

# The Hindu Organ.

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**The Hindu Organ.**

JAFFNA, MONDAY, JANUARY 28, 1929.

**JAFFNA'S GREATEST NEED.**

AT THE PRESENT HOUR, JAFFNA'S greatest need is physical regeneration. All other problems may wait but this cannot wait. No lover of his country can look on with perfect equanimity while so many lives are being lost annually owing to preventable causes. The Jaffna man who dreaded to go to the Wannu for fear of malaria has now malaria visiting him uninvited. No home is free from the ravages of some preventable disease or other and people are still buried in ignorance and superstition. The heaviest item in the budget of every family is its medical expenses. The whole race is sick and physically degenerate. A race of people whose ancestors with their inimitable iron frames dug up this desert isle and converted it into a smiling garden are unable to withstand the insidious attack of almost every conceivable disease on the face of the earth. Pale and anaemic people now go about the country with misery written on their faces. Physical degeneracy is palpably visible everywhere. Infants pine away in their mothers' laps for want of proper nourishment. Men fight shy of jobs entailing hard physical labour. Women are unable to stand the strain of child-birth. School children grow stupid for want of proper feeding and nourishment. Degeneracy is visible even in the very cattle and dogs found in every home. Fields no longer yield rich crops and the quality of vegetables produced in Jaffna gardens has deteriorated considerably. The root cause of everything is unhealthy living brought about by artificial modes of living on the one hand and ignorance and superstition on the other. It is the tragedy of a people tied down by the customs and traditions of bygone ages accommodating themselves to a new order of things brought about by contact with the dynamic and compelling force of modern civilisation. We still cling to our cherished traditions as if that is the only heritage left to us. We have not yet cultivated the art of discrimination. Indeed it is no exaggeration to say that unless we wake up and do something to save the physique of our race our very existence as a race will soon come to an end. The history of the Wannu will be repeated here and all the magnificent efforts of our forefathers to build up a race would come to nothing. At the rate in which infant mortality continues to increase year after year in Jaffna it is reasonable to presume that the Jaffnese race is fast dying out.

It is not sufficient that scientific men should find out how diseases may be prevented or even that laws should be made and enforced by Government for the same purpose. It is absolutely necessary that the mass of the people should be made to understand the prevention of disease, so that they can carry out in their own homes the suggestions of scientific men. It is not that every one has not some idea that the chief things that keep us well are pure air, good food, pure water, cleanliness, exercise and rest. A good many do actually realise their value or have read much about them in their school text books. The real difficulty comes in when they do not either try or try to get these things. The promotion of wealth seems to be so much uppermost in the minds of many that they find only too late in life that health is a thing that cannot be purchased with wealth.

In the first place most houses in Jaffna have been planned without any idea of the principles of house construction. The chief use for a house appears to be its utility for storing up all sorts of things safely. With low roofs covered with flat tiles and small rooms without any windows or openings and filled with all sorts of things they look more like godowns than dwelling houses. To find pure air or good ventilation in such dwellings is altogether out of the question.

In the second place the quality of the staple food of the people, namely, rice has deteriorated. Formerly country rice rich in vitamins was the chief article of diet. Now it is all milled rice. Milled rice contains starch and nothing else. In the case of children again the situation calls for most urgent measures. A sufficient quantity of even an inferior quality of milk cannot be had for any price. Owing to the scarcity of good fodder cattle cannot be maintained in an efficient condition and the milk trade is no longer the paying and popular business of the farming class.

In the third place water for drinking purposes is not found so pure as in the olden days when the population was limited and soil pollution was preventable. In the good old days, the people of a village performed their ablutions in waste grounds specially set apart for the purpose and far from dwelling compounds. Now every dwelling compound is a sort of an open-air latrine.

Our people realise the value of cleanliness to a certain extent but our women are never taught the value of exercise. At the present day the women of upper and middle class homes do absolutely no work at home and avoid as much physical exercise as possible. Owing to the false standards set up they never stir out of their homes without travelling in some sort of conveyance. A butterfly existence appears to be the ideal of the average woman in Jaffna. The idea never strikes our leaders that it is impossible to build up a healthy race without healthy mothers.

