

The Hindu Organ.

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RECEIPTS.

London Mails per the P & O "Mongolia" are due on Saturday, February 16; per the O L "Orford" on Saturday, February 23, and per the P & O "Moldavia" on Saturday, March 2.

Straits & China Mails per the S M N "Christiana Hygeus" are due today (Thursday); per the N Y K "Hakone Maru" on Wednesday, February 20; and per the R L "Patria" on Thursday, February 21.

DESPATCHES.

London Mails per a P & O Steamer leaving from Bombay will close on Tuesday, Feb. 19; per the O L "Orsova" on Wednesday, February 20; and per the R L "Patria" on Thursday, February 21.

Straits & China Mails per the R L "Tambora" and the P & O "Malwa" will close on Sunday, Feb. 17; per the N Y K "Haruna Maru" on Wednesday, February 20; and per the S M N "Pieter Czn Hooff" on Saturday, February 23.

Hindu Board of Education.

The fifth annual general meeting of the Hindu Board of Education will be held on Saturday the 23rd inst. at 8 p.m. in the Jaffna Hindu College Hall.

AGENDA.

1. Thevaram.
2. Confirmation of the minutes of the previous annual general meeting.
3. Secretary's Report.
4. Treasurer's Balance Sheet.
5. Election of Directors (Class III)
6. Election of Office-bearers.
7. Thevaram.

Hindu Board Office, M. S. SASARATNAM
Jaffa 11 Feb. '29. Hony. Secretary.
Mis. 13885.

The Hindu Organ.

JAFFNA, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1929

THE TOWN OF JAFFNA.

IT IS VERY REGRETTABLE TO NOTE THAT the Jaffna Urban District has neither the imagination nor the initiative to look ahead or to plan things for the future. A feeling of self complacency coupled with a desire to do the maximum with the minimum of effort is all that it appears to be capable of. It wants all people to believe that it is doing something, whereas it is simply dragging on a weary existence and has been doing nothing worthy of note. Even the vegetable women of the Grand Bazaar of Jaffna know that things are not very much better than during the good days of the Sanitary Board of the Twynnam regime. The life of the Urban population is becoming more and more complicated but the Urban District Council does not appear to be aware of it. We have been watching the proceedings of its meetings. Nothing worthy of a progressive body comes under its purview. Is the naming of a road here or the pairing of a culvert there. After some years of existence there is a proposal to install about half a dozen lamps more. The latest is the proposal to supply a seats round the Jaffna Fort as an apology for a public park. The Council could very timidly pass by-laws with our hopes of putting them into effect. The such is that relating to the uprooting weeds in compounds. Of course, the channels and side-drains are excluded from the operation of this by-law. Interference with public roads might lead to a clash with the P. W. D. which is the Government Department. It is not to be done at any cost. As all people are aware, there is a lot of peace after the waving off of the conservancy rate. That is how we look at things in Jaffna.

We do not blame the executive officers of the Council. It is not for them to take the initiative in any matter. The initiative must come from the elected members themselves. We have a city that is rapidly growing and becoming more and more congested every day. We would like to know whether any member has thought about this and brought before the Council any constructive proposal. It is an age since a member brought in a motion to relieve the congestion in Karayoor by appropriating the

portion of land adjoining the Jaffna lagoon recently reclaimed by Government. We doubt very much whether the Council would be prepared to buy up the land in question from Government. For one thing, its funds are limited and so it has got into the habit of shelving things which involve the expenditure of large sums of money. A Government loan is all that it could speculate upon. It is afraid to increase the rates. Perhaps it is not possible for it to do so, possibly because the paying capacity of the inhabitants is limited. Therefore it is clear that the Council must look for other possible sources of increasing its revenue.

One of the best ways of increasing revenue is by introducing remunerative works—works, which fall within the normal scope of an Urban District Council and which are at the same time productive. Water supply and electric lighting schemes are works of this type. The taxing of property owners alone for services rendered to the whole community appears to us as arbitrary. As we progress onwards, there should be less levying of rates directly and more of general remunerative schemes.

