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## PROHIBITION ACT WORKING SMOOTHLY

### Quarterly Report from Three Districts in Madras

#### LASTING BENEFIT TO LABOUR

THE Prohibition Act continues to be viewed with increasing favour in all the Districts in which it is in force and has been working smoothly, states the quarterly report on the working of the Prohibition Act in Salem, Chittoor and Cuddapah districts during the quarter ending June 1939 which has been published by the Ministry for Public Information. The report states:—

Prohibition had been in force for twenty-one months in the Salem district and for nine months in the Cuddapah and Chittoor districts. The working of the Act remained generally in the charge of the Police Department in all the three districts. The Department continued to receive whole-hearted co-operation from non-officials and from the officers of other Departments in all the Prohibition areas.

In the Salem district there were 63 cases of illicit distillation for the three months. The larger number of them occurred in May and June and are chiefly attributed to the occurrence of some important festivals. The number of such cases during the quarter was 10 in Chittoor and 6 in Cuddapah. There are no indications to fear any commercial or other organisation behind these cases in any district.

The new sweet toddy rules had not been in force long enough in Salem district to have any appreciable effect on the number of cases of illicit tapping but considering the very large number of trees tapped during the month (amounting to some lakhs), the sixty-nine cases cannot be considered to have been large in the district in the quarter. As in the previous quarter there was no case of illicit tapping reported in the Cuddapah and Chittoor districts.

The number of cases of possession of illicitly distilled liquor which had risen to 23 in the Salem district in March 1939 fell to 8 in April but there was a slight rise to 10

and 16 respectively in May and June. The number of cases continued to be small in the other two districts.

The cases that came to notice in the Salem district of persons purchasing sweet juice secretly for fermenting it into toddy were few and the quantity involved was mostly small. The strict enforcement of the new sweet toddy rules had the desired effect during the latter portion of the quarter of checking such developments.

As stated in previous communiques, there is no consumption of sweet toddy in the Chittoor and Cuddapah districts.

There was no case of denatured spirit being used as a substitute for liquors in any of the Prohibition districts during the quarter.

As in previous quarters, ganja accounted for a large proportion of the cases reported from each of the districts but the cases were mostly of possession of small quantities of the drug for personal consumption. There were a few stray cases of smuggling from Mysore but no organised attempt at smuggling on a large scale came to notice.

There were a very few cases of excess or unlicensed possession of opium. But the quantities concerned were insignificant in all the cases.

#### Border Problems

The practice of residents in Prohibition areas crossing the borders for a drink is reported to be decreasing. Such trips

(Continued on page 2)

## POSSIBILITY OF STARTING NEW INDUSTRIES

### Lack of Enterprise on the Part of People

#### INVESTIGATIONS BY THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRIES

"THE people of Ceylon are naturally slow at starting new industrial ventures. As, however, as some enterprising person has proved the success of a new industry there is a rush of capital into it resulting in overproduction, falling prices, low wages and low standard of production"

THUS observes Mr. J. C. W. Rock, Director of Commerce and Industries, in his Administration Report for 1938.

#### Facilities for Research

Following are further extracts from the Report:—

In the year under review the Department was more fortunate in the matter of facilities for research work than in the previous year. Though the Laboratory and Workshop intended for the Department were not available, it was possible to make temporary arrangements for carrying on a limited amount of experimental work. From May to November experiments were carried on in the Land Registry building and the Ceylon Technical College. The special thanks of the Department are due to Mr. Bartlam, Principal, Technical College, for his co-operation and the facilities provided by him for the research on cement and paper. Preliminary experiments in the manufacture of pig-iron were conducted at the workshop of Messrs. Jinasena & Co. Engineers. In November, it was possible to rent out a shed in the old Railway workshop at Maradana and Research work has since been conducted there.

The Laboratory and Workshop are at long last nearing completion. It is hoped that it may be possible to use both these buildings this year.

#### Plywood

The chest industry was a flourishing local industry up to about 1928 providing work for large numbers. Owing to negligence on the part of manufacturers of chests in the selection of timbers for manufacturing tea chests and the absence of technical assistance, the locally made chests were supplanted by overseas products. As a

result the local industry declined rapidly and is to-day almost dead.

From May last year experiments were carried on by this Department to ascertain the suitability of local timbers for the manufacture of plywood. These experiments revealed that a number of species of timber commonly found in wet zone forests was suitable for the purpose. Veneers, boards, and chests turned out have been examined and favourably commented on by the trade.

Estimates for establishing a plywood factory have been drawn up and an appropriation of Rs. 260,000 out of the Loan Funds was passed in the State Council in November. The proposal is to establish a factory capable of producing plywood for about 375,000 chests on the fringe of the Kanneliya forest in the Galle District. A March Resolution authorizing the appointment of an expert from abroad has also been passed and steps are being taken to appoint the expert early.

The industry, if established, will be worth about 6 to 8 million rupees annually to the Island. Besides the manufacture of tea and other chests, plywood is very widely used in the building trade and furniture industry and has innumerable other uses.

#### Paper

In 1937 spent citronella grass, and illuk grass were sent to the Imperial Institute for examination as to their

(Continued on Page 7)



## A WARNING TO JAFFNA PUBLIC

DON'T DEPEND ENTIRELY  
ON TOBACCO

## RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE CIGAR INDUSTRY

**A** WARNING that Jaffna should not depend entirely on an industry of the type of the tobacco industry, which after all caters to the luxury of a limited few, is uttered by a sub-committee appointed by the Youth Congress to report on the Jaffna tobacco industry.

The establishment of workers' co-operative units to manufacture cigars and the introduction of a licensing system for all manufacturers of cigars, are two of the recommendations of the sub-committee.

The following are the main recommendations of the sub-committee which were approved at a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Congress on Saturday.

The introduction of a licensing system for all manufacturers of cigars who employ workers. The license to be granted on the following conditions:—(1) Weekly settlement of wages in cash to workers; (2) sanitary conditions of factories; (3) not to smuggle for sale cigars not approved by the Marketing Society.

The devising of machinery through the registration of trade marks or otherwise to standardise the quality of cigars.

The need to cater for the change of taste by manufacturing dry cigars, cigars of mild flavour and other varieties.

Dealing with the chewing tobacco exported to Malayalam, the sub-committee stresses the manifold advantages that would accrue to the industry by the cultivators co-operating with the Jaffna-Malayalam Tobacco Sales Society.

Before concluding, the sub-committee warns the public of Jaffna not to depend entirely on an industry of the type of the tobacco industry, which after all caters to the luxury of a limited few. The economic salvation of Jaffna, it is pointed out, would depend on the people taking to new industries.

