

Hindu Organ

VOL 5. } JAFFNA, WEDNESDAY } **திந்துசார்தனம்.** } கலியுகம் சககரு } NO 16
 இம்புத்தம். } MARCH 21, 1894 } } கடிசு, மார்க்கு 2வது, } இலக்கள்

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NOTICE.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.
ORDER NISI

Testamentary }
Jurisdiction } No 591.
Class 1.

In the matter of the Estate of the late Kauthappar Kartigesoo of Neervalu.

Deceased.
Kathirasy widow of Kartigesoo of Neervalu Petitioner.
Muthalianachchan widow of Kauthappar of Neervalu Respondent.

This matter of the Petition of Kathirasy widow of Kartigesoo of Neervalu praying for Letters of Administration to the estate of the abovenamed deceased Kauthappar Kartigesoo of Neervalu coming on for disposal before Patrick William Conolly Esquire, District Judge, on the 20th day of February 1894 in the presence of Messrs CASIPPILLAI & CATHIRAVELU Proctors on the part of the Petitioner and the affidavit of the Petitioner dated the 19th day of February 1894 having been read, it is declared that the Petitioner is the lawful widow and relict of the said intestate and as such is entitled to have Letters of Administration to the estate of the said Intestate issued to her unless the Respondent or any other person shall on or before the 29th day of March 1894 show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

Signed this 20th day of February 1894
P. W. Conolly
District Judge.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.
ORDER NISI.

Testamentary }
Jurisdiction } No 592.
Class 1.

In the Matter of the Estate of the late Netchingar Veerakatty of Navaculy.

Deceased
Mootanachchan widow of Veerakatty of Navaculy Petitioner
1. Thampar Venasitamby of Navaculy and his wife
2. Sinnatankam of Do Respondent

This matter of the Petition of Mootanachchan widow of Veerakatty of Navaculy praying for Letters of Administration to the estate of the abovenamed deceased Netchingar Veerakatty of Navaculy coming on for disposal before Patrick William Conolly Esquire, District Judge, on the 23rd day of February, 1894. in the presence of Messrs CASIPPILLAI & CATHIRAVELU Proctors on the part of the Petitioner and the affidavit of the Petitioner dated the 21st day of February 1894. having been read, it is declared that the Petitioner is the lawful widow and relict of the said intestate and is entitled to have Letters of Administration to the estate of the said Intestate issued to her, unless the Respondent or any other person shall on or before the 29th day of March 1894 show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

Signed this 23rd day of February 1894.
P. W. CONOLLY
District Judge

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA
ORDER NISI

Testamentary }
Jurisdiction } No. 593
Class 1.

In the Matter of the Estate of the late Muthaliam daughter of Sinnakutty of Maviddapuram

Deceased
Venayagar Somar of Tellippalai Petitioner
1. Vallar wife of Venayakar Somar of Tellippalai and
2. Kantbar Sithamparappillai of Maviddapuram Respondents.

This matter of the Petition of Venayagar Somar of Tellippalai praying for Letters of Administration to the estate of the abovenamed deceased Muthaliam

daughter of Sinnakutty of Maviddapuram coming on for disposal before Patrick William Conolly Esquire, District Judge, on the 23th day of February 1894 in the presence of Messrs CASIPPILLAI & CATHIRAVELU Proctors on the part of the Petitioner and the affidavit of the Petitioner dated the 26th day of February 1894. having been read, it is declared that the Petitioner is the husband of the sole heiress of the said intestate and as such 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 the 29 day of March 1894 show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

Signed this 28th day of February 1894.
P. W. Conolly
District Judge

THE HINDU ORGAN.

JAFFNA, WEDNESDAY MARCH 21, 1894.

A LOCAL BOARD FOR JAFFNA.

We have often in these columns, in the interest of sanitation and self-government, called the attention of the Jaffna public to the necessity of our Town being brought under the operation of the Local Boards Ordinance No. 7. of 1876 There are three Towns in Ceylon--Colombo, Kandy and Galle--which have Municipalities, and thirteen which have been brought under the operation of the Local Boards Ordinance. But Jaffna which is the second Town in the Colony in point of population and third in point of revenue importance is still without either a Municipality or Local Board. When even Towns like Gampola and Chilaw, Batticaloa and Trincomalee, are in the enjoyment of local self-government, our Town alone is denied that privilege. Jaffna thus presents the sad spectacle of being the only Town of some importance in Ceylon, if not in the whole of the British Empire, from which has been withheld all kinds of Municipal privileges. This is creditable neither to the Government which so unfairly treat a portion of their subjects, nor to the Jaffna public which have so long put up with this insult and which have taken no concerted action to bring about the establishment of, at least, a Local Board here