The town of Jaffna is congested in more than one area. The two most congested areas are the Karayoor area and the Moor Street area. As regard the latter, we have a suggestion to offer. Beyond Oldmadam there is an open level ground composed of paddy fields. What we would suggest is that the U. D. C. should acquire a large slice of it, lay out the grounds with fine roads, put up some model tenements and convert the rest into building sites and offer them for sale in small blocks. We are sure that the U. D. C. will not only realise the full amount spent on the scheme but also something more to form the nucleus of a fund for similar purposes. The model tenements would also bring in a regular income. Similar expansions are possible in the direction of Koddady west of the Jaffna Fort and also towards Arialai.

A scheme that will pay itself may be introduced by the opening of new roads. If a new road is cut through a congested area, or an existing road widened and straightened, and the ground and property on either side of the road acquired for building sites, these sites may rise considerably in value, and when sold may bring in at least enough to cover the cost of the whole scheme, if not more. It is hardly necessary to emphasise the degree to which the health and attractiveness of dwelling houses depend on the planning of roads. The spacing of the roads influences the frontage given to the houses, and the area of open ground available to provide air, light, and outlook for the windows. Careful planning will preserve the residential roads from through traffic, thus reducing dust, noise, and danger, and will, moreover, keep open many attractive views of open spaces and distant objects of interest or beauty. The orderly arrangement of the houses themselves and the decoration of the streets with trees and shrubs will add enormously to the pleasantness of the dwellings. At the same time, a good system of main trafficways, by adding facility for getting from place to place, will increase the efficiency of the people as industrial workers and add to their opportunities of enjoying social life and culture. We wonder when Jaffna will have a town planning scheme of its own wherein all these desirable elements could be introduced.

Thirunelvely Saiva Orphanage.

Rs. 20,000 FOR A PERMANENT HOME.

HINDU BOARD'S APPEAL FOR FUNDS.

The following appeal is from the Hon. Secretary, Mr. M. S. Sasaratnam, on behalf of the Hindu Board of Education:

"This orphanage was started on the last 'Vijaya Thiruvonam' day (23 10 28) in a rented house at Thirunelvely, under the auspices of the Hindu Board of Education. Already 60 students have been admitted. More applications are pouring in, but for want of accommodation they have to be disallowed.

"It is now proposed to put up, before the end of this year, a permanent building which would provide the necessary dormitories, dining halls, kitchen, etc. for at least 200 students.

"The members of the Jaffna Sasaratnam Vignaswami have very generously come forward to help the Board in the collection of funds by giving a benefit performance on the night of Saturday the 23rd instant at the Jaffna Royal Theatre, Vazharpponnai.

"The Hindu Board appeals to the public to help this charitable institution by patronizing the Drama on that night and contributing their mite."

LOCAL & GENERAL.

WEATHER AND HEALTH:—The tropical sun has begun to send forth its scorching rays. The days are unbearably hot and the nights are awfully dewy. The general health of Jaffna is far from satisfactory. Several cases of enteric, dysentery and diarrhoea are reported from several places. The health of the children is very bad and infantile mortality is on the increase.

THE CEYLON MEDICAL COLLEGE:—Last Friday's Gazette publishes for the information of students the rules and regulations governing the Ceylon Medical College, Colombo.

GOVERNMENT TRAINING COLLEGE:—The same Gazette publishes the names of the successful students who have passed the Sinhalese Students' Final Examination of 1928 and are awarded 2nd Class Certificates.

FOUNDATION OF THE JAPANESE EMPIRE:—Monday last was a great national festival among the Japanese people, being the 2589th anniversary of the founding of the Japanese Empire by Jimmu Tenuo, the first Emperor of the Island Empire.

"ANIMAL HOUSE" AT UNIVERSITY COLLEGE:—An "Animal House" is to be added to the Zoological Department of the University College, Colombo, and is to cost Rs. 750 and not Rs. 500 as originally estimated.

EXCISE ADVISORY COMMITTEE:—The following gentlemen have been appointed to be Members of the Advisory Committee for the Jaffna Urban District Council Area with effect from February 1, 1929:—The Chairman, Jaffna U. D. C. (Chairman), The Provincial Surgeon, N. P. Messrs. R. R. Nalliah, V. Ramalingam, N. Selvadurai, and M. Sabaratnam.

