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TIME LIMIT IN PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

History Of The "Guillotine Motion"

By G. Scott Bremner

(A leading British Journalist with considerable experience of the House of Commons Press Gallery.)

PARLIAMENTARY procedure in Great Britain has always been framed to accord with the true principles of democracy, and the unrestricted debate of a new measure introduced by the Government is an accepted institution. Occasion does arise, however, when the rapid passage of a Bill through the House of Commons is imperative, and in such a case, the Government can introduce a "time-table" motion to facilitate the passage. While this involves a severe limitation of that free discussion which every Englishman claims as his birth-right, it can fairly be said that such a motion is ultimately in the interests of democratic government. In a recent instance of its use—that of the introduction of Conscription in Great Britain—Mr. Chamberlain said that "anything which appeared to be in the nature of dilatory proceedings would certainly have a very discouraging effect on our friends in Europe." And clearly a motion, which enables Parliamentary procedure to be speeded up when necessary, is of the greatest value in the times in which we live.

A glance through the report of any debate on a Bill to which a time-table has been applied will show the procedure clearly enough. A fixed time is allotted for the detailed discussion of each clause. At the end of that time, the closure is moved and a vote is taken on the particular amendment under discussion. Thereafter, all other amendments standing in the names of private members are passed over; Government amendments are formally carried, and a vote is taken on the question that the clause, as amended, shall stand part of the Bill.

The way this procedure limits discussion is obvious;

and a little thought will show how it can not only limit, but actually stifle it. The time allotted for the clause may be taken up with amendments of no consequence, and the amendments dealing with the vital principle of the clause may not be reached. Nevertheless, when the allotted time expires and the closure is moved—or to quote the vivid idiom of the House of Commons, "the guillotine falls"—all further debate is stopped.

This procedure is quite alien to British habits of thought and action; and an inquiry into its origin and continued application may help, more than any direct examination could do, to an understanding of that tradition and those habits.

Perhaps, the most profound observation on the British Constitution—that queer mixture of law, tradition and practice—was made by the late Lord Balfour when he said that it worked only because everybody was determined that it should work. Nowhere is this determination more necessary than in the primary business of every government of passing legislation.

For consider: A parliamentary session lasts for some thirty weeks spread over the year, and part of that time in the House of Commons must be devoted to "supply", or the voting of money for defence, the social services and administration expenses. The time available for the passing of legislation, therefore, is strictly limited; and every Bill must pass through both Houses of Parliament and receive the Royal Assent in the same session in which it is introduced. If it has not completed its passage through both Houses by the end of the session, it dies automatically; and

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APPLIED SCIENCES IN ANCIENT INDIA

I. Chemistry (Contd.)

By S. R. Muttakumar

(Continued from our issue of 26-6-39)

Manufacture of Steel

PLINY says: 'Of all the different kinds of iron, the palm of excellence is awarded to those which is made by the Seres, who send it to us with their tissues and skins, next to which, in quality, is the Parthian iron.' (1) Commenting on this, Schoff writes: "It is open to question whether this was not Indian steel, more correctly described in the *Periplus* as coming from the Gulf of Cambay to the Somali coast and Egypt. It was produced in Haidarabad, and was shipped to the Punjab and Persia to be made into steel, the famous Damascus blades of the middle ages being arrived mainly from this source" (2)

Ball, the translator of Tavernier's *Travels in India* supports this view, when he writes: "The iron at Haidarabad, at a very early period obtained a wide renown, being in fact the material which, when made into steel, afforded the source of supply for the manufacture of Damascus blades, the raw material having been exported to Persia and the Punjab for that purpose." (3)

It may be noted here that Warmington observes that the excellent Parthian metal referred to by Pliny was perhaps really Indian. (4) The reference to Parthia means that until the Romans discovered the sea-route to India, they were dependent on the Parthian trade-route for their eastern treasures, and had only such information, often misleading, as the Parthians offered them.

Another of the great discoveries in Applied Chemistry to which India owed her cap-

ture of the world markets was the "tempering of steel" in a manner worthy of advanced metallurgy, a process to which the medieval world owed its Damascus swords. (5)

The Indian sabres also had been famous even at the time of Ctesias, the author of *Indika*, who mentions two wonderful swords he had from the King of Persia (6) Edirisi, the Arab traveller, says: "The Hindus excel in the manufacture of iron. They have also workshops wherein are forged the most famous sabres in the world. It is impossible to find anything to surpass the edge that you get from Indian steel" (7) Royle in his *Arts and Manufactures of India* says that "the secret of manufacturing the so-called Damascus swords was learned by the Saracens from the Persians who had mastered it from the Hindus. In Persia, the Indian sword was proverbially the best sword, and the phrase *javabeh hind* ("Indian answer") meant 'a cut with the sword made of Indian steel'." (8)

The proficiency attained by the ancient Hindus in the manufacture of steel is also amply attested by the iron pillar at Delhi. Dutt writes:

"The remarkable iron pillar near the Kutab Minar has been seen by every tourist and traveller who has been to Delhi..... Admitting the fifth century to be its date, it opens our eyes," as Dr. Fergusson states, "to an unexpected state of affairs to find the Hindus at that age forging bars of iron larger than any that have been forged even in Europe to a very late date, and not frequently even now. As we find them, however, a few centuries afterwards using bars as long as this Lat in roofing the porch of the temple at Kanarak, we must believe that they were much more familiar with the use of this metal than they afterwards became. It is almost equally startling to find that after an exposure to wind and rain for fourteen centuries, it is unruined, and the capital and inscription are

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(1) *Natural History*, XXXIV 41.

(2) *Periplus*, p. 172.

(3) Tavernier's *Travels in India*, i. 127, note. Brookes' ed. See also J. A. S. B. xvi. 417-ff. and Yale's *Marco Polo* 1.58.

(4) *Commerce Between Rome and India*, p. 257.

(5) Mookerji's *Indian Shipping*, p. 181.

(6) Schoff's *Periplus*, p. 70.

(7) Quoted in Schoff's *Periplus*, p. 71.

(8) Quoted in Sarkar's *Hindu Achievements in Exact Science*, p. 45.

NEW JUDICIAL SERVICE FROM JULY 1

46 Posts: Appointments from among Lawyers

THE new Judicial Service for the Island has been constituted from July 1st.

A Minute in last Friday's Gazette states that the Governor has been pleased with the approval of the Secretary of State for the Colonies to give effect to the scheme as from July 1, 1939.

No person will be eligible for appointment to the Judicial Service unless he is an Advocate or Proctor of the Supreme Court and has practised as such for a period of not less than six years and first appointments to the Service will be on probation for two years.

The Service will consist of the District Judge of Colombo—a Special Class post—and forty-five other officers in two classes. The posts of District Judge, Galle, and District Judge, Jaffna, will temporarily be held by members of the Civil Service.

Grades and Salaries

The Judicial Service will consist of—

- (a) One officer in the Special Class (District Judge, Colombo)—salary, Rs. 16,800 per annum.
- (b) Six officers in Class I, Grade 1—salary, Rs. 15,000 per annum.
- (c) Ten officers in Class I, Grade 2—salary, Rs. 12,000 per annum.
- (d) Ten officers in Class I, Grade 3—salary Rs. 10,200 per annum.
- (e) Eleven officers in Class II, Grade 1—salary, Rs. 9,000 per annum.
- (f) Eight officers in Class II, Grade 2—salary, Rs. 7,200 per annum.

Judges

The posts with their classes and grades are as follows:—

SPECIAL CLASS: District Judge, Colombo.

