

The Hindu Organ.

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JAFFNA MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1928.

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Our New Home.

Our readers and friends will be glad to learn that at a Committee Meeting of the Saiva Paripalana Sabhai held on the 6th instant, it was decided to open the new building on the 23rd November, 1928.

The Hindu Organ.

JAFFNA, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1928.

THE HEADMAN SYSTEM.

THE HEADMEN SYSTEM IS A RELICT of a system of administration which was feudal in character. Under the Kandyan kings a system of Adigars, Disawas, Ratamahatmayas, Korals and Arachchies was in existence. After the conquest of the Kandyan territories by the British the same system was continued with considerable modifications in the functions which they exercised under the Kandyan kings. In the Tamil and Maritime districts similar system of administration was in existence before the Portuguese occupation and it was continued under the Portuguese, the Dutch and the British for the purpose of only civil administration. This system might have had much to recommend it in an administration which is based on the principle of personal government. But it should be considered out of date in a country which is to have substantial measure of responsibility on a democratic basis.

The unsuitability of the headmen system in its present form for modern conditions has been repeatedly pointed out in these columns and recognised public organisations brought home this fact to the Headmen Commission which was appointed in the middle of 1920. The Jaffna Association in its memorandum made the following proposals for the consideration of the Commission:—(a) That Chairmen of Village Committees should be elected for two years. (b) That the Chairmen of District Councils should be paid. (c) That the Chairmen of these Committees or Councils should recommend to the Government Agent for appointment a Peace Officer for every village, and should be responsible for the control and discipline of such Peace Officers. (d) That the Peace Officers should collect the taxes for the general revenue. (e) That Maniagars and Udaiyars should be abolished. The views of the Jaffna Association on this matter might be radical and impracticable from the point of view of administration. But it is regrettable that the Headmen's Commission had brushed aside all the complaints of corruption made against the headmen in general and failed to make any proposals which would remove the abuses and bring the system in harmony with modern conditions.

We are glad to note that the Donoughmore Commission has taken a different view on the subject and has made the

following observations regarding the necessity to modify the present system to suit modern conditions:—

"On the basis of that evidence, to condemn the headman system out of hand would be as unjust as it would be ungrateful to a body of men who have done splendid service to the Crown. It is true none the less that it is a mechanism suited to the more primitive stages of Colonial government and it is more than possible that Ceylon is outgrowing that stage. We think that the time has come when it should be considered whether, beginning with the chief headmen, steps should not be taken to render less likely certain abuses to which present methods have been stated to be liable, owing, at any rate to some extent, to ancient customs of giving presents and rendering services in return for the protection of feudal superiors. There would be a tendency for these abuses to decrease if administrative heads of divisions had no longer behind them the tradition of feudal claims. We consider that there should be a fuller recognition of the responsibilities of headmen in their capacity as public servants and administrators rather than as leaders of local opinion or as feudal chiefs of their respective districts, and that they should be given salaries commensurate with such responsibilities. We feel therefore that the time has now arrived when for chief headmen in charge of divisions there should be substituted, on the occurrence of vacancies that cannot be filled by the amalgamation of a division with that under some other competent chief headman, travelling officers in charge of two or even three divisions."

In a few years the country will be covered with an excellent system of local bodies with elected chairmen to administer them. The Donoughmore Commission and the Select Committee of the Legislative Council are both unanimous on developing and strengthening the existing local bodies and creating new ones according to the circumstances of the locality. Further it is proposed to establish District or Provincial Councils to supervise and co-ordinate the work of the primary organisations. Thus the Chief Headmen will be relieved of the many duties which they claim to perform now and perhaps their chief work will then be to supervise the work of the Minor Headmen. Is it necessary to maintain so many expensive sinecures to do this work? There is another consideration which in our opinion strengthens the case for reduction in the posts of Chief Headmen especially in the Jaffna District. The creation of the existing Chief Headmen's divisions was made in the thirties of the last century. The conditions of the times necessitated smaller divisions. The roads were very few and the means of transport scarcely existed. This is not the case now. Every village in Jaffna is connected with the other by roads. Important stations are now having telegraph and telephone services. In a few years there will be no village which will not have its Sub Post Office and telephone station. The motor transport has practically annihilated time and space. Is it necessary to ask, that under such conditions divisions which were made to suit needs and conditions of by-gone days should be perpetuated?

A competent and capable Maniagar can administer not merely two but even three divisions if he should have his office in a central spot. We are of opinion that time has come for the reduction in number of posts of Chief Headmen in the Jaffna District and to amalgamate the posts whenever vacancies occur.

We should stand that the post of the Maniagar of Valikamara West is to fall vacant on the retirement of Mr J. N. Sandras. Owing to ill-health. In that event the divisions of Valikamam North and West can be combined under one Maniagar for the present and when the present Maniagar of Valikamam East retires this division too may be amalgamated with the other divisions so that the entire division of Valikamam including the villages outside the Jaffna urban area may be in charge of one Maniagar. Similar arrangements can be done in the case of Vadamaradchi, Tenmaradchi and Pachchilappali Divisions. Karachi and Pooneri too can be combined if a road should be constructed between Paranthan and Pooneri. The necessity for separate Maniagars for the Islands and District will disappear if a steam-boat service should be established between Kayts and Delft.

