

*The Hon'ble Mr. P. Ramesa Pillai  
Colonel*

TO  
THE ELECTORS  
OF THE  
NORTHERN PROVINCE



FROM  
W. DURAISWAMY  
MAHÉNDRA  
JAFFNA

1921

1276



To

The Electors of the Northern Province.

Gentlemen,

In Western countries which enjoy full responsible Government, it is usual for candidates seeking the suffrage of the people to declare their views in order to enable the people to choose only those whose views have their support. In our island where we have not yet secured even the beginnings of responsible Government, Legislative Councillors have to occupy a position of often active and sometimes passive resistance to official excesses. But thanks to the newly awakened political consciousness, all this will soon change. That Ceylon should, one day, become self-governing is our goal. As Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman has said, "Good Government can never be a substitute for self-Government". The country is united as to the immediate steps to be taken to achieve this goal. I consider it my duty, while I seek your support to my candidature, to place before you my views on some of the important questions that are engaging

our attention. I have expressed my views at many public meetings held in my support, in various parts of the Jaffna District. Here I can only indicate the principles which will guide me in the solution of questions which I might be called upon to deal with.

**I. Constitutional Reform.** The one question on which the whole Island has set its heart is that of constitutional reform. Ever since I organised the Jaffna Association, I have unceasingly worked in the cause of reform. First as secretary and then as one of its vice-presidents, I have participated in the deliberations of that body and have actively co-operated with it. In the year 1911 a formidable volume of public opinion was created in the Island against the system of nomination and I presided in the public meeting held in Jaffna praying for the introduction of the elective system with regard to one at least of the two Tamil seats. In the year 1917, I was sent as a delegate by the Jaffna Association to the political conference in Colombo where various constitutional problems were discussed and demands formulated. This conference resulted in ushering in the larger and more representative assembly of the Ceylon National Congress, whose demands I accept



in their entirety and pledge myself to stand by. My loyalty to the Jaffna Association will not be shaken if I stand by the Congress demand for an Un-official President for the Legislative Council. I hold now, as I did at that time when this question was considered in the Jaffna Association, that the presence of the Governor on the Council Board is hardly conducive to produce the atmosphere necessary for a frank and free discussion of public affairs.

The time is opportune to press our demands for a substantial instalment of responsible Government which will assure for us the steady and progressive realization of self-government. The signs are propitious both here and in England, and if we take advantage of the opportunity, we shall achieve much; otherwise, we shall miss a chance that rarely comes to a nation. It is time that we discarded the system of crown colony administration and obtained a government responsible to public opinion. That the present Government is not entirely in touch with the people, needs no demonstration. The Ceylon National Congress has, however, proved to the authorities the existence of sound public opinion and the need to heed it. In my opinion the assuran-

2/ ces given by His Excellency the Governor to the Congress Committee could have gone further, but I accept them as a working basis and prize highly the one in which His Excellency promises to give due weight to the recommendations of the un-official members of the Council as to amendments in the Order in Council. My firm belief is that the Order in Council should be amended so as to satisfy the demands made by the people, and a constitution on the lines of the Congress scheme should be granted reserving for the Tamil provinces not less than one-third of the members elected on territorial basis. The people's voice will prevail in the Legislative Council, only if four-fifths at least of the members are representatives of the people elected on a territorial basis. The nationalization of the Government can be achieved only by the closer association of the people in the Administration of the colony. It is desirable that members of the Executive Council should be chosen from among the elected members of the Legislative Council and these Executive Council members should be placed in charge of Departments and should hold office only as long as they enjoy the confidence of the Legislative Council.

**II. Local Self-Government.** The experience which it is sought to impart to the people in the management of their own affairs, is often nullified by unnecessary interference by the Government with the Local Bodies. While one should recognise the necessity for close supervision and timely assistance, the responsibility of devising measures for the promotion of the welfare of the people and of carrying them out, should be left entirely in the hands of Local Bodies. For this end it is necessary that they should elect at least four-fifths of the members of the Central Board and its elected President should be a responsible minister of the Government. It often happens that Local Bodies are handicapped owing to want of funds and their schemes for the improvement of the area under their jurisdiction have to be shelved. It is the duty of Government to provide funds for initiating schemes of improvement or set apart for the use of these bodies certain sources of revenue as will adequately meet their demands.