MORNING MOTOR MISHAP:—The death of a rickshaw coolie due to a motor rick collision in the early hours of last Sunday morning is reported from Colombo. It appears two rickshaws, one behind the other were going along the Dematagoda Road, when a car driven by a European gentleman and travelling from the opposite direction collided with the first rickshaw with the result that the two iron supports on the back of this vehicle struck against the second rickshaw-puller and inflicted fatal injuries on his chest and abdomen. The man who was removed to the General Hospital succumbed to the injuries.

MAIDEN'S MIDNIGHT MURDER:—How a brave resistance to protect her maidenhood by a village damsel but had been over-powered and done to death was brought to light at the enquiry over the reported brutal murder that occurred at midnight on Saturday last at a village near Mt. Lavinia. The only occupants of the house on the night in question were the deceased girl, aged 17 years, and her 75 year-old grandmother. From the evidence of the old woman it transpired that at about midnight the deceased who was sleeping by her side called out to her that she was dragged. Immediately followed the cry that she was stabbed. The girl embraced the old woman who awoke and found the light blown off and the girl lying in a pool of blood. The two brothers of the deceased who were away in Colombo arrived later on the scene of murder. Suspicion is being centred as to the perpetrator of this heinous crime.

MEDICAL:—Mr. V. Kandiah, M.P.S., F.R.M.C., F.I.O. (Lond.), who arrived recently from England, has taken up duties in the Civil Medical Stores, Colombo. In addition to his qualification as a Chemist and Druggist, he has obtained a Diploma in Visual Optics and Sight testing.

OFFICIAL:—Mr. W. O. D. Pentelov, Office Assistant to the Govt. Agent, N. P., goes on transfer to Colombo as Assistant Settlement Officer. Mr. Hoare, Acting Police Magistrate, Point Pedro and Chavakachcheri succeeds Mr. Pentelov.

—Mr. P. V. Sathasivam, Clerk in Class I of the Railway Clerical Service is seconded for service as Probationary Assistant Divisional Transportation Superintendent with effect from September 1, 1927.

KATUKURUNDA RAILWAY DISASTER VICTIMS:—A sum of Rs. 141,088 49 is to be paid as compensation in connection with the Katukurunda train disaster of March last year. Unexpended balances from the votes in the Railway Budget are to be used for the purpose. Claims amounting to Rs. 9,160 14 have been paid in respect of damaged or lost goods.

VADDUKODAI VILLAGE COMMITTEE:—At a meeting of the Vaddukodai Village Committee held yesterday (Wednesday) Mr. S. Velupillai, F.M.S., President of Arya South has been elected to act as Chairman during the absence owing to illness of Mr. A. Sithambaramthapillai, Notary Public, Vaddukodai.—Cor.

His Majesty's Illness.

LEAVES THE PALACE

London Feb. 9th.
The King left at 10.30 for Bognor in a motor ambulance. His Majesty, a pale, wane figure, propped on narrow bed, smiled feebly and waved his hand in response to cheers. The crowd at the Palace to see the King's departure was most representative, including rich and poor alike.

ARRIVAL AT BOGNOR.

The King arrived at Bognor at 1.24 p.m. Rugby, Feb. 10th.
"His Majesty the King travelled to Oregwall House without undue fatigue, and his general condition is satisfactory."

London, Feb. 11th.
The King is already benefitting from the invigorating air and the change of scenery and environment, after 11 drab weeks at Buckingham Palace.

ENCOURAGING REPORTS

It is officially stated that the King passed another good night, and his condition is satisfactory. His Majesty's appetite has improved, and he generally appears to be benefiting by the change.

DUCHESS OF YORK.

The Duchess of York, who is suffering from influenza, continues to make good progress.—"Times Cuttings"

THE KAITADI SAIVA UNION:—The second monthly meeting of the Kaitadi Saiva Union was held on Sunday the 10th inst. with Bramana Sri R. Somapoththawara Kurukkal in the chair. After the minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed, Mr. S. Ponnappah delivered an instructive lecture on "National Education", in the course of which he deprecated the present system of education as denationalising and detrimental to the growth of national spirit and added that the system should be improved by giving higher place for the study of the Vedas and national subjects like local history, geography in addition to religious instruction. Remarks were offered by Messrs. V. Subramanyam, V. Kanapathipillai and the Chairman.

