

The Hindu Organ.

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HAS THE WIDEST CIRCULATION
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The Hindu Organ.

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8 by 2 1/2 " " 11
8 by 2 1/2 or 3 " " 12 to Rs. 16.
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Amount Previously acknowledged	1135	96
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Ceylon Association, Taiping	6	25



The Hindu Organ.

JAFFNA, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1910.

**HIS EXCELLENCY THE
GOVERNOR AND THE UNOFFICIAL
MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE
COUNCIL.**

At the meeting of the Council held on the 7th instant His Excellency the Governor, in accepting the busts of his two immediate predecessors, Sir West Ridgeway and Sir Henry Blake, presented to the Council by present and past unofficial members, gave expression to the following significant words:—

On behalf of the Legislative Council I beg to thank the Honourable Member and his Unofficial Colleagues for their very handsome and appropriate gift to this Chamber, and to accord them the permission asked for with the greatest pleasure. The presentation of these busts to supplement those of Lord Stanmore and Sir Arthur Havelock gives cause for pleasant thoughts and reflection. It is not only a manifestation of the respect and esteem in which my two immediate predecessors in this Chair were held by the Unofficial Members who served under them; it is much more; it is a direct evidence of appreciation of the harmonious relations which existed between the Official Members and themselves and of successful results of their sympathetic co-operation in the cause of progress and good Government. My predecessors' experience in different Colonies was no doubt the same as my own, namely that under the present system Unofficial Members are instruments of the greatest value to the ruling powers, especially in the spade work of the committee room, and that they well deserve the confidence which is imposed in them. A perusal of "Hansard" shows me that in Ceylon they have been wise enough carefully to avoid displays of superfluous oratory and caustic criticism for which this Council Chamber has no use, and that whenever exception or objection has had to be taken, it has been expressed in statesmanlike and dignified terms. In a progressive Colony like Ceylon a spirit of cordiality on the part of Unofficial Members is of the utmost importance. General broad policy or the instructions of the Secretary of State may not always make it possible to accept their advice and views, but in the great majority of cases they are carefully considered and carry much weight if only the relation of the Unofficial Members with the Government are as happy as has been fortunately the case in Ceylon for so many years past. Long may this desirable co-operation continue to the manifest advantage of this go-ahead Colony (applause).

No exception could be taken to His Excellency's sentiments of appreciation of the services of unofficial members and of the harmonious relations which has existed and still exists between the official and non-official Members. But the Governor has laid himself open to criticism and misconception by saying in effect that

the proper place for the Representatives of the people to tender advice to the Government is chiefly "in the spade work of the Committee room", and that "the display of superfluous oratory and caustic criticism" by them at the Council Board is not only of no use but would also interrupt that harmonious relations that now exist for the good of the public between the officials and unofficials. The expression of this view by the King's Representative in this Island at the present moment is liable to be misconstrued. This is a time when two candidates have put themselves forward for election to the Ceylonese Seat and the country is greatly agitated by the contest connected with the election. The claim of one of the candidates is based chiefly on his vast experience as a legislator, his tried independence in that capacity, and his great powers of oratory which would enable him to safeguard and promote the interests of his constituents more effectively than could be done by one who would not only be a novice to the duties of a legislator but does not also possess the gift of public speech in the degree possessed by his opponent. The friends of the other candidate, however, say that he would be able better to serve the interests of the Ceylonese, not, as His Excellency the Governor has put it, by the display of superfluous oratory and caustic criticism of the Government in Council, but by maintaining good relations with the officials of which there have been marked demonstrations recently in his favour, and securing anything wanted from the Government by other means than open and independent criticism of Government measures. Although the Governor did not intend it, yet the construction that is put on His Excellency's words uttered at this juncture, in a certain quarter, is that he would welcome the return of the candidate who would answer to the description given by him—one whose claims for election has been laid down by his supporters to be the possession of qualities that would be agreeable to His Excellency and his Government, and one who is already a *persona grata* at Queen's House. This view has been already expressed in the press by the friends of Dr. Fernando.

Now the issue is, what kind of Representative the Ceylonese wish to have in the Legislative Council, whether one who will infuse new life and energy among the Unofficial Members, by leading his colleagues to take concerted action in all public matters and by openly criticising the measures of Government, whenever such criticisms are necessary, and thus to be a check on the almost despotic powers possessed by the Government, or a member who would not disturb the position now assumed by and assigned to the Unofficial Members—one who cannot and would not lead his nominated colleagues but would be guided by such of them as have been trained under the present order of things which command the appreciation of the Governor.

We do not say that His Excellency intended his speech quoted above to influence the voters in the forthcoming election. He frankly, as is his wont, expressed his views in regard to the function and the sphere of influence of the unofficial members, in connection with the presentation of the busts of his predecessors by those members. He honestly believes in the principles enunciated by him in the speech, as he had very strongly objected to the reform of the Legislative Council on an elective basis, in the belief that the reform of the present constitution would retard the progress of the Island. But the Secretary of State, agreeing with the Ceylonese who were dissatisfied with the present constitution and the unsatisfactory and farcical manner in which their interests were represented in Council by their so-called Representatives, has granted a new constitution by which the Ceylonese are allowed, as an experiment, one elected member to represent their interests in the local Legislature. And it is now their duty to see that they are worthily represented without being influenced by racial or religious considerations.