An arrangement of the kind we have suggested will make for economy and efficiency in the administration and it deserves the consideration of the public as well as of the Government.

LOCAL & GENERAL.

WEATHER:—A light shower of rain fell on Sunday morning.

FAMOUS INDIAN MUSICIAN VISITING JAFFNA:—Mr. P. Sambamurthy, B.A., B.L., Prof. of Oriental Music, Queen Mary's College, Madras, will arrive in Jaffna on Thursday, the 27th instant. The same evening at 6.30 p.m., he will give a concert in St. John's College Hall, Chundicully and on Friday at 6.30 p.m., in the Jaffna Hindu College Hall.

OFFICIAL:—Mr. C. C. Woolley to be Second Assistant Colonial Secretary and Clerk to the Legislative Council.

—Mr. C. E. Jones to be Assistant Colonial Treasurer.

JUDICIAL:—Mr. K. Kanagasabai, Crown Proctor, to act as Additional District Judge etc., Jaffna on September 22, and September 24 to 26 inclusive.

—Mr. James Joseph to be, in addition to his own duties, Additional District Judge, Mullativu, from September 24 to 26, inclusive.

LAWYER PANDITS ENTERTAINED:—Messrs. K. Ponnasamy and K. Kandiah, Proctors, who came out successful in the recent Pandit Examination held by the Jaffna Oriental Studies Society, were entertained by the members of the Bar at the Jaffna Public Library Light refreshments were served.

VIVEKANANDA SOCIETY, COLOMBO:—A public lecture on "The Hymns of the Shaiva Saints" will be delivered on Thursday next at 5.30 p.m. by Mr. W. Sathasivam, Proctor s/o The Hon Mr. W. Duraiswamy will preside.

SEVERE DROUGHT IN MANNAR:—Mannar is said to be experiencing a severe drought and all the tanks on the mainland, with the exception of the Grant's Tank, are completely dry. Cattle and horses on the island of Mannar are dying of starvation and thirst. The farmers are daily expecting rain to carry on their work in the paddy fields.

QUARTERLY PAYMENT OF TELEPHONE RATES:—Telephone rates would be charged quarterly instead of annually as at present, from the beginning of next year, as this would facilitate payment in the case of a large number of subscribers.

JAFFNA RURAL EDUCATION DISTRICT COMMITTEE:—Last Friday's Gazette publishes the By-laws made by the above Committee. The following by-law refers to Religion. Nothing in these by-laws shall—(a) Prevent the absence of children being excused during the time when religious instruction is given; or (b) Make it conditional for any child, on being admitted into a school, that he shall attend any Sunday School or any place of religious worship, or receive any instruction in religious subjects; or (c) Require any child to attend school on any day exclusively set apart for religious observance by the religious body to which its parent belongs.

LAND SALES IN THE NORTHERN PROVINCE:—The same Gazette notifies that the Govt. Agent, N. P., Jaffna will put up to auction etc., at the Jaffna Kachcheri on Thursday, November 8, 1928 at 10.30 a.m., thirty allotments of Crown land situated in the Divisions of Panakari, Islands, Valikamam East, Vadamaradchi, Tenmaradchi and Karachi.

LAND DEVELOPMENT AT PUNERYN:—The same Gazette notifies that the Government is prepared to consider applications upon the ordinary 99 years' agricultural lease for a land in extent about 1000 acres situated in the Puneryn Division about a mile distant from the Pooneryn—Mannar Road leading interior to the West from the 4th mile post. The land is said to be suitable for coconuts.

DISTRICT COURT, COLOMBO:—It will be remembered that a Committee consisting of four Members of the Legislative Council and two District Judges of Colombo was appointed by Government to examine the state of work of the District Court, Colombo, and to make recommendations. The Committee has now issued its report which is published as Sessional Paper xxvii of 1928. It has recommended the establishment of a Third Additional District Court and the strengthening of the staff by the appointment of additional Clerks and Interpreters.

MULLIAVALAY VERNACULAR MIXED SCHOOL:—The above School situated in Mullativu District under the management of the Hon Mr. S. Rajaratnam, has been registered as a grant-in-aid school, with effect from August, 1927.

HIGH COURT OF LAHORE:—Mr. John Goldstream, I. C. S., has been appointed a Judge of the High Court of Lahore, vice Mr. Justice Archibald Campbell (resigned).

Jaffna West Association

IMPORTANT RESOLUTIONS PASSED.

In pursuance of a resolution passed at a special meeting of the Jaffna West Association held on the 24th July last, the important recommendations of the Special Commission were translated into Tamil and printed and circulated among the people. Another special meeting of the Association was convened to consider the proposals of the Commission on Tuesday, the 18th inst. at 6 p.m. in the Hindu English Institute, Vaddukkoddai. Over 200 leading people of Araly, Vaddukkoddai, Tholparam, Moolai, Obuthiparam, Panakam, Vadaladdaipu and Chaunkal were present. The Hon. Mr. W. Duraiswamy, the Member for the Division, presided. Proceedings were in Tamil.

