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## NEW LIGHT ON THE VEDAS

### Sri Aurobindo's Illuminating Exposition

#### A SUMMARY OF HIS COMMENTARIES ON THE VEDAS

By T. V. Kapali Sastri

The following is a summary by T. V. Kapali Sastri, of a series of commentaries by Sri Aurobindo Ghose on the Vedas, throwing a new light on the sacred scripture of the Hindus.

WHEN we write in a recognised and conventional imagery, "Laxmi and Saraswati refuse to dwell under one roof," the European reader may need a note or a translation of the phrase in its plain unfigured thought, "wealth and learning seldom go together," before he can understand, but every Indian already possesses the sense of the phrase. But if another culture and religion had replaced the Puranic and the Brahmanical and the old books and the Sanskrit language had ceased to be read and understood, this now familiar phrase would have been as meaningless in India as in Europe. Some infallible commentator or ingenious scholar might have been proving to our entire satisfaction that Laxmi was the Dawn and Saraswati the Night or that they were two irreconcilable chemical substances—or one knows not what else.

It is something of this kind that has overtaken the ancient clarities of the Veda; the sense is dead and only the obscurity of a forgotten poetic form remains.

#### The Transitions

Wherever we can seize human society in what to us seems its primitive beginnings—no matter whether the race is cultured or savage or economically advanced or backward,—we do find a strongly symbolic mentality governing its thought, customs and institutions. We find that this social stage is always profoundly religious and imaginative in its religion; symbolism and a wide-spread imaginative or intuitive

religious feeling go together; when man begins to be predominantly intellectual, sceptical, ratiocinative he is already preparing for an individualist society and the age of symbols and the age of conventions have passed. The symbol then is of something which man feels to be present behind himself and his life and his activities—the Divine, the gods, the vast and deep unnameable, a hidden, living and mysterious nature of things. All his religious and social institutions, all the movements and phases of his life are to him symbols in which he seeks to express what he knows or guesses of the mystic influences which are behind them and shape and govern them.

#### Meaning of Sacrifice

If we look at the beginnings of Indian society, the far off Vedic age, which we no longer understand as we have lost that mentality, we see that everything is symbolic. The religious institution of sacrifice governs the whole society and all its hours and moments, and the ritual of the sacrifice is at every turn and in every detail, as even a cursory study of the Brahmanas and Upanishads ought to show us, mystically symbolic. The theory that there was nothing in the sacrifice except a propitiation of Nature-gods for the gaining of worldly prosperity and of Paradise, is a misunderstanding by a later humanity which had already become profoundly affected by an intellectual and practical bent of mind, practical even in its religion and even in its own mysticism and symbolism and therefore could no longer enter into the ancient spirit.

#### A Different Age

Veda, then, is the creation of an age anterior to our in-

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## APPLIED SCIENCES IN ANCIENT INDIA

### VII. Engineering (Contd.)

By S. R. Muttakumar

(Concluded from our issue of 7-8-39)

#### Meteorology

IN the ancient days the Hindus had a workable knowledge of the science of Meteorology. They had some sort of rain-gauge which enabled them to measure the rainfall in particular tracts of countries in a given time, and to keep a record of them for future guidance. A passage in the *Arthashastra* says: "In front of the storehouse, a bowl (*kunda*) with its mouth as wide as an *aratni* (24 angulas — about 2 feet) shall be set up as rain-gauge (*varshamana*).<sup>(1)</sup> Another passage gives quantity of rainfall annually registered in different localities<sup>(2)</sup> All this shows that the science of meteorology was brought to such a state that the people could depend on its conclusions and guide their actions in sowing seeds and reaping harvests

#### Hydraulics

In connection with royal palaces, we are told of mechanical instruments, pumps, sprouts and other devices for raising and distributing water (*jala-yantra*), or otherwise decorating the gardens as ornamental tricks. Sukra classifies pumping and drawing of water as one of the sixty-four *kalas*.<sup>(3)</sup> He also says that one of the qualifications of a civil engineer was ability to dig wells, lakes and tanks, and to build artificial fountains and pumps for discharging water upwards.<sup>(5)</sup> Kautiliya also tells us that during the reign of Chandragupta (32 B.C.) there were four modes of irrigation, in India, viz: (1) irrigation by hand, (2) irrigation by water carried on the shoulders, (3) irrigation by some mechanical contrivance, and (4) irrigation by water raised from tanks and rivers.<sup>(6)</sup> We are also given to understand that there were not only

means of raising water by bullocks, but also by contrivances worked by wind, i.e. wind-mills.<sup>(7)</sup>

#### Irrigation

The ancient Hindus did not depend on the natural water of the river and the rains alone: They enhanced the fertility of the soil by resorting to artificial means. The art of irrigation was known to them as early as the Mohenjo Daro period (5000 B.C.) The Rev. Father Heras, writing in the *Indian Culture*,<sup>(8)</sup> says that the country of the Minas was fertile.<sup>(9)</sup> One of the reasons for this fertility was the river Sid that crosses from North to South.<sup>(10)</sup> A regular system of canals brought the water to the distant fields. These waterways are very often referred to.<sup>(11)</sup> The Rev. Farther also states that "Paravanad in Mohenjo Daro was irrigated by canals. One of them had to be of considerable length for they spent more than a year in constructing it. They commenced it in the month of the Fish—the last month of the year and the work was not completed till the month of the Fish of the following year"<sup>(12)</sup>

The Rig Veda also mentions the use of the word *Khamt.a*, meaning a shovel to dig.<sup>(13)</sup> In addition it has the following passage: "May the waters that are in the sky, or those that flow on the earth, those whose channels have been dug, etc."<sup>(14)</sup> This is explained by Sayana as being formed or stopped by digging canals or reservoirs. This is a clear proof of the practice of irrigation in the Vedic times.

Irrigation has always been one of the chief needs of India, and the better rulers paid great attention to it. The *Mahabharata* regards it as a Kings'

(Continued on Page 2)

(1) Op. cit. Bk. II, chap. V.

(2) Ibid. Bk. II, chap. XXIV.

(3) *Sukramti*, i, 436.

(4) Ibid. IV, iii, 192.

(5) Ibid. ii, 320-4.

(6) *Arthashastra* Bk. II Chapt. xxiv.

(7) Ibid, Bk. III, Chap. IX.

(8) Op. cit, Vol. III, No. 4.

(9) Photo, M. D. 1929-30, No. 4532.

(10) Marshall, M. D. No. 396.

(11) Photo. M. D. 1929 30, No. 8248

(12) Marshall, M. D. No. 237.

(13) Op. cit. I, 176. 6.

(14) Ibid, vii, 49.2.

# THE HINDU BOARD OF EDUCATION

## Fifteenth Annual Report, 1938

THE following is the text of the Report presented by Mr. C. Ponnambalam, Advocate, Secretary, at the 15th Annual General Meeting of the Hindu Board of Education held at the Sanmarka Bodhini Saiva Bilingual School Vannarponnai:—

In submitting the report of the work done by the Hindu Board of Education during the year 1938, your Committee takes the opportunity to place on record that the Board has done good work. The Committee regrets that the Annual General Meeting was not held earlier than today. The Committee met 11 times during this year.

### Congratulations

We rejoice that of our Directors (1) Mr. A. Chellappa, our General Manager, has been made a J. P.; (2) Mr. N. Canaganayagam of Kandy has been made a Governor's Gate Muhandram; (3) Mr. P. Narayanar of Chulipuram has been made a Muhandiram.

