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Hindu Orga

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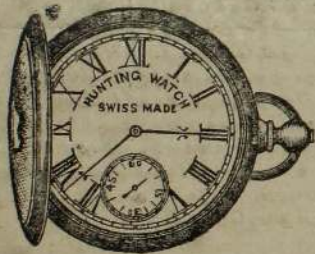
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S. T. ARNOLD
 Secretary

Jaffna 1st June 1896

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF MULLAITTIVU, ORDER NISI.

Testamentary } No. 7
 Jurisdiction }

In the matter of the Estate of the late Feonege Carolis Appu of Mullaittivu, Deceased

Vayittiyer Veluppullai of Mullaittivu Petitioner

This matter of the Petition of Vayittiyer Veluppillai of Mullaittivu praying for letters of administration to the Estate of the above named deceased coming on for disposal before E. M. de C. Short Esq, District Judge, on the 27th day of April 1896, and the affidavit of the Petitioner dated 27th April 1896 having been read, it is declared that the Petitioner as creditor of the intestate, is entitled to have letters administration to the Estate of said intestate issued to him, unless any person shall, on or before the 24th day of June 1896, show sufficient cause to the satisfaction, of this Court to the contrary.

Signed E. M. de C Short
 District Judge

The 7th day of May 1896

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA ORDER NISI.

Testamentary } No. 753
 Jurisdiction }
 Class I

In the Matter of the Estate of the late Manikkam wife of Iramalinkam of Chiruppidi Deceased

Tampaiya Charavanamuttu of Chiruppidi Petitioner

Vs

1. Vallippillai wife of Charavanamuttu of Chiruppidi and
2. Putattampi Iramalinkam of do

Respondents
 This matter of the Petition of Tampaiya Charavanamuttu of Chiruppidi, praying for Letters of Ad.

ministration to the estate of the abovenamed deceased Manikkam wife of Iramalinkam of Chiruppidi coming on for disposal before H. H. Cameron Esquire, District Judge, on the 21st day of April 1896 in the presence of Messrs Casippillai & Cathiravelu Proctors on the part of the Petitioner and the affidavit of the Petitioner dated the 20th day of April 1896 having been read, it is declared that the Petitioner is the husband of the heir 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 9th day of June 1896 show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this court to the contrary.

Signed this 21st day of April 1896

H. H. Cameron
 District Judge

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA. ORDER NISI

Testamentary } No 759
 Jurisdiction }

Class II

In the Matter of the Estate of the late Neekkilappillai Paviluppillai of Allaippiddi Deceased

Paviluppillai Swampillai of Allaippiddi Petitioner

1. Mathalenappillai widow of Paviluppillai
2. Paviluppillai Santeaguppillai and
3. Paviluppillai Nanamuttu all of Allaippiddi Respondents

This matter of the Petition of Paviluppillai Swampillai of Allaippiddi praying for Letters of Administration to the estate of the abovenamed deceased Neekkilappillai Paviluppillai of Allaippiddi coming on for disposal before H. H. Cameron Esquire, District Judge on the 4th day of May 1896 in the presence of Messrs Casippillai & Cathiravelu Proctors on the part of the Petitioner and the affidavit of the Petitioner dated the 1st day of May 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 9th day of June 1896 show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this court to the contrary.

Signed this 4th day of May 1896

H. H. Cameron
 District Judge.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA ORDER NISI

Testamentary } No. 767
 Jurisdiction }
 Class I

In the Matter of the Estate of the late Chuchan Mary Annaporany wife of Antoni Fernando of Kayts East Deceased

Bastiampillai Swande croos of Kayts East Petitioner

Vs

Antoni Fernando Quarter Master of the Steamer "Ceylon" Colombo Respondent

This matter of the Petition of Bastiampillai Swande croos of Kayts East praying for Letters of Administration to the estate of the abovenamed deceased Chuchan Mary Annaporany wife of Antoni Fernando coming on for disposal before H. H. Cameron Esquire, District Judge, on the 19th day of May 1896 in the presence of Messrs Casippillai & Cathiravelu Proctors on the part of the Petitioner and the affidavit of the Petitioner dated the 18th day of May 1896 having been read, it is declared that the Petitioner is the heir of the said intestate and is entitled to have Letters of Administration to the estate of the said Intestate issued to him unless the Respondent or any other person shall on or before the 24th day of June 1896 show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

Signed this 19th day of May 1896

H. H. Cameron
 District Judge.

Negapatam is one of the Principal ports of India. It is not only a terminus of the South Indian Railway but has also a large and increasing trade. It is besides the rendezvous of Indian and Ceylon passengers to and from the Straits Settlements. Nearly two thousand passengers leave that port weekly for the Straits and a like number land there on their return. Not only a large number of Jaffnese go to and return from the Straits via Negapatam but it is the principal port availed of by the Jaffna merchants who have business transactions with India, by the pilgrims from here who go in large numbers to the shrines of the adjoining continent, by our students who go for education in the Indian Colleges and, above all, by that large number of our countrymen who are employed in the service of the Indian Government.

