

The Hindu Organ.

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

THE ONLY NEWSPAPER IN CEYLON FOR THE HINDUS

HAS THE WIDEST CIRCULATION

ESTABLISHED SEPTEMBER 11, 1889.

(REGISTERED AS A NEWSPAPER.)

PUBLISHED EVERY MONDAY AND THURSDAY.

VOL. XL—NO. 55

JAFFNA, THURSDAY, JANUARY 10, 1929

P. Subbaroy's

World-renowned and most Efficacious Ayurvedic Medicines.

Awarded several medals and certificates of merit at various exhibitions.

TANJORE MASALA OR THE PRINCE OF FLOURISHING POWDERS. DELICIOUS—CHARMING FLAVOUR.

A Powder purely of Vegetable ingredients prepared as per recipe followed to the ordinary preparations of the famous Tanjore Maharaja's household. A pinch added to any preparation of diet, vegetarian or non-vegetarian, makes it easily digestible, highly palatable, most delicious, exquisite and agreeable to the palate. The flavour imparted to the preparations is so very charming and diffusing that it spreads not only throughout the entire premises, but also outside it to a distance. Can be used without the least scruples by the most orthodox Brahmanas and others. Much appreciated both by Europeans and Indians of all castes.

Price per tin of powder to last for more than 1 month As. 8. V. P. P. Charges for 1 or 2 boxes As. 8 only extra. Can be had everywhere or from the Manufacturers direct.

51. VASANTA KUSUMAKARAM.—The surest cure for diabetes mellitus, nervous debility, excessive thirst, parched tongue, burning sensation in hand and feet, fatigue, swoon, gonorrhoea, difficult urination, spermatorrhoea, etc. Price of medicine for 7 doses Rs. 5. V. P. P. charges As. 8 only extra.

52. BAKTHA SIDDHI OR BLOOD PURIFIER.—Everybody knows that blood is the chief cause of human life. If the blood is impure various sorts of maladies arise viz., ulceration of the mouth, sore eyes, maggots in the nose, ulcerated gums, pimples and boils over the body, abscess, change of colour of the skin, syphilitic eruptions, chronic headaches, impaired digestion, redness and stiffness

of the skin, loss of sensation in joints, black spots over the skin, swelling of the ears and nose, paleness and weakness of the body, dropsy, scales over the skin of the body, leprosy, ringworm and other skin diseases, offensive smell throughout the body, dullness of spirits, tastelessness, itching sensation of the skin etc. Our Baktha Siddhi is a potent remedy to remove the poison from the system. It purifies the blood, cures syphilitic eruptions, imparts tone and vigour to the weak system, revives lost appetite and permanently removes all affections narrated above due to impure blood; improve complexion and invigorates the nervous system. Price Rs. 2 per box covering medicine for 20 days. V. P. P. charges for 1 or 2 boxes As. 8 only extra.

CURE FOR WHITE LEUCOSY OR LEUCODERM Cure certain within a week by external application only. Very mild and gentle in action, suited to all constitutions. Rs. 2 per bottle. V. P. P. charges for 1 to 2 bottles As. 8 only extra. Catalogue of all Ayurvedic Medicines sent free on application. P. SUBBAROY, Ayurvedic Pharmacy, Tanjore.

Please mention this paper when ordering.

As the Head-quarters of my Ayurvedic Pharmacy have been permanently transferred from Porto Novo to Tanjore, kindly address all your communications and orders to my new permanent and Head-quarters address at Tanjore printed below and not to Porto Novo, as heretofore.

My permanent address—

P. SUBBAROY,

Ayurvedic Pharmacy,
5 Venkateswaram Col Sannithy
TANJORE.

The Jaffna Mutual Benefit Fund Ltd.

Established 1918.

BANKERS.

AUTHORISED CAPITAL RS. 8 00 000.

AMOUNT OF CALLS MADE RS. 1,22,840.

SHARES: 8000 shares of Rs. 100/- each. 75 monthly instalments of Rs. 1/- per share will earn Rs. 100/- for each share at the end of the period. Shares issued all times.

CURRENT ACCOUNTS opened and interest allowed at 3% per annum on the average monthly balance when it does not fall below Rs 500/-

FIXED DEPOSITS received for periods of 3, 6 and 12 months and interest allowed at 3, 4 and 6% respectively

DRAFTS issued on the National and Imperial Banks to Colombo and the Principal cities of India, Remittances to and from F. M. S. by special arrangements.

INDIAN MONEY bought and sold.

LOANS on the security of Jewels a specialty. Interest charged at 10% per annum when paid monthly; otherwise 12% (Part Payments Accepted)

LOANS are also granted against approved securities, such as Landed Properties, Food Grains, Piece Goods and other imperishable articles. (Part Payments Accepted.)

For further particulars apply to:—

M. Thamotharampillai,
Manager.

Y. 64.

BEST CALICUT TILES.
CROWN and STAR Brands.

Covering Largest Space

Elegant, Light, Strong and Cheap.

Phone 524 EM. TIRUCHELVAM,
Telegram: Agent,
Tiruchelvam. Main Street, Jaffna
Y. 63.

Teak! Burma Teak!!
Finest Quality!!!

Fresh consignment of best teak just now arrived at Jaffna.

Intending purchasers are requested to obtain the same from our Depot, Grand Bazaar, at Jaffna and Tondamannar.

