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NO. 33.

CEYLON'S PUBLIC DEBT LAST YEAR

194,191,333 Rupees

CENTRAL GOVERNMENT'S GRANT TO LOCAL AUTHORITIES

AT the end of the last financial year the Island's Public Debt amounted to Rs. 194,191,333. The sinking funds for the redemption of the debt amounted to Rs. 66,306 780.

'There was thus a nett debt liability of Rs. 127,884,553 on September 30th, 1938', states the Retrenchment Commission in Part I of their report.

The Report further states:—

'The Public Works Loan Ordinance of 1937 authorized the raising of a new loan of Rs. 100,000,000 and such other sum required as expenses for raising this loan.

'Of this Rs. 27,931,000 has already been raised—and Government has authority to raise a further sum of Rs. 72,500,000 plus expenses.

'On the data indicated, one would not consider that the Debt position of Ceylon is generally unsatisfactory. But on this issue it is always necessary to remind ourselves of the purpose for which loans are raised in a country like Ceylon and further that there are definite limits to the taxable capacity of an essentially agricultural country.

'The only sound principle to follow in regard to such a country's borrowing is to see that the use to which loan moneys will be put will quickly yield a return equivalent to the interest and sinking fund charges on the loan.

'It is most unwise to borrow for comparatively small additions of capital equipment. Current revenue must be debited with such items. It follows that there is very great objection to the cost of new hospitals and schools being charged to Loan Funds.

'Apart from these schemes not being directly revenue earning they involve considerable annual expenditure in Personal Emoluments and maintenance.

'The full financial implica-

tations inclusive of running costs of such schemes should be reflected in the Budget before any capital expenditure is incurred on the buildings themselves even from current revenue.

'To charge the latter to available Loan Funds and to think of the cost of working these institutions at a later date is obviously an unwise policy.'

Relief and Rates

'The expenditure on relief measures arising from unemployment and distress caused by drought, failure of crops, malaria, floods, etc., has in recent years assumed alarming proportions. Relief work has become a regular institution and a permanent and heavy charge on the public funds.

'An important matter we wish to refer to in this connexion is the necessity for a careful examination of the rates of pay to relief workers, and the conditions of their employment.

'It has been brought to our notice by some witnesses that the present rates of pay are so generous and the supervision over the workers so weak that these factors act as strong inducements to regular workers in the locality to give up their employment and join the ranks of the unemployed.

'It is a serious matter if the lot of relief workers is by a false sense of charity made more attractive than that of the permanent labour.

'We cannot too strongly emphasise the harm it would do to the country if the impression gains ground that Government is only too ready to provide relief and that too on a generous scale.'

Commuted Pensions

'The actual expenditure on account of commuted pensions during the 10 years 1927 to

WILL THE MINISTERS KEEP THEIR WORD?

THE BOSE EPISODE

(By Lanka)

Madras, July 30, 1939.

NOT without some reason did Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru express some want of hope as to the outcome of his mission to Ceylon. His talks with the Ministers must have given him the opportunity of sizing up the men he was dealing with. The record of the Ministry has not been brilliant in the past in public dealings, especially in connection with the Banks episode, and India knows these things. What is there to prevent the Ministers changing their minds as often as the wind, now on the threat of a Goonesinghe, now on the nightmare of an election? Sir Don Baron Jayatilaka has not come out shining in his statement, for his reiteration of his dislike to the word "repatriation" shows that he is trying to hide his guilt. No doubt they may say they gave a right royal reception to the Pandit, but let it be stated that it was Jawaharlal the man that found the hearts of the Ceylonese, not the Congress Ambassador. Ceylon must consider herself honoured by the fact of

the Indian National Congress having thought fit to send out her best man to negotiate for goodwill. Government might have sent a Sastri or a Naidu who would have mouthed pious platitudes and returned home. I hope your Ministers would have taken to heart the remark that they think of small things and have no outlook broad enough to view the larger things of life. However, the Ministers have yet great things to tackle, and let us wait and see how they come through it. It won't take long.

NEVER, perhaps in the history of the Indian National Congress has it been necessary for the Congress authorities to consider seriously the question of taking disciplinary action against an ex-president. Subhas Chandra Bose who was only the other day the president of this Institution is now going about the country in fear of expulsion by Congress for indiscipline. A brilliant man, an organiser, a leader, a patriot, one who went through the fire of self-sacrifice not once or twice but many times, Bose has fallen on evil days since he had to resign the presidency. He has nothing but criticism for Congress and the High Command, and Gandhiji and Pandit Nehru haunt his dreams day and night. To add to the confusion newspaper writers have done all they could to fan the flames of hatred. The very informal talk that Nehru had with the handful of Sama Samajists in Colombo in which he spoke about the experiences of Socialism in India, was sent out to India as an address of great importance, by reporters who felt they were doing a very great thing in transmitting news of the Pandit's mission. The references to the Forward Block have enraged Bose and he had to issue a statement in which there is nothing but insinuation and innuendo against Nehru. As I have said often before newspapers are responsible for more than half the troubles of India's politics.

1937 did not follow the assumptions on which the scheme was recommended to Government," the Commissioners observe.

"The annual value of new pensions, which the Salaries Committee assumed would remain constant at Rs. 310,000, has always been during the past 10 years much above this figure and in fact rose consequent on abnormal retirements due to the New Constitution, to over a million rupees in 1931-32.

"The proportion of officers exercising the option to commute is on the average 92 per cent., whereas the Committee assumed that it would be about 75 per cent.

"Our purpose in referring to this subject is to draw attention to the fact that general

(Continued on Page 7.)

HANDWORK EXHIBITION

Education Week in Vali West

"That hand work plays an important part in creating in the child a living interest in its environments and thereby helping in its mental growth is an accepted conclusion of modern educational theory" says Mr. C. W. W. Kannangara, Minister for Education, in his message to the organisers of the Handwork Exhibition held at Victoria College, Chulipuram, during the Education Week.

The Schools of Valigamam West and the Islands held an Art and Hand work Exhibition with side shows at Victoria College, Chulipuram from the 26th to the 28th July.

At 3-30 p.m. Sir Wytialingam Duraiswamy, the Acting Director of Education and the Divisional Inspector of Schools, N. D., arrived and were garlanded. There was a large gathering present. Songs specially composed for the occasion were sung by two school boys welcoming the Speaker and the Acting Director of Education. A message from the Minister for Education was read by Mr. A. Saravananth, Inspector of Schools. The Speaker then addressed those present. At 4 p.m. the exhibition was declared open to the public by Sir Wytialingam Duraiswamy.

The exhibits were divided into Art sections, hand work, ola work, needle work, paper work, teaching illustrations, health and cottage industries. In one building children demonstrated various types of hand-works. There was a general display of dances and drill by the schools. The exhibition was well organised and was well appreciated by the public.

Minister's Message

The following message was sent by the Minister for Education:—

"I very much regret my inability owing to preoccupation with other urgent official matters, to be present at the opening of the Valigamam West and the Islands Schools Art and Handwork Exhibition. That handwork plays an important part in creating in the child a living interest in its environments and thereby helping in its mental growth is an accepted conclusion of modern educational theory. As for Art I need hardly say that it reflects a nation's culture. It is therefore the bounden duty of our educators to foster handwork in all schools and Art in the advanced stages of the school curriculum. There is evidence already of a general awakening in these matters and it is my earnest hope that this exhibition will serve as a stimulus to schools and teachers for still greater interest in these subjects. I wish the exhibition all success and hope that more such will be held periodically to enable us to take stock of the progress our schools make in assimilating modern developments in education as well as in maintaining certain cultural standards.

