

# The Hindu Organ.

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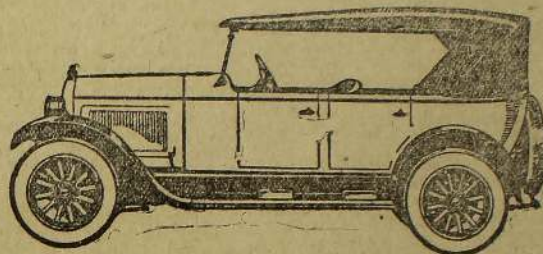
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## PROHIBITION IN JAFFNA.

IT IS JOHN STUART MILL WHO ONCE stated that the English working classes were addicted to lying but he gave them the credit that they always felt its baseness. It is only a small section of the people of Jaffna that is addicted to drink, but nobody feels more keenly the demoralisation brought about by drink than these unfortunate people. The triumph of local option in Jaffna is mainly due to the fact that total abstinents, temperance men and even drunkards are all agreed that drink is an evil and that every kind of facility for drink should be abolished. By the motion which the Hon. Mr. T. M. Saba Ratnam introduced in the Legislative Council for discussion on Thursday the 17th instant, Government is requested to declare the Jaffna Peninsula and the adjoining islands "dry" in terms of section 16, sub-section 3 of Ordinance No 8 of 1912. Mr. Saba Ratnam does not desire fresh legislation for the establishment of prohibition in Jaffna, but he is merely requesting the Government to apply the existing law to the Peninsula and the adjoining islands in as much as the declared opinion of the majority of the people is being flouted by the illicit dealers in arrack and foreign liquor. It is inexplicable why some Government Officials should fight shy of this modest request of Mr. Saba Ratnam and conjure up imaginary difficulties that will attend the application of the above sub-section to Jaffna.

The total prohibition is not a new question in Ceylon. It has been authoritatively declared by Government that prohibition was the goal of its Excise policy. The question of prohibition for the whole Island was discussed in the Legislative Council by a motion introduced by the Hon. Mr. Duraiswamy in November, 1921. In that debate the Government took a very reasonable attitude. The Hon. Mr. B. Horsburgh, the then Controller of Revenue said, "that Government itself cannot bring pressure to bear on the people so as to influence their will." "They," went on Mr. Horsburgh, "must be left to decide for themselves. I think I may safely say that no person or body of persons in Ceylon would be more pleased than the Ceylon Government if the country generally were to abstain from the consumption of intoxicating liquor. The advantages that would result from such a state of things are obvious." (Hansard, Ceylon 1921, page 620.) At the conclusion of the debate Governor Manning, in the course of his remarks stated that the line the Government would take would be that "we should be governed by the will of the people and that we shall be so governed." He further asked the Official Members not to vote because as he remarked the feeling of the Government is that "we should be guided by the will of the people in all matters in connection with this trade". (Ibid page 624).

We doubt that the present Government will go behind the declaration of Sir William Manning. In Jaffna the will of the people has been clearly, distinctly and unmistakably expressed in the many local option pollings held in the various parts of Jaffna. First the toddy taverns were abolished, then went the arrack and foreign liquor taverns and finally the drink licences for hotels and Rest-houses had been withdrawn. Under the existing law possession of two bottles of arrack and any quantity of foreign liquor is not unlawful. Weakness of the present law is taken advantage of by all illicit dealers in liquor traffic. Unless the aforesaid sub-section which prohibits the supply to, or possession by, any person or class of persons, either throughout the whole Island or any local area, of any exposable article, either absolutely or as the Governor in Executive Council may prescribe, is made applicable to Jaffna, the ten years' labours of the temperance workers would be in vain.

The abolition of taverns has been followed by diminution of crime throughout Jaffna. We are certain and the criminal statistics will support us that throughout 1926 there was a very large and appreciable decrease in the institution of criminal cases in the Police Courts of the Jaffna District and no one will deny that this state of affairs was largely due to the closure of taverns. Our Government is not a revenue collecting Government, but it is vitally interested in the maintenance of law and order in the country. Nothing

can better promote the happiness of the people and help in the maintenance of law and order than the establishment of prohibition in Jaffna.

No difficulty should stand in the way of bringing about this consummation. No doubt the law of prohibition may be evaded by the illicit dealers and smugglers and that is no ground why the Government should hesitate to accept the motion of Mr. Saba Ratnam. The use and possession of opium and ganja have been prohibited by law, but still illicit traffic in opium and ganja has not ceased. For that reason nobody will suggest that the opium laws should be repealed. If prohibition is attended by illicit traffic it is the duty of Government to take all measures to prevent it.

The discussion on the motion of Mr. Saba Ratnam has now been adjourned. We hope that the Government will accept his motion without calling for a division.

## EDITORIAL NOTE.

Our contemporary the "Ceylon Patriot" in the course of an editorial note of the 16th inst. on "Christian Sir A. KANAGA versus Saivite Danom SABAI'S SPEECH national School" makes AT SANMARKA the following reference to the speech of the Hon. Sir A. Kanagasabai at the Sanmarka Bodhini Vidyalalai about which some controversy had been raised in the press:—"The addresses delivered in the meeting in question were in Tamil, and could not have been verbally reported and hence there is possibility for a difference in view as to the precise Tamil expressions used and their English equivalents. Sir Ambalavanar's main contention was that the present Saivite revival should be utilised to form Saivite schools and to strengthen Saivite institutions. The published report of Sir Ambalavanar's speech is correct in the main." The present writer too was present at the meeting and was one of the speakers. In our opinion the report is substantially correct.

## LOCAL & GENERAL

**HOSPITAL SURGEON FOR JAFFNA:**—It will be welcome news to the Jaffna public that the long felt want of a fully qualified Surgeon will be served by the appointment of a Surgeon to the Jaffna Hospital on the 1st proximo. Dr. I. T. Kueratnam, who will take up this new appointment, is an F.R.C.S. (Edin) and also holds the Certificate in Tropical Medicine & Health. He has specialised in Obstetric Surgery and Advanced Midwifery and returned only a couple of months ago from Europe after visiting the hospitals in England, France, Germany, Austria, Italy and other places studying the latest methods of treatment in those countries. This new appointment will, no doubt, be a distinct advantage to the Jaffna people.

