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Y. 62.

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H. 61.

# Order Nisi.

## IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 6895.

In the matter of the estate of the late Sinnathamby Candiah of Moolay

Deceased.

Nagammattupillai widow of Sinnathamby Candiah of Moolay Petitioner.

vs.

1. Multukumar Appachobay of Moolay presently of Kuala Lumpur in F. M. S.
2. and wife Vallinayagam of Moolay
3. Mutukumar Vaitulingam and wife
4. Theivansayam of Moolay presently of Kuala Langat, Selangore in F. M. S.

Respondents.

This matter of the Petition of the abovenamed Petitioner praying for Letters of Administration to the estate of the abovenamed deceased, coming on for disposal before J. C. W. Rock Esquire, in the District Judge, Jaffna, on February 22, 1928, in the presence of Mr. A. K. Navaratnam Proctor, on the part of the Petitioner and the said writ of the Petitioner dated February 20, 1928, having been read:

It is ordered that the Petitioner, as the widow of the deceased, is entitled to have Letters of Administration to the estate of the abovenamed deceased issued to her accordingly unless the abovenamed Respondents or any others shall on or before March 27, 1928, show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

7th March 1928. J. C. W. Rock, District Judge. O. 1480.

# The Hindu Organ.

JAFFNA, MONDAY, MARCH 19, 1928

## LIQUOR CONTROL IN JAFFNA.

IN CONTRAST WITH THE HON. MR. BALASINGHAM'S defection is the notable contribution which the Hon. Mr. Canagaratnam made on Monday last to the discussion of re-introducing toddy in Jaffna. Mr. Canagaratnam ably exposed the fallacies and refuted the arguments of those who supported the interest of toddy-drinkers and tappers.

On Thursday last the debate on toddy was resumed and the discussion centred on the Hon. Mr. Senanayake's amendment relating the Government regulation relating to the licensing of 14,000 palmyra trees for fermented toddy. It should be said to the credit of Mr. Senanayake and his other Sinhalese colleagues in Council that they maintained a fair and reasonable attitude throughout this debate. This is evidenced by Mr. Senanayake's readiness to accept the Hon. Mr. Duraiswamy's suggestion to insert the words "possession of toddy shall be declared illegal in the Jaffna Peninsula" in place of the clause which he proposed to delete. The possession of toddy constituted the vital point in the debate. The discussion that ensued subsequently showed that Mr. Senanayake was compelled to withdraw this amendment and confine himself to his original one owing to Mr. Balasingham's manoeuvres and the opposition of the Government which has gone behind the agreement arrived at a Conference between it and the Jaffna Members held on 6th January, 1928.

It was patent from the very beginning that the Government had made up its mind to nib the prohibition movement in the bud. The Excise Commission was appointed to make recommendations to regulate and control liquor traffic with a view to minimise the evils of drink. It is a mixed body composed of Officials and Unofficials. One of its recommendations is that only 500 trees should be permitted for the tapping of fermented toddy. The headline of the Report is entitled "Registration of Liquor Consumers on 'Pass Book' or 'Permit System.'" There is nothing in the Report which justifies the contention of the Government ally Mr. Balasingham that the Excise Commission contemplated sale of toddy at the foot of the tree. The very headline quoted above belies this contention. The Government scheme regarding toddy is entirely opposed to the letter and spirit of the Excise Commission's recommendations. Further the Government's attitude towards toddy is inconsistent with the agreement of January 6, 1928.

When this was pointed out by Mr. Duraiswamy, the Colonial Secretary tried to wriggle out of the difficulty by saying that when they came to the agreement he was under a misapprehension regarding the illegality of tapping trees for fermented toddy. This is really a sad confession for the Colonial Secretary to make. To say that there is no statutory provision which prohibits tapping for fermented toddy is only a legal quibble. Under the Excise Ordinance the Government Agent is authorised to issue licences to tap trees for fermented toddy. This is done by him only when there are taverns. With their closure the authority to issue licences altogether disappears. Under the existing circumstances tapping is illegal and the Colonial Secretary was aware of it at the time of the agreement. The breach of agreement on the part of the Government cannot be covered by trying to take refuge under legal quibbles.

If the Government has gone back or attempted to go back on its solemn agreement the Jaffna members in Council should have stood firm and shown a united front in this matter. They should have unflinchingly insisted on the Government carrying out its agreement. It is regrettable that only three members realised their responsibilities and fought to the last. The solid phalanx which the Jaffna Councillors showed in October last was broken by the defection of Mr. Balasingham and the absence of the Hon. Sir P. Ramanathan and the Hon. Mr. Sabaratnam from the debate altogether. Valikamau North which is the constituency of Sir P. Ramanathan is the storm centre of the prohibition movement in Jaffna. It is the first Maniagar's division that went "dry". In the October debate Sir P. Ramanathan voiced the wishes of the people of Jaffna when he declared that they wished for prohibition. However much we may regret his absence from this debate we cannot find fault with him for the reason that the prolonged debate on the University Site had been a severe strain on his advancing old age and continued travelling to Colombo might have injuriously affected his health. But the same thing could not be said of the young Councillor, Mr. Sabaratnam, who initiated the prohibition debate in Council. His absence from Council during this debate is a serious dereliction of duty. We hope that his constituents will see that he does not take his duty so light-heartedly.

The thanks of the Jaffna public are due to Messrs. Duraiswamy, Canagaratnam and Rajaratnam for the manly efforts they have made to promote the cause of temperance notwithstanding Government opposition and defection of some of their colleagues. They may not have achieved all they wanted but they have frustrated the clever move of the Government to undo the good work of the past and to establish taverns under every palmyra grove in Jaffna.