GANDHIJI FREE LIBRARY AND READING ROOM:—The inaugural opening of the Gandhiji Free Library and Reading Room by Mr. S. Saivapathasandaram, B.A., Principal, Victoria College, took place on the evening of Wednesday, the 13th inst., at the Saivaprakasam Vidyasalai Hall, Molai.—Cor.

RELIEVING DISTRESS IN THE WANNE:—During the last financial year a supplementary vote of Rs. 12,000 was sanctioned by the Finance Committee for the relief of distress in the Wanne. In October, 1928, the Assistant Government Agent, Mannar, reported that a sum of Rs. 2,939 of that vote remained unexpended at the end of the last financial year, and applied for a re vote of this sum together with a further sum of Rs. 6,000 in order that he may provide for relief works until the end of April, 1929, when the harvest will be reaped. The Government considered that further relief work was necessary and as the matter was one of urgency, the expenditure of a sum of Rs. 8,939 was authorized. The matter will come in Finance Committee on Friday next.

JAFFNA MARKET FUND:—The markets in Jaffna which are outside the U. D. C. area are under the supervision and control of the District Road Committee. There are 19 markets in the Mainland and 1 in Velanai. The revenue from these markets for the half year ended December 31, 1928 was Rs. 16,952 20. The rest of Chavakachcheri market fetched the highest amount viz. Rs. 4,843 while that of the Aobobuvay market was the lowest viz. Rs. 25. The revenue from other sources amounted to Rs. 924 55, thus making a total revenue of Rs. 17,876 75. The balance for the first half year ended June 30, 1928 amounted to Rs. 43,720 11. So the grand total of revenue was Rs. 61,596 86. Of this amount Rs. 20,433 21 were spent during the second half year by way of salaries to market keepers, and other improvements, and repairs to the various markets, leaving a balance of Rs. 41,163 65 to the credit of the D. R. C.

NEARVELY VILLAGE COMMITTEE:—From January 24, 1929 the Village Committee of Nearvely is having its sittings at the V. O. Court building situated near the 7th milepost on the Jaffna-Point Pedro Road. Up to that time the local school building was used for that purpose.

SUPREME COURT CRIMINAL SESSION:—A criminal session of the Supreme Court for the first Eastern Circuit will be held at the Court house at Batticaloa commencing on Monday February 25, 1929. Mr. Justice Dalton will be the presiding Judge.

A PERMANENT BANK HOLIDAY:—The same Gazette publishes the Draft of the Holidays Amendment Ordinance, 1929. By this Ordinance the Holidays Ordinance No. 1 of 1928 is to be amended making Maundy Thursday which falls during the Easter as a permanent Bank Holiday.

VILLAGE COMMUNITIES ORDINANCE:—The same Gazette publishes the Draft of the Village Communities Amendment Ordinance, 1929. By this Ordinance the Village Communities Ordinance, No. 9 of 1924 is to be amended so as chiefly to remedy the irregularities that occur during the election of Village Committees under the above Ordinance.

FOURTH ANNUAL MEETING

1819.

Mahatma's Autobiography.

FINAL CHAPTER.

The following is the final instalment of Mahatma Gandhi's autobiography appearing in "Young India":—

The resolution adopted at the Calcutta special session of the Congress were to be confirmed at its annual session at Nagpur. Here again as at Calcutta, there were a great rush of visitors and delegates. The number of delegates in the Congress had not been limited yet. As a result, so far as I can remember, the figure on this occasion reached about fourteen thousand. Lalaji pressed for a slight amendment to the clause about the boycott of schools which I accepted. Similarly, some amendments were made at the instance of the Deshabandhu after which the non-co-operation resolution was passed unanimously.

