

THE Hindu Organ.

The Only Newspaper in Ceylon for the Hindus
PUBLISHED EVERY MONDAY AND THURSDAY

VOL. LI.

Phone 56,

JAFFNA, MONDAY, AUGUST 7, 1939.

Price 5 Cts.

NO. 34.

LITTLE MINDS AND GREAT EMPIRES

How The Chamberlain Govt. Tackles International Affairs

"PEACE HANGS BY THE THREAD OF RUSSIAN CO-OPERATION"

By Iatrax

IF it is generally true that "Great Empires and little minds go ill together," we are soon likely to see an illustration of this maxim on a scale of unprecedented magnitude. There is only one hope left and that is by bringing about a replacement of the little minds by the big ones. The Chamberlain Government has a peculiarly narrow vision regarding foreign affairs and has not yet learnt, after months of disillusionment and dismay, that peace cannot be bought in the open market by floating a loan to appease the aggressor but has to be secured only on the basis of reciprocal trust, affection and fair-play.

The old adage of great empires and little minds used to be quoted once in connection with the American War of Independence, then with Ireland's struggle and lastly with India's bid for freedom. To-day, I find, it is applicable to the policy of muddle that has been the distinguishing feature of the present Chamberlain Government in its attitude towards world peace. On all fronts and on all occasions, Great Britain has bungled and the latest reports of an impending return to pre-Munich methods confirm the worst fears that our drift towards war must be sure though slow.

Moscow Negotiations:

What does this "Peace loan" mean except that England will finance Germany to increase Hitler's power, defensive and offensive, as an aggressor? At the one end, it is said, the most stupendous attempts are being made to bring Russia into the Peace Front in order to arrest the Fuehrer. The whole world is waiting with bated breath for the results of

the Moscow negotiations. Peace hangs by the narrow thread of Russian co-operation with the Democracies, and the most intricate, technical, mystifying and long-drawn-out negotiations are going on in Moscow. Look at the other picture, a responsible Minister of the Government talks to a responsible emissary of the Reich of a "plan" of financial help in the event of Germany turning a new leaf and becoming a good boy! The indirect bribery, as has been christened by a Labour Member of the Parliament, has been certified free from any "mischief" by Mr. Chamberlain, according to whom the mischief lay rather in the premature disclosure of the "plans" than in the plans themselves. But is this the right moment to allow a responsible British Minister to let loose his private ideas and opinions when a delicate task of the highest importance is under way? Stalin's worst suspicions about the *bona fides* of the Chamberlain Government in courting Russian friendship must now have been confirmed. Now that the Soviets know John Bull is interesting himself with plans for a financial-cum-political deal with Germany contrary to the spirit of the Moscow talks, how should Molotov feel over the British approach to Kremlin for strengthening the Peace Bloc?

Germany's Diplomatic Game

I think Germany has been playing her diplomatic game with a genius that seems to have baffled the ordinary understanding of the Britisher. When the Russian talks began, the Fuehrer sent a German Trade Delegation to Moscow with an offer of a long term loan for the purchase of Ger-

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APPLIED SCIENCES IN ANCIENT INDIA

VII. Engineering

By S. R. Muttukumar

(Continued from our issue of 31-7-39)

Road-Making

THIS was the principal section of Engineering in ancient India. The *Ramayana* mentions a road from Ayodhya to Rajagriha via Hastinapura. Kautiliya, therefore, says that "the roads of traffic are a means to over-reach an enemy; for it is through the roads of traffic that armies and spies are led (from one country to another); and that weapons, armour, chariots, and draught animals are purchased; and that entrance and exit (in travelling) are facilitated." (1)

Sukra also has certain ideas in regard to road engineering. According to him, the roads are to be made like the back of a tortoise, i.e. high in the middle, and provided with sewers on either side for the drainage of water. Bridges also are to be constructed wherever necessary. The houses in town or country should have their front side on the road, the backyard being relegated to the disposal of nuisance, garbage, and so forth (2). These characteristics of roads and principles of their construction are highly scientific, and indicate a high standard of hygienic perfection and regard for the comforts and conveniences of life.

The first thing that struck Megasthenes on entering India was the Royal Road from the frontier town of Pennelastis, the capital of Ghandara, to Pataliputra, the capital of the Mauryan Empire (3). He tells us that Chandragupta's Government comprised a special Board of officers, who attended to the construction and repair of roads, and to the erection of mile posts at intervals of every ten stadia, or about a mile and a quarter, to indicate the by-

roads and distances, and to travellers (4).

Sukra (5) and Kautiliya (6) tell us that the roads and trade-routes, which were of various kinds, were classified (1) according as they were used by beasts of burden, men on foot, or conveyances, and (2) according to the destinations they led to. Among the first kind was the king's highway 32 feet wide. There used to be six such roads in a city, three running north and south, and three running east and west. There were roads for large chariots 32 feet wide and roads for small chariots 10 feet wide. There were also roads for cattle in general 8 feet and 4 feet wide, and for asses and camels, which were so made that they could be used whatever the season or the nature of the soil through which they passed. Besides these, there were also road tracks 3 feet wide for minor quadrupeds and men.

Among the second kind were roads leading to districts, 32 feet wide; roads leading to pastures, and approaches to forts in the centre of 400 and 800 villages, both of a smaller width. The roads leading to fields under cultivation, to the cremation grounds, to the military station and through a village were 64 feet wide. The paths leading to forests were 32 feet wide, and those leading to elephant forests were 16 feet wide. Lastly, there were also roads leading to or passing over elevated and difficult places like embankments, and they were 32 feet wide.

The above facts presuppose the employment of a large staff of engineers.

It is interesting to note here that the ancient Hindus employed condemned criminals in

(Continued on page 2)

- (1) *Arthashastra* Bk vii. chap. xiv. p. 362; 2nd ed.
- (2) *Sukraniti*, i. 531-5.
- (3) a. Pliny's *Natural History* vi.21. b. Barnett's *Antiquities of India* p. 167.

- (4) Apud Strabo, *Frag.* xxxiv. Me Crindle's trans. p. 86;
- (5) *Sukraniti*, i. 519 ff.
- (6) *Arthashastra* Bk II. chap. iv.

"JAFFNA DEMANDS FAIRPLAY AND JUSTICE"

LECTURE AT
CHANKANAI

A PEEP INTO THE
FUTURE

"REFORM debates are over. Jaffna's demands have been completely set aside. Every Tamil feels that insult upon injustice has been the reward of our attempt to co-operate where co-operation is not welcome. 'What next?' is the question in everyone's lips. A reply is demanded and I have taken upon myself the task of giving a reply", said Mr. V. Veerasingham, speaking at a meeting held at Chankanaï, on the 28th ultimo, which was also addressed by Messrs G. G. Ponnambalam and A. V. Kulasingham on the Political situation.

Mr. Veerasingham continued: "Jaffna demands only fairplay and justice. We didn't ask for any special privileges which would prove detrimental to the interests of Ceylon. Jaffna is not communal, but unfortunately our friends of the South display narrow communalism of the most uncharitable kind in the Council. When the council atmosphere is impregnated with communalism there is the talk of provincial councils. Provincial Councils are welcome but where is the guarantee that a communalism of greater magnitude is not going to be perpetrated under the guise of Provincialism. The services may be provincialised and an attempt will be made to confine the appointments to the provincial services to the residents of the province. In the adjustment of the Central Government grant to these councils, will crop up serious problems which would affect seriously the interests of the Provinces. When the Donoughmore Constitution is being threatened with extinction, this recommendation of theirs is coming up for consideration. Every attempt has to be made to prevent the rise of narrow provincialism. Ceylon is divided into three natural regions. A Commission that investigated the question of provincial administration recommended some years back the division of the country into three provinces. In the interest of a united Ceylonese nation, the natural geographical regions must form the basis of division. Communal differences are likely to increase in the future and this should be avoided.

