

The Hindu Organ

(THE CHEAPEST WEEKLY IN CEYLON)
PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY.

VOL XI.

JAFFNA: WEDNESDAY 3RD JANUARY 1900.

NO. 26.

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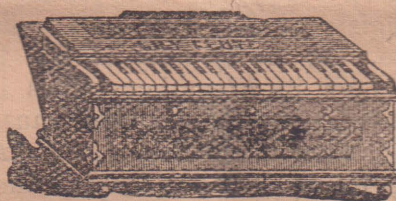
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IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA
ORDER NISI.

Testamentary. } No 1034

Jurisdiction. }

Class I

In the matter of the Estate of the late
Chinnattampi Kasinathar of Moolai

Deceased.

Chinnattampi Kovintar of Moolai

Petitioner.

Vs

Tankam widow of Chinnattampi of Moolai

Respondent.

This matter of the Petition of Chinnattampi Kovintar of Moolai praying for Letters of Administration to the Estate of the abovenamed deceased Chinnattampi Kasinathar of Moolai coming on for disposal before C. Eardley Wilmot Esquire, District Judge, on the 16th day of December 1899 in the presence of Messrs Casipillai and Cathiravelu Proctors on the part of the Petitioner and affidavit of the Petitioner dated the 14th day of December 1899 having been read, it is declared that the Petitioner is the brother 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 16th day of January 1900 show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

Signed this 16th day of December 1899.

Sgd/ C. Eardley Wilmot.
District Judge.



The Hindu Organ.

JAFFNA, WEDNESDAY JANUARY 3, 1900

Land Registration.

One of the best administered departments of Government in Ceylon is undoubtedly the department of Land Registration over which Mr. P. Arunachalam presides as Registrar-General. He has been holding this important office for the last ten years or so, with conspicuous ability, and has left his mark on the department by the introduction of several notable reforms which have, not only improved the financial condition of the department and have made it one of the best paying and the most remunerative in the Colony, but have also improved its tone and efficiency to a degree never before attained since its establishment in 1864. These facts cannot be gain said even by the bitterest of his opponents. The annual administration Reports which have been published from time to time from his pen on the working of this department bear eloquent testimony to

the absorbing interest he takes in it and the indefatigable energy he has shown to improve it. The very fact that he is retained in this office by the Government for such a long period is evidence in itself that they value Mr. Arunachalam's services at their true worth.

We have before us Mr. Arunachalam's able administration Report on Land Registration for 1898. According to this report the year 1898 shows a decrease of registration business and revenue compared with 1897 and especially 1896, but an increase compared with any other year. The revenue, however, of 1898 is little less than of 1897 or even 1896 owing to the great increase in the value of the registered transactions. Mr. Arunachalam explains this decrease as follows:—

1896 was an exceptional year, in which a large number of deeds which had escaped registration in previous years was registered owing to the steps taken by the Department to impress on the notaries and the public the necessity of registration. This rush ceased in 1897. As I said in my report for that year: "Having regard to the exceptional cause which ceased to operate in 1897, this year (1897) must be considered as hardly less busy and prosperous than 1896, though it probably marks the turn of the tide of prosperity with which the Island has been blessed since 1885."

The results of the year 1898 confirm the forecast. This year, however, though not quite so busy or prosperous as 1896 or 1897, compares favourably with the two previous years (which were till then the busiest and most prosperous years in the history of the Department, and with the average of the period 1885-95, still more with that of 1875-84.

The number of deeds registered in 1898 was 76,845, against 81,981 in 1897 and 88,358 in 1896. The total value of stamp duty levied for registration was Rs 235,323.75 in 1898, against Rs 238,058 in 1897 and Rs 245,048 in 1896. The highest registration duty levied on a single deed was Rs 7,842 on a mortgage bond for Rs 7,456,310, registered in the head office in Colombo. A stamp duty of Rs. 13,641 was paid on its execution. This is, the report says, the most valuable transaction ever registered in the department. As usual the Kandy office occupies the first place in regard to the importance of the transactions registered. Out of 108 deeds registered throughout the Island each with a duty of Rs. 100 or more, 55 were registered in the Kandy office, 11 in Badulla, 10 in Colombo, 8 in Ratnapura, 2 in Kalutara, 7 in Kegalla, 4 in Chilaw, 1 in Batticaloa, 2 in Jaffna, 1 in Galle, and 1 in Negombo. The total value of the registered transactions of 1898 was Rs. 104,471,221, or 37 per cent more than the previous year (76½ millions), and more than double that of 1895 (about 51 million of rupees).