Jaffna Going Down the Incline

Mr. Veerasingham on the Political Situation

Presiding at the mass meeting held at Suthumalai on the 24th ultimo, which was addressed by Messrs G. G. Ponnambalam and S. Natesan on the Present Political Situation, Mr. V. Veerasingham said:—

Gentlemen, Your presence in such unprecedented numbers is an expression of your feeling. Never before had I seen such a vast crowd in any of the many village meetings that I had the privilege to address. You feel that you are hard hit and you also feel that there is no way open to lift this gloom of oppression from you. It is true that the whole of Ceylon is passing through a very critical period in every aspect, economic, social, and political. Jaffna especially by a strange force of circumstances happens to be victimised.

For the past eleven years Jaffna has been going down a steep incline economically, as a result, poverty and starvation have become the fate of many. The floods and the recent duty on tobacco have made it worse. Your representatives' attempts to give relief have borne no fruits. There is the fear of boycott of your cigar industry made capital of by demagogues whose sole aim appears to be easy entrance to the council. There is racial hatred between communities nurtured by interested parties. Political atmosphere is impregnated with suspicion. Selfishness plays its unbridled role. Why all this? This is a visitation from God for our own faults. In my opinion we are but reaping the bitter fruits of the silly boycott launched by hot-headed youths. It is not a little due to the passing away of that great Soul and Saviour of Ceylon who risked not his life for the sake of the same Sinhalese friends who are now callous to the distress and suffering of the

race of which the late Sir P. Ramanathan was justly proud.

At such a critical time as this the genius of the Tamil race and its culture must be summoned to its rescue. Worse distress is in the wake of this economic and political upheaval. Socially you might be treated as pariahs. In suits may be heaped on you. I am not tired of repeating that, at this time of trial every Jaffna man must strain his utmost to keep cool under any provocation, must practise control and patience and must be prepared to suffer. That does not mean that we have to allow untruth, unreason and soul-killing indignity to pass unchallenged. Taking a firm stand on purity and peace, it is the duty of every Jaffna Tamil to hold fast to truth and give expression to it unflinching, but always predominated by the spirit of Satyagrahic non-violence which is a cult of purification, sacrifice and liberation. Have faith in yourselves, have faith in God who always makes righteousness triumph. This is our hope.

What a pity it is that if a son of Jaffna gives expression to this important truth, as a result of his sincere feeling and conviction, there should be found one or two in our midst who issue tracts to decry his activities. Such a tract which was put into my hand day before yesterday informs us that we should not stand in the way of self-Government. No one stands in its way but we are certainly opposed to any oppression by any Government whose aim is to govern for itself and not for the common good of every individual comprising the nation. Jaffna is united as is evidenced by this meeting and by the monster gathering that hummed and roared at the esplanade till the meeting began. I take this opportunity again to make it public that the co-operation of Jaffna man will not be wanting to any community in Ceylon be it Sinhalese or Burgher, Indian or English, Muslim or Buddhist as long as Jaffna is given a right share in the administration of the country, a share enough to be a guarantee against oppression.

DENTAL NOTICE

S. Imai, (Japanese Dentist)
Colombo,

will be at Jaffna at Tiruchelvam Buildings, Main Street, Jaffna, from 7th to 16th August 1939.
(Mis 110, 3-8-39)

BAUR'S FEATILISERS

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REPRESENTATIVE,

Jaffna.

Manipay.

(Mis. 82, 10-7-39 to 9-9-39.) (T)

J. H. C. O. B. A. COLOMBO BRANCH

Meeting of Managing Committee

A meeting of the Managing Committee of the Jaffna Hindu College O. B. A. (Colombo Branch) was held on Sunday the 23rd July, 1939, at the Wellawatte Tamil Recreation Club rooms with Mr. A. Cumaraswamy, the President, in the chair. Before the meeting commenced the Principal and Mr. V. Nagalingam were entertained to lunch by the members of the Committee.

The Committee passed a vote of thanks to Mr. S. Sangaraswamy for the preliminary arrangements made by him in reviving the Association.

The Wellawatte Tamil Recreation Club was thanked for placing their rooms at the disposal of the Committee for the day.

The Golden Jubilee celebrations and the printing of the Jubilee number were then considered.

The Principal agreed to consider the advisability of having the celebrations during the Easter vacation to enable members of the Association to be present.

On the question of publishing photographs of prominent old boys in the Jubilee number, it was decided to consider the matter in Committee again and to send names of suitable members for inclusion in the Jubilee number before the end of November, 1939. It was also decided to send a group photograph of the Association and of the members of the Committee before the end of February 1940 and a history of the Association to the Principal for publication in the Jubilee number.

It was resolved to assist the Principal in the Rapee Fund campaign which he proposes to start during the Jubilee celebrations of the College, details of such assistance to be decided later.

Re the suggestion of a Carnival for the Jubilee celebrations, it was resolved to assist the organisers to bring it to a success through the influence of this Association.

It was decided to send a complete list of old boys to the Principal to enable him to invite members for the Jubilee dinner.

A sub committee consisting of the Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer, Honorary Assistant Secretary, Honorary Assistant Treasurer and Mr. V. A. Kandiah was appointed to revise the Old Boys' list.

A vote of thanks was proposed to the Principal and Mr. V. Nagalingam for the trouble they had taken in coming all the way from Jaffna to attend the General Meeting.

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Cashier-clerk for Trading Concern, near Colombo. Good prospects for an intelligent boy fresh from school. Cash security Rs. 250/-.

Apply C/o. S. W. Rajaratnam, Dutch House, Main Street, Jaffna. (Mis. 106, 27-7-26-8-39) (T)

BANK OF CEYLON OPENED ON TUESDAY

Governor's Statement On Repatriation

MINISTER ON OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED BY THE BANK

Colombo, Tuesday.

"IT does lie with you and me to make sure that the future of this State Bank which we are now opening, intimately bound up as that future must be with the general economic future of Ceylon, shall not be prejudiced by the great amount of misunderstanding and consequent apprehension that is rife here today on the subject of immigrant labour," said the Governor when he declared open the Bank of Ceylon this morning.

"As I have stated on more than one occasion," added Sir Andrew, "it is not my conception of the Governor's role under the Ceylon Constitution that he should talk policy, except with the Ministers, but there seems no possible objection, constitutional or otherwise, to his stating facts."

"Indeed, I consider it advisable for me to take this opportunity of doing so, when facts are in danger of becoming obliterated or distorted by loose talk, idle rumour or positive misrepresentation."

"Let me therefore, try to clarify the position by a short statement of a dozen facts."

"Fact No. 1. There has not been, and is not, under consideration by Government any proposal or scheme that would involve or affect estate labour."

"Fact No. 2. Any legislation to restrict immigration, or to limit the employment of immigrants by quotas, or to impose a tax on their employers could not be assented to by the Governor but would have to be reserved under the Royal Instructions for signification of His Majesty's pleasure."

"Fact No. 3. On June 27th an undertaking was given to the Government of India that we would refer for an expression of its views any definite proposals that may be placed before the Governor for restricting immigration into Ceylon."

"Fact No. 4. No such proposals have as yet been tendered to me."

