

# The Hindu Organ.

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## Order Nisi.

## THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 3249.

In the Matter of the Estate of the late  
Sivakolundhu wife of Sannugam Sitham-  
arapillai of Vaddukkoddai West

Deceased.

Subramaniam Tillainathar of Vaddukkoddai  
East

Petitioner.

Va.

Sinnachchippillai wife of Subramaniam Til-  
lainathar  
Amplawana Mudir. Saravannamuttoo and  
wife  
Ponnupillai all of Do. East

Respondents.

In the matter of the Petition of Subramaniam  
nathar of Vaddukkoddai East, praying for  
an order of Administration to the Estate of the  
deceased, Sivakolundhu wife of  
Sannugam Sitham-arapillai, coming on for dispo-  
sal before Paul E. Floris, Esq., District Judge,  
June 12, 1916, in the presence of Messrs. Siva-  
sann and Kattirasa, Proctors, on the part of  
the Petitioner; and the affidavit of the Petitioner  
dated June 1, 1916, having been read: It is  
ordered that the Petitioner is the husband of the  
intestate, and is entitled to have Letters of  
Administration to the Estate of the said Intestate  
issued to him, unless the Respondents or any  
of them shall, on or before July 13, 1916,  
show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this  
Court to the contrary.

J. Homer Vanniasingam,  
District Judge.

## Order Nisi.

## IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 3232.

In the Matter of the Estate of the late  
Parupathippillai wife of Kathiresu Sinnappa  
of Suthumalai

Deceased.

Kathiramu Sannugam of Anakkoddai  
Petitioner.

Va.

1. Kathiresu Sinnappa of Suthumalai and  
2. Sathunam daughter of Sinnappa of Do.  
The 2nd Respondent is a minor by  
her guardian *ad-litem* the 1st Res-  
pondent

Respondents.

This matter of the Petition of Kathiramu San-  
gam of Anakkoddai, praying for Letters of  
Administration to the estate of the abovenamed  
deceased, Parupathippillai wife of Kathiresu Sin-  
nappa of Suthumalai, coming on for disposal before  
E. Floris, Esq., District Judge, on June 19, 1916,  
the presence of Mr. E. Murugesampillai, Proctor,  
on the part of the Petitioner; and the affidavit of  
the Petitioner, dated May 9, 1916, 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 him, unless the 1st  
Respondent or any other person shall, on or  
before July 13, 1916, show sufficient cause to the  
satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

J. Homer Vanniasingam,  
Acting District Judge.

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## The Hindu Organ.

JAFFNA, THURSDAY, JULY 6, 1916

THE  
JAFFNA CATHOLIC GUARDIAN  
AND THE HINDUS.

Mallous of the "Catholic Guardian"  
after all, done a distinct service to  
Hindus by the publication of his

spiteful and malicious attacks on them in  
the issue of that paper of the 27th May  
1916, although his intention was to do  
as much harm as he could to the com-  
munity, not only by inventing false  
charges of disloyalty to British rule  
against them but also by showing them  
up in that article as a body of people who  
are helpless and are at the mercy of the  
Roman Catholic Mission in regard to the  
higher education of their youths. Jaffna  
Hindus in and out of this District are  
now roused to a sense not only of the  
gravity of the charges made against them,  
but also of their responsibility to establish  
greater facilities for the education of  
Hindu youths. We have been during the  
last few weeks in receipt of letters, private  
as well as intended for publication,  
protesting against the aspersions cast on  
the Hindus by the "Guardian" and also  
calling upon them to take the necessary  
steps for the collection of funds and the  
establishment of a Hindu Residential  
College in Jaffna. For obvious reasons  
we have not given publicity to all of them.  
But we hope to give insertion to a few of  
them. It remains to be seen, when the Police  
are prosecuting ignorant and misguided  
men on charges of sedition for having pub-  
lished leaflets calculated to create feelings  
of hatred between the Sinhalese and Mu-  
hammedans, whether writings of a spiteful  
and inflammatory character charging an  
important section of His Majesty's loyal  
subjects with disloyalty and disaffection  
and calculated to create feelings of hatred  
and enmity between the Hindus and the  
Catholics, published in a newspaper owned,  
edited and published by the Catholic  
Mission, would go unnoticed by our Gov-  
ernment. We have done all we could  
in these columns, to vindicate the Hindus  
from the utterly unfounded and malicious  
charges made against them. It is now  
for the Government to deal with them.

The Hindus should now concentrate  
their attention to the means which should  
be adopted to supply their educational  
wants which have now come to the fore,  
on account of the malevolent allusions and  
references made to them by "Mallous" in  
his communiques. We are glad to find not  
only from the communication signed  
"Amicus" from a valued correspondent  
in the F. M. S. published elsewhere, but  
also from other sources that our fellow  
countrymen and co-religionists in the  
Straits and F. M. S. are taking active  
steps to collect the required funds for the  
establishment of a Residential College in  
Jaffna. It goes without saying that in  
this noble and public spirited undertaking  
they will have the hearty co-operation  
and support of the Hindus throughout  
Ceylon.

Our correspondent seems to doubt the  
necessity of such a College and to be in  
favour of utilising the funds collected for  
the higher education of Hindu youths sent  
to England. In our opinion and in the  
opinion of those who are well acquainted  
with our educational wants, our immediate  
necessity is a well equipped and properly  
staffed Residential College of a  
higher status than the existing ones in  
Jaffna. It is after this is done, our cor-  
respondent's proposal should be thought  
of. The Hindu College has now attained  
a high state of efficiency as the results  
of the last Government Examination,  
Cambridge Local Examinations, and the  
London Matriculation Examination, would  
show. In the last mentioned Examination  
three boys of this College passed, of  
whom one was placed in the first divi-  
sion—the only one in the Island to  
pass in that class. But there is no scope  
in any Hindu or Christian Institutions  
here either for imparting higher  
education or for systematic training under  
residential system. A Hindu Resi-  
dential College is therefore absolutely  
necessary, confined to higher studies, and  
it is earnestly to be hoped that our bre-  
thren in the Straits and F. M. S., will  
work most actively and enthusiastically  
with the sole object of supplying this  
great want in Jaffna.

