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Hindu Organ

VOL. IX. } JAFFNA, WEDNESDAY
கூட்டுத் திட்டம். } MARCH 16, 1898

வந்துதாதனம்.

தலைக்குறிப் பதக்கம்.
ஏதான் மாசுக்கம் சொல். { NO. 13
இலங்கு

PUBLISHED EVERY OTHER WEDNESDAY.

பகுதி துக்க காருமுறை புதன்கிழையை வளிற பிரசரிக்கப்படுகிறது.

NOICE.

CEYLON TECHNICAL COLLEGE DEPARTMENT OF TELEGRAPHY AND ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING.

An Entrance Examination for admission to the above Department of the Technical College, Colombo, will be held in Jaffna at the Kachcheri on Monday April 1st and following days at 10-30 a.m.

Forms of application with particulars of the Examination, fees and appointments may be obtained of the Government Agent, Jaffna, and they should be filled in and sent to him before April 9th.

Candidates must be more than 16 years of age.

There will be upwards of 32 appointments in the Postal, Telegraph and Railway Service of Government, offered for competition among the students of the course.

All particulars are given with the form of application.

E HUMAN
Superintendent

Colombo 11th
March 1898

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA
ORDER NISI

Testamentary } No. 891
Jurisdiction } Class 1.

In the Matter of the Estate of the late
Alice Tissenayagam Sinnatapuam wife
of Charles Alexander of Colombo
Deceased
Murukesar Vaithyanather of Chundikkulam Jaffna
Petitioner.

Vs
Charles Alexander of Sommerville Estate Dickoya
Respondent.

This matter of the Petition of Murukesar Vaithyanather of Chundikkulam in Jaffna praying for Letters of Administration to the estate of the abovenamed deceased Alice Tissenayagam Sinnathankam wife of Charles Alexander coming on for disposal before Samuel Haughton Esquire, District Judge, on the 3rd day of March 1898 in the presence of Messrs Casippillai & Cathiravale Preceptors on the part of the Petitioner and the affidavit of the Petitioner dated the 13th day of December 1897 having been read, it is declared that the Petitioner is the father 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 18th day of April 1898 show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

Signed this 3rd day of March 1898
SAMUEL HAUGHTON
District Judge.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.
ORDER NISI

Testamentary } No 892

In the Matter of the Estate of the late
Mutatamby Kandyah of Puttur South
Deceased.
Kantayah Arumugam of Achchuvaley South
Petitioner.

Vs
1. Theyvansappillai widow of Mutatamby Kandyah
2. Kandyah Eliyatamby
3. Tambar Chitamparappillai and wife
4. Annappillai
5. Tambar Arulampalam and wife
6. Kasippillai all of Puttur South
Respondents.

This matter of the Petition of the abovenamed Petitioner Kantayah Arumugam of Achchuvaley South praying for Letters of Administration to the estate of the abovenamed deceased Mutatamby Kandyah of Puttur South coming on for disposal before Samuel Haughton Esquire, District Judge, on the 10th day of March 1898 in the presence of Mr S. Tambyak Pillai Prooter on the part of the Petitioner and the affidavit of the Petitioner dated the 9th day of March 1898 having been read, it is declared that the Petitioner is the son of the said intestate and is entitled to have Letters of Administration to the estate of the said Intestate issued to him unless the Respondents or any other person shall on or before the 7th day of April 1898 show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

Signed this 10th day of March 1898

SAMUEL HAUGHTON
District Judge.

THE HINDU ORGAN.

JAFFNA, WEDNESDAY MARCH 16, 1898

THE "GUARDIAN" AND OUR SELVES.

The "Jaffna Catholic Guardian" is very much concerned that the "Ceylon Standard" should "have approvingly quoted and commented on" our article which appeared in the "Hindu Organ" of the 16th Ultimo on "Our Food Supply." Though there were direct references in our article condemnatory of the policy and pronouncements of the "Guardian" in connection with the recent scarcity and attempt at looting, yet we were agreeably surprised to see that paper of the 26th ultimo without any reply to us. Those who know anything of our contemporary's relations to us will agree with us that, unless our position was necessarily strong, the "Guardian" would not have remained silent as it did, till the "Standard" of the 28th ultimo had a leader which we quote in our Supplement, commenting approvingly on our article. This was what our Catholic contemporary cannot bear to see. The services of a correspondent, "A Tamil," was, therefore, brought into requisition whose letter appears in the "Guardian" of the 5th Instant, not only to defend our contemporary but to misrepresent us.

The Editor of the "Guardian" introduces his correspondent to his readers in these terms: "We call attention to a correspondence appearing elsewhere, in which the mis-statements of the Organ are exposed, though not so exhaustively and effectively as we should wish." It would be interesting to know why, if his correspondent was not capable of exhaustively and effectively performing the duty entrusted to him of exposing the "mis-statements" of the "Hindu Organ," he did not undertake to do it more satisfactorily himself. This is all the more strange when it is complained that our article contained a "ravid attack" on our contemporary.

