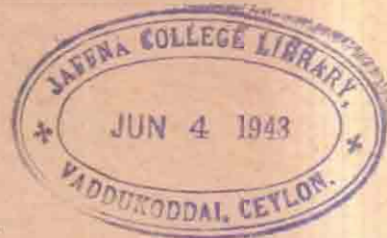


THE Hindu Organ.



The Only Newspaper in Ceylon for the Hindus

Editor:
A. V. Kulasingham, Advocate.

PUBLISHED EVERY MONDAY AND THURSDAY

VOL. LV.

'Phone 56.

JAFFNA, THURSDAY, JUNE 3, 1943.

Price 7 Cts.

NO. 16.

NEWS FROM FAR AND NEAR

Cardboard Made of Coconut Fibre

The Coconut Board has, it is understood, received a number of inquiries for the purchase of the whole output of cardboard which is being manufactured from coconut fibre under its aegis. It has been decided to name the new coconut product "Coconite."

Chinese President Not Dead

The Melbourne Radio report that the President of China, Dr. Lin Sen, is dead not true. While his condition is still causing anxiety owing to his age Dr. Lin Sen rallied and his condition improved slightly.

French Fleet at Alexandria

A Vichy despatch, quoted by the German news agency, states that the French Government have announced that the French fleet at Alexandria has "yielded to Anglo-American pressure." The French fleet at Alexandria consists of one battleship, four cruisers, three destroyers and one submarine.

What Fall of Attu Means

The capture of Attu has closed the last possible road over which the Japanese could ever hope to carry war to the United States, said the New York "Herald Tribune" adding: "The surplus strength for Pacific operations of which Mr. Churchill spoke is really beginning to appear. It has now been brought to within bomber range of Japan's own territory."

To Ensure World Peace

An international armed force to ensure that world peace is maintained inviolate, an international tribunal to which international controversies can be referred, an efficient international method for outlawing certain kinds of armament and for the inspection of all national armaments, the creation of technical organisations to deal with economic and financial matters and the recognition of equal sovereignty of all states coupled with the equality of opportunity for all people—these were the cardinal principles which Mr. Sumner Welles, the United States Under-Secretary of State outlined in a speech at Durham as the basis for any postwar United Nations organisation.

"FIGHTING EDITORS" IN OCCUPIED COUNTRIES SECRET PRESSES WORKING AGAINST NAZIS

[BY A POLE]

THE success of a "New Order" does not depend on the force it commands, or on its capacity to kill, but on the popular support it enjoys. Without this support it is doomed to failure..... If there has ever been a conspicuous failure in this respect, it is that of Hitler's New Order. Instead of support or acceptance, revolt is brewing against it. In all the occupied countries of Europe the underground front is active. The results of their work, the thoughts which will lead to action, are expressed by the secret press of Europe. Therefore one cannot over-estimate the importance of the underground press, carrying on in the teeth of most ruthless reprisals, in defiance of death and torture.

In Norway and France, in Czechoslovakia and the Netherlands, and above all in Belgium and Poland, every day and every night secret presses are at work. With their "Libre Belgique" the Belgians have revived the great tradition of the first world war. The Poles have brought into being a whole underground press with some hundred-and-forty secret newspapers.

There is no Fleet Street in the capitals of occupied countries, no papers worth reading to be bought at the corner. But throughout the Continent there are hundreds of secret presses working against the foe of civilisation, in deep cellars or remote houses. They are changing their quarters as often as possible and no one knows the names of the editors. But I knew one of them and I should like to tell you the story of my friend, the editor of a secret Polish newspaper, who gave his life defending his paper.

A Polish Paper

His paper was published at intervals of a few days, in the afternoon. At about 3 p. m. several thousand copies were sent out and penetrated by secret channels into the city. At about 4 p. m. the readers had in their hands the eight

page, small size newspaper, containing all the news of the last twenty-four hours, in despatches and articles. There were also leading articles, inspired by faith in victory and encouraging resistance against the enemy. People read the paper quickly and then handed it on. By the evening, the news was known to the entire Polish population of the town.

The newspaper was edited by a small group of people, under the direction of a man of iron will. He hardly ever slept, spending nights at his wireless set, trying to get as much news from the free world as possible.