We think we have said enough to show that Jaffna is very much interested in the good administration of the port of Negapatam. But it has long earned an unenviable notoriety as a port where the subordinate officials are corrupt, and the passengers are subjected to every kind of unjust exactions and rough treatment at the hands of boatmen and coolies, without any check or protection from the port authorities. Any one with the least acquaintance with Negapatam will bear us out in this our general condemnation of this port. But our present indictment is founded upon our most painful very recent experience of it.

Having left Jaffna for India on the 25th April last via Tondi by the B. I. Steamer "Vita" we returned here on the 23rd Ultimo by the same Steamer via Negapatam. The only passengers from here to Tondi on that occasion were ourselves and our servant. But we were agreeably surprised to find at Negapatam on the 22nd ultimo about fifty of our countrymen as fellow passengers to Jaffna, a dozen of whom at least were gentlemen of respectability and position. There were among them two B. As, one of whom is also a B. L. of the Madras University and an Advocate of the Supreme Court of Ceylon; three students of the Senior B. A. class of the Christian College, Madras, who were making a short visit to their native country during the vacation; a law student of Jaffna who was returning home after an extended tour in South India, including Mysore where he had the honor of being present at the wedding of one of the sisters of the present Maharajah; a well known native physician and Surgeon of Jaffna who had been on a pilgrimage and some Chetties, three of whom were heads of Firms here.

Besides the steamer fare of Rs. 3, each passenger was required to pay an additional sum of 8 annas (50 cents) for boat hire both at Negapatam and Kankasanturai. We were given to understand that the payment of boat hire also was compulsory, the passengers being not given the option of engaging their own boats to take them to the Steamer. After having waited on shore for four long hours, all the passengers were at 8 P.M. put in one cargo boat which could be engaged there, we were told, for Rs. 2 or Rs. 3, and committed to the tender mercy of about ten ruffians who were all drunk and did not know how to steer the boat or what to do with the passengers.

The inconveniences felt by the passengers on their way to the steamer, the indignities to which they were subjected, and the rough treatment they received at the hands of the boatmen, were such that all of us felt very sorry for having gone to that port, trembled for the safety of our person and property, and despaired of going to the steamer that very night. The boat after it had gone some distance from its mooring, would not float again as it was run on a sand bank. The passengers were then, one and all, preemptorily ordered by the boatmen to get down into the sea and assist them in pulling the boat out of the shoal; and those who hesitated to obey that order came for every kind of invective and abuse, and almost all the passengers were thus compelled to get down, much against their wish, and stand in the sea for a considerable time. The boat, however, could not be made to float, as it was in our opinion, purposely driven into that shoal by the boatmen in order to open a way for them to levy blackmail on the passengers. After it was demonstrated that there was no hope of our

going to the steamer by that boat, the wily boatmen proposed to take in light boats to the steamer such of us as would pay them eight annas. Some of us in our anxiety to get on board the steamer and not miss it, consented to pay the amount, if they would do so without further loss of time. But no sooner were two small boats brought to the place where we were standing, than the whole body of passengers swarmed into them and they could not also float. More than two hours had been thus spent in changing us from boat to boat and teasing us in every way possible. A representative of the steamer Agent, who was perhaps a passive spectator of everything that was going on all the while, then appeared on the scene and gave the unfortunate passengers the option of either returning to the shore and awaiting the next trip of the steamer a week hence, or of wading a distance of about a hundred yards and getting into another boat which was already in sufficiently deep water. While, a few passengers in utter disgust and despair returned ashore, the vast majority of us in our anxiety to catch the steamer determined to go to that boat at any risk, and with the greatest difficulty and under great peril found our way to it. Our baggages and things also had to be removed and it afforded an excellent opportunity for the heartless boatmen to exact exorbitant wages for carrying them to the new boat.

The third boat we were put in was rowed earnestly and we were within easy distance of the "Vita." The hopes of the passengers of getting on board the steamer before she weighed anchor and left the port for Kankasanturai began to revive. The boatmen however suddenly suspended all operations and announced that, unless the passengers paid them 2 annas each the boat would not be taken to the steamer. Their behaviour was so annoying and the manner and spirit in which the levy was demanded was so reprehensible that the passengers as one man refused to pay it. Thereupon they grew very violent and wild and every attempt was made to terrorise the passengers into paying the amount, but to no purpose. One of the boatmen then called upon his companions to resume their operations saying he would know what to do with the "bigger rascals" as he was pleased to call the passengers, when they reached the steamer. It was openly announced that the passengers would not be allowed to remove their luggage unless they paid the amount demanded. Their songs were thereafter in redicule of the helpless occupants of the boat, and the foulest epithets were freely bestowed on them.

There was all this time seated on one end of the boat a somewhat decently dressed individual whom we understood to be a Tally Clerk or representative of the Agent who never raised his voice to put an end to the unseemly and violent language indulged in by the boatmen or to stop the exaction, although it was publicly demanded in his presence and in his name. The inference is therefore irresistible that he was a party to these transactions, and that he would have had the lion's share of the booty if the boatmen had succeeded in securing it.