The gravamen of the charge against us by the "Guardian" and his correspondent is that we had denied the existence of "actual distress" in Jaffna in connection with the recent scarcity of imported grains. What we stated in the article in question was:

"For the last one week all the paddy godowns in the Jaffna District have been closed, the whole supply having become exhausted. This is an event unprecedented in the history of Jaffna. Serious distress, however, does not prevail in the country..... Dry grains, yams, manioc and the produce of the palmyrah are the mainstay of the poorer classes here, and this accounts for the absence of actual distress here, even though rice and paddy, have been selling at a famine price for about two months and though coast paddy could not be

had for a week or so either for love or money."

Upon this the Editor of the "Guardian" with pious horror remarks:—

"Our Colombo contemporaries, we are sorry, have been misled by an article appearing in the "Hindu Organ," which they have approvingly quoted and commented on, in the belief that there was no actual distress in Jaffna, in consequence of the recent scarcity of imported grains."

The correspondent of the "Guardian" sings the same song when he says:—

"But when he (Hindu Organ) says that there was no actual distress here of late..... I cannot choose but condemn his statement as misleading... But I cannot shut my eyes to the glaring fact that, in consequence of the recent scarcity of coast paddy, there was actual distress and, I may add, severe distress, among a certain section of the poor."

We leave our readers to say if we did in that article deny *in toto* the existence of distress here, in consequence of the scarcity of coast paddy, as our contemporary wants the public to believe. What we meant by the word "serious distress" and "actual distress," was such degree of distress as would have involved the starvation of hundreds and necessitated the opening of relief works, and the affording of gratuitous relief by the Government to those who were actually in need if it. Either our contemporary or his correspondent is ignorant of the meaning of the words in question or they wilfully misrepresent us. The correspondent "A Tamil" says: "There was actual distress and, I may add, severe distress." In his opinion the words "severe distress" imply a more serious state of affairs than could be conveyed by the words "actual distress." It is, therefore, evident that "A Tamil," thinks that by saying "actual distress" did not exist, we meant that no distress existed.

We have a right to ask the Editor of the "Guardian" who is sorry that the "Standard" should have quoted and approvingly commented on our article, why, if actual distress existed here, he did not call the attention of the Government to the necessity of opening relief works, to prevent the starvation of his fellow beings? It is only after the scarcity had passed away—a scarcity which we never denied to have existed—our contemporary comes forward and asks his Colombo contemporaries not to trust the statement of the "Hindu Organ" to the effect that there was no actual distress here in consequence of the scarcity of imported paddy that recently prevailed here. He does not seem to care a straw about the fate of the people here, so long as the Hindu Organ does not get the credit of having made any useful suggestion and been quoted and approvingly commented on by one of the Colombo dailies. We could understand our contemporary, if he was called upon to make these remarks, in defence of any statements which he had made in respect to the existence of distress of a very serious nature here, and with the object of inducing the Government to afford relief to the suffering public. It is evident that he would not have said anything of distress in Jaffna, if the article which we quote today has not appeared in the "Ceylon Standard."

We are glad to find that "A Tamil" is a diligent student of the "Hindu Organ." He has ransacked his files of our paper in order to, as he thinks, expose our inconsistencies. The result of his search was the discovery of

(continued on the 4th page)

two passages—one in the "Hindu Organ" of the 1st March 1893 and the other in our paper of the 29th March 1893—which he quotes with evident satisfaction in the belief that his readers could be deluded into believing that we then assumed a different attitude towards the Chetties. I find from back numbers of the "Hindu Organ" says the correspondent of the "Guardian" that the Editor had written articles condemnatory of the policy of the Chetties." Granting that we did write, how does it affect the present question? Does it necessarily follow that we should always sit with folded hands taking a delight in merely denouncing the Chetties and exciting the ignorant masses to loot their boutiques and godowns, without making any attempt to improve our position by organized efforts to carry on ourselves the different trades, especially the trade in rice and paddy? But the quotation from the "Hindu Organ" of March 1893 were purposely intended to mislead the readers of the "Catholic Guardian" and calculated to prejudice them against us. Truly "A Tamil" is an adept in misrepresentation. In quoting a sentence or two from two articles just five years old from the "Hindu Organ" he does not say in what connection and on what subject they were written. We wrote in 1893 a series of articles on the need of a Banking Institution for Jaffna, in the place of the defunct N. O. B. C., and in those articles occurred the sentences quoted in the "Guardian," just as we wrote in the Hindu Organ of the 16th ultimo, calling upon the public of Jaffna to seriously consider their helpless condition in regard to their food supply and to devise means to prevent the recurrence of the state of things that occurred here recently. If those sentences of ours written in 1893 in connection with the want of a Bank for Jaffna can now be quoted against us by the "Guardian," surely nothing will prevent our contemporary or his correspondent from quoting some passages, as writer condemnatory of the policy of the Chetties, from our article of the 16th ultimo which has been so favourably and approvingly commented on by our contemporary of the "Ceylon Standard" and which the "Guardian" finds fault with as having been written in the interest of the Chetties. Let us quote in parallel columns the quotations by the "Guardian" from the "Hindu Organ" of 1893, and a few sentences from our article of the 16th ultimo and ask any fair-minded person to say if we have not been consistent although suggesting measures for the amelioration of the condition of our countrymen and pointing to such facts without maliciously attacking any class of persons, as would show our helpless position no less in regard to our banking institution than our food supply.

