

# Hindu Organ

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## NOTICE.

### THE JAFFNA TRADING COMPANY LIMITED.

The Office and Stores of the Jaffna Trading Company Ltd: have been removed from "Jayavasa" Chemma street to the house adjoining to the present Drapery ware house of the said Company.

V. AIYARU PILLAI  
22nd December 1897 Manager

### THE HINDU ORGAN.

JAFFNA, WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 22, 1897.

#### THE TAMIL SEAT.

The Jaffna Memorial praying for the re-appointment of the Hon'ble Mr. Coomara Swamy as Representative of the Tamils in the Legislative Council has been already forwarded to His Excellency the Governor. It bears the signature of about fifty gentlemen of light and leading in Jaffna who were appointed a Committee at the District Court House Meeting to draft, sign, and forward the Memorial on behalf of the Tamils of this District. Our readers will be able to form an idea of the influential support which Mr. Coomara Swamy has received and still receives in this District when they know that among the representative gentlemen who have signed that memorial are Mr. C. W. Kathiravalu Pillai, the veteran Police Magistrate of Kuits who retires early next year after a distinguished and meritorious service on the Police Court Bench; Mr. J. J. Casie Chitty, the learned Police Magistrate of Pt. Pedro; Mr. J. N. Sandrasegara, Superintendent of Minor Roads and one of the most influential and respectable Catholics in the Island; Mr. S. Bastiampillai, Chief Mudaliyar of the Jaffna Kachcheri; Messrs Advocates Kanagasabai, Vanniasingham, and Tirunavukarasu; Messrs Proctors Changara Pillai J. P., Casippillai and Carpenter; Mr. A. Mailvaganam J. P. and Un-official Police Magistrate; and Mr. Coomarasurier, Member of the Provincial Road Committee.

It will be seen that among those who have memorialized His Excellency for the re-appointment of Mr. Coomara Swamy there are about half-a-dozen gentlemen who could themselves safely and worthily represent the interests of the Tamils in the Legislative Council, but who admitting the superior claims and fitness of the sitting Member desire to see him continue in the representation for another term of five years. It can hardly be denied that they—at least some of them—would more worthily represent the Tamils in the Legislature than Mr. Senathi Raja. But even such of them as are qualified for the position have not put themselves forward as candidates for the Tamil Seat feeling that the best interests of the community demand the re-appointment of Mr. Coomara Swamy. We bring these facts to show that Mr. Coomara Swamy's re-appointment is desired and supported, not only by the preponderant weight of intelligent public opinion but also by gentlemen who are in point of wealth, social position ability and successful professional career, better qualified than his rivals to represent the Tamils in the Legislative Council.

Mr. Senathi Raja's friends seem to think that persons have only to put themselves forward as candidates for unofficial seats in the

Legislative Council, and the senior among such candidates is sure to be appointed to the vacant seat by the aid of the Five Years Rule, just as they think that the mere fact of invitations having been sent even to the highest in the land for any social function or an "At Home" should be taken to mean that all the invitations had been accepted. In all the meetings said to have been held in favour of Mr. Senathi Raja the very same resolutions have been passed. One resolution thanks Mr. Coomara Swamy for his past services; another interprets the Five Years Rule to mean that there should be no re-appointment; and a third affirms that he is a fit and proper person to represent the Tamils in the Legislative Council. The vote of thanks passed in almost all the meetings held in favour of his rival candidates speaks volumes for Mr. Coomara Swamy's worth as a Legislator, which even his opponents dare not deny. We have already, in former articles considered the Five Years Rule and showed that it is not open to the construction put on it by Mr. Senathi Raja's friends, especially in view of the re-appointment of Sir John Griminton, Mr. Seneviratna, and Mr. Abdul Rahiman, after this Rule had come into operation. In our humble opinion, therefore, Mr. Senathi Raja cannot hope to become the Tamil Member of the Legislative Council with the aid of the Five Years Rule alone; and the Government should be satisfied, beyond any doubt, before they venture to displace the sitting Member, that the new Member possesses all the requisite qualifications of an unofficial member, in a degree at least equal to that possessed by the former, and that the appointment of the latter would be acceptable to the vast majority of the leading and intelligent Tamils in all parts of the Island.

In the first place, does Mr. Senathi Raja possess independent means sufficient to maintain his position as a Legislator, and safeguard the interests of the Tamils without caring for the frowns or favours of the powers that be?