Vicissitude of the Rupee

India and Ceylon have the same Rupee coin. This link will soon be broken. For the sake of an immediate gain of a few thousand Rupees even the financial advisers of Ceylon Government are in favour of breaking this link and giving to Ceylon a new Rupee. This change is sure to bring about an unprecedented economic disturbance seriously threatening the economic stability of the country. Readjustments in tariffs and prices are sure to affect the country adversely at least during the transi-

tion period. What I fear is that the prices of the necessaries of life would go up to such an extent as would make the masses of the country suffer untold privation and attribute the distress to the new masters and the new Swaraj. The Jaffna Tamils would be the worst affected on account of the rising tide of communalism among the Sinhalese and their callousness to the sufferings of the Tamils.

Very many of our people seem to pin their faith on the Public Service Commission. Even the Governor has emphasised the fact that all quarrels are due to job finding. All over the world, that is the trouble, and that has been the trouble. Every political right won by any nation had economic considerations as the basis. Here too it is no wonder that job finding continues to be the source of a good deal of trouble. The Public Service Commission as recommended by the Council and the Governor is not going to solve the problem satisfactorily. If the method of selection is to continue as it is at present, the defects which are intended to be remedied will still continue. It is a pity that the English Civil Service Commission has not been taken as a model for the Ceylon Public Service Commission. This Commission is also an examining body. It has power to certify the fitness of applicants. When once the candidates are certified the appointments must be made by the Political or administrative heads of the departments according to the Governor's recommendations...

This body has to prepare and administer examinations for all service under Government.

The recommendations of the Governor and the decision arrived at by the recent debates in the State Council to do away with the Committee System of Government are not according to the canons of Political Science. The members of the Donoughmore Commission were experts in the art of Constitution-making. They recommended a system novel to the country but they recommended on sound principles. The fact that the members of the minority communities voted for the retention of the Committee System is a proof that the Committee System did achieve what the commissioners wanted. It was a safeguard against communal tyranny. The European members did not like the Committee System for it absorbed the whole time of those busy gentlemen. The committee System as it functions in Ceylon has some theoretical inherent defects. The defects pointed out in the Governor's Despatch are easily adjusted by slight alterations in the method of appointing the Committees and the Ministers. The defects that are really objectionable are not the fault of the System but of the manner in which the Committees' functions are manipulated. Peace and prosperity of a country depend on its constitution. All minority communities agreed upon the necessity for an independent expert Commission to examine the working of the present constitution before it is amended.

Future is indeed very gloomy. If the Sinhalese friends fail to feel for us and make us realise that we are also equal partners with them in the ordering of the Government of Ceylon we shall still co-operate with them in everything conducive to the peace and prosperity of the country and refuse to co-operate in any policy which we sincerely believe to be detrimental to the country. (Cor)

APPLIED SCIENCES IN ANCIENT INDIA

(Continued from page 1)

the construction and repair of roads.(7)

Bridge-Building

The ancient Hindus were as prolific bridge-builders as they were road-makers. The most notable bridge of theirs was the Adam's Bridge connecting Ceylon with India. It was constructed by the Vanara hosts of South India to take over to Ceylon the army of Rama, the hero of the *Ramayana*. The missionary Bouchet in his *Lettres Edifiantes* says that this bridge was used in modern times by the Raja of Marava, who, when pursued by the King of Madura, actually passed over it to Ceylon with his army, treasures, and elephants upon great beams thrown across that surface. (8)

It may be noted here that the Cushite race, with whom the ancient South Indian Hindus were closely connected by intercourse, if not by blood, delighted in "erecting stupendous edifices, in excavating long subterranean passages from the living rock, in forming vast lakes, in extending over the hollow of adjoining mountains magnificent arches for aqueducts and bridges; in short, in attempting whatever was hazardous and difficult." (9)

The ancient Hindus were not less proficient in their engineering feats, as is evident from their rock-cut *pagodas* and *viharas*, the remains of which are scattered all over India. Sukra enumerates the qualifications of a Civil Engineer in charge of Public Works thus: "That man is to be the supervisor of buildings and places who can construct palaces, ditches, forts, ramparts, images, machines, and bridges, who can dig wells, tanks, and can build artificial fountains and pumps for discharging water upwards—all this very finely according to canons of fine Arts." (10)

Megasthenes also tell us that there was a special Board of officers who built and repaired bridges. (11) These bridges were of various kinds. Besides the ordinary bridges, there were also bridges of boats as well as bridges formed by elephants standing in a row. (12)

Tunnel-Cutting

The *Ahananuru*, a Tamil Sangam work, says that a warlike tribe called Kosar entered into the Tulu Nadu of Nannan, and administered a crushing defeat upon their enemies. It further states that Mohur not having submitted, the Mauryas came up at the head of a great army, the rolling cars of which had to come up cutting their way along hill slopes. (13) Poem 281 of the same work gives some additional details; (1) that they came south pushing

the Vadukar (Northerners—the Telugus and the Kanarese of later times) in front, and (2) that they cut their way across a high hill which barred their way. The expression used in regard to the latter detail suggests a tunnel being cut through. The language of poem 69 of the same work is equally clear, and quite similar in regard to the cutting of the way through a hill for the car to pass.

Poem 175 of the *Purananuru* by poet Kallil Aththirayanar (கல்லை ஆத்திரையனார்) has an equally clear reference to the army of the Mauryas cutting their way through rock to let the road go through the middle of the world.

Temple-building

The ancient Hindus were prolific temple-builders, which required the knowledge and application of many branches of science. Triangular pyramids, circles, squares and cones for ever occur in the internal and external parts of their temples. It was by the aid of geometry combined with mechanics that the Hindus were able to raise to high altitudes ponderous stones in the construction of their temples. Two notable instances may be cited here. Stones, forty feet long and five broad, crown the summit of the grand portal of Chidambaram, which is 120 feet high. The second is the Pagoda of Tanjore. The perpendicular base of this building, 82 feet square, is two storeys in height; and above this the construction tapers to a pyramid rising in thirteen storeys in height of 190 feet. The summit is crowned by a single massive stone.

Another astonishing feat of the ancient Hindu engineers is found in the famous temple at Madura, which has a hall of thousand pillars. The hall 330 feet by 105 feet, consists of four ranges of columns, all of which are different and most elaborately carved. It shows the design of a processional car drawn by two powerful elephants, and looks as a parliament of pillars, all so beautifully arranged that no one feels, until he is told, that there are one thousand pillars.

Another peculiarity about this hall is the way in which one is greeted by the pillars in whatever way he looks. A person sitting in any part of the hall has a sight of the central shrine, where is kept an image of Nataraja in stone. This strange phenomenon remains still an unsolved mystery by engineering experts.

It may be stated here that there are reasons to believe that the pyramids of Egypt were first built by the South Indian Hindus of pre-historic times. This subject will be dealt with in a separate article.

(To be Concluded.)

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Sale of Arrack Rent and Foreign Liquor Tavern, 1939-40.

It is hereby notified that the prescribed form of tender in which tenders for the above should be made is available only at the following offices:—

Any Kachecheri in the Island.
Office of the Excise Commissioner, Colombo.
Office of the Assistant Commissioner of Excise, Jaffna.
Office of the Superintendent of Excise, Trincomalee.
S. F. AMERASINGHE,
Assistant Government Agent,
The Kachecheri,
Mannar, 31st July, 1939.