The resolution regarding the revision of the Congress constitution too was to be taken up at this session of the Congress. The Sub Committee's draft was presented at the Calcutta special session. The matter had therefore been thoroughly ventilated and thrashed out. At the Nagpur session where it came up for final disposal Sir C. V. Jeyareghava charlar was the President. The Subjects Committee passed the draft with only one important change. In my draft the number of delegates had been fixed I think at 1,500; the Subjects Committee substituted in its place the figure 6,000. In my opinion this increase was the result of hasty judgment and experience of all these years has only confirmed me in my view. I hold it to be an utter delusion to believe that large number of delegates is in any way a help to the better conduct of the business, or that it safeguards the principle of democracy. Fifteen hundred delegates, jealous of the interests of the people, broadminded and truthful, would any day be a better safeguard for democracy than six thousand irresponsible men chosen anyhow. To safeguard democracy the people must have a keen sense of independence, self respect and their oneness and should insist upon choosing as their representatives only such persons as are good and true. But obsessed with the idea of numbers as the Subjects Committee was it would have liked to go even beyond the figure of six thousand. The limit of six thousand was therefore in the nature of a compromise.

The question of the goal of the Congress formed a subject for keen discussion. In the constitution that I had presented, the goal of the Congress was the attainment of Swaraj within the British Empire if possible and without it necessary. A part in the Congress wanted to limit the goal to Swaraj within the British Empire only. Its viewpoint was put forth by Pandit Malaviya and Mr. Jinnah. But they were not able to get any votes. Again the draft constitution provided that the means for the attainment were to be peaceful and legitimate. This condition too came in for opposition, it being contended that there should be no restriction upon the means to be adopted. But the Congress adopted the original draft after an instructive and frank discussion. I am of opinion that if this constitution had been worked out by the people honestly, intelligently and zealously it would have become a potent instrument of mass education and the very process of working it out would have brought us Swaraj. But a discussion of the theme would be irrelevant here.

Resolutions about Hindu Muslim unity, the removal of untouchability and khadi too were passed in this Congress. And since then the Hindu members of the Congress have taken upon themselves the responsibility of ridding Hinduism of the curse of untouchability and the Congress has established a living bond of relationship with the "skeltons" of India through khadi. The adoption of non-co-operation for the sake of the khilafat was itself a great practical attempt made by the Congress to bring about Hindu Muslim unity.

FAREWELL.
But the time has now come to bring these chapters to a close.

My life from this point onward has been so public that there is hardly anything about it that the people do not know. Moreover since 1921, I have worked in such close association with the Congress leaders that I can hardly describe any episode in my life since then without referring to my relations with them. For though Shradh-dhannanjay, the Deshabandhu, Hukim Sahab and Lalaji are no more with us to day, we have the good luck to have a host of other veteran Congress leaders still living and working in our midst. The history of the Congress, since the great changes in it that I have described above is still being made. And my principal experiments during the past seven years have all been made through the Congress. A reference to my relations with the Congress, therefore, be unavoidable. If I set about to describe my experiments further, and this I may not do, at any rate for present, it only from a sense of propriety. Lastly my conclusions from my current experiments can hardly as yet be regarded as decisive. If there seems to me to be my plain duty to close this narrative here. In fact my pen instinctively seems to proceed further.

It is not without a wrench that I have to take leave of the reader. I set a high value on my experiments. I do not know whether I have been able to do justice to them. I can only say that I appeared no pains to give a faithful narrative, to describe truth, as it has appeared to me and in the same manner in which I have arrived at it, has been a ceaseless effort. The exercise has given me the mental peace because it has been my hope that it might bring faith in truth and ahimsa to waverers.

My uniform experience has convinced me that there is no other God than Truth. And if every page of these chapters does not proclaim to the reader that the only means for the realisation of Truth is ahimsa, I shall deem all my pains in writing these chapters to have been in vain. And even though my efforts in this behalf might prove fruitless in the end, I shall not regret it. After all, however great the shirings after ahimsa might have been, they have still been imperfect and inadequate. The little that I have written therefore that have been able to have a trace of Truth can hardly convey an idea of the indescribable nature of Truth, a million times more intense than that of the sun we daily see with our eyes. In fact what I have written is only the faintest gleam of that mighty effulgence. But this much, I can say with assurance as a result of all my experiments that a perfect vision of Truth can only follow a complete realisation of ahimsa.

Continued up.