### Institutions

Today there are 93 institutions as compared with 90 which we had at the end of December, 1937. These institutions as located as follows:—

(1) Delft: 6; (2) Pankudativu: 6; (3) Nainativu: 2; (4) Eluvaitivu: 1; (5) Leyden: 7; (6) Karainagar: 2; (7) Vali West: 12; (8) Vali North: 6; (9) Vali East: 4; (10) Jaffna: 14; (11) Vadamaradechey: 5; (12) Thenmaradechey: 17; (13) Pachchilapali: 2; (14) Pooneryn: 2; (15) Mulaitivu: 3; (16) Vavuniya: 1; (17) Nawalapitiya: 2; (18) Badulla: 1.

87 of these are registered for grant. One is a Classical school. It is a week end free institution, where Advanced, Tamil, Sanskrit and Sinhalese are taught.

A Sinhalese Night School has been started recently.

The Jaffna Veeramakali Amman Vidyasalai is Gazetted for observation for grant and the Thaiyiddy South Sivagurunatha Vidyasalai will be registered early. The Vannarponnai North-West Sri Vaidyalinga Vidyasalai and Pankudativu Raja Rajeswari Vidyasalai are yet continuing to work as unnecessary schools.

The following schools have been registered for grant during the year under review:

(1) The Saivaprakasa Vidyasalai, Thumpalai. (2) Maheswari Vidyasalai, Delft, N. W. W. (3) Mangaiyakarasi Vidyasalai, Delft, N. W. (4) Kannakiamman Vidyasalai, Thadduvankoddy, Elephant Pass.

During this year Sri Somaskanda Vidyasalai (Tamil), Pattur, has been placed under our Board for management.

### S.S.C. and J.S.C. Tamil Classes

We prepare students for the S.S.C. Examination in 24 of our schools and for the J.S.C. Examination in 43 of our schools. In one school we prepared students for the Ceylon Teachers' Certificate Examination for two years. Every year there were nearly a hundred students in the class. The Department has

abolished the examination and we have discontinued the class.

### Teachers and Students

There are today 14,885 students and 465 teachers in all the 93 schools, as compared with 13,600 students and 456 teachers at the end of 1937. Our teachers are continuing to maintain a high standard of efficiency in their work; their relationship with the parents and the public in the different villages continues to be cordial; their loyalty to the Board and its noble ideals is commendable. It is to be regretted that four of our teachers have during the past 2 years been attempting to create disaffection among their fellow teachers.

### Finance

All our Tamil and Bilingual schools are being continued under the system of direct payment of salaries to teachers. We received during the year 1938, Government grant amounting to Rs. 20,506.95 and donations and subscription to Rs. 18,032.12. We spent on salaries of teachers Rs. 14,820.76, on furniture and equipment Rs. 14,461.78 and on lands and buildings Rs. 4,889.76. Salaries paid by the Government direct to the teachers in our registered Tamil and Bilingual schools during the year under review would in round figures amount to Rs. 300,000.

During the last 15 years we have spent Rs. 122,689.25 on our different schools over and above what we have received as grant, and what our local committees had spent on them.

During the last 15 years the Board received Rs. 195,000 in cash by way of subscriptions and donations; and in lands buildings and furniture worth Rs. 400,000.

### Loss on New Schools

During the last 4 years the Board had lost nearly Rs. 55,000/- on new schools. Today the total liability of the Board is Rs. 25,000/-. The niggardly policy and the differential treatment shown by the department in not registering our new schools, in spite of such schools satisfying all conditions for registration had contributed largely to our present financial position. In the older days schools were registered for aid from the time of their opening. Later a period of three months lapsed before Government aid was given. During the last four years, no Government grant is paid, unless the Board has maintained at its own cost its new school for periods varying from 8 months to 48 months.

We are sorry to note that the delay in registering some of the new schools was partly or entirely due to some of the Hindu representatives in the State Council. The Board has lost heavily on the following schools:—

- (a) Kokuvil East Rs. 5,000/-
- (b) Annurkai Rs. 3,500/-
- (c) Veeramakali Amman Vidyasalai Rs. 3,500/-
- (d) Kathiripay Rs. 3,500/-

We note that schools managed by people who have the ears of the Director have been aided

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## Applied Sciences in Ancient India

(Continued from page 1)

duty to maintain reservoirs. (15) The *Arthashastra* has: 'He (the king) shall also construct reservoirs (setu), filled with water either perennial or drawn from some other source. Or he may provide with sites, roads, timber, and other necessary things those who construct reservoirs of their own accord.' (16) The *Parananuru* of the South Indian Tamils supports this, when it says:

"Men in less happy lands sow seed and watch to skies for rain,  
But this can never supply the wants of kingdom and king  
Therefore, O Celiyan, great in war, despise this not;  
Increase the reservoirs for water made,  
Who bind the water, and supply to fields  
Their measured flow these bind the earth to them. The fangs of others passes swift away." (17)

In his commentary on the pre-factory sutra of the *Tholkappiam*, Nachchinarkiniyar relates the tradition concerning the migration of the Tamil Vellalas to the South about 1200 B.C. He says that the sage Agastya brought with him to Tuvarakapati eighteen kings of the line of Sri Krishna and eighteen families of Vellalas and others with the Aruvalar tribes. Their first act after coming to the South was to utilize for irrigation purposes the water of the Godavari, which was then running to waste into the sandy desert, by making the river empty itself into the Eastern Sea.

Dr. Barnett writes that Chandragupta's (320 B.C.) great dam at Girnar survived until A.D. 150, and was then rebuilt by Rulradaman; in 458 it again needed repairs, and was restored by the viceroy of Scemdagupta (18)

Kalihana in his *Raja tarangini* writes that Kashmir had always given small produce, because it was liable to be flooded by the waters of the Mahapadma Lake, and was intercepted by many streams. During the reign of Avanti-Varmān (833-858 A.D.), a phenomenal economic evolution was brought about, which the Hindu historians attribute to the engineering feats of the illustrious Suyya, the *anna-pati* (lord of food), who dammed the river Vitasta by a stone structure and constructed several canals to lead off the water.

Referring to the above, Sarkar says: "Suyya's operations ultimately changed the very topography of the country. Through technical skill he succeeded in making the different streams 'move about according to his will, just as a snake-charmer does with the snakes'. A new confluence of the Vitasta, with its most important tributary, the Sndhu, was artificially created by the engineer's genius, and 'it will last' says Kalihana, 'to the end of the world'. Suyya also constructed stone embankments for about thirty miles along the Vitasta and dammed in the waters of the Mahapadma. Hav-

ing raised the land from the river, he founded several villages. As the water was kept by means of circular dykes the villages looked like round bowls. The previous dependence of the locality on rainfall was thus rendered unnecessary through an achievement of the human brain." (19)

Deakin in his *Irrigated India and Ceylon* writes that the civil engineers of the Tamils conceived another idea of irrigation, when they constructed the Sudarsana reservoir by damming up a small stream. Their plan was to control a river at the head of its delta, and this principle of ancient is the distinctively original contribution of the Cholas in mankind's economic development. Their scheme of dealing with deltaic land has since been accepted everywhere, and no nation has been able to improve upon it."

In conclusion, it may be stated that the ancient irrigation works in the delta of the Godavari, in the districts through which the Kaveri and its tributaries flow, the large artificial reservoir at Gengaikondacholapuram in the Wodiar-paliam taluk of the Trichnopoly district, the several irrigation works scattered all over Ceylon, and many others too numerous to mention, are unrivalled in any age of ancient times. It is difficult to turn from the remote past without recording a word of admiration for the kings who devised and the engineers who contrived the execution of these bold and beneficial schemes. It is also a curious commentary on the immortality of fame that neither oral nor written records have preserved the name even of a single engineer who designed these stupendous works.