The Registrar-General compares the present prosperous condition of the Colony with the year 1877 as follows:—

In 1877, when the coffee industry was at its zenith, the registered mortgages amounted to close on 27 million rupees, and all registered transactions to 63½ millions. Now they stand at 46 millions and 104½ millions respectively. Luckily for the Island, as His Excellency the Governor said in his Address at the opening of the Legislative Council in 1898, the Island is no longer mainly dependent on tea or any other single industry, as in the times of coffee, and is better able to meet a crisis than twenty years ago.

The income and expenditure of the department in 1898 were respectively Rs 237,642.92 and Rs 87,411.72, against Rs. 239,477.70 and Rs. 35,647.42. In 1890 they were respectively Rs 113,898.50 and Rs. 72,389.53. That is, the income of the department has more than doubled since 1890. The total net gain to the public exchequer from this department since its establishment has been Rs. 1,474,867.

Of the 19 offices in the Department two are in the first class, viz Colombo and

Kandy; eight in the second class Kurunegalla, Negombo, Matara, Galle, Kalutara, Kegalla, Jaffna and Chilaw; four in the third class, Ratnapura, Tangalla, Batticaloa, and Badulla; and five in the fourth class, Anuradhapura, Trincomalie, Mannar, Vavuniya and Mullaitive. Jaffna holds the ninth place in point of importance. The progress of Jaffna in registration since the abolition of the Udaiyars' schedule system has been rapid and remarkable. It has more than doubled its business and income since 1893, the number of registered deeds rising from less than 2,000 in that year to 4,258 in 1898, and the income from about Rs. 6,000 to Rs. 13,982.

The largest number of deeds was, as usual, executed in the Colombo district, i.e., 24,963 of the value of Rs. 53,815,633. Jaffna follows with the next largest number of deeds, viz. 17,047 of the value of Rs. 5,274,997. In Kandy 13,715 deeds of the value of Rs. 7,615,317 were executed in 1898. The value of stamps used on all the deeds executed in the Island was Rs 341,148 in 1898 against Rs. 481,738 in 1897. Of the 140,896 deeds executed during the year under review, 14,817 were in English, 101,047 in Sinhalese, and 25,002 in Tamil. Out of these, as many as 132,408 were attested by Notaries, while of the remainder 3,023 were Fiscal's transfers, 2,148 were Crown grants, and 2,305 were discharges. "The fact", says the Registrar-General, "that 93 per cent of the deeds executed in the Island was drawn and attested by Notaries is proof of the important position they occupy in Ceylon and of the necessity of their being men of honour and efficiency."

Thirteen forged documents were brought to light during 1898, of which as many as eight were in the Southern province. In four of these convictions were obtained in the Supreme Court and one in the District Court. The following remarks of Mr. Arunachalam on the frauds and forgeries prevalent in the Island and especially in Jaffna are worthy of special notice. He says:—

The forging and antedating of deeds of gift in order to evade the expense of taking out letters of administration to the alleged donor's estate is very common in the Jaffna District, but inasmuch as it is done by consent of the heirs, the fraud cannot be established in a court. It is also a common irregularity throughout the Island—but one which can seldom be proved to a conviction—for a notary to take the signatures of parties to deeds to blank or partly filled sheets of paper to be filled up afterwards at his leisure and sometimes even in a manner not contemplated by the parties. A case of this kind has recently by the exertions of the Assistant Government Agent, Matara, been committed for trial before the Supreme court and the notary has been suspended from office pending trial.

The number of notaries practising in the Island at the end of the year was 317, of whom 33 were in the Jaffna district. This is a decrease of 83 on the number practising in 1887, the first year for which reliable figures are available. Of this number, 57 practised in English, 146 in Sinhalese, 52 in Tamil, 35 in English and Sinhalese, 19 in English and Tamil, 7 in Sinhalese and Tamil, and 1 (Mr. John Caderamen of Colombo) in English, Sinhalese, and Tamil. Six Notaries died in the year, three were dismissed, and four resigned office. Nine new Notaries were appointed during the year, seven passed the final notarial examination out of ten candidates admitted to it.