CLASS I, GRADE 1: Three Additional District Judges, Colombo, District Judge, Galle, District Judge, Jaffna, District Judge, Kandy.

CLASS I, GRADE 2: District Judge, Badulla, District Judge, Chilaw, District Judge, Kalutara, District Judge, Kegalla, District Judge, Kurunegala, District Judge, Matara, District Judge, Negombo, District Judge, Ratnapura, Commissioner of Requests, Colombo, Magistrate, Colombo.

CLASS I, GRADE 2: District Judge, Anuradhapura, District Judge, Batticaloa, District Judge, Nuwara Eliya, District Judge, Tangalla, District Judge, Trincomalee, Additional District Judge, Galle, Additional District Judge, Jaffna, Additional District Judge, Kandy, One Supernumerary Judge.

Magistrates

CLASS II, GRADE 1: Magis-

trate, Galle, Magistrate, Gampaha Magistrate, Jaffna, Magistrate Kalutara, Magistrate, Kandy Magistrate, Kurunegala Magistrate, Matara, Magistrate, Panadura, Additional Magistrate, Colombo, Municipal Magistrate, Colombo, One Supernumerary Judge.

CLASS II, Grade 2: Magistrate, Balapitiya, Magistrate, Chilaw, Magistrate, Dandagamuwa, Magistrate, Gampola, Magistrate, Mallakam, Magistrate, Matara, Magistrate Negombo, Magistrate, Point Pedro.

Method of Appointment

First appointments to the Service will not necessarily be made in Grade 2 of Class II, but in any Class or in any Grade of any Class.

Appointments to and promotions in the Service will be made by the Governor with the advice of the Judicial Appointments Board and will be subject to the approval of the Secretary of State. The approval of the Secretary of State will, however, not be necessary in the case of the transfer of an officer from one post to another in the same Grade of the Service, or in the case of an officer appointed to act temporarily in any Class or Grade higher than his own.

First appointments to the Service will be made on two years' probation. Transfers to the Service of judicial officers holding permanent appointments in any of the posts enumerated will not be regarded as first appointments.

A vacancy in the Special Class or in any Grade of any Class in the Service other than Grade 2 of Class II will not necessarily be filled by promotion within the Service.

Merit and not seniority will be the criterion for promotion from a lower to a higher Class or Grade.

For purposes of leave, discipline, and administration, officers in the Service will be under the general control of the Legal Secretary.

Promotions and Transfers

Any officer of the Service may at any time be appointed to any post designated above irrespective of the Class or Grade assigned to that post or of the Class to which that officer belongs.

An officer in any Grade in Class I or Class II, may be transferred to any other post of the same Grade of the same Class by the Governor with the advice of the Judicial Appointments Board.

An officer in the Service appointed to act temporarily in a Class or Grade higher than his own will be entitled to officiating salary in accordance with the Financial Regulations of Government; but Supernumerary Judges will not be entitled to such officiating salary.

Any officer, other than a member of the Ceylon Civil Service, who on the date of the establishment of the Judicial Service holds a permanent appointment in any of the posts mentioned other than that of Supernumerary Judge will, with effect from that date be transferred to the Judicial Service to the Grade or Class specified for that post. Where an officer is so transferred to any Class or Grade of any Class which carries a salary less than that of his appointment prior to such transfer he will continue to draw his salary notwithstanding that it may be higher than the salary of the Class or Grade of the Class to which he is transferred.

APPLIED SCIENCE IN ANCIENT INDIA

(Continued from page 1)

as clear and as sharp now as when put up fourteen centuries ago. (9)

Gunpowder

Some scholars are of opinion that gunpowder may have been introduced into China from India about the 5th or 6th century A. D. (10) Be this as it may, we find that the *Ramayana* has the following.

"Then shall his previous shafts be spent,
Even like a snake with fiery heads
And on their flight shall hiss
and flame
Marked with the mighty archer's name"

Manu says: "Let no man engaged in combat strike his foe with sharp weapons concealed in wood, nor with arrows mischievously barbed or poisoned or with darts blazing with fire" (11)

Sukra gives the following recipe for the preparation of gunpowder:

"Five *pala*s of *suvarchi* salt, one *pala* of sulphur and one *pala* of charcoal from the wood of *arka*, *sunki* and other trees burnt in a manner that prevents the escape of smoke, e. g. in a closed vessel have to be purified, and mixed, powdered, and mixed together, then dissolved in the juice of *sunki*, *arka* and garlic, then dried up by heat, and finally powdered like sugar. The substance is gunpowder" (12)

As this preparation tallies with the modern European method, some scholars opine that the above lines may presumably be later interpolations. Be this as it may, Rev. F. Maurice, writing in 1795, says:

"The use of firearms in the

(9) *Civilisation in Ancient India*.

(10) Journal of the North China Branch of the R. A. S. VI. 82 quoted in Sarkar's *Hindu Achievements in Exact Science* p. 45.

(11) *Dharma Shastra*, vii. 90.

(12) *Sukraniti* IV. vii, 400-4.

earliest, and consequently the ante-diluvian period of their empire (for to the ante-diluvian hypothesis I must still adhere, as the only rational mode of explaining the extravagant, though in some instances the authenticated chronological details of the Indians), opens a wide field for reflection, since it appears to prove that the natives of this country had immemorably the use of gunpowder, and the metallic instruments of death which are employed in the offensive use of that destructive article. If the *Agnister* of ancient times bear any resemblance to the fire-rocket used in the modern wars of India, and which was also introduced with such success into the military school of the great Timur, it proves that they had the use of iron also; the extraction and fusion of which ore, and the preparation of it for use, are among the most complex and elaborate operations of chemistry" (13)

Preparation of Cement

Some of the Indian discoveries in chemical arts and manufactures are indicated as early as the 6th century A. D. by Varaha Mihira in his *Brihat Samhita*. Thus he mentions several preparations of cement or powders called *Vajraleba*, "cements as strong as the thunderbolt," for which there was ample use in the temple architecture of the times, whose remains still testify to the adamant strength of these metal or rock cements.

It is interesting to note here that the cement used at the base of a stone idol to fix it firmly is made of the following eight ingredients:—

1. சிங்காச்சல், impure carbonate of lime.
2. வெம்புச்சு, stick lac.
3. சாதிவகை, Vermillion
4. செம்பஞ்சு, Brazil cotton
5. தேன்மொழுது, bees-wax
6. எருமை வெண்ணெய், buffalo ghee.
7. துக்கிலியம், Konkani resin, and
8. சந்திரை, ochre.

(To be Continued.)

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(13) History of Hindustan, i. 442.—3.

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ONE THING AND ANOTHER

Indo-Ceylon Federation—The Closing of Northern Ports—Counting without the Reaction—The Ceylon House in London and the Tourist Bureau

(By Panangkoddai)

WAS it not the late Sir P. Ramathan who once thought aloud that for the sake of Ceylon it would be better for her to be made a part of an Indian Province? I think quite a few people must have thought this wise in recent times. One Indian Congress leader, who was in the running for the Presidency last time, is also reported to have expressed similar sentiments when he spoke about the Indo-Ceylon tussle. What would be the position of this precious little Island of ours in course of time when every other country is forging ahead towards independent existence? Can this tiny spot on the ocean hold its own, except behind the aprons of the British matron? If you think about it to its logical and practical conclusion you will probably admit that Ceylon must affiliate herself to India or drag on a miserable existence to which some of the Sinhalese political short sights are now trying to lead her. I have a shrewd suspicion that part of the trouble now is due to the fear that closer alliances and affinities between the Indians and a good part of the Ceylon population will hasten the day of a political alliance when with a self-governing India Ceylon would be a proud component. The pinch-beck leaders would then find their pretensions blown sky-high. Why not scotch the attempt right now?

