

# The Hindu Organ.

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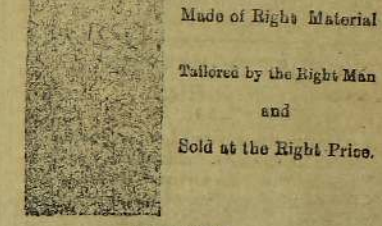
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## NOTICE.

## Order Nisi.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 8661.

In the Matter of the Estate of the late Pakkiam daughter of Mootatambay Rasasiah of Saravanan

Deceased.

Chellappah Pannirupasingam of Saravanan Plaintiff.

Vs.

1. Chellappah Vaitilingam of Saravanan
2. Chellappah Sinnathilaby of do
3. Chellappah Seneivasagam of do
4. Chellappah Nallathambay of do
5. Kannanappillai daughter of Chellappah of do
6. Chellappah Thiruvakkavasu of do

Minors

The 4th 5th and 6th Respondents

are minors by their Guardian ad litem the 2nd Respondent.

Respondents.

This matter of the Petition of Chellappah Pannirupasingam of Saravanan praying for Letters of Administration to the estate of the above-named deceased, Pakkiam daughter of Mootatambay Rasasiah, coming on for disposal before P. E. Pieris, District Judge, on October 7, 1918, in the presence of Mr. B. Sivagurunathan, Proctor, on the part of the Petitioner; and the affidavit of the Petitioner, dated October 7, 1918, having been read: It is declared that the Petitioner is one of the next of kin of the said intestate and is entitled to have Letters of Administration to the estate of the said intestate issued to him unless the Respondents or any other person shall, on or before December 8, 1918, show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

P. E. Pieris,  
District Judge.

November 18, 1918.

## The Ceylon Saiva Paripalana Sabha.

## SCHOLARSHIPS.

Five Senior and five Junior Scholarships of the annual value of Rs 120/- and Rs 20/- respectively, will be awarded early in January by the Ceylon Saiva Paripalana Sabha to Hindu Boys and Girls in the Northern and Eastern Provinces. For particulars apply to Mr. C. Thisagarajah, Hon. Secretary, Ceylon Saiva Paripalana Sabha, Darley Road, Colombo.

## FOREST DEPARTMENT TENDERS.

Tenders are invited for the supply of sleepers in the Anuradhapura Division and the Kurunegala Division during 1918-19 to reach the office of the Controller of Revenue not later than mid-day on November 26, 1918 in terms of notices appearing in Government Gazette No 6977 of November 14, 1918.

Further particulars may be obtained at the Forest Offices Anuradhapura and Kurunegala.

H. F. TOMALIN,  
Conservator of Forests.

Office of the Conservator of Forests,  
Kandy, 19th November, 1918.

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## The Hindu Organ.

JAFFNA, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 1918

## DRAINAGE IN JAFFNA.

The heavy rains of last week and the great hardship and sufferings which it inflicted on the people of Jaffna must bring again the question of improving the drainage system of the District to the forefront. No one who had been in Jaffna last week could have failed to witness the widespread distress prevailing in the country on account of the stagnant floods caused by the heavy rains. Years of heavy rainfall in Jaffna are of frequent occurrence. The rainfall in the last quarter of the year, though such heavy

rains as we had last week are an exception. It is a matter of common experience that in those years in which there is a heavy rainfall, the floods stagnate in many thickly populated parts of the District, as there are no proper outlets for drainage. Water stagnating in the compounds, even for a few days, makes the floors of the dwelling houses remain damp for days together. The wells in the compounds from which the inmates of these houses obtain their drinking water, get polluted, as the dirty water with decaying vegetables and other rubbish stagnating outside percolates into them. The immediate effects of this stagnating flood on the health of the inhabitants are bad, but its after-effects are worse indeed. Periods of heavy rainfall in Jaffna are generally followed by an outbreak of epidemic fever, diarrhoea and similar diseases. The mortality in the District rises to an abnormal extent and people suffer badly. Many die of the fever but the vast majority of the people get the fever and drag on a miserable life. Through poverty, bad housing, insanitary surroundings, and want of medical help, these people find it impossible to get a speedy cure. After months of recurring attacks of the fever they find themselves reduced in strength and vitality. One of the chief causes for the physical deterioration of the Tamil race in Jaffna, can be found in these periodical outbreaks of fever epidemics.

