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## Order Nisi.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.  
Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 8804.

In the Matter of the Estate of the late  
Ponnammah wife of Kathiravelupillai  
Naduviltampi of Mallakam

Deceased.

Kathiravelupillai Naduviltampi of Mallakam  
Petitioner.

Vs.

1. Thampar Ramupillai of Mallakam
2. Gnanspooranam daughter of Naduviltampi of Do.
3. Naduviltampi Thevathasan of Do.
4. Naduviltampi Asservatham of Do.

Respondents.

This matter of the Petition of Kathiravelupillai Naduviltampi of Mallakam, praying for Letters to Administration to the estate of the abovesaid deceased, Ponnammah wife of Kathiravelupillai Naduviltampi, coming on for disposal before J. Homer Vanniasinkam, Esq. Acting District Judge, on February 21, 1919, in the presence of Mr. M. Subramaniam, Proctor, 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 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 March 18, 1919, show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

A. Kanagasabai,  
District Judge.

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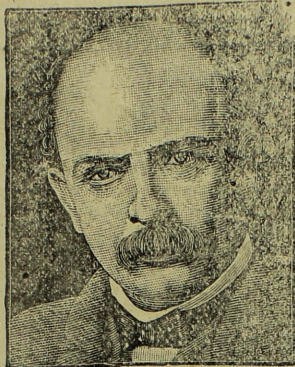
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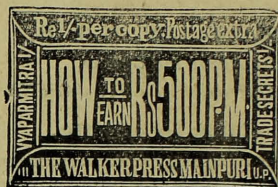
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## Order Nisi.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.  
Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 3831.

In the Matter of the Intestate Estate of the late Kasipillai Thambyah of Chuthumalai late of Yattiantota

Deceased.  
Sinnathamby Kasipillai of Chuthumalai  
Petitioner.

Vs.

Parupathipillai wife of Kasipillai of Do.  
Respondent.

This matter of the Petition of Sinnathamby Kasipillai of Chuthumalai, praying for Letters of Administration to the estate of the abovenamed deceased, Kasipillai Thambyah, coming on for disposal before J. Homer Vanniasingham, Esquire, Acting District Judge, on February 21, 1919, in the presence of Mr. E. Marugesampillai, Proctor, on the part of the Petitioner; and the affidavit of the Petitioner, dated December 24, 1918, having been read: It is declared that the Petitioner is 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 Respondent or any other person shall, on or before March 18, 1919, show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

P. E. Pieria,  
District Judge.

February 24, 1919.

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## The Hindu Organ.

JAFFNA, THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 1919.

## THE RIGHT OF LOCAL OPTION AND THE RESPONSIBILITY OF OUR LEADING MEN.

We need no apology to revert to the subject of Local Option in this issue. The subject is of such vital importance at the present moment that it requires special attention from our leading men. In a few months more the polling day may be announced and the people may be called upon to exercise their right of Local Option. Shall we meet the day in the same state of unpreparedness, as we did last year? If the prevailing apathy of our public men in this matter should continue unbroken there can be no doubt that in the eyes of the other communities of Ceylon, the honor of Jaffna will meet with a humiliation on the polling day, which it will be hard for her to retrieve. For, it must be admitted that in granting to us the right of Local Option, the Government also has, in a way, tried to test the sincerity of our leading men in their professions regarding the drink question and excise administration. If our leading men do not now make a strenuous attempt to guide the people to exercise the right of Local Option granted to them by the Government, it might lead the Government to infer either of these two things—that our leading men were not sincere in their protests against the drink traffic, or that their inaction is due to their indifference to the public interests. In either case, the honour and the fair name of Jaffna is at stake. It requires the united endeavour of our leading men of all classes and creeds to uphold the honour of our motherland in this question.

We have pointed out in a previous issue how creditably our Sinhalese countrymen are acquitting themselves in this

work. The Total Abstinence Central Union of Colombo has specially distinguished itself in this work. Under its lead, a vigorous propaganda on the evils of drink and on the way to suppress the evil through Local Option, has been carried on among the Sinhalese masses, with excellent results. Local Option Committees have been formed in all important centres and they have been doing valuable work in educating and organizing the local public to exercise their votes effectively for their redemption from the drink evil. If the Local Option rules now enforced by the Government had been framed with greater regard to local wants and practical conditions, there can be no doubt that the work of the Sinhalese leaders would have been crowned with splendid success and most of the arrack taverns abolished. It is a matter for sincere satisfaction that in spite of all the handicaps set up by these rules, they have met with considerable success. It was reported in the papers last week that 22 arrack taverns have been abolished up to that date in the Western Province, as a result of Local Option voting. It is also reported that in Anuradhapura there were great Local Option activities lately as a result of which there will be not a single arrack tavern in that District. The following extract from the *Ceylon Daily News* of the 6th instant describes the plan of campaign adopted by the Kandy Local Option Committee, and will be interesting to our local workers:—

Kandy Local Option Committee—At a meeting of the above Committee held last Friday with Dr. J. W. S. Attigalle in the chair several important matters were discussed. It was resolved to start an active propaganda in the town and neighbourhood with a view to instruct and educate public opinion on temperance and local option matters. In order to do this it was agreed to promote public meetings in connection with the local associations such as the Y. M. C. A., Y. M. B. A., the Tamil Young Men's Association and the Sinhalese Young Men's Association. It was also agreed to write to managers of schools, urging the desirability of temperance addresses being given in the schools by suitable persons; also to arrange for open air meetings and for the distribution of Temperance and Local Option Literature. Speakers were arranged for a number of meetings during the next few months and it was agreed to invite well known Temperance speakers from Colombo and elsewhere to come down and address meetings.

