

The Hindu Organ.

"Arise! Awake! and stop not till the goal is reached."

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HAS THE WIDEST CIRCULATION ESTABLISHED SEPTEMBER 11, 1889.
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JAFFNA, THURSDAY, AUGUST 9, 1923

OUR NATIONAL DRESS.

The Tamils are a people with a very ancient civilization and culture. Their dress, customs and manners and social institutions are very well suited to the climate of the countries in which they live, their racial peculiarities and their religion. It is very essential to the maintenance of their national individuality that they should wear their own national dress in preference to European dress. Even from the economic point of view the simple national dress of our people is far more suitable to them than European dress. And yet it is very regrettable that the educated section of our people show a great predilection to the European costume. We freely admit that in the changing conditions of things and in view of the fact that there is a wave of westernisation spreading over all parts of the world, some elements in European dress may be adopted by non-European peoples. But the adoption of European costume *in toto* tends to denationalise those who take to it. There are some people in this country who do not seem to care at all what kind of dress they wear. It is a matter of common knowledge that the educated people of both sexes in this country show a great craving for western civilization, and in nothing is this craving so very prominent as in their dress. Such people should bear in mind that it is their duty to their country, their nationality and their religion to be very careful about the way in which they dress. Whatever changes may be adopted in their dress, their dress should proclaim to the world that they are Tamils and wish to show themselves as Tamils. In the case of an educated man, if he finds it convenient or necessary for any reason to put on trousers and shoes, he should take particular care to wear a turban to indicate that he is a Tamil. Not only as serving to indicate the nationality but also as a thoroughly indispensable, appropriate and graceful part of our national dress, the turban should always be preferred by our people to any other form of head dress. It is a well known fact that on all auspicious occasions our Hindu social and religious etiquette requires all men to wear turbans, so much so that a bare-headed man on an auspicious occasion is regarded as an inauspicious specimen of humanity. That we are living in Kaliyugam, an age during which the peoples of the world are subject to all sorts of improprieties and subversions is evident in the daring and unfeeling manner in which the dress of a foreign people with whose customs manners and social institutions our people have very little in common is adopted by them in preference to their own eminent graceful and appropriate national dress. Even our educated women seem to be catching the contagion, for there are becoming more and more evident some changes in their dress which show in an unmistakable way in what direction the wind blows, and consequently we have often to behold the sad spectacle of some of the women of this country who regard themselves as more civilised than others of their sex appearing in public in a form of dress which is clearly of western parentage. Why any of the women who were destined by Ishwara to be the lights of our homes and the representatives in them of the goddess Lakshmi and to be the emblems of grace and *mankalam* and auspiciousness, should, or should be made to, denationalise themselves and deprive their homes and society of that sweet Hindu grace, propriety and dignity which they can possess only if they are strictly national is a question we think neither they nor those who encourage them in their denationalisation can ever answer satisfactorily. We are quite conscious of the argument which is often put forward by some that what is sauce for the gander is sauce for the goose also, that if changes in dress can be tolerated in men they should also be in women. We do not think that two blacks can ever make a white. If men are undesirably denationalised in their dress, that is no reason why women should be allowed to follow their example. We are firmly of opinion that the women of this country should be prevented from denationalising themselves like the men.

We observe with regret that not only our men and women, but children of tender years and young men and women show signs of being denationalised in

dress. The pity is that when the current of denationalisation is so strong in this country in the matter of dress, there is no agency at work to counteract it. We are of opinion that one of the greatest services which can be rendered to the educated people of this country by any true patriot should be in the matter of our national dress. Such service is very valuable as it is calculated to increase the individual and national self-respect of our people and to promote national solidarity and national economy which are essential to the progress and prosperity of this country.

NOTES & COMMENTS

This case forms the subject of comments in the press. The justice of the verdict and the procedure adopted in the trial are questioned. Even assuming that the verdict was a just one, the question arises whether the ends of justice could not have been met by a less severe sentence. As soon as we read that he was sentenced to six years' rigorous imprisonment we felt that the Judge should have shown some mercy and given a less severe sentence. It is, indeed, a pathetic sight that a man who was in the lips of every body in Ceylon for some months just before this case was filed, should have shared this fate.

We have had occasion to write on this subject before this. We revert to it as it is very important. We are of opinion that one of the greatest comforts which can be given to those who travel from one place to another on foot in this country, especially in the dry season, when they are exposed to the relentless rays of the burning sun, is the cool and refreshing shade of trees planted on the sides of roads. It is not so much the paucity of these trees on our roads as the exceedingly careless way in which they are left to serve the highly useful purpose they are intended to serve which claims our attention at the present moment. We have seen these trees in various places having only the semblance of shadiness. It is a matter of common knowledge that those who rear sheep and goats habitually cut the leaves of the shade trees to use as fodder for the animals. In some parts of the country this is done so freely and frequently and in the broad daylight that the sight of the denuded trees rouses the feelings of those whose attention is drawn to them. If the authorities responsible for the planting and growing of the trees think that their duty ends with the planting and growing, they are seriously mistaken. Common sense should make them feel that protecting the trees from the heartless and selfish attacks of shepherds and farmers is the most important part of the duty they owe to the public in regard to shade trees. We are aware that sometimes the Police Vidahns have prosecuted the cowardly offenders. But these prosecutions are so rare and the punishments inflicted on the offenders so slight that they have failed to have a deterrent effect on the unfeeling miscreants who seem to look upon the shade trees as a natural source of food supply to their sheep and goats. We think that far more stringent measures are needed to put down the inhuman practice. We would recommend strongly the appointment of an Inspector of Shade Trees to promote the growth of shade trees, especially to protect them with the assistance of village headmen. We are of opinion that the special efforts put forth by such an officer should make it possible in the course of some years for a person to travel from any place in Jaffna to any other place in it during the warm weather without an umbrella to shelter himself with from the sun.