(HINDU ORGAN MARCH
1st 1893)

"We hear that the Chetties have since the failure of the N. O. B. C. increased very much the rate of interest. It is well-known how the Chetties avail themselves of the opportunities offered to make a good profit, and as they are now the local Bankers they command their own rate and the poor traders and villagers have to submit to their demands as they can have no option in the matter."

(HINDU ORGAN MARCH
29, 1893)

"The traders and cultivators are obliged to fall into the clutches of the Chetties and avaricious money lenders who scruple not what interest they demand as they feel assured that they are the only bankers just now."

The Tamil Editor of the "Guardian" is a person of the type of some vernacular Editors of India who have brought ruin upon themselves and discredit upon the entire native press of that Continent. In condemning his article of the 12th Ultimo on looting we were not under the impression that his utterances had the support and approval of the English Editor

of the "Guardian." Seeing that "A Tamil" defends the Tamil Editor also in the English columns of that paper we are led to think that the latter expressed not only his views but also those of some leaders of the local Roman Catholic community. Space forbids our giving a translation of the Tamil article in question in this issue, so that the Government and the public may see if it did not contain certain doctrines dangerous to public safety. We hope to publish the translation in our next issue.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

The Weather—We had refreshing showers of rain on the 4th and 5th Instant. The sun is very powerful in these days, but the nights still continue to be dewy.

Cholera—This dire epidemic has not been yet stamped out from Chunnagam. One or two cases are daily reported from there and the patients and suspects are removed to the quarantine sheds at Kankesanturai, where steamers and native vessels have now begun to call.

Calentta Entrance—The Calenta Entrance Examination commenced at St. John's College, Chundlucy on Monday the 7th Instant. There were present 125 boys and one girl the latter being a student of the Nellore Girls' Boarding School. Of these Hindu College contributed 16, Central College 15, Victoria College 5 and Jaffna College 32.

The Tamil Seat—We are glad that the Tamil Seat has been filled at last. The new Tamil Member is Dr. W. G. Rockwood, the distinguished Surgeon, who retires from the Medical Service of which he is an ornament, in order to become a Legislator. Our readers are aware that Dr Rockwood presided not only over the large and influential meeting of the Tamils held in November last in the Floral Hall, Colombo, which submitted the name of Mr. Comara Swamy for re-appointment as Tamil Representative, but also was Chairman of a similar meeting held in the Town Hall of Colombo in 1892.

Dr. Rockwood is a native of Jaffna, being the eldest son of the late Mr. E. Rockwood who was an eminent scholar and Mathematician and retired from Government Service as Sub-Collector of Customs, Kankesanturai. Mr. Chelliah Pillai B. A. B. L., and an Advocate of the Supreme Court, Ceylon, who is now practising his profession as a lawyer at Madura is the only brother of the new Tamil Member.

Jaffna Kachcheri—We understand that the Clerks of the Jaffna Kachcheri have sent a Memorial to His Excellency the Governor praying for the retention of Mr. Subraman's services in the Kachcheri as Head Clerk for another year. Our readers are aware that he has been already asked by the Government to retire from next month under the operation of the 65 years circular. It remains to be seen whether Mr. Subraman will be made an exception to the rule.

Tamil Shorthand—We have to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of this work by the Rev. Father P. Dunne, O. M. I., Principal of St. Patrick's College, Jaffna. This is, we believe, the first shorthand to appear in the Tamil language. We need hardly say that Father Dunne has done a great service to the Tamil language by introducing a system of shorthand for which he deserves the thanks of the Tamils.

The Late Mrs. Manepillai Rajakarier—It is with the deepest regret we have to record the death of this lady, wife of Mr. Manepillai Rajakarier, the well-known merchant of the Town. Her death took place on the 5th Instant, after an operation for abscess. The funeral that took place the next day was very largely and influentially attended. We tender our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved husband and other relations.

