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ESTABLISHED SEPTEMBER 11, 1839.

(REGISTERED AS A NEWSPAPER.)

PUBLISHED EVERY MONDAY AND THURSDAY.

VOL. XXX-NO. 65.

JAFFNA, MONDAY FEBRUARY 24, 1919.

PRICE 5 CENTS

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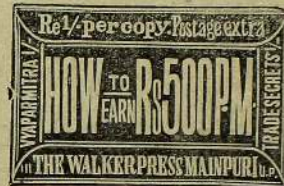
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IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.
Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 8830.

In the Matter of the Estate of the late Charles Arulpragasam of Public Works Department, Colombo.

Solomon Vettivelu Chiniah of Udaval Deceased.
Petitioner

Vs.
Elizabeth Pooranan Pushpahawathi wife of Chiniah of Udaval Respondent.

This matter of the Petition of Solomon Vettivelu Chiniah of Udaval, praying for Letters of Administration to the estate of the above-named deceased, Charles Arulpragasam, coming on for disposal before P. E. Peris, Doctor of Letters, District Judge, on February 10, 1919, in the presence of Mr. K. Ethirayagam, Proctor, on the part of the Petitioner; and the affidavit of the Petitioner, dated February 7, 1919, having been read: It is declared that the Petitioner is the husband of the only heir 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 March 6, 1919, show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

P. E. Peris, District Judge.
February 12, 1919.

Order Nisi.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.
Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 8816.

In the Matter of the Estate and effects of Neelayathachamma wife of Candavanam late of Klang Deceased.

Sionattambiar Candavanam of Vannarpannai West Petitioner.

Vs.
1. Thayalnayaki daughter of Candavanam and
2. Ratanasur Ponnampalam both of Vannarpannai West. The 1st Respondent is a minor and appears by her guardian ad litem the 2nd Respondent Respondents.

This matter of the Petition of the above-named Petitioner, praying that Letters of Administration to the estate of the above-named deceased be granted to him, coming on for disposal before P. E. Peris, Doctor of Letters District Judge, on February 13, 1919, in the presence of Messrs. Casipillai & Casbiravelu, Proctors, for Petitioner, and the affidavit of the Petitioner, dated January 30, 1919, having been read: It is declared that the above-named Petitioner is the lawful husband of the said deceased and is entitled to have Letters of Administration to the estate of the said deceased issued to him unless the Respondents or any other person or persons shall, on or before March 4, 1919, show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

P. E. Peris, District Judge.
February 18, 1919.

Order Nisi.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.
Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 8800.

In the Matter of the Estate of the late Kanapathippillai Mustukkumar of Meold Deceased.

Murugesar Kanthiah of Meolai Petitioner.

Vs.
Amirbhavally, widow of Marimuttu Muttukumar of Meolai Respondent.

This matter of the Petition of Murugesar Kanthiah of Meolai the above-named petitioner, praying for Letters of Administration to the estate of the above-named deceased Kanapathippillai Mustukkumar of Meolai, coming on for disposal before P. E. Peris, Doctor of Letters, District Judge, on January 24, 1919, in the presence of Messrs. K. Sivayarasam, S. Kadresu and A. Ambalavanan, Proctors, on the part of the Petitioner; and the affidavit of the Petitioner dated January 18, 1919, having been read: It is declared that the Petitioner is the lawful grandson in law of the said intestate and is entitled to have Letters of Administration issued to him unless the Respondent or any other person shall, on or before March 4, 1919, show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

P. E. Peris, District Judge.
February 10, 1919

Order Nisi.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.
Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 8822.

In the Matter of the Estate of the late Eiyatambiy Naganather of Analaiva Deceased.

Eiyatambiy Arulanpalam of Analaiva Petitioner.

Vs.
1. Aratapulle wife of V. Luthar Sinniah
2. Volantur Sinniah both of Analaiva Respondents.

This matter of the Petition of Eiyatambiy Arulanpalam of Analaiva the petitioner, praying for Letters of Administration to the estate of the above-named deceased, Eiyatambiy Naganather of Analaiva, coming on for disposal before P. E. Peris, Doctor of Letters, District Judge, on February 4, 1919, in the presence of Mr. A. Ratnasagapathy, Proctor, on the part of the Petitioner and the affidavit of the Petitioner, dated February 1, 1919, having been read: It is declared that the Petitioner is the brother 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 March 4, 1919, show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

P. E. Peris, District Judge.
February 11, 1919.

Order Nisi.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.
Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 8801.

Class I.
In the Matter of the Estate and effects of Sinnamma daughter of Malivaganam late of Thanankilappu Deceased.

Ponnampalam Thampoo of Thanankilappu Petitioner.

Vs.
1. Vairavanathar Sinnathamby of Maranvampulo and his wife
2. Mutiachoy of do
3. Thillakkuddy Ponnappa of do and his wife
4. Ponnamma of do
5. Sapapathy Cheliah of do
6. Sannugam Sathasivam of do and his wife
7. Mutiachoy of do
8. Murnagar Thambisayah of Arialai and his wife
9. Parupathy of do and
10. Kartikesu Sabaratnam of do Respondents.

