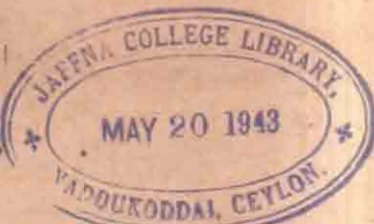


THE Hindu Organ.



The Only Newspaper in Ceylon for the Hindus

Editor:
A. V. Kulasingham, Advocate.

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JAFFNA, MONDAY, MAY 17, 1943.

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NEWS FROM FAR AND NEAR

111 Axis General Captured

It is learned that since the outbreak of the war the Allies, excluding Russia, have captured no fewer than 19 German and 92 Italian generals, including three Italian air force generals and two Italian rear-admirals.

How Italians Can Stop Bombings

Telling Italians how they could stop the bombing, 300,000 leaflets were dropped by the Allied bombers when they raided Marsala. The leaflets said: "If you want this to stop, pray for peace, demand peace and demonstrate for peace."

Nazis Accused of "Slave Market"

Russia accuses Germany of setting up a special slave market to deal with Soviet citizens deported from occupied territory. The charges were contained in a Note handed to all envoys in Moscow by M. Molotov and broadcast by the Moscow radio. It said that the slave market was organised by the German Government after the Berlin meeting of November, 1941.

Abyssinia Victor As Ceylon's G.O.C.

Lieut.-General Edward de Robillard Wetherall, C.B., D.S.O., O.B.E., M.C., has arrived and assumed duties as General Officer Commanding Ceylon Army Command. He was commanding a brigade in Palestine when the war broke out. On April 6th, 1941, he accepted the surrender of Addis Ababa, capital of the short-lived Italian African Empire, after a 53-day pursuit in which his division covered the incredible distance of 1,725 miles.

Anglo-Turk Alliance Proves Its Worth

The completion on Wednesday of four years of the Anglo-Turkish Alliance is accompanied by warmly-appreciative comment in the Press of both countries. The Turkish newspaper "Ulus" says: "Turkey is happy to re-affirm the strengthening of the tie between the two countries. Turkey's sympathy goes to Britain tried by the world war which started in Europe. The Alliance has considerably helped to check further Axis encroachments." The newspaper adds that this friendship was further strengthened by Mr. Churchill's visit,

INDIA'S FOOD PROBLEM

UTILIZATION OF PRODUCTIVE CAPACITY TO MAXIMUM URGED

(BY LEHAR SINGH MEHTA)

THE food problem in India has assumed a serious proportion, as grain has become not only dear but scarce in several parts of the country. No trouble affecting India ever evoked half such a storm of protest as did the present grave food situation. "A hungry stomach", Mr. N. R. Sarkar rightly observes, "is far more dangerous than a foreign aggression". This problem, therefore, demands concerted and stern measures.

There are numerous factors which contribute to this crisis. The loss of Burma rice of which about one and a half million tons normally come to India, coupled with increased demands for Axis prisoners, evacuees and Imperial and American troops—which must get the first call on everything—and the serious failure of the millet crop in certain parts have caused prices to shoot up and food to become scant. Devastating floods in Sind and unprecedented cyclones in Orissa and Bengal have also caused temporary shortage affecting urban as well as rural areas. But these factors by themselves cannot account for the distress. Worst of all, hoarding and profiteering, which are very difficult to deal with, have also been important contributory factors. Lack of production of wagons and steam-ships as also transportation difficulties over rail, road and water, play an equally important role in aggravating the problem. Promulgation of control measures added to the intensity, resulting in the emergence of black markets, at which goods could only be bought at far higher rates than the controlled prices. Rise in prices is also a consequence partly of the monetary inflation or increased note circulation, which is inevitable in war times, for if the production of grains does not keep pace with money in circulation, prices are bound to rise, however disproportionately it may be.

