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Order Nisi.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 3842.

In the Matter of the Estate of the late Achchimuttu wife of Kanthapper Sampasivam of Araly West

Kanthapper Sampasivam of Araly West Deceased.
Petitioner.

Vs.

1. Rangunatha Modliar Vaitialingam
2. and his wife Sithampararam
3. Ramanather Ampalavanar
4. Parupathippillai widow of Visuavanather
5. Sithamparapillai Nadarassah all of Vadduk-koddi

Respondents.

This matter of the Petition of Kanthapper Sampasivam of Araly West, praying for Letters of Administration to the estate of the abovenamed deceased, Achchimuttu wife of Kanthapper Sampasivam, coming on for disposal before J. Homer Vaniasingham, Esquire, Acting District Judge, on February 19, 1919, in the presence of Mr. M. Canapathipillai, Proctor, on the part of the Petitioner; and the affidavit of the Petitioner, dated February 19, 1919, having been read: It is declared that the Petitioner is the widower of the said intestate and is entitled to have Letters of Administration to the estate of the said intestate issued to him unless the Respondents or any other person shall, on or before March 13, 1919, show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

P. E. Pieris,
District Judge.

February 22, 1919.

Order Nisi.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF
ANURADHAPURA.

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 247.

In the Matter of the Estate of the late Carpen Chetty Nagamma of Anuradhapura

Kanapathipillai Kandappillai of Anuradhapura Deceased.
Petitioner.

This matter of the Petition of Kanapathipillai Kandappillai of Anuradhapura, praying for Letters of Administration to the estate of the abovenamed deceased, Carpen Chetty Nagamma, coming on for disposal before L. L. Hunter, Esquire, District Judge, on February 21, 1919, in the presence of Mr. V. Ramaswamy, Proctor, on the part of the Petitioner; and the affidavit of the said Petitioner, dated February 21, 1919, having been read: It is ordered that the Petitioner be and he is hereby declared entitled, as widower of the said deceased, to administer the estate of the said deceased and that Letters of Administration do issue to him accordingly unless the Respondent abovenamed or any other person shall, on or before March 21, 1919, show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

L. L. Hunter,
Addl. District Judge.

February 21, 1919.

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NOTICE.

Order Nisi.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.

Testamentary Jurisdiction, No. 9804.

In the Matter of the Estate of the late Ponnammah wife of Kathiravelupillai Naduvilampai of Mallakam

Deceased. Kathiravelupillai Naduvilampai of Mallakam Petitioner.

Vs.

- 1. Thampar Ramupillai of Mallakam
2. Gnanapooranam daughter of Naduvilampai of Do.
3. Naduvilampai Thevathasan of Do.
4. Naduvilampai Aservatham of Do.
The 2nd, 3rd and 4th Respondents are minors by their Guardian ad litem the 1st Respondent.

Respondents.

This matter of the Petition of Kathiravelupillai Naduvilampai of Mallakam, praying for Letters to Administration to the estate of the above-named deceased, Ponnammah wife of Kathiravelupillai Naduvilampai, coming on for disposal before J. Homer Vanniasinkam, Esq. Acting District Judge, on February 21, 1919, in the presence of Mr. M. Subramaniam, Proctor, on the part of the Petitioner and the affidavits of the Petitioner dated January 22, 1919, having been read: It is declared that the Petitioner is the husband of the said deceased 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 March 18, 1919, show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

A. Kanagasabai, District Judge.

February 27, 1919.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF SUBSCRIPTION TO THE "HINDU ORGAN".

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The Hindu Organ.

JAFFNA, MONDAY, MARCH 10, 1919.

NATIONAL WEEK CELEBRATION AND THE PROMOTION OF NATIONAL EDUCATION

In our last issue we invited the attention of our readers to the benefits of starting the national week celebration in Jaffna. We also pointed out the fact that, in Southern India and in the Sinhalese Districts of our Island, the Hindu New Year day and the week following is celebrated as the National Week. Among Ceylon Tamils too, this week is kept as a festive season, and is a week of worship, of charities, and of social convivialities. With the gradual disintegration of the ancient system of village communal life and the family group or clan life in our country, there has also been a corresponding decline in the conviviality and in the national spirit that characterized the new year week celebrations. We have felt it our duty to invite the attention of our readers, every year, at the approach of the new year festivities, to the need of reviving many of our ancient social usages and customs which highly tended to promote union, co-operation and social happiness in our national life. We believe there is not a single man or woman in our community who has not desired the need of action in this direction. But in this, as in many other matters of national importance such as Local Option etc., we have failed to organize our strength and translate our desires for reform into practice. As there is now only about a month more for the celebration of our New Year, it will be advisable now to devise some scheme that will afford a basis for national endeavour, for, it must be admitted that under modern conditions of national life and progress, modern methods of organized work is an indispensable condition of success.