S VEERAGATHIPILLAY.

Q 114.

Empire of India Life Assurance Co. Ltd.

Established 1897

A Monthly payment of Rs 12/60 cts. will secure a With Profit Assurance as shown below which will further increase by Bonus Additions.

Age next Birthday.	ASSURANCES PAYABLE AT DEATH.			ENDOWMENT ASSURANCES payable at Death or at end of		
	PREMIUMS LIMITED TO			20 Years.	25 Years.	30 Years.
	Whole Life.	15 Years.	20 Years.			
25	Rs. 5,820	Rs. 3,550	Rs. 4,350	Rs. 3,200	Rs. 3,010	Rs. 3,800
30	5,140	3,290	3,980	4,890	2,980	3,820
35	4,480	3,030	3,500	5,970	2,810	3,400

Prospectus and Proposal form on Application.

F. DADABHOY,

Chief Agent for Ceylon,

No. 2, Canal Row, Fort, COLOMBO.

Head Office:
Empire of India Life Building,
BOMBAY.
H. 65.

PEOPLE
in pain!

They think of BALM.
A balm that will give
them quick relief. That is

Little's Oriental Balm

The oldest and
surest remedy for



Headache
Neuralgia
Rheumatism
Sciatica
Lumbago
Sprains
Strains etc.

A little does a lot to
gently rub the pain out

Obtainable at all Chemists and Stores.

Y. 60. a

PRINTING THAT IS RIGHT.

In Jaffna we have obtained recognition as good printers by honest and faithful service.

THE SAIVA PRAKASA PRESS

Neat
Expeditious
Prompt
Punctual.

Is one of the few well equipped printers in the North. We undertake all kinds of printing and turn out the Best Work at Moderate Charges.

For High class Printing send your orders to us. You will see we can do them best.

Estimates Free on Request.

Let us Have Your Enquiries

SAIVAPRAKASA PRESS, Vannasampal, Jaffna

AFJNA, THURSDAY, JANUARY 10, 1929.

THAI PONGAL.

THE Thai Pongal THIS YEAR FALLS ON Sunday, the 13th inst. at 4.33 p. m. and the ceremonies connected with it may be continued till 10 p. m. when only the auspicious period will expire.

The Tamils have two Pongals, one on the first day of the month of Thai and the other on the first day of the month of Adi. According to Tamil tradition, on the first day of the month of Thai, the Devas begin their day, which for them covers over a period of...

Astronomically Thai Pongal marks the beginning of the northward march of the Sun bringing longer days and brighter sunshine. The day on which Thai Pongal falls is known as Makara Sankranti, that is, the day on which the Sun passes from the House of Sagittarius to that of Capricorn.

The Tamils, wherever they live, observe the Pongal day ceremoniously. On the day previous to the Pongal they sweep their dwelling compounds and wash their houses and furniture. The floor is daubed with cowdung. Furniture and house-hold utensils are washed and kept clean and tidy. On Pongal day, the inmates bathe and wear new or clean clothes. Then the head of the house consecrates a pot in the open and cooks unboiled rice with milk and brown sugar in it. The cooking goes on till the water bubbles over the brim and this is known as Pongal or overflowing. When the rice has been cooked, the pot is taken out of the oven, the sacred lamp is lighted, and the rice and fruits are offered to the Devas. Then all the members of the family, who will be specially gathered together for the occasion, partake of it and afterwards exchange visits with close relatives and intimate friends. This is known as Pongal Pandikakai because generally all sorts of cakes are also prepared and regular feasting takes place.

The Thai Pongal is essentially a pastoral festival, because invariably a day or two after the Pongal there is celebrated the Maddupongal when the protection of the Devas is again invoked for the sake of the cattle and the plough. This festival clearly shows that the Tamils are essentially a pastoral race and that agriculture has been the mainstay of the people from time immemorial.

Pongal day is really a day of reunion. It is on this day that the members of a family, who are scattered far and wide, return to their homestead and gather round the Pongal pot. Tender memories of missing ones rise in the midst of festivities and often cast round the family pot a gloomy atmosphere. This year the Tamil community will be missing from their midst their great patriarch and leader, the late Sir Ambalavanar Kanagasabai. He was a father to all and a friend of everybody. Never a countryman passed him without hearing from the lips of the venerable Knight a kind word or a cheerful message. To those of us, who are connected with this paper, his loss is irreparable. He is one of the founders of this paper and to the end of his life he watched its interests and guided its destinies. Men of his character and attainments are rare. To the end he lived a noble and virtuous life. His death was too sudden and therefore all the more lamentable. No less regrettable is the passing away of the late Mr. A. Cathiravelu. A man of modest and high character, he led a worthy life and bequeathed to posterity a name and an example to be followed. It was for a considerable length of time connected with this paper as its co-editor and his untimely death has been a great blow to the community.

Thoughts such as these are bound to come to us on an occasion like the present one. We cannot avoid them. But there is no reason why, with these and other thoughts that usually accompany a Pongal day, we should not wish our readers, one and all, a happy and successful Pongal. May Ishwara bless us all!

THAI PONGAL AND PRAYER.—We commend the appeal for prayer made by the Y. M. H. A. (Central) to the earnest consideration of our readers. We need not dilate much on the efficacy of prayer. The cause of youth is the cause of the coming generation. We cannot but feel that an hour set apart for prayer by the whole community will be productive of the highest good and the Pongal day is by far the best day for such a purpose. We invite the attention of all our readers to this appeal.