I DON'T remember exactly when or where, but I am quite sure, that some years ago a worthy scientist discovered that malaria was inescapable without complete extermination of the anopheles mosquito. That was quite alright, but he went a little farther into the matter and said that no quitoes bred in paddy fields, and the safest and sanest thing to do was to destroy the paddy fields. Nothing less. I do not know how many fields got rid of their paddy, if at all, but the scientific fool was quite serious about it all. Now this tomfoolery about disease being imported into the Island through the Jaffna ports is of a piece with the above instance. In these days of science disease, no doubt, travels as fast as the fastest planes in air. But do the peoples of the various countries abandon ordinary activities for fear of the air-borne contamination? Are the authorities in Colombo really serious when they suggest that the best way to prevent disease being imported into our Island is to close the ports of the Jaffna peninsula for traffic in foodstuffs? Is fumigation or some other step such a forbidden luxury that it is no good for Jaffna? Bosh!

WHAT do they know of the real implications of these foolish proposals, that derive their ease and comfort in secretariat and council chamber? No rain, no rivers, no

ports, no trade. Is Jaffna to perish and her people disappear from the face of the earth? Is there not some reason for the common belief that all this hardship on Jaffna is being cleverly worked out by a clique of self-interested people in the South to make it all so comfortable for themselves and their kith and kin? Of course they are counting without the reaction. People, temperamentally lazy and eager to live in comfort without effort, are the same all the world over, hating their neighbours, trying to cross them meanly, and generally resorting to unworthy tactics

THE Tourist Bureau that has been started after so much flourish gives much cause for complaint and criticism. When they started the Ceylon House in London I knew it was bound to be a failure. They found it was so after throwing quite a good amount of money, but still the expenditure is going on. What did we have that we could market in Europe, except tea and plumbago which looked after themselves handsomely? All that a Ceylon House could do in London was to draw the attention of old women in charge of an outing for children, and of traders who wanted to sell their goods to Ceylon. We spent money to take information to the doors of people who profited by selling to us. The Trade Commissioner in India, I am afraid, will also prove a similar failure, as far as the Island is concerned, though in the interests of Indian business he will be a success. You just wait and see. If the object of the Tourist Bureau is to develop the interests of the Island to attract tourists, they are going about it in the wrong way. Western travellers nowadays don't halt in Colombo more than a few hours, if at all, and they have long ago seen through the game of the few bucksters at the jetty and the Port who dangled curios and faked antique ware before them. Why not attract the millions across the strait to visit the Island and travel in it? But here they place obstacles in their way. Why is our money being wasted in this fashion? You remember the pretty little row about one of the advertisements issued by the Tourist Bureau in which an invitation was extended to Westerners to come to Ceylon to shoot animals in a mainly Buddhist country. Englishmen whose mental make-up is of that type can do no better when they are entrusted with the work of publicity. Did the Ceylon authorities try to find out whether it was not possible to find somebody in the Island who could manage the publicity? Was any effort made, if not, why not? I am sure there are people who could manage the publicity for this Island far better and at less cost to the exchequer. Can some State Councillor ascertain who is now doing the publicity, and whether a Ceylonese could not do it, and why

Portrait of Mr. E. T. Dyson Unveiled

Pleasant Function at Jaffna Kachcheri

A portrait of Mr. E. T. Dyson, late Government Agent Northern Province, was unveiled at the Jaffna Kachcheri last week. Mr. Dyson was received at the entrance to the Kachcheri by the Chief Headmen and the Kachcheri Staff. Mr. R. B. Naish and Mr. Dyson were garlanded by Mudaliyar K. Chinnathambiy.

The unveiling ceremony was performed by Mr. R. B. Naish, the present Government Agent of the Northern Province.

Mudaliyar C. Canapathipillai in requesting Mr. Naish to perform the unveiling ceremony said that Mr. Dyson has captivated the minds of the people by his efficient and sympathetic administration and that it was felt that his memory should be perpetuated by a photograph hung on the walls of the Kachcheri.

Mr. Naish in unveiling the photograph stated that the Northern Province was unique in the matter of its early administrators who were more or less permanent officers in charge of the Province and who fully identified themselves with everything connected with the welfare of the people, and that Mr. Dyson had nearly approximated to these ideals both by the length of his service and by the very keen interest he had evinced in all matters relating to the economic and social welfare of the people.

Mudaliyar K. Chinnathambiy, the senior Maniagar, spoke of Mr. Dyson's beneficent, sympathetic and just administration of the Province for over six years. He wished Mr. Dyson long life and prosperity.

Mr. A. Muttuthambiy, Additional Office Assistant, addressing said that Mr. Dyson's large hearted sympathy and frank and gentlemanly qualities won for him the love and esteem of the people and it was therefore but fitting that his photograph should adorn the walls of the Kachcheri and that it should take its place among those of the most illustrious Government Agents who had gone before him and whose names were remembered by the people of Jaffna to this day. Mr. Muttuthambiy on behalf of the organisers of the function thanked Mr. Naish for unveiling the photograph and Mr. Dyson and other officers for their presence.

Mr. Dyson in reply said that although he did not initiate any grandiose schemes for the benefit of Jaffna he could still claim to have done everything he could for the welfare of the people and that he sympathised with their aspirations. He thanked Mr. Naish and the other speakers and the organizers of the function.

Those present were then entertained to music and refreshments.

a foreign agency was called in? It is worth getting this information. I have seen a number of their advertisements in some papers which are undecipherable except with a powerful magnifying glass, and all this space is being paid for from our funds at pretty high rates. A question in Council please.

NEW EDUCATION BILL

THIRD READING PASSED

DENOMINATIONAL SCHOOLS PROTECTED

Colombo, June 30.

THE new Education Bill was passed in its Third Reading yesterday in the State Council after a whole-day discussion of the recommendations of the Standing Committee.

The two chief features of those recommendations was the insertion of two provisos definitely laying down that nothing shall be done in pursuance of any policy aimed against denominational schools as such. Both provisos, one with a slight alteration, were approved by a majority vote.

The recommendations of the Committee relating to religious instruction and the holding of religious observances in schools were also approved.

A new amendment, which was successfully sponsored yesterday, was that State Councillors of those particular areas should be included in local educational committees.

TELLIPPALAI MAHAJANA ENGLISH SCHOOL

Founder's Day Celebration

The Founder's day was celebrated at the Tellippalai Mahajana English School on Saturday the 24th ultimo. The teachers, students and old boys of the school enthusiastically took part in a whole-day programme which started with a Poojah at 10 a.m. Inter-house competitions in music and sports and a volley ball match between the present and past boys were some of the interesting items of the day. At noon those present had a sumptuous lunch in the school hall, and in the evening the poor of the locality were fed. A public meeting held in the school at 7 p.m. with Mr. Sam A. Sabapathy, Chairman, U.D.C., Jaffna, marked the grand finale of a crowded day's programme. The Headmaster, Mr. K. Chinnappab, garlanded the Chairman and the two speakers of the evening, Mr. S. Sinnadurai, Office Assistant, Federal Secretariat, Kuala Lumpur and Mr. N. Sangarapillai, B. A. of the Jaffna Hindu College. A welcome song was sung after which the chairman, in his introductory remarks, spoke of the talents of the Founder of the School, the late Mr. T. A. Thurairappah Pillai, and of his benefaction to his village in the shape of the school. Mr. S. Sinnadurai delivered an address on "Brotherhood". The speaker prefaced his speech with a reference to the Founder and emphasised on the necessity of brotherhood not only in the social sphere, but also in the realm of religion as well.