A cursory glance at the statistics, against the background of positive facts, will perhaps be found illuminating. From

the beginning of the war till the end of December, 1942, about 450 crores of extra money both in notes and minted coins, have been issued by the Reserve Bank of India. The total food production in India is roughly placed at 60 million tons per annum, of which rice alone represents, no less than 25 million tons and wheat 10 million tons. The average rice and paddy imports into India during normal times comes to nearly 15 lacs of tons. India's normal consumption of wheat is roughly 9,000,000 tons. The wartime demand is estimated at about 500,000 tons a year. This signifies that we are experiencing a grain deficit of approximately 400,000 tons annually.

The price control machinery of the Central Government passed numerous resolutions emphasising the needs for fixing prices, for co ordination of activities, for working in close relation with the Regional Transport Board and rigid superintendence over supplies and distribution, as vital corollaries to effective price control. These experiments, in the words of the Government of India, have been only "partially successful" and, therefore, they announced in January last that the Wheat Control Order, fixing the maximum price, had ceased to operate.

A word may also be mentioned *inter alia* about starting Government shops. Some of the Price Control Conferences had perhaps suggested that opening of Government shops to deal in food-grains would replenish the deficiency and was a fairish stride towards the solution of this tangle. If this resolution is viewed from the realistic or unsentimental standpoint, especially if economics is permitted to pervade, it is not likely to thrive for two obvious reasons. A few shops will hardly suffice to ensure regular supply to this vast sub-continent. In case the number of shops is augmented, the administrative cost will rise in geometrical proportion. Besides, it will hasten the unemployment of thousands of

Continued on page 3

SELLING MILITARY SUPPLIES TO CIVILIANS

C-IN-C'S WARNING TO CIVILIANS

A press communique issued by the Commander-in-Chief, Ceylon, says:-

It has come to the notice of the authorities that cases have occurred of Servicemen giving, and in some cases even selling, to civilians, supplies such as spirits, beer, tobacco, cigarettes, soap, tooth-paste etc., which they have purchased from the Expeditionary Force Institute.

The public should realize that it is an offence for a civilian to be in possession of E. F. I. goods and for a Serviceman to dispose of such goods to a civilian, and offenders lay themselves open to prosecution.

The requirements of Servicemen have been provided quite separately from those of the civilian population and the sale and prices of duty-free goods to servicemen are arranged in the light of the pay they receive and the conditions under which they live. The goods are provided solely for their comfort and welfare and come from stocks in the United Kingdom specially released for the purpose. It will be readily appreciated that the supply of E. F. I. goods is a privilege and is reserved for Servicemen. Civilians, with their different conditions of living, have their own sources of supply although goods may be more expensive on account of customs duty or more difficult to obtain. In order to conserve these supplies, however, Servicemen are forbidden to buy certain articles in the open market.

Whilst Servicemen are forbidden to dispose of E. F. I. goods to civilians, they are not of course forbidden to offer a cigarette or a drink to a civilian friend. What they must not do is to hand over a bottle, tin or packet and it is confidently expected that now the position has been made clear, there will be no further cause for complaint.



Hindu Organ.

MONDAY, MAY 17, 1943.

THE PRICE OF DISUNION

IN THE LAST ISSUE OF THE "Hindu Organ" we commented on the attitude of Western countries towards what is called the new order. It would be interesting to consider the reaction of the Asiatic peoples themselves to this attitude. Nothing is to be gained by paying any attention to Japanese propaganda on this point. Japan has imitated the West with a vengeance. The pronouncements of her statesmen leave no room for doubt as to what the Japanese really mean when they talk of the new order. It is obvious that they mean nothing less than a Japanese edition of "Mein Kampf". The other Asiatic countries have little in common with this twisted outlook. These countries have come to believe in the preservation of human freedom and human dignity as the very foundation of every species of social order. How do they propose to achieve this object?

The Chinese are the only people who have taken a realistic view of things and are doing their best to adapt themselves to the new situation that has arisen. Their civilisation is old, as old as that of India and Ceylon, if not older. They are trying to discover a compromise between the old and the new. Having paid the price of disunion, they know the value of national unity. The National Government of China is doing its best to maintain the unity of the Chinese people against the aggressors. There are, it is true, puppet Governments waiting at the beck and call of the Japanese. But, this is a phenomenon that is by no means new or peculiar to Asiatic countries. Even in the United States, during the War of Independence, there was a party that flaunted its loyalty to Britain.