To speed up the work, the editorial office was placed near the printing press, in a small, one storey house in a suburban side street. What a printing press! It was small and they had to take all kinds of precautions to avoid discovery.

The paper could not be late. Punctual delivery was a symbol of confidence in the future and of defiance to the enemy. The paper was always ready in time.

Discovered

In March of last year, on a rainy day, they saw from one of the upper windows two heavily armed German policemen. There was a knock at the door. They opened the door a few inches, but without releasing the safety chain. It might after all have been a simple routine enquiry.

No, it wasn't. "We must search the house. You are said to have a printing press here."

A brief, terrible moment of decision. They slammed the door. Then through the letter-box slot one of the editors shot the two Germans with his revolver.

Then the chief editor looked round with a questioning glance: there were five men and one woman. They all nodded a "yes" of approval.... Two produced their weapons and the others went back to work.

Other Germans were com-
Continued on page 4

PROFITEERING IN TEXTILES

CONTROLLER WARNS TRADERS

Addressing a meeting of textile traders at Kandy last Saturday, presided over by Mr. E. T. Dyson, Government Agent, Mr. S. H. Wadia, the Controller of Textiles, said that if traders wished to continue in business they must act as his allies, but if they broke the regulations in any way they were not fit to carry on. That was why he had taken power to put anyone out of the trade.

"Several of you have already failed me, in one respect," he said. "For instance, the profits allowed were maximum profits; it did not mean that in certain kinds of articles you could raise the prices to get maximum profits. Some of you have told people that formerly you would have been satisfied with ten per cent. profit on sarongs and sarees, but the control has given you 25 per cent. profit and you are charging so much more. I consider those of you who have done so have acted dishonestly.

"You must have known that the control scheme was not meant to increase but to decrease prices. The result is that shortly we will have to set a new schedule of profits for the cheaper grades of articles like sarongs, sarees, vertis, camboys, etc. The sooner you reduce your profits on that type of article to the profits which you made even long before the war the better. These are not times when you can continue to make large profits. Some people among the public feel that the rates of profit I have allowed are too high. If we find that they are too high they will have to be reduced."

The question of the system of issuing export licences in India was under correspondence between Ceylon and India, he said, and he hoped it would be possible to solve the question of the extortionate prices at which black market export licences were obtained.

He had already a list of dealers who he believed were not acting straight. Some dealers in Kandy had already received warning. They would be watched and if they did not mend their ways they would find themselves out of the trade.



Hindu Organ.

THURSDAY, JUNE 3, 1943.

A SLOW PROCESS

THE ACQUISITION OF KNOWLEDGE is always a slow and painful process. This is true of school-boys as well as statesmen entrusted with the government of Empires. Since time is of the very essence of progress, one cannot afford to ignore the knowledge and experience already available on any given subject. The British people and government who justly pride themselves on their progress "from precedent to precedent" cannot be altogether ignorant of the dangers inherent in experiments with ideas and principles divorced from realities. Here is an instance of the British Government's refusal to face facts. We referred the other day to the remark of the London "Times" that "the diversity of the population has been one of the chief causes of dissatisfaction with the existing constitution, and it has prevented any general agreement on reforms among the different communities of the island." We indorsed this view because this is undoubtedly the correct view of the matter. There is, however, nothing new about it. Many witnesses before the Donoughmore Commissioners emphasised it; every student of the history of Ceylon knows it. And yet, the Donoughmore Commission ignored so fundamental a fact as this, and propounded a scheme of reforms the inevitable consequence of which was to divide the country. Let us remember that, before the Commissioners took the matter in hand, all sections of the population were united in their demand for political power, and, as a matter of fact, the Tamils who form the biggest minority led the movement for reforms. Today the position is just the reverse. Thanks to the Donoughmore Commission, we have spent more than ten years in trying to find out obvious facts. And the irony of it all is that there are countries inhabited by diverse races that are nevertheless self-governing and independent. The Donoughmore Commissioners were too British to pay any attention to the example of other countries. What was good enough for the Scots, the Welsh, and the English, they thought, was good enough for the races of Ceylon.

The discovery of the London "Times" is only another proof of the need for the Ceylonese to solve their own political problems, even if such solution is to conform to the

directions given in the Declaration. Any slavish imitation of British precedents will only lead to disaster, for the simple reason that the British were never confronted with the constitutional problems which the Ceylonese are called upon to solve after more than a decade of political empiricism.