Thus from every point of view we are in a backward state. If we actually realise the great danger we are in we should take immediate steps to prevent it. It is very fortunate that at this time when the people are beginning to realise the value of health education, Government also is moving in the matter. The Health Week that is coming on during the first week of March next offers a splendid opportunity to educate the people on practical lines. Starting with this grand effort, we should set afoot in this country a vigorous health campaign till disease and death are driven out from our shores so that every man, every woman and every child of our motherland may have the joy of living in this wonderful world of ours devoting their health and energy to the pursuit of things that really matter.

**LOCAL & GENERAL.**

**ANOTHER CADET IN THE C. C. S.—**Mr. S. M. Duff having been selected as a Cadet in the Ceylon Civil Service is attached to the Kandy Kachcheri from January 23.

**DEPARTMENTAL EXAMINATION FOR PROMOTION:**—Last Friday's "Gazette" notifies that the following Officers in Class II of the Clerical Service have also passed the examination qualifying them for promotion:—S. Sandrasegarar of the Office of the D. M. S. S., Colombo; P. G. Seneviratne of the Audit Office. The names of the other Officers who passed the same examination were published in the "Hindu Organ" of the 17th instant.

**SCHOOL CHANGE OF MANAGEMENT—**The Hon. Mr. S. Rajaratnam has been appointed Manager of the Maddavil North Mixed School in place of Mr. C. Arulambalam.

**CERTIFICATES IN DRAWING:**—The following are among the successful candidates who have passed the Examination for English Teachers' Certificate in Drawing held on November 15 and 16, 1928:—*First Grade:* R. Ponniah, Karaveddy; R. Gnanesampanthan, Araly East; and A. Nadarajah, Vaddukkoddai East Boy's English School. *Second Grade:* P. S. K. Ratnam, Karaveddy; D. J. Thamapillai, Jaffna Town; and G. Subramaniam, Chunnakam.

**LAND SALES IN THE NORTH—**The Assistant Government Agent, Mannar, will put up to auction etc 39 allotments of Crown land situated in the Musali North & South divisions, 6 allotments of Crown land situated in the Mantai division, and 19 allotments of Crown land situated in the Metkumalai division of the Mannar District on March 5, 8, & 20th, respectively.

**SUPREME COURT CRIMINAL SESSION:**—A criminal session of the Supreme Court for the Districts of Jaffna, Mannar, and Mullaitivu will be held at District Court house at Jaffna, commencing on Monday, February 18, 1929.

**A NEW AYURVEDHA HOSPITAL.**—We understand that a new Ayurvedha Hospital has been recently opened at Old Store Road, Nallora, adjoining Moddamavadi junction. The Hospital will be under the charge of Dr. J. Bastiampillai, Principal, Lanka Ayurvedic College, Jaffna, assisted by Ayurveda Vidyarthi V. Subramaniam.

**Government's New Excise Policy**

**TEMPERANCE LEADERS' HARD FIGHT**

**LENGTHY DEBATE IN COUNCIL.**

Mr. G. S. Wodeman, Excise Commissioner, made by maiden speech in the Legislative Council on Thursday last in moving that the Council do approve the recommendations of the Government as set forth in the schedule attached to the Report of the Excise Commission published as Sessional Paper VI. of 1928.

Mr. T. Reid, Controller of Indian Immigrant Labour, seconded the motion.

Mr. D. D. Jayatilaka made a lengthy speech in leading the debate. In the course of his exhaustive speech he traced the history of legislation concerning liquor traffic in Ceylon and the Government's hostility towards the temperance cause. He said that the Council was obliged to the Excise Commission not only for enunciating the new Excise policy of the Government but also for that confession he had made of the utter failure of the Government to enforce the law. In conclusion he questioned the object of Government in pushing forward the present proposals. Did it aim at total abolition of liquor traffic or was it going to tinker with the question? He wanted a straight answer. He asked for a heavy duty on foreign liquor imports so as to make it impossible for importers to smuggle for uses and also that the quantity and importation of liquor should be restricted. He did not see how the question of any interference with the liberty of the individual came in so long as there was a restriction already in regard to the consumption of opium—a less harmful thing than liquor.