SHADE TREES are of opinion that one of the greatest comforts which can be given to those who travel from one place to another on foot in this country, especially in the dry season, when they are exposed to the relentless rays of the burning sun, is the cool and refreshing shade of trees planted on the sides of roads. It is not so much the paucity of these trees on our roads as the exceedingly careless way in which they are left to serve the highly useful purpose they are intended to serve which claims our attention at the present moment. We have seen these trees in various places having only the semblance of shadiness. It is a matter of common knowledge that those who rear sheep and goats habitually cut the leaves of the shade trees to use as fodder for the animals. In some parts of the country this is done so freely and frequently and in the broad daylight that the sight of the denuded trees rouses the feelings of those whose attention is drawn to them. If the authorities responsible for the planting and growing of the trees think that their duty ends with the planting and growing, they are seriously mistaken. Common sense should make them feel that protecting the trees from the heartless and selfish attacks of shepherds and farmers is the most important part of the duty they owe to the public in regard to shade trees. We are aware that sometimes the Police Vidahns have prosecuted the cowardly offenders. But these prosecutions are so rare and the punishments inflicted on the offenders so slight that they have failed to have a deterrent effect on the unfeeling miscreants who seem to look upon the shade trees as a natural source of food supply to their sheep and goats. We think that far more stringent measures are needed to put down the inhuman practice. We would recommend strongly the appointment of an Inspector of Shade Trees to promote the growth of shade trees, especially to protect them with the assistance of village headmen. We are of opinion that the special efforts put forth by such an officer should make it possible in the course of some years for a person to travel from any place in Jaffna to any other place in it during the warm weather without an umbrella to shelter himself with from the sun.

THE STEPHEN CASE. The justice of the verdict and the procedure adopted in the trial are questioned. Even assuming that the verdict was a just one, the question arises whether the ends of justice could not have been met by a less severe sentence. As soon as we read that he was sentenced to six years' rigorous imprisonment we felt that the Judge should have shown some mercy and given a less severe sentence. It is, indeed, a pathetic sight that a man who was in the lips of every body in Ceylon for some months just before this case was filed, should have shared this fate.

LOCAL & GENERAL

WEATHER—Still no rain. The prolonged drought is seriously felt.

HEALTH—Influenza of a mild type is prevailing in some parts of the Peninsula.

EXTRA OFFICE ASSISTANT TO THE GOVERNMENT AGENT N. P.—We are glad to learn that C. R. S. Mudaliyar has been promoted to the 5th Division of the Civil Service and appointed Extra Office Assistant to the Government Agent N. P. in succession to the late P. Nishales Mudaliyar. We congratulate him on his deserved promotion.

CLERICAL SERVICE—We are glad that Mudaliyar M. S. Ramalingam, Chief Interpreter Mudaliyar of the Jaffna Kachcheri, has been promoted from Class I to the Special Class of the Clerical Service. We congratulate the Mudaliyar on the deserved promotion.

THE JAFFNA TECHNICAL SCHOOL—At the meeting of the Advisory Committee of this School which was held at the Kachcheri on the 31st ultimo under the presidency of Mr. L. W. C. Schrader, the Government Agent, it was decided to appoint a new Head Master to the School. The Director of Education was present on the occasion.

A GRUESOME FIND—Last Monday a corpse was found lying by the side of the railway at Kondavil. It is not known how the man came by his death.

THE LANKA SUBODHA VILASA SABHA—The Twentieth Half-Yearly General Meeting of the Sabha was held on the 21st July at the Sabha Rooms with Mr. K. Balasingam, the President of the Sabha, in the chair. After the preliminaries were gone through, the report of the Managing Committee, the Treasurer's Balance Sheet and the Auditors' report for the Half Year ended 30th June, 1923 were read and confirmed. A sub-committee of three members, viz, Messrs. V. S. Ratnam, S. Manunayagam and A. Homer, was appointed for the revision of Rules. The election of Office bearers and members of Committee for the ensuing Half Year resulted as follows: President: Mr. K. Balasingam; Vice-President: Messrs. S. Saomugam, C. Arumugam, A. O. Muttucumar, M. A. Arulavandan and Dr. E. V. Ratnam; Secretary: Mr. James Joseph; Asst. Secretary: Mr. A. W. Savundaranayagam; Treasurer: Mr. V. S. Ratnam; Assistant Treasurer: Mr. A. Nadarajah; Conductor: Mr. K. Choraasingam; Stage Directors: Mr. S. V. Supramaniam and Mr. T. Kandiah; Green Room Directors: Messrs. A. Nagalingam and V. Ratnam; Committee Members: Messrs. W. Sathasivam, A. Homer and Dr. R. Saravanamuttu; Auditors: Messrs. T. Sesvaratnam and V. Ratnasabapathy.

ELECTIONS TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL—Jaffna Central Division.—A public meeting of the inhabitants of Urumpiray and Urelu was held at the Hindu English School, Urumpiray on Monday the 23rd July with Mr. J. V. Thambimuttu, Teacher as Chairman and M. S. R. Gunaratnam, Teacher as Secretary. Messrs. M. Nagalingam Teacher, K. C. Peethampara Iyer, the Chairman, and the Secretary, all spoke on the merits and fitness of Mr. A. Mahadeva, one of the candidates, and the following resolution was unanimously passed. "That the residents of Urumpiray and Urelu consider Mr. A. Mahadeva B. A. (Oantab), Bar at Law, Principal, Parameshvara College, Jaffna, as the fittest person to represent Valigaimam East and Thesmaratchi in the Reformed Legislative Council."—Cor.