## EDITORIAL NOTE.

THE JAFFNA HINDU COLLEGE.—We are glad to announce that Mr. V. R. Venkataraman M. A., has been appointed for the post of Principal, Jaffna Hindu College. Mr. Venkataraman had a brilliant scholastic career at the Madras University, obtaining First Class both in the F. A. and the B. A. Examinations of the same University. His optional subject for his degree was Philosophy in which he obtained high marks that he was awarded a gold medal by the University. A few years after passing his B. A. he took his M. A. degree in English and was placed in the Second Class. For several years he has been Professor of English and Philosophy in some of the leading colleges in South India before he was appointed Principal and Professor of English at the Madras College, a first grade institution in India. Mr. Venkataraman is only 38 years 'old'. He will assume work next term. The College authorities ought to be congratulated on securing the services of a gentleman who has had considerable educational and administrative experience.

Mr. M. Sabaratnam, M. A., who has been the Acting Principal ever since Mr. W. A. Zang left has been appointed Vice-Principal. We congratulate Mr. Singhe on his well-deserved promotion.

## LOCAL & GENERAL.

OFFICIAL.—Mr. L. D. O. Hughes is to be the Assistant at Mannar to the Government Agent, Northern Province, from March 14.

—Mr. S. Subramaniam is to be Additional Commissioner of Requests and Police Magistrate, Chavakkachcheri, on March 21 and 22.

—Mr. T. C. Tharmalingam is to be Additional Police Magistrate, Batticaloa, from March 18 to 24, 1928.

CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION.—In reply to the question of the Hon. Mr. S. Rajaratnam in the Legislative Council on Thursday last requesting the Government to hold the Civil Service Examination in Ceylon also, the Colonial Secretary said that the Civil Service Commissioners are willing to hold the Examination both in Ceylon and in England at the same time. The Government have asked them to make a commencement from 1929.

THE CLIFFORD DESPATCH.—The Hon. Mr. A. F. Molamure brought forward a motion on Thursday last in the Legislative Council demanding from the Government the publication in full of Sir Clifford's despatch to the Secretary of State for the Colonies on the Reform of the Ceylon constitution, (which led to the appointment of the Special Commission on Estates). On behalf of the Government, the Colonial Secretary refused to publish the despatch. This attitude of the Government provoked angry protests on the part of the Unofficial Members who defeated the Government and carried Mr. Molamure's motion—"Impairs confidence in the Government."

RAILWAY DISASTER INQUIRY.—The Magistrate's inquiry into the deaths at the recent railway disaster in the Coast Line will be concluded to-day (Monday). The public inquiry by the Committee appointed by H. E. the Governor will be commenced soon. A telegram of condolences has been received from the Secretary of State over the disaster.

GANDHI AND HIS SPEECHES IN CEYLON.—Mr. V. E. Mylvaganam writes under date Colombo, 16/3/28.—That according to the information he has had from Mahatma Gandhi's private secretary, Mahatmaji has ready for publication a book of his speeches and a record of other events relating to his recent tour in India and Ceylon. The volume containing an authorised version of his speeches will be out at the end of this month.

EXCISE LEARNERS' CLASS.—Monday, March 26, will be the last date for receipt of applications for admission to the next Excise Learners' Class. Applications should be on prescribed forms obtainable from the Excise Commissioner or from an Assistant Excise Commissioner subject to the following conditions:—(1) Applicants must have passed the Cambridge Senior Local or the London Matriculation Examination; and (2) They must have completed their 19th year, but not completed their 24th year on January 1, 1928.

APPEALS TO PRIVY COUNCIL.—Last Friday's Gazette publishes certain revised and consolidated rules regulating the practice and procedure in the matter of appeals to His Majesty in Council, for general information.

JAFFNA R. E. D. COMMITTEE.—A summary of accounts of the Jaffna Rural Education District Committee for 1927 is published in the same Gazette. The receipts amount to Rs. 74,643.61 and the payments amount to Rs. 13,994.93 leaving a balance of Rs. 60,648.68 on 1st January, 1928. The Chairman of the above Committee is the Hon. Sir P. Ramanathan.

R. E. D. COMMITTEE, MANNAR.—The same Gazette publishes the annual accounts of the Rural Education District Committee, Mannar, for 1927. The revenues is Rs. 4,594.05. The expenditure is Rs. 3,343.21 leaving a balance of Rs. 1,250.84 at the end of the year. The Chairman of the above Committee is Mudir. S. Anandam, Crown Proctor, Mannar.

ENGLISH TEXT BOOK FOR LONDON B. A.—The Senate of the London University have passed the following resolution viz. "Candidates offering English at the B. A. Pass Examination for External Students in 1928 and 1929 be permitted to study the prescribed book 'Barbour: The Bruce, Books XI, XIII' in the abridged text edited by W. M. Mackenzie."

## Jaffna Hindu College O. B. A.

### ACTIVITIES OF COLOMBO BRANCH.

A meeting of the Managing Committee of the above association was held at the Y. M. C. A. on the 12th instant at 5 p. m. with Mr. M. Vairamuttu in the chair. Before going into the business on the agenda a vote of condolence was passed on the death of Sr. Ambaswaran Kanagasabai, the President of the Board of Directors of the Jaffna Hindu College.

Then the program of work for the year was considered and a sub-committee was appointed to compile a complete register of old boys; it was decided to have periodically (a) inter-association debates and public lectures, (b) tennis tournaments, (c) Volley-Ball matches and (d) picnic parties to the centre of the year. Messrs. M. Vairamuttu, M. C. Nadarajah, S. Amirthalingam and V. Paramanathan were appointed respectively to make the necessary arrangements for the foregoing items and submit details to the Managing Committee. The advisability of arranging an Old Boys Dinner annually on the occasion of the Old Boys Day was also noted for consideration.

The meeting terminated at about 8.30 p. m., with a vote of thanks to the authorities of the Y. M. C. A., and to the Chairman,

## Conference on Liquor Control.

### GOVERNMENT & JAFFNA COUNCILLORS.

The following were present at a conference held in the Colonial Secretary's Office at 10 a. m. on January 6, 1928 on the subject of liquor control in Jaffna:—The Colonial Secretary (in the Chair), The Hon. Messrs. F. G. Tyrrell, W. E. Wait, W. Duraiswamy, S. Rajaratnam, A. Canagaratnam and T. M. Sabaratnam, and The Government Agent, N. P., the Excise Commissioner and Messrs. C. H. Collins and W. L. Murphy.

