

The Hindu Organ.

THE ONLY NEWSPAPER IN CEYLON FOR THE HINDUS
HAS THE WIDEST CIRCULATION
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The Hindu Organ.

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| Amount Previously acknowledged | 1179-46 |
| Ruanwella, Mr. S. Cootyramby | 4-00 |
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NOTICE.

A MEETING of the Tamils of Jaffna will be held at the Ridgeway Hall on Friday the 6th instant at 4 p.m., to submit to his Excellency the Governor the name of Mr. Nevins Selvadurai for nomination to a seat in the Legislative Council. Gentlemen in support of the movement are cordially invited to attend. The following are among the conveners of the meeting:—

Messrs. T. M. Tampoe, Rao Bahadur C. Murugesampillai, S. Sivaprakasapillai, W. Mather, W. Mudr. Muttuvellapillai, T. S. Cooke, S. Thambiah Pillai, T. Ponnambalam Pillai, A. Arulambalam, T. C. Changanapillai, M. Sanmugam, K. Kanagasabai, M. B. Swampillai, J. S. Puvimannasingham, C. Mudr. Muttiah, J. Cherubim, M. S. Rajakarier, S. K. Lawton, N. Sandrasegera, S. C. Arnald, K. M. Curtis Suppiah, V. S. Ponnambalam, A. Mootootamby Pillai, A. Cathiravalu, D. A. Thambiah, C. W. Chinnappah Pillai, C. Parippanayagani, J. V. Benjamin, T. H. Crosette, J. K. Shanmugam, S. Arunatha Mappana Mudr., C. K. Swaminathan, S. Kandayya, T. B. Nalliah, V. Velanthampillai, K. Arulambalam, V. V. Subramaniam, G. C. Thambiah, V. Kanapathypillai, N. Mudr. Sithamparapillai, M. Asaipillai, Rao Bahadur L. C. Williams, R. Arunuga Mudr., S. A. Edwards, A. W. Vettivelu Mudr., L. P. Spencer, C. Kandiah, N. Kandiahpillai, A. Tillampalam.

NOTICE.

A GENERAL meeting of the Members of the Manipay Vivekananda Society will take place at its Hall on Saturday the 7th inst. at 5 p.m., to elect a Secretary in the place of the late Mr. S. Sellacutty and to appoint trustees.

S. SUPRAMANYAM,
President,

Manipay Vivekananda Society.

3.1.11.

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Applicants, who must be under 18 years of age on 1st December next, should have their names registered on or before the 17th instant.

For further particulars apply (with a five-cent stamp) to the Principal, Jaffna Hindu College, now at Point Pedro.

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The Hindu Organ.

JAFFNA, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4, 1911.

THE "TIMES OF CEYLON" AND THE CEYLONSE SEAT IN THE REFORMED LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

That the "Times of Ceylon" is a purely anti-native organ in this Island and an enemy of the reform movement which culminated in the Ceylonese getting one elective Seat in the reformed Legislative Council are well-known facts. Having done its utmost unsuccessfully to thwart the aspirations of the people of Ceylon to secure elective franchise and thus real representation in Council, at least by the one Member now conceded, our contemporary is moving heaven and earth to mislead the Ceylonese to bestow their favour on the candidate whose return to Council will not in any way alter the present unsatisfactory state of affairs, but will continue and perpetuate the farcical character of unofficial representation in the Legislative Council. As is the case all over the world when a subject race asks for greater political privileges and participation in the Government of their own country, the ruling race and the bureaucracy throw all kinds of obstacles on the way and yield only as a last resort. It was the same case in India as it is now in Ceylon. Now that the Ceylonese have been granted a small privilege, which, if properly and rightly exercised, will improve the status of unofficial members and make unofficial representation somewhat of a reality, it is sought by the "Times" to nullify the effect of that privilege by the election of the candidate who will not admittedly infuse new life, energy, and public spirit among his colleagues, much less lead them, but will follow their present policy of offering little or no opposition to Government measures in Council, however obnoxious they may be, and endeavouring, as it is said, to gain anything wanted by cajolery and secret representations. If such a member is to be added to Council he would be another of the type of the present nominated members, and nothing would be gained by the reform graciously granted by His Majesty the King.

The "Times" has of late written some articles advocating the claims of Dr. Fernando for the Ceylonese Seat, in preference to Mr. Ramanathan, and the "Morning Leader", whose ravings since the failure of the Bonjean Hall meeting

and the grand success of the Public Hall meeting are notorious, has with evident glee quoted them in its columns to show that the candidature of the Doctor is supported by the European community of Ceylon. The "Leader" and those who support Dr. Fernando had done their best to show that the election of Mr. Ramanathan is looked upon with disfavour by His Excellency the Governor and other high officials, and that Dr. Fernando's return would be welcomed by them; and much is now made of the certificate given to Dr. Fernando, and the criticisms bestowed on Mr. Ramanathan, by the "Times". The friends of Dr. Fernando should know that the Ceylonese electorate is an intelligent and educated body and that, except those who are actuated by selfish and unworthy motives whose number is limited, the vast majority of the electors know what value to attach to the interested and uncalled for advice of the "Times" or to the predilections of high officials, if what is said of them is true which we doubt very much. Indeed, the credentials of the so-called official support of Dr. Fernando's candidature and that of the European community represented by the "Times" would and should greatly prejudice him in the eyes of all intelligent voters, instead of in the slightest degree helping and advancing his cause.

We ask the "Times" what call has it to interfere in this matter which wholly concerns the Ceylonese who are intelligent enough to safeguard their own interests and select the better of the two candidates. Our contemporary has enough to do in advising its constituents and leading public opinion in regard to the election of the fittest persons for the Urban and Rural Seats assigned to the unofficial European community, and also to fight out the battle to regain the lost one Seat to that community. The incessant and one-sided manner in which the "Times" writes on this question would lead one to think, not unreasonably, that it is a partisan of Dr. Fernando.

TOBACCO CULTIVATION IN JAFFNA AND THE TOBACCO TRADE.

This question was very recently so much in evidence in connection with the enhancement of the duty on tobacco in Travancore that we need hardly say anything now in regard to the importance of this industry for the well-being of the people of the Jaffna District. Thanks to the strenuous exertions of His Excellency Sir Henry McCallum, a great calamity the magnitude of which was demonstrated by the great distress that prevailed in the country during the few months this tobacco was shut out from the Travancore market, has been averted by the reduction of the duty to the old rate of Rs. 90 per candy. But this has been done on the condition that no more than 5745 candies of Jaffna tobacco will in future be allowed to be imported into Travancore with the old duty in one Malayalam year, and that on any quantity that will be imported into that State over and above the stipulated quantity the enhanced duty of Rs. 900 per candy will be levied.

This 5745 candies are said to be the average quantity imported into Travancore annually from Jaffna for some years. Considering, however, that it is the weight found at the time of sale and recovery of duty in the Government warehouses in Travancore, several months after the bales had been landed and the tobacco had become dry and fit for consumption, and that the tobacco under the new regulations is being carefully weighed in the Jaffna Customs at the time of shipping soon after it is baled after having been soaked in sea water, and also in Travancore soon after landing in the Customs, to check the import of only the quantity allowed for the excess of weight which is about 12 per cent due to the admixture of sea-water with the tobacco baled, the quantity of Jaffna tobacco that will actually be annually imported into Travancore cannot exceed 5000 candies.

It must also be borne in mind that Ceylon is the only other country beyond Ceylon where Jaffna tobacco was consumed to some extent and from where it is now entirely shut out owing to the Rs. 900 duty being in force in that State as in all other parts of India except Travancore where as a special concession the quantity above mentioned is allowed to be landed with the reduced duty. The quantity of tobacco exported from Jaffna beyond sea, that is to Travancore

and Cochin during 1909, according to the Administration Report of this Province was 54,000 cwts or about 10,000 candies. Seeing that about 5000 candies of tobacco only could be shipped from here beyond sea, the people of Jaffna should now open their eyes and curtail tobacco cultivation and substitute it with other products, or, if they cannot do it, the tobacco that will be grown here should be more largely cured to suit the manufacture of cigars or sale in European markets. Unless this is done the time will soon come—it might be next year—when not more than half the quantity of tobacco available would be required for Travancore, the rest remaining in the hands of the cultivators unsold, to their great misery and distress. If, however, only such quantity is turned out as is equal to the demand it would find a ready sale at an unprecedented high price. His Excellency the Governor publicly sounded this note of warning in his memorable speech in Jaffna at the Ridgeway Hall in August last in reply to the Address presented to him thanking him, for having secured the reduction of the import duty in Travancore.

The export of the stipulated quantity of tobacco from here for the present Malayalam year which ends in August next is further complicated by 1330 candies of the tobacco of 1909 having remained in Jaffna, as is well-known, unshipped till October last, owing to the sudden enforcement of the prohibitive import duty in Travancore. This has been now sent to Travancore and forms part of the tobacco that could be shipped for the present Malayalam year. The tobacco crop of 1910 in Jaffna was a great failure owing partly to unfavourable weather and chiefly owing to the enhanced duty in Travancore which was imposed just after the planting of the weed early last year and which had the effect of disheartening the cultivators who neglected the plantations in the belief that that crop would find no buyers, as no more tobacco would be sent from Jaffna to Travancore. Even after the crop was gathered and cured, the duty remaining unreduced, a very large quantity of tobacco was sold for less than half the normal price to traders who sent it to Colombo, Galle and other places in the Island. When the intelligence of the reduction of the duty to the old rate in Travancore reached here in July last there was a rush for the purchase of all the available tobacco in the district estimated then at about 3000 candies for the Travancore market.