Drainage in Jaffna was more efficient in the olden days. There was a network of trunk channels and cross channels throughout the District to lead out the flood waters of the rainy season to the surrounding seas or to the salt-water canal traversing the District from Aryalai to Tondamazar. Many of these channels were also used as lanes by the villagers and many channels also passed through private lands. In those days when the communal spirit of the people was alive and the authority of village Panchayats was respected, these drainage channels were kept in good repair and the accumulating rain water in the villages found ready exit to the sea. But in recent times, these drainage channels were generally neglected. Many of the lanes which in former times served also as drainage channels, have now been filled up with earth and elevated by the wealthy residents so as to make them high and dry for them to walk on in the rainy season. Some private landowners too through whose lands drainage channels passed have encroached upon them or otherwise obstructed them in parts. The filling up of low lands in some parts of the District for building purposes has also had the effect of obstructing the drainage. Through causes such as these the old drainage channels in many parts of the District have been rendered unserviceable. In the town and in every village, it will not be difficult for a resident to cite instances of such obstructed drainage channels. If all these old channels had been kept in an efficient condition there can be no doubt that the dire calamity which is frequently caused by floods in Jaffna will be greatly minimised, if not entirely averted. Wise statesmanship consists in adopting preventive and precautionary measures and in taking lessons from past experience.

The sequential connection between heavy rains, obstructed drainage, and fever epidemics in Jaffna is a well-established fact. The first is unavoidable and the second is capable of improvement, and the third—fever epidemics—can be averted. This has been a well recognized fact for a long time. Major James, M. D. P. E. H. in his Report on sanitary inquiries in Jaffna published by the Government in 1914, states—"Materials are not available for a detailed survey of the relation between rainfall and malaria, but there is no doubt that the dependence of the latter upon the former is very close, and that it is the main problem towards which the attention of those engaged in anti-malarial sanitation in the district should be directed." Again in another place in the Report the Major says—"Taking some of the headings of a sanitary policy for the town in the order of their urgency from a hygienic point of view, we think that, in view of the annual outbreak of malaria, and the necessity in a quickly growing town of guarding against the blockage of natural water-courses and outlets, a definite scheme of surface drainage is among the most important." The question of imperfect drainage is one in which the whole Jaffna District is deeply interested—not the Local Board alone. If it is a fact well recognized for a long time and admitted in official reports that the periodical fever epidemics occurring after the rainy sea-

sons in Jaffna are brought about by insanitation resulting chiefly from obstructed drainage, how is it that no serious or systematic attempt has been made to introduce the much needed improvements in the drainage system?

On a close examination of the question it will be found that the question of costs is the chief cause of the delay. The Government seem to think that the cost of sanitary works should be met mainly by local taxation, and if such works are to be helped by grants from the general revenue it should be in the form of loans bearing interest. The local authorities find it impossible to raise the necessary funds from the overburdened ratepayers, and between these two excuses, the drainage of the place is neglected, sanitation suffers, and thousands suffer or die from preventable causes. No one can deny that the saving of the life of the subjects should be the first care of the Government and the first charge on the revenues. If there is any other public duty depending on Government, which is of equal importance as sanitation, it is education. In a way, education and sanitation are closely connected and interdependent, each contributing to the efficiency of the other. Both are the most elementary wants of the people and no Government which has any regard to its responsibility can stint its expenditure under these heads. Local Bodies are no doubt better fitted to guide and conduct the working of these two departments of Government, but if they cannot command sufficient funds from the sources of revenue now assigned to them, it is the duty of the Government to place at their disposal other local sources of revenue such as liquor licenses, ferry and toll rents &c. which will yield them sufficient funds for these important purposes. We hope that among the political concessions that will be granted to the Ceylonese to foster their free national growth, a liberal measure of local self-government with an assignment of additional revenues for local purposes, will form an important part.

## NOTES &amp; COMMENTS.

We publish in another column an appeal from our Government Agent for funds to afford relief to sufferers

## AN APPEAL.

from the recent floods. We hope it will meet with a generous response from the public in and outside Jaffna. One important point to be noted in this connection is that the help that is afforded to the sufferers should be timely; and it is therefore of great importance that prompt response is made to the appeal. There are a large number of starving and homeless poor in many villages. In the administration of the funds, care should also be taken to reach the many poor destitute people who, out of a sense of self-respect, hesitate to press their claims before the authorities as the professional beggars would do, and suffer in silence. If representative local committees are appointed in every affected part with members who could exercise their discretion with an unselfish spirit, the relief would reach the really needy. The Manager of this paper will be glad to receive subscriptions for the Relief Fund and to give free publication to acknowledgements of subscriptions on behalf of the Fund.

