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IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.

ORDER NISI.

Testamentary } No 722
Jurisdiction }

In the Matter of the Estate of the late Sangarappillai Murugasoo of Batticottai East

Deceased
Sithamparam widow of Murugasoo of Batticottai East Petitioner

1. Sithamparanatar Kumaravaloo and wife
2. Valleyammye of Batticottai East.

Respondents
This matter of the Petition of Sithamparam widow of Murugasoo the abovenamed petitioner praying for Letters of Administration to the estate of the abovenamed deceased Sangarappillai Murugasoo of Batticottai East coming on for disposal before H. H. Cameron Esquire, District Judge, on the 3rd day of March 1896 in the presence of Mr. S. Tambyah Pillai Proctor on the part of the Petitioner and the affidavit of the Petitioner dated the 2nd day of March 1896 having been read, it is declared that the Petitioner is the lawful widow of the said intestate and is entitled to have Letters of Administration to the estate of the said Intestate issued to her unless the Respondents or any other person shall on or, before the 30th day of March 1896 show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

Signed this 5th day of March 1896

H. H. Cameron
District Judge.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.

ORDER NISI.

Testamentary } No. 728
Jurisdiction }

In the Matter of the Estate of the late Murukar Ampalavaner of Karaitivu East

Deceased

Nakamuttu widow of Ampalavaner of Karaitivu East Petitioner

Nakamuttu widow of Ampalavaner of Karaitivu East Petitioner

Vs Arumukam Velaiyntar of Karaitivu East

Respondent.

This matter of the Petition of Nakamuttu widow of Ampalavaner of Karaitivu East praying for Letters of Administration to the estate of the abovenamed deceased Marukar Ampalavaner of Karaitivu East coming on for disposal before H. H. Cameron Esquire, District Judge, on the 6th day of March 1896 in the presence of Messrs Casippillai & Cathiravelu Proctors on the part of the Petitioner and the affidavit of the Petitioner dated the 6th day of March 1896 having been read, it is declared that the Petitioner is the lawful widow 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 10th day of April 1896 show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

Signed this 6th day of March 1896

H. H. Cameron
District Judge.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA

ORDER NISI.

Testamentary } No. 735
Jurisdiction }

Class I

In the Matter of the Estate of the late Mira Meyatin Nachchiya wife of Mukammudu Mira Lebbai of Vannarpannai Deceased Mukammudu Mirankandu Meyatinkandu of Vannarpannai Petitioner

Vs.

1. Cheku Meyatin Mokammudu Miralebbai of Vannarpannai
2. Ayisa Umma wife of Meyatinkandu of do Respondents This matter of the Petition of Mukammudu Mirankandu Meyatinkandu of Vannarpannai praying for Letters of Administration to the estate of the abovenamed deceased Mira Meyatin Nachchiya wife of Mukammudu Mira Lebbai of Vannarpannai coming on for disposal before H. H. Cameron Esquire, District Judge, on the 16th day of March 1896 in the presence of Messrs Casippillai & Cathiravelu Proctors on the part of the Petitioner and the affidavit of the Petitioner dated the 12th day of March 1896 having been read, it is declared that the Petitioner is one of the heirs 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 the 27th day of April 1896 show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

Signed this 16th day of March 1896

H. H. Cameron
District Judge.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.

ORDER NISI.

Testamentary } No. 737
Jurisdiction }

Class III

In the Matter of the Estate of the late Chuvaminatar Iramalinkam of Elutumaddu North Deceased Nakamuttu widow of Iramalinkam of Elutumaddu North Petitioner

Vs.

Kanapatiyar Veluppillai of Elutumaddu South Respondent This matter of the Petition of Nakamuttu widow of Iramalinkam of Elutumaddu North praying for Letters of Administration to the estate of the abovenamed deceased Chuvaminatar Iramalinkam of Elutumaddu North coming on for disposal before H. H. Cameron Esquire, District Judge, on the 18th day of March 1896 in the presence of Messrs Casippillai & Cathiravelu Proctors on the part of the Petitioner and the affidavit of the Petitioner dated the 16th day of

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March 1896 having been read, it is declared that the Petitioner is the lawful widow 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 27th day of April 1896 show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

Signed this 18th day of March 1896
H. H. Cameron
District Judge.