It appears that another question which  
exercises the minds of our countrymen in  
the Straits and F. M. S., is whether the  
proposed College should be a development  
of the Jaffna Hindu College or one inde-  
pendent of it. The Hindu College is no  
one's private property but belongs to the  
Hindu community. It has a Charter  
granted to it by Government by Ordinance  
No. 6 of 1902. It is managed by a  
Board composed of the leading Hindus of  
the District who hold office for only three  
years and retire by rotation though eligible  
for re-election. For some time past at  
every election some Old Boys of the Col-  
lege have been made Directors. It was  
for some time subject to misrepresenta-  
tions and opposition on the part of some  
teachers who were forced to resign their  
connection with it, and who moved hea-

ven and earth out of spite to wreck it.  
This opposition has now died out owing  
to the firm attitude adopted by the  
Directors and the success that has at-  
tended the labours of Mr. N. Selvadurai  
whom the College has been fortunate  
enough in having once again as its Princi-  
pal. He is now assisted by a staff so  
efficient as to produce the good results in  
the Examinations above stated. The  
energies of the Hindu community should,  
therefore, be devoted to the expansion  
and development of the existing College  
belonging to the community, instead of  
founding institutions unconnected with  
or independent of it. Those who are in-  
strumental in expanding this College  
would not only earn the lasting gratitude  
of the community but are sure to be  
assigned a leading and prominent posi-  
tion in its management.

It may not be generally known that  
about three years ago, the Directors of  
the Hindu College decided at meetings of  
the Board successively held to remove  
the higher classes of the College, and the  
Boarding establishment to another lo-  
cality and to equip and staff this higher  
departments with all up-to-date require-  
ments, answering the purpose of a Resi-  
dential high grade College, leaving the  
elementary department to be held in the  
existing buildings. A site of about 10  
acres which is capable of further exten-  
sion was purchased between Vannarpon-  
nai and Kokkuvil in close proximity to  
the Railway siding at the latter place and  
at a distance of about three quarters of a  
mile North of the Hindu College. The  
land which is in a suitable locality  
still belongs to the College. But the  
scheme has not been carried out owing to  
want of funds. Mr. B. Sanjiva Rao  
who was then Principal of the College  
was the parent of that scheme. He  
desired to be granted long leave to go on  
a collecting tour to the Straits, F. M. S.  
and other places to collect the large  
amount required for the purpose. He  
was, however, obliged soon after to accept  
the Principalship of a first grade College at  
Allahabad and resign his connection with  
the Hindu College. When the Directors  
contemplated to send another Deputation  
to the Straits and F. M. S. to collect  
subscriptions for the expansion of the  
Hindu College, the great war began and  
continues without showing any signs of  
coming to a speedy termination. The  
ridicule now cast upon the Hindu com-  
munity by the "Guardian" that they are  
ill equipped for the education of their  
children, that Hindu children admitted  
into Catholic schools, much against the  
wishes of those school authorities, must  
submit themselves to any kind of treat-  
ment meted out to them, however revolt-  
ing and insulting to their religious feel-  
ings, seems to have roused the Hindus to  
action, in spite of the war, with the view  
to establish a Hindu High Grade College.  
We have no doubt that their labours will  
result in the expansion and improvement  
of the Hindu College to answer the pre-  
sent requirements of the community.

THE RELIGION OF THE ANCIENT  
TAMILS.

(By S. Sabaratna Mudaliyar.)

## PART SECOND.

## Chapter VIII.

## MONSTROUS OBJECTS OF WORSHIP.

To begin with, the form of Vinayakar  
is said to be hideous in its appearance in  
that it has an elephant face, a big belly  
and short legs. The form of Vinayakar  
is explained in a very beautiful light both  
by the Puranas and the Vedas. The  
Puranas state that an Asura, after anstere  
penances, having obtained from Siva the  
gift of not being liable to be killed by  
any human beings or animals, or by any  
celestial or demon, began to oppress the  
celestials; and that Siva had therefore to  
assume a form combining in itself the  
shape of an animal, a goblin and a man  
—so that the merits of His own gift and  
the ends of justice may both be maintain-  
ed—and killed the Asura and relieved the  
celestials from his oppression. The form  
so assumed by God is worshipped as  
Vinayaka—and there can be no doubt  
that the form assumed by Siva in order  
to afford relief to the celestials and to ad-  
minister justice is far more beautiful in  
its spiritual import than any material  
beauty to which our mortal eyes are ac-  
customed. The ghastly appearance of  
Jesus Christ on the Cross is held to be far  
more beautiful in a spiritual sense than  
any beauty the material world could pro-  
duce.

The explanation of the form of Vinaya-  
kar, as given by the Vedas, and Agamas,  
is still more beautiful. Piranava the  
mundane egg, is the seed of the entire

universe, and it is of the shape of an arc  
and a line combined together; and when  
this shape is enlarged, it has the appear-  
ance of the trunk of an elephant. God  
assumed this Piranava as His body in  
order to impress on the minds of the souls  
that He is the source of the whole uni-  
verse. I do not think that any idea will  
be more beautiful than this grand truth.  
According to the Saivite religion, every  
object in the material world is symbolic of  
certain spiritual truths—some directly  
and the others indirectly—and the object  
that represents a spiritual truth directly  
is more beautiful than any object which  
represents a truth indirectly. It is the  
object that helps the strong impression  
of any spiritual truth in our mind that is  
really beautiful in a religious point of  
view. We must look at the form of  
Vinayaka with a spiritual eye, and its  
beauty will then be quite apparent; but  
if we take away from its spiritual signi-  
ficance, and look at it with a material  
eye, it must certainly be not quite beau-  
tiful. We know that material beauty is very  
different from spiritual beauty, and in  
fact, they are opposed to each other; so  
that what may be beautiful in a spiritual  
sense, may not be so in a material sense  
and *vice versa*; but once we realize the  
spiritual beauty all material beauty will  
look hideous to our view.