In India and Ceylon national disunion remains a more potent evil than it is in China. While people are agreed on condemning the encroachments of Western countries, they have not realised the truth that the best defence against these encroachments is unity. There is no use in saying that the realisation has come but that the people are faced with fundamental difficulties created by foreign rule. We are not convinced that this is so. The disunion that exists is really due to the defects in our own character and to our inability to appreciate the needs of the hour. If people really under-

stood, there would be unity almost overnight.

Let us take one of the fundamental difficulties with which people in India and Ceylon are confronted—communal discord. Let us remember that this is only one of the many difficulties that exist. Today the Indian people are divided into many hostile political camps. The Muslim League, led by an ex-member of the Indian National Congress, is fighting the Hindus. The Hindu Mahasabha is against both the Muslim League and the Congress. Any student of history cannot fail to see in the present situation in India the very conditions that obtained during the early stages of British rule. These are the conditions that make freedom impossible and the new order an illusion. At the present critical moment in the history of the world, the one test of a people's earnestness would be their willingness to sink communal differences. There may be reasons, very valid reasons, for these differences, but these reasons must go if a country is to achieve the one fundamental requirement of national freedom and the new order.

In Ceylon we have been wiser, because, perhaps, we are a small people and our very smallness has in it the germs of unity. It cannot be said that even here communal discord has entirely disappeared, but there is undoubtedly a widespread desire that all the communities of this island should co-operate with one another in solving the problems of the present and the future. It is our earnest hope that this new spirit will continue to prevail and that Ceylon will be spared the humiliating spectacle that has replaced the national movement in India.

It is not, however, communal differences alone that militate against our future. The new order all of us have in mind is the enemy of the social structure to which we have grown accustomed in the course of centuries. Hitherto we have viewed this structure in a spirit of tolerance and compromise, except perhaps a handful of ardent social reformers. Today the situation in which the Asiatic peoples find themselves calls for a drastic and immediate re-adjustment of this structure if the people of India and Ceylon are to take their place in the new order of things. Between the theory of caste and untouchability that continues to sully our civilisation and the doctrine of racial superiority that vitiates the outlook of Germany and Japan, there is little to choose. Let us also remember that countries like America that are sacrificing everything in order to crush this evil spirit are not going to make a present of liberty and the new order to the people of India and Ceylon unless these too fall into line with the rest of the world and

get rid of the evils in their social system. As we have said, the change must come soon, if our claims are to succeed.

THE RECENT ALL CEYLON SAIVA CONFERENCE

By Dr. C. Chelliah

I was present on the first and third days of this conference. I was also present during last year's conference at Keerimalai.

At last year's conference I expressed a desire to address the gathering on the position of the depressed section of our community to an official of the Society. That could not be arranged. More recently I was invited by another official of this Society to submit my views on the above question, in writing. Later I was asked to attend a meeting on this question in the rooms of the Saivaparipalana Sabai. I duly attended the meeting and amplified my views further. I have not heard anything further on the subject.

The position is cruel and anomalous in these days of reason and awakened nationalism. Why this neglect? I ask of the Saivites in general and this Society in particular.

All talk about religion and morality would be meaningless if we cannot share the elementary rights of humanity with all our brethren of the same faith. Those who pass over and condone these acts are committing sins. What is the purpose of this conference if it is not to serve the spiritual and moral welfare of all sections of the Saivites? The path of least resistance to the detriment of moral and spiritual welfare, should be condemned.

I appeal for a new and positive policy on this problem.

As for the speeches I must confess that I was disappointed. The speeches that I heard, with one or two exceptions, were long-winded and rambling without regard to time or the patience of the audience. I had expected the speakers to follow some method of clear exposition and be punctual as far as possible. Most of the speakers took very much longer time than was allotted to them and concluded their speeches with much apologies for lack of time.