No Registrar-General had done so much as Mr. Arunachalam has done to improve the status and efficiency of Notaries. It is to be hoped that the one result of the Notarial Commission which has recently been appointed would be the adoption of measures recommended by Mr. Arunachalam that would effectively put an end to the irregularities and frauds practised by

Notaries. In this connection the Registrar-General remarks:—

In spite of the numerous prosecutions and convictions of notaries and the fairly close supervision exercised over their deeds by this Department, it has been found that the public interests were not sufficiently protected, and certain precautionary measures have been adopted by the order of Government. The rules, of which copy is given in Appendix XVIII, were issued for the observance of notaries. A good deal of noise was made about it by the notaries of Colombo town, who objected to the rules as impracticable and *ultravires*. The great majority of the notaries in the Island have complied with the rules and the objection to their legality will, it is hoped, be shortly removed by legislation. The main object of the Notaries' Ordinance No 2 of 1877 was declared by its author, Sir Richard Cayley, Queen's Advocate, on its first reading in the Legislative Council, to be to place the notaries under the supervision of the Registrar-General. But strangely enough no legal powers were given to him and he has been greatly impeded in carrying out the policy of Government.

We have also to observe in this connection that Mr. Arunachalam has earned the thanks of the public by the dismissal of many a dishonest Notary and bringing about the retirement of several inefficient ones. It is not, however, always safe to recommend to the Government the dismissal of a Notary on the mere report of a Judge based on the result of a case in which the Notary was not a party and had no opportunity of defending himself. The ruin of a Notary can be brought about by the collusion of two parties, the one impugning a deed as forgery and the other making a sham defence of it, with the ultimate result that the court condemns the deed as forgery and the Notary who attested it is reported against. It is, therefore, necessary that before a Notary is dismissed the Registrar-General should himself make an independent and special inquiry and be abided by it alone. We do not mean to say that Notaries have been unjustly dismissed during the time Mr. Arunachalam has been Registrar-General, as we know that those of them dismissed in Jaffna within our knowledge were, if not guilty of the particular misconduct for which they were dismissed, marked men in the department on account of their general misconduct and reckless proceedings. But what we contend is that the present system of dismissing Notaries relying too much on the result of civil cases decided in our courts of justice and on the adverse report of the judges who tried those cases—a system that has been in vogue from a time long before the appointment of Mr. Arunachalam as Registrar-General—is faulty and is possible to occasion individual hardship and injustice.

Under the head of administration Mr. Arunachalam refers to the several changes that occurred in the course of the year among the senior officers of the Department. Referring to the retirement of Coomariah Mudaliyar from the office of Registrar of Lands, Jaffna, the Registrar-General records the following well-merited eulogium on his services and worth as a public servant:—

Coomariah Mudaliyar, though he had attained his 60th year, had still many years of good work in him, and his loss to the Department is irreparable. I have not known a more devoted and conscientious public servant. His one thought was the efficient service of the Government and the public, and he never spared himself. The very high repute of the Jaffna Land Registry during the last twenty years was entirely due to him.

It is only right to say that Mr. M. Caralasingam who has succeeded Coomariah Mudaliyar is giving great satisfaction to the public in the discharge of his onerous duties as Registrar of Lands here. Though he is not a martinet of the type of Mr. Coomariah, yet he, by the combin-

ation of the qualities of *suaviter in modo* with *fortiter in re*, keeps up the prestige of the office, and efficiently supervises its working.

The Registrar-General complains that:—

In the head office the Registrar-General has, with but one Assistant, to supervise a staff of about fifty clerks besides messengers and binders to cope with the business that comes in from numerous branch offices and from other Public Departments and private individuals throughout the Island, and to provide for the custody and arrangement of hundreds of thousands of valuable records that pour in month by month to swell the masses of records which have accumulated from as far back as the time of the Dutch rule; and this in addition to his duty of travelling over the Island to inspect Land Registry offices and notaries and registries of births, marriages, and deaths, and to the preparation of elaborate reports on vital statistics to be submitted yearly and quarterly to Government. The strain of work has become so excessive that another Assistant is needed if the work is to be done efficiently.

The great inconvenience of this state of things has been aggravated by the want of proper office accommodation at the head office, on which I have dwelt year after year. It has now been decided by Government to build a new office for the Director of Public Works and to give to the Registrar-General the upper floor now occupied by the Director in addition to the ground floor now occupied by the Registrar-General. This arrangement cannot come into effect till the new office is completed, which I suppose will be three years hence, and how the rapidly growing records of the Department are to be stowed in the interval I do not know. The interval will be a period of acute confusion and inconvenience to the officers and to the Public.