Municipalities and Local Boards are intended by Government, not only for effecting sanitary improvements, but also for ameliorating the political condition of the subjects. That Jaffna suffers grievously the want of such institutions cannot be denied. However careful the local authorities may be about the health and cleanliness of the Town, they cannot be so well looked after as by a Municipal institution, intended solely for the purpose. As matters now stand, every sanitary improvement in Jaffna should be initiated by and done under the authority of a single official, who, however good his intentions may be, is quite unable in the midst of his other multifarious and onerous duties, to know all the public wants, or to devote the required time and attention to supply them. We speak from a sincere conviction when we say that none of our crying public wants, such as a better water supply, the lighting of our Town, and the conservation and improvement of our markets, will be properly attended to, unless we constitute ourselves into a Municipality or Local Board, and the people's representatives are allowed to have a voice in the administration of the affairs of the Town. Among other numerous improvements which a Municipal institution is sure to introduce will be a Town Hall, which is now a great want of Jaffna. Our stay-at-home townsmen are not expected to feel the sad disadvantages under

which we are placed in this respect. But such of us as have a knowledge of the working of these institutions elsewhere and have personally marked the differences between the aspects of our Town and similar ones in other parts of Ceylon and the neighbouring Continent of India long for the day when municipal privileges will be granted also to us.

The chief advantage of Municipalities and Local Boards consists in the system of local self-government they introduce. It was in response to the agitation of the League in the sixties for a reconstitution of our Government and Legislature on popular basis that the Municipal and Local Boards Ordinances were subsequently passed with the avowed purpose of training the Ceylonese for representative Government. Our brethren in India enjoy local self-government in an eminently greater degree than those in Ceylon; and Municipalities and Local Boards in the neighbouring Continent are now entrusted with the power of electing unofficial members to the Legislative Councils. It cannot be said that we are less loyal and less advanced than the natives of the other parts of the Island. Why are we in Jaffna then allowed to remain for ever in the unenviable position of being the least favoured of Her Majesty's subjects? The remedy is in our own hands. The Government cannot long deny to us the privileges which they had spontaneously granted to the inhabitants of the other parts, if we only earnestly and constitutionally urge our claims for them.

We are aware that great amount of misconception prevails here, even among persons who ought to know better, as to the price at which these Municipal privileges are to be enjoyed. It is said that the establishment of a Municipality or Local Board will involve additional taxation which the people of the Jaffna Town are too poor to bear. We are not ready to concede that Jaffna is poorer than all the Towns in Ceylon into which local self-government has been introduced. But admitting that great amount of poverty exists here, it should be no bar, we say, to the establishment of Municipal institutions, as they will be the means of relieving distress among the people. Education is costly. Do we on that account neglect the education of our children and prefer to keep them in ignorance? Similarly, if need be, we should make some sacrifice in the interest of self-government and in view of the innumerable benefits it will confer on the community. We are, however, willing to waive for the present, and till the extension of the railway to the capital of the Northern Province, the claims of our Town for a Municipality, which will undoubtedly involve increased taxation, though with corresponding benefits to the tax payers. A Local Board is all we require now; and we contend that it could be carried on here with no increased taxation, as the income to which it will be entitled from the several sources which now go to swell the general revenue, viz; the collections in this District under the Master Attendants Ordinance, the Carriers Ordinance, the Carriage Ordinance, the several licensing Ordinances, &c., would amply suffice for all purposes of sanitation and improvement of the Town. There are Local Boards in Ceylon whose annual revenue and expenditure, with additional taxation, do not exceed four or five thousand rupees. But the Jaffna Local Board, if one be established here, would be the Board with the largest revenue and expenditure, amounting to not less than Rs20 000 per annum; and this, without having recourse to any source of additional taxation. Allowing two or three thousand rupees for the establishment which the introduction of the Local Board will create, the

rest of the amount could be entirely devoted to the sanitation and improvement of the Town, which is now unsatisfactorily performed at a trifling cost to Government.

Mr. Twynam, our Government Agent, appeared to have seen the necessity of taking some action in the matter, to judge from the notice published by him in the local papers in December 1892, covering a public meeting to consider the question. The meeting, however, did not take place and was postponed *sine die*. He has not yet made any fresh move in the matter, and the question of establishing a Local Board in Jaffna seems to have been again relegated to the limbo of oblivion. We earnestly hope that Mr. Twynam will see his way to recommend to Government the establishment of a Local Board here, and earn the sincere thanks and gratitude of the people of Jaffna.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

THE HINDU HIGH SCHOOL—The distribution of Prizes to the Successful Students of the Hindu High School will take place on Friday the 30th Inst. at 7 P. M.

WEATHER—After a drought of nearly three months, refreshing showers of rain fell throughout the District on the 15th and 16th Instant, to the great relief of man, beast and vegetation but the farmers have been put to great inconvenience in the gathering of the paddy crop on account of these rains. It would have been a very great blessing if we had these showers a month earlier.