It is of course true that all that is  
beautiful in this material world represents  
God in some form or other. This is our  
view of things in the material plane.  
This will not, however, show that  
there is no beauty outside the material  
plane, or that there cannot be any beauty  
different from material beauty. The real  
beauty of spirituality is transcending the  
material plane, and it is the form that re-  
presents this transcendent beauty that is  
really beautiful in the spiritual plane.  
Such a form is the form of Vinayakar  
and that form is at the same time very  
effective in making a strong impression  
in our mind of the spiritual excellence of  
Vinayaka. Although our idea of beauty  
is confined to the material plane, we  
must realize the fact that spiritual beauty  
is very different from physical beauty,  
and that the ideal represented by the  
form of Vinayaka is immensely more  
beautiful than our idea of any material  
beauty. 6-9-1916 R2

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The form of Siva cannot be said to be  
hideous even in a material point of view.  
It is an exquisitely beautiful form and it  
may be said to embody in itself all that  
is beautiful. His form is thus described  
in the *Kanthapuranam*.

காந்தபுரணம்

பேரவையுடைய வடிவம்  
பேரவையுடைய வடிவம்  
பேரவையுடைய வடிவம்  
பேரவையுடைய வடிவம்

He has, however, other forms as well  
—one with five faces, another with  
twenty-five faces &c., &c.—and, as I  
have already said, these forms not being  
of the ordinary human shape, we cannot  
call them hideous or monstrous. They  
were considered necessary for certain  
special purposes, the objects of which are  
highly beautiful in a spiritual sense. We  
should not rush into hasty conclusions,  
and decide questions from their external  
aspects, without going into the questions  
and having a clear understanding of them.  
Even in the material plane itself, what  
may be beautiful to our eyes, may not be  
so to our smell or touch, and it is no  
wonder that what may be beautiful in a  
spiritual sense may not be so in a materi-  
al point of view. Spiritual beauty does  
not consist in physical forms, but in the  
ideals which such forms represent. The  
forms assumed by Siva on special occa-  
sions are replete with significant ideals,  
while His permanent form in which He  
manifests Himself in Mount *Kailasa* and  
*Sivaloka* is delightfully beautiful even in  
a material point of view.

## HIS GARLAND OF SKULLS.

The charge of monstrosity is also  
brought home to some of His appendages  
such as the garland made of the skulls of  
Brahmas and Vishnus, the snakes and  
hides with which He girds Himself &c.,  
&c. Why should the beautiful Siva dis-  
figure His body by bones and snakes? Even  
the crudest of human beings will  
not accept a bone or a snake as an object  
of beauty, and why should he put it on  
his God as one of His appendages? The  
answer to these questions will clearly  
show that there is a highly significant  
spiritual meaning underlying these ap-  
pendages.

Brahma and Vishnu are the lords of  
creation and preservation who perform  
their respective functions for long ages  
known as *kल्पas*, and when they die,  
they remain find a place in the appen-  
dage of the Supreme Lord Siva, by virtue  
of their intrinsic merits. This incident



at the same time the pertinent fact is that Siva is the only immortal Being, while Brahma and Vishnu, how long so ever their ages may be, have their days numbered one day or other. So that it is clear that these garlands have a very beautiful idea behind them.

We know again that material beauty is a great obstacle to our vision of spiritual beauty and that in helping us to progress in the material plane, God will no doubt provide means for our spiritual uplift as well. He has therefore in his beautiful form a garland of the remains of numberless Brahmas and Vishnus in order to remind us always of death.

So long as we are in the lower plane, we have of course to see God through the help of material beauties, but when we advance, we have to gradually alienate our mind from all material beauties and direct our attention to spiritual beauty which has to be exhibited at times not by material beauty, but by quite the reverse of it. We know that wealth is a beautiful thing in the material plane and it has no doubt the grace of God in it; but when we advance spiritually we have to discard wealth, and look at it with contempt—as an ungodly and an ugly thing. So that it is clear that material beauty cannot be carried into the spiritual plane, and that what may be beautiful in a material sense may not be so in a spiritual sense—but on the contrary spiritual beauties are often explained by the reverse of material beauty.

The ancient Tamils could be said to have had no idea of material beauty. At any rate they cannot be said to have considered a garland of bones as a beauty suitable enough to decorate their God with. Even the wildest of human beings would not have taken a fancy to decorate their God with bones; and even if we grant it for the sake of argument that they did so during some dark period, they would not have tolerated the idea when they saw the light of civilization. It is therefore quite plain that the garland of bones had a spiritual significance infinitely superior to any material beauty and that it was on that account that it happened to be counted among the appendages of Siva, and continues to be so counted even now. If the idea was a barbarous one, it would have been expunged from the religious beliefs of the cultured Tamils, as such ideas usually are, and would not have been tolerated for a moment when their standard of civilization rose up high. If the idea did actually originate from barbarism, civilization would certainly have pruned it from the religion of the people instead of white washing it with a spiritual interpretation. That would have been the most probable and the most natural course of events. It is too much to expect that a barbarous idea would be interpreted in a spiritual light, and that such an interpretation would be accepted by the enlightened without a religious foundation for such an interpretation.

It is very much to be regretted that at present, even members of religious institutions discard spirituality altogether and view things in a material light alone. Materiality has to be deciphered with the help of spirituality, especially so in the plane of religion and more so in the case of people who have a large stock of spirituality in their religion. If we do so we are sure to see very clearly the spiritual beauty of the appendages of Siva, and the consistency of that beauty with the spiritual truths explained by Saivism.

## NOTES & COMMENTS.

We are extremely pleased to make the welcome announcement that His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to appoint a Commission consisting of the Hon. Mr. R. E. Stubbs, Colonial Secretary (Chairman),

Lieut.-Col. Hayward, Mr. Thomas Howard Chapman, Director of Public Works, the Hon. Mr. K. Balasingam, Mr. Edward Brandis Denham, Director of Education, Mr. H. W. Cordington, Assistant Government Agent, Matala, Dr. Joseph Pearson, Director, Colombo Museum, Sir Ponnarubalam Arunachalam, Knight, Mr. William Moir, Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce, Mr. H. L. de Mel, Chairman of the Low Country Products Association, Dr. H. M. Fernando, Mr. M. Kelway Bamber, the Government Chemist, and Mr. C. E. Jones, C.C.S. as Secretary, to enquire into and report upon what measures are desirable to encourage such industries (other than agricultural) as exist in this Island and to promote the establishment of new industries. That the Governor should have acceded so readily to the wishes of the people in this question speaks well of his enlightened statesmanship and sympathy.

thetic nature. Many of our local industries are languishing for want of enterprise on the part of those engaged in them and through their failure to adopt new improvements. In Jaffna, the weaving industry, the hereditary occupations of the artisan classes such as black smiths, copper smiths, brass founders and carpenters have suffered through foreign competition. Coir spinning and cordage making from coconut husks, which is a profitable cottage industry in Jaffna is now threatened with extinction by cheap machine made coir imported from India. The Commission is a strong body representative of the best talents and interests in the Island and we hope their deliberations will be productive of benefit to the people.