PANNAI CAUSEWAY

The unprecedented tragedy that occurred in May last year in the Pannai lagoon has now brought to the fore the old but unsettled question of the Pannai causeway. The need for this causeway is now granted by everyone; thanks to the tragic event, there now seems to prevail a unanimity of opinion that a causeway should be constructed without further delay between Pannai and Allaipiddy. The Government Agent of this Province and the Minister for Communications and Works, we understand, are convinced of the necessity of this causeway, and, therefore, are eager to put it through as early as possible. Plans and estimates of the causeway have accordingly been prepared and they are now before the Executive Committee of Communications and Works for consideration. We are certain the Committee will not fail to appreciate the reasonableness of the demand that has been made for the construction of this causeway. A public meeting held on the anniversary day of the boat tragedy—21st May this year—under the chairmanship of Mr. S. Natesan, M.S.C., appealed to the authorities, on behalf of the inhabitants of the islands, to make provision, in the forthcoming budget, for this causeway. A deputation which waited on the Minister last Tuesday has also made the same request. The importance of this causeway to the people of the backward islands cannot be questioned; the benefits that would be derived from it by the people, particularly of Mandaitivu, Allaipiddy, Velanai and Pungudutivu, can only be measured by the relief and facilities it would afford to a people who have for generations suffered untold hardships for want of easy means of communication. With the linking, by causeways, of Pungudutivu with Velanai, and Velanai with the Town, the difficulties of communication that have been the greatest handicap of these islands would have been overcome, and equal opportunities afforded them for improving their unenviable lot. We have every reason to hope that the Minister and his Committee who have evinced a keen interest in several matters affecting the North will respond to this unanimous request for the causeway and make the necessary provision in the next budget.

RELIEF TO JAFFNA CULTIVATORS

The heavy losses suffered by cultivators in this District, as a result of the recent floods, call for immediate relief. Money crops like tobacco and food crops like manioc, kurakkan, green gram, gingelly and other dry grains which were cultivated on an unprecedentedly large scale in almost all parts of the District have been almost destroyed. The country is rendered all the poorer for it: these crops which would have stood the people in good stead in these days of rationing have, by their destruction, deprived the cultivators of their means of subsistence, in addition to the financial loss incurred in raising them. The damage is vast and extensive. We are glad Mr. Natesan has brought this matter to the notice of the State Council, by means of a motion, and asked for immediate and adequate relief to the cultivators. The motion has been referred to the Executive Committees of Agriculture and Lands and Labour, Industry and Commerce. Mr. Natesan has estimated the loss at Rs. 2 million. The Executive Committees, we hope, will consider the question of relief without loss of time, and provide timely and adequate relief by way of seed grains, money, and loans. The experience the authorities have gained in the giving of relief in other parts of the Island should help them to see that the relief goes directly to the cultivator and does not in the process of distribution help those who undertake to distribute it or those who do not deserve or require it at all. If timely and adequate relief is not forthcoming, the disheartened and disappointed cultivator cannot be expected to help very much in the food drive that is so essential at this time of emergency. The relief that is given should serve as an inducement for the cultivator to take more interest in the cultivation of food crops.

KING'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS

The following are among the recipients of King's Birthday honours:-

K. B. E.

Sir Don Baron Jayatilaka, M. A.

C. M. G.

William James Price, M. Inst. C. E.

O B E. (Civil)

Ralph Henry Bassett, C.C.S. and Sabapathipillai Rajanayagam, B Sc, A. C. G. I, A. M I E. E.

J. P.

For the Northern Province Mr. S. M. Aboobucker and Mr. V. C. Manikam.

GATE MUDALIYAR Mudaliar S M Muthuthamby

MUDALIYAR

Mr. S. K. Appadurai.

MUHANDIRAM

Mr. S. P. Amarasingham.

MINISTERS AND REFORMS

DISCUSSION AT TODAY'S MEETING

It is understood that the Board of Ministers will discuss the Declaration on the Reform of the Ceylon Constitution recently received from H. M. Government through His Excellency the Governor at a meeting to be held today.

A memorandum setting out the proposals outlined in the message and comparing them with provisions of the Constitutions of other parts of the Empire has, it is learned, been placed before the Board of Ministers.