### Inter-Communal Amity

The Executive Committee of the Congress also considered a letter signed by 30 Tamils engaged in business in Colombo, inviting the President Mr. S. H. Perinpanayagam, to preside over a public meeting there to strengthen inter-communal amity. The letter was read by the Secretary, Mr. S. Mahadevan.

The Committee accepted the invitation.

In regard to the increased duty imposed on Jaffna tobacco by Travancore the Committee decided to press on the Minister of Agriculture the urgent necessity of a rebate of Rs. 65 per candy (the difference between the original and the enhanced duty) to be given to the cultivator through the Jaffna-Malayalam Tobacco Sales Society.

## Prohibition Act Working Smoothly

(Continued from page 1)

are generally confined to occasions of fairs and festivals and are neither common nor regular. The question of effectively checking the smuggling of ganja from Mysore was discussed by the Collector and the District Superintendent of Police of Salem with the Mysore officials concerned and as a result the Mysore Government have adopted certain measures with a view to exercising greater control over sales in the Mysore border shops. The effect of these measures will be watched.

In the Salem district, revenue collections have been very good despite the unfavourable season and this is attributed by local officers in part to the effect of Prohibition. A communication from the Manager of the Magnesite Syndicate, Ltd., to the Collector of Salem, also bears witness to the very real and lasting improvement which has taken place in the lives of the workers. There is every indication that their general health has improved, that they are now more robust and generally in better physical condition and that there has been a small but steady increase in their average monthly earnings.

In the Cuddappah district, the examination of the family budgets of ex-addicts has revealed the fact that the village artisans have cleared off old debts and bought articles without getting into debt over them as in the old days. Statistics of sales of foodstuff and clothing in villages and sandies show an increase.

It is reported that Prohibition continued to be beneficial in the Chittoor district also.

In the Salem district, most of the tappers are still employed in the tapping of sweet juice. Considerable progress has also been made in connection with the Land Colonisation scheme for toddy tappers. Detailed enquiries show that very few tappers are suffering from unemployment.

There is no indication that tappers are suffering from unemployment in the Chittoor and Cuddappah districts. Progress was made in the assignment of lands to extappers in Chittoor district and orders have been issued for the grant of licences to co-operative societies for drawing sweet toddy. The possibility of organising various kinds of cottage institutions was also under consideration.

The hundi-box-saving system continued in all the three districts and the collections were encouraging.

Co-operative societies for the manufacture of jaggery from sweet juice have been formed in all the districts. Sale societies have also been formed. In the Chittoor district, the Co-operative Department has organised societies for labour contract, bee-keeping, land colonisation, hand-spinning and weaving, milk-supply, metal-ware industry and toy-making and the manufacture of wooden combs.

## Hindu Board of Education

### 15th Annual Report

(Continued from our last issue)

**I**N the case of Christian schools which are worked on the quarterly payment of grant when a teacher resigns or retires his place can be filled by a teacher of higher qualification. In the case of Hindu and Buddhist schools which are under the direct monthly payment system no teacher with higher qualification could replace a teacher of low qualification. Owing to the dearth of more qualified teachers the Hindus were forced to mark time with uncertificated teachers. When these teachers retire the Hindus ought to be content with unqualified teachers due, not to any code rules, but to the Director's circular, which, though perhaps not intended to meet out differential treatment, is in effect doing so.

Teachers who have passed the London Matriculation with Tamil can be appointed as teachers to teach Tamil in Tamil Schools. In schools where there is no Tamil certificated teacher with a pass in the London Matriculation, the teacher described above can be appointed.

Weavers' societies are working satisfactorily in the Cuddappah district.

### Recreational Activities

The organisation of amusements in the villages progressed very satisfactorily in the Salem district and great interest was taken in rural games as shown by the entries in successive regional tournaments. A rural uplift summer school for teachers was held at Onaluru. Thanks to the efforts of the Revenue Department, which is in touch with the entire population of the villages directly or indirectly, very rapid progress has been made in recent months in this district in the organisation of village amusements.

In the Chittoor district, three rural uplift schools were held during the quarter. Reports indicate that the efforts of the Government towards rural uplift are bearing fruit.

One rural uplift school was held in the Cuddappah district during the quarter, in which special emphasis was laid on the industrial aspect of rural uplift work. Tape-making, mat-weaving, knitting of net bags and hand-mocks are some of the industries taught. It is reported that the products are finding a ready market. A commercial and industrial museum has been opened in the district. The number of villages which subscribe for newspapers is said to be increasing. Sports are being organised in a large number of villages.

In all the three districts, the usual indigenous and inexpensive sports and amusements and "bhajanas", "harikatha kalakshams," and village dramas, continued.

The Act continues to be viewed with increasing favour in all the districts in which it is in force and has been working smoothly. The position continues to be satisfactory and the progress in regard to ameliorative activities is encouraging.

ed on Rs. 40/- The Board appointed such a teacher to a school where this teacher could teach English and would be entitled to Rs. 40/- We brought to the notice of the Department that English was also taught by that teacher according to an approved time table. Yet he was paid on the lower scale. When we applied for payment on the higher scale, we are told that we should have specially applied for it at the time of appointment. The teacher lost the higher scale of salary for some months, till we made a formal application. In another small school a teacher with similar qualification was appointed in the middle of the school year, where English was not taught. A week after the approval of this teacher a letter reaches us from the department that this teacher is approved as entitled to draw a higher scale of salary in terms of 37 d (2). This is another instance where we are unable to understand the ways of the department.

### Transfer etc. of Teachers

The action of the department works great hardship where the approval of transfers are concerned as could be seen from the following cases.

(a) A teacher suffering from epileptic fits was unable to look after himself when his salary was Rs. 35/-, though he was teaching in a school away from his home. When his salary became Rs. 20/- as he was unable to take up higher examinations owing to the abolition of the Teachers' certificate examination, the Board wanted to transfer him to a school close to his home. The teacher who was employed in the latter school was willing to go on transfer to a distant place. The exchange was arranged by the Board. Yet the Department says the epileptic teacher cannot be transferred to a school near to his home, and that he has to provide himself with extra nursing recommended by the Doctor in that distant school within two years. The Code does not prohibit it; yet this is another instance of the fostering care which the department bestows, on an ill-paid sickly teacher with a wife and children to look after on Rs. 20/- per month. The Board feels that the Department is plaguing the teachers by this new bogey of "no transfer for two years", as could be seen from the following instances also.

