

The Hindu Organ.

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THE ONLY NEWSPAPER IN CEYLON FOR THE HINDUS

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IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 8788.

In the Matter of the Estate of the late Sinthamanikurukkal Muttiakkurukkal of Kerudavil

Deceased.

Muttiakkurukkal Aiyathuraikkurukkal of Kerudavil

Petitioner.

Vs.

Sornammah widow of Muttiakkurukkal of Kerudavil

Respondent.

This matter of the Petition of the abovenamed Petitioner, praying for Letters of Administration to the estate of the late Sinthamanikurukkal Muttiakkurukkal, coming on for disposal before J. Homer Vanniasingam, Esq., Acting District Judge, on December 10, 1918, in the presence of Mr. S. Subramaniam, Proctor, for Petitioner, and the affidavit of the Petitioner, having been read: It is ordered that the Petitioner be and he is hereby declared entitled, as the sole heir of the intestate to administer the estate of the said deceased and that Letters of Administration do issue to him accordingly unless the Respondent abovenamed or any other person shall, on or before January 28, 1919, show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

P. E. Pieris,

January 9, 1919.

District Judge.

Order Nisi.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 8777.

In the Matter of the Intestate Estate of the late Theyvanappillai wife of Canapathippillai Tambippillai of Manippay

Deceased.

Canapathippillai Tambippillai of Manippay

Petitioner.

Vs.

Nannippillai widow of Kathiravelu of Alaveddy

Respondent.

This matter of the Petition of Canapathippillai Tambippillai of Manippay, praying for Letters of Administration to the estate of the abovenamed deceased, Theyvanappillai wife of Canapathippillai Tambippillai, coming on for disposal before P. E. Pieris, Doctor of Letters, District Judge, on January 7, 1919, in the presence of Mr. E. Murugesampillai, Proctor, on the part of the Petitioner and the affidavit of the Petitioner, dated December 31, 1918, having been read: It is declared that the Petitioner is the lawful widow of the said intestate and is entitled to have Letters of Administration to the estate of the said intestate issued to him unless the Respondent or any other person shall, on or before January 28, 1919, show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

P. E. Pieris,

January 9, 1919.

District Judge.

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Public Sale of Land at Nallur in the Division of Jaffna.

Undermentioned land belonging to the estate of Karthikesar Sammugam will be sold by public auction on the 1st of February 1919 at 11 o'clock in the forenoon in Testamentary Case No 3471 of 1918.

Undermentioned land belonging to the estate of Karthikesar Sammugam will be sold by public auction on the 1st of February 1919 at 11 o'clock in the forenoon in Testamentary Case No 3471 of 1918. Divided half share of a piece of land at Nallur called Alakananda Navasivalavu in extent 9 1/2 C. with stone built house well furnished and other appurtenances belonging there to the estate of Karthikesar Sammugam and road on the North by the property of Ponnampalam Kamupillai and others on the West by the property of Mutiah Visuvanatham and shareholders and on the South by the property of S. Nam wife of Sittampalam and another. Of this an extent of 4 Lms. on the North.

S. TURAIAPPAH, Commissioner.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF SUBSCRIPTION TO THE "HINDU ORGAN".

Table with 2 columns: Name and Amount. Includes Rev. J. H. Dickson, Dr. S. Subramaniam, Mr. M. K. Sithamparapillai, etc.



The Hindu Organ.

JAFFNA, MONDAY, JANUARY 20, 1919.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S VISIT TO JAFFNA.

His Excellency Sir William Henry Manning's first visit to Jaffna came to a close yesterday. He remained here for four full days and visited almost all parts of the District. The Reception which he received wherever he went were of a most loyal and enthusiastic character. There can be no doubt that His Excellency enjoyed his visit immensely and carries away pleasant recollection of Jaffna and its inhabitants. He paid the highest compliment to them when he referred to them more than once in reply to the Addresses presented to him as "a progressive, industrious and intelligent people." His Excellency's sympathetic replies to the Addresses created an excellent impression, and little doubt is now entertained that his visit to this District will be productive of immense benefit to the people.

The promised Government subsidy to repair the losses caused by the floods will, His Excellency said, be voted by the Legislative Council at an early date. The next meeting of the Council takes place on the 12th proximo. It is to be hoped that the agenda of this meeting will contain a vote for this purpose. We are not in a position to know the amount which will be voted. But the Governor having personally become acquainted with the gravity of the calamity, and considering

the fact that during the last half a century or so there had been no occasion for the Government coming to the relief of the people here, as stated in our last issue, we fully hope that the amount will be adequate to the needs of the people. The welcome intelligence published elsewhere that the Government of the Straits Settlements has voted 5000 dollars for floods relief in Jaffna has come very opportune to show that, besides our own Government, other Governments also sympathise with the people of Jaffna at the disaster that befell them on account of the floods of November last. It will be remembered that the Government of Ceylon voted a very large amount for the relief of sufferers of the Batticaloa cyclone of about 10 years ago, besides Rs 100,000 spent for the destruction of the coconut trees that fell during that cyclone.