**MEDICAL:**—Dr. J. Masilamony, D.M.O., Pussellawa, is leaving for England shortly on leave.

—Dr. Saagarapillai, Honorary Medical Officer of the Paragi Campaign in the Southern Province, will take up duties at Katakudi as D.M.O.

**COMPLAINTS AGAINST KAYTS' FERRY SERVICE:**—It is said that complaints against the Kayts' ferry service have grown considerably. There is now only one horse boat capable of accommodating fifteen persons, whereas the ferry was mainly intended to transport vehicles. What often happens is that the horse boat is allowed to carry about forty people. Passengers have frequently to wait for hours. It is proposed to hold a meeting to represent the state of affairs to the Government Agent.

**ILLICIT BRANDY IN JAFFNA HOTEL:**—Excise Inspector Murekasu, of the Flying Corps, charged before the Police Magistrate of Jaffna, Anasolu, the proprietor of the Rannu Hotel, with illicit sale of foreign liquor yesterday. It would appear that Mr. Murekasu, in the company of Excise Inspectors Thuraiyannam, Rasiah, Sethukavalar and Alagakkon, raided the hotel and detected the illicit sale of brandy. The Excise party seized two cases of brandy. The accused, pleaded guilty and was fined Rs. 100.

**GOVERNMENT CLERICAL SERVICE MEMORANDUM:**—A Memorandum regarding salaries, allowances, conditions and prospects of the General Clerical Service of Ceylon as adopted at the special general meeting of the Government Clerical Service Union held on January 15, has been submitted to the Colonial Secretary to be placed before the Select Committee of the Legislative Council in connection with the revision of salaries of public officers.

**THE INTRODUCTION OF Rs 500 NOTES:**—At last Thursday, meeting of the Legislative Council, the Hon. Mr. H. M. Macan Markar gave notice of the following question:—What steps have been taken for the introduction of Rs. 500 notes for circulation.

Continued up.

## REVIEW.

**THIRUKURAL (CHAPTERS 31-40):**—Thirukural (Part IV) is the Tamil Text prescribed for the Cambridge Senior Certificate Examination, 1927. This portion comprises the ten chapters on morality and politics, viz: Non-irascibility, Non-offending, Non-killing, Mutability, Renunciation, True Knowledge, The Quenching of Desire, Fate, The Greatness of the King and Learning. We are in receipt of a copy of this text book edited with introduction and explanatory notes from the Author Mr. V. T. Sambandham, Tamil Pandit, Jaffna Hindu College and Editor, "Inthanthanam". The English Translation of the Tamil verses by Mr. V. Radigama-Nathan, B.A., (London), Lecturer, Jaffna Hindu College, will go a great way to help the students in the mastery of the text. The book is published by Mr. S. Sabaratnam, Clerk, Land Registry, Jaffna at the Jaffna Saiva Prakasa Press and is priced at Rs. 50.

## Ceylon Economic Society.

### FIRST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

A Ceylon Economic Society has been formed with the object of studying economic problems, particularly those relating to Ceylon. It is proposed to hold regular meetings at which papers on economic subjects will be read and discussed, and also to publish a Journal of the Society from time to time.

It is proposed to hold a first Annual General Meeting on Wednesday March 16th, when the office bearers and the Council for the year will be elected and the President will give an inaugural address. In the meantime an ad interim Council has been elected and a temporary President, the Hon. Sir H. M. Fernando, Kt., M.P., and Honorary Secretary, Mr. P. J. Thomas M.A., B.Litt., appointed pending the Annual General Meeting. Membership of the Society is open to persons interested in Economic problems and is by election by the Council.

Students of the University College and of other Institutions of University status may be admitted as Associate Members subject to election by the Council. The subscriptions or membership and associate membership are Rs. 10/- and Rs. 5/- respectively. Members may compound for their annual subscription by a life subscription of Rs. 100/-.

Members have the privilege of introducing visitors to meetings of the Society either personally or by a card handed to the Secretary containing the names of the visitor and the introducing member.

Persons desirous of becoming members of the Society should apply to the Honorary Secretary, Mr. P. J. Thomas, University College, Colombo. It is desirable that applications for membership should be sent to the Honorary Secretary not later than March 8th so that they may be submitted to the Council and members may be elected before the Annual General Meeting.

### Continued.

**COLONIAL SECRETARY BACK IN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL:**—At last Thursday's meeting of the Legislative Council, The Hon. the Colonial Secretary resumed his seat after 6 months' furlough. The Hon. Mr. E. R. Tambimuttu hoped he had returned with renewed strength and vigour, and would have a further happy time in their midst. If he said they had sadly missed him, he did not intend to flatter, nor did he mean to suggest that his *locum tenens* was in any way lacking. In reply, the Colonial Secretary expressed keen appreciation of the welcome recorded him. It was a real pleasure to him to take up his work again.

**REVISION OF THE CHRISTIAN PRAYER BOOK:**—It is learnt that some members of the Church of England in Ceylon are making arrangements to submit a petition to the House of Commons, protesting against the proposed revision of the Book of Common Prayer as it is believed that a petition on the same lines is being prepared in England. It is likely that the petition from Ceylon will be submitted together with the one which is being prepared in England.

**MANUFACTURE OF SUGAR IN JAFFNA:**—A jaggery making plant is said to have been erected at the Jaffna experiment station, and full details of the method of manufacture and the crops obtained on that station will be published in the February issue of the "Tropical Agriculturist." Considerable interest has been shown in Jaffna in the manufacture of sugar from the sugar cane plot on the experiment station at Jaffna, and inquiries have already been made from three quarters for the erection of plant for the manufacture of jaggery from palm-ya juice. It is hoped that one at least of these will be erected before the tapping season begins.

**COTTON CULTIVATION IN HAMBANTOTA:**—The latest reports from Hambantota indicate that the prospects for cotton in the Hambantota district this year are decidedly promising. The rains during the month of January have changed the position considerably, and it is expected that in some areas very good crops will be harvested. These should materially assist in helping the villagers to tide over a season which has been not at all favourable for their chena food crops.