We also learn from the report under review that the Bill which, under instructions from Government, Mr. Arunachalam drafted consolidating and amending the law regarding the Registration of deeds and of Titles affecting Land has been referred to a Committee consisting of the Attorney-General, the acting Principal Collector of Customs, Messrs F. J. de Saram, V. A. Julius, W. P. Ranasingha, and the Registrar-General himself, and is being considered by the committee. Mr. Arunachalam concludes his masterly report with the following observations on the Bill:—

Should the Bill become law, not only will the registration of deeds be made more effective, but registration of titles to land will be facilitated and the inhabitants of the Island may at last enjoy the benefits of a measure that Sir R. Cayley had so much at heart, and the necessity for which is being more and more realized by careful students of the condition of the people.

LOCAL & GENERAL.

The Weather—The paddy crop is suffering from want of rain. If it holds off for another week a disastrous failure of the crop is expected.

Public Health—Fever is prevailing to a very great extent in the Peninsula. It is very necessary that the Government should afford proper medical aid to the sufferers. No doubt there are Hospitals and Dispensaries in different parts of the District which are intended to afford medical relief to the people on such occasions as this. But every one of them is not within easy reach of the people who are now suffering from fever. A source of great danger to the public which must be guarded against is the attempt at a time like this of persons without any competent knowledge of native or European medicine to pose as doctors and to treat not only ordinary cases of fever but also complicated diseases. It is by want of proper medical aid and by the maltreatment of men of the above description a large number of lives is lost. We are much concerned to find that the Government do not set about to institute a proper inquiry as to the cause of the annual out-break of fever in Jaffna and the abnormal mortality that is taking place. The out-break at the end of 1898 was attributed to the unusually heavy rains of that year. What is the present outbreak owing to? We have not had winter rains in 1899 sufficient even to prevent the failure of our crops.

An Assistant to the Registrar of Births and Deaths—Dr. M. Chellappa, of Batticotta has

been appointed additional Registrar of Births and Deaths, within the Police Limits of Jaffna. This will be a timely relief to the Registrar, Candiah, who has single handedly coped with the work which has considerably increased of late owing to the prevalence of fever and consequent mortality in the Town and its suburbs.

A new line of Steamers—We understand that Mr. Jeevanjee Noorbhai, a wealthy Bombay Merchant of Colombo intends running two Steamers between Colombo and Jaffna from this month and that Mr. S. Chinniah, Travelling Agent of the New York Life Assurance Company, has been appointed Jaffna Agent of these Steamers. We congratulate Mr. Chinniah on this appointment.

The Transvaal War Relief Fund—The Ceylon contributions to the Transvaal War fund has amounted to Rs. 46,630. £3,000 has been already remitted to the Lord Mayor of London.

Rice—It is officially estimated that the rice available for export from Burma will be 1,942,230 tons of cargo rice, or about 17 per cent above the figures for the past year. This is very satisfactory, considering the scarcity that threatens south India and Jaffna, owing to the failure of rain. All available native vessels are leaving here for Akyab and other Burma ports for paddy, and the local Chetty firms have ordered their Agents in Burma to charter also a large number of Chittacong vessels and send paddy here in them as soon as possible.

Agricultural School—The last Gazette announces that a new class of students between the Ages of 15 and 20 will be admitted to the Colombo School of Agriculture on the 15th Instant.

The President of the 15th Indian National Congress—We have to thank the Manager of the Chitra Shala Press, Poona, for sending us two excellent portraits of Mr. R. C. Dutt C. I. E.; the President of the Congress just held at Lucknow which are selling at one anna a copy.

—The Natubrothers were informed by the Bombay Government on Christmas nights that they were no longer state prisoners, and that the attachment on their lands and estates is cancelled. They are leaving Belgaum for Poona.

Mr. Justice Withers was entertained at a farewell dinner last week by the members of the legal profession. The Attorney-General presided, and the toast of the guest of the evening was enthusiastically pledged.

PHOTOGRAPHY IN JAFFNA.