THE HINDU ORGAN.

JAFFNA, WEDNESDAY MARCH 18, 1896

INDIA AND CEYLON.

It had been the boast of the Ceylonese till a few years back that Ceylon was far ahead of India in respect to the form of her Government, the political privileges of the people, and generally in regard to her material and moral condition. It is, however, now an admitted fact that in many respects this Colony is far behind the neighbouring Continent, although the uninformed portion of the Ceylonese may still live in a "fool's paradise" under the impression that we are much better off than our brethren in India. The strides India has made during the last decade may be described as wonderful, while Ceylon has remained stationary if she has not retrograded. What political organization have we in Ceylon to compare with the Indian National Congress? While the Indians are showing great political activity and aptitude for an enlightened and independent political life, as shown in the annual meetings of the Congress and the success that has attended its efforts in securing the reform of the Legislative Councils on an elective basis, the Ceylonese are apathetic and indifferent to their rights and privileges as British subjects and allow themselves to be still held in leading strings by the authorities. It is strange that we should be content with the constitution of a Government and Legislature as established sixty years ago. Though mighty efforts had been made in the forties, fifties, and sixties under the leadership of eminent Europeans and Natives, to obtain a reform of the Council, as its constitution was thought inadequate even to the wants and requirements of those times, yet we do not know of any movement, worth speaking that has been made by the Ceylonese, during the last quarter of a century with the object of securing Legislative Council Reform.

We had thought that the Ceylon National Association had a bright future before it, that it would form the nucleus of a Ceylon Congress similar to the Indian Congress, and that it would be the centre of much political activity in Ceylon and be the means of bringing together the different sections of the Ceylonese community and of achieving great and lasting benefits for them. But we are sorry to find that the Association has now almost become defunct, and that no attempt has been made by the Ceylonese to revive it or found another political organization on the lines of the Indian National Congress.

We have had occasion of late more than once to refer to this aspect of the question and to the necessity of a movement being set on foot to secure the expansion and reform of the Legislative Council, as it is simply disgraceful that we should not have a remodelled Legislature, even on the lines of the councils of the adjoining Continent, which had been till 1892 greater shams than our own. The independence now displayed by the elected members of these Councils, and the number of questions they put at each meeting of these Councils seeking information on various actions of Government and exposing the doings of its officials, are a perfect contrast to the dead and alive fashion in which the majority of our un-official members perform their functions as Legislators and guardians of the interests of the public. Though the Government of India has the command of a majority in the Councils, as the Ceylon Government has, to carry out any measure of its own, yet it does seldom succeed in passing such unnecessary and retrograde measures, trenching on the rights of the people and curtailing their privileges, as the Courts of Requests Ordinance, the Oaths and Affirmation Ordinance and other Ordinances, which the Ceylon Government during the interregnum of Sir Edward Noel Walker, had been able to force through the last session of the Legislative Council.

We have been tempted to revert to this subject on the perusal of an excellent paper on Ceylon, contrasting her present condition with that of India contributed to the "Ceylon Observer" by Mr. W. G. Bligh, M. I. C. E. of the Irrigation

Department, Burmah, which our esteemed contemporary has published in his issues of the 12th and 13th Instant, giving editorial prominence to it. Mr. Bligh's paper deserves being read and re-read by every Ceylonese who has the welfare of his country at heart. His facts and figures cannot be denied, although there may be differences of opinion as to the potency of the remedy he proposes, viz., annexation of Ceylon to India. We have not been hitherto advocate of the annexation policy, being enamoured by the sentiment of having a Government separate from and independent of that of India, and also feeling that the absorption of Ceylon with India would not be entirely to the benefit of this Colony. But events have proved that we have not only not been keeping pace with the advancement of the times, but have also gone far behind our huge neighbour in several important respects. If the Ceylon Government will any longer delay the reconstruction of the Legislative Council on a popular basis, and if it also fails to adopt a more enlightened and progressive policy in regard to railway extension and other public works, the Ceylonese will be compelled, we have no doubt, to welcome annexation as the only means of infusing new life and energy among them, and of promoting their material and moral welfare.