The Dust Nuisance.

WORKMAN'S GREAT ENEMY.

The following is one of the series of Weekly Health Bulletins issued by the Director of Medical and Sanitary Services:—

Dust is not only a nuisance but is injurious to health under certain conditions. It pervades the atmosphere and greatly influences the physical conditions of the environment in which we live.

Dust functions in the air by limiting its humidity in that it causes the precipitation of moisture in the form of rain, thus controlling the temperature by the production of clouds, mists and fogs. Aiken says that without dust "every blade of grass and every branch of trees would drip with moisture deposited by the passing air; our dresses would become wet and dripping, and umbrellas useless; but our miseries would not end there. The inside of our houses would become wet; the walls and every object in the room would run with moisture."

Dust helps to form rain, clouds and mists for the water vapour which condenses upon each particle of dust forms the nucleus of a rain drop. Although dust particles exist universally in the atmosphere, they are very irregularly distributed. Ordinarily there is more dust indoors than in outdoor air. The size of the dust particles varies enormously, from gross masses to microscopic particles. The vast numbers and universal presence of these particles may be realised by examining a sunbeam.

ORGANIC DUST.

Organic dust is composed of the dry and broken down particles from the animal and vegetable kingdoms, such as bacteria, pollen, plant cells, bits of hair, fibres of cotton &c.

The inorganic dust which is derived from the soil consists chiefly of minute particles of mineral substances as silica.

Modern cities are dust producers. Dust particles may be carried to enormous distances by the wind. Normal atmosphere dust free of germs causes no appreciable irritation to the healthy lining membrane of the air passages. It is the dust that is charged with dangerous germs and irritating particles that becomes injurious. These injurious effects also depend to a certain extent on the susceptibility of the individual.

Dust may also act indirectly as a predisposing factor to many infections as well as directly irritating and inflaming the respiratory tract.

The statement that dust opens the door to tuberculosis and other infections of the air passages such as common colds, pneumonia &c., can no longer be questioned.

MINERAL DUST.

The general effect of mineral dust breathed for a long period of time is to cause an irritation of the skin, eyes or exposed mucous membranes and an inflammatory condition of the lung tissue. Such conditions are common among workmen who come in contact with coal dust, stone dust, fire dust &c. Dust is the great enemy of the workmen. Much ill-health is caused by the inhalation of dust. The principal trades and occupations in which excessive amounts of dust are found are: all forms of grinding and many processes of polishing and cleaning; in the lead, copper, and iron trades, irritating and poisonous dusts are raised.

Dust consisting of inorganic particles is more harmful than dust containing organic particles because the former are sharper and more irritating. House dust is more harmful than outside dust, not only because there is more of it, especially in badly ventilated and ill kept rooms, but because it is more apt to contain living diseases producing germs.

The bacteria in street dust are derived from dried faecal matter from horses and other animals, dried sputum, the soil and a variety of other sources. Street dust may contain dangerous germs such as those of consumption, many varieties of other germs and under special conditions, germs of tetanus.

To keep down street dust requires well constructed roads with a good surface, oiled and properly cared for, the control of animals; covering of ash bins and carts hauling dusty loads.

Continued.

To see the universal and all pervading Spirit of truth face to face one must be able to love the means of creation as oneself. And a man who aspires after that cannot afford to keep out of any field of life. That is why my devotion to truth has drawn me into the field of politics; and I can say without the slightest hesitation, and yet in all humility, that those who say that religion has nothing to do with politics do not know what religion means.

Identification with everything that lives is impossible without self purification; without self-purification the observance of the law of ahimsa must remain an empty dream; God can never be realised by one who is not pure of heart. Self-purification therefore must mean purification in all the walks of life. And purification being highly intellectual, purification of oneself necessarily leads to the purification of one's surroundings.