No Compulsion

"Fact No. 5. There has never been any scheme, much less legislation, for the compulsory repatriation of anybody. Any such legislation would under the Royal Instructions need to be reserved for signification of His Majesty's pleasure."

"Fact No. 6. What the State Council passed, and what I in due course ratified, was supplementary provision to defray retirement bonuses and travelling expenses to their home country for such daily-paid employees of Government as might apply for them on their discharge or retirement under conditions announced by the Financial Secretary."

"Fact No. 7. One month's notice of discharge was given to all daily-paid non-Ceylonese employees ex-

gaged since April 1st 1934, i.e., after the passing by the State Council of a resolution that immigrants should be engaged only if Ceylonese with requisite qualifications were not available.

Free to Stay

"Fact No. 8. None of the persons so discharged were recruited by Government from India; they were engaged locally, and are perfectly free to stay here if they wish to and to obtain non-Government employment. Their discharge by Government is under no special law but in exercise of the ordinary rights of an employer."

"Fact No. 9. Notices have been or are being withdrawn in the case of any non-Ceylonese (a) registered as married to a Ceylonese wife; (b) registered as the father of a child by a Ceylonese mother; or (c) who is married to a Ceylonese spouse whose employment is being continued. The Leader of the State Council in introducing the Budget on July 25th also announced that special cases of hardship would receive individual consideration."

Important Modification

"Fact No. 10. That the services of non-Ceylonese will be terminated before those of Ceylonese was announced as a principle of retrenchment; and a scheme of bonuses has been offered to those non-Ceylonese who desire to avoid the risk of retrenchment by voluntary retirement this year."

"Fact No. 11. The Ministers have recently agreed to an important modification of the principle which I have just mentioned. The modification is that for purposes of retrenchment non-Ceylonese employees with more than ten years' service under Government will be treated on a par with Ceylonese."

"Fact No. 12. This modification of retrenchment principle and the special cases now provided for in respect of employees under notice have been brought to the notice of the Government of India, to which an undertaking was given on May 8th last that no scheme for the compulsory replacement of daily-paid non-Ceylonese other than the present one which affects only persons engaged since April 1st, 1934, would be approved without opportunity being afforded for it to make representations."

Opens Personal Account

"I am afraid that the enunciation of a dozen facts has taken rather long," the Governor observed, "but if it goes even a small way towards removing doubt or misunderstanding between the many communities and interests which I hope to see numerously represented in the clientele of this Bank it will have been worth the patience you have shown in listening to it."

"I will now stop because I pro-

Pt. Pedro Wants A District Judge

Legal Secretary Meets Lawyers

Pt. Pedro Tuesday.

Mr. J. C. Howard, the Legal Secretary, inspected the Courts and later met the Point Pedro Bar. Mr. N. Ponniah introduced the members of the Bar, to the Legal Secretary. Mr. N. Ponniah and Mr. K. Muttucumaru urged that a full time District Judge was required at Point Pedro. Mr. K. Muttucumaru pointed out that the Point Pedro Court had more Civil cases than Chillaw, Kalutara or Kegalle. He also quoted from the Judicial Commission's report with regard to the nature of the Point Pedro cases. It was also suggested that in view of the literacy of Vadamarachchi with 13 English Schools in it, Village tribunals meant for backward areas should not be established in Vadamarachchi.

Mr. R. W. M. Walton, Chairman, Village Committee, Puloly, while supporting the Bar's request for a District Judge at Point Pedro urged that Village Committees in Vadamarachchi should be divested of their judicial functions without delay and that tribunals should be established. It was suggested that Proctors must be allowed to appear in Tribunals.

The Legal Secretary asked Mr. Walton for his opinion with regard to the question. Mr. Walton replied that as long as the jurisdiction of the tribunals was not increased lawyers should not be allowed to appear but that when there was a definite proposal to increase jurisdiction the question of lawyers' appearances might be considered (Cor.)

pose to give practical and tangible expression to my deep interest and firm belief in the Bank of Ceylon by paying in this cheque to open a personal account which will make me the Bank's first customer."

"I thank the Minister for Labour, Industry and Commerce very much for allowing me this honour, and for having invited me to this auspicious function. To the Chairman of the Board of Directors I now deliver this Certificate enabling the Bank to commence business."

Mr. C. C. S. Corea, Minister of Labour, Industry and Commerce, in calling on the Governor to open the Bank said that it was indeed a day of great joy for it saw the fulfilment of a cherished desire to have a banking institution which would assist the development of the country, particularly in commerce and industry.

The absence of such an institution had long been felt. True enough they still had and would have other banking institutions but those banking institutions had been helpful to the country's progress in a limited way.

The Bank of Ceylon was established therefore to remove that difficulty and to offer equal opportunities to all sections of the community in their enterprises.

"The establishment of this Bank is only one means by which the Government of this country hopes to evolve a financial structure which

(Continued on Page 5.)

800 INDIANS DISCONTINUED

REPATRIATION SCHEME TAKES EFFECT

4000 VOLUNTEER TO RETIRE

Colombo, August 1.

YESTERDAY, July 31, was the date fixed for the discontinuance of daily-paid non-Ceylonese engaged in 1934 and later.

It is learned that out of 1,200 non-Ceylonese daily paid labourers who were engaged in 1934 and later and who were given notice of discontinuance 800 have chosen to accept the Government's offer of a free railway ticket and a gratuity if they chose to return to their homes.

Two hundred of those who were given notice have established their claims to remain in Ceylon by right of their birth or marriage in this country.

The claims of two hundred others of this category to remain in Ceylon await enquiry.

Voluntary Retirement

Of the 7,000 daily paid non-Ceylonese labourers whose services might have been discontinued in the event of retrenchment, it is learned, that 4,000 have intimated their desire for voluntary retirement in view of the closing down of the Uda Pussellawa Railway Line, and curtailments of the works programs in the Public Works Department and the Harbour Engineer's Department in the next financial year.

The eight hundred whose services were terminated yesterday, will be conveyed to their homes by batches according to a program arranged by the Railway Department.

Each labourer will go to his village with a letter to the Accountant-General of the Madras Government authorising him to pay the sum stipulated by the Ceylon Government.

Personal

Mr. M. M. Alexander, son of Mr. M. S. M. Sinnathurai, cigar merchant of Jaffna Town, has been appointed Propaganda Van Officer of the Ceylon Coconut Board and has taken up duties from the 1st of July 1939. Mr. Alexander was attached to the Publicity Branch of the Coconut Board since its inception and has been in charge of the Coconut Board Stall at all Carnivals and Fairs in which the Board has taken part in various parts of the Island. The decision to appoint Mr. Alexander to this post was unanimous.

Mr. J. R. Richards passed the final L.M.S. Examination held recently in the first class. He is the second son of the late Mr. A. M. Richards, lecturer in Veterinary Science, Agricultural College, Coimbatore, India, and grandson of the late Mr. Charles S. Ratnesar of Tellippalai. (Cor.)

Broadcasting

AKASH-VANI,
MYSORE

Programme

(The programme was received late for publication in our last issue.)

Wavelength: 70.2 Meters. Frequency: 4265 Kc/S.

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

Thursday, the 3rd August 1939

6 p.m. Hindusthani Light Music
6.15 p.m. News and Announcements

7 to 7.20 p.m. Popular Science
"Life's Design" by B. M. Sivaramiah Esq.