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(19) *Political Institutions and Theories of the Hindus*, p. 103

## Order Nisi

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 599.

In the matter of the estate of the late Pakkiam wife of Kanagasabai Nagalingam of Pungudativu East Deceased.

Kanagasabai Nagalingam of Pungudativu East

Vs. Petitioner.

1. Meenambal daughter of Kanagasabai Nagalingam of do
2. Nagalingam Muttukumaraswamy of do
3. Sothar Sinuathanby of do now of Mabo

Respondents.

This matter of the Petition of the abovenamed Petitioner coming on for disposal before C. Coomaraswamy Esquire, District Judge, Jaffna on the 16th day of May 1938 in the presence of Mr. V. K. Subramaniam Proctor, for Petitioner and the affidavit of the Petitioner dated the 15th day of May 1938 having been read: It is ordered that the above named 3rd Respondent be appointed Guardian-ad-litem over the said minors and it is ordered that the Petitioner as the husband of the deceased is entitled to have Letters of Administration to the estate of the said deceased issued to him accordingly unless the abovenamed Respondents or any other person shall on or before the 29th day of June 1938 show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

This 19th day of June 1938.

Sgd. C. Coomaraswamy,  
District Judge.

Extended for 21st August 1939.

O. 37. -17 & 21-8-39.

(15) *Sabha-parva*, v. 77.

(16) *Op. cit.* Bk II, chap. i.

(17) *Lyric*, 18: 24-30.

(18) *Antiquities of India*, p. 107.

## WILL THE BANK OF CEYLON BE FOOL-PROOF?

Mr. R. Sri Pathmanathan's Doubts

### EVILS BROUGHT BY PAST SINNERS OF COLONIAL GOVT

"SOON we may have political freedom, but we have a worse fear than political freedom—that is the enslavement of the country to foreign finance"

THUS Observed Mr. R. Sri Pathmanathan speaking on the Budget in the State Council on Friday.

Mr. R. Sri Pathmanathan said he wished to commiserate with the Leader of the House because in the framing of that Budget the Leader had not had a free hand.

Soon they might have political freedom, but they had a worse fear than political freedom—that was the enslavement of the country to foreign finance.

Their salary bill was too heavy, and they could not afford to pay those pensions. They also had the question of holiday warrants to meet.

In a small colony with a limited budget they could not afford to carry out all the evils brought to them from past sinners of a Colonial Government. One of the first essential steps of self-government was to stop officers from abroad.

From the point of view of his district he had three problems which could be stated to be water, roads and quinine.

What has been done to give water to the peasants of his district? They themselves had told the Minister of Agriculture that water was their salvation. He wished to ask the Minister also what he had done to execute some scheme whereby the people of the Wannu district would get water.

It was stated that he had a scheme to water 3,000 acres under the Minneriya Scheme, but in the Wannu district there was a project which would bring happiness to 20,000 people and could not the Minister start a scheme there?

Dealing with the roads in his constituency, Mr. Pathmanathan said that roads were the very essence of the well-being of his districts and he wished a greater check would be exercised by the Minister of Communications and Works over the officers. He also hoped a little more money would be expended on the roads.

He also wished the Minister of Health would see that in a malarial district there was always a full stock of quinine so that the people would know they would be well treated for the disease.

Tuberculosis was also rampant in Mannar and stringent measures should be taken to combat it.

He desired the Minister of Local Administration to inquire into the diminution in the catch of fish in Pesalai.

In the town of Mannar there was no Crown land available and it was difficult for Government to embark upon any housing scheme. Would it be possible, he asked, for the

Minister to buy land and then put up some tenements.

He was a member of the Executive Committee of Labour, Industry and Commerce and one of the red star productions of their Ministry was the establishment of the Bank of Ceylon. They had agitated for it and in spite of European opposition they had finally put it on a proper footing.

The Minister had said it was a foolproof bank, but he thought it might unfortunately develop into a bank of fools unless the bank was free to undertake commercial transactions in competition with other banks in Colombo.

The over-head charges of the bank of Ceylon were over Rs. 20,000 and how were they going to cover that unless they were going to compete and undertake transactions in the same manner as other commercial banks?

As soon as it was possible the Bank of Ceylon should also undertake sterling exchange work as it was there that the money was made.

It was now the fashion to put down in points what one had to say. The Governor, the other day in opening the Bank of Ceylon mentioned 14 points. He (Mr. Pathmanathan) was not going to be as long as that. He had only seven points.

#### Contrary to Advice

"(1) The exclusion of a Tamil from the directorate of the Bank of Ceylon and the appointment of a European by the Governor contrary to the advice tendered to him by the Minister of Labour and the Executive committee had caused considerable dissatisfaction amongst the shareholders of the Bank and the public.

"(2) The Minister and his Committee did not recommend the appointment of an European Director because the European community were all along opposed to the establishment of the new Bank and their leaders were still hostile to it and also because the Europeans had invested only about Rs. 10,000 in the share capital of the Bank.

"On the other hand, the Executive Committee recommended the appointment of a Tamil with banking experience because it was considered essential that the leading Ceylonese communities should be represented on the Directorate and because the Tamil community had invested about three lakhs of rupees in the share capital.

"(3) It would appear that the Governor told the Minister that he was only interested in the appointment of an European Director and was not concerned about the repre-

(Continued on page 6)

## Minister Inspects Thondaiman-Aar Port

Co-operation Assured to Board of Ministers

Tondaiman-Aar Saturday 19.

That it was the intention of the Board of Ministers to reopen the Port of Kayts for passenger traffic was the statement made by Major J. L. Kotalawala Minister for Communications and Works speaking this afternoon at Tondaiman Aar.

The Chairman of the Tondaiman-Aar Harbour Committee Mr. V. Suppiah, in extending a hearty welcome to the Minister to the town requested Mr. Kotalawala to convey to the other members of the Board of Ministers the assurance that the majority of the Tamils were willing to co-operate with the major community and work for the welfare of the Island.

#### Need for a Harbour

The Minister in the company of Mr. R. B. Naish and Mr. R. A. M. Thuraiappah (Provincial Engineer) inspected Tondaiman-Aar lagoon at 2-45 p.m. this afternoon. On arrival at the bridge the Minister and party were received by Mr. V. Suppiah the Chairman of the Tondaiman-Aar Harbour Committee and members and conducted under a canopy with Oriental Music to the pandal which was specially put up on the land situated on the right bank of the lagoon. After a welcome song in Tamil sung by a student of the Tondaiman-Aar school Mr Suppiah welcomed the Minister. In doing so he said that was the first time that a Minister had visited that town. The presence of that gathering was a proof that the Tamils respected great men, no matter to whatever community they belonged. The majority of the Tamils were willing to co-operate with the major community and work for the welfare of Mother Lanka. The speaker requested the Minister to convey that message to the other Ministers. Dealing with the need for a harbour of the Northern coast of Ceylon, Mr Suppiah said that the absence of a Harbour had been a serious handicap to trade and passenger traffic between India and Ceylon. A harbour on the northern coast would also mean better shelter for the sailing vessels during the monsoonish weather. That was a point which found favour among the representatives of the Tamils in Council as well as among other State Councillors. He (the speaker) was glad to say that the members of the State Council who had visited that lagoon at his (speaker's) request were greatly impressed with the potentialities of Tondaiman-Aar as an ideal Harbour. It was not out of place to mention there that the proposal to open Tondaiman-Aar Harbour had the support of several leading people as well as the Press.