(b) A Trained teacher who is also a Pandit had to be transferred to distant Delft from his own village because of a fall in the averages. Unfortunately a teacher dies, the Board is able to transfer him to a school near his village. This Pandit loses his health yet the Department will not sanction any transfer because the Board did not foresee all these circumstances before the original transfer was made, and so the 2nd transfer cannot be given effect to till two years pass. It is a pity the Board has not the power of divining the dates of the deaths of its teachers.

(c) In another instance, owing to the fall in averages a teacher had to be transferred to a distant village though the Board knew that the teacher was having a sickly wife. Unfortunately a teacher in the School situated in the teacher's village dies. The transfer to his village school is not approved by the department, because two years have not passed from the date of his transfer.

(To be Continued.)



## OUR INDIAN LETTER

## CEYLON LIKELY TO HAVE A VISITATION

### Congress Squabbles and War Clouds

(By Lanka)

Madras, 19th Aug. '39.

YOUR Sinhalese Ministers must shake in their shoes when they hear of the steps that the South Indian Liberal Federation, alias Justice party, has taken towards the repatriation of Indians from Ceylon. It has appointed a set of persons from Madras to go to Ceylon to study the question. And the Muslim section of this wonderful group wants four Muslims added to the deputation. And all this long after the repatriation has been made a *fait accompli*, thanks to the obstinacy of your Ministers. I wonder if Ceylon would give them if at all they go, half as much hearing as it did to Jawaharlal. Not that they are out to do anything, but when Congress has done the grand, could these small fry take it lying down? This is Justice party politics.

CONGRESS is going through hard times, what with internal dissensions, disciplinary action, expulsion and all the rest of that kind of procedure. Bose has had the misfortune of being the first president to be debarred from office for indiscipline soon after he laid down office. But he invited trouble, and with all the sympathy in the world for him, responsible Congressmen cannot find any excuse for his recalcitrance. For quite a long time he has been looked upon with misgiving by that section of Congress that is considered orthodox, for his opinions and views. To add to the confusion the judgment against him in the Patel Will case by which he was deprived of the benefit of using enormous funds for national propaganda according to his own plans, the rise of Jawaharlal Nehru in the estimation of Congress and country, and a few other small affairs of a personal nature all made him view himself as the oppressed party. A brilliant man such as Subhas Bose has been unnerved by these things, that is the explanation for the strange conduct he has made himself responsible for these few months.

BUT, but, but, the High Command of Congress have not come out of the ordeal blameless or scarless. A series of severities in regard to their treatment of those Congressmen that come under their scrutiny for one thing or other, have left a bad taste behind that will persevere for quite a long time. The Hitler of a Sardar Patel may be good for "war", but in normal times his influence in the sphere of ordinary work seems to be cast for trouble. It must, no doubt, be said that quite a number of people who pass for Congressmen with a grievance now have not been altogether free from blame, rather some of them have tried to use Congress for per-

sonal gain, and failing, have taken to slandering Congressmen of the higher circle. And all this when the political sky is black with impending gloom.

A piquant situation has arisen as the result of despatch of Indian troops to Singapore and Egypt. The British element argues that they are there for the safety of India, but India feels they have been sent to fight Imperialism's battle. It is not as if Congress thinks that India need not worry about her safety, but she must be consulted in the procedure, so that when the time comes her own place in the scheme of things may be clarified. One can be sure that by withdrawing from the Central Legislature Congress has prepared the way for a settlement of this vital question, and that the British are bound to decide this affair to the satisfaction of India this time. What the Bose party tried to do by a threat and an ultimatum of six months' notice Congress has done by a less spectacular method. Bose will himself applaud the result when it comes.

## TAMIL TEACHERS' PROTEST AGAINST GRADING

### Deputation to Minister

Jaffna, Sunday.

The proposed grading of teachers and the quota system were severely criticised at a special general meeting of the Northern Province Tamil Teachers Association held at the Kilmear College Hall on Saturday.

Mr. K. Muttukumaraswamy, one of the vice-presidents presided.

It was unanimously resolved to submit the name of Mr. S. Rajaratnam as the representative of the Tamil teachers on the Board of Education.

A committee consisting of Mr. Rajaratnam, the Rev. Fr. Singarayar, Messrs. P. Ragupathy, K. Muttukumaraswamy, A. Johnpillai, E. Ramalingam, and C. Seenivasagam was appointed to interview the Minister of Education in connection with the protest against the grading of teachers.

## ONE THING AND ANOTHER

(By Panangkoddai)

IF half the number of government servants in this Island are of the calibre of my opponent "Pilakkoddai", and devote as much attention to efficient work as his solicitude for their dignity, then, I am sure, the other half could be sent home without detriment to the country. "Pilakkoddai" hugs the consoling thought that those who criticise government servants are themselves disappointed in their expectations of government employ or are wanting in ability. Not so fast, my dear friend. I have experience of many government offices in and outside the Island, and I have had dealings with quite a number of them for long. My own want of ability to serve in any of those offices is beside the point. I think I made it clear that generally government service tends to make for ease and lethargy. Let my friend take the views of the average public in this matter and I can tell him he will hear that work in government offices is certainly slow and slack, what with innumerable devices for circumlocution that will definitely be discounted in offices where time and work are money. I admit there are quite a good number of efficient workers, but that does not mean that all of them are pulling their weight. Once they get into the rut of routine, efficiency, such as we, who cannot gain admission into the company of "Pilakkoddai", value, is thin as air.

The good people who are obliged to stay after office hours and dip into their files are themselves the proof of general inefficiency in government offices. I know of hundreds who carry files to bed. So much the worse. There seems to be an idea abroad that what is done in government offices need not take any account of cost, and that particular systems or routine methods are the very essence of public service. The government can, perhaps, afford to do things in that grand manner that is oblivious of all human requirements, but for whom does the government exist? No doubt government should be carried on generous lines, but why should we adopt methods that spell ruin and waste? I still make bold to say that sixty per cent of the expenditure on services by government would suffice to run the service much more efficiently than now, if a thorough overhaul was made. The Railway is a government department. Can "Pilakkoddai" state that it is efficient? He is efficient, and knows it too, but we are not concerned with one or a dozen "Pilakkoddais", but with the system that makes for waste, delay and ruin.

### Shame on us!

THE sharing or rather appropriation of honours for obtaining relief for the distress of Jaffna seems to weigh with our politicians. What a shame! Can't they snap their fingers at these trifles and get down to some real work with sleeves tucked up? We are all so solicitous about the

## PENSION RIGHTS OF OFFICERS

### CHIEF SECRETARY'S CIRCULAR

### CERTAIN DIFFICULTIES EXPERIENCED

The Chief Secretary has circularised all Government Departments that when an officer holding a pensionable post is appointed to a non-pensionable post he should not expect pension rights in his new appointment unless a definite promise has been held out to him by Government.