There was a time when the unofficial members fearlessly and independently criticised the measures of Government in Council and also identified themselves with all public movements, by being members and office-bearers of political bodies and organizations. Yet, the relations of the then unofficial members were as cordial with the Government and Governors of the day as those of the present members whose modesty in not "displaying superfluous oratory and caustic criticism of Government measures" is so much appreciated and commended by His Excellency, and who would not now for fear of displeasing the Government be even mem-

bers of Political Associations. It is by serving his constituents in an independent manner, quite different from that in which our present members are performing their duties as Councillors, that Mr. Ramanathan earned the thanks not only of the Ceylonese but also of the Government as the title of C.M.G. conferred on him would show. Sir Arthur Gordon (now Lord Stanmore) was so much impressed with the usefulness of the unofficial members of his day who often displayed great oratorical powers and subjected his measures to sharp criticisms in Council that he was obliged to admit that the influence and usefulness of the unofficial members of his Council were out of all proportion to their numerical strength. The reformed constitution gives a larger accession of strength to the unofficial side, and if the unofficial members will assume a new and more independent role under the leadership of the elected members, and if they will honestly and disinterestedly discharge their duties, without caring for official frowns or favours, the Government is sure to pay greater regard to their views than it does now, and there is no danger of their losing any influence or usefulness which they now possess. On the contrary, the Government will be more careful in the introduction of its measure and pay greater respect to public opinion, if it is aware that all official acts and measures will be openly criticised in Council, if they are prejudicial to public interests or introduced against public feeling and wishes.

**THE
VANNARPONNAI POST OFFICE.**

A report is current to the effect that the Vannarponnai Post Office is to be abolished and the Kokkuvil Receiving Office, which is at a distance of 1½ miles from the Vannarponnai Office, is to be made a Post and Telegraph Office. This, if true, would be a retrograde measure, and create very great dissatisfaction among the residents of Vannarponnai, which is the centre of the most extensive trade in the whole of the Jaffna District. Not only do the Nattucottai Chetties and other local and foreign merchants reside here, but it is also the scene of considerable educational activities, being the place where the Hindu College, the Wesleyan High School, the "Hindu Organ" Office and other Newspaper Offices, are located. It was on account of the great importance of the place that Government established the Post Office at Vannarponnai, and statistics would prove that it is not only one of the busiest Post Offices in the District, but also that its business is considerably on the increase. The abolition or removal of a Post Office would be justified only on account of its disappointing the expectations of the authorities in regard to the amount of business transacted in it.

Kokkuvil and the adjoining villages undoubtedly deserve to have a Post Office in their midst. There would be sufficient work for also a Telegraph Office at that Office. But that is no reason why Vannarponnai, which is the busiest locality in and one of the most important parts of the Jaffna District, should lose the privilege already conferred on it of having a Post Office of its own. We earnestly hope that the Government will allow the Vannarponnai Post Office to remain as it is, without removing it to Kokkuvil.

**TACTICS OF THE OPPONENTS OF
MR. RAMANATHAN.**

Mr. T. Ponnambalam Pillai, Retired Excise Commissioner of Travancore, writes:—

Your spirited letter that appeared in the issue of the 7th instant was timely in exposing the undesirable tactics employed by the opponents of Mr. Ramanathan. I have just returned from Southern India after a sojourn of more than quarter of a century and I am, therefore, so familiar with the electioneering methods pursued there, particularly as I had to work in connection with the election of some of the sitting members of the Madras Legislative Council, that the standard of morality adopted by some of our countrymen appears to be a strange phenomena to my mind. A casual comparison of an election campaign in India with that adopted by the opponents of Mr. Ramanathan will show that the behaviour of the people there is all gentlemanly. There you will find no invasion of the sacred precincts of the home and hearth of any candidate. There you will find no setting up of the clansmen of a candidate to bring false charges against him. There you will find no ill bird tempted to soil its own nest. In short, I have never known or heard of an instance in which the partisans of a candidate descending so low as to make personal attacks against a rival. Even in England—the mother of representative institutions where party spirit runs high and consequently where political contests are carried on bitterly, people never indulge in such meanness. When

a candidate comes at the head of the poll the defeated candidate offers his congratulations to the victor who in his turn wishes luck to the other next time. Thus they meet as friends and part as friends. Under the system adopted by that section of our countrymen referred to above such a meeting is impossible.

Dr. Fernando appears to have levelled a threat, that if he is not elected, the Secretary of State might go to the length of cancelling the concessions already granted to us. I think we stand the risk of losing the privilege owing to the questionable methods adopted by some of us than by the exercise of the right by the majority of the electors.

In the view which I have expressed I do not stand alone. Mr. Ramanathan's fame is not confined to Ceylon. He is known far and wide beyond the seas and he is a familiar figure in Southern India owing to his sterling merits. Friends there constantly write to me making enquiries as to the progress of the electioneering campaign and I send them from time to time a large budget of newspapers. The last I heard from them was an expression of disappointment after pursuing them. For they think that Ceylon once led India in political matters and now its morality has gone down to such a low ebb that they should be ashamed of any one adopting such methods as are adopted at present here.

My friends in India think that this standard of morality is due to the kind of education—the inspiring element in life—which the Ceylonese generally receive. As has been pointed out by Mr. Asquith recently, specialized education may be good in itself, but to make a man a man, an all-round liberal education is imperative and it can be imparted only by a University. To attain this object Mr. Ramanathan in conjunction with his erudite brother the Hon. Mr. Arunachalam and other kindred spirits have been working for years and it is an important item in his programme.

In conclusion I entreat the gentlemen who have been conducting the campaign on behalf of Mr. Ramanathan to continue the present methods and not to be tempted to follow in the wake of their opponents.

Important Notice.

Our subscribers who have not yet remitted their dues to the end of the current year, are requested kindly to send them before the

31ST DECEMBER, 1910.

They will kindly remember the Appeal sent to them along with the 1st number of the current Volume.

The Manager,
26th Nov., 1910. "Hindu Organ".

LOCAL & GENERAL.

THE WEATHER—is cloudy and threatening. But no rain has fallen for the last two weeks or so.

THE GOVERNMENT AGENT—Mr. H. R. Freeman left here for Vavuniya yesterday.