This matter of the Petition of the above-named Petitioner Ponnampalam Thampoo, praying for Letters of Administration to the estate of the above-named deceased, Sinnamma daughter of Malivaganam, coming on for disposal before J. H. Vanniasinkam Esq. Acting District Judge, on February 24, 1919, in the presence of Messrs. Casipillai and Casbiravelu, Proctors, on the part of the Petitioner and the affidavit of the Petitioner dated January 22, 1919, having been read: It is declared that the Petitioner is uncle and one of the heirs 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 or persons shall, on or before March 13, 1919, show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

P. E. Peris, District Judge.
February 8, 1919.

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The Hindu Organ.

JAFFNA, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1919

THE PLACE OF VILLAGE COMMITTEES IN COMMUNAL LIFE.

In the two previous articles we have tried to impress on our readers the great national importance of finding means to arrest the decadence of communal life in our villages. This could be done by the infusion of a democratic spirit into our caste organizations, by eliminating sub-caste divisions and inducing among them the spirit of brotherhood and co-operation for communal good. In the old halcyon days of Hindu history, there was present in our society an organized inter-caste brotherhood which consolidated and vivified communal life in the villages. It is by working for a greater diffusion of this spirit of brotherhood among the people that we can hope to regain the union and strength which we possessed in the olden days. We have also shown that by utilising the existing family groups, or clan unions, we can organize a large number of primary Co-operative Societies and Central Co-operative Unions, through which the villagers could gain self-determination and self-help in all matters affecting their communal life. In the matter of organizing Central Co-operative Unions to control and co-ordinate the working of, and offer banking facilities to the Primary Societies organized on the family group basis noted above, it was pointed out by us that Government help and Government guarantee were at first indispensable for their success. We shall now proceed to give a few suggestions on the better working of the Village Committees so as to make them contribute a no less important part in the reviving of village communal life in our country.

The Village Communities' Ordinance of 1889 is an important act of legislation, which will give the villagers considerable powers of self-determination and self-help if it is properly worked. It is to be deeply regretted that the villagers are now largely ignorant of the rights and privileges conferred on them by this Ordinance. As our readers are aware, Village Committees were established in the Villages of this District about two years ago. Though they have been working ever since that time, it is doubtful whether the people in the villages have acquired any degree of self-government through them. It is the opinion of many that the introduction of Village Committees in Jaffna has been the means of arming autocracy with greater powers to curb the freedom of the villagers, rather than infusing any democratic spirit among them or increasing their self governing capacity. This result is chiefly due to the ignorance and apathy of the villagers in this matter and not to any wilful act of mis-government on the part of the responsible Officials. The remedy to raise the villagers from sloth and ignorance of their political rights lies not in fault finding, but in starting in all our villages a vigorous political propaganda and bestirring the villagers to exercise their civic rights and work unitedly and patriotically for their moral, spiritual and economic elevation. The political education of the people through the vernaculars is a matter that has been seriously neglected in the Tamil districts of Ceylon. Whatever that is now done in our country by way of popular education through the vernacular press, and by lectures, is confined mainly to religious subjects. It is high time that we realise that politics too, whose ultimate aim is the evolution of a higher type of social life, is an integral part of religion, and devote our energies to disseminate true knowledge on politics and civics among the people.

We will note here briefly how far the Village Communities' Ordinance confers democratic powers on the inhabitants of a village in the management of their communal affairs. First of all, the Ordinance, in Section 14, gives what we

may call manhood suffrage, and initiative in political action, to the villagers. Every male inhabitant of a Village Committee area, has a right to vote at a meeting of the inhabitants called for the purposes enumerated in the Ordinance, provided only that he has not been convicted of any infamous crime. The Government Agent may call a meeting of the inhabitants whenever it shall appear to him advisable. He shall also call a meeting upon a requisition signed by not less than 10 inhabitants of a Village Committee area. The villagers are thus given the power of initiative in calling a meeting of their fellow villagers for the purpose of Communal administration.

Now, a meeting of the villagers convened by the Government Agent at his own initiative, or on the initiative of 10 villagers, has the power to make rules or laws for the Communal Government which have to be approved by the Governor with the advice of the Executive Council, before they become valid. Section 6 of the Ordinance gives 22 heads under which rules may be made by the inhabitants by a majority of votes. They embrace a wide variety of subjects such as construction and maintenance of village roads not exceeding 12 ft. in width, as well as bridges and madams, the opening of schools, the encouragement of agriculture, taking care of sanitation &c. &c. The village inhabitants also, at a meeting assembled, are given the power through their free votes and with the approval of the Governor in Council, to impose on themselves an annual tax payable in labour or in money for any communal purpose mentioned in the Ordinance. Any rule so made may be amended at any subsequent meeting if it is found desirable to do so by a majority of votes. In order to collect the taxes and carry out the rules, the meeting of inhabitants has the right to elect a Committee of not less than 6 men from among themselves and delegate to them the necessary powers. This Committee shall remain in office for 5 years.