We have also to consider if Mr. Senathi Raja is one who will not care for any office under Government, and consequently not be subservient in Council to them. Considering that he acted at one time as Police Magistrate of Chilaw, and considering also that only last year he got himself appointed as Prosecuting Counsel for the Northern Circuit—an appointment which lasted only a few weeks and which not even a junior Advocate with a fairly good practice in the Metropolitan Bar would have cared to accept—one is led to think that, even if office is not the goal of his ambition, he would not decline if one is offered to him. Two months have not elapsed since some of our local contemporaries who are the champions of his cause here gave currency to a report that Mr. Senathi Raja would be appointed Police Magistrate of Jaffna—a report which was subsequently contradicted when he put himself forward as a candidate for the Tamil Seat.

Mr. Senathi Raja is undoubtedly a Barrister. That fact alone would not qualify him for the position of Representative of the Tamils in the Legislative Council, and render his claims for the Seat superior to those of the well-tried and experienced sitting Member. Those who were present during the second Criminal Sessions of the Supreme Court in Jaffna for last year, when he acted as Prosecuting Counsel, would we doubt not, agree with us when we say that he did not on that occasion exhibit such abilities and tact as to justify any hope of his showing remarkable abilities as a legislator and speaker.

Another point which Mr. Senathi Raja's supporters urge on his behalf and which they hope will prevail over the claims of other candidates is the fact of his birth in Jaffna. One of the resolutions passed at the Otley Hall Meeting which was composed only of his supporters was to the effect that the Tamil Member of the Legislative Council should be a Jaffna born Tamil. This resolution was purposely introduced to give Mr. Senathi Raja an advantage over his rival candidates who do not enjoy the privilege of having been born in this Peninsula. The mover of the Resolution, Mr. J. K. Sanmugampillai, who had also identified himself with Mr. Senathi Raja's cause in two other meetings,—the St. Patrick's College Meeting and the District Court House Meeting,—argued that because the Jaffna District contained a larger number of Tamils than any other District in the Island, the Tamil Member should be one born in Jaffna. This proposition is on the face of it senseless as it is offensive and insulting to the Tamils of the Western and Eastern Provinces. According to Mr. Sanmugampillai's argument the village in Jaffna, again, which has the largest number of Tamils in the District should have the honour of giving birth to the Tamil Representative. We could better appreciate the resolution if it affirmed the necessity of the Member being a resident of Jaffna. But Mr. Senathi Raja being only born in Jaffna and being for the last twenty years or so a resident out of it the resolution had to be worded to suit his case. We may here remark that this was the meeting to which the Tamils of Jaffna were generally invited to select and submit to the Government the name of a fit and proper person to fill the Tamil Seat, but from which the supporters of Mr. Coomara Swamy were excluded just after the people had assembled to take part in it and when it was found that the friends of Mr. Senathi Raja were in a small minority, by means of the following notice:—

"The Meeting in the Otley Hall is intended for the supporters of Mr. Senathi Raja. I allowed the use of the Hall for that purpose. Others are requested to withdraw.

W. E. Hitchcock  
Vice—Principal, Jaffna College  
13th November 1897"

The Equitable Loan Company was a grand undertaking and much was expected of it. Mr. Senathi Raja was and, we believe, is still the life and soul of the movement. If it is a success the credit is due to him and he would, undoubtedly, deserve well of his countrymen. We have in vain hoped to hear his friends extol on this occasion the part he took in launching this undertaking and managing it for the benefit of his countrymen. Their silence on this point is ominous. We are not able at this distance to say how the Company is progressing.

In conclusion we need hardly urge on the Government the necessity of their being fully satisfied that Mr. Senathi Raja's appointment to the Tamil Seat would be acceptable to the vast majority of the leading and respectable Tamils, in all parts of the Island. We stated our opinion in our last issue that the Arcade Meeting under the presidency of Mr. Brito, Mr. Senathi Raja's father-in-law, would go a great way to injure his interests. Mr. Nicholas Gourtier Gould has subsequently appeared on the scene as the champion of Mr. Senathi Raja's cause, as the proceedings of a meeting held in Kandy in favour of Mr. Coomara Swamy would show.

(continued on the 4th page)

ஜே. பி. (J. P.) பட்டம்:—இதற்குரியவர் ஸ்ரீ. ச. கரப்பிள்ளை யவர்களுக்கும் சமர்ப்பினை தவான் தத்தும் அளிக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறதென்பதைக் கதர்ப்பத்திரி அக்ரூலமாய்விந்து மிக்கச்சந்தேஷமாயினும்.