Now that the whole quantity of tobacco intended for the Travancore market that was available out of last year's crop having come into the hands of the merchants, they took an account of it at a meeting held in the early part of last month and found to their surprise that it amounts to about 5500 candies. Added to this the 1330 candies of the tobacco of the previous year which has only just been exported there are about 6830 candies available for export to Travancore during the present Malayalam year, instead of only about 5000 candies, as shown above, which could actually be sent. The merchants have, therefore, a very difficult problem to solve, and they have decided to solve it by each merchant keeping in reserve thirty per cent of his tobacco now in hand to be sent next year, and exporting at present seventy per cent only. An agreement to that effect is to be entered into binding them to do so on pain of heavy penalty for breach of the agreement.

There will thus remain in Jaffna about 1800 candies of tobacco of 1910 to be included in the export of the next Malayalam year. About 3200 candies of the tobacco grown in 1911 are, therefore, required to answer the requirements of Travancore for the following Malayalam year. But, if the next tobacco crop in Jaffna cultivated for the market of that State were to reach the normal quantity of between eight and ten thousand candies, there would be remaining in Jaffna a quantity of tobacco sufficient for more than one year's export after the next Malayalam year's requirements are supplied. Then in the year 1912 there need be no tobacco cultivation at all in Jaffna with the view to supply the Travancore market. This is a very serious look-out, and we sound this note of warning so that timely steps might be taken to prevent the cultivators from cultivating tobacco to the extent they have been cultivating. Every cultivator seems to be bent on cultivating his usual plot of garden with tobacco, and the consequence will, we repeat, be very serious.

His Excellency Sir Henry McCallum not only publicly warned our tobacco cultivators in his speech at the Ridgeway Hall against relying too much on the Travancore market but also urged strong-

(Continued from page 108.)

pose Sir Arthur Gordon when the public wanted to erect a memorial to him. This is the man, who for electioneering purposes pretends to be a great friend of the Governor. He says "Don't do that it will displease the Governor". What do we care gentlemen, THE PEOPLE ARE HIGHER THAN THE GOVERNOR.

(Applause.) But, gentlemen, I am not going to introduce the Governor into party politics to-day. I do not think that Mr. H. J. C. Pereira and the others are aware of the rule that the name of the King should be kept entirely out of party politics. To drag the name of the Governor to party politics is, gentlemen, to destroy that dignity, impartiality and that detachment which the Governor ought always to observe. (Hear, hear and applause.) Mr. H. J. C. Pereira read out of the Governor's speech and tried to distort it into something against Mr. Ramanathan. That it was a covert hint at Mr. Ramanathan. But I will show to you in two minutes that it was nothing of the kind. That by reading Hansard, the Governor came to the conclusion that Legislative Councillors conducted themselves with dignity. He describes his ideal of a Councillor. Now whose speeches did he read in the Hansard. Mr. Ramanathan's so that, gentlemen, it was really an approval of the way in which Mr. Ramanathan has been conducting himself in the Council, and I am sorry, gentlemen, I have had to say even this about the Governor. I am sure

HIS EXCELLENCY IS NOT SO TACTLESS.

or so regardless of the instructions received from the Secretary of State as to meddle in party politics in the present contest. I am sure His Excellency never intended to do so, but the opposite side had got hold of it to influence the people. Mr. H. J. C. Pereira's speech did not contain any illuminating idea. It contained no enunciation of any general principle. It contained no assertion of our political rights. It was vulgar abuse with a lot of boasting. (Laughter.) Now we come to Dr. Fernando's oration. (Applause.) I hear, I do not know how far it is true, that half the audience left before he had got through one-fifth of his speech, I do not mean to laugh at him because he is not a speaker. When he puts himself forward as a man who is entitled to command the confidence of the public, he must allow his qualifications to be put to the test. He should not blame us if we criticise his qualifications. The subject was utterly unsuited for the occasion; no wonder it wearied the audience. Now, gentlemen, we come to Mr. Sampayo's speech. Mind you, gentlemen, there was no resolution that Dr. Fernando was the fittest person, because Mr. Sampayo himself was far superior to Dr. Fernando. Gentlemen, Mr. Sampayo could not have conscientiously said that Dr. Fernando was the fittest man. Gentlemen, it is said that we make this a caste question, it is absolutely untrue.

WHY IS IT THAT MR. SAMPAYO WAS NOT PUT FORWARD

as a candidate for the Ceylonese Seat. Why is not Mr. Sampayo an aspirant for the seat, the leading man among the unofficial Sinhalese. He is a K. C. Why was it that he was shunted to the background? It is altogether due to the machinations of the Fernando clique. They say "we don't want anybody but one of ourselves." Gentlemen, I say it was an insult to us, when there was a man like Mr. Sampayo to be asked to vote for Mr. Fernando; Mr. Sampayo has not said a word in favour of Dr. Fernando, he only said that both the candidates are tarred with the same brush—the University brush. (Laughter.) Mr. Sampayo is a well meaning gentleman, but with old fashioned ideas. He is one who opposed the Franchise on conscientious motives. He is a man on whom we have confidence, but at the same time he belongs to the old school. I ask you, gentlemen, to read his speech. We all know that Mr. Sampayo is a staunch Catholic, and if he did not give his vote in favour of Mr. Fernando there would be

A GREAT SCANDAL IN THE CHURCH.

Then, gentlemen we come to Mr. Pieris, the ex-President of the Cambridge Union. One expected better things from this gentleman. Why did he not come forward? Why did he agree with Dr. Fernando to keep in the background and get the nominated seat, while Dr. Fernando gets the elected seat. Well, gentlemen, Mr. Pieris agreed with Mr. Sampayo and between them they demolished Mr. H. J. C. Pereira. Mr. Pieris gave an excuse for voting for Dr. Fernando. He says Mr. Ramanathan retired once, and that is a reason why he should not come forward to serve his country. I may remind Mr. Pieris of an event in recent political history. Mr. Gladstone retired in 1874 because he wanted rest between Parliament and death against the wish of his colleagues. But when the Conservatives were defeated in 1885, who was the man whom all the leading men wanted? It was Gladstone, and nobody else. I know Mr. Pieris is a great admirer of Mr. Gladstone. He even

CALLS HIMSELF A GLADSTONIAN LIBERAL.

He need not make excuses for voting for Dr. Fernando. Why? We leave it to the public to judge. We cannot attribute motives to anybody. We take the fact as it is. Now then, we come to the speech of Mr. Morgan de Saram, another member for the Educated seat. He always tries to play the part of a judge. (Laughter.) He never said anything original in his life. (Laughter.) He always sums up what others say and makes a nice hotch potch of it. (Laughter.) Mr. Pieris said this, Mr. Sampayo said that, I agree with both. (Loud laughter.) I do not wish to say anything unkind of him because he is a possible candidate, for the next seat under the aegis and protection of Mr. H. J. C. Pereira. Then, gentlemen, we come to the speech of Mr. Sandarasekera (Applause.) Gentlemen, Mr. Sandarasekera is a friend of mine. I don't want to say any hard things against him. I leave him to the tender mercies of my friend Mr. Isaac Tambyah. He will dissect him properly and we shall have a rare treat this evening. Mr. Sandarasekera, I wish for the sake of the profession, will keep away from

WRITING TO THE PAPERS VILE LETTERS.

Now gentlemen, we come to Mr. C. P. Dias. Gentlemen, Mr. Dias was my teacher, I cannot imagine that he could have sat and listened to Mr. H. J. C. Pereira's insult, because it must have been levelled specially at him, seeing that he had his cloth on. (Laughter and applause.) But he lay prostrate before Mr. H. J. C. Pereira, worshipped and thanked him for having obtained the reforms, and gentlemen, I may say that he has given us, his pupils, a great shock. We expected better things from Mr. Dias and gentlemen, we are now beginning to waver in our confidence in and respect for that good old man. We have Mr. E. W. Pereira, who also claimed the credit of having got the Reforms in England. Mr. Pereira, morning and evening, talks of principles, and even at this meeting he did not take any part, or speak either for Mr. Ramanathan or Dr. Fernando, but wanted a Political Association. Now a political Association is a very good thing, if we can discuss politics; but if it is going to be a machine in the hands of a few to foist on us a candidate who is not fit we do not want it. We shall not want it. It will be simply transferring the power of nomination to the hands of a few. Of course, Mr. Pereira puts it in the form of an abstract proposition with the blessing of Mr. H. J. C. Pereira. We know the old saying *Timeo Danaos et Dona ferentes*. We fear our opponents even when they come with principles on their lips. THE WHOLE MEETING WAS AN ABSOLUTE FIASCO. (Applause.) Nobody said anything to show that Mr. Fernando was qualified to represent the views of the Ceylonese Constituency. Considering the magnitude and the varied interests we want a really good man. I ask you, gentlemen, to consider this question most seriously and have not to be led away by private feelings. I have spoken to several gentlemen about this meeting. Take Mr. C. E. Corea, he published a panegyric on Mr. Ramanathan showing that he was greater than Dr. Fernando, but he is voting for Dr. Fernando. There must be something, gentlemen, that weighs so much that he should vote for Mr. Fernando while he is such an admirer of the other man. Mr. Corea is a man whom we all admire; he is a cultured man; he is a true patriot and we really cannot understand why he has gone away from our fold. Now, gentlemen, do not be led away by private feelings. Some say my wife is ill and how can I vote for Mr. Ramanathan, I am very glad that I am a bachelor, perhaps, if I am married Mr. Ramanathan might not have had my services. That is not the way to look at a public question. To do so is.