Sir Rabinranath Tagore says in one of his writings that the instinct of gregariousness or social life in man is the natural manifestation of the inward yearning of the soul to realise the essential unity of all life. When we find, therefore, a man desiring to be widely known, loved, and respected by his fellow men and working hard to attain that object, he deserves to be loved and honored in return by his fellow-men for that, and not to be

despised as a popularity hunter or a vainglorious seeker after fame or fortune. This inborn impulse of self-expansion and self-glorification through popular appreciation, is the chief factor in social progress. This is how social life can be made to identify itself with the spiritual. Incidentally, we may also note here—this is how one can justify the conduct of newspaper editors who give room to personal paragraphs in their columns. It fosters one's fellow-feeling and his consciousness of national unity when he trains his mind to condole with the bereaved and congratulate with the fortunate of his nation, even when such persons are remote to him in personal acquaintance. These personal paragraphs help to develop social sympathy in the community. Our Hindu readers need not be reminded that they can perform social service in the mental and the pure emotional planes of life, as effectively as they can in the physical plane. This instinct of social self-expression and self-expansion which is present in the soul of every one, should be given greater scope for development. This point is emphasized in our religion more than in any other, but it is to be deeply regretted that in comparatively recent times, it has been considerably weakened. All our social institutions and rules of communal life were designed to foster the commingling of the souls of men in the Satvic life of simplicity, purity and social service leading to spirituality.

The celebration of the National week has thus a religious significance which should be well impressed in every one. The next point that should engage our attention is the necessity of an organization that will unite and concentrate individual activities in the desired work. We will note here a few points where some of our old social customs may be modified to suit our modern requirements.

Interchange of social visits by every one, giving precedence to age and education in such visits, with feasting and other rejoicings, were the order of the day during the New Year week. But in recent times, the practice has become restricted to very narrow limits. It is the duty of every one to revive this custom and extend the circle of his social amenities to wider ranges. At the same time we may attain this object in another way, by organizing public meetings in every village during the New Year week and arranging for the friendly meeting of all members in convivial enjoyments. The village school may be preferred for the venue of such gatherings. Lectures on such subjects as national education may be delivered at such gatherings and the occasion may be utilised to inspire every one with the noble desire to serve the motherland and raise her physically, morally, intellectually and spiritually, to the position of her ancient greatness.

Presenting of New Year lucky gifts or Kaivishesham is another custom that can be modified to serve our modern needs. As every one must admit, the need of institutions for imparting national education to our children conforming to our ancient traditions and religious ideals, and at the same time imparting a practical vocational training to every one, is the supreme need of the people. One cannot give or get a better lucky gift, if he or she could utilise it to this noble cause. As our boys and girls are the most active canvassers and the most favoured recipients of New Year lucky gifts in our society, these may be trained in the noble path of serving the motherland by making New Year collections for the National Education Fund in every village.

Athletic sports formed another important part in the new year celebrations. Padi-ottam, Thadehchi and other indigenous field sports cultivated courage, manliness, and a vigorous physique. If the physical degeneracy of our people, especially of the educated section, is to be arrested, it must be mainly through the popularisation of the indigenous sports and gymnastic exercises. Every village must have one or more gymnasiums and playfields, and every village boy attending school must be made to spend every minute he can spare, at these places, and acquire the physical fitness that is required of a modern citizen. Physical education must form an important part of national training. The New Year celebrations give a good opportunity to revive indigenous sports. We appeal to every one of our readers to make an earnest effort to impart a renewed zest and usefulness to the New Year Week celebrations this year and thereby help to promote union and co-operation in our family groups, community, and national life.

LOCAL & GENERAL.

THE WEATHER.—The heat during the day continues to be oppressive. The dew at nights is abating. Rain still holds off.

CAR FESTIVAL.—The car festival at the Vaitheeswaran Temple, Vannarpannai, takes place on Sunday.

OUR GOVERNMENT AGENT.—Mr. B. Horsburgh, Government Agent, Northern Province, left on circuit last Wednesday for the Tenmaradobi, Vadamaradobi and Paochchilappai divisions.

JAFFNA RIOTS DAMAGES.—Mr. B. Horsburgh, Government Agent, Northern Province, in terms of section 4 (1) of Ordinance No. 23 of 1915, has been appointed to be, in addition to his own duties, Commissioner for the Northern Province for the purpose of assessing damage caused by riots and for awarding compensation in respect of such damage. —"Gezette".

THE POLICE DEPARTMENT.—Mr. H. L. Dowbigg, I. G. P., who goes home on furlough next month, has been granted seven months' leave from April 17.

PERSONAL.—Mr. O. Coomarasamy, C. C. S., District Judge of Batticaloa, is now in Jaffna having come in connection with the serious illness and subsequent death of his sister Mrs. Balasingham.

—Mr. S. Balasingham, who recently proceeded to Anuradhapura to act as Asst. Supdt. of Excise had to come to Jaffna owing to the decease of his wife.

—Mr. C. Suntharam, Chief Appraiser, Customs, Colombo, is now in Jaffna.