The covering memorandum circulated to members together with the reports of the Excise Commissioner on measures required for (a) the introduction of a tree tax system for toddy producing trees and (c) the control of consumption of arrack and foreign liquor by a permit system in the Jaffna District and the report of the Principal Collector of Customs stating the requirements necessary to enable his Department to co-operate effectively with the Excise Dept. in enforcing the proposed system were considered.

It was decided that in the case of arrack and foreign liquor a permit system should be issued by a Committee consisting of the Govt. Agent and two of the territorial members of the Legislative Council for the Jaffna Peninsula. No permits should be issued to anyone domiciled in Ceylon or India other than Burguers but in the case of Govt. Officials who are sent to Jaffna permits may be granted by the Board. It was further decided that a licence fee of twenty five cents per tree should be paid for permits to tap for sweet toddy.

As regards fermented toddy, it was decided that its possession should be made illegal in the Jaffna Peninsula. This was subject to the proviso that the Government Agent should have power to exempt in special cases persons requiring toddy for industrial or medicinal purposes.

The consideration of the preventive staff necessary to enforce these restrictions was postponed until 4.30 p. m. today at the office of the Principal Collector of Customs, where the proposal circulated to the Members will be considered by them with the Principal Collector of Customs and the Excise Commissioner.

### Memorandum referred to above:—

#### EXCISE COMMISSION.

The following are the Minutes of a Meeting of the Excise Commission held on Saturday, February 26, 1927, at 11 a. m., at the Members' Room, Legislative Council Chamber, Colombo:—

Present:—The following members of the Commission: Hon. Mr. W. E. Wait, in the chair; Sr. Marcus Fernando; Hon. Messrs. W. Duraiswamy, S. Rajaratnam and W. A. de Silva; Messrs. T. R. Roberts, Excise Commissioner, and A. V. Dias; and the following Members of the Executive and Legislative Councils: Hon. Messrs. K. Balasingham; D. S. Senanayake; and T. M. Sabaratnam; and as Secretary of the meeting Mr. G. S. Woodman, Deputy Commissioner of Excise.

#### Registration of Liquor Consumers on "Pass Book" or "Permit" System, Arrack and Foreign Liquor.

After some discussion it was decided that a "permit" or "pass book" system of registering and licensing consumers of arrack and foreign liquor should be introduced into the Jaffna peninsula and the islands.

The following were the broad lines laid down after discussion:—

#### Issue of Permits for Special Purposes.

Permits may be issued by the Government Agents, Northern Province, for:—

(i) Medicinal purposes (ii) Sacramental purposes. (iii) Industrial purposes.

#### Issue of Permits to Ordinary Consumers.

For the issue of liquor apart from the above purpose, an Advisory Board shall be constituted to aid the Government Agent in drawing up and working a "permit" or "pass book" system for the registration and licensing of consumers of arrack and foreign liquor in Jaffna peninsula and islands.

#### Constitution of Advisory Board.

The Advisory Board shall consist of the Government Agent of the Northern Province and the Territorial Members of the Legislative Council for the district. Three to form a quorum.

#### Maximum Quantity for the District.

The maximum quantity of liquor to be issued in the district shall not ordinarily exceed 300 gallons of arrack and 50 gallons of foreign liquor a month.

#### Applications for Permits.

Applications for permits will in the first instance be received and scrutinized by the Government Agent. If he finds that to grant make a satisfactory allotment of permits within the maximum of 300 gallons of arrack and 50 gallons of foreign liquor above prescribed, he will lay the position before the Advisory Board, which will decide, after scrutiny of the list of applicants, whether the maximum shall be exceeded or not.

Continued on p.

Composition of Oriental Music.

LECTURE AT THE SANGEETHA SAMAJ.

Under the auspices of the Ceylon Sangeetha Samaj, Brahma of Panaji Kottanassery Ayer, the well known musician of Colombo, delivered the first of a series of lectures on "The types of Musical compositions in South India," on Monday the 12th inst. at 6 p.m. Mr. Kaganam M.A., Sangeetha Vidwan of Mysore, took the chair. The learned lecturer covered a wide field in a short time. At first he emphasized the fact that the Hindustani and the Carnatic systems of music were not entirely different from each other. In fact, before the advent of the Mohammedans, there was the same system of music prevalent throughout India, but later on Northern music underwent a great change owing to Persian influence, while South Indian music was conservative and thereby retained its purity. He then classified musical compositions into two broad divisions—(1) technical and (2) non-technical. He characterized the former as compositions involving the conscious efforts of the author to appeal to the technical side of the musical side of man. The latter, he said, were full of melody, and being dating from moments of inspiration of great sages. He brought under this head the Keerthanas of Saint Thyagaraja and Desappachayana. The lecturer lectured in detail every aspect of the technical compositions illustrating them at each step. He stressed that all these were exercises, the mastery of which would lead a student of music to higher regions where he could enjoy the melody of rare compositions of Swarans. He also pointed out how some of these technical compositions were simply illustrations of the Ragas or the Talas in which they were composed. Thus he took examples of "Swaravans," "Alankaras," "Gharanas," "Swarajathas," "Taanavans," and "Panna Varans." He concluded the principles underlying these compositions and also demonstrated the differences by singing some typical compositions. The meeting ended with a hearty vote of thanks to the lecturer and the chair.

Continued. Issue of Permits.

In issuing permits for foreign liquor and attack the Government Agents shall be guided by the following principles:—

- (1) Licenses shall be granted only to such individuals as have been accustomed to consume such liquor. (2) The amount specified in the permit shall be in accordance with the local position and income of the applicant, and such other circumstances as the Government Agents or the Committee shall consider relevant. (3) All applications for pass books must be received by the Government Agent by a date to be fixed by Government. Applications for licenses from consumers who enter the peninsula after such date shall be considered by the Advisory Committee. (4) Except in special cases, which shall be decided by the Committee, the maximum allowed on any one permit shall be four 5 dram bottles of spirits per measure or such other quantity of wines or malt liquor equivalent to this quantity of spirit. (Leave or equivalent to be made by the Excise Commissioner.) (5) All permits shall be for off sales only.