Difficulty, states the circular, has been experienced in dealing with certain cases in which officers holding pensionable posts have applied and have been appointed to posts that have not been given pension status.

If an officer holding a pensionable post is seconded for a period of temporary employment in a non-pensionable post, his pension rights can be conserved for such period. This is the only exception normally.

In certain cases the salaries attaching to non-pensionable posts are higher than those attaching to corresponding pensionable posts and it is thought proper that the salary of the non-pensionable post should be scaled down to the level of the corresponding pensionable post if a pensionable officer is selected for appointment with retention of pensionable status.

The salary to be paid in such cases should therefore be discussed with the Treasury before the appointment is actually made.

poor man, but what have we done for him so far that entitles us to take up his cause with honesty? May we not each select a village near our place and do some spade work for our poor villagers. A night school, a lecture a week to show them the way to a happy and contented life with our resources, exemplary action in our own ways of life, these will certainly be valuable. Some little research and study about the resources of the village will amply repay the trouble. We can thus know how much we are losing by not making use of things near at hand and crying for outlandish articles. Let the rich, if they will, go West, but at least let the poor be taught to live as Jaffnese with their own resources within their own means. The youth of the country who think they are unemployed can take to this line of work and find it not only beneficial to themselves but also helpful to the country. Shall we do it? Shall we?



## Change of Name

I Veerakathy Amirtham of Alaveddy do hereby bring to the notice of the Government of Ceylon, the general public and those who are concerned that I shall from this day forward be known and called as Veerakathypillai Sinna Thangam and shall sign my name as

V. S. THANGAM.

Alaveddy,  
21-8-39.

Mis 123. 24—31-8-39)



## Hindu Organ

THURSDAY, AUGUST 24, 1939

### MINISTER CLEARS MISUNDERSTANDINGS

WE ARE GLAD TO NOTE THAT the visit last week of the Minister for Communications and Works to the North has helped to clear certain misunderstandings among the people here about the attitude and actions of the Board of Ministers in regard to matters connected with Jaffna. There has been an impression created here rightly or wrongly that the Ministers evinced little interest in questions affecting the Tamils of the North. Whether it was justified or not, it has served as a handle for some politicians to whip up communal feelings and discontent against the present Government. But Major J. L. KOTALAWALA has revealed certain reasons as to why Jaffna's needs remain unattended to or suffer delay. The parochialism of the Northern representatives, each trying to feather one's own nest, has been the bane of our public life. It is natural for a member to do everything possible to satisfy his electorate. But it is certainly not the part of wisdom or statesmanship to pit one's claims against his neighbour's and thus run the chances of both or either ever succeeding. The battle of the causeways some years ago has deprived Jaffna of a causeway connecting the islands and the Peninsula, which was well within reach at that time. A similar controversy almost wrecked the hopes of two other causeways, but thanks to the wisdom and decision of the Board of Ministers, the Pooneryn and the Velanai-Pungudutive causeways are now well on their way to completion. What we would urge on the Board of Ministers is that whenever unanimity among Northern members over any question affecting the North is found to be impossible, the Board should take the responsibility to decide and act instead of laying it by or dropping the matter. Jaffna, we are sorry to confess, has suffered terribly by the unaccommodating spirit of its representa-

tives and the consequent neglect by the Board of Ministers. We take the opportunity to congratulate the Board of Ministers on having decided, despite the opposition of certain representatives, to open a port in the North for passenger traffic with India. We are not interested in any particular port. But the way the Board of Ministers decided to open the port of Kayts, is just the procedure we would wish to be followed where our representatives are not prepared to come to an agreement among themselves. We are further glad of the assurance that the Minister has given that all the ports in the North would be similarly opened in course of time. This assurance should silence any opposition that might be engineered to torpedo the decision of the Government.

Major Kotalawala has also told the deputation that met him of what other decisions the Board of Ministers have made in regard to problems pertaining to Jaffna. His general assurance was that the Ministry was intent upon doing all they could for the benefit of the Jaffna people. To those affected by the recent rains, he stated, the Board of Ministers have decided to give relief; an aerodrome in Jaffna is under consideration, which would give work to the unemployed here. On the question of granting relief to the tobacco industry, the Board of Ministers, he assured, were determined not to allow the Jaffna cultivators to suffer in any way and that the loss incurred by the enhanced Travancore tariff would be met by the Ceylon Government. We should be wanting in courtesy if we question the sincerity of the Board of Ministers in the decisions they have made. We only wish the Government implement these decisions without loss of time and thus establish confidence among the people here that they can expect justice from it, despite trumpets blowing to the contrary. Hard facts alone can clear the misunderstandings that have found their way into Jaffna as regards the attitude of the Board of Ministers towards Jaffna's problems.

The Minister availed himself of the opportunity of his visit to clear, in a great measure, the misunderstandings that exist between the majority community which is now in power and the minority community that now feels itself powerless to influence the Government. The Minister hoped that, as a result of what he had told the deputations, all existing misunderstandings between the Jaffna people and the Sinhalese community would be cleared. We fully share his hopes. More frequent visits of Ministers and leaders of the majority community to the North and a closer mixing

with people here will certainly help to bring the two communities together and establish better and closer relationship between them.

## The European Crisis

The tense situation in Europe has been considerably aggravated by the proposed Russo-German Non-Aggression Pact. This news coming as it does close on heels of the trade credit agreement which has been concluded between Russia and Germany, carries with it a significance that bodes ill for the peace of Europe. The agreement, as has been announced by the Soviet Official News Agency, is calculated "to relieve the tension in their political relations, to eliminate the war menace," but it will really complicate the European situation leading to unforeseen possibilities of aggression. The fact is the Axis-partners will feel secure in their new ally and consequently they will be tempted to continue their mad career of coercing and conquering smaller and weaker states. Hence the contemplated Pact is pregnant with immediate danger to the peace of Europe. That the Fuhrer to whom the Soviet had been an anathema should have felt it necessary to stifle his instinctive dislikes and ignore ideological differences in bringing about the Russo-German Pact, bespeaks his grim resolve to outmanoeuvre the Democracies in their attempts to conclude a military alliance with the Soviet. Whatever may be one's opinion on the motives of Herr Hitler in this matter, there can be no two opinions as to the unquestioned triumph of German diplomacy over that of Britain and France. The understanding between Moscow and Berlin is a sorry commentary on the weak-kneed and dilatory policy of Mr. Chamberlain and his colleagues. If they had paid heed to the stern counsels of Mr. Churchill and other British leaders, the British Government could have successfully concluded the Anglo-Franco-Soviet negotiations far in advance of the Russo-German Pact. The *volte face* of Russia is partly attributable to the shabby treatment she received in connection with the Munich Pact. There can be no doubt whatever that Britain and France mean to honour their guarantee to Poland despite what has happened in regard to Russo-German relations. The absence of a military alliance with Russia is bound to handicap the Democracies in swiftly and effectively aiding Poland in the event of German aggression. The signs are admittedly ominous. War or Peace in Europe is a question that will be decided in a few days.