[G. 15. 7-8-39.]

(7) *Sukraniti*, IV. i. 215-6.

(8) Quoted in Mawric's *History of Hindoostan*, ii. 242, 3.

(9) *Ibid.*, ii. 249.

(10) *Sukraniti*, ii. 320-4.

(11) *Apud Strabo* Frag. XXXIV. Mc Crindle's trans p. 86.

(12) *Law's Ancient Hindu Polity*, pp. 84-5.

(13) *Stanza* 251.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

TAMIL-SINHALESE UNITY

Sir,—Any split among the Sinhalese and Tamils will spell disaster to both. Their unity is beneficial to both and makes a determined nation. They need each other and it is foolish to spurn one another. The present tension will and must ease when both know each other more fully. It will be my endeavour to give first a historical aspect of the connection and unity that links both the communities during the centuries of their existence in Ceylon—their common motherland. It is ludicrous, both to a Tamil and a Sinhalese, to speak ill or disparagingly of another not realising that a Sinhalese is a Tamil and a Tamil is a Sinhalese in essence.

According to Mahavamsa, the recorded history of the Sinhalese, Wijaya married the Yakka queen with the intention of securing mastery over Ceylon and then, when having made himself the king, with a view to marrying a princess to befit his rank and position, massacred her and the Yakka race. Then he married the daughter of the Pandiyar King in South India—a Tamil. His 600 followers married 600 Tamil ladies of rank. The Tamil Queen, 600 ladies of rank and their attendants, and followers landed in Ceylon. Every lady would have brought at least 10 persons as her retinue according to the custom of the Tamils. Thus at the beginning of the Sinhalese history, the Tamil element was preponderant. The female element was completely Tamil. Thus 601 Magadis, 601 Tamil ladies and 6010 Tamil attendants and retinue, and the remaining Yakkas formed the Sinhalese race which we see today.

The connection with North India did not continue for more than two or three generations, and all further contact was confined to the Tamils. Even today, there is no intermarriage between the Sinhalese and any North Indian. The Tamil Kings have been invariably the kings of the Sinhalese. The last King of Kandy was also a Tamil.

The frequent Tamil invasions of Ceylon and employment of Tamil mercenary armies by the Sinhalese kings and the taking of over 15,000 Tamils as prisoners of war by the Sinhalese King in his war with the South Indian King must have still considerably infiltrated the Sinhalese. The advent of the Portuguese and Dutch led the sea-faring people of South India to emigrate and settle in the coast districts of Ceylon. Even today, the Malayalees and Tamils intermarry with Sinhalese. Barring a few exceptions with the Burghers, the intermarriage is confined to the Tamils and Malayalees only. Thus the highest and the lowest of the Sinhalese are Tamils. The female element is completely Tamil without any fear of contradiction.

In the matter of language, the alphabets, the construction of sentences and Grammar, the Sinhalese follows Tamil. The advent of Buddhism has added Sanscritic words into Sinhalese which was Eluat beginning which had much affinity to the Tamil language. The Tamil element of the Sinhalese society and frequent contact of the Tamils would have considerably influenced the Sinhalese language.

In the matter of social structure, it is mainly Tamil. There is hardly any difference. Aryan method of

structure is totally absent. According to the Aryan Code of Manu, the entire Sinhalese will pale into Ariya Soothras. Even Bengal is not a place where Aryans lived. Even today, the Bengalis are not regarded Aryans. Even the people of North India are a mixture of Aryans and Dravidians while the South of India retains Dravidians without mixture. The Dravidian civilization is more ancient than the Aryan and co. existed with it and is in no way inferior to it. While Sanscrit and Pali are dead Tamil is alive and is the only language in India today which is ancient and which has an ancient literature. It is in South India Hinduism exists and is practised and preserved. The intelligence of the Dravidian mass is much superior to that of the North Indian mass and this is a true index of the heredity and ancient greatness. The Sinhalese can prefer to call themselves as Aryans or Dravidians or Ariya-Dravidians as they please in which we are not interested. Tamils do pride in Dravidianism and appreciate Aryanism too.

Thus the Sinhalese and Tamils in Ceylon are one and the same people now appearing in different dress, language and religion which distinguish the separateness and individuality. The dress is making its reform and will no longer bear difference.

Yours etc.
"Historical Survey."

Mr. G. G. Ponnambalam and Flood Relief for Jaffna

Sir,—Given herewith are copies of two letters I received from Mr. G. C. S. Corea Minister of Labour, Industries and Commerce, on the question of relief for Jaffna farmers adversely affected by the April floods. I have not kept copies of the letters to which these are replies. But their contents can be easily inferred from the replies. Let me give in brief outline the part played by the Youth Congress in this matter. During our sessions which took place immediately after the floods, we passed a resolution asking the Government to grant relief. This was duly communicated to the proper parties and later, sometime early in May, I called in person on Mr. Corea and put before him the case for relief. He was quite sympathetic and promised to do his best as soon as he received the Government Agent's report. Later when it seemed that nothing was being done, I wrote to Mr. Corea and reminded him of the urgency of the matter. In reply to this letter I received Mr. Corea's letter dated May 23rd. I took Mr. Corea's word and assumed that he would do the needful when he received the Government Agent's report. Then there came Mr. G. G. Ponnambalam's pyrotechnic display in the Jaffna Esplanade and later on at Chankanai. Between these two I again wrote to Mr. Corea and his letter of July 29th is the reply.

It is not my intention to claim the credit for this relief either for myself personally or for the Youth Congress. The relief was granted because there was need. But I wish to remind Mr. G. G. Ponnambalam and his supporters that at a meeting held at Myiddy sometime in April this year, Mr. Ponnambalam threw out an open challenge, (reported by all the daily papers) to the

effect that if any relief were given to the flood victims he would give up his demand for balanced representation. I did not take Mr. Ponnambalam's challenge seriously. But what does Mr. Ponnambalam propose to do now? I am sure there must be several ways of getting over the awkward solution. He can make a plausible claim (and his supporters will not disbelieve him) that it was his vapourings (especially his historic pronouncement at Nawalapitiya) that made this grant possible.

In fact I am told that a particularly ardent devotee of Mr. Ponnambalam has already advanced the view that it was Mr. Ponnambalam's raucous croaking at the Jaffna Esplanade on Saturday July 22nd that made the Board of Ministers change their minds and grant this relief. Now it would seem that whenever Jaffna people want anything to be done by the Board of Minister, all they have to do is to take Mr. Ponnambalam in procession to the Jaffna Esplanade and get him to indulge in a fusillade against the Board of Ministers and the Sinhalese people.

But I submit all this would be irrelevant because Mr. Ponnambalam's contention was that no relief would be given as the afflicted area is inhabited by Tamils; and as a matter of objective fact relief has already been granted.

There is another small matter on which I should like some information. It has been freely rumoured that the first report from the Jaffna Kachcheri was to the effect that there was no need for relief and it was only later on, when pressed by the Minister to make fuller enquiries, that the authorities here saw there was need for relief. Is there any truth in this rumour? Did the Councilors hear anything about it? If so, have they done anything to verify it? or did they keep quiet in the hope that if no relief were given (on whatever grounds) they would have one more stick to beat the Sinhalese people and the Board of Ministers with?

Yours etc.
S. H. Perinbanayagam.

COPIES OF LETTERS

Colombo, 23rd May 1939.