Issue of Liquor.

All liquor for consumption on these permits shall be issued from a Government depot. No sales for consumption on the premises will be permitted.

Prohibition of Imports.

No attack or foreign liquor shall be imported into the Jaffna peninsula or the islands except by the Government depot, or on special visitors' permits.

Labeling of Bottles for Issue.

All bottles issued by the Government depot shall bear a special label serially numbered. The numbers of the bottles issued shall be entered in the consumer's pass book or permit on issue.

Possession of other Bottles.

It shall be an offence to possess any bottles of liquor which do not bear the special label affixed by the Government depot, except on a visitor's permit to bring his own liquor into the peninsula.

Special permits to Visitors.

The Government Agent may at his discretion issue permits to special visitors to bring liquor with them on a visit to Jaffna or to stay in the depot. The quantity allowable on such special permits shall not exceed a total of 24 gallons of spirits or its equivalent in wine and wine in the year.

Possession.

The possession of attack and foreign liquor otherwise than in accordance with these rules shall be an offence. Toddy will be regulated by the licensing of a certain number of trees. Sweet Toddy. No coconut trees shall be tapped for sweet toddy. Fermented Toddy. The Government Agent may issue licenses to tap coconuts or palmyra trees for fermented toddy for the following purposes:— (a) For preparing "koda" for the use of cattle; (b) For preparing bread.

The Government Agent shall charge not less than Rs. 15 per annum as a tax for each tree so licensed. Permits for these two purposes shall be issued by the Government Agent to a reasonable extent. Fermented toddy for drinking purposes shall be obtained only from palmyra trees. Applications for the licensing of such trees shall be made to the Government Agent. The total number of licensed trees shall be limited to 500. If the Government Agent finds this number to be insufficient, he shall issue the applications only to the Advisory Board for authority. The license fee shall be not less than Rs. 10 a tree per annum.

Prohibition in the North.

CLAUSE REGARDING TODDY DELETED.

SELECT COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS EXPENDITURE.

At Thursday's meeting of the Legislative Council the debate in Committee, on the Colonial Secretary's motion on the liquor control in the Jaffna Peninsula was continued.

Mr. D. S. Senanayake moved at the last sitting of the Council, the deletion of sub-section (b) 2, Clause 4, which says:—

"For the drawing of fermented toddy, and the sale or disposal of such toddy at the free-foot, subject to the rules in Schedule B: Provided that not more than 14,000 trees shall be licensed for the drawing of fermented toddy."

Mr. Balasingham advocated a working scheme by which 25 per cent. of the palmyra trees in the Jaffna Peninsula should be licensed, which would bring in 8,200 trees instead of 14,000 trees as suggested in the Colonial Secretary's motion. The Government attitude in the matter was that they were not going to allow total prohibition of toddy without a referendum but although he had absolute sympathy with those who advocated total prohibition, he had his doubts as to whether a referendum would be a success from their point of view, judging as he did the temperament of those concerned in the matter.

The wise step for the Council was to accept a certain number of trees as a compromise. The Vice President (Sir James Forns), said that he did not wish to join in the discussion, but he understood that there was a compromise by which some provision was to be made to make available toddy for those who wanted it.

The Colonial Secretary asked Mr. Senanayake what reasons he put forward for the deletion of the sub-section.

Mr. Senanayake replied that the licensing of 14,000 trees was very different from their intention. Mr. W. Duraiswamy said that in that "compromise" they never contemplated the sale of toddy at the free-foot. The licensing of 14,000 trees scattered over the whole of the Peninsula made it impossible for any department to prevent illicit sale or illicit tapping.

OBJECTION TO TODDY PERMITS.

Mr. S. Rajaratnam complained that Government had acted on the broad lines indicated by him (the speaker) and his colleagues, and had not allowed opportunity for going into details. The result was that the proposed regulations did not altogether give effect to the intention of the motion passed in Council. He objected to the principle of issuing permits for toddy to sellers which was merely a licensing system, and wanted permits to be issued to consumers. This was a compromise which, while directed by slow processes to the ultimate goal of total prohibition, did not fall so hard on people who were accustomed to drinking toddy.

He opposed the clause providing for the licensing of 14,000 trees for the drawing of fermented toddy and the sale or disposal of such toddy, and contended that it wiped out all the good work that had been done so far in regard to the closure of taverns.

Speaking of Local Option, he said he was quite prepared to let those who had thrown mud at him and his colleagues try to open taverns if they could.

Mr. W. A. de Silva said if a number of people desired to have toddy taverns in Jaffna they should be granted the same opportunity of opening them as the Temperance workers had to close them. (Applause.)

Mr. W. E. Wais said he thought the situation had changed in recent months. Government had been informed by the Member for the Northern Province that only a very small proportion of the people in Jaffna really wanted toddy and the majority were quite prepared to accept the proposals they put forward.

The Colonial Secretary very wisely saw that the Committee's recommendations were published so that the people could know what was intended and that aroused a considerable amount of opposition in the Northern Province to the proposals, especially in regard to toddy. The Excise Commission later had very reliable evidence that many of the people who voted for the abolition of taverns did so on the understanding that those who were working for abolition would not object to going back on the lines of the old free tapping system. The present proposals were on those lines.

OLD TREE TAPPING SYSTEM.

He had no doubt that a very large number of people wanted their allowance of toddy, and he asked the House to consider very carefully what it was that was to shut down the safety valve of forbidding the sale of toddy. Reference had been made to people who "wanted to get drunk," but he did not think that really described the case.

Mr. Rajaratnam: I know my countrymen better than you do. Mr. Wais: I do not think it is the case that everybody who touches toddy gets drunk. I think it is the exception.