7.30 p.m. Harikatha: 'Rukmini Kalyana'

8 p.m. Tamil Drama: "Life of Sri Thyagaraja"

Friday, the 4th August 1939

6 p.m. Karnatic Light Music

6.15 p.m. News and Announcements

6.45 p.m. Hindusthani Music

7 p.m. "Qirat"

8 p.m. Recitation from "Masnavi-Maulana-Rumi" by Mr. Mir Md. Husain

Saturday, the 5th August 1939

6 p.m. Flute

6.15 p.m. News and Announcements

6.30 to 8.45 p.m. Vocal Music Performance by Vidwan Govin-Swami, accompanied by Vidwan Subramanyam, (Violin) and Vidwan Ramiah (Mridangam.)

Sunday, the 6th August 1939

No Broadcast



Hindu Organ.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 3, 1939

INDIA BANS
EMIGRATION

IT IS REPORTED THAT THE Government of India have banned the emigration of unskilled labour to Ceylon with effect from the first of this month. It seems that this somewhat drastic step has been taken by the Raj as reprisal to the dismissal of about 800 Indian daily-paid labourers from Government employ. We have referred in these columns more than once to the increase in the import duty on Jaffna tobacco by the Travancore Government and observed that that measure was animated more by a spirit of retaliation than by revenue considerations. It is an irony of fate that the steps so far adopted by the Indian Raj and the Travancore Government apparently to safeguard the interests of their nationals fall heavily upon the two communities in Ceylon who have consistently set their face against the anti-Indian proposals of the Ceylon Government. It may

be that they in India do not realise how far their actions in this respect are calculated to alienate the sympathy and goodwill of the people who have championed the cause of Indians in Ceylon. The blow aimed at the tobacco industry and the estates industries will affect adversely the prosperity of Jaffna Tamils and European planters. True it is that the anti-Ceylon measures so far taken by India are bound to spell ruin in the long run to the economic prosperity of the Island as a whole.

SIR ANDREW CALDECOTT in his speech at the opening of the Bank of Ceylon made a twelve-point statement with a view to dissipating the "loose talk, idle rumour or positive misrepresentation" associated with the anti-Indian proposals of the Government. There can be no doubt whatever that the Governor's pertinent observations in this connection go some way towards clearing the atmosphere charged with misunderstandings, misgivings and mistrust, which have considerably embittered Indo-Ceylon relations. The Governor rightly stresses the fact that the "notice of discharge was given to all daily-paid non-Ceylonese employees engaged since April 1st, 1934 i. e., after the passing by the State Council of a resolution that immigrants should be engaged only if Ceylonese with requisite qualifications were not available." But while we admit that the discharge of the 800 Indian labourers is but the implementing of the resolution of the State Council in this matter, the question naturally arises why that resolution has been allowed so long to go by default either by the Ministers or heads of Departments. In fact, the very reference is a sorry but illuminating commentary on the efficiency and thoroughness of our Government. Nobody will question the legality of the action taken by the Government forced by the economic exigencies of the situation, but right thinking men will be disposed to question its morality. It really amounts to this—that men who have rendered loyal and efficient service to their employers have been penalised for the ineptitude and negligence of their employers. That is why we have consistently taken up the attitude that, while those who are already employed should be permitted to continue in service so long as they do efficient and satisfactory work, the Government should see that the State Council resolution in this matter is rigidly enforced in future. If the Board of Ministers have acted in this statesmanlike manner, they would have spared themselves the task of tackling the knotty problems arising out of the strained Indo-Ceylon relations.

It is well known that in South Ceylon unscrupulous

agitators have exploited the occasion afforded by the Government proposals in regard to Indians to launch a campaign of boycott against Indian shops and Indian labour. It appears from several letters in the daily press that Indian shop-keepers are subjected to uncalled for indignities and unwarranted loss owing to the anti-Indian propaganda of a few demagogues and their hirelings. We have urged more than once that the Government's first duty is to see that they put a stop to the dangerous hoodlomanism that is reported to be prevalent in some parts of the Island. The Government of India may well plead that the ban they have imposed on emigration to Ceylon is actuated solely by their concern for the dignity and honour of their nationals in this country. As rightly stressed everywhere by PANDIT NEHRU during his visit to Ceylon, the one thing to which the Indian Raj and the Indian Congress are most sensitive is the "dignity" of Indians abroad. Whatever steps Ceylon may legitimately take to protect her economic interests, will not rouse opposition in Indian nationalist circles nor incur their ill-will. But what they would be particularly about is the honour and dignity of their compatriots in Ceylon. In view of the closest ties, cultural, religious and racial, that have bound India and Ceylon for centuries, it is in the fitness of things that our Government and people should scrupulously avoid doing anything which might reasonably be interpreted as an "insult" to India. Let us hope better counsels will prevail in both countries tending towards Indo-Ceylon harmony and goodwill.

Farewell to Swami
VipulanandaTributes at Public
Meeting

A farewell was given to Swami Vipulananda at the Vaidyeshwara Vidyalyaya yesterday at 5 p.m., on the eve of his departure to the Mayavati Ashram in the Himalayas as Editor of the *Prabuddha Bharatha* (Awakened India), the magazine founded by the illustrious Swami Vivekananda. There was a large gathering of his admirers. Dr. S. Subramaniam presided and the proceedings began with the singing of Thevaram.

The President in his opening remarks paid a tribute to the work done by Swamiji in the cause of Education and Tamil Literature. He said that because the Swami was doing such work, people were apt to forget his spiritual gifts. He had very clear ideas and could express them coherently. In conclusion he wished him all success in his new sphere of activity.

Brahmasri Sithampara Sastrikal

recited and explained a sanskrit sloka composed for the occasion.

Mr. K. K. Natarajan read and presented to the Swamiji a farewell address, in verse, composed by him for the occasion.

Mr. S. Ambikaipakan read out messages received from Brama Sri Ganesh Iyer and Mr. K. S. Ramaswami Iyer.

Mr. S. Natesan, M. S. C. speaker next said that Swamiji was admired not only in Ceylon but also in S. India. His contribution to Tamil Literature would be remembered by all. He was going to North India where Tamil culture was not sufficiently known and he hoped that the Swami would do his best to spread Tamil culture in the North. As there was the possibility of his doing that, they should all wish him farewell cheerfully.

Mr. V. Nagalingam, Editor, Hindu Organ, said that the Swami had done something unique by renouncing the world and taking to a life of service. His educational activities were well-known and he had brought a scientific outlook into Tamil research.

Mr. S. Ambikaipakan, Headmaster, Vaidyeshwara Vidyalyaya, speaking on behalf of the teachers said that as one who had known the Swami intimately for the last ten years he could speak from first hand knowledge about the work done by him. For want of time, the Swami had not given a permanent form to many of his researches. If anyone wanted to know the great work done by the Swami, they should go to the Eastern Province. It would be no exaggeration to say that had not the Swami gone there, Hinduism would have been wiped out by now. The Students Home at Kalladi Uppodai would be an everlasting monument to the Swami. There the Swami had tried his best to give a home atmosphere to the homeless children.

The Swami was the General Manager of Schools of the Mission for a number of years and there could have been no better choice. During his regime the schools grew in numbers and efficiency. The secret of his success was that he had no motive other than the welfare of the institutions in managing them. In conclusion the speaker appealed to the Swami to spend a few years in Jaffna on his return from India.