Sir,—With reference to your letter of the 22nd inst., I have the honour to inform you that I am awaiting the Government Agent's report on the damage caused by the recent floods. I have requested him to expedite the report. Until I get the report it is not possible for me to say whether relief should be given or to what extent. I can assure you that relief will be given when relief is found to be necessary.

I am also considering a visit to Jaffna and will decide the matter perusing the Government Agent's report. There is no foundation in the statement quoted by you that no relief will be granted even if it is found necessary.

I am, Sir,
Your Obedient Servant,
Sgd./G. C. S. Corea
Minister, for Labour, Industry
and Commerce,

Colombo, 29th July, 1939

Dear Mr. Perinbanayagam,

Thanks for your letter of the 27th instant. I am glad to be able to inform you that a lakh of rupees has been released by me already for relief in Jaffna Peninsula. I was therefore surprised to read the statements made by Mr. Ponnambalam. The delay was due to the fact that the Government Agent had to make detailed inquiries to report to me

before any action could be taken by me. I explained this on several occasions to Mr. Natesan; but it seems to me that whenever we do here is misrepresented up there.

I have not kept copies of my previous correspondence with you, so I shall be glad if you can send me copies when I will let you know if they can be published.

Yours sincerely,
Sgd. G. C. S. COREA,
Minister for Labour, Industry
and Commerce.

What Next?

Sir,—The debate on the proposed reforms has ended. Messrs Ponnambalam and Natesan have explained to the Tamil public of Jaffna the true position of affairs. The politicians of the homogeneous board have given a foretaste of what might happen to our Community when the Cabinet system of government on the present proposals comes into force.

The magnitude of the coercive force which the Donoughmore Constitution is capable of generating in the hands of the majority has been demonstrated to the amazement of the minority communities.

A blockade of our ports has been threatened. The forcible severance of cultural and economic contact with India is on the tapis. The economic pressure on the North has become severe mainly owing to heavy expenditure on the Sinhalese people.

The debate on the reform proposals has been enlightening. For one thing it has made plain that the outlook of the community in power is not national but communal. For another that the Cabinet System on the reform proposals should progressively work the diminution of the sphere of influence of the Tamils till everything they now possess shall have disappeared has been made manifest.

The Tamil community is under a debt of gratitude to Mr. Ponnambalam for his firm stand in vindication of rights of the Tamils and his unflinching courage in exposing the ills the majority community is afflicted with.

If it is the wish of our Community that our children should live as heirs of our cultural heritage and in dignity as is befitting the position of their predecessors, then work should be begun now and immediately.

No stone should be left unturned to secure the end of getting down a Royal Commission. The evils of the Donoughmore Constitution should be remedied by another Commission from England. It is impossible to build a nation on Donoughmore foundation.

It is stupid to draw for analogy the division of cheese by the monkey.

Mr. Mahadeva should have told his audience what he had done in the last six years to bring about a rapprochement between the major and minor communities and how he failed. He suggests submission.

We should race against time. And there is no place here for the halt and the maimed.

Rajakadalawa Yours truly,
28-7-39 R. C. Proctor.

Jaffna Co-operative Stores Ltd.

Wanted an Accountant. Salary Rs. 40/- p. m. Should be able to do accounts in Tamil and English. Apply stating age, qualification with copies of Testimonials to reach the President, Jaffna Co-operative Stores Ltd. on or before the 1st September 1939.

7-8-39
(Mis 114. 7 & 10-8-39)



Hindu Organ.

MONDAY, AUGUST 7, 1939

CO-OPERATION IN THE NORTH

WHILE OPENING THE JAFFNA District Co-operative Conference last week, SIR WAITIALINGAM DURAISWAMY complimented the Jaffna people on the successful way in which they have worked the co-operative movement and made an earnest plea for inter-communal amity and co-operation. The appeal comes none too soon at a time when mischief-makers are fanning the flame of communal passion to red-heat. SIR WAITIALINGAM'S position as Speaker of the State Council and the great confidence and esteem which he enjoys among all the communities specially fit him to play the role of bridging the gulf which is ever widening between the majority and minority communities. We hope that his pertinent observations in this connection will carry great weight with the Tamil people and dissuade them from following a path which is fraught with danger to the community no less than to the country.

As for the co-operative movement in the North, while we do appreciate the great success which co-operative societies have attained in Jaffna, we do not think that the ground already covered is very encouraging. We do admit that by rescuing the poor farmers from the clutches of the money-lender and opening to them cheaper credit facilities, these societies have conferred a real benefit on the peasant cultivator. Lack of adequate credit is one of the greatest handicaps under which farming in Jaffna is still labouring. The co-operative societies have gone a great way to meet this want. What we complain of is that those who are working for the development of co-operation in Jaffna should be content with the mere opening of credit facilities and leave other fields of co-operation such as farming, business and industry still unexplored. We must admit that the Jaffna man is a pronounced individualist and has shown very little instinct for combination and co-operation.

Whatever he has achieved in business or other enterprise has been all by individual effort. We cannot point to many a co-operative enterprise in business or plantation of which Jaffna can be really proud. The field is very vast and unexplored, because the Jaffna man relies so much on Government jobs or has had little business training or taste. The Government Agent, Mr. Naish who also spoke on the occasion very rightly struck a gloomy note as to the economic future of Jaffna and condemned the great division and want of co-operation which obtains among the people of Jaffna themselves. If our men of light and leading should make an earnest effort to exploit this vast field and show the peasants the way to a richer and fuller life, Jaffna would be a very much happier land. We are paying several lakhs of rupees every year for imported curry stuffs, food, fruits and milk products. Our wholesale trade is entirely in the hands of foreigners. We have done absolutely nothing in the way of manufactures or banking. There are vast areas of fertile land beyond the Elephant Pass awaiting development. In all these fields much can be achieved through co-operation. South Ceylon is now setting an example to Jaffna in industry. The people over there have done something by way of industrial enterprise. Our people must take the initiative instead of expecting the state to start some industry. The advantages which modern science offers must be brought within the reach of the cultivator so that he may have a chance of living a healthier, happier and richer life. Our educated men must themselves take to agriculture, business and industry, instead of hunting after soft Government jobs. Why not our leaders take a leaf from the great national movement that is pulsating India and give the lead to the youth of Ceylon? The active development of co-operation in our opinion offers the best solution for the economic ills of Jaffna and especially the problem of educated unemployment which threatens to prove a great canker to our society.

General Meeting of Ratepayers' Association

A special meeting of the Jaffna Urban Ratepayers' Central Association will be held today at 6.30 p.m. at the building of Mr. M. Ramanathan, Stanley Road, east of Ariyakulam junction, to consider among others the report of the deputation that waited on the Minister for Local Administration and the notes received of the interview between the Minister and the deputation.

The meeting will consider the desirability of asking the U. D. C. to consider the question of postponing the establishment of the Municipality.

EDUCATION SCHEME ATTACKED

Protest Against Publication

Colombo, Aug. 5.

A strong protest has been lodged with the Director of Education against the publication in the Gazette of July 28 last of the new amendments to the Code for Assisted Schools relating to new salary scales, quotas and the grading of teachers.

The protest is based on the fact that an undertaking had been given to the teachers to the effect that any new scheme of salaries for teachers would be published simultaneously with the new salary scheme for future entrants to the public service which is being prepared by the Retrenchment Commission.

While the teachers contend that the new scheme will in its effect deal a "death-blow" to the profession, the view of the authorities is that existing teachers have no cause for complaint, as the new scheme will not affect them.

From the financial stand point of view the new scheme, if and when it comes into operation, is not likely to result in any appreciable reduction in the education bill for the next ten or fifteen years.