## SUPPORT AGAINST REPATRIATION

### Mr. P. R. Kurup's Work in London

The London correspondent of the "Ceylon Daily News" writes:—

Mr. P. R. Kurup left London at the week-end on his return to the Island. He was received at the Colonial and India Offices, where he endeavoured to enlist support against the Ceylon Government's decision to discontinue Indian labourers, and saw a number of other people, including members of Parliament. As a result, it is likely that the Secretary of State will be closely questioned on the subject directly the House of Commons reassembles.

Mr. Kurup also gave an interview to a representative of "Reynold's News," the Labour Sunday newspaper, in which he was represented as saying that the "repatriation" order had been issued because Indian workers employed in Ceylon have sought to use the granting of adult franchise to improve their conditions. This, Mr. Kurup contended, was the background to the dispute between India and Ceylon.

### Conditions on Estates

Speaking of conditions on estates in the Island, Mr. Kurup is reported to have said that they were extremely bad.

"Trade Union organisation has been consistently opposed," he told "Reynold's." "Often families are compelled to share a single living room with a few domestic animals.

"The truck system prevails, and the labourer is obliged to buy goods from the estate. Daily wages are only 8d. for men and 6½d. for women.

"There are also in the island nearly 58,000 unassisted Indian labourers mostly employed in the urban areas

"With the adult franchise, it was clear that both these sections would use their democratic power."

"European planting interests," Mr. Kurup is reported as saying, "are working in league with Ceylon capitalists in order to reduce the estate labourers to impotence."

"Reynold's News" headed the account of the interview with Mr. P. R. Kurup with the words: "800,000 Workers Treated As Serfs."

## 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



## GRAVE DEVELOPMENTS IN EUROPE

### Non-Aggression Pact Between Germany & Russia Imminent

#### FRENCHMEN TO LEAVE GERMANY

#### Premier's Announcement Expected Today

Colombo, Tuesday.

GERMANY and Soviet Russia are to conclude a Non-Aggression Pact. Herr Joachim von Ribbentrop, the Reich Foreign Minister is expected in Moscow in a few days for negotiations to conclude the agreement.

Both Berlin and Moscow officially announce this. The official Tasi News Agency (Soviet) states that, following the conclusion of the trade credit agreement recently, an exchange of views established that both parties desire to "relieve the tension in their political relations, to eliminate the war menace and to conclude a non-aggression pact."

#### Reaction in London

The position in London yesterday night remained one of increased tension and is likely to remain serious for some time. Further military measures are known to have been taken in Germany, where requisitioning has reached a pitch that disorganises the economic life of the country and hampers supplies for the civil population. Further reservists have been called up and important concentrations of troops are reported, particularly in East Prussia and Upper Silesia.

Residents of Berlin rubbed their eyes twice when they read the announcement of the impending conclusion of a Non-Aggression Pact with the Soviet in the special editions of this morning's papers. The surprise over this sudden development in the relations between Nazi Germany, and Bolshevik Russia is undisguised. The newspapers carry the announcement in the biggest possible type but, so far, without comment.

The Negotiations have been kept an exceedingly close secret and were presumably known only to a few high officials since there was not one Wilhelmstrasse spokesman who does not profess the "greatest surprise."

The British and French Cabinets are meeting today. The British Ministry meeting has been converted into a full Cabinet meeting, while the meeting of the French Cabinet will be under the presidency of M. Daladier.

#### Frenchmen to leave Germany

Colombo, Wednesday.  
French residents were today

requested to leave Germany by the French Ambassador in Berlin. The barbed-wire defence on the coast of Malta has been electrified as part of the military precautions. All the personnel is fully prepared for any emergency.

Instructions were sent to the British and the French Ambassadors in Moscow last night to inform M. Molotov that Poland is now ready to accept Russian aid, according to the "Daily Mail's" Paris correspondent. The correspondent adds that the acceptance by Poland of Russian regiments, apart from Russian armaments, was one of the obstacles holding up the negotiations. He says that M. Molotov is to be asked to give an immediate reply.

Reuter's Moscow correspondent reports that Sir William Seeds, the British Ambassador to Russia, saw M. Molotov for an hour last evening. The purpose of the meeting is not disclosed.

Parliament will meet at 1.45 (G.M.T.) tomorrow afternoon when Mr. Chamberlain is expected to make a final statement upon the crisis and upon the Government's view of the negotiations between Germany and Russia for a non-aggression pact. It is expected that Parliament will remain in session from day to day so long as tension and anxiety exist. (Times)

#### Governor Returns to Colombo

Colombo, Wednesday.

Owing to the gravity of the international situation His Excellency the Governor returned to Queen's House from Kandy this morning.

When he left Colombo last Friday with his family he was to have stayed at King's Pavilion Kandy, until September 2, on which date he was to have proceeded to Nuwara Eliya for a stay of five days.

"The Times of Ceylon" understands that Sir Andrew Caldecott reached this decision, following the receipt of important cables from London.

#### Tobacco's Prospect Doubtful

Need for Study of Customers' Requirements

#### Decrease in Jaffna's Revenue

IN his remarks about the Jaffna tobacco trade with Travancore, Mr. R. B. Naish, Government Agent of the Northern Province, utters a note of warning to tobacco growers. He states that it is open to question whether tobacco growers are likely to retain their markets unless they are prepared to study more carefully than in the past their customers' requirements.

He also observes that Jaffna has obviously already seen the heyday of its prosperity, which it has enjoyed as a consequence of its connection with Malaya, and unless some new source of prosperity can be discovered it appears to be inevitable that the general standard of wealth will decline with the gradual disappearance of Malayan pensions.

An indication of the way that things are going, Mr. Naish points out, is afforded by the perceptible drop in real property values within the last few years.