The Swami on being requested to reply thanked those present for turning up there to bid him goodbye. He gave an account of the Mayavati Ashram where he would be staying for the next two years. It was in the snow-clad Himalayas and he decided to go there because of the peaceful atmosphere of the place. From his experience he had found out there was a Divine Power that shaped men's lives and it was their duty to follow its direction.

He had spent about fourteen years in Ceylon doing mostly educational work. During these years he had done something to further the cause of Tamil Literature. Now he felt that the time had come for him to leave Ceylon at least for a few years and he requested those present to wish him good-bye cheerfully.

The meeting came to a close with a vote of thanks to the chair and those present and the singing of Thevaram.

EMIGRATION TO CEYLON BANNED

NOTIFICATION BY
INDIA GOVT

BAN ON UNSKILLED LABOUR

Simla, Aug. 1.

THE stoppage of the emigration of unskilled labourers to Ceylon is ordered by the Government of India in a notification, which says:

"Whereas the Government of Ceylon have decided to terminate, from the 1st August 1939, the employment of a large number of Indians engaged in unskilled work in that country, and the declared policy of that Government is to discontinue, in course of time, the employment of many more such Indians;

"And whereas, in view of the great uncertainty consequently prevailing in Ceylon regarding the employment of unskilled labour in that country, it appears necessary and expedient to the Central Government to issue this notification;

"Now, therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of Section 30-A of the Indian Emigration Act, 1922 (VII of 1932), the Central Government is pleased to prohibit, with effect from 1st August 1939, all persons from departing by sea out of British India to Ceylon for the purpose of unskilled work, unless exempted by a special order of the Central Government from the provisions of this notification."

A second notification, simultaneously issued, entrusts the Commissioner of Labour, Madras, with the function of issuing special orders exempting persons from the provisions of the first notification, subject to the condition that the Central Government shall continue to have the power of issuing similar special orders.

Bank of Ceylon Opened On Tuesday

(Continued from page 3)

will assist the country in its many-sided activities," he added.

Financial Triangle

"The Government within the last decade has taken very important and definitely useful steps in this direction. With the establishment of the State Mortgage Bank, which has been extremely successful in its working, we have provided an opportunity, particularly for the agriculturists in this country to obtain credit facilities on very easy terms."

The State Mortgage Bank, Mr. Corea added, was not permitted to undertake certain kinds of business and he hoped that that deficiency would be made good by the Bank of Ceylon.

The Government hoped to establish in the very near future an Agricultural and Industrial Credit Corporation, which would complete the financial triangle.

"On this occasion," he said, "I would like to thank the general public for the wonderful co-operation in the establishment of this bank. There were many who told me that they had very grave doubts about the public taking up the shares. But as you know long before the period fixed for subscribers the shares were over subscribed."

"That shows the very keen desire on the part of the public for an institution of this kind, and also the very deep seated conclusions that the bank can and will become a success."

Mr. A. E. de Silva, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the new Bank, proposed a vote of thanks to the Governor.

Ancient & Modern Indian Paintings

Exhibition of Gangoly Collections in Jaffna

By Isaac Ponnampalam, B. A.,
(Hons.) Lond.
(Jaffna Central College)

THANKS to the cultural enthusiasm of the North Ceylon Teacher's Association, Ceylon has been fortunate in enjoying the greatest Art Exhibition ever held in the Island. What Jaffna has enjoyed, Colombo would soon be enjoying. Among the exhibits are rare original palm-leaf paintings of the Tenth Century A. D.

The seventy-one exhibits may be broadly grouped into six categories; viz: the Early Buddhist, the Early Hindu, the Rajput (with its varied developments), the Moghul, the Nepalese, and the Modern School.

Of these the most inspiring and original are the Early Buddhist paintings—commonly called the Ajanta paintings; this nomenclature however tends to be misleading, since paintings of this period are found in Bengal, in Bagh, caves, and in Sigiriya—not to speak of Borobudur in Java. Most of the paintings that are extant are in the form of frescos in caves, and cave-temples. Miniatures of this period are extremely rare. Hence the great importance of the palm-leaf painting in Mr. Gangoly's collection. It is dated 978 A. D. It belongs to the Pala School of Bengal—one of the Schools of the Buddhist period. It is a page of manuscript of the Prajnaparamita and contains three miniature illustrations. One of these contains the figure of Avalokitesvara. A enlarged copy of this miniature is made by Nanda Lal Bose. This copy also was exhibited. The other exhibits of the Buddhist school included reproductions from the Ajanta and the Bagh Caves.

The early Hindu school was not fully represented. The most important painting in this school was also a leaf-painting. It is from the rare manuscript of Vallabha-Gopala-Stuti. It is a picture of Krishna and the cow-herd maids; it is representative of the Gujerati school of the 15th century.

The Rajput school was represented in the varied phases of its development. The Rajput paintings represent four and a half centuries from 1500 A. D. to 1850 A. D. The earliest pictures of the school—the Orichha school of the 16th century, the Jaipur school and the Kangra school were all represented. Most of the exhibits of this period, however, are reproductions. The best of Rajput paintings were those of the 16th century. Jaipur represents the original tradition in a somewhat decadent state. While the Mogul school organised itself from the middle of the 16th century, the Rajput school continued to maintain its tradition in the small towns and villages that nestled at the foot of the Himalayas; this tradition known as the Kangra school represents the last phase of Rajput paintings.

Compared with the Buddhist school of painting the Rajput

paintings are more realistic; at the same time they ignore all perspective and maintain certain conventions that came to be formed during the Buddhist school. The maidens of the Rajput paintings are lotus-eyed; we also find sweeping contours deftly used by the Rajput painters. The veils and the skirts of the Gopis are depicted in broad, sweeping lines. An effect of contrast is given by the juxtaposition of bright colours. The themes of the school are mythological and musical. It is the unique characteristic of Rajput paintings that they try to give a pictorial representation to certain musical notes (Ragas and Raginis) of music. Even the last phase of the Rajput school had a strong vitality; this was seen in the picture known as "the Quelling of the serpent Kaliya". This picture is said to have been painted at about 1837 A. D. But it has all the buoyant joy in sweeping lines and a characteristic completeness which is found in the Orichha paintings of the 16th century—paintings like the Bhairavi Ragini found in this collection.

It is characteristic of the artistic vitality of India that three different schools with their own individual motifs and individual outlooks should have continued to exist side by side for four and a half centuries. During the centuries of the Rajput school two other contemporaneous schools—the Moghul and the Nepalese—continued to exist. The former was nurtured by Akbar the Great but was forced to seek patronage of the lesser chieftains in the beginning of the 18th century when Aurangzeb refused to extend his patronage to art. In the Moghul paintings we first come to a sensuous realism in Indian art. Most of the pictures of this period depict the luscious luxury of sensuous splendour. One of the finest pictures of this school in the Gangoly collection was that of the portrait of Nur Jahan, Queen of Jahangir. The Moghuls were also lovers of Nature; and this love was particularly appreciative of the sensuous luxuriance of Nature. A "Flower study by Mansur" illustrated this aspect.

The Nepalese school continued the tradition of the early Buddhist school from the beginning of the 13th century right down to the middle of the 18th century A. D. It is Buddhist in its primal inspiration and theme, but it is pervaded by a strong Chinese influence which can be seen in the delicacy of lines and accuracy of touch even in smallest of the miniature portraits which are characteristic of the Nepalese paintings.

