

# The Hindu Organ

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JAFFNA, THURSDAY, JANUARY 24, 1929.

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## The Hindu Organ.

JAFFNA, THURSDAY, JANUARY 24, 1929.

### NEED FOR HEALTH PROPAGANDA.

THE HEALTH WEEK ORGANISED TO TAKE place in Jaffna in March next deserves the hearty support and encouragement of all well wishers of Jaffna. It is one thing for an uninhabited area to develop tropical jungle conditions and become eventually the home of malaria. It is quite another thing for a thickly populated and well developed area like Jaffna to be made unsuitable for human occupation owing to the sheer ignorance of many and the studied indifference of the few who could do anything to avoid it. The most tragic part of it is that an area which was at one time regarded as a sort of a health resort by the people of the rest of the Island has now turned out to be a place which even its own inhabitants dread to live in. Diseases unheard of in the past have become so endemic and have taken such a firm root in the Peninsula that one is tempted to wonder whether all the sanitary measures in the world could be of any avail in bringing back those conditions for which Jaffna was once famous. The fear haunts us that, if things are allowed to drift as they are doing to-day, whether a time may not come when Jaffna will be condemned as a plague spot in the Island. The demonstration in practical sanitation that is proposed to be held looks like a desperate attempt on the part of the sanitary authorities to avoid that disgraceful calamity. But in this work, any effort on the part of medical officers without the willing support and co-operation of the suffering public will prove a mere waste of energy. Nature has blessed Jaffna with a climate which is salubrious enough though dry. It is not so dry as to be overbearing or to be unfavourable even to the proper growth of vegetation. It is man that has made Jaffna what it is to-day. It is he that has polluted Jaffna with all sorts of epidemic diseases and has not taken effective steps to stamp them out. Public conscience has not been sufficiently awakened. Some are still of the opinion that increasing the number of hospitals and medical officers is all that is necessary. The old adage, 'Prevention is better than cure', is as true to-day as ever. Any number of hospitals will not ensure that immunity from disease which knowledge gained by right education and propaganda can alone guarantee.

For the first time in Jaffna an attempt is being made to educate the public by means of practical demonstrations of prevention of diseases and methods to be adopted in connection with personal and social hygiene. It is hoped that not only school and village authorities will render every possible help to make it a success but also all public leaders, temple and church authorities, urban bodies, sanitary boards, and all other organisations and public bodies interested in the welfare of the community will unite together to make the best use of this opportunity so as to secure the best possible results. In spite of our vaunted civilisation, we are far behind most other races in the matter of observing hygienic principles. Modern science is out to help mankind and not to kill it though it has placed in the hand of man very dangerous weapons of destruction. Medical systems may differ in various countries according to climate and conditions of life but the discoveries of science are universally applicable. It is the duty of those who understand things to help others. We therefore earnestly appeal to those who have had the advantages of a liberal education to come

forward and join in this movement so that they might be of greater service to their less fortunate brethren. We should not view it with suspicion simply because it is sponsored by professional men. This work should have been long ago undertaken by social organisations or by leaders of the community. That something of the sort is being attempted at all is a matter to be rejoiced at. We are sure that the public will readily co-operate if the matter is properly explained to them. We would suggest to the organisers that, besides making mere announcements, a preliminary course of lectures should be arranged to be delivered in all important centres with a view to canvass public opinion and to arouse public interest. There should be an advance copy of the programme. Tracts written in the vernacular setting forth the aims and objects of the Health Week should be distributed freely in every village. For our part, we are quite prepared to help the undertaking in every possible way. We fully realise its value and wish it all success.

### LOCAL & GENERAL.

**WEATHER.**—More refreshing showers fell on Tuesday and Wednesday last.

**PERSONAL.**—Mr. K. Alvaipillai, a Cadet in the Civil Service, has arrived and will shortly assume duties at the Anuradhapura Kachcheri.