Messrs. A. Sibbamparanathapillai, Chairman, V. O.; V. Kandiah, Member V. O.; A. Thillainathan, F. M. S., Pensioner and Member V. O.; V. U. Kathirave u, F. M. S. Pensioner; K. Taambiah, F. M. S., Pensioner and Member V. O. (Chulipuram); K. Chelliah, F. M. S., Pensioner, (Panakam); M. Kanapathipillai, F. M. S. Pensioner, (Panakam); S. Sinnasamy, Rtd. Inspector (Moolai); M. Chellappah, Rtd. Clerk, (Tholpuram); T. Thillaiappalam, Teacher (Vadaladdaipu); M. Thurasappah, Member V. O.; S. Kumaran, Member V. O.; K. Arumugam, K. Vaitthingam, M. S. Kesaratnam, Advocate, and S. Nagalingam, Proctor S. O., took part in the discussion of the various resolutions. It was ultimately passed that:—

- (1) The Government by Committees was unworkable and that the Ministers should be elected by the entire Council;
- (2) The powers of the Governor in matters of legislation and administration should be removed except those general powers of veto allowed to a Governor in a self-governing dominion;
- (3) The grant of franchises to women was unnecessary and inexpedient and should be rejected;
- (4) The extension of franchises to men should be subject to literacy qualification;
- (5) It is not necessary to appoint a Salaries Commission from England and that the pay and prospects of public servants should be under the control of the Legislative Council.
- (6) The basis for fixing salaries of public servants should be of a Ceylon standard with a pensionable overseas allowance to officers recruited in Europe.
- (7) It is necessary and expedient that the posts of Chief Headmen should be reduced and that divisions should be amalgamated in the event of such reduction.

The meeting terminated with a vote of thanks to the Chairman. —Cor.

A Caustic Remark.

JAFFNA SETTING A BAD EXAMPLE.

The District Police, Kurucsegala, at the instance of Mr. T. A. Hodson, Government Agent, North-Western Province, charged one M. Lewis Perera, driver of motor car E92, with having carried passengers for hire in a private car, and with having carried two passengers on the footboard. The case was taken up for trial before Mr. C. E. Arndt, Police Magistrate of Kurucsegala.

Mr. Hodson, who was the first witness, in the course of his evidence made the following caustic remark accusing Jaffna of setting a bad example to the other towns by the plying of private cars for hire.

Mr. A. B. C. de Soysa who defended the accused asked Mr. Hodson, "Why all this keen interest?" Mr. Hodson answered: "I do not wish to see Kurucsegala deteriorate to the state of Jaffna where all the private cars are plying for hire."

Hindu Temple Control.

BILL TO REMOVE ABUSES.

The Bihar and Orissa Hindu Religious Endowment Bill, 1928 was recently introduced in the Bihar and Orissa Legislative Council.

The Bill is framed to provide "for the proper control of Hindu religious endowments." In the Statement of Objects and Reasons, it is said that these endowments were in most cases managed and utilised by their trustees, as if they were their private properties, without any degree of responsibility to the people in whose interests they were primarily created. As a protest against such irresponsible utilisation of the endowments strong action was taken in the Punjab and at Tarasewar in Bengal. These troubles made it clear that people everywhere strongly disapproved of the irresponsible utilisation of the endowed properties. There was constant litigation in most villages regarding the endowments and this was one of the main causes of the disintegration of social life in rural areas.

The Bill did not propose to interfere with the religious rites and practices of maths and temples. It only aimed at a fair amount of control over their administration and finances and the proper utilisation of the surplus.

The Report of the Registrar-General dealing with the Vital Statistics of 35 principal towns in the Island is published as the Supplement to last Friday's Gazette. The following are excerpts from same.

MARRIAGES.

The marriages of residents in proclaimed towns numbered 490 (432 General, 3 Kanadyan, and 55 Muslim), as against 630 in the preceding month.

BIRTHS.

The births registered numbered 1,811, of which 940 were of males, 900 of females, and 1 of a hermaphrodite. The total number was equivalent to an annual rate of 33.63 per 1,000 of the population, as against 31.85 in the preceding month.

DEATHS.

The total deaths registered during the month numbered 1,880, of which 976 were of males, 853 of females, and 1 of a hermaphrodite. The total number was equivalent to an annual rate of 33.43, as against 34.39 in the preceding month. The stillbirths registered during the month numbered 127 (64 males and 63 females), as against 122 in the previous month.

INFANT MORTALITY.

The deaths of children under one year amounted to 357, and corresponded to a rate of 186 per 1,000 births registered during the twelve months ended July, 1928. reckoned on the births registered during the month only the rate was 194, as against 251 in the preceding month.

CAUSE OF DEATH.

The highest mortality was from *Pneumonia*, to which 16 per cent. of the total deaths were due.