The idea of inviting an Indian of the same faith and culture was a happy one but I feel that the opportunity should have been taken to discuss common problems of the Saivites on both sides of the water. I had the opportunity to discuss one or two problems with this distinguished guest on the 7th instant. He agreed with me on the problem of untouchability and on the questions of temples and priests. He assured me these questions were engaging the attention of thinking Saivites

of Madras and elsewhere in the South and expected the movement to gather momentum leading to some concerted action for reforms.

I commend to the attention of the Saivites of South India and Ceylon the organisation of a Seminary for the study of Saiva Siddhanta and to train preachers, priests and kurrukkals,

SPECIAL COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS

MOTHER TONGUE IN LOWER CLASSES

The importance of the physical, moral and intellectual development of the individual and the need for sport as well as religion in the educational curriculum are, it is learned, stressed in the report of the Special Committee of Education, which is expected to be out shortly, says the Daily News.

With regard to the administration of schools the Committee has recommended that, as far as the secondary schools are concerned, they should continue as at present. No final recommendation has yet been made in connection with denominational training schools but it is expected that the Committee will decide in favour of their continuing as at present.

Practical and Higher Education

The Special Committee has recommended the division of schools into two classes—primary and post-primary schools. Post-primary schools are recommended to be sub-divided into practical, senior and secondary schools, and the senior and secondary schools are to have lower and higher departments. Schools will train pupils for vocational careers and also afford higher education.

The medium of instruction is to be the mother tongue in the primary school stage.

The salaries to be paid to teachers are also dealt with. This question has received a great deal of attention from the Committee which appointed a sub-committee to draft a scale of salaries. This scale was submitted to the teachers for their consideration. The teachers, however, rejected the scales proposed and put forward a fresh scheme.

FOOD CONTROL BOARDS OF ASSESSORS

Last Friday's Gazette announces the constitution of the boards of assessors appointed for the various judicial districts of the island under the provisions of the Food Control Regulations.

Two assessors are appointed for each judicial district, those for the Colombo District being Dr. P. E. Pious and Mr. M. T. Akbar, K. C.

The duty of these boards is to hear appeals from traders whose food stocks may be taken over by the Food Controller.

GOODS DAMAGED IN TRANSIT BY TRAIN

For the purpose of expediting the payment of compensation and settlement of claims made by the public for loss or damage to goods conveyed by the Railway a new arrangement has been introduced by which all the inquiries and the work in regard to them are concentrated in one office,

AXIS PAYS PRICE IN AFRICA

"LACK OF SUPPLIES", SAYS HITLER

London, May 14

Hitler has lost three of his oldest and best Panzer formations and Mussolini every armoured division he ever had in the Battle of Africa. Every Italian infantry motorised division has also been wiped out.

That is part of the fearful cost the Axis has had to pay for its African campaigns in Libya, Egypt and Tunisia.

The list of destroyed enemy formations includes:—

German Army:—The 'Afrika' Fifth Panzer Army, the Tenth, Fifteenth and Twentieth Panzer Divisions and the Hermann Goering Panzer Division. The Wehrmacht lost 13 Grenadier regiments, four Jäger regiments, three regiments and three battalions of tanks and eleven artillery regiments.

Italian Army:—The First, Fifth and Tenth Armies, six Army Corps, three armoured divisions and numerous other regiments.

Hitler said last night: "The heroic struggle of the German and Italian formations in Africa has today found its honourable end."

Without Food or Water

"The last groups of resistance, fighting around Tunis for days without food or water, had to cease fighting after using up their entire ammunition. They have finally succumbed to the lack of supplies—not to the onslaught of the enemy, who had frequently to recognise the superiority of our arms in this theatre of war also."

"All the same the African fighters of Germany and Italy have fully accomplished the task set to them."

"By their resistance, which contested every inch of ground in months of embittered struggle, they tied down in North Africa very strong enemy forces and inflicted on him very heavy losses in men and material."

"The relief thus given to the other fronts and the time gained were of the highest benefit to the command of the Axis Powers."