—Mr. A. Selvadurai, until recently Chief Clerk in the Land Office, Kuala Selangor, has resigned from the Govt. Service and has taken to business.—Cor.

**NEW BUDDHIST HEADQUARTERS.**—The Governor will declare open the new Buddhist Headquarters in Norris Road, Colombo on the 28th instant at 4.30 p.m.

**A TIGER AT ARIALAI.**—News reached us yesterday to the effect that a tiger was seen at Arialai in the uncleared jungles of the coconut estates. The Police went to the place to shoot the animal but could not trace it. Fortunately so far the tiger has attacked neither man nor beast.

**MORE ANTI TEMPERANCE FAILURES.**—At the Local Option Polls held for ascertaining the wish of the people whether the following taverns should be re-opened it was found at the close of each polling that very few voters went to the poll, thus signifying that Toddy was more of an evil than anything else. The taverns in question are those of Navatkuly, Maravanpali, Chavakachcheri South, Madduvil North, Sarasalai, Allarai and Puloppalai.

**A JAFFNESE SETTLEMENT IN KUALA LUMPUR.**—Negotiations are now in progress for the acquisition at an early date of about 100 acres of land in close proximity to Kuala Lumpur for a Jaffnese Settlement. A few members of the Tamil community have taken the initiative in the matter.—Cor.

**A LOCAL OPTION SUCCESS.**—The polling for the reopening of the arrack and toddy taverns of Dehiwala and Medimale took place on January 19th. Polling was timed to cease at 7 p.m. but an application was made to close it at 4.30 p.m. as voting was extremely slack: from 2 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. there were only two voters. The number of votes required for the re-opening of the taverns was 3,000 out of 5,877 but at the closing it transpired that only 170 voted for it, thus obtaining nearly 3%.—Cor.

**A NEW NOTARY.**—Mr. Ganthavanan Obellish Somasegaram, Proctor S. O., of Vannarpooni, is to be a Notary Public throughout the judicial division of Jaffna, and to practise as such in the English language.

**QUESTION OF I. G. P.'S INCREASED SALARY.**—The Finance Committee had a long sitting on Friday last when among other things it decided to refer to the Salaries Committee the application for an increase in the salary of the Inspector General of Police. It will be recalled that the Government did not desire to refer the matter to the Salaries Committee. The Finance Committee also declined to sanction a vote of nearly Rs. 18,000 to cover a deficit arising out of a bid deal in iron by the Crown Agents in London.

**UDUVIL Y. M. H. A.**—The Executive Committee of the Uduvil Y. M. H. A. met on Saturday last to elect office bearers for the current year. Mr. Nagalah presided. The office bearers of the previous year were all re-elected with the exception of Bramma Sri Muthusamy Kurukkal, who was elected as one of the Vice Presidents. The Chairman thanked the members of the outgoing Committee for the very useful work they have done during last year. He said that he was personally very much obliged to them for making the Y. M. H. A. so powerful a voice in the village within so short a time, viz. one year.—Cor.

**VENKURULA EARTHQUAKE.**—Twenty-five are reported to have been killed by an earthquake at Cumana, where according to a wireless message from the Governor every building has collapsed.

### U. D. C. & Local Option Polling

#### COUNCILS PURVIEW DOUBTED.

#### ANTI TEMPERANCE WORKERS' PRESENCE

(Continued from our last issue.)

Mr. Somasegaram, Member for Ward No. 6, in presenting the petition, with the permission of the Council, said that it was about Local Option Polling. It wanted a resolution from the Council limiting the areas of polling.

The petition was read and among other things it stated that when the taverns were closed, for No. 1 tavern in Town only wards 1, 2, 3 & 5 containing 3219 voters had to poll. But now 10, 638 were asked to go to the poll for the re-opening of the same tavern. The petitioners prayed that the Council should do limit the areas so as to make one ward poll for taverns in that area.