TO BETRAY THE PUBLIC TRUST.

You are not doing anything for your private benefit. To do anything against the public trust is to betray the people. We vote not for ourselves but for the voiceless millions. I ask you to consider this seriously, simply because so and so was your school-fellow you are not going to sacrifice the public interest. He is not true to himself who is not ready to say if Mr. Ramanathan is the fittest man I will vote for him. We must be prepared to take the consequences whatever they may be. (Applause.) I ask you

NOT TO BE CARRIED AWAY BY CLAP-TRAP.

I submit to you, you must select the better man. Gentlemen, I need hardly say that we are fighting a winning battle. (Applause.) We will inflict on the other side an ignominious defeat. (Applause.) We have the majority on our side and I am sure as I am here to-night, that Mr. Ramanathan will come out triumphant in this contest. Gentleman, what I have done I have done, I am in no way influenced by feelings of caste. It must be the endeavour of every one to see that the seat does not fall into incompetent hands. I move that in the opinion of this meeting that Mr. Ramanathan is the fittest person to represent the Ceylonese Electorate in the Reformed Legislative Council. (Applause.)

—The "Ceylon Independent".

THE TAMIL SEATS IN THE REFORMED LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

MR. BALASINGHAM'S SUPPORTERS AT THE RIDGEWAY HALL.

A THOROUGHLY REPRESENTATIVE AND ENTHUSIASTIC GATHERING.

A Meeting of the Tamils of Jaffna was held at the Ridgeway Memorial Hall on Wednesday the 28th instant at 3 p.m. to memorialize His Excellency the Governor to nominate Mr. K. Balasingham to one of the two Tamil Seats in the reformed Legislative Council. In spite of the short notice the attendance was very large and representative comprising Tamils of every part of the Jaffna District.

The notice convening the meeting was signed by the following gentlemen:—

Messrs. T. C. Changarapillai, J. P., U. P. M., M. Coomarasuriar, T. M. Tampoo, Rai Bahadur L. C. Williams, Rai Bahadur C. Murgesampillai, W. Duraiswamy, T. Ponnampallai, Thambiah S. Cooke, A. Cathiravelu S. Cathiravelu, Nadarajah Sandrasagra, S. Ponnampalam, J. Cherubim, M. B. Swampillai, C. Mudir. Mutiah, J. V. Chelliah, S. K. Lawton, C. Mudir. Chellappah, V. S. Ponnampalam, Rev. A. Mathias, M. Thampapillai Mudir, A. Mudir. Veluppillai, S. Supramaniam, Rev. F. Anketell, S. Aisappillai, K. Vaitilingam, T. R. Nalliah, Ratna Mailveganam, Crossette Tambyah, N. M. Venayaks Mudir, Dr. R. Benjamin, J. M. Thomas, M. S. Rajakariar, Dr. M. Kailasapillai, S. Kanagasabai, M. P. Hallock, K. Mudir. Suppiah Curtis, S. Kandaia, V. Kanapathipillai, S. Thambiahpillai, J. K. Channamukam, A. Suppiah, V. Kathiraveluppillai, S. Subramaniam, T. P. Hudson, M. C. Wanniasagara, A. M. Chittampalam, K. Sivasuppramaniam, K. Tambayn, T. Kailasapillai, F. R. Sandrasagra, C. Kulandaivel, Rev. Wm. Joseph, M. S. Kandiah, K. Kanagasabai, D. A. Tambayah, A. R. Subramaniam, and several others.

Among those present were the following:—

Messrs. T. C. Changarapillai, J. P., U. P. M., T. M. Tampoo, J. P., W. Sangarapillai, Rai Bahadur C. Murgesampillai, S. Ponnampalam, A. Naganather, J. P., U. P. M., W. Duraiswamy, C. Mudir. Mutiah, M. S. Rajakariar, W. Mudir. Muttaveluppillai, T. H. Crossette, M. A., Thambiah S. Cooke, Dr. M. Kailasapillai, A. Cathiravelu, K. Vaitilingam, V. Murgesampillai, J. N. Sandrasagra, S. Kanagasabai, S. Thambiahpillai, J. M. Thomas, L. P. Spencer, B. A., Dr. Muttunumaraswamy, F. R. C. S. C. Mudir. Chellappah, A. Mudir. Veluppillai, S. Sittampalam, C. Arulampalam, Ratna Mailveganam, J. S. Puvimannasinghe, K. Kanagasabai, S. Rajakariar, A. R. Subramaniam, R. Lawton, R. T. Rutnam, M. C. Wanniasagara, A. Chellappahpillai, T. Rajaratna, K. Thambiah, R. Murgesampillai, C. Periatambay, C. T. Kandiah, A. Ampalavanar, C. Muttukumaru, T. Ramalingam, C. Perumalpillai, C. K. Swamyathan, B. A., James Joseph, R. C. Thuraiyah, T. Coomaraswamy, V. Coomaraswamy, T. R. Nalliah, T. S. Thuraiappah, S. H. T. Taylor, S. Kandaia, Muttukumaraswamykurukkal, V. S. Ponnampalam, F. R. Sandrasagra, R. T. Girdwood, P. Vaitilingam, C. Arumugam, C. N. Tissiveerasingham, K. Sivasuppramaniam, A. Saravananmuthu, R. Subramaniam, M. Tissaveerasinghe, G. Velayuthampillai, S. Theagarajah, K. Ramalingam, S. Kumaraswamy, V. Kumaraswamy, S. Sivaganapillai, M. Sithamparanather, Dr. C. Theagarajah, T. Mylvaganam, S. Rajaratnam, M. Subramaniam, A. Ambalavanar, Ratnakurukkal, Sinnatambay, K. Sabapathiykurukkal, S. Sangarapillai, J. Arulpragasam, N. Vaitilingam, Theagarajakurukkal, S. Kumaraswamy, Rajanand Meeras Mathan Lala, S. Mudir. Mootambay, S. Sinnatambay, K. Subramaniam, S. M. Theagarajah, and several others.

On the proposition of Rai Bahadur C. Murgesampillai and seconded by Mr. S. Thambiahpillai, Proctor, and Member Local Board Mr. C. Changarapillai J. P., U. P. M., was elected Chairman.

It was proposed by Mr. Advocate S. Kanagasabay and seconded by Mr. S. Subramaniam that Mr. T. S. Cooke, Proctor, be elected Secretary to the meeting.

The chairman rising amidst applause, said: Gentlemen, it gives me very great pleasure to preside on this occasion and I thank you one and all for having done me the honour of voting me to the Chair. I have also to thank you for attending here at so short notice in such large numbers. This meeting is truly representative of the various interests of Jaffna. We are all assembled here to do honour to one to whom honour is due (applause). Before going further I shall read to you the notice convening the meeting which runs as follows:—A Meeting of the Tamils of Jaffna will be held at the Ridgeway Memorial Hall at 5 p.m. on Wednesday the 28th Dec. 1910 to Memorialise His Excellency the Governor to nominate Mr. K. Balasingham of Colombo, to one of the two Tamil Seats in the Reformed Legislative Council. Gentlemen in support of the movement are cordially invited to attend."

This morning and yesterday some telegrams were received suggesting that certain other names may also be submitted to His Excellency for nomination. We are in a proud position to see that we can recommend to his Excellency the Governor the names of several Gentlemen qualified in every way to represent us. Only two members can be sent to the Legislative Coun-