#### Spot where Ships were Built

Continuing Mr. Suppiah said "Sir, many ships were built on the

spot where you are sitting now and on the opposite bank of the lagoon. During the monsoon vessels were sheltered in the lagoon in front of you. Not long ago many of the inhabitants of this Town were engaged in the most profitable work of ship-building. Owing to the gradual silting of the river and the formation of a sand bank, shipbuilding had ceased to engage the attention of the people. In these days when the question of unemployment looms large in the public eyes, the opening of the Harbour here would mean employment to many of the unemployed, in the North."

Tondaiman-Aar was so centrally situated that the opening of a harbour there would serve the whole peninsula most satisfactorily. It was the nearest place to India and was connected with the Jaffna lagoon and if the lagoon is deepened wherever necessary, a canal for cheap transport of cargo by boat to and from Jaffna can easily be made. The distance from Tondaiman-Aar to Kankesaturai along the coast was about four miles. If a harbour was opened there, it would be the one nearest to a railway terminus. Further there was ample crown land at Tondaiman-Aar for the building of Customs House Warehouses and other necessary buildings. What was most important of all was the fact that it had an abundant supply of good water. Before concluding Mr. Suppiah thanked the Minister for sending H. M. S. Stork to survey the lagoon. His (the speaker's) Committee was prepared if necessary to organise a steam lunch service for passenger traffic between Tondaiman-Aar and India.

#### Minister's Reply

Mr. Kotalawala replying said that he was extremely sorry that he was not able to address the gathering in Tamil. He hoped for the day when Sinhalese would be taught in Tamil schools and Tamil in Sinhalese schools so that they could understand each other better.

He the speaker had come on a flying visit to Jaffna just to see the various places before he took the step of opening the Northern ports. It had been decided by the Board of Ministers that they should reopen the Northern Ports. It was their intention first to reopen Kays for passenger traffic and then to consider the merits of the other places. Provided it was not expensive, it was likely that Tondaiman-Aar would be made a harbour. As they were all aware everyone of their (Northern) Members in the State Council was trying to get a port in his constituency reopened. He (the speaker) would wish to state that the least expensive and the most useful port would be opened.

The Minister then inspected the lagoon and the bridge. This morning the Minister visited Kayts and Pankudutive.

**A Variety Entertainment**  
In Aid of the  
**Hindu Organ Golden Jubilee Fund**  
on  
**Saturday, 26th August, 1939**  
at  
**The Jaffna Hindu College.**

Boys and girls from different Schools and talented amateurs will contribute items

Details will be announced through handbills

Broadcasting

**AKASH-VANI,  
MYSORE**

**This Week's Programme**

Wavelength: 70.2 Meters Frequency: 4265 Kc/S.

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

Monday, the 21st August, 1939

6 p.m. Orchestral Music  
6-15 p.m. News and Announcements  
6-30 to 7 p.m. Childrens' Half Hour by the Children of Sisu-Vihar, Ventikoppal, conducted by N S Narayana Sastri, Esq., M. A.

7 to 8.30 p. m. Karnatic Vocal Music

Tuesday, the 22nd August 1939

6 p.m. Film Hits  
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. Instrumental Music

Wednesday, the 23rd August 1939

6 p.m. Karnatic Light Music  
6-15 p.m. News and Announcements  
8-30 to 8-45 p.m. Flute Recital by Vidwan Rangappa, accompanied by Vidwan Subramanyam, (Violin) and Vidwan Ramiah, (Mridangam)

Thursday, the 24th August 1939

6 p.m. Comic Selections arranged by Mr. M. V. Madappa  
6-20 p.m. News and Announcements  
6-30 to 8-45 p.m. Radio Play: "Sura Sena"—(adaptation of 'Othello' by Sri Saraswathi Prasadika Nataka Sabha conducted by Mr. M. V. Sivappa

Friday, the 25th August 1939

6 p.m. Hindusthani Music  
6-15 p.m. News & Announcements  
6-30 p.m. "Qirat"

**VARA MAHA LAKSHMI  
VRATHAM**

6-45 to 7 p.m. Devotional Music  
7 to 9 p.m. Harikatha: Vara Nandi Kalyana" by Brahmastri Ganaki Ramakrishna Sastri & Party

Saturday, the 26th August 1939

6 p.m. Nadaswaram  
6-15 p.m. News and Announcements  
6-30 to 8-45 p.m. Vocal Music Performance by Asthana Sangitha Vidwan Titta Krishna Iyengar, accompanied by Vidwan Subramanyam (Violin) and Vidwan Ramiah, (Mridangam)

Sunday, the 27th August 1939

No Broadcast

**TONSILITIS**

This serves to announce that Mr. R. L. Pothuwila, the Tonsillitis Specialist from Colombo, will be staying at the premises of the Venus Optical Co. opposite Power Station, Grand Bazaar, Jaffna, for a few days from 3rd August. His treatment is marvellous and no resort is made to Surgery Consultation is free.  
Consulting hrs. 8-30 a.m. to 4-30 p.m.  
(Mis. 111. 10 & 21-8-39.)



**Hindu Organ.**

MONDAY, AUGUST 21, 1939

**PEACE TALKS IN EUROPE**

THIS WEEK'S TELEGRAMS speak of diplomatic talks both in Berlin and Paris and of interviews between HERR HITLER and the League Commissioner at Danzig. The Italian press vehemently pleads for a peaceful return of Danzig to the Reich and has outlined certain proposals as, in the opinion of Italian statesmen, likely to meet the claims of both Germany and Poland. There is also a strong rumour that a Four Power Conference among Germany, Italy, Britain and France is likely to be convened with a view to finding a settlement of the Danzig issue. Now that Poland has been admitted as an effective member of the Peace Front and the negotiations with Soviet Russia are fairly well advanced, a conference without these two powers on an issue which directly concerns one of them is unthinkable. These rumours have called forth an article in the "Times" outlining the essential basis on which alone a stable peace can be built up. Germany is anxious to add one more feather to her cap by the annexation of Danzig without bloodshed. But the good fortune which has uniformly attended HITLER's bluff all along will desert him this time. The progress in the negotiations with Soviet Russia and the consolidation of the Peace Barrage, together with the defiant attitude of Poland are causing no little chagrin to HITLER when he finds himself balked of his design of removing one more injustice of Versailles. So long as Danzig remains outside the Reich the old sores will rankle in the blood of Germany and there can be no real peace in Europe. To HITLER and Germany the return of Danzig and the Corridor is a point of honour. But while the present temper of Hitlerite Germany persists the surrender of Danzig would be a positive disservice to the cause of peace. HITLER will not rest till he has dismembered Poland, as he has dismembered Czecho-

slovakia.

When HITLER was turning to shreds the various restraints imposed on Germany by the Treaty of Versailles he had the sympathy of the outside world, a sympathy which even the annexation of the Sudeten land retained in a measure, for his action till then might be construed as a reversal of the injustice of Versailles. With the absorption of Czechoslovakia in March he showed himself a vulgar conqueror bent on land-grabbing. Thanks to the rapid progress of re-armament in Britain and France and the moral certainty of Russia throwing her weight on the side of the Democracies, the axis partners find themselves checked, and HITLER can no more expect any bloodless gain. As the "Times" has pointed out, before any concessions are made to Germany at this juncture, Germany must give a guarantee to disarm, to restore the independence of Czechoslovakia and must modify her conception of lebensraum. She must give evidence of peaceful intentions and should not consider herself as the sole judge of her claim to "living space". HITLER will not accept such a position without prejudice to his prestige as an all-powerful dictator. On the basis of HITLER's annexations being considered a *fait accompli* no peace conferences have a reasonable chance of success. The attitude of the Peace Front has so stiffened that there is no possibility of a second Munich.