Y. M. H. A. NAWALAPITIVA—The usual meeting of the above Association was held on Sunday the 22nd instant. The meeting began at about 6 p. m. with the singing of Thevaram. Tamil Pandit Brahma Sri K. P. Sivasara of Navalay, Jaffna, delivered an interesting lecture on "charity" and kept the audience spell bound for two hours. He pointed out that charity is the only means for the attainment of wealth, happiness and Muthi. When the lecture was over, several questions were asked and they were answered to the satisfaction of all. Remarks were offered by Messrs. M. A. Arulpitakasam and M. Vedavanam and they thanked the lecturer for having enlightened the audience. Refreshments accompanied by Thambicolam were lavishly served and the meeting came to a close with the singing of Thevaram at about 8.30 p. m.—Cor.

THE KANDY TAMILS ASSOCIATION—The 28th half-yearly general meeting of this Association will be held at the "Tamil Home", Katukelle, on 11th Instant commencing at 6 p. m.

VOLLEYBALL AT CHAVAKACHCHERI—A very interesting match came off last Saturday in the presence of a large crowd of spectators between the Drieberg English School Volleyball team and a Select team from the Point Pedro, Aarthiady and Valvettitore teams and ended in a victory for the Drieberg English School team by 3 games to 1. The following were the scores:—21-13; 15-21; 21-4; 21-18; The Drieberg English School team has not been defeated by any of the 12 teams that played against it.—Cor.

THE LATE MR. T. SARAVANAMUTTU.

It is with the deepest regret that we have to record the death of Mr. T. Saravanamuttu M. A., M. Sc., which occurred at his residence in Attiadi, Vaanarponnai East, on the 7th Inst. after a brief illness. In fact few were aware that he was ill and the sad news came as a surprise and caused widespread grief among the Jaffna public. He was one of the most cultured among the Tamils with brilliant scholastic attainments and a prodigy in passing University Examinations. After having taken the highest Degrees of the Indian Universities, he was on the road to take Degrees of English Universities, and with that object, having passed the B. Sc. Examination of the London University, in the first class last year he was preparing to take up the next B. A. Examination of that University in Honours. Having become an Advocate Student he was to take up the final in February next. Mr. Saravanamuttu joined the staff of the Jaffna Hindu College in January last and the Latin Arts and Inter Science Classes of

the London University were formed in College in consequence of his appointment. Mr. Saravanamuttu's death is a great loss not only to the College but to the Tamil Community which has lost a member of rare attainments and brilliant abilities. He was noted for his honest independence and public spirit. His wife predeceased him about a year ago. Mr. Saravanamuttu, who was 33 years old at the time of his death leaves behind three young children—2 boys and a girl. We offer our deepest sympathy to the sorrowing relatives at the irreparable loss they have sustained. The funeral which took place yesterday was very largely and respectfully attended.

CORRESPONDENCE

THE THONDAMANAR BRIDGE.

Dear Sir,
I wish to bring to the notice of the P. W. D. authorities through the medium of your journal the existing deplorable conditions of the Thondamanar Bridge. I predict that a terrible disaster will soon occur, if the authorities do not take action immediately.

The Thondamanar Bridge commands the main route from Point Pedro to Kankesanthurai. During the last few years the traffic has increased tremendously with the bus services. One who has seen the pitiable sight of the bridge will only wonder how the bridge bears patiently the heavy load of passengers which the bus carries over it morning and evening.

Certain bridges which have not so much traffic as Thondamanar are well built. The Vallai Bridge will stand for years without any damage to the public. I do not know why the P. W. D. authorities have neglected this bridge. If they do not extend their generosity and liberality towards it, it is sure to demand human sacrifice. I do not know how many will be its victims.

I am, Sir
Thondamanar Your Obedient Servant
4 8 23. A would-be Victim

[We invite the serious attention of the P. W. D. authorities to the above complaint. Ed. H. O.]

SALARIES OF PUBLIC SERVANTS.

MOTION TO REDUCE THEM

PASSED IN SELECT COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the Select Committee of the Legislative Council was held yesterday, when the Budget was considered with special reference to the salaries of public servants and passages for officers recruited in Europe.

Sir Ponnambalam Ramasathan moved that the salaries of officers who draw a salary of £100 and over a year should be reduced 10 per cent, and that those who draw £300 and over to £400 a year should have their salaries reduced by 5 per cent.

It is understood that the resolution was adopted, the Official Members voting against it.

The Hon. Col. T. Y. Wright next moved that in case the above resolution is not passed by the Legislative Council the items of the estimates being retained as framed, the question of the rent allowances be referred to a Committee.

The resolution was carried.

PASSAGE ALLOWANCES.

The Hon. Mr. E. W. Perera moved that the amount allowed for passages of officials be deleted, except in the case of those officers who had come under an agreement that their passages would be provided.

The Hon. Col. Hayward proposed, as an amendment, that the question of passages should be referred to the Committee proposed by Col. Wright. This amendment was defeated and Mr. Perera's resolution was carried. —"Times of Ceylon," Aug 7.

SWARAJ AND SCIENCE.

(Continued from our last issue)

But agriculture alone, however improved cannot remove the poverty of our people. Industries, other than agriculture, are required. We believe in home industries, but we believe in manufacture by power-driven machinery also. The latter does not necessarily imply all the evils of Western industrialism which are being gradually eliminated. And Sir P. C. Ray is shown both by word and deed that he believes in manufacture by power-driven machinery by the application of scientific knowledge; for in opening the late luckless All-India Calcutta Exhibition he said that more mills were required, and what is more, he is a director of half a dozen or more industrial concerns of the modern Western type. He is also, no doubt the greatest proacher of Khaddar. But the speed of the use of Khaddar depends on the spread of modern culture, which, again, involves the application of scientific knowledge. Even the book *Deshi Rang* (Native Dyes) edited by him, to enable the producers and users of homespun to do without foreign dyes, has required the utilization of scientific knowledge in its preparation.

The prevention and cure of disease is essentially necessary for an adequate supply of labour and for keeping the workers in a condition of fitness to produce. Preventive and curative work cannot be carried on without the possession and application of scientific knowledge.