oil now. We can only suggest the names of two gentlemen. Of these one is Mr. K. Balasingham. He is an Advocate of the Supreme Court. He is a gentleman in every sense of the word and one who is well qualified. We can speak of him in the best of terms. He is a lawyer and we want lawyers in the Legislative Council (loud applause). Doctors also may claim Legislative Honours and sometimes give satisfaction. Doctors also come into the Legislative Council and Engineers also come in. Of all these we give preference to lawyers (cheers) and Mr. Balasingham is a lawyer and, therefore, deserves nomination for one of the Tamil Seats and we can very strongly recommend him to his Excellency the Governor. He is well acquainted with the state of the country. He knows what laws will suit our people. We have in Mr. Balasingham all these essential qualifications. Therefore I say who is there who is so fit as to represent us, as Mr. Balasingham. The word "Balasingham" means a young lion. We are proud to have a young lion in our midst. Just as the lion is the king of beasts in the forests so Mr. Balasingham is, as it were, a king in the hearts of the people. That is not all. He is the son of the late Mr. Kadhiravetpillai, the well known Magistrate of Kayts. Mr. Kadhiravetpillai had been presiding over all the Courts in Jaffna, for a period of 25 years or upwards. He was a gentleman of whom I can speak in the highest of terms. He was a master of Sir Samuel Grenier. He was a master of Mr. T. M. Tampoe who is here in our midst to day. He was a gentleman of unblemished character. He was an ideal Magistrate, an ideal Judge—ideal in every sense of the term. Mr. Balasingham is the son of that great giant—a worthy son of a worthy father. Mr. Balasingham has distinguished himself within the last few years as a gentleman of exceptional ability. He has established an unblemished character. He has the confidence of the Government. He has a sound knowledge of men and things, which pre-eminently entitles him to a Seat in the Council. There seems to be an objection in certain quarters and that is Mr. Balasingham is a "young man". I believe that objection alone should entitle him to the Seat. Young men are the best, they are energetic and industrious, and therefore young age is no objection at all. It is also said that older people must get in now. When there is an opportunity as the present we should not wait, but we should make the best use of the opportunity and secure the services of the best person. Fortunately there are now two nominated Seats vacant, and one of them can be filled by an energetic and industrious young man. It is further said that there is no need to trouble ourselves in connection with these Seats because they entirely rest in the hands of the Governor. But, they forget that the voice of the people is the voice of God. His Excellency would desire to acquaint himself of the wishes of the people. Therefore it is our duty to put forward some names before His Excellency the Governor to nominate two members. We have therefore a perfect right to submit names for approval and nomination. I need not detain you, Gentlemen, as there are other speakers who will address you on the subject. But before I finish my part I have great pleasure in recommending to you Mr. K. Balasingham as a fit and best qualified gentleman to represent us in the Reformed Legislative Council. (prolonged applause.)

Mr. Advocate W. Doraiswamy in moving the following resolution said that he was immensely pleased to see such a large and representative assembly. He never had to address such a gathering as this; there was assembled in the hall Tamils engaged in different pursuits not only in all parts of Jaffna but also from all over Ceylon. The resolution reads as follows:—

This meeting resolves that the name of Mr. K. Balasingham, Advocate, Colombo, be submitted to His Excellency the Governor for nomination to one of the Tamil Seats in the Reformed Legislative Council.

Mr. Doraiswamy further said that although people may say that they have no right to elect to the Governor by submitting names for nomination yet he said it was His Excellency's desire that we should submit a name or more. Otherwise it would be a difficult task to ascertain the wishes of the people. He need not dwell on the sterling qualities of Mr. Balasingham. The learned Chairman has showed how great a gentleman he is, how great a scholar he is and how ably he will represent us. The Chairman's acquaintance with him and with his father for a pretty long time is clearly sufficient to show Mr. Balasingham's ability and fitness to represent the Tamils. Mr. Balasingham was and is an industrious student. He is respected by one and all. He has a clear knowledge of the state of the country and above all he maintains an unblemished character. After leaving Royal College Mr. Balasingham took up law and is a very successful lawyer today. His capacity for work and his untiring efforts in literary pursuit stand pre-eminent. Mr. Doraiswamy further impressed on the audience that when a man is young he can apply himself vigorously to the various questions of the day; this is therefore the time that the Tamils should send Mr. Balasingham to the Council. He had great pleasure in proposing the resolution above referred to.

In seconding this resolution Mr. T. H. Crossette M. A., Acting Principal, St. John's College said: Mr. Chairman and Gentleman, I am extremely pleased to see such a large and representative assembly here to support the cause of Mr. Balasingham. All of us are aware that there is now a great national feeling at the present time in almost all Eastern countries. We see such a national movement in India, China and Japan. I was closely watching the political movement in India for a long time. I am sure you all know the career of the Hon. Mr. G. K. Gokhale. In Mr. Balasingham we have another Gokhale. Mr. Crossette went on outlining the life history of that great giant of India Mr. Gokhale and compared him to Mr. Balasingham. He impressed on the audience that Mr. Balasingham had an "immense capacity" for work. In the intervals of his professional work which is very exacting, Mr. Balasingham has found time to make several contributions to the literature of this country. But on this, of course, I need not say much, as his works speak for themselves. Mr. Balasingham has the interest of the country at heart and is popular with Government. Such a man becomes a very proper representative in the Council. A man who is popular with the people and can at the same time gain the confidence of Government like Mr. Gokhale is a man who can get the greatest advantage to us from our rulers. Mr. Crossette had therefore the greatest pleasure in seconding the resolution so ably proposed by Mr. Advocate Doraiswamy.

Professor T. P. Hudson M. A., Jaffna College, in supporting the resolution said that Mr. Balasingham had even in his school days gained the high opinion of his Masters by his keen application to his studies and by his behaviour. His subsequent career has been very remarkable. Many who had watched Mr. Balasingham closely at Colombo said that his ways were so pleasing and his ability so acknowledged that should he stand as a candidate for one of the Tamil Seats in the Legislative Council there would be no dissenting voice. In some quarters it has been said that Mr. Ramanathan is too old for the Council and that Mr. Balasingham is too young for it. Both statements are equally absurd. (applause) Attention should be paid not to age but to one's merits and qualifications. Mr. Balasingham's whole hearted devotion to duty, his unimpeachable character, and his knowledge of law eminently fit him for a Seat in the Council.

Mr. J. V. Chelliah, M. A., of Jaffna College, in supporting the resolution said that he could testify to the cordiality with which Mr. Balasingham's candidature was received by all sections of the Tamil community. He was surprised to know for the first time from the previous speakers that there were a few who objected to Mr. Balasingham on the score of age. Such objectors, if any there be, either forget or are ignorant of the fact that Mr. Balasingham had an old head on young shoulders—young shoulders which would bear the burden of Legislative work with requisite energy and enthusiasm and an old head necessary for calm deliberation and mature judgment. The very fact of his acting as District Judge on several occasions proves that the Government itself fully relied upon the ripeness of his mind and the soundness of his judgment. In his school days Mr. Balasingham's gentlemanly deportment, his rectitude of behaviour, his industry and scholarship had gained for him the esteem and love of the teachers and students alike. In the wider world as a lawyer and public man he had exhibited these qualities to a very remarkable degree. In one respect, he had very few equals—in his immense capacity for work. The man who would produce so much of legal literature amidst his arduous duties as a lawyer, could certainly be depended upon to study the complex problems of legislation and make use of his knowledge for the advancement of his country. In conclusion the speaker referred to the high estimation in which the candidate was held by a foreign gentleman who identified himself with the interests and aspirations of the people of this country. This gentleman had said that he had an intimate acquaintance with Mr. Balasingham and was so impressed with his high character that he thought that he was the equal of that wonderful man—the candidate's father and that he considered him to be an absolutely safe representative of the people. The speaker was sure that this estimate voiced the sentiments of all present and so had the greatest pleasure in supporting the resolution.

Dr. Suppiah Curtis in supporting the resolution in humorous speech said that it was the duty of doctors to feel the pulse of the people and that he could confidently say that that pulse of the people indicated that Mr. Balasingham was the best person to represent the Tamils in Council. In Mr. Balasingham they had a person on whom they could safely rely and he felt sure that their interests would be jealously watched by him.

Mr. C. W. Chinnappapillai in a speech in Tamil supported the resolution. Srimat Mutukumaraswamy Kurukkal also spoke in Tamil and said that all the good qualities which according to the *Shastras* go to make a great man were possessed by Mr. Balasingham. In him were combined the virtues derived from education, wealth, birth and character. Mr. Balasingham would prove an ideal Councillor. He had already shown

himself to be a gentleman on whom they could rely under all circumstances.

The chairman put the resolution to the meeting and it was carried unanimously.

Mr. A. Cathiravelu, Proctor and Member Local Board, said: The resolution with which I have been entrusted does not require any speech making to commend it to you. It is one proposing the appointment of a Committee to carry out the object of the principal resolution. But before formally moving the resolution I wish to make one or two observations as regards Mr. Balasingham's qualifications. The learned proposer of the principal resolution Mr. Advocate Doraiswamy, referred in eloquent terms to Mr. Balasingham's student days. I did not know Mr. Balasingham then. But I have had the honour of enjoying his friendship for the last 8 or 9 years and I have always known him to be a student—a very close student. The Tamil people are a very intelligent people but some of them forsake their books after entering a profession or taking a university degree. Many of us do not keep up our studies in after life. But the case with Mr. K. Balasingham is different. He has gone through old, forgotten Roman Dutch Law tomes to write a treatise on the Law of persons and property and has waded through numerous publications dealing with the Criminal Law of India, England, and America to write a treatise on Criminal Law and Procedure in Ceylon. He is moreover the editor of the authorised Reports of Ceylon—the New Law Reports. To make a successful member of Legislative Council not only brilliancy of intellect and ability are required, but capacity to do patient and persevering work. One of the chief characteristics of Mr. Balasingham is his patience. A Council Member has to go through Blue Books, Administration Reports, Sessional Papers and statistics civil, criminal &c. not only of Ceylon but of other countries. Patience is therefore a quality absolutely necessary in a Council Member, and I know Mr. Balasingham to be a patient and persevering worker and this is one of the chief reasons, why I support his candidature. It has been said that he was born of a very distinguished father. No doubt it is true, but it is at the same time true that though born of a great father, he is one of the people. He thoroughly understands the ways, habits and customs of the Tamil people at large. This is another ground on which I support Mr. Balasingham. The other speakers have dwelt at length on the other virtues of Mr. Balasingham and I need not expatiate on them. I now formally move that the following gentlemen with power to add to their number do form a Committee to carry out the principal resolution.