The fact that Mr. Gould did not take part in the meeting previously held in that Town in favour of Mr. Senathi Raja, and that he subsequently took the leading part in bringing about the collapse of the meeting in favour of Mr. Coomaraswamy is significant. It is a well-known fact that Mr. Gould championed Mr. Brito's cause in 1879 and was deputed to England, under the assumed name of Tiru Mannu Guru Govind, to protest against the appointment of Mr. Ramanathan as Tamil M. L. C. Again in 1892 he played the same part in Trincomalee which he now plays in Kandy advocating Mr. Senathi Raja's cause and abusing Mr. Coomaraswamy to his heart's content. It is to be hoped that history will repeat itself so that Mr. Gould may not again play a leading part in Ceylon politics. The Editor of the "Ceylon Patriot" refers, in his issue of the 10th Instant, with glee to the collapse of the Kandy meeting in favour of Mr. Coomaraswamy. Why has the Editor studiously concealed the fact that it was Mr. Gould who disturbed that meeting?

#### THE LATE MR. N. S. PONNAMPALA PILLAI

It is with the deepest regret we have to record the death of this renowned Tamil scholar which occurred in his residence at Nellore on the night of the 18th Instant after an illness of about one week. He was one of the best known Tamils in Ceylon as well as in South India, on account of his high scholastic attainments. The name of "Notary Ponniah" as he was commonly known, is a household word in Jaffna, and his hold on the affection of the generality of the Hindu public was very great indeed. As a commentator of the Puranas and expounder of the most difficult works of Poetry in Tamil he was without a rival. His silvery voice modulated to a musical pitch, and his unequalled powers as an annotator of poetical works, fascinated large audiences. It was indeed a treat to hear him on such occasions. After the death of his great uncle, Sri Arumuka Navalar Avergal, Mr. Ponnampala Pillai was admittedly the greatest Tamil scholar in Ceylon, and even in India he was held in the highest esteem and admiration by great students and savants, and his superiority over them in certain branches of Tamil study has been never denied. His death is, therefore, a great loss to the Tamil literature—a loss which cannot be easily replaced.

The Nattuccottai Chetty community both here and in India always entertained a special admiration for the deceased, and this was evinced by the presence of the whole community here at the funeral which took place on the 19th Instant and which was one of the largest that have ever taken place in Jaffna. A valuable Cashmere shawl with which the corpse was wrapped when it was removed to the cremation ground in a sitting posture and the sandal wood which formed part of the funeral pyre were offerings from the Nagaram of the Jaffna Chetties.

Mr. Ponnampala Pillai was sixty years old at the time of his death. He was confined to bed only for five days with fever and was placed under the treatment of the best medical practitioners. He was conscious to the last, but quietly passed away on the night of Saturday last to the regret of all who knew him.

#### LOCAL AND GENERAL.

**The Weather**—Rain is now the order of the day, so to speak. It has been raining incessantly for the last fortnight or so. Our fields are now full to overflowing with water. These rains have come a little too late, as they cannot save the paddy plants which had become diseased or died away by the previous drought. But they have saved our crops from utter failure, and it is now certain that in several parts a crop will be reaped, although the outturn will be much below the average.

**The Government Agent**—We have to extend a hearty welcome to Mr. Ievers, our Government Agent, who with Mrs. Ievers arrived here on the 14th Instant and resumed charge of his duties. Mr. Fisher who acted for him for the last eight months left for Colombo by land on the 15th Instant to act as Conservator of Forests. We are sorry to learn that Mr. Fisher met with an accident at Iranaimadu while driving at night, by his carriage dashing against a roller which was left on the road. But we are glad to learn that beyond a severe shaking and some bruises he was not seriously injured.

**Jaffna Police Court**—We understand that Mr. T. M. Tampoo, who has during the last two years very satisfactorily and efficiently performed his duties as acting Police Magistrate of Jaffna, has received an intimation from the Government that he will be relieved from his duties as Police Magistrate early next year. We need hardly say that great injustice will be done to Mr. Tampoo by the Government, if he is again made to resume the practice of his profession which he cannot be expected to do as successfully as he practised before his appointment as acting Police Magistrate.

**A New Justice of the Peace**—We have to congratulate Mr. T. C. Changara Pillai, Proctor of the Supreme Court, and acting Crown Proctor, on his appointment as a Justice of the Peace for the Northern Province.