## LOCAL &amp; GENERAL.

**THE WEATHER.—Record Rainfall.**—Mr. J. E. Evans, the Acting Superintendent of the Colombo Observatory writes:—"The unsettled weather of late has been due to a cyclonic storm that has now practically disappeared. It has resulted in a record rainfall for Jaffna of 20.43 inches in the 24 hours measured at 9.30 a. m. of the 13th inst. The record for Ceylon is that of 31.72 inches that occurred on Dec. 15 16, 1897 at Nedunkerni in Northern Province. Of recent in other districts, S. Martin's estate (in Central Province near Nitte Cave) is 24.78 inches on 16th 17th January, and 22.00 inches at Padupola (near Galboda Railway Station South Western boundary of Central Province) on Oct 5 6, both in 1913.

**LOCAL DIVISION OF THE CIVIL SERVICE.**—The examination for admission to the Local Division of the Civil Service will be held at the Legislative Council Chamber, Colombo, on Tuesday, March 25, 1919, and following days, commencing at 10 a. m.

**A STABBING AFFRAY.**—In an affray which took place on the Kankasantural road near about the attack between Yannarponnai between two young men of Kookvil on Friday last one of them stabbed the other seriously. Both of them were arrested by the Police and taken to the Station.

**COTTON CULTIVATION IN CEYLON.**—In view of the present encouraging rates ruling for cotton the Agricultural Society has encouraged

the planting of the crop during the current season, with the result that about 300 acres are under cultivation, spread over Batticaloa, Blotting, Udappati, Matale, Jaffna, Kurunegala, Kegalle, Mullaitivu, Ratnapura, Trincomalee, Obilaw, Hambantota, &c. The variety being cultivated is the Cambodia cotton which is fast displacing the short-stapled Tinively in India.

**GOVERNMENT SERVANTS' ONE DAY'S PAY FUND.**—Balades brought forward Rs 319.19; Contributions in October, 1918 Rs 263.38; Available for allotment, Rs 13,582.57. Allotments approved by the Committee:—Joint War Committee of British Red Cross Society and Order of St. John of Jerusalem, Rs 3,000; Belgian Red Cross Fund, Rs 1,000; French Red Cross Society, Rs 2,000; Serbian Red Cross Fund, Rs 1,000; Italian Red Cross Fund, Rs 1,000; Officers Families, Rs 1,000; Mine Sweepers Fund, Rs 1,000; Blinded Soldiers and Sailors, Rs 1,500; Overseas Club for cigarettes, tobacco etc., Rs 500; King George's Fund for Sailors, Rs 1,500—Total Rs 13,500. Previously allotted, Rs 731,350—Total allotted Rs 744,850.

**CEYLON'S SHARE IN THE WAR.**—The following telegram received from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, was laid on the Press table at the Secretariat on the 19th instant:—"On the happy occasion of the cessation of hostilities, I gladly take this opportunity of expressing my full appreciation of the assistance rendered by your Government and Ceylon generally in bringing the common struggle to a successful issue. The resources placed by Ceylon at the disposal of His Majesty's Government have been of great value and the services of the large number of men who have joined the fighting forces are remembered with special gratitude."

**FREIGHT TO AMERICA.**—The Bucknall Line Agents have intimated that the freight to America on cargo other than tea, has been reduced from 450 to 300 shillings per ton of 50 c. feet. The reduced rates came into force early this month. There was a time when the freight rose up to 500 shillings a ton.

**AN IMPERIAL PEOPLE'S KING.**—Amid the crashing of over-turled thrones in Europe it is good to know that the democratic monarchy of the greatest Empire the world has ever known remains stable and stands foursquare to the revolutionary storm that is sweeping across Europe. Such is the "Madras Mail's" expressed opinion. The cause of justice, of liberty and the right of smaller nations to live and develop in their own way has triumphed, and the King is acclaimed as the head of the Constitution and one who loyally and devotedly worked for the cause he and his people stood for. While the rulers of Germany and Austria are fleeing for refuge to Neutral countries, while (we may add) even Neutral Holland's popular Queen is being asked to resign and even loyal Belgium's King is asked not to enter Brussels too soon, the King of England steps out on to the balcony of Buckingham Palace in response to his people's cry of "We want King George!"

