

The Hindu Organ.

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THE HINDU ORGAN.

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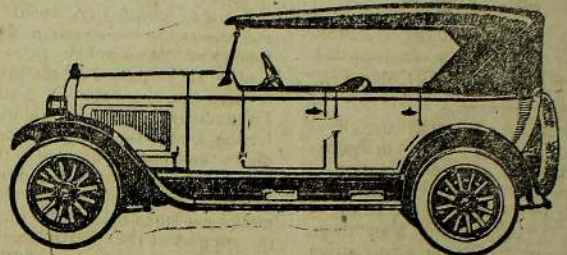
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The Hindu Organ.

JAFFNA, THURSDAY, JANUARY 27, 1927 THE JAFFNA CAUSEWAYS.

IF THERE IS AN AGITATION WHICH IS artificially engineered and maintained by systematic misrepresentation of public opinion it is the agitation that is being carried on by a section of the people of Jaffna Town, Allaiappidy, and Mandaitivu to win public support for the construction of the Pannal Causeway. The public meeting held at Chundikuli on the 17th instant is another effort of the protagonists of the Pannal Causeway to bolster up a case for its construction. From the reports published in the Colombo papers and from the information we were able to obtain from some gentlemen who were present at the meeting it appears that many of the signatories to the notice were neither present at the meeting nor did they send any excuse for their inability to do so. The principal speakers were some of the active members of the Executive Committee of the Christian League and a few others. The original signatories to the notice from Pangudutiva have positively declined to attend the meeting. At the eleventh hour a few individuals of the Pariah community were got to represent that island. Many of the signatories from Velanai who have been inveigled to give their signatures for convening the meeting have not only repudiated their support but also were present at the public meeting held at Velanai on the very same day to support the Araly Causeway. Thus the opinion of this meeting which had been given much prominence in the Colombo papers and the 'Jaffna Catholic Guardian' is after all the opinion of the people of Allaiappidy and Mandaitivu and certain parts of Jaffna Town.

In our issue of the 3rd inst. we had examined the relative merits of Pannal and Araly Causeways. The facts and figures which we then set forth in favour of the Araly Causeway remain unchallenged. Some of the speakers at the Chundikuli meeting knew little of the people of the islands or their wants. The solicitude which some of them professed for the welfare of the people of the islands has now been repudiated by the people themselves. Proceedings of public meetings held in the various islands and published elsewhere will demonstrate to the promoters of the meeting held at Chundikuli how wrongly they have gauged the public opinion in the islands in respect of the Jaffna causeways. The speakers of the meeting would have done better if instead of digging up antiquated reports and denouncing the supporters of the Araly Causeway they had adduced facts and figures in support of their case. The only argument which was brought forward by the joint efforts of the many speakers at the meeting was that the Pannal Causeway would relieve the Jaffna Town of its congested population at Karaiyoor. These speakers have forgotten that the unoccupied waste lands of Allaiappidy and Mandaitivu West are always under water in wet weather. Further in these parts there is such scarcity of water in dry weather that it will never be possible for people to live. Allaiappidy and West Mandaitivu are the most sparsely populated villages in the islands. This is due to the fact that large portions of these villages are unfit for human habitation. Extensive tracts of lands are available for habitation along the coast of Columbu-thural. The good people of Karaiyoor

never thought of migrating there notwithstanding its proximity to Karaiyoor. The construction of the Pannal Causeway will never help to relieve the congestion at Karaiyoor. But perhaps it may give to the rich few easy access to health bungalows at Mandaitivu.