If the provisions of the Village Communities' Ordinance are widely known by the villagers, and if they exercise the rights conferred on them wisely and independently, there is bound to follow a revolution in village life. The present apathy, selfishness, and disunion, which are the characteristic symptoms of disruption in the communal life of our villages, would soon give way to co-operation, love of liberty and fairplay, and a cohesive strength capable of self-help and self-determination independent of outside official help. If a substantial majority of the inhabitants in a Village Committee area determine to manage their own communal affairs independent of official aid, they have the full liberty to do so under this Ordinance.

Section 47 of the Ordinance which provides that the Chief Headman shall be ex-officio chairman of every Village Committee in his division should be amended so as to give the people the right to elect their own Chairman. In India the right to elect their own chairmen is given to Village Councils and even to many Municipalities and Local Boards. If a similar power is given to local bodies in Ceylon we are sure that it will lead to the better development of the self-governing capacity of the people and contribute to their happiness.

The Ordinance further provides for the appointment of Village Tribunals for the trial and settlement of petty civil and criminal disputes, and in the absence of such tribunals, the Village Committees also are vested with certain limited judicial powers. But in all these matters unless the people are well educated on the nature of their rights and liberties and trained to exercise them independently without being dominated by outside autocratic influences, it will not much help to develop the communal or national consciousness in the individual. As long as it is possible for one to get the honour or preferment he covets at the hands of an autocrat, without any regard to the approval or good will of his fellow citizens, just so long will the spirit of selfishness and slavish submission to arbitrary power prevail. There cannot but be, under such soul-deadening influences, a slow decadence of communal life.

LOCAL & GENERAL.

THE GOVERNMENT AGENT—Mr. Horburgh, the Government Agent, returned here from circuit on the evening of the 22nd inst.

THE HARVESTING OPERATIONS—have commenced. The crop is a great failure owing to the devastation of the floods which then plants were young, and latterly, owing to the failure of rains in January.

CLERICAL SERVICES EXAMINATION—27 candidates have passed the examination held on December 17, 1912, and following days, for admission to class II, Grade III, of the Clerical Branch of the Public Services. The following are the names:—Messrs. A. P. Aiyadurai, Land Settlement Department; A. Arumugam, Assistant Provincial Registrar's Office, Puttalam; C. W. Anagassabai, Sopena Lodge, Batticaloa; K. Duraiswami, Aray North, Vaddukottai; K. Duraiswami, Odai Ayanthi, Vannarponna; B. Kandiah, Alavaddy English School, Chunnakam; V. Paramanathan, The Commissioner's Office, Colombo; N. Rajendra, The Museum, Colombo; T. Thiragaraja, Government Stores, Colombo; V. Thiraiswamy, Audit Office, Colombo; G. Venkayyengar, Registrar General's Office; A. Viswalingam, Police Office, Trincomalee; P. J. Swaminilai, Land Settlement Department.

THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION—Mr. Denham leaves here for Colombo this evening.

THE JAFFNA DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE.—A meeting of this body takes place today at 2 p.m. in the Jaffna Kachechi. The Director of Education will be present. The establishment of a Technical School in Jaffna is one of the subjects on the agenda.

PERSONAL.—Brigadier General Hackett Thompson, who has retired from the Command of the Ceylon force, was on a visit to Jaffna and stayed at King's House as the guest of Mr. Denham. He left Jaffna for Colombo on the 21st instant.

THE HON. MR. A. SAPAPATHY leaves for Colombo this evening to attend the meeting of the Legislative Council on the 26th instant.

MR. P. AMPALAVANAR, Land Clerk, Kachechi, Batticaloa, has come to Jaffna on a month's leave and is staying at this residence at Talippalai.

F. M. S. AND JAFFNA FLOOD RELIEF FUND.—In addition to the five thousand dollars (Rs. 8750) contributed by the Government of the Straits, we are glad to learn that the Government of the F. M. S. also has contributed an equal amount to the Fund.

PRIZE GIVING AT JAFFNA CENTRAL COLLEGE.—This function came off on the 22nd instant commencing at 6.30 p.m., Mr. E. B. Denham, Director of Education presiding on the occasion. The attendance was very large and representative comprising the elite of the Jaffna community, including a large number of ladies. The programme was a long one. The recitations, dialogues, and songs were done excellently well by the boys. Rev. Mr. M. Person, the new Principal of St. John's College gave an address on Social Service. The Director distributed the prizes, and delivered an interesting speech. Rev. Mr. Trimmer moved a vote of thanks to the Director who left the meeting before the whole programme was gone through. Mr. Trimmer then occupied the Chair and conducted the rest of the proceedings.

MR. E. B. DENHAM AT JAFFNA—Mr. E. B. Denham, Director of Education, with Mr. Leigh Smith, Principal, Training College, arrived at Jaffna on the 15th inst. On the 17th they visited Kopay United Training School with Mr. Thiraiswamy, Inspector of Schools, N. P. & G. T. Trimmer and Mr. A. Ward. The Director visited Malakkam English School, which presented a gay appearance, on the 18th, with the Inspector, and presided at the prize giving, delivering in his usual eloquent style, a stirring address, requesting the people of Jaffna to endow Scholarships at the new Technical and Industrial School to be built at Kopay on five acres, donated by the Hon. Mr. P. Ramamathan. Among the other speakers were the Hon. Sir A. Kanagasabai and Mr. Nevins Selvadurai.