The position was (he continued) that they now proposed going back to the old free tapping system, which means that people who get a drink of toddy at the foot of the tree, and that he thought was much better than going hours later to a tavern and getting toddy when it was far from fresh.

A large number of the people who wanted toddy were fishermen or at least, and they were not in possession of coconut trees. If the sale of toddy were prohibited, a very large portion of the population who wanted toddy would thus be cut off. It would be like saying that one can only drink if one has a cow.

LEGITIMATE DEMAND FOR TODDY.

The Colonial Secretary, in recapitulating the position of Government, said Government had reason to believe that there was a legitimate demand by the people of Jaffna to be allowed to consume toddy and they considered that reasonable facilities for obtaining toddy should be given.

The Hon. Member for the central part of the Northern Province had stated that he understood the permit system to mean permits for consumers to draw toddy, but excluded licenses to sell toddy. That argument could not hold water. Government certainly did not subscribe to it. The member himself did not subscribe to it in the case of attack and foreign liquor, for surely he did not mean that the consumer should drink his own whisky or attack.

It was obvious that what was contemplated in the case of toddy was that the consumer should go to the seller as the foot at the tree and buy. The question which then arose for the consideration for Government was what constituted a reasonable amount to supply in relation to the population of the Peninsula, having in view the desire to cut down the amount and lead the people gradually towards total abstinence. They had taken the average number of trees in the three years before taverns were closed and had divided that number by four to arrive at their figure 14,000. He considered that one quarter of the toddy consumed in the Jaffna Peninsula before taverns were closed by polls was a reasonable amount to begin with under the new regulations.

He understood that some members now wanted to go back to the old tavern system. If that were so, it would obviate discussion of the roles before the House and they would get back to where they were, with local option polls. (Applause.)

In moving the deletion of clause 3, Mr. Senanayake pointed out the possibility that limitation of the number of trees and the big demand for toddy that was likely to be experienced would send the price up above that which people who really needed toddy would be able to afford.

The Colonial Secretary: I take it that the intention is that, if this clause is deleted, then the ordinary regulations as to local option polls will come automatically into force again.

Mr. Duraiswamy hastily appealed for time to consider the matter, which he contended had too many implications for it to be disposed of summarily. There was the question of illicit possession, and many other points which needed most careful consideration unless they were going to get themselves into a dangerous position.

The Colonial Secretary: All this is rather unforeseen, and I think Government members should abstain from voting. These regulations for toddy were brought in on the responsibility and at the wish of the Jaffna members, and Government has no objection either to the permit system or to return to the taverns in local option system.

Mr. Duraiswamy urged that the House should adjourn for lunch to permit of careful consideration of the question.

"We are in great danger," he declared; "if we abandon this proposal now we may get a lot of illicit possession and sale going on again."

The House accordingly adjourned for lunch.

AFTER LUNCH.

When Council resumed at 2.30 p.m. Mr. Duraiswamy intimated to the House that Mr. Senanayake had agreed to alter his amendment.

Mr. Senanayake said that he wanted the paragraph 8 entirely deleted and the following words: "The possession of fermented toddy shall be declared illegal."

Mr. W. A. de Silva suggested the addition of words "except at a duly licensed tavern."

Mr. Duraiswamy said that they did not have licensed taverns now.

Mr. Mahadeva inquired if the effect of the amendment would not be total prohibition of sale of toddy.

Mr. Duraiswamy said that that it would be the effect. As regards fermented toddy, he was merely asking that the original agreement arrived at between the Government and the representatives of the Northern Province be adopted.

[The personnel of the Conference and the agreement arrived at appears elsewhere.]

A MISAPPREHENSION.

The Colonial Secretary said that he was completely under a misapprehension when they came to the agreement. It was stated to him by the representatives of the Northern Province that tapping was entirely illegal in the Northern Province and therefore it seemed to him a retrograde step to make tapping legal. But immediately after the conference he was informed that that illegality was not statutory but came about through a misunderstanding. The Government Agent used to permit the tapping of a certain number of trees for a tavern and as each tavern was closed so many trees were taken out of tapping. When the last tavern was closed, the Government Agent no longer allowed permits. There was no law on the subject prohibiting tapping and there was nothing at all to prevent free tapping. On the other hand they were told that illicit tapping was being carried on to an alarming extent and that toddy drinking was universal in the Jaffna Peninsula.

Mr. de Silva withdrew the suggestion he made of adding the words "except at a duly licensed tavern."

RIGHT OF LOCAL OPTION.

Mr. Molamure asked whether the prohibition would be for medicinal and industrial purposes also and whether the people were not to be given the right of local option for re-opening a tavern.

Mr. Duraiswamy said that that was so, although personally he would like an exception to be made in favour of those two purposes. As regards the Colonial Secretary's statement, that came on him as a thunderbolt. It was not proper to say that there was no law prohibiting tapping. As regards the re-opening of taverns, he was entirely against allowing the right of local option to re-open taverns.

ENORMOUS PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES.

The Colonial Secretary said that they needed enormous precautionary measures to make the Peninsula "dry."

Mr. Tambimuttu said that those who were out of the sacred circle of toddy hater (laughter), and and concludes between Officials and representatives of the North, did not seem to understand those agreements that had been arrived at and to him, for one, they were all confusing and it was rather a hardship to be called upon to vote without understanding what the position was. He thought the matter should be postponed sine die.

REFERENDUM FOR TODDY.

The Colonial Secretary said that Government was not prepared to do so in the case of toddy.

Mr. Duraiswamy asked under what law the referendum was to be made.

The Colonial Secretary said that the ordinary procedure of polls could be adopted.

Mr. Senanayake withdrew his last amendment and proposed that the whole section be deleted. The amendment was carried.

Mr. Rajaratnam said that if the smuggling of opium and ganja could be prevented without even a stamp duty he did not see why the same could not be done in the case of liquor.

Letter To The Editor

GANDHIJI AND KHADDAR MOVEMENT IN CEYLON.