“Thai Pongal Pandikai.”

The Offices and the Printing Works of the “Hindu Organ” (English and Tamil) will be closed on Sunday, January 13th on account of the Thai Pongal Pandikai. Consequently there will be no issue of the editions on Monday, January 14th.

Manager, “Hindu Organ.”

LOCAL & GENERAL.

WEATHER.—A change in the weather has set in. Last night and this morning there fell light showers.

JAFFNA MUTUAL BENEFIT FUND LTD.—We are informed that the fund will be closed on Monday, 14th instant on account of Thai Pongal Pandikai.

CHILAW URBAN COUNCIL.—At a Special Meeting of the Chilaw Urban District Council, Mr. N. J. Martin was unanimously elected Chairman. This is the third time Mr. Martin was elected as Chairman.

NEW SANITARY STATIONS.—Two Sanitary Stations were opened at Kokkuvil and Pattar from the beginning of this year. Mr. P. Nadesan has been appointed Sanitary Inspector of Kokkuvil. Mr. W. Sittampalam is in charge of Pattar. Mr. Nadesan is an old Boy of the Jaffna Hindu College. After leaving school he was for some time working in the Kegalle Kachcheri as Assistant Rubber Clerk. From there he passed the Sanitary Inspectors, Entrance Examination and underwent the necessary training for six months. At end of this period he passed the qualifying examination and was appointed to the present post.

DASHING CRACKER ACCIDENT.—With the approach of “Thai Pongal” young men in Jaffna launch themselves in perilous pastimes. Preparation of dashing crackers is one of them. On Tuesday last a young man of the Paramba caste in Anaiottai prepared the ingredients for dashing crackers. While making a sample cracker the ingredients, which were highly combustible, got ignited and burnt his hands. The major portion of the mixed powder which was by the side of the man caught fire. The man's face was badly scalded and disfigured. His body was also badly burnt. He was immediately removed to the Manippay Hospital where he is reported to be in a critical condition.

STUDENTS' BUDDHIST ASSOCIATION.—The second annual dinner of the Buddhist Students Association of Great Britain and Ireland was held on the 15th December in the Darbar Suite of Veerasamy's India Restaurant. The Association counts nearly one hundred and fifty members, consisting of students drawn from many nationalities including English, Sinhalese, Chinese, Indians, Japanese and Siamese. Meetings are held once a month at 41 Gloucester Road, Regents Park, where the members are provided with all the facilities for social intercourse. Lectures are also delivered to the students by eminent people on various phases of the Buddhist religion, as also on literary subjects.

LOCAL OPTION SUCCESS AT BERUWALA.—The results of the local option poll for the closing of the Toddy Tavern at Beruwala were as follows:—Number on the voters' lists 2,400, number of voters recorded 1,696, for retention 23, number spoilt 53, for abolition 1,620. The percentage obtained being 67.7, the temperance workers were victorious.

MORE ANTI-TEMPERANCE FAILURES.—At the Local Option polls held on Monday last for the re-opening of the Vaddukkoddai East Toddy Tavern a very low percentage (about 4) voted for. Yesterday (Wednesday) the Patoiy South, Patoiy East and Varahupattai Toddy Taverns were polled. Here too the percentage obtained was beyond expectation thereby indicating the determination of the people not to have anything to do with liquor.

Mrs. SOROJINI NAIDU IN AMERICA.—The Hindu Association in New York, U. S. A. gave a banquet in honour of Mrs. Naidu. India, she said, was the representative of the old world. America the spokesman of the new. Young India claims independence not merely political, but for the social, religious and moral freedom for the expression of man. To this end India evokes the Dharma and Ahimsa of which Mahatma Gandhi is the greatest living symbol.

AN APPEAL FOR PRAYER.

At a conference of Hindu Students held under the auspices of the Jaffna Hindu College Young Men's Hindu Association, a few months ago, it was decided to reorganize the Y. M. H. A. (Central) with a view to coordinate the activities of various Saiva Young Men's Associations and to make the rising generation to appreciate and understand Hindu ideals of life and practice them. The great conviction that prayer is the surest way of seeking Divine guidance and that the habit of praying is the foundation of Hindu life, has induced the Committee of the Maddhya Saiva Manavar Sangam (The Central Y. M. H. A.) to organise a series of lectures on prayer to be delivered at various centres in Jaffna and to make an appeal to all Saivites to observe the Thai Pongal day as a day of prayer for the benefit of Ceylon youth. Already lectures have been delivered under the auspices of the Hindu Young Men's Associations of Manippay, Bathumalai, Sandilipay and Vaddukkoddai. More lectures have been organised and Divine Providence has induced Sir Ponnampalam Ramanathan to make an offer to the Committee of a sum of Rs 1500 to carry out its programme.

The Maddhya Saiva Manavar Sangam believes in prayer and makes an earnest appeal through this paper for help, not monetary but through prayer. All Associations and people interested in the welfare of Ceylon youth will encourage the Maddhya Saiva Manavar Sangam by setting apart an hour, say between 5 and 6 p. m. on Pongal day, for prayer on behalf of Ceylon youth. It is earnestly hoped that this appeal on behalf of the young men of Ceylon will not go forth in vain.