**Nagalingam Memorial**—We have to remind the members of "Nagalingam Memorial" Committee that their subscription lists were returnable on the 15th Instant. They will be kind enough to return the lists with the money collected as early as possible to the Honorary Treasurer Mr. Proctor V. Casipillai.

**Acknowledgement**—We have to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the "Ceylon Letter-Writer," by Mr. E. Spalding, Head Master, English School, Manipay, Jaffna. We compliment the author on producing this useful work and commend it to our readers.

**Cholera in Jaffna**—Cholera still prevails in some parts of Jaffna, especially at Chunnakam and Oduvil. One or two cases occurred daily at Anjananthalu in Vannarponnai East among the Nalavars till the 20th Instant when the whole body of Nalavars numbering about one hundred persons who lived in filthy and over-crowded huts within an area of about one acre at Anjananthalu were removed to the Government House of Observation for Cholera Suspects which is connected with the Cholera Hospital. Since that date no fresh cases have occurred in any part of Vannarponnai, but we understand that a few cases have occurred among those in the House of Observation. The Government Agent and the Senior Medical Officer show much promptitude and activity, and we hope that cholera will be "stamped out" from the District before long.

We invite the special attention of our readers to the interesting letter of Dr. Thornhill on this subject in another column. We are unable to reproduce the map sent to us by the Senior Medical Officer. The letter B in Dr. Thornhill's communication stands for the Fort, Letter D for Sevvailamalai Madam and Letter C for Nallatanny Kinattady. We have only to remark that we are bound to accept Dr. Thornhill's scientific theories as connect, coming as they do from the responsible Chief Medical Officer of the Province. But the public have been taught to believe in the efficacy of burning Tar as a preventive of cholera by his predecessors who used it generally whenever there was an outbreak of cholera, followed by its disappearance without assuming an epidemic form.

#### CORRESPONDENCE.

##### CHOLERA IN JAFFNA.

Jaffna 16th December 1897

To the Editor of the "Hindu Organ."

Dear Sir,

I enclose (for perusal and return) copy of the Government "Rules for Disinfection" which you will see declares the burning of Tar to be only a deodorant and not a disinfectant. I am opposed to the burning of Tar, because, while utterly useless to destroy any Microbe, it is clearly useless to affect the Microbe of Cholera which exists not in the air but only in or on the ground or food, cloth, etc. or in water, which is its chief habitat. Flies would convey the Microbe on their feet from one place or substance to another thus to food, but fortunately, owing to this present rain, flies are non-existent just now; if they were in evidence the burning of Tar would do actual harm by driving the flies from one place to another.

At the present moment Cholera exists only at one place in Jaffna viz. in the collection of huts at Anjananthalu, and if Tar-fires were to be lighted all over Jaffna they would simply create panic and alarm while doing no good whatever they would do actual harm not only by creating panic, but by leading people to place reliance on a useless proceeding would lead them to think less about the really important measures viz. attention to the few simple suggestions that by my advice, were printed and published by the Govt. Agent and the all important one of recognising that segregation of those actually suffering from Cholera, and of those who, from having come in contact with a case, were presumably infected and likely to develop the disease.

I send you a pencil sketch map showing the only 4 places where cases of Cholera have occurred in Jaffna town, and seeing that cholera has existed here now for a month (viz. since 17th November,) I cannot but think

that the measures taken to isolate the infected houses and persons and to disinfect all the wells in their vicinity has been attended with signal success, as evidenced by the fact that it has spread to practically only 3 houses viz. Perampikulam, Angananthalu (which is collection of huts) and to 3 adjoining houses in Moor street. The cases at B. C. & D. were single cases and recovered at once on the administration of one or two doses of an Astringent and were not, I am satisfied, cases of cholera at all. The occupants of the compound at Perampikulam were relations of those at Nallatanny Kinnattady and visited them when sick and of course contracted the infection there; the occupants of the huts at Angananthalu are relations, and of same caste as those at Perampikulam and no doubt visited them and there contracted the disease.

On the occurrence of the second case at Perampikulam, the two houses were made "houses of observation" and the Police were put on guard to prevent ingress or egress and food was supplied free to all the occupants. On the 6th Instant, having reason to suspect that a horse keeper who lived there, was violating the orders, I at once removed the whole of the occupants of both houses to the Government House of Observation for cholera suspects. No further cases have occurred in that quarter.