HEALTH OF SCHOOL CHILDREN.—The selection of an officer, probably from the P. C. M. O.'s permanent staff, for the purpose of visiting the Colombo Colleges and schools, in connection with the health of children is still under consideration.

RETIREMENT FROM PUBLIC SERVICE.—Mr. Bushnell S. Bastiampillai of the Fiscal's Office, Jaffna, is retiring from Public Service after 42 years' service. During this long period he has served Government faithfully in various parts of the Island.

SOCIAL EVIL IN CEYLON.—An important Ordinance has been drafted to deal effectively with infamous houses.

THE PUBLIC SERVICES COMMISSION.—The Commission sitting to consider the larger employment of the Ceylonese in the Public Service, has completed its labours and submitted its report to Government.

ELECTRICALLY HEATED CLOTHES.—The British aeroplane-de luxe which were used for carrying officials connected with the Peace Conference between London and Paris were equipped not only with electric light in the cabin but also with electric circuits for heating the clothing of the pilots and passengers. The clothing contains a network of electric resistance wires in the arms and legs, and when these wires are connected to the electric circuits they become warm. It was a British engineer who first worked out the quantities of electricity needed to keep the human body comfortably warm when applied in this way to the extremities. The amount is surprisingly small, being only about as much as is taken by an electric lamp of one-hundred candlepower. In a little while we may find the same system used by arctic explorers for their sleeping bags, by look-out men, and steersmen on board ships in cold latitudes, and also by motorists and others exposed to strong winds and low temperatures. Medical applications also readily suggest themselves. It was on a British ambulance that electric radiators were first fitted to the stretchers to keep the wounded warm and prevent collapse on the way to hospital.

THE INDUSTRIES COMMISSION.—A meeting of the Industries Commission was held on the 4th instant at the Council Chamber, the Hon. Mr. R. E. Stubbs presiding. Present:—The Hon. T. H. Chapman, the Hon. Dr. H. M. Fernando, the Hon. Mr. K. Balasingham, Sir P. Arunachalam, Lieut.-Col. E. J. Hayward, Mr. E. B. Denham and Mr. M. Kaitway Bamber. The Chairmen of all the various Sub-Committees presented interim or progress reports. It is expected these will be published shortly, probably before the departure of Mr. Stubbs.

THE CATHOLIC TOTAL ABSTINENCE UNION, JAFFNA.—The Annual Meeting of this Union took place on the 2nd instant and was a success as evinced by the large number of members present, and the enthusiasm which prevailed on the occasion. The reading of the Annual Report showed the progress made by the C. T. A. Union which counts now more than 300 members. A hope was expressed that other Catholic Leagues established in the outlying places might join in, which would prove a source of strength not only to the Union itself but also to the scattered Leagues as well.

INSPECTION OF MANDAPAM CAMP.—The Hon. Mr. F. Bowes, C. M. G. Principal Collector of Customs, and Chairman, Plague Committee, the Hon. Dr. G. J. Rutherford, P. C. M. O. and I. G. H. and the Hon. Mr. T. H. Chapman, D. P. W. left for India via the Tablemount rail route on the 7th instant on a periodical inspection trip to the Cooily Observation Camp at Mandapam, and will be away for a few days. Dr. Donald Sobckman Medical Officer-in-charge of the Camp, will meet the party.

INFLUENZA.—London, Mar. 1st The Times says.—In connection with the army Medical investigations into the influenza epidemic it is announced that, after prolonged research, the following medical officers, Major Graeme Gibson, British Captain Connor, Australian, and Major Bowman, Canadian have completed the discovery of what is probably the causative germ of the influenza epidemic. Major Gibson contracted influenza and pneumonia and died at Abbeville. The germ belongs to the order of the filter-passers. It is grown by the Neguchi method. Monkeys infected with it developed hemorrhages in the lungs, pre-disposing them to the reception of the pneumococcus. —"Reuter".

BURMA RICE.—It is understood that shipments to India from Burma have been very brisk lately. During February no less than 170,000 tons of rice have been shipped, of which 73,000 went to Bombay and 49,000 to Calcutta, and the rest chiefly to Madras Presidency ports.

AEROPLANE MAIL SERVICE.—The Kaiser I-Hind of Bombay states on good authority that an enterprising Parsee firm, meaning Messrs. Tata & Sons, are contemplating forming a syndicate to start an aeroplane mail service to deliver mails received from England as quickly as possible to distant centres in India. The paper understands that negotiations in this connection are in progress with Government.