## Jaffna U.D.C.'s Financial State

### STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR 1926.

#### SURPLUS ON THE INCREASE.

The following is a summary of the statement of accounts of the Jaffna Urban District Council for the year 1926, published last Friday's Government "Gazette". From the statement it will be noticed that the surplus balance of 1925 has increased by Rs. 20,522.06 thus making a total of Rs. 26,540.83 for the year 1927. Deducting the total net expenditure from the total net revenue for the year which amounts to Rs. 110,813.24, there remains a balance of Rs. 4,998.24.

In the Deposits Account for the year after paying Refunds for contractors amounting to Rs. 5,512.02 a balance of Rs. 15,784.26 has been left with the Council.

An amount of Rs. 42,733.70 has been left with the Council being balance for the year ending the Advance Account including last year's balance of Rs. 39,789.40, after advancing Rs. 8,610.00 on public works, expenses in a case, and for the purchase of a cycle to the conservancy fers collector. A refund of advances was received amounting to Rs. 681.70 on account of public works and court expenses.

The Financial Balance Sheet shows on the Liability side, besides the above three amounts comprising of the Deposits, Advance and Surplus balances an amount of Rs. 2,162.99 as outstanding payment orders. On the Assets side besides the outstanding advances of Rs. 42,733.70 it will be noticed that each of the Kischorai amounted to Rs. 87,468.68, Fixed deposits in the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank Rs. 15,000 and Ceylon Savings Bank Rs. 2,000.

## Jaffna Ratepayers' Association.

### HEALTH UNIT AND LATRINE SYSTEM.

The committee meeting of the above association was held in the premises of St. John's Church, Chundikill on Wednesday the 16th inst. at 5 p.m. Mr. K. M. Chellappah, Vice President occupied the chair. Minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed Mr. A. P. Thambyah, Secretary read and explained the letters received from the Government Agent N. P., regarding the Health Unit and from the Chairman U.D.C. relating to the dry earth latrines. The G.A. was of opinion that the question of a Health Unit for Jaffna should be decided by the people themselves for whose benefit it was intended. He wished that there should be frank and free discussion unfettered by his presence or other outside influences. The Chairman U.D.C. assured them that oppressive measures would not be adopted to introduce the dry earth system and asked for the Association's cooperation.

### INCREASED RATES IN LIEU OF CONSERVANCY FEES.

The following resolutions were passed:—

(1) Mr. S. Alphonse proposed and Mr. P. Saverimuttu seconded that the Council be asked to adopt the motion proposed by Mr. T. H. Grosset and seconded by Mr. R. R. Nalliah recently in a Council namely to increase the assessment rates and to charge absolutely no fees directly for conservancy as done by the Colombo Municipality. It was pointed out that if a sanitary measure involving expense is pressed on the poor they will prefer to be without it. Therefore it is not the way to prevent soil pollution or to control an infectious disease.

(2) Mr. A. P. Thambyah proposed and Mr. A. Elayappah seconded that the Chairman U.D.C. be asked to disclose the name of the person who is said to have caused agitation against his policy and asked the people for earning his livelihood so that the Association may deal with him suitably.

(3) Being proposed and seconded by Messrs. A. Elayappah and A. M. Bastiampillai, a vote of confidence was passed on Mr. P. Moses for having acted to his convictions and brought in the motion to defer dry earth system with the view of helping the oppressed classes who have to pay a uniform rate of conservancy fees as the rich.

(4) Mr. S. Alphonse proposed and Mr. P. Saverimuttu seconded that the Secretary be authorised to procure and keep for the purpose of reference certain Ordinances and by laws.

### MODIFICATION OF TAXES.

(5) Mr. P. Saverimuttu proposed and Mr. M. Bastiampillai seconded that the Chairman be asked to modify the new taxes for rearing cattle and making out of account husk. It was pointed out that the centre of the cattle industry, being outside the urban area, the Council would not be justified in charging any rate from women who are driven to do this work through extreme poverty. It was urged that if heads of cattle, their grazing ground, dung and dairy be all separately charged for as done by the Council now the quality of milk must necessarily suffer or its price should become prohibitive. It was a question worthy of the Council's consideration as it is interested in child welfare. Licensed trades such as tea boutiques and eating houses are now required to pay annual licensing fees very much higher than those charged by Municipalities in better business centres.

### U. D. C. MEETINGS AGENDA.

As very often the public come to know of a resolution long after it had been passed in Council as the new rates and taxes just mentioned, it was resolved to ask the Council to get the agenda of its meetings published at least a week before the date of meetings so that there may be free discussion and healthy criticism on such public questions by all concerned.

(6) Health unit for Jaffna was the subject of a lengthy discussion in which Messrs. S. Alphonse, P. Saverimuttu and A. P. Thambyah took part and spoke in favour of getting it introduced. There was however a little opposition and the opposing party desired that the Secretary should obtain certain information from the Sanitary authorities, before the question is finally dealt with. With a vote of thanks to the chair the meeting terminated at 8 p.m.



## DEBATE ADJOURNED FOR ANOTHER MEETING.

The following are the proceedings of the debate on the motion for prohibition in Jaffna brought forward in the Legislative Council on Tuesday last by the Hon. Mr. T. M. Saba Ratnam:

"That the Government be requested to declare the Jaffna Peninsula and the Land Division to be a 'dry' area in terms of Section 10 (3) of Ordinance No. 8 of 1912."

Mr. Saba Ratnam said that when the Excise Ordinance was passed various bands of temperance workers started propaganda work which continued to the present day. The Jaffna Peninsula had been declared a "dry" area by Local Option polls. In spite of that the apathy of the Government had made the work of temperance bodies of no effect. The sales at the Mankulam and Puthalam taverns had increased enormously though the population in these places was very small, being only about thirty at Mankulam, five at Puthalam.