It may, however, be objected after all, that Sir P. C. Ray did not want to lay down a general principle, but wanted simply to indicate how he wished to make use of his time and energy hereafter, and why. The near future will show if that is so. If that be so, he will no doubt give up his chair of Chemistry in the University Science College which he has filled so long with such conspicuous results; and he may also be expected to give up his connection with the various industrial concerns which produce different kinds of goods by scientific processes.

"Science," in Sir P. C. Ray's dictum, may mean one or all of these things: the advancement of science by research, the imparting of scientific knowledge to students, and the application of scientific knowledge for human convenience, comfort, progress, and relief. Sir P. C. Ray is connected with science in all these ways. We do not know whether he will keep in abeyance any or all of his activities in these directions in favour of political activities, until Swaraj has been won. But his meaning is clear—"Science can wait, Swaraj cannot."

THE SELANGOR OBYLON TAMILS ASSOCIATION.

The 23rd annual General Meeting of members of the Selangor Ceylon Tamils Association was held at the Association Hall on Saturday the 30th June, 1923. The Annual Report and Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31st March, 1923, having been passed, the election of office bearers for the ensuing year took place and resulted as follows:

President: Dr. E. T. McIntyre M. D. J. P.; Vice President: (General) Mr. S. Navaratnam and (Temple) Mr. V. Chellappah; Honorary Secretary: Mr. V. Thambiah; Treasurer: Mr. V. Saravananth; General Committee: Messrs. E. C. Daniel, M. W. Navaratnam, S. Retnasabapathy, M. Navaratnam, S. Vythilingam, V. Thambinathan, and K. Saravananth; Temple Committee: Messrs. C. Thambapillay, K. Vayrakapillay, S. Nagalingam, and S. Kandiah (Temple Secretary). Honorary Auditors: Messrs. A. Arunasalam and S. Kanapathimathu.

The following are the reports presented at the meeting:—

ANNUAL REPORT.

GENERAL COMMITTEE.

The General Committee have much pleasure in submitting their report on the working of the Association for the year ended 31st March, 1923, together with the usual statement of accounts appended hereto.

2. At the end of its financial year (March 31st, 1923) the Association consisted of 345 members, an increase of 20 members on the number in the Register at the beginning of the year, viz. 325.

3. Fourteen Committee meetings were held during the year. Mr. A. R. Nitchingam, Hon. Treasurer, resigned his appointment and Mr. S. Retnasabapathy, the Honorary Treasurer of the previous year, was elected in his stead. Mr. S. Vaitilingam resigned his seat on the Committee on his departure on furlough for Ceylon and Mr. V. Chellappah was elected in his place.

4. No definite reply has yet been received on the subject of the introduction into the Federated Malay States of the Cash on-Delivery service in vogue between the Straits Settlements and India and Ceylon, but in reply to a further communication from the Association, the Director, Posts and Telegraphs, F. M. S., informed that the matter was still under the consideration of the Ceylon Government.

5. The Government has not yet made any definite announcement as to allotting a recreation ground for the Association.

6. A congratulatory telegram was sent to Mr. (Now Sir) Frederick Seton James, the Hon'ble the Colonial Secretary, Straits Settlements, on his elevation to Knighthood, and was duly acknowledged with sincere thanks.

7. The notable event of the year, so far as the Association Finance were concerned, is the Association Cash Swap.

An amount of five thousand four hundred and thirty two dollars (\$5,432.00) was realised by the sale of tickets and the Association was benefited to the extent of \$1,629.70, which the Committee recommend should be placed on fixed deposit for 6 months and used exclusively for building extensions. The Committee take this opportunity to thank all members who contributed to the success of the undertaking.

8. The President has been in communication with all the Ceylon Tamils Associations in Malaya with a view to forming a Federation. The suggestion has been warmly received by almost all the institutions and it

is hoped that the ultimate object of forming a Ceylon Tamils Association of Malaya will soon be achieved.

9. Your Committee have great pleasure to announce that the Hon'ble Sir P. Ramaswami, K.C.M.G., has agreed to pay a visit to Malaya in January next.

10. It is the sincere and earnest desire of the Committee that the spirit of co-ordination and co-operation among the members of the Association should grow more and more, and that every member would contribute towards the advancement and continued progress of the institution.

M. W. NAVARATNAM, Honorary Secretary.

TEMPLE COMMITTEE.

1. Your Committee beg to submit their report for the year ended 31st March 1923.

2. Seven committee meetings were held during the period.

3. In accordance with Hindu Shastras certain structural alterations to the front Mandapam of the temple were found necessary and although your Committee were fortunate enough to find willing donors the work is being held over owing to certain unavoidable delay in passing the plan by the Local Sanitary Board.

4. The question of protecting the Temple Land from erosion by the Klang River on the north-eastern boundary had been the subject of correspondence with the Government and it has been finally decided to drive piles on certain positions of the boundary with a view to arrest further encroachments.

5. A course of study of Sri Kanda Puranam is being conducted in the Temple daily.

6. The Temple is being well patronised by the Hindus and the attendance of devotees on Fridays in particular is on the increase.

7. An initial start has been made with a view to resuscitate the study of Tamil literature and an advance of \$50 has been set apart from the Temple fund for the purpose. Some Tamil books revised by the late Sri Arumuga Navalar were ordered for the first time and have had a ready sale as most of the books were religious works and sold at cost price.

8. The amount to the credit of the permanent Puja Fund now stands at \$10,639 which is deposited in three Cheysts' firms.

9. A sum of \$759.53 was contributed towards daily puja expenses and your committee offer their thanks to the contributors.

10. Steps are being taken to have a "sakadai" made for the use of the Temple.

11. There are now 3 cows and 12 calves belonging to the Temple.

12. Messrs. A. Velupillay, Labu, V. Arupillay, General Hospital, Kuala Lumpur, Ponnampalam, the late Contractor, Pudu, and Cathiravelu, Kuala Lumpur, donated each a calf and Mr. N. V. Namasivayam, Railway Chief Accountant's Office, four matings, to all of whom your committee beg to tender their thanks.