MORE POLICE SUB INSPECTORS TO BE APPOINTED.—The Police authorities have decided to increase the Force and about eight new Sub Inspectors will shortly be taken into the Department. An examination will shortly be held for this purpose at the Police Training School in Colombo. Candidates who are selected will be trained for about six months prior to being appointed to stations.

THE LATE PTE. AIYADURAI.—At the meeting of the Tamil Union C. & A. C. held at Colombo on the 20th instant it was decided that a special meeting be held at the club pavilion for the purpose of unveiling the photograph of the late Pte. Aiyadurai, who was a member of the club and who died while on war service. The Hon. Mr. P. Ramamathan, president of the club, will occupy the chair and perform the unveiling ceremony. The date of the event will be fixed later by the committee.

ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY (C. B.).—A meeting of the Royal Asiatic Society was held on the 20th instant at 9 p.m. Sir Ponnambalam Arunassalam, President of the Society, presided and the meeting was well attended. An interesting paper on "The Overlordship of Ceylon in the thirteenth, fourteenth and fifteenth centuries" was read by Dr. S. C. Paul, M. D., F. R. C. S. Some fittings from the treasure chest of King Sri Wickrama Raja Sinha (1738-1815) A. D. two large handles inlaid with silver, were placed on the table for inspection. The meeting commenced at about 9.10 p.m., the delay being due to the failure of the lights. These ancient relics

were purchased by Mr. J. P. Lewis, the retired Civil Servant, at a Red Cross sale in London recently.

TAMIL ACTION SONGS.—We have received with thanks a copy of Tamil Action Songs edited by Mudaliar S. Vaidya Nathan, Chief Tamil Interpreter to Government. This Booklet was compiled at the suggestion and with the approval of the Director of Education. There are 25 action songs in the work and musical notes for them are given at the end. The selections are excellent and we have no doubt that the Editor has successfully met an urgent need in our vernacular schools. The price of the publication is 50 cents.

ABSENCE OF DATE OF CANCELLATION.—Messrs. Justice Ennis, Shaw and De Sampayo together as a Full Court, today heard an appeal (referred) in a Colombo District Case, S. A. Y. De Mel and S. Arumogam Pillai (P. A. Sivan De Mel & Co) v. (1) Jooris and (2) Charles of Batuwatte and (3) Malla of Kacuwana for Rs. 902.50 on a pro-note by the 1st and 2nd to the 3rd and endorsed by the 3rd to plaintiffs, with interest and costs. The 1st and 2nd pleaded the note was void, as the stamp had not been properly cancelled. They admitted the note to 3rd defendant, for Rs. 90 and not Rs. 900, and that plaintiffs were aware the amount was only Rs. 90, when it was endorsed, so were not lawful holders. Mr. Loos, D. J., held the stamp on the note had not been duly cancelled, as there was no date on it, and only the initials of defendants' names. Though it was suggested by plaintiff's Counsel that the Court should write the date on the stamp to make the cancellation good, the Judge thought he should not, owing to an Appeal Court judgment (XX N. L. R. p. 138) The note was held void and the action dismissed with costs. The appeal was referred to the Full Court, owing to the two Judges' judgment cited. Mr. A. St. V. Jayawardena for appellant; Messrs. Croos Dabhera and Francois de Zoysa for defendants. Their Lordships—held that the absence of the date from the stamp did not make the note void. If there were any sort of writing on it, to make it apparent that it had been previously used, it was sufficient cancellation, and the note sued on was admissible in evidence. Dismissal of the action was set aside, and the case was sent back to be proceeded with; plaintiffs to have costs of appeal. Mr. Justice De Sampayo—who took part in the judgment cited today, agreed in reversing that decision, as the question was fully argued to law.

—"Ceylon Observer", Feb. 21.

THE LATE MRS. C. GNANASEKARAM.—It is with the deepest regret we announce the sad and untimely death of Srimati Neelayathachy Amma, wife of Mr. C. Gnanasekaram J. P., Retired Chief Sheriff, National Bank, Colombo, which took place in Colombo on the 19th instant. The deceased lady was highly honored by all who knew her in Jaffna and Colombo for her kind heart and charitable acts. She leaves behind besides her husband, two sons, Mr. G. Sannugam, J. P., Chief Sheriff, National Bank, Colombo, and Mr. G. Wignaraja, Medical Student, and a wide circle of relatives in Jaffna and Colombo to mourn her death. We offer our condolences to the bereaved.

THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary—tabled the following papers at the meeting of Council held on the 19th instant.

Rules for the conduct of voting by ballot for or against the existence of Toddy Taverns for the 1920-21 Rent period made under Section 31 of "The Excise Ordinance No. 8 of 1912."

Rules for the conduct of voting by ballot for or against the existence of places licensed for the sale of beer and porter by retail for the 1920-21 licensing period made under Section 31 of "Excise Ordinance No. 8 of 1912."