We find the following in an Indian journal:—

"Messrs. S. K. Lawton and Co., the well-known photographers of Jaffna, Ceylon, have very kindly sent us some specimens of photo-engravings executed by them and a number of their half-tone engravings reproduced direct from photographs. Among the photo-engravings are some beautiful specimens which will do admirably well for merchant's catalogues; the figures of the Emperor of China, the Mikado of Japan, Sir Arthur Gordon, Swami Vivekananda and others; letter-headings, designs for prize-medals, and ornamental initial letters; also specimens reproduced from grained paper-drawing and from Crayon-drawing. The engravings are clear and charming and, where we know the originals, truly faithful. We would strongly recommend the firm to those who may need its valuable services."

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"The above is just one of their many lines and the firm has justly extensive patronage from respectable quarters and has elicited high encomiums from well-known journalists."

HOE AND Co's POCKET DIARY.

We have to thank Messrs Hoe and Co., the well-known firm of printers, stationers, relief stampers, illuminators, engravers &c of 5 Stringers Street, Madras, for sending us a copy of their handy pocket diary for 1900. Considering the very valuable information what it contains the price at which it is sold, viz, 6 annas a copy is very cheap. It is printed in five

s. including English and Tamil, and therefore, be of great use even to those who do not possess a knowledge of the English language but can read and write any of the vernaculars of South India. Besides this Diary, this firm issue from their press Colonial diaries, Blotting pads &c which are procurable in Ceylon through the V. P. Post

CEYLON MOUNTED VOLUNTEERS FOR SOUTH AFRICA.

A FULL COMPANY WANTED AT ONCE. OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT RECEIVED FROM THE SECRETARIAT.

We are authorised to state that His Excellency the Governor has been in communication with the Secretary of State regarding the employment of Ceylon volunteers to South Africa, and he has received a telegram to the effect that the Military Authorities will accept the offer, provided that a full Company consisting of 125 Men and Non-Commissioned Officers, with a due proportion of Officers, be sent at an early date. The men need not necessarily be trained, but must be good shots and good riders, and own suitable horses.

They will be paid from Imperial Funds at Imperial Cavalry rates, and His Excellency the Governor intends to ask the Legislative Council to allow transport to be provided for them. Men wishing to volunteer under these conditions should apply at once to the Adjutant, Ceylon Volunteers, Headquarters, Colombo, submitting a full statement of qualifications, including age, height, chest measurement, &c., and particulars regarding horse.

—Times of Ceylon.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Vavaniya

22nd December 1899

The weather was very fine last week and rain has commenced again since yesterday. Almost all the tanks in the division are full and some have breached and this number is very small when compared with that of last year. Sowing is going on in all parts of the Division for the Kallapokam. The mail coach which was due here on the morning of the 20th inst arrived only during the small hours of yesterday morning. This is owing to a mishap to the coach which left Matale on the 19th inst. The Rev Mr. Garrett of the Wesleyan Mission left this by cart to Trincomallie on the 18th inst. The Provincial Engineer who came here from Mannar has gone to Mankulam on his way to Jaffna inspecting the roads. Mr. Armitage the Asst. Conservator of Forests has left for Jaffna and he will make the necessary arrangements for the Gymkana which is to come off in Jaffna on the 27th inst. Most of the officers here are preparing to go to Jaffna for the Christmas and new year holidays.

I am
Yours truly,
A Jaffnese.

SELECTIONS.

AN OVERLOOKED INDUSTRY.

It is curious to find in the exhaustive and entertaining lecture of Mr. Ferguson—which we have taken occasion to refer to more than once as setting forth in brief an accurate account of the position and possibilities of the island, reciting the history of its industries and pointing out its wealth of undeveloped resources—an entire omission of any reference to so obvious and important a subject as that of tobacco cultivation. Possibly it was an oversight; more likely the omission due to limitations of space or of time. But in case we are sure we shall not be thought presumptuous in drawing attention to it. Of course tobacco growing is not an industry to be compared with that of rubber or cocoa or coconut. On the other hand it seems deserving of mention as cinchona and sugar cultivation. That the lecturer is not insensible to the part it plays in our island industries is amply proved by the place allotted to it in the DIRECTORY, in the notes of the experiments relating to it embodied from time to time in the columns of the TROPICAL AGRICULTURIST, and in the complete epitome of information contained in ALL ABOUT Ceylon. The quantity of tobacco exported is considerable, and is annually increasing. And its growth extends over various parts of the island. True the attempts of European capitalists to make out of it a profitable trade have, as a rule, proved unsuccessful; but there is reason to believe that this want of success was due in large measure to accidental causes whose influence increased experience and more appropriate methods might well hope to overcome. In the hands of the natives the cultivation of tobacco can hardly be pronounced unsuccessful, though they would benefit greatly by improved methods and better appliances. Not only in the Chilaw and Putnam districts, but in Dumbura and Matale and in parts of Uva, the conditions would seem to be eminently adapted to a product whose cultivation makes such large demands both upon the soil and upon the attention and labour of the grower. While as regards the Northern Province it is well-known how largely the Jaffna district depends for its prosperity upon the cultivation of tobacco. The subject is worthy of attention in connection with the opening of the Northern