In the meantime the European situation is reported to be as grave as in September last. Besides border troubles both on the German frontier and in Danzig, the Totalitarian press shows a certain degree of truculence. The German press is loud with exaggerated reports of Polish atrocities on German citizens and adopting the usual tactics that precede a coup. Dr. GOEBBELS' paper says that Germany does not care a rap for negotiations and proposes to create peace with or against Britain. This claim that Germany is to be the sole judge of her claims and will not accept any definitions of lebensraum, the democracies cannot admit. HITLER's speech today will go some way to clear the atmosphere one way or the other. The cautious man that he has shown himself all this time, he will not through some crowning miscalculation endanger the peace of the world and along with it his own and Germany's greatness by any irrevocable proceeding.

**Kopay Basket Weaving School**

An Education Department notice in last Friday's Gazette states that an application has been received from the Board of Directors of the Parameshwara College for grant-in-aid of the Kopay Basket Weaving School and that observations will be received not later than September 18, 1939.

**NO QUORUM IN COUNCIL**

**BUDGET DEBATE INTERRUPTED**

**MEMBERS' SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY**

Council Chamber, Thursday.

THE Budget Debate goes on to the tune of the Division Bell summoning back Members who have strayed from the Chamber to form a quorum. This exhibition is all the more nauseating after the manner in which some Members showed their indignant disappointment when the Second Reading debate was threatened with a quick demise, writes the Lobby correspondent of the "Daily News".

These interruptions to the debate have become so frequent that sometimes efforts are made to feign ignorance that there is no quorum. But on every such occasion after a short spell of suppressed amusement, some Member calls the bluff cry "No Quorum!"

Then begins the ringing of the Division Bell, and at times the Member for Kandy, with a grimly sour face, goes out in search of the missing representatives of the people. At other times, however, the Kandy representative himself is seen hurrying back in answer to the ringing of the Bell.

**Contributory Cause**

Perhaps one factor which drives Members from the Chamber is the long and wearisome speeches. For example when the member for Galle had spoken for over two hours in the afternoon—he had had about half an hour in the morning, too—he was interrupted four times by the cry: "No Quorum!"

At one stage the Speaker left the Chair and the Deputy Speaker took his place.

Later, when the Minister of Labour started his speech he was himself interrupted "no less than three times within twelve minutes," as the Deputy Speaker stated. On the third occasion the Minister audibly expressed the wish that no quorum would be found since it was better not to carry on in that fashion.

The end came with a request from the Chair to the Leader of the House to move the adjournment. The Member for Kandy, ever ready to display his sense of duty, strangely called for a division. The adjournment motion was carried and at 6 o'clock the representatives of the people went home to bed.

**PRICES AND COMMODITIES BILL**

**Reserved for Royal Assent**

According to a Message from the Governor, which was read at Thursday's meeting of the State Council, the Prices and Commodities Bill, which had been passed by the State Council on July 19, has been reserved for the signature of His Majesty's pleasure.

## SOLUTION TO DANZIG PROBLEM CANNOT BE DELAYED

### Will Europe be Embroiled In War?

#### GERMAN DOUBT ABOUT BRITISH ATTITUDE

Berlin, Saturday.

WITH the official Press screaming daily, the present situation is intolerable and the solution to the Danzig problem cannot long be delayed. Most well-informed quarters anticipate something before the Party Congress at Nuremberg on September 2nd.

It will be difficult to keep the propaganda campaign at its present pitch for another three weeks. The German in the street is remembering vividly what happened just a year ago. He has been reading between the lines of his newspaper and is waiting for something to happen.

At best Herr Hitler will get Danzig without a striking blow—a success which can make little or no material difference to the average citizen of the Reich—and at the worst Europe will be embroiled in war.

Talks with high German officials give the impression that there is still a good deal of doubt in Berlin whether Britain will genuinely fight for Poland.

## NEW EDUCATION ORDINANCE

### COMMITTEE DECIDES TO EXPEDITE

### BAN ON NON-CEYLONESE TEACHERS

Colombo, Saturday.

THE Executive Committee of Education decided yesterday that the Minister should expedite the steps necessary for the proclamation of the new Education Ordinance.

It was pointed out that unless the new Ordinance, which has already received the assent of the Governor, is brought into operation at an early date, the Executive Committee would be powerless to do anything to prevent the possible misuse of profits by school managers.

The amendment to the Education Code which was placed before the Board of Education with this object in view had been approved by a majority of the Executive Committee previously, but it could not be given effect to without the approval of the Board of Education.

#### Teachers' Training Schools

The Board of Education has also declined to make a decision on another amendment to the Code concerning the admission of students to teachers' training schools.

At present the authorities of these schools have the power of admitting students.

The proposed amendment is to provide for the selection of these students on the results of a competitive examination held by the

Department of Education.

The Board of Education was in agreement with the principle that the entrance examination regulating admission to training schools should be centralised and held by the Department which should select, on the results of the examination, those who are fit for training and furnish a list of their names to the managers of training schools.

After discussion, however, the Board declined to make a decision on the proposed amendment.

#### Non-Ceylonese Teachers

The Executive Committee approved by a majority yesterday the instructions which are proposed to be issued to managers of schools regarding the employment of non-Ceylonese as teachers.

The instructions to the Director of Education, which were embodied in a communique issued after the meeting of the Committee state that the Executive Committee of Education has had under consideration the question of the relief of unemployment among the educated and has approved in principle the proposal that no non-Ceylonese teachers should be appointed to grant-in-aid schools in the future.

The instructions further state:—

You have already the power under the Code to disapprove the appointment of any teacher to an Assisted school for reasons which you consider valid and sufficient. You are requested not to approve, subject to the exceptions set out below, the appointment of any non-Ceylonese to the eligible staff of an Assisted school either as full-time or as part-time teacher. By eligible staff is meant the adequate staff referred to in Clause 30 of the English Code and Clause 35 of the Vernacular Code.

#### Terms Defined

The term 'Ceylonese' should be interpreted to mean those born in Ceylon and, in a few cases, would include those who were born out of Ceylon but who have acquired Ceylon domicile or whose fathers possessed Ceylon domicile at the time of their birth. The term 'non-Ceylonese' refers to those who are not Ceylonese in accordance with the above definition and would include Europeans, Indians and all others who are born out of Ceylon and who do not possess a domicile in Ceylon. Exceptional cases not covered by the above definition should be referred to the Executive Committee for decision.

The Executive Committee, however, realises that a relaxation of the rule not to approve the appointment of non-Ceylonese teachers to Assisted schools would be necessary in regard to the appointments of Principals of Senior Secondary and Collegiate schools. A good number of denominational schools have non-Ceylonese Principals and it is not proposed to interfere with the practice of denominations of

## CLAIMS OF KANKESANTURAI PORT URGED

### DEPUTATION MEETS MINISTER

### MINISTER ON SCHEMES FOR THE NORTH

A Deputation to the Minister for Communications and Works to urge on him the necessity of reopening the Port of Kankesanturai for passenger traffic was arranged by Messrs: A. Theedhana Moorthy and S. M. Arulampalam to wait on him at the Kankesanturai Rest House on Sunday the 20th inst at 8.30 A.M.

Representatives of the Jaffna Association Messrs: C. K. Swaminathan, R. Sivagurunather, N. Cheludurai and R. Subramaniam discussed the matter with the Minister at the Rest House. The Minister was then taken to the customs premises where he was met by Messrs: T. C. Rajaratnam, S. Swaminathan, T. S. Kanagaratnam, S. Kanagasabapathy, P. Sinnadarai, K. Mutucumaraswamy, Sinnappu Mutiah and many others. Mr. T. C. Rajaratnam garlanded him to the strains of oriental music. The Minister then inspected the Port premises and returned to the Rest House in procession. Mr. S. Swaminathan pointed out to the Minister that representative from all parts of Jaffna District were in the Deputation. The Minister said that the present Sinhalese Ministry was intent on doing all they can for the benefit of the Jaffna people. He complained that their action has been misunderstood in Jaffna. The Board of Ministers has decided upon giving relief to the people who have suffered distress owing to the recent heavy rains.