Amendment made by the Municipal Council, Colombo, to By-Law 24 of Chapter VII of the Colombo Municipal Council By-Laws published by proclamation dated Oct. 12, 1905.

Amendment made by the District School Committee of Kegalla under "The Rural Schools Ordinance, 1907," to the Schedules to the By-Laws published in the Government "Gazette" of Sept. 6, 1913.

The Hon. the Treasurer—said:—I rise, Sir, to move the first reading of an "Ordinance to Provide for the Collection of Estate Duties." This is a Bill recommended by the Select Committee to take the place of the Stamp Amendment Ordinance of 1912, which has been withdrawn. The new Bill is based on the English Acts and the schedule of rates of the estate duty is also that of the English Acts. The statement of objects and reasons of this Bill gives a very full and comprehensive explanation of the provisions of the Bill. I do not, therefore, propose to take up the time of the Council today, with any further remarks at this stage. I propose to reserve my remarks on the financial aspect of this Bill for the second reading. I formally move the first reading of the Bill.

The Hon. the G. A. C. P.—seconded.—Carried. The second reading was fixed for a subsequent meeting of the Council.

The Hon. the Attorney-General—moved the first reading of "An Ordinance to provide for the Recognition in this Colony of Probates and Letters of Administration granted in the United Kingdom and British Possessions."

The Hon. the Attorney-General—moved the first reading of an Ordinance to amend "The Public Performances Ordinance No. 7 of 1912."

He said—under Section 3 of the principal Ordinance provision was made for the submission of a description of the performance before it was publicly given. But experience had shown that it was insufficient to maintain control of the character of the performances, because the execution on itself, but when accompanied by gestures they may be highly objectionable. For that reason provision was intended to be made by the Bill, allowing the censoring authority to call for a performance of any particular production before it was publicly given.

The Hon. the Treasurer—seconded.—Carried.

LAND REGISTRATION ORDINANCE.

The Hon. the Attorney-General—presented the Select Committee's report on the above Ordinance, and said that he proposed withdrawing the Bill as suggested by the Committee.

MUNICIPAL COUNCILS ORDINANCE.

The Hon. the Attorney-General—presented the report of the Select Committee on the above Ordinance. The Committee had unanimously recommended the adoption of the proposed amendments, subject to modifications in the Draft. The Hon. Mr. Ramamathan had added an explanation. The Committee had gone into the matter fully, held eight meetings and after careful consideration, the report was presented. He moved that the report be adopted.

The Hon. the Treasurer—seconded.—Carried.

"CRUELTY TO JAFFNA TURTLES THRASHED OUT."

"ATTORNEY GENERAL TO LEGISLATE PARTICULARLY FOR THESE CREATURES"

The Hon. the Attorney-General—moved the second reading of "An Ordinance further to Amend the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance."

He said that he had been approached by some Unofficial Members with the suggestion that it would be well to refer the Bill to a Select Committee. There was one Clause, which he thought might give rise to considerable controversy, that was Clause 8. He therefore, proposed that the matter be referred to a Select Committee. Although he had intended to deal with certain objections raised, he would simply formally move the second reading with a view to referring the Bill to Select Committee.

TURTLES ON THEIR BACKS FOR DAYS.

The Hon. Mr. Sapapathy—said:—I am glad, Sir, that a Select Committee is to be appointed. For the information of that Committee, I wish to say a few words in regard to cruelty to turtles which cannot be put down by the present law. I take some interest, Sir, in the work of the S. P. C. A. having been Hon. Agent of the Society in Jaffna for the last ten years till I resigned my connection from this month, owing to increased duties and responsibilities. The cruelty to turtles perpetrated in Jaffna by a small section of the people living in a curkitt of the town is of a revolting character, and has attracted the attention of many a visitor to that place. Turtles are caught in the high sea and brought to Jaffna in boats to be sold to those who relish that flesh. They are landed and kept on dry land in a overturned and unnatural position, for days and even for two or three weeks without any food or water, till they are sold and removed or till they are slaughtered on the spot. It is indeed a pitiful sight to see these creatures in that condition, with bloodshot eyes and protruding tongues panting with hunger and struggling to regain their natural position to go back into the sea. This cruelty has been felt by all disinterested persons who have seen it as of an atrocious character and the S. P. C. A. has been appealed to by very many Europeans and others, to adopt measures to put an end to this cruelty. But, Sir, under the existing Law as interpreted, the Society has found it impossible to do anything in the matter. Prosecution for cruelty was open to us and a few prosecutions were instituted, resulting in convictions. But subsequently, a few years ago, the Magistrate acquitted the accused, basing his judgment on a report of Dr. Pearson of the Colombo Museum to the effect that turtles belong to a species of animals which feel no pain whatever by the treatment above described. This was a startling revelation, and this theory did not find general acceptance. Mr. R. N. Lyne, the late Director of Agriculture, who took very great interest in the matter, collected some animals adverse to Dr. Pearson's theory and insisted on the Society carrying on the campaign for the prevention of cruelty to turtles. Another test case was instituted in the Police Court of Jaffna before another Magistrate and after the Magistrate, who held that turtles felt no pain, had been transferred to another station. But the defence in this case having produced Dr. Pearson's report and the judgment on the former case, this prosecution also did not succeed. The Secretary, Sir, then decided to build an enclosure in the Jaffna Lagoon by the side of the Reclamation Road, in close proximity to the spot where turtles are kept, and I got an estimate made for the enclosure to be built at the expense of the Society. The Chairman and members of the Local Board were also approached to pass a bye-law to compel the owners of turtles to keep them in the sea enclosure till their sale or slaughter. A bye-law to that effect was actually passed by that body and sent to the Hon. the Attorney General for his approval as required by law. But this official reported that the bye-law was ultra vires as no one could be forced, under the law to use a particular enclosure. In these circumstances, Sir the S. P. C. A. is not able to put a stop to the cruelty perpetrated on turtles and there is a deadlock now in the operation of the Society in this matter. Whether turtles feel pain or not, it is revolting to human eyes and feeling to see them in the manner they are kept and treated. The Society is pressed by various well-meaning persons to adopt further measures to remedy this state of affairs. Mr. Lewis Walker, Hon. Secretary of the Society, paid a visit to Jaffna last month to see whether anything further could be done in the matter. He and I visited the turtles shed in a portion of the Reclamation ground and found 13 turtles in the condition I have described. We were told that some of them were there for two weeks. We approached the Government Agent who fully sympathized with our movement, but found himself unable to do anything to help the cause of the Society under the existing law. Mr. Walker returned to Colombo to report to his Committee the condition of affairs with the view of appealing to the Government to alter the law so as to afford protection to turtles from the cruelty to which they are subjected. The Hon. the Controller of Revenue who happened to be in Jaffna at that