The names of the committee members were read.

Mr. S. Kandaiya said, that he had great pleasure in seconding the resolution. He said that Mr. Balasingham enjoys equally the confidence of the people and of the Government. This thoroughly representative meeting indicates the great confidence the people have on Mr. Balasingham. The confidence of Government is shown by the fact that Mr. Balasingham was selected by Government to act as District Judge, Kalutara, Ratnapura, and Kegalle and as Additional District Judge and Commissioner of Requests, Colombo.

The resolution was put to the house and unanimously carried.

Mr. V. S. Ponnampalam said, that he had great pleasure in proposing a vote of thanks to the Chairman who had so ably presided over the meeting. The Chairman was a mighty link that connected the past generation with the present. No gentleman could have more worthily occupied the chair. Mr. Balasingham is a lawyer of deep learning. He is a gentleman who is ever accessible to every body. He combines in him all the qualities that go to make a good Councillor.

Mr. Murugasampillai seconded the vote of thanks.

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MADRAS.

y at the Darbar of Tamil Chiefs held in Jaffna in August last the desirability and necessity of establishing some organisation to encourage the cultivation of new products in Jaffna and also to see that no more quantity of tobacco than actually required for that State is grown here. The Chiefs with whom His Excellency discussed the subject have not yet done anything in the matter. We earnestly hope that our worthy Government Agent, Mr. H. R. Freeman, who has always the welfare of the people committed to his care at heart, and who has done so much to save them at the time of the unprecedented distress that prevailed here caused by the prohibitive duty introduced into Travancore, will order the Headmen in every village to inform the ignorant cultivators in time of the serious consequences of cultivating the normal quantity of tobacco in the expectation of selling it for consumption in Travancore and to advise them to grow tobacco in only half the area now under this cultivation and substituting it by other products such as cassava, chillies, plantains, &c. This is the time for the planting of tobacco and no time should be lost in giving this advice and warning.

THE TAMIL SEATS.

We publish in our supplement today the proceedings of the large and influential meeting held in Jaffna at the Ridgeway Hall on Wednesday last to memorialise His Excellency the Governor to appoint Mr. K. Balasingham to one of the nominated Tamil Seats in the Legislative Council. This meeting was one of the largest held in Jaffna for a similar purpose and showed that Mr. Balasingham's candidature has the strong support of the people of Jaffna which is the premier Tamil District in Ceylon.

The meeting held yesterday evening at the same place in support of the candidature of Messrs. J. M. Hensman and J. H. Vanniasingam was a grand and successful demonstration worthy of the occasion and the candidates. The gathering was not only very large but fully representative. We publish elsewhere an abstract of the proceedings of this meeting.

Another meeting takes place this evening also at the Ridgeway Hall convened by a very large number of influential and representative gentlemen, to memorialise His Excellency the Governor to renominate the Hon'ble Mr. A. Kanagasabai for another term of five years.

Arrangements are being made to hold a meeting at the same place on the 6th instant to submit to His Excellency the name of Mr. N. Selvadurai as a fit and proper person to represent the Tamils as one of the two nominated members. This meeting also will undoubtedly be another large and influential one, as the notice appearing elsewhere would show.

A meeting has been held in Batticaloa under the presidency of the Rev. Mr. R. N. Sethukavalar M. A., at which the renomination of Mr. Kanagasabai was approved and it was decided to submit the names of Messrs. R. W. Allegacoan, and Advocates Nagapper, Tampimuttu and Tisaverasinghe for appointment to the additional Seat. Mr. Allegacoan has wired to the Secretary of that meeting thanking it for his nomination but regretting that he did not desire to retire from service at present or to compete for the Seat. Another meeting has been held in that District at Kalumai, which is an important centre of Tamil population, supporting the candidature of Mr. Hensman.

LOCAL & GENERAL.

THE WEATHER.—Heavy rains fell in all parts of Jaffna causing floods, on Saturday and Monday last. The crops which had been withering for want of rain have now been saved by these timely rains. No more rains are wanted for the paddy and varagu crops whose prospects are now excellent.

THE JAFFNA HINDU COLLEGE.—We are glad to announce that three new graduates have been appointed to the teaching Staff of the Hindu College and they will assume charge of their duties on the 18th inst., on which day the College re-opens. One is an M. A. (Madras) in Physical Science, who was University Demonstrator for the Lectures on the teaching of Science (1908). The second is a B. A. in History and Sanskrit, who has had a bright University career. The third is a graduate of the Colombo Training College.

THE DISTRICT COURT.—Mr. Pinto, the new District Judge of Jaffna arrived here last night and assumed duties today. He comes with the reputation as an able con-

scientious and pains taking Judge, in this respect resembling Mr. Thaine, who left Jaffna for Colombo yesterday, amidst the general regret of the public. Mr. Thaine had not much judicial experience when he assumed duties as D. J. Jaffna, but he has proved himself one of the best Judges who ever presided over this Court.

THE POLICE COURT, JAFFNA.—Mr. Roberts, at whose instance the abolition of the Mallakam Minor Courts and the amalgamation of the Jaffna and Kayts Courts have been effected, having fallen ill just at the time these new arrangements are to come into effect. Mr. Pinto the D. J., will act as Magistrate of the amalgamated Courts for a few days till the arrival of a new Magistrate who is soon expected to assume duties in the place of Mr. Roberts. It remains to be seen whether any conscientious and painstaking Magistrate will be able to cope with the work which Mr. Roberts had undertaken to do.

THE POLICE COURT, POINT PEDRO.—Mr. R. W. Allegacoan who with Mrs. Allegacoan and family, spent the Christmas holidays and leave for a week at Thalaiyil in Vannarpannai East left for Point Pedro on the morning of the 1st instant to assume duties as Police Magistrate and Commissioner of Requests, Pt. Pedro and Chavakachcheri.

NEW YEAR HONOURS.—The Hon'ble Mr. S. C. Obeyesekere, the Low country Sinhalese Representative in the Legislative Council, has been created a Knight. We congratulate Sir Solomon Obeyesekere on the deserved honour conferred on him by His Majesty the King. Mr. J. P. Lewis, the retired Government Agent of the Central Province has been made a C. M. G.

THE INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS.—The 25th Session of the Congress commenced at Allahabad on the 26th ultimo under the Presidency of Sir William Wedderburn and closed on the 29th. We hope to notice it in our next.

PERSONAL.—Mr. G. Shiva Rao, Principal, Hindu College, has gone to Pt. Pedro for the holidays.

—A. Naganatha Mudaliar J. P. U. P. M., Shroff of the National Bank, Nuwara Eliya, is now at Copay, having come on a month's leave.

—Mr. K. Balasingham, Advocate, left for Colombo today after spending a few days in Jaffna.

—Mr. K. S. Kandiah of the Colombo Customs is on a visit to his friends and relations at Vannarpannai.

—Mr. N. Selvadurai of the Trinity College, Kandy, is here, having come on a short visit to Jaffna. He will return to Kandy on Saturday next.

—Among other visitors from Kandy in our midst are Mr. M. A. Arulanandam, Advocate, and Mr. Proctor V. M. Saravanamuttu, M. M. C.

—Mr. M. C. Wanniassekere of Copay has left for Nuwara Eliya to act for his uncle A. Naganatha Mudlir. as Shroff of the National Bank, Nuwara Eliya.

—Mr. S. Tambayah of Messrs. Bosanquet and Co., Colombo, is on a short visit to his friends and relations at Urumpiray.

—Mr. S. Periatamby of the P. W. D., Kandy, who paid a short visit to his relations and friends in Vannarpannai, has returned to his station.

—Mr. N. Vaitilingam, Storekeeper of Messrs. Brown & Co., Colombo, who was on a short visit to his relations and friends in Naval, left for Colombo on the 2nd ultimo.

—Mr. T. Arumugam who was for many years a teacher in the Victoria Institutions Kuala Lumpur, and at present a teacher, in the Hindu College, Jaffna, left for the F. M. S. on Monday last to see his friends and relations.

THE MEETING AT THE RIDGEWAY HALL IN SUPPORT OF THE CANDIDATURE OF MESSRS. J. M. HENSMAN AND J. H. VANNIASINGAM.

A very large and representative meeting of the Tamils of Jaffna was held at the Ridgeway Memorial Hall this evening at 3.30 p. m., for the purpose of submitting the names of Messrs. J. M. Hensman B. A., and J. H. Vanniasingam B. A., to His Excellency the Governor as fit and proper persons to be nominated to the Tamil Seats in the Reformed Legislative Council. The Hall was full to overflowing with gentlemen who had come from all parts of the Peninsula representing the wealth and intelligence of the country, and all occupations, professions, and interests. Mr. T. M. Tampoa, J. P. Retired Police Magistrate, presided and in a very eloquent and forcible speech commended the two candidates as the most qualified to be appointed as representatives of the Tamil people, by reason of their education, high character, independence, and faithful participa-

tion in all public movements for the advancement of the interests of the people. The first resolution was proposed by Dr. M. Kailasapillai, L. M. S., and seconded by Mr. C. W. Chinnappapillai, and supported by Mr. David Tambiah, and ran as follows:—That this meeting representing the Tamil Community of Jaffna hereby tenders its most respectful and hearty thanks to His Excellency the Governor for securing an additional seat for the Tamils in the Reformed Legislative Council. This resolution was carried unanimously with acclamation.