Negombo Hindu Procession.

OPPOSITION TO LICENSE.

The principal Negombo Hindu Procession for the year, which takes place this month, will, it is understood, start from Sri Mutumariammal Kovil at Sea Street, on its outward journey on the 24th inst. and is to return from Dawatagahawattia Kovil on the 27th inst. along Main Street past St. Mary's Church, Grand Street.

The procession was allowed to go past St. Mary's Church for the first time in January, 1927 when a disturbance occurred. There is said to be opposition for the granting of license for the conduct of the procession on the last date.

Return of a University Scholar

OBTAINED DEGREE IN AGRICULTURE

Mr. M. M. Kumarkulesingham, University Scholar (Agriculture) of 1924, son of the late Madaliyar J. T. Muttiah, Chief Tamil Interpreter Madaliyar of the Supreme Court, who proceeded to England in August 1925, returned to Ceylon last week. Mr. Kumarkulesingham is a B. Sc. (London), B. Sc. (Agric.) and M. S. E. A. O. He was also a research student in Genetics under Professor Radley Gates at King's College, London.

Mr. Kumarkulesingham had a brilliant scholastic career while at St. Benedict's College, Colombo, winning the Sir Marous Fernando Prizes in Chemistry, Sir Thomas de Sampayo Prizes in English Language and the Donorbert Prizes in Eng. Literature.—Cor.

His Majesty's Illness.

CHANGE OF SICK ROOM.

The latest bulletin regarding the health of His Majesty states that the King had a quiet day yesterday, and there was some improvement in his condition.

On Saturday the patient was moved from his bed room to the adjoining Audience Chamber, which overlooks Constitution Hill. It is believed that this change will, in some measure, relieve the monotony of His Majesty's surroundings.

The general belief in competent medical circles is that the King is gradually overcoming the steepest gradient on the long uphill road to recovery.—“Times Cutting”, 7-1-29

The “New Free Press” (Vienna Newspaper) states that an Austrian courier left for London four days ago with medicine for the King, in the form of Streptococci serum, produced by the Austrian Bero Therapeutic Institute, which was quite not present in any similar preparation produced elsewhere.

ABSENCE OF DOWNWARD MOVEMENT.

Two favourable bulletins regarding the King's health were issued yesterday.

Anxiety in Palace circles has been relieved to a certain extent by the continued absence of any downward movement in His Majesty's condition and by the doctors' decision to omit the morning bulletin.

The fact that the Duke of York and the Duke of Gloucester left London yesterday for Sandringham is regarded as an indication that greater optimism prevails at the Palace.—Ibid, 8-1-29.

DOCTORS SATISFIED WITH PROGRESS.

Regby, Jan. 8th.

It is understood that the King passed a fairly quiet night, and his condition today again remained much about the same.

At Buckingham Palace it is considered that the fact that the King's condition is unchanged may be taken as a definite indication that he is on the upgrade.

The King's doctors have made it clear that they are satisfied as to his progress, for there will be no further bulletins until tonight.—Ibid, 9-1-29.

ELECTION OF A CHAIRMAN.

The first meeting of the new Council was held yesterday (Wednesday) at 4 p. m. at the Jaffna Kachcheri to elect a Chairman and a Vice Chairman. There were present the following members: Messrs. K. Somasundaram, K. Sivagurunathar, K. N. Nalliah, C. Arulampalam, J. M. Moses, C. Somasundaram, M. Anandipillai, A. M. M. Abdul Cader, J. A. J. Theissenveerasinghe, V. Joseph, H. E. de Kresier, and E. W. Soharangavel.

Mr. Somasundaram's name was first proposed and was duly seconded to be Chairman pro tem. But Mr. Anandipillai proposed Mr. Joseph to be the chair. Mr. Moses seconded.

Mr. Sivagurunathar at this stage objected to any business being done, without the Secretary first reading the notice convening the meeting.

Mr. Joseph said that he did not think it necessary to read the notice.

The Secretary now got up to read the notice, but was interrupted by Mr. Anandipillai objecting to the notice being read. Mr. Sivagurunathar explained that the procedure adopted in the previous meetings was first to read the notice convening the meeting.

So the objection was not pressed and the Secretary read the notice. Immediately after the notice was read Mr. Anandipillai was on his feet and proposed Mr. Joseph to be Chairman pro tem. Mr. Moses seconded. Mr. Theissenveerasinghe proposed the name of Mr. Somasundaram. Mr. Sivagurunathar seconded. Mr. Somasundaram's name was then put to the vote first. Seven voted for and none against.

A member wanted Mr. Joseph's name also to be put to the vote but as it was found that the majority had voted for Mr. Somasundaram, and there was only a minority left, Mr. Joseph's name was not put to the vote. Mr. Somasundaram took the chair. He thanked them for having elected him Chairman pro tem.

The Secretary then read the minutes of the last special meeting held on the 19th ultimo. Mr. Moses moved the adoption of the minutes. Mr. Arulampalam seconded and were passed. Mr. Somasundaram then called upon the members to elect their Chairman for the ensuing term.

Mr. Anandipillai proposed Mr. Nalliah's name. In doing so he said that as all knew of Mr. Nalliah's capacity for work, ability and other qualifications, necessary for the post, he would not take their time by making a speech. Mr. Moses seconded.