## LOCAL & GENERAL.

**DEARER NEWSPAPERS.**—Owing to enormous increase in the price of paper and other materials used in the production of a newspaper, Lancashire proprietors propose charging one penny for half penny newspapers from an early date, says the "Hull Daily Mail". It is expected that York-hires and other parts in England will take a similar course.

**DEPARTURE OF MR. BERNARD SENIOR.**—The Hon. Mr. Bernard Senior, C. M. G., I. S. O., Colonial Treasurer, will be sailing for England about the 12th instant, on five months' leave. Mr. A. G. Clayton, Second Assistant Colonial Secretary, as on previous occasions, will act for him.

**MATRIMONIAL.**—A marriage has been arranged and will take place shortly between Mr. R. Sannagum, Head Clerk, District Engineer's Office, Dintyalawa, and Miss Thillainayagiammal, daughter of Mr. C. Ponniah of Araly North.

**PERSONAL.**—The Hon. Mr. A. M. Muttunayagam, the Senior Puisne Justice, High Court, Travancore, has come to Jaffna with his son-in-law, Dr. Muttunayamar, and is staying at "Aria Lodge."

—The Hon. Mr. Chapman, Director of Public Works, who went home on leave, returned last Friday morning by the "Norvada."

—News has reached Colombo that Mr. C. A. Brito Muttunayagam B.A., (Hon.) Barrister at Law, who has been prosecuting his studies in England for the last five years, has passed the B.C.L. Examination of the Oxford University. He is the son of Mr. Justice Muttunayagam of the Travancore High Court and a grandson of the late Advocate C. Brito of Colombo.

—Mr. R. Suppiah of Gansarapola, Rattota, has come to Jaffna on leave and is staying at his residence at Araly North.

**THE PLAGUE IN COLOMBO.**—Three deaths from plague were reported on the 3rd inst. They occurred in the following quarters:—one in Base Line Road, one in Danu's Road, Maradana, and one in Demettegoda. No infected rats were found.

**H. H. THE HON'BLE RAJA OF RAMNAD.**—We are glad to learn that H. H. the Raja of Ramnad has been elected unopposed as the Representative of the Southern Zemindari Group in the Madras Legislative Council. The Raja is a devout Hindu and a great patron of Tamil learning. We congratulate the Raja on the well deserved honor conferred on him by his fellow Zemindars.

**DARLEY LITERARY UNION.**—The Weekly meeting of the above union was held on Saturday, the 1st July 1916, with Mr. O. Nagalingam in the Chair. After the preliminaries were gone through, Mr. N. Sivapragasam, Student at Law, delivered a very interesting and instructive lecture on "Lord Tennyson". Messrs A. Kanapathipillai, C. Venkatasamy, M. Selvadurai, R. Somasundaram and the Chairman offered comments. A vote of congratulations was passed unanimously on the success of Mr. L. Ratnasabapathy at the recent Cerial Examination. At the next meeting Mr. J. P. Edirimangasinghe will deliver a lecture on "Men of last Century in Ceylon."

**THE MYSORE UNIVERSITY BILL.**—At a meeting of the Mysore Legislative Assembly held on the 29th ultimo, Mr. A. R. Banerji introduced the Mysore University Bill in a long speech explaining the scope and object of the Bill. Sir M. Visweswaraya who presided over the meeting also made a speech giving the genesis and progress of the University scheme. Other members spoke warmly congratulating the Maharaja and the Dewan on bringing the University scheme to fruition. The Bill passed the second reading and was referred to a Select Committee of the Legislative Assembly.

**SARAWATI LITERARY ASSOCIATION.**—The weekly meeting of the above Association, Colombo, was held on Saturday the 1st inst. with Mr. V. Thampi, Vice President, in the chair. There were present 21 members and 2 visitors, Messrs. Samuel Abraham and Hardy. The chief business for the day was a lecture by Mr. W. T. Jagasothy, Vice President, on "The Extinct Civilizations of the East". The lecture was very interesting and instructive; and the lecturer dwelt at length on the past civilization of the Chaldeans, referring to the highest standard of their efficiency in Litera-

ture, Science, Arts etc. Valuable comments on the subject were made by the following: Messrs. A. Thambiah, V. Sivapragasam, S. Subramaniam, Sponsor Rasaratnam, N. Venkatesh, N. Natarajan, K. Kanagasabapathy and the Chairman. The meeting terminated at 8.45 p.m. with a vote of thanks to the Lecturer. —Cor.

## SIR P. ARUNACHALAM'S ADDRESS AT THE UNITED TEMPERANCE RALLY.

Sir P. Arunachalam, who presided at the public meeting, held at the Public Hall, in connexion with the United Temperance Rally on Saturday last, delivered the following address:—

He said that it was a privilege to be permitted to take part in the proceedings of this great rally of temperance forces and to bear testimony to the excellent work they were doing in the Island. The Rev. Mr. Semaratne had just mentioned in his prayer that there was great cause for encouragement and thanksgiving in the temperance work. One reason for encouragement had just been brought to his notice by the secretary who handed him a cutting from a Canadian paper as he entered the room.

