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TREE TAX SYSTEM A STEP TOWARDS TEMPERANCE?

Decrease in Drunk and Disorderly Cases

EXCISE COMMISSIONER ON TREE TAX IN JAFFNA

"If temperance may be gauged from the number of drunk and disorderly cases brought before the Police and Village Committee Courts, the tree tax system may well be hailed as a long step towards temperance."

THUS observes the Excise Commissioner in his Administration Report for 1937, published this week, in reviewing the working of the Tree Tax System in the North.

The following are further extracts from the Report:—

The revenue from tree tax licences issued in Valikamam North during 1937 was Rs. 59,425 against Rs. 67,520 in 1936 and Rs. 66,257 in 1935—a decrease of Rs. 8,095. This decrease was probably due to the fact that, when the tree tax system was extended to the rest of Jaffna district in 1937, the tappers from outside who came to Valikamam North in 1935 and 1936, went back to their villages on the borders of the division. The other two areas in which the tree tax system, but different from the one in Valikamam North, operated during 1936 and 1937 were Pooneryn and Eluvativu, both of which show slight increases of tree tax revenue in 1937 as compared with 1936, as under the new system introduced in 1937 a licensee could get more than 1 tree, and was not restricted to palmyras only.

Jaffna Circle

In Jaffna Circle, exclusive of Valikamam North, Pooneryn and Eluvativu the first year's (1937) tree tax was Rs. 219,977 as against the toddy taverns revenue of Rs. 291,187.97 in the last complete rent year of 1935-36,—a decrease of Rs. 76,000 in round figures, or—26 per cent. In Point Pedro Circle the first year's (1937) tree tax Rs. 144,077.50 as against the toddy taverns revenue of Rs. 183,563.06 in the last complete

rent year of 1935-36—a decrease of Rs. 39,000 in round figures, or—21 per cent. As the comparative statement in the 3rd sub-paragraph below shows, by the extension of the tree tax system to the whole of Jaffna District the toddy revenue has gone down from Rs. 548,277.53 to Rs. 426,116.50,—a decrease of Rs. 122,000 in all, or—22 per cent. The extra expenditure on the additional staff required for the tree tax work and other connected items was Rs. 88 128.24 in 1937, so that the actual difference to nett revenue is Rs. 210,00 on the wrong side, in round figures. The question of raising the rates of tree tax has been receiving the department's serious consideration at the time of writing; the indications are that the male palmyra can certainly afford an increase of tax from Rs. 2.50 to at least Rs. 4, if not Rs. 5, and the female palmyra and coconut tree from Rs. 10 to possibly Rs. 12. The figure in the comparative statement in the 3rd sub-paragraph below show that the rate on the male palmyra is so low that licensees prefer it to the female palmyra and coconut; the results of 1938 will enable the department to judge more accurately how the rates should be adjusted.

The loss to revenue of Rs. 210,000 under the tree tax system as compared with the revenue from toddy taverns

Continued on Page 7)

BRITISH FOREIGN POLICY

Key to Understand Maze of European Politics

By Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru

THE best key to understand the maze of European politics during the last few years is British foreign policy. That policy had always followed a particular trend, though not always deliberately. Occasionally, there appeared to be a conflict between Britain and Italy and between Britain and Germany. Britain had participated in the applications of sanctions against Italy; she had supported Japan in the conflict between China and Japan; she was even found speaking in tones of remonstrance to Germany. Nevertheless she had consistently followed a policy of supporting the totalitarian countries.

U. S. A. and Russia

After the great war, two factors had emerged. One was the emergence of Russia and the other was the tremendous importance of the United States of America which, from being a debtor nation, had become overwhelmingly a creditor country. She had challenged the leadership of Britain in matters of finance.

But the more important factor was the conflict between England and Russia. England's policy in the Far East had for a long time been one of support to Japan. Japan had grown under the shelter of British Imperialism and when Japan took Manchuria, Britain supported her, because she wanted to utilise Japan against Soviet Russia.

Collapse of Versailles

This was the fittest challenge to the whole system of the League of Nations. Then other breaches of the covenant occurred in Abyssinia, China, Spain and Central Europe. British foreign policy, while ostensibly supporting the League policy, played a prominent part in bringing about these breaches. Even when the Nazi regime came, it was Hitler's policy to get British

support. He did get it and Germany forged ahead under the sheltering care of British Foreign policy. The Anglo-German Naval Treaty, contracted without information to the League or to any other power, was in total contravention of the Versailles treaty. That was the beginning of the break-up of the Versailles system.

The price of the Anglo-German Naval treaty was that France sought the support of Italy and brought about non-intervention in Abyssinia. Though some sanctions were invoked against Italy, other important sanctions were not at all used. In fact, the Anglo-Persian Oil Company worked day and night to help Mussolini. Right through British policy encouraged breaches of the League Covenant.

Invasion of Spain

Then came Spain. There was nothing more amazing than the policy of England and France with regard to Spain. The war in Spain was not a civil war but an invasion. England had done everything possible to help the rebels despite the fact that British ships were repeatedly sunk.

This policy was truly astonishing because it endangered the British Empire. If Spain was dominated by Italy, the Mediterranean would become a closed lake to Britain. Chamberlain was following a policy that was leading his country to disaster. But the policy pursued by Mr. Chamberlain was not so very different from that pursued by Baldwin, though Baldwin might not have gone so far as Chamberlain did. British policy had always been definitely pro-Fascist.

Anti-Soviet Complex

The reason for this was Britain's antagonism to Russia. If Germany collapsed, it would mean a strengthening of Russia. The danger

(Continued on Page 7)

THE MOST MEANINGFUL DRESS EVER INVENTED BY WOMEN

Noted Psychologist Praises the
Saree

EASTERN AND WESTERN FASHIONS.

By Madame Campagnac

Dr. C. G. Jung, the internationally famous psychologist has recently been in India and, as his study is human beings, their habits and customs, their behaviour and their dress, what he says is worth considering.

In the latest number of ASIA, the American Monthly, he has quite a lot to say about women in India.

"Travelling with the British Delegates to the Indian Science Congress at Calcutta," he writes "I was hustled through a good many dinners and receptions. I had a chance at these to talk to educated Indian women.

Saree, The Most Meaningful Dress

This was a novelty. Their costume characterises them as women. It is the most becoming, the most meaningful dress ever invented by women. I hope fervently that the western sexual disease, which tries to transform woman into a sort of awkward boy, will not creep into India in the wake of that fad "scientific education."

It would be a loss to the whole world if the Indian woman should cease to wear her native costume. India (and perhaps China, which I do not know) is practically the only civilised country where one can see on living models how women can and should dress.

A costume conveys more than the meaningless half-nakedness of the western woman's dress. With the Indian woman's costume there is something which can be unveiled or revealed, and, on the other hand, if anything is wrong one's taste is not offended by the sight of aesthetic flaws.

Western Fashions Invented By Men

The European evening dress is one of the conspicuous symptoms of our sexual morbidity: it consists of a conditioned shamelessness, an equally conditioned exhibitionism, an impotent provocation and a ridiculous attempt to make the relation between the sexes cheap and easy. Yet everybody is, or ought to be, profoundly impressed with the fact that the secret of the attraction is neither easy nor cheap, but is one of the demons which no "scientific education" has yet mastered.