THE RAILWAY MEETING

A representative and influential meeting of the inhabitants of Jaffna was held in the District Court Hall on Saturday the 5th Instant at 4 P. M. to thank His Excellency the Governor for his warm and able advocacy of the cause of railway extension to Jaffna, and the Secretary of State for the sanction of a section of the Northern Railway.

There were present among others, Messrs. Advocates Kanagasabai and Vanniasingam, Proctors T. M. Tampo J. P., T. C. Changarpillai J. P., V. Casipillai, A. Visuvalingam, C. Strantenberg, T. Cooke, and S. Thambishpillai, Mudaliyars Regunather and Elankainayagar, S. Bastampillai, Chief Mudaliyar Jaffna Kachcheri, Simon Olegasakaram, Chief Clerk Provincial Road Committee, P. Marugam, Chief Clerk Minor Courts, K. C. Kadramar, Chief Clerk Fiscal's Office, N. Selvaduraipillai, Principal Hindu College, M. Kathiravalu, Planter,

A. Sapapathy, Editor Hindu Organ; M. Chinappa, Contractor, S. Mattusamy of Puttor, R. Arulambalam of the Provincial Registrar's Office, S. Velupillai Landed Proprietor and Surveyor Hunt.

On the motion of Mr. T. M. Tampo J. P. Crown Proctor, seconded by Mr. Proctor Strantenberg, Mr. A. Kanagasabai, Advocate, was voted to the Chair, and on the motion of Mr. A. Sapapathy, Editor of the Hindu Organ seconded by Mr. Proctor Changarpillai J. P., Mr. Charles Strantenberg, Proctor, was appointed Secretary of the meeting.

The Chairman having explained the object of the meeting the following resolutions were unanimously carried:

1. Moved by Mr. T. M. Tampo J. P. and seconded by S. Bastampillai Mudaliyar,

"That this meeting expresses its great appreciation of and thanks for the very able manner in which His Excellency the Governor the Right Hon'ble Sir J. West Ridgeway, has advocated, in the interests of the people of the North, the extension of the Railway to Jaffna, and for the prompt appointment of a Commission to ascertain the probable traffic of the proposed section between Kankesanturai and Elephant Pass."

2. Moved by Mr. T. C. Changarpillai J. P. seconded by Mr. N. Selvaduraipillai B. A. Principal Hindu College, and supported by Ellankainayaga Mudaliyar,

"That this meeting tender its warmest thanks to the Right Hon'ble the Secretary of State for the Colonies for his sanction of the section of the Northern Railway from Kurunagalla to Anuradhapura, and that a Memorial be forwarded to him conveying the thanks of this meeting and praying for the early extension of the line to Kankesanturai."

3. Mr. A. Sapapathy moved and Mr. V. Casipillai, Proctor seconded,

"That the standing Jaffna Railway Committee be empowered to sign and forward the memorial, on behalf of the inhabitants of this Province to the Secretary of State, in terms of the previous resolution."

Mr. M. Chinappa of Mulai, the well known contractor got up and said that he was ready to prove to the satisfaction of the Government that the section between Kankesanturai and Elephant Pass would pay *ab initio*, and was ready with his facts and figures which he had collected with much pains and trouble. Mr. Chinappa was requested to submit them at the next meeting of the Jaffna Railway Committee.

The meeting came to a close at 5 p.m. with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

We are sorry we are unable owing to exigencies of space to give even a summary of the earnest and eloquent speeches made by the Chairman, and Messrs. Tampo, Changarpillai, Selvaduraipillai, and Ellankainayaga Mudaliyar.

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor of the Hindu Organ
Sir.

Not long ago that I called at the dispensary of Messrs. Durai and Co.; where a short printed notice in bold characters posted on one of the posts supporting the outer verandahs of the building, attracted my eyes. I went near to read it, and the first three words of it soon brought before my mental eye the well-known figure of a gentleman. He, as usual, appeared with a sweet smile. The words "though dead yet he speaketh," soon rushed into my mind, and an involuntary nod of my head audibly added, "yea he speaks loudly, sweetly, and affectionately." He wore on his broad breast a very shining medal set with many precious stones of different hues and worth. Two of them were indeed so bright that I seldom saw stones of that particular kind set on other medals worn by others. And besides the true brilliancy these two stones emit invariably dazzles the eyes of such as suffer from the almost incurable eye-diseases known as selfishness and self-aggrandizement.

The first three words alluded to above, are "Three Nagalingam Scholarships" Reader! Who ever you may be, and whatever your religious profession may be, if a resident of Jaffna, you would find it impossible to deny that the late lamented Mr. Advocate Nagalingam was both a true Patriot and a true Philanthropist and that he tried his best to elevate his countrymen from their down-trodden condition by sacrificing not only his precious time and money, but

(Continued on the Supplement)