The second resolution was proposed by Rao Bahadur L. C. Williams Pillai, B. A., Retired Inspector of Schools, India, and seconded by Mr. V. Casipillai, Crown Proctor, and supported by Messrs. Allen Abraham, B. A., Professor, Jaffna College, V. Thigasar, Tamil Pandit, Rev. C. D. Veluppillai, and Sri. Muttukumaraswamy Kurukkal, Manager, Tellipallai Hindu School and Hindu preacher, and ran as follows:—That this meeting resolves to recommend to His Excellency the Governor Messrs. J. M. Hensman, B. A., and J. H. Vanniasingam, B. A., as fit and proper persons for appointment to the two Tamil Seats in the Reformed Legislative Council. The speakers were most enthusiastic in their admiration of Mr. Hensman and referred among other high qualifications, to his glorious career as a great educationist, and said that at the present time when important educational questions were being considered by Government, he would be of eminent service in the Legislative Council. They were all unanimous in their praise of Mr. Hensman for devoting his time and talents to the welfare of the people in all public questions and movements during the past six years of his retirement. They spoke very highly of Mr. Vanniasingam as an able and honourable Advocate and the leader of the Jaffna bar, and said that he was deeply interested in the welfare of the people, and took an active part in public movements. This resolution was carried unanimously with acclamation.

On the motion of Mr. C. Mudr. Muttiah, seconded by C. Mudr. Navaratnam, the following gentlemen were appointed a committee to submit the above resolutions to His Excellency the Governor in a memorial, viz: Messrs. T. M. Tampoa, T. Ponnampalampillai, Rao Bahadur L. C. Williams Pillai, A. Mootootampillai and Ratna Mylvaganam.

With a vote of thanks to the chair proposed by Mr. A. Kanagasabai and seconded by Dr. M. Kailasapillai a most crowded and enthusiastic meeting terminated.

DISTRICT NOTES.

BATTICALOA.

28-12-10.

The Weather.—Very smart showers of rain fell in almost all the parts of the District on the 24th and 25th inst. All the wells, pools and ponds are now filled up to the brim. The paddy fields are now flooded, and the young plants will soon decay. It is feared that the paddy crop will be a failure this time owing to excessive rain.

The Tamil Seat.—We are glad to see that the Tamils of Batticaloa, who had in the past showed great indifference in regard to the election of a candidate to represent their interests in the Council, have now begun to show some animation and wish to have a member of their own. This is undoubtedly a laudable ambition on their part, as there are two Seats in Council for the Tamils and this Province is the Second Tamil District in the Island. Besides, this is one of the chief agricultural Districts lying in an isolated position, where the high-handed actions of the Irrigation Engineers, who look more to enrich the coffers of the Government at the expense of the poor agriculturists, have very often formed the subject of interpellation in Council. It is therefore very essential that a gentleman from this place, who fully understands the wants of the people here, be appointed. But the question is whether there is any one among us who has the qualification—the power of speech, wealth, education, public and patriotic spirit to be our Representative and to express our views and sentiments, wants and grievances without any fear or favour. We have heard it expressed, by some of the leading gentlemen who have some interest of the place, that there is none at present, but we want to set up a precedent by sending one from this place for one of the two Seats, however his qualifications may be defective. Though we are in full sympathy with the people of this District in their aspirations yet, we cannot fully appreciate the idea of sending a mummy as our Representative, only to nod his head in conciliatory mood to whatever the officers may say. At a time when the Council is to be constituted on a reformed basis and with a liberal Government at the head, we will sincerely advise the people of this place to give up the idea of sending one from this place but work jointly and to select a candidate from among those who are really qualified and already in the field, so that he may work and fight in conjunction with Mr. Ramanathan whom the Ceylonese are sure to return to the Council, for larger reforms and greater political privileges. We need not hesitate to mention that such a gentleman is Mr. James Hensman, B. A., retired Principal of the Kumbakonam College. He is preeminently the fittest among the candidates. His sojourn in India would have helped him to gain an insight into the

working of the Irrigation Scheme which will be of service when questions from our place affecting the Irrigation troubles are discussed in Council. A powerful speaker, a fearless critic, a public spirited gentleman with high intellectual attainments, we can find nowhere exact in Mr. Hensman. We wish therefore that in the interests of the entire Tamil Community Mr. Hensman will be appointed as one of the Tamil Members.

The Ceylonese Seat.—Dr. H. M. Fernando, Mr. Prins, Advocate, and Mr. E. A. P. Sandra sagara, the "Politician" and "leader of the Metropolitan Bar" arrived here yesterday in a Motorcar with a view to canvass votes for the Doctor. Batticaloa is as firm as it has been and will not swerve an inch from the promise the voters have already given in support of the candidature of Mr. P. Ramanathan K. C. C. M. G.

Personal.—Mr. S. Kandiah, Sub-Inspector of Schools, has left this for Jaffna, by the last steamer.

—Cor.

ANURADHAPURA.

25-12-10.

Personal.—Mr. T. S. de Saran, Police Magistrate, returned from his leave and resumed duties on the 19th inst.

—Mr. S. D. Krishnarate, Proctor, has gone to Maskeliya to recruit his health.

—Mr. S. Thampapillai, Advocate, has gone to Chandirupay his native place for X'mas holidays and will return to town on the 8rd proximo.

—Mr. J. D. Brown, Office Assistant, is under orders to proceed to Kuruncgala as Police Magistrate there. Mr. H. E. Newham of the Kandy Kachcheri will succeed him here.

The Local Board.—At the annual election meeting held on the 23rd instant, Mr. S. Thampapillai B. A., Advocate, was elected one of the unofficial members of the Board. It is hoped that Mr. Thampapillai will bring his admirable common sense and intelligence into play in the discussion of many questions affecting the vital interests of the tax-payers.

—Cor.

NAWALAPITIYA.

The late Mr. C. Muttuswamy—We regret to record the death of Mr. C. Muttuswamy, retired P. W. D. Officer and Proprietor of Nawalapitiya Estate who was confined to his room for a few days having taken ill with fever and pneumonia and despite the best medical treatment passed away peacefully on Sunday the 13th ultimo at 10 A. M. at the mature age of 84, surrounded by his wife, children, grand-children and other close relatives. The deceased is a scion of one of the most distinguished and respectable families of Jaffna. He leaves behind to mourn his loss, a widow, two sons the elder of whom is Mr. C. M. Chellappah, the Superintendent, Minor Roads, Kegalle, and the younger Mr. C. M. Kumaratpallai, a student at Law, and a daughter, the wife of Mr. K. Vyramuttu, Overseer P. W. D., Peradeniya, to whom will be extended the deep sympathy of a wide circle of friends.

—Cor.

HAMBANTOTA.

31-12-10.

Weather.—We are having very oppressively hot sun during the daytime. Nights are very cold with slight dew before daybreak. Fever is prevailing here and there.

—Mr. L. S. Woolf, our A. G. A., has just returned after a flying visit to the Mountain Capital and the Peradeniya Gardens during the Holidays.

Personal.—Mr. Amir Khan, our popular Sub-collector is under orders to proceed to Colombo. Mr. Z. O. Sampan from the Customs, Colombo, succeeds him early in January next.

—Mr. S. Sabapathy, our Asst. Postmaster, who was under orders to proceed to Mandana Office, amidst the great regret of the public, has since received intimation to the effect that his transfer has been cancelled. He is to remain in Hambantota for the present.

Katragama Madam.—The arrangements to begin the above undertaking are nearly over. They only await further help from the public to encourage them in their undertaking.

—The Merchandise of this place is much affected since the increase of customs duty. A match box sells at 2 cents each. There is similar increase in the price of liquor, foreign tobacco, kerosine oil, coffee etc.

X'mas function.—Mr. L. S. Woolf, our Asst. Government Agent, invited many of the Kachcheri officers and leading residents of the place for a tea party this evening at the newly built Government Tamil School. Children too were invited. Many toys were presented to the children and cakes and tea were lavishly served. A musical concert followed the tea and a grand evening was spent. Mr. J. A. Amerasinghe, Salt Storekeeper, Hambantota, and Mr. E. B. Wikremannayake, Kachcheri Mudaliyar, deserve thanks for their able management of the function. The party dispersed about 7 P. M.

—Cor.

CORRESPONDENCE.

MR. RAMANATHAN'S RETIREMENT FROM THE PUBLIC SERVICE.

To the Editor,

"Hindu Organ".

Dear Sir,

In the Editorial of your issue of 28th December you state "Sir Henry Blake, the Governor, who allowed him to retire in the circumstances described by Mr. Ramanathan is alive, and if there be anything in the statement made by him contrary to facts, Mr. Ramanathan runs the risk of being contradicted by the ex-Governor." Will you permit me to tell you that Mr. Ramanathan had given the same explanation of the circumstances of his retirement while Sir Henry Blake himself was here. He did it just before he left for America in the send off meeting over which Mr. Dornhorst presided. It was in this meeting Mr. Dornhorst said that in his opinion no man had risen so near to the ideal of what a representative of the people should be as Mr. Ramanathan had done.

Tricomania.

E. V.

1-1-11.