Mr. Somasegaram said if it was the wish of the Council that any resolution was necessary they may consider it. But he did not know if it was within its purview.

The P. S.—Is it within the purview of the Council?

It was pointed out by the Secretary from the minutes of the Council, that a resolution for the closing of the Thordal tavern was passed on the motion of Mr. R. Subramaniam on 13th February, 1926.

Mr. Somasegaram was granted permission to present the petition.

The Council now went into Committee to consider the petition—thus denying the public the proceedings of an interesting discussion on one of the most important questions affecting the welfare of the Town.

On resuming, the Provincial Surgeon, who seemed to have put forth a strong fight against the consideration of the petition moved that it be deferred.

Mr. Tisseverasinghe who, too, seemed to have fought shoulder to shoulder with the mover seconded the resolution with much emphasis.

The motion was carried but all was not well; for some determination seemed to be with large on the brows of Mr. Moses, and also on those of Messrs. Arulampalam and Somasegaram both of whom had the rare privilege of having interestedly and with much concern listened to the dinings of Mr. A. P. Thambiah.

The scene changes for a while. Mr. Tisseverasinghe said that he understood that fire broke out in the Jaffna Picture Palace a few days back. He would therefore move that the Manager of the Picture Palace be asked to insure against fire and other accidents.

Mr. Arulampalam seconded.—Carried.

Though the Council had advised the Manager of the Picture Palace to insure against fire, it had not insured itself against the threatening outbreak of fire that manifested in Mr. Moses when he moved that a special meeting be held next week to consider the question of de limitation of areas for Local Option.

Mr. Somasegaram with equal fervour seconded the resolution.

Mr. Thambiah had pointed out to the Council that the Commissioner of Excoise was going to introduce in the Legislative Council on Thursday next, the adoption of the rules for Local Option. So he wanted the Council to give its opinion before that day.

Mr. Tisseverasinghe could not tolerate such tactics. He interpreted the section under which Mr. Moses brought his motion as giving no room for a such a motion when the Council was sitting.

When the Council was sitting and had decided on a certain matter, it cannot go back on it. He could not see, why in a matter like that when their representatives in the Excoise Advisory Board had arrived at a decision they were trying to rake it up again, that too, after the Council had voted for deferring the matter. Was that to discredit their representative? That was another way of getting at the matter through another door, indignantly remarked the speaker. "Surely, Sir," said Mr. Tisseverasinghe with much feeling and emphasis, "if you select me as your representative to the Excoise Board, and if you go behind what has been done by me, I certainly would not be your representative."

Mr. Arulampalam: We are not considering what has been done in the past.

Mr. Tisseverasinghe: The past order is yet in effect.

The Chairman turned to Mr. Moses who was sitting not far from his chair but was half lifted by his anxiety for his pet subject, and said that his motion could have been brought as an amendment to the one that had been passed by the house. "You can't rake it up again," said the Chairman thus pouring oil on troubled waters.

Turning again to Mr. Moses the Chairman asked "Will you find any difficulty in sending me a written requisition signed by two of you. Mr. Moses agreed to this and withdrew his motion evidently with the determination to get a special meeting summoned to achieve his, and Mr. Thambiah's, and as a matter of fact Mr. Arulampalam's and the youngest city father, Mr. Somasegaram's, purpose.

When the members came out to the road, Mr. Thambiah who was there with about a dozen of his men in trade called out for three cheers to Messrs. Moses, Arulampalam, Somasegaram and Somasegaram.

### Health Propaganda in Jaffna.

#### TO BE HELD IN MARCH NEXT.

In connection with the Health Week that is to be held in Jaffna from March 4th to 9th (both days inclusive) an account of the "Hindu Organ" of the 21st inst. the following further details are available.

The chief object is to demonstrate modern methods of disease prevention both for the individual and community by means of models, charts, lantern slides and lectures.

The Government Agent of the Northern Province is the Patron of the undertaking. The Medical Officer of Health and the School Medical Officer with the help of a representative committee are in charge of the arrangements.