Mr. W. A. de Silva in his speech brought to light certain statistics which showed considerable decrease in the liquor traffic after the introduction of local option. In 1913 there was an increase of 83 1/2 per cent over the consumption in 1908. In 1913 the consumption of arrack was 1,500,000 gallons, and foreign liquor 550,000 gallons; in 1927, the consumption of arrack was 80,000 gallons, foreign liquor 350,000 gallons. Judging from the ratio of increase before local option 1927 figures showed 1/4 of what the consumption would have been if not for local option. (Cheers.) He deplored the suppression of these facts from official reports.

Mr. de Silva read a letter re Temperance Propaganda and Madras Govt support in the course of his speech which is reproduced elsewhere.

At this stage the debate was adjourned till 2.30 p. m. on the following day (Friday).

The debate on the new Excise proposals of Government was continued in the Legislative Council on Friday and adjourned till Thursday afternoon next.

Mr. S. R. Rajaratnam speaking first said that while he would congratulate the Excise Commissioner on his speech, he could not agree with many of his points. The Excise Commissioner had dwelt generally on what he thought to be the good effects of drink, but he did not pause to consider what other countries thought of the problem. Mr. Lloyd George once said that of the three enemies Britain had then to fight—Germany, Austria and drink—drink was as far as he could see the deadliest.

According to the last few speakers Government had during the last two years reversed its policy with regard to drink. He would describe sub-section (c) of Section 10 and certain other subsections as being nothing but satanic. People had formerly been given the right to keep away arrack or toddy from their own districts. But now the Government seemed to tell the people that they could not allow the right of local option because it lost revenue and that licenses should be given to sell not one or two bottles but any quantity. The suggestion was nothing but satanic.

Mr. Rajaratnam asked the Government why so much arrack had been allowed to be smuggled from Mannar and Mullaitivu into "dry" Jaffna. Why could they not try what was being done successfully in Bombay and America? The Government was facing the people with a vengeance. Illicit sales, he contended, should not be so much that the people wanted drink, but that the illicit seller went on tempting the people. Again, by illicit sales of arrack and foreign liquor the Government did not lose any revenue because the whole sale dealer had already paid the duty before it got into the hands of the illicit seller. In the case of toddy it was different.

Mr. Rajaratnam insisted that liquor should be rationed.

Mr. O. E. Victor Corea complained of the Government's want of discrimination in the selection of officers to man the Excise Department. He had led the ignorant masses to believe that Government viewed with disfavour any attempt to close taverns by Local Option.

The Colonial Secretary spoke defending the policy of Government and its action. He was speaking till 6 p. m. when the Council adjourned till Thursday next.

**Temperance Propaganda work.**

**SUPPORT FROM THE MADRAS GOVT.**

The following is the copy of the letter read by Mr. W. A. de Silva at the debate in the Legislative Council on the Govt's New Excise Policy. The letter was addressed by the Govt. of Madras to a leading and organised Temperance Association in the Presidency:—

Sir—In order to help the creation of an active public opinion against the evils of alcohol drink in this Presidency, it has been proposed that the Government should subsidise more public funds for the propaganda work which is now being done by private societies.

I am directed to enquire what amount of money could usefully be spent by your Society for a year on State propaganda work, and to request you to kindly give the Government some information as to:

(1) How your Society would propose to spend any grant which the Government may find it possible to make to it?

(2) Whether the Society can organise new societies to carry on the propaganda work, or even get individuals to do the work?

I am to request a reply to be sent within two weeks, if possible.—Yours, etc.

(Sgd) C. N. STRATHORN,  
Atg. Secretary to the Govt. of Madras.