THE NOMINATED TAMIL SEATS.—A public meeting will shortly be held in Jaffna to submit to His Excellency the Governor the names of two or more fit and proper persons to represent the Tamils in the Legislative Council.

THE CEYLONESE SEAT.—We direct the special attention of our readers to the weighty communication of Mr. T. Ponnambalam Pillai on this subject, and to the very thoughtful and impressive letters of Messrs. C. Muttiah and S. Sivagurunathan.

THE MANIPAY HINDU COLLEGE.—which had been hitherto carried on at the Manipay Vivekananda Hall, had the inauguration of its new building celebrated and work commenced in the permanent site on the 7th inst. There are about 150 students, including eleven preparing for the Cambridge examinations. Mr. W. Sangarappillay to whose munificence the new building and maintenance of the College is due, came specially from Colombo for the inauguration which was conducted by the famous astrologer V. Sapapathy Kurakal of Vannarponnai. A large number of visitors called during the day and were treated with refreshments.

THE VIVERANANDA SOCIETY, JAFFNA.—A meeting of the above society was held on the 8th instant, at the Vivekananda School Hall, Vannarponnai, with Mr. V. Casipillai, Crown Proctor, in the chair.

A NEW BOOK.—The Hon. Mr. P. Arunachalam, M.A., C.C.S., the Registrar General of Ceylon, is preparing a book of the names of the Towns, Districts, Divisions and Villages of the Island with a commentary on the origin and derivation of each.

AMENDMENT OF TESAWALAMAI.—The draft of a proposed ordinance to amend this law is published in the last Gazette.

THE UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP.—The University Scholarship in Arts has been won this year by Mr. A. L. Christoffelz of the Royal College, Colombo, and the Scholarship in Science has been won by Mr. L. M. de Silva of Trinity College, Kandy.

RETIREMENT OF THE MAYOR OF COLOMBO.—Mr. E. M. de C. Short, Mayor of Colombo, and the Chairman of the Municipal Council, who went on furlough about a year ago has retired from the Ceylon Civil Service with effect from 30th November 1910. Mr. K. W. B. McLeod is likely to be confirmed in his acting appointment.

THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.—Mr. Alexander Fairlie has been nominated as Mercantile Member in the Legislative Council in the place of Sir Stanley Bois, who left for England.

THE ALLAHABAD EXHIBITION.—The Allahabad Exhibition was opened on the 1st instant by Sir John Hewett, Lieutenant-Governor of the United Provinces in the presence of a large and distinguished gathering composed of Maharajahs of Jodhpur, Kashmir, Kishengarth, Raja of Mohamedabad, Raja of Teheri, Judges of the High Court, Commissioners of Divisions, Secretaries to Government, and many others.

THE RESIDENT-GENERALSHIP OF THE F. M. S.—We understand that it has been decided that the appointment of Resident-General will be replaced by the appointment of a Chief Secretary to the Government of F. M. S.

PERSONAL.—The Hon'ble Mr. A. Kanagasabai who arrived here on Friday last returned to Colombo yesterday.

—Mr. Advocate K. Balasingam, who was on a short visit to Jaffna returned to Colombo by yesterday's train.

—Dr. S. Hallocky is on a visit to Jaffna.

—Mr. S. Sellacutty, Secretary of the Manipay Vivekananda Sabha, who had been seriously indisposed and treated at the Manipay Hospital, is now improving.

—Mr. W. Wijeratnam, Clerk of Works, F. M. S. R., and brother of Mr. W. Duraisami B. A., Advocate of the Jaffna Bar, has been unanimously elected as President of the Kiuta Ceylon Hindu Association.

GENERAL ELECTION.

There can now be no doubt that the Liberals will be returned to power with almost the same majority which they had by the election of January last. The position of parties up to Monday last was as follows:—

Table with 2 columns: Party and Votes. Unionists: 226; Liberals: 183; Labour: 32; Nationalists: 63.

THE JAFFNA SAIVA SIDDHANTA SABAI.

The celebration of the eighth anniversary of the above Siddhanta Sabai was conducted at the "Pannirukai Vilasan" school, Thavadi, on the 11th instant. The proceedings commenced at about 6.30 P. M. with Kunaraswamy Pulavar of Chunnagam in the chair. A very eloquent address on "Saiva Siddhanta" was delivered by Mr. S. Thamotheerampillai, Editor, "Gnanasiddhi". Remarks on the address were then made by Messrs. A. Mudaliyar Somaskander, Tamil Pundit, Hindu College, S. Sivasubramanyam Head clerk, Engineers office, Perak, S. Sadasivaiah, Astrologer, and the President.

—Cor.

FAREWELL FUNCTION AT KANKEESANTURAI.

Dr. M. Kylasapillai, L. M. S., Medical Officer, Kankesanturai, on the eve of his retirement, after 33 years' faithful service under Government, was entertained by his numerous friends, well-wishers and the members of the Kankesanturai Reading Room and Tennis Club on Saturday last at 1.30 P. M. at the Mission School Bungalow which was nicely decorated for the occasion.

He was taken in procession from the Rest House to the Mission School Bungalow attended by native music and he was received and garlanded at the entrance by Messrs. A. M. Chittambalam, N. Savarimuttu, Sub-Collector, and M. Vettivaloe, Station Master. The school room was crowded to suffocation and Mr. Savarimuttu explained the object of the function in a few well-chosen words and called upon Mr. Vettivaloe to read the address. This being over, the following speakers, Messrs. S. Muttiah, J. C. Vathacutty, V. R. Selliah, Foster Lee, A. M. Chittampalam, M. Vettivaloe and few others spoke at great length touching upon the retired doctors' very rare sterling qualifications and expressed their regret and feelings to lose his services owing to his retirement.

Dr. Kylasapillai replied suitably and thanked all those who took the trouble and great pains to have a function of this kind in his honour, as he had done nothing but his duty.