It is hoped that all the residents in the Jaffna Peninsula will make it convenient to visit the 'Show'.

### Retirement of Mr. Kathiravelu.

#### INSPECTOR GENERAL'S TRIBUTE.

Mr. E. Kathiravelu, Chief Clerk, Police Office, Jaffna, who is retiring from the Clerical Service after having served in the Police Department for the last 31 years and risen to the First Class of the Service, was entertained at a farewell function by the clerical staff and officers of the Jaffna Police on the evening of the 21st instant.

After a group photo with Mr. Kathiravelu as central figure was taken in the lawn adjoining the Office, all those assembled retired to the Recreation Room where refreshments were served lavishly. Mr. J. B. G. Bantock, the Asst. Supt. of Police, Mr. R. S. Fernando and Inspector W. A. Da Silva spoke of the meritorious services and good qualities of Mr. Kathiravelu to which the latter replied suitably.

Mr. Dowbiggin, the Inspector General of Police when he was in Jaffna on the 10th instant on inspection spoke at the ceremonial parade in which the Police Magistrate of Jaffna, Mr. V. P. Reddy, was also present, of the long and faithful service of Mr. Kathiravelu, and said that in 1904 when he was the Asst. Supt. in Jaffna, Mr. Kathiravelu was a clerk under him, and that his career in the Police Department for the last 31 years was an example to all others in the Police, and his retirement was a great loss to the Department.

Mr. Dowbiggin wished Mr. Kathiravelu long life to enjoy his well earned pension and called for three cheers which were well responded.

Mr. Kathiravelu is a brother of Mr. E. Kandiah, B. A., Advocate, and an uncle of Mr. C. Oomarasamy, C. C. S., District Judge, Karungala.

### Publications Received.

#### "PRABUDDHA BHARATA"

##### OR

#### "AWAKENED INDIA"

"Prabuddha Bharata" enters its 34th year in January, 1929. The format of this monthly journal has been considerably improved, increasing in the size and the number of pages. The reading matter has been arranged in double columns. The frontispiece contains the Benediction from The President, R. Krishna Math and Mission of Belur, Srimath Swami Shivananda.

#### "THE COURIER."

The Special Thai Pongal Number of "The Courier", the journal of the Lyceum, Jaffna Hindu College, contains some interesting and instructive articles. The get up of the magazine is fine with Devi Saraswati, Goddess of Learning and Art, the guardian deity of the College, presented in an artistic form in the cover page, being the design of a student of the College.

### Calendars for 1929

We have to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of Wall and Desk Calendars for 1929 from the undermentioned:— Messrs. Little's Oriental Balm Co., one of the leading Pharmacists and Chemists of Madras; Norton & Co., proprietors of the Spartan Type Foundry of Madras and agents for John Kidd & Co's printing ink and makers of other printing materials; and M. N. Galingam & Sons, of Main Street, Jaffna, dealers in office and bungalow furniture etc.

### Jaffna Urban District Council.

#### STANDING COMMITTEES APPOINTED.

At the last meeting of the Jaffna Urban District Council the following Committees were appointed:—

A board consisting of Messrs. Asaipillai and Somasegaram was appointed to inspect the Books of the Council and report on them.

The following Standing Committees were then appointed:—

**SANITATION COMMITTEE.**—The Provincial Surgeon, the Vice-Chairman, and Mr. Arulampalam.

**LAW AND GENERAL SUBJECTS COMMITTEE.**—Messrs. Nalliah, Joseph and Somasegaram.

**ROAD AND BUILDINGS COMMITTEE.**—The Provincial Surgeon, Messrs. Asaipillai and Moses.



Sir,  
I am preparing for publication an account of present day economic conditions in the Jaffna District.

Such an account needs no justification. It ought to interest everyone of us; it may place in a new light certain aspects of our lives which we have tended to ignore; it may possibly be the means of improvement in ourselves.