Y. M. H. A. RATNAPURA.—At the special meeting held in 19th January last under the auspices of the Tamil Union a Young Men's Hindu Association was organised with much enthusiasm and support of the Savites of the district. The following gentlemen were elected office-bearers:—President: Mr. S. Mutiah, S. M. R.; Secretary: Mr. A. Maitiyaganam, S. O. Post Office; Asst. Secretary: Mr. K. Naga Ingam, C. G. R.; Treasurer: Mr. K. Naga Ingam; Asst. Treasurer: Mr. K. P. S. Saniab, Merchants; Committee Members: Messrs S. Sivadurai, H. C. P. E.'s Office, N. Sappathipillai, H. C. Forest Office, S. Nagalingam Courts, S. Sundarampilai, Traier, A. R. M. Rama Chetty, Y. S. Y. Sidamparam Chetty, V. Kandiah, Merchants. Weekly meetings are held regularly. Srimat S. Visuvanatha Sarma takes great interest by delivering a series of lectures on "Pai Pasu and Pasam", "Devasaya Darshanam" "Life of Thandeswarar", "Initiation" and other important subjects. Arrangements are being made to hold initiation ceremonies next month. It has brought a great awakening and elicited support among the Savites of the district. May the Almighty bless the undertaking with good success. —Cor.

INDIA'S BIG TRADE WITH JAPAN.—Calcutta, Feb. 26.—The report is published by the Department of Statistics, reviewing India's trade in 1917-1918. It says:—In the direction of India's trade the effect of the War has been to increase the trade of India with other parts of the British Empire. A most interesting feature in regard to the direction of the trade is the large increase in trade with Japan and the United States. When the long list of imports at the present time is examined the progress in our trade with Japan cannot be termed other than phenomenal. In 1917-1918 the total trade with Japan exceeded that with other countries except the United Kingdom and was valued at Rs. 25 crores. This was an increase of 400 per cent in imports and 103 per cent in exports over the pre-War average. The value of the trade with the United States had grown to twice what it was in the pre-War period, being second only to that with Japan. Half of the import trade with the United States was made up of iron, steel and mineral oil, while the trade with Japan was chiefly in the imports of cotton manufactures, matones, silk manufactures and glassware and in the export of raw cotton.—"M. Mail."

Y. M. H. A., KURUNEGALA.—The fortnightly meeting of the Association was held at the Association Hall, Negombo Road, Kurunegala, on Saturday the 1st instant at 6:30 p. m. under the presidency of Mr. N. Mutiah, Postmaster, Kurunegala. Several members and visitors were present on the occasion. Mr. S. Nadarajah of the Police Office delivered an interesting lecture on "Ramayana". Remarks were offered by Messrs. S. Sathupathy of the Post Office and K. Namasivayam of the Land Registry and the chairman. The meeting came to a close at 8:30 p. m. with the singing of Thevaram. At the next meeting the same subject will be continued by the same lecturer and a better audience is expected. —Cor.

THE LATE AMIR.—Frontier reports state that there were three dissident previous attempts made on the life of the late Amir before he was assassinated. Everything remains quiet in Afghanistan. Referring to the assassination of H. M. Amir Habibullah, the "Civil and Military Gazette" writes:—"It is just twelve years ago that the late Amir visited India, and from Jamrud on the 7th March, 1907, sent a personal message to Reuter's Agency, asking the Agency to publish it for the information of the whole world. In it he acknowledged the pleasure he derived from his tour in India and warmly thanked the Viceroy, Commander-in-Chief and his Military and Civil Officers for their kindness and friendship. He had, he said, made more true friends for the Afghan nation in 64 days in India than he could have in 20 years if he had remained in his own country."

EUROPEANS AND THE REFORMS.

We are indebted to the Secretary of the European Association of Ceylon for a copy of its Association Committee's Report on the proposed Constitutional Reforms.

THE FULL TEXT.

The Report of the Committee appointed by the Council of the European Association on the 15th of October, 1918, to collect information and to formulate a scheme for submission to the Council.

THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE.

In accordance with suggestions made at the Meeting of the Council which appointed the Committee, we originally contemplated the ascertainment of the opinions of Europeans in general, and possibly of leading members of other communities, by personal interviews.

We have directed our attention chiefly to the devising of a constructive scheme, in order to provide a basis for any action which the Association may at any time consider necessary.

We have directed our attention chiefly to the devising of a constructive scheme, in order to provide a basis for any action which the Association may at any time consider necessary.

THE PRESENT SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT.

Colonial affairs have always been under the supervision of the Sovereign, who still retains, in most cases, the power of legislating directly by Orders in Council.

official majority. The Governor has no power to make laws except with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council.

It will be seen that any similarities between the respective functions of the Governor, the Executive Council and the Legislative Council and those of the King, the Cabinet and Parliament, are superficial.

The method of conducting the affairs of the Colony, as above described, is the typical and usual form of Crown Colony Government.

IS ANY CHANGE DESIRABLE.

Europeans will naturally ask themselves, in the first place, whether they, as a Community, admit the necessity for any alteration of the Constitution.

- (a) Official mismanagement of Government enterprises.
(b) Official apathy to the needs of the public.
(c) Official indifference to the point of view of the public and neglect to enquire how new proposals will be received.

Many of the subjects of complaint arise from the attitude of this or that Official. In so far as the system may be to blame, the defects noted above probably have their origin in the lack of responsibility to the public on the part of permanent officials who cannot be controlled by any adverse vote or censure.