It will be found from the summary of the reply to the public Address given elsewhere that almost all requests were promised sympathetic consideration. We need hardly say that much depended on the man on the spot, the Government Agent, for rightly guiding the Governor in these matters.

His Excellency was very cautious in his reference to constitutional reforms. He cannot be blamed for it, as he has been only four months in Ceylon and cannot be expected to have studied this very important and intricate question as it affects this Island, in so short a time. He cannot but be aware of the development of constitutional reforms in all parts of the British Empire, especially in the neighbouring Continent of India, where substantial and far-reaching reforms are to be granted with the view to the realization of responsible Government in the near future, and one of whose sons has just been appointed Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for India and is to be raised to the Peerage. It goes without saying that whether the Ceylon Government likes it or not, constitutional reforms are bound to come before long in this Island also.

We draw the special attention of our readers to the earnest appeal of His Excellency on behalf of the Technical School proposed to be established in Jaffna. We hope in our next issue to publish the appeal of the Director of Education with our comments on it.

NOTES & COMMENTS.

Among the appointments to the New Ministry, which will be found published in another column, SIR SATYENDRA PRASANNA SINHA, the most noteworthy one from a political point of view, is the appointment of this distinguished Hindu leader as the Under-Secretary of State for India. It is stated that "he is the first Indian to become a member of the British Government and it is expected in political circles that he will be elevated to the Peerage." To those who have watched the development of the liberal attitude recently adopted by the British Government towards Indian national aspirations, this appointment will not come as a surprise. Sir S. P. Sinha is one of the ex-Presidents of the Indian National Congress, and is one of the staunchest supporters of the cause of Indian Self-Government. He is an ex-member of the Viceroy's Executive Council. He represented India in the last two annual Imperial War Conferences held in London. His present appointment may be intended to serve a double purpose. It will help to prove the sincerity of the British profession that one's colour will be no bar to his appointment to even the highest offices in his country's service. The presence of Sir S. P. Sinha in the House of Lords will also be of great help to Mr. Montagu in piloting the passing of the proposed Reform Bill by that conservative assembly. The treatment accorded to India by the British Government in the matter of her political regeneration, will, we hope, considerably strengthen the claims of the Ceylonese for their own political upliftment.

The announcement contained in the letter we publish below, that the Straits Government has contributed to the JAFFNA FLOOD RELIEF FUND, five thousand dollars to the Jaffna Flood Relief Fund will be received with joy and thankfulness by the public. Apart from the broad ground of humanity, Jaffna specially deserves the sympathy of the Straits Government. From the early days of British rule in the Straits Settlements and the Federated Malay States, the services of

Jaffnese have been largely utilised by the Government in the Railways and other Government Services and in the economic development of these countries generally. This has been of mutual benefit and has not failed to impress on the Ceylonese public the great advantages our Island derives from being a unit of the great British Empire.

Dear Sir, I have much pleasure in informing you that I received a cable yesterday from Dr. J. M. Bandy of Singapore intimating that the Straits Government has contributed five thousand dollars for the Jaffna Flood Relief Fund. This announcement will of course be received with deep gratitude by the people of Jaffna. I remain, Yours truly, A. Canagaratnam, Editor, "Ceylon Patriot."

Important Notice.

As the inland postage rate for newspapers has been increased, we are obliged to make a corresponding increase, of Re. 1 per annum in the subscription rates in the case of our subscribers in the outstations in Ceylon and in India from the 1st of January, 1919. Subscribers are kindly requested to take note of this when remitting their subscriptions.

Manager, "Hindu Organ."

LOCAL & GENERAL.

JUDICIAL CHANGES.—In consequence of Mr. Justice Shaw going on leave shortly Mr. Herman Loos will act as a Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court, and Dr. P. E. Pieris, District Judge of Jaffna, becomes Acting District Judge of Colombo, while Sir A. Kanagasabai will act as District Judge of Jaffna. We need hardly say that Dr. Pieris is one of the ablest judicial officers in Ceylon and his qualifications to hold the District Judgeship of Colombo cannot be doubted, although the lawyers might in vindication of an established principle dislike the appointment. Sir Ambalawaneer well deserves the confidence reposed on him by the Government. Our congratulations to Dr. Pieris and Sir A. Kanagasabai.

THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.—A meeting of the Legislative Council will be held at the Council Chamber on Wednesday, (Feb. 12) 1919, at 2-30 p. m.

A NEW ADVOCATE.—Mr. Spencer Rajaratnam, who passed the examination, on the 15th instant before the Chief Justice and Mr. Justice D. Sampayo took the oaths as an S C Advocate. The Chief Justice congratulated him and wished him a prosperous career. He will practice in Colombo.

BATTICALOA LOCAL BOARD.—The election of a member to represent the Town Ward of Batticaloa vice the late Mr. Setukavalar came off at the Kachcheri at 9.30 a. m. on the 11th instant. Mr. Festing, G. A. presided. Mr. Lionel F. Tisserasinghe, Proctor, S. O., and Notary Public, and member of the D R C, was duly elected.

COAST EROSION AT BATTICALOA.—The P. W. D. notifies that the North Coast Road Batticaloa District, will be closed to motor traffic on the 71st and 72nd mile until the end of February owing to coast erosion. Light carts may at times be able to pass but at their own risk.

BUDDHIST HIGH PRIEST.—The Ven. High Priest Sri Naniesara, the Principal of Vidyodaya Oriental College, was appointed, on Monday (6th) by the Kandy Maha Sangha Sabha, headed by the Maha Nayaka Thero, to the post of High Priest of Western Province, become vacant by the death of Ven. High Priest Sri Daarmarama, Principal, Vidyasakara Pirivena, Peliyagoda.

THE PUBLIC SERVICE MEMORIAL.—The members of the Public Service, who sent a memorial to Government asking for a revision of salaries owing to the high cost of living, have been informed that Government is unable to grant any relief in respect of their salaries. The question of granting free passages has also been refused, but Government is agreeable to making advances towards passage money.

SIAMESE PRINCES IN COLOMBO.—Among the passengers on the N. Y. K. Yokohama Maru, which arrived in Colombo on the 14th instant from the Far East, was a party of distinguished Siamese passengers travelling to London. The party, which consists of Their Serene Highnesses Princes Kachorn, Traidos Prabaandh and Monechon Viru H. E. Pya Visan and son and Madama Chattrapant spent the day ashore during the vessel's stay in port.

STATUS OF THE LATE MR. C. H. DE SOUSA.—A statue of the late Mr. C. H. de Sousa has been erected opposite the Victoria Eye Hospital. The unveiling ceremony is

to be performed by H. E. the Governor. The statue is the work of a well-known London Artist, and will be a fitting memorial to the Sinhalese philanthropist.

THE INFLUENZA EPIDEMIC.—The third wave of influenza is presently passing over the country. In the last few days several cases have been reported in most of which pneumonia supervened with much rapidity and the death rate was far from normal. In Colombo and the suburbs particularly numerous fresh cases have been reported, several proving fatal. There have been larger numbers seeking admission into the hospitals too. —"Ceylon Observer." Jan 17.

MILL STRIKE AT BOMBAY.—Over 75,000 mill operators of Bombay were out on strike on the 9th instant. The strike is the most extensive that has ever happened in India. Nearly 75 of the 68 mills in Bombay have had to suspend work. It has created a feeling of great uneasiness in the native town and its effects have been felt in the share market. A number of mill hands waited on the Police Commissioner this afternoon, informed him of their determination to go on strike and assured him that they were anxious to keep the peace. The mill hands on the whole seemed to be in good spirits, enjoying their enforced holiday and making the best of the situation. The fact, however, that 100,000 mill hands are idle is one which one cannot contemplate without anxiety. At a conference of Millowners with the Commissioner of Police, in connection with mill operators' strike, the mill-owners represented that they were not aware of what the strikers really wanted and that if the men returned to work and then formulated their grievances, the Millowners Association would sympathetically consider their demands. Notice to this effect will be posted in all the mills. —"M. Mail."

U. S. A. AVIATRIX FOR THE EAST.—Ruth Law, America's famous aviatrix, has arrived at San Francisco on her way to the Far East. She says she intends to show the people of Japan, China, India, and Siam that a woman can fly. Ruth Law is the woman who in 1916 achieved the flight from Chicago to New York, breaking the long distance record by going 950 miles in nine hours. She holds a loop the loop record, having made fifteen somersaults at a height of 5,000 ft. —"S. Times." Jan 2.

AERIAL NAVIGATION.—Ottawa, Dec. 31.—The Canadian Government's advisory committee on aeroplanes has approved of proposed air routes from Newfoundland to the Pacific coast, and from Halifax to Vancouver. —Australian paper.