Mr. Arulampalam proposed Mr. Sivagurunathar's name and said that Mr. Sivagurunathar had been his (speaker's) fellow member in the Local Board, and a member of the Urban Council from its inception. As Vice Chairman of the Council he (Mr. Sivagurunathar) had helped the Council greatly and again later as the Chairman for some time of the last Council he had done good work. The speaker did not think that any one would dispute Mr. Sivagurunathar's ability and administrative capacity to be Chairman. His ability, high integrity and his love of duty alone would recommend him to the members of the Council to elect him as their Chairman.

Mr. Abdul Cader seconded.

CASTING VOTE DECIDED THE ELECTION.

Mr. Somasundaram wished to know whether the voting should be by ballot or by raising of hands. The house agreed to vote by ballot. After counting the ballot papers the Chairman pro tem said that the result was in a tie, both the candidates having six votes each. After hesitating for a while, he said that under the circumstances he had to use his casting vote and he would give it in favour of Mr. Sivagurunathar, (applause). With the casting vote, Mr. Sivagurunathar got seven votes, thus defeating Mr. Nalliah by a majority of one vote.

Mr. Sivagurunathar, then occupied the chair. While thanking them for re-electing him as Chairman, he said that during the one year he had been carrying on the onerous duty of Chairman, he took upon himself that great responsibility but feared if he could discharge his duties to the satisfaction of the Council and the public. He thought that he had done his work to his satisfaction, but did not know if he had committed any mistakes. If any had been committed it would have been done with the best of intentions and not for want of willingness on his part to serve the Town and the Council. He thanked them for their kindness in re-electing him and trusted that they would extend to him their co-operation in the work that lay before them. The work of the Council was becoming more pressing and onerous: the Karayook reclamation scheme, electric lighting and water supply were to be tackled with and these could not be done to the satisfaction of all. He once more thanked them for the honour they had done him. He would now ask them to elect their Vice-Chairman.

Mr. Somasundaram then proposed the name of Mr. Theissenveerasinghe.

Mr. Arulampalam seconded. No other names were proposed and Mr. Theissenveerasinghe was declared elected unanimously.

He thanked the members.

The Chairman then intimated to the house that there was a bye law that the monthly meetings should be held on the second Saturday of every month. The second Saturday of the present month was very near and he therefore wished to know when they should hold the next meeting.

The house decided to hold the next meeting on the third Saturday of this month.

The proceedings terminated and the Chairman and Vice Chairman were then congratulated by the members of the Council.

OBITUARY.

Mrs. M. S. BASARATNAM.

The sad and untimely death of Ulaganai Sumal beloved wife of Mr. M. S. Basaratnam, Aiyeroda, and Editor “Hindu Organ” took place on last Monday morning at her residence in Vaddukkoddai. The deceased who was 30 years of age at the time of her death was suffering from an attack of fever for the past 3 weeks and in spite of the best medical aid and careful nursing passed away peacefully. The funeral took place the same afternoon and was well attended. She leaves behind to her husband her two children her husband, three sons and three daughters and a host of friends and relations.

Government Board.

REFINING JAFFNA U. D. C. DIVISIONS.

At the ninety-second meeting of the Local Government Board held at the Colombo Club on Wednesday, December 19, 1923, at 9.30 a.m. the following items among others were considered and adopted.

Hon. Mr. R. N. Thaine, C. M. G., President, presided and there were 6 other members present.

The minutes of the ninety-first meeting having been circulated were confirmed.

Considered and approved the modified scale of salary plus allowances assigned by the Jaffna Council to the office of 1st Sanitary Inspector.

U D C FOR KURUNEGALA.

Considered circulation paper regarding the proposed establishment of an Urban District Council for Kurunegala and resolved to recommend that such a Council should be constituted.

Tablad (a) circulated regarding the proposed exemption by the Jaffna Council of paddy fields from property tax; (b) the Attorney General's letter intimating that section 171 (1) (a) leaves it to the discretion of a District Council to impose a rate on any species of immovable property and that the District Council can expressly exclude paddy fields.

The budgets of the Obilaw, Jaffna, Kalutara, and Panadura Councils for 1924 were tabled.

Considered and approved the proposal of the Jaffna Council to contribute a sum of Rs. 250 towards the expenses of a "Health Week" in Jaffna in March next.

The Board approved the application of the Ratanapara Council for the acquisition of land for an office.

The Board resolved to recommend to Government the proposal of the Jaffna Council (a) to vary and adjust its administrative limits under section 14 by the extension of certain paddy fields in Electoral Divisions Nos. 4 and 7, (b) to re-define the electoral divisions under section 26.

It was resolved to hold the next meeting of the Board on Wednesday, January 16, 1924, at 9.30 a.m.

Calcutta Congress Decisions.

PRESIDENT ON THE WORK AHEAD.

"POLICY OF DRIFT NO LONGER SAFE".

"The Calcutta Session of the Congress is fraught with lessons both for the bureaucracy and the people said Pandit Motilal Nehru in the course of an interview to the Associated Press. He continued: "It has shown that we have arrived at a stage when the policy of drift is no longer safe for either side and the party which fails to profit by the lesson it has to learn, is bound to come to grief. The Government must take a long forward stride immediately if a very grave situation is to be averted in the near future. The people must cease talking, and take to active preparation to acquire the strength and sanction to enforce their demand."