**III. Education.** Education is the back-bone of the country and money spent on it is capital well invested. Ours is the most starved country in this respect. Only about 4 % of the public revenue is expended on education



in Ceylon, whereas in Mysore about one-third of the revenue is ear-marked for it with a minister in charge. The shaping of our educational policy should be in the hands of the Ceylonese. The duties of the present Board of Education being merely advisory, its views cannot influence much the shaping of the policy. I advocate that education should be placed in charge of a Ceylonese minister and not less than one-third of the public revenue should be available for educational purposes.

(a) *University.* A University for Ceylon is long overdue. Hong-Kong and Mysore have established their Universities and Singapore is on the eve of getting one. If the proposed University for Ceylon is to be of any benefit it should be an expression of the nation itself and provisions should be made so as to make it a centre of indigenous culture. If as it threatens to be, our University is to be but a wooden imitation of the Universities of Cambridge, Oxford, or London, then higher education will be pursued on lines that will make us strangers in our own land. I am of opinion that ample provision should be made so that the University may become a living expression of the culture and aspirations of the people. In view of the compara-



tive poverty of the Jaffna parent, and the wide-spread desire for education, Government should be prevailed upon to establish in Jaffna a University College and also a Training School for teachers both men and women.

(b) *Vernacular Education.* The cry of "English, more English, and better English," has left our Vernaculars in the cold. It is of the utmost importance from the point of view of national advancement that the study of Tamil and Sinhalese, should be more widely and deeply cultivated. It is a crime to tear away a people from their own language, the more so when the language has a highly developed literature, which has earned the admiration of distinguished orientalists. Language is not merely the vehicle of thought, but stimulator of thought as well. The culture of our nation lies embalmed in Tamil literature, and it behoves us to vitalise our language and make it answer the needs of the present day. I am of opinion, that Tamil should be the medium of instruction up to a high standard and provision should be made for encouraging Tamil scholarship.

(c) *Technical and Commercial Education.* If our industries are to be developed and our resources put to the best use, tech-

nical education ought to be encouraged so that much of the talent that gravitates now into the crowded professions of law and medicine may be attracted and made to embark on other useful and profitable occupations. The traditional arts and crafts can be revived and thus another opening for national expression secured. Technical education alone will impart that light which will enable our craftsman and artists to forsake the beaten tracts and evolve new methods and new forms to suit the demands of changing times. The aptitude for business among the Ceylonese is remarkable. Men who have not had practical training in commerce have achieved phenomenal success. The question of Commercial education is receiving serious attention in the hands of Indian publicists. Colleges of Commerce have been started in various parts of India. It is necessary that if our young men are not to occupy merely subordinate positions in mercantile houses, a sound training should be provided for such as have a natural bent for mercantile business. The trade of the Island is largely in the hands of non-Ceylonese, and if trained men are available, Ceylonese capital will not be shy in financing commercial or Industrial undertakings.

**IV. Agriculture.** Ours is pre-eminently an agricultural country, and it behoves the Government to enable the resources of the country to be developed to their utmost. The restoration of tanks and the colonization of the Wanni are important steps in this direction. Model colonies should be established and the dread of malaria which keeps out our men from migrating should be dispelled among other means, by:- (1) Medical relief, (2) Water supply, (3) Travelling facility. Prison labour may be utilised to clear lands before people are invited to settle. Indian labour should be attracted to the Wanni and the cultural and linguistic affinities with the Tamils will enable the South Indian labourers to prefer to settle in the Wanni to toiling in the hills down South.

The recent food crisis has brought home to us the necessity for increased food production and it is gratifying to note the efforts made by individuals as well as by corporate bodies to open up lands for cultivation. The North Ceylon Food Products Association which was formed at my instance and of which the Hon. Mr. P. Ramanathan, K. C., C. M. G. is President and I am a Vice-President, is carrying on useful work in



assisting those who have opened up lands in the Wanni for food production.