"There is a definite movement in the Jaffna District towards the encouragement of mango cultivation and towards the growing of better varieties of mangoes," he continues; "here again, if the local cultivators of mangoes can bring themselves to study their markets, there seem to be definite possibilities of developing the mango trade. The soil and climate of the Jaffna Peninsula, at any rate in places, are said to be definitely suitable for mango cultivation."

#### Change in Public Taste

"An industry which has in the past played an important part in the economics of the Jaffna District, and which is at present in a very depressed condition, is the cigar industry.

"It seems to be very doubtful whether this industry has any future before it, owing to the change in public taste.

"While it is possible that there may be room for the production of high grade cigars in limited quantities, the indications appear to be that the lower grades of cigar will not be able to compete with cheap cigarettes."

Commenting on the fisheries of the Jaffna district, he says that the industry would probably benefit from being better organized and from the introduction of improved methods of fishing. On the other hand, in view of the fact that there is little or no capital behind this industry, it is difficult to say how improvements are to be effected unless they can be brought about through the activities of co-operative societies.

Commenting on the cattle in the district, Mr. Naish remarks that the cows are poor milkers, and that the only method of improving the stock is to produce good fodder.

Dealing with the Village Committees, Mr. Naish states that, speaking generally, they have not shown any great amount of administrative competence.

#### Village Administration

Log rolling between members whereby each one has sought to

#### WARDHA SCHEME EXPLAINED

TEACHERS' REFRESHER COURSE

#### MINISTER DECLARES OPEN

Anuradhapura, Monday.

The first Sinhalese Teacher's Refresher course to be held at Anuradhapura was declared open at 2 p. m. today by Mr. J. L. Kotalawala, Minister of Communications and Works, at the St. Joseph's College Hall.

Mr. Kotalawala, in declaring the course open said that he considered himself fortunate at being called upon to do so because that course was the first of its kind to be held in the historic town of Anuradhapura.

Mrs. Olagasegaram then spoke on "Methods of Teaching," in the course of which she gave a vivid description of the Wardha Scheme planned out by Mahatma Gandhi. She described each of the different features of the scheme, in which were embodied many of the methods advocated in the Montessori, Dalton and Project plans.

Whereas Mahatma Gandhi advocated Spinning as the most suitable craft for Indian pupils, in Ceylon it could be agriculture and the growing of produce such as coriander, onions and chillies, which could be marketed.

Criticising the present education scheme of Ceylon, Mrs. Olagasegaram said whether it was a success or not could be seen from the fact that there were 10,000 unemployed in Colombo alone, whereas most of the foodstuffs, including the staple food, rice, which were indispensable were being imported to Ceylon in large quantities.

secure some trifling advantage for his ward, he points out, has tended to result in dissipation on works of minor importance of the moneys available for expenditure.

A still more serious matter is the tendency exhibited by one or two of the Committees to allow themselves to be involved in litigation. As this tendency is liable to lead to abuses, Mr. Naish suggests that it would be desirable if taxpayers were protected by a provision of the law requiring any Village Committee which desired to institute or defend a civil suit to obtain the prior sanction of the Minister of Local Administration.

#### Decrease in Revenue

The revenue collected during the year amounted to Rs. 2,699,702, which was Rs. 186,823 less than the previous year's figure.

The decrease was chiefly due to shrinkage of receipts from duties. This is attributed to a falling off in the imports of sugar, cement and beedy tobacco, and in the receipts from export duties mainly to a falling off in the exports of chanks. The revenue from port and harbour dues, that is, port dues recovered from ships and warehouse rent recovered on imported goods, was affected adversely by a falling off in the number of ships arriving coastwise, which was in turn due to competition by the Ceylon Government Railway and to the decrease in imports referred to above.

The expenditure totalled Rs. 1,706,384, Rs. 86,026 more than in the previous year.



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## North Ceylon Tamil Teachers' Association Special Meeting

Sir,—As President of the above Association, I would like to issue the following statement to the public in respect of the special meeting held at Kilner College, Vannarponnai, on Saturday, the 19th instant

This meeting was unconstitutional in as much as (a) All members of the association were not notified. (b) Those who were notified did not receive the notice in time. (c) The President was not consulted with regard to time, place and agenda. (d) The second item on the agenda namely the election of a representative to the new Board of Education was unauthorized.

(a) *Notice to the members:* I have received several complaints from teachers that they did not receive any notice of the above meeting with the result that many of them were unable to attend the meeting. I met only this morning the branch secretary of the Valikamam North Teachers' Association, who informed me that he was unable to send the notices to more than five schools although there are in that division nearly 80 schools. I suspect that the same is true more or less of other areas too, perhaps with the exception of Hindu Board Schools. Nor was there any notification of this meeting in any of the papers. The result of all this was that the meeting was a packed one composed of Hindu Board teachers, partisans of Mr. S. Rajaratnam, ex-manager, canvassed in by Mr P. Ragupathy, head teacher of a Hindu Board Bilingual school. Amongst the many teachers who were present at this meeting I understand that there were only two Catholic teachers and a handful of Protestants. It was no wonder that Mr. Ragupathy was able to dictate and get Mr. S. Rajaratnam, the present organizing Secretary of the Hindu Board, elected to represent the Tamil teachers, though he himself is neither a teacher nor a member of the association.

(b) *Insufficient time:* The general procedure is for the general secretary to send out his notices to the branch secretaries who in their turn get them delivered to the members of the association. This involves considerable delay. Therefore the general secretary to make it convenient for the members to attend a special meeting should have issued the notices much earlier than he actually did.

(c) *The President not consulted:* I as Principal of the Hindu Board Training School had on the day in question an important engagement, namely, the selection of candidates for admission fixed long before arrangements were made for the special meeting. If I had been consulted before the date was chosen, this clash of dates would not have occurred. I treat this manoeuvre as a deliberate attempt by interested parties to keep me out of the meeting.

(d) *Election of a Representative:* A meeting of the executive committee of this association held a few days prior to the special meeting voted to convene a special meeting of the association to protest against the new amendments to the

Code. The secretary was asked at this meeting to ascertain from the Minister of Education if the association could nominate members to the new Board of Education. Before the committee had time to consider the Minister's reply, the inclusion in the agenda of the item for electing a Representative to the new Board of Education without a reference even to the President is unconstitutional.

In these circumstances the whole meeting and specially the election of Mr. S. Rajaratnam and in the alternative Mr P. Ragupathy to represent the Association on the Board of Education is invalid.

S. Swaminathan,  
President,  
N.C.T.T.A.

Myliddi, Kankesanturai,  
21st August, 1939.