**INDIAN EDITORS RETURN TO LONDON.**—London, Nov. 13.—The Indian Editors have returned from six days' visit to the West front. They visited the territory newly conquered by the British and Americans and were particularly interested in Ypres, Givenchy, and other places imperishably associated with the valour of the Indian contingents during the first years of the War. The Editors were entertained to luncheon by the West India Committee at the Savoy Hotel yesterday, when the opportunity was taken to discuss the question of assisted emigration and the settlement by it is proposed to replace the indenture system. Further engagements of the Editors include visits to Windsor Castle, Woolwich Arsenal, Oxford, and a reception by Mr. Montagu at the India Office.—"M. Times", Nov. 17.

**SINHALESE DELEGATES IN ENGLAND.**—London, Nov. 16.—The Ceylonese reception to the Sinhalese Delegates took place on the 16th at the Holborn Restaurant in the presence of a fair gathering. Mr. Gunawartha proposed the toast of the guests. Messrs. D. B. Jayatilaka and E. W. Perera responded and thanked the English friends of the delegates for their help. Professor Gilbert Murray and Mr. J. Travis replied.

—"Ceylon Daily News."

**CEYLON GOVERNMENT RAILWAY.**—We understand that there have been several accidents connected with the train service owing to the relaxation of the rules regarding vacuum brakes and connected matters. These accidents have not come to the knowledge of the public, though departmental enquiries are held. The relaxation of the rules above-mentioned is a great menace to the safety of the Railway travelling public, and it is high time that H. E. the Governor called for a return of such accidents; and also for the reasons for the relaxation of the said rules. Or else an Unofficial M. L. C. might call for such a return, especially in view of the proposal to raise the Railway fares, and for other causes.

—"Ceylon Observer"

**RAILWAY OFFICIAL UNDER SUSPENSION.**—We learn on enquiry at the Secretariat today that Mr. W. G. Frier, Assistant Traffic Manager of the Railway, is under suspension as a result of the recent inquiries made by a special Commission into certain charges against him.—"Ceylon Observer", Nov. 21.

VICTORY CELEBRATIONS.

AT CHAVAKACHCHERI.

The Armistice celebrations were marked with unusual interest and zeal in the Drieberg English School. In the morning of the 15th instant, the whole school rallied together in an open square surrounded by fluttering flags and streamers, and cheered the Allies amidst peals of bells and bursts of shouts. A grand variety entertainment soon ensued rendered by the masters and students of the school and lasting for an hour and a half. This over, the merry party, on the invitation of the Police Magistrate, filed out in procession to the Court Premises where a select band of boys under the command of Mr. J. P. Chelliah of the C.L.I. Force saluted His Majesty's flag. The National Anthem was sung, after which the gathering assembled in the Court hall. A most useful hour was spent in loyal speeches. The P. M. was voted to the chair, and the principal speaker on the occasion was Messrs. Mudaliyar Muthunaraswamy, E. B. Hunt, C. Vinayathambi, E. S. Abraham, N. A., and Rev. J. K. Sinnatambay, B. A. A resolution was then passed on the desirability of despatching a telegraphic message to His Excellency the Governor congratulating the victorious Allies. This brought the morning's programme to a close.

In the afternoon the Drieberg boys, some of whom clad in fancy costume, and others in a festive attire, marched from the school through the town, mad with rapture, singing, dancing and cheering. At sunset the gay procession wended its way back to the school amid deafening plaudits and re-doubled cheers. The proceedings for the whole day thus terminated.

The succeeding day passed away in rainy stillness and calm until 2 P. M. when the boys indulged in races and sports. The eager multitude poured in, as usual, in surging throngs to view the contests. The games ended, the gathering took their seats in the open air and several prizes were given away to the successful competitors. The whole gala was over and the celebration was really fine. —Cor.

AT DELFT.

The glad tidings that the great international war, which has staggered the whole world, has come to an end, was received by the Manager of Delft by a telegraphic message on the 15th instant at about 5 P. M. The Manager on receipt of the message made all haste and published the news by beat of Tom Tom and sent special messengers to the officials and leading men of the place intimating them of the same.

A simultaneous peal of the bells of all the Churches and temples was given.

Flags were hoisted as a demonstration of the unbounded joy at the great victory of our sovereign, His Majesty George V.

The Island of Delft which was the last to know the happy news, was not in any way behind the mainland in her celebrations, due to the active part played by Mr. S. R. Suntharam, Clerk, Village Tribunal, Delft.