The chronic poverty of the cultivator is proverbial, and if agriculture is to be placed on a footing of larger usefulness both to the producer and to the consumer, the cultivator will have to be released from the clutches of unconscionable usurers. The establishment of Co-operative Credit Societies has gone a great way to relieve the cultivator. More such societies should be opened in the various parts of the Province. The Jaffna Central Co-operative Credit Society, of which I am the President, is a good beginning in this direction. While the Department of Co-operative Societies will be auxiliary to the Agricultural Department, it is necessary that the officer in charge of it should be a Ceylonese who understands the needs and failings of our cultivators.

**V. Industries.** The question of industrial expansion has hardly received the attention it deserves. Industrial advancement should find a first place in any programme of nation-building. The best devised system of constitutional reform will receive but meagre response from a people who are dependent on other countries for their food and clothing and other

necessaries of life. A fertile field lies open to be tapped in our Island. The enterprise of our Sinhalese bretheren in sending out students to Japan and providing capital on their return to start industries, such as weaving, match-making, soap-making &c., is worthy of imitation. We have in our Province skilled weavers who once carried on a flourishing business, but who owing to lack of capital and patronage have been compelled to give up their business. There is ample scope to improve the local manufacture of pottery and brick; and glass and cement industries also have scope. Basket-making and fish-preserving can be profitably undertaken. An industrial survey of the Island is an urgent necessity. It is the duty of the Government to help these industries by bounties, protective tariff and the establishment of state banks.

**VI. Sanitation.** The Government has in contemplation a scheme of drainage to be introduced into the Province to check the growing prevalence of malaria. There is no surer method of eradicating this terror than by educating the people as to the causes and prevention of it. The question of water supply to the Town ought to engage our attention. It is a patent fact that malaria has

claimed greater toll of deaths in Mannar and Mullativu than in the other districts. Therefore the attention of the state should be directed to that problem. The floods in 1918 and in 1920 proved beyond doubt that a good drainage system is an urgent necessity. The housing problem in the Towns also should engage our attention.

**VII. Salaries.** The salaries of public servants in the higher ranks of the service have been increased to such an enormous extent during the past few years that it needs the scrutiny of the people. The claims of the men in the lower branches, particularly those of the sub-ordinate clerical service, have not received due consideration. The administrative machinery is yearly growing more and more costly. Retrenchment in this direction will enable the Government to find funds to undertake urgent public works.

**VIII. Medical wants.** There can be no doubt that the Government has with conspicuous forethought established hospitals and dispensaries to relieve the sick and the suffering. In this connection I should not fail to mention the work done by the American Mission. The preference for Ayurvedic treatment is pronounced among the high and the low, and



the success which some of our Ayurvedic physicians have obtained in the practice of their profession, reveals the untold possibilities that lie in the encouragement of the study of this system of medicine. These practitioners will supplement the work of the Medical Department in combatting the various diseases.

**IX. Defence force.** The establishment of a Ceylon Defence Force chiefly manned by the people of the Island will save the colony much of the heavy military charges that are now incurred. The riots of 1915 proved beyond doubt that, had the situation been entrusted to local men, those out-bursts of racial animosity could easily have been brought under hand and not raised to the awful dignity of riot with the consequence of disgracing that chapter in the administration of the colony. The loyalty of the people of this country has never been questioned, and it is a duty of the Government to give the opportunity, to willing young men, of undergoing military training and joining the colours for the defence of their hearth and homes and the empire. The martial spirit of the Sinhalese and Tamils only slumbers, but is not dead. Our countrymen should agitate for

facilities of military training for their young men and when the facilities are provided they should see that men enroll themselves in large numbers and provide the Island with a strong defence force.

**X. Taxation.** The incidence of the road-tax has been the subject of adverse criticism for a long time. The unfairness of the incidence of this tax is seen clearly in the fact that the rich and the poor, pay the same amount. It is impossible to state how without carefully studying the financial resources of the colony, what adjustments should be made to make good the loss caused by the abolition of the road-tax.

**XI. The Drink question.** While many Western countries have abolished the manufacture and sale of alcoholic drinks as injurious to health and morals, it is sad to reflect that in Ceylon the revenue realised mounts up to the appalling figure of ten millions. It is immoral for any Government to associate itself with the manufacture or sale of intoxicating drinks and as such the policy of the Government with regard to this question deserves severe condemnation. The revenue from this item represents the extent of the crime prevalent in the Island, and the

moral degradation and poverty suffered by millions of our countrymen for whose good, moral and material, Government exists.