Among the modern paintings exhibited "Sati: the Immolation on the Fire" by Nanda Lal Bose, is the most inspiring from its aesthetic point of view. It portrayed a happy mingling of Western influence on the Indian mind. It was in no way reminiscent of the hybrid paintings which spread over India in the late 19th century impelled by the art schools of Bombay and Calcutta. On the other hand "Sati" by Nanda Lal Bose is purely Indian in inspiration, but has a chiaroscuro effect unknown before in the history of Indian art. The vigorous chastity of expression which banishes any form of decoration harmonises with the chastity of the devoted wife who is about to immolate herself from the pyre of her hus-

LARGE-SCALE WAR EXERCISES

BY BRITAIN, GERMANY
AND ITALY

BRITAIN'S FORMIDABLE FLEET READY

August 2.

LARGE-scale manoeuvres are being conducted by Britain, Germany and Italy with an intensity unparalleled in peace-time. They are expected to reach their zenith in the course of this month.

The essence of the British exercises consist of sham fighting by 135,000 Territorials all over England; the marshalling of the Reserve Fleet (for the first time in 15 years) in full strength; the moving of the Home Fleet to Rosyth and Invergordon where the biggest array of fighting ships in Britain's northern waters for 20 years will be stationed; extensive naval exercises; another long-distance flight of Royal Air Force bombers in the near future; and a great "black-out" on the night of Wednesday next, August 9th, in London, and 28 Southern Counties which will give Britain's civil defence its biggest test so far.

Germany's armed forces are about to start what may prove to be the biggest land and air manoeuvres by the Reich for many years. These will be held over a large area in Southeast Germany, including parts of Silesia, which is close to the Polish border, Sudetenland, Bohemia and Moravia and will extend to the Polish frontier.

Italian army manoeuvres, in which some 150,000 troops will take part as well as air force units, started today in the valley of the River Po, exactly behind the Great Mountain Ranges that divide France from Italy, in the mock battle that is being fought out, the enemy is assumed to be coming from the direction of the French frontier.

Italy has just concluded naval manoeuvres in the Central Mediterranean which have lasted for a week. They have been described in a communique as "vitally important" and large numbers of aircraft, it is added, co-operated.

HINDU BOARD OF EDUCATION

15th Annual Meeting

The 15th Annual General Meeting of the Hindu Board of Education will be held at the Hindu Bilingual School, Chermiya Street, Vannarpannai, on Saturday, the 5th instant, at 3.30 p.m.

band. The artist seems to have caught something that etheriality expressed in Leonardo da Vinci's "Mona Lisa". The other exhibits of Nanda Lal Bose do not quite come up to the spirit of "Sati". On the other hand "Shiva drinking poison" shows the dynamic influence which the Buddhist school exerts on the artistic minds of modern Indian. The best exhibit of Abanindra Nath Tagore is the "Call of the flute". The mystic element in this picture is reminiscent of Blake's paintings (though, apart from the mystic element the two artists have nothing in common.)

The paintings of Nanda Lal Bose and Abanindra Nath Tagore show the direct inspiration of Ajanta, the ennobling influence of Chinese art and the chastening effect of the best in Western Art.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

WHITHER, MR. PONNAMBALAM?

II

Sir,—Dire imagination still pursues Mr. G. G. Ponnambalam. From the heavy firing in the town he has plunged into the villages calling upon the people to steel themselves for the destructive pose of unreasoning hostility to the Sinhalese. He has already repeated his tirade at a few meetings in Vali-West. More meetings are to come, and so the campaign widens and Mr. Ponnambalam may gleefully think that he successfully sets up a barrage to what he phrases as the Sinhalese domination. A few who aid him in this propaganda are men who have for some years not been secretly nursing a hope of entering the State Council. When he has conveyed his message to Vali-West he hopes to rouse the Islands-division, where, a bird whispers, he plans to run his wife or a brother-in-law at the next elections. It is expected that under further reforms that the Islands will be made a separate electorate. Some one asked me the other day why Mr. Ponnambalam did not first carry his propaganda hot-foot to his own electorate of Point-Pedro. It set me thinking. The rupture between the Sinhalese and the Jaffna Tamils would have been complete and might have led to serious incidents but for the Kayts representative in the Council whose silent influence has a silencing effect on the animosities caused by impolitic utterances of Messrs. Ponnambalam and Nadesan. The man who put the question to me, almost suggested the motive of Mr. Ponnambalam, namely to turn the tide of opinion in the Kayts electorate against Sir Waitialingam Duraiswamy. The suggestion may be an element in the background of Mr. Ponnambalam's activities in this area, but he has not so far said anything savouring of that motive.

It may be that despite his being the Speaker Sir W. Duraiswamy could have outside the Council openly indicated the trend of his opinion on the proposed reforms. There is the precedence of the famous Vithalbai Patel who, while he was strictly neutral in his office and thus established a model, did not hesitate to speak outside when opportunity came. But we know Sir Waitialingam too well to doubt his love of his people and his sense of proportion and fairplay. The Sinhalese are going to score all along the line of further reforms in spite of Messrs. Ponnambalam and Nadesan, and if the Jaffna Tamils are going to get anything over and above their proportionate share and if His Excellency the Governor is recommending any weightage and protection of any specific interests of the Tamils, all that will be the result of the silent influence of Sir Waitialingam and other Tamil leaders of his stamp. Mr. Ponnambalam's principle of non-domination in a scheme of proportional representation is a trifle difficult to understand. Does he seriously contend that weightage and other extra privileges in the hands of minorities are essential parts of the principles of democratic constitution pure and simple? If he does, he has in mind a qualified democracy. That is no democracy where minorities are granted safeguards in their own hands for their imaginary or real fears. Safeguards in

the hands of the over-riding Power for the sake of the minority are an essential feature. There are Tamils who feel that the conduct of the Board of Ministers in recent years shows the need for weightage for the minorities. But such conduct is, as I pointed out in the last article, a purposeful reaction of the Sinhalese to the hostile attitude of the Tamils, and some other minorities.

The art and science of democracy is yet to postulate a theory of fifty fifty ratio where all the minorities put together do not count half as much as the majority. Even this far-fetched theory of absolute balance may be seriously advocated without wounding words. Some of the Jaffna Councillors and quite a number of the Sinhalese members ought to revise their positions in the light of the words of wisdom of such a tried leader and personality as Pandit Jawaharlal. Mr. Ponnambalam often permits his enthusiasm and patriotism to outrun his discretion. He has often unwisely said unpalatable things to Sir Baron Jayatileke, Mr. D. S. Senanayake and others. Men of age and service, they ought to be respected regardless of their limitations. Mr. Nadesan has sometimes caused unrest to the memory of Sir P. J. Namanathan by his uncalled for reference to the past of the foremost Sinhalese leaders. A writer in the "Times of Ceylon" gave the other day the lie back to Mr. Nadesan who at the public meeting in the town committed the grave blunder of referring to the incarceration of Sinhalese leaders during the 1915 riots and their release. Indiscretions of some Tamil leaders come to no end. What a thorny problem the proposed Indian repatriation seemed to become! What a pleasant and highly elevated attitude did Pandit Jawaharlal adopt! Why should not Mr. Ponnambalam and company adopt pleasant ways of discussing unpleasant questions? It is time that people in the Jaffna villages were told of the tactless ways of Mr. Ponnambalam. If Mr. Ponnambalam and those others who assist him in the charging of the villagers with anger and hostility for the Sinhalese, do not turn away from their unwise and ill conceived propaganda, the position will become graver far.