To Formulate Scheme

The Ministers, it is learned, propose to proceed to the task of formulating a constitutional scheme as suggested in the message.

It is probable, however, that after a detailed examination of the declaration published recently, the Board of Ministers may decide to address the Secretary of State for the Colonies further on the subject.

ANTI-MALARIA FISH

The Moscow radio reports that Russian scientists are using a fish known as "gambusir" in the war against the malaria carrying mosquito pest. These fish are introduced into Soviet rice fields during the mosquito-breeding season and feed on mosquito eggs, for which they have a special liking. The result of this experiment is said to have been satisfactory.

INSPECTOR'S APPEAL AGAINST CONVICTION

The appeal of Mr. F. D. E. Dassanaiké, Inspector of Police, Jaffna, from a conviction for wrongful confinement and causing hurt to a man named E. Kathiravelu was resumed on Tuesday before the Acting Chief Justice.

The argument had not been concluded when the Court adjourned till Thursday.

Mr. Dassanaiké in this case was sentenced to six months' rigorous imprisonment by Mr. G. C. Thambyah, District Judge of Jaffna, who tried the case as an additional Magistrate.

RICE PURCHASE INQUIRY TO BE RESUMED TODAY

The official committee appointed to enquire into the charges made against Mr. M. H. Kantawala, Ceylon's Trade Commissioner in Bombay, and Mr. K. Jayaretnam, a clerk at Ceylon House, Bombay, is expected to meet today.

After its adjournment last week the committee was unable to meet owing to the indisposition of Mr. R. R. Crossette Tambiah, Crown Counsel, who has led the evidence at the inquiry.

NO COURT AT MULLAITIVU

MAGISTRATE NOT PROVIDED WITH TYRES

Great excitement appears to be prevailing in Mullaitivu as the Magistrate Mr. M. M. I. Kariapper had fixed all Mullaitive cases for the Vavunia sessions this month. The litigants are deeply disappointed and that if this arrangement is allowed to go unopposed there will henceforward be no sitting of court in Mullaitivu. Mullaitivu is sixty miles away from Vavuniya. Litigants in outlying villages and other parts in Maritime Pattus will experience great hardships in having to travel 70 or 80 miles to Vavuniya these days when no travelling facilities are available. Telegrams have been sent to the Legal Secretary protesting against the suppression of Mullaitivu sessions. The reason, it appears, is that the Magistrate in spite of repeated applications has not been so far provided with tyres. A greater difficulty will be encountered by the crown when seizure of paddy is effected as they would have to be produced in Court for a successful prosecution. The suppression of Mullaitivu sitting will involve the Government in heavy expense in having to transport the seized productions to Vavuniya court sitting. It is hoped that the Legal Secretary will immediately set aright the matter. The people are very much surprised why the Government cannot provide a person in the essential service with tyres. (Cor)

NORTHERN PROVINCE TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

The Twelfth Annual General Meeting of the Northern Province Teachers Association will be held on Saturday, 5th instant, in the Jaffna Central College Hall, at 10 a.m.

Mr. P. de S. Kularatne B. A., B.Sc., L. L. B. will address the meeting at 3.30 p.m.

The following among other resolutions will be placed before the meeting: "This Association urges the Special Committee on Education to draw up a National Scheme of Education which will give equality of opportunity to every child of school age."

"This Association again urges the Ministry and the Department to arrange with the University authorities to start without delay the Post-graduate training of Teachers."

RURAL RECONSTRUCTION

At a meeting of the Rural Reconstruction Advisory Board, Puttur, held last week with Mr. S. Thacikasalam, B. Sc. (Lond), the President, in the chair, it was decided to further the co-ordination of all the committees engaged at present in rural reconstruction work in the area. For this purpose a propaganda meeting will shortly be held.

The difficulty in obtaining dyes for the palmyra-leaf salt packet industry was discussed. The Rural Development Officers promised to write to the Department regarding the shortage. Satisfaction was expressed that the recommendation to obtain local raw materials for the coir industry was carried out. The shortage of textile yarn was also stressed and action is being taken.

A PLEA FOR A NATIONAL FRONT

BY DR C. CHELLIAH

I love my country. I love my people without regard to creed or caste. A subject country should not have a divided house. It is inimical to united effort.