13. The Crematorium at Lake Yew Road is well maintained and an additional hearse has been made at a cost of \$300.

14. In conclusion your Committee have great pleasure to note the abiding interest and enthusiasm evinced by the Hindus to foster their religious ideals and literature in the distant part of Malaya.

S. NAGALINGAM, Hon. Secretary, Temple Committee.

COW-KILLING UNDER THE MOGHULS.

RESPECT FOR HINDU FEELINGS.

A LESSON FROM THE PAST

Dr. Syed Mahmud, Ph. D., General Secretary Central Khilafat Committee, writes in the "Servant":—

Both Hindus and Muslims are generally ignorant as to the attitude adopted by Mohammedan Kings in India towards the slaughter of cows and the extent to which they respected the feelings of Hindus in this respect. I want to throw some light on this vexed question and cite historical facts to show to the Mussalmans how liberal minded and magnanimous their forefathers were in this respect; and to what extent they respected the religious sentiments of the Hindu Community at a time when they had full control over this country. The same problem which has now become so complex and perplexing owing to our narrow prejudices did not present any difficulty to them. The Mussalmans were the rulers of the country, and had they regarded it as a religious question there was nothing to prevent their disregarding or treating with contempt the religious feelings of the Hindus. But instead of considering the Hindus to be a subject race and their slaves, the Muslims regarded them as their fellow countrymen and accorded a treatment of equality to them. My Hindu brethren should also fully recognise the fact that Mohammedan Kings respected and honoured their religious views and sentiments and treated them as partners in the Government of the country. How the Mussalmans treated the Hindus during their rule and to what extent

they allowed the Hindus to share the responsibilities and rights of Government is a historical subject of perennial importance on which I have written a book in English. In that book I have attempted to show that the Mohammedan rule in India was national and not foreign in its character.

TAX ON COW-SLAUGHTER AND TOTAL PROHIBITION.

The object of this article is only to show the respect and regard which Mussalman rulers showed towards the religious susceptibilities of Hindus in the matter of the slaughter of cows. From the very beginning of their rule, the Mohammedans realised the depth of Hindu feeling in this matter and as it was the underlying principle of their policy to govern the country by treating the Hindus as their fellow countrymen and brothers, they fully respected the religious feelings of the Hindus in regard to the slaughter of cows. From the very inception of Muslim rule a special tax was imposed on butchers for the slaughter of cows to the extent of 12 'Dinari' per cow. During the reign of Feroz Shah, butchers complained against this tax and the King abolished it. Details of this taxation are not given in books of history, but its object could only have been the prevention of cow slaughter. This tax, therefore, continued for two hundred years after the establishment of Muslim rule in India, right up to the time of Feroz Shah Tughlak. Instead of issuing a general order prohibiting cow slaughter this was the method adopted by early Mohammedan Kings. This tax was called 'Jizari'. At the time of Mohamad Shah Tughlak, beef was not cooked in the royal kitchen, and the King did not take it. Several authors have given detailed descriptions of the royal kitchen, but there is no mention of slaughtering cows. Barhat ul-mulk was appointed Governor of Gujarat, and continued in that capacity also during the reign of the next King Mohamad Ghias ud-Din Tughlak, the Second. Historians state that Barhat-ul-mulk made various concessions to the Hindus and did not allow the slaughter of cows. The Hindus wielded great influence during the reign of Sultan Nasir-ud-Din Khurao. This king totally stopped the killing of cows in his territories. It also seems that the Jazari tax, which had been discontinued by Feroz Shah Tughlak, was re-imposed after his reign, because it is recorded in books of history that Akbar abrogated this tax. Akbar ordered total prohibition of the killing of cows, and the tax was no longer found necessary and it was probably on that account that it was discontinued.

EVIDENCE OF AN EUROPEAN TRAVELLER.

An English traveller who visited India in the seventeenth century writes that the Hindus had great respect for the cow, and considered the killing of cow to be as heinous a crime as human murder. From this it is clear that no attempt was made by Mohammedan rulers to suppress Hindu feeling in this matter and their religious susceptibilities were so much respected that even a passing traveller had no difficulty in ascertaining the feelings of Hindus and the Hindus were not prevented from preaching the prevention of the slaughter of cows. This clearly indicates the attitude of the ruling power.

BABAR'S ADVICE TO HIS SON.

When the Moghul established their rule in India and Babar ascended the throne, he not only found out the depth of Hindu feeling in this matter during his few years' reign but also wrote out a confidential will for his son Humayun in which he referred to this religious belief of the Hindus and exhorted him to prevent the killing of cows. The original copy of this document is preserved in the State Library at Bhopal, and a photo of it has been made available to me through the courtesy of Nawab Col. Hamid Ulah Khan Sahib. The following is a translation of the document:—

"Oh my son! People of diverse religions inhabit India; and it is a matter of thanksgiving to God that the King of Kings has entrusted the Government of this country to you. It, therefore, behoves you, that:—

- (1) You should not allow religious prejudices to influence your mind, and administer impartial justice having due regard to the religious susceptibilities and religious customs of all sections of the people.
(2) In particular, refrain from the slaughter of cows, which will help you to obtain a hold on the hearts of the people of India. Thus you will bind the people of this land to yourself by ties of gratitude.
(3) You should never destroy the places of worship of any community and always be justice-loving, so that the relations between the king and his subjects may remain cordial and there be peace and contentment in the land.
(4) The propagation of Islam will be better carried on with the sword of love and obligation than with the sword of oppression.
(5) Always ignore the mutual dissensions of Shias and Sunnis, otherwise they will lead to the weakness of Islam.
(6) Treat the different peculiarities of your subjects as the different seasons of the year, so that the body politic may remain free from disease.