With reference to the Select Committee appointed by Government to frame new Local Option rules a deputation was appointed consisting of the Rev. J. Simon de Silva and Messrs. A. Godemone and S. Vijetilaga to wait on the Hon. Mr. Vanderwell, who is a member of the Select Committee, and urge on his attention the following points:—

- (1) The need for the reasonable limiting of the Local Option areas in Kandy, these being most inconveniently scattered at present.
- (2) The need for reducing the present percentage required for closing taverns in towns, it being well nigh impossible in present circumstances to obtain so high a percentage as 75 in towns like Kandy.
- (3) Longer notice should be given of the date of polling than is now done.
- (4) It is desirable to close all taverns on Sundays, the Wesak Day and the Sinhalese (Hindu) New Year Day.
- (5) The closing hour for taverns should be altered to 6 p.m.

The Committee being urged to take action with a view to the speedy closing of the foreign liquor tavern at “Cosy Corner,” in Castle Hill Street, the continuance of which is particularly undesirable, it was agreed to delay such action until the nature of the new excise rules was known.

The next meeting of the Committee will take place on the 14th instant at 6-30 p.m.—Cor.

In Jaffna too the adoption of a similar plan of campaign is absolutely necessary. There should be organized a Central Committee in the Town with branch Committees in each of the Tavern areas in the District. The Central Committee must agitate for the necessary reforms in the Local Option rules. The demarcation of single tavern areas is the most important among these. The grouping of many taverns into a single area of unwieldy dimensions, as it was done within the Local Board limits of our town, is utterly unjustifiable and is opposed to the spirit of Local Option. In fact, it was this obstructive arrangement that discouraged the workers in Jaffna from taking any active steps last year even in spite of the short notice the public were given at the time. Even the slight modification granted by the Government to adopt the Ward division, in fixing the tavern area, is not satisfactory. The Vannarpannai Ward alone contains about 4 arrack taverns and as many toddy taverns. It is to be earnestly hoped that the Select Committee of the Legislative Council now sitting to revise the Local Option rules will succeed in making them more practical, sympathetic, and reasonable in their nature.

Another important matter that should engage the attention of the Local Option Committees is the collection of funds. Polling for Local Option partakes of the nature of an election. Some of the practices followed in Western countries

at the election time such as the providing of carriages &c. has become established in our own country also, and it requires money for carrying out all these arrangements so as to ensure success. In addition to this, money is also required to arrange for lectures, to distribute tracts on the subject, and to adopt other necessary measures of active propaganda and effective organization. Almost every one in our country speaks strongly of the alarming growth of the drink evil, and wishes to see it suppressed. But the reason why they have failed to realise their wish is that they have not worked in organized union. Unless the work is organized and directed there is little chance of success.

As the possession of the poll-tax receipt is considered necessary to qualify one to give his vote in Local Option, it should be made as widely known as possible that every one should carefully preserve his receipt. This is the period of poll-tax payment in Jaffna and this fact about the receipts should be widely published by beat of tom-tom, and by other means.

## THE CEYLON EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION ON REFORMS.

In our last issue and in the present issue is published the Report of the Ceylon European Association on constitutional reforms in Ceylon. We hope to complete it in our next issue. The Report, as our readers will find, is a carefully thought out and skilfully drafted document and is undoubtedly a very valuable contribution to the discussion on the question of reforms. We welcome the conciliatory and sympathetic spirit which is manifested in the document, and we are glad that our Ceylonese contemporaries and critics who have reviewed the report have done it also in the same spirit. This is in striking contrast with the relations subsisting between the Indians and Anglo-Indians in the neighbouring continent in the discussion of Indian reforms. We fervently hope that this happy relation between the Ceylonese and the European community of Ceylon will be maintained for ever, to the lasting benefit of both communities. Give and take, live and let live, should be the spirit in which each community should view every question affecting each other's interests. We are glad to note that the Ceylon European Association takes the correct view on the question of the urgent necessity of reforms in the constitution of the Government. They have made a correct diagnosis of the disease that often paralyses the present constitution of the Government, and renders it unfit to deal effectively with the wants of the public. The Ceylonese are greatly indebted to the European Association for candidly pointing out this defect to the Home Government, even more forcibly than it was done by their own representative associations and conferences. The serious defects in the present constitution having thus been admitted, both by the Ceylonese and the Europeans, the question has now been narrowed to the one point—which is the best of the schemes of reform submitted by the Ceylonese and by the European Association, to remedy these defects. Or is it necessary to formulate a new scheme which will avoid the defects in both the schemes? Above all these considerations, there is the higher moral purpose set out in the proclamation of the British Government to India, made on the 20th August 1917, to introduce reforms that will be a substantial step in the progressive realisation of responsible Government in India. In a like manner, the reforms that will be introduced in the Government of our Island should also be a substantial step in the direction of a progressive realisation of responsible Government in Ceylon as an integral part of the British Empire. We reserve our detailed comments on the reform scheme submitted by the European Association till the whole report is published in our columns.

## LOCAL & GENERAL.

**THE PRICE OF FOOD STUFFS**—There has been recently a slight fall in the price of paddy. One bag of Arracan paddy is now selling at Rs. 10. There is no reduction in the price of curries. One pound of chillies is selling at 70 cts. and one measure of payaru at 60 cts. The price of vegetables is also on the increase.

**PUBLIC HEALTH**—Fever is prevailing to some extent. Several cases of enteric were also reported.

**PERSONAL**—Mr. Cathiraser, Apothecary-in-charge of Murunkan Dispensary has, owing to ill-health, retired from Government Service and resides at Copsy South. —Cor.