Not the least of its advantages is its place in the social history of our race.

This work has been begun on my own initiative, and is being pursued at my own cost; for the results and conclusions I bear the sole responsibility.

But the facts with which I deal are in the possession of your readers, and I must needs undertake a 'census' of the wealth of this country, if I am to do justice to my subject.

Your readers are familiar with the Government census—the Government finds it necessary and is able to employ a very large paid staff. It can further compel every household to complete the form supplied to him. No private individual can compel. He depends on the good will and public spirit of his informants.

My object is to present a true picture of things as they are. Your readers' wish cannot be otherwise. Will they therefore please help by signifying to me whether they are prepared to furnish me facts relative to:—

(1) The age and sex composition of the household,

(2) The property owned by the family, its value, cost of maintenance, gross yield and net yield,

(3) The family's needs.

(4) Average monthly expenditure, showing the distribution of the total among the following items: food, clothing, other necessities, medical services, religious expenditure, and charity, expenses of children at school etc.

(5) The quantities of or the amounts of money spent by the family on, tea, coffee, sugar, kerosene oil, car hire, every mouth.

Moolai, Yours etc.,  
Chattiparam, S. Seneivasagam,  
17 1 29.

### PROVISIONAL THIRD CLASS CERTIFICATED TEACHERS

Sir,  
I perused with great pleasure the letter appearing in your valuable paper of the 7th instant about the Provisional Third Class Certificated Teachers. It is a pity that teachers who belong to this class are sleeping over the matter without coming forward and demanding what is due to them by right of service. All of them should band themselves together and forward a petition to the Director of Education and the Councilors about the injustice done to the Provisional Third Class Certificated Teachers.

When the teachers in the elementary schools are ill paid there is no use of hectoring over the problem of reconstructing the educational system in a faultless manner. Discouraged by the salary he gets and by various other causes which are at work, the poor teacher finds it difficult to push his way through and through. Before introducing a faultless educational system in the country, it is the foremost duty of the Education Department to make the teaching profession attractive to young and able brains. Men of the best brains are not in this profession: not that it is ignoble or tedious but that it is ill-paid. The first thing that should be done therefore is to better the payment of the teachers in elementary as well as in secondary schools, especially that of the Provisional Third Class Certificated Teachers. If the salary of teachers is improved; at least half the trouble of the problem of building a faultless educational system upon a firm basis will be overcome.

The "Times of Ceylon" in its editorial of 9th ultimo has the following in regard to salary of teachers. "And yet the man who has the training of the mind of the Ceylon youths is about the poorest paid worker. In this country the salary of some teachers is less than that paid to many cooks." This opinion is quite true.

As the salary of the teachers is being brought under the control of the Government, it is but fair to make it in keeping with that of the Government clerks according to qualifications. If a Cambridge Senior man passes the Government Clerical Examination he gets a salary of Rs. 75 a month. If he becomes a teacher, he gets only a salary of Rs. 60 and does not at all get any increment. This is rather unjust.

Nothing can be done by folded hand prayer, unless proper action is taken. Reformation can be brought about only by agitation. Let us therefore band ourselves together into a body and represent our just grievances to the authorities. If we do this, surely they would not be so adamant as to refuse redress to better the salary of Provisional Third Class Certificated Teachers.

Mallakam Yours etc.  
22 1 29. "A Sufferer"

One of the most important items on the agenda of the Legislative Council when it opens its new session today (Thursday) will be the motion adumbrating the Government's new Excise program.

The terms of the motion, which have been awiled with keen interest by temperance organisations, are of course based on the report of the Excise Commission which was issued last year. The schedule of the motion gives the Commission's recommendations group by group with the Government's proposed modifications subjoined.

**The Licensing System.**  
The recommendations of the Government on the report of the Excise Commission are set forth on the agenda of the Legislative Council in the form of a schedule attached to a motion in the name of Mr. G. S. Wodeman, Excise Commissioner.