LAUNCHING OF SEA SCOUTS' BOAT.—An interesting function took place on the Colombo Lake behind Christ Church at 3.50 p. m. on the 16th instant when a boat for Sea Scouts, Lt. Colombo troop (Governor's Own), was launched. There was a fairly large gathering present. Brigadier General F. Hasket Thompson on arrival was met by Mr. V. Greener, Deputy Colonial Commissioner and was conducted through two lines of Scouts. Master R. X. asked the Brigadier General to announce to the assembly the object of the gathering. Brigadier General Hasket Thompson—in an appropriate speech—said he had always taken a keen interest in the Boy Scout movement and commended it to the sympathy and support of the public. He had read the names of those who had contributed towards the expense of equipping the Sea Scouts with a boat and uniform. He paid a tribute to Scout Master Rex, for taking lead in the Boy Scout movement in Ceylon. He then invited Lady Mitchell to christen the boat. Lady Mitchell—then dropped a bottle of champagne which was suspended at the prow of the boat and christened the little craft "The Nut". The Scout crew then went out a little distance in the boat and returned. The boat is an old Pilot launch renovated by Mr. Carmichael of the Harbour Works and painted blue and white. The boat-shed was built by the Scouts. —"Ceylon Observer."

PADDY CULTIVATOR'S PROTEST.—The paddy cultivators under Rugam and other irrigation works in Erar Pattu met together on the 16th inst. at the premises of Veerapattara vamy Temple in Erar to consider what steps should be taken in view of the refusal of the Government Agent, E. P., to convene a meeting of proprietors for the purpose of disussing and drafting new irrigation rules to replace those now existing. The meeting was presided over by Mr. Akamathu evvaipoddy Hadjar, who gave evidence last year before the Select Committee on the new Irrigation Bill. He declared that the overwhelming majority present at the meeting representing all classes of lands, in extent over 6,000 acres, holders of large lots as well as infinitesimal shares, irrigable and Manwari lands (rainfall fields) disprove the opinion of the Government Agent that a representative majority of proprietors cannot be got at a public meeting. The meeting vehemently criticised the authorities responsible. The meeting unanimously resolved upon making effective representation to the constituted authorities and carrying on the agitation throughout the District until His Excellency the Governor in Council be graciously pleased to redress their grievances, and thus allow the proprietors to exercise the privileges, the new Ordinance confers on them.

H. E. THE GOVERNOR'S VISIT TO JAFFNA.

The train conveying H. E. the Governor and party arrived at Jaffna at 8 a.m. on Wednesday last. The Station was festively decorated by the Stationmaster, Mr. Kanagasabai, H. E. on alighting from the train, was garlanded by M. S. Ramalinga Mudaliyar, the Chief Mudaliyar of the Kacheheri, The Jaffna Maniagar presented him with a bouquet and sprinkled rose water. H. E. was received at the Station by Mr. Horsburgh, G.A., the Chief Officers of the Government and the residents of the District. At the Station all those who were invited by the Government Agent were introduced to His Excellency and he shook hands with all of them. From the Station H. E. motored to King's House, accompanied by Mr. Horsburgh and the Hon. and Mrs. Trefusis. The whole route was elaborately decorated.

At 2 p. m., on the same day the Public Receptions to His Excellency took place at the Ridgeway Hall. The Pandal on the road as the entrance to the Hall was of superb beauty and the Hall itself was very tastefully decorated reflecting very great credit on Mr. W. Ranganopal, Superintendent of Works, Local Board, who was mainly in charge of those works, and other Members of the Decoration Committee. The Governor was garlanded at the entrance to the Hall by the Hon'ble Mr. A. Sapapathy, Hony Secretary, Reception Committee and the Hon'ble Sir Ambalavanar Kanagasabai and Mr. K. Kanagasabai, Hon. Treasurer Reception Committee sprinkled rose water. The Dais to which H. E. was conducted was a work of admiration in all and presented the appearance of the throne of an oriental monarch. Those seated on it besides His Excellency and party, were the Hon'ble Mr. P. Ramaswami, Sir A. Kanagasabai and the Hon'ble Mr. A. Sapapathy. Four Addresses were read, the Local Board Address by Mr. R. B. Nalliah, the Address of the Inhabitants by Sir A. Kanagasabai, the Address of the Headmen by Mr. V. M. Muttukumar, Maniagar of Jaffna, and the Address of the Jaffna Association by Mr. J. H. Vanniasingham.

At 8 p. m. there was a Levee at the King's House and Sir William Trefusis, the Hon. Mr. P. Ramaswami, Dr. P. E. Peiris and the Hon. Mr. A. Sapapathy had a private caire. The next day the Garden Party given by the Government Agent in honour of the visit of the Governor from 4 to 6.30 p. m. was very largely attended by the elite of the Jaffna Society. The attendance of a very large number of Tamil ladies was an important feature of the occasion. Mr. Horsburgh, assisted by the Chief Mudaliyar, dispensed hospitality in a manner equal to the occasion leaving nothing to be desired. The function was a great success.