**RELIGIOUS EXAMINATION.**—The Secretary Y. M. H. A. (Central) writes to say that the examination in Religious knowledge fixed for the 15th inst. is postponed for the 22nd inst.

**WIRELESS TELEPHONY.**—New York, Feb. 10.—It is announced that Mr. Ernest Alexanderson, an American inventor, has perfected a device which makes it possible for wireless telephonic conversations to be held between New York and New Zealand. The device is said to assure perfect audibility over a distance of about 12,000 miles.

**THE EX KAISER.**—London, Feb. 26.—The Copenhagen correspondent of the "Daily Mail" says that two months ago Count Rantzau visited the ex-Kaiser and took him a considerable sum of money. The ex-Kaiser declared that Germany would soon repent having overthrown the Monarchy. The "Birmingham" Post learns from Holland that Count Bantink wishes to be relieved of the responsibility for the safe custody of the ex-Kaiser, who has himself applied to the Netherlands Government for permission to change his place of internment. The ex-Crown Prince has also applied for permission to leave Wieringen.—"Civil and Military Gazette" cable.

**Y. M. H. A., BATTICALOA.**—The weekly meeting of the above Association was held on the 2nd instant in the Sivite school hall with Mr. P. Arumugaswami in the chair. After the preliminaries were over, Mr. Phedohadanamorthy made a lucid speech on the advantages of the study of the English Language. The chairman warmly commended the lecturer and thanked him. In conclusion the chairman, in a persuasive and impressive tone, addressed a powerful appeal to the members, to push on their work in right earnest in spite of all difficulties and adverse criticisms. A vote of thanks was proposed to the chair and the meeting terminated with the singing of Thevearam. —Cor.

**THE ASIAN COMMERCIAL ASSURANCE COY. LTD BOMBAY.**—We are glad to learn that Mr. C. N. Devarajan has been appointed Chief Agent for this Company in Ceylon. Mr. Devarajan being an educated and energetic young man belonging to an influential family in the Island, is sure to secure a large clientele for this popular Indian Company.

**SARASWATI SACRILEGE CASE.**—Calcutta, March 5.—In the case brought by Mr. Jitendra Lal Banerjee as representative of the Hindu community for throwing the image of Saraswati into the dust bin and thereby defiling an object held sacred by the Hindus, Mr. Johnson appeared this morning before Mr. Keys, the Presidency Magistrate, and offered an apology admitting that his conduct was unjustifiable and expressing his regret for offending the feelings of the Hindu community though unintentionally. The complainant accepted the apology and the case terminated. The Presidency Magistrate addressing Mr. Johnson, said that his conduct in throwing the image of Saraswati in the dust bin did not reflect any credit on his intelligence, and that it was magnanimous on the part of the prosecution to have accepted the apology. —"The Hindu."

**THE EUROPEAN RURAL ELECTORATE.**—The election of a European Rural Member for the Legislative Council in place of Mr. Hayshe-Eliot whose term of office expired recently, took place on the 10th instant at the Registrar-General's Office. At 1 p. m. the Hon. Mr. Vaughan announced that no other nominations having been received Mr. J. Graeme-Sinclair was duly elected member of the European Rural Electorate, the nomination paper having been scrutinised and found correct.

**TAMIL ORATORICAL CONTEST.**—The Tamil Oratorical Contest organised by the Y. M. I. A. Madras, came off yesterday and was a great success. The subject for the competition was "The contribution of Tamil to the Civilisation and literature of India". R. O. Sahab P. Sambanda Mudaliar and Mr. N. Vedachalam Pillai acted as Judges. Mr. A. Rangaswamy Aiyangar, Editor, "Swadeshamitram," who was to have been one of the judges was prevented from being present owing to indisposition. He, however, in appreciation and as an encouragement of what he termed "This praiseworthy and laudable endeavour," sent a gold medal to be presented to the best speaker among the students of the High Schools. 18 Colleges, High Schools and Associations were represented and the speeches were really of a very high order. The competition showed how beautifully boys can talk in their mother-tongue. The gold medals were awarded to V. Ramaswami (Dravidian Hon) and N. Cheongalvarayan of P. S. High School Literary Society. The meeting dispersed after Mr. Sanjiva Kamath expressed on behalf of Y. M. I. A. members, heartfelt thanks to Messrs. C. S. Govindaraja Mudaliar, and A. Rangaswamy Aiyangar, the scribes of the medals and the judges who had kindly taken the trouble to sit patiently for nearly two hours and discharged faithfully the onerous duty of selecting the best among a large number of speakers. The Telugu Oratorical Contest will come off next Wednesday the 26th instant at 5-10 p. m., when we trust the Andhras will muster strong to encourage the speakers. —"Hindu" Feb. 26.

**Y. M. H. A. VADDUKODAI.**—A very interesting Magic Lantern lecture on "Temperance" was delivered by Dr. N. Paramanathan on Wednesday the 26th ultimo at the Hindu English Institute Hall, a vote of thanks was proposed by Mr. K. Arumugam, B.A., the Secretary of the Association. —Cor.

**THE TONDAMANNAR ENGLISH SCHOOL.**—Mr. M. Karthigesu who holds a first class certificate from the Government Training College has been appointed Head-Master of this school from the 1st instant.

**OBITUARY.**—We regret to record the death of Mrs. Asohimutzu Kanagasabai, eldest daughter of the late Mr. A. Krishnapillai, retired Head Clerk, Tholpuram and a sister of Mr. K. Navaratnam, student-at-law, which took place at her residence at Tholpuram on Saturday last. The deceased was held in high esteem by all who knew her for and her amiable qualities. Our condolences to the bereaved.