time and know all about the inhuman manner in which turtles are treated, proud of his superior knowledge that may be considered as the only one of the creature. Now, Sir, the Bill before me provides by Sections 4 and 4A against the cruelty, starting an animal, causing it to be carried in such a position as to cause pain to it. Whether these Sections would apply to turtles is doubtful, as the question has been raised whether turtles feel pain or not. I, therefore, suggest to the Government to amend this Bill so as to leave no room for doubt that whether turtles feel pain or not to keep them in a starved condition in an unnatural position, shall be an offence, punishable under this Ordinance. I think, Sir, it can be amended. If this opportunity is missed, Sir, to put an end to this turtles question, the Government will have to consider the desirability of introducing a special Ordinance, empowering the Local Board of Jaffna to set apart enclosures for keeping turtles in sea water—in fresh water they cannot live, it is said—till they are sold or slaughtered.

ANOTHER FORM OF TORTURE.

The Hon. M. O. C. Tilakaratne—supported. He said that in Tangalla and Hambantota, the turtles were caught by fishermen, there was no other form of cruelty practised. Turtles were forced to give up their coverings by being heated over a raging fire. That was done, it is said, because the shell of the dead turtle was not valuable nor capable of being converted into articles produced by the Sinhala artificers of the South. He was surprised to learn for the first time from his hon. friend that so learned an authority as Dr. Pearson had stated that a turtle did not feel any pain. It was so, the only way of knowing whether turtles felt pain or not was at the next re-incarnation of the fishermen if he be a Buddhist—for there were Catholic fishermen, too—in the shape of a turtle. This alone could prove or disprove what Dr. Pearson had set down.

OFFICIAL SUPPORT.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary—said:—His Excellency was aware from his own experience of the cruelty in Jaffna as of a horrible one, but the difficulties of dealing with it had never fully stated. The whole question was whether the turtle felt pain, Dr. Pearson thought that it did. One, of course, has to make dogmatic statements, but perhaps next time when Dr. Pearson started as he might have reason to reconsider his statement. There was, however, a point which deserved consideration. Even if it could be proved that turtles did not feel pain—those who inflicted pain on themselves and their own children in some animals, were deteriorating as much as it was possible for men to deteriorate. He was afraid, as the wording of the Bill stood, it would not be possible to prosecute offenders, and he therefore trusted that the Select Committee would find some means of altering it so as to apply to turtles. Mr. Stubbs concurred by saying that on behalf of the Society which he had the honour of being Chairman, which had offered to build the enclosure referred to by Mr. Sapapathy, he might say that the offer will not hold good. There was some difficulty of keeping turtles in captivity as they would not eat in captivity, but he had correspondence with some one in the West India and he had heard that there was some possibility of getting over that difficulty.

The Hon. the Attorney-General—remarked that every body must have listened with sympathy to what Mr. Sapapathy had said, but there was a further difficulty with regard to the case of fish; the provisions of cruelty to animals never had been extended so far to fish. They had only been extended to domestic animals or captured animals. If they dealt with turtles under that law, they would be opening up a very large question. Although he saw a difficulty from a legal point of view, he was sure that the Committee who would go into the question would try and find a solution.

WHAT IS A TURTLE?

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary—(interrupted) Does the Hon. member suggest that the turtle is a fish?

The Hon. the Attorney-General—Well, it is an amphibious animal.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary—The turtle is a reptile. (Laughter)

The Hon. the Attorney-General—Well, I do not know. It is an animal.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary—I suggest that it is an animal in captivity.