railway. It is too common to speak of this line as likely to run for miles over an arid desert. That this description is very inaccurate has often been pointed out, but the grossness of the error can best be realised when we are told that "the tobacco which is most appreciated in Ceylon by natives is grown in the Vanni wilderness, and that the possibilities of extending its cultivation there are practically unlimited." The Northern Province exported last year no less than 84,240 hundred weights of tobacco, representing in value a sum of nearly 1,640,000 rupees. There is no reason why with more careful attention the enterprise should not be among our most prosperous industries. The extension of the use of tobacco in Europe has been very great, says Mr. Jevons, the Government agent of the province, who would seem to have greatly interested himself in this important branch of native trade, and he adds there seems no reason why Ceylon should fail to send its exports thither if a tobacco suited to Western taste can be produced. All that is needed is instruction as to choice of soil and the proper method of curing. Granted these conditions there is no reason whatever why we should not do in this line as well as India, indeed why we should not do more and better than India. It is well therefore to recall the fact that "tobacco is the back-bone of the Northern province;" and with the careful instructions and attention, who shall say that we shall altogether fail to realise the vision of "the Jaffna railway running through a tobacco plain?"

—The Examiner.

GENERAL JOUBERT.

FORECASTS THE FAILURE OF BRITISH ARMS.

The Berlin correspondent of the *Morning Post* sends a letter from General Joubert, dated "27th Oct., before Ladymith," published in the German newspapers. It is in answer to a number of inquiries addressed to the Boer General by a German journalist who made his acquaintance "during a sojourn of several years' duration in the Transvaal."

WHY THE BOERS ARMED.

After a few preliminary observations, General Joubert is alleged to have written as follows:—

"It was evident to our Government after the Jameson Raid that Great Britain would be forced in time by various sordid elements into a war of extermination with the Boers. It was equally clear that this danger could only be averted by armaments on a most extensive scale.

RELYING ON THEIR OWN STRENGTH.

"We were conscious that the impending war of annihilation would incur the sharpest condemnation on the part of the other European Powers, but history had taught us that not one of the Powers, would be roused to intervene in our favour. In these circumstances we had to rely on our own strength.

FORMIDABLE FORCES.

"By indefatigable zeal and heavy sacrifices to augment our forces and yet to secrete them from the observation of the British—these were the objects of our noblest exertion. Well, we succeeded, and hoodwinked the British. Spies were permitted to gain glimpses of our obsolete artillery, but until the war was on the point of breaking out they had no suspicion of the formidable extent of our stores of modern material.

"TO PRETORIA!"

"We counted on the unreliability of the British announcements concerning their own preparedness, and attended as little to their cries of 'To Pretoria!' as did the Germans in 1870 to the Parisian boasters who shouted 'A Berlin!'"

JOUBERT AS A BRITISH MOBILISER.

"Without completely denuding her Colonial troops Great Britain cannot possibly dispatch more than about 85,000 men to South Africa. Of this imposing force only half will be available for the chief battles.

"It may be possible for Great Britain to effect the landing in various places of these troops by the middle of December.

"I estimate, however, that the losses in prisoners, killed, sick, and wounded will amount in the meantime to some 10,000. There will thus remain 75,000 men.

SMALLER BY DEGREES.

"Even should we fail to prevent the junction of the British troops under Sir Redvers Buller and be compelled to retreat, the British army would become from natural causes so debilitated that it would represent a force for operative purposes not exceeding 35,000. The remainder would have to be employed in protecting lines of communication extending some 700 miles.

THE BOER PLAN.