## EUROPEAN AND THE REFORMS.

(Continued from our last issue.)

### 7. ELECTION OR NOMINATION.

It is easy to advance arguments in favour of either system. In a country in which a large proportion of the population is without any political experience and perhaps incapable of making the best use of a vote, nomination provides for the elimination of the merely self interested professional politician and enable the Governor to select Councillors who may be expected to support the claims of agriculture and commerce and other interests which will otherwise have no direct mouthpieces. Nomination is the practice in most Crown Colonies and all Unofficial Members were nominated in Ceylon prior to 1910, when provision was made for the election of a Ceylonese, a Burgher and two European Members, with the result that there is not in the Council today a single member with special commercial knowledge. The Ceylonese however assert that the nomination of members has from time to time been abused by the Government and that men have been selected with a view to their subservience to official wishes, or as a reward for past services, and without reference to their capacity to represent the people on whose behalf they are supposed to advise. There may be truth in this assertion. Whether that is so or not, it is beyond question that the Sinhalese and Tamils, at all events, are strenuously opposed to nomination and regard its continuance as one of their most serious grievances. Whatever doubts may be entertained concerning the capacity of the population as a whole to exercise the vote intelligently (and we do not believe that there is any sort of general demand for the franchise) a considerable number of educated Ceylonese are quite capable of deciding by whom they wish to be represented. We consider that, if only for the purpose of removing the grievance which is now felt and to avoid the offence which is continually given, when new nominations are announced, the principle of election should be conceded in all cases, unless a particular community prefers nomination.

### 8. THE OFFICIAL MAJORITY IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

We devoted much time to a consideration of this subject and were to some extent divided at first in opinion. It is beyond question that the automatic out-voting of the unofficials by official members who often take no part in the discussion, and may not even approve of the policy which they are required to support, is open to objection. The unofficial members may express their views, but the free expression of opinions must be continually hampered by the feeling that, in the end, the automatic vote of the officials renders argument of little avail. The Urban European member strongly expressed to the Committee his own objection to the system. When however the suggestion that there should be an unofficial majority is examined carefully it appears to be an impossibility—at all events in a form of Government such as ours now is. The objection may be explained in few words. In Parliamentary Government, such as that obtaining in England, the administration which is responsible for the actual governing of the country, is always supported by a majority in the popular chamber. Legislation which it requires it can obtain and no legislation to which it objects can be passed. When it ceases to have the necessary majority, it must resign. In Ceylon the administration consists of a fixed body of officials who cannot be allowed to resign. They must therefore have control of the legislative machine for the purpose of enforcing their decisions. Now if the elected unofficial members have a majority in the legislative body, they may at any time refuse to provide the legislation and funds which the Government requires, or may themselves pass ordinances which the Government cannot or will not enforce. The whole machine of Government is in danger of finding itself reduced to impotence. The experiment of an unofficial majority was tried in Malaya, with the result that the legislature refused to vote supplies and a dead lock resulted to remove which the British Government was forced to intervene by reinstating the official majority—a fact which has caused continuous illfeeling and friction.

The memorial to which we have referred furnishes no evidence of reasoned thought concerning the constitutional results of such a government nor any suggestion as to the manner in which it can be conducted. The chief argument in its favour appears to be one drawn from analogy with the Principal governments in India. The apparent resemblance between the position of the Ceylon legislature and that of the Indian Provincial governments is however superficial and the analogy is a false one. The Provincial governments are subordinate bodies, under the control of the Government of India, the chief officer of which, the Viceroy, is responsible to the Secretary of State, who in turn is responsible to Parliament. While it is possible to grant to subordinate legislatures a great measure of freedom, subject to safeguards which provide for the passing of essential legislation notwithstanding the opposition of the legislative chambers, it is constitutionally impossible for the supreme government of a country to be carried on if the executive cannot compel the enactment of legislation which it considers necessary. This fact is clearly recognised in the Montagu-Chelmsford report as the reason which made it impossible to grant an unofficial majority in the supreme Indian Legislative Council, without the establishment of a second chamber (which the report recommends) in which the Governor-General shall have a majority at his command.

Commenting on a similar proposal by the Indian National Congress the report says (par. 167). "We find then in these proposals no connecting rod between the executive and legislative wholeness of the machine which will ensure that they will work in unison.....We must anticipate divergence and the only question is whether that divergence will be fatal to good Government..... Legislation is a necessary attribute of Government, because it is the means by which Government secures fresh powers, when it feels the need of them, for attaining its ends. But in the hands of the assembly it may become a weapon to paralyse the Government..... This is a position into which no Parliamentary Government ever allows itself to be forced; and it would be an impossible position for a nominated Government of India..... Wherever, as in Canada or Malta, attempts have been made to set up an irremovable executive and a popular assembly, acute conflict has ensued and has resulted in either an advance to popular Government or a return to autocracy. Parliamentary Government avoids dead locks by making the executive responsible to the legislature. Presidential Government limits dead locks because all the organs of the State must ultimately submit to a superior tribunal, the electorate of the nation. But a legislature elected by the people, coupled with a Governor appointed by a distant power, is a convenience for fomenting dissensions and making them perpetual..... We can see no prospect whatever ahead, along the road which we are invited by the Congress League to take but embittered and dangerous dead lock; to be resolved, when it arises, only by a plunge forward into Parliamentary Government at once, or by reversion to autocratic method." Again the report says (par. 170): "If we compel the executive to carry out instructions from the legislature we bring the Government to an end by destroying its right of action. No Government can consent to remain in office and to put into effect orders of which it disapproves..... If it is to be held responsible for Government it must govern; and if it is not to govern it must give way to those who can."