RAINFALL.

Nawalapitya recorded the highest rainfall (29.8 in) while Mannar recorded the lowest (0.96 in)

Local Government Board.

JAFFNA U. D. C.'S TOWN SURVEY.

At the eighty ninth meeting of the Local Government Board held at the Colombo Kesboheri on Wednesday, September 12, the following items were among those that were taken on that date:—

Considered and approved an application from the Jaffna Council for the acquisition of land for a new road through Nayamarkadu in Electoral Division No 4.

Considered a reference from Government (arising out of the application of the Jaffna Council for a loan of Rs. 20,000/- in connection with its Town Survey) requesting the Board to consider the policy of allowing Local Bodies to borrow for non remunerative purposes

The Board was of opinion that no restriction should be placed on the objects for which loans may be given by Government and that Local Bodies should be allowed to borrow for any of their statutory purposes whether remunerative or otherwise. It was considered that the limitations of loans to remunerative works would seriously retard the proper development of urban areas and that the adoption of the policy would render it difficult to carry out such unremunerative works as the construction of new roads, town improvement schemes, town surveys, etc. all of which are admittedly essential in the interests of sanitation and for checking the growth of insanitary conditions in towns.

Read Colonial Secretary's letter No. W. 428/28 of 21st August, 1928, stating that Government is not prepared to give the Jaffna Council a grant in aid of its proposed electric lighting scheme.

It was resolved to hold the next meeting of the Board on Wednesday, October 17, 1928 at 9.30 a. m.

Y. M. H. A. VADALIADAIPPU.—A special meeting of the Young Men's Hindu Association, Vadaliadaippu, Chankanaai, was held at the local Hindu Vernacular School on Saturday, the 8th inst. at 6 p. m. The Hall was tastefully decorated. The Hon. Mr. W. Duraiswamy, the Chairman of the meeting was taken in procession from a distance of quarter of a mile from the School attended by a band of Oriental musicians, who displayed a fine discourse of music. The Secretary of the Association garlanded the Chairman and the meeting began with the singing of Thevaram. The Chairman after a few prefatory remarks introduced the speakers of the evening. Mr. V. Nagalingam, Proctor s. C., made a learned speech on the greatness of the Tamil language. Mr. M. S. Basaratnam, Advocate, spoke on Saiva Ideals basing his speech on the life of St. Sambanthar. Bhrama Sri Arunachala Sastri, Mr. T. Thillaiampalam and the Chairman offered remarks. The meeting terminated with the singing of Thevaram.—Cor.

It is proposed to hold a women week in Jaffna with the object of demonstrating modern methods of prevention of the common diseases and to propagate the cardinal rules that govern personal and communal health.

Drs. A. N. Umaramaswamy, School Medical Officer and V. Nadarajah, Medical Officer of Health, who are the organisers, will convene a meeting on Wednesday, the 27th inst. at 4 p. m. at the Jaffna Kesboheri under the chairmanship of the Government Agent to discuss the preliminary steps to be adopted for the purpose.

The citizens of Jaffna will do well to identify themselves with the movement and offer suggestions and render help to bring it to a success.

Destroying Dogs Humanely

JAFFNA U. D. C. SETTING EXAMPLE.

The Jaffna Urban District Council recently appointed a Committee consisting of the Provincial Surgeon, N. P. Jaffna and Mr. Navios Selvadurai, Agent in Jaffna for the S. P. C. A. to report on the present method adopted by the U. D. C. for destroying stray dogs that are found with the urban limits.

The following is an extract from the report:—“We consider this mode of destroying dogs (by drowning in the sea by the simple process of the dog-cart being pushed into the water) a humane one, and certainly to be preferred to shooting, which, unless effectively carried out, is likely to cause cruelty and needless suffering to such animals. There is, however, room for improvement in the present procedure, and the spot where the drowning takes place is not sufficiently deep. It is necessary that the cart should be taken further away from the shore so that its wheels may be entirely submerged. This should prevent any unnecessary struggle on the part of the dying animals.

To Obviate a Revolting Sight

“The cart in our opinion should be covered with oil cloth or some such material, immediately after the drowning process is over, so as to obviate the revolting sight to which people who happen to pass that way are now subjected as a result of dead animals being conveyed in an open cart along the public road.

“The present site does not appear to be a suitable one for the purpose by reason of the fact that it is not sufficiently isolated. At the time the drowning takes place the beach is much frequented by the public, including a good number of school boys. We would suggest as an alternative and a more suitable site that portion of the lagoon opposite to the present Infectious Diseases Hospital.”

Portrait of Mahatma Gandhi.

EXHIBITION AT PARIS.

Mudaliyar A. O. G. S. Amerasekera of Colombo has sent for exhibition to Paris his portrait of Mahatma Gandhi. ‘La Picture,’ the well known Art Review of Paris, publishes a reproduction of it as a frontispiece to its August number. The editorial article of the number is devoted to the same subject. The following is a translation of the article as appearing in the Ceylon Daily News:—

“Mahatma Gandhi is a curious personage. Small and frail, he possesses the greatest courage.