#### Aerodrome in Jaffna

It was proposed to start an aerodrome in Jaffna and the unemployed will be given work there. He knew the average pay of 30 cents per day in the Sinhalese Districts would not attract the Jaffna man. The Board was therefore prepared to approve such an enhanced pay in Jaffna as might be recommended by the local authorities.

#### Help for Tobacco Industry

As regards the trade in Malaya-Jaffna tobacco the Minister stated that the Board was determined not to allow the Jaffna cultivator to suffer in any way. The cultivator will be paid the current rate by the Malaya-Jaffna Tobacco Company and the loss incurred will be refunded by the Ceylon Government. He stated that the coconut industry of the South may be affected by the retaliatory measures of the Indian Government. He pointed out the

appointing non-Ceylonese to such posts provided there are not, in your opinion, suitable Ceylonese to fill them.

It is also proposed to relax the rule in the case of appointments of non-Ceylonese teachers who on the 1st day of September, 1939, are in the service of Government and those in service in Assisted schools whose names appear on the register of pensionable teachers on that date. Any other exceptional cases should be submitted to the Executive Committee for decision.

fact that if the Indian Government insisted upon increasing the import duties on Ceylon products the Ceylon Government would not be a loser in view of the fact that there was a far larger import of Indian goods over which increased duties can be imposed here. The Board was however trying its best to come to a friendly understanding with the Indian Government. There was correspondence going on between, Whitehall, India and Ceylon. They would therefore see that the Board was bent on safeguarding the interests of the Jaffna people.

#### Port of Kankesanturai

Regarding the reopening of the Jaffna Ports, personally he was in favour of opening all if it was possible. The whole of Ceylon would be benefited by such an action. Each member of the Northern Province would of course like to have a Port in his own constituency but the financial aspect has to be taken into consideration.

He fully appreciated the advantages of Kankesanturai, its nearness to Point Calimere, a short distance from which is situated at Vettharanim the Hindu Temple, where as pointed out by Mr. T. C. Rajaratnam, about 500 Jaffna Tamils are residing, its central situation among the Jaffna Ports, its importance as a Railway terminus, and the availability of a good water supply. But quarantine regulations have to be enforced and Port Hamanheel is already at Kayts for immediate use. Though the canal is not deep, the port is available throughout the year. The Northern members have been consulted in the matter. His Committee has earmarked a sum of Rs. 40,000/- for improving the Kayts Harbour. This would not shut out the Port of Kankesanturai for passenger traffic. The passengers may alternatively use Kankesanturai and Kayts as circumstances permit and their conveniences demanded. The contacts, if any, even from Kankesanturai will be removed to Port Hamanheel. The experiment will be carefully watched for some time and a final selection will then be made between the two Ports.

Three million rupees will have to be spent on the harbour selected out of Kankesanturai and Kayts. A hitch may arise over the provision of the ferry boat between these two ports and Point Calimere. During the experimental stage it was not advisable for them to ask the Government to make the provision itself. He would recommend that the S.I.R. should be persuaded to take it up or a local Company should be floated to run the service.

He requested the representative gathering present to advise their respective members not to oppose the present proposal re improvements to Kayts. Otherwise there was the possibility of nothing being done immediately. He instanced the unnecessary delay that had been caused owing to the dispute between the respective merits of the Pooneryn and Pungudive causeways. He stated that he was responsible for starting the works at the same time on both the causeways. He found that the work has been progressing on both the causeways even more rapidly than he had originally anticipated. The instalment voted has been spent and he will have to release about a lakh of rupees soon.

He promised to immediately effect for the Port of Kankesanturai the improvements brought to his notice by Mr. Theedhana Moorthy. He may be prepared to carefully consider a detailed memorandum to him on the subject.

He thanked the representative gathering for the opportunity they have given him to discuss the matter in full and hoped all existing misunderstandings between the Jaffna people and the Sinhalese community will be cleared up.

## MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND POINT OF ORDER

Sir,—On the 19th July 1939 when Mr. G. G. Ponnambalam, M. S. C. moved a motion in the State Council, urging the Board of Ministers to make some financial arrangements to assist those in the Northern Province dealing in tobacco trade with Travancore, in view of the increased duty on Jaffna tobacco by the Travancore Government, Mr. D. S. Senanayake Minister of Agriculture and Lands, rose to a point of Order under Article 57, saying that a motion imposing financial charges on the revenue could only be introduced by a Minister or an Officer of State. The Deputy Speaker who was presiding ruled out Mr. Ponnambalam's motion as out of order. But it was a curious, that neither Mr. D. S. Senanayake, nor Mr. D. S. de Fonseka rose to a point of order under Article 57, when Mr. S. Samarakoddy M. S. C., moved a motion in the State Council on the 25th July 1939, a part of which reads as follows, "This Council calls upon the Ministry of Labour, Industry and Commerce to continue relief work in such areas until the next paddy crop is actually harvested, which will mean the extension of relief work by one or two months in certain areas." Mr. Samarakoddy referred to the Kurunegalle area. Does not Mr. Samarakoddy's motion impose financial charge on the revenue? Surely extension of relief work means more money to be spent. It is a pity that when anything concerning the welfare of the Sinhalese is done in the State Council, even the point of order is conveniently forgotten. Why this racial discrimination even in the State Council? The Speaker kept silent and referred the motion to the Ministry of Labour, Industry and Commerce. Will Mr. D. S. Senanayake or Mr. D. S. de Fonseka please enlighten the public on this point?

I am, Sir,  
Yours etc.

B. C. RAJA RATNAM

Wellawatte,  
17-8-39.

### "Do the Masses Understand Present Political Situation?"

Sir,—Mr. T. S. Rajendram's letter appearing in your issue of the 10th inst. is pathetic reading. He questions: "Do the masses understand present political situation?" To your correspondent who is very pessimistic, let me give an illustration. Let him observe for a moment the great multitude that flocked like battalions the other day on the plains of the Jaffna U. D. C. What should we think of the dealers—Tamils and Moors—who closed their shops early in the evening regardless of their sale, particularly for the meeting? What should we think of the peasants that flocked in ever-increasing numbers from the remotest parts of Jaffna? To them, if it is not a matter of importance, why should they ever have attended the meeting? Did they ever expect long rows of oriental girls to sway hither and thither in an ecstasy of joy? I fear that they had no such splendid and pagan meaning. Every

one was aware of the present political situation.

Besides, Mr. Rajendram seems to attack and accuse our politicians under a mistaken impression that they are self-absorbed centres. It would be a mistake to blame your correspondent; his position is like that of a frog in the well. Has he listened to a speech by Mr. G. G. Ponnambalam, he would be cleared of his bewilderment. But alas, he seems to rely wholly on papers! Need I mention that "life is one world, and life seen in newspapers another; the public enjoys both, but it is more or less conscious of the difference".

Nelson, on the eve of a battle seemed to have said, "Victory or Westminster Abbey." Today, Mr. Ponnambalam has even gone to such extremes. O, for this noble patriot! Then, are our politicians self-centred? Alas, for this absurdity!

Yours etc.

T. T. Ganathan.

Manipay North,  
16th Aug. 1939.