Sir, It is about three months ago that Mahatma Gandhi, the greatest and most enlightened man the world had ever produced, visited the Island of Ceylon with the sole object of promoting the Khaddar fund in the name of Dharitira Narayana and for the sake of the starving millions of India. During his short stay in Ceylon, he was travelling throughout the length and breadth of the Island, and it is a matter of self congratulation to find that over a lakh of rupees had been realised at the end of his tour. All of us must feel proud of it.

As Mahatmaj himself said in one of his lectures in Ceylon, his recent visit was no doubt a mercenary one. But those people who sincerely feel the justice of the cause of Mahatmaj, and those who realise the miserable condition of our mother country, will by all means admit that the Mahatma came over to Ceylon as a self-chosen representative of the starving millions of Bharatha Matha. Really my heart grows heavy when I pause for a moment and imagine the sorry plight of the millions of people in our mother country who are homeless and are even without one proper meal a day.

Some people, as I understand, helped the cause of Mahatmaj simply because Mahatma Gandhi had come over here and they had had a good opportunity of seeing that great personality. Surely that is a wrong conception of the good cause, and it is not charity at all. All those who have had the rare opportunity of hearing Mahatmaj must entertain the name of Dharitira Narayana in every sphere of activity. All those who once helped the noble cause should not harbour ideas like: "Oh! We have done our mite, he is gone and let us mind our own business". One who has heard the great Saint and he who believes in him must stick to his own ideals and look up to Bharatha Matha for his help and lead. After hearing him we feel how foolish it is to spend millions of rupees on foreign and mill made clothes.

On the other hand it is a matter of great regret and pity to find that some classes of people in Ceylon, who are narrow-minded in the very sense of the term, deprecated the noble movement of Gandhiji and went even to the extent of saying that Mahatmaj should quit the Island of Ceylon at once. Not only did they say that but also they rushed to the print and proclaimed their parochial minded views as if they moved in the clouds. What can be said to these narrow minded people except: "Woe unto them".

Again the noblest way of helping the poor and starving millions of India is by wearing Khaddar and Knaddar alone. "The key to Swaraj is in the spinning wheel". The price of Khaddar cloth may be considerably high at present, but in the near future it will be moderate and reasonable. Along with Khaddar dress, we must have the Khaddar spirit too. Early in the morning when we put on Khaddar dress, we must think that we are wearing it for the sake of the poor and hungry millions of Bharatha Matha and in the name of Dharitira Narayana. Above all Khaddar dress makes us to be simple in thought, word and deed, and creates in us a good amount of fellow feeling.

Not only we should wear Khaddar but also we must encourage our friends, relations and others to go in for the same.

In the name of Mahatmaj let this be an appeal to one and all  
Colombo, Yours etc.  
12th March, 1928. V E M.

Words of wisdom from far & near

(SPECIAL TO THE "HINDU ORGAN")

"I am trying humbly to serve humanity as God leads me. The founding of leper asylums, etc., is only one of the ways, and perhaps not the best, of serving humanity. But even such noble service loses much of its nobility when conversion is the motive behind it. That service is the noblest which is rendered for its own sake."  
—Mahatma Gandhi in "Young India."

"For Goodness sake, let us remember that we are all different individuals and therefore naturally think about things in different ways. It would be a mighty dull world if we didn't!"  
—Prof. E. R. Thompson, M. A. in "John Bull."

"A wonderful life is this we live  
If the more we get the more we give,  
And not of our gathered store alone,  
But of things that are truly more our own—  
The treasures which can never be told  
In all the world's unmined gold."  
—A. B. O. in "Tit-Bits."  
(To be continued.)

**Prohibition in the North.**

(Concluded from page 3.)

Mr. Villiers said that he understood that Hon. Member to have said on one occasion that export everywhere always insisted upon very large expenditure.

**HEAVY EXPENDITURE.**

The Colonial Secretary said it was absurd to expect the Government to enforce prohibition in the Northern Provinces without a very heavy expenditure. It was the barest minimum that had been asked for. "We know we cannot keep Jaffna dry" unless we have the minimum of expenditure to enable us to get reasonably efficient preventive measures," he declared. He would ask the Government members not to vote. In the opinion of Government the better method was not the permit system, but to increase the duty on liquor all round. (Applause.) Steps were being taken to raise the price of arrack as soon as possible.

Mr. Senanayake said it was not clear to him what the position of the Government was. Did the Colonial Secretary mean that if the House did not vote what the Government asked for, it would not carry out the scheme? They were asking for an abortive vote merely because they wanted to have an excuse. However much they might strengthen the Excise Department, it was not possible for the Department to put down illicit sales, unless the Government Agents and Headmen assisted the work. There was no doubt that there was very little desire on the part of one department to co-operate with another. It was no use pretending if Government did not wish to carry out the scheme.

The Colonial Secretary said that Government was willing to give the scheme a trial and to do its best to make it a success. It was being tried in America and Sweden. They would do their utmost to carry it out in a successful manner, but to do so they must have a minimum measure.

Mr. Senanayake said that Government was not making use of the existing machinery.

Mr. Molamure asked whether, in framing the estimates Government had given consideration to the advisability of making one of the chief and minor headmen for preventing illicit sales, whether Government had considered the proposal put forward in the House and outside that having the control of arrack it should not allow too much of it to be distilled, and (8) whether Government had considered the effect of abolishing "off sales" in taverns which were now in existence. He did not think Government had given consideration to those matters in framing the schedules. It was up to the Government to revise those estimates, giving consideration to the points he had raised. It was absurd for Government to say that those estimates were a *sine qua non*.