He leads an austere life which has won for him the title of Mahatma signifying Divinity.

He lives in a little stone house with a diminutive garden bathed in sunlight. Seated on a cushion, with his back against the wall, he thinks.

No patriot has succeeded in approaching him. He would not pose at any price.....

The artist, exhibiting for the first time in Paris, has skillfully hit off the expression, at once real, vital and tragic, of this almost naked man, with his masked energy, with his small dark eyes, with the look that tells of utter lassitude and renunciation, for he it known that for Gandhi the struggle is now over.

He is seated after the manner of a Buddha. His arms are resting and his legs are crossed.

His head is almost completely shaved and the little tuft left is seen to be turning gray.....

Jaffna Urban District Council.

NO GRANT FOR ELECTRIC LIGHTING. At the last special meeting of the Jaffna U. D. C. the following papers were tabled:—

i. Papers re the loan of the Council's water tank lorry to the Government Agent in connection with the supply of drinking water at Kevye.

ii. Letter No. 1290 of 30th August 1928 from the President, Local Government Board re Rs adjustment of administrative limits.

iii. Letter No. A. 21 of 7th September 1928 from the President, Local Government Board re Electric Lighting scheme.

iv. Circular No. 11 of the 1st September 1928 from the President, Local Government Board re interpretation of section 28 of Ordinance No. 11 of 1920.

As regards iv. it was resolved to refer the Paper to Mr. Kadasambal and reply to the Local Government Board on receipt of his report.

reported to have told the British Association that the examination system was so universal that a “victim” might not be out of its shadow until the age of 23. The right course was to abolish eternal examination except as an avenue to the Universities and professions.

The worst form of the system, he said, was the entrance examination for public schools where small boys had to switch their minds accurately from Genesis to Ivaaboo, and from Henry VIII to the causes of rainfall. It was therefore no surprise to learn that there were schools where the boys read no authors but only did examination papers.

There should be no examination of a child under 15 except by his own teachers.

All-India Ayurvedic Conference.

LOCAL VAIDYAS TO PARTICIPATE.

The 19th Session of the above Conference will be held at Nasik (Bombay) early next year. A prize of Rs. 500 is offered for the best Essay written in clear and easily intelligible Sanskrit prose on Tridhatu-sarvasve, giving description and definition of Tridhatu as substances, their functions in the normal body, their abnormal state or derangement and treatment of diseases on their basis. The Essay should be sent to the Secretary of the Conference at Nasik City by registered post before 28th February, 1929.

The Committee has also undertaken the work of correct identification of some plants and mineral substances from the doubtful ones now in vogue and have therefore proposed for investigation purposes:—Rasna, Danti, Shalparani and Prashniparani. —Cor.

250 Years Old Chinaman.

ELEVEN GENERATIONS OF DESCENDANTS

Although claiming to be 250 years old, one Li Ching yun, herbalist and traveller, declares that he has a number of friends even older than himself!

Li is described by the “North China Herald” as “an old and respected resident of Shang-ohuan village, Kaisien, a place to the North of Wanshsien, Szechuan.”

“Born in the 17th year of the reign of Kang Kai—one of the first emperors of the Manchu dynasty—Mr. Li, a native of Ohing-an, has travelled very widely. Numerous military and civil leaders have conferred honours upon him.

“When he was only a few years old he could read and write..... Gathering medicinal herbs was his trade until he was 100 years old. After that he travelled again, selling his medicines for a living.

“Every day he walks 100 li along the road.” A Chinese li measures 2,115 ft. Therefore Li must walk 40 miles a day!

Li has:— Eleven generations of descendant's, numbering 180 persons.

Very good eye sight
Very good right-hand finger nails.
A wonderful memory. —“A. B. Patrika.”

STRONG PARTS

The strongest part of the body is the heart; then come the jaw and the thumb. The weakest bone is the collar bone.

TAXIMETER ISN'T MODERN!

In an old drawing, published in 1678, can be seen an attachment to the axle of a carriage, which registered the distance travelled.

BLAZING THE TRAIL

In his forthcoming aerial expedition to the South Pole, Captain Wilkins will make use of flame throwers, such as were used during the war, to melt the masses of ice.

In this way he will make a trail by which the aeroplane can rise, thus overcoming one of the greatest difficulties of flight.

DEVASTATING DISTURBANCE.—A whole coastal region of Florida has been swept by a cyclone on Port An Prince. Loss is estimated at above \$ 1,000,000. 300 were killed and 10,000 persons rendered homeless by a twenty hour storm. Added to these catastrophic storms have swept through the Lur (States of Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia causing widespread destruction. Still another terror is the eruption of Vesuvius. A hurricane has swept the West Indies and serious havoc is reported.

TORRENT HAVOC AT MEXICO.—It is learned that over 150 persons were killed at Miami by the hurricane, which is now on route to the north towards Cape Hatteras, leaving a trail of wreckage and death on the eastern coast of Florida. The damage caused by the hurricane in the Palm Beach area is estimated at 25,000,000 dollars. Probably 250 persons were killed and thousands were injured. The hurricane has caused numerous fatalities in the British West Indies. Fifty deaths are reported to have occurred in Montserrat and 3,000 persons are homeless. The town of Plymouth has been levelled to the ground.