Now the Ceylonese reformers appear to have lost sight of the fact that the Ceylon Government is in the position not of a subordinate body but of the Supreme Government, with a permanent nominated executive responsible to the Secretary of State, who in turn is responsible to Parliament. Any analogy which can exist between Ceylon and India must be an analogy between the Ceylon Government and the Government of India, not the Provincial Governments. How is the Executive Government of the Colony to be carried on, if the legislation and votes of supply, which are considered essential, may be refused by the elected Legislative Council or if that Council enacts measures which the executive considers it impossible to enforce? The Government cannot resign. There is no intermediate body to which it can appeal. The Secretary of State, Parliament, or His Majesty in Council cannot, in practice, be expected to have the necessary knowledge of detail to enable one of them to intervene, and even if any of them could, such a procedure would necessarily be inadvisable. To these questions the memorialists offer no reply; of them they do not even make mention; and if with all the liberal and progressive purpose which Mr. Montagu brought to bear upon the subject in India, he could find no reasonable solution, we may safely assume that none is forthcoming.

It is of course the Government both here and in England that will point out constitutional objections such as these, but it would be futile for the Europeans to approve a scheme which from its very nature is impossible of fulfilment.

We have carefully considered whether, by any satisfactory means, the necessary power of the executive can be maintained while allowing an unofficial majority in the Legislative Council. The first expedient suggested was the creation of an upper house by which the acts of the lower chamber would be revised. In the upper house the Government would have control. The ultimate effect of such a constitution is of course to vest the final authority again in the Government, but the system has the advantage of its opinion, a matter of considerable importance. Under the present system the Council can never reject a measure which the executive has decided to pass. In a two Chamber Government the lower chamber could actually throw out a bill, a proceeding which would necessarily have an influence on the policy of the executive even if the bill could be reintroduced and ultimately carried. For the creation of such an upper house, however, it is necessary to find a sufficient number of men of not only outstanding position and mature views but also of political or administrative experience. We do not think it would be possible to find such men in a small Colony like this at the present time, and that our opinion is endorsed by a section of the Press associated with the Reform League is evidenced by the following quotation: "Ceylon is much too young to have definite, permanent, established and accepted leaders. Many take up the role and are gaily confirmed in it for a season. They play their part and are forgotten, leaving no permanent impression or lasting mark."

It was suggested, as an alternative, that some system should be devised by which the Governor could have the power of certifying beforehand that a bill was an essential measure, in which case it would be passed into law even if the majority voted against it. The Committee however is of the opinion that great difficulty would be experienced in defining the nature of the measures which the Governor might so certify and that if, as is probable, a large number of bills were in practice certified, the helplessness of the unofficials would appear greater than it is even now and continual exasperation would result. We are therefore of opinion that an unofficial majority in the Legislative Council, without a second chamber or other safeguard, is constitutionally impossible and we do not believe that a second chamber can at the present time be constituted so as to be both efficient and valuable, or that satisfactory safeguards can be devised.

While fully realizing the disadvantages of the official majority we are unable to recommend that it should be abolished.

### 9. THE CONSTITUTION OF THE ELECTORATES.

Two main questions arise in connection with this subject, namely, whether the representation is to proceed upon a racial or a territorial basis and, if the latter, whether provision is to be made for the special representation of racial or other minorities. We think that so far as is practicable true progress lies in the direction of eliminating

racial distinctions in public matters and that the territorial basis should be adopted. In view of the fact however that the several races have still very distinct interests and feelings, provision must be made for the special representation of those communities, the European, the Burgher and the Mohammedan, which being in a minority are not likely to have any representative returned for the territorial divisions. It will be remembered that the memorial abovementioned, after approving of the territorial system, excludes Europeans, Burghers and Mohammedans from the provincial electorates on the ground that they are to have a separate representation. The Committee most strongly opposes the acceptance of this suggestion which on examination appears to result in pure racial representation. The franchise in such a scheme is confined to the Sinhalese and Tamils and as the two races are grouped in well defined areas, Tamils will ordinarily be returned for two provinces and Sinhalese for all the others; that is to say that, out of the twenty-one elected members, at least twelve are to be Sinhalese elected only by the Sinhalese without the possibility of any influence or interference by other races. When in addition to this it is remembered that the memorialists ask for two unofficials on the Executive Council, to be elected by the Legislative Councilors, and therefore in all probability also Sinhalese, it is difficult to avoid the suspicion that the scheme outlined in the memorial may be a definite attempt to acquire the practical administration of the country by one section of its inhabitants. We are supported in this view, by the Mohammedan member who said in the Legislative Council, on December 11th, during the debate on the reform proposals: "Let there be no doubt, Sir, that we are in favour of a large increase in the number of representatives provided the territorial representative basis is election and not dependent on nomination and provided also that the electorates are not confined to the Sinhalese and Tamil constituents only, but embrace Europeans, Burghers, Mohammedans and others of every electoral area. If this is not done, the principle of territorial representation could reduce the form to an absurdity and would result in the unjust preponderance of voting power in the hands of the Sinhalese and Tamil communities." We regard it as essential to territorial representation that all persons with any electoral area should have the right of vote, nor do we consider that the separate addition of representation of minorities should in any way affect fundamental representation.

(To be continued.)

—The Ceylon Morning Leader.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

### THE TODDY TAVERN AT VANNARPONNAI NORTH WEST.

Sir, This tavern bearing the number 12, is situated on the Jaffna-Manipay Road, between the 2nd and 3rd mile posts. It is doing great havoc, and the times has come when the public should take action without leaving the evil to go on unchallenged. The evil done by this tavern is immense and various.