VALI NORTH TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

Inter-School Concert

A successful inter-school concert, organised by the V. N. T. A., was held in the Tellippalai Bilingual School hall on Wednesday the 26th of July commencing at 6 p.m. There was a variety of items presented by the various English and Bilingual schools of the division. The programme included Educational Films shown by the Department of Education. The proceeds of the concert have been set apart for a circulating library for the Association.

(Con.)

Another Instalment of Million Rupee Loan

Likely to be Floated Soon

Colombo August 5.

It is understood that the treasury is at present investigating the prospects of the floatation of another instalment of the hundred million rupee loan of which Rs. 27,941,000 was raised locally by registered stock and promissory notes in April, 1937.

It is learnt that there is a likelihood in the near future of two loans being raised, one in London and the other in Ceylon, but not necessarily simultaneously.

Enquiries have been made with regard to the possibility of successfully raising a local loan and it is learned, that there are indications that conditions are generally favourable.

Anti-Minorities Campaign in Ceylon

Question in the Commons

London, Thursday.

IN Parliament yesterday, Mr. Malcolm MacDonald, the Colonial Secretary, said that he could not make a Statement regarding the Ceylon Constitution until he had studied the views expressed in the State Council and the Governor's report on the debates.

Sir Nairne Stewart Sandeman asked whether he was aware that the Sinhalese vernacular Press was carrying out a campaign against the Tamil and other Minorities.

Mr. MacDonald replied that he had received no report from the Governor as to the existence of such a campaign, but was making inquiries.

Sir Stewart Sandeman asked whether the increased Travancore duty on Ceylon tobacco was a retaliatory measure on account of the treatment of Indian Tamils.

Not Retaliatory

Mr. MacDonald replied that he was aware of the increased duty, but the Travancore Government had stated that it had been imposed for revenue purposes.

The Hon. Charles Woods asked what percentage of the membership of the State Council was Sinhalese and what percentage of the population was Sinhalese.

Mr. MacDonald replied that approximately the percentages were 64 and 65, respectively.

Mr. Woods, on Tuesday, raised the question of the alleged discrimination against Indians.

Mr. MacDonald replied that he was consulting the Governor to ensure that due observation was accorded of the interests of the Indian community.

DEMAND FOR RETALIATION

Motion in Travancore Assembly

Traivandrum Friday.

A strong demand for retaliatory action against Ceylon in respect of its dumping of copra into India and its repatriation of unskilled Indian labour, was made in the Travancore Legislative Assembly today when it discussed an adjournment on the motion raising these issues which was moved by the Leader of the Travancore National Congress Party.

The motion was strongly supported by all sections of the non-officials, but after the Dewan-President and the Chief Secretary had explained the Government's position and the steps taken for obtaining relief, the adjournment motion was withdrawn.

In the course of his speech the Dewan-President explained that the recent increase in the import duty on Jaffna tobacco was in no sense retaliatory, but was purely a revenue measure.

The Travancore Government, he added, had not yet begun to consider a retaliatory policy. The policy of the Travancore Government was not one of ultimatums, but of negotiations, and he hoped that with public opinion behind them they would be able to arrive at results soon.

SPLIT IN JAFFNA ASSOCIATION

SECRETARIES AND MEMBERS RESIGN

"UNCONSTITUTIONAL" ACTS

THE Joint-Secretaries of the Jaffna Association, two Vice-presidents and nine other members of the Executive Committee have so far resigned from the Jaffna Association, as a protest against the "unconstitutional manner in which things are being done" by the Association. More members are expected to resign.

Discontent has been growing among members of the Association as a result of the strong difference of views over the policy which the Association has been made to follow by a few admirers and supporters of Mr. G. G. Ponnambalam. The climax was reached when the Jaffna Association lent its name to the recent mass meeting in the Town Hall grounds addressed by Messrs S. Natesan, G. G. Ponnambalam and Mahadeva and at which two resolutions were passed without the approval of the Association.

Mr. Sam Sabapathy, a joint Secretary, in his letter of resignation stated that he was resigning as he could not be a party to the unconstitutional manner in which things were being done behind the back of the Secretaries.

Mr. Sabapathy instanced the recent mass meeting where the Chairman had permitted two resolutions to be moved without the knowledge of the Secretaries.

This letter was read at a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Association presided over by Mr. S. Kanagasapai, Chairman of the Association.

Mr. Kanagasapai explaining said that he thought at first of restricting the proceedings at the mass meeting to addresses by the State Councillors, but when he went to the meeting some members of the public requested him to permit two resolutions to be moved. "I found," he said, "a large gathering assembled from different parts of the district and felt it desirable to allow the resolutions to be moved."

More Resignations

Letters from Mr. C. Ponnambalam, Joint-Secretary, and Messrs. R. R. Nalliah and T. C. Rajaratnam, Vice-Presidents of the Association, were also read.

Mr. V. Veerasingham appealed, without success, to Mr. Sabapathy and Mr. Ponnambalam to withdraw their resignations.

Nine other Committee members, including Mr. J. V. Chelliah, Mudaliyar V. Ponnambalam and Mr. M. Jacob have, it is learned, tendered their resignation from the Committee.

More resignations are expected in the course of the next few days.

Mr. Ponnambalam's supporters are, on the other hand, busy enrolling new members.

Lawlessness at Navaly

"Welfare" from Navaly writes:—

For some time past, the houses of some respectable people at Navaly, have been continuously stoned. The matter has been reported to the Police and to the Headmen and no action seems to have been taken to put a stop to it.

Ceylon Indian Congress

President On Work Before It

MR. V. R. M. Lechmanan Chettyar, who was elected President at the inaugural meeting of the Ceylon Indian Congress, held in Sea Street, Colombo, said that its constitution would have to be strengthened on the lines outlined by Pandit Nenru.

"We shall have to work it up zealously, forgetting the past, and with earnest ambitions for the future," he said.

"Only if we do our very best for the cause of our countrymen will we be saved from the chastisement of our compatriots at home, who have given us this glorious trust

"The backbone of the Indian community in Ceylon is the labour population—whether on estates or in cities or elsewhere! They will have our every attention and devotion; and whatever we do, we shall never forget that labour should be properly guided, assisted and placed on a safer and more solid basis.

"Equally important will be the care that we shall have to bestow upon the large and extensive commercial and financial interests.

"Sink Differences"

"Differences of opinion and of judgment and of ideas are bound to exist; but such differences will also be entirely sunk when our collective responsibility is recognised.

"At the same time, it is my firm conviction that differences cannot show up in our ideals—the ideal set up before us by the Indian National Congress.

"May I also take this opportunity of appealing to our brothers and countrymen in this Island to render our responsibilities easier by extending to us their active support and co-operation.

"I would particularly appeal to our Ceylonese friends to view the whole situation with sympathy and tolerance."

Two Officers Leave

Chavakachcheri, Friday.

A farewell was accorded to Messrs. A. R. Ponniah, Stationmaster, Navatkuli, and Mr. V. Thambiyayab, on the eve of their departure on transfer to Anhanpala and Anuradhapura, respectively.

Brama Sree Kususwamy Kurukkal, who presided over the function, garlanded the two officers and presented a bouquet to Mrs. A. K. Ponniah. A party of Oriental musicians entertained the gathering.

The following spoke in praise of the departing officers:—Messrs. M. Kanapathipillai, Subramaniam, Mahalingham Sevam, M. Ponnambalam and P. Selvadu Rai, Messrs. Ponniah and Thambiyayab replied.