I am told that the great Pandit expressed his concern at Mr. Ponnambalam's propaganda. The Jaffna Tamils are proud of Mr. Ponnambalam and if he exploits their trust and faith in him to work off his feelings towards the Sinhalese leaders with no eye to the implications in the train of such activity, we are bound to ask him, where? And to what useful purpose? We Tamils think it an insufferable act of unwisdom, not to say folly, of Mr. Goonesinghe and his friends to call for a boycott of Jaffna goods. Where passions are raised between two races the economics of such a cry is explainable. But—what about Mr. Ponnambalam's cry for the boycott of the Tamil weekly—"Eelakesari"? This weekly newspaper has done some useful service for some years now. If the paper disapproves of Mr. Ponnambalam's politics, should he seek to throttle it? If his case is rested upon facts and arguments, why should he fear criticism? Does he expect Jaffna to accept him as its

dictator? If people act on his direction in respect of that paper, have we cause to complain of Mr. Goonesinghe's propaganda against Jaffna products? Let the Jaffna Tamils wake up a little to the realities and possibilities of Ponnambalam's campaign. If the people are content to be led blindly, they do so at their peril.

Yours etc.
S. A. Nathan.

A Rejoinder

Sir,—Mr. Nathan's letter in your last issue surprises me. Whither Mr. Ponnambalam, is a question which even Mr. Ponnambalam cannot answer at the present moment. Mr. Nathan displays weakness rather than strength in the manner he addresses himself to the question. He admits that Jaffna has much to agitate about but still wants to know whether the situation is so bad after all. The demand which Mr. Ponnambalam puts forward on behalf of the minorities are characterised by Mr. Nathan as something more than what can be reasonably concluded. I would suggest in the first place that he reads through Mr. Ponnambalam's speech on the Reforms Despatch which he made in the State Council. It is not the way in which Mr. Ponnambalam puts the case that is convincing but the hard facts that are presented. Mr. Ponnambalam's claim is no invention of his. It is a world-wide claim of all minorities. Either our Sinhalese politicians do not understand the justness of the claim or simply refuse to understand it.

Mr. Nathan again blunders when he connects the Jaffna Boycott of the State Council with the adamant attitude of the Sinhalese Ministers. We shall try to find out the real cause of this attitude. Mr. Bandaranayake made capital out of a statement of Mr. Ponnambalam and used it to foment ill-feeling against the Tamils and to strengthen himself by forming branches of the Sinhala Maha Sabha. Again Mr. Kannangara speaking at some meeting urges the Sinhalese people to lead healthier lives and refers to the lesser rate of infant-mortality among the Tamils. Again and again the Sinhalese leaders refer to the offices held by the Tamils under the Government. If we read through the Hansard Book we can see how the Sinhalese members in the State Council avoid the matter in Mr. Ponnambalam's speeches and try to represent him as a mere communalist. Is Jaffna to be led away by such false representations? We must adhere to facts and then, we can see what our representatives did in the State Council and why they are branded communalists. Any time Jaffna's needs and Jaffna's claims are put forward by our representatives they are immediately called communalists and matters rest there. If our members did not put up the opposition they have put up Jaffna would never be aware of the treatment it is getting at the hands of the Sinhalese Ministers. Magnanimity! That is the last thing we can expect from our Sinhalese Ministers. It is no use being passive. All Jaffna should know how she is being treated and Jaffna should present a united front. Mr. Nathan is wrong when he says that the majority can go on ignoring the minority. The

SHOPS ORDINANCE COMES INTO FORCE

Nine-hour Working Day

Colombo, August 1.

The Shops Regulation Ordinance comes into partial operation from today.

Three Shop Inspectors have been detailed for duty within the Municipal limits of Colombo, Kandy and Galle. These Inspectors will instruct the shop-keepers with regard to provisions of the new Ordinance.

What is sought to be enforced from today are the provisions that a shop employee should not be given more than nine hours work a day and that the total number of hours of work a week should not exceed fifty. This, however, includes the period set apart for meals. In addition to this each employee has to be allowed one and a half days as holidays each week.

Attendance registers will have to be kept in the shop for this purpose so that they may be examined whenever necessary by the Shop Inspectors. A list of persons employed in a shop will also have to be kept in a prescribed form.

Minorities are an important factor in Ceylon and they cannot be neglected for long.

Again Mr. Nathan criticizes the Tamil representatives' attitude to the Indian repatriation question. Are we trying to be blind to facts? Are we to find fault with our representatives for making a bold stand for justice? Certainly not. We should admire them.

Then again Mr. Nathan refers to our business with the South and the probability of its failing. He also seems to be aware that it is Mr. Goonesinghe who shouts out that Indian and Jaffna goods must be boycotted. I hope he is also aware of the treatment meted out to Mr. Goonesinghe at Bandawela. I hope also that he is aware that at a recent mass meeting Mr. Goonesinghe succeeded in making the crowd promise to boycott Indian goods and any mention of Jaffna was significantly omitted. Mr. Goonesinghe's attempt to form a blockade is doomed to failure from its very beginning very much as Napoleon's famous Continental Blockade against English goods proved a failure. So Mr. Nathan need have no fears about that little business we are doing in South Ceylon.

Is it no use pondering and trying to be statesmanlike with a body of unstatesmanlike Ministers. The Ministers can have their way if they stand united. Mr. Ponnambalam is not free from criticism but we must be thankful to him for having presented a clear and convincing case on behalf of the minorities. If we cannot settle matters between ourselves a third party has to settle it and we can rely on the British Government for a certain amount of justice.

Pt. Pedro, Yours etc.
29-7-39. K. Sivasubramaniam.

CEYLON'S PUBLIC DEBT LAST YEAR

(Continued from Page 1)

revenue has so far paid out nearly nine million rupees as a result of the adoption of the system of commuted pensions.

"This sum will be made good, if not wholly, at least partially in the years to come, but it be several years before the effect of the burden is removed."

Local Government

It would not be possible to make detailed suggestions for possible economies without knowing the exact nature of the Provincial Councils, which will be appointed by Government and on which it is proposed that the Government Agent or the Assistant Government Agent should be an ordinary member only. The position should, however, be reviewed after the Councils, which are to be tried first in a single area as an experiment, have been in operation for some years.

It seems to us very likely that extensive reductions of Kachcheri personnel (both staff and clerical officers) would eventually be possible. We would recommend that, if these bodies function satisfactorily, more and more of the local functions now dealt with by Central Government departments should be delegated to them. It is, at present, the almost invariable custom to place on Kachcheries duties arising from new legislation. We consider that it would be very desirable if, in future, careful consideration were given to the question whether such functions could not be more appropriately discharged by local bodies.

When Local Government develops to the extent anticipated by the Minister for Local Administration, Kachcheries organized as they are at present under Revenue Officers with intensive personal contact of the administrative officer with the people will become unnecessary. Amalgamation of two or more districts under one Provincial Council will then be an easy matter.