Cake and other refreshments were served on a lavish scale and a group photo with Dr. Kylasapillai as central figure was taken by Mr. Meddows and he was escorted to the Railway Station where he shook hands with every one and left for Chunnagam by 3.55 train. Among those present we noticed Messrs. A. Chittambalam, N. Muttucumuru, C. Arulampalam, A. M. Chittampalam, N. Savarimuttu, M. Vettivaloe, A. Bastinampillai, A. B. Rodrigo, M. Kanapathipillai, N. Kanagasaby, S. S. Muttiah, G. Simon, W. Kanagaratnam, Dr. Somasundaram, Messrs. S. F. X. Annasampilly, V. R. Selliah, J. C. Vethacutty, M. Kanthavannan, J. C. Arulampalam, Dr. C. Thiyagarayer, K. Appucutty, K. Chandrasegura, A. Nagalingam, G. C. Perera, K. Sthamparappillai, E. Subramaniam, Foster Lee, S. C. C. Perera, S. Muttiah, D. S. K. Ratanam, P. G. Iyathurai, K. S. Rajaratnam and many others.

—Cor.

DASSERA CELEBRATION IN LONDON.

It certainly was a most remarkable and significant gathering, and one could not fail to be impressed by the thoroughly Indian character of the celebrants. There were Hindus in large numbers,—that almost goes without saying, since the celebration was organised and carried through by Hindus but there were Mahomedans, Parsis, Christians, Europeans, Anglo-Indians, and Sir Henry Cotton was quite right when he described the gathering as "one of the largest of its kind ever held in London." The sitting was occidental, namely, one of the large halls of the Holborn Restaurant, but everything else, except the dinner, was oriental. And with regard to the dinner, there was two vegetarian tables. Mr. A. Chandhuri was the President, but, unfortunately, he was unable to be present, having left town soon after last week's complimentary luncheon to the many shining light of the Indian Bar now in this country. In his absence the chair was taken by Thakur Jeepraj Singhji and I may here give just a few names out of the two hundred and more guests: The Maharajah of Mourbhuj, Sir M. M. Bhowagore, Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Stead, Sir Henry Cotton, Mr. J. S. Cotton, Mr. Sarot Kumar Ghose, Mr. C. C. Ghose, Sirdar C. Singh, Mrs. P. L. Roy, Mrs. Behol Nath, Mr. and Mrs. Dube, Dr. Rutherford, Mr. Nevinson with a strong muster of Indians of all castes and creeds. A reception preceded the dinner, and when the meal was over the chairman spoke of the significance of the festival, that it was peculiar to the Hindus and appealed very strongly to the warrior classes, but that in India non-Hindus showed sympathy and friendliness, and joined in the celebrations. It was typical of the union of Indians. The oration of the evening was that of Mr. Bepin Ch. Pal, who, in a masterly fashion, gave the historic origin of the celebration. He told the story of Rama, and one could feel that step by step he was touching the heart of his Indian audience; there was the vibrating chord showing itself from time to time both in respectful attention and spontaneous applause. M. Pal declared that the Dashera betokened the unity of India as seen in good fellow-feeling. Sir Henry Cotton emphasised the same point, and Sir M. M. Bhowagore also declared that in India differences were dying away and that events were making for unity. Mr. Stead spoke very earnestly on the need for understanding and sympathy, and said that he had always been working to make the relations between Britain and India more pleasant, just and friendly. Dr. Rutherford was also prevailed upon to say a few words; he expressed his great pleasure in being present and his keen interest in all that concerned India. It was in no sense a political gathering, the atmosphere was rather religious and one of Mr. Pal's fine sentences will linger in the minds of those who heard it: "While theologies differ piety are one."

One of the European visitors present said that the celebration reminded him of Christmas in the West, for Mr. Pal had explained that it was a time of general rejoicing, when personal animosities and conflicting interests were forgotten and hospitality held sway; in addition to which there was the religious aspect of the festival which emphasised the parallelism.

But dinner and speeches did not exhaust the evening's interests. These finished, the guests turned their chairs and at the other end of the hall was a stage; the curtains went up and there was revealed the Court of Dasaratha, with the King in white and gold, surrounded by courtiers and warriors, and such important characters as Rama, Lakshman, Viswamitra, etc. Then followed other tableaux representing the departure of the Princes with Vishwamitra, their initiation in archery, Rama Sita and Lakshman in the forest, the abduction of Sita, the almost despair of Rama and Lakshman, Rama and Ravana, and finally the coronation of Rama, when his trials were over. Indian music gave a delightful and appropriate accompaniment to the tableaux and it goes without saying that the efforts of the players—Indians all—were delightfully welcomed and appreciated. So excellent a celebration should be but the beginning of an annual Dashera festival, even in London, for in its true significance of friend-

ship, the overcoming of differences, and the consecration of the individual to the service of the community, the famous Hindu festival must appeal to West as well as East.

—The A. B. Patrika.

MATRIMONIAL RIGHTS OF THE TAMILS.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT OF THE LAW.

The draft of an Ordinance to amend the law relating to the matrimonial rights of the Tamils who are now governed by the Tesawalamai with regard to property and the law of inheritance is gazetted last night. The following is the statement of objects and reasons:

It had long been felt that some of the rules of inheritance of the Tesawalamai were harsh and some defective or not expressed with sufficient precision; and so far back as 1892 a meeting, composed of about five hundred inhabitants of the Jaffna peninsula, representing its intelligence and respectability, was convened by Mr. P. W. Conolly, the District Judge of the station at that time, to consider these rules, and a large Committee was appointed by this meeting, consisting of members of the Bar, Magistrates or Chief Headmen, the District Judge, the Police Magistrates of Jaffna and Kayts, and many other leading members of the Tamil community of Jaffna, to revise the law and suggest amendments.