Women's fashions with us are mostly invented by men: you can guess the result. After having exhausted all means of producing the semblance of the fertile race producer by corsets and *cul-de-Paris*, they are now trying to bring out the adolescent hermaphrodite, an athletic, semi-masculine body, in spite of the fact that the body of

the northern woman has already a painful tendency towards a bony coarseness.

The Worst Sight of All

They try co-education in order to make the sexes equal to each other, instead of stressing the difference. But the worst sight—oh—is the woman in trousers parading the decks! I often thought that, if only they knew how mercilessly ugly they looked. They belonged usually to a very decent type of middle class and were not smart at all, but only touched by the actually raging hermaphroditism.

It is a sad truth, but the European woman, and particularly her hopelessly wrong dress, have no show at all when compared to the dignity and female elegance of the Indian woman and her costume. Even fat women have a chance in India; with us they can only starve themselves to death."

While on this subject listen to what the western woman has to say, in regard to what the Parisienne would call "well-dressed".

How to Achieve Paris "Chic"

"They say in Paris," said Mrs. Alison Settle recently "that no woman is really well-dressed until she is over thirty. What they mean is that up to thirty a woman relies more on what she adds to her clothes to make her look smart, but after that age she discovers that it is paring off the unnecessary things that counts.

Up to thirty, when she has been asked out, she tends to add an extra scarf, a flower pinned on, runs back to see if not this but another coloured scarf would not make her look better.

The Parisienne, on the contrary, believes in line, and even if she buys a dance dress with a *diamante* clip on it, when she gets home she always takes them off first to see if the dress would not be better without them. And you know the odd thing is that eighty times out of a hundred the dress looks better so.

Extra trimming is a help to a dress which is not in itself good in line but if you trust your coat, suit, dress, then do without the extras and you will get nearer the chic of that Parisienne.

A flower draws attention where you'd rather have quiet lines. But the scarf can do something for you. It not only varies your colour scheme, but, well put on around the throat line, draws the eye from the hips, which may no longer be your good point, up to the shoulders which probably are.

Far more women suffer from believing that anything can be done with their disadvantages than suffer from the vanity of being complacent.

(Life)

Society of the Servants of Ceylon

A New Society Inaugurated

A new association, the Society of the Servants of Ceylon, was inaugurated at a Public Meeting held on the 22nd January 1939 at 6.30 p.m. in the Veemankam Sivasuppramaniam Varothaya Bilingual School hall for the advancement of the people of Ceylon spiritually, morally, intellectually, materially, and politically. Membership is open to all residents of Ceylon and Ceylonese outside the Island.

Mr. Suppramaniam, Proctor, was voted to the chair, and Mr. Navaneetha Krishna Bharathi, Tamil Pandit, Parameshvara College, was elected Secretary pro-tem. The Chairman explained the objects of the meeting, and pointed out to the audience that the times of the old Kings of Lanka, who built tanks for irrigation and made the Wanni the pride of Ceylon, have gone, and the Ceylonese of today must face the present state of affairs and devise means to live as self-respecting people. He said that there was no hope in expecting Government to come to their rescue, seeing the relationship between the Government and the people, but self-help was the only solution. He exhorted the people to rise to the occasion and help each other to exercise their rights wisely, and make life worth living. He said that it was high time that they formed a Society for the progress of the people of Ceylon in the right lines, and speak the truth and the whole truth without mincing matters in fighting for their rights.

Mr. Navaneetha Krishna Bharathi also spoke. He emphasized the need for union and the upliftment of the masses, most of whom were ignorant of their rights. He made an appeal to every householder to put his house in order and help his neighbour to live an honest life.

The following office-bearers were elected:—

President: Mr. S. Supramaniam, Proctor, S. C., and Notary Public
Vice President: Mr. Navaneetha Krishna Bharathi.

Secretary: Mr. S. Kandiah, Head Master, Maviddapuram Hindu School.

Asst. Secretary: Mr. S. Krishnapillai.

Treasurer: Mr. V. Muttiah, Retired Surveyor.

Asst. Treasurer: Mr. V. Iyadurai.

Reading Room Secretary: Mr. S. Kumarasegaram, Teacher and 30 committee members.

It was also resolved to open a Reading Room and Library.

(Cor.)

Land For Sale

A suitable dwelling compound with well and plantations etc., in extent 12 lachams, situated at Tellippallai on the main road from Kankasanturai to Jaffna near Tellippallai Mission House and Junction. Anyone willing to buy, please communicate with N. Kandiah, Hanwella Group, Hanwella.

(Mis. 261. 30-1 to 6-2-39.)

A NEW POLITICAL ASSOCIATION

VALI-WEST MAHAJANA
SABHAI

SWARAJ AND UNITY ITS OBJECTIVES

A NEW political Association, the Valigamam West Mahajana Sabhai, "to work for Swaraj and unity of all communities" was inaugurated in Valigamam West at a public meeting held at the Meihandan Vidyasalai, Pannakam. Mr. J. V. Chelliah presided.

The chief object of the Association, said Mr. Chelliah, should be to work for Swaraj. Unity of all communities was essential for that purpose. Mr. J. V. Chelliah stressed the need for a people's association in that area. That area was politically advanced and had three colleges and many schools within it. It had a large number of educated men who should no longer keep the masses in ignorance of their rights as citizens.

The Jaffna Association was a mere body of townfolk. It was they of that area who should make their views known on public questions that were agitating the country especially the Governor's Reforms Despatch.

He said that they should first educate themselves by meeting together in Associations and then through that Sabhai acquaint the masses on how they should exercise their votes. The grant of adult suffrage was the greatest gift given them.

It was a shameful thing to find on the eve of general elections candidates from Colombo coming into the province to woo the masses with long purses and bottles of arrack.

The people should, before deciding on their representative, find out whether the candidate who sought their suffrage was one who actually lived and moved in their midst.

He stated what a Sinhalese Minister had told him about the opposition of certain Tamils to his (the Minister's) appointment of a Tamil as head of a department.

They Wondered

When he (Mr. Chelliah) had visited Bandarawela recently one of the questions put to him by Tamil traders in that place was, why there should be such hostile feeling in Jaffna against the Sinhalese.

Mr. V. Veerasingham supported the continuance of the Committee System.

Mr. M. Sabaratnesinghe criticised certain Sinhalese and Tamil leaders as self-seeking politicians.

Mr. N. Senathirajah, the President of the Peasants Union, reminded the gathering of the words of Gokhale that "the progress of a minority entirely depends on the goodwill of the majority."

The rules governing the Sabhai were then discussed and passed, and the following office-bearers were elected: President: Mr. J. V. Chelliah; vice-Presidents: Messrs. V. Veerasingham, M. Krishnar, William Black and M. Sabaratnesinghe; Secretary: Mr. N. Kanagaratnam; Treasurer: Mr. N. Maruthamuttu.