THE CEYLONESE SEAT IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Mr. H. A. Jayawardene, the worthy advocate of the Metropolitan Bar, made the following interesting and instructive speech in proposing Mr. Ramanathan, K. C., C. M. A., as the fittest person to represent the Ceylonese Electorate in the Reformed Legislative Council, at the meeting in the Public Hall, held on Tuesday the 20th ultimo:

Mr. H. A. Jayawardene (who was received with cheers on rising) said:—

Gentlemen, I will not even venture to think that these cheers were intended for me. I know they were intended for the cause we all represent here, which is a public cause, and the cause of the day (Applause.) Gentlemen we have emerged from a long period of political inaction and we are now at the parting of the ways. I hope you will not slacken your efforts to gain more political privileges and that you will not moderate those efforts until we have gained the object of our ambition—self government under British rule. (Loud applause.) Gentlemen, there is no alternative to British rule in Ceylon. Whatever progress we may make politically must be done under the aegis and protection of the British Government. (Applause.) Gentlemen, at this critical period of our political history, it is essential that we should have a man of ripe experience, of varied knowledge and of great debating powers, to guide our political destinies. (Applause.) We do not want a mere political tyro. (Loud applause.) We do not want a child who is playing on the sea-shore of politics. (Applause and hear, hear.) We want a man who has had experience, who has devoted his life to this great work, and I tell you gentlemen, there is only one man in Ceylon of this stamp. (Applause.) I was reading the proceedings of last Saturday's meeting, and I found that not a single man stood up and said there that Dr. H. M. Fernando was the fittest man to represent the Ceylonese electorate. (Laughter.) Far from saying that, the worthy President said that there were about twenty others equal to him. (Renewed laughter.) There was, for instance, taking the younger men, Mr. F. J. de Saram, (junior), who is away in England. (Laughter); there was his cousin Mr. Morgan de Saram. (Laughter) and there was our friend Mr. Sandrasegara.

THE MAD MULLAH OF LOCAL POLITICS.

(Loud laughter.) But gentlemen, I cannot see very well how they could have said the fittest candidate was at that meeting because he was not there. If they saw him, it was only his shadow and they must have seen it by an optical illusion. (Laughter.) But the fittest man is here (Loud applause.) And there he is. Now the fittest candidate is amongst us, gentlemen. We have not an ordinary mediocrity with whom there are twenty others on an equal footing. Now, gentlemen, what are the credentials of the two candidates? We have not yet developed any lines of policy, because this is the first time we are going to have an election, and this election must rest entirely upon the qualification of the candidate. There is absolutely no comparison whatever between the two candidates. Here is a political pigmy trying to contend with a political giant. (Hear, hear, and applause.) It is barefaced effrontery for any man in Ceylon to put himself forward against Mr. Ramanathan. (Applause.) Even if Mr. H. J. C. Pereira himself came forward, he would suffer a most ignominious defeat. (Applause.) Gentlemen, let us now calmly consider the qualifications of Mr. Ramanathan. In the first place, age is in favour of Mr. Ramanathan. (Laughter.) Of course, gentlemen, Mr. H. J. C. Pereira said he was too old, but you will find that Mr. Corea says a different thing in this morning's paper. I think that Mr. Corea is a very much better politician than Mr. H. J. C. Pereira. (Loud cheers.) He is unbiased; he does not speak like a paid advocate. (Cheers.) He has the interest of the country at heart, and although we regret that he is on the other side, we can

ASSURE HIM THAT OUR DOOR IS OPEN STILL.

He seems to have a great admiration for Mr. Ramanathan, and I shall not be surprised if at the end he makes up his mind to join us and march under Mr. Ramanathan's banner. (Cheers.) Well, gentlemen, age is a very small matter. I say, apply the test of the eye and see for yourselves whether he is capable of performing his duty. (Applause.) We do not want expert evidence, as unfortunately two experts never agree. I would ask you to accept Mr. Corea as the better expert. We find Mr. Ramanathan, an Advocate of our Courts, who has had the rare and singular honour of having been made a Barrister *causa honoris*. (Applause.) That is, without passing any examination or keeping any terms; he was granted this honour which is still unprecedented in this Island. (Applause.) Then, we find him in the Legislative Council in 1879, at the age of 28 years. (Applause.) He must have been a prodigy indeed to have represented not only the Tamils but the Mohammedans also in the Legislative Council when he was only 28 years of age. (Cheers.) Gentlemen, I need not tell you of his political triumphs. The history of that period between 1879 to 1892 is the history of political triumphs in favour of his countrymen. (Cheers.) He has done everything that a member could have done in Council. He has done yeoman service in the past, and he has seen the passage of nearly every Bill which tended to the amelioration of the people of the

country. (Cheers.) And he, has in every way, made himself a useful member to the whole of Ceylon and not only to the communities he represented. Now, Gentlemen,

TAKE THE OTHER CANDIDATE.

I do not want to say, and I am not going to say, anything personal about Dr. Fernando. Mr. Ramanathan is a gentleman, and his followers are all gentlemen. (Applause and hear, hear.) When a man puts himself before the public as a person worthy of public trust, we have a right to ask him for his credentials. What are Dr. Fernando's credentials? The only thing we could say about him is that he was in the Medical Department for a number of years. Has he ever been in a Political, Legislative or Municipal body (A voice never.) Has he ever made a public speech (Voice no, never.) I know he has read speeches but that is not making public speeches, and I know Gentlemen, that when he does make a speech, it causes a stampede among his hearers. It is said that we do not want a man who is a ready speaker. This is utter nonsense. (Laughter.) I am surprised that a man like Mr. H. J. C. Pereira should say so when he earns his living by making speeches. Of course, gentlemen, we all know that it is not everybody that can make speeches, what we want is a clear terse, forcible speaker who is at the same time a good debater. Is Dr. Fernando such a man? To state that he is so is to state an absurdity. (Laughter.) We are also told that we do not want a public speaker to represent us, that Dr. Fernando

WILL SETTLE EVERYTHING WITH THE

GOVERNOR OVER A TEA POT

in the evening. (Laughter.) We do not want that sort of settlement. (Laughter.) We want our political questions discussed in public before the public eye. We do not want Dr. Fernando to give the Governor a lunch and get something that may or may not benefit the people. Of course in the Legislative Council we have the officials; but it is absolutely necessary that the people's views should be forcibly and clearly put before the Council. The man who represents as should be a man of character, a man of ability and a fearless debater, who will be able to get what he wants from the Legislative Council. (Applause.) I do not mean to say anything against the public officials. They are a body of hardworking, honest and able men, but they do not, and cannot, represent the public. We want therefore a man who in the interests of good Government, and in the interests of just administration, will tell the Governor and the Legislative Council what the wishes of the people really are. There can be only one opinion as to who has the requisite qualifications for the seat. (Cheers.) It is said, Gentlemen, that Dr. Fernando came forward as a candidate first. That is not so. He was flirting with the constituency for a little while, but his personal organ, the "Morning Leader" went so far as to say that he had not been put forward. After coquetting in this way, I say, he got some gentlemen to put forward what is called a "manifesto". Some of you would have read no doubt what he got some gentlemen to publish in the form of that "manifesto." Gentlemen, I am very sorry for those who signed that Manifesto (Laughter.) If they knew what they were doing exactly, they would not have put their names down. I am sure some of those gentlemen never read the manifesto themselves. Evidently the

MANIFESTO WAS DRAWN UP BY A SATELLITE OF DR. FERNANDO

and the others seeing Mr. H. J. C. Pereira's signature there, put down their own. Mr. H. J. C. Pereira thinks that he is a little god. (Laughter.) There may be some gentlemen, who incessantly burn incense at his altar; but the majority of the Sinhalese and Tamils never did, and never will worship at his shrine. (Hear, hear, and loud applause.) Now, gentlemen, what does this Manifesto say? "I don't want to say any hard thing, but it was full of terminological errors. Dr. Fernando, it is said was instrumental in getting the sanction for the Puttalam railway. From my own knowledge, I can say that that is untrue. The credit of that belongs to the late Dr. Rockwood. I know it for certain, because I supplied him with certain materials; but the followers of Dr. Fernando are so blinded by party feeling that they try to deprive that doctor of his posthumous honour. We are told that Dr. Fernando was the leading man in the Pithieis Commission. Has anybody read the report of the Pithieis Commission? (Laughter.) Has Mr. H. J. C. Pereira read the report of the Commission? (Laughter.) It is also said that he did some most wonderful things in the Labour Commission. I don't know that he did. Has anyone read the report of the Labour Commission? (Laughter.) It is also said that he was instrumental in helping the Committee to arrive at a correct conclusion in the Colombo Lake Commission. We know how well he helped by taking the Government view of the question. When Government wants a man to support their view of a situation, they put in Dr. Fernando. (Laughter.) Now, gentlemen,