2. The basis of the deliberations of the Committee was a memorandum on Inheritance prepared by the late Mr. Kathiravelupillai, Police Magistrate of Kayts; and the Committee adopted a large number of its provisions, and, under the guidance of Mr. Conolly, prepared an enactment embodying also a portion of "The Matrimonial Rights and Inheritance Ordinance, 1876" which the Committee were unanimously of opinion might with advantage be incorporated into the Tesawalamai. This draft enactment, however, was never introduced into the Legislative Council.

3. On the suggestion of the Honourable the Tamil Member the revision of that part of the Tesawalamai that related to inheritance and matrimonial rights was again taken in hand, and the present Ordinance has been drafted. It embodies the principal provisions of Mr. Conolly's draft and numerous suggestions since made by competent persons. Its main object is to simplify the law relating to inheritance and matrimonial rights, and to free such portions of the old law as have been preserved from the quaint language of the translation now in use, of the Dutch version of the Tesawalamai.

Walter Pereira,

Acting Attorney-General.

Attorney-General's Chambers, Colombo, November 30, 1910.

DISTRICT NOTES.

ANURADHAPURA.

11-12 10.

Weather.—There was a good shower of rain on Thursday last and there is sufficient quantity of water in the tanks to start cultivation.

The Anuradhapura Literary Club.—The usual weekly meeting of this club was held on Saturday last Mr. V. Ramaswamy, Proctor, occupied the chair. Messrs V. Karthikesu and Suppriananiam of the Survey office read two papers on "Manufacture" and "Noel Reading" respectively. Remarks were offered by all the members present. Mr. S. Thampapilly, Advocate, will deliver a lecture at the next meeting. There will be no meetings on the 24th and 31st instant as all the members will be away during Christmas holidays.

Personal.—Mr. P. V. Subramaniam, Irrigation Superintendent, stationed at Ipolagama, came to town on Saturday last to see the Government Agent and returned to his station on Tuesday morning.

—The Government Agent returned to Town yesterday after a short circuit into the interior.

—Messrs S. D. Krisnaratna and A. V. de Silva, Proctors, went to Vavuniya on special retainers and returned on Friday last.

MULLAITTIVU.

11-12 10.

Weather.—The days are bright. Rain intervenes now and then though not regularly.

Circuit.—Mr. A. W. Seymour, Assistant, Government Agent, accompanied by Mr. K. A. Kapurubamy, Sinhalese Interpreter, left this on circuit for Vavuniya.

Postal.—Mr. B. David, Postmaster here, has been transferred as Postmaster, Point Pedro, and left for his station on Wednesday. Mr. C. Thampapilly, Postmaster of the above station has come here and assumed duties.

Medical.—Mr. M. Chellappah, Dispenser of the Local Civil Hospital has been transferred to Talaimannar as Apothecary. Mr. Adams from Jaffna has succeeded him here. It is said that Mr. Adams will remain here for a month or so until a permanent officer comes.

Personal.—Mr. K. Chinnatambay, Head Clerk, Kachcheri here has gone on leave to Point Pedro. Mr. C. Anpalavanar, Store keeper acts in his place.

—Cor.

CORRESPONDENCE.

WHY I ADMIRE MR. RAMANATHAN.

The Editor

"Hindu Organ".

Dear Sir,

As many of my educated countrymen may like to know some of the reasons why I admire Mr. Ramanathan, and why I am

staunchly supporting his candidature for the Educated Ceylonese Seat in Council, I will enumerate a few of them.

1. From the time I came to know him in the Seventies, not personally, I have had occasion to know something about the man, as immediately after his uncle's death he was for a number of years before the public eye; and I was one of those who watched his long career in Council, since he was the man who was nominated as Tamil Member in the teeth of the strenuous opposition that was offered at the time to his nomination. I can, from personal observation, emphatically assert, without fear of contradiction, that I have come across very few who are capable of the wonderful perseverance of which Mr. Ramanathan has given abundant proof. When he entered the Council he was a mere youth, and several of us thought that he would prove to be a failure in Council, especially as the official element of the day was intellectually of a very high order; but to our great and pleasant surprise his fourteen years memorable career in Council was such as to entitle him to be enshrined in the affections of every right-thinking Ceylonese.

Secondly, I have known him always as one blessed with such a serene and calm temper as would not be ruffled by any adverse or trying circumstances.

Thirdly, He has the very desirable knack of winning over to his side any by his debating power and persuasiveness.

Fourthly, He is a well-informed person, and his experience is varied and extensive, and I can say almost unqualifiedly by that of any other Ceylonese of the present day.

Fifthly, His legal acumen will go a great way towards making him an efficient Councillor who will have always to do with legislation.