LEGISLATION TO RESTRICT NUMBER OF PAWNBROKERS

Articles Pawned for 19 Millions in Ceylon in 1936

PROCEDURE IN REGARD TO UNCLAIMED ARTICLES

THE sub-Committee of the Executive Committee of Home Affairs favours the introduction of Legislation to restrict the grant of licences under the Pawnbrokers Ordinance to Ceylonese or to people who have at least five years' residence in this country and also to ensure a proper supervision of the working of the Ordinance.

Sale of Articles

The pawnbroker business is carried on in Ceylon under an Ordinance of 1896, which was amended in certain respects in 1935.

The total sum loaned by pawnbrokers in Ceylon during 1936, the only year in respect of which official statistics are available, amounted to Rs. 18,901,724 53. A sum of Rs. 858,489.92 was realised in that year by the sale of pawned articles which are usually of gold or silver.

A pledge is redeemable in twelve months but, if not so redeemed, the article pledged is sold by public auction.

Where an article pawned is sold for more than the amount of the loan and interest due at the time of sale, the pawnbroker is required, on demand within two years of the sale, to pay the surplus to the holder of the pawn-ticket, deducting the necessary costs and charges of the sale.

The Ordinance does not, however, state what the pawnbroker should do when these surplus balances are unclaimed.

Accounts of the pawnbrokers for 1936 were examined last year, amounted to more than a million and a half rupees, though the period during which these sums accumulated is not certain.

Parties to be Informed

The legislation which it is now proposed to enact will lay down that the parties concerned should be informed by registered letter of the amounts lying to their credit after the auctions and that,

If these amounts are not claimed within six months, they should be deposited in the Kachcheries and should lapse to revenue after five years.

In future pawnbrokers will also be required to notify pledgers whose articles are to be sold by auction.

It is proposed that licences in future should be issued strictly to persons who are actually resident on the premises for which a licence is issued, and that no person should hold more than one licence in view of the fact that many firms of money-lenders run pawnshops at provincial centres.

An applicant for a licence who is not a Ceylonese will be required to prove at least five years' residence in the Island at the time of his making the application.

The applicant will also be required to give an undertaking that he will reside on the premises for which the licence is granted during the pendency of the licence.

If he leaves the Island for a considerable time, he will be required

to transfer his licence to an approved person with the residential qualification.

Deposit To Be Required

It is also proposed that a licensee should deposit with the Government at least ten per cent of the total amount he is prepared to put into the business, and that the interest on loans between Rs. 5 and Rs. 50 should be reduced from 24 per cent to 12 per cent.

The following are the figures regarding the amounts loaned by pawnbrokers in the year 1936 in Colombo and various provincial centres.

The total amount lent by pawnbrokers in Colombo was Rs. 5,342,416.25. The total amount realised by sale was Rs. 301,021.33. The total amount lying to the credit of the pledgers at the end of 1936 with Colombo pawnbrokers amounted to Rs. 375,065.05.

In that year there were 74 Ceylonese pawnbrokers and 191 non-Ceylonese pawnbrokers operating in Colombo.

The amount loaned by the Ceylonese pawnbrokers was only Rs. 375,331.80.

In Jaffna

The figures for Jaffna for 1936 were higher than those for Colombo with this difference, that the number of Ceylonese pawnbrokers in Jaffna was greater than the number of non-Ceylonese pawnbrokers.

In Jaffna, there were 125 Ceylonese pawnbrokers, who loaned Rs. 4,099,662/33, and 13 non-Ceylonese pawnbrokers who lent Rs. 1,389,211/77, making a total of Rs. 5,388,874, as compared with the figure of Rs. 5,342,416/25 for Colombo.

The total realised by sales in Jaffna in that year amounted to Rs. 34,925/30, as compared with Rs. 301,021/33 in Colombo.

The unclaimed surplus balances after sales in Jaffna, at the end of 1936, amounted to Rs. 1,066/17 as compared with Rs. 365,065/05 in Colombo.

In the year under review there were no Ceylonese pawnbrokers in Batticaloa. There were five non-Ceylonese pawnbrokers who loaned Rs. 826,791/70. The amount realised by auctions of pledged articles was Rs. 32,389/75 and the unclaimed surpluses after sales, Rs. 1,234/44.

Other Towns

In other towns amounts loaned by pawnbrokers in 1936 were as follows: Badulla, Rs. 607,813; Puttalam and Chilaw, Rs. 241,388/17; Kalutara, Rs. 577,565/29; Kegalla,

Post-Prohibition Mentality and Crime In Jaffna

(By C. Arulambalam, Advocate)

The Excise Commissioner, Mr. S. H. Wadia, in his Administration Report for 1937, referring to the causes of the recent crime wave in Jaffna, says:—"The perturbing increase of crime in the Jaffna District of recent years is due no doubt to many causes. Drink may be one of them but not the main cause; the economic depression, and the weakening of religious worship and practice which seems to be the concomitant of the spread of education among the people may be other causes.

"But may not the post-prohibition mentality, with the spirit of lawlessness bred during the years of prohibition, be also included in the catalogue of causes and to what extent was it responsible for inducing, among a section of the Jaffnese, the existing callousness to human suffering in the Commission of crime?"

In this connection I may be permitted to re-produce what I wrote to the "Hindu Organ" on "The problem of crime in Jaffna" which appeared in its issue of February 11, 1937, about two years before the Administration Report of the Excise Commissioner which contains the extract quoted above.

I wrote:—"Another cause of the increase of crime may be said to be the reaction consequent on the prohibition wave which swept over Jaffna some years back. At that time this District had almost secured the reputation of being the first Prohibition District in the Island. When the prohibition wave was at its height tavern after tavern was abolished in quick succession through the exercise of local option.

"The writer remembers that in one area where a local option poll was held for the abolition of a toddy tavern the enthusiasm was so great that the voters all walked to the polling-place to record their votes not a single conveyance being utilised and more than 90 p.c. of the voters in the area turned up and voted for abolition, not a single vote being recorded for retention. That very area is now reeking with drink.

"Those who worked for prohibition did so with praiseworthy motives, but there had been no previous preparation of the public mind by the installation of abstinence principles. The result was a sudden reaction, and while the taverns remained closed there was a tremendous increase in the illicit sale and drinking of liquor. This had a degenerating effect on the public mind. Illicit drinking means a contempt for the law and a change for the worse in the law-abiding instincts of the people. The writer considers that this is one of the potent causes in the increase of crime."

The views of the Excise Commissioner will be seen to be on all-fours with those of the writer.

Rs. 175,937/31; Ratnapura, Rs. 318,864/55; Matale, Rs. 256,347/86; Kurunegala, Rs. 86,314/90; Trincomalee, Rs. 534,452/51; Matara, Rs. 441,041/50; Anuradhapura, Rs. 83,404/96; Mullativu, Rs. 853/38; Kandy Rs. 192,845/59; Galle, Rs. 1,314,735/13.

THE CAUSE OF THE MINORITIES

ASSURANCE BY PEERS

MR. PONNAMBALAM ON HIS MISSION

MR. G. G. Ponnambalam, who returned from England recently, made a statement on the work he had done in England in connection with the proposed reform of Constitution, at a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Jaffna Association last Saturday.