The purpose of constructing a causeway between the mainland and Leyden is to give better facilities of communication to the people of the islands with the various parts of Jaffna. It is the people of the islands who are affected most by the situation of the causeways. It is their opinion that should count most in this matter. The Araly Causeway is situated in the centre of the Peninsula as well as the island of Leyden and therefore it is the Araly Causeway that gives easy and most convenient access to all parts of Jaffna. The greatest good of the greatest number should be the guiding principle in weighing the utility of a public work. Araly Causeway is the only causeway that will serve the need of the greatest number of people. In our issue of the 3rd inst we thus voiced the public opinion in the islands: "The inhabitants of Velanai, Saravanai, Naranthanai and Karampam numbering about 12,000 people desire the construction of the Araly Causeway. At a public meeting held recently they passed a resolution in its favour. The people of Nainativu and Pangudutiva numbering about 8,000 prefer the Araly Causeway. The only people in the islands who oppose its construction are those in the Allaiappidy Udaiyar's Division numbering about 3,000." The public meetings held in the various islands in support of the Araly Causeway have endorsed the correctness of the view we had then expressed. We hope that now our contemporary the "Catholic Guardian" and its satellite the "Morning Star" will realise the practical unanimity of the support which the people of the islands have accorded to the Araly Causeway. The Government is now asked to defy public opinion and to appoint a Commission which will virtually amount to the shelving of the causeway question. The people of the islands have waited for long. They have expressed that a certain causeway is the most convenient for them. We hope the Government will not heed to the noisy agitation of a few people but will soon undertake the construction of the Araly Causeway. Mr. T. H. Crossette stated at the public meeting held at Chundikuli that the causeway over Araly was useless and would serve nobody at all. Perhaps the Araly Causeway may not serve Mr. Crossette and his friends of the Christian League. But it will certainly serve the people of the islands and they have expressed so.

The "Catholic Guardian" trots out an argument that the late Mr. A. Sapapathy, a former Editor of this paper advocated during his life time the construction of the Pannal Causeway. At that time the question of its construction was only a matter of academic discussion. The relative merits of Pannal and Araly were not then gone into. The engineering difficulties of either causeways were not examined. The comparative costs of their construction were not ascertained. Public opinion was not consulted. Knowing as we do Mr. Sapapathy, we are sure that had he lived he would advocate the construction of the Araly Causeway.

LOCAL & GENERAL

WEATHER AND CULTIVATION.—There was a down pour on Tuesday morning. This shower is said to be detrimental both for the farmers and the gardeners. The harvesting season is fast approaching. The ears of corn are beginning to get ripened. In low lying paddy fields there is found water yet. If more rain falls then the crops will be submerged and the harvest will be spoilt. In several parts of Jaffna tobacco cultivation is just being begun for the season and owing to this shower the young plants are said to be budding.

NORTHERN CIRCUIT JAFFNA ASSIZES.—Northern circuit, first criminal sessions of the Supreme Court for the year 1927 will be held in the Jaffna District Court House beginning on Monday, February 14.

JAFFNA POLICE.—We understand that Capt. S. O. Notley, Assistant Superintendent of Police (N.P.) Jaffna is to go to Nuwara Eliya and Mr. G. K. Pippett, who is now on leave, is to succeed the former at Jaffna. The change will most probably take effect in March.

ALL CEYLON MOTOR SHOW.—The All-Ceylon Motor and Engineering Show was opened formally in Colombo on Monday last by His Excellency Sir Hugh Clifford. The show will continue for about two weeks. This is said to be the first show in Ceylon and as a matter of fact in the East.

Continued up.

Velanai-Araly Causeway.

PUBLIC MEETING AT VELANAI.

A public meeting of the inhabitants of Velanai and Saravanai, was held on the 17th instant at 6 p.m. in the Sivaiprasanna Vidyasalai at Velanai. More than a hundred leading and respectable inhabitants of these places were present. Mr. S. Saragapillai, Landed Proprietor, was voted to the chair. Mr. M. Lingapillai was elected Secretary. The Chairman in explaining the object of the meeting said that several meetings were previously held in support of the Araly Causeway and the present one was also convened with the same object. He further said that a meeting was being held that day at St. John's College, Jaffna, in support of the Pannal Causeway, pursuant to a notice issued by some gentlemen. Here the Chairman read out the said notice. The question of the causeway was of immediate concern to the inhabitants of the islands. It was not so important a question for the town residents. It was very much to be doubted if most of the conveners of that meeting from Puttur, Achachaveli, Jaffna, Karainagar etc. ever set foot on the islands. If they had ever visited these islands they would not have created so much difference over the question of the Araly Causeway which alone was the best possible under the circumstances, since it occupied a central position in relation to the islands and the mainland. Whereas the other conveners from Pangudutiva, Velanai, Karampam, Kayis and Naranthanai did sign the notices on the persuasion of some who made them believe that Government had refused to sanction the Araly Causeway, and that they would become great losers if they were not going to ask for the Pannal Causeway. It was on this authority of this distorted version that most of the signatories consented to sign the said notice. The Chairman then proceeded to give reasons for urging on the Government the necessity of the Araly Causeway and exhorted the people to work for its fulfilment.