But the path of self purification is hard and steep. To attain to perfect purity one has to become absolutely passion free in thought, speech and action; to rise above the opposing currents of love and hatred, attachment and repulsion. I know that I have not in me as yet that triple purity, in spite of constant ceaseless striving for it. That is why the world's praise fails to move me, indeed it very often stings me. To conquer the subtle passions seems to me to be harder far than the physical conquest of the world by the force of arms. Ever since my return to India I had experiences of the dormant passions lying hidden within me. The knowledge of them has made me feel humiliated but not defeated. The experiences and experiments have sustained me and given me great joy. But I know that I have still before me a difficult path to traverse. I must reduce myself to zero. So long as one does not of his own free will put himself last among his fellow creatures, there is no salvation for him. Ahimsa is I repeat limit of humility.

In bidding farewell to the reader, for the time being at any rate, I ask him to join with me in prayer of the God of Truth that He may grant me the boon of ahimsa in mind, word and deed.

How to Drive the Drink Demon

TEMPTATION MUST BE REMOVED

GOVERNMENT SHOULD DEVISE WAYS.

The following suggestive, nay conclusive, article on Local Option and the Executive Government's lukewarmness towards it, contributed by Rev. G. A. F. Seneviratne appeared in the "Ceylon Morning Leader" of the 7th. instant:—

The recent extraordinary proposals made by the Excise Commissioner, especially to outwit the powers of Local Option rights, are based on the allegations that Local Option is a failure.

If there is one political right which the people of this country have used well and with commendable success, it is Local Option. Its influence in general political education has been admitted on all hands.

The Government seems to be reading into the idea of Local Option an entirely new meaning and is accusing the people for not carrying out their expressed public wishes in their private life. It is said that though the people vote for the closure of taverns drinking goes on. If people are expected to act up to their highest ideals all preventive machinery in dealing with crime may be scrapped. Even with regard to drink the Government may open taverns in every village and in every street corner, and say if people do not want drink all that they have to do is to set up to their expressed abhorrence for liquor. Taverns need not even be limited to any degree.

PRAYER OF THE RULES.

It must not be forgotten that frail human nature is such that when temptation is presented man fails. "Lead us not into temptation" is a prayer known to our rulers. When attack and laddy taverns were closed Government allowed foreign liquor taverns to stand and in some places actually gave new licences. Though the Temperance Workers were pressing for the introduction of some rationing measures in taverns adjacent to dry areas Government did nothing. (Italics are ours.—Ed. "H.O.") Tapping licences were freely allowed in dry areas. In these days of quick locomotion is it any wonder that people have continued to fall a prey to temptation which continued to be presented on all hands?

Local Option is only a means of finding out the will of the people. They have expressed their genuine conviction in an unmistakable manner. No one who understands local conditions will ever accuse them of duplicity in this matter though the Excise Commissioner casts general aspersions based on some solitary cases reported to him.

MILLION A DAY ON DRINKS.

It is the Executive that has failed to deal seriously, earnestly and promptly with the wishes of the people. The Government's chief Executive officers, coming as they do from a country that spends £1,000,000 a day on drink, are perhaps unable to appreciate the desire of our people to be free from the drink demon. The Government must try to understand the people and be sincere in the declaration that they want to carry out the will of the people.

Another fact to be remembered about the continuance of a large consumption after the closure of so many taverns is the existence of a 40 per cent minority, among whom are the habitual drinkers. As long as there is drink in close proximity they will procure it. It is for the Executive to devise ways and means of dealing with these contingencies. But they have not dealt with the question seriously. It is not local option that has failed—it is the Executive of the Government (Italics are ours.—Ed. H.O.)

LEGALISING ILLEGALITY.

Another argument put forward for limiting the Local Option rights is the fact that the law is being broken and that a general disregard for all law is being engendered. To legalise the illegal with a view to make people lawabiding seems to be a principle fairly common among a certain type of rulers. Especially when it touches the moral realm, it is a most dangerous and erroneous principle indeed. Its viciousness is clearly seen in what is happening with regard to gambling. What is strange is that the same principle is not being extended to other laws which are being broken. For example, the motor laws of this land are being broken by the Queen's House cars downwards. Therefore it is proposed to relax those laws so that the law breakers may become law abiding, and thus make our road more dangerous. Similarly the laws against opium and ganja are being violated even more profanely than those with regard to attack and to day. Why is it that the Excise Commissioner does not propose to open more opium depots and ganja taverns to meet the increasing demand in a illicit way with free sale? There is only one way of dealing with vices and evil. That is to control and crush them. Regulation is doomed to failure. An overwhelming majority of the people of this country express themselves decisively against the drink traffic (Italics are ours.—Ed. "H.O.") It is for those in Executive authority to devise in earnest ways and means of banishing the evil. It is no good harping on the weaknesses of the people and take mean advantage in exploiting them.