Mr. Ponnambalam is said to have announced, that several members of the House of Lords, including Lord Rankeillour, whom he had met, had undertaken to fight the cause of the minorities, and that a strong and influential Committee of the House of Commons was studying the Constitutional situation in Ceylon.

It is learnt that Mr. Ponnambalam made a long statement in which he said that he had met the Secretary of State for the Colonies, the Under-Secretary of State and permanent officials on more than five occasions. He had addressed certain committees of the House of Commons, the Labour Commonwealth Group of the House of Commons and other bodies, all of whom had given him a sympathetic and cordial reception.

Minorities in Europe

Mr. Ponnambalam said that the treatment of the Jews by the Third Reich and generally the oppression of the minorities in Central Europe together with the Arab Jew tussle in Palestine had brought to the forefront the problem of the safe-guarding of the minorities by statutory means, such as balanced representation, since the safe guards devised by the League of Nations had been found to be not worth the paper they were written on in the case of the post-war States of Europe and the Near East.

Regarding balanced representation between the majority community and the minor communities, he analysed the origin of the idea, which he said, was far back in Constitutional history, but was first enunciated by Sir Ponnambalam Ramanathan, that great political sage, in the Tamil Maha Jana Sabha Memorial, which was sanctioned by the select Committee of the Legislative Council, approved by Sir William Manning, and finally embodied in the Donoughmore Constitution. To this Constitution no objection was made by any of the Sinhalese leaders in their evidence before the Donoughmore Commissioners.

The meeting did not arrive at any conclusion about the Governor's Reforms Despatch. It was agreed to continue discussion on Sunday.

Among those present were Mr. S. Rajaratnam, former Legislative Councillor and representatives from the youth Congress.

MANAGER'S NOTICE

Our Office will be closed tomorrow for the Thai Poosam festival.

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Hindu Organ.

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Experienced Bar-keeper to be in sole charge of the Bar and to keep its accounts. Cash security Rs. 100/- essential.

Salary 20/- plus board and lodging.
Apply in own handwriting.

MANAGER,
The Grand Hotel,
Jaffna.

(Mis. 263 2 & 6-2-39)

Matrimonial

The marriage of Mr. C. Alagaratnam, son of Mr. A. Chelliah of Manipay, and Miss Kanmani Ammal Ramalingam, daughter of Mrs. V. Ramalingam of Karampan, will take place on Monday, 6th February 1939, at 10.35 p.m.
(Mis. 264. 2-2-39.)

**Hindu Organ.**

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1939

THE PRIVILEGES BILL

THE STATE COUNCIL POWERS and Privileges Bill which passed its second reading last Wednesday contains certain provisions which might prove a great danger to the liberties of the public. The net result of these provisions will be to confer upon State Councillors certain immunities and arbitrary powers which are not possessed by any legislatures in democratic countries and to place them as a sacrosanct body above the restraints of the ordinary law. The one principle that runs throughout the British Constitution is the principle of equality before the law. A Cabinet Minister, a member of Parliament, a police officer are but private citizens in the eye of the law and are equally answerable before the court of law for any offences with which they may be charged. They cannot plead any privilege. The provisions about freedom of speech are too wide and have been justly characterised by MR. WILLE as a licence to libel anybody. They run thus: "no member shall be liable to any court or criminal proceedings in any court or to arrest, fine, imprisonment or damages in respect of anything said or any matter or thing which he may

have brought before the Council by bill, motion, petition, resolution or otherwise". Hitherto the Councillors did not possess the defamatory licence which this provision seeks to confer on them. A State Councillor who defamed a doctor had to apologise in the open court. His pleading of special privilege was not accepted by the court. If this Bill is passed and receives the Governor's assent, no member of the public who is defamed by a Councillor in the open Council can seek legal remedy, for the defamation will be privileged. A cowardly member who manages to get into the Council will have the privilege to malign a private enemy of his and the person so maligned will not have the right of redress at all. The provision which vests judicial powers in the Council will tend to make of the State Council a sort of Star Chamber to harass any person who has made himself obnoxious to the State Councillors by his outspoken criticism of their conduct and policy. Eight clauses of the Bill deal with the several ways in which any person may be summoned to appear before the Council or any Committee and be required to produce any paper, book, record or document. Witnesses will be examined on oath and a witness who refuses to answer questions is liable to summary punishment by a magistrate up to a fine of Rs. 1,000. It is left to the discretion of the Speaker to accept a plea that the document required to be produced is of a private character. If the Speaker decides otherwise, even private information has to be made public. These are some of the arbitrary powers which the new Bill seeks to vest in the State Council. While the members are to possess certain immunities from the effects of their own utterances, the public are to be exposed to inquisitorial proceedings which are contrary to the British traditions of justice. Knowing as we do the mentality which some State Councillors have shown in the past, their impulsiveness, utter lack of self-restraint and decorum, their mock-heroics and mob mentality, we are afraid these powers are likely to be abused rather than fall into abeyance. Even Council members have to be strongly criticised and their failings mercilessly exposed if they cannot observe a high standard of honour, public spirit, and statesmanship. Where these are lacking, no legislative measure can save them from the criticism and ridicule which their conduct invites. The best guarantee of a Council's dignity is the balance, public spirit, foresight, and tolerance shown by the members themselves. We hope that these objectionable features will be removed in the Committee stage before the Bill passes the third reading and becomes law.

A Visit to the Ashram of Bliss

By Jean Herbert
(of Paris who is now presently at Anandashram where Swami Ramdas resides.)

A very few days ago, my wife and I were still in strife-ridden Europe, in the deepening shadow of the clouds of war, where everybody lives in the fear of an impending catastrophe, where resentment and greed and hatred seem to have obliterated for the time being all other feelings in so many people. And fate would have it that soon after we landed on the sacred soil of India, we should be led to the Ashram of a great Bhakta, one who is said to live love. The contrast came as a shock.

We know the books of Swami Ramdas, and we had felt the spirit that ran through them. We had heard also of life in the Ashram through people who had stayed there but we were little prepared for what we found. Mantra-yoga is perhaps the kind of Yoga which seems most incredible to Westerners. We may fairly easily admit that through work or through intellectual effort, or through love, or even through Raja-yoga, some degree of spiritual development may be reached, but to the average Westerner, it seems perfectly childish to imagine that the constant repetition of a few words should have any such effect. The guru who practises and teaches that kind of sadhana would therefore seem at first sight to have no message which the west could receive and utilise.

And yet, even before we reached the Ashram, from the various devotees who met us on the way, we caught some glimpses of the spiritual atmosphere of love and bliss which is spread by Swami Ramdas—and which is very much what the west needs so badly in the present juncture, what we are thirsting after and cannot find.

* * *

In the Swami himself we found that most amazing combination of deep, superhuman knowledge, and child-like simplicity and joy which I suppose can only manifest itself in the self-realised man. His answers to our questions were given from a Jnani's point of view and even very ignorant people like us could feel almost palpably that they did not come from book-knowledge or abstract thinking, but from the experience of a man who knew, who had seen Truth and Reality, and was describing his own experience.