The prices according to illicit sales were so big that several people were taking to the new trade. The speaker went on to show the various means adopted by the bootleggers for carrying on their illicit trade. There was an instance when a truck full of liquor was stopped, the coffin being in the truck. It was so interesting to know what explanation the Government had to offer as regards all that. So long as foreign liquor could be removed from one place to another no attempt to prohibit liquor would have any effect. The Excise Department was powerless. There must be some kind of check for their apparent powerlessness.

## THE PHILOSOPHY OF GOVERNMENT.

It might be asked how it was that sales were in spite of the fact that the majority of the people were in favour of prohibition. It was not the duty of individuals to carry out the policy of the Government. People had seen that such a course of civic duty was not encouraged by the Government in this country as was shown during the riots when several people of standing were locked up for doing their duty. The whole philosophy of the Government was that there were many who were not total abstainers who would adopt illegal proceedings if they enforced strict prohibition and so they would stand by the army of illicit dealers. Government did not realize that there was no serious attempt to enforce total abstinence in the Jaffna Peninsula. Local Option was not to close taverns but to give the people a right to decide by direct vote whether or not there should be a continuance of drink within the limits of that area. Drink was not a question of personal convenience of liberty but was one which affected the whole community. The welfare of the whole community was the supreme law.

## AN ACQUIRED VICI.

The drink habit in the North was not indigenous and the policy of the Government should be to change as to make the land once more free from that dire plague. The two great ideals of the people of the North were temperance and vegetarianism and alcohol was incompatible with vegetarianism. In conclusion, he asked that the Official Members of the House do refrain from voting on the motion because Sir William Manning had declared that Excise was at least one matter on which he would be governed by the wishes of the people.

Hon. Mr. C. E. Victor S. Correa, in seconding the motion, said that the Government professed to be the greatest promoter of temperance in the island but always ridiculed the efforts of those engaged in temperance work. It seemed to him a scandal that so much drink was sold in Mankulam tavern when the population was so small. That was due to the enormous quantities which were smuggled away by various means. He could not understand why the Excise Officers were unable to prevent smuggling. (Applause.) If they formed a strong detective force and surrounded the tavern day and night it could be stopped. He hoped the Government would accept the motion.

"PROHIBITION A FAILURE," SAYS MR. WAIT.  
Hon. Mr. W. E. Wait said that the wording of the motion was not very clear but what he understood was that the mover wanted the possession of intoxicating liquor in the Jaffna Peninsula to be a penal act. He was not sure whether that Section of the Ordinance could be interpreted in that way. He would leave that to the Attorney-General. He wanted to point out that prohibition was a new experiment. It had been tried in Russia, Sweden, Finland, Norway and the United States. In all those countries but America it had been found to be a failure and in America too they were meeting the same difficulties as in the other countries.

## ESSENTIAL CONDITIONS.

In order to effectively prevent illicit traffic two conditions were necessary. There should be no leak outside and no spring inside. The sales of smugglers in Jaffna were considerable and it would be necessary to examine all goods coming in both by sea and land. In conclusion, he said, he did not think that was the right time for such a measure. He was sorry the Member for the Northern Province (Central Division) was away as they could with much help have framed some scheme which would suit all parties concerned. They hoped to get some sort of scheme to try in Jaffna. Council then adjourned for tea.

## THE SOLICITOR GENERAL.

When Council re-assembled after the tea interval, the Solicitor General said that Government had given permission to the Official Members to speak and vote on that motion as they pleased. He would vote for the motion if the mover could give him satisfactory replies to some difficulties which he was confronted with.

Continuing, the Solicitor General said, that he understood the motion to mean that the possession of any kind of liquor should be prohibited in the area mentioned but that could not be done as the Ordinance now stood.

Hon. Mr. J. Ramaniathan: Dear my Hon. friend say that it is impossible to give effect to this resolution if it is carried by this House? If so I want to know the reason.

The Solicitor General replied that it could not be done unless the law was amended.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary said that the Government would not go behind the draft of the Ordinance if the House on that question was clear. (Applause.)

Hon. Mr. Canagaratnam suggested that the debate be adjourned for a week till the Excise Commission which was discussing the matter had finished its deliberations so that a constructive proposal might be brought before them for consideration. The illicit sale of liquor now prevailing was a very great scandal and at the same time they had to put forward a constructive proposal.

Mr. W. E. Wait said that at the last meeting of the Excise Commission it was to be decided that a scheme should be drawn up by the Excise Commissioner and Mr. Rajaratnam, but unfortunately the latter was ill and away. He suggested that the House should adjourn that debate till the Excise Commission was able to get through that work.

The Vice-President: It could be put on the agenda paper two weeks hence.

Hon. Mr. W. Dadaswami said that the motion did not mean total prohibition. It only prohibited the sale of liquor on certain conditions and left the Excise Commission to frame the necessary regulations and the scheme. He was one of the Members of the Sub Committee appointed by the Excise Commission and he did not know how the adoption of that motion would handicap the work of the Sub Committee. They only asked that the possession of liquor be allowed by the Governor in Executive Council on certain terms.

The Vice-President: That is not the motion. Mr. Wait: It entirely means what the mover of the motion means by a "dry" area! Mr. Dadaswami said that a "dry" area was defined in terms of Section 3 of Ordinance No. 8 of 1912. Concluding he said that the proviso to that Section stated that the Governor in Executive Council could prohibit the possession of any excisable article by any person. The only points were that they desired the Governor to declare that area as an area fit to come under that Section.

The Colonial Secretary: May I ask the mover what exactly his intention was in framing the motion.

Mr. Saba Ratnam said that he did not claim absolute prohibition. He said subject to the conditions in that Section and it was for the Governor in Executive Council to lay down the rules. He hoped the terms would include that it would be allowed only for sacramental and medicinal purposes.

## MOTION NOT CLEAR.

The Hon. the Attorney General suggested that the matter might be deferred till the Excise Commission had considered it.

Hon. Mr. R. Balasingham said that the difficulties of some of the Members might be removed if the following words were added to the motion "and to make provision for the use of liquor for medicinal and sacramental purposes." As regards the difficulty on the point of law, whether a prohibition could be made under that Section or not, they took it that whatever the difficulties might be the Government would act on the decision of the Council.