On the 17th the Colleges were visited by the Governor, accompanied by the Government Agent and the Private Secretary. It was 12 A. M. when His Excellency arrived at the Hindu College. It was gallantly decorated for the occasion. His Excellency was received by Sir A. Kanagasabai, the President of the Board of Directors, Hon. Mr. A. Sapapathy, the Manager, Mr. K. Kanagasabai, the Secretary, Mr. S. Tambyahpillai, the Treasurer and other Directors of the College. Mr. N. Selvadurai, the Principal, garlanded and the Governor was then introduced to all the Directors present by Mr. Sapapathy. His Excellency was conducted to the different classes which were closely inspected by him. At the close of his inspection the Governor expressed his warmest thanks for the splendid reception given to him and his great satisfaction at the excellent and efficient condition of the College. In introducing Mr. K. V. Marandam, one of the Directors, the Manager mentioned the fact that that gentleman contributed a large amount for the building of the Laboratory. The Governor told Mr. Marandam that the Laboratory of the College was an excellent one and that the College was worthy of the latter's further and larger munificence.

His Excellency left Jaffna yesterday evening by Car for Elephant Pass en route to Mullaitivu.

We give below the text of the Addresses, with descriptions of same and of their caskets, read to H. E. the Governor at the Ridgeway Hall:—

LOCAL BOARD ADDRESS.

We the Chairman and Members of the Local Board of Jaffna, beg to offer to Your Excellency on behalf of the rate-payers a cordial welcome to our Town. We regret to have to inform Your Excellency that the standard of public health is not as satisfactory as it ought to be. Though schemes for a proper water supply have been considered, it has not been found possible to carry out any of them as the finances of the Board are quite inadequate for the purpose, and our water supply which is entirely from wells is inferior in quality and exposed in many cases to grave risk of pollution. A survey with a view to working out a proper drainage scheme has been carried out at the expense of the Board, but no scheme based on this survey has yet been prepared and the Board is not in a position to carry out any such scheme even should one be formulated. The recent floods have emphasized the necessity for such an undertaking. The Board, however, is doing what it can with the resources at its disposal. It appears to the Board to be essential that larger funds should be placed at its disposal in order to enable it to discharge its duties properly to the Town. The Board would respectfully submit for Your Excellency's consideration the desirability of grants from general revenue for purposes of public health and the Board ventures to suggest that the revenue derived from the sale of arrack and toddy within its limits corresponding to the revenue derived from the foreign liquor licenses within the Local Board area, should be assigned to it. We trust that Your Excellency's visit will be a pleasant one and we beg you to accept the assurance of our loyalty and respect.— We beg to remain, &c. [Signatures of Chairman, Official Members, Unofficial Members and Secretary, L.B.]

The caskets had a base of ebony, 2 stands, with notches made of silver to hold a roller containing the address printed in gold on white silk and bordered with gold work.

THE PUBLIC ADDRESS.

His EXCELLENCY SIR WILLIAM HENRY MANNING, Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Knight Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, Companion of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath, Governor and Commander in Chief in and over the Island of Ceylon with the Dependencies thereof,

May it Please Your Excellency,

We the inhabitants of Jaffna, representing all classes and interests in this District, beg to offer Your Excellency a most loyal and hearty welcome on the occasion of this your first visit to the Capital of the Northern Province. We hail your visit with very great pleasure as it affords us an opportunity of personally expressing to Your Excellency, as the Representative of His Most Gracious Majesty the King, our loyalty and devotion to His Throne and Person and our sincere feelings of gratitude to the British Government for the freedom and liberty and other benefits which we enjoy as British Subjects.

These feelings come uppermost in our minds when the greatest war in history waged by Britain and her Allies, for the vindication of right and justice, has come to a close in the complete triumph of their arms for the freedom and happiness of the world.

We beg to take this opportunity to place before Your Excellency some of our pressing wants in the hope that they will receive the early attention of Your Government.

We have had recently floods of an unprecedented nature causing the devastation of crops, destruction of the thousands of cattle, large quantities of food-stuff, and a vast number of houses rendering thousands of people temporarily homeless. Your Excellency has very graciously expressed Your sympathy with us on this calamity through the Government Agent, whose appeal for subscriptions to alleviate the distress has had a generous response, especially from our countrymen in Colombo, the Straits Settlements and the Federated Malay States, resulting in a sum of about Rs. 24,000 being collected. This sum, though inadequate to the needs of the distressed, provided immediate relief to the most necessitous. The loss of cattle has seriously crippled agriculture, and we trust that Government will come to the assistance of the people in this matter.