But his silence and his look were perhaps more significant still and fuller of meaning and of power. His whole being radiates an active love and makes itself felt at once on all who come near him, whether devotees or other people, animals or even plants. He seems actually to call forth a universe of love and joy in which all around him have to live, forgetting their quarrels, miseries, doubts

Purpose of Coconut Exhibition**Increasing Internal Consumption**

A General committee of about a hundred persons, in which are included prominent business men of Colombo and representatives of coconut planting interests, was appointed at a meeting on Tuesday afternoon of those in support of the proposed All-Ceylon Coconut Exhibition to be held in Colombo during Vesak, under the auspices of the Coconut Board.

Col. T. G. Jayawardene presided at the meeting which was held at the office of the Coconut Board.

Speaking of the aims and objects of the proposed exhibition, the Chairman recalled the words of Sir Edward Stubbs when he was Governor of Ceylon that it behoved the people of Ceylon to buy the products of this country in preference to the imported stuff.

and fears. One would not be surprised to see him at any time dance in ecstasy and joy, and one would not even find it strange if all those present would join him in that blissful state.

I do not know yet how long the effect may last for those who have had the privilege of breathing that holy atmosphere for a short period of time, but I feel quite certain that even after they have left it far behind and plunged again into the mad turmoil of everyday life as we make it, they must revert mentally to the happy days in the life as Ramdas makes it; they must find in those memories an ever-fresh source of joy and peace and hope, a powerful inspiration to return good for evil, and also the assurance that love is stronger than hate, and joy more powerful than misery.

Of all that I had the privilege of hearing from the lips of the Swami, two sayings remain uppermost in my memory. Once he said: "Ram means God", which was to me the living proof of what I had so often read in books that the Bhakta need not be narrow minded, but may even in his most intense devotion remember that there are other aspects of God which other devotees are entitled to choose as their *ishtam* if they like. And once when I asked him whether peace was a condition of Love, or rather the outcome of Love he very definitely replied after a moment's silence: "PEACE IS THE OUTCOME OF LOVE", you cannot have peace unless you have love. And I could not help thinking of all these masses of people in the West and elsewhere who are continually being told that peace, even its grossest aspects, is the outcome of the accumulation of wares-material.....

Yes, there is in the teachings of Swami Ramdas much we could profitably meditate upon and use to our—and others'—great profit, even if there is much also which we are not yet ready to understand.

OM SRI RAM JAI RAM JAI JAI JAL.

JAPANESE LOSSES IN WAR

Marshal Chiang Estimates
700,000 Casualties

ANXIETY IN JAPAN ABOUT EVENTS IN CHINA

Chungking, Tuesday.

SEVEN hundred thousand Japanese officers and men have been killed or wounded in the hostilities so far," said Marshal Chiang Kaishek, addressing the Central Committee of the Koumintang.

He said that it was a well-known fact that, at the opening of the war, Japan reckoned the using of 30 per cent. of her armed forces against China while keeping 70 per cent. in reserve against Russia. Actually, Japan had had to use twice as many troops against China as she had expected.

Marshal Chiang dwelt on China's economic strength due to her preponderantly agricultural nature which, after 18 months of war, still supported her finances.

Japan's Anxiety

Tokyo, Tuesday.

Several questions in the Diet today reflected anxiety about the events in China. One member asked why the Japanese Government had failed to foresee that the incident would assume its present magnitude. Another suggested the calling of an International Conference to discuss the new order in East Asia, but this was rejected by the Premier.

The Foreign Minister, Mr. Arima, said he believed the new Central Government of China would be a Federal Government, representing China to the outside world, while various parts of the country would be concerned with their own administration.

Mr. Arima declared that the Japanese Government would not demand indemnity for the losses sustained by the Japanese Government, but would ask for indemnification for the losses by Japanese nationals.

Plight of Unemployed in Jaffna

A public meeting will be held at the Colombogam Saivaite School on Sunday, the 5th inst., at 4 p.m. to consider the plight of the unemployed in Jaffna.

The "Crime Gang" Case

The "Crime Gang" case in which Murugesu, Muniaiyah and Karaly Muttiah stand charged was called today in the Jaffna Magistrate's Court and postponed to the 20th.

Aviation Scholarships

Proposed Scheme for Training Ceylonese

Colombo, Feb. 1.

THE Committee of the Aero Club of Ceylon has decided to offer aviation scholarships for competition among the youths of Ceylon, the awards to be made in the proportion of one to every 35 candidates.

The competition will be held shortly, and it is hoped that many Ceylonese women will also avail themselves of this opportunity.

Successful candidates will be given up to ten hours' dual and six hours' solo flying, which is considered sufficient to permit the candidate to qualify for an 'A' licence.

The only cost that every applicant will be called upon to bear is Rs. 30 for the initial flight with the Club's instructor, Flight Lt. Duncanson.

This is regarded as essential as it is entirely dependent on the Instructor's decision that the scholarship will be awarded.

Broadcasts

In order to give all applicants equal opportunities and also to assist the Flying Instructor in his efforts to make the best judgment during first flight a series of six lectures will be broadcast on how to learn flying and how to become an airman.

A sub-committee, composed of Mr. Gordon Armstrong, Mr. H. H. Dulling and Mr. David Peiris, has been set up to draw up the full scheme in collaboration with Mr. Shirley da Silva, the Broadcasting Superintendent.

INCREASED TAX JUSTIFIABLE

Secy of State's Reply to Ceylon Protest Committee

Colombo, Feb. 1

Mr. Malcolm MacDonald, Secretary of State for the Colonies, has replied to the All-Ceylon Protest Committee that he is satisfied that the imposition of the increased taxation in 1937 was justifiable, and that he sees no reason for intervention.

The Governor, in forwarding the memorial, put in a plea for the two Boards of Ministers which were responsible for the conduct of finance under the new Constitution.

Mr. Subhas Bose Re-Elected

Indian Congress President

Gandhiji on the Election

BOMBAY, Jan. 30.

Mr. Subhas Chandra Bose has been re-elected President of the Indian National Congress by a majority of 203 votes. The final figures are:

Mr. Subhas Chandra Bose, 1,580.
Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya, 1,377.
COCANADA, Jan. 30.

Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya has issued the following statement to the press regarding the results of the Congress President's election: "I have viewed the election with utter dispassionateness, not merely temperamentally but because also the issue involved was not a personal one. While it is my duty to thank those that have interested themselves on my behalf, I feel it is equally my duty to warn friends against entertaining any unfriendliness towards quarters where they may have met with opposition or disappointment."

Defeat is Mine

Gandhiji's Statement

Bardoli, Jan. 31.

Mahatma Gandhi has issued the following statement on the occasion of the election of Mr. Subhas Bose to the Presidentship of the Congress:

"Mr. Subhas Bose has achieved a decisive victory over his opponent, Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya. I must confess that, from the very beginning, I was decidedly against his re-election for reasons into which I need not go. I do not subscribe to his facts or the arguments in his manifestoes. I think that his references to his colleagues were unjustified and unworthy. Nevertheless, I am glad of his victory. And since I was instrumental in inducing Dr. Pattabhi not to withdraw his name as a candidate when the Maulana Sahab withdrew, the defeat is more mine than his. And I am nothing if I do not represent definite principles and policy. Therefore, it is plain to me that the delegates do not approve of the principles and policy for which I stand. I rejoice in this defeat.