Now an increase in the responsibility of the Government and its servants means an increase in their responsibility to the public at large.

are closely followed by the Ceylonese and have given an immense impetus to their aspirations. The importance attached to the proposed reforms on the part of the Ceylonese is well illustrated by the fact that Dr. F. R. Manjula, a well-known Member of the Legislative Council, in the words of the Secretary of State for India in the mouth of the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

THE ATTITUDE OF EUROPEANS.

The question then arises, what is to be the attitude of the Europeans with regard to the proposals for reform which are now being considered by the Governor?

THE MEMORIAL OF THE CEYLON REFORM LEAGUE AND THE CEYLON NATIONAL ASSOCIATION.

Before proceeding to the discussion of our own suggestions, it may be well to indicate shortly the demands put forward in the Memorial of December 19th, 1917, which do not materially differ from the claims made by various speakers at the recent Reform Conference in Colombo.

The scheme formulated deserves serious consideration even when it is supported by facts such as the statement that the "historical records... testify that under her own native rule for two thousand years the Island enjoyed a peaceful Constitution resting on a respected basis."

- (a) The Legislative Council, 12 Official Members, 21 Elected Members distributed as follows:— Western Province (excluding Colombo) ... 3, Colombo ... 1, Southern Province ... 2, Central Province ... 2, Northern Province ... 3, Eastern Province ... 1, Uva ... 1, Sabaragamuwa ... 1, North Western Province ... 2, North Central Province ... 1. To represent racial minorities:— Europeans ... 2, Burghers ... 1, Mohammedans ... 1.

The Council to have an elected President instead of the Governor.

(b) The Electorate to consist of:— Colombo, all races.

The Provinces, all except Burghers, Mohammedans and Europeans (i. e. in effect only Sinhalese and Tamil).

(c) The Franchise, Qualification to be literacy in English, Sinhalese or Tamil with a small property qualification, varying according to the conditions of each province.

I. Male British Subject of not less than 21 years.

II. Able to read and write English, Sinhalese or Tamil.

III. Resident for not less than one year in the electoral area.

IV. (a) Annual income or salary of not less than Rs. 600.

(b) Occupation, either as proprietor or tenant, of a house in the electoral area of the annual value or rent of Rs. 200 (if in a rural area) or Rs. 400 (if in an urban area).

(c) Ownership of landed property in the electoral area in his own or his wife's right of the value of Rs. 1,000.

(d) The Executive Council.

2 Officials, exclusive of the Governor.

2 Unofficials, to be elected by the members of the Legislative Council.

As the various questions raised by these suggestions are discussed as length below we need not pause to examine the proposals here, but we may state that the Memorialists make no attempt to explain how the difficulties to which their scheme gives rise may be overcome.

THE MAIN PROBLEMS.

The elaboration of details for any scheme, such as the one just described, is a comparatively easy matter when once the principles to be followed have been made clear.

(a) Whether unofficial members of the Legislative Council should be nominated or elected.

(b) Whether there can be an unofficial majority in the Legislative Council.

(c) The constitution of the electorate.

(d) The nature of the franchise.

(e) Whether there can be elected members on the Executive Council.

(f) Whether any improvement in the constitution of the Colonial Office is possible.

INDIA'S FOOD PROBLEM.—It is more than regrettable that in the present position of the food problem in India, famine conditions have developed in certain tracts of the Bombay Presidency, forcing the Government of Bombay to declare the existence of famine and scarcity and to undertake relief operations under the Famine Code.

NUWARA ELIYA.

4-3-1919.

WEATHER—is continuing very fine and visitors are coming up daily. The works in the Post Office are getting heavier.

FAREWELL.—Mr. D. S. Rasiab, Inspector of Telegraphs, who was under orders to proceed to Galle on transfer, was entertained at a tea party on Sunday evening.

He was later on entertained at a farewell function at the P. O. quarters got up by his P. O. friends. Mr. E. S. Dissanayake, Post and Telegraph Master spoke highly of the departing officer and regretted at his departure.

Y. M. H. A.—An ordinary meeting was held on the 3rd evening and Mr. B. R. Babhapathy, Inspector of Telegraphs, delivered a very instructive lecture on "Jeeva Karunyan".

PROVINCIAL ROAD COMMITTEE, N. P.

Jaffna, 23th Feb. 1919, at 11-30 a. m.

- The Government Agent, N. P., Chairman, The Provincial Engineer, N. P., J. H. Vanniasinkam Esqr., J. Cherubim Esqr., W. Mudir. Mutto Wellopillai Esqr., M. S. Ramalinga Mudaliyar and The Secretary.

(Proceedings and Resolutions.)