Babar was not the inhabitant of India, and he came to this country as a conqueror; but it was his intention to establish his rule by promoting and maintaining relations of mutual love and esteem with the Hindus. When a foreign Muslim conqueror entertained such regard for the feelings of the Hindus in the matter of the killing of cows, it is not difficult to realise the attitude of later Muslim Kings who made India their home, who were born and bred in this country, and some of whom had Hindu blood in their veins. How deep would have been their regard for the religious susceptibilities of the Hindus?

HUMAYUN'S NOBLE EXAMPLE.

Though history is silent on this point yet it cannot be that a King who asks his son to prohibit the killing of cows would not have himself acted on his own advice. A dutiful son like Humayun must also have acted on this father's dying exhortation. There is historical evidence available that Humayun fully acted upon the other clauses of his father's will; and there is no reason to believe why he should not have acted on one relating to prohibition against the killing of cows, particularly when he was a great friend of the Hindus. Not only Hindu men, but Prada Nishin Hindu women had full trust and confidence in him. An instance of this is that the Rani of Udaipur sent her own bracelet to Humayun and made him her brother, soliciting his aid against Bhadur Shah of Gujarat who invaded Chittor. No greater proof can be cited of the deep love and confidence that the Hindus entertained towards their Muslim Kings. The tolerance and benevolence of Humayun had captured the hearts of the Hindus, and not only Hindu men but also, Hindu women admired him.

(To be Continued)

THE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA.

CERTIFICATION NOT UNCONSTITUTIONAL.

The "Times" writes.

The Government of India has been defeated by a narrow majority of two in the Simla Session of the Indian Assembly, but the situation is not alarming. The Government of India can be defeated for the present it cannot be removed. Yet the debate is interesting because it turns on this very question of the irremovability of the Government. Amid the many Bills brought up for discussion in the July Bill Session was one introduced by Dr. Nand Lal, a private member, for the modification of the Viceroy's power of certification under Section 67 A of the Government of India Act. The aim of this bill clearly was to push Indian reforms a stage further in the direction of responsible Government, or complete Home Rule for India. The occasion for it was Lord Reading's recent decision in face of the opposition of the majority of the Assembly, to use his exceptional powers to certify the Budget, including the Salt Tax, by which alone it was possible to cover the deficit and so raise the financial credit of India. The arguments in favour of the increase in the Salt Tax have been set forth and publicly discussed on many occasions. The larger gain in the sense of the restoration of Indian finance and the promotion of Indian prosperity far outweighs the very slight inconvenience that may be occasioned to the Indian Tax payer, in whose private budget the increase in the tax will hardly be felt, in view of the fall in the price of first necessities and the improved average of general prosperity. At most the inconveniences of the salt tax may be of a political character. It has provided a new cry for some Indian politicians who are using it for what it is worth in their agitation among the ignorant masses while others, even if they do not agitate themselves, are intimidated by the possible effects of the agitation of extremists on this particular ground.

The point at issue in Simla was not however, the merits or demerits of the salt tax as a source of revenue. Opinions on this financial measure are divided even among those Indians who support the present system of Government. Some of the Indian members who opposed the motion of Dr. Nand Lal also disapproved of the increase of salt tax. The real question was whether the Viceroy should retain his power to act at discretion in the interests of Indian stability and progress, even if a majority of the Assembly do not happen to agree with the Government point of view. A large number of members of the Assembly seemed to think that his check on their legislative power should be removed and that the policy of the Government should be entirely regulated by the vote of the Assembly. This attitude implies a profound misunderstanding has gained wide currency in many countries besides India, and it is not necessary to regard Indian politicians as being particularly wrong-headed because they too have felt the fascination of a formula. Representative Government, as they rate in the experience of this country, where it has attained its most successful development is a means and not an end. The end is good Government, stability, the satisfaction of the interests of every section of the nation. Constitution Government is not, or, at any rate, ought not to be, a fetish an abstract and immutable theory of perfect Government. It is a practical method of securing the broadest possible basis of Government compatible with stability. The whole object of the reforms in India is to give the Indian peoples an opportunity of securing a gradual training in the art and practice of self Government without endangering the security or the prosperity of the country. The reform is an attempt to give India, with her very different conditions, the benefit of British experience. This experience consists not of ready-made results and a mechanical application of abstract principles, but of a number of instincts slowly developed, of a certain tact and restraint in the judgment of events, and, above all, of a habit of collective action deeply rooted in our history. The fact that the Viceroy possesses the power to use his discretion and to certify a given measure in face of the opposition of the Assembly is in no sense unconstitutional. It is certainly not autocratic. The Viceroy is a representative of the King Emperor. His actions

are subject to the criticism of the British Parliament, which is the greatest repository of constitutional tradition and practice in the world. His chief function is to interpret in India and in the greater interests of India and the Empire, the political experience of Great Britain. On the particular matter of the salt tax his action has been judged to be right and it is constitutionally right. The modification of his powers at this juncture would not promote the interests of divided India one whit.

For the rest, the case was eloquently argued by some of the British members of the Assembly. The introduction of responsible Government in India now would lead, as Mr. Haigh and Sir Malcolm Hailey pointed out, to a dangerous exhibition of Indian dignity to a succession of ephemeral Governments, none of whom would possess the real power to govern, to preserve order, or to guarantee security. India is quiet for the moment, but the murmur of unrest is still audible in the background. The state of the Punjab, the renewed discussions between Hindus and Mahomedans, the uncertain position on the North-West Frontier, the extremist agitation of Mr. C. R. Das and his supporters, and many symptoms besides, are in themselves proof enough that firm British guidance is still greatly needed in India and that it is far too early to talk of any further radical reform. The debate of Simla is not disheartening. It has clearly had an educative value, and it is one function of the Government of India, which, through such members as Sir Malcolm Hailey, it is usefully performing, so to conduct the Assembly as to impress upon Indian politicians the practical and cautious British view of the nature of constitutional government.