HIS EXCELLENCY'S REMARKS.

His Excellency—said:—I am very glad that the Hon. Mr. Sapapathy has brought up this matter. While in Jaffna, I myself went to see the enclosure where these wretched animals, or reptiles, or fish, or whatever they may be called, are kept in captivity, and immediately I saw them I wrote to the Colonial Secretary, and said I was determined that something should be done to put a stop to this cruelty. My opinion is that, if it is impossible to frame something in this Ordinance to deal with this matter, the suggestion of the Hon. Member might well be considered—that an Ordinance should be passed which will compel throughout the Island all turtles to be kept in what is called in the West Indies a krawl, into which sea water has ingress and egress. Even if this Ordinance cannot be so amended, I shall ask the Attorney-General if it is not possible to legislate particularly for these creatures. I cannot believe myself in spite of what scientists may say, viz, that the animal or reptile or fish does not suffer pain.

I think myself that it does suffer pain, to judge from its features turned upside down, eyes starting out from the heat that it has to lie in.

The motion was carried.

SELECT COMMITTEE.

The following Select Committee was appointed: The Hon. the Attorney-General, (Chairman) The Hon. Messrs. Tilakaratne, Vanderwall and Sapapathy.

ORDINANCE PASSED.

The Hon. the Attorney-General—brought up the second reading of the following Ordinances:— "To provide for the application of so much of the balance standing in the credit of the Waterworks account of the Kandy Municipality under 'The Kandy Waterworks Law Ordinance, 1881,' as has not been paid in full by the Local Board of the Municipality of Kandy by the Government." "To amend the Weights and Measures Ordinance, 1876, and Ordinance No. 14 of 1876, entitled 'An Ordinance to amend the Weights and Measures Ordinance, 1876.'"

—"The Ceylon Observer,"

TELEGRAPHIC SUMMARY.
The War.

THE PEACE CONFERENCE.
London, Feb. 17.
Paris.—The Armistice discussions will be resumed tomorrow, when Marshal Foch returns from Treves. It is almost certain that the final Naval Peace terms will include the complete destruction of the fortifications of Heligoland and the Kiel Canal, opening the latter to ordinary traffic and leaving Germany with a Navy only sufficient for defensive purposes.
Peking.—Government has indicated its Peace Delegation in Paris to acquire the Peace Conference with the contents and number of the China Japan Agreements and continue to act according to their discretion.
London, Feb. 18.
The Armistice Commissioners are discussing the quota of troops which Germany can be allowed to retain, and to which she must immediately reduce her establishments. The reduction in men and war material must be accompanied by a corresponding reduction in Germany's capacity to produce guns and munitions, which will entail the destruction or transformation of a certain proportion of her armament factories. The Allies also intend to forbid Germany to keep troops in certain Provinces. France's case, regarding the left bank of the Rhine and the security of France's Eastern frontier, might thus be met.

GERMANY.
London, Feb. 18.
Berlin.—The situation in Germany is becoming more precarious daily owing to the great activity of the Spartacists. A general strike has now broken out in the Ruhr district. Strikers in Essen declare that not a single ton of coal shall be given to the present Government, and the strike shall be continued until the Socialisation of the Ruhr mining industry is complete and Government troops are recalled. The Spartacists are directing an entire movement. Alarming reports from similar state that the Post Office here is occupied by the Military and troops are being held in readiness.
A strike of employees of the large stores in Berlin is assuming large proportions. Over 60,000 shops are struck, and it is expected that Berlin will be without shops shortly. Later reports state that Spartacists have suppressed the newspapers in the Ruhr region while armed Spartacists from Essen, Dusseldorf and other places are pouring into Mulheim which apparently is the centre of the movement.

London, Feb. 19.
Amsterdam.—Meetings continue throughout Germany, protesting against what is described as the theft of the German Colonies, and the retention of prisoners. Herr Erzberger sent a long communication to Marshal Foch refusing to place the German Mercantile Marine at the disposal of the Entente unless agreements are reached assuring Germany's food supply and safeguarding the German crews.

London, Feb. 19.
In the House of Commons Mr. Shortt stated that a Bill dealing with the deportation and exclusion of undesirable aliens would shortly be introduced. If it was true that over 20,000 enemy and other aliens were now at Rotterdam with the object of returning to England as soon as Peace was signed, his present adequate powers of excluding aliens would be used.

AUSTRIA.
London, Feb. 19.
Copenhagen.—A telegram from Vienna says:—The results of the Elections to the National Assembly at present are:—81 Social Democrats, eleven Christian Socialists, two German Nationalists, one Bourgeois Democrat, one Czech and one Jewish National. Those elected include 6 women.

London, Feb. 18.
Paris.—A message from Vienna states that the results of the Elections, besides showing a Socialist success, constitute a victory for the advocates of union with Germany.

GERMANY.
London, Feb. 17.
Copenhagen.—A telegram from Weimar says:—The *Vossische Zeitung* states:—Count Brockdorff and Herr Bantau, Foreign Minister, have resigned.
London, Feb. 18.
Bale.—The *Frankfurter Zeitung* says that Herr Bantau told the Cabinet that he wanted to resign because it was impossible to continue his foreign policy while France is notoriously aiming at the resumption of hostilities. Bantau is remaining in office in deference to the wish of the Cabinet.