## The Maviddapuram Car Festival and Pilgrims

Sir,—The Car festival at Maviddapuram Kandaswamy Temple took place last Sunday. A large number of pilgrims waited at the Jaffna Railway Station for the train from 1 p.m. to 4-30 p.m. No evening special train was arranged for the convenience of pilgrims. The train which was due at 3 55 p.m. at Jaffna Station arrived at 4-30 p.m. The train was overcrowded to such an extent that most of the women and children were crushed and had to be satisfied with standing accommodation. Due to the late arrival of the train the pilgrims were disappointed to find on arrival that the festival was over. Most of the pilgrims including women and children wanted to return home by the Colombo train. There was a railway notification to the effect that the train would halt at Maviddapuram a 6-10 p.m. to carry passengers on their return journey. In previous years the Colombo train halted there for the convenience of the pilgrims. This time the train did not halt at Maviddapuram contrary to the terms of the notification and the pilgrims were put to untold hardships. Most of them had no money to buy food even for their small children and were stranded there. The officers on the spot were unable to explain why the scheduled train failed to stop there, and the pilgrims went away sighing and some women and children weeping. Some of them blamed Mr. Natesan, member for Kankesanturai, some blamed the Minister of Communications and some blamed the General Manager. Will the authorities explain why the train did not stop as usual at Maviddapuram in the face of a railway notification and in view of the fact that there was no other train following that, it being a Sunday? Next time the pilgrims will not care to travel by train.

Since the introduction of excursion tickets for this festival, train travel had become increasingly popular, with the result that most pilgrims on this route preferred travelling by train rather than by bus.

But, the inconvenience caused to pilgrims this year by the cancella-

## The New Professor for Jaffna College

The Board of Trustees of Jaffna College have appointed Mr. R. Stuart Wright B.Ph., M.A., Professor at Jaffna College. His papers have been approved by the Prudential Committee of the American Board for Foreign Missions and he is given status as an Associate Missionary of the Board.

Mr. Wright is a Congregationalist, a member of the First Church of Burlington, Vermont. He obtained his M. A. at the Columbia University and a teaching certificate from New York State. He is also a B.Ph. of the Vermont University. He was an effective President of the Student Y.M.C.A. at the University of Vermont, and, in preparation for this work, took summer courses at Union Theological Seminary.

Mr. Wright is something of a musician and has shown deep interest in the life of his students. He has had two years of successful teaching experience at St. Lawrence University where John W. Bicknell (Jr.) is teaching, and, therefore, come to this position with more preparation than most term-workers have to their score.

He is expected to reach Ceylon by S. S. Ormonde of the Orient Line, due in Colombo on September 2nd. He will remain in Colombo and speak at the Annual Tea by the Principal and Mrs. Bunker to the Jaffna College Old Boys' Association (Colombo Branch), to be held at the Central Y.M.C.A., Colombo, on Monday the 4th September 1939. He leaves for Jaffna the same night accompanied by the Principal.

(Cor.)

tion of the above-mentioned train on such an important (Car) festival day without giving prior notice, amounted to callous disregard of the comforts of passengers, who were unable to make use of the return half of their tickets on that day, and did not have the means to pay the bus-fare.

I hope the G. M. R. will be pleased to see that better arrangements are made in the future for the convenience of pilgrims.

Yours faithfully,

15-8-39

R. SUBRAMANIAM.

## Kankesanturai Deputation

Sir,—In your report of the interview of the above Deputation with Major Kotalawala, Mr. S. Swaminathan is reported to have pointed out that representatives from all parts of Jaffna district were in the Deputation.

One fails to understand whether this deputation was appointed by an all Jaffna public meeting. From the members who composed the deputation, it is evident that it was not representative of all Districts of Jaffna except those intimately connected with Kankesanturai District, Jaffna.

Yours etc.  
"Truth"

Jaffna,  
24-8-39.

## MINISTER VISITS KAYTS

### Expediting Velanai-Pungudutivu Causeway

Major J. L. Kotalawela, Minister of Communications and Works, accompanied by Mr. S. Thuraiappah, Provincial Engineer, motored to Kayts on Saturday and was received at the ferry by Mr. S. Somasunderam, Maniagar, Islands Division.

The Minister discussed with the Maniagar the feasibility of opening Kayts port to passenger traffic and seems to be favourably impressed by the possibilities.

He visited the Velanai-Pungudutivu Causeway and expressed the wish that the work would be expedited. He also inspected the Vallukai Aru bridge, which is now nearing completion and the Kayts ferry service.

## Hindu Board of Education

The Veeramakali Amman Vidyasalai under the management of the Hindu Board of Education has been provisionally registered for grant from 1st September 1939.

## Order Nisi

IN THE DISTRICT COURT  
OF JAFFNA

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 702.  
In the matter of the intestate estate and effects of the late Gertrude Annammak wife of Bryant Seevaratnam Aiyathurai of Changanai

Deceased

Bryant Seevaratnam Aiyathurai of Changanai

Vs. Petitioner.

1. Joseph Sabaratnam Bryant Aiyathurai
2. James Aputharatnam Bryant Aiyathurai
3. Gladies Selvarany daughter of Bryant Aiyathurai all of Changanai
4. Elizabeth Annappillai widow of S. E. Sabapathipillai of Vannarponnai East Respondents.

This matter coming on for disposal before C. Coomaraswamy Esquire District Judge, Jaffna on the 10th day of February 1939 in the presence of Messrs Aiyathurai and Thambirajah Proctors on the part of the Petitioner and the petition and affidavit of the Petitioner having been read.

It is ordered that the 4th respondent be and she is hereby appointed Guardian-ad-litem over the minors the 1st, 2nd and 3rd respondents to represent them in the Testamentary proceedings, that the petitioner be and he is hereby declared entitled to take out Letters of Administration to the Estate of the deceased as husband of the deceased and that Letters of Administration be issued to him accordingly unless the respondents or any other person shall on or before the 22nd day of March 1939 appear and show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

Sgd. C. Coomaraswamy,

July 19, 1939. District Judge.  
Time to show cause is extended till 28th August 1939.

Intd. C. C.

D. I.

(O 39. 24 & 28-8-39)



## Possibility Of Starting New Industries

(Continued from page 1)

suitability as a source of pulp paper manufacture. The Imperial Institute reports received in May, 1937, revealed that illuk was suitable for the purpose. It was, however, not possible to follow this up owing to the lack of expert staff and facilities for experimenting. From May, 1939 this Department carried on experiments on mana grass as well as illuk. The Principal of the Ceylon Technical College very kindly consented to give this Department temporary accommodation to carry on the experiments. These experiments proved that illuk and mana grasses are a suitable source of pulp for paper. A quantity of pulp was turned out, the reports on which have been very favourable. Proposals are being submitted for the establishment of this industry with due expert advice.