- 1. Read and confirmed minutes of meeting held on 4th February, 1919.
2. Considered application from the Resthouse Keepers for increase of pay to Resthouse coolies. Resolved that Resthouse coolies drawing Rs. 7-50 should be paid Rs. 10- and that those drawing below Rs. 7-50 should be paid Rs. 7-50 per month.
3. Considered applications from the Madam Keepers of Iranamadu and Illuppaikadaval for increase of pay. Resolved that an increase of Rs. 5-50 be given to Madam Keeper Iranamadu and that the Madam Keeper Illuppaikadaval be informed that the Committee is not in favour of granting him an increase of pay.
4. Considered letter No. 9 of 12/17 December, 1918, from the Chairman D. R. C. Mannar re proceedings of meeting held on 27th November, 1918. Approved proceedings.
5. Considered letter No. 1 of 4th January, 1919, from the Chairman D. R. C. Mullaivivu re proceedings of meeting held on 17th December, 1918, together with passed estimates for 1919. Approved proceedings.
6. Considered petition from K. Sinnatambay and connected papers re application to stop up a disused lane at Palai. Resolved that the Committee adheres to the decision of the District Judge that the lane is to cross petitioner's land with a curve north of the wall.
7. Considered letter No. 1 of 20th January, 1919, from the Chairman D. R. C. Mannar re appointment of members under Section 83 of Ordinance No. 10 of 1861. Resolved that the recommendation of the Chairman D. R. C. Mannar contained in his letter No. 1 of 20th January, 1919, be approved.
8. Considered letter No. 8 of 25th January, 1919, from the Chairman D. R. C. Mullaivivu re appointment of members under Section 83 of Ordinance No. 10 of 1861. Resolved that the recommendation of the Chairman D. R. C. Mullaivivu contained in his letter No. 8 of 25th January, 1919, be approved.
9. Considered letter No. 1 of 4th January, 1919, from the Superintendent Minor Works to obtain a rebate of Rs. 119-83 and Rs. 496-95 on account of repairs to Madam at Changanvil and Chundikulam respectively. Resolves approved.
10. Laid on table. Papers re stopping up of a disused lane at Navaly and Apportionment of labour for 1919.

B. HOSKING, Chairman.

THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Legislative Council was held at 2.30 p.m. on the 5th instant at the Council Chamber. His Excellency the Governor, Sir W. R. Manning presided.

MOTIONS.

THE HON. MR. O. C. TILAKERATNE gave notice of a question with regard to the extent of help afforded certain villages during the recent fever epidemic.

THE HON. MR. O. C. TILAKERATNE gave notice to ask whether Government proposed extending the railway from Matara to Dickwella—a distance of 11 miles.

KORUNEGALA AND PULLAIA DISTRICTS.

THE HON. DR. H. M. FERNANDES—moved for a return, showing the number of deaths which occurred in the Korunegala and Pullaia districts during October, November and December, 1918.

VILLAGE COMMITTEE MATTERS.

THE HON. MR. O. C. TILAKERATNE—moved—For a return showing for each group of Village Committees under one Korala or Pattu Mandalayar in the Western and Southern Provinces for the years 1916, 1917 and 1918—(a) The total income from all sources, but excluding the Government grant, if any; (b) The amount of the Government grant, if any; (c) The amount spent on stationary, stores, and printed forms for the Village Committees, the Village Tribunal, and the Gansabha Department attached to the Kachchery; (d) The amount spent on salaries of the Village Committee and Village Tribunal staff and on the Gansabha Department attached to the Kachchery; (e) The amount actually spent on the maintenance of existing village works; and (f) The amount, if any, spent on new village works.

He said his object in moving for the return was not to offer any adverse or destructive criticism. The information could be obtained at the three Kachcheris in the Southern and the two in the Western Provinces. The village poll tax was the most serious source of revenue. Villagers had to put in many days' work for the good of the country under the poll tax. That money went for the up-keep of roads and the construction of host-houses. Villagers were only wanted for Government work who occupied them to assemble the village on certain occasions on their circuits. The President, V. T., was paid out of the Government, and his clerk out of the Village Committee funds. The President V. T., had of late become a sort of petty Magistrate and sometimes heard cases under the Penal Code, too. He did not think it quite right that Village Committee funds should be made use of to pay clerks under the President. There was very little balance left to maintain Gansabha works, such as providing passage for cattle, the sinking of wells, the upkeep of roads, etc. There would be sufficient funds if the money was diverted into the proper channels. A great deal of traffic passed over the roads owing to the plumbago trade and these traders paid nothing for the upkeep of the roads, which went from bad to worse. Most of them who had travelled on Gansabha roads knew what they were like.

THE HON. MR. K. BALASINGHAM—seconded. THE HON. THE COLONIAL SECRETARY—in reply said he would be very glad to order the return asked for, to be prepared, but he was afraid he would have to leave his successor to furnish it.

CONDITION OF MAHARA JAIL.

THE HON. MR. WILLIAMS—asked—Whether any reports have been issued from the Inspector-General of Prisons or the Principal Civil Medical Officer with regard to the unsuitability of the building at Mahara Jail for the housing of prisoners, and if so, what steps the Government proposes to take with reference thereto.