Continued up.

Tender Notice.

Tenders will be received by the Hon'ble the Controller of Revenue up to 12 noon on Tuesday, February 19 1929 for the supply of 100 Bauwood logs to the Central Timber Depot from the Tannamattam Forest in the Eastern Division North, Trincomalee during 1929. For further particulars refer to the Ceylon Government Gazette No. 7690 of February 1, 1929 or write to the Divisional Forest Officer, Trincomalee. Forest Office, J. D. SARGENT, Kandy, 9.2.29, Conservator of Forests, G. 1017.

NOTICE.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

Applications are invited for the post of assistant master, Stanley Bilingual School, Jaffna. 2. Qualifications in English and Tamil are necessary. Salary according to qualifications. 3. Applications giving name in full, age, qualifications, service and present salary, should reach this office on or before 25th February, 1929. Education Office, L. MAORAE, Director of Education, G. 1015, February 7, 1929.

Order Nisi.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 8870.

In the Matter of the Estate of the late Annammai wife of Nagamuthu Kanapathippillai of Neeveiy.

Nagamuthu Kanapathippillai of Anacottai, presently of Divisional Transportation Office, Maradana, Colombo.

Deceased.

Petitioner.

Vs.

1. Seevampikal daughter of Kanapathippillai of Colombo
2. Kanapathippillai Wamada of do.
3. Gnanapathippillai daughter of Kanapathippillai of do.
4. Kanapathippillai Kallayanathan of do.
5. Subramaniam Thambiappillai of Manipay

Respondents.

This matter of the Petition of the abovesaid Petitioner praying for Letters of Administration to the estate of the abovesaid deceased coming on for disposal before J. O. W. Rock Esquire, District Judge, on August 27, 1928, in the presence of Mr. C. A. Niles, Proctor, on the part of the Petitioner and the affidavit of the Petitioner dated August 25, 1928, having been read, it is declared that the Petitioner is the lawful husband 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 December 18, 1928, show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

James Joseph, District Judge.

December 31, 1928.

The Order Nisi is extended to 19th February 1929.

J. J.

D. J.

O-1623.

Order Nisi.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 6960.

In the Matter of the estate and effects of Visayur Parama late of Butterworth in F. M. S.

Deceased.

Visayur Saravanan of Karaitivu East

Petitioner.

Vs.

1. Parama Kandiah of Karaitivu East and
2. Peropathy widow of Parama of do

Respondents.

The 1st Respondent is a minor and appears by his guardian ad-litem the 2nd Respondent.

This matter of the Petition of the Petitioner praying that the 2nd Respondent be appointed guardian ad litem over the minor the 1st Respondent and that Letters of Administration to the estate of the abovesaid deceased be issued to the Petitioner coming on for disposal before J. O. W. Rock, Esquire, District Judge, on November 28, 1928 in the presence of Mr. A. Kanagabai Proctor, on the part of the Petitioner and the affidavit of the Petitioner dated November 7, 1928, having been read: It is ordered that the 2nd Respondent be appointed guardian ad litem over the minor 1st Respondent for representing him and that Letters of Administration to the estate of the deceased be granted to the Petitioner as creditor and brother of the deceased unless the Respondents appear before this Court January on 1929 and show cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

J. O. W. Rock, District Judge.

January 9, 1929.

Order Nisi extended till 14 2 29.

James Joseph, A. D. J.

O. 1627.

Continued.

FOUNDATION FOR THE FUTURE.

In closing taverns by Local Option we are laying the foundation for the future. The present drinkers may continue to drink and circumvent the law in satisfying their cravings. But our boys and girls should be given the chance to grow up without the tavern habit. (Italics are ours.—Ed. "H.O.") Thus it will take a few years before the full benefits of our present efforts are reaped. We remain unconvinced by the special pleadings of the Excise Commissioner.

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