Mr. N. Sangarapillai spoke of the Founder and of the association he

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Hindu Organ.

MONDAY, JULY 3, 1939

WAR CLOUDS OVER EUROPE

JUST NOW EUROPE SEEMS TO be heading towards a crisis. There is a strong apprehension in political circles that the next few months may be fateful to the peace of Europe. Everything points to a Nazi coup in Danzig in the near future. For some time Nazi leaders have been busy organising an army corps in the Free City and sending arms and ammunition in secret. There are also reports of the construction of fortifications on both sides of the Polish border. The appearance of German aeroplanes over the city led to much speculation and uneasiness among the population. Nazi circles also fear that Poland might anticipate any coup they may attempt. If all these Nazi tactics follow the traditional lines adopted in the case of Austria and Sudetenland—active incitement of the population to breach of the peace, and intervention to save the people from alleged injustice and oppression. In the present trial of strength between the Democracies and the Dictators, the Danzig question assumes an importance of its own. Apart from the injury which the German control of Danzig might inflict on the political and economic interests of Poland, it is also of supreme importance from the point of strategy and prestige. The confidence of the small States in the determination of the Democracies to resist aggression will be rudely shaken if Danzig goes under. Strategically by the control of Danzig, Germany will dominate the Baltic and throttle Poland economically and militarily and extend her control over the Ukraine and Rumania. Thus her chances of maintaining a prolonged war will be very much strengthened, if once Danzig is seized.

The speeches of MR. CHAMBERLAIN and the French Premier make it quite plain that the Democracies will stand by Poland in the event of a conflict with Germany and there is no possibility of their backing-out. Poland is determined to take up the German challenge, if ever it materialises. The tension in the Far East and the delay in the Anglo-Soviet agreement may encourage Germany to adopt an aggressive attitude. Britain should lose no time in coming to an understanding with Russia and make it quite clear that there will be no second Munich or attempt at

negotiation if once Hitler decides to force the issue by a military coup. As Anthony Eden has said the only way to ensure peace is to strengthen the Peace Bloc, to complete rearmament and to show determination. "Not only to be tough, but look tough, to talk tough and to act tough is the best contribution we can make to peace today." The Nazi leaders are not convinced that MR. CHAMBERLAIN has abandoned once and for all his policy of appeasement and once this impression is fully removed, the shrewd leader that he is, HERR HITLER will not risk the greatness of his country and himself in a world war in which his ultimate chances are bound to be remote.

Agricultural Drive

Distribution of Medals and Certificates

A public meeting under the auspices of the Valigamam North and East Divisional Agricultural Association was held at the Malakam English School on Wednesday under the chairmanship of Mr R. B. Naish, Government Agent, to distribute the medals and the certificates won by the residents of the Division at the All Ceylon Agricultural and Industrial Rally and Carnival held in 1938 and to distribute the prizes won at the Agricultural competition organised by the Agricultural Association.

Before distributing the prizes won at the Agricultural competition Mr. Naish addressing the meeting stressed the importance of producing good crops and also pointed out that unless the products were of high standard the higher prices expected by the farmers in Jaffna could not be realised. While confirming the fact that the Agriculture practised was of a high standard, he said that unless high standard of produce was placed in the market remunerative prices could not be realised.

After the distribution of 92 certificates and a few medals for various agricultural and industrial articles sent to the All-Ceylon Industrial Rally, Rev. Fr. T. M. F. Long said that the industries of Jaffna should be encouraged for three reasons: firstly, the closing of the El Dorado, F. M. S., where the youth of Jaffna were able in the past to get employment and bring prosperity to Jaffna; secondly there was very poor future ahead for the tobacco industry owing to the prohibitive tariff about to be imposed by the Travancore Government; thirdly it was becoming increasingly difficult for the educated young men to find employment anywhere. He wished that the Jaffna man should get rid of his rugged individualism and work for the common welfare of the whole of Jaffna. He could say after 20 years of his experience in Jaffna that there was no better man to work with and work for than the Jaffna man. But it should be the endeavour of each and every one to work wholeheartedly for the common good.

He wished that every one should extend to Mr. Thuraisingham, Agricultural Officer, Jaffna, fullest co-operation and make the Mango Show a success. He complimented the residents of Valigamam North and East for the high standard of agricultural and industrial pro-

duce and the Maniagar for reviving a dead art—the marionette show—which was highly appreciated by every one.

Mr. S. K. Thuraisingham speaking in Tamil explained to the meeting the advantages derived by the farmers from the agricultural competitions organised by the Divisional Agricultural Association and urged that those competitions be held in smaller areas and thereby facilitate more intensive cultivation.

Mr. S. Bilasingham proposed a vote of thanks.

Causing Grievous Hurt

Point Pedro, Wednesday.

Mr. M. M. A. Cader, Sub-Inspector of police, Point Pedro, charged one Sithenparapillai Kidnapilai of Alva before Mr. W. Richard D. de Silva, Magistrate, Point Pedro, with causing grievous hurt to Vallipuram Sinnathamby of Alva. After the trial the Magistrate found the accused guilty and sentenced him to pay a fine of Rs. 100, being first offender.

The same officer charged Sabapathy Annamalai and Vallipuram Velautham both of Point Pedro with causing grievous hurt to Kandaper Thambiah of Point Pedro before Mr. W. Richard D. de Silva, Magistrate, Point Pedro. After the trial the Magistrate found the accused guilty and sentenced them to six months R. I. each.

Mr. N. Sivagnanasundram, Advocate, defended the accused.

(Con.)

(Continued)

conscience and principle on the altar of a false and stupid family pride.

"If a younger brother cannot be sent to the same school as his elder brothers without making them debt slaves, let him go to the village school.

"There is nothing dishonourable to the family in that; I have known several cases of it in my own country.

"If a girl cannot be married without making father or brother a debt-slave for her dowry, let the match fall through rather than desecrate a sacrament by an act of flagrant improvidence.

False Brand

"I am a great believer in family pride, but it is an utterly false brand of it that demands these sacrifices. The true sort will forbid the setting of the family name to any I. O. U., promissory note or other instrument by which accommodation is obtained without security.

"If any of you boys are men enough to take my advice to heart and to stand out against your lives being ruined by what I have without exaggeration termed debt-slavery, you will doubtless find yourselves unpopular and misrepresented.

"That is inevitably the reward of correcting an abuse, but I hope that you will stick to your guns. I have spoken seriously because it is a serious subject; it has been treated less seriously but, quite unforgettably by Charles Dickens:

"My other piece of advice, Copperfield' said Mr. Micawber, 'You know, Annual income twenty pounds annual expenditure nineteen nineteen six, result happiness. Annual income twenty pounds, annual expenditure twenty pounds nought and six, result misery. The blossom is blighted, the leaf is withered, the God of day goes down upon the dreary scene—and in short you are for ever flooded.'"

"THE DEBT WOLF"

GOVERNOR WARNS YOUNG MEN

WHAT A FALSE FAMILY PRIDE COSTS

THE wolf that lurks outside the College gates—Debt—was the subject of Sir Andrew Caldecott's prize-day speech at St. Joseph's College, Colombo, on Saturday.