Mr. Menon's experiments in the manufacture of paper from coir fibre, which are being sponsored by the Ceylon Coconut Board and the Coconut Research Scheme are being watched with interest.

### Cement

As stated in my Administration Report for 1936, in November, 1935 Mr. A. H. Nathanielsz, a retired Provincial Engineer, was appointed temporarily to investigate the suitability of limestone and other raw materials available in various parts of the Island, for cement manufacture. His survey ended in April, 1936, and he submitted a report on his findings. His work formed a very valuable foundation for further investigation.

The question of cement manufacture was revived in May, 1938, when the Department began fresh investigations on the matter. As it was revealed that the manufacture of cement in Jaffna, Kankasanturai, or other places distant from Colombo—the main market—was uneconomic owing to cost of transport, experiments were conducted to ascertain the possibility of utilizing clay and other deposits round about Colombo for cement manufacture. Dredging operations in the Beira Lake were conducted on our behalf by the Colombo Port Commission Department and the clay deposits analyzed both by the Department and by the Imperial Institute, London. Surveys of limestone deposits within striking distance of Colombo too were made. A large number of clays have been analyzed by the Department and suitable clay deposits located. Extensive deposits of good limestones have been traced by the Department bordering the Puttalam lagoon in sufficient quantities to manufacture the Island's demand for many years. These deposits connect up with the Jaffna limestone deposits and belong to the same geological formation. It is hoped that an economic unit can be established shortly for the demand of the southern half of

Ceylon. A unit at Jaffna could more economically supply the requirements of the Northern, Eastern, and North-Central Provinces.

Various concerns—both British and Indian—have from time to time approached this Government for certain concessions such as the increase of duty on imported cement, waiver of duty on machinery required for starting the industry, reduction in the rail freight for manufactured cement from Jaffna to Colombo, &c., in order to set up the industry in Ceylon. These proposals were carefully considered but invariably fell through owing to the fact that they were uneconomic, i.e., the concessions asked for were not commensurate with the benefits that would accrue to the Island if the industry was established. Negotiations are still proceeding.

### Iron Ore

Experiments in the extraction of pig iron from local ore were conducted during the year under review. The experiments have given good results and the ore is easily reduced. Suitable deposits of iron ore have been traced with the aid of the Government Mineralogist. With present prices of pig iron over Rs. 100 a ton, the industry can definitely be established on an economic basis. A body of Ceylonese capitalists is interested in starting a company for manufacture of pig iron, cast iron products, a mild steel for which there is a good demand in the Island. Estimates for a factory are being obtained.

### Rubber Goods

Research work in this direction was done by the Rubber Research Scheme. Besides the evolution of a rubber flooring tile to suit local climatic conditions, the Rubber Research Scheme investigated the feasibility of manufacturing tyres and tubes and moulded rubber goods such as rickshaw tyres, soles and heels for shoes, rubber sheeting, tubing, &c., from uncouped rubber. Results of investigations have proved satisfactory and estimates for establishing rubber factory for the manufacture of these articles have been framed in conjunction with the Rubber Research Scheme. An application for an appropriation out of the loan funds for establishing the industry will be made shortly.

The Rubber Research Scheme also trained a local man in Rubber Technology from January to June, 1938, and he has since started manufacturing rubberized goods, such as raincoats, substitutes for canvas and oil cloth, &c., and latex adhesives. This Department is doing everything possible to help him in developing his industry and marketing his products.

### Palmyra Products

The question of extending the economic exploitation of the Palmyra palm was investigated. Various articles of food, presently turned out were tested with a view to removing whatever defects there were. Owing to the absence of a Laboratory it was not possible for the Department itself to undertake these tests. No definite results can be reported, but the matter will be looked into further as soon as the Laboratory

of the Department is ready. Experiments have also been carried out by the Textile Demonstrator at Jaffna in making toys and other small articles of everyday use from palmyra seed and fibre. Attractive articles which found a market in Colombo were turned out and learners at the centre are being taught how to make them. Bags made out of palmyra leaves were also tested for packing cement with good results. When a cement industry is established in the Island it will be possible to use these bags for packing the cement.

### Glass

The Trade Commissioner for India was also able to interest a firm in India regarding manufacture of glass and glassware from Ceylon sands. Various samples were produced from here and despatched to him. The firm has experimented on the sand and samples of products have been received here at the time of writing. The sands contain a certain amount of colouring matter and experiments have been conducted to refine the sands. Samples so refined have been sent for report. The deposits are extensive and the establishment of a glass factory is under consideration.

## STOP IMMIGRATION OF UNSKILLED LABOUR

### "Social Reformer's" View

The "Indian Social Reformer" has the following editorial Note:

The Working Committee of Indian National Congress at its meeting at Wardha endorsed the action of the Government of India in banning the emigration of unskilled labourers to Ceylon, while expressing gratification at the good understanding created as a consequence of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's visit to that country. The Ceylonese should appreciate the action of the Government of India and the attitude of the Congress Working Committee as it is in line with their professed desire to be self-sufficient in the matter of employment. We say "professed" because a young

Ceylonese who is studying in one of the Bombay Colleges, when asked if the plantations would suffer from the ban, at once replied, "No, we shall import Chinese labour." It will be unfair to take the opinion of this young man as representing the general opinion among responsible leaders in Ceylon. They surely know that to substitute Chinese for Indian labour would be no benefit to their people. But it is significant as showing that in one at least of Ceylon's youth who will no doubt play a part in his country's affairs, the idea of his own people taking up the plantation work when Indians cease to be recruited, did not occur as an immediate or natural probability. Most of the problems relating to Indians overseas, certainly the most vexatious of them, are due to the emigration of unskilled labour from India. It is also responsible for the low opinion formed of Indian culture and civilization in foreign countries. The word "coolie" has passed into many languages as an opprobrious epithet. India should therefore stop sending out unskilled labour any longer. The only country of importance to which it will go, when the ban in respect of Ceylon becomes fully operative, is Malaya. Indians in Malaya are never sure of their employment and constitute a source of permanent anxiety to the mother country. They are likely to be packed back to India when conditions are depressed in Malaya when they are also likely to be depressed in this country. With the large industrial developments in contemplation in Madras and the South Indian States from which unskilled labour mostly emigrates, it will be necessary to retain all the labour supply in the country itself, so that by prohibiting its emigration we are not only helping Ceylon and Malaya to rely on their own labour force but are appreciably diminishing our responsibility for our people abroad.

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