Religion is essentially a personal relationship between man and God. Quarrels over names and forms are child's play. To me, religion is realisation of the divinity in man and I cannot imagine conflicts between men who are truly religious. I have had most cordial relationships with men and women of various nationalities and religions. But here in Ceylon in general and Jaffna in particular there is far too much frothy talk about this religion and that religion without any regard to the moral and spiritual aspect of the true religion. What we do want most is religion as portrayed in one's life in the every-day thoughts, words, and deeds. That should be the first step.

Christ was born in a corner of Asia and I have it on the authority of Swami Suddhananda Barathi of Pondicherry Ashram, that Christ was once sojourning in Benares learning Vedanta and that his name is to be found in the roll of visitors to Tibet. I am not a student of the Bible (Missionary presentation was wrong, in my view) but from stray extracts presented to me by students of the Bible I can see that Christ's teachings may well have germs of Vedantic thought. But missionaries who came from Europe and America had plenty of money. They had other views and other plans. They did not understand our cultural heritage. They came to save the 'heathens'! They adopted Nazi methods without regard to morality and principles. Real religion was lost in the scramble for converts.

Our religion was held up to ridicule and misrepresentation. They utterly failed in their mission. They started schools, aided and abetted by the Government, in all the villages and centres of population. The young innocents (who had no king to watch their spiritual and moral interests) were mentally persecuted. Emblems of religion were not tolerated in these schools. Temple worship was ridiculed and things spiritual were caricatured and misrepresented.

I have now gone into some portions of Siddhanta Sastras and Vedanta too and I do not find the slightest justification for those deliberate misrepresentations and ridicule practised by missionaries. As a boy of eight and nine it was my misfortune to have attended a Tamil school run by a mission body. Church attendance was compulsory on pain of whipping. Church lessons were atrocious. I found elements of hypocrisy all around me. Youths were made to be hypocritical. They became moral cowards in later life and we are reaping today the evils arising from missionary work. Is not this Nazism in all its ugliness please?

What has English education done? It has made preachers, teachers, clerks, surveyors, lawyers, doctors etc. It has enabled some people to earn money, attain some prominence in some walks of life. But how many men are there in this group? I have said that missionary education has produced many moral

cowards, pretenders and sycophants. What have our educated men done? Mount platforms and make empty speeches and go about vote catching! They have learned the books imported from the West and passed examinations all right. To write on this aspect would cover much space and hence I refrain from it.

English education has been of much use to English Administrators, merchants and other exploiters of wealth and for a time their services were in great demand. But times have changed and unemployment is increasing.

Our English educated people in Malaya have not done well financially because of the English education. It is common knowledge that the Chinese and Indians without English education have done magnificently in Malaya.

I do not want to write at length on this aspect for fear of lack of space. Education is a nation-building work. The children should be educated along national methods. That is the birth-right of every child. Exposing them to alien influences inimical to national growth and development should be made impossible if we are to survive and fulfil our obligations to the country.

We are a CS people today, aping the evil aspects of other civilisations, producing nothing of merit, quarrelling among ourselves over trifles and hankering for honours and titles. We have been thrown together with the West, these hundred years and over. Have we imbibed anything of real and lasting merit from our contact with the West. The achievements of the people of the Western countries in science, industry, politics etc. are truly wonderful. Are we efficient in the management of our corporations and institutions. Once a banker remarked to the writer that there was plenty of money in Jaffna but the Jaffna man was keeping it in his stockings. Yes, a Jaffna lawyer has opened a paddy farm in Kilinochchi. But let us think of the missed opportunities both in this country and Malaya.

Has not the time come to call a halt and review the position? We have blundered far too long. Missionary exploitations should cease. National institutions should be fostered. Co-education after the age of 12 is asking for trouble, and should not be countenanced. Foreign Educational agencies should be more sympathetic and should not think of proselytising and conversions. Their work among heathens and milechas are not in good taste. Youth should grow unmolested in their natural and national habitat. There are many, many problems before us. We do not even think of them.

Instead we jabber and waste our time in talks about this and that religion. But in my view there is hardly any religion in any of these camps. For all these diversions from our real tasks we have to thank our Missionary friends who came not to help, but to hinder and demoralise subject peoples by throwing apples of discord among them.