(1) **To the youth:** Scores of young students reading at the Jaffna Hindu College and other Colleges in the Jaffna town pass this road morning and evening every day (the majority go on foot) and the scenes presented in this tavern are an open temptation to them besides making deep impression on their young minds, that will go a long way in future years in deciding their damnation. Besides these students, hundreds of boys between the ages of 12 and 18, hailing from Anakottai, Suthumalai, Navaly and Manipay pass this road daily on their way to and from the cigar factories at Vannarponnai and Jaffna town. These young cigar makers are sorely tempted to go bad, by the tavern in question. Their temptation is great as they return home with their daily wages in their possession, and it is for our public spirited men to save these young lives, not to sit at home indifferent to the dangers that affront the youth of our land daily.

(2) **To the women:** This road is impassable in the evenings by women. First of all, the language of the people is something that will, with good reason, upset and hurt the good feelings of any woman, respectable or otherwise. Again, the danger to women passing this way, is immense. Not long ago, a lady going out in a victoria one evening, was insulted by a drunkard, and he insisted on getting into the carriage and taking a drive along with the lady; but the writer happened to go that way, and a bit of social service was gladly rendered. I am aware of scores of cases of bazaar women returning home in the evening from Grand Bazaar with money and remnant articles on their head, seeking help from sober passers by, as they pass this road, for fear of being molested by and deprived of their humble possessions by these drunkards. Further, many of these women go working their earnings etc., and the fear and trembling with which they trot this road, besides the temptation the drunkards have thereby, is very great indeed.

(3) **To the labourer:** The carter, the trader, the oilmonger, the rickshaw coolie etc., returning home from Jaffna Town in the evening with his hard-earned money, are left open to strong temptation to waste daily a good part of their money, temptation which they would more easily resist and overcome if there were no tavern here. This tavern is like a trap, set by somebody to make these unfortunate men to waste their money which otherwise they would take to their homes, making the home bright and happy. On careful investigation, I find that half the poverty and famine at Anakottai and the surrounding villages is accounted for by the fact that many labourers, from these villages fall victim to this tavern, and waste their daily wages here, unable to resist the temptation as they go by this tavern with money in their possession.

In the interests of the poor people especially, and of the youth of the land, I feel very strongly that this Toddy Tavern (No. 12) at Vannarponnai North West should be closed. I write this to bring the matter, first of all, to the notice of the members of the Executive Advisory Board, and they will do well to go into the matter, and investigate, and close this tavern. This will save the public from going to the poll, and incurring unnecessary expenditure etc., and also avoid creating the impression that unless forced to do so, the authorities will never do any good.

Jaffna,  
March 7th 1919.

Yours truly,  
J. S. M.



## MALAYA SPECTATOR.

THE CENTENARY OF SINGAPORE.—"Better late than never" is a well-meant saying. Therefore allow me Mr. Editor to take advantage of the wisdom of this proverb by scribbling these few lines, by way of a random description of the centenary celebration, held on the 6th instant, with pomp and grandeur. To many a man this will be the brightest of recollections!

Peeping from the eastern horizon, like a radiant god, the rising sun sat enthroned on the cosmopolitan city of Singapore, embracing the earth in his ten-thousand arms. The population of the town awoke and went forth to assemble in front of the Town Hall and witness the unveiling ceremony of the statue of Sir Stamford Raffles, which was removed to the present site. The gaze of the vast multitude was animated by the stately march of the men of the naval contingent and of the Manchester Regiment, who arrayed themselves on either side of the statue of the founder of Singapore. A short while afterwards, His Excellency the Governor and other potentates arrived there with all dignity. Mr. Peel, the President of the Centenary Committee, and President of the Singapore Municipality, addressed His Excellency and requested him to unveil the commemorative tablet fixed at the base of the statue. His Excellency thanked them for the privilege and honour accorded to him in requesting him to unveil the tablet in memory of Sir Stamford Raffles who 100 years ago founded this settlement, then a mangrove swamp with 150 inhabitants, and now a magnificent city with 300,000 inhabitants!

The following is the inscription on the tablet.

1819-1919.

"This tablet to the memory of Sir Stamford Raffles to whose foresight and genius Singapore owes its existence, was unveiled on February the 6th, 1919, the 100th Anniversary of the foundation of the Settlement."

Then came the presentation of addresses by the various communities, and by representative bodies. There were the representatives of the Europeans, the Chinese, and the Mohammedan communities. Addresses artistically drawn and enclosed in sheets of silver. But also the Indian or the Malay community was not there; neither were the ardent conveners of the Indians Ceylon-mass meeting.

With the depositing of wreaths at the base of the statue by the various societies and individuals, and with the thanksgiving service at St. Andrew's Cathedral, the first part of the programme came to a close.

The second part, was the magnificent fete held at the Race course from the afternoon till about midnight. Sheds and pavilions that had risen like Aladdin's magic palace were scattered all over, with their diverse designs and decorations. The huge concourse of men and women of all races and creeds moved around and across, blended with a symphony of colours. Various styles of apparels in blue and red, white and black green and purple, yellow and violet,—and in fact with all the colours of the rainbow.—was a scenery of picturesque description! The procession of school children intermingled with their chivalrous teachers as miniature commanders, was a sight never to be forgotten! Banners of various fashions indicated by their designs and colours the particular institution to which those little charges belonged. The living stream of about 20,000 boys and girls appeared to be a procession that would never end! The march being terminated, all these tiny men and women enjoyed a sumptuous repast, games and other amusements. There were several attractive shows in all the pavilions and sheds. Egyptian dances and Malay *ronggeng* for one, Hindustani music and nautch dances for one, Chinese *wayangs*, cymbals and gongs for one, Tamil drama and music for one, sham Malay wedding for one. Thank God there was no sham Hindu wedding—no, not even any "Kalyana Vilasam", for it was already asphyxiated!