Hitler in a radio message to Von Arnim on May 10 said: "The last action and attitude of our troops will be an example to the entire armed forces of the Greater German Reich and will be regarded as a particularly glorious leaf in the German history of wars."

Great Victory, Says Alexander

General Alexander, in a statement to his Headquarters Staff said: "This is a great victory—one of the most complete and decisive in history. We took 150,000 prisoners, over 1,000 guns, 150 tanks and a mass of lorries and equipment of all sorts which will take days, if not weeks, to sort."

"We wiped out an entire army and today we stand masters of the whole of the North African shores."

"Three months ago I was called from the Western Desert to take over the command of the Tunisian front. I had to gather up and collect and form headquarters in the shortest possible time. It was not made any the easier because

REDUCING LEGAL RATE OF INTEREST

Last Friday's Gazette publishes the drafts of two bills to amend the Civil Procedure Code and the Civil Law Ordinance, respectively for the purpose of reducing the legal rate of interest from nine per cent. to five per cent.

Both amending bills will shortly be introduced in the State Council.

WANTED

A Manager for the Alvai North Co-operative Sales Society. Business experience and ability to correspond in Tamil and English needed. Security essential. Apply stating age, salary expected to the Hony. Secretary.

(Mis. 31. 13 & 17-5 43)

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that transport of country paddy or rice or kurakkan in any quantity from one place to another is prohibited except on a permit which can be obtained in certain circumstances from me or Chief Headmen or Superintendent of Food Supply, Kilinochchi.

M. PRASAD,

Government Agent, N. P.

Jaffna 7th May, 1943.

(G. 5 17 5 43.)

ORDER NISI

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 107.

In the matter of the estate of the late Sivacolunthu wife of Vinasithamby Kanagasabai of Maruvanpulo Deceased. Sangarappillai Kandiah of Maruvanpulo Petitioner

Vs.

1. Vinasithamby Kanagasabai
2. Mankayatharasi daughter of Kanagasabai
3. Kanagasabai Pinakapany
4. Amirthambigai daughter of Kandiah
5. Kandiah Sandrasegaram, and
6. Thangam widow of Somasundram all of Maravanpulo Respondents.

This matter coming on for disposal before G. C. Thambyah Esquire District Judge, Jaffna, on the 7th day of April 1943 in the presence of Mr. R. Sivaguranathan Proctor for the petitioner, and an affidavit of the petitioner dated the 5th day of April 1943 having been read;

It is ordered that the abovenamed 1st Respondent be appointed guardian-ad-litem over the minors the 2nd and 3rd Respondents, and the 6th Respondent be appointed guardian-ad-litem over the minors the 4th and 5th Respondents, and that the petitioner as the father of the 4th and 5th Respondents be declared entitled to have Letters of Administration to the estate of the abovenamed deceased, issued to him accordingly, unless the Respondents abovenamed or any person or persons interested shall on or before the 28th day of May 1943 show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of the Court to the contrary. It is further ordered that the minors over the age of 14 years should be produced in Court on the same date.

This 7th day of April 1943.

Sgd. G. C. Thambyah,

District Judge.

(O. 6. 17 & 20 5 43)

the enemy was attacking us all down the line.

"Things were not going too well for us, but thanks to you, this headquarters was formed in record time and started to operate on February 17. I want to tell you how grateful I am for your excellent work and for the part you played in this success."

Over 500 officers and men were present to hear the General.

INDIA'S FOOD PROBLEM

Continued from page 1

petty middle-class traders, giving rise to another equally acute problem of a far-reaching character.

Another remedy, it is opined, lies in the introduction of a rigid licensing system. This arrangement functions efficiently in so far as wholesale dealers are concerned. The advocates of such a course are liable to incur a modicum of failure, if the licensing system is introduced in the domain of retail shop-keepers. They, being mostly illiterate or unacquainted with the 3 R's are not in a position to keep up-to-date accounts, vouchers, etc. To leave the administrative control in the hands of the police or civil officials, who are already overworked, will strangle the whole thing, unless of course they have got a magic wand, capable of transforming human nature without any serious endeavour. This means employment of extra staff and that is a factor on the debit side.