Mr. Wille said that he could not understand why his temperance friends should charge Government with putting forward those estimates. If Government was to be blamed at all, it was for having gone too far in its efforts to meet the wishes of the Jaffna members. In his opinion, public opinion in the Jaffna Peninsula was not ripe enough for an extreme step such as prohibition. (Applause.) If there was one thing clear from the efforts of the Colonial Secretary it was he had gone out of his way to prepare a scheme. If those measures were adopted in Jaffna, they would not result in any advance in the temperance cause. Prohibition had been adopted in America but even there it had been found extremely difficult. After all the democracy of America was far more intelligent than the democracy of Jaffna! (Laughter.) It was only the previous day that a merchant of Colombo who had come from Jaffna was telling him in what a pitiable condition the people were and what a hang dog look they wore! (Laughter.) A large number of them were illiterate and he thought there was a great deal of truth in what the Hon. Member for North Central Province said, namely that those people resorted to today as a food.

Speaking of the results of prohibition in America, he said that among other things it had brought in a degree of lawlessness, and corruption. As regards the present scheme, when he saw such items as rifles and revolvers he dreaded to think what was going to be the position of Jaffna if the law was going to be enforced. He felt strongly that that schedule itself was an argument that the time was not ripe for enforcing prohibition in Jaffna. (Applause.) It was no use their trying to go in advance of public opinion.

**QUESTION OF ESTIMATES.**

Mr. Wait said he would like most emphatically to repudiate the suggestion that he had swelled the estimates for the purpose of making the thing a farce. That was not the first time in his official career that he had had to bring forward estimates. He would ask the Hon. European Urban Member whether he (speaker) was guilty of any swelling in the estimates he prepared when the Department of Immigrant Labour was brought into being.

Mr. Villiers denied that he made any such statement.

Mr. Wait said that his object when framing the estimates was to make the whole scheme as cheap as possible with reasonable efficiency. If the proposal became law he would do his very utmost to carry it out. But he must have the necessary machinery. There would be attempts to land liquor in lonely places by the ship-loads. He must be prepared to meet such attempts.

"**FOR TOO EXTRAVAGANT.**"  
Mr. Mahadeva said that the Bill was far too extravagant, but if he was forced he would vote for it because he wished to see an honest attempt made to put down the traffic.

Mr. Balasingham said there was a possibility of evolving a system which would be less expensive. He proposed that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee to consider whether any reduction could be effected.

Mr. Senanayake accepted the amendment and withdrew his own, namely, that Government be asked to bring a scheme of its own.

(An interval of ironical humour and light-hearted utterances intervened.)  
The Colonial Secretary said that Government would accept that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee, but Government must still reserve the right of rejecting any reduction of the estimates.

The amendment was carried.  
The following is the personnel of the Committee: Mr. Wait (Chairman), Messrs. Rajaratnam, Molamure, Villiers and Balasingham.

Extracts from the Ceylon Independent.

**Local Government Board.**

**EIGHTY-THIRD MEETING.**

The following are the minutes of the eighty-third meeting of the Local Government Board held at the Colombo Kachcheri on Wednesday, March 7, 1928, at 9.30 a.m.

Present: The Hon. Mr. R. N. Thalpe, C.M.C., President; The Hon. Dr. J. F. E. Bridge, Director of Medical and Sanitary Services; Mr. C. R. Landis, Acting Surveyor General; The Hon. Messrs. A. C. G. Wijeyekoon and G. A. Wille and Mr. J. H. Meedaniya, Adigar.

The minutes of the eighty-second meeting having been circulated were confirmed, subject to a minor amendment in item 5.

The Board approved the revised scales of salaries and allowances assigned by the Matsara Council to the offices of Secretary, Chief Clerk and 2nd Clerk, with effect from March 1, 1928.

**SALARY SCALE FOR JAFFNA U. D. C. SECRETARY.**  
The Board considered the assignment by the Jaffna Council of a new salary to the office of Secretary and resolved to advise the Council to consider the question of an incremental salary scale instead of a fixed salary.

The Board approved the following scale of salary assigned by the Matsara Council to the new office of Superintendent of Works: Rs. 2,400 per annum rising by annual increments of Rs. 240/- to Rs. 3,600/- per annum.

The Board approved the assignment by the Matsara Council of a commuted travelling allowance of Rs. 240/- per annum to the office of 2nd Sanitary Inspector.

Pending receipt of information from the Attorney-General the Board deferred consideration of an amendment necessitated in the schedule of exemptions subjoined to the notification dated December 10, 1927, and published in Government Gazette No. 7,621 of December 16, 1927 regarding the water-rate levied by the Ratnapura Council for 1928.

Read Colonial Secretary's letter No. U. 414/27 of February 30, 1928, setting out the conditions on which Government approves of the proposed addition of eight bedrooms to the New Rest House at Negombo.

**U. D. C. FOR MORATUWA.**  
The Board considered the question of the date up to which representations should be received for and against the proposal to establish an Urban District Council for Moratuwa and resolved to recommend to Government that March 31, 1928, should be fixed as the final date for receiving representations.

It was resolved to circulate the papers relating to the revised salaries scheme proposed by the Negombo Council for certain of its officers.  
It was resolved to hold the next meeting of the Board on Wednesday, April 18, 1928, at 9.30 a.m.

**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 Wednesday, April 4, 1928, at 8.30 a.m.

- Lot I. 125 Palu logs.
- Lot II. 1 Sasin log.
- Lot III. 50 Bauai scantlings.
- Lot IV. 4 Tone Sasin pieces.

For further particulars vide notice appearing in Govt. Gazette No. 7,634 of 16 March, 1928.

J. D. SARRENT,  
Conservator of Forests,  
Kandy, March 8, 1928.  
G. 877.

**NOTICE.**

The following persons have been licensed to carry on trade or business of Auctioneer within the limits of the Local Board of Trincomalee for the year 1928, and their names are published in terms of Section 17 of Ordinance No. 15 of 1869 as amended by Ordinance No. 25 of 1922.

NAME.	RESIDENCE.	DATE OF LICENSE.
Mr. V. C. Nagappah Chesly	Div. No. 10 Trincomalee.	19th Dec. 1927.
Mr. K. Kothirigamathambay	Div. No. 8 "	22nd Dec. 1927.
Mr. P. Ramappillai	Div. No. 5 "	10th Jan. 1928.
	Local Board Office, Trincomalee.	W. G. Vallipuram, for Chairman L. B. G. 875.

