

The Hindu Organ.

"Arise! Awake! and stop not till the goal is reached."

THE ONLY NEWSPAPER IN CEYLON FOR THE HINDUS

HAS THE WIDEST CIRCULATION

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THE HINDU ORGAN.

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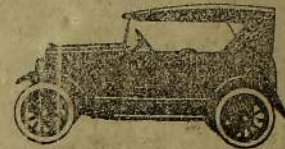
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Order Nisi.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 5354. In the Matter of the Estate of the late Paskiam, wife of D. S. Solomon of Kakkavil East. Deceased. Bastian Emmanuel, Secretary, District Court, Jaffna. Petitioner. Vs. 1. D. S. Solomon, Surveyor, Kuala Lumpur 2. S. Kashy, daughter of D. S. Solomon 3. Neemasalar, daughter of D. S. Solomon, both of Kakkavil East, and 4. Ayanasalai Alexander of Jaffna; the 2nd and 3rd are minors, appearing by their guardian ad litem the 4th Respondent.

This matter of the Petition of Petitioner praying for Letters of Administration to the estate of the abovesaid deceased, coming on for disposal before G. W. Woodhouse Esquire, District Judge, on December 4, 1923, in the presence of Mr. V. Manickavasagam, Proctor, on the part of the Petitioner and the affidavits of the original Petitioner dated September 29, 1923, having been read: It is declared that the Petitioner is the official administrator, and is entitled to have Letters of Administration to the estate of the said intestate issued to him, unless the Respondents or any other person shall, on or before March 13, 1924, show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary. G. W. Woodhouse, District Judge. March 4, 1924. O. 631.

Order Nisi.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 5402. In the Matter of the Estate of the late Veluppillai Salladurai of Kankesanurail late of Trincomalee. Deceased. Thangamuthu widow of Veluppillai of Kankesanurail. Petitioner. Vs. 1. Maragees Thambipillai and wife 2. Annappillai both of Vannarpponnai East near Jaffna Hospital 3. Veluppillai Kallayappillai of Kankesanurail. Respondents. This action coming on for disposal before G. W. Woodhouse Esquire, District Judge, Jaffna, on March 5, 1924, in the presence of Mr. M. Subramaniam, Proctor, on the part of the Petitioner and the affidavits of the Petitioner dated January 17, 1924, having been read: It is ordered that the abovesaid 1st and 2nd Respondents should be appointed Guardian ad litem over the minor the 3rd Respondent for the purpose of representing him in this action, and that Letters of Administration to the estate of the abovesaid deceased be granted to the Petitioner as his mother, unless the Respondents or any other person shall appear before this court on March 25, 1924 and show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this court to the contrary. G. W. Woodhouse, District Judge. March 5, 1924. O. 632.

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JAFFNA, MONDAY MARCH 10, 1924.

THE EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION.

MR. CARY'S ADDRESS.

The annual general meeting of the European Association of Ceylon was held on the 2nd instant, and the speeches of Mr. M. J. Cary, who was the President of the Association during the past year and of Mr. H. J. Temple who as the Representative of the Association in London has done yeoman service to it and the minority communities, should be deemed as of more than ordinary interest to all who are concerned in the political advancement of Ceylon. It is a matter for gratification that the Europeans in Ceylon, who till recently were holding aloof from the political activities of the permanent population, have begun to take an interest in them. In the speech by Mr. Temple he referred to the services of Mr. Temple in connection with the reforms in the following manner:—Mr. Temple presented the minorities' case to the Secretary of State for the Colonies with extraordinary ability, and his memoranda will go down to history in the political controversies of this country as the clearest and most able exposition of the position and views of the minorities, and I must not omit the effective manner in which he conducted correspondence in various journals in London to correct misunderstanding and