"It gives me an opportunity of putting into practice, what I preached in my article on the walk-out of a minority at the last A. I. C. C. meeting in Delhi. Subhas Babu, instead of being President on the sufferance of those whom he calls Rightists, is now President elected in a contested election. This enables him to choose a homogeneous Cabinet and enforce his programme without let or hindrance.

Bogus Members

"There is one thing common between the majority and the minority, namely, insistence on the internal purity of the Congress organisation. My writings in the *Harizan* have shown that the Congress is fast becoming a corrupt organisation, in the sense that its registers contain a very large number of bogus members. I have been suggesting for past many months the overhauling of these registers. I have no doubt that many of the delegates who have been elected on the strength

HITLER'S DEMAND FOR COLONIES

WARNING TO DEMOCRACIES

NO DESIGNS ON HOLLAND OR U. S.

BERLIN, Jan. 30.

Herr Hitler delivered his eagerly-awaited speech in the Reichstag tonight, in the course of which he reiterated the demand for colonies and denied the allegation of the democratic nations that Germany had designs on Holland.

He added: "The idea that we will attack the United States or South America or the the Netherlands because they have another form of Government is absolutely untrue."

Referring to German mobilisation at the time of the Czechoslovak crisis Hitler said: "We did not threaten anyone. We only defended ourselves against the attempt of a third party to interfere. I need not assure you that in the future too we shall not tolerate any attempt by the Western Powers to interfere in affairs which solely concern us, for the purpose of preventing natural and reasonable solutions.

of these bogus voters would be unseated on scrutiny. But I suggest no such drastic step. It will be enough if the registers are purged of all bogus voters and are made fool-proof for the future.

"The minority has no cause for being disheartened. If they believe in the current programme of the Congress, they will find that it can be worked, whether they are in a minority, and even whether they are in the Congress or outside it. The only thing that may possibly be affected by the changes is the parliamentary programme.

"The Ministers have been chosen and the programme shaped by the erstwhile majority. But parliamentary work is but a minor item of the Congress programme. Congress Ministers have after all to live from day to day. It matters little to them whether they are recalled on an issue in which they are in agreement with the Congress policy, or whether they resign because they are in disagreement with the Congress.

Advice to Dissenters

"After all, Subhas Babu is not an enemy of his country. He has suffered for it. In his opinion, his is the most forward and boldest policy and programme. The minority can only wish it all success. If they cannot keep pace with it, they must come out of the Congress. If they can, they will add strength to the majority. The minority may not obstruct on any account. They must abstain, when they cannot co-operate. I must remind all Congressmen that those who being Congress-minded, remain outside it by design, represent it most. Those, therefore, who feel uncomfortable in being in the Congress, may come out, not in a spirit of ill-will, but with the deliberate purpose of rendering more effective service."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

‘FIFTY—FIFTY’

Sir,—In the matter of framing a Constitution for a country, the question of faith and trust of one community in another need not enter at all; it is not the want of faith and trust in the majority community in this island that makes the Ceylon Tamils speak for themselves and other minorities in asking for 50-50 representation in the State Council. When trust and faith is to be a factor in the framing of a Constitution, it may as well be left to the majority community to do the needful, and when any instance arises—and it will seldom—that a relevant point has escaped the notice of the powers-that-be a mere invitation of their attention by a member of the “Minority” will rectify the matter. Fifty-fifty is not based on mistrust or distrust. Religio-moral factors should never be allowed to form the basis of a constitution. If they do, the purpose of a constitution is defeated and talk of “adequate representation” is unnecessary and irrelevant.

Now His Excellency the Governor recommended in his Reform Proposals increased minority representation in the State Council, to make it more adequate. In the old order of things, “adequacy” was not wanting if it was understood that there were not sufficient number of members in the Council to voice forth the needs and requirements or the view point of the minority communities. But if it meant that the representation was not sufficient to maintain a balance of power, it is obvious that the Governor’s proposals do not help to meet the necessity.

In a heterogenously populated country democracy should not be misunderstood as a rule of a permanent majority. Democracy in such countries should mean that the political constitution is so framed that the majority community shares equally the power with the minorities. Else it is a mockery of democracy, and the majority community cannot venture to speak in the name of Democracy. The Ceylon Tamils should give the lead in this question of Fifty-Fifty representation in connection with the Governor’s Proposals. The proportion of representation of the minority communities may be based on territory or population; they may come to some understanding among themselves; but what is essential is Fifty-Fifty. We cannot be misled to mistake the trees for the wood. Absolute balance of power is essential if Ceylon is to succeed in evolving into a true democracy. A Democratic government should provide a constitution where the minority can confidently feel that they are co-partners in the Government of the country, and a majority community reveals its fitness and equipment for democratic government when it makes the gesture ungrudgingly of equal sharing of the powers with the compatriots—the minorities. Where such gesture is wanting, Democracy is wanting. The only way

to help us develop into a Democracy is the maintenance of a balanced Constitution.

Yours truly
Democrat

‘Ceylon for the Sinhalese’

Sir,—“I am prepared to sacrifice my life for the sake of my community—the Sinhalese”. So said Mr. Bandaranaike. “The noblest of human impulses”, said a political philosopher, “show intuitive convergence towards a craving for community identification”. It is the instinctive passion for “community identification” that has evoked in the Minister for Local Self government the spirit for the sacrifice.

Yet, it is well to let him know that during the Portuguese times and later, the community which inhabited the Low-Country were not known by the name *Sinhalese*. The up country people were *Sinhalese* and the term was used in derision and contempt. To the *Sinhalese* (i.e. the Kandyans) the Low-Country people were known either as *Agama Karayas* or *Partivetta Menisu*—certainly not *Sinhalese*. As camp followers of the Portuguese armies the *Partivetta Menisu*, shared in the booty of the Portuguese, plundering temples and habitations. In the Chilaw district, the country east of the *Compasparer* (i.e. the road that divided the Kandyan Kingdom from the Low Country) is still known as *Sinhala ratta* (*Sinhalese country*).

Now, then, where does Mr. Bandaranaike stand in relation to *Sinhala ratta* and its people? One should read Wellesley’s papers to know how Maha Mudaliyars behaved so as to secure the downfall of the Kandyan monarchy.

Why had the *Sinhalese* to quit Anuradhapura, Yaphau, Pollanaruwa, Kurunegala, Dambadeniya and Gampola? Who was it who established Mr. Bandaranaike’s community at Jayardnapura (Cotte)? It was a Tamil after all—Alegakoonar.

Mr. Bandaranaike is young. He should learn to know that truth is something higher than love of one’s community.

Yours truly
R. C. P.

28-1-39

UNEMPLOYMENT TAX IN MADRAS

Governments’ Proposal

Madras, Monday.

The question of how the Government proposed to give relief to the educated unemployed is under consideration.

A suggestion has been made that a tax of a rupee per annum should be levied on each educated person in employment whatever the nature of his employment. This suggestion is under consideration by the Government, stated the Minister for Industries and Labour, answering a question in the Madras Legislative Council today.