CHOLERA—There have been no cases of cholera in Jaffna since the 16th Inst. although false rumours have been current of cases at Chandilipai and Tellipallai. The disease could be said now to have been stamped out at Changanai, where it had several victims. Great credit is due to the Medical Department for having checked the progress of the disease by prompt and stringent measures. It must be said in this connection that cholera has never taken an epidemic form here though it was several times introduced from India, since Dr Attigalle assumed the Medical administration of this Province.

Suicide—A young man of Vannarponnai by the name of Vytialingam Kandiah and brother of Vallipuram, the owner of the well-known tea shop and confectionary near the Grand bazaar committed suicide on the night of the 15th instant by hanging himself in the upstairs building lately built by the two brothers. It is said that the deceased committed this rash act, because his brother would not allow him the free use of money and reprimanded him for his extravagance.

A Bank For Jaffna—We call the special attention of our readers to the letter published elsewhere on the above subject addressed by the Alleppy Merchants to Mr. E. B. Dawson, Inspector of Branches, Bank of Madras. We commented on this in our issue of the 7th ultimo.

The Jaffna Police Court—Mr. Constantine, our Police Magistrate, has gone to Mannar as Assistant to the Government Agent, Northern Province. Although he was not particularly popular with the Local bar, he is generally admitted to be a very conscientious and upright judicial officer.

We are glad to welcome once more Mr. Woodhuse as acting Police Magistrate of Jaffna. During the few weeks he occupied the bench, some months ago, he gave very great satisfaction to the bar and the suitors.

THE VICTORIA READING HALL—The sixth annual general meeting of this Institution was held on the night of the 12th instant under the presidency of Mr. Advocate Nagalingam. An executive Committee with the following gentlemen as office-bearers for the ensuing year was appointed, viz: Mr. Advocate Nagalingam, President; Mr. Proctor Caspillai and Mr. R. Kantaiyah, Vice-presidents; Mr. A. Sapapathy, Secretary, Mr. Proctor Thambiyah, Treasurer; and Mr. A. Chinnapah, Auditor.

THE JAFFNA MARKETS—The Markets Ordinance has been already brought into operation in this District, and it appears that the District Road Committee have begun to exercise the powers vested in them by closing some of the unnecessary markets in the Peninsula. At a meeting of this body held on the 16th instant it was decided to close the private market at Aclivali South, as it has interfered with the importance of the public market in the same village. It was also decided to close the fish market at the Goldsmith Street in Vannarponnai which is a source of great nuisance to the public.

The Registrarship of the Supreme Court—We learn that Mr. J. J. CASIE CHITTY, the Police Magistrate of Pt Pedro and Chacri, has forwarded a memorial to the Government of State, setting forth his claims for the Supreme Court Registrarship. We trust the Government will avail themselves of this opportunity and appoint him to the office in recognition of his own services and as a mark of honor to the Tamils of the Colony.

FOOD SUPPLY—Our godowns are full to overflowing with paddy imported from the Indian ports and Burmah. Since the beginning of this month about fifteen large sailing vessels have arrived with paddy in the several Jaffna ports from Burmah alone. Several more are expected during this month and the next. The price of paddy here is now Rs 31 a bushel.

MATRIMONIAL—Mr. Proctor Tambo and his family are still in Colombo. The marriage of his second son with the eldest daughter of Mr. Broker S. T. Mutiyah is fixed for the 26th instant in Colombo.

Mr. Advocate Tirunavukarasu—This gentleman after a stay of nearly one month here with his relations leaves to-day for Colombo by the Lady Havelock.

The Ceylon Review—We beg to acknowledge the receipt of the January number of this periodical which contains as usual very interesting and readable articles. The one on "Benighted Jaffna" must be particularly interesting to the Jaffna readers. It is very gratifying to find that the Ceylon Review is not dead as it was once thought to be. We wish all success to a publication which admittedly supplies a long felt want in Ceylon.

—We acknowledge with thanks the receipt from Government of the report of the Currency Commission.

CORRESPONDENCE.

A BANK FOR JAFFNA.

Alleppy
22nd January 1894.

To

E. B. Dawson Esqr.
Inspector of Branches,
Bank of Madras
Alleppy.

Sir,

We the undersigned merchants residing here who are largely interested in the tobacco trade that is going on between Travancore and Jaffna, availing ourselves of your visit to this place on inspection duty, beg leave to submit the following for your kind and favourable consideration.

Jaffna is a populous and important District of Ceylon and has a large trade with India. Although it now forms a part of that Colony, yet, considering its proximity to South India, and the close commercial and racial relations that exist between the two countries, Jaffna must be considered as a portion of the Indian Empire.