We are sorry we have not space enough to quote Mr. Bligh's paper in full. But the following extracts from it will, we hope, convince our readers of the strong case he makes out for the necessity of adopting a more active railway policy in Ceylon, and of completing the Jaffna railway. It is to be hoped that the Ceylon Government will profit by the advice of this disinterested stranger. He says:—

Everyone on visiting a new country for the first time starts with some preconceived idea which subsequent experience is apt to modify considerably if not reverse entirely. My own case is an illustration of this platitude. I went to Ceylon in possession of a firm conviction that the Crown Colony would be found far more advanced in every way and free from the trammels of red-tape officialism, than its huge neighbour. A little probing into the subject, however, must lead anyone who is at all acquainted with the immense progress effected in India entirely by the agency of the Government, and is able to compare that with what has been done in Ceylon, to a diametrically opposite opinion.

In spite of the mass of tall writing and boasting about the wonderful strides made by the Colony since it came under British rule, it is an easy matter to prove to your readers that the country is really in a very backward and undeveloped state in comparison with what it would undoubtedly have reached had it remained under a powerful progressive administration as that of India.

Compare this persistent feverish energy of a Government possessed of immense resources and a wise determination to speedily develop the value of its latest acquisition of territory with what has happened in Ceylon. That country has been in our possession since 1797—close upon a century. It has only 300 miles of railway all told. On the other hand, Upper Burma, acquired in 1885, has already more than double that mileage with another 200 under construction. Excepting the coast line the railways in Ceylon only traverse the hill-country and planting districts. The greater part of the island, the rich west coast north of Colombo, the Northern, North-Central and Uva Provinces have been almost entirely neglected; and without railway communication their development must be retarded for centuries. During my stay in the island the papers were full of the "bitter cry of the neglected great Province of Uva" the said "province" being the size of a district in Burma. The cry was for roads and more roads. Now roads are, of course, very necessary and desirable, particularly in broken, hilly ground; but to convert uninhabited waste forest into cultivated lands with its concomitant prosperous agricultural population within a reasonable time something more is required than roads: railways are absolutely indispensable. What, then, is urgently required in Ceylon are pioneer lines of railways to penetrate these solitudes which, in combination with the restoration of irrigation works and the clearance of the forest, will soon induce settlement; otherwise centuries may elapse before these lands are fully reclaimed. This has already been ably advocated in that admirable work "Ceylon in 1893." The present Government of the colony is too weak and unenterprising, Downing Street too obstructive and cautious to be capable of inaugurating a bold forward policy. The history of the railways already built exemplifies the fatal want of foresight and continuity of policy that characterizes the undertakings of this Government. An extension of 20 miles is made with a great flourish of trumpets, followed by a pause of inaction of several years. Then another 20 miles is at last tacked on, with a further outburst of enthusiastic plaudits, at the wonderful progress in railway construction effected by an unlightened and untrammelled Crown colony. A dispassionate outside observer would judge from the lavish and indiscriminate praise freely bestowed all round that everything in Ceylon must be seen through magnifying glasses from the great Province of Uva down to the mileage of the railways.