false impression from the presentation of one party's views." The minority communities are under a deep debt of obligation to the European Association for the valuable assistance it rendered them in safeguarding their interests, and to Mr. Temple for the very efficient manner in which he acquitted himself in the discharge of his duties as its representative in London. The assurance Mr. Cary gives in his speech that the Europeans "sympathise with the fears of the other minorities and will support them until events prove that there is no reason to fear that a decided majority of Sinhalese in Council would witness a total disregard of all other points of view" will, we are sure, meet with the grateful acceptance of the minorities. Mr. Cary's meaning of self-government is one with which all right-thinking men eager to secure the political emancipation of Ceylon will agree. His remarks on the Order-in-Council, we think, will be appreciated by all. So also will be the desire he expressed on behalf of the European Association to support both sincerely and heartily the hope expressed by Congress leaders that the concession granted to the minority communities of voting for the election of territorial members in addition to their right to elect their own communal representatives may hasten the welding of the different racial groups into one united nation qualified to undertake the responsibility of full self-government. His observations on legislative honours are so consonant with the views expressed on the subject by our men of light and leading that we think our quoting them at length will serve to impress on the minds of our readers a very wholesome and useful suggestion, which seems to receive the hearty and unanimous support of the press. Mr. Cary said, "I am afraid that the desire to become a member of the Legislative Council is not in all cases actuated solely by a desire to work for the community, and I suspect that the dignity and honour which attaches to that position is in some cases the attraction. Is it not now time, gentlemen, that the title of 'Honourable' should be confined to the courtesy of debate as in the British Parliament and in India, and that membership of the Legislative Council should no longer carry with it the title of 'The Honourable Mr.' in the country? Surely members of our Legislative Council are, or should be, men who require no such aids to ensure them the recognition that their position in the Council of the State warrants, and apart from this, true citizenship objects to such undeserved honour. I can understand in the early days of the Council the necessity for emphasising the honour of serving the country, but with the progress of education and the growth of the sense of responsibility the necessity for the title 'Honourable Mr.' outside the Council chamber no longer exists, and I would urge the members of the new Legislature to request that this custom be abolished. We sincerely hope that the members of the new Council will act according to the wish so forcibly expressed above and in the press and follow the noble example set by members of the British Parliament and legislatures in India.

We wish to draw the special attention of our readers to the salient points in Mr. Cary's address as we are of opinion that in the present political condition of Ceylon when the sympathy and hearty co-operation of Europeans in the Island are needed by Ceylonese in their efforts to gain self-government, pronouncements of prominent Europeans at important political meetings deserve the careful consideration of those who have the political welfare of the country at heart.

LOCAL & GENERAL.

GOVERNMENT AGENT.—Mr. Schrader has left Jaffna on a tour of inspection to Poonery and along the coast road to Mannar. He will also inspect the pearl banks and return by the end of this month. WESTERN PROVINCE TAMIL SEAT.—It is reported that Mr. A. Mahadeva has, at the request of a large body of voters, finally decided to contest the Western Province Tamil Seat. He was a candidate for the Central Division electorate of the Northern Province but he has now informed his supporters of this Division of his regret and has stated the circumstances that have obliged his withdrawal from the candidature for the Central Division Seat. SUDDEN DEATH.—A peon of the Fiscal's Office, named Henry, was found dead on the road near the Catholic Press, Jaffna, on the night of Tuesday the 4th instant. At the coroner's inquest an open verdict is said to have been returned, as the post-mortem examination showed that one of his ribs was broken and there was rupture of the spleen.