A great multitude including Rev. Fr. P. Nicholas O.M.L. Parish Priest, Mudaliyar P. J. Rajah, Mantagar and President V. T. Mr. P. Appadurai, Believing Apothecary, the minor Head-men, the leading men of the place and all the other inhabitants, rich, poor, young, old, males and females all mustered in the Government Bangaloo premises to celebrate this happy event. —Cor.

AT MOOLAY.

In response to the invitation by Mr. C. Candayah, Manager, Moolay Sivaiprakash Vidhyasalai, a meeting was held in the above school on Friday the 15th instant at 4 P. M. Pundit S. Ponnapallil was unanimously elected to take the chair. The chairman in a lucid speech dwelt on the history of the war and explained the innumerable blessings we enjoy under British rule by comparing and contrasting it with the Portuguese and Dutch rule in Ceylon. Then Mr. C. Candayah explained the present state of affairs, how justice, freedom and security are maintained by the victory of the Allied arms by thoroughly crushing the German militarism, and read the terms of Armistice as the great joy of the audience. A resolution was passed to telegraph to H. E. Governor through the Director of Education their rejoicings, congratulations and loyalty to British Government on the success of the Allied Arms and the crushing of the German militarism. A grand procession was then made from the school to the temples with shouts of "Arabara Mahadeva". Special pujas were performed in the temples. —Cor.

UNEQUAL TAXATION.

We have said that the relief from taxation has been to the rich and the European proprietor and that it has had the result of casting additional burdens on the poorer sections of the community and on the Ceylonese. We do not say nor do we believe that this has been intentional. We rather think that it has been due to the fact that no representative of Ceylonese interests is in the Councils of Government and the Government is more in touch with those who could most ably and unhesitatingly press their claims. The rubber industry in all its branches is practically European. The various deals in rubber have been by Europeans who command the market. The small Ceylonese interests are the interests of the producer alone. Rubber shares are held practically by every European in the Island. The consequence has been that rubber has been relieved of a tax of nearly three million rupees. To meet this deficit Government reimposes the suspended duty on coconuts, which will produce nearly Rs. 400,000. The coconut planters do not complain. But coconut is practically a Ceylonese industry. There are large estates and small holdings scattered all over the Island and no estate has yet been known to pay the fabulous dividends paid by rubber companies. Then follows the proposal to increase the registration stamp duties on deeds affecting immovable property such as the sale, purchase, transfer, assignment, mortgage etc. of land. The bulk of immovable property in the Island is held by the permanent population. Valuable properties in the Island are owned by Europeans but such properties, with very rare exceptions, come under the joint stock Companies Ordinance and among the share holders are included great European capitalists. Their title to these properties or to portions of them is represented by shares which pass ownership by simple and inexpensive processes without the intervention of a notary,

No further imposition is proposed for the transfer of these shares, practically for the sale of large portions of valuable landed property. But the duty on properties which the people hold and which for trade purposes they have to mortgage or sell have an additional impost duty up to fifty per cent. We do not complain of the imposition of an extra duty on cigarettes. But we do think, as we have already said, that the increase of the Railway rates is open to serious objection, certainly as far as the third class passengers are concerned, and at a time when the price of the necessities of life has gone up. Rents have risen so considerably in town that many employees have found residences within comparatively easy distances from Railway stations, relying on tolerably cheap journey to their places of business. They suddenly find that the rates are going to be increased when every cent to them is a matter of importance. In this fair, we ask, to the large number of workmen and others who live as far away as Panadura, Nugegoda, Kandana, and send their children to school from these distant places? We must all make sacrifices for the common good—even the richest amongst us. But it is not somewhat incongruous that Mr. Senior would have to pay an income tax on his salary in England but would pay nothing on his salary in Ceylon? The increased postal and telegraph rates will not affect the poorer people of the country who hardly indulge in letter-writing and telegrams but will affect the Indian coolie who writes or remits money to his relations in the Coast. We have dealt already with the enhanced death duties. It is an unfortunate coincidence that the Government "Gazette" extraordinary, which announced the signing of the Armistice and proclaimed the holiday, should contain the draft of the Ordinance imposing these objectionable taxes. —The "Ceylon Daily News."

THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Legislative Council was held at 2.30 p. m. on the 20th instant at the Council Chamber. His Excellency the Governor, Sir W. H. Manning presided, present were:—Brigadier-General F. A. MacFarlan, C. B., G. O. C., the Hon. Mr. R. E. Stubbs, the Hon. Mr. A. S. Pagden, C. M. G., the Hon. Mr. Gollan, K. C., the Hon. Mr. Bernard Senior, K. C., the Hon. Mr. J. G. Fraser, C. M. G., the Hon. Mr. R. B. Helliings, the Hon. Mr. C. S. Vaughan, the Hon. Mr. T. H. Chapman, the Hon. Dr. G. J. Rutherford, P. C. M. O., the Hon. Mr. F. Bowers, C. M. G., the Hon. Mr. P. Ramanathan, the Hon. Mr. E. B. Williams, the Hon. Mr. N. H. M. Abdul Cader, the Hon. Mr. J. H. Meedeniya, Disave, the Hon. Mr. O. C. Thillekera, the Hon. Mr. H. Hryshe Eliot, the Hon. Mr. K. Balasingham, the Hon. Dr. H. M. Fernando, the Hon. Mr. C. VanderWall and Mr. O. H. Collins, Clerk to the Council, and the Hon. Robert Trefusis, P. S. to H. E. the Governor.

After formal business, no petitions were presented; no notices of questions and motions were given.

The Hon. Mr. Sappapathy's motion—That the Government be pleased to place the pilgrimage to the Kataragama Temple on the same footing as pilgrimages to other shrines in the Island by the removal of the special restrictions imposed on the former—was postponed *sine die*—as the Hon. Member was prevented from attending owing to the washaway on the Northern Line.

THE TRADE MARKS ORDINANCE.

The Attorney-General—moving the first reading of "An Ordinance to amend 'The Trade Marks Ordinance, 1888'"—said the English Law was somewhat similar to our Ordinance, but it did not extend to cotton goods or cotton yarn. It was desired to make our law similar to the English Law.

The Hon. Mr. Bernard Senior—seconded.—Carried.

THE FOREST ORDINANCE.

The Attorney-General—moving the first reading of "An Ordinance to amend 'The Forest Ordinance 1907'"—said certain clauses gave power to seize or impound any cattle found trespassing on forest plantations, but it had been found it was impossible to seize many of the wild or semi-wild cattle. So this was to give power that such, when found trespassing, be shot or destroyed. The step was drastic, but they must preserve forest plantations.—The Hon. Mr. Bernard Senior—seconded.—Carried.

NOTARIES ORDINANCE: AMENDMENT NOT MOVED.

The Attorney-General said that he did not propose to move the first reading of—"An Ordinance to amend 'The Notaries Ordinance, 1907'"—Council agreed.

AMENDED KANDYAN MARRIAGE ORDINANCE.

The Attorney-General—moving the first reading of—"An Ordinance to amend 'The Amended Kandyan Marriage Ordinance, 1870'"—said this referred to the dissolution of marriages and the question of the parties agreeing on compensation. He understood this clause did not work quite satisfactorily because no provision was made for the maintenance of the wife and children. This amendment was, in a way, to rectify this. Again there was a slight change to be made in Section 20. This provided that the Registrar of the marriage should give a copy to each party; but no provision was made for him to make charge for these. Now it was proposed that for each copy a fee of 50 cts. may be charged.

The Hon. Mr. Bernard Senior—seconded.—Carried.

BIRTHS AND DEATHS REGISTRATION ORDINANCE.

The Hon. the Attorney-General—moving the first reading of—"An Ordinance to amend 'The Births and Deaths Registration Ordinance, 1895'"—said this amendment resulted from the Commission appointed to deal with the Ordinance, which provided for punishment of those who failed to give any, or gave false information re births and deaths. But nothing was said re the position of the Medical Officer found guilty. So this Bill was; that should any M. O. or practitioner be found guilty, his name should be submitted to the Colonial Secretary who shall order that his name be struck off from the list of medical practitioners.

The Hon. Mr. Bernard Senior—seconded.—Carried.

NEW ORDINANCES.

The Attorney-General—moved amendments to the following—all second readings:—

(1) "The Appraisals (Privy Council) Ordinance, 1909." (2) "The Defense Force Ordinance, 1910" (formerly entitled "The Volunteer Ordinance,

CORRESPONDENCE.

AN APPEAL.