Sir Andrew said:—

"For many years I was in charge of the Personal branch of a big Secretariat further East, and if you were to ask me what more than any other cause gave rise to losses of efficiency and increment, losses of opportunity and promotion, and losses of employment and dismissal, I should answer unhesitatingly 'Debt.' Now I have heard this problem, this curse, of debt broached ignorantly and therefore unsympathetically and unimaginatively by some of my colleagues in the past, because they failed to see that the problem is entirely different in the East from what it is in the West.

Where East Differs

"If you hear of a young man getting bally into debt in England the odds are that it is due to betting, gambling, drinking or personal extravagance; none of which things command either approval or sympathy. Ordinary sensible people will set the fellow down as a young waster.

"In the East the contrary obtains; indebtedness nearly always springs from weak-kneed good nature or false standards of generosity, not from vice.

"The debt starts with a contribution to a sister's dowry or towards a brother's education or a father's funeral or a mother's illness; and so on, and so on. All of them purposes which arouse sympathy, if not approval. That is what makes the problem here so difficult for the reformer and so dangerous to the nation.

"Yet it is a problem that Lanka is calling loudly to her young men to face and to solve. All this talk about sons of Ceylon being poor men of business, of their being ousted by foreigners because of their lack of commercial instinct, is demonstrably false.

"What is wrong is that our young men are being bred and brought up in an atmosphere of borrowing without security.

"To borrow on a living wage is not to borrow on security, except the security of future disaster; and very few, if any, employers pay more than what is a progressive living wage for bachelor, married man and parent.

Degradation

"If you borrow on your living wage, you borrow on your livelihood, and on your life, and you degrade yourself from being a free worker to being a debt slave.

"It is fashionable, I know, to blame the money-lenders for this state of affairs. Their rates are said to be unconscionable; but unconscionable rates, and lending without security is an unconscionable risk.

"Where the blame really lies is in a social tradition which expects a man to sacrifice his economic (Continued on Previous Column)

"IMPOSSIBLE FOR INDIA AND CEYLON TO QUARREL"

Ceylon Govt's Procedure Seems to be "Arbitrary and Unjust"

GANDHIJI ON THE INDO-CEYLON DIFFERENCES

Poona, July 1.

COMMENTING on the A. I. C. C's decision to send Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru to Ceylon, Mahatma Gandhi writes thus in today's "Harijan":—

"The A. C. C. has done well in choosing its best man to proceed to Ceylon as the nation's ambassador of peace.

"It should be impossible for India and Ceylon to quarrel. We are the nearest neighbours and inheritors of a common culture. There is daily contact between the two countries. From Rameshwar one almost steps on to Ceylon and finds one is not on foreign land. But even as blood-brothers sometimes differ, so do next door neighbours, and like brothers they usually adjust their differences and are often more closely knit together.

"So may it be between Ceylon and India through the efforts of Pandit Nehru. No better man could have been chosen for the task on the Indian side.

"Dismissed for no Fault"

"It is clear that several thousand men who have been in the Government Service for years, whether as dayworkers or in other posts, it matters not, are being dismissed for no fault save that they are Indians. Private firms have been, it is said, told to copy the Government. Now this procedure seems to be extraordinary, arbitrary and unjust.

"But we do not clearly know the other side. It will be for the Pandit to study the case of the Ceylon Government and make due allowance for everything that might be justly pleaded on their behalf.

"Let us hope that both the Ceylon Government and the Indians in Ceylon will make the way smooth for an honourable settlement.

"I must confess that these acute differences come upon me as a revelation. I have a vivid recollection of my visit to Ceylon. There seemed to be the most cordial relations between the Indians and the Ceylonese, Monks and laymen in Ceylon vied with the Indians in lavishing their affection on me. I do not remember anybody having complained to me about acute differences between the two.

"Why has the partial responsible Government which Ceylon enjoys made all the difference that we witness today? It will be for Pandit Nehru to unravel the mystery.

Pandit Nehru's Visit To Ceylon

"I Go with a Measure of Optimism"

Bombay, June 29.

"THE All-India Congress Committee passed a resolution on Ceylon in the hope and with the desire to get the matter settled honourably and amicably. It is in that spirit that they charged me with this mission. It would not be proper for me at this stage to express any opinion about the proposal or the decision. The Ceylon Government have conveyed to me their welcome and appreciation of my visit. I go therefore with a measure of optimism that my visit may bear fruit," said Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru in an interview.

He added: "I have the liveliest memories of my last visit to Ceylon and of the warm welcome I had there from both Sinhalese and Indians. The many friends I made then are Ministers of Government now and I am looking forward to meeting them.

"I am sure my conversations would be of the friendliest character and I earnestly hope that they will bring results, which will be satisfactory from our viewpoint as well as theirs. Any other result is fraught with grave consequences for both countries and every sensible person must avoid this.

"The latest news from Ceylon is not very encouraging, but that will make no difference with regard to my visit or message which I have to convey to Ceylon on behalf of Congress."

Mr. Nehru left for Allahabad tonight after four weeks' stay in Bombay and hopes to return to Bombay on July 13 and leave for Colombo the following day by air.

BANK OF CEYLON

Appointment of Shroff and Assistants

Mr. S. Nagendra, who was the Shroff of the P. and O. Bank in Colombo, has been appointed as the Shroff of the Bank of Ceylon. Messrs C. Loganathan, A. Wijeyagunaratna, F. Amarasinghe, Wimalaratne and S. T. L. de Soysa have been appointed Assistants on probation.

The Northern Assizes

July Sessions Open

Twenty-two Cases: 3 Murders

The Northern Assizes opened today at 11 a.m. in the Jaffna District Court house. The Hon. Mr F. J. Soertz, Acting Chief Justice, presiding. A posse of constables under the command of Inspector H. E. Wijeyasekera, presented a guard-of-honour. Mr. R. B. Naish, Fiscal, Northern Province, handed the mandate. There are 22 cases on the calendar of which three are murder.

The Supreme Court Staff consists of: Mr. R. R. Crossette Thambyah, Crown Council; Muraliyar T. Velayutham, Tamil Interpreter; Mr. U. B. Desanayake, Registrar; Mr. C. Vanculenbura, Private Secretary to the Judge, and Messrs D. Meayent, H. E. Gomez, and K. B. Seneve retne, stenographers.

The first case taken up for trial is from Mullivalai, Mullaitivu, in which (1) Sinniah Subramaniam alias Kandiah, (2) Sinnaddy Vinaltamby and (3) Ponnachchy, widow of Kanapathy, stand charged with trespass into the compound of Ponnar Kanapathipillai and his wife Muttupillai and causing grievous hurt to Kanapathipillai. The accused pleaded not guilty and trial has been taken up before the jury with Mr. S. Rajaratnam, as foreman.

Mr. Gunam Spencer instructed by Mr. J. W. S. Samuel is defending the accused.

Broadcasting

AKASH-VANI, MYSORE

This Week's Programme

Wavelength: 70.2 Meters Frequency: 4265 Kc/S.

CALL SIGN: V. U. 7. M. C.

Monday, the 3rd July 1939

6 p. m. Violin
6-15 p. m. News and Announcements
6-30 to 8-30 p. m. Karnatic Vocal Music

Tuesday, the 4th July 1939

6 p. m. Film Hits
6-15 p. m. News and Announcements
6-30 Karnatic instrumental Music
7 to 7-45 p. m. Readings from Maha Bhagavatham by Sriiman K. Krishna Rao,

Wednesday, the 5th July 1939

6 p. m. Orchestral Music
6-15 p. m. News and Announcements
6-30 to 8-45 p. m. Vocal Music Performance by Vidwan Vasudeva Murthy, accompanied by Vidwan Subramanyam. (Violin) and Vidwan Ramiah, (Mridangam)

Thursday, the 6th July 1939

TIKACHARYABA PUNYADINAM
6 p. m. Devotional Music
6-15 p. m. News & Announcements

GRAVE SITUATION IN DANZIG

NAZI MOVES EXPOSED

HITLER EXPECTED TO "NAME THE HOUR"

London, Saturday.