Let there be Ahimsa in thought, word and deed. Non-aggression in thought word and deed. That should be the charter of human progress. Let all Tamils unite and work for their uplift.

CAUSEWAY FOR PANNAI URGED

DEPUTATION MEETS MINISTER

The necessity for constructing a causeway between Pannai and Allaipiddy and making provision for it in the estimates for the next financial year were urged by a deputation which waited on the Minister for Communications and Works on Tuesday in the P.W. D. Buildings, Colombo.

The deputation urged that a start should be made next year with the construction of the causeway for which the people had agitated for more than half a century.

The Minister gave the deputation a sympathetic hearing and told them that the matter was now in the hands of his Committee and that he would try his best to further the cause.

The Director and the Deputy Director of Public Works were also present.

The deputation which was led by Mr. J. C. Amarasingam consisted of Messrs K. Ambalavanar, P. Ragupathy and K. Kailasapillai.

GURUPOOJAH OF ST. SEKKILAR

The Gurupoojah of St. Sekkilar will be performed under the auspices of the Jaffna Saiva Paripalana Sabhai, at the Sabhai premises, on Monday, the 7th instant, between 9 a. m. and 3 p. m. Pooja, reading and annotation of Sekkilar Puranam, and Maheswara poojah will be the important items of the ceremony.

Letter to the Editor

THE AGAMAS AND UNTOUCHABILITY

Sir,

I am a student in the Matriculation class. I studied no religious book except the Saiva Vinavedai of Arumuga Navalar. I had great faith in the Saiva Religion. But now after reading some of the articles appearing in your paper, I am losing faith in the Saiva Religion. I wanted to clear my doubts from the teachers, but they make me still more confused by giving contradictory answers. Finding no other way open to me, I kindly request you to publish the few questions from me in your valuable paper, so that anyone of the readers of your paper may give the answer which will be useful not only to myself but to other students who are in the same state as myself.

The questions are:—

1. Are the Aghamas the Gospel of the Saivites?
2. Is not untouchability or Achavusham (அகாவுஷம்) enjoined by the Aghama Shasthiras,
3. If untouchability be a sin are not Aghamas false?
4. If Aghamas are false is not Saivism a false religion?
5. Did Arumuga Navalar give his own opinion in his Saiva Vinavedai or did he give what he found in the Aghamas,

Sandilipay, I remain Sir,
22-5-43 Yours etc.
P. SIVASURIAR,

[We hope our correspondent will receive the enlightenment he seeks. —Ed. H. O.]

GURUPUJAH OF SAMBANTHA SWAMIGAL

AT THE VIVEKANANDA SOCIETY, COLOMBO

The Gurupujah of Thirugnanasambanthamoorthy Swamigal was celebrated on Saturday 22nd May 1943 at 5 p. m. at the Vivekananda Society Hall, Hill Street, Sambantha Swamigal Puranapadanam which had been going on for some days was completed on the occasion. Mr. M. Ambalavanar read the stanzas from the Periapuranam and Mr. S. Cumaraswamy explained their meanings. This was followed by pujah at the Shrine Room of the Society. Mr. V. Mailvaganam delivered an address on the life of the Swamigal. Devotional songs including some of Sambantha's hymns were then sung to musical accompaniment by Miss Padma Kandasamy and Miss Nageswari Sabaratnam. Mr. S. Namasivayampillai delivered an address on the work of Sambantha Swamigal. Remarks were offered by Mr. S. Sivasambu and the Chairman, Mr. R. Eliathamby then proposed a vote of thanks to the lecturers and the musicians. After the distribution of prasadam the meeting terminated with the singing of Thevaram at about 8 p. m.

LECTURE ON KANNAPPA NAYANAR

Mr. K. Vajravelu Mudaliyar B. A., L. T., Lecturer in Mathematics, Pachaiappa's College, Conjeevaram delivered a lecture on 'Kannappa Nayanar' at the Vivekananda Society Hall on Sunday the 16th instant at 5 p. m. Mr. M. S. Thiruvilangam presided. In the course of a lecture lasting for about two and a half hours the lecturer dwelt at length on the life of Kannappa Nayanar who, the lecturer stated, was the very embodiment of Divine Love. Kannappa was one of the oldest of the Saiva Saints who was referred to by many of the other saints in their hymns. His simple and child-like faith has stirred the hearts of many a devotee of later times. His selfless love and attachment to the person of Kudumithevar were clearly shown in every one of his actions—actions which might seem irrational in the eyes of the ordinary man but which reflected great love in his case. The lecturer quoted extensively from the eleventh Thirumurai and Periapuranam to illustrate his statements.