Thus ended the first centenary celebration with the display of fireworks which was the last item in the tedious programme of the function. There were the symptoms of the manifestation of joy and happiness all the time.

INFLUENZA AGAIN.—This never-to-be-forgotten disease has made its appearance here for the third time! So far it has not turned into the hasty epidemic. But it is, however, virulent; for the majority among the infected minority, resulted in pneumonia. There are hopes that this dreadful disease will be reduced to impotency before it takes the form of a pandemic.

The mortality of the world resulting from Influenza has been calculated as six million persons in twelve weeks! It has been estimated that the War has caused the death of twenty millions in 4½ years. Thus this plague is five times deadlier than the War; because in the same period, at this epidemic rate, Influenza would have killed 108 millions!

HERE AND THERE.—During the last influenza epidemic our telephone system was in a very amusing disorder. Neither is there any marked improvement now. There is what they call an "Exchange" where most of the operators belong to the fair sex, who in quantity number over three scores, and in quality, have their own ways! I don't mean to say that they are militant suffragettes. Well, if you want to speak to someone, you ring up the Exchange. Everything silent for about 10 minutes, and at the expiration of that time, a sweet voice will ask you "yes, what number please?" You say 123, and the voice replies "821"? Suppose, your wife happens to fall ill suddenly and you want to ring up to your doctor, after ringing up and waiting at the expense of your energy, you will hear someone say "Hallo, who is that please?" and you ask "Is it Dr. Quinine", and the voice replies "no this is Influenza & Co., undertakers, coffin makers and monument-builders!" Suppose, you are having a sweet repose after a day's weary work, you hear the telephone bell jingling unceasingly. You run up to the phone and ask "Hallo, who is that please?" an aggrieved voice will ask you "what number did you say please." Let us imagine that you are talking to a bosom friend about such harmless things as marriage, funerals, dinners etc. when a gruff voice will surprise you by saying "get out of the line, go to blazes, off you go."

L. M. S. in Singapore is often misleading. It may be taken as a Licentiate in Medicine and

## TELEGRAPHIC SUMMARY.

## The War.

## THE PEACE CONFERENCE.

London, March 2.

Paris, March 2.—The Military terms of Peace, presented to the Council of Ten by Marshal Foch yesterday provide for the disarmament of Germany down to twenty Divisions, each of 10,000 men, including fifteen Infantry and five Cavalry; also severe restrictions on the manufacture of all classes of War material and the limitations of the Military and commercial use of aeroplanes to a minimum. Foch's Naval terms, now before the Council, provide for not only the complete suppression of Germany's submarine equipment, but the termination of all submarine warfare. The proposals for the destruction of the large German warships is approved in the Report by British and American experts, but the French still make reservations in this connection.

Paris.—It has been provisionally arranged that President Wilson shall land at Breast about March 13th and then proceed direct to Paris. The Great Powers will then consider the preliminary Peace Treaty and it will be signed about March 22nd. It is anticipated that such progress will be made as will enable the assembling of the Peace Congress, with the Germans present, between April 1st and 10th. The Treaty to be presented at the Congress will include the Military, Naval, Financial and Economic terms to be imposed. The Reparation Committee's Report will be considered at an early date by the Supreme War Council. The Committee has arrived at the conclusion that enemy countries should be required to pay an aggregate amount of £24,000,000,000, sterling, paying a portion now and the balance to be spread over a period of 25 to 35 years. The French Delegation is of opinion that the Powers should immediately pay £1,000,000,000 sterling, partly in merchandise, material and tonnage, partly in foreign securities and partly in gold. The estimate of timber, that Germany should supply the Allies with a reparation, is approximately £80,000,000 sterling.

## POLAND AND UKRAINE.

London, March 3.

A telegram from Posen says that it is reported from Lemberg that the Ukrainians have repudiated the arrangement regarding the cessation of hostilities against the Poles notwithstanding the Inter Allied Commission's efforts. They have declined to agree to the Armistice with the Poles with whom they have resumed hostilities. A telegram from Warsaw says that the Ukrainians fired on a special train carrying the Inter-Allied Commission from Lemberg to Warsaw, and two Polish Officers in it were severely wounded. It is reported from the Polish German frontier that the Germans are again attacking all along the line.

## GERMANY.

London, March 3.

A telegram from Berlin, dated yesterday, says that the printers of three big newspaper and printing works have struck.

London, March 2.

Berlin.—The revolutionary developments in Berlin are proceeding with great rapidity. There has been a great Labour movement during the last few days towards the Extremists. Herr Haase expects a general strike in Berlin to begin on March 3rd. A meeting of the Workmen's Councils Executive decided to summon again the National Congress of Workmen's Councils on March 8th. The Independent Party is considering co-operation with the Spartacists. The former anticipate an early fall. The Government is endeavouring to arrange a compromise between the Majority Socialists and the Independents with a view to presenting a common front against the Spartacists.

London, March 3.

Warsaw.—A telegram from Lemberg says that the Ukrainians on the 1st notified that they would resume hostilities next day. The Allied Commission replied, demanding a prolongation of the suspension of hostilities, and threatened the hostility of the Paris Conference if fighting was resumed. Later news shows that the Ukrainians carried out the threat by shelling the railroad from Lemberg to Cracow.