THE morning papers all feature the gravity of the situation in Danzig, with full reports of the distribution of arms there. They declare that there is no longer any doubt that a Free Corps has been formed on the Sudeten model.

They also report the mounting of artillery on the outskirts of Danzig and the movement of German troops near the Polish borders, and Polish counter-measures.

The newspapers emphasise in unmistakable language that the Government and all shades of opinion in Britain are determined to resist any further aggression.

Feverish Preparations

Danzig reports that there is no confirmation yet of the report of Herr Hitler's visit to Danzig at the end of July to be presented personally with the honorary Danzig citizenship which was bestowed on him on his birthday.

Preparations for eventualities are going feverishly ahead. The official Nazi organ "Vor Posten" commenting on the British and French interest in the Danzig situation repeats today with great emphasis that Danzig must return to the Reich and that the Fuehrer personally will say when the hour strikes.

The present preparations in Danzig appear to confront Poland with the dilemma whether to take action at once before things go further or wait until the Nazis have completed preparations.

7 p. m. Popular Science: "The Invisible" by B. M. Sivaramiah, Esq.

7-30 to 9-30 p. m. Harikatha: "Aiyavatha" by Brahmarsi Venugopala Das

Friday, the 7th July 1939

6 p. m. Karnatic Light Music
6-15 p. m. News and Announcements
7 p. m. Hindusthani Music
7-30 p. m. Readings from "Korani-Sheriff"

Saturday, the 8th July 1939

6 p. m. Nadaswaram
6-15 p. m. News and Announcements
6-30 to 8-45 p. m. Vocal Music Performance by Vidwan Y. N. Srinivasa Murthy, accompanied by Vidwan Subramanyam, (Violin) & Vidwan Ramiah, (Mridangam)

Sunday, the 9th July 1939

No Broadcast

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

"A DANGEROUS SITUATION"

[I am addressing this letter to you on a subject of great importance in view of the present political situation and trust that you would be pleased to give your attention.

On the 24th instant, there appeared in the columns of the Daily News, a letter by Mr. Francis de Zoysa, K. C., under the caption "A Dangerous Situation." I wrote a letter myself on the same subject to the Editor of that paper on same day referring to Mr. de Zoysa's letter. I enclose copy of the same herewith. The Daily News has not published my letter.

I am, in these circumstances, compelled to request you to be good enough to publish the correspondence. In my letter addressed to the Daily News, I indicated the way in which the present situation could be eased. The publication of the letter would do good. I trust that you would publish the same in the interest of the public and for the purpose of bringing about a better understanding between the Sinhalese and Tamil communities.]

THE LETTER

Sir,—I agree with the opening statement made by Mr. Francis de Zoysa, K. C., in his letter appearing in your paper that a seriously dangerous situation is developing today in this country. He refers to the bitterness that is being created between the Sinhalese and the Tamils. Mr. De Zoysa however seems to ignore the intimate connection which the political demands of the various communities bear to the present unfortunate situation. If the Sinhalese leaders among whom your correspondent is a shining light are able even to agree to disagree with the Minorities on political questions, the present deplorable set of circumstances would not have arisen. People say that Mr. de Zoysa himself would have contributed greatly towards the achievement of Sinhalese Tamil unity if the Congress under his presidency had accepted the pact between the Tamil leaders and the leaders of the Congress about the year 1925. Your esteemed correspondent has, no doubt unwittingly, been led to make certain incorrect statements. He states that certain candidates raised anti-Sinhalese cries at the elections in the Northern Province. I am not aware of any such cry. All the candidates, victors and vanquished alike were imbued with friendly sentiments towards the Sinhalese. So were the voters. Difference in the political demands made by the present northern members in Council and the Sinhalese demands could not by any stretch of imagination be argued as ill-will on the part of Tamil leaders towards the Sinhalese community.

Your correspondent refers to Mr. Ponnambalam's speech at Nawalapitiya. The report of the speech appearing in the papers was a distorted and wrong version, and Mr. Ponnambalam had written to the Press on the subject. Mr. de Zoysa might accept the statement of Mr. Ponnambalam who is a colleague of his at the Bar and in the State Council.

Instead, Mr. de Zoysa regrets that the Tamils have not denounced Mr. Ponnambalam. Frankly, Mr. de Zoysa is asking the impossible. Mr. Ponnam-

balam represents the Tamil community, today and Mr. de Zoysa would do well to confer with Mr. Ponnambalam and the other Tamil Councillors and bring about the much desired understanding between the two communities in which process your co-operation will be of great service.

Yours truly,

Sgt. M. R. Karalasingham.

Hindu College for Girls at Manipay

Sir,—It is an admitted fact that Hindu Society in Jaffna has undergone a great deal of reformation during the last twenty five years since the foundation of the Ramanathan College for Girls. Though it is the only Hindu College for Girls in Jaffna, the influence it has directly and indirectly exerted on every home in Jaffna—Hindu or Christian—is not inconsiderable. At a time when denationalisation had definitely begun to eat into the vitals of Hindu society, when a certain amount of disregard,—may contempt—for Hindu religion, Hindu music, Hindu traditions, customs and manners and for the people's language and dress had begun to manifest openly, the late revered Sir Ponnambalam Ramanathan came down to Jaffna twenty six years ago and made up his mind to spend his wealth and time and live here permanently to give his daily attention to the great task that lay before him. He indeed came to fulfil a mission and spare no pains to do what he considered a sacred duty of his.

The Ramanathan College then supplied the greatest want of the day. Now, after a quarter of a century, the population has largely increased, higher education for females has advanced by strides and the number of Hindu girls wanting education on proper lines has considerably grown big. The need for more colleges for girls is felt in more than one place in Jaffna now.

Valligamam West, for example, requires a Hindu college for girls very badly. Ramanathan College is almost crowded, and there are a number of Hindu parents in Karainagar, Vaddukodai, Araly, Changanai, Sandilipay, Navly, Manipay, Anaicotai and Suthmalai who find it inconvenient to send their little children to distant Ramanathan College. Of all these villages I should consider that Manipay will prove a good place to start a Hindu Girls College at once with about a 100 girls.

Will the Hindu philanthropists hailing from Manipay, Sandilipay, Vaddukodai, Araly and Karainagar, take up this question seriously and put their hands deep into their pockets to supply this great need? Some may say that a large number of girls may not be available to start with now. The same objection was raised when attempts were made to build a Hindu College at Manipay 30 years ago. See what the Manipay Hindu College is to-day, and what a great want it has supplied all these years!

I have talked on this subject to some wealthy men of Valligamam West, and I find that there is a

good support available. I wish that others interested in this question will express their views through the columns of your valuable journal to arouse and estimate public opinion.

I am aware that the Hindu Board of Education is contemplating the building of a College for girls in the Jaffna town. By all means let it do so. One College in Manipay is equally necessary as one in the town.

Yours faithfully,
C. Thiagarajah

Manipay,
30-6-39

The Urban Electrical Department

Sir,—I think it is about time that some one gave expression to the great discontent prevalent among electricity consumers in Jaffna Town.