**Order Nisi.**

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 6691.

In the Matter of the estate of the late Elichumeypillai wife of Elyahambay Manikkam of Karaveddy North

- 1. Comaraswamy Ponniah and wife
- 2. Natchippillai of Alway North

Deceased.

Petitioners.

Vs.

- 1. Elyahambay Manikkam of Karaveddy North
- 2. Sivakumyppillai daughter of Ponniah of Alway North

Respondents.

This matter of the Petition of the above-named Petitioners praying for Letters of Administration to the estate of the above-named deceased Elichumeypillai wife of Elyahambay Manikkam coming on for disposal before J. C. W. Rook Esquire, District Judge, on February 21, 1928 in the presence of Messrs. Kandiah and Mallivaganam Proctors on the part of the Petitioners and the affidavits of the Petitioners dated February 20, 1928 having been read, it is declared that the Petitioners are the persons of the said intestate and is entitled to have Letters of Administration to the estate of the said intestate issued to them unless the Respondents or any other person shall, on or before April 3, 1928 show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

J. C. W. Rook,  
District Judge,  
March 7, 1928.  
O. 1427.

**Order Nisi.**

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 6447.

In the matter of the Estate of the late Thangamuthu widow of Kanapathipillai Kadrigamer of Point Pedro

Deceased.

Kadrigamer Velupillai of Point Pedro

Petitioner.

Vs.

Kadrigamer Kanapathipillai of Point Pedro

Respondent.

This matter of the Petition of the above-named Petitioner praying that Letters of Administration be granted to him to the estate of the above-named deceased coming on for disposal before G. W. Woodhouse Esquire, District Judge, Jaffna on May 18, 1927 in the presence of Mr. N. Madur, Krishnapillai, Proctor for Petitioner and the affidavits of the Petitioner dated May 18, 1927, having been read—

It is ordered that Letters of Administration be granted to the Petitioner in respect of the Estate of the above-named deceased as a son and an heir of the deceased unless the above-named Respondent or any other shall on or before January 19, 1928 show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

J. D. Brown,  
District Judge,  
2nd December 1927.

Extended to  
20th March 1928.  
J. C. W. Rook,  
District Judge,  
O. 1426.

**Order Nisi.**

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 6629.

In the Matter of the Estate of the late Kanthappan Kanagasabai of Ansalaitivu

Deceased.

Sivakumyppillai widow of Kanthappan Kanagasabai of Ansalaitivu

Petitioner.

Vs.

- 1. Kanagasabai Saravananmuthu of do
- 2. Kanagasabai Ponnampalam of do
- 3. Kanagasabai Velupillai of do
- 4. Kanagasabai Elyahambay of do
- 5. Kanagasabai Kandiah of do
- 6. Kanagasabai Vaitianathar of do
- 7. Sithamparapillai Vaitianathar and
- 8. wife Nagammuthu of do

The 5th and 6th Respondents are minors appearing by their guardian ad-Item the 1st Respondent

Respondents.

This matter of the Petition of the above-named Petitioner praying for Letters of Administration to the estate of the above-named deceased coming on for disposal before J. D. Brown Esquire, District Judge, on December 22, 1927 in the presence of Messrs. Sivapragasam & Kaitresu Proctors on the part of the Petitioner and the affidavits of the Petitioner dated November 15, 1927, having been read, it is declared that the Petitioner as the lawful widow of the said intestate and is entitled to have Letters of Administration to the estate of the said intestate issued to her unless the Respondents or any other person shall, on or before February 23, 1928 show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

J. D. Brown,  
District Judge,  
17th January 1928.

Order Nisi extended for 22 March 1928.  
Insd. J. C. W. R.  
D. J.

O. 1428.

**Order Nisi**

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 6688.

In the Matter of the Estate of the late Thalaimuthu wife of Kandiah Duraisamy of Vannarponnai East

Deceased.

Kandiah Duraisamy of Vannarponnai West

Petitioner.

Vs.

- 1. Kanagamamah daughter of Duraisamy
- 2. Duraisamy Seenivasagam
- 3. Annalodhani daughter of Duraisamy
- 4. Seenivasagam Kandyya all of Vannarponnai

Respondents.

This matter of the Petition of the above-named Petitioner, praying that the above-named 4th Respondent be appointed Guardian ad-Item over the minors 1st, 2nd and 3rd Respondents and that Letters of Administration be granted to him to the estate of the above-named deceased coming on for disposal before J. C. W. Rook Esquire, District Judge, Jaffna, on February 18, 1928, in the presence of Mr. R. Sivaganesan Proctor, for Petitioner and the affidavits of the Petitioner dated February 10, 1928 having been read:

It is ordered that the above-named 4th Respondent be appointed Guardian ad-Item over the minors 1st, 2nd and 3rd Respondents and it is declared the Petitioner is the husband of the said deceased and is entitled to have Letters of Administration to the estate of the above-named deceased issued to him accordingly unless the Respondents or any other shall on or before March 22, 1928 show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

J. C. W. Rook,  
District Judge,  
9th March 1928.  
O. 1429.

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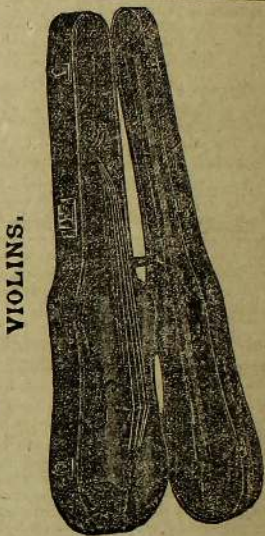
**Notice To F. M. S. Tamil Passengers.**

Our customers are requested to note that "Tamil Home" Colombo, (Established 1910 and managed by Mr. C. Perumalpillai of Colombo) is now removed to No. 54 Hill Street, Colombo.

Our customers are also requested to note that some unscrupulous persons mislead intending Passengers using the name "TAMIL HOME".

K. SABAPATHY,  
for Manager.

M. 58.



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