Sir, On Sunday the 17th instant, the Peninsula of Jaffna was visited by a storm of wind and rain. I believe, unprecedented in its history. During the 24 hours of that day not less than 25 inches of rain fell in Jaffna. Heavy rain had also fallen on the previous Friday and Saturday, so that the soil was completely saturated, and there was general flooding, in many places to a very serious extent. Great damage has been done. Large numbers of houses have been destroyed and their contents, including foodstuffs, damaged. Thousands of cattle and sheep have died, seriously crippling the agricultural resources of the country. Many coconut and other trees have fallen, and much damage has been done to plantations and crops. Hardship and distress are prevalent over large areas. An appeal is therefore made to the sympathy of the public for funds to afford immediate relief and to enable the sufferers who are in destitute circumstances to rebuild their homes and to resume their normal daily lives. I trust that you will be so good as to open your columns for subscriptions to the above objects. A strong relief committee has been working in the Jaffna Maniagar's division (including Jaffna Town) since Tuesday, and the Chief Headmen are also organizing and affording local relief, but outside assistance is also urgently required. I am prepared to receive any remittances made to me direct.

Jaffna Kacheheri, B. HOSSAYAN, Govt. Agent, N. P. 22nd Nov. 1918.

HOW THE ELDERES CAN HELP THE BOY SCOUTS.

Communication from Headquarters.

We aim at a fourfold development of the whole nature, physical, emotional, mental and spiritual: it is a training in health, in the sense of honour and duty, in public spirit and capacity, and in readiness for service. To bring about this all round development readily in the younger generation we need the help of the older generation, the parents, the teacher, the mature leaders of the present.

In developing health we need the sympathetic understanding of the parents and assistance of teachers and ministers of religion, as well as the moral support of the professional and business men, the Doctors, the Inspectors of Schools, the members of Municipality. These are the people we want as members of our local Associations, to aid us with their influence.

In the development of character, so vital a part of education, there is no doubt of our efforts receiving the whole-hearted support of all healthy-minded and upright men and women. Honour, Duty, Self respect and Self-reliance are good words to conjure with: among the Scouts they become more; they are living virtues, taught by means of the Scout law and the Patrol System, and inculcated by practices throughout the whole Scout training. In this part of Scout training we only want from our elders the continuance of the good wishes which we certainly have already won from them.

In the training of Scouts in the capacity of public service (in other words, in handicrafts), we need a very definite form of help from our leaders. In order to encourage boys to take up hobbies and to find out in what direction lies their bent for their handicrafts, we have a large number of Badges for Proficiency in different crafts, and lines of service, such as Ambulance Man, Clerk, Engineer, Gardener, Herbalist, Farmer, Telegraphist, Cook, Leather-worker, Surveyor. The tests in every case are comparatively simple ones, just sufficient to ensure that the scout has some skill and some perseverance, in other words, has a bent in the direction of those professions or crafts of which these tests represent the preliminary steps. But though the tests be simple, they are of a practical value. Hence it is necessary to have as examiners men and women who are experts or who are actually engaged in the respective crafts or professions. For our Engineer Badge, be it ever so elementary, the tests are practical, and require a working Engineer as Examiner.

Here then is the place where our elders especially can help us. They have the expert knowledge. They can help us by acting as advisers and examiners. We need the local doctor to act as examiner for the Ambulance Badge in each town where there are Troops of Scouts; a Naturalist; A Tailor; and so on. We do not ask them to give much of their time: usually two or three hours a month is found to be ample.

DOINGS OF THE BOY SCOUTS.—It has been remarked that throughout the rejoicings of the past week nothing was more striking than the promptitude and preparedness of the Boy Scouts. At the big peace Rally at Colombo, there were present 302 officers and Scouts representing 15 troops of the city of Colombo—the highest number on record for a District Rally. A stirring address was given by the Deputy Colonial Commissioner and a march was made to Queen's House where His Excellency the Governor spoke to the troops. "Yes in right Royal Style" is a telegraphic summary of the doings in Kandy communicated by Mr. E. Dias de Singha in a reply to a wire from the Deputy Colonial Commissioner. There the Hon'ble Mr. C. S. Vaughan,

1910." (3) (further) "The Land Registration Ordinance, 1891," (4) (further) "The Road Ordinance, 1861," (5) (further) "The Stamp Ordinance, 1869."

The first four were read a second time, and Council went into Committee and discussed each clause by clause. On resuming the Attorney-General moved the Ordinances be read a third time and passed.

The Hon. Mr. Senior—seconded.—Carried.

STAMPS ORDINANCE.

The Hon. the Attorney-General said he did not intend to move the second reading of this Bill today as he wished to give members an opportunity of criticising the proposals it contained.

The Hon. Mr. Senior—supplied figures showing a comparison of the rates in Ceylon in the case of stamp duties on estates and those in England, the latter being considerably higher. He quoted figures to prove his contention.

Council adjourned till 2.30 p. m., Nov. 27th.

—The Ceylon Observer.