"Our lines of depots, on the contrary, are in home territory. They are constructed at regular distances in three directions, and barely 500 men are necessary to cover them. Excellently-organised communications have been established between them, and if any one of them be seriously threatened the stores—if rescue be impossible—will be destroyed.

OFFENSIVE NOT DEFENSIVE.

"Moreover, defensive warfare—to which we need not think, however, of resorting for a long time to come—is fraught with far greater advantages to us than offensive operations. With a change of terrain there will be a change of tactics. In Natal and the south we have to deal with unfamiliar conditions.

GUERRILLA WARFARE FORESHADOWED.

"On the high plains of the Transvaal and the Orange Free State we shall be at home, and the British will meet opposition from us and from nature at every step of their way, and at all times be prepared for action on two or three fronts. In this way will be developed a guerilla warfare of a most in-

conceivably bloody character such as the British will be unable to endure for more than a few months."

FOR FATHERLAND.

General Joubert then protests that the Boers are fighting merely for the freedom of their own "narrower" Fatherland, and not with a view to the destruction of British preponderancy in South Africa. He acknowledges the bravery of the British soldiers, but imagines that hardships and deprivations will so demoralise them that they will be unable to hold out against an enemy superior in numbers.

JOUBERT'S CONFIDENCE.

"In these circumstances," he continues, "do not accuse me of boasting when I frankly say that victory will be ours. Every one of us is filled with the same conviction and unshakable faith in God, that he will remain as true to us in this as in former wars, and that he will not allow the bloodshed and to be shed in this struggle, that will possibly last yet a year, to extinguish us and our children."

ESTIMATE OF BRITISH LOSSES.

AN APPALLING TOTAL.

That the war now raging in South Africa has caused an appalling amount of bloodshed up to date is being vividly brought home to us. Neglecting skirmishes and affairs of outposts, we made a good start on the 20th of October, when we had 48 killed, 219 wounded, and 208 missing at the battle of Glencoe. This was followed up the next day by 51 killed and 213 wounded at the battle of Elandslaagte. Then came the disastrous affair at Nicholson's Nek on October 20th, when 79 were killed, 238 were wounded and 1,000 were captured. The battle of Belmont nearly a month later (November 23rd) resulted in 50 killed, 247 wounded, and 21 missing. On top of this Gras Pan two days later contributed 50 killed and 148 wounded. On November 28th the costly victory at the Modder River cost 70 more lives and 375 more officers and men were disabled. General Gatacre's unfortunate affair at Stromberg delivered 605 of our force into the enemy's hands. The reverse at Magersfontein neatly capped this by a sum of 965 casualties, whilst the last and greatest disaster, namely, Tugela River, breaks the record by providing over 1,100 casualties for us to ponder over. Taking all these together, therefore, our approximate losses up to last Friday are:—

KILLED	WOUNDED	MISSING	TOTAL
830	3,314	2,268	6,412.

—The Advocate of India

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS.

As previously announced, we are now publishing the "HINDU ORGAN" as an English Weekly Newspaper with a Tamil Fortnightly Supplement.

We are sending both the English and Tamil issues to all our Subscribers in the hope that they would willingly subscribe for both.

Any gentleman who may not like this arrangement, will kindly let us know his wish, by a Post Card, without putting us to unnecessary expense and trouble.

OUR SUBSCRIBERS IN ARREARS

Should also settle up their accounts without delay. It is rather hard on their part to expect us to continue supplying them with the paper without their paying for it.

We CANNOT bring ourselves to believe that most of them are NOT ABLE to remit the small sums that appear against their names as arrears.

THE MANAGER,

TO THE PUBLIC.

"THE HINDU ORGAN"

THE CHEAPEST WEEKLY
NEWSPAPER IN CEYLON.

We have now the pleasure of presenting to our subscribers and to the public in general, an English Weekly Newspaper whose sole aim is to safeguard native interests and to foster national aspirations and undertakings.

We have fixed the rates as low as possible so that it may be within the reach of every body, and thus create a community of feeling and interest amongst as large a circle of our countrymen as possible.

We earnestly hope that our countrymen will appreciate our humble efforts to serve them, and accord to us their support—moral as well as pecuniary—to deserve which, it has been, and will be, our constant endeavour.

THE MANAGER.

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY P. CARTHIGASA-PILLAI FOR THE PROPRIETORS AT THE SAIVAKKASAR YANTRA OFFICE, JAFFNA.