"TEST CASE" OF KENYA.

SIR T. B. SAPRU INTERVIEWED.

Interviewed by a representative of Reuters Agency on his arrival in London in mail week, Sir T. Bahadur Sapru stated that public opinion in India with reference to the Kenya question was becoming acute. All sections of the population were agreed in treating the question as a test case, and for once they found the wildest Non-Cooperator and the most modest of Moderates in agreement. Indians felt that the difficulty must be solved by the Imperial Government in conformity with the position of India in the Empire.

Indians demanded that there should be no discrimination on racial grounds in regard to immigration into Kenya. They stood out for absolute equality of that matter as well as on the question of residence and acquisition of property and contended that the equality on these points should apply to the highlands of Kenya as well as to other portions of the colony. Indians, added the speaker, would not object to a limited franchise, but only on condition that it was applied to the European equally with Indians. While he did not think that an unsatisfactory solution would lead to disorder it might very seriously affect the working of the reforms by the elected members and there would certainly be strong demand for retaliation.

THE PRESENT INDIAN CONDITIONS.

Speaking of the present condition of India, Sir Bahadur Sapru said that the last year had shown a very great improvement. One feature of the position was that the Moderate party was becoming more insistent in its demand for a further development of the constitution. The non-Constitutional party was nearly dead, and one effect of its demise was to increase the strength of the constitutional movement. The certification of the salt tax had also served to strengthen constitutional movement.

There was a distinct feeling in India that the Budget of which the salt tax was a part, might and could have been balanced, and that there was no occasion for the application of such extraordinary powers. There was, however, a reaction which held the view that the certification proved that the reforms had failed but he did not share that view. He thought that the certification of the salt tax was a strong argument for further constitutional advance.

He also contested the suggestion that the salt tax had anything to do with the elections. Ever since the day of Gokhale all section of public opinion had agreed that salt was the one commodity which should not be taxed. Thus, whether the elections were in view or not, every section would have opposed the salt tax. In reference to the general position, Sir Bahadur Sapru said that the differences between Hindus and Mahomedans had become very acute as a result of the failure of the non-cooperation movement. There was a tendency in certain parts of the country to open hostility, attributed to some extent to the approach of the elections. But beyond the risk of local disorder, he did not think that the antagonism would have any marked effect on the general life of India.—"The Hindu."

RACIAL EQUALITY.

FRANCE'S EXAMPLE.

MR. SAESTRI AND KENYA.

London, Aug. 2.

By a curious coincidence, upon the heels of the denial of equality of status to Kenya Indians, comes the news of France's intention to see her coloured citizens respected. It appears Americans and other foreigners sojourning in France have been trying to insult oriental and African French citizens because, being full of colour and racial prejudices, they find it distasteful to see coloured men dining and wining and dancing with white girls. French citizens coloured as well as white refused to permit such insults to take place with impunity, but on the contrary made it clear to Americans and others they were in a country which insists upon giving the fullest equality of treatment to coloured and white and will not tolerate any rudeness caused by race prejudice.

Not contented with such action, the French Government is now reported to have issued a warning that it intends to penalize foreigners who, while enjoying French hospitality, permit their passions to override their judgment and insult coloured French citizens.

Here is an example which the British need to take to heart and try to emulate.

Mr. Saestri.

I gather from a personal talk with Mr. Saestri that he feels far more gloomy because of the Kenya decision than the interviews given by him and far from fully reproduced show.

In Mr. Saestri's view the denial of equality of status to Kenya Indians profoundly affects the Indian position in the British Commonwealth, because it destroys at least for the time being the basis on which Indians found their Empire relationship.

Mr. Saestri's gloom is having a most prejudicial effect upon his health which already is seriously impaired through heart trouble which fortunately still is of a functional and not organic nature. His haggard looks and, still more his pessimism have greatly shocked me. The country should show him at this juncture the consideration to which he is fully entitled.

Mr. Saestri told me he was reaching Marseilles in time to catch the mail boat leaving on the 10th instant.

I learn that Kenya Indians are sending here angry protests. —Ibid.

Order Nisi.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 5166.

In the Matter of the Estate of the late Tangamuttu wife of Murugesu Ponnampalam of Copay South

Murugesu Ponnampalam of Copay South Deceased. Petitioner.

Vs.

1. Ponnampalam Periyatambay of Copay South and
2. Swaminathan Kandiah presently of Tegombo The 1st Respondent is a minor by his Guardian *ad litem* the 2nd Respondent

This matter of the Petition of Murugesu Ponnampalam of Copay South praying for Letters of Administration to the estate of the abovenamed deceased Tangamuttu wife of Murugesu Ponnampalam of Copay South coming on for disposal before W. D. Niles Esq., District Judge, on July 27, 1923, in the presence of Messrs. Sivaprasadam and Katreau Practors, on the part of the Petitioner and the affidavit of the Petitioner dated June 4, 1923, 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 August 14, 1923, show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

G. W. Woodhouse, District Judge.

August 1, 1923. O. 536.

Order Nisi.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 5039.

In the Matter of the Estate of the late Thangamma wife of Narayana Pillai Apputhurai of Vannarponne East in Jaffna late of Raub in Pahang in Federated Malay States

Sinnappa Reju of Vannarponne East in Jaffna Deceased. Petitioner.

Vs.

1. Sinnappa Selvadurai of Vannarponne East
2. Arumugam Subramaniampillai and wife
3. Sivakolambamma of do and
4. Sinnappa Arunasalam of do presently of Kuala Lumpur in F. M. S.