Y. C. Clerk fined for Cheating

Mortgaged Another’s Land As His

Mr. S. Rajaratnam, Advocate, was specially appointed to try the case from Karainagar in which one Ramanather Paramasamy, a Village Committee Clerk of Valantalai, stood charged on three counts (1) of deceiving Murugar Ampalavanar by falsely representing to him that he was the owner of a land “Parayanthalu” 24 lachams in extent at Valantalai and thus making the complainant get his grandson, Arumugam Kandiah to lend Rs. 500 on a mortgage bond; (2) and cheating Arumugam Kandiah (3) and his wife Valliammai.

The accused was found guilty on all the counts and fined Rs. 100, 200 and 500, in default to 2, 3 and 4 months imprisonment respectively, the sentences to run concurrently.

Out of the fines Rs. 600 was ordered to be paid to the complainant.

(Continued.)

cuse yourself on the ground of pressure of work?

Cross examined by Mr. Sabapathy, witness said he did not know in whose handwriting it was.

Familiar Writing

Magistrate (looking at the handwriting):—I used to assume this to be the handwriting of some clerk in the office. I have seen this handwriting very often. I feel I must start doubting as to whether minuting done by clerks in the office.

The witness said that when he attended to interpreting, his work in the office was arranged by the chief clerk. He could not say what particular arrangements were made on a particular date.

Magistrate:—The whole place is in a state of chaos. I have to call every one of the clerks for explanation. I did not know that this was happening.

Mr. Sabapathy:—I am prepared to prove that the handwriting of the minutes under date 21-3-37 is that of an outsider.

Inspector Attygalle (to Court):—It is the handwriting of Ramlan, a Proctor’s clerk.

Magistrate:—I have seen it before.

Inspector:—Many things are going on in the office. It was owing to the existence of such a state of affair’s this forgery was possible.

Magistrate:—It looks as if outsiders have access to the records.

Re-examined by Inspector Attygalle, the witness said that he was definite that Mr. Rajadurai, Proctor, did not hand him (witness) that motion.

Magistrate:—I shall have to ask each clerk for his specimen handwriting.

While Inspector Attygalle was giving evidence the Magistrate remarked:—In this office it looks as if motions could be altered and additions made by some person who is both an officer of this Court as well as an outsider.

The Magistrate fixed the case for February 2 and forwarded record to the Colombo Magistrate to record evidence on commission of Mr. T. Nagendram, the handwriting expert.

‘ABSOLUTE NEWS TO ME’

JAFFNA MAGISTRATE’S SURPRISE

‘STATE OF CHAOS’ IN COURT OFFICE

BEFORE Mr. E. V. R. Satharawickrema, the Jaffna Magistrate, Inspector John Attygalle charged five persons including a lawyer’s clerk, with conspiring to forge a receipt and motion to stay sale, purporting to be written by Mr. D. Rajadurai, Proctor for the plaintiff in the civil case.

The accused are Nagamuttu (a woman, the defendant in the C.R. case) Seenivasagan, M. Alagaratnam, Nadarajah and Kanapathipillai.

Inspector Attygalle led evidence for the prosecution, while Mr. S. Thambithurai, instructed by Mr. K. V. Sinnathurai, defended the second, fourth and fifth accused. The third accused was defended by Mr. Sam A. Sabapathy. The first accused was undefended.

Former Clerk’s Evidence

Mr. A. Saverimuttu chief clerk and Interpreter combined Courts, Trincomalee, examined by Inspector Attygalle, said that in March 1938, he was looking after the civil work in the Jaffna Magistrate’s Courts. On March 2 an order to stay sale was made in C. R. Case No. 12263 on the motion (A.3) filed of record. He could not say who handed in the motion (A.3). If Mr. Rajadurai had handed the motion to him, he (witness) would have remembered it.

Cross-examined by Mr. Thambithurai, the witness said that the motion (A.3) had been minuted by him in the journal. Further down there was a note “copy issued,” which bore no date. Those words were not in the witness’s handwriting.

Magistrate:—In whose handwriting?—I am unable to say.

Magistrate:—The same person who wrote “notice issued” has written “copy issued.” You don’t know whose handwriting it is? No ordinarily, I can recognise the handwriting of any clerk.

Minuting of Records

Continuing, the witness said that he would wish to explain his position. At times he did interpreting work in the Courts, and in his absence the minuting of records was done by a Proctor’s clerk.

Magistrate (to witness): I am recording it. This is going to be much more serious from my own point of view with regard to the conduct of the staff. This is absolute news to me.”

In reply to further questions the witness said that in his absence the minuting was done by clerks, not by a Proctor’s clerk.

Magistrate:—So what you said earlier was not correct?—By Proctor’s clerk I mean clerk.

Magistrate:—I must confess that a good deal has to be explained by officers of this Court. It may not be necessary to do so in this case, but the explanation must come later. The Retrenchment Commission says that there are more clerks in the Jaffna Police Court than in any other Courts. You can’t ex-

(Continued on Previous Column)

Tree Tax System a Step Towards Temperance?

(Continued from page 1)

rents in 1935-36 should not however, be taken too seriously. The 1935-36 rents were abnormally high; the rents in 1934-35 were Rs. 432,818, compared with which tree tax revenue plus the extra cost of administering it would show a loss of Rs. 164,000.

Less Nuisance to People

If temperance may be gauged from the number of drunk and disorderly cases brought before the Police and Village Committee Courts, the tree tax system may well be hailed as a long step towards temperance. After the introduction of the tree tax system on January 1, 1937, the total number of such cases in Jaffna district fell from 119 in 1936 to 73 in 1937, —an improvement by nearly 39 per cent., but the writer would not lay too much emphasis on the inference to be drawn from these figures. Under the tree tax system, a man may escape detection for drunk and disorderly behaviour, as he has a much shorter distance to go from the tree-foot selling place to his home than he would, if he had a long walk from a tavern to his home. In any case, the nuisance to the public would appear to be appreciably abated under the tree tax system; this is confirmed by 9 out of 10 Unofficial Excise Officers, Chairmen of Village Committees and others consulted by the department, as shown at the end of the preceding paragraph.

Puloly Division

In the specified sweet toddy areas and the Puloly Udaiyar's division, 1,788 cottager's licences and 175 commercial licences for tapping 9,552 palmyrahs for sweet toddy were issued in 1937. This is an (apparent) increase on 1936 figures by 196 cottager's and 53 commercial licences, involving an increase of 3,156 palmyras. Practically the whole of this increase is due to the experiment in the Puloly Udaiyar's division, where licences have now to be taken out for sweet toddy tapping whereas they were not before; 1,014 cottager's licences and 36 commercial licences for 4,289 palmyras were issued in the Puloly Udaiyar's division. If these figures are deducted from the totals given above, there would be actually a decrease of 818 cottager's licences, an increase of 17 commercial licences, with a net decrease of 1,833 palmyras tapped for sweet toddy, when compared with 1936, —a decrease of 28 per cent. in the number of trees due to the preference of tappers for the more profitable trade of tapping for fermented toddy under tree tax licences, and partly to elimination of the inducement to take out sweet toddy licences for carrying on an illicit trade in fermented toddy. Coconut trees are not tap-

ped at all for sweet toddy in Jaffna district.