INDIAN BAN ON EMIGRATION

LABOUR CONFERENCE IN CEYLON

RAJ ASKED FOR INFORMATION

Colombo, Sunday.

AT a Labour Conference held yesterday at the Ministry of Labour, between representatives of the Employers' Federation, Ceylon Estates Proprietary Association, and the Planters' Association of Ceylon, it was decided to obtain the views of the Government of India how the ban on emigration was to be enforced.

Mr. G. C. S. Corea, Minister of Labour, Industry and Commerce, presided, and others present were Messrs. F. C. Gimson, Controller of Labour, C. M. W. Davies, Acting Chairman of the P. A. of Ceylon, H. E. Newnham, H. Bois, D. S. Senanayake and James P. Fernando, Chairman of the L. C. P. A.

The conference, which lasted over two hours, discussed various matters relating to labour, particularly the recruitment of Ceylonese labour.

"LIVE IN PEACE AND HARMONY"

(Continued from page 3)

the trend of economic depression.

There was a saying in English "United we stand, divided we fall." That was very true in the economic sphere as in the other spheres. If the people co-operate they are not only strong but gain added strength by co-operation.

"From a social point of view I also welcome a co-operative movement in Jaffna. It is a sad fact as you all know that Jaffna is a house divided against itself. Not only is there division among communities, but there are very bitter divisions among families. Mr. Veerasingham says he lives too close to his people to understand their psychology. I can tell him as one who has brought a detached view to bear on the question that one of the striking features of Jaffna life is the existence of bitter divisions even among close relatives. The habit of co-operation will I hope teach the people to live together more sensibly. Indeed I hope it would become clear to you that that kind of thing is one of the worst diseases. It weakens your own people as well as your social relations with others."

Continuing, Mr. Naish said that he wanted to say a few words about the Jaffna Malayalam Tobacco Sales Society. That society existed in order to enable them to market their tobacco under the best possible circumstances and his (the speaker's) information was that it was not getting the support it should have. There was a wide-spread idea that Government should conduct other people's business. That view was utter nonsense. The Government would only assist them to carry out trade and it was no use for the people to sit still and expect the Government to do things for them. Co-operation was not something that Government gave them ready-made.

Mr. S. Thampu proposed a vote of thanks to the chair.

U. S. Trade With Russia

Trade Agreement Prolonged for One Year

Moscow, Saturday.

It is officially announced that the Russo-American trade agreement has been prolonged for one year.

Under the agreement the Soviet will buy a minimum of eight million pounds worth of American goods during the next twelve months. The United States will accord the Soviet Union the same reductions as to other countries with which the United States has trade agreements.

Broadcasting

AKASH-VANI, MYSORE

Programme

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

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

Monday, the 7th August, 1939

6 p.m. Nadaswaram
6-15 p.m. News and Announcements
6-30 to 8-45 p.m. Veena Recital by Asthana Sangitha Vidwan B. Devendrappa & Party

Tuesday, the 8th August 1939

6 p.m. Lavani Recital
6-15 p.m. News and Announcements
6-30 p.m. Recitation from Maha Bharatha by Srimathi Nagamma
7-15 to 8-30 p.m. Karnatic Vocal Music

Wednesday, the 9th August 1939

YAUM-UL-SIDDEEQ.
6 p.m. Hindusthani Music
6-15 p.m. News and Announcements
7-30 to 7-55 p.m. Recitation from the Holy Quran by Mr. Mir Md. Husaine
7-55 to 7-40 p.m. Readings from Urdu Poems: "Hazarath-Siddeeq-E-Akbar" by Gulam Ahmad, Esq., B. A.
7-40 to 8 p.m. Radio Talk: "Life and Teachings of Hazarath Aboo Bakar Siddeeq" by H. R. Abdul Majeed, Esq., M.A., Asst. Professor of Urdu and Persian, Maharaja's College.

Thursday, the 10th August 1939

6 p.m. Theatrical Tunes
6-15 p.m. News and Announcements
7 to 7-20 p.m. A Farce: "Madi Huchu" by the Members of Mathru Mandali, Vontikoppal
7-30 p.m. Kannada Drama: "Bhishma Prathigee"

Friday, the 11th August 1939

6 p.m. Karnatic Instrumental Music
6-15 p.m. News and Announcements
7-30 p.m. Hindusthani Light Music
8 p.m. Urdu Drama: "Mahabat-kaphool"

Saturday, the 12th August 1939

6 p.m. Orchestral Music
6-15 p.m. News and Announcements
6-30 to 8-30 p.m. Vocal Music Performance by Vidwan N. P. Balakrishnan of Travancore and Party

Sunday, the 13th August 1939

No Broadcast

“LIVE IN PEACE AND HARMONY”

Speaker's Appeal to His Countrymen

PROGRESS OF CO-OPERATIVE MOVEMENT IN THE NORTH

“BE assured of the fact that there is no one trying to do any harm to us. The salvation of our people is based on co-operation. I am tempted to tell you as one who loves you that we are quite safe. I appeal to you to live in peace and harmony—in peace and harmony amongst yourself and with your neighbours.”

THUS declared Sir W. Duraiswamy in opening the annual Jaffna District Co-operative Conference on Thursday at the Regal Theatre, Jaffna.

The conference was attended by delegates from 302 societies from different parts of the Northern and Eastern Provinces.

Sir W. Duraiswamy, who opened the conference, was on arrival received by Mr. G. de Soysa, Registrar, Mr. C. Ragnathan, Assistant Registrar, Mr. R. B. Naish, Government Agent, and other officials and conducted to the platform.

Mr. V. Veerasingham, President, Northern Division Co-operative Federation, after welcoming Sir Waitialingam, said they were glad that they had the Government Agent associated with Sir Waitialingam. In the early days of his assumption of his duties as Government Agent Mr. Naish made all Jaffna aware of his independence of thought and firmness in action. Mr. Naish was a good student of the Jaffna man's psychology. He (the speaker) for his own part could not say that he knew the psychology of his countrymen. The Government Agent had taken much interest in the co-operative movement and his presence there was a very great encouragement to them all.

After paying a tribute to Mr de Soysa, the speaker referred to the absence of lady representatives at that conference. Though the movement had taken a firm root in Jaffna, he (the speaker) hoped that the ladies would also take a keen interest in it, as was done in other countries.

Sir Waitialingam before declaring the conference open said it was a matter of congratulation that the people of Jaffna had gained a great reputation for the successful working of the co-operative movement.

Continuing, he said:—“It is difficult for me to understand my friend, Mr. Veerasingham, when he said that he found it difficult to understand the psychology of our people. Mr. Veerasingham knows very well his compatriots the people of Jaffna and he out of modesty perhaps said that he found it difficult to understand his brethren in this Peninsula. He has been associated with you and he knows you very well and equally well do I know you. Your opinion is mine and your capacity in having worked so successfully this movement is a matter for great pride to us all.

I understand that the Northern Division Co-operative Federation is the only one of its kind in the whole

Island. Travelling by train has been of great use to me from the year 1921. If I had any quiet moments for reading, it was when I was travelling to and from Jaffna to Colombo. I renewed that habit last night when I took from my dusty shelf this book, the administration report of Mr. de Soysa for the year 1937-1938.”

Continuing, the speaker said, that that report made very interesting reading. As they were aware the Northern Province had made considerable advance in its co-operative activities while her sister Province the Eastern Province was still considered a co-operative desert. It was that Province that could be developed into a granary of the Island. He regretted to hear the Eastern Province had not made much head-way which he believed was not entirely due to the human factor but to other causes that were probably beyond the control of the inhabitant and the department. In his opinion the difficulties that retarded the progress in that Province were not insurmountable by the united efforts of the department and the people. Mr. de Soysa and his assistants whose interests and sympathies towards the villagers were well-known were bound to succeed before long.