This was a day of good omen for today the great province of Ontario was going to declare itself for total prohibition. Here was a picture of a banner, half a mile long, which contains the announcement of the climax of a great campaign. Five months previously the business men of Ontario, not mind, the temperance men, or clergymen, but business men, met and resolved that the waste of 100,000 dollars a day on "booze," was stopped. They declared for prohibition during the war and for all time. A campaign was launched under the slogan "Ontario dry by July." People of all sections of the community, of all races and religions and parties, Conservative and Liberal, Catholics and Protestants, Jews and Gentiles, French and English, joined together, an Army of 35,000 Volunteer workers was raised to circulate a petition to which more than 825,000 signatures were obtained and the Government had decided to allow the people to vote the "booze" business out of Ontario. Today was to be the day on which the decision was to be given, and Sir Ponnampalam hoped that total prohibition was an accomplished fact. There was no reason why a similar achievement should not be made in Ceylon, where we have a people who by tradition, habit and instinct ought to be total abstainers, and among whom the use of intoxicating liquor was considered a degrading vice to be relegated to the lowest classes. Things are different now, thanks to the advance of civilization, and drink has become quite fashionable and popular. In the early part of last century the tavern keepers found it necessary to create a taste for drink, and they did so by distributing it free in the villages and it became a profitable speculation for themselves and their successors. Human nature, being what it is, could not resist the temptation and among the saddest sights in Ceylon were the throngs of people round the arack taverns and especially the toddy taverns. From the last published report of the Excise Commissioner it appears that the consumption of intoxicating liquor annually is about 14 million gallons of arack and 3 million gallons of toddy. The total Excise revenue was about 84 million rupees. Every penny of this sum was paid by the people, and much more for this is only the money which the Government receives from the renters and license holders and they must be making more out of the people or they would not be competing year by year for the rents and licenses. Ten million rupees a year would not be an excessive estimate of the expenditure of the people on drink. The population of Ceylon was a little over 4 millions and the average expenditure per head, for man, woman and child, would be about Rs. 2.50, or taking a family as made up of 5 persons, Rs. 12.50 per family. Women and children might be left out of consideration as drinkers and therefore Rs. 12.50 might be put down against the head of the family. There were no statistics available as to the average earnings per head in Ceylon but they all knew how difficult the average villager finds to pay the poll tax of Rs. 1.50 or Rs. 2.50. Taking the whole of Ceylon the daily wage of a labourer would scarcely exceed 30 cents and his monthly earning not more than 7 or 8 rupees. One of this small sum, which is quite insufficient for the barest needs, to spend more than a rupee a month on drink is to say the least a gross extravagance. If it were saved it would add appreciably to the nourishment and comfort of the family. But this does not exhaust the benefits that would result from the saving of the drink money. What about the wasted health, crime, physical and mental inefficiency, lost lives, pauperism, lunacy, the expenditure on prisons, courts, police, lunatic asylums and hospitals. Who can estimate the loss, public and private, from these sources.

The question of the influence of alcohol on the national health, crime, &c., had not been investigated in Ceylon as in other countries. What a lurid light was thrown on the subject by the recent investigations of Dr. Demme of Berne, Switzerland. He investigated the history of 10 temperate families and 10 intemperate families living practically under the same conditions during a period of 15 years and here is the result. The 10 temperate families had 61 children of whom 50 lived and were normal. The 10 intemperate families had 57 children of whom only 10 lived and were normal. In the 10 temperate families 25 children died in infancy; in the 10 intemperate families 1 had St. Vitus' dance, 6 were idiots, 6 defectives, 5 dwarfs, 5 epileptic. Think what a sum of human misery and suffering this means, what a wreckage of national life and progress, or to put it on its lowest ground, what a huge economic waste. For every child that lived a few years and money on the part of the parents and contributed its quota of efficient work all this expenditure was lost.

Sir Ponnampalam went on to say that in view of the calamitous consequences of drink the Hereditary of the East had after bitter experience condemned drink in no measured terms and to make the condemnation more effective branded drink with disgrace and put it among the deadly sins. Among European nations climate and social conditions favoured the drinking habit and created a sentiment in its favour. When he (the speaker) was a student at Cambridge he remembered a speech by Sir John Lubbock at Peterborough

strongly opposing restrictions on the liquor traffic. He was decidedly of the opinion that he would rather have England free than England sober. The bitter experience of the last 40 years or so had taught people that total and severe restrictions were now imposed. It was now realized that alcohol is a poison like strychnine or arsenic and that the habitual use of it produces chronic poisoning, known as alcoholism, which is one of the most frightful scourges on earth whether regarded from the point of view of the health of an individual, the existence of the family, or the future of the country. He referred to the example of King George of excluding liquor from his table, and regretted that that great example showing His Majesty's solicitude for his people's welfare, was not more largely followed by his subjects. He referred to the abolition in France of the manufacture and sale of absinthe and dwelt at length on the abolition by the Czar of the national drink vodka throughout the Russian Empire, though it involved the loss of nearly one-third of the country's revenue. He quoted from the Czar's despatches and said that the following words should be written in letters of gold "It is not meet that the welfare of the Empire should be dependent on the ruin of my loyal subjects." He added no Finance Minister is disposed to take a leap in the dark, yet the Government of Russia took that leap and did so in the middle of the war which is shaking her financial and political foundations. The result has been not only an immense increase of military efficiency but also an immense increase of national prosperity. Ought we not to press this example on the Ceylon Government and urge them to take the same leap. If they hesitate on account of a possible loss of revenue, we can point to Russia, which has not lost but gained and in any case the people of Ceylon would, he was sure, be ready to bear increased taxation to meet any loss. Pending such prohibition he urged that we should strive for a policy of local option such as was introduced into Scotland under the Temperance Act of 1913 and which among other things deferred the opening hour of public houses till 10 a.m. In Ceylon he believed taverns were opened from six in the morning. He recommended that all existing means should be availed of to promote the temperance cause and deplored the severe measures recently against temperance Societies, under a mistaken impression. But he was sure that with the new Governor who had given ample proofs of unbiased judgment and of deep interest in the people's welfare every help would be rendered to the temperance workers who are engaged in this most beneficent form of social service. The Government and its officials were as deeply interested in the promotion of temperance as any Temperance worker. The speaker pleaded that they should strive for an improvement in the constitution and powers of the Advisory Committees, so that they may give effect to their opinions by vote and the matter be decided by a majority vote and also that some of the members should be elected by the residents affected by the taverns in the areas. He mentioned that the abolition of the arack renting system which was one of the objects of the new Excise system had apparently been lost sight of and the arack renter was flourishing as vigorously as ever, reinforced by an army of toddy renters. This matter should be especially brought to the notice of the present Governor. The temperance workers had worked under great discouragements but the speaker was sure they would continue till their efforts were crowned with complete success. —The Ceylonese.