**Councillors Freedom of Speech.**

**DRAFT ORDINANCE BEFORE COUNCIL.**

In the Legislative Council on last Thursday afternoon the Hon. Mr. W. Duraiwamy introduced a Draft Ordinance relating to freedom of speech in the Council Chamber, the essential clause of which reads as follows:—

The Legislative Council of Ceylon and the Committees and members thereof, respectively shall hold, enjoy, and exercise, and shall be deemed at all times to have held, enjoyed, and exercised such and the like privileges, immunities, and powers as and the privileges, immunities, and powers of the said Council and of the Committees and members thereof respectively are hereby defined to be the same as were or are held, enjoyed, and exercised by the Commons House of Parliament of Great Britain and Ireland and by the Committees and members thereof, whether such privileges, immunities, or powers were or are so held, possessed, or enjoyed by custom, statute, or otherwise.

**Villipuram—Trichy. Chord Rly.**

**OPENED BY THE MADRAS GOVERNOR**

The Governor of Madras, Viscount Goschen, opened the Villipuram Trichinopoly Chord Railway on January 25 at Golden Rock Station before a large gathering of distinguished officials and non officials.

The line which is 108 1/2 miles in length had been built to flat grades and easy curves to facilitate the running of fast trains and haulage of heavy loads. It reduces the distance between Madras and Trichinopoly by 4 1/2 miles and in conjunction with a second chord line now being built between Trichinopoly and Manamadurai which will provide a much shorter route from Madras to South and would it is hoped eventually enable the time for journey between Madras and Colombo being lessened by several hours. The line while opening up a large tract of fertile country passes close to the famous temples at Trichinopoly and Srirangam which are among the finest examples in Hindu Architecture.

**Postal Clerical Results.**

**EXAMINATION HELD IN NOVEMBER.**

The undermentioned candidates have passed the examination held on November 7, 1928, and the following days for admission to Class II and Class III of the Postal Clerical Service:—

- CLASS II.**  
D. C. Salvador, S. Ampalavanar, S. Periyambay, G. W. Jayaweera, J. E. Spied, Thambu Thambipillai, W. T. Fernando, P. B. Fernando, K. D. S. Gnanawardene, M. N. Sathu Hanay, H. A. D. Nibolas, Thambimuttu Thambipillai, P. T. M. Perera, S. Kandiah, L. H. Perera, O. C. Amarasekera, A. G. P. Weeraratne, F. D. Manampary, R. M. B. Perera, A. L. L. Rodge, B. V. Diasnayake, G. A. de S. Samarasingha and B. H. J. Pieris.
- CLASS III.**  
C. P. Tissara, C. L. Taylor, S. Dharmarajah, M. Thanootharpillai, E. Kandiah, N. L. Wijayasingha, D. C. Jayakody, D. L. D. Juan, R. Maragapillai, P. Subramaniam, S. Ponnamayy, J. D. Edmond, M. M. Nansoorah, D. W. Jayawardene, R. D. H. P. Weerasekera and H. B. P. Pappale.

**Post Office Communication.**

**TECHNICAL APPOINTMENT AND THE POSITION OF CEYLONISES.**—Mr. D. S. S. nanayaka gave notice of the following motion at Thursday's meeting of the Legislative Council. "This Council views with great concern the obstacles encountered by Ceylonese studying in England for the purpose of qualifying themselves for posts in technical departments of the Government of Ceylon, and deplores the difficulties experienced by qualified Ceylonese in entering these departments and requests the Government to table the papers connected with (a) The Agricultural Scholarship awarded to Messrs. O. Amirthalingam and M. M. Kumarasingham (b) Appointments made in the Public Works Department, Irrigation Department and Electrical Department during the year 1928.

F. M. S. PENSIONERS' ASSOCIATION

Two years ago the number of F. M. S. Pensioners (I think) permanently settled in the island was not more than 100.

Today the number is perhaps more than three hundred. Time is near when this number has to swell enormously and at the present rate of monthly applications for retirement, I think, in another five years our F. M. S. Pensioners' list will contain well over six hundred men.

There is a point to be noted with regard to the retirement of our men over here and that is their propensity to retire early in life.

I am one who has always advocated the emancipation of our motherland even at the sacrifice of our temporary pleasures of service in a foreign land.

"Are we to sell our interest and rights of motherland for the sake of our bread? Our services are indispensable to her who laments over our separation, for whose uplift and independence and for whose attainment of 'Swaraj', we should even at the sacrifice of this perishable body and its wants toil hard.