Sixthly, Mr. Ramanathan can be reasonably expected to devote all his time to the work of a Councillor which Dr. Fernando cannot possibly be expected to do, for the simple reason that his is the healing profession, which, if he is to be strictly faithful to it, will demand all his time and attention. What has Dr. Fernando done in his profession? Has he succeeded in filling the gap left by Drs. Anthonisz and Roekwood of revered memory? True it is that Dr. Fernando has passed very severe tests in medicine, and true it is that his intellect is comparatively of a high order, but deny no one can that perseverance, and high intelligence are as a rule found not to go hand in hand. The race is always for the slow but sure. The extraordinarily intelligent person thinks that he can sweep away everything before him in no time, while the persevering man, realizing the enormous task before him, looks around, and collects means, and materials that will enable him to perform it successfully. The Educated Ceylonese Seat will carry with it very great honor, and proportionately there is the grave responsibility. The elected Councillor will owe allegiance to a community composed exclusively of men more or less of the same calibre with him, and it will be next to impossible to satisfy that electorate unless he be a walking encyclopaedia. Several unthinking people have an idea that anyone can do the work if only the opportunity is given. This is the climax of absurdity. He will be the cynosure of thousands of educated eyes that cannot be eluded. There is an impression in certain quarters that the educated voter should satisfy himself before he records his vote in favour of one as to whether the candidate will be highly acceptable to Government. No man who exercises the right of fair and legitimate criticism, as he ought to, will be agreeable at all times. If we are expected to send a man to Council who would simply concur with the officials in everything, then the franchise so graciously granted to us will be meaningless. If I understand it aright it means to give us the right to send a person who will do everything in his power constitutionally to safeguard our interests. Such a person, to be faithful to his constituents, must be prepared to call a spade a spade, when the vital interest of his constituents call for it. Some people quietly tell us that there is no necessity for an able debater in the face of a permanent majority of officials in Council. That is the very reason why we want one who will be equal to any occasion. Certainly we do not want "Superfluous oratory" or "captious criticism" but our intermediary in Council ought to have such oratorical and criticising powers as will enable him to make others see and understand every problem involving our interests in all its aspects which he himself has thoroughly grasped. Further, subserviency is not a trait in Mr. Ramanathan's character, and it was the absence of that which made him much disagreeable to some of his co-workers in bygone times. I was a contemporary of Mr. L. S. Everts as a Student-at-Law, having been an articled apprentice of Sir Charles Peter Layard when he was practising Advocate, and I know something more than what Mr. Everts does. His dark insinuations are quite inexplicable to me. Boys of yesterday like the "Morning Leader" Editor may appreciate Mr. Everts' information, but in the case of experienced men like my humble self they cannot fail to produce a smile of contempt.

Jaffna Town, Dec. 12, 1910. C. Muttiah.

THE CONTEST FOR THE CEYLONESE SEAT.

OPEN DOOR ADVOCACY
VERSUS
CLOSED-DOOR CAJOLERY.

To the Editor,
"Hindu Organ".

Sir,
We are now fortunate in having at last arrived at a point in which we can now safely eschew all personal recriminations, in advocating the cause of the candidates for this Seat and fight for the respective principles which they represent and the divergent policies which they advocate.

We have now on the one hand Mr. P. Ramanathan K. C., C. M. G., an eminent lawyer and a thinker of world-wide repute, trying his best to educate and create public opinion on questions affecting the political amelioration of the nation pointing out to them how under the benign rule of the British Government, we can by our own efforts, by self-improvement, and by steady persistent agitation on constitutional lines, secure reforms of not only existing defects in the financial and administrative arrangements of the Government, but also secure political concessions that will give the people greater share in the administration of their own country. Loyalty and self-help are the two watch words of this party, not cringing or fawning or pandering to the prejudices of high officials. We who find in Mr. Ramanathan the prophet of our political cult recognize in the strong aegis of the British Government a power not only to protect us from internal dissensions and external aggressions, but also a power, almost divine in its nature, to elevate us to a position of self-respect and equality with the other peoples who constitute the great Empire. As such we are intensely loyal to the British Government, but we also hold that such loyalty is not incompatible with a disposition to work for our own political advancement, or to criticize freely and temperately any obnoxious measure or act of the officials. If the officials would not appreciate such acts but would try to frustrate all our efforts and nullify the power our representative may have to do any good, as is represented by Dr. Fernando's party, it would then become our patriotic duty to agitate and agitate for a speedy mending of this bureaucratic spirit to suit the reasonable aspirations of the "new spirit" of Asiatic nations, which has not left our dear Island home uninfluenced. Indian officials have been made to recognize this spirit long ago chiefly by the agitations of the Congress party. And the recent circular of the Viceroy to all heads of Departments and high officials recommending to them the advisability of giving up the old autocratic spirit in dealing with the people but to pay deference to public opinion in all their administrative acts, is an evidence to the point. The following extract from the speech delivered by the Rt. Hon'ble E. S. Montagu, Under Secretary of State for India at a Liberal meeting held at Bishop Auckland on the 2nd ultimo, should be carefully read by all who esteem high favour of officials as the only means to secure political reforms: "Place a man outside the pale of criticism, and he will deteriorate, that is the universal law to which there is nothing in the condition of India to make that country an exception. On the contrary the very irresponsibility of the Indian official to the people whom he governs makes proper criticism the more salutary. The Home Government and the British Parliament together with the Press and the cable replace at present an electorate to which he is directly responsible. He has to answer and welcome honest criticism and to establish his prestige on the only certain foundation—justification of his actions." These are the words of a responsible statesman and should be enough to silence all those who cackle in season and out of season that to secure any reforms from the Government we must bend our head or stoop to please some officials with fanciful notions about their relations to the people. The object of this party is to help by all legitimate means the social and political amelioration of the people, irrespective of race or creed, to try to guide the working of the political institutions of the country so that they may serve the best interests of the people. In fact they recognize that their leader and representative has perhaps greater work to do outside the Council chamber than inside it, in educating and improving the people, in infusing into them a spirit of manliness and self-respect and fitting them to receive more and more political freedom in the future.

Such in short is an outline of the policy which is favoured and recommended, by Mr. Ramanathan and his followers and to which they appeal to all Ceylonese to lend their support. Out of the candidates who have so patriotically placed themselves at our service, we find in Mr. Ramanathan those noble qualities of head and heart which are necessary for a leader of men, in a pre-eminent degree. We find in him more than in any others, great erudition, unrivalled eloquence which can be stirring and powerful or persuasive and convincing to suit occasions, catholicity of views, and, above all, we find in his life a record of distinguished public service often performed with unflinching devotion to the cause of his country in the teeth of strong official opposition—a positive proof of his fitness to be trusted as the people's man and not suspected as a 'scoundrel' from Government House to betray the people's cause at