The Colonial Secretary said that he had not quite understood those words.

Mr. Balasingham said that it was under that Section that Government advocated the prohibition of ganja which was an excisable article. If the Government opposed the resolution on the ground that the Ordinance did not permit it how would it deal with the motion of the Member for Colombo North. (Laughter.)

The Attorney General replied that it was not owing to the definition of the term excisable article but under Sub Section 2 where it spoke of foreign liquor other than denatured spirits.

Mr. Balasingham: That has nothing to do with this.

Mr. Correa: I rise to a point of order, Sir. Are we in Committee? (Laughter.)

Mr. Balasingham said that as provision 3 came later than sub Section 2 it overrode anything that went before. That Section made no qualifications whatsoever and said that by notification by the Governor he might or might not prohibit the possession of an excisable article. He suggested that the mover should alter the motion in the way suggested by him and with that reservation they could pass it as it stood and the Governor in Executive Council could frame the rules which were necessary to give effect to it.

## MORE TIME NECESSARY.

Mr. Canagaratnam moved "that the debate be adjourned for a week or two in order to enable the Council to be in possession of the scheme and the recommendations of the Excise Commission."

Mr. Wait suggested that instead of the time limit the amendments should be worded until such time as the Excise Commission was able to place its recommendations.

Hon. Mr. M. M. Subramaniam said that more time should be given in order to go into that question fully and adopt effective measures to give effect to the resolution. He supported Mr. Canagaratnam's amendment.

Hon. Mr. W. A. de Silva: I rise to propose another amendment. (Laughter.)

Mr. Saba Ratnam in reply to the Vice President said that he opposed the adjournment on the ground that he had not sufficient faith in Committee and Commission. He felt that Excise Commission would in no way be handicapped to formulate their own scheme along the lines indicated.

## DEBATE ADJOURNED.

The Colonial Secretary said that he would ask the mover to adjourn that debate till he had the opportunity of conferring with him (the Colonial Secretary) upon his intention. As far as the Government was concerned they had come there with the idea that the mover wanted the area to be totally "dry." He now understood that it was not so. He could not see on the face of it how they were to arrive at what the Member wished to have enforced unless they got together and discussed it. After discussion the motion could be recast in the manner desired in order to make it plain to the Council and the public. He left it entirely to the opinion of the Member to reintroduce the motion if he chose to at the next meeting.

Mr. Saba Ratnam accepted the Colonial Secretary's suggestion and it was finally agreed to have the motion on the agenda paper. —C. D. N.

## Jaffna Urban District Council.

## MOTION ON DEFERRING LATRINES LOST.

The following are the Minutes of proceedings of a General Meeting of the Jaffna Urban District Council held at the Jaffna Kachcheri, on Saturday the 12th February 1927 at 9 a.m.:

Present:—The Hon. Mr. A. Canagaratnam, Chairman; Mr. H. E. de Kretser, Provincial Engineer, N. P.; Dr. E. W. Saharagavel, Provincial Surgeon, N. P.; Messrs. T. H. Crosswell, S. Kanagasabai, R. R. Nalliah, P. Moses, R. Subramaniam, K. Somasundaram, R. Sivagurunathan and the Secretary.

The Minutes of proceedings of the Meeting held on the 8th January 1927 having been previously circulated to the members of the Council were taken as read and confirmed.

## BAD STATE OF ARIALAI ROAD.

Pursuant to notice Mr. R. Subramaniam asked:—The Chairman aware of the fact that the Arialai Road running by the side of the Lagoon from the Colombatalai Port is in a state of disrepair preventing carts from passing along it and that there is undue delay in effecting the necessary repairs?

Chairman's Reply:—The wooden bridges on this road require repair and one of them has to be rebuilt. These works could not have been done in the rainy season as the bridges are across natural flood water channels. The delay cannot be said to be undue. These bridges were constructed with two masonry walls supporting piles driven over which palmyrah timber was spread and nailed. There is no firm bottom under the bridges and flowing water easily damages the walls.

"I intended to propose to the Council to replace these bridges one by one as they go out of repair with more substantial ones, as though the initial cost of such bridges would be more than that of the bridges of the present type, the cost of maintenance would be less. I have, however, no objection to adopt the present type. Officers have been called for the work on this basis."

## IMPRACITABLE LATRINE SYSTEM.

Mr. P. Moses with the permission of the Council amended the motion that stood in his name and moved:—

"That in view of the many representations made by the people against the introduction of the dry earth latrine within the U. D. area, on the ground of impracticability in carrying out the system satisfactorily in the absence of water supply and proper drainage, this Council is of opinion that the introduction of the system be deferred till the facilities above referred to are provided."

"Further that this Council is of opinion that public latrines be provided in localities where the necessity exists for the same, as urged in the report of the Sanitation Committee."

[Mr. Moses in introducing his motion said that in submitting his motion it was far from his mind to say anything against the introduction of the dry earth system but he questioned whether it was practicable and opportune within the Urban area. The Council members might not be unaware that there were a large number of houses in the Urban area where there were no wells. Water supply and drainage should go hand in hand along with other sanitary measures. Another reason and a formidable one was the poverty of the people. The people were unanimously opposed to the scheme. The people were not opposed to the dry earth latrines as such but were opposed to them because of the heavy taxation. He was handing a paper in which there were some two thousand signatures. All the signatories asked that the introduction of the system be deferred. The well-to-do people had taken to the system. That was one way of educating the masses. Measures could not be thrust down their throats.]

Mr. R. Sivagurunathan asked the Chairman whether he could second the motion pro forma for the sake of having a discussion though he intended voting against the motion.

Mr. Nalliah pointed out that that was not in order. Mr. Sivagurunathan ultimately seconded the motion.

Mr. R. R. Nalliah opposed the motion. He had the greatest regard for the mover and he knew the disinterested motives which had prompted him to bring up the motion. With due deference to Mr. Moses' views he (the speaker) most emphatically protested against the motion. The acceptance of that motion would be a retrograde step. Instead of making progress they were asked to pledge themselves to assist primitive methods of sanitation.