Those of use who are residents of the place realise the imperative necessity developing this institution into a really efficient Elementary School, so that our children—boys and girls—may receive a sound education amidst surroundings that foster a correct understanding and an intelligent appreciation of our religion.

THE STRIKE AND WITH THAT LEAVEN The tramwaymen's strike has been going on for some time now and the public are suffering from the inconvenience of a service of hiring cars and 'buses' organized by the Labour Union.

ISOLATED INSTANCES OF INTIMIDATION. The strike of 160 Colombo tramwaymen continued with unabated determination on both sides today, (24.1.29) the men remaining adamant in their demands, while the Company are maintaining a skeleton service with officials and volunteer workers.

MORE CARS RUN BY THE VOLUNTEERS. The situation in the strike of Colombo tramwaymen is unchanged today (25.1.29). More trams however, are being run with the assistance of volunteers.

While the general situation in the strike of Colombo tramwaymen remains unchanged, a further improvement has been effected in the tram service. Twenty cars—four more than yesterday—were running today, (26.1.29) and this number is half the normal service.

Continued. Sojourn of our sons also, but for our grandsons and great grandsons let our aim be to provide a field in our motherland.

The above was what I said two years ago and I do still hold the same view. It goes without saying that independence is national pride and to secure this independence we must be self-supporting in the matter of food and clothing first.

It is my desire to see if my proposal can be consummated, and to that effect I am prepared to render possible personal assistance during my visit to Jaffna shortly, when I hope my brethren the F. M. S. Pensioners and others interested in the matter will give me all co-operation.

KOOKUVIL HINDU ENGLISH SCHOOL

In the "Hindu Organ" of 13 December last appeared an appeal, issued by Mr. M. Karthiganu, the Headmaster of the Kookvil H. E. School, for contributions from friends and well-wishers of the School to meet the expenses of the extension of the building.

Those of use who are residents of the place realise the imperative necessity developing this institution into a really efficient Elementary School, so that our children—boys and girls—may receive a sound education amidst surroundings that foster a correct understanding and an intelligent appreciation of our religion.

It is needless to say that there have been during this decade an allround progress and prosperity in Kookvil and other adjoining villages. The Government recognises this fact and has, therefore, decided to establish a Railway Station, a Post Office, a Dispensary, which, we hope, will soon grow up into a Hospital.

His Majesty's Illness. It was officially stated at Buckingham Palace today that the King's progress is maintained. The King is regaining strength, but so slow is this process that at least two weeks must elapse before he will be strong enough to be moved to Craigwell House, near Bognor.

PREPARATIONS AT CRAIGWELL HOUSE. The King is expected to go to Craigwell House, near Bognor, to recuperate, about the beginning of the week after next.

"FREE OF INFECTING ORGANISM." A bulletin issued at 11.15 a.m. signed by Sir Hugh Kiggly, Dr. Lionel Whitby and Lord Dawson of Penn, states:—"The improvement in His Majesty's condition noted in the last bulletin continues."

REMOVAL TO BAGOOR. It is learned that the continuance of the King's progress has facilitated the fixing of an approximate date for His Majesty's departure for Bognor, namely, the first week in February.

STEADY PROGRESS EXPECTED. Today's bulletin concerning the King's illness contained one of the most reassuring signs yet noted. While stating that the improvement in His Majesty's condition continued, it added that bacteriological examination showed that the right side of the chest was now free of the infecting organism.

Situation in Afghanistan. NEW AMIR'S TROOPS ROUTED. A message from Kabul states that the first battle between the united Jalalabad tribes advancing on Kabul and a detachment sent by the new Ruler, Bacha-i-Saqao (Habibulla Ghazi), occurred 25 miles from the capital, and resulted in the routing of the detachment, which sustained heavy casualties.

AMANULLA AGAIN ACTIVE. Ex King Amanulla's latest move is to cable the Afghan General Nadir Khan, who was formerly Afghan Ambassador in Paris and who is now leading a retired life in Europe, asking him to fly to Amanulla's help.