There are other subjects such as prison reform, codification of laws, and the headmen system that should engage the attention of your representative in the Council.

I have worked in your midst for the last twenty years and I claim to have enjoyed the confidence of many of you. The part I have taken in matters concerning the welfare of our people is well-known to you. In the year 1916 my countrymen were good enough to put my name forward for a nominated seat in the Legislative Council. That my candidature was largely supported will appear from the report of the public meeting held in the Ridgeway Hall, proceedings of which appeared in the press. In the event of your returning me to the Council, I shall endeavour to the best of my ability to serve you and justify the confidence you repose on me. It is unnecessary for me to add that I will devote all the time and labour necessary for the discharge of the duties of my office even at the cost of my professional interests.

Mahendra, Jaffna,  
January 20, 1921.

I am, Gentlemen,  
Yours faithfully,  
W. Duraiswamy.





## An extract from the leader of *The Ceylonese* of the 6th August, 1916.

### THE TAMIL SEAT

We are publishing this morning a letter by "one who knows" emphasising the fact of another candidate having come forward for the Tamil Seat in Council. The new candidate is Mr. Advocate Duraiswamy, who hails from Jaffna where he has the largest practice and is easily the leader of the Jaffna Bar. It is quite possible that the Tamils resident in Colombo, who signed the notice convening a public meeting in favour of Mr. H. A. P. Sandrasegara were not aware of Mr. Duraiswamy's intentions at the time they affixed their signatures, and we should not be surprised if many, if not most of them would not now give their whole-hearted support to the new candidate. There are circumstances which make Mr. Duraiswamy, a desirable candidate to secure. One of them is the out-standing fact that he is a resident of Jaffna and in constant touch with the great mass of the Tamil population in this Island. The other Tamil member Mr. Balasingham, is a resident of Colombo. In filling Mr. Kanagasabai's place it is not the residents of Colombo, whose interests have to be consulted but the people of Jaffna, and it is for this reason that Mr. Duraiswamy's candidate bids fair to be enthusiastically supported. Another circumstance in Mr. Duraiswamy's favour is the fact that he has been in touch with our political questions for a considerable number of years. He is a student of our problems and a quiet and consistent worker in our political field. To most of us in Colombo the name at least of the Jaffna Association is familiar. It is interesting to note that Mr. Duraiswamy is virtually one of the founders of that Association, having slaved for it and done all the spade work necessary to foster its

growth in the trying years of its early existence. As Secretary he was determined to make the Association a success, and he did. Today he is a Vice-President of the Association. Mr. Duraiswamy, like Mr. Sandrasekera, is a lawyer, but at the same time he is a sound lawyer with considerable depth. A man of balanced judgment, his abilities have been recognised, for he has repeatedly been called upon to act as District Judge of Jaffna, a compliment he fully deserves. There can be no doubt that as a Legislative Councillor he will show the same judgment and discrimination, weighing the pros and cons of every question that comes up for consideration, and express his opinion boldly and fearlessly. He has the supreme virtue of courage, the courage of his convictions, and when we have courage combined with honesty and sound common sense we have the essential requisites for an ideal member of Council. It may not be generally known, at least outside the Northern Province, that Mr. Duraiswamy, is a Jaffnese of the Jaffnese, a strong nationalist, and altogether one of the finest products of Jaffna.

*(Letter referred to)*

Sir,—I was really delighted to read the paragraph in your Friday's issue announcing the candidature of Mr. W. Duraiswamy, Advocate of Jaffna, for the first Tamil seat in Council. After strange experience we have come upon a most critical period in our public life. With the advent of our new Governor a new orientation on the part of the Government is coming into vogue. This attitude on the part of the Government has to be reinforced and made permanent. It is therefore essential that the new Tamil member should be one on whom the people can rely implicitly.



I quite agree with you, Sir, that we want an honest man and true, one who will not trim his sails to every wind of fashionable doctrine. Let us face the facts and decide fearlessly to support the candidate on whom we can rely to represent our views. We do not want a de-nationalised Tamil who has an open contempt for the "accursed Dravidian." We do not want the national ideal of the Tamils made an object of derision.