"By approving the All Parties' Committee report, the Congress has shown the right step for the Government to take, and by adopting the programme formulated by Mahatma Gandhi it has shown to the people the right course to adopt. The future largely depends upon the response made by both sides."

Q: In your address and public statements, you have often stated that you will accept Dominion Status if it is offered before it is too late. Does your time limit synchronize with the time limit fixed by the Congress?

A: The words "too late" have no reference to any time limit, as no such limit was in contemplation when they were used. They refer to the extent to which the people of India are ready at any time to enforce their own terms. My point was that if Dominion Status was withheld up to the moment the people were prepared to enforce their terms to the fullest extent, they would naturally prefer complete independence and it would then be too late to offer them Dominion Status.

Q: What will be your position on the 1st of January, 1930? Will you join the Independents group or will you have faith in Dominion Status?

A: My position on 1st January, 1930 will be determined by the situation as I then find it. But whatever that situation may be, there will, in my opinion, be ample scope for necessary action within the Congress without joining any particular group. There is no question of faith in Dominion Status. The question is whether there can be any faith in the promise of Britain to give Dominion Status to India. I have made no secret of the fact that I have not and never had any faith in that promise. For those like me who have no faith in the promise the time-limit means a period of preparation and organization. For those who have faith in the promise, it means that they will be disillusioned if Dominion Status does not come before the 1st of January, 1930. The entire country will then be ready to march forward on a road to complete independence.

Q: Was the Convention in your opinion a success?

A: As between the Government and the people, as a complete success for the latter, as all was united in the demand for the immediate grant of Dominion Status. The differences that remain are on non-essentials, and can easily be adjusted. At the moment there is a favourable gesture from the Government. In the absence of any such gesture, I am confident that earnest work on the programme of Mahatma Gandhi during the year will remove all outstanding differences.

Q: How do you propose to convey to the Government of India and the Parliament, the ultimatum given by the Congress?

A: The Congress has simply laid down a programme of action for the whole country, of which all whom it may concern can take due notice. It is not necessary for us to deliver any ultimatum to the Government.

Mahatmaj's Autobiography.

AMRITSAR CONGRESS COMPROMISE.

This is a further instalment of Gandhiji's Autobiography as appearing in "Young India":—

The Punjab Government could not long keep in confinement hundreds of Panjabis who, under the martial law regime, had been clapped into jail on the strength of the most meagre evidence by tribunals that were courts only in a name. There was such an outcry all round against this flagrant piece of injustice that there further incarceration became impossible. Most of the prisoners were released before the Congress was opened. Lala Harki-han Lal and the other leaders were all released while the session of the Congress was still in progress. The All Brothers too arrived there straight from their jail. The people's joy knew no bounds. Pandit Motilal Nehru, who at the sacrifice of his own and private had made Panjab his headquarters and had done great service was elected President of the Congress; the late Swami Shradhanandji was the Chairman of the Reception Committee.

Up to this time my share in the annual proceeding of the Congress was confined only to the constructive advocacy of Hindi by making my speech in the national language and to presenting to that speech the case of the Indians overseas. Nor did I expect to be called upon to do anything more this year. But as had happened on many a previous occasion, responsible work came to me all of a sudden.

The King's announcement on the new reforms had just been issued. It was not wholly satisfactory even to me and was unsatisfactory to every one else. But I felt at that time that the reforms though defective could still be accepted. I felt in the King's announcement the hand of Lord Sivas and its language lent a ray of hope. But experienced stalwarts like the late Lokamanya and Deshabandhu Chittraranjan Das shook their heads. Pandit Malaviyaji was neutral.

Pandit Malaviyaji had harboured me in his own room. I had a glimpse of the simplicity of his life on the occasion of the foundation ceremony of the Hindu University, but on this occasion, being in the same room with him I was able to observe his daily routine in the closest detail, and what I saw filled me with joyful surprise. His room presented the appearance of a free inn for all the poor. You could hardly cross from one end to the other. It was so crowded. It was accessible at all odd hours to chance visitors who had the licence to take as much of his time as they liked. In a corner of this crib lay my cot in all its dignity.

But I may not occupy this chapter with a description of Malaviyaji's mode of living and must return to my subject.

I was thus enabled to hold daily discussions with Malaviyaji who used lovingly to explain to me like an elder brother the various view points of the different parties. I saw that my participation in deliberation on the resolution on the reforms was inevitable. Having had my share of responsibility in the drawing up of the Congress report on the Punjab wrongs I felt that the much that still remained to be done in that behalf must claim my attention. There had to be dealings with Government in that matter. Then similarly there was the Khilafat question. I further believed at that time that Mr. Montagu would not betray or allow India's cause to be betrayed. The release of the All Brothers and other prisoners too seemed to me to be an auspicious sign. In these circumstances, I felt that a resolution not rejecting but accepting the reforms was the correct thing. Deshabandhu Chittraranjan Das on the other hand held firmly to the view that the reforms ought to be rejected as wholly inadequate and unsatisfactory. The late Lokamanya was more or less neutral, but had decided to throw in his weight on the side of any resolution that the Deshabandhu might approve.

The idea of having to differ from such seasoned, well-tried and universally revered leaders was unbearable to me. But on the other hand the voice of conscience was clear. I tried to run away from the Congress, and suggested to Pandit Malaviyaji and Motilalji that it would be in the general interest if I absented myself from the Congress for the rest of the session. It would save me from having to make an exhibition of my difference with such esteemed leaders.