GENERAL POST OFFICE.—Mr. M. S. Shreeva, Post Master General, who went to India on leave has returned to the Island. He resumed duties on the 5th inst and relieved Mr. H. W. Coddington who was acting for him. Mr. Coddington is to take up duties as Registrar General. COTTON-GROWING IN CEYLON.—We are glad to know that the Government has decided to secure the services of Mr. Milligan, who is at present Agricultural Adviser to the Government of India, to report on the prospects of cotton growing in Ceylon. A vote of 200 pounds has been passed for his remuneration by the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council. MEDICAL.—We learn that Dr. S. C. Paul is sailing for England on leave next month. TEACHERS AS COUNCILLORS.—The Southern Province Teachers' Association held a special general meeting on the 28th ultimo at the Olds Memorial Hall with the object of requesting some gentleman who are bona fide teachers to contest some of the seats in the Reformed Council. A resolution to this effect was moved by Mr. E. de Saa Baadaranyake on the occasion. ELECTRIC HEADLIGHT EXPERIMENTS.—The electric headlights fitted to two engines, one on the Northern line and the other on the coast line having proved a thorough success, it has been decided to fit twenty other engines this year with lights of this nature on the various lines. FORGERY OF A RAILWAY TICKET.—Jayarajah Cyril, a youth, employed under the Hon. E. R. Tambimuttu, stood before the District Judge of Colombo on the 4th inst indicted on a charge of forgery. He altered an expired season ticket issued to his cousin, E. A. Sallathurai who is in the Surveyor-General's Office, and while travelling with it between Fort and Maradana, he was detected by Inspector Thompson. The accused pleaded guilty and was fined Rs. 100. IMPERIAL BOTANICAL CONGRESS.—Ceylon will be represented at this Congress by the Hon. Mr. Stockdale, Director of Agriculture, who will leave for England on leave of the 20th of June. MOTOR ACCIDENT.—A fisherman of Assicoadai, Jaffna, was knocked down and wounded severely by a hiring car some days back. The driver of this car and another person were charged, the former with reckless driving and the latter for not having given information. The driver was sentenced to a fine of Rs. 30 and his license was endorsed, while the other was acquitted. PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.—Mr. S. W. Dassanayake, District Engineer, Negombo, succeeds Mr. D. K. McMinn, Provincial Engineer, Northern Province, who has been appointed Provincial Engineer, Kurunegala. THE SUPREME COURT.—The first case taken up before His Lordship G. S. Schneider Justice, began on the 25th ultimo and continued till the 29th. It was a case in which seven persons, namely, Arivar Kidnapillai, Karthigan Suppar, Nagan Vairavan alias Narayan, E. Iyvan Kanapathy, E. Iyvan Sinnayan alias Sinnay, Vairavan Sinnayan and Kandiah Kanapathipillai of Kudathurai stood charged with unlawful assembly, rioting, house-breaking and theft in the house of one Pandaram Joseph Veluppillai of the same place. The accused were defended by Mr. S. D. Tampoe, Advocate. They were found guilty, and the following sentences were passed on them:—The first and the 7th accused were sentenced to 6 years' rigorous imprisonment, the 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th accused to four years' rigorous imprisonment, and the 6th accused to one year's rigorous imprisonment. The next case was taken up on the 29th ultimo, in which one Murguesu Marimuttu of Pirampathy was indicted with the murder of his mother, Puranam. The accused was defended by Mr. Julius Phillips, Advocate, instructed by Mr. R. R. Nalliah, Proctor. The Jury returned a verdict of not guilty by a majority of five to two, and the accused was acquitted and discharged. The next case was taken up on the 3rd inst and continued till the 4th inst. In this case one Pandaram Cheluvan of Moore Street, Jaffna was charged with forgery. The accused was defended by Mr. S. D. Tampoe. The Jury brought in a verdict of guilty, but they and the defending Council made a strong appeal for mitigation of sentence in view of the old age of the accused. Consequently he was sentenced to two years' simple imprisonment. The next case which went on for two days, the 4th and the 5th inst, was one in which Michael Jacob, B. Saramanpillai, P. Mathias, P. Pavulu, P. Thommas and P. K. Sebastian of Killy were charged with the abduction of a widow, named Elizabeth, of the same place. The accused were defended by Mr. S. D. Tampoe, instructed by Proctor V. R. Nagarathnam. The Jury brought in a verdict of not guilty by a majority of six to one, and the accused were acquitted. The next case, which was taken up on the 6th inst, was that in which one Murguesu Arumaram, a dhoby of Kutharamman, was charged with the murder of one Kathiran Sinnathurai of the same place. The accused was defended by Mr. S. D. Tampoe, instructed by Mr. H. P. Wijeyaratnam, Proctor. The Jury brought in a verdict of not guilty by a majority of 3 to 2, and the accused was acquitted and discharged.