MADRAS NOTES.

STORM IN MADRAS.—When on Sunday afternoon after a smart shower of rain there was a calm, few people knew that a storm was to blow over Madras in the night, although the Meteorological report of the previous evening foretold a storm. At about eight o'clock there was heavy rain and a light wind set in soon after increasing in force. Sialwart trees forming shady avenues in the principal roads of the city were uprooted bringing down with them telegraph and telephone wires and smashing compound walls. The gusts of wind were terrific and the rumbering caused by tiles being blown away from roofs, windows and doors beating against walls, trees crashing down, all these struck terror into the hearts of the people. The tram cars came to a standstill and lights were out in many streets. In a theatre a wall came crashing down, and old houses in several localities were also damaged. The wind subsided about midnight but re-started shortly after and blew harder than before and it was about 7 o'clock in the morning that calm again prevailed. The sight in the city was one of destruction, huge trees lying across roads and telephone wires winding about, neatly laid out gardens laid desolate. Even as these happened the news of the Kaiser's decision to abdicate was spread broadcast.

STRIKES IN FASHION.—Madras has taken a fancy for strikes. There have been strikes among students, among rick-haw pullers, among mill hands, and now the hospital boys have the turn. As usual it is increase of wages and better treatment that are required by the strikers. The hospital authorities have expressed their decision not to take back into service the menials now on strike, and they are managing affairs with the help of the nurses. They also intend taking in new boys and menials. This firmness expressed so readily is the result of experience gained from previous strikes in Madras some or most of which ended in the surrender of the strikers. There is a report that the boys struck work because the Resident Medical Officer slapped one of them. —Cor.

13th Nov. 1918

LOCAL LORE.

The scenes in the villages most affected by the floods are pitiful and heartrending. Whole families sheltering along the roads, under trees and in bullock carts, cooking whatever little they could in hastily improvised hearths and utensils, cattle and sheep, mere skeletons, tethered to roadside trees, people drying their produce, and children—half-starved children—amusedly looking on, well these are not sights to please. Add to these the stench of carcases from the fields on either side of the road, and the procession of people moving bag and baggage from flooded localities to less affected quarters.

I have heard actual stories from persons who, having been surrounded in their houses by water knee deep and above, had to decide quickly on the best method of saving themselves and theirs. The premises of a temple in Alavetty situated higher than the surrounding country were the shelter for 2 days to hundreds of men, women and children. A mission school some distance away afforded shelter to several head of cattle for some days. Signs of distress were plainly visible everywhere.

We cannot forget the pathetic side of the stories of several persons who had hoarded wealth in all forms and in all sorts of holes in their houses and who, when the floods were at the threshold, had to sit and think long before they could save their own persons, for the thought of scattering bundles of notes and cash, jewelry and cloth, acquired in a long train of years, before wind and rain was really painful, but in most cases the persons actually carried their wealth with them to their sheltering places. But pitiful indeed is the plight of those whose stacks of co. reals and grains, paddy and bran, preserved fruits and pickles had all been washed away or damaged by water. How many a weary month will it take for these sufferers to make good their losses.

I noticed certain noteworthy features along the public roads these days. Road metal had been piled up in heaps on either side of the roads in many places and no drains were to be seen alongside roads. The want of drains is serious enough but the blocking up of the sides with heaps of road metal is foolish as was seen during the floods. There being no proper outlet for rain water no wonder we had floods. Now who is responsible for piling up road metal on road sides to be there for weeks? If any body is he is responsible for the floods!

I am informed that when the rainy season is over the drain outlets appear and pretend to scrape the sides of the road. Why the drains should be cut, or pretended to be, after the rains and not before is a thing nobody has been able to understand. This is sanitation with a vengeance!

Jaffna, LANKA, 28-11-1914.

The Local Chief Scout, the Revds. Mac Pherson and Taylor addressed a big Rally of Boy Scouts and Girl Guides. The celebration in Jaffna was referred to in last week's issue of this paper. It is indeed a pride to know that in every town it has been a case of Boy Scouts first.

The Deputy Colonial Commissioner last Friday asked for six Scouts who could volunteer to do war service on Saturday and Sunday. Patrol Leader Wijesingha of the "Governor's Own" phoned up and offered the services of a Patrol which did very smart work in helping Mrs. Soul of the Army Y. M. C. A. in attending to the comforts of the Australian Troops. A register of Scouts who are prepared to undertake some service during their leisure hours is being made. Headquarters would be glad to find opportunities for those who are keen.