Apart from the exorbitant rates charged (cents 50 per unit as against cents 33 in Colombo!) the latest manoeuvre of the U. D. C. Electrical Department threatens to alienate the patronage of its very best customers—the ratepayers.

Every consumer is ordered to deposit Rs. 20 with the Office as security for current due to be supplied. Whenever electricity bills are left unpaid within a specified time, current supply is automatically cut off and when arrears are squared up the householder is further constrained to pay an additional fee of Rs. 10 for re-service connection. This penalty ensures regular payments of bills. Then, where arises the necessity for demanding deposit payments from regular customers?

If, however, the Council feels that the past system for ensuring regular settlement of electricity accounts, does not work satisfactorily the simplest and surest way of overcoming the difficulty is to instal "Slot" or "Pre-payment Meters" which are found to work so beneficially to both consumer and supplier, in the metropolis and in other towns in the South. The cost of these "Slot Meters" is a trifle when compared to the trouble they save the Department and the householder. Moreover, the latter contributes as 'meter rent' Rs. 12 per annum thus paying over and above the actual cost of the meters.

The Electricity Department is a Commercial proposition and hence the Council should run it as such. It should strain every nerve to bring electricity within the reach of every citizen by reduction of rates and the offer of attractive terms. But the Department seems to be doing just the reverse!

I am sure the City Fathers will do their utmost to remove the present anomalies of Electrical Department and popularise electricity by making all—Jaffna electrical-minded by getting out of the silly notion that because electric energy is the Council's monopoly, it is free to penalise its regular customers. What is lacking, is a business like outlook.

Yours etc.
TARZAN.

Jaffna, 1st July, 1939.

Chief Tamil Translator

Sir,—This note is to protest against the amalgamation of the post of Chief Tamil Interpreter Mudaliyar of His Excellency the Governor with that of the Chief Tamil Translator of the Education Department. The former

Tellippalai Mahajana English School

(Continued from Page 3)

(speaker) had with him and the school, where he was a teacher for many years, and proceeded to speak on "The task before us." He pointed out that service to the country was the most vital duty ahead of us, and that the relationship between the Sinhalese and the Tamils must become more cordial. He also said that much had to be done for the development of national culture and national education.

Mr. S. Sangarapillai, teacher, then rendered two of Mr. Thuraiappahpillai's songs from the "Keetharasamanchari".

The Chairman, in his concluding remarks, referred to the perilous position of Jaffna, threatened on the one hand with a boycott of Jaffna cigars by the Sinhalese, and on the other with a boycott of Jaffna tobacco by the Travancore Government. He said that the situation demanded the serious consideration of the people of the peninsula.

Mr. S. Sethukavalan, an old boy, thanked the Chairman and the speakers, and the meeting terminated at 9 p. m. with the singing of the varam. (Cor.)

Matrimonial

VISUVALINGAM—

KUMARAGURU

The marriage took place last night of Mr. Vaitthianathar Visuvalingam, teacher, Hindu School, Bidulla with Miss Maheswari, daughter of the late Mr S. Kumara uru, Overseer, F. M. S., of Thalayi, Vannarponne. The ceremonies took place at the bride's residence at Thalayi.

post was held by a Tamil Government Servant from the very inception of the British rule in Ceylon. He was the Tamil representative in the Queen's House and at one time it was even suggested that he should be styled, 'Tamil Maha Mudaliyar.' This amalgamation takes away the privilege of a Tamil Interpreter waiting on the Governor, and at the same time suppresses a Special Class post for a Tamil Government Servant in the Interpreter's line. This is perhaps a further stunt to oppress the minorities. If the new Tamil Translator has to work at the Education Office, who will interpret to His Excellency when occasion arises? If it be for the sake of retrenchment, why not abolish the Sinhalese Maha Mudaliyarship too as he is not encumbered with any work? If the present idea is to suppress the place of Governor's Tamil Interpreter, and Translator for want of sufficient work which I doubt, why not the place be retained and more work be added to the holder without abolishing a special Class post?

Yours Faithfully,
"OPPRESSED"

Feeding of School Children

Cheaper Rates Introduced

Colombo, Saturday.

New rates of payment by the Government for the feeding of school children are being introduced from today.

These new rates are a reduction on the rates hitherto allowed per pupil but the reduced rates are not to affect those schools in which a milk diet is provided for pupils.

According to this new provision, Government assistance for the feeding of pupils in schools is to be reduced from four cents to three cents per pupil in the case of schools where the number on the roll at the end of each month is fifty or more; and from five cents to four cents per pupil where the number of pupils on the roll is less than fifty. All schools in towns where free meals have been authorised are to have the four-cent rate irrespective of the number of pupils attending the school. The schools which provide milk diets are not affected by this as a milk diet is more expensive than an ordinary diet.

New System

The present rates of payment by Government of four cents per pupil in rural areas and five cents per child in Municipal and urban areas are said to have caused some hardships and consequent dissatisfaction because the prices of foodstuffs vary in different parts of the country. The new rates, it is thought, will prove more equitable because, although they have been reduced, they are based on the attendance.

The new system for supervising the free feeding of the school children and of establishing more effective means of co-operating with the parents of the children in the matter is also to be introduced shortly.

One Month For Theft Of Cycle

Point Pedro, Friday.

Before Mr. W.R.D. de Silva, Magistrate, Point Pedro, Mr. M. A. Cader, Inspector of Police charged Muthusamy Sathasivam of Valvetty for theft of a Cycle belonging to Mr. A. Kandasamy of Alyay. The accused was found guilty after a lengthy trial and sentenced to six months R.I.

He was arrested by the Police Vidan of Mankulam on suspicion as he was about to sell the cycle for a lesser amount to Rs. 15/00. The worth of the cycle will be about Rs. 65/00.

Robber to Return Thali

The same officer charged one Vallipuram Narayanapillai of Thungalai with robbery of a thali from Vallipuram before Mr. W.R.D. de Silva, Magistrate Point Pedro. The accused pleaded guilty and promised to return the thali. The Magistrate sentenced him till rising of Court as the accused is the son-in-law of the woman who was willing to accept the thali which was returned to her.

(Cor.)

Time Limit in Parliamentary Debates

(Continued from page 1)

If the Government want to pass it into law, they must introduce it anew in a later session.

Without some procedure for limiting discussion, then, an intransigent opposition—however small a minority it may be in the House of Commons, however small a proportion of the people it may represent—can effectively prevent any Bill from becoming Law by the simple process of prolonging debate upon it, a process for which British parliamentary procedure provides opportunities in plenty.

From this, it would seem that the time-table motion is a necessary part of the British parliamentary machine; and any one unfamiliar with British parliamentary history might conclude that it is of quite respectable antiquity. Actually, it is less than sixty years old.

Some time during the long struggle for supremacy between King and Parliament—the date is difficult to fix, but there is no doubt that the lesson was driven home by Royal attempts to govern through a minority—the Commons learnt what the rights of a minority are. They learnt that a minority has a right to be heard, a right to protest, a right to criticise; but no right to prevent the Government from functioning, or to impose its will on the majority.

With this lesson learnt, there was no need for the time-table or guillotine motion. It was not available, nor was it needed, when the Reform Bill, which revolutionised British parliamentary representation, was carried, or when the Corn Laws were repealed and the whole direction of British commercial and industrial life was changed, though both these measures aroused the bitterest dissension.

The guillotine motion did not become necessary until a minority appeared in the House of Commons determined to have its way at any cost. And that minority was not English. It was the Irish Nationalist Party of 80 members—a compact body, rigidly disciplined, brilliantly led by Parnell, which brought obstruction to a fine art.