In the year 1935, there was no abuse of sweet toddy licences, but during the tail end of the sweet toddy tapping season in 1936, 24 cases of illicit manufacture of fermented toddy under cover of sweet toddy licences were detected in the specified sweet toddy areas of Valikamam north. During the year under review there were 10 cases of illicit manufacture of fermented toddy under cover of sweet toddy licences.

The Assistant Commissioner of Exercise, Northern Division, estimates an average yield of 15 gallons per male palmyra during a season of 20 to 30 days, and an average yield of 60 gallons per female palmyra or coconut tree during seasons of about 3 and 6 months respectively. The present Assistant Commissioner considers 60 gallons too high, and thinks 45 gallons for both the female palmyra and coconut tree more correct. These are only very rough averages, and possibly a large number of trees yielded much less, but the aggregate yield for Jaffna district according to the higher figures would be 2,426,790 gallons. With a population of 355,000 persons, and assuming that every gallon of toddy drawn was consumed and no part thereof destroyed as stale toddy, the per head consumption works out at 6.8 gallons under the tree tax system as against 3.38 gallons in 1935-36 under the tavern system. Under the tree tax system, it has been the experience that about 20 per cent. of the trees turn out to be bad yielders, and are more or less abandoned. Making allowance for this, the actual consumption probably was about 1,950,000 gallons, or a little less than 5.5 gallons per head. While the calculation under the tree tax system does not discount for the unsold toddy destroyed, the calculation under the tavern areas does not include the appreciable quantities consumed by tappers, and sold or gifted under the topes, nor the quantities actually sold, but falsely accounted for as destroyed at the end of the day. It is a regular custom in Jaffna for the tappers and tree-owners to be paid in kind as well, and these figures are not reflected in the tavern account books.

The high per head consumption of toddy under the tree tax system is also due in part to the fact that arrack was replaced by toddy to an appreciable extent. The Jaffna labourers will not turn to arrack, if there is fresh wholesome palmyra toddy available at hand. In 1936-37 the arrack consumption in Jaffna District dropped to 36,196 gallons from 39,652 gallons in 1935-36 and 44,679 gallons in 1934-35; this turning away from strong spirit to very weak toddy is all to the good as being a step in the right direction towards mass sobriety. The tree tax system was directly, and probably wholly responsible for the 87 per cent decrease in arrack consumption.

Increased Consumption

The second factor responsible for the comparatively high figure

for per head consumption of toddy under the tree tax system is the fact that under this system fresh and wholesome toddy is made available to a much larger number of people than would care to be seen drinking toddy at a tavern. As shown in Appendix K the proportion of drunkenness manifested in public places is only 1.4 under the tree tax system in 1937 as against 2.2 under the tavern system in 1936, but apart from that the availability of toddy to almost every family in the tree tax area will be a milestone in the path of improvement of the diet of the people. Recent dietetic surveys in Ceylon have disclosed deficiencies in popular diet, especially in the content of different vitamins. The researches on the dietetic value of fresh toddy have been summarized at the end of paragraph 32 above. It is thus a moot point whether the intoxication caused by consumption of fermented toddy in a comparatively few cases should be considered sufficient to impose prohibition of it, and thus to deprive the poorer classes of a valuable food, which they cannot replace by other foods containing vitamins except at a very high cost.

The tree tax revenue per head of population for the whole of Jaffna district works out at Rs. 1.20 in 1937 as against Rs. 1.22 in 1936 and Rs. 1.20 in 1935 for the tree tax areas of Valikamam North only, and Rs. 1.56 in 1936 under the tavern system.

Illicit Manufacture

Under the tree tax system the graver offence of illicit sale went down from 62 to 18, a very healthy sign. The increase of illicit manufacture of fermented toddy offences from 584 to 762 is not disturbing; under the tree tax system the experimental preparation of spades by tapping before payment of tax (without drawing any toddy) is technically classified as illicit manufacture of fermented toddy, though in a large majority of such cases there may have been no intention of evading payment of tax. Such experimental tapping was resorted to freely at the beginning, and had to be put down with a firm hand, lest it should in the long run open the way to a systematic practice of evading tax payment. Illicit transport cases were not taken to court, unless the quantity in excess was more than 1 gallon. At a Conference of excise officers and Chief Headmen held at the Jaffna Kichcheri on December 17, 1937, it was unanimously recommended that transport of 1/3 of an imperial gallon (2 reputed quart bottles) should be allowed as an experiment, without a permit as in the rest of the Island. This suggestion will be given effect to along with some others, which are receiving the department's attention at the time of writing.

During 1937, free-taxed toddy was sold on an average throughout Jaffna district at 60 to 72 cents per gallon for male palmyra toddy, at 60 cents per gallon for female palmyra toddy, and at 72 to 90 cents per gallon for coconut toddy. These prices were slightly less than or the same as the prices of tree-taxed toddy in 1936 in Valikamam North, but were still considerably higher than under the tavern system in 1936 and earlier, when male and female palmyra toddy sold at 54 cents and coconut toddy at 60 cents per gallon.

JAIL AND POLICE SUPERVISION

Before Mr. S. Rodrigo, Additional District Judge, Jaffna, Sangaran Sinnappan of Meesalai North, stood charged with voluntarily causing hurt to Police Constable 2939 Simon Singho while arresting him on a charge of rioting and robbery and taking him to the Police Station, and with escaping from Police custody.

After trial the accused was found guilty and sentenced to six months' rigorous imprisonment and two years' police supervision.

BRITISH FOREIGN POLICY

(Continued from page 1)

to the British Empire from Russia was only ideological and distant because no country had so consistently followed a policy of peace as Russia. Still England chose to support Germany as a counterblast to Russia.

On the other hand, France had developed a policy of friendship with Russia. The Russia-France-Czechoslovakia bloc was very powerful and, if Britain had supported that bloc, Germany and Italy would have been helpless. But Britain refused to support those Powers.

(Roy's Weekly)

Order Nisi

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 619.

In the matter of the estate of the late Valliappan Subramaniam of Vaddukodai East who died at Kabitigolawa in Anuradhapura

Deceased.

Valliammaipillai widow of Valliappan Subramaniam of Vaddukodai East, Jaffna

Vs.

Petitioner.

1. Subramaniam Thuraiarajah of do, presently of Segamat in Johore
2. Subramaniam Thangarajah of Vaddukodai East, presently of Kabitigolawa

Respondents.

This matter of the petition of the above-named petitioner coming on for disposal before C. Coomaraswamy Esqr District Judge Jaffna on the 13th day of July 1938 in the presence of Mr. V. Nagalingam, Proctor for Petitioner and the affidavit and petition of the said petitioner having been read; it is ordered that letters of administration to the estate of the said deceased be granted to the said petitioner as the legal widow of the deceased unless the said respondents shall appear before this court on the 15th day of August 1938 and show cause to the satisfaction of this court to the contrary.

This 27th day of July 1938.

Sgd. C. Coomaraswamy,
District Judge.

Extended to 3-2-39.
(O. 83. 30-1-39 & 2-2-39.)

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