THE HON. THE COLONIAL SECRETARY—said no doubt the prison would be enlarged and the work taken in hand as soon as the money was available.

THE VEHICLES ORDINANCE.

THE HON. MR. F. BOWEN—moved—That in Schedule B of Ordinance No. 10 of 1917, the words "Motor vehicles, other than motor lorries and other than vehicles which are imported under license given by or on behalf of the Governor, for every R100 of the value thereof, R100," be omitted.

He said—these words were included to serve a certain purpose; but if they were omitted, motor cars would fall under the general tariff of the 7 1/2 per cent tax.—Carried.

THE HON. THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL—moved the first reading of "An Ordinance to amend 'The Stamp Ordinance 1909.'"

He said—The Bill had once before been referred to a Select Committee which went carefully into the policy of the Bill. It was shown that a considerable number of deeds had not been registered under the Ordinance of 1891. It was thought desirable to repeal the whole of schedule B, so that practitioners might have a single Ordinance to refer to. The amendments were fully set out in the objects and reasons.

THE HON. THE TREASURER—in seconding—said: exactly 83 per cent of the deeds in the colony had escaped registration. R98,140 formed the present revenue from this source and with the proposed combined duties it was hoped to get in R1,272,630. The working of the scheme would, however, involve an additional staff and the Registrar-General had estimated that for that purpose R30,000 would be required. Under these circumstances they could not get in more than R475,000. He seconded the first reading.—Carried.

THE HON. THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL—said he would move the second reading at next meeting.

LAND REGISTRATION.

THE HON. THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL—moved the first reading of "An Ordinance further to amend 'The Land Registration Ordinance, 1891.'"

He said only two points required comment: there was no increase in incidence relating to partition, and the fees in Schedule 5, Land Registration Ordinance, were paid under another clause.

THE HON. THE TREASURER—seconded.—Carried. THE HON. THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL—said the second reading would be at next meeting.

THE JAFFNA TURTLES.

THE HON. THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL—re "An Ordinance further to amend 'The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance, 1907.'"—said he could not

TELEGRAPHIC SUMMARY.

The War.

PEACE CONFERENCE.

London, March 5. "The Times" Paris correspondent says that the Naval terms of the Preliminary Peace are practically identical for Germany, Austria, Turkey and Bulgaria. They provide for complete disarmament, and the Germans are called upon to hand over the battleships "Oldenburg," "Thuringen," "Ost Friesland," "Holligand," "Posen," "Westfalen," "Rheinland" and "Naassau," and the cruisers "Pillau," "Graucon," "Regensberg," "Stralsund," "Strasbourg," "Augsburg," "Koburg," and "Stuttgart," and ninety-two modern torpedo boats. The Holligand fortification and harbours are to be restored at the Germans own expense. The fate of the island itself will be decided at the Peace Conference. All the fortifications defending access to the Baltic will be razed, and the Kiel canal will be open to warships and merchantmen of all nations. 31 German and 40 Austro-Hungarian merchant cruisers and auxiliaries will be treated as merchantmen. The German cable system comprising 14 cables will be returned to its previous owners. The wireless stations at Nauen, Hanover, Berlin, Vienna, Budapest and Pola will be restricted to commercial use. The Austrian fleet of 18 battleships, 12 cruisers, 70 torpedo boats, 88 submarines, and 12 Danube monitors will be handed over to the Allies. The Turkish and Bulgarian warships will be treated in a similar way.

London, March 5. Replying to a deputation of the Mercantile Marine on March 4th, regarding reparation to the relatives of sailors murdered in War time, the Premier said a spokesman estimated at 20,000 the number of which a tribute to the heroism of the Mercantile Marine, in saving Britain from starvation and the Allies from collapse. He denounced German submarineism as the cruellest and most inhuman exhibition of piracy ever seen. He announced that the British Delegates at the Peace Conference were instructed to submit as a first demand full compensation for the losses at sea, including compensation for the relatives of the dead. Germany must pay this first before a mere indemnity for War expenses. He concluded by urging that claims immediately be submitted to the Foreign Office.

London, March 1. A telegram from Paris, dated Feb. 25th, says:—It is stated that Marshal Foch's completed terms are final. It is stated that Foch will provide for the complete demobilisation of the German Army, fixing the maximum Military strength at 25 Divisions, and demand the total disarmament, under Allied inspection, of the War factories.

It is understood that the Reparation Commission recommends that Germany be compelled to pay by her gold reserve by [?] the big outstanding debts in her favour abroad and by coal, potash and timber.

LABOUR CONFERENCE.