But my suggestion found no favour with these two seniors. The news of my proposal was somehow whispered to Lala Harki-han Lal. This will never do. It will very much hurt the feelings of the Panjabis, he said. I discussed the matter with Lokamanya, Deshabandhu and Mr. Jinnah, but no way out could be found. Finally I laid out my distress to Malaviyaji. "I see no prospect of a compromise," I told him, "and if I am to move my resolution a division will have to be called and votes taken. But I do not find here any arrangements for it. The practice in the open session of the Congress so far has been to take votes by a show of hands with the result that all distinction between visitors and delegates is lost, while as for taking a count of votes in such vast assemblies, we have no means at all. Both ways will be no facility for it, nor meaning in it." But Lala Harki-han Lal came to the rescue and undertook to make the necessary arrangements. "We will not," he said, "permit visitors in the Congress pandal on the day on which voting is to take place. And as for taking the count, well, I shall see to that. But you must not absent yourself from the Congress."

I capitulated; I framed my resolution and in heart trembling undertook to move it. Pandit Malaviyaji and Mr. Jinnah were to support it. I could notice that although our difference of opinion was free from any trace of bitterness and although our speeches too contained nothing but the cold reasoning, the people could not stand the very fact of a difference; it pained them. They wanted unanimity.

Even while speeches were being delivered, efforts to settle the difference were being made on the platform and notes were being freely exchanged among the leaders for that purpose. Malaviyaji was leaving no stone unturned to bridge the gulf. Just then Jayaram handed over his amendment to me and delegates from the sweet manner to save the delegates from the dilemma of a division. His amendment appealed to me. Malaviyaji's eye was already scanning every quarter for a ray of hope. I told him that

Continued.

Timely Warning to Britain.

SIGNIFICANCE OF CONGRESS DECISION.

The following is the full text of the interview given by Mahatma Gandhi to "The Englishman's" special correspondent:—

The Mahatma, the report says, had just returned from his morning walk and was surrounded by a score of his followers while we talked "I have no secrets from my friends," he remarked with a smile in explanation of our audience.

"What exactly does the Congress stand for—Dominion Status or Independence?" I asked.

Mr. Gandhi thought for a moment, and then, peering at me keenly through his glasses, replied, "I can realise the Britishers' difficulty in understanding our point of view, but I am glad that he is trying to," he said.

"My position is very clear. To me Dominion Status means Independence. Others have been led, through suspicion of Britain's good faith, and partly also, I am afraid, for their own party purpose, to make a distinction between the two."

"But it has been largely a battle of words. There is no real room for misunderstanding as to what I personally—and the Congress—stand for."

"We want Home Rule—a freedom Constitution built up by ourselves—something not imposed from without."

"The Nehru Constitution is of our own making. If that is accepted it means that we become partners at will and makers of our own destiny."

"No Surrender to INDEPENDENTS"

"In that case," I asked, "why did you make what the British people cannot but consider a surrender on your part to those to whom independence is not the same thing as Dominion Status and frankly implies severance of the British connection?"

Mr. Gandhi pondered the question carefully before he replied.

"I have in a sense made a surrender to those you consider 'the extremists,' but it has been a surrender on points which do not seem to me to affect the real position. There has been no surrender of the principle for which I have always stood and always will stand."

"Severance on any account is not my goal. Power for severance, when desired is."

"You have, nevertheless, added to your demand for Home Rule on the basis of the Nehru Report a time-limit which you must know to be an impossible one. You have, in effect, presented a pistol at the head of the British Parliament. You declare that unless the Nehru Report is adopted by the 31st of December this year, something dreadful is going to happen."

No TERROR.

Mr. Gandhi shook his head. "You are wrong," he said quietly. "We are not in a position to point a pistol at the head of the British Parliament—and I cannot agree with you that the time-limit we have laid down is an impossible one."

"If Britain to day were threatened with another war she would face the situation and deal with it at once. But the Indian situation is not considered serious enough to warrant immediate handling."

"That," added Mr. Gandhi with emphasis, "is where Britain has been making a very big mistake. She does not consider the Indian situation sufficiently important. It is a minor affair in the business of the Empire, a minor affair that can be put off and off, to be attended to some day when there is nothing else to worry about. That is what we resent, and that is what is aggravating this tragic suspicion that is poisoning the whole atmosphere of our political life."

"Let the leaders of the British people make some definite, serious and sincere move to meet us within the year and then ultimatums and time-limits need no matter."

I had one more question for Mr. Gandhi, and it was the only one he evaded.

"If," I asked, "the British Parliament has not conceded the Nehru Constitution by the 31st of December what is going to happen?"

"AN OPTIMIST."

Mr. Gandhi smiled.

"I am an incurable optimist. Up to midnight on the 31st of December 1923, I shall be hoping and hoping—and praying—that the definite move we ask for will be made by Britain."

"And if your hopes are not realized?" The Mahatma thought a moment before he answered.

"In that case," he replied, "on New Year's Day 1924, I shall wake up to find myself an independence-waiter."

What that would mean Mr. Gandhi would not say. He has set his hand to the resolution passed by the Congress declaring that:

"In the event of the non-acceptance of the Nehru Constitution in its entirety by the 31st of December 1923, or its earlier rejection, the Congress will organise a campaign of non violent non-co-operation by advising the country to refuse taxation and in such other manner as may be decided upon."