At the conclusion of the lecture the chairman thanked the lecturer on behalf of the audience.

Mrs. Pathmasaniammal Rajendra in seconding the vote of thanks paid a tribute to the religious, literary and musical culture of the lecturer and stated that the lecture was appreciated by people of diverse interests. Mr. A. Tyagarajah, the Hony. Suburban Secretary, presented some books to the lecturer on behalf of the Society and the meeting came to a close with the singing of Thevaram. Mr. Vajravelu Mudaliyar then took part in the Periapuranam padanam that is being carried on in the Society. Mr. M. Ambalavanar read some verses from the Thirugnanasambantha Swamigal Puranam and Mr. Mudaliyar explained their meanings.

"FIGHTING EDITORS" IN OCCUPIED COUNTRIES

Continued from page 1

ing. They saw the bodies of the first two and sent for reinforcements...

His Last Leader

During the first hour only a few shots were fired. The Germans appealed to the Polish journalists to surrender, promising them immunity and freedom. Three men of the editorial and printing staff stood at the windows, with revolvers and sawn off shot guns, the other worked. The chief editor was writing his last leader: "Tomorrow you may no longer be able to read us...but others will replace us..."—so he began his article.

At half past two the paper was ready. The leading article was very brief. It consisted of five lines. Someone volunteered to be the carrier. He had to take a big parcel of papers through the cellar and then through back gardens. He went off. He risked much. No one knew whether the paper would reach the readers.

15 minutes later about 20 policemen and SS stormtroopers arrived on motorcycles. The Germans made a last appeal for capitulation. Then they opened fire with machine guns, and under cover of this fire tried to approach the house. But the boxes with printers' type did not contain type alone. The Germans learnt this to their cost, when hand grenades were hurled in their midst forcing them to withdraw.

Then the Germans threw on the roof some burning frags. They could not set fire to the steep, metal roof. At dusk they sent for more reinforcements. Then they tried to approach the windows under cover of darkness, but they were met with fire and some of them fell.

At midnight the besieging forces decided to wait for dawn. At about eight in the morning they attacked with flame throwers and machine guns.

Last to Die

The editor in chief was the last to die. His face and hands were badly burnt. He was still alive when they broke inside the house. The Germans did not shoot him, but trampled him down with their boots.

I received the news about my friend's death together with some old copies of the paper he had been editing. I read them, thinking about him. He held his printing house for nearly twenty-four hours. And yet he was not a man of exceptional valour. He was an ordinary person, with all the usual middle class habits and a kind of softness usual in big-city dwellers. But that man edited for fourteen months a secret newspaper until he died defending it. But he carried on until the end, and his last words were: "Others will replace us." (B. B. C. Press Service)

COLOMBO TAMIL KALAGAM

The following Office-bearers were elected at the Annual General Meeting of the Colombo Tamil Kalagam, for the ensuing year.

Patron: Mr. N. Nadarajah, K.C., President: Mr. A. Sabaratnam Vice-Presidents: Mr. K. Kanagaratnam, Dr. K. Kanapathipillai, Messrs. M. S. Thiruvilangam, K.

Mathiaparanam, A. Gardiner. Secretary: Mr. S. Natarajan Asst. Secretary: Mr. S. K. Shanmugampillai Treasurer: Mr. R. Ponnambalam Asst. Treasurer: Mr. S. Kathirkamadasan Librarian: Mr. C. Nadarajah Establishment Secretary: Mr. R. Ratnarajah Membership Secretaries: Mr. N. Balasubramaniam, Mr. T. Sabaratnam. Executive Committee Members: Messrs S Ponnambalam, A V

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Printed, and published by PANDIT V. T. SAMBANDHAN, residing at Vannarponnai West, Jaffna, for and on behalf of the Proprietors, the Saiva Paripalana Sabai, Jaffna, at their Press, the Saiva Prakasa Press, Vannarponnai, Jaffna, on THURSDAY, JUNE 3, 1943.