Mr. Maruthiyayar, Teacher, who spoke next said that a causeway was of great importance for the many sided wellars of the people of the islands in that it helped them to have easy communication with people living in the mainland. They must all therefore agitate for a causeway that would be of use to the majority of the inhabitants.

Mr. S. Marugesapillai, Astrologer, said that Araly Causeway would occupy a central position in the island of Leyden. Leyden and these other parts to the south of it in the Peninsula could be greatly benefited by the Araly Causeway, and that it was therefore very necessary that that Causeway was constructed.

SIGNATURES OBTAINED UNDER FALSE PRETENCE.

Mr. N. Vytillingam, Landed Proprietor, one of the signatories to the notice convening the meeting at St. John's College, said that they were all tip toe in their expectation of seeing the construction of the Araly Causeway. The signature to the said notice had been obtained from him and from some others by falsely representing to them that the Araly Causeway would never be constructed and that, therefore, they should at least ask the Government to construct the Pannal Causeway if there were in need of one. But according to the decision of the Government, the Araly Causeway should without loss of time be constructed, and that was the one which they needed most.

Mr. S. Kangasapathipillai endorsing all what the previous speakers had said, strongly urged that the holding of that meeting at St. John's College was not of much importance. It was in the fitness of things that the centre of that meeting ought to have been held in a central place in Leyden where a representative gathering could have been summoned to decide things according to the wishes of the people. But the action of those who deliberately gave that meeting a semblance of being representative of the various islands deserved the merestest censure and condemnation of the inhabitants of Velanai, Pangudutiva, Naranthanai, Karampam, Kayis and Karainagar. Since only a handful of people from the islands were present at that meeting, they could only represent their individual views and not of the majority of the people who were not present at the meeting. The representative nature of that meeting should be contradicted. The speaker, concluded by calling upon the people to try their best to get the Araly Causeway constructed as early as possible.

CHUNDIKULI MEETING NOT REPRESENTATIVE.

Mr. N. Sapapathipillai then moved that the meeting held at St. John's College did not represent the interests of the people of the islands, but was contrary to their expressed opinions. Mr. K. Nagalingam seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

Mr. S. Vytillingam moved that as the sanctioned Araly Causeway was useful to more than 85 per cent. of the inhabitants of Leyden, not to speak of the people of Pangudutiva and Nainativu, the Government be humbly asked to have the work finished as early as possible.

It was seconded by Mr. M. Ayampillai and was unanimously carried. —Cor.

Continued.

NARANTHANAI ARUMUGA VIDYASALAI.—The Director of Education notifies that the Naranthanai Arumuga Vidyasalai Vidyalaya Mixed School, which is under the management of the Hon. Sir P. Ramathanan has been registered as a grant in aid school with effect from November 1, 1925.

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE JAFFNA ASSOCIATION.—A Special General Meeting of the Jaffna Association which was to be held at 5 p.m. on Wednesday the 26th January at the Jaffna United Club Pavilion Jaffna to consider the following questions had to be postponed owing to the short notice convening the meeting (1) Commuted allowances to Members of the Legislative Council; (2) Salaries and Passage allowances to public servants; (3) Judicial appointments from the Bar; (4) The claims of Proctors for judicial appointments; (5) The desirability of appointing Proctors as Secretaries of important District Courts and Registrars of the Supreme Court; (6) Allocation of building grants to denominational schools; (7) Consideration of reports by sub-committees.

Continued up.

The Jaffna Hindu College.

The 21st Annual General Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Jaffna Hindu College was held on Sunday the 23rd January 1927 at the College Hall with Hon. Sir A. Kangasabai in the chair.

The following members were present: Mr. V. Casipillai, Hon. Mr. W. Duraiswamy, Hon. Mr. S. Rajaratnam, Gate Mudaliar M. S. Ramalingam, Gate Mudaliar A. N. Ganadhar, Messrs S. Kandyah, S. Ebambaram, S. Kangasabai, V. S. S. Kamaraswamy, R. Sivagurusathar, E. Kadiravelu, K. S. Veeravagu, M. Somasundaram, P. K. Somasundaram and R. E. Nalliah, Mudaliar C. Rasanayagam, Messrs S. T. M. P. Othibambaranatha Chettiar and A. Ambalavanan, the Secretary.