Grants

It is sometimes argued, plausibly no doubt, that the total grant to Local Authorities in Ceylon which is under 3 per cent. of the revenue of the Central Government is meagre in relation to the total revenue of all the Local Authorities of the Island, whereas in England the Central Government grants are as much as one-third of all Local Government expenditure, exclusive of loans and outlay on Trading Services, or half of all Country Councils' rate income from rates and grants. What is ignored is that the British Local Authorities undertake many more services than ours do. The Central Government in Ceylon spends annually, in round figures, excluding extraordinary works:—

20 million rupees on Education,
14 million rupees on Medical and Sanitary Services,
4 million rupees on Police,
5 million rupees on Roads,
totalling to 43 million rupees or about 40 per cent. of its annual revenue. The major portion of

this expenditure is on the British standard, a hidden subsidy to our Local Authorities.

We do not suggest that there is a strong case for increasing local taxation, which is already a vexed question in countries much more advanced than Ceylon. The harmful effects in some respects of the commonest form of local taxation, viz., a rate on the annual value of certain classes of immovables, was recognized in the recent British Legislation derating agricultural lands entirely and industrial and transport equipment partially. The feature of public finances most marked in democratic countries like Ceylon, where a strong Central Government developed first, is that the local taxation falls most heavily on the poorer classes while the Government grants constitute a contribution from the richer classes through central taxation.

Backward Areas

There is also the problem of the undeveloped or backward areas of the Island which have little or no rating or revenue-producing ability, but require comparatively the most expenditure. Their difficulties can only be met by grants from the Central Revenue collected by comparatively progressive methods of taxation.

The ideal is to reach a fair balance for each Authority between local taxation and block grants from Central Government based on certain well defined principles.

Lastly, we would stress the utmost importance of inspection, as apart from the mere audit of accounts, which must invariably accompany Government grants. The scope of the inspection should cover not only the verification of the satisfactory conclusion of the services for which the grants were intended but also general questions of the administrative efficiency and progressiveness of the Local Authority. A fairly satisfactory report of inspection should be the condition precedent to the allocation of grants. The Revenue Officers as Agents of the Central Government are, under the existing organization, the best authority to conduct such inspections and furnish reports under the general guidance of the Local Government Department.

Obituary

MR. A. THURAIAPPAH

The death occurred on Friday at his residence at Thalayali, Vannarponnai of Mr. A. Thuraiappah, (82) planter, Batticaloa.

The funeral took place the next day and the remains were cremated at the Kanakkamarathadi Crematorium.

The deceased was the youngest brother of the late Mr. A. Chelliah, Udayar, Vannarponnai East and the late Dr. A. Chinniah, and leaves behind a widow, three sons (Messrs. Rajanayagam, Duraiswamy of the Motor Car Office and Navaratnam), and two daughters, one of whom is Mrs. K. Aiyar, wife of Mr. K. Aiyar, Asst. Superintendent of Surveys. Mr. N. Kandaswamy (son-in-law), of the Fiscal's Office, Jaffna, a sister, Mrs. Naunitamby, and a host of relatives and friends with whom much sympathy will be felt.

HARTLEY COLLEGE PARENT—TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Point Pedro, Friday.

A Parent—Teachers Association, was inaugurated at Hartley College, Point Pedro, today.

The fullest Education of a child was not at all possible without the active co-operation and domination of the parents and hence the college took the opportunity afforded by the Education Week that is being observed among the schools in this division to supply a long-felt need. A meeting was held in the College hall presided over by the Principal Mr. C. P. Thamotheram while Messrs. C. Thanabalasingam, G. M. Alvapillai and Somasundram spoke.

Mr. C. Thanabalasingam reminded the teachers that the children they sent to the school were entrusted entirely into the hands of the teachers and that they were free to deal with them firmly but kindly both in and out of school.

Mr. G. M. Alvapillai complimented the school not only on its excellent Mathematicians but on its Tamil Scholars too and in the manner in which Tamil was taught in the school. Speaking as the head of a Tamil school and being well versed in the language his compliment was deeply and thankfully appreciated. His was an exhortation to study intensely the language of the land beside English a knowledge of which was a useful necessity.

The third speaker Mr. Somasundram said that though he was a Hindu yet he felt proud of his connection with Hartley College. He deplored the lack of a sense of proportion and of common sense when he heard that certain Hindu parents objected to the study of the Bible, a most interesting, edifying and useful collection of books. He felt that there was nothing to be lost but on the contrary everything to be gained in studying and following the lessons of the Bible as great Hindus like Gandhi and Ponnambalam Rama-

nathan did. He could assure them that the knowledge of the Bible never harmed any one and exhorted all parents to allow the children to join actively in the curriculum and activities in the school and in no way to go contrary to established benevolent authority. His final advice to the students was to take an equally lively interest in games and health recreations which built both the inner and outer man. He could testify, he said, that as a Government Servant in Malaya for 25 years and as one who had seen war service for one and a half years that a healthy body was essential to right living and therefore he implored the students and the parents never to lose the greatest factor of success, Health.

(Cor.)

Order Nisi

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF
JAFFNA

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 757.

In the matter of the intestate estate of the late Maheswari wife of Sivananthan of Nallore

Deceased.

Kathirippillai Chelliah of Nallore
Vs.
Petitioner.

1. Sivananthan Paramagurunathan of Nallore

2. Chelliah Sivananthan of Nallore presently of the General Treasury Colombo

Respondents.

This matter coming on for disposal before G. Coomaraswamy Esqr., District Judge Jaffna on the 7th day of July 1939 in the presence of Mr. S. Kanagasabai Proctor on the part of the petitioner and the petition and affidavit of the petitioner having been read: It is ordered that the second named respondent as father of the minor be appointed Guardian-ad-litem over the first named respondent to watch his interests in the said Testamentary Action and that the petitioner as father of the Deceased be appointed Administrator over the estate of the said Deceased and that letters of administration be granted to him accordingly unless the respondents or any other person shall on or before 23rd day of August 1939 appear before this Court and show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of the Court to the contrary.

This 7th day of July 1939

G. Coomaraswamy
District Judge

(O. 32. 31-7 & 3-8-39)

BEST "CROWN" BRAND TILES

WESTMINSTER CHIMING WALL AND BRACKET CLOCKS
GRANDFATHER CLOCKS

RADIO RECEIVERS

ENGLISH, GERMAN & JAPANESE

CEMENT

&c.

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Parents' Day at Moolai Saivapragasa Vidyasalai

Parents day celebration at Moolai Saivapragasa Vidyasalai was held on the 25th ultimo. Mr. Patrick, acting Director of Education, declared the celebration open at 6 p.m. The School Hall and the lanes were tastefully decorated. On arrival the Director of Education was received and garlanded by Pandit K. P. Ratnam the Headmaster of the School. Then the Director was taken in procession to the accompaniment of oriental music. The students of the school lined both sides of the path. At the entrance to the Hall the school scouts formed a guard of honour. The Director was then conducted to the beautiful platform and garlanded by Mr. Navaratnam, Proctor, the manager of the school. The manager welcomed the Director after the Thevaram, and an address was presented to him by the members of the Parents' Teachers Association. The Head Master

read a message from Mr. C. W. W. Kannangara the Minister for Education. The Director gave away the prizes and replied to the address. A dance and an acting were contributed by the students of the school. At this stage as the Director wanted to leave Mr. C. Ragunathan, Assistant Registrar of Co-operative Societies proposed a vote of thanks to the Director on behalf of the parents. Then there was an acting and Saraswathy Pooja worship by the students, Mr. M. Thambipillay, District Inspector of schools passed some remarks. A vote of thanks to the audience, prize donors and others was proposed by the Head Master. The meeting came to a close with the singing of Devaram. (Cor.)

Nº 574

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