The boat at last reached the steamer at about 11 O'clock and there was great commotion among the passengers at the prospect of their baggages being detained by the boatmen. The writer was the first to get on board the steamer, leaving his things behind in charge of his servant, and immediately saw the Captain and laid the grievances of the passengers in detail before him. He was filled with great indignation and ordered his crew to get down into the boat and remove the things of the passengers from the boat, and personally came to see it done. At this moment a passenger came out loudly complaining in Tamil that he had been assaulted by the boatmen when he attempted to remove his things. The Captain mistaking him for a boatman who ill-treated the passengers, dealt the unfortunate passenger two blows with his hand, and he fell on the deck and seemed to have lost all consciousness for a time. When it was brought to the notice of the Captain that the man assaulted was not a boatman but a passenger, he not only desisted from further beating him but felt very sorry for what had happened, did all he could on board to revive him and paid every attention to him the whole night. The unfortunate man was sufficiently well the next morning when the steamer reached Kankasanturai to get up from his bed and land there. But the swelling of the eyelids and the face where the blows fell had not entirely subsided. While deeply regretting the unfortunate

occurrence, we must absolve the Captain from all blame in connection with it, as he was led to do it in the interests of the passengers and in defence of their person and property, although a wrong man was by a pure mistake punished. The Captain told us that on almost every trip he had heard complaints against the boatmen of Negapatam and it was time that an end was put to them. He wrote a long letter to the Agent at Negapatam, the draft of which he showed to us, strongly representing the grievances of the passengers, finding fault with him for sending so many passengers in one boat and asking him to take steps to have the boatmen punished and recover the value of the goods lost by the passengers in the boats from the boatmen. We take this opportunity of recording our appreciation of the kind and sympathetic treatment we received on board the steamer at the hands of the Captain and other officers, particularly of Mr. Conrad, a very intelligent and courteous Burgher young man of Colombo who is the Clerk of the Steamer.

We ask in all seriousness whether such a state of things as described above is possible or will be tolerated for a moment in any other British port? It is a disgrace to the British Indian Government that such lawlessness should have been allowed to prevail in that port, and that helpless strangers have no manner of protection whatever from the port authorities. We charge the Agent of the Steamer with culpable negligence in having, at night time, without the least regard for the convenience and safety of the passengers, put so large a number of them in one boat and committed them to the absolute mercy of the boatmen, whose antecedents and character he is expected to know. He is also expected to know the nature of the sea and its shoals and it was therefore criminal on his part not to have engaged sufficient number of light boats to take us in one stretch to the steamer. We have written to some friends at Negapatam to inquire and let us know what effect the representation of the Captain has produced on the port authorities and the Agent. Failing to hear of serious steps being taken to punish these boatmen as an example to others of their fraternity, we think of making a representation to the Madras Government about the disgraceful condition of the port of Negapatam and the need of prompt measures being devised to protect the interests of passengers who flock there from different parts of India and Ceylon. We have no doubt that our late Governor Sir Arthur Havelock who is now at the helm of affairs in Madras will readily redress the grievances of the Jaffna passengers, if a proper representation were made to him.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

THE WEATHER—The drought still continues. The South-West wind is blowing hard, which in a great measure, moderates the heat.

FOOD PROSPECTS—The Import of Paddy this year up to date has shown considerable fall in all the ports in the District. There is hardly any paddy imported from the Eastern Province which generally supplies the consumption of Vadamarachy and Thenmarachy. This year is owing to the rice mill established at Batticaloa by the ex-Civil servant Mr. Lemesurier. The import from Akyah, Arracan and other places in Burmah has also fallen considerably owing we believe to large quantity of paddy being now imported from the South Indian ports and to the exceptionally large local crop we had had at the beginning of this year.

THE POLICE—Many of the Constables who were doing duty here have been ordered to other stations, presumably because they have been long stationed here. But what about the Sergeants and Sergeant Majors who have been working here some for more than fifteen years and others for more than 10 years. Are they not to be given a change? Long stay of Police officers in outstations is greatly prejudicial to the interests of the public. We hope our Government Agent as the head of the Provincial Police will enquire into this matter. Police Inspector Keegel has been ordered to Galle and we understand that Mr. Van Houten the Assistant Superintendent also is going on three months' leave to Colombo for the sake of his health.

INTERPRETER OF THE DISTRICT COURT—Mr. Elankai nayaka Mudaliyar, who has been connected with our Courts as Interpreter for more than one-third of a century, has submitted his papers for retirement from the service. He has now completed his forty years service under Government, and is today as hale and hearty as he was ten years ago. To all appearance he is fit for another ten years service as Interpreter. But under the operation of the sixty years circular he is forced to retire. We are glad to learn that the members of the Bar and the officials of the Court are preparing to shew their esteem and regard to the retiring Mudaliyar in a suitable manner. He has been so long among them that his absence we doubt not will be very much felt by them.

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY V. CRUPPIRAMANIA PILLAI FOR THE PROPRIETOR AT THE SAIVA PRAKASAYANTRA OFFICE JAFFNA.

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