Rising Membership

He (the speaker) understood that there were 302 societies in that Division. Of these 316 were catering for the seasonal needs of cultivators in the villages. The membership of these societies had risen from 5511 in 1937 to 7123 in 1939 and the working capital from Rs. 720,000 to Rs. 833,000. The percentage of reserve on the working capital had increased from 13.3 per cent, in the year under review. Another striking instance that showed the healthy growth of the movement was that the loan taken by individuals had gone down to Rs. 35 this year from Rs. 100 in 1937. Similarly the average loan was Rs. 86 as compared to Rs. 111 in 1937. He also found that there had been 6989 loans issued in the year under review for productive purposes by these village Societies amounting to Rs. 560,721.

The number of unproductive loans had gone down by 4 per cent, compared to those of previous years. It was evident from the figures supplied to him (the speaker) that whatever co-operative theory or philosophy they might teach a certain

amount of un-productive loans were bound to appear in the transactions of Village Societies. They all knew that generally a villager depended on the income of his land for all his expenses for medical, religious and social needs. It appeared that 83.2 per cent. of the loans granted in Village Societies were for productive purposes and “allow me to take this opportunity of congratulating my countrymen on the sound training they have received in the use of money. Another development I noticed is the increase in the deposit of members from Rs. 155,376 in 1937 to Rs. 165,608 in the year under review.”

“I have no doubt you will all realize as our forefathers did the utility and virtue of thrift. I am pained in this connection to observe that Tamils are gradually losing our habit of thrift and simple ways and becoming extravagant in our mode of living.

“Now, gentlemen I notice that there is a gradual increase in the number of societies in market areas for the sole purpose of financing the traders. This in my opinion is a right development and I take the liberty of suggesting to the department to pay great attention to this. This alone can provide the necessary credit facilities to our traders in the absence of other suitable and convenient forms of credit for trade in our country. If these institutions are developed, the State-aided bank can make use of them for the benefit of the traders because these institutions are in a position to have a more intimate and sound knowledge of the traders in the respective market areas.”

Before concluding, Sir Waitialingam emphasised that the spirit of co-operation should be extended beyond the borders of that Province to embrace the rest of the Island. They should co-operate with their neighbours, treat them with confidence and extend to them the same love which they manifested among themselves. He would like to emphasise one thing which he said should be borne in mind by every one of them, and that was that they should not allow the spirit of defeatism to enter their minds. “There is not room for any fear if we have confidence in ourselves. If we believe in our own sincerity and in the strength within us no one can do us the slightest harm.

“Be assured of the fact that there is no one trying to do any harm to us. The salvation of our people is based on co-operation. I am tempted to tell you as one who loves you that we are quite safe. I appeal to you to live in peace and harmony—in peace and harmony amongst yourselves and with your neighbours.”

Getting Poorer and Poorer

Mr. R. B. Naish, Government Agent, speaking next said that it gave him the greatest pleasure to be present at that conference. There were two reasons why he welcomed the co-operative movement in Jaffna, and believed in it. In the first place he was one of those who did not take an exceedingly optimistic view of the economic future of Jaffna. So far as his opinion went, Jaffna has a bad time before her. In another place he (the speaker) had stated that Jaffna was getting poorer and poorer and that was actually his opinion. “I welcome the co-operative movement as one of the things that is going to counter-act

(Continued on Page 5.)

CEYLON RUPEE

DRAFT BILL READY

LINK WITH BOMBAY AND LONDON

A DRAFT Bill to provide for the economic handling of the Island's currency on up-to-date lines and to make provision for a new standard unit of value to be called the Ceylon rupee, was published in last Friday's “Government Gazette.”

Mr. H. J. Huxham, the Financial Secretary, states that the scheme of the existing ordinance is unsuited to modern conditions, and that it further involves the maintenance of a considerable reserve in Indian silver rupees, which is uneconomic.

The Bill provides for the establishment of a Currency Security Fund to which is to be transferred all moneys and investments in the possession or standing to the credit of the Ceylon Currency commissioners under the Ceylon Paper Currency Ordinance of 1884, provided that if on the appointed date the total value of such moneys and investments together with the remainder of the Security Funds exceeds the face value of all currency notes in circulation; and of all coins estimated by the Board to be in circulation, the excess shall be paid by the Board to the general revenue.

It is anticipated that many notes of old issues have disappeared and that the Government may gain a fairly considerable sum of money by adopting this procedure.

A Board of Commissioners of Currency is to be created, consisting of the Financial Secretary (Chairman) the Deputy Chief Secretary and the Deputy Financial Secretary with two nominated Commissioners to be appointed by the Governor after consultation with the Board of Ministers. The nominated Commissioners will hold office for three years from the date of appointment, and will be entitled to remuneration fixed by the Governor.

Indian Rupee and Sterling

The link of the Ceylon Rupee with the Indian rupee on equal terms and the alternate link of the Ceylon rupee with sterling are provided for by Sections 14 and 15 of the draft Bill.

Section 14 empowers the Currency Board to:—

pay Indian currency at Bombay to any person who shall pay or cause to be paid to the Board in Colombo the equivalent value in Ceylon currency of the Indian currency required at the rate of one Ceylon rupee to one Indian rupee;

issue Ceylon currency in Colombo to any person who shall pay or cause to be paid to the Reserve Bank at Bombay the equivalent value in Indian currency of the Ceylon currency

(Continued on Page 7.)

OLD BOYS DAY AT HARTLEY COLLEGE

Pt. Pedro, Wednesday.

"English is an essential language, the lingua franca of countries with heterogeneous populations as in Ceylon and should in no way be relegated to a second place" remarked Mr. Simon Rodrigo, District Judge, Point Pedro, speaking at the Annual celebrations of the Hartley College Old Boys Association yesterday.

The proceedings began with a Business Meeting held in the College hall presided over by the Principal Mr. C. P. Thamotheeram.

The following were the Officers elected to serve on the new committee:

President: The Principal (ex-officio)

Vice-Presidents: Messrs W. A. Walton, S. A. Rissaratnam and T. Ramalingam.

Joint Secretaries: Messrs N. Sivagnanasundram and R. M. Gunarataam.

Treasurer: Mr. C. J. T. Thamotheeram.

Committee: Messrs C. Kulaveerasingham, R. Sivapathasundram, K. Poornampillai, I. W. A. Samuel, S. C. Rissaratnam, S. Seorasangan, S. Nagalingam, N. Rajah and S. Visuvalingam.

Auditors: Messrs R. W. M. Walton and O. Thanabalasingam.

A vote of condolence was passed on the death of Mr. K. Muttivaganaam, B.Sc. of the College staff and it was resolved to perpetuate his memory in some tangible form, the committee being entrusted with the task.

After the Business Meeting there was a "Social" in the College Quadrangle and an open-air public meeting over which Mr. C. P. Thamotheeram presided. Mr. Simon Rodrigo speaking first stressed on the need for a knowledge of English for real progress. He said that he had no faith in the slogan "Away with English for national progress."

He called that sheer nonsense. He exhorted every one present to help spread this language which was a great unifying factor and which above all could be the medium of instruction in advanced subjects of science, Law and Philosophy—calling it the vehicle of progress.

Advocate N. Sivagnanasundram then spoke after which Mr. S. Pasupathy proctor proposed a vote of thanks which was seconded by Mr. S. C. Rasa Ratnam. (Cor.)