## KUALA LUMPUR.

**LECTURE.**—Dr. C. L. Sansom, Principal Medical Officer, Federated Malay States, delivered an instructive and impressive lecture on "The great traditions of the British Empire" in the Government Reading Room for the Subordinate Service on the 17th June 1916. E. S. Hosi Esq., Director of Agriculture, F. M. S., who presided on the occasion gave valuable remarks and closed the meeting.

**TWITCHY MATCH.**—The Jalan Simpang and Brickfields Road Thatchy teams played an interesting game on the 18th June 1916 in the Vivekananda Ashrama grounds which resulted in the defeat of the latter. There was a large gathering present to witness the game particularly from Jalan Simpang, General Hospital Road, Galloway Road and Scott Road.

**SERANGOR CEYLON TAMILS' ASSOCIATION.**—At a recent general meeting of this Association Messrs V. Suppiah (of the Railway Department), A. Barnabas, R. A. Venningham and A. Ayadurai were elected President, Vice-President, Hon. Secretary, and Hon. Treasurer respectively for the current year.

**SCHOLARSHIPS OR MORE SCHOOLS.**—Rumours are current in Kuala Lumpur regarding the advisability of establishing a Hindu Residential College in Jaffna. But difference of opinion also is prevailing whether such an institution is necessary at present so long as the Hindu College is in a position to meet the wants of the Hindus with some improvements. Some are of opinion that the Hindu College should be made a Residential College, whilst others think that it should be left to stand as it is and a Hindu Residential College established in addition. It is also the opinion of some that in view of the existence of so many Hindu and Christian Colleges in Jaffna, to impart English education more or less in the same lines the establishment of more Colleges are considered unnecessary.

The best idea would be to spend some thousands of Rupees and make the Jaffna Hindu College as a Residential College. As rumored the sum of one lakh of rupees which it is proposed to raise here and abroad for the building of a Residential College some millions off from the town can advantageously be utilized for a higher purpose such as granting Scholarships for promising students of the Hindu College to qualify in Great Britain. For appointments in the higher grades of service. In this connection it is the humble opinion of the writer that the establishment of a new College in a remote place from the Town will not serve any better purpose but if that sum was kept as a permanent fund and from the income of which a few scholarships were given to encourage intelligent young men to qualify for higher appointments under our service in this direction will be better rewarded as it is bound to create men of light and leading whose usefulness to our community will be ten fold greater than what the community might expect from the students of new Schools similar or a little better to those existing at present.



## TELEGRAPHIC SUMMARY.

## The War.

## GREAT AUSTRIAN RAILWAY CENTRE CAPTURED.

London, July 1.  
Petrograd (official).—We have captured Kolomea, the most important Railway centre in Bukovina.

## FURTHER RUSSIAN SUCCESSES.

London, July 1.  
Petrograd.—A communique says: We are pursuing the enemy South of the Dniester. The Austrians are fleeing in a panic, abandoning their transport and War material. The prisoners continue flowing in. The town of Obytyn and the adjoining villages have been captured in a battle proceeding North-West of Kut. The Germans West of Skol, between the Stry and the Stokhod rivers, emitted gas which did not reach our lines and was partly blown back on the Germans, who, nevertheless, attempted an attack, but were repulsed. Enemy airmen dropped thirty bombs on Lutsk.

The Germans on the Dvina front bombarded our positions North-East of Riga, and attempted to advance North of Illukst. We repulsed the Germans North-East of Novogrudok. Under cover of a fierce bombardment by heavy and light guns we crossed the Niemen and captured the wood.

## KOLOMEA REPORTED OCCUPIED BY RUSSIANS.

London, June 30.  
It is reported in Paris that the Russians have occupied in Kolomea.

## RUSSIANS REFUSE TURKS.

London, July 1.  
Turkish attacks in the Caucasian regions and in the directions of Erzindjan and Bagdad have been repulsed.

## BIG RUSSIAN GUNS FOR WESTERN FRONT.

London, June 30.  
The Echo Belge states that the Germans are bringing up on the Western front new batteries of long range and especially of heavy calibre.

## LORD KITCHENER'S BEQUESTS.

London, June 30.  
Lord Kitchener has bequeathed £200 each to Colonels F. Maxwell and Oswald Fitzgerald, £1,000 to Colonel Henry Kitchener, £20,000 in trust for Lord Kitchener's nephew, Henry Kitchener, and £5,000 in trust for his half sister Letitia. Swords of honour and other gifts from public bodies devolve as heirlooms in the settled estates.

## NORWEGIAN GOLD FOR ALLIES.

London, June 30.  
Christiania.—The Norwegian banks have contracted to lend Great Britain 2½ millions and France 1½ millions sterling both for two years, probably for the purpose of establishing exchange.

## THE CASEMENT TRIAL.

London, June 23.  
Casement in a statement said he never advised the Irish to fight with the Turks and Germans. He always urged they had no right to fight except for Ireland. He hotly denied that he got the rations of the Irish prisoners in Germany reduced.

## HIS OFFENCE.

London, July 1.  
Mr. Asquith said it was not desirable at present to say anything. Casement would be hanged after the sentence. Casement made a long statement in which he declared his offence was putting Ireland first. He should have been tried by an Irish jury. Bailey was then charged with high treason and pleaded not guilty. The Chief Justice directed the jury to return a verdict of not guilty and Bailey was discharged.

## THE IRISH QUESTION.

London, June 30.  
The papers are generally more hopeful of the Irish outlook since the Unionist Party Meeting was postponed. It is noteworthy that the bulk of the Unionist newspapers in London and the Provinces advocate the acceptance of Mr. Lloyd George's proposals.

## GENERAL TOWNSEND MEETS A SCHOOL BOY AT KUT.

London, July 1.  
Grahamstown.—A private letter from a British Colonel in Mesopotamia states that the Turkish Commander at Kut-El-Amara and General Townsend immediately recognised each other as school-friends in France.

## BRITISH REVENUE.

London, July 1.  
The revenue for the quarter is £72,682,998, an increase of £21,685,692.

## HISTORIC KITCHENER LETTER.

London, June 30.  
Lord Kitchener's letter, calling for 300,000 recruits for the new Army, has been sold for £5,000 for the benefit of the Red Cross Society. Mr. Fenwick Harrison is presenting it to the nation.