With regard to the claims of Mr. Duraiswamy, there can be no two opinions either in Jaffna or anywhere else in Ceylon. He is in his prime of life, and has the leading practice in Jaffna. He has the confidence of the Government for he has been called upon to repeatedly act as District Judge of Jaffna. He is not de-nationalised, and his views and aspirations for his people are in tune with our national ideas. Above all, he is honest and fearless and has the courage of his convictions.

Knowing as I do all the four candidates intimately, I have no hesitation in saying that our interests at this critical period of our growth will be absolutely safe in the hands of Mr. Duraiswamy.—Yours truly,

Colombo, 4th August, 1916.

ONE WHO KNOWS

An extract from *The Ceylonese* dated  
the 18th August, 1916.

## TAMIL SEAT IN COUNCIL

### MEETING AT JAFFNA

In support of Mr. W. Duraiswamy, Advocate.

A large and representative gathering consisting of the leading and influential inhabitants of the different divisions of Jaffna met at the Ridgeway Memorial Hall on Monday the 9th instant at 4.30 p. m. to submit to His Excellency the Governor the name of Mr. W. Duraiswamy, B. A., Advocate, for nomination to the first Tamil Seat in the Legislative Council, which is to fall vacant in December next.

The spacious hall was crowded to its utmost and those of the supporters who arrived late had to be content with standing accommodation outside the hall.

Mr. Thambapillai, Adigar, J. P., rose amidst applause and proposed Mr. C. M. Sinniah, Mudaliar of the Governor's Gate, to the Chair. He said that there was no person better qualified to occupy the chair that evening than Mudaliar Sinniah, who during a period of long and faithful service to Government in a position of trust and responsibility had gained the confidence and esteem of the Government and the people alike.

Mr. S. Thambiahpillai, Proctor, S. C., seconded.

On the motion of Mr. K. Somasundaram, Proctor, S. C., and member of the Local Board which was seconded by Mr. A. R. Subramaniam, B. A., Advocate, Mr. S. Katiyesu, Proctor and Notary Public, was elected Secretary of the meeting.

Mr. T. H. Crossette, M. A. in the course of a speech proposing the main resolution said that moral courage and independence of thought and action are qualities absolutely essential in an unofficial representative in the Council. Time and again we have seen the dismal spectacle of un-official members making motions only to withdraw them when baffled by the entire phalanx of official opposition or being satisfied with small sops in the nature of official mercies thrown at them to temporarily appease them. A member must have the courage of his convictions and take up a stand of resolute firmness and independence so that by often repetition of his request and by presenting a united unofficial front, he should be able to alter the official angle of vision, and thus persuade the officials to think and feel with the people.

I am confident that these essential qualities are possessed by our candidate and that he certainly will not fall short of the mark when in Council.

In this connection I may mention that Mr. Duraiswamy combines in himself the "*suaviter in modo*" and the "*fortitor in re*". He will by his pleasing manners and amiable ways be able to gain for the people far greater concessions than a bumptious and self-assertive iconoclast will be able to do (Applause.)

The greatest and most important requisite for a councillor is character, which must after all be the most potent factor in the determination of our choice. A councillor without character is like a tinkling brass or echoing cymbal. Mr. Duraiswamy is a gentleman of high character and sound principles. This above all must commend our candidates to your acceptance.

I must, before I close, mention that Mr. Duraiswamy, comes of a very respectable family and that in point of



social status, wealth and influence, he possesses the necessary status to act as our representative.

I have, therefore, great pleasure in submitting this resolution and commending it for your acceptance, (Cheers).

Mr. Advocate Rajaratnam, in seconding said:—Gentlemen, it is unnecessary for me to say that Mr. Duraiswamy was not only one of the founders of the Jaffna Association but also that he was an earnest and keen worker and as the Secretary of the Association at its inception he was able to infuse life and vigour into it. All that he has done for the Association is well-known to all of us. Now gentlemen, I think one more thing I can say about him. That the amount of confidence he has in himself is something marvellous. If a man has to do anything in the world, he must have confidence in himself. His earnestness of purpose his natural intelligence and persuasiveness make him a leader over so many who are his elders or seniors.