## AN AMENDMENT LOST.

Mr. R. Subramaniam moved as an amendment: "That the introduction of dry earth system of latrines be restricted to areas strictly urban in character and public latrines be erected where the necessity for such latrines existed."

Mr. Subramaniam's amendment fell through for want of a seconder.

Mr. S. Kanagasabai said that he approached the sincerity of purpose, and the sympathy which prompted Mr. Moses to bring forward the motion. He (the speaker) could not however persuade himself that that was the proper thing to do.

Mr. K. Somasundaram said that after making an advance in the direction of sanitation they were not going to call a halt.

The Chairman said that he had listened very patiently to all the speeches and was of opinion that Mr. Moses had come forward at that late stage to put a break on the sanitation that were made. He was sorry to say that the progress of the Council was going to

Continued up.

## INDIAN &amp; FOREIGN.

Singapore News & Enquirer.—It is understood that the Straits Government has notified their intention to acquire three large areas of land, totalling 335 acres, in the Orangi and Badoli districts for military purposes. It is known that they will be in accordance with the defence of the eastern approaches to the Straits of Johore, on the Singapore side of which the naval base and aerodrome will be situated.

TERRIBLE EARTHQUAKE IN AUSTRIA.—A considerable loss of life and damage to property occurred as the result of an earthquake at Herzegovina, Dalmatia, Austria. Twelve deaths are reported from Sarajevo, and many were killed at Metkovic. In Dalmatia 19 shocks were recorded in the course of 20 minutes. Communication by telephone and telegraph with Herzegovina is out of

COMMUNAL DISTURBANCES AT INDORE.—It is said that a serious communal disturbance has broken at Indore, resulting in nearly half a dozen deaths, and injuries to a score or more. One version for the origin of the disturbance is that the playing of music near a mosque by the Aryasamajj Procession, while another version is that some women, relations of a local Hindu officer, were returning in three motor cars after performing the religious ceremony, and were attacked for allowing the music to be played before the Mosques. Military forces are patrolling the town now, and all is quiet.

A NAVY FOR INDIA.—Considerable progress has been made, declared Lord Stanley in the Commons, on behalf of Lord Winterston, who is due here from India at the end of the week, replying to a question as regards the development of the Indian Navy, a Bill in which connection was hoped to be introduced in Parliament, a few weeks hence.

## Continued.

be regarded like that. He was sorry to say that Mr. Moses had brought forward that motion. What Mr. Moses was doing was to put a stop to all improvements.

Mr. R. Sivagurunathan seconded pro forma. Mr. R. Subramaniam moved as an amendment: "That the introduction of private dry earth latrines be restricted to areas which are strictly urban in character and that public latrines be provided in localities where the necessity exists for the same as urged in the report of the Sanitation Committee." The amendment was lost there being no seconder.

After discussion the original motion was put to the house and was lost all voting against it except the mover who voted for.

The following motion that stood in the name of Mr. R. Subramaniam was deferred with the permission of the Council.

"That as the flood water stagnates during wet weather in the low-lying land situated at Madhuchal, medial causing the flooding of the compound of the residents in the locality, this Council do take the necessary steps to have either the existing channel in the locality deepened or, for any reason, it is not practicable to do so, to have a fresh channel cut."

## CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW ROAD.

Pursuant to notice Mr. R. Subramaniam moved: (i) "That as the construction of a road to connect the Colombatalai Road with the Central Road is needed for the convenience of the public, this Council do take early steps necessary in that connection. The road indicated to branch off from the Central Road from near the Forest Office."

Mr. R. R. Nalliah seconded. —Carried. (ii) That in addition to the existing standing committees of this Council a Works Committee be constituted.

Mr. T. H. Crosswell seconded. —Carried. Mr. K. Somasundaram moved that the Provincial Engineer, N. P., Messrs. R. Subramaniam and S. Kanagasabai with the last named as convener be appointed to the committee.

Mr. R. R. Nalliah seconded. —Carried. Mr. R. Subramaniam withdrew with the permission of the Council the following motion that stood in his name:—

"That two street lamps be provided one in front of the Catholic Church situated on the Annathavadi Road and the other in front of the Catholic Church situated on the Colombatalai Road."

## INSANITARY CREMATORY AT KOMPAYAMMAL.

Pursuant to notice Mr. R. Sivagurunathan moved:—

"That in view of the rank and noxious vegetation that has overgrown the cremation ground called 'Kompayammal' situated at Vanniponnai West and in view of the highly insanitary and dangerous condition thereof this Council instructs the Chairman to take early steps to have the said grounds cleaned and kept in a sanitary condition at his expense."

Mr. K. Somasundaram seconded. After discussion Mr. R. Subramaniam moved that the matter be referred to the Law Committee for report and brought up before the meeting again.

Mr. T. H. Crosswell seconded. —Carried.

## CONTINUANCE OF THE PROSECUTION.

Mr. R. Sivagurunathan withdrew with the permission of the Council the following motion that stood in his name:—

"That taking into consideration the long period during which a Biscaya show is being continuously run at the Ridgway Memorial Hall and in view of the pecuniary drain on the show it is to cause the people of Jaffna and its other adjacent disadvantages this Council instructs the Chairman to not to renew the license for the said show at the end of the term for which the present license holds."

[Mr. R. R. Nalliah in opposing the motion said that some day a member might move that the butchers' license also be stopped. The resolution was amended and an insult to their intelligence. He was very sorry that such a motion should have been brought forward.]

Continued on page 4.



## Jaffna Urban District Council.

(Continued from page 3)

## APPOINTMENT OF A SENIOR CLERK.

Considered the terms on which applications should be called for the appointment of a senior clerk.

Mr. T. H. Crossette moved that a senior clerk be appointed on a salary of Rs. 900/ per annum rising to Rs. 1,200/ per annum by annual increments of Rs. 60/ and that applications be called for.

Mr. S. Kanagasabai seconded — Carried.

Considered the appointment of an officer of the Council under Section 188 (1) of Ordinance No. 11 of 1920 to verify on oath the annual accounts and statement of assets and liabilities.

Mr. R. Subramaniam moved that the Secretary be appointed.