The recent floods were an exceptional occurrence. But their ravages would not have been so severe, if the District had had a proper and adequate system of drainage. This would not only prevent such losses by floods but would improve the sanitary condition of the country. For some years past there have been outbreaks of malarial fever during the first and last quarters of almost every year causing a high rate of mortality and immense suffering. This, we believe, is due to the lack of an efficient system of drainage, as the incidence of fever varies directly with the rainfall. We, therefore, urge the necessity of restoring and improving the ancient system of drainage. When the Hon'ble Mr. K. Balasingham moved in the Legislative Council, in June 1917, for an estimate of the cost of a drainage survey of this district, Government, while accepting the motion, stated that, owing to the depletion of the staff of the Survey Department on account of war service, the work could not then be undertaken. Now that the war is over, we humbly ask that this survey be taken in hand.

Although there are large tracts of fertile lands now lying unutilized in the North Central Province and other parts of the Wanni, the congested condition of the Jaffna Peninsula increases year by year. We venture to state that if a scheme similar to that of the peasant settlement under the Nachchaduwa Tank be set on foot for Tamils, not only would it attract a considerable number of settlers from here, but the food supply of the Island would also be appreciably increased.

A road from the Railway Station at Paranthan through the agricultural division of Poonakery to Point Kalmunai, the extension of the Paranthan—Muramuddai road to Mullaitivu, the completion of the Vallipuram—Maruthankeri road and the improvement of the Panai Ferry Service which is the means of communication between the Peninsula and the adjacent islands, are matters which require Your Excellency's sympathetic consideration.

The Jaffna Railway Station is utterly inadequate, as Your Excellency would have observed, to accommodate the increasing number of passengers. We request that the accommodation may be improved. We also pray that, as soon as possible, pro war train service may be restored.

We beg to bring to your notice that though we have had, for several years, railway communication with India, goods traffic between that country and Jaffna has been practically denied, as no goods, under the existing arrangement, can be brought here by train without being first taken to Colombo and then brought back. Under this arrangement not only does considerable delay occur, but the Railway rates become prohibitive. We submit this as a matter for early consideration by Your Government.

The Government has recently introduced a system of land tenure under which the sale of Crown lands has been largely discontinued. While admitting that the new leasing system has its advantages, especially in leasing districts, we submit that there are several disadvantages in its application to a Province like this, where the inhabitants are permanent residents, long accustomed to the former system. We therefore, pray for the retention of both systems.

Jaffna is an important agricultural district, and the industry and perseverance of the people are well-known. But scientific and modern methods of agriculture are almost unknown. The Government proposed to establish an agricultural school and an experimental garden in Jaffna. The subject was carefully considered by a Committee of the Agricultural Society with the Government Agent as a member, and estimates for the acquisition of the required land and for the construction of the necessary buildings were prepared and submitted. We pray that this project may be carried out as an early opportunity.

One of the most important wants of Ceylon is a University for the development of higher education to suit the requirements of the Island. We, therefore, submit for Your Excellency's sympathetic consideration the urgent need for a Ceylon University with affiliated Colleges in important provincial centres. The proposed University College, concentrating higher education in the Metropolis, will not adequately meet the needs of the Country, and this District will be a special sufferer. It has till now been an intellectual centre, as the large number of educational institutions and their activities will show. But under the proposed scheme it will lag behind the southern parts of Ceylon, as the cost of education in a Residential College in Colombo will be beyond the means of a large number seeking higher education.

We cannot but avail ourselves of this opportunity to refer to the important question of constitutional reform which is now engaging the attention of the Government and the public of

Ceylon. We pray that our Executive and Legislative Councils be reformed on the lines of the proposed Indian reforms, with due regard to the claims of the people of the Tamil Provinces of this Island to be represented in the Legislative Council, as at present, by a larger proportion of members than they would be entitled to by reason of their numerical strength as has been urged in the Council by the Tamil Members. We also request that our local self governing institutions be so improved as to give the people effective control over local affairs.

We trust that Your Excellency's stay in Jaffna will be enjoyable and that you will carry with you pleasant impressions of the country and its people.

Thanking Your Excellency for paying us this visit and wishing you a successful and prosperous administration,

We beg to remain, Your Excellency's most humble and loyal servants, JAFFNA, THE INHABITANTS OF JAFFNA, January 15, 1919.