Mr. Allen Abraham, B. A., F. R. A. S., Professor, Jaffna College, in supporting the resolution, said:—

Mr. Chairman and gentlemen,—I have great pleasure in supporting the resolution that has been so ably put forward by Mr. Crossette, and seconded by Mr. Rajaratnam. I do not know if they have left any point to be dealt with by me. Mr. Crossette has been so exhaustive in all he said about the quality that ought to belong to a councillor and in doing so he has almost exhausted the qualifications of Mr. Duraiswamy. I have only to second or support the points that have been urged by him. I know Mr. Duraiswamy from his school days and he has always impressed me as a man of very high and noble ambition. I do not know whether a man can be a man without ambition. Every man has some ambi-

tion in his life. When Lord Palmerston the Prime Minister of England and a friend of his went to meet Mr. Gladstone accompanied by another young man, Lord Palmerston questioned that young man what his ambition was? The young man replied: "Prime Minister". I know Mr. Duraiswamy from his school days and he has been a young man of high and great ambition.

He will not be satisfied with the conditions that are obtaining among our people but he had always in his mind one noble idea to improve the country, to improve the social condition, the political condition, the economical condition of the country. That was his aim all through his life and a man with such ambition is well-fitted to represent us in the Legislative Council. I told you about that young man who said his ambition was to be the Prime Minister. He was that famous Disraeli that Jewish young man who again became Lord Beaconsfield. Well, Mr. Duraiswamy, has been true to his ambition. He has won honours in the University and has kept always in touch with the problems of the country, the social and political problems, and he has to a great extent secured the confidence of that country and the Government. He has secured the confidence of the country because he has the largest practice in the Jaffna Bar, He has secured the confidence of the Government because he has been asked by the Government to hold very respectable and responsible post as Police Magistrate and as District Judge. Therefore, I say Mr. Duraiswamy has been a man of great ambition and noble ideas and has to a great extent fulfilled these ambitions. Now his ambition is to serve his country, he has come forward to serve his country, to be a servant in his country. He has come to a position from which he will be able to serve his country like that great and intelligent Professor Gokhale and Lal Mohan Roy. They were great

reformers and they achieved a great deal in that time. Mr. Duraiswamy who has been very ambitious to serve his countrymen from his school days, has now come forward to serve the country in the Legislative Council. Well, a man may be very anxious to serve his country but he must be fit to do so. Is not Mr. Duraiswamy fit to serve the country in the Legislative Council? The previous speakers have omitted one qualification and that is, that Mr. Duraiswamy is in the prime of life, vigorous healthy and strong and able and willing to serve his country. There may be several men to serve their country. But if they do not have the strength, vigor and health they cannot serve the country. But Mr. Duraiswamy, is in the prime of his life. Therefore, I say, he is well fitted to serve us in the Legislative Council. He has got the necessary ability, mental training not only at the University but also the training of a lawyer and he is one of the most successful lawyers in Jaffna. So his mind is fit to grasp the social and economical problems of the country. Then another point I would add to those that have been mentioned already that he is well acquainted with the needs, and wants, of this country. He has been in touch with the great mass of the people in Jaffna. He has lived here all that time and he has been in touch with the people. He is well acquainted with all the needs and the requirements of the people. Therefore, I say he is well fitted to serve in the Legislative Council. And then lastly, he is a man with the courage of his convictions. He is a man who will be true to his convictions and fight them out to the last. Let there be any number of persons on the other side, but he will fight out all the points till at last he has convinced them. Mr. Duraiswamy, is therefore, well fitted to represent the Tamils in the Council. He is in the prime of life, young and vigorous, healthy and strong and



he is mentally well equipped. He has experience and lastly he is honest and courageous to represent us and therefore with great pleasure, I support the motion ably proposed by Mr. Crossette and seconded by Mr. Rajaratnam.

Rev. C. T. Williams of the C. M. S. Church, Copay, also supported the resolution :—

Messrs N. Nadarajah, Landed Proprietor, Vaddukkoddai and T. A. Thuraiappahpillai, Headmaster, Mahajana High School, Tellippalai also spoke in support.

The resolution was put to the house and carried unanimously. (Amidst Applause).

A Committee consisting of the following gentlemen were appointed.