## CASEMENT'S LAST DEGRADATION.

London, June 29.  
H. M. the King has ordered the degradation of Casement from the roll of knighthood and the erasure of his name from the register of the Order of St. Michael and St. George.

## SPLENDID BRITISH WORK.

A. L. I. SUIERS.

London, July 1.  
The British activity is the theme in Paris. The sound of the guns is heard most distinctly in the suburbs, thrilling the Parisians.

A French officer who fought in the great offensive at Champagne in September says the appearance of German prisoners there was nothing compared with that of the prisoners he saw brought back by the Highland Light Infantry. One N. C. O., his face livid with terror, said it was an inferno. He described the effects of the new British gases as most terrible and the destructive

powers of the guns as exceptional. A Highlander said that 250 German corpses were found huddled on a trench. The Highlanders pushed on to the second line and found a few survivors, who surrendered. The work of the Highland Light Infantry is the talk of the British Army which is anxious for details. Another fierce episode was the savage battle for an hour early in the morning fought by the Oxford and Bucks L.I.—the raiders on the enemy's parapet killing a great number with bombs and themselves suffering many, but disproportionate casualties.

## TWENTY-MILE FRONT AFFECTED.

London, July 1.  
Reuter wiring from Headquarters says the British offensive along a front of twenty miles, North of the Somme has commenced.

## A TERRIFIC BOMBARDMENT.

London, July 1.  
Reuter wiring from Headquarters says the assault was preceded by a terrific bombardment, lasting one-hour and a-half, the fighting developing in intensity. The British have already occupied the German front line and taken many prisoners. The message is dated today.

## FRENCH ASSISTING.

London, July 1.  
The British Headquarters at noon today reports that the British are attacking in conjunction with the French North of the Somme. The British have broken into the German forward defences on a front of sixteen miles. The fighting continues. The French attack on our immediate right is proceeding equally satisfactorily. Raids elsewhere on the British front are penetrating the enemy defences at many points, inflicting losses and taking prisoners.

## IMPORTANT TACTICAL POINTS TAKEN.

London, July 1.  
Reuter wiring from Headquarters at 1.15 p. m., says: We are making good progress into the enemy territory beyond the front line. We have taken Serre and Montauban, important tactical points South-East of Hebuterne and North-East of Bray, also portions of the village of Mametz and Contalmaison.

We are also holding our ground North of Fricourt. The village itself is still in German hands. We are attacking Beaumont Hamel and have taken La Boisselle. Our men are fighting most gallantly and have taken many prisoners in the front lines.

The French are advancing on our right with great steadiness and gallantry. After an assault they quickly covered two kilometres beyond the enemy front line, capturing Curlu and Faviere Wood. Hitherto the day goes well for England and France.

## INCREASING INTENSITY.

London, July 1.  
Reuter, wiring from Headquarters, says: The progress of the battle is marked by steadily increasing intensity throughout the day. The fighting North of the River Ancre was particularly severe. The enemy in several villages made a strenuous resistance, but the gallantry of our troops resulted in the gradual surrounding of various strong points.

## 1,500 PRISONERS IN ONE SECTOR ALONE.

London, July 1.  
Fricourt is now nearly surrounded. Further North our forces are on both sides of the Gommecourt salient. Mametz is completely in our hands. The German counter attack at Montauban has been successfully repulsed. The number of prisoners hitherto here are 1,500. Others are coming in. The operations are favoured by fine weather.

## LILLE ATTACKED BY AIR.

London, July 1.  
In the Northern area Lille station was successfully bombed by our aviators, who returned safely although attacked by twenty Fokkers, two of which were driven down in flames. We continue to make many raids on the Northern front line.

## THE OFFICIAL STORY.

London, July 2.  
General Haig, in a communique, says: Heavy fighting continued all day between the Rivers Somme and Ancre to Gommecourt inclusive. Fighting on the whole of the front continues with intensity. We captured on the right by our attack a German labyrinth of trenches on a front of seven miles to a depth of 1,000 yards and stormed and occupied the strongly fortified villages of Montauban and Mametz.

In the centre of our attack on a front of four miles we gained the main strong points, while the enemy is still holding out at others and the struggle is still severe. The battle was equally violent North of the Ancre to Gommecourt, and we thus are unable to retain certain portions of the ground gained by the first attacks, while other portions remain in our possession. Hitherto over 2,000 German prisoners have passed through our collecting stations, including two Regimental Commanders and the whole of one Regimental Staff.

The large number of the enemy dead found on the battle-field indicates that the German casualties were most severe, especially in the vicinity of Fricourt. Parties of our troops last night penetrated the German trenches at various points between Bouches and Ypres and inflicted casualties on the garrisons before withdrawing. One party captured sixty prisoners. Much successful aerial work took place yesterday, despite the high wind. Numerous bombs were dropped on the enemy depots, railway junctions, batteries, trenches, &c. There was considerable aerial activity during today's battle. Details have not been received. Our machines attacked a train between Douai and Cambrai. One derailed at 11.30 p.m. and exploded a truck. Other pilots saw the whole train in flames and heard other explosions.

## FRENCH ADVANCE CONTINUES.

London, July 2.  
Paris.—A communique reports furious fighting North of the Somme. At night violent German counter attacks against our new positions on the outskirts of Harcourt were driven back in disorder with serious losses by our certain of rifle fire, leaving 200 prisoners. We completely occupied Curlu after a sharp fight. We maintained all the positions captured yesterday South of the Somme and progressed in the night between Her-

becourt and Aveswillers. Unwounded prisoners taken by the French yesterday were over 5,000.

## STRONG GERMAN COUNTER-ATTACK REPULSED.

London, July 2.  
Headquarters report that at noon the situation on the British front appears to be unchanged since last evening. We hear that a strong German counter attack at Montauban in the night was repulsed with heavy loss. The troops are in excellent spirits.

## BRITISH CAPTURE FRICOURT.

London, July 2.  
General Haig reports substantial progress in the vicinity of Fricourt which we captured at two in the afternoon. 800 prisoners were captured between the Ancre and Somme, making the total 8,500.