The casket which contained this Address is one that does ample credit to the reputation kept up for decades past by the local exponents of the goldsmith's or jeweller's artistic craft. It measures 15 in. by 5 in. by 5 in. The casket proper is of polished ebony and the edges most artistically figured, the lid on gold and the rest on pure silver. Two elephants projected sideways adorn it, one on either side—the one on the right tugging with his trunk at a graceful palmyra and the other, on the left, at a coconut palm. The British Coat of Arms—the lion and the unicorn, with the legend *Dieu et mon droit*—symmetrically beautifies the centre, and two butterflies on the wing, each set with three rubies, a cat's eye and a sapphire form a pleasing addition. Twenty-six rubies set on the lid with all the jeweller's art add to the beauty of the fittings. Two tobacco plants, one on either side of the Coat of Arms, bespeak the importance of the chief planting concern of the Peninsula. Forty cut rubies set off to advantage the figure on the sides of the casket and sixteen tobacco plants are executed skilfully near the edges. The lid bears the inscription: "Presented to His Excellency Sir William Henry Manning, Governor of Ceylon by the people of Jaffna on the occasion of his visit 15th January, 1919." The casket stands on four elephants of solid silver attached to it with silver screw-nails. The lid opens to the touch of two springs, one on either side. Altogether it should assure H. E. the Governor not only of the hearty welcome and affection of the inhabitants, but also, shall we say, of the exquisite make of the works turned out by the local artisans. Great credit is due to V. Thaipalakan the well known goldsmith of Jaffna.

CHIEF HEADMAN'S ADDRESS.

We, the Maniagars of the Jaffna District, beg to tender our most respectful and loyal welcome to Your Excellency on your arrival in our midst as the Representative of His Most Gracious Majesty George the Fifth, King Emperor. We gladly take this opportunity to express through Your Excellency our feelings of profound devotion and unwavering loyalty to the Throne and Person of our Beloved Sovereign. Soon after Your Excellency took charge of the administration of this Island the big world War which was undertaken by England and her noble Allies in vindication of treaty rights and defence of small nations and which, with all its sufferings and terrors, has, in a unique way shown to the world the solidarity of the great British Empire to which we are all proud to belong, happily came to a successful termination. We hope that the period of Your Excellency's administration begun under such favourable auspices will be one during which will be laid sure foundations for the future progress and prosperity of this Colony. We trust that Your Excellency's stay in Jaffna will be a pleasant one, and that you will carry away happy recollections of our land. In conclusion we pray that, God may grant you health and strength to carry out successfully your beneficent administration under which it has been our good fortune to be placed.—We beg to remain, &c.

[Signatures of the Jaffna Maniagar and other 11 Maniagars, of Vallikaman East, Vallikaman North, Vallikaman West, Vadamarachi West, Vadamarachi East, Temmarachi, Pachchihappali, Karachchi, Panakary, Islands and Delft.]

The address was admirably illuminated with a Coat of Arms at the top and masonry columns on each side and views below of Jaffna Clock Tower, Ridgeway Hall, and Kankasantural Light house. It is a piece of excellent workmanship and was done by the well-known local Photographers and Artists Messrs. S. K. Lawton & Co. The casket containing the address was in the form of a palmyra tree. The trunk which is made of seasoned tamarind wood is a hollow one and within it the address is encased. The palmyra leaves and the palmyra nuts are made of gold and silver to show the tender and the dried fruit and leaves.

JAFFNA ASSOCIATION ADDRESS.

We the members of the Jaffna Association beg leave to approach Your Excellency on the occasion of your first visit to Jaffna and to accord you a most hearty welcome to the chief centre of the Tamil population of Ceylon. We take the opportunity of expressing our deep feelings of loyalty and devotion to His Most Gracious Majesty the King, our unwavering attachment to the Throne, and our gratitude for the many blessings we enjoy under British rule. We deeply rejoice with the rest of the Empire in the glorious victory of the arms of Great Britain and her Allies in the great War waged for upholding the principles of right and justice against might and militarism and for protecting the freedom of small nations by binding the sacredness of Treaties inviolable. The War has come to an end and a period of prosperity for Ceylon has opened with the assumption of the reins of Government by Your Excellency. We earnestly hope that the development of self governing institutions, the reform of the Councils with a view to the progressive realisation of responsible Government and the establishment of a University in India, will receive your early attention. We hope your Excellency will enjoy your stay in Jaffna, and carry with you pleasant memories of the country and its people. May God bless you with health and happiness and may your administration be of lasting benefit to the People of Ceylon.—(Signed) A. Kanakasabai, President, and J. H. Vanniasingham, Vice-President.

The address was printed in gold in green silk, and artistically done with gold and silver work for the borders by the Sisters of the Jaffna Convent. The album can be opened and the address kept inside and fastened.