London, March 2.

There have been serious food disturbances at Thurn, where the mob tried to storm the Military gaol. The soldiers intervened with machine-guns and hand grenades and a number of persons were wounded before order was restored.

## RUSSIA.

London, March 2.

Warsaw, Feb. 28.—The Bolsheviks held 23rds of the Ukraine. M. Petlura, the Ukrainian Commander, is negotiating with the French at Odessa for help against the Bolsheviks. The Inter-Allied Commission has handed to Petlura the terms of the Armistice, leaving Lemberg and the oil-fields in the hands of the Poles.

## AMERICAN FILLIBUSTERS.

London, March 2.

Washington.—A Caucus meeting of the Republican Senators rejected the proposal to filibuster in order to force President Wilson to call an extra Session of Congress before he returns from his next visit to Paris, which, it has been announced, the President has decided not to do as the present Congress expires on March 4th. The extra Session would be held by the new Congress, in which the Republicans have the majority. In spite of the rejection of the proposal several Senators threatened to filibuster without authorisation of the Party.

## THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

London, March 3.

Washington.—The criticism against the draft Constitution of the League of Nations culminated in an all night sitting, of the Senate, at which a number of Republican Members attempted to hold up the Seven Billion-Dollars Loan Bill to

Surgery, or it may stand for Licensed Milk Seller of the Singapore Municipal Commissioners who supply badges to all authorised milk-sellers bearing the inscription L. M. S. So then, where is the difference? Is it in kind or in degree?

Singapore, 27th Feb. 1919.

S. O. M. A.

finance the Government's present requirements. The Bill was finally passed. Permission has been given to the Irish leaders to present their demands to President Wilson at New York on March 3rd.

## A JEWISH COMMONWEALTH.

London, March 3.

President Wilson told a delegation from the American Jewish Congress that he was persuaded the Allied nations with the fullest American concurrence were agreed that the foundation of the Jewish Commonwealth should be laid in Palestine.

## VON LETTOW AND THE KAISER.

London, March 2.

Rotterdam.—At a gathering of the local German Club in honour of the German troops from East Africa General Von Lettow Vorbeck denounced the shameful treatment of the ex-Kaiser by the Fatherland and declared:—We must stick to the firm foundations of our old Army if the Fatherland is again to rise to its former greatness.

## THE WATCH ON THE RHINE.

London, March 3.

London, March 1.—There was an imposing Military Pageant at Hyde Park this afternoon when H. M. the King on horse-back and the Queen in a carriage, attended by Prince Arthur of Connaught, Generals Sir Wm. Robertson, Sir M. Macdonagh, Sir Geo. Birdwood and the Maharajah of Bikanir reviewed 14 Battalions of young soldiers, prior to their departure to the Rhine. There were huge crowds of spectators.

## WAR EXPENDITURE.

London, March 3.

The House of Commons this week tackles heavy War expenditure and begins with the Army estimates today. It is believed the Budget will total £1,300,000,000.

—The Ceylon Observer.

## Notice.

## Jaffna Club, Colombo.

A 2 storied commodious house, fitted with gas, water service and drainage, accommodating fifty persons, situated within easy reach to Railway Stations and Landing Jetty.

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COLOMBO.

## Auction Sale of Property at Vannarponnai West in the District of Jaffna.

The undermentioned property belonging to the Estate of the late Tangammah wife of Kantappari Periatampi of Vannarponnai West administered in Testamentary Case No. 3572 D. C. Jaffna, will be sold by public auction on the spot on Friday the 21st March, 1919, commencing at 4.30 P. M.

1. Land situated at Vannarponnai West called "Palluvilthoddam" in extent 5 Lms. V. C. with plantations bounded on the East by Murugasar Vytialingam and wife Muttupillai on the North by Marimuttu Sinnamby and Thajalamuttu wife of Saravananmutto and by others, on the West by Mohamadu Meyadeen Sultan Abdul Cader, South by Murugasar Vytialingam and wife Muttupillai, of this one half share in common.

2. Do. Do. called "Palluvilthoddam" in extent 4 Lms. V. C. with plantations bounded on the East by Murugasar Vytialingam and wife Muttupillai, North by the aforesaid first land, West by Mohamadu Meyadeen Mohamadu Sultan, South by road, of which half of one fourth share.

C. RASANAYAGAM,  
Commissioner.

## Auction Sale of Property at Vannarponnai East in the District of Jaffna.

The undermentioned property belonging to the Estate of the late Sinnappa-chetty Appavuchetty of Vannarponnai East administered in Testamentary Case No. 3665 D. C. Jaffna, will be sold by public auction on Monday the 24th March, 1919, on the spot at 4.30 p. m.

Land situated at Vannarponnai East called "Panankadai" in extent 4 Lms. V. C. with well, stone built house, portico, kitchen and cultivated plants and bounded on the East by the property of Kollunarchetty Velupachetty and wife Thirumal Ammah, on the North by the property of Kopalachetty Ponniahchetty and brothers on the West by Rail Road on the South by the property of Sithamparappillai Sinnamby of this excluding 1 share of the well standing in this land belonging to the Northern boundary land, the whole hereof with its appurtenances.

C. RASANAYAGAM,  
Commissioner.

## TREATMENT.

Treatment of all ailment of whatever description undertaken. Speedy and effective cure guaranteed at the lowest cost. Diabetes, Paralysis, Venereal Diseases, which generally defy the powers of the Medical preparations are successfully cured.

Write at once giving only description of your sufferings and the Medicines will be sent by V. P. Post.

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