THE SOUTHERN CONSTITUENCY.—We are glad to know that the Hon. Sir. A. Kanagasabai has accepted the invitation which was made to him in a letter signed by a large, influential and representative number of voters to stand as a candidate for the Southern constituency. ACKNOWLEDGMENT.—The receipt of a copy of No. 4 Volume 1, of the Madras Ayurvedic Journal published by the Madras Ayurvedic Pharmacy is acknowledged with thanks. It is a monthly journal for the preservation of one's health, and is edited by Ayurvedic Ratna Pandit, Dr. N. V. Ramachari, Ph. D. Sc. It is a very useful and timely publication calculated to preserve the health of people and advance the cause of Ayurvedic medicine. The number under review contains besides the Editorial, Health Notes, valuable articles on Ayurvedic Bacteriology, Compliments in Women during Pregnancy, Diagnosis of Diseases and Cleanliness, and Notes. The annual subscription is Island Re. 1. Foreign Re 1.4. The Editorial and Publishing House is 2/4 Mount Road Madras. OBEDIENCE TO PARENTS. "Honour thy father and mother, that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee" is a noble saying of the Bible, and this has also been a constant teaching of the Hindu Shastras, and the Mohammedan books on religion. That being the case it is very natural and reasonable that we should obey our parents and show them proper respect. Our parents love us dearly, and are always prepared to sacrifice their enjoyments, comforts, nay their lives for our sakes. They supplied us with food and clothing, and took every care of us when we were young and helpless, and without their kindness we might have died of want. It is, therefore, proper that we should always feel grateful to them and love them, and be ready to do all we can for their happiness. The responsibilities of parents do not end with simply applying their children with food and clothing. Their chief duty is to educate them and train up their minds properly with a view to forming their characters. They watch with keen interest the progress which their sons and daughters make in their studies, and make great sacrifices in giving their daughters in marriage to suitable husbands. Such being the solicitude of the parents for their children's welfare, strict obedience to them is the least that can be expected from them. Therefore a person who is guilty of disobedience towards his parents must be looked upon as the most ungrateful creature in existence. He should be considered as a scum of society and held up to the derision of the public. It must, however, be borne in mind that all parents should not be implicitly obeyed. The slaves and knaves have sons and daughters as much as honest men. But it is certainly not desirable that their children should obey them or imitate their mode of life. In cases like these, thought it is inconsistent with reason and morality to disobey our parents on earth, it should not be forgotten that there is another parent, who is superior to all earthly parents, and whose commands are to be constantly obeyed. The Hindus have, from time immemorial, been famous for their profound reverence towards their parents; and they hold the belief that disobedience to parents is sure to be punished with hell fire. But it is a matter of deep regret that throughout Ceylon, there has been growing amongst children a spirit of disobedience and insubordination to their parents. This is perhaps due to the wrong ideas about filial piety that have of late entered the heads of our young men. But this is certainly wrong, for if they go on in this spirit of disobedience they will turn out to be obstinate and stubborn in nature, and then at last they might become the very tyrants of men Napoleon Bonaparte used to say, "First obey and then command." Our Ceylon young men should take note of this, for it was the saying of the man who afterwards came to the position of the highest commander on earth. Pandit Ratnasamy Aiyer.

THE ORDER IN COUNCIL.

PROCLAMATION.

Continued from our last issue. XXVII.—In the case of qualifying property possessed or occupied jointly by two or more persons, each such person not being a usufructuary mortgagee shall be qualified to have his name entered on the register of voters, provided the number of persons does not exceed the number obtained by dividing the annual value of such property by four hundred if it is situated within the limits of any Municipal, Local Board, or Sanitary Board town, or of any Urban District Council, and by two hundred if situated elsewhere.

