen Driehberg and an English speaking jury with Mr. A. M. Broodie as the foreman. In which a mauling and well built and sturdy carpenter, Amuplay Cathiravelu of Malignam stood charged with having on the 11th of December last, committed murder by causing the death of another carpenter, Murguesu Sangarapillai of the same village by cutting him with an axe and also, with a second charge of having on the same date attempted to commit murder by causing with the same weapon a woman Sinnatangam of Malignam. The accused pleaded not guilty and was demanded by Mr. H. A. P. Sandrasegaram, K.C., with Messrs. V. Joseph and A. S. Vanniasagaram instructed by Mr. T. O. Rajaratnam.

AFRAY BETWEEN TWO SISTERS.

The case for the prosecution was that the accused and the deceased married two sisters. The accused and the deceased had been on an account of the former not attending the Anthiddu ceremony of a child of the latter, which took place in April last. From that time forward feelings between the two were estranged and they were not in speaking terms with one another, but they used to abuse one another. Few days before the incident, there was a quarrel between the two over the fruits of a mango tree, belonging to the deceased a few branches of which were overhanging in the compound of the accused. The accused was in the habit of abusing the deceased day in and day out.

THE FATAL NIGHT.

On the night in question at 10 o'clock the deceased after his dinner went out smoking to his gate when he heard the accused abuse him in filthy language, dragging in his mother's name etc. Thereupon the deceased remonstrated and questioned the accused why he was abusing like that. The deceased had by that time gone to an open land adjoining the compound of the accused. Being the deceased, the accused came out of his compound saying, "What will you do if I abuse you?"—and cut the deceased on the forehead with an axe he had in his hand. The deceased fell down bleeding profusely. A woman Sinnatangam, related to both the deceased and the accused raised an alarm. The accused without any hesitation rushed at the woman and dealt a blow with the same weapon on the right side of her forehead. This woman had gone to the spot ahead of her husband both of them anticipating some serious fight between the accused and the deceased. On the woman taking down injured, the murderer's eyes fell on her husband; the accused rushed at his third prey but of his own accord refrained without doing any harm to the latter and fled from the spot. The deceased man succumbed at the very spot itself within a short time of his receiving the injury, which was an incise wound on the right side of the forehead 4" long and 2" deep. Very serious damage was caused to the brain and the Medical Officer who gave evidence was of opinion that the injury was necessarily a fatal one.

The woman, Sinnatangam who had also sustained a serious injury 2 1/2" long and 3" deep on the right forehead was in danger of life for some days in the hospital where she remained for about a month and had now recovered. But still, the J. M. O. was of opinion that such an injury was liable to impair her memory and as a matter of fact, she could not talk rationally or remember the assault on her while she was in hospital. The Medical Officer further said that the accused had some slight abrasions on his body and those could have been caused while the accused was walking through fence-fences.

PLEA OF GUILTY ON LESSEER OFFENCE.

The position of the defence was that the deceased was a drunkard and a rowdy, who had been once fined for assaulting a man in Court in the presence of the Magistrate. The deceased was married to accused's sister in law quite against the wish of her father and the accused, and the marriage, too, was not solemnized according to their custom. After a child was born to the accused, the deceased and the accused became friends. But the child died and the deceased did not attend the Anthiddu ceremony. They again fell out and both were in the habit of abusing each other. The accused and the deceased were without children and the property of the accused's wife would under such circumstances descend on deceased's wife and her brother. The enmity between the two parties reached its pitch when the accused's wife transferred her dowry property to her husband. The deceased could not bear this serious trick played on him by the accused. On the night in question the accused and the deceased engaged themselves in wordy warfare in the course of which very filthy language was exchanged on both sides. Besides the deceased had advanced up to the gate of the accused. The accused, a deaf man got easily provoked, as all deaf men were, and on the sudden and grave provocation given by the deceased, committed the offence on a sudden impulse. The accused would therefore become guilty of culpable homicide not amounting to murder.

The Jury returned a unanimous verdict of guilty of murder.

Before sentence was passed the accused stated, "Valliamam, Sinnatangam, Kandiah and I were all got into my land and assaulted me and wanted to kill me. They dragged me out of my land and wanted to tie me to a tulip tree. While I was asking me, Kandiah assaulted me with a stick and the blow migrated partly on my leg and partly on the tulip tree. It was dark at that time. The view of the other people fell on my back. I picked up a piece of firewood and struck with it and I can't say whom it struck."

His Lordship passed sentence of death on the accused, the execution to take place at the Welikadal Jail, Colombo on the 21st March 1928.

CHANGE OF NAME.

I, Subramaniam Vennayagamoorthy of Arinady, Puloiy West, Ponn Pedro (now a clerk in the Mullaitivu Kachcheri) hereby inform the public and Government that though my name has been registered as "Vennasithamby" at my birth, I have been always called and known as Vennayagamoorthy, and I shall from March 1, 1928 call myself and sign my name as S. V. Moorthy.

S. VENAYAGAMOORTHY.

