







identical to those of the Ordinance No. 14 of 1873, entitled "An Ordinance relating to annual Pilgrimage to Kataragama." The Government do not, therefore, seek to introduce a new principle of religious intolerance into this Colony, but endeavour to extend to all pilgrimages in the Island, whether those of Hindus, Buddhists, Muhammadans, or Christians, the regulations that affect the annual pilgrimage to Kataragama.

It was a great injustice to have passed a special Ordinance restricting the pilgrimage to one particular Hindu Shrine and to have continued it so long, while Christian pilgrimages are not subjected to any kind of restrictions whatever. It is, therefore, time that this piece of injustice should cease.

It should not, however, be understood that we approve of all the provisions of the proposed measure. While admitting that the Government should have some control over pilgrimages, in the interest of the pilgrims themselves and of the community at large, we do not see the necessity of such a drastic measure as the one proposed to attain the object in view.

The Governor is empowered by the first clause of the proposed Ordinance to make regulations for any of the following purposes:

- (1) To restrict the number of persons who shall be allowed to proceed on any pilgrimage from the different parts of this island, and the period of their stay at the place to which such pilgrimage is made.
- (2) To regulate the collection of people at such place and their march to and from such place, and the different starting and halting places.
- (3) To impose such conditions and restriction as may be necessary to promote cleanliness and to check the breaking out and spread of infectious diseases.

We think the Government should not have the power of restricting the number of persons who go on any pilgrimage, as that would be an undue interference with their liberty and religious belief. To the other provisions we have not such insuperable objection. But we consider it necessary that 'Pilgrimage' should be defined, in the Ordinance, to admit of no doubt whatever as to what is meant by it. It would, in our opinion, be unsafe and open a wide door for unnecessary interference, on the part of the Government with every kind of public worship in Temples or other holy places, should it be done even in the village or district of the worshippers, if Pilgrimage is not clearly defined to mean only that undertaken to such places as are without the District of the pilgrims and involve a journey of some days or weeks and stoppages on the way to and from the places to which the pilgrimage is made.

### THE RETIREMENT OF MR. C. W. KATHIRAVALU PILLAI POLICE MAGISTRATE OF KAYTS.

The public meeting of the inhabitants of Jaffna and of the Islands held in the District Court House on the 31st ultimo to memorialize His Excellency the Governor praying that Mr. Kathiravalu Pillai may not be called upon to retire by the end of this year according to the 60 years circular, was a great success. In spite of the inclemency of the weather the attendance was large and represented the wealth and intelligence of the District. The speakers were unanimous in their praise of Mr. Kathiravalu Pillai's services and earnest in their desire to retain him as Magistrate of Kayts as long as he is able to perform his duties as satisfactorily as he has hitherto done. Mr. Kathiravalu Pillai is not known to be a Magistrate who much encourages lawyers, yet we were astonished to find the large number of lawyers present on the occasion and the enthusiasm that prevailed among them in the cause of retaining Mr. Kathiravalu Pillai's services to the country for some years longer. The secret of Mr. Kathiravalu Pillai's popularity, however, among lawyers, suitors and the public lies in the fact, as was remarked by more than one speaker at the meeting, that he has a spotless character and does his duty so conscientiously, thoroughly and considerately that even the losing party in a case always go satisfied with his judgment. The large number of people that were present at the meeting from different parts of Jaffna and the Islands was an eloquent testimony to the great esteem in which the Police Magistrate of Kayts is held by them and of their earnest desire to have him as Police Magistrate for some time more. It cannot be said that he is physically incapable of performing his duties as Magistrate, seeing that he enjoys sound and vigorous health. Every rule must have exceptions. The sixty years circular, although

a very necessary measure to compel the retirement of such officers as cling to their offices notwithstanding their advanced age and inefficiency, should not be enforced on a gentleman of Mr. Kathiravalu Pillai's ability and popularity, who, though over 60 years of age, is fit for further work, and whom the whole of Jaffna and the Islands wishes to be continued in the service. We earnestly hope that His Excellency Sir Joseph West Ridgeway will see his way to exempt him from the operation of the circular.

Mr. Advocate Allegakoen presided over the meeting and Mr. Advocate Kanagasabai acted as Secretary. There were present among others, Advocate Nagalingam, Proctors Changarapillai, Casipillai, Visuvalingam, Strantenberg, Mailvaganam, S. Thambiappillai, Cook, Ponnampalam, Sathurukasingham, Spencer, Maniagars Regnatha Mudaliyar, Chinnappa, Muttyappillai, and Duraisamy; P. Illankainayaka Mudaliyar, and Messrs A. Mailvaganam, Kanagasabai, retired Sub-collector Supramanier, A. Sapapathy, P. Murgaso of the Fiscal's Office, Muttucomarasurrier, M. Chinnappa and others too numerous to mention.

Mr. Nagalingam moved the first resolution, which was as follows:—

"That in the interests of the inhabitants of Jaffna and of the Islands in particular, it is desirable and expedient that Mr. C. W. Kathiravalupillai Police Magistrate of Kayts be continued in his Office for some years more, notwithstanding the 65 years circular; and that a memorial be sent to His Excellency the Governor praying to this effect.

This was seconded by Mr. Changarapillai and supported by Illankainayaka Mudaliyar Proctors Spencer and Strantenberg and carried unanimously.