(By Mr. P. Tirukkandaram Pillai, M. A., B. L.)

Only's in his essay on Burns says, “The inventor of a spinning Jenny is pretty sure of his reward in his own day; but the writer of a true poem like the apostle of a true religion is rarely as sure of the contrary. We do not know whether it is not an aggravation of the injustice that there is generally a posthumous retribution.” Even this posthumous reward of fame and recognition, Subramania Bharati has not yet gained from his countrymen. Love of Tamil and Tamil land was one of the master passions of his life, but is not patriotism a crime in a land which is under alien rule? He was therefore obliged to live for the best part of his life in voluntary exile in Pondicherry where poverty was his life's portion, and solitude his sole companion. But neither of them could suppress his poetic muse; he could find with London.

“Delight in singing, tho' none hear Beside the singer.”

And he poured forth the genial current of his soul in poems and songs of imperishable beauty. Only a very few of them were however privileged to see the light of day; he could not publish them all; poverty stood in his way. A few years before his death, he was restored to the bosom of his motherland of which he had so exquisitely longed. But his body had already become a complete wreck under the strain of this enforced separation, and therefore prematurely at the age of thirty-nine.

“He fled for shelter to God who mated His soul with song.”

His friends and admirers have collected his literary remains and published four slender volumes of his verses which cannot of course be exhaustive of the productions of one who is said to have flung in numbers from the early age of seven. But these poems have not attracted the attention of the Tamil public as much as they richly deserve. The reasons are various.

The bulk of the Tamil people are illiterate and if at all they are provided with any mental nourishment, they are generally fed upon such worthless stuff as are daily sung by beggars in running trains or by actors in the much corrupted theatres of our day. The younger generation at school is denied access to Bharati by the fiat of the British Government as well as by the indifference of the Tamil scholars and pundits. Nor can we expect any knowledge and appreciation of Bharati from the English educated Tamilians. They do not know anything of Tamil literature, nor do they love or care for it. Their training has been such and they are so denationalised that they are thoroughly familiar with and even proud of their intimate knowledge of Shakespeare and Milton rather than of Kambur and Valluvar. And if at any time they feel inclined to read any indigenous poet, they will go in for the English poems of Sarojini and Chattopadhyaya, Toru and Tagore, and not for the Tamil songs of our Bharati.

Those also who know and profess love for Tamil fight shy of Bharati not because his poems are devoid of poetic worth but because he is national in spirit, progressive in thought and novel in method. Most of these scholars are in one way or other connected with the Government and Government aided institutions. May they therefore dare to acquaint themselves with the compositions of one who was not a persona grata with it? And it is not only these scholars who do not even know the compositions actually are. Let me now tell them that his poems deal also with subjects other than national, and that they which are avowedly national are not British nor even anti Government, but they breathe a pure spirit of patriotism and a passionate love of freedom.

Besides, some of these scholars are conservative in their views of man and man's life; their thoughts are not widened by the progress of time; they therefore restrict the range of subjects appropriate for Tamil poetry to the ancient triad of love, valour and piety. They cannot sympathise with Bharati's ideals of political freedom, emancipated womanhood, equality of man and religion of service. They will rest content with the current rapid verse on soulless ceremonial devotion and on copybook conventional ethics. They do not understand that we have thus made our land and literature “a fen of stagnant waters,” and that stagnation is worse than death.

Another ground for their neglect of Bharati is his lack to them revolutionary use of new metres, new tunes and new style. To sing for the people was his heart's desire and hence the novelty in his method which the pundits trained in the tradition of “words of learned length and thundering sound” cannot understand and appreciate. Moreover with a change in a nation's life, there must also necessarily come a change in literature and its expression. Such a change will neither be its beauty nor lead to its decay but will on the other hand, as Bharati himself says, give it a new lease of life. And it is owing mainly to its adaptability to periodic vital changes in its thought, language and expression, that of the five great ancient classical languages of the world, Tamil alone is living today. —“Hindu.”

Mahatmaj's Autobiography.

This is another instalment of Gandhiji's Autobiography, as taken from "Young India"...

NOTICE.

The under mentioned Government Timber lying at the Jaffna Depot will be sold by public auction on the spot by the Divisional Forest Officer, Northern Division, Jaffna, on Friday, October 12th, 1928 at 9.15 a. m.

J. D. SARGENT, Conservator of Forests.

Ceylon Government Railway Tender Notice.

Tenders are hereby invited for quarrying stone in the Railway Quarry at Vavuniya, and breaking same into metal which will pass through a 2 in diameter ring and transport the broken metal to a deeper stage, pile same thereon, ready for measurement or loading into wagons.

T. E. DERRON, General Manager.

WANTED.

Two third-class (Vernacular) certificated Hindu teachers for the Moola Anglo-Vernacular School. Salary according to the Departmental scale.