XXVII.—Any European not otherwise disqualified shall be qualified to have his name entered on the register of voters for the European (Urban) Electorate if he is resident within the Municipal limits of Colombo, Rany, or Galle.

XXIX.—Any European, not otherwise disqualified, shall be qualified to have his name entered on the register of voters for the European (Rural) Electorate if he is resident in Ceylon outside the Municipal limits of Colombo, Rany, or Galle.

XXX.—Every member of the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce, not otherwise disqualified, shall be qualified to have his name entered on the register for the Commercial Electorate.

XXXI.—Any person, not otherwise disqualified, shall be qualified to have his name entered on the register of voters for the Burgher Electorate if he—

- (a) is the descendant in the male line of a European who, on or before the Fifteenth day of February, 1796, was in the service or under the rule of the Dutch East India Company of Ceylon, or is descended from any such descendant in the female line by marriage with a European; or
(b) is a legitimate birth, and is descended in the female line from any such descendant as aforesaid, and is able to speak, read, and write the English language,

XXXII.—Any Ceylon Tamil, not otherwise disqualified, shall be qualified to have his name entered on the register of voters for the Western Province (Tamil) Constituency if he is resident within the Western Province.

XXXIII.—Any person, not otherwise disqualified, shall be qualified to have his name entered on the register of voters for any constituency mentioned in sub-heads (v.) to (ix) (both inclusive) and (x) to (xviii) (both inclusive) of Article 19 (1) of this Order.

XXXIV.—(1) The Governor shall from time to time appoint a fit and proper person to be the returning officer of each constituency, and may at any time cancel any such appointment.

(2) If any returning officer shall, by sickness or other cause, be prevented or disabled from acting, or shall refuse or neglect to act at any election, the Governor may at any time appoint some fit and proper person to act in the place of such returning officer at such election.

(3) Every appointment of a returning officer shall be valid until his death, or until such appointment shall be cancelled by the Governor.

(4) Every appointment or cancellation of appointment of a returning officer shall be notified in the "Government Gazette".

XXXV.—(1) For the purpose of every general election of Members of the Council, and for the purpose of the election of Members to supply vacancies caused by death, resignation, or otherwise, the Governor shall, by notification in the "Government Gazette", appoint a convenient date, not being less than fourteen days after the publication of the notification.

(2) Every such notification shall specify the place or places of election.

XXXVI.—(1) Such elections shall be by ballot, and shall be held in accordance with the procedure prescribed by the rules contained in Schedule H. of this Order.

(2) The returning officer or any officer presiding at a polling booth may in his discretion and shall, if required by any candidate, put to any voter, at the time of his applying for a ballot paper, the following questions or either of them, and no other:—

- First.—Are you the same person whose names appears as A. B. on the register of voters now in force for this electorate?
Second.—Have you already voted, either here or elsewhere, for the election of a member for this electorate?

(3) If any person refuses to answer any such question so put to him, the returning or presiding officer may refuse to give him ballot paper.

(4) If any person willfully make a false answer to any such question so put to him, he shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to imprisonment of either description for any term not exceeding one year.

XXXVII.—(1) A petition complaining of an undue return or undue election of a Member of this Council, in this Order called an election petition, may at any time within fifteen days of the publication of the result of such election in the "Government Gazette", be presented to the Supreme Court by any one or more of the following persons, that is to say:—

- (i) Some person who voted or had a right to vote at the election to which the petition relates;
(ii) Some person claiming to have had a right to be returned or elected at such election;
(iii) Some person alleging himself to have been a candidate at such election.

(To be continued.)

MAHA SHIVA RAATHIRI: A NIGHT OF HOLY VIGIL.

By S. RAJATHUNGAM.