THE CLIMAX OF ABSURDITY IS REACHED

when, with one voice, the manifesto declares that Dr. Fernando is the best and the fittest man to represent the Educated Ceylonese. Gentlemen, to say so, is to say what is palpably false. To say that is to proclaim the bankruptcy of Educated Ceylonese in intellect and talents. To say a man who has

never made a public speech, who never was inside a Legislative or Municipal body, is the best and fittest candidate for the Legislative Council is to insult us all. Gentlemen, I think, that this manifesto was a most unwarrantable assumption and a piece of impertinence on the part of these people. Who made them the dictators of the Educated Ceylonese? Who made these gentlemen our moral mentors? Who asked them to come forward and speak for that community? Gentlemen, this is a piece of unwarrantable assumption on the part of these people, which requires all the castigation it deserves. Now, gentlemen, after reading that manifesto, which was couched in every bombastic language—almost Baboosh, (Laughter.) It was expected that it would create a great revolution in favour of Dr. Fernando. But what was expected to create a revolution was treated with contempt. It was kicked about. Nobody believed it; it was

A PARCEL OF LIES FROM BEGINNING TO END brought forward by the exigencies of the political situation and it failed to effect anything whatever. But let us leave the Manifesto alone and come to the speeches that were made last Saturday. Mr. H. J. C. Pereira snorted and wanted to know who Mr. Ramanathan's sponsors were. Who were his followers, he asked. Here they are (Loud applause.) I wish Mr. H. J. C. Pereira could be here today. He will find no people leaving the hall in the middle of the address in disgust. (Hear, hear and applause.) And Gentlemen, Mr. Pereira most unnecessarily went on to insult Mr. Obeyesekere. Mr. Obeyesekere is a gentleman who commands the highest respect of the people of this Island. Mr. H. J. C. Pereira was fighting an imaginary foe and asking him to come forward. (Laughter.) Meanwhile Mr. Obeyesekere was miles away in Nuwara Eliya. But here we are, and we shall fight him, and we shall win. (Cheers.) What better supporters can we have than these gentlemen here today? Here is

MR. SENEVIRATNE WHO COMMANDS THE

HIGHEST RESPECT

among the Sinhalese (Hear, hear). A gentleman who has served in the Legislative Council and who occupied several positions of trust under Government. There is Dr. Attygalle that doughty fighter, (Applause), who is well able to deal even Mr. H. J. C. Pereira a knock-out blow; and there is my friend Mr. Roberts. (Cheers.) one of the leading and public spirited men in the Island; then last but not least here are our worthy friends Mr. Ranasinghe and Mr. E. F. Perera. We all are sorry that Mr. E. F. Perera is not here. He is a gentleman who has taken part in public affairs even when our fathers had not thought of us. There is Mr. Ranasinghe who stands for everything that is good and noble in public life. (Cheers.) What more does Mr. H. J. C. Pereira want? Gentlemen, that speech of his was a dismal failure; of course it may be simply the opinion of a political opponent, but I must say that the speech was of a very ordinary character. It was the speech of a man who knew that he was fighting a losing game. (Cheers.) He knew the game was up. (Laughter.) He knew that his candidate was bound to be beaten, therefore he finds fault with Mr. Ramanathan for not wearing an Ellwood hat, (Laughter) and not playing tennis. (Loud laughter.) Did Mr. H. J. C. Pereira expect his audience to take him seriously? Gentlemen, I say that this speech was a speech that convinced everybody that MR. H. J. C. PEREIRA WAS ONLY ACTING THE PART OF A PAID ADVOCATE.

He was taking every technical objection to our being in the Educated Ceylonese constituency. He well knew that he could not face the true issues of the case. If he got into close quarters with Mr. Ramanathan, it would be a sad day for him. (Cheers.) However, he took these preliminary objections, and he was completely knocked down by Mr. Sampayo on the spot. (Laughter.) The leader was completely demolished by his own follower. Mr. James Peiris joined the fray and went on pounding at Mr. Pereira. (Laughter.) but Mr. Pereira had his faithful friend, Mr. Sandrasekera, the mad mullah of local politics. He is bound to take Mr. Pereira's side, for has not Mr. Pereira promised to make him the leader of the local Bar? What strikes me is the self-complacency with which Mr. Pereira makes and unmakes members of Councils and leaders of the Bar. Then there is Mr. Morgan de Saram, who will be the next member (Laughter.) There is Mr. Sandrasekera who is to succeed him. (Laughter.) We have to go without anything. The supporters of Mr. Ramanathan are going to starve for the rest of their days. Now, gentlemen, we come to the first part of the speech. Mr. Pereira

TRIES TO EXCLUDE ALL OF US FROM THE CEYLONESE CONSTITUENCY.

Now mark you, he calls it the Educated Ceylonese Constituency, although the Ordinance refers to it as the Ceylonese Constituency, and the way that he tries to keep us out of this constituency is most marvellous. "You fellows are not educated—your fellows do not wear Ellwood hats, you fellows wear cloth instead of trousers, you do not play lawn tennis". The chief objection is, I suppose, that we are all black. That is the way that this public man spoke, and that is the way how he on an important occasion dealt with public questions. But Mr. Corea, who, we are sorry to say is going to vote for the other side (Voices: no, no, he won't vote for either

side) thinks quite differently. Well, gentlemen, Mr. Corea is always welcome. If ever a leader got a castigation from his followers, it was Mr. H. J. C. Pereira from Mr. Corea. Now, gentlemen, what does Mr. H. J. C. Pereira think that we are? For whom is this constituency meant? Is it

MEANT FOR NONDESCRIBTS?

Is it not meant for pure Sinhalese and Tamils, (I do not mean Euro-Asiatics) who are qualified by their education and training, and who have imbibed Western ideas of thought and who are willing and anxious to take a greater part in the administration of the affairs of their country? It was not given to a person because his skin happened to be white or because he wore any particular kind of dress. All our speeches to-day would be unnecessary if we read this morning's *Independent* in which Mr. Corea's excellent address before the Students' National Association is reported. Mr. H. J. C. Pereira said that Mr. Ramanathan's supporters were all "dishonestly" in this class. That took my breath away. If anybody is dishonestly in any class, it is

MR. H. J. C. PEREIRA HIMSELF WHO OUGHT

PROPERLY TO BE IN THE B. CLASS OF

THE BURGER ELECTORATE.

(Loud laughter.) Let him give us up and go to his friends in the A or B or whatever class, we don't care. Now, gentlemen, this, is his first fallacy. His speech was a gross insult to all Orientals. He said we must be entirely rooted out of our surroundings. I do not know what to call a man who is rooted out of all his surroundings and left without his relations, country and everything else floating about in the air like a vagrant without any relatives, kith or kin. These are the men to be represented by this Constituency. I need not refute that argument. It has already been refuted by Messrs. Sampayo and James Pieris on the spot with very great effect, so much so, that Mr. H. J. C. Pereira was made to eat his own words. A leader eating his own words a few moments after he utters them is a sad spectacle. That is not the characteristic of a leader. As soon as his followers prove restive he begins to yield to them. He should have had the courage to stick to the last when he was attacked by Messrs. Sampayo and James Pieris. Why did he withdraw? Was not that rank cowardice? A man should not say anything unless he is perfectly convinced of the truth of what he says, and he ought not to withdraw unless he is clearly convinced that he is wrong. Apart from that his speech was

AN INSULT TO ALL ORIENTALS.

It was an insult to the Sinhalese and Tamils. (A voice: To the Mohammedans also.) I am quite willing to include the Mohammedans, Bengalis or any one else. He says that we think Orientality. I don't know what he means. Thinking is a process of the mind. How can a man think in any particular language. I don't know, whether Mr. Pereira has made this discovery when recently in England. What is there wrong any way in thinking Orientality? What great offence do we commit by thinking Orientality. We are born Orientals. (Hear, hear.) Our ancestors were Orientals. (Applause.) Can we get rid of this Oriental mode of thought and is there anything disgraceful about this method of thinking? (Laughter.) Mr. Pereira insulted all the Orientals. I submit that.

ORIENTAL THINKING IS AS GOOD AS OCCIDENTAL THINKING.

(Loud applause.) Now gentlemen, let me come to another part of the speech. I have dealt with his puerile vapourings. The second part consisted of a strong vein of "egotism". "I am the man who got these reforms, follow me," says Mr. H. J. C. Pereira. Gentlemen, in America there is a new disease called "exaggerated ego". Is it possible that Mr. Pereira has contracted this disease? Was it possible for Mr. Pereira to have got these Reforms. Gentlemen, the Reforms were obtained by the combined exertion of the Ceylonese. (Applause.) It was all the Associations of the Island that did it, and when everything was cut and ready to be granted Messrs. H. J. C. Pereira and E. W. Perera went and made speeches before Colonel Seely, the Foreign Secretary, and now they want to make it out that these reforms were due to them. This is absurd nonsense; the Reforms are not due to any one man. All of us worked for it and we got it. Perhaps, one or two might have done more than the others. Now to come to those who are on an equal footing with Dr. Fernando, when the time comes they will be put forward by Mr. H. J. C. Pereira and perhaps they will all be rejected. What did he say was his objection to Mr. Ramanathan. Did he say anything in the whole course of his speech that is substantial against Mr. Ramanathan? (A voice: No, no.) Did he say anything tangible? (Voice: No.)

ABSOLUTELY NOTHING.

What did he say? He said three things:—He thinks Orientality; he does not wear an Ellwood hat; he does not play tennis. That is gentlemen, the sum and substance of his speech. Of course Mr. H. J. C. Pereira has developed a new bump of veneration for the Governor. He always tries to take the Governor also under his protection, but we know his past. Is he not the man who conducted a campaign of vilification against Sir Alexander Ashmore? Did he not strongly

SEE SUPPLEMENT.