The English like to be thought a long-suffering people, and certainly they bore for some time with exemplary patience all-night sittings, interminable debates on trivialities, sudden dislocations of parliamentary business, and all the other ruses by which these nimble-witted Irishmen sought to compel successive governments to grant Ireland home rule. But the end came when the speaker without authority or precedence stopped a debate which they had prolonged for no less than forty-one and-a-half hours, by putting the motion to the vote. "The dignity, credit and authority of the House are seriously threatened," Mr. Speaker Brand said on that occasion, "and it is necessary that they shall be vindicated." Soon after, in the autumn of

1882, the procedure of the guillotine motion was adopted.

Everyone felt at the time that it was an interference with free discussion and a departure from the real tradition of British politics, and this feeling still persists. The guillotine motion is seldom invoked unless there has been some display of obstruction, such as there was in the early stages of the Conscription Bill; and the Government invoking it usually pulls a wry face over the necessity.

Well, the Irish Nationalists have been out of the British Parliament for twenty years, and it may be asked why, during that time, this alien procedure has not been allowed to lapse. The reason may be found, partly in the natural reluctance to lay aside a weapon of proved utility; partly in the supersession during that time of the old Liberal Party, with its long parliamentary associations, by the Labour Party, who were largely ignorant of British parliamentary traditions; and partly in the fact that the procedure, alien as it is, has yet been found to possess a certain convenience, since it gives the Government of the day the power to get any urgent measure on to the Statute Book in the shortest possible time, and allows the Opposition to resist without any suggestion of compromise.

But the older Parliamentarians are more and more inclined to look askance at it. When the Government of India Bill, which established the present constitution of India—the longest Bill ever presented to Parliament—was before the Commons, it was frankly recognised that free discussion of each clause was impossible and a time-table was drawn up. But the Government did not draw it up as they draw up a guillotine method and submit it to the House, relying on their majority for its acceptance. Instead, it was drawn up and agreed to by a committee representing all shades of opinion on the Bill; and it was observed faithfully and without protest. Debate was focussed by consent on the vital points of the Bill; and at the end it was recognised that the Bill had had as full a discussion and the opposition as full a hearing as circumstances permitted.

Here, it was felt, was the true expression of the British tradition, the tradition that recognises essential facts beneath appearance, avoiding extremes, minimising differences, seeking compromise. When the agreement of the Committee was reported to the Commons, Mr. Churchill said: "May I congratulate the Prime Minister upon taking a notable step towards reviving the ancient flexibility of House of Commons procedure." And later, when the Bill was about to leave the Commons, he said: "We may join in congratulating those responsible on what may well be an invaluable revival of old English parliamentary customs."

It would seem that he spoke prematurely, for when, only four years later, Mr. Chamberlain suggested drawing up a time-table by agreement for the Conscription Bill, the Labour Opposition laughed scornfully. Nevertheless, the probability is that as Labour Members and the great mass of people to whom the fran-

MURDER CHARGE AT POINT PEDRO

Accused Remanded

Point Pedro, Friday.

Mr. M. M. A. Cader, Sub-Inspector of Police, Point Pedro, charged one Alvan Murugan and Murugan Rasan of Karaveddy West with murder of Nagan Veeran of the same place on 14-6-39 by cutting him with a koduwa knife. Police led evidence of five witnesses. The Inspector arrested and produced both the accused before Mr. W. R. D. de Silva, Magistrate, Point Pedro. The Magistrate remanded both the accused pending further inquiry till 3-7-39. According to the witnesses, it was learnt that the deceased Nagan Veeran is the son-in-law of the first accused Alvan Murugan, the second accused Rasan is the son of the first accused. The story was that on 14-6-36 about 8 p.m. the deceased went home after work. The first accused scalded him for coming to his house only for meals after giving his earning to another mistress. Both had a struggle by holding their 'Kondai'. In the mean time the second accused Rasan came with a koduwa knife and cut the deceased on his neck several times, he fell dead.

Motor Insurance

We beg to remind you that under the New Motor Ordinance No. 45 of 1938, you must insure your Motor Vehicles against Third Party or Public Risk before July 1939. It has been notified by Government that from 1st July 1939 license will be issued only to such vehicles as have been duly and properly insured under requirements of the said Ordinance.

We are sole Agents for the world renowned

Eagle Star Insurance Co. Ltd.,

with assets exceeding £27,000,000 and we offer you all the advantages and benefits of insurance in the District being the only Agents residing here. We are authorised to issue policies, certificates of insurance, receive premiums, to entertain complaints and to attend to assessing of damages, compensation etc. Our policy holders will therefore save considerable time, trouble and money. Settlement of claims will be promptly attended to by us thus ensuring full satisfaction to owners of vehicles.

If you insure with us, you need not travel to Colombo or carry on protracted correspondence with Agents or their Principals who are not resident here.

For further particulars please write to:

J. CHURUBIM & BROTHER,
MAIN STREET, JAFFNA.

L.G.39.

(Mis 71. 26-6-37-39)

chise is still comparatively new become familiar with British parliamentary traditions and conventions, the guillotine motion will lapse into disuse.

Meanwhile, this review of its short history may help to an understanding of British Character and thought by showing that, though the House of Commons, in order to preserve the cardinal principle of the British Constitution that "the King's Government must be carried on," may adopt, yet it can neither welcome nor use with ease an alien procedure.

Order Nisi

IN THE DISTRICT COURT
OF JAFFNA

(held at Point Pedro)

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 93 P.

In the matter of the estate of the late
V. Thamotheerampillai Senthivettipillai of Ploly West

Deceased.

V. T. Sivapunnipillai Sivagurunathan of Ploly West

Vs. Petitioner.

1. Nagalingapillai Somaskanthan presently of Income Tax Office, Colombo

2. Subramaniam Tirunavukk rasoe of Ploly West

3. wife Ledchumipillai of do

4. Sivapakkiam daughter of Nagalingapillai of do

5. Nagalingapillai Sanmuganathan of do

6. Nagalingapillai Sokkanathan of do

7. Yokampikai daughter of Nagalingapillai of do

8. Sivanananthavally daughter of Nagalingapillai of do

9. Nagalingapillai Saravanapavan of do

10. Katpagasunthary daughter of Nagalingapillai of do

11. A. Sidamparapillai Nagalingapillai of do

12. Theyagarajapillai Varathakanupathipillai of do

13. Kasipillai Subramaniam of do

14. wife Rasammah of do

Respondents.

This matter of the Petition of the abovenamed Petitioner praying that

the 11th Respondent be appointed Guardian-ad-litem over the minors the 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10th Respondents and that Letters of Administration be issued to the Petitioner to the estate of the late V. Thamotheerampillai Senthivettipillai coming on for disposal before S. Rodrigo Esquire Additional District Judge Jaffna, on the 29th day of May 1939 in the presence of Mr. K. Subramaniam Procter on the part of the Petitioner and on reading the petition and affidavit of the Petitioner:

It is ordered that the 11th Respondent be and he is hereby appointed Guardian-ad-litem over the minors the 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10. Respondents and that Letters of Administration be issued to the Petitioner to the estate of the late V. Thamotheerampillai Senthivettipillai unless the abovenamed Respondents or any other person shall on or before the 13th day of July 1939 show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of the Court to the contrary.

Egd. S. RODRIGO,
Addl. District Judge.

20th June 1939.

(O 21, 29-6 & 3-7-39)

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Y. 134, 1-4-39 to 30-9-39 [M]

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(Y. 103, 22-7-38 to 21-7-39.)

[M]