The following is the text of the motion and the schedule:—

That this Council approves the recommendations of the Government, as set forth in the subjoined schedule, on the Report of the Excise Commission. (Sessional Paper VI. of 1928).

#### SCHEDULE.

##### VOTERS AT LOCAL OPTION POLLS.

1. The Commission recommends—  
(a) That in all areas where an application to hold a poll is made and passed the Government Agent shall hold a house to house census for the preparation of the preliminary lists.

(b) That all males, who on January 1 of the year in which the census is taken have attained the age of 18 years and have from that day resided within the area, will be eligible to have their names placed on the list of voters.

2. The Government considered that no steps should be taken in this matter pending a decision upon the proposals made by the Special Commission upon the constitution regarding the suffrage qualification for purposes of the election of Members of the Legislature. If these proposals are adopted, the Government considers that a similar qualification should be adopted for purposes of local option polls, subject to any special arrangements which may be made in respect of estate areas.

##### POLLING AREAS.

3. The Commission recommends—  
(a) That in general the two-mile radius from the licensed premises shall be maintained.

(b) That the two-mile radius may be modified by the Advisory Committee in cases where a river, a permanent geographical feature, or a Municipal, Urban District Council, or Local Board boundary intersects the radius.

(c) That the area shall be confined to a single Revenue District.

(d) That no change shall be made in the present areas in Colombo.

(e) That Galle, Kandy, and all Urban District Councils and Local Board towns shall constitute separate areas, subject to the proviso that, where an urban area to cover over 10,000 inhabitants, the Advisory Committee may in its discretion subdivide such area into two or more polling areas, each containing not more than approximately 10,000 inhabitants.

4. The Government accepts these recommendations with the exception of recommendation (c). With regard to that recommendation it considers that the fact that the two-mile radius falls partly within another Revenue District is not a sufficient ground for curtailing such radius.

5. If women are enfranchised subsequently, the figure 10,000 which is based on manhood suffrage may have to be reduced. The Government considers that Newera Eliya should be included under recommendation (e).

##### ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

6. The Commission recommends that the present constitution of the Committees shall remain unaltered, with the exception that the general inhabitants of the district should be represented by a nominated member in place of an elected member, in view of the fact that there is no machinery in existence for the holding of an election.

7. The Government considers that in Municipal, Urban District Council, Local Board, and Board of Improvement towns the Local Authority should be the Advisory Committee.

8. The Government considers that in other areas the principle of election rather than of nomination to the Committee should be adopted, but, until electoral registers are prepared, it proposes to adopt the suggestion of the Commission, and for that and the rules now published in Excise Notification No. 181 dated September 27, 1928, have been approved by His Excellency the Governor in Executive Council and passed by the Legislative Council. The intention is to revert to nomination for a time only in order to avoid the trouble and expense of preparing registers for elections that are rarely contested.

**PERCENTAGE FOR SUCCESSFUL POLL.**  
9. The Government concurs with the Commission that no alteration in the existing rule is at present required, but it may be necessary to reconsider the matter when the question of the suffrage qualification is decided. The percentage for the grant of a licence and that for the cancellation of a licence shall be the same in each case.

##### LICENSING SYSTEM.

10. The Commission puts forward various suggestions under this head, both in the main report and in the riders thereto. The Government considers that—

(a) Arrack, toddy, and foreign liquor tavern licences should be subject to a poll.

(b) Off-sales at arrack taverns should be prohibited.

(c) Arrack in the bottle should be sold only by the holder of a retail licence, in the same manner as foreign liquor is sold by the bottle.

(d) Wholesale and retail licences for off-sale for foreign liquor and arrack should not be subject to local option.

(e) Hotel, restaurant, and refreshment licences should be subject to local option, with a right to apply in each case to the Governor in Council for exemption.

Continued up.