It was indeed a glorious Monday evening and ideal weather conditions prevailed. The writer of the following was walking along the wide expansive sea shore of Mutuwal. The sun was just setting on the horizon casting out with beautiful reflections on the calm placid waters of the ocean its golden yellow rays. A mild exhilarating breeze was blowing and the whole horizon was one graceful combination of all the hues in the rainbow. The hollow moaning of the waves as they splashed against the seashore mingled with the humming of some folk songs sung by the Mutuwal fishermen as they proceeded on their curious sailing craft in their busy sea-faring life were heard to advantage. Behind the gentle murmur of the Keladi Ganga contributed to the solemnity of the scene as it unloaded its burden into the ocean, strongly symbolising man's desire to lay out all his cares and sorrows of life to the one reality and gain grace and strength. The occasional blowing of sirens by some of the steamers in the Colombo Harbour in front of our view, reminded one, that just as the mariners on a vessel feel relieved of their anxiety as the vessel safely reaches a port, so also man is like a vessel tossed here and there by the tempestuous waves of the sea of life, and until he reaches the feet of Him who is our sure refuge and trust, his heart could not be at rest. The beautiful dome and the graceful spire of the adjoining cathedral were seen amidst the luxuriant foliage of the coconut groves. The shades of night were falling fast, and another day in our bubble-like life had its close. The stars like diamonds were twinkling in the spacious firmament on high. The sonorous music of the conch and shell accompanied with the chanting of Thevavams from the throats of so many devotees from the adjoining temples announced to the un-mindful that there was something unusual on that day. It was the night of Shiva Raathiri, and the writer in loyal obedience to the ancient usage and religious traditions of his forefathers resolved to spend the night in silent reflection and prayer. What is Shiva-raathiri, and to illustrate the merits gained by observing it the writer proposes to give a free translation in brief of a story from the puranas and trusts that this may prove interesting.

"Away in the dim ages of the past when history fails to record the achievements of man precisely, a hunter armed with his bow and arrow was going out in search of game. It was a delightful refreshing morning, and the hunter entered one of those forests on the cliffs of the mighty Himalayas, the abode of sages and seers. The hunter traversed the wide thick forest. The day was warm and the hunter got disappointed in not succeeding in his work. Night was fast approaching, and the thought of his starving wife and child made him sad indeed. How to meet his starving wife and child was a problem for him to solve. He thought the best thing for him to do was to stay in the forest and go away the next morning with food for his family. While he was wandering sadly, his mind being absorbed in these sorrowful thoughts, he passed by the side of a big tank. The thought suddenly flashed across his mind that if the proposed staying for the night near about the place he had some chance of killing some beasts which would naturally come to quench their thirst. He, therefore, thought of hiding himself behind a bush, but for fear of being attacked by some wild beasts he thought it safer to climb on some tree near by. He therefore climbed on to the nearest tree, and having comfortably settled himself began dropping leaves as a means of attracting some beasts to the spot. The hunter was not at all disappointed in his efforts. In the first watch of the night a doe antelope after drinking water approached the tree to have a feed at the falling leaves. Oh! the hunter was glad indeed. He therefore prepared to shoot the beast when lo! to his surprise the antelope in human voice addressed the hunter: "Oh dear hunter, do not kill me". The hunter became bewildered and puzzled. He knew not what to say. He, therefore, with some presence of mind told the animal that his wife and child were starving at his humble cottage. "Necessity knows no law," exclaimed the hunter, "and you must be their food". The antelope pitifully replied, "Even so dear hunter, I have a dear husband and an affectionate child, and I feel for them just as you feel for your wife and child. Are you so hard-hearted? For their sake, give me a few hours' leave, and I would be back again before day break." The hunter sympathising with the animal granted the leave. The first watch of the night came to a close, and during the second watch of the night another animal came in to drink water. The hunter prepared to aim at the animal, when the animal begged the hunter to grant him leave. This animal made the hunter understand that he was the husband of the first animal and that after taking leave of his wife and child he would return. The hunter thinking that they would be true to their promise and with the idea of begging the two gave him leave. During the third watch of the night another animal appeared, and when the hunter prepared to shoot down this animal, the young antelope pitifully told him that he was in search of his parents and that he would return after taking leave of them.