Messrs T. M. Tampoe, Retired Police Magistrate, C. M. Sinniah Mudaliar, Jaffna, W. Mudaliar Muttuvelupillai, Planter, Jaffna, Allen Abraham, B. A., F. R. A. S., Professor, Jaffna College, T. H. Crossette, M. A., F. R. Hist. Vice-Principal, St John's College, T. S. Thuraiappa, Notary Public, Tellippalai, Rev. C. T. Williams, Copay, S. Thambiahpillai, Proctor, S. C., Vannarponnai, Nevins Selvadurai, Principal, Hindu College, R. Kandiah Mudaliar, J. P., Vannarponnai, S. Kanagasabai, Advocate, Jaffna V. Thambipillai, J. P., Retired Deputy, Fiscal, B. Mudaliar Kanagaratnam, Planter, Colombuturai, K. Arulampalam, Proctor Vannarponnai, T. R. Nalliah, B. A. Advocate, Jaffna, S. Rajaratnam, Advocate, Jaffna, G. C. Thambiah, B. A. Advocate, Jaffna, S. Sivapathasundaram, B. A., Headmaster, Victoria College, Chulipuram, Edward Mather, Agent, Ceylon Steamship Co. Manipay, K. Somasundram, Proctor, S. C., and M. L. B., M. Thambapillai, Tamil Adigar, J. P. Kokkuvil, V. Ramalingam, Proctor and Notary, Vannarponnai, C. W. Chinnappapillai, Retired Engineer, Nallur, C. Mudaliar Chellappah, Manager, Victoria College and the Hony. Secretary Mr S. Katiresu.

R. Kandiah, Mudaliar J. P. seconded the above resolution which was carried unanimously.

A vote of thanks to the chair was proposed by Mudaliar Muttuvelupillai, Planter, Jaffna, and seconded by V. Thambipillai Mudaliar, J. P. The large gathering dispersed at 7 p m

Telegrams supporting the meeting from Mr. Thambiah, Proctor, Chilaw, Mudaliar Chithamparapillai, Merchant-Point Pedro, C. Mudaliar Chellappah, Manager, Victoria College, Chulipuram, Mr. K. Subramaniam, Notary Public, Chulipuram, Mr. Sabaratnam, Proctor Mullativu, Mr. Ariyanayagam, Proctor Matale, Mr. Rajanathan, Proctor Colombo, Mr. R. Mahasa, Colombo, Mr. R. Velupillai, Inspector, S. P. C. A., Kankasanturai and letters from Mr. T. M. Tampoe, J. P., Retired Police Magistrate, Jaffna, Dr. Mather, Jaffna and Advocate Kanagasabai, Jaffna, were read.

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An extract from the Editorial of *The Ceylon Independent* February 2nd 1921

Manifestoes from candidates for seats in the Legislative Council have begun to appear. So far only two have been published from Mr. C. E. Corea, who will stand for the North-Western Province and from Mr. Duraisamy who will stand for the Northern Province. They are both gentlemen who have for many years past been taking a leading part in many questions affecting the public welfare, and their manifestoes show that they have kept in touch with public questions and have worked at them according to the measure of the opportunities they have had.

Mr. Duraisamy's manifesto by its avoidance of froth and fume presents a pleasing contrast to Mr. Corea's effort. On constitutional reform, education, taxation, the drink traffic, etc., he occupies almost the same platform as Mr. Corea. While the latter takes his subjects by the hair of the head and tries to reform them with imprecations and denunciations the former shows his constituents with grace and urbanity of manner the promised land of political and social blessings to which he would lead them, if he were selected for that high task. As a territorial representative Mr. Duraiswamy has something to say of the more special needs of the districts he would like to represent. He would make an excellent Councillor well-informed, sane, sober, and self-restrained.

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**An extract from A Leaderette of *Morning Star* of January 8th, 1921.**

In justice and fairness we feel that we ought to say a word in sincere appreciation of the other. We warmly associate ourselves with the remarks of Mr Rasaratnam on the merits of Mr. Duraiswamy. His ability, honesty, independence, reliability and public spirit are too well-known for us to enlarge upon them. One thing we wish to say from our personal knowledge of Mr. Duraiswamy: legislative work will not be sub-ordinated to his professional work, and we can count on him to devote all his time for public work if that is necessary. He has given a proof of it by acting on the bench for some months without drawing a cent from the public revenue, although a sum was offered to him as remuneration.

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W. DURAISWAMY