Some economists are rather over-enthusiastic about rationing as an effective solution of the problem. It has to be remembered that the issue of temporary ration cards may be within the fold of practical possibility so far as citizens are concerned, but it is bound to be frustrated in rural areas, sooner than some may think. The number of retail shops would be limited and this would result in the elimination of hundreds of retailers. Vegetarians will be penalised for their adherence to the doctrine, whereas meat eaters will have a distinct advantage unless there is rationing of meat, eggs, etc. Again, lack of transport, inadequate supply and absence of co-ordination will hasten its failure.

It will perhaps divert our attention from the main point if the theme is elaborately discussed. It now seems fully worthwhile to investigate the question as to what is the best solution of this problem. "Grow More Food" must cease to be a slogan or shibboleth and become a real incentive for planned production. India is in a very fortunate position, with large areas of cultivable waste lands and limitless other agricultural resources, to expand production, provided it works methodically and with firm determination and its peasants no more feel the dearth of seeds, cattle, implements, manure and irrigation facilities. Let it be said that if an Indian village makes up its mind or is conjured up, it acts with an astonishing unanimity. A regular exhortation or acquaintance with the grave danger that lurks in the shortage of food supply will galvanise these golden trees to reap the harvest of pearls. The utilization of the productive capacity to the maximum is one of the first essentials to relieve the situation.

Furthermore, a ban on the export of Indian grain and influx of

Continued on page 3

LECTURE ON THIRUGNANA SAMBANTHAMURTHI SWAMIGAL

A lecture on "Thirugnana Sambanthamurthi Swamigal" was delivered by Mr. Vajravelu Mudaliyar at the Vivekananda Society Hall on Monday the 10th instant at 5.45 p.m. Mr. K. S. Ramaswamy Iyer presided. The lecturer in the course of his address referred to Sambanthamurthi Swamigal as a great Avatar who came to Tamil Nad at a time when Jain and Buddhist influence was supreme in the South. Not content with logical arguments the Jains challenged the Swamigal to tests by fire and water in which he easily came out triumphant. While his great contemporary Appar re-established the Saiva faith in the Pallava Kingdom it was left to Sambanthamurthi to re-convert the Pandiya King and his subjects. The Saiva sacred hymns known as "Thirumurai" begin with the Thevaram of Sambanthamurthi and end with the Periapuranam of Sekkilar. It was significant, the lecturer observed, that the letters of the mystic word 'Om' began and ended the Thirumurais. The first stanza of the first Thirumurai by Sambanthamurthi begins with the words 'சோழமலர்' and the last stanza of the last Thirumurai by Sekkilar ends with the words 'உலகமலர்'. The initial 'ச' in 'சோழமலர்' indicated that the sacred truths were being expressed through the medium of Tamil. Another point worthy of note in the hymns of Sambanthamurthi was that the last four stanzas of all pathigams were similar in substance. The eighth stanza invariably referred to the infinite grace shown by the Lord even to sinners like Ravana, King of the Rakshasas; the ninth stanza points to the difficulty of the Lord being comprehended by egoistic souls even though they be celestials like Brahma and Vishnu; the tenth stanza asserts definitely that all that was not the best in the teachings of the Jains and Buddhists would disappear from the country and the eleventh stanza mentions the fact of his being inspired by the Divine Voice within to sing these hymns. The lecturer also made mention of Sambanthamurthi's piety, humility and attachment to the devotees of God as shown by his conduct at his meetings with Appar Swamigal. At his wedding Sambanthamurthi had a vision of the Divine Grace in its full splendour in the person of his bride. Finally the lecturer referred to the culmination of Sambanthamurthi's worldly existence when he and his bride along with all the devotees who were present at his wedding entered the Divine Fire that appeared in their midst shortly after their wedding.

Mr. K. Ramachandra in proposing a vote of thanks to the lecturer stated that he was impressed not only by the scholarship but also by the religious character of the lecturer and expressed the thanks of the Society to Mr. Vajravelu Mudaliyar. The meeting then terminated at about 7.50 p.m. with the singing of Thevaram.