Mr. R. Sivagurunathan seconded — Carried.

Mr. R. Sivagurunathan moved that items Nos. 8 and 9 on the agenda i.e. the consideration of letter dated 6th December 1926 from Mr. A. Rothwell, Provincial Engineer, Uva re by-laws and the consideration of the memo dated 23rd October 1926 from Sanitary Inspector Phillips re burial of night soil in private compounds be deferred and that the papers be referred to the Sanitation Committee for report.

Mr. K. Somasundaram seconded — Carried.

## MORE STREET LAMPS FOR THE WARDS.

Considered applications for street lamps. Mr. R. Sivagurunathan moved that 20 new lamps be obtained four of them to be distributed by the Chairman at his discretion and the balance among the 8 divisions—2 for each division.

Mr. R. B. Nalliah seconded — Carried.

It was also resolved that the purchase of the four lamps urgently required for the Grand Bazaar market be approved and that the Chairman be authorized to purchase additional lamps that may be required for the markets and apply for supplementary vote later if required.

Considered application dated 8th December 1926 from Sanitary Inspector Patrick for an advance of Rs. 200/ for purchasing a bicycle.

Mr. R. Subramaniam moved that the Sanitary Inspector be given an advance of Rs. 200/ for the purchase of a bicycle payable by monthly instalments of Rs. 10/ the cycle to remain the property of the Council till payment of the advance in full.

Mr. T. H. Crossette seconded — Carried.

Considered letter No. 71 of January 12, 1927 from the President, Local Government Board re consideration of the question whether quarrying should be declared to be a dangerous trade. After some discussion the reply to the letter was left to the discretion of the Chairman.

Considered petition dated 15th January 1927 from V. Visvalingam re rent of Eplandade ground occupied by him.

Mr. K. Somasundaram moved that the petitioner be allowed to occupy that portion of the Eplandade ground now occupied by him for the year 1928 on payment of the same rent as fixed for the current year viz. Rs. 72/ on the footing that no permission would be given for a similar boutique in the Eplandade adjoining Front Street during the period and that the same rent be recommended by the Council for the year 1929 also on the same footing.

Mr. R. Sivagurunathan seconded — Carried.

Considered the issue of notice on the Manager of the Sivan Temple to raise the level of the low lying land in his charge at Vannarponnai East along the Point Pedro Road.

After some discussion Mr. K. Somasundaram moved that the papers be referred to the Sanitation Committee.

Mr. R. Sivagurunathan seconded — Carried.

## INCREASED SALARIES.

Considered the application of the conservancy fees collector for an increase of salary.

Mr. T. H. Crossette moved that the collector be paid an increased salary of Rs. 37/50 per annum in addition to the cycle allowance of Rs. 7/50 per annum with effect from 1st February 1927.

Mr. R. B. Nalliah seconded — Carried.

Considered application of the Rest House Keeper for an increase of salary.

Mr. R. B. Nalliah moved that the Rest House Keeper be paid Rs. 22/50 per annum from 1st January 1927.

Mr. K. Somasundaram seconded — Carried.

The consideration of letter No. 26 of 29th January 1927 from the Honorary Secretary of the Ridgeway Hall Committee and connected correspondence re Ridgeway Hall was deferred.

The consideration of the provision of two new buildings at a cost of Rs. 8,600/- each at Grand Bazaar as the existing are insufficient was deferred.

## HEALTH UNIT FOR JAFFNA.

Considered the need of inviting Government to establish a Health Unit Centre in Jaffna on the lines of that at Kalkutara.

Mr. R. B. Nalliah moved that Government be invited to establish a Health Unit in Jaffna as early as possible.

Mr. S. Kanagasabai seconded — Carried.

FLANK OF SAFETY FOR ACCUMULATED BALANCE. Considered the desirability of placing a sum of Rs. 80,000/- in fixed deposit in the Bank.

Mr. R. B. Nalliah moved that a sum of Rs. 15,000/- be deposited in the Chartered Bank and Rs. 10,000/- in the National Bank for a period of six months.

Mr. K. Somasundaram seconded — Carried.

## CHAIRMAN'S ADMINISTRATION REPORT.

The following papers were tabled:—

(a) The Chairman's Administration Report and Statement of Receipts and disbursements under Section 191 (1) of Ordinance No. 11 of 1920 for the year 1926.

[The statement of accounts etc. appears elsewhere.]

(b) Letter dated 10th December 1926 from the Secretary of the meeting of the ratepayers residing in Division No. 8 and connected papers.

As regards (c) Mr. R. Sivagurunathan moved that the Administration Report and statement of Receipts and Disbursements be adopted.

Mr. K. Somasundaram seconded — Carried.

## Licensed Auctioneer &amp; Broker.

The undermentioned person was licensed during the month of January 1927 to carry on the trade or business of an auctioneer and broker within the limits of the Jaffna Urban District Council area for the year 1927, and his name is published in terms of Section 17 of Ordinance No. 15 of 1889, as amended by Ordinance No. 25 of 1922.

Mr. C. Kanagasabai, Auctioneer and Broker, Vannarponnai.

Office of the V. S. S. KUMARASWAMY,  
Urban District Council, for Chairman, U. D. C.  
Jaffna, Feb. 18, 1927.  
NA 12,  
G. 781.

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S. VEERAGATHIPILLAI.  
H. 50.

## Order Nisi.

## IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 6260.

In the matter of the Estate of the late Subramaniam Arumugam of Jaffna Deceased.

Kamalaibai widow of Arumugam of Jaffna Petitioner.

Vs.

1. Arumugam Mahalingam and
2. Arumugam Murgesa. The 2nd Respondent a minor appearing by his guardian ad litem Subramaniam Thiruchitampalam of Jaffna

Respondents.

This matter of the Petition of the above named Petitioner praying for Letters of Administration to the estate of the above named deceased coming on for disposal before G. W. Woodhouse Esquire, District Judge, on September 30, 1926, in the presence of Mr. M. Vythilingam, Proctor, on the part of the Petitioner and the affidavit of the Petitioner dated September 24, 1926, having been read, it is declared that the Petitioner is the lawful widow of the said intestate and is entitled to have Letters of Administration to the estate of the said intestate issued to her unless the Respondents or any other person shall, on or before February 22, 1927, show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

G. W. Woodhouse,  
September 30, 1927. District Judge.  
O. 1209.

## Order Nisi.

## IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF TRINCOMALEE.

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 149.