critical junctures. As far as one could see from the voluminous correspondence and Editorial comments appearing in the columns of the "Morning Leader" there are only two disqualifications that are urged against him which may require refutation. So much is made of his declaration four or five years ago that he had bidden adieu to political life and that his intentions for the future was to devote his time to work for the people in a higher field—the spiritual and moral elevation of his country. Up to this time no one will gainsay the fact that he has consistently and at great personal and pecuniary sacrifice carried out his intentions. But opinions may change with the change of circumstances, and intentions too may vary accordingly. What was at one time considered a fruitless field of labour when the people had no voice in the selection of their representatives or in the administration of the Government, may now under changed circumstances appear not to be an unprofitable field of service. Again a stir is intended to be cast on Mr. Ramanathan's character by making veiled insinuations as to the circumstances of his retirement from Government service. On his distinguished service in the Legislative Council the "Morning Leader" itself has passed high and unqualified eulogiums. It is true no doubt that in his official career, he had during the regime of Governor Ridgeway to fall into the disfavour of that honey tongued genius. Instance like this are not uncommon under bureaucratic Governments. Independence of views, straight-forwardness and such other manly qualities in an officer are sometimes viewed by higher authorities with disfavour and it sometimes leads to unfair treatments to him in matters of promotion or preferment. Strained and unpleasant relations thus created eventually ends in the premature retirement of the official concerned much to the relief of the bureaucracy and the regret of the public. We may cite parallel instances to this from the neighbouring Continent. Sir Henry Cotton, Mr. Smeaton, Mr. R. C. Dutt, Mr. O'Donnell, Mr. Pennell and several others who held high appointments in the Indian service are said to have retired from the service under similar circumstances, and yet no one ever seeks to cast aspersions on their high character on this score. In fact such incidents have always had the effect of endearing them to the people, the more, as affording evidence of their sincerity and strength of character. Even the Government whose opinions or prejudices about persons constantly fluctuate, changing with the change of Governors and Secretaries have in many instances subsequently rectified their mistakes by appointing such officials to important Commissions and other positions of trust and responsibility. Attempts to discredit Mr. Ramanathan on this score is nothing but the outcome of jealousy in some cases and dread of his overpowering influence in the country in others, and are doomed to utter failure. The very fact of his enjoying the coveted and honorable distinctions of C. M. G. and K. C. should silence all his detractors and convince them that he still retains the esteem and confidence of His Majesty's Government.

Now on the other hand, what have they who are at so much pains to discredit Mr. Ramanathan and his policy to offer the constituency to accept. Well, according to the "Morning Leader" the redoubtable champion of Dr. Fernando, their candidate will not give any pledge to his constituents or allow any the least inkling of his policy to public scrutiny. Arguments or advocacy however strong or convincing they may be will according to this school of politicians, make the authorities stiffen their backs and place themselves in an uncompromising attitude of opposition to all reasonable demands. Secret conclaves in the chambers of officials and not open discussion in the Platform, the Press, or in Council for the purpose of securing any political concessions from Government are the chief weapons in the armory of this party. Their candidate they solemnly and sincerely aver is now a high favourite with the present Governor and other high officials and it is only by availing ourselves of his great powers of cajolery and blandishment that Ceylon can ever hope to gain any political concession from the authorities. Dr. Fernando himself in his election address at Galle clearly lays down the proposition that a public declaration of policy on his part "however alluring it may be as a matter in the electoral campaign is impossible in the limited condition of the franchise and of the constitution of the reformed Legislative Council." This deliberate attempt to detract public opinion from her legitimate place in politics and set up in her place, favouritism, subserviency and cajolery, is sure to be resented by all educated men. Inconsistently enough the worthy candidate has in the same address reproduced with the fidelity of a gramophone some opinions on current political questions expressed in the "Morning Leader" at various times. But one may ask *out bona*. Why waste your breath when you tell us that public opinion is powerless to influence the actions of the authorities to any extent? We have learned the constitutional history of England or of India under British rule to no purpose if we do not detect at a glance the absurdities of these arguments. To expose fully the hollowness of these arguments and to point out the demoralising tendency it will have on public life, if it is to be adopted, will be the object of another letter. In the meantime I would close this with one question to the electors.—Do they prefer a manly straight-forward policy of open-door

advocacy or an effeminate demoralising subservient policy of closed-door cajolery to advance their cause.

Vannarpannai, S. Sivagurunathan.
11th, Decr. 1910.

THE JAFFNA COMMERCIAL CORPORATION.

The Editor,
"Hindu Organ".

Sir,
I have seen a Notice in the "Morning Star" for the post of Cashier and Accountant of the Jaffna Commercial Corporation, Limited.

As a shareholder I feel it my duty to submit the following suggestions to the Directors and others interested in the Company.

"Prevention is better than cure".

The anomalous appointment of one officer for the dual posts of Cashier and Accountant should be avoided. It is desirable to appoint one as Cashier and the other as Accountant and both to give adequate security.

The salary now paid to one officer who holds both offices is Rs. 1800/- per annum and commission on pro-notes discounted which amount to about Rs. 600/- per annum both aggregating to about Rs. 2400/- and for which two qualified officers could be secured.

The Accountant should be prepared to act for the Cashier when required and he should also inspect the branches of the Company.

Cashier and Accountant should be separate officers as they will be of mutual help to be correct in cash and accounts respectively.

When the present popular Manager retires his successor should be required to give security and a fixed salary should be allowed, with or without a small percentage of commission, as the Directors think advisable, on the net profit whenever a dividend of not less than 12% is declared.

The goods in all branches to be insured against fire.

Manipay, A. Supayah.
9th Dec., 1910.

A QUESTION (?) ANSWERED.

The Editor,
"Hindu Organ".