Another report from the same source indicates that large bodies of troops are concentrating at Ghazni, and it is believed that Amanulla will lead them in an attempt to oust the new King, Habibulla Ghazi.

The latest news received at Peshawar is to the effect that Kandahar Province is supporting the ex King. The fate of the kingdom, however, is in the hands of the Ghilais, the most numerous and the strongest tribe in Afghanistan.

Habibulla Ghazi is attempting to consolidate his position in Kabul Province. It is reported that, owing to the shortage of food and the stagnation of trade, public sentiment appears to be in favour of Amanulla's return.

Sir Michael O'Dwyer, ex Governor of the Punjab, in an article in the "Sunday Dispatch," severely criticises Amanulla's "reckless and ill-judged attempts to upset the customs and religion of the conservative and fanatical tribesmen."

Sir Michael concludes by saying: "It is the irony of fate that the man who sought to justify his treacherous invasion of India by a desire to protect the Indians in the exercise of their religion should now be driven, with his wife, from his own kingdom for interfering with his people's religion."  
—Times 22 1 29, Cutting".

**KING AMANULLA'S WESTERN REFORMS.**  
King Amanulla abdicated the throne of Afghanistan last week. He goes because he refuses, among other things, to allow his Syrian queen to wear the veil and to adhere to Purdah, and the tale of his going is the minor tragedy of an attempt, to force the ideals and civilisation of the West upon the peoples of the East.

The King fought for his reforms against the Priesthood of his country, and he lost. The terms under which he was offered retention of his Throne were, among others:—

An order forbidding all women, Queen Shah Kanum included, to wear European dress or to depart from the strictest regulations of Purdah.

Freedom for the priests to stop and examine strangers in the streets on Muslim law, and to punish them if they considered their knowledge of the Law of the Prophet inadequate.

Freedom for children to become husbands and wives and to have infants of their own, little younger than themselves.

Freedom for the nurer to ply his trade unchecked.

The King refused and his abdication followed as a matter of course.

—Sunday Times Cutting".

#### Continued.

(f) Railway refreshment room and public entertainment licences should not be subject to local option.

(g) The Government should in every case consult the Advisory Committee before granting a new licence of any description, save an occasional licence, within such Committee's area.

##### RESTRICTION OF HOURS.

11. The Government accepts the Commission's recommendation that a discretionary power should be vested in the Government Agent and the Advisory Committee.

##### RELATIVE STRENGTH OF GIN AND ARRACK.

(12) The Government is advised that the popularity of cheap gin is due to its high strength, which gives it an advantage over arrack, but has under consideration an alternative proposal for reducing the minimum strength of gin from 25deg. to 35deg. under proof.

##### CONTROL OF FOREIGN LIQUOR CONSUMPTION.

13. The Government has accepted the recommendation contained in paragraph 14 of the Commission's report and has increased the duties on all gins and on brandies which cannot produce satisfactory certificates of maturity genuineness. The effect has been to raise the price of all gin and of the cheaper brandies by at least Rs. 1 per bottle, and the rise in the consumption of these spirits appears to have been definitely checked. Should the consumption of foreign spirits show a further rise, Government would consider a further increase in the Customs duty and Excise licensing fees.

##### ESTATE LABOUR AND LOCAL OPTION.

14. The Commission makes the following recommendations with regard to the application of local option in the case of estate labour:—

[The recommendations are not reproduced here. —Ed. "H. O."]

15. The general condition outlined above would need to be brought into force by special regulations under the Excise Ordinance, approved and notified in the usual manner. The regulations regarding the percentages required for a decisive poll and various other details should conform as far as possible to the regulations in force for polls in village areas.

The Government concurs in the recommendations (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g).

As regards recommendation (h) the Government considers that beer and porter should be allowed to be sold in canteens in addition or alternatively to arrack or toddy. In many districts toddy is not available and to allow the sale of arrack while excluding the less potent malt liquor is not desirable. The Government as at present advised does not consider it necessary to fix the maximum supply allowed to any canteen, and sees no reason why a canteen should not be allowed to obtain its supplies of toddy from any area which has not gone dry.