London, Feb. 19.
Bale.—A telegram from Weimar says the Government is discussing the critical situation in the Ruhr region where nine tenths of the mines are in the hands of the Communists, who are preventing the transport of coal. A telegram from Hanover says:—20,000 loyal troops have been brought in to suppress the strike. The Spartacists on the 16th occupied 100 pits and 40 communal centres in the Ruhr basin.

BRITISH MINISTERS AND ELECTONS.
London, Feb. 17.
The Bill abolishing the necessity of the re-election of Ministers after their appointment to office, was read a second time.

THE ATTACK ON M. CLEMENCEAU.
London, Feb. 19.
Paris.—M. Pichon, describing the attack on M. Clemenceau, said that after the first shot M. Clemenceau exclaimed "he has missed me" but knew other shots might be fired. It was indeed a later shot that struck him. Several bullets lodged in the Premier's overcoat. The scene of the outrage was only fifty yards from M. Clemenceau's house to which he walked. It appears that Cottin is a studious youth, a teetotaler and a non-smoker. He belonged to a group of anarchists supposedly of a harmless oratorical order. Apparently he had no accomplices though a man was arrested while protesting against the crowd's attempt to lynch Cottin. The latter is an ex-soldier invalided with heart trouble.

—The Times of Ceylon

Order Nisi.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.
Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 3775.
In the Matter of the Estate of the late Ponnammah wife of Kanthapper Sobhimutta of Vannarpannai West Deceased.
Kanthapper Sobhimutta of Vannarpannai West Petitioner.
Vs.
1. Kulantaivaloo Vaitialingam
2. Vaitialingam Sinnatamby
3. Vaitialingam Somasekar and
4. Muttammah daughter of Vaitialingam
5. Vaitialingam Nagalingam and
6. Vannarpannai West, the 4th, 5th and 6th Respondents are minors appearing by their Guardian ad litem the 1st Respondent Respondents.

This matter of the Petition of Kanthapper Sobhimutta of Vannarpannai West, praying for Letters of Administration to the estate of the abovenamed deceased, Ponnammah wife of Kanthapper Sobhimutta of Vannarpannai West, coming on for disposal before P. E. Pieris, District Judge, on January 6, 1919, in the presence of Mr. P. K. Somasundaram, Proctor, on the part of the Petitioner, and the affidavit of the Petitioner, dated December 20, 1918, having been read: It is declared that the Petitioner is the husband 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 February 27, 1919, show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.
P. E. Pieris, District Judge.
February 10, 1919.

Order Nisi.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.
Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 3778.
In the Matter of the Estate of the late Ramu Nallathambiy of Anaikkoddi Deceased.
Annammuttu widow of Ramu Nallathambiy of Anaikkoddi Petitioner.
Vs.
1. Nagammah daughter of Nallathambiy a minor appearing by her Guardian ad litem the 2nd Respondent
2. Sinnappu widow of Murugesu of Anaikkoddi
3. Ramu Kanapathippillai do Respondents.

This matter of the Petition of Annammuttu widow of Ramu Nallathambiy of Anaikkoddi, praying for Letters of Administration to the estate of the abovenamed deceased, Ramu Nallathambiy, coming on for disposal before P. E. Pieris, District Judge, on February 5, 1919, in the presence of Mr. E. Murugesampillai, Proctor, on the part of the Petitioner, and the affidavit of the Petitioner dated December 30, 1918, having been read: It is declared that the Petitioner is the widow of the said intestate and is entitled to have Letters of Administration to the estate of the said intestate issued to her unless the Respondents or any other person shall, on or before February 27, 1919, show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.
P. E. Pieris, District Judge.
February 8, 1919.

Order Nisi.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.
Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 3764.
In the Matter of the Estate of the late Kanapathippillai Sithamparanather of Maravanpulo Deceased.
Subramaniam Kulandivadiveloe of Maravanpulo Petitioner.
Vs.
1. Sithamparanather Kanapathippillai do
2. Thangaratham daughter of Kanapathippillai Sithamparanather of do appearing by their guardian ad litem the 3rd Respondent
3. Chellammuthu widow of Kanapathippillai Sithamparanather of do Respondents.

This matter of the Petition of Subramaniam Kulandivadiveloe of Maravanpulo, praying for Letters of Administration to the estate of the abovenamed deceased, Kanapathippillai Sithamparanather, coming on for disposal before P. E. Pieris, District Judge, on February 11, 1919, in the presence of Mr. C. R. Thambiah, Proctor, on the part of the Petitioner, and the affidavit of the Petitioner, dated December 20, 1918, having been read: It is declared that the Petitioner is a creditor 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 February 27, 1919, show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.
P. E. Pieris, District Judge.
February 12, 1919.

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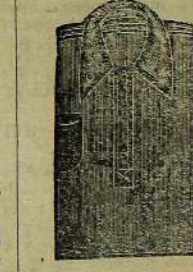
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