But he has hope and faith that things will so shape themselves that his will not be the responsibility for rigging up the curtain upon another Indian tragedy.

Continued.

Jayaram's amendment seemed to me to be likely to be acceptable to both the parties. The Lokamanya to whom it was next shown said "If C. K. Das approves I will have no objection." Deshabandhu at that moment and cast a look towards Mr. Jinnah and Mr. Jinnah, Malaviyaji was filled with hope. He snatched away the slip of paper containing the amendment and before Deshabandhu had even pronounced a definite 'yes' shouted out "Brother delegates, you will be glad to learn that a compromise has been reached." What followed beggars description. The pandal was rent with the clapping of hands and the erstwhile gloomy faces of the audience lit up with joy.

It is hardly necessary to deal with the text of the amendment. My object here is only to describe as to how this resolution was undertaken as part of my experiments with which these chapters deal.

The compromise further increased my responsibility.

Indian Labourers in Ceylon.

DEPRIVING THEM OF WHAT IS THEIR DUE

Thus writes the "Hindu" of Madras in one of its leaderettes of January 7:—

The figures published in *The Ceylon Government Gazette* relating to the number of Indian labourers in Ceylon show that the apprehensions felt by the Ceylonese about the indigenous population being overwhelmed by Indian voters if the latter were given equal franchise are absolutely groundless. It would appear that as a matter of fact there were at the end of September last about 5,000 labourers less in Ceylon than in the previous year. The figures relating to influx and efflux of labourers more or less prove the same point. *The Times of Ceylon* after reviewing these statistics says that the saturation point has already been reached and that there will probably be no larger immigration of Indian labourers than has hitherto been the case. Our contemporary remarks:

"The statistics should do much to allay needless alarm at the prospect of Indian domination, which has been fostered by agitation of a purely political character. Ceylon has had an adequate supply of labour since 1924 under the control system, and the Indian population is not likely to increase disproportionately unless there is a substantial demand for new labour. This, in turn, is most unlikely, and it can reasonably be assumed that the Tamil estate population, which comprises over three-fourths of the total Indian population in the Island, has reached saturation point."

The resolution of the Ceylon Legislative Council denying Indians larger voting power than they possess and foregoing an extension of the franchise so far as the indigenous population is concerned, merely to deprive Indians of what is their due, is now before the Colonial Office along with other resolutions on the Demographic Report. What the final stage when the franchise question will be adopted cannot be known until the decisions of Mr. Amery are published. But the Government of India would do well to address the Ceylon authorities on the whole question pointing out the absurdity of the conclusions reached by the Legislative Council owing to prejudice.

Order Nisi.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 8395.

In the Matter of the Estate of the late Sangarappilly Vinasiamby of Inuvil

Deceased.
Negathal widow of Ampalavy Kadigamar of Inuvil

Petitioner.

Vs.

1. Vinasiamby Sionamby of Inuvil presently of Asgriya Estate, Malale
2. Sionacuddy daughter of Vinasiamby of Inuvil

Respondents.

This matter of the Petition of Negathal widow of Ampalavy Kadigamar of Inuvil praying for Letters of Administration to the estate of the above-named deceased Sangarappilly Vinasiamby of Inuvil coming on for disposal before J. C. W. Rock Esquire, District Judge, on November 27, 1923, in the presence of Mr. S. V. Chinniah, Proctor, on the part of the Petitioner and the affidavit of the Petitioner dated November 19, 1923, having been read, it is declared that the Petitioner is an heir of the said intestate and is entitled to have Letters of Administration to the estate of the said intestate issued to her unless the Respondents or any other person shall, on or before January 17, 1924, show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

J. C. W. Rock,

District Judge.

Dec. 13, 1923.

O. 1610.

Order Nisi.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 6968.

In the matter of the estate of the late Eleduchuntamma wife of Chandrampillai of Navaly

Deceased.
Arutnasiam Chandrampillai of Navaly

Petitioner.

Vs.

1. Parsameewari daughter of Chandrampillai
2. Chandrampillai Sri Kanja
3. Chandrampillai Sri Pazma
4. Chandrampillai Sri Theerama
5. Kumaravelu Kasipillai of do

Respondents.

This matter of the Petition of the Petitioner above-named praying that the above-named 5th Respondent be appointed guardian ad litem for the purpose of this case and praying for Letters of Administration to the estate of the above-named deceased Eleduchuntamma his wife coming on for disposal before J. C. W. Rock Esquire, District Judge, on December 8, 1923, in the presence of Mr. E. Marugampillai, Proctor, for Petitioner and the affidavit of the Petitioner dated November 18, 1923, having been read:

It is declared that the above-named 5th Respondent be appointed guardian ad litem over the 1-4 Respondents above-named for the purpose of this case and the Petitioner is the husband of the said intestate and is entitled to have Letters of Administration to her estate issued to him unless the Respondents or any other person shall on or before January 17, 1924, show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

J. C. W. Rock,

District Judge.

December 14, 1923.

O. 1611.

Printed and published by M. S. Rasaratnam, for and on behalf of the Proprietors, the Jaffna News and Printing Press, at their Press, the Selva Prakash Press, Vannarpponnai.