## GENERAL SITUATION FAVOURABLE.

London, July 3.  
General Haig, in a communique, says: There was heavy fighting today between the Ancre and the Somme, especially about Fricourt and La Boisselle. The former was captured at two in the afternoon and remains in our hands, and some progress was made Eastwards of the village. The enemy are stubbornly resisting in the neighbourhood of La Boisselle, but our troops are progressing satisfactorily. Much War material has been captured. The situation on either side of the Ancre Valley is unchanged. The general situation may be regarded as favourable.

## FRENCH TAKE 6,000 PRISONERS.

London, July 3.  
Paris.—A communique says: Fighting continued in our favour all day North of the Somme region, Harcourt and Curlu. We captured the fortified quarry East of Curlu. We gained a footing in the second line at many points South of the Somme and captured the village of Frise Wood and Mereau Court. The unwounded prisoners now exceed 7,000, including 150 officers. Guns and much material were captured. Our losses are slight. There was no infantry action North of Verdun, but a lively bombardment.

## FRENCH FIGHTING AT VERDUN.

London, July 1.  
Paris.—A communique says: On the left of the Meuse the enemy made four violent attacks on different sectors on either side of Hill 804. Three were repulsed with bloody enemy losses. At the fourth the Germans retook the fortified work we recaptured yesterday, also trenches East of Hill 804; but our immediate counter-attacks regained everything.

On the right bank there was a desperate struggle for the possession of Thiaumont Redoubt. After a series of furious assaults the Germans penetrated the Redoubt, now a complete wreck. We are established in the immediate approaches.

London, July 2.  
Paris (official).—The French, co-operating with the British, have captured 3,500 prisoners. The French have recaptured Thiaumont work.

London, July 2.  
On the left of the Meuse there was a violent bombardment of Hill 804 and Morihomme. Our Infantry on the right of the Meuse at 10 A. M. assaulted and recaptured Thiaumont work. In the afternoon there was a marked recrudescence of the bombardment in this region.

A French air squadron on Thursday and Friday nights successfully bombed Nesles, Roye and other points. A French pilot, reconnoitering, was attacked by a Fokker and wounded, but felled his adversary. The Frenchman, returning, re-attacked and was again wounded by the enemy bi-plane, but escaped and returned safely.

## NAVAL ACTION IN THE BALTIC.

London, July 1.  
Stockholm.—A violent cannonade was heard all night off the Swedish coast. One steamer has arrived and reports that she witnessed a Naval action outside Landsort, South of Stockholm. A Northern squadron of destroyers, presumably Russian, withdrew before a squadron of heavy warships.

## THE GERMAN STORY.

London, July 1.  
Amsterdam.—A German official announcement says: German torpedo-boats on Thursday night attacked a Russian armoured cruiser, a protected cruiser and five destroyers between Haeffinge and Landsort. The Russians withdrew after a short engagement. We had neither casualties nor damage despite a heavy bombardment.

## THE RUSSIAN STORY.

London, July 2.  
Petrograd.—A version of the Naval action in the Baltic says the Russian squadron of cruisers and torpedo-boats engaged a flotilla of torpedo-boats and submarines between Gothland and the Swedish coast. The Germans were driven off.

## BRITISH SUCCESS IN AFRICA.

London, July 1.  
An East African official despatch says: The British have dislodged the Germans from an important centre at Ubema, North East of Lake Nyassa, capturing stores and inflicting appreciable losses on the Germans who fled Northwards.

Handeni.—Vandeventer on June 25th dislodged the enemy from Kongolairangi and took many prisoners. The enemy losses were very heavy. Ours were slight.

## ITALIAN ADVANCE CONTINUES.

London, July 1.  
Rome (official).—The Italian advance continues along the whole of the Posina line. Despite heavy fire the Italians are now in contact with the enemy on the Settecomuni plateau, where there is severe hand-to-hand grenade fighting. There is Artillery activity on the Isorno front.

## THE BRITISH OFFENSIVE.

London, July 3.  
Reuter's Headquarters correspondent at three in the afternoon says: Fighting continues intense on practically the whole British front. There was no change of importance. At Avebury we heavily bombarded Thiepval, and at La Boisselle there was severe fighting. North of Fricourt we pushed forward our positions to higher ground. The situation here is promising. The Germans continue to heavily shell Montauban, but here we appear to

be well established. Hitherto we have taken 4,000 German prisoners. The weather is fine.

## FIGHT FLUCTUATES.

London, July 4.  
General Sir D. Haig in a communique says: The fight fluctuated in the afternoon about La Boisselle and South of Thiepval, but generally to our advantage. Hostile counter-attacks South of Thiepval drove some of our troops from a portion of the positions they captured early in the morning. Many hostile attacks elsewhere were repulsed with heavy loss. We continued substantial progress at some places. Very considerably War material was captured. The prisoners now exceed 4,800.

The communique speaks of heavy fighting South of Ancre, but all the gains were maintained. Fighting was severe at La Boisselle and Ovillers.

## LA BOISSELLE SURRENDERED.

London, July 3.  
General Haig reports that heavy fighting continues, but is proceeding satisfactorily for us, especially in the vicinity of La Boisselle where the remnants of the garrison surrendered. Further progress was made in other parts of the battle field and additional hostile defences were captured.

## PROGRESS TO BE SLOW BUT SURE.

London, July 2.  
Paris.—A semi-official statement emphasized that progress must be slow but sure, the tactics being to consolidate every gain before attacking the next objective.

## A FRENCH SUCCESS.

London, July 3.  
Paris.—An official message says: South of the Somme the struggle continued yesterday evening and at night time with complete success for us. We completely occupied two lines of trenches in the German second line position on a front of more than five kilometres at Bois de Mercœur to the immediate approaches of Aveswillers, between which, in the course of a brilliant engagement we carried the village of Herbécourt which the enemy had organised defensively. The northern and western outskirts of Aveswillers are in our hands.

London, July 3.  
On the right of the Meuse after a violent bombardment the enemy strongly attacked Damloup work which they captured, but a counter-attack completely drove them out. The work remains in our hands.

London, July 3.  
We progressed north of Estrees and captured more prisoners and heavy guns, the total which is not yet ascertainable. We identified 39 German battalions on the French attacking front, of which according to prisoners thirty-one suffered heavy losses and were completely disorganised.

## BRITISH STEAMERS SUNK.

London, July 2.  
The British steamers "Windermere" and "Teano" have been sunk.

—The Ceylon Observer.

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