### Relief and Relief Work

Sir,—Your correspondent, Mr. Vytilingam, avails himself of the one possible device by which he can save Mr. Ponnambalam's face. He draws a distinction between relief and relief-work and presumably suggests that Mr. Ponnambalam offered to give up his demand for balanced representation if only relief were provided and not relief work. All I can say in reply is that Mr. Ponnambalam drew no such distinction when he threw out the challenge at Myliddy and it is a desperate device for his admirers to fall back on that distinction in their endeavour to save his face.

"What Messrs. G. G. Ponnambalam and Natesan have asked for was not provision for relief work..... but votes under the Minister of Agriculture for the indemnification of needy farmers....." says Mr. Vytilingam.

But Mr. Corea, in one of the letters made public by me earlier, says that he had often explained to Mr. Natesan the cause for the delay in granting relief. If Mr. Natesan had asked for votes under the Minister of Agriculture, how did the necessity arise for Mr. Corea to explain matters to Mr. Natesan? Or is Mr. Corea, the wily Sinhalese that he is, guilty of a falsehood? Will Mr. Natesan enlighten the public? The rest of Mr. Vytilingam's effusion is irrelevant to the present argument and I shall not pause to consider it.

Yours etc.

S. H. Perinbanayagam.

Vaddukoddai,  
12-9-39.

## How India Controls Emigration

### Permits for Skilled Workers

THE procedure laid down by the Government of Madras for third-class passengers to Ceylon via Danushkodi is explained in an official circular.

Unskilled workers are prohibited from leaving for Ceylon unless exempted in individual cases by the Commissioner of Labour, Madras.

Skilled workers coming to Ceylon will be permitted to proceed as usual on complying with the requirements of the Emigration Act, where the Protector of Emigrants, Mandapam, considers it necessary.

#### Strict Check

As many unskilled workers pose as skilled, the notice states, that their examination will be very strict in order to check fraud.

If persons engaging or assisting skilled workers to emigrate obtain the previous permission of the Protector, it will save the person emigrating from further inquiry at the time of the embarkation.

#### Ordinary Passengers

Ordinary passengers who claim that they are coming to Ceylon not for the purpose of unskilled or skilled work should, according to the announcement, be in possession of a certificate from the local stipendiary magistrate or the Protector of Emigrants. The passengers who do not obtain this certificate render themselves liable to be detained and questioned by the Protector. In order to prevent hardship as far as possible the Protector will examine them himself at his office at Mandapam and issue the necessary permits before they embark.

If these permits are not obtained, passengers will be detained when embarking at Danushkodi.

### Auction Sale

D. C. J. 12898.

Ponnampalam Ratnam of Urumpalay.

Vs.

Plaintiff

Sinnappu Eliathamby Rajaratnam of Kokkuvil East.

PROPERTY IS

1. Land situated at Kokkuvil Nallur Parish Division and District of Jaffna in the Northern Province called "Koorthy Oday" in extent 11 Lms. V. C. of this on the Western side an extent of 9 Lms. V. C. together with well, cultivated and spontaneous plantations and share in the Margosa tree standing on the Southern boundary and bounded on the East by the property of Sinnugam Thambiah, North by the property of Ponnampalam Appathurai, West and South by lane. The whole land hereof and appurtenances thereof.

2. Do Land situated as aforesaid called "Malthoray" in extent 12½ Lms. V. C. together with palmrahs and spontaneous plantations and bounded on East and West by lane, North by the property of Sellammah wife of Sinnathurai and Sinnammah wife of Nagalingam and South by the property of Marugameorthy Temple of Kokkuvil of the whole hereof an undivided 7½ Lms. V. C. and appurtenances thereof.

In terms of the conditions issued to me by the District Court of Jaffna in Case No. 12898, I shall sell the above properties by public auction on Monday the 11th September 1939 at about 4 p.m. at the spot.

N. KANDIAH,  
Commissioner,  
Van. West.

(Mis 128. 21-8-39)

## WILL THE BANK OF CEYLON BE FOOL-PROOF?

(Continued from Page 3)

sentation of the Tamil community on the Board. It would also appear that the Financial Secretary urged the Governor to reject the advice of the Executive Committee.

#### Had Experience

"(4) The Tamil recommended by the Executive Committee was a person with previous banking experience and the excuse put forward for not appointing him was that he was already the Manager of another Bank. But there is no conflict of interests between the other Bank of Ceylon. It was merely a convenient method of creating a vacancy.

"(5) An important constitutional issue is involved in this matter. Under the Bank of Ceylon Ordinance, it is the Executive Committee of Labour which has the right to tender advice to the Governor regarding appointments to the Directorate of the Bank. But the Financial Secretary appears to have encroached on the rights of the Executive Committee.

"Perhaps this is a foretaste of what one may expect under the proposed Cabinet System?

"(6) The presence of an European on the Directorate of the Bank can only serve the purpose of promoting, or at least, protecting the interests of the rival European Banks.

"(7) With regard to the exclusion of a Tamil from the Directorate, the Tamil community regards this step as further evidence of the Governor's antipathy against the Tamils. The Tamils have been in the forefront of banking business during the last hundred years and if any community deserved representation on the Board of Directors of the new Bank, which was obviously constituted on communal lines, it was the Tamil community.

"It is strange that the Governor, who is opposed to communal representation in politics, should insist on communal representation in regard to the Directorate of the Bank of Ceylon only so far as the European community is concerned."

### Auction Sale

D. C. J. No. 12761.

1. Sivasithamparappillai Sathasivam and wife

2. Pavalanayagam of Nallore

Vs.

Sinnathamby Subramaniam of Vannarponnai East

PROPERTY

All that piece of land situated at Vannarponnai East called "Ammakovil yal" in extent 8 Lms. P. C. Do called "Ammakovilvayal" in extent 7 Lms. P. C. and both aggregating to a total extent of 15 Lms. P. C. which is equal to 10 Lms. V. C. with coconut trees and bounded on the East by Kerney and the property of the Charity Inn belonging to the Sivaprakasa Vithasalai, North by the property of Sinnathamby Rajaratnam and Meenadehippillai widow of Sinnathamby, West by lane 9 feet breadth belonging to the Northern boundary land and the property of Kandasamy temple at Nallore and on the South by the property of Kandasamy temple at Nallore, road and the property of the Charity Inn (madam) belonging to the Selvanayagapillaiyar temple.

In terms of the commission issued to me by the District Court of Jaffna in Case No. 12761, I shall sell the above property by public auction on Wednesday the 13th September 1939 at about 4 p.m. at the spot.

N. KANDIAH,  
Commissioner,  
Vannarponnai West.

(Mis. 127. 21-8-39.)

# NEW LIGHT ON THE VEDAS

(Continued from page 1)

Intellectual philosophies. In that original epoch thought proceeded by other methods than those of our logical reasoning and speech accepted modes of expression which, in our modern habits, would be inadmissible. The wisest then depended on inter experience and the suggestions of the intuitive mind for all knowledge that ranged beyond ordinary perceptions and daily activities. Their aim was illumination, not logical conviction; their ideal the inspired seer, not the accurate reasoner.

Indian tradition has faithfully preserved this account of the origin of the Vedas. The Rishi was not the individual composer of the hymn, but the seer (dra-hia) of an eternal truth and an impersonal knowledge. The language of the Veda itself is 'sruti,' a rhythm not composed by the intellect but heard, a divine Word that came vibrating out of the Infinite to the inner audience of the man who had previously made himself fit for the impersonal knowledge. The words themselves, 'drishti' and 'sruti,' sight and hearing, are Vedic expressions; these and cognate words signify, in the esoteric terminology of the hymns, revelatory knowledge and the contents of inspiration.