NOTICE.

Get rid of that Old car and buy a New CHEVROLET, or PONTIAC, or OAK-LAND cars.

From the 1st October to 6th we are prepared to buy any second hand cars and give a new one for payment by easy instalments.

EDWARD MATHER & SON, Mis. 1298. Jaffna.

Order Nisi.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA. Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 6823.

In the Matter of the Estate of the late Vallammal wife of Vaitilingam of Veemankamam Deceased.

Swaminathan Vaitilingam of Veemankamam Petitioner.

- 1. Kanapathiyar Sanyam
2. Sothiappillai daughter of Vaitilingam
3. Vaitilingam Kambiravelu
4. Vaitilingam Ponniah
5. Muttupillai daughter of Vaitilingam
6. Vaitilingam Saravannammal, all of Veemankamam Respondents.

This matter of the Petition of the abovenamed Petitioner praying that the abovenamed 1st Respondent be appointed Guardian ad litem over the minors the abovenamed 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th Respondents and that Letters of Administration to the estate of the abovenamed deceased be issued to the Petitioner, coming on for disposal before J. C. W. Rook Esquire, District Judge, on June 22, 1928, in the presence of Mr. R. R. Nalliah, Proctor, for the Petitioner and the affidavit of the Petitioner dated May 7, 1928 having been read:

It is ordered that the abovenamed 1st Respondent be appointed Guardian ad litem over the minors 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th Respondents for the purpose of protecting their interests and of representing them in this case and that Letters of Administration to the estate of the abovenamed deceased be issued to the Petitioner as her lawful husband unless the Respondents shall appear before this Court on July 31, 1928 and state objections or shew cause to the contrary.

J. C. W. Rook, District Judge. July 19, 1928. Time to shew cause extended to the October 2, 1928.

4928, O. 1527.

Order Nisi.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF ANURADHAPURA. Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 879.

In the matter of the Estate of the late Kanapathipillai Candhapillai of Anuradhapura Deceased.

Kanapathipillai Thelwanappillai of Anuradhapura Petitioner.

This matter of the Petition of Kanapathipillai Thelwanappillai of Anuradhapura praying for Letters of Administration to the estate of the abovenamed deceased, Kanapathipillai Candhapillai coming on for disposal before S. D. Krishnaswami Esquire, District Judge, on August 28, 1928 in the presence of Mr. V. Ramaswamy Proctor, on the part of the Petitioner and the affidavit of the Petitioner dated August 23, 1928, having been read, it is declared that the Petitioner is the sister and sole heir of the said intestate and is entitled to have Letters of Administration to the estate of the said intestate issued to her unless the Respondent or any other person shall, on or before October 5, 1928 show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

A. R. Supramaniam, District Judge. September 28, 1928. O. 1528.

Order Nisi.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA. Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 6872.

In the Matter of the Estate of the late Sothiappillai wife of S. Tambiah of Suthumalai Deceased.

Saravannammal Rambiah of Suthumalai Petitioner.

- 1. Tambiah Sivasupramaniam of do
2. Murgoen Sinnatamp of Navyal Respondents.

This matter of the Petition of the Petitioner praying that the abovenamed 2nd Respondent be appointed Guardian ad litem over the minor the 1st Respondent and that Letters of Administration to the estate of the abovenamed deceased be issued to the Petitioner coming on for disposal before J. C. W. Rook Esquire, District Judge, Jaffna, on August 28, 1928 in the presence of Mr. E. Murnupillai, Proctor for the Petitioner and the affidavit of the Petitioner dated August 26, 1928, having been read: It is ordered that the abovenamed 2nd Respondent be appointed Guardian ad litem over the minor the 1st Respondent for the purpose of representing him in this case and that the Petitioner be declared entitled to take out Letters of Administration to the estate of the abovenamed deceased as widow unless the Respondents shall appear before this Court on October 4, 1928 and show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

J. C. W. Rook, District Judge. September 5, 1928. O. 1529.

Order Nisi.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA. Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 6866.

In the Matter of the Estate of the late Kasinathar Velauthar of Thavaday Deceased.

Kasinathar Kumaravelu of Thavaday Petitioner.

- 1. Velauthar Veerasingam
2. Velauthar Kasirajah
3. Velauthar Ratinam and
4. Arumugam Sinnathambay all of Thavaday Respondents.

The 1st, 2nd and 3rd Respondents are minors appearing by their Guardian ad litem the 4th Respondent.

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 that Letters of Administration to the estate of the abovenamed deceased be issued to the Petitioner coming on for disposal before J. C. W. Rook Esquire, District Judge, on August 20, 1928 in the presence of Mr. P. K. Somasundram, Proctor, on the part of the Petitioner and the affidavit of the Petitioner dated the 18th day of August 1928 having been read:

It is ordered that the abovenamed 4th Respondent be appointed Guardian ad litem over the minors the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Respondents for the purpose of protecting their interests and of representing them in this case and that Letters of Administration to the abovenamed deceased be issued to the Petitioner as one of his brothers unless the abovenamed Respondents appear before this Court on September 27, 1928 and state objections or shew cause to the contrary.