In reply to the Public Address H. E. thanked the people for the splendid reception accorded to him & said that it gave him pleasure to be in the midst of a progressive, industrious and intelligent people. He pointed out that his policy had always been not to make promises on occasions like that, unless he was quite sure that he could carry them out. He had been only four months in the Island and had to study the different questions that came up. He rejoiced that the armistice had been signed and the event would be considered as one of the greatest events in all time. The Allies had been in very perilous situations at times, when the Central Powers were on the brink of overwhelming them. But the peril was averted by the help first of the Almighty, then of the British Navy and the army, and those of the other Allies. He had heard with great concern of the devastation caused by the floods and the storm that swept over the peninsula. He was glad to know that the people helped themselves, and that substantial relief had come to them from Jaffna living abroad. Therefore, he felt that Government would do its share by making up the balance required for completing the work of building houses that had been ruined and replacing cattle lost. He promised that he would put the matter through at the earliest opportunity. As to drainage, he acknowledged that a proper system of drainage was a necessary thing, and said that an Engineer had been appointed to look into the matter, whose proposals he would carefully consider. He however pointed out that the scheme involved great expenditure, and that, as Jaffna is only 6 ft. above the sea level, the work was not an easy one. In regard to the request that a peasant settlement be set on foot for Tamils as for Sinhalese, he promised that as soon as practicable, facilities will be given for such a settlement. In regard to the extension of roads, His Excellency said that he appreciated the fact that good permanent roads were a necessity in an agricultural district, that he had that morning discussed the matter with the Government Agent and that he would favourably consider the petition when he was ready with the money and when he is in a position to consider the question for the whole Island. His Excellency had no personal knowledge of the inadequacy of the Jaffna Railway Station as he had seen it that morning so splendidly decorated, and promised to see it another time. However, he agreed with the memorandum that a station suitable to such an important centre as Jaffna should be provided, and as the Government Agent had corroborated the statement in the address he would ask the General Manager of Railways to submit him plans for a suitable building. His Excellency sympathised with the request that goods intended for Jaffna despatched from India, should not be carried to Colombo and then sent here. His attention was drawn to this anomaly at Kurunegale, and on his referring the matter to the G. M. R. he was told that it was due to the South Indian Railway authorities who thought that Ceylon was too small a place for them to take the trouble to sort the goods sent to the different destinations. As they had repeatedly refused to help Ceylon in this matter, the only thing to do was to build a warehouse at Talaimanar where the goods could be sorted. This would be done as soon as the money and materials were ready. As to resuming the pre-war train service for Jaffna, His Excellency pointed out that from four to six months at least would be required to get the materials necessary for the increased train service, and announced that in the meanwhile a small increase would be given. In reply to the request that both the leasing system and the sale of Crown lands should be retained, His Excellency pointed out the difficulty of having different sets of rules for the different parts of the Island and yet he recognised the peculiar position of the District in this matter and promised to increase for the people of this District the number of acres which they are allowed to acquire by sale. In reply to the prayer that an agricultural school and an experimental garden should be established for Jaffna, His Excellency said that the Director of Agriculture favoured it and promised to assist them as soon as the necessary funds were available. On the University question, he referred to the criticism of his proposal for a University soon after his arrival in the Island, and humbly withdrew the opinion he had held then, and promised that the Government would go ahead and undertake the lion's share, and would expect the people who have been benefited by an English education to do what they could towards establishing scholarships and endowing chairs in the University. Then came the important question of constitutional reform. As His Excellency himself humorously remarked he treated the subject in a "nebulous" manner. He expressed amusement at the acrimonious controversy carried on in the Press on this subject and deprecated such discussions. He thought that the subject was a most difficult one and required a great deal of careful and patient investigation. He could not therefore say anything definite on the point. He assured the people that justice would be done to the interests of all races, creeds, and classes when a scheme was formulated. In this connection he believed that local self government should be developed before the concession of larger political privileges. His Excellency said that he came from a Colony which had a large measure of self government and that his experience was that the people there used their privileges wisely. He fully believed that self governing institutions would develop a sense of responsibility among the people.

To the Local Board Address His Excellency said that drainage would be an expensive item, and on the question of a water supply he said that he would consult the G. A. and try to do something. As to grants from revenue it was out of the question, but he would try to help them as the Jaffna people were an intelligent, industrious and progressive people. H. E. also suitably replied to the Addresses of the Headmen and the Jaffna Association.

His Excellency said in conclusion he wished to play the role of a supplicant. A scheme for a technical school for Jaffna had been formulated which required the support of the people. The Hon. Mr. P. Ramaswami had given five acres towards this and he hoped that others would come forward to support the people that would study in the institution. In this connection, His Excellency once more eulogised the character and ability of the Jaffneses whose services were in great demand in the Island and outside of it. He was of opinion that their usefulness would further be increased if young men had opportunities to be trained in agriculture, engineering, carpentry, etc.