This matter of the Petition of the abovenamed Petitioner praying for Letters of Administration to the estate of the abovenamed deceased Thangamma wife of Narayana Pillai Apputhurai of Vannarponne East coming on for disposal before G. W. Woodhouse Esquire, District Judge, on February 1, 1923, in the presence of Mr. K. Sivaprasadam, Proctor, on the part of the Petitioner and the affidavit of the Petitioner dated October 30, 1922, having been read, it is declared that the Petitioner is an heir of the said intestate and is entitled to have Letters of Administration to the estate of the said intestate issued to him unless the Respondents or any other person shall, on or before August 21, 1923, show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

G. W. Woodhouse, District Judge.

August 6, 1923. O. 533.

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Order Nisi.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 5192.

In the Matter of the Estate of the late Vethanayagam widow of Viuvanathar Vishvor of Vaddukoddai East

Nagamuttu Markandu of Vaddukoddai East Deceased. Petitioner.

Vs.

Sinnatambay Kandapoo of do. Respondent.

This matter of the Petition of the abovenamed Petitioner praying for Letters of Administration to the estate of the abovenamed deceased, Vethanayagam widow of Viuvanathar Vishvor coming on for disposal before W. D. Niles Esq., District Judge, on July 20, 1923, in the presence of Mr. S. Sittampalam, Proctor, on the part of the Petitioner and the affidavit of the Petitioner dated July 19, 1923, having been read, it is declared that the Petitioner is the sole heir of the said intestate and is entitled to have Letters of Administration to the estate of the said intestate issued to him unless the Respondent or any other person shall, on or before August 16, 1923, show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

G. W. Woodhouse, District Judge.

July 30, 1923. O. 532.

Order Nisi.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 5176.

In the Matter of the Estate of Ponnampalam Palanivelu of Araly North late of Colombo

Annammah widow of Ponnampalam Palanivelu of Araly North Deceased. Petitioner.

Vs.

1. Palanivelu Navaratnam
2. Palanivelu Kandararatnam and
3. Palanivelu Arunasalam all of Araly North and
4. Arumugam Manikkam of Tellipalai East

Respondents.

This matter of the Petition of the abovenamed Petitioner, praying that the abovenamed 4th Respondent be appointed guardian *ad litem* over the minors the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Respondents and Letters of Administration to the estate of the said intestate be issued to the Petitioner coming on for disposal before W. D. Niles Esquire, acting District Judge, Jaffna on July 19, 1923, in the presence of Mr. A. Mudir. Veluppillai, Proctor, on the part of the Petitioner dated May 8, 1923, having been read: It is ordered that the abovenamed 4th Respondent be appointed guardian *ad litem* over the said minors the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Respondents for the purpose of representing them in this case and that the Petitioner be declared entitled to have Letters of Administration to the estate of the abovenamed deceased issued to her as her lawful widow unless the abovenamed Respondents appear before this Court on August 16, 1923, and show cause to the contrary.

W. D. Niles, District Judge.

July 28, 1923. O. 531.

Order Nisi.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 5189.

In the Matter of the Estate of the late Kanagammah widow of Ilaiyatambay Gunaratnam of Kockavil

Murugesar Ilaiyatambay of Kockavil Deceased. Petitioner.

Vs.

Thangammah wife of Murugesar Ilaiyatambay of Kockavil

Respondents.

This matter of the Petition of Murugesar Ilaiyatambay of Kockavil, praying for Letters of Administration to the estate of the abovenamed deceased Kanagammah widow of Ilaiyatambay Gunaratnam of Kockavil, coming on for disposal before J. Homer Vanniasingam Esquire, District Judge, on July 18, 1923, in the presence of Mr. P. K. Somasundram, Proctor, on the part of the Petitioner and the affidavit of the Petitioner dated July 16, 1923, 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 August 14, 1923, show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

W. D. Niles, District Judge.

July 26, 1923. O. 530.

Order Nisi.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 5040.

In the Matter of the estate of the late Sultan Mubiaadeen Meera Mubiaadeen of Vannarponne West

Sultan Mubiaadeen Muhammad Yusuf of Vannarponne West Deceased. Petitioner.

Vs.

1. Unaisa Neyna Lobba Sultan Mubiaadeen
2. Muhammad Pathomma Nachchia widow of Sultan Mubiaadeen Meera Mubiaadeen and
3. Ummukulthoom daughter of Sultan Mubiaadeen Meera Mubiaadeen all of Vannarponne West

Respondents.

This matter of the Petition of the abovenamed Petitioner praying for Letters of Administration to the estate of the abovenamed deceased Sultan Mubiaadeen Meera Mubiaadeen of Vannarponne West, coming on for disposal before W. D. Niles Esquire, District Judge, on July 26, 1923, in the presence of Mr. K. Sivaprasadam, Proctor, on the part of the Petitioner and the affidavit of the Petitioner dated January 24, 1923, having been read, it is declared that the Petitioner is entitled as his brother of the said intestate and is entitled to have Letters of Administration to the estate of the said intestate issued to him unless the Respondents or any other person shall, on or before August 14, 1923, show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

G. W. Woodhouse, District Judge.

August 6, 1923. O. 534.

Order Nisi.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 5162.

In the Matter of the Estate of the late Nagaretam wife of Karthigesu Mutiah of Kokuvil West

Karthigesu Mutiah of Kokuvil West Deceased. Petitioner.

Vs.

1. Sivakamy daughter of Mutiah of Kokuvil West
2. Nageswary daughter of Mutiah of do and
3. Senathi Raja Kulaveerasingam of do.

Respondents.

This matter of the Petition of the abovenamed Petitioner praying for Letters of Administration to the estate of the abovenamed deceased Nagaretam wife of Karthigesu Mutiah of Kokuvil West coming on for disposal before W. D. Niles Esquire, District Judge, on August 1, 1923, in the presence of Mr. K. Sivaprasadam, Proctor, on the part of the Petitioner and the affidavit of the Petitioner dated June 4, 1923, 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 August 16, 1923, show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

G. W. Woodhouse, District Judge.

August 6, 1923. O. 535.

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