After the vote of condolence on the deaths of Mudaliar M. Mutukumaraswamy, Messrs V. Chinnoothambay and M. Subramaniam, J. P. were passed—all the members standing, the minutes of the previous meetings were read and confirmed. The members then ratified the minutes of the committee meetings.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

The Hindu College and the Branch schools made steady progress during the year. The English school at Chavakacheri was brought entirely under the management of the Board. Mr. V. Thotharampillai who was managing it successfully in spite of various difficulties deserves the thanks of the Board for handing it over to the Board, so that it may be made more efficient. The Committee took under its control the management of the English School at Vaddukkoddai, as such a step was found necessary in the interest of this Hindu School. The Hindu English School at Urumpiray was provided with a fine building at a cost of about Rs 5,000/- as the existing buildings were found insufficient to meet the growing needs of the school.

The present dormitory attached to the Hindu College was found insufficient to accommodate all the Hindu boys seeking admission as boarders. So steps were taken to collect funds to build a new dormitory with accommodation for about 200 boys. Mr. N. Selvadurai, the Principal, (now retired) and Mr. V. M. Veyayaguru were deputed to go to the F. M. S. and Singapore to collect funds. Owing to various causes they were able to collect only Rs 5,000/-. There will be no chance of completing the dormitory which is in the course of construction, without the help of the generous public. The Government was kind enough to give Rs 5,000/- and Rs 2,000/- as building grants to the Hindu College and the Urumpiray Hindu School respectively.

FINANCES.

The financial condition of the Board during the year is not very satisfactory. The funds at the disposal of the Board amounted to Rs. 47,592.70, while Rs. 2,145.79 were the debts payable by the various branch schools. The Reserve Fund and the Scholarship Fund under deposit were Rs. 25,279.37 and Rs. 8,725.00 respectively. The debts receivable from various sources come to Rs. 80,464.28 while the debts accountible (having been spent in the management of the Hindu College and the Branch Schools) came to Rs. 19,315.21. A sum of Rs. 8,612 was deposited in the ARAR SM firm with whom various sums at different times were deposited. On account of the failure and the consequent insolvency of the firm, the Board is likely to lose a good part of the deposit but it is not possible now to estimate the loss with any amount of accuracy.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

The following gentlemen were elected to fill up the vacancies in the Board. Hon. Mr. T. Sabaratnam, M. L. C., Messrs V. Ramalingam, Proctor, M. S. R. Jaratnam Advocate, V. Ponnambalam, Pensioner and R. Subramaniam, Second Mudaliar, Jaffna Kachechri.

OFFICE BEARERS.

Hon. Sir A. Kangasabai and Messrs V. Casipillai and A. Ambalavanar were re-elected President, Vice-President and Secretary respectively.

Mr. S. Ehamparam was elected as Treasurer and Mr. V. Ponnambalam as Assistant Secretary.

Hon. Mr. W. Duraiswamy continues to be the Manager. Mr. S. Thilainathan was appointed Auditor. Hon. Mr. S. Rajaratnam, Gate Mudaliar M. S. Ramalingam and Mr. S. Kandyah were re-elected as members of the Standing Committee in addition to the Office Bearers.

The action of the Committee in taking the full financial responsibility of the Hindu English School at Chavakacheri was approved by the Board. The meeting came to a close at about 6 p.m. with a vote of thanks to the chair.

Continued.

HINDU ENGLISH SCHOOL FOR PACHILAIPALL.—A well attended public meeting of the inhabitants of Pachilaipall was held at the Village Committee Hall, Palai, on Saturday the 22nd instant to consider what steps should be taken to establish an English School for the Division of Pachilaipall. The Hon. Sir A. Kangasabai presided. Some of the leading residents of the place who spoke on the occasion said that there was a great demand for English education in that Division and expressed their willingness to raise a fund for that purpose. A committee consisting of representatives from the different villages of Pachilaipall was appointed to take the necessary steps to make the movement a success.