### Inspired Art

The hymns possess indeed a finished metrical form, a constant subtle skill in their technique, great variations of style and poetical personality; they are not the work of a rude, barbarous and primitive craftsman, but the living breath of a supreme and conscious art forming its creations in the puissant but well-governed movement of a self-observing inspiration.

Still all these high gifts have deliberately been exercised within one unvarying framework and always with the same materials. For the art of expression was to the Rishis only a means, not an aim; their principal pre-occupation was strenuously practical, almost utilitarian in the highest sense of utility. The hymn was to the Rishi who composed it a means of spiritual progress for himself and for others. It rose out of his soul, it became a power of his mind, it was the vehicle of his self-expression in some important or even critical moment of his life's inner history.

### Gift of an Age

When we note the invariable fixity of Vedic thought in conjunction with its depth, richness, and subtlety, we may reasonably argue that such a fixed form and substance would not easily be possible in the beginnings of thought and psychological experience or even during their early progress and unfolding. The actual Samhita of the Rig Veda, the true and only Veda in the estimation of European scholars, represents the close of a period, nor even some of its successive stages. The whole voluminous mass of its litanies may be only a selection by Veda Vyasa out of a

more richly vocal Aryan past. Made, according to the common belief, by Krishna of the Isle, 'Dwaipayana', the great traditional sage, the colossal compiler (Vyasa), with his face turned towards the commencement of the Iron Age, towards the centuries of increasing twilight and final darkness, it is perhaps only the final testament of the Ages of Intuition, the luminous Divas of the Forefather to their descendants, to a human race already turning in spirit towards the lower levels and the more easy and secure gains of the physical life and of the intellect and the logical reason.

### Saved in Part

It is certain that the old tradition of a progressive obscuration and loss of the Veda as the law of the human cycle has been fully justified by the event. The obscuration had already proceeded far before the opening of the next great age of Indian spirituality, the Vedantic, which struggled to preserve or recover what it yet could of the ancient knowledge.

The Brahmanas and the Upanishads are the record of a powerful revival which took the sacred text and ritual as a starting point for a new statement of spiritual thought and experience. This movement had two complementary aspects, one, the conservation of the forms, another the revelation of the soul of Veda, the first represented by the Brahmanas, the second by the Upanishads.

### The Misconception

These hymns have been the reputed source not only of some of the world's richest and profoundest religions, but of some of its subtlest metaphysical philosophies. In the fixed tradition of thousands of years they have been revered as the origin and standard of all that can be held as authoritative and true in Brahmanas and Upanishads, in Tantra and Purana, in the doctrines of great philosophical schools and in the teachings of famous saints and sages.

But if we accept the current interpretations and study the hymns of the Rig Veda in the light of Sayana Acharya's great commentary on which European scholarship mostly depends for its naturalistic theory of the Veda, what do we find? It is the ritualistic conception that pervades; that is the persistent note in which the old spiritual, philosophic or psychological interpretations of the 'sruti', which were the true foundation of its sanctity, lose themselves.

It is the most egoistic and materialistic objects that are proposed as the aim of the sacrifice—possessions, power, children, servants, gold, horses, cows, victory, the slaughter and plunder of enemies, the destruction of rival and malevolent critics.

### Two-fold Aspect

As one reads hymn after hymn interpreted in this sense, one begins to understand better the passage of the Gita (II 42) censuring the champions of an exclusive Vedism, yet regarding always the Veda as Divine Knowledge (XV 15). The hypothesis on which Sri Aurobindo conducts his enquiry is that the Veda has a double

aspect and the two, though closely related, must be kept apart. The Rishis arranged the substance of their thought in a system of parallelism by which the same deities were at once the internal external Powers of universal Nature, they managed its expression through a system of double values by which the same language served for their worship in both aspects. But the psychological sense predominates and is more pervading, close-knit and coherent than the physical. The Veda is primarily intended to serve for spiritual enlightenment and self-culture. It is this sense that is restored to the hymns in the writings of Sri Aurobindo on Veda and Vedic symbolism.

### Vedic Deities

The Vedic deities are names, powers, personalities of the universal God head and they represent each some essential puissance of the Divine Being. They manifest the cosmos and are manifest in it. Children of the Light, Sons of the Infinite, they recognise in the soul of man their brother and ally and desire to help and increase him, by themselves increasing in him so as to possess his world with their light, strength and beauty. The Gods call man to a divine companionship and alliance; they attract and uplift him to their fraternity, invite his aid and offer theirs against the Sons of Darkness and Division. Man in return calls the gods to his sacrifice, offers to them his swiftnesses and his strength, his clarities and his sweetnesses and receive them into his being and their gifts into his life.

### Living Realities

Once we have the key it is easy to understand the Vedic imagery; but it must not be mistaken for mere imagery. The gods are not simply poetical personifications of abstract ideas or of psychological and physical functions of nature. To the Vedic seers they are living realities; the vicissitudes of the human souls represent a cosmic struggle not merely of principles and tendencies but of the cosmic Powers which support and embody them. These are the gods and the demons. On the world stage and in the individual soul the same real drama, with the same personages, is enacted.

## The Hindu Board of Education

(Continued from page 2)

from the time of their opening and placed under the system of direct monthly payment of salaries to teachers. While we do not grudge such treatment we feel our Board deserves equal treatment from the Director of Education.

### Feeding of Children

The Board is unable to appreciate the principle on which schools are selected by the department for providing free mid-day meals.

(a) At Thampalai, predominantly a Hindu area, a new school is started in the midst of six Christian schools. One of these is badly affected as nearly 75 per cent of the children joined the new school. At once free mid-day meal is given by Government to the Christian school. The Hindu school is registered for Government aid after a weary waiting of 15 months. Our application for free mid-day meal is yet on the waiting list even though some other schools have been granted this aid after a supplementary vote was sanctioned by the State Council.

(b) There are many Hindu Villages where Christian schools exist by the side of Hindu Schools. The attendance increases in the Hindu schools and the very existence of the Christian schools is threatened. Then the prop of a free mid-day meal is given to the Christian school though the children attending Hindu schools are also from poor homes.

It is unable to start new schools where necessary. Even in two places where the buildings except cementing the floor have been finished, we are unable to start as we have no money to pay the teachers and give free meals to the children, which the action of the department compels us to offer to the needy children.

(To be Continued.)

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## Order Nisi

IN THE DISTRICT COURT  
OF BADULLA

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. B 1023

In the matter of the Intestate  
Estate of the late Paranirupa-  
singham Thangamma of Bandara-  
wela  
Deceased.

Between  
Philip Rajasingham Paranirupa-  
singham of Bandarawela  
And  
Petitioner.

1. Sivayogammal act' about 11 years, and
2. Rajasingham act' about 9 years (minors) represented by their Guardian-ad-litem, their uncle
3. P. R. Thambiah of Haldumulla Respondents.

This matter coming on for disposal before R. R. Selvadurai Esquire, District Judge of Badulla on the 3rd day of August, 1939, in the presence of Mr. K. V. Nadarajah, Proctor on the part of the Petitioner abovenamed and his affidavit da'ed the 26th day of June, 1939, having been read.

IT IS ORDERED:-

(a) That the third Respondent abovenamed be and he is hereby ap-

pointed Guardian-ad-litem over the 1st and 2nd named minor Respondents abovenamed for all the purposes of representing them in the above styled proceedings, and

(b) That Letters of Administration in respect of the above estate be issued to the Petitioner abovenamed as the lawful husband of the deceased intestate, unless the Respondents abovenamed or any person or persons interested therein shall on or before the 22nd day of August 1939, show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

The 3rd day of August, 1939

(Sgd.) R. R. SELVADURAI  
District Judge

(O. 38, 17 & 21-8-39)

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