Class III.

In the Matter of the Last Will and Testament of Elyatambiy Sivagurunathan late of No. 2 Div. Trincomalee Deceased.

Murgasapper Vairamuttu of Div. No. 2, Trincomalee Petitioner.

Vs.

1. Sivapakkiamma widow of Thiya-garajah of No. 2 Div. Trincomalee
2. Rasamma wife of Chiniah Kanagasabai
3. Chiniah Kanagasabai of Gampola

Respondents.

This matter coming on for disposal before B. G. de Glanville Esquire, District Judge of Trincomalee, on January 17, 1927, in the presence of Mr. M. M. Subramaniam, Proctor, on the part of the Petitioner and the affidavits of the Petitioner and of the attesting witnesses dated October 11, 1926, and August 23, 1926, respectively having been read.

It is ordered that the Last Will and Testament of which the original has been produced by the Petitioner and is now deposited in this Court is hereby declared proved.

It is further declared that the said Petitioner Murgasapper Vairamuttu be and he is hereby declared entitled to have probate issued to him with a copy of the Will annexed unless the respondents or any other persons interested shall on or before February 21, 1927, show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

B. G. de GLANVILLE,  
January 17, 1927. District Judge  
February 18, 1927.  
Extended to March 18, 1927.

G. C. Thambyah,  
O. 1209. District Judge.

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Q. 81.

## Order Nisi.

## IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 6206.

In the matter of the Estate of the late Sinnammah wife of Saravanamuttu Sabapathippillai of Vaddukoddai West Deceased.

Sinnaddi Velupillai of Vaddukoddai West Petitioner.

Vs.

1. Saravanamuttu Sabapathippillai
- Minor 2. and Rasagangam daughter of Saravanamuttu Sabapathippillai of do. Respondents.

This matter of the Petition of the above named Petitioner praying that the above named 1st Respondent be appointed Guardian ad litem over the minor the 2nd Respondent and for grant of Letters of Administration to the estate of the above named deceased coming on for disposal before G. W. Woodhouse Esquire, District Judge, Jaffna, on November 15, 1926, in the presence of Messrs. Nagalingam & Nagalingam, Proctors for Petitioner and the affidavit of the Petitioner dated November 13, 1926, having been read:

It is ordered that the above named 1st Respondent be appointed Guardian ad litem over the minor the 2nd Respondent for the purpose of this case and it is declared that the Petitioner is a brother of the said deceased and is entitled to have Letters of Administration to the estate of the above named deceased issued to him accordingly, unless the above named Respondents or any others shall on or before December 16, 1926, show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

G. W. Woodhouse,  
November 18, 1926. District Judge.  
Time to show cause extended to 8.8.27.  
O. 1207.

## Order Nisi.

## IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 6356.

In the matter of the estate of the late Florence Rosammah wife of Samuel Marairejah John of Mahipiddiy Deceased.

Samuel Pararejaingam John of Changavally the attorney of Samuel Marairejah John of Changavally presently of Kuala Lumpur, F. M. S. Petitioner.

Vs.

1. Thavamany daughter of Samuel Marairejah John of Mahipiddiy
2. Isaac Chellappah Mann of do. Respondents.

This matter of the Petition of the Petitioner above named praying that the above named 2nd Respondent be appointed guardian ad litem over the minor the 1st Respondent above named and that Letters of Administration to the estate of the above named deceased Florence Rosammah wife of Samuel Marairejah John coming on for disposal before A. Chakravarti Esquire, District Judge, Jaffna, on January 25, 1927, in the presence of Mr. B. V. Chinniah, Proctor, on the part of the Petitioner and the affidavit of the Petitioner dated January 21, 1927, having been read:

It is ordered that the above named 2nd Respondent be appointed Guardian ad litem over the minor the 1st Respondent above named for the purpose of representing her in these Testamentary proceedings and that the Petitioner as the attorney of the lawful husband of the deceased be declared entitled to have Letters of Administration to the said deceased's estate issued to him unless the Respondents or any other persons shall on or before February 24, 1927, show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

February 3, 1927. G. W. Woodhouse,  
O. 1205. District Judge.

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F. M. S.

Q. 79.

## Order Nisi.

## IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 6304.

In the Matter of the Estate of the late Vairamuttu Subramaniam of Vaddukoddai West Deceased.

Subramaniam Vairamuttu of Vaddukoddai West Petitioner.

Vs.

1. Subramaniam Ampalavanar of Vaddukoddai West presently, Mesquite Inspector, Penang
2. Subramaniam Velupillai of do. presently Hospital Assistant, Port Swettenham, F. M. S.
3. Subramaniam Venesathambiy of do. presently Clerk, Forest Office, Klang, F. M. S.
- Minor 4. Theyyavallipillai daughter of Vairamuttu Subramaniam of Vaddukoddai West
5. Velupillai Nagalingam of Tholpuram Respondents.

This matter of the Petition of the petitioner above named praying that the above named 5th Respondent be appointed Guardian ad litem over the minor the 4th Respondent and for grant of Letters of Administration to the estate of the above named deceased coming on for disposal before G. W. Woodhouse Esquire, District Judge, Jaffna, on November 15, 1926, in the presence of Messrs. Nagalingam & Nagalingam, Proctors, for Petitioner and the affidavit of the Petitioner dated October 25, 1926, having been read:

It is ordered that the above named 5th Respondent be appointed Guardian ad litem over the said minor the 4th Respondent for the purposes of this case and it is declared that the Petitioner is a son and an heir of the deceased and is entitled to have Letters of Administration to the estate of the above named deceased issued to him accordingly, unless the Respondents or any other person shall, on or before December 16, 1926, show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

November 18, 1926. G. W. Woodhouse,  
Extended to February 24, 1927. District Judge.  
O. 1206.

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