I am unable to clearly trace how the infection was brought to the house at Moor street. The Moors who were infected lived in 3 adjoining houses and were all closely related. All the occupants of these 3 houses were removed to the House of Observation for Cholera Suspects on the 10th Instant and no other case has since occurred in the Moorish Quarter and I have therefore every reason to hope that the spread of the disease there has been checked.

The total number of cases and deaths that have occurred from 17th November up to today are (including the 3 doubtful cases and the 2 at Subthumalai.)

	Cases	Deaths
Jaffna	37	23
Chunnagani	33	10
Alavetty	3	1
Uduvil	6	2
	79	36

I think I am justified in saying that the people now recognize the necessity for and benefit of the prompt removal to the Hospital of all cases of Cholera and of all who have been exposed to the infection and that this feeling is not only shared by the Moorish population, but that they are those who are most convinced of it and most ready to submit to it for the benefit of the sick and for the purpose of checking the further spread of the disease, and I trust that the result will be that Cholera will shortly disappear from amongst us and without attaining to such dimensions and causing such large numbers of deaths as I understand it did on former occasions.

Yours faithfully,  
HAYMAN THORNHILL,  
Senior Medical Officer.

#### THE TAMIL REPRESENTATIVE ELECTION, MEETING MULLATIVOE

A large and representative meeting consisting of District Mudaliyars, Managers of Hindu Temples, Notaries, Government Officers and the leading farmers, was held at the P. W. D. Bungalow, Mullativoe, on Saturday the 20th November at 4 P. M. to nominate a fit and proper person for appointment as Tamil Representative.

On the motion of Mr. A. Ariacutty, Kacheri Mudaliyar, seconded by Mr. D. Dudley Mr. M. Sanmugam District Engineer was voted to the chair.

On the motion of Mr. K. Thampiah Mudaliyar, District Mudaliyar, seconded by Mr. I. Emerson, Mr. A. Ariacutty was appointed Secretary.

Mr. J. Mudri, Ellankayar Head Clerk Kacheri then moved the following resolution:—

That this meeting desires to record its high appreciation of, and warmest thanks for the Services rendered by the Hon'ble P. Coomaraswamy as Tamil Representative in the Legislative Council since 1893.

Mr. N. Saverimuttu Sub-Collector having recorded the motion was carried unanimously.

Dr. S. F. G. Danforth moved the next resolution:— That having regard to the best interests of the Tamil community this meeting begs to submit the name of Mr. Coomaraswamy for re-appointment as Tamil Representative for another term of five years.

Mr. C. A. David, Surveyor, seconded the resolution and Mr. A. Ariacutty Kacheri Mudaliyar and Messrs T. Kallasepillai and V. Supramaniam having supported the resolution was carried unanimously.

Mr. K. W. Thampiah Mudaliyar District Mudaliyar of the Maritime Pattu moved the next resolution which was as follows:—

That a committee consisting of the following gentlemen be appointed to draw up and forward a Memorial to His Excellency the Governor embodying the resolutions of this meeting and praying for the re-appointment of the Hon'ble P. Coomaraswamy viz:—

Messrs M. Sanmugam District Engineer, Dr. S. F. G. Danforth Medical Officer, W. G. Selvadurai Pillai Asst. Supr. of Village Tanks, S. H. Gnanarattu Medical Officer Nedunkani, Santhirasaakarakural Arivanathakurikal Hindoo Priest, E. Santhirasaakara Mudaliyar Retired District Mudaliyar Tanukani, M. Mudaliyar Kanapathipillai retired Head Clerk Mullativoe Kacheri, Subramania Mudaliyar Sivasithamparam Manager Hindoo Temple Oddisundan, T. Ellankayar Head Clerk Kacheri, C. Kandiah Secretary District Court, N. Saverimuttu Sub-Collector, O. A. David Surveyor, A. Ariacutty Kacheri Mudaliyar, K. W. Thampiah Mudaliyar District Mudaliyar Maritime Pattu, V. Vinnasithamby Mudaliyar District Mudaliyar Mullaivallai, M. Kanapathipillai District Mudaliyar Tanukani, M. Visuvalingom Shroff Kacheri, T. Emerson Clerk D. R. C. A. K. Kulant Master, K. Thiragarajah Arack Renter, T. A. Notary Public, M. Phillips Notary Public, Mudaliyar Kudditambala Landed Proprietor Saravanamuttu, V. Santhirasaakaram, S. Saravanamuttu.