2. The staple product of Jaffna is tobacco. The annual value of which grown in the District is over twenty lakhs of Rupees. Besides the tobacco consumed in Jaffna and other parts of Ceylon in unmanufactured leaves and cigars, about seven thousand candies of tobacco of the value of nearly ten lakhs of rupees are annually imported into Travancore from Jaffna.

3. Jaffna depends upon India for its food supply, the home grown paddy being insufficient for the consumption of the people. Food grains of the value of about fifteen lakhs of rupees are, therefore, annually imported into Jaffna from Negapatam, Cocanada, Musshapatam, Calcutta, Rangoon, Araccau and other parts of India and Burmah. Clothes of very large value, curry stuffs and several other articles form part of the imports from South India into Jaffna.

4. Among exports from Jaffna to India timber, copra and chanks occupy a conspicuous place.

5. A new industry has lately sprung up there, viz. the palmyrah fibre industry. According to the latest return available, fibre of the value of about two lakhs of rupees was sent out of Jaffna in 1892.

6. There are in Jaffna besides local merchants, about 40 Nattucottai Chetty Firms and a large number of coast Moormen, engaged in various trades.

7. Jaffna being thus a most important agricultural District and the centre of much trade, especially with South India, a branch of the Oriental Bank Corporation was opened there as far back as 1864, and it continued to exist till the Bank in 1884. When the New Ori-

ental Bank Corporation was formed a branch of it was opened also in Jaffna; and since its collapse there has been no Banking institution in Jaffna for the last two years or so.

8. The business of the old O. B. C. and the new O. B. C. in Jaffna consisted chiefly in advancing loans to the tobacco cultivators, and to the merchants, most of whom raised loans from the Banks upon hypothecation of their tobacco; and in negotiating drafts to and from different parts of Ceylon and India. The Government revenue of the Northern Province of Ceylon, of which Jaffna is the capital, was also deposited in those Banks and drawn according to its requirements. There were also in the Jaffna Branch of those Banks large amounts of deposits from private parties and from the several Christian Missionary Bodies, Roman Catholic and Protestant, who are established in that District. The Chetties also kept accounts with the Banks and borrowed largely from them.

9. It is generally admitted that the old and new O. B. C. did good and profitable business in Jaffna and that the Jaffna branch did not in any way contribute to their failure, which will be evident from the fact that a branch of the old O. B. C. had existed there for twenty years and that the Directors of the New O. B. C., most of whom had been connected with the old one, had thought it fit and proper to establish a branch also in Jaffna.

10. It, therefore, goes without saying that a Banking institution is a great want of Jaffna and that there is ample room for successfully carrying on banking business there. There have been since the failure of the new O. B. C. rumours of one of the Banks now in Colombo establishing a branch in Jaffna. But as yet Jaffna is without a Bank.

11. Even in the days of the O. B. C's there were business men who thought that there was room in Jaffna for a branch of the Madras Bank, which, with branches in almost all the places where it Jaffna had dealings, would have done more extensive and successful business. Now that a branch of the Bank of Madras has been established here, in the State where the staple product of Jaffna—tobacco—of the annual value of nearly ten lakhs of rupees is imported and consumed, it would be, we beg to submit, in the interest of the Institution which you represent, to open a branch also in Jaffna; not to speak of the great relief which such a measure will afford to the people of Jaffna in general and to the merchants here and in Jaffna in particular.

12. In the absence of a Bank in Jaffna connected with the one here, the proceeds of the sale of tobacco in Alleppy are sent to Jaffna by Hundies to Madras, which are cashed at a discount in Jaffna. If there be a branch of the Bank of Madras in Jaffna, nearly the whole of this ten lakhs will go through this Bank to that place. Again in Jaffna, besides the large advances the Bank will be able to make on proper security to cultivators, more than half the quantity of tobacco intended for export to Travancore would be hypothecated to the Bank by the merchants, to be redeemed in Jaffna or here. With a proper and trustworthy native assistant or Shroff to recommend this loan, this part of the business, will be of considerable profit to the branches here as well as in Jaffna. The O. B. C. also was engaged in this business, but in the absence of its branch here, it was not able to carry it on to a considerable extent.

14. The Jaffna grain merchants now find the greatest possible difficulty, we are aware, in remitting the enormous value of the food grains that are imported there. In some cases the remittances are made from here, but generally they are done through the Banks in Colombo. We need hardly point out that nearly the whole amount of 15 lakhs of rupees on account of rice and paddy imported into Jaffna will go through the Bank, if there be a branch of your Bank also there.

15. Wherefore we approach you with this representation and beg that you will be pleased, after due inquiry, if necessary, to recommend to the Directors of the Bank of Madras, the opening of a Branch in Jaffna without much loss of time.

We beg to remain
Sir

Your most humble servants

A. Sapapathy.

P. L. P. Letchumanan Chetty.

M. Ramalingam Pillai.

P. Duraisamy Iyer.

R. M. A. R. M. A. Sangu Iyer.