Sir,

In the last issue of the "Star", I came across a correspondence headed "A question to be answered". The correspondent, "Common Sense", "was rather astonished not to find Mr. Ramanathan's name in the list of invitations to the Garden Party". I, for my part, am greatly astonished not to find any sense in the letter of "Common Sense". He words his letter "a question to be answered" and practically puts no question. He finds Mr. Ramanathan's and Dr. Fernando's names daily in the newspapers and is not astonished to find Mr. Ramanathan shine through the clouds of detractors and 'paid' agents, who insult and dishonour the "Educated Constituency" of Ceylon by asserting that they have to guide, them in selecting a person for the 'Seat'. When he did not find Mr. Ramanathan's name in the list of those invited for a dinner, Oh! He exults.

He asks "why did the Government" (I would he had said Governor) "invite Dr. Fernando specially"? "Is it not because it holds him in high esteem"? And hurriedly he himself answers "it is so" and Dr. Fernando deserves it. (Well done!) If he had allowed "the question to be answered" by the public, he would have received a different answer.

Will "Common Sense" come out of the veil? Will he explain his position and the meaning of his letter? I thank him in anticipation.

Chundienly, "M".
5-12-10.

NOTICE.

Important.

To whom it may Concern.

TESTIMONIAL.

Boralessea, 23rd November, 1910.
To
SAM SOLOMON, Esq.
Manager,
Shanghai Life Insurance Co., Ltd.
COLOMBO.

Sir,
I have to thank you for the payment of Rs. 10,000.00 being the amount of my late husband Kwanage Diagu Perera's Insurance under Policy 10771 in your Company in my favour.

He died on the 9th instant, the burial Certificate and other papers were posted to you on the 18th instant and the Claim paid on the 23rd.

I must also thank you for the very great help your representative rendered to me in calling at my bungalow and assisting me in filling up the death claim papers without any expense to me.

Everything that has been done in this matter has been carried out as told to my late husband when he took out the Insurance.

I am, Sir,
Yours faithfully,
(Sgd.) P. ISABELLA FERNANDO.
(Widow & Beneficiary.)

NOTICE.

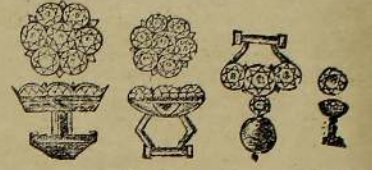
CLEARANCE SALE.

Our Drapery Stores.

THE annual stock-taking Clearance Sale will be held at our Grand Bazaar Stores from 15th to 31st December 1910.

Unusual Bargains!
Dont Miss this Opportunity!!

JAFFNA TRADING COY., LTD.



THE PRICE OF THE WORLD.

A wonder for native ladies.—London made 18 carat Rolled gold diamond Thodoo Rs. 1500.

The illustration in the margin shows a pair of female ear-ornament called "THODOO" which is set with our Simulation diamonds. Its efficient workmanship and the glittering nature of these stones like stars of the heaven deceive the public to think they are real diamonds. In fact diamond experts often blunder and value this Thodoo at Rs. 1500. The brilliancy of these stones is without any fault equal to diamonds of first water, this has been specially imported from Europe for our Indian daughters and they must not be deprived of the pleasure of wearing them to the satisfaction of their male members of the family. Such a worthy Jewel we are giving you at such an insignificant price at Rs. 3 8-0 only per pair, despite its high quality.

No. 2. Same as above quality diamond Kadukan valued to Rs. 1000. Price Rs. 3 8 per pair.

No. 3. Same as above quality; Kunthanam Bulackoo; very attractive, valued to Rs. 200. Price Rs. 2-0-0 each.

No. 4. Same as above diamond or cut ruby fitted. Nose screw, valued to Rs. 50. Price annas 8 only.

N. B. Postage free for 2 jewels and one jewel will be presented to the buyers of 6 jewels at a time.

Competition Reduction Sale
AT ONE THIRD PRICE!
AT ONE THIRD PRICE!!

Don't spend your money in vain until you inspect our first class sterling Silver valuable Watches, and beautiful presents quite a competition in value, and 50% less than Bombay, Calcutta, Madras and other market rates.

Our world renowned solid sterling Silver Registered Gun time "LAG" WATCH, engine turned or engraved case with 24 pretty pearls and a stamped guarantee for fully 7 years. Original sale price, Rs. 20, competition reduced price Rs. 6/8 only.—

DURABLE & CHEAP! NEAT & STRONG!

This is the splendid Presentation Watch which will last for a life time and needs no recommendation as the superior and best quality recommends itself. These Watches guaranteed in all points a d are far superior in accuracy and durability to any of the numerous similar Watches offered in the Presidency.

These Watches are not only the best time keepers, but also the neatest, soundest and cheapest of all Watches ever imported into India.

DESCRIPTION OF 24 PRESENTS.

A neat velvet lined box. A fine English pattern gent's chain with clasp. A nice compass locket. One 18 carat electric gold gent's signet ring nicely finished and polished. A fancy penknife with white or oxidised handle. A cake of white flower rose soap. A beautiful China handkerchief. An English scent bottle. One full set of 18 carat gold cased shirt buttons richly engraved. Chest buttons 4. The same quality for links for cuffs, 2. One Japanese fancy key preserver. One oxidised cool spectacle. One enamelled flower jewellery case. One bottle Sughantha mookkothool (snuff). One Indian scent cake or utter billai. One soft pencil. One pocket diary with two years calendar with morocco lining. One Russian leather money purse. A fine accordion with different songs. One electric gold nose screw with ruby. Total 24 valuable and beautiful presents.

FURTHER SPECIAL ADVANTAGE.

To the purchasers of two Watches at a time the whole postage and packing free of charges, and one Watch with prizes will be presented free to the purchasers of 6 Watches at a time. Postage extra.

Orders from the Straits Settlement and other foreign countries will not be executed unless the amount due remitted in advance.

THE GENERAL MANAGER,
Raheem & Fareed Brothers
Watch Dealers and Jewellers
SADRAS, INDIA.

"TELEGRAMS—Watches" Sadras.