WANTED

A Retired Apothecary or qualified Pharmacist. Apply personally to Dr. C. Sivasithambaram, Martyn Road, Jaffna, with copies of recent testimonials.

(Mis. 35. 17 & 20 5-43)

INDIA'S FOOD PROBLEM

Continued from page 3

Australian wheat into the Indian markets will no doubt assuage the problem. The Government of India have already assured that the question of shipping wheat to India from overseas before the new crop is available was being urgently considered. It is hoped that this device, with the ensuing new crop flowing into the market at no distant period, will ease the situation and lead to a happy conclusion.

The gravity of the predicament demands that all boarders should be ordered to submit returns at once to the authorities concerned and dispose of the grain to the consumers or surrender the same to the Government at a reasonable rate. Non-compliance must render the stockists not only to prosecution but also to confiscation of their grain. Protracted propaganda assuring the consuming public about the continuity of supply will further result in restoration of confidence. Hoarding except by the Government Department, and that too for the purpose of meeting the war exigencies or needful demands of the deficit areas, should be announced as a penal offence. Government Purchasing Agencies worked by high-principled, courageous and patriotic men stand the chance to slough the skin of a *Fin-de-siecle* disappointment.

It has been argued—and argued with profound conviction—that in most of the Ward Committees, businessmen are not duly represented. To eliminate all apprehension, disarm distrust, however unmerited and unjustified, and silence criticism, it is but integral that the Ward Committees should be reorganised, in sympathy with the spirit of the time. One of the primary necessities is to enlist the services of various trade associations. This played a significant part, says Leon Zeitlin, in German economic life during the last World War. As in Russia steps should be taken to institute Government monopoly for the commodities of daily use and discourage private monopolies which are out to make enormous fortunes during war exigencies.

Prices during wars are bound to register rises partly due to phenomenal expansion of currency. The repatriation of our sterling credit by acquisition of British interest in India and safeguarding the remaining balances may be one of the measures likely to be adopted in the near future. An assurance that India's sterling balances will be protected against the tempest of post-war depreciation and the removal of surplus funds through loans will prove a great boon to our country. Hoarding of goods, especially precious metals, has been the habit of Indian peasants. The villagers are commodity-minded rather than money-minded. They want to put their surplus into goods (gold and silver) not into currency notes. This psychological attitude cannot be eradicated in a day. If the sums due from Britain and America for their share of the army expenditure be paid by import of silver, it will have a miraculous effect.

At present, there seems to be little co-ordination between the

Provincial Directorate of Civil Supplies and the War Transport Board, which is to provide wagons for the movement of grain from producing to consuming centres. Transportation difficulty over all the three routes—rail, road and water—is the most disturbing factor. Stern measures must be taken for the release of the requisite number of wagons and other means of communications, like lorries, boats, etc. One of the most powerful factors for building up the food-front is a speedy transport system.

English, Russian or German systems of price control need not be discussed or compared for present purposes. The example set by our immediate neighbour, China, will perhaps be more instructive and compatible. The instructive book *China After Five Years of War* published from Chungking gives a detailed and useful description of the Economic Council, the functions of which have recently been observed by the National Mobilisation Council. The fundamental duty of this organ, with a fund of Rs. 45 crores of Chinese dollars at its disposal, is to plan and administer price stabilization activities on a nationwide scale, co-ordinate and supervise the functions of all subordinate bodies, make an exhaustive study of the problem of supply and demand, effect rational supplies of daily necessities and lower prices by eliminating hoarding and profiteering, establish storage-houses at different places and to keep constant flow of articles to deficit areas. If some such body is set up in India, it may certainly be a happy beginning.

It is not expedient to trench upon the space available to discuss this problem at length. It may be conceded for the present that our able and level-headed administrators and tried veterans having intimate knowledge of men and affairs will tide over this crisis, with the sanction of the popular support, so vital to the solution of this gigantic task and the stability of the motherland.

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