I maintain that if the island had been all along a dependency of the Empire of India, under, of course, its own separate administration, a Chief commissionership as Assam, Burma, the central Provinces, it would be far and away in advance of what it is now. European capital and enterprise would have entered just the same; but not only would the present mileage of planters' railways have been earlier constructed but the now greatly neglected Northern and Eastern Provinces

would have been opened out by railways and the restoration of most of the ancient Singhalese irrigation works long ago completed instead of being just recently dabbled with, as is now the case. The immense area of land cultivated in bygone ages which has relapsed into jungle for centuries would thus have by this time to a large extent reverted to its former state of profitless cultivation with the necessary sequence of increased population and revenue. It does not require abnormal astuteness to grasp the fact, that it is a distinct advantage to a small country to form part of a large empire as India which possesses unlimited resources and is not timid in promoting works of great initial expense provided ultimate benefit to the country and its own revenues are assured.

The restoration of the ancient works in the Northern and North-central Provinces to their previous full irrigating capacity will not at once cause rapid influx of population on to the waste jungle lands which is such desideratum. The conditions of rainfall being the same as in past ages there is of course no reason why when the old works are thoroughly restored the former agricultural communities should not be resuscitated, which would add at least 10 millions of inhabitants or more than quadruple the population of the island. But there is this difficulty, that the land having reverted to its natural state is one huge pestilential forest. Till the trees are cleared away in large tracts colonization except at a very slow rate of progress will be impossible. This can only be effected by pushing railways into the country, thus affording a market for the timber either as scantlings or fire-wood. Roads are useless for this purpose, as the timber will have to be carried to the hill-country for use in the tea factories or the populous south coast or else shipped across to India where the demand is certain to be great.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

The Weather—There had been signs of rain during the first week of the month, and drizzling showers fell in some parts of the District. The heat is extremely trying during the day. Fever is subsiding.

Tobacco—The drought is telling on the growth of the plant and the development of the leaves, although they are watered regularly by our unfailing wells. The crop is, however, expected to be unprecedentedly a large one, the area under cultivation being larger than in any previous years. What with the fall in the price of Jaffna tobacco in the Travancore market which has already taken place and with an over abundant supply the out-look of this trade is not very promising. For the last three years the tobacco cultivators and merchants were equally benefitted. Though the price paid here was very high during these years, yet Jaffna tobacco fetched a corresponding high price in Travancore, leaving a good margin for profit.

The Government Agent—Mr. Jevers accompanied by Mrs. Jevers left here for Mannar on the 16th Instant. He will also visit Vavaniya and Mullaitivu and will be absent from here for about a month.

Result of the Law Examinations—Four gentlemen have passed as Proctors of the Supreme Court of whom we are glad to find the name of Mr. J. R. Canagaretna, Crown Proctor, Trincomalee, and cousin of Mr. Advocate Allega-koen. Out of seven Proctors of the District Court who have come off successful in the last Examination, three are Tamils of Jaffna, Viz Mr. S. N. Aseervatham, son of Mr. John Aseervatham of the Town; Mr. V. S. Ponnam-palar, son of the well-known tobacco merchant Mr. Sinnaddy Pillai of Vanarp-nai; and Mr. S. Kandiyah, a grandson of the father of the Jaffna Bar Mr. A. Sinnatambu, and a nephew, of Mr. Advocate Nagalingam. We congratulate these gentlemen on their success and wish them success in their professional career.

Official Changes—Sir Edward Noel Walker having gone to England on six months' leave of absence, Mr. Taylor has been appointed Colonial Secretary. M. Arunachalam who has for several years acted with conspicuous ability as Registrar-General will it is said revert to his substantive appointment as Commissioner of the Court of Requests Colombo. Mr. G. A. Baumgartner replacing him in the Registrar-General's Office.

Strike among Cigar makers—The cigar makers have not yet come to terms with the merchants. Their hire had hitherto been fifty cents per thousand cigars. They now demand an increase of 12½ cents which the principal merchants are not disposed to give. Work is now suspended in most of the principal cigar manufactories which employ daily hundreds of hands, while it is going on in the minor ones on the understanding that the increased hire will be given.

Acknowledgment—We have to acknowledge with thanks the receipt from the Government of the Administration Report of the Province of Uva by Mr. H. White and of the Colombo Museum by Messrs A. Haly Director and G. A. Joseph Librarian