The hunter believed in the story of all these three antelopes and granted permission to the young antelope to go. The night was coming to a close, and they did not appear. The hunter kept awake during the whole night, and his disappointment was great indeed when there were no signs of the animals returning. The tree on which the hunter stayed for the night was the 'Vishva tree', a tree held in reverence by pious Hindus, and the leaves he dropped fell on a Shiva Lingam beneath the tree. And the night during which all these events took place happened to be the sacred night of Shiva Raathiri. The night was coming to a close and the hunter's narrow knee on bounds. The morning twilight had already brightened the heavens. Birds and beasts alike were sending their praises of thankfulness to their Creator for having protected them during the night. Disappointed and sorrow-stricken the hunter turned his face towards the East, when lo! to his surprise he saw ten three animals walking and weeping on their sad fate, each without being seen by the other. Even the hunter, hard-hearted and stern as he was, was much taken up by this piteous spectacle, and tears trickled down his cheeks. He could not bear to see the sight, and when he turned his face the other way he was overwhelmed with joy when his wife and darling child who were searching for him all throughout the night came running to embrace him no sooner had they seen him. His heart being filled with joy he in a spirit of generosity resolved to excuse the animal when to his surprise and amazement a splendid *Vamana* appeared in front of him and before the hunter had time to admire at it, all the six were transported by this *Vamana* to the abode of Ishwara, the Lord of universes.

Tonight in many Hindu households pious devotees would in strict wadful worship Ishwara, the one in many. With many widows and old people this night would be a night of penance and prayer. Let us indeed try to think that many of our young boys and girls, and even grown up people are in blissful ignorance about these festivals. They are despised and those who appreciate and observe these fasts and fasts are considered by our modern youth as unorthodox. In our country there are the masses and the masses, and those who are enlightened seem to think that they have no need to observe our solemn festivals and holidays of the dearest spiritual significance. Strangers to their country, civilization, and even religion they strut about in borrowed plumes proudly believing that they are their own.

The time is drawing near for a great change, society is being revolutionized by new ideas and ideals, and we of the happy few if we want to be a self-respecting people, we must observe our holidays faithfully. Initiation in the worst form of slavery. Let us feel proud of our social system. If we are not going to keep up the immemorial customs, and traditions of our forefathers, who else can admit and follow them? May new hope and enthusiasm be infused in the hearts of many who worship Ishwara during his night. May the blessings of the one who presides over the destinies of nations be upon all those who worship Him during this sacred night.

Trust, trust the self supreme
The restlessness of soul is due
To faith in things that seem
The things that fleet as fog or dew
The way to keep you fresh and new
To every secret treasure clue
Is to assert the real self and deny de-luding self
There is no duty to be done
For you Oh everything Oh one
Why chafe and wrong
Feel, Feel the truth and anxiously shirk.
There is the stary moon of night
The twilight eve, the dewy moon
Whatever is beautiful and bright
These hands have fashioned to adorn
Thy glory walks in every sphere
And all things whisper "God is here"
Aum Shantum Shivam Sandaam.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE DEATH OF SIR PONNAMPALAM ARUNACHALAM AND CEYLONESE OVERSEAS.

Sir, A correspondent of yours from Klang calls upon the Overseas Ceylonese Association to explain why it had not taken steps to convey the news of the death of Sir Ponnampalam Arunachalam to Ceylonese Overseas in time. Our explanation is that it did not occur to us at the time that the Malayan Press was so inefficient and that we should be called upon to assist in any way, till the matter was brought home to us in the form of a suggestion from Mr. S. Eliathamby of Port Swettenham. It is very unfortunate that there is no provision in the rules for any emergency expenditure of money on Press telegrams. Your correspondent does not realise that by the time the secretary convenes a committee meeting and gets the necessary sanction, the news would be as stale as it could be.