Public Health Lecture at Point Pedro

Point Pedro, Friday.

Mr. P. Nadesan, Sanitary Inspector gave a very interesting Health Lecture at Hartley College in connection with the Health and Education Week. Mr. C. P. Thamotheeram, B. A., Principal, presided and in introducing the lecturer said that Mr. Nadesan had come with a reputation as an energetic and enthusiastic health worker from Trincomalee. He was one who took lot of interest in School Health Work and the number of Exhibitions and Cinema Shows he had at Point Pedro during this short period would bear ample testimony to it.

Mr. P. Nadesan then delivered a very interesting and instructive lecture on Training of Health Habits. He impressed them with

CEYLON RUPEE

(Continued from page 3)

required at the rate of one Indian rupee to one Ceylon rupee; provided that the Governor may with the concurrence of the Board of Ministers by order in writing suspend the obligation to issue Ceylon currency in exchange for Indian currency.

Section 15 states:—

Whenever the obligation to issue Ceylon currency in exchange for Indian currency is suspended the Board shall, subject to the provisions of section 16 and 17—

pay sterling at London to any person who shall pay or cause to be paid to the Board in Colombo the equivalent value in Ceylon currency of the sterling required at the rate of one Ceylon rupee to one shilling and six pence;

issue Ceylon currency in Colombo to any person who shall pay or cause to be paid to the Crown Agents at London the equivalent value in sterling of the Ceylon currency required at the rate of one shilling and six pence to one Ceylon rupee.

Conditions

These two sections are subject to Sections 16 and 17, which are as follows:—

The Board shall not exchange currency as hereinbefore provided unless the amount of the Ceylon currency to be given or received in exchange is not less than the prescribed minimum sum

The Board shall be entitled to charge and levy from any person exchanging currency as hereinbefore provided—

(a) a commission at a rate or rates to be prescribed from time to time not exceeding one rupee and seventy-five cents for every one hundred rupees of Ceylon currency taken or given in exchange;

(b) a charge for all telegraphic communications between the Board and its agents in connexion with the exchange calculated at the usual rates prescribed for the public.

The Governor may by Proclamation published in the Gazette declare that any currency notes or Ceylon coins issued under this Ordinance shall cease to be legal tender after a date to be specified in such Proclamation.

The holder of any currency note demonetized under sub-section (1) shall, on tendering such currency note at the office of the Board in Colombo at any time after the date specified in the Proclamation, be entitled to receive legal tender in exchange.

twelve important Health Habits to be practised by them by quoting proverbs and Health slogans. He further said that the "Health of a Nation depends on the Health of the School Child" and therefore Health should be one of the first objectives of Education. He further stressed that the "Child of today is the citizen of tomorrow" and that what was intilled in the minds of the children at an impressionable young age would take deep root and when they grew up would produce beneficial results of a far reaching character. He appealed to them with a motto "Support the Health Department, It protects your Home."

Then one of the Senior students of the College proposed a vote of thanks to the lecturer.

(Cor.)

Little Minds and Great Empires

(Continued from Page 1)

man machinery goods and the Commissar for Foreign Affairs stated publicly that the Soviets were prepared to enter into a trade pact even with the Axis countries. The point to be noted is that both Germany and Russia made no secret, unlike England, of these trade pacts which were only incidentally expected to improve the political relationship. But the latest British offer of a "peace loan" to Germany is thick with political "consideration" and conditions of an unknown quantity and has been, in its very nature, content and spirit in so half-hearted and unwilling to stand the full glare publicity that one is, not unnaturally, led to question the soundness and appropriateness of such a move at the present juncture. And Mr. Arthur Greenwood broke into a furious exclamation, "I do not believe in continuing acts of moral cowardice to keep peace of world!" Strong words these, but the record of the Chamberlain Government does not ordinarily inspire men into paeans of poetry!

Germany has, of course, refuted all allegations of being a consenting party to the new "peace loan" scheme. "Dr. Wohlat certainly did not do it in his official capacity but only listened as a polite visitor to the views of his host." So declare the Reich political circles. Who initiated the talk, both the Governments have declared that they were purely personal exchanges of views on economic questions. Thus Germany and England will, for the time being, talk matters over on a "personal" basis. But whoever expects any solution to peace as a result of this commercialisation of politics will be living in a Fools' Paradise. Let me repeat, peace

cannot be bought. The price we have to pay for peace cannot be measured in terms of gold and silver: The price of liberty is eternal vigilance and the price of peace mutual trust and confidence; peace cannot be bought; it must be kept. Strength combined with an understanding of the other man's point of view are the greatest bulwarks of peace. The Chamberlain Government have a poor record in these two essential qualities.

* * *

In the Far East, the blow to British prestige has not been less severe than what it suffered after the last September crisis in Europe. Here, again, Germany has scored a smart victory against Britain. The Singapore Naval bases and the entire might of the British Navy had been of no avail in showing Japan her place and teaching her a lesson that might have saved China from the entacles of the Nippon Army. On the other hand, what all was demanded by Tokyo have been practically conceded while the illusion is sought to be maintained that there has been no change in the British policy in China. British authorities and nationals in China have been asked to recognise the ambitions of Japan and not to act in any way prejudicial to such interests and it is rumoured that Japan has promised in return re-opening of the Yangtse Valley to British and American trade.

According to this arrangement, the British and American interests will accept the puppet Government of China for the said *quid pro quo* which the banking interests were all along insisting upon. Thus Tientsin blockade was only a minor affair as against the settlement of this "essential background." Tokyo has had its way in impounding the British lion but what compensating victories have been gained in Europe to make up for this sudden eclipse in the East? "Peace loan" offer has, perhaps, brought enthusiasm to many hearts in the city!

(Roy's Weekly)

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IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF
JAFFNA

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 751.

In the matter of the Intestate estate
and effects of the late C. Thambyah
of Urumpirai, Jaffna

Deceased.
Y. K. R. A. Aisappa Chettiar of Sea
Street in Colombo Petitioner.

- Minors.
1. Ponnammah Ambalavanar and her husband
 2. P. Ambalavanar both of Nawala in Nugegoda in Colombo District
 3. Paripoorana a Thambyah of Urumpirai Jaffna
 4. Ganeshadasan Thambyah of Nawala in Nugegoda
 5. Thanapooranam Thambyah
 6. Sivadasan Thambyah and
 7. Mrs. Seevaratnam Thambyah all of Urumpirai and Guardian-ad-Litem over the 4th, 5th and 6th Respondents Minors Respondents.

This matter of the petition of the abovenamed petitioner praying that the 7th Respondent be appointed Guardian-ad-Litem over the 4th, 5th and 6th minor Respondents and for grant of Letters of Administration over the estate of the abovenamed

deceased C. Thambyah coming on for disposal before C. Coomaraswamy, Esquire, District Judge, Jaffna, on the 23rd day of June 1939, in the presence of Mr. W. Muttakumaraswamy, Proctor, on the part of the petitioner and the affidavit of the petitioner dated the 19th day of June, 1939 having been read: It is ordered that the 7th Respondent be appointed Guardian-ad-Litem over the 4th, 5th and 6th minor Respondents for the purposes of representing them in this action and that the petitioner as creditor is entitled for grant of Letters of Administration to the estate of the said deceased C. Thambyah issued to him unless the Respondents or any other person shall on or before the 16th day of August, 1939 show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this court to the contrary.

This 10th day of July, 1939.

Sgd. C. Coomaraswamy,
District Judge.
(O. 33. 31-7 & 7-8-39.)

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