As regards recommendation (i) the Government considers that the superintendent should be empowered to close an estate canteen without calling for a poll, should circumstances render it desirable that the canteen should be closed. This will not of course preclude the laborers from applying for a poll for closure or the Government from taking action under the Excise Ordinance.  
—Ceylon Daily News.

London, Jan. 28th.

The Queen's absence for some days from the Palace yesterday on a visit to Windsor Castle strengthened the expectation that the King will be moved to the castle when he is sufficiently strong.

### CONVALESCENCE STAGIR IN SIGHT.

Reuter, Jan. 28th.

As the extreme weakness from which the King is suffering is now the most important feature of the illness, the latest reports have been received with great satisfaction in Palace circles, and by the Public, who are eagerly awaiting news that the convalescence stage is within sight.

### GATHERING MORE STRENGTH.

Reuter, Jan. 28th.

The gathering strength of the King is the chief feature of the recent stage of His Majesty's illness. His course is slow, but there has been every indication during the past week that it is assured, and will improve, however minutely, from day to day.  
—Times Cutting".

### In Support of Prohibition.

#### RESOLUTION VOTED BY ASSOCIATIONS.

The following resolution is being voted upon at the various provincial temperance and prohibition associations in the country:—  
Resolved that the ..... have read and desire to give hearty support to the "Appeal to the British Parliament and People through the Indian Statutory Commission" set forth in the Memorial to the Commission entitled India's Excise Demand dated November 5, 1928, forwarded to the Commission by the Rev. J. F. Edwards of Bombay. They earnestly request the Indian Statutory Commission to recommend that India's future Constitution shall include provisions for ensuring that India's desire as expressed in that Appeal shall be granted ..... —"I. S. R."

### INDIAN & FOREIGN

**PROBABLE DEPARTURE OF THE VICEROY ON FURLOUGH.**—It is reported that Lord Irwin proceeds on leave to England by the end of June or early in July when Viscount Goschen will act as Viceroy.

**A WOULD BE ALL WOMEN CABINET.**—It is suggested in the "Daily Express" that England will one day be governed by an All-Women Cabinet.

**ABOLITION OF SLAVERY IN IRAQ.**—The British Government has informed the Secretary to the League of Nations that Iraq's adhesion to the Slavery Convention concluded at Geneva in 1926 becomes effective on 13th January.

**TO PROMOTE FOREIGN STUDIES.**—The gift of three and a half per cent Government promissory notes of the face value of Rs. 1,50,000 made by Saitants Devi, widow of the late Raghupatnam Roy, in favour of the Calcutta University was accepted by the Senate recently. The scholarship will be available to Bengali Brahmin students with technical experience in this country and desirous to go abroad for acquiring further knowledge in such subjects.

**DISASTROUS FIRE AT HALL.**—Damage estimated at £250,000 was caused by a fire which broke out early on Sunday morning in the heart of Hall. Four important streets were involved, and big premises in Charlott and Jameston Streets, were levelled to the ground.

**GENERAL ELECTION AT HOME.**—It is expected that Government will arrange for the dissolution of Parliament about Whitstable, and polling will take place on June 5th or 12th.

### THE MAILS.

(G P O Colombo.)

#### RECEIPTS.

London Mails per the O. L. "Oront" are due on Saturday, January 27, and per the P & O "Khyra" on Saturday, February 2.

Straits & China Mails per the M. M. "Athos II", are due on Tuesday, January 29, and per the P & O "Kalyan" on Wednesday, January 30.

#### DESPATCHES.

London Mails per the P & O "Aryan" will close on Tuesday, January 29.

Straits & China Mails per the S. M. S. "Johan de Witt" will close on Saturday, January 26, and per the M. M. "Compiegne" on Monday, January 28.