On the motion of Mr. Proctor Casipillai seconded by Mr. Proctor Mailvaganam and supported by Mr. Proctor Visuvalingam a Committee consisting of the following gentlemen were appointed to carry out the object of the meeting, viz, Advocates Allegakoen, Nagalingam and Kanagasabai, Proctors Changarapillai, Casipillai, Visuvalingam, Mailvaganam, S. Ponnampalam, S. Thambiappillai B. M. Sathurukasingam, and Messrs Regnatha Mudaliyar, Muttaiah Pillai, A. Mailvaganam, M. B. Swampillai, M. Vythalingam, M. Coomarasurrier, W. Mather, A. M. Thiruchelver, M. Thambapillai Mudaliyar, V. Chunnappa, M. Chinnappa, M. M. Meyaden, A. Ambalavaner, P. Sarvirimuttu, A. Sapapathy and the Rev. B. H. Rice.

### WATER SUPPLY TO THE TOWN OF JAFFNA.

The experiment with the Puttoor well has been concluded after fifty days pumping of the water. The result is that the authorities are satisfied that there is an inexhaustible supply of pure drinking water in the well sufficient for the needs of our Town. But it is likely that this famous well will be abandoned in favour of another well hitherto unknown to fame at Oorelu called Yama which is nearer to the Town by three miles than the Puttoor well. The existence of this well was known only to the villagers, but even they had not the remotest idea that it was a rival of Nilavarai (Puttoor well) and possessed such exhaustible supply of water as the latter has. It is a small well, or rather a pit, about 12 feet in circumference and 9 feet in depth, with only 4 feet of water. There is a crevice or opening on the North-Western side of it which is believed to be the subterranean passage that connects it with the Puttoor well. It is about 5 miles from the Town and lies quarter of a mile west of the road leading from Jaffna to Pallali. Except after the commencement of experiment with the Puttoor well, few outside Oorelu and the adjoining villages had heard of the existence of this well. The credit of discovering it and bringing it to public notice belongs to Mr. District Engineer Sapapathy who has found out by careful observations that the level of the water in this well, the Puttoor well and the Devils well at Kurumpacaddy is the same and that there is a corresponding rise and fall of water in all these wells.

The pump and instruments have been now removed from Puttoor to Oorelu and experiment has been going on here since Saturday last. Mr. and Mrs. Jevors and Mr. Tomalin were present when the pumping operations were commenced and Mr. Sapapathy is in immediate charge of the work. They are, we understand, very much impressed with the suitability of the locality, not only on account of its closer proximity to the Town, but also on account of its peculiar adaptability for the con-

to no de... ping.

### THE ASSAULT ON MR. TOMALIN.

The case of a villager of Navukeri, who was charged with assault on Mr. Tomalin, Provincial Magistrate, came on for trial in the Police Court, Jaffna on the 2nd Instant before Mr. T. M. Tampoo, the acting Police Magistrate. Mr. Advocate Allegakoen instructed by Mr. Proctor Strantenberg appeared for the complainant, and Mr. Advocate Nagalingam instructed by Mr. Proctor S. Thambiah Pillai defended the accused. Mr. Nagalingam proposed when the case was called, that the accused may be allowed to stand with four other men to be identified by the complainant. Mr. Allegakoen objecting to the procedure, the court disallowed Mr. Nagalingam's proposal. Mr. Tomalin then entered the witness box and gave evidence to the following effect:—

He visited the Puttoor well on the morning of the 13th August last. Finding that one of the men working at the well did not do his work properly he pushed him aside. The man so pushed by him was the accused. He returned to the Government Bungalow at Puttoor at about 11 A. M. riding on his bicycle, and when he had gone some distance from the well, he felt a blow with a stick on his hat from behind. He turned back and saw the accused running. He ran after him, but the accused threw stones at him which did not hit him but went past by him. The accused again picked up stones to throw at him from a distance of 30 yards from him with his (accused) face towards the witness. The accused again ran away and disappeared in a palmyrah garden. The accused was within ten feet of him when he first saw him after the assault. He identified the accused and swore that he was the man who assaulted him and whom he pushed at the well. One Gnanam, who was in attendance in court as a witness, was at a distance of about 60 yards from him when the assault took place, and he could have witnessed the assault if his eyes were turned that side. He asked Gnanam to go and fetch the Overseer, but the Overseer was soon on the spot before Gnanam went to him. He then told the Overseer that he was sure that his assailant was the man whom he had pushed at the well. Though the assault took place on the 13th August, he did not file a complaint against the accused till the 21st September last, as the name of the accused was furnished to him by the Government Agent only on the 18th September.

The first question put to Mr. Tomalin by Mr. Nagalingam in cross-examination was: Mr. Tomalin, you were present in court, in fact you were seated with us here, when I made the proposal to the court to allow the accused to be placed among four others for identification by you?

Mr. Tomalin: Yes.

Mr. Nagalingam: You then heard my proposal?

The Court: He admits it. I don't see the necessity of your repeating the question.

Mr. Nagalingam: I want to be more particular, Sir. It might be said that he was present but did not hear it.

Mr. Tomalin: I did not pay much attention to it. I am somewhat deaf.

Mr. Nagalingam: If you are so sure that the accused was your assailant why did you not accede to my proposal?

Mr. Tomalin: I was not opposed to it.

Mr. Nagalingam: Why did you not then instruct your counsel not to oppose my proposal?

Mr. Tomalin: I did not like to interfere with his discretion.

In further cross-examination Mr. Tomalin said that he could have recognised the accused as the man whom he had pushed at the well, even if he had not been subsequently assaulted by him. He positively denied that he either assaulted or pushed another man at the well on the morning of the 13th August last, or kicked a person the previous day. "I swear," he said, "I never kicked anybody nor lay my hands on any body else either on that day or on any previous day." He was not aware that the name of the accused was furnished to the Govern-

(continued on the supplement)