There will probably be no peace in Afghanistan for some time to come. It will be remembered that recently Mirzaman Khan, Chief of the Kunar Valley district, who was a great supporter of the ex King, Amanulla, was killed, and though the murder was attributed to a feud, the truth seems to be that he was killed chiefly because of his pro Amanulla proclivities.

Some of the Shinwaris, however, are not in the mood to join in any Jirga which aims at helping the cause of the ex King Amanulla. The other tribes still favour the proposal, and mean to hold the Jirga at Dakks, or, failing that, at Jalalabad, and to raise a force of 30,000 to 40,000 men to march on Kabul against the new Amir.

It is rumored that none of the members of the Afghan Royal family, except Mohammed Kabir Khan who is believed to be a step brother of Bardar Inayatulla Khan) have accepted Bacha-i-Saqao (Habibulla Ghazi) as their new king. Further light is shed in bazaar gossip on Bacha's identity. He is said to be a strongly built man of over 30 who about two years ago, running a tea shop in Peshawar, therefore he went to Parachinar and worked there as a cooly. Thence he proceeded to Kabul and worked there for some time as a gardener before he enlisted in the Afghan Army.

London Mails per the P. & O. "Khyber" are due on Saturday, February 2, and per the O. L. "Ormonde" on Saturday, Feb. 9. Straits & China Mails per the M. P. "Athos II", are due on Tuesday, January 29, and per the P. & O. "Kalpan" on Wednesday, January 30.

Table with columns: Class, Exam Results, and Candidates. Includes Class I-V, Class III, and Class IIII.

Local Government Board

U. D. C. OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION. The following are the minutes of the ninety-third meeting of the Local Government Board held at the Colombo Kachcheri on Wednesday, January 16, 1929.

Considered Circular Note No. 5 of 27/1928 regarding the interpretation of section 23 of Ordinance No. 11 of 1920. It was resolved to recommend to Government the amendment of the section with a view to bringing it into line with section 38 of Ordinance No. 6 of 1910.

Considered letter No. B 1071 of 14th December, 1928, from the Chairman of the Kalutara Council in regard to the proposed formation of an association of Urban District Council Officers in the Island. The Board resolved to call for a formal application from the officers concerned setting out the objects of the proposed Association and the names of patrons and officers whom it is proposed to elect and enclosing a copy of the proposed rules.

The budget of the Matara Council for 1929 was tabled. The Board considered and approved under section 164 a by-law made by the Dabwala-Mt. Lavinia Urban District Council regarding the time and place of its meetings.

INDIAN & FOREIGN

ENGLAND AT EUROPE'S MERCY.—The Premier's statements in the House of Commons on Tuesday on the channel tunnel project once more bring into the realm of practical politics a scheme which, suggested in 1802 by a French Engineer, has more often than met with British military opposition all these years.

ABSTRACTED AFGHAN PRINCE.—Twenty-one Afghan Princes recently arrested in India were brought in two batches from Calcutta and sent to Melkita wherein some Afghan Princes are already staying. COMMUNIST CAMPAIGN IN CHINA.—The recrudescence of Communist activities in China is indicated in messages from Shanghai.

EX KAISER'S 70TH BIRTHDAY.—There was much activity at the ex Kaiser's residence on January 24th, when members of the old German nobility and the Headquarters Staff called to congratulate their former ruler on the occasion of his 70th birthday.

FAMINE IN NORTH CHINA.—Horrible reports of the ravages of famine in North China are contained in the report of the Famine Relief Commission from Sara Famine. Desperate hunger has driven men to crime. For instance, 3,000 have been killed and are now rotting the ground in an effort to make them reveal where the grain is hidden. One from of torture is pour red hot coals into the victim's house. One village male was devoured by a band of robbers.

THE MAILS.

RECEIPT. London Mails per the P. & O. "Khyber" are due on Saturday, February 2, and per the O. L. "Ormonde" on Saturday, Feb. 9. Straits & China Mails per the M. P. "Athos II", are due on Tuesday, January 29, and per the P. & O. "Kalpan" on Wednesday, January 30.