Even supposing that the Secretary, on the impulse of a sudden inspiration, wanted to inform the Ceylonese Public in Malaya, he should have been at a loss to decide as to whom or to what body, he should communicate the news, especially in view of the fact that there is no organised branch of the Association in Malaya. It is a pity that the Ceylonese over there have not yet thought of organising a branch Association. If they do, then they will have a direct control over the affairs of the central body as well.

Under the circumstances, the Association did the only thing that it could possibly do, and that is to meet as early as possible and pass a vote of condolence which was promptly conveyed to Lady Annachalam and family.

Your correspondent is perfectly right expecting much from this newly formed Association, and it is the earnest hope of all concerned that his expectations will be fulfilled at an early date.

Thanking you for the space, Yours truly, M. SabaratnaSinghe, Honorary Secretary, O. C. A.

Lack of Medical Aid in the Jafna Villages.

Sir, The Ayurvedic Medical practice in Jafna seems to be deteriorating. The men who take up this profession are, in 90 out of 100 cases, of no moral culture or refinement. Many of them are in fact of the illiterate type who often abuse their privilege and are a source of danger to health and life in the villages. These men simply try experiments on human lives and they often fail, causing loss of both money and life to the poor village folk.

I do not at all want to belittle the Ayurvedic Medical Science. It is the man, the illiterate man, who abuse this great Science that I venture to criticise.

The village people, however, seem to be perfectly content with such a state of affairs, and do not seem to realise the gravity of the situation in regard to the unsatisfactory conditions of life out there. The fact is that they do not know, at least many of them do not, anything beyond their own environments. They do not know that there are improved conditions of life outside their world which they can procure for themselves by means of some kind of agitation on their part.

The people of the village generally do not patronise efficient medical practices. The result is that hundreds of lives are lost in the villages under tragic circumstances owing to want of proper medical aid. It becomes, therefore, the duty of every patriotic man of Jafna to ensure the safety of his poor fellowmen by taking steps either to improve the practice of Ayurvedic medicine or to substitute European system of medical aid throughout the villages. If the Government cannot help us in establishing hospitals and dispensaries, let us at least persuade some of the young medical men who are now on the "waiting list" to establish themselves in private practice in the villages and thus secure for themselves a means of prosperous livelihood and to their countrymen that of safeguarding their valuable lives.

Thanking you for your valuable space, Yours truly, S. RATANATHAR, 5th March, 1924.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD.

Minutes of the thirty third meeting of the Local Government Board held at the Colombo Keshuberi on Thursday, March 6, 1924, at 9.30 a. m.

Present:—The Hon. Mr. R. N. Thelmo (President) The Director of Public Works; The Hon. Mr. J. Strachan Dr. J. F. E. Bidderg, Sanitary Commissioner; Dr. W. A. de Silva The Hon. Mr. H. A. Looa.

- 1. The minutes of the thirty second meeting having been circulated were confirmed.
2. The Board considered further representations from the Chairman of the Culliv Council contained in his letter No. 198 of February 26, 1924 regarding the vote of Rs. 571.00 expenditure in connection with the recent visit of His Excellency the Governor to Culliv, and resolved that the donation already conveyed to the Council by letter No. 58 of 18th January, 1924 should be adhered to.

3. The Board considered letter No. 62 of 17th January, 1924, from the Chairman of the Culliv Council and resolved that the Board does not oppose the appointment of a Supervisor of works but considers that a suitable man for a salary of Rs. 1800.00 cannot be obtained for the duties enumerated in the Chairman's letter. The Board is further of opinion that a Supervisor of Works to attend to ordinary works should be obtained for a less salary than Rs. 1800.00 per annum and suggests that the Council should obtain two views of the District Engineer, Culliv, as to what work the Supervisor of Works would be called upon to perform.

- 4. The following paper was tabled:—
(i) Application for acquisition of land for opening a lane towards the river, from the Malala Council, already approved.