J. C. W. Rook, District Judge. September 1, 1928. O. 1524.

Order Nisi.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA. Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 6871.

In the Matter of the Estate of the late Ratanapathy wife of Murgoesar Perampalam of Chuthumalai Deceased.

Vinathambay Sinnappah of Chuthumalai Petitioner.

- 1. Murgoesar Perampalam of Chuthumalai, presently of Ipoh in F. M. S. and
2. Mageswary daughter of Perampalam
3. Perampalam Murgoesappillai
4. Perampalam Selvadurai
5. Pathmavathy daughter of Perampalam
6. Sinnappah Ratanapathy all of Chuthumalai Respondents.

The 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th Respondents are minors and appear by their Guardian ad litem the 6th Respondent.

This matter of the Petition of the abovenamed Petitioner praying that the abovenamed 6th Respondent be appointed Guardian ad litem over the 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th Respondents who are minors, for the purpose of this case and that as the father of the deceased be declared entitled to administer her estate coming on for disposal before J. C. W. Rook Esquire, District Judge, on August 27, 1928 in the presence of Mr. P. K. Somasundram, Proctor, on the part of the Petitioner and the affidavit of the Petitioner dated August 27, 1928 having been read, it is declared that the abovenamed 6th Respondent be appointed Guardian ad litem over the minors, the 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th Respondents for the purpose of this case and that the Petitioner is the father 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 October 4, 1928 show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

J. C. W. Rook, District Judge. September 18, 1928. O. 1525.

Order Nisi.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA. Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 6584.

In the Matter of the Estate of the late Arumugam Vaitilingam of Changanai Deceased.

Pandaram Thambimuttu of Changanai Petitioner.

- 1. Thankam widow of Arumugam Vaitilingam
2. Vaitilingam Rasaratnam and
3. Vaitilingam Sonthirajah all of Changanai Respondents.

This matter of the Petition of the Petitioner abovenamed praying that the abovenamed 1st Respondent be appointed Guardian ad litem over the minors the 2nd and 3rd Respondents and for grant of Letters of Administration to the estate of the abovenamed deceased coming on for disposal before G. W. Woodhouse Esquire, District Judge, Jaffna, on October 10, 1927 in the presence of Mr. P. Ganapathy Pillay, Proctor, on the part of the Petitioner and the affidavit of the Petitioner dated September 8, 1927 having been read:

It is ordered that the abovenamed 1st Respondent be and she is hereby appointed Guardian ad litem over the minors 2nd and 3rd Respondents and the Petitioner is as a creditor of the estate of the abovenamed deceased and that such Letters be granted to the Petitioner unless the abovenamed Respondents or any other shall on or before November 24, 1927 show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

G. W. Woodhouse, District Judge. November 9, 1927. Extended to 27 9 28. O. 1526.

Order Nisi.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA. Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 6840.

In the Matter of the Estate of the late Unnamalai wife of Periatthambay Murgoesappillai of Araly West Deceased.

Sabapathar Sinnappu of Araly North Petitioner.

- 1. Theivanappillai wife of Sabapathar Sinnappu of Araly West
2. Periatthambay Murgoesappillai of do Respondents.

This matter of the Petition of the abovenamed Petitioner praying for Letters of Administration to the estate of the abovenamed deceased coming on for disposal before J. C. W. Rook, Esquire, District Judge, Jaffna, on July 17, 1928, in the presence of Messrs. Nagalingam and Nagalingam, Proctors, on the part of the Petitioner dated June 18, 1928, having been read, it is declared that the Petitioner is the father and 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 28, 1928, show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

J. C. W. Rook, District Judge. August 25, 1928. Extended to 25-9-1928. O. 1522.

Order Nisi.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA. Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 67710.

In the matter of the estate of the late Theivanappillai wife of Kulandavelu Chettiar Pasupathy of Paloly East Deceased.

Kulandavelu Chettiar Pasupathy of Paloly East, now of Kurungela Petitioner.

- 1. Nagalingam Kandiah of Avarangal
2. Rajeswari daughter of Pasupathy of Paloly East
3. Pasupathy Nadarajah of Paloly East Respondents.

This matter of the Petition of Kulandavelu Chettiar Pasupathy of Paloly East praying for Letters of Administration to the estate of the abovenamed deceased, Theivanappillai wife of Kulandavelu Chettiar Pasupathy and to appoint the 1st Respondent as Guardian ad litem of the 2nd and 3rd Respondents, minors, coming on for disposal before J. C. W. Rook Esquire, District Judge, on July 19, 1928, in the presence of Mr. S. Supramaniam, Proctor, on the part of the Petitioner and the affidavit of the Petitioner dated April 15, 1927, having been read, it is declared that the Petitioner is the widower 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 23, 1928, show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

J. C. W. Rook, District Judge. July 24, 1928. The 23rd day of August 1928. Order Nisi is extended for 27th September 1928. J. Joseph, Additional District Judge. O. 1528.

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