London, Feb. 27. The great Labour Conference, convened by Government with the object of evolving measures which will render strikes impossible, or prevent them until the matters in dispute have been submitted to an impartial tribunal; met at the Central Hall, Westminster. 800 delegates were present, representing ten million employees. Mr. Horne, Minister of Labour, presided, and was supported by Mr. Lloyd George, who received an ovation on entering, Sir Albert Stanley, Mr. G. H. Roberts and Dr. Macnamara. Mr. Horne in the course of his opening speech said that Government did not favour the establishment of national factories. Such a step would tend to hamper private enterprise. Government had decided to reduce the unemployment donation. After the expiration of thirteen weeks the men would receive twenty and the women fifteen shillings a week for a further thirteen weeks. The allowance would continue to be six for the first and three shillings for each subsequent child. Referring to the unrest, Mr. Horne said that, whatever view was held regarding the merits of the disputes, it was plain that their continuance was a menace to the life of the country. Mr. Horne, dealing with the suggested remedies for unemployment, pointed out that Government was taking measures to expedite orders for various departments in order to increase the work available. Housing schemes were being similarly hastened. Mr. Horne invited the conference firstly to consider unemployment, which was considerable and growing, but he was not disquieted about the future, for soon there would be no lack of employment. With regard to working hours, the Government view was that the more they could reduce the hours of labour, consistently with maintaining the output necessary for the country's existence, the more they would be helped to a better condition in the State. Government desired the Conference's opinions on such a national question as arranging a minimum wage. Government was giving special attention to wages paid to women in certain classes of work. The cost of food would gradually decrease. The tendency of today was to give labour a larger share in the control of industry. A Committee of employers and employees was considering a Bill for the restoration of the Trade Union laws which

got the Select Committee's report ready and moved that the matter stand over. Approved:—

THEFTS OF TEA.

THE HON. THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL—moved the second reading of an "Ordinance to Prevent Thefts of tea."

A suggestion had been made that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee. It would be the better course and he moved this.

THE HON. THE TREASURER—seconded. SELECT COMMITTEE.

The following were appointed:— THE HON. THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL—(Chairman), the Ceylones, the Burgher and the Rural Members.

THE HON. MR. P. RAMANATHAN—asked to be exempted as his week's engagements would not permit him to take part. He hoped His Excellency would excuse him.

THE HON. MR. BALASINGHAM, having no objection, was requested by His Excellency to fill the vacancy.

THE ADJOURNMENT.

Council, rising at 3 p. m., adjourned till 2.30 p. m. on the 12th. —The Ceylon Observer.

had been surrendered for the duration of the War. Mr. Harne announced that the Premier would participate in the Conference's discussions.

THE SITUATION IN GERMANY.

London, March 4. Berlin, Feb. 27.—Every day's experience here only deepens the strong impression made by the present demoralisation of the German nation. A stranger arriving here quickly passes from surprise to disgust upon witnessing the evidences of corruption and individual greed which alternate with those of dull apathy and threatening social revolt. The West End of Berlin still presents a relatively normal appearance, although even here a second glance reveals the superficiality of things. Much that appears genuine turns out upon investigation to be a substitute, for example, paper tablecloths are used even in the leading hotels owing to linen once being commandeered at bed sheets. The poorer classes are truly desperate. Apart from the scanty official rations food is only obtainable from illicit traders at extortionate prices. The total of unemployed is estimated at 465,000, many of whom do not desire work, having been demoralised by long War service. Discontent is growing. The Spartacist movement is by no means dead. If the present situation lasts long, the psychology of the masses will inevitably lead to Bolshevism. The period from April to June will be critical. The Allies possess, in the control of the food supply, means of strengthening the party of order without incurring the expenses of occupation or the odium of interfering in internal politics.

THE AMEER OF AFGHANISTAN.

London, March 3. The Press Bureau states—The Secretary for India announces that Nasrulla, the late Ameer's brother, was proclaimed Ameer with the consent of the Jellalabad notables, Inayatulla waiving his claims in his uncle's favour. Nasrulla's succession, however, is not recognised in Kabul, where Amanulla, the late Ameer's third son, declared himself Ameer and assumed the reins of Government. Nasrulla has made his submission. —The Ceylon Observer.

Notice.

Order Nisi.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA. Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 8345. In the Matter of the Estate of the late Vallyammal wife of Sangarappillai Muttukumar of Araly West Deceased. Sangarappillai Muttukumar of Araly West Petitioner. Vs. 1. Muttukumar Kandish presently of Kuala Kangsar Taiping Perak 2. Muttukumar Sangarappillai presently of 11 A. Forbes Road, Colombo Respondents.

This matter of the Petition of Sangarappillai Muttukumar of Araly West, praying for Letters of Administration to the estate of the above-named deceased Vallyammal wife of Sangarappillai Muttukumar, coming on for disposal before J. Homer Vanniasingam, Esquire, Acting District Judge, on February 20, 1919, in the presence of Mr. M. Canappillai, Proctor, on the part of the Petitioner; and the affidavit of the Petitioner dated February 19, 1919, having been read: It is declared that the Petitioner is the widower of the said intestate and is entitled to have Letters of Administration issued to him unless the Respondents or any other person shall, on or before April 8, 1919, show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary. P. E. Peiris, District Judge.

February 25, 1919.

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