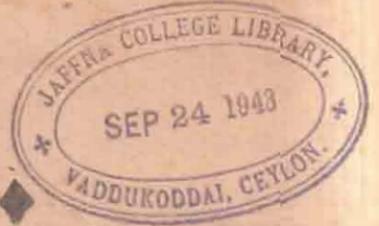


# THE Hindu Organ.



The Only Newspaper in Ceylon for the Hindus

Editor:  
A. V. Kulasingham, Advocate.

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## NEWS FROM FAR AND NEAR

### U. S. Navy "Most Powerful In World"

The United States have built 333 new warships in the past three years. A report issued by the Navy Department says that these ships total 1,117,054 tons. During this period—since July 1st, 1940—one of the world's largest fleets has been built.

### Destitution In Bengal

Grim pictures of destitution in Bengal were painted in the Provincial Assembly by unofficial speakers in the debate on the food situation in the province. They said that children and infants were being sold in the Barisal district, known in happier times as the "granary of Bengal".

### Pope Virtually A Prisoner

The Pope is virtually a prisoner isolated from the rest of Rome by German troops who prevent anyone entering or leaving the Vatican City. Other Nazi soldiers patrol the streets of Papal domain and man guns in St. Peter's Square. The Pope has twice refused to see General Kesselring, insisting that German troops must evacuate Rome before he holds any discussion with them.

### Japs Expect Early Allied Offensive

The German news agency quotes the Tokyo newspaper "Asahi Shimbun" as saying that the Japanese expect an early Allied offensive against Burma from India. "There is every indication that the enemy is making his preparations for such an offensive," adds the newspaper. "In the coastal areas northeast of the Gulf of Bengal, there has been increasing reconnaissance activity by enemy warships." The agency adds that the rainy season in Burma is expected to be over towards the end of September, or about a month earlier than usual.

### Revolutionising Life Of Young Britons

An 18-point plan that would revolutionise the life of young people in Britain after the war, is published as a White Paper. It recommends that boys and girls shall stay at school until 16, two years longer than at present and then go on to "day continuation schools" until 18. Their parents would be given financial help to make this possible. All under 18 would have a 24-hour working week which would include attendance at part-time schools and they will be given a minimum yearly holiday of four weeks with pay. The paper is drawn up by the Youth Council representing all types of schools, colleges and youth services in the country.

## LABOUR CONDITIONS IN CEYLON

### REPORT BY MAJOR G. St. J. ORDE BROWNE

"Considering now the probable future developments of the existing situation, the increasing stabilisation of the former migrant labour force is undeniable, and it appears unlikely that there will be any further large ingress of newcomers from India. Indeed, the tendency will probably be for a proportion of the Tamil labourers now in Ceylon to return to India, their places being taken by Ceylonese workers. Established custom may influence employers against this tendency, but the logic of utilizing a labour force near at hand, rather than one imported from a distance, is so obvious that it would seem certain to prevail."

Thus observes Major G. St. J. Orde Browne, C. M. G., O. B. E., in his report on Labour Conditions in Ceylon.

#### The Present Position

Speaking of the present position of labour in Ceylon he reports:

There are now two elements in the Ceylon labour market; firstly, the indigenous labourer, still essentially a cultivator or peasant proprietor; secondly, a migrant labour force, which is increasingly tending to become stabilised and resident.

The characteristics of these two elements are those which will be found in any country where similar conditions exist. The villager is independent in his outlook and discriminating in the type of work and the conditions which he is prepared to accept; furthermore, the proximity of his home maintains his strong interest outside the plantation. He is thus less regular and reliable in coming to work, while his anxiety about his own crops often makes him withdraw his labour at the very season when it is most wanted by his employer. The alternative of life in the village community renders him partially independent of wage earning and not entirely subject to the economic pressure which might force him to accept any type of work. This independence, however, is being threatened by various influences. A rapid increase in population leads to growing competition for available employment; a rise in the standard of living demands the earning of more money; and the comparatively limited area of first class agricultural land intensifies the difficulty of an increasing village population making a living from it—an effect enhanced by the falling market price of most of the products on which the peasant proprietor relies. There is, in consequence, less reluctance to seek employment of a type formerly regarded with distaste, and Sinhalese

politicians show a tendency to regard with some jealousy the large amount of employment absorbed by Indian workers.

The immigrant labourer has, again, the characteristics of his type. Separated from his home by a considerable distance, he has no distracting interest near at hand and is therefore more closely identified with the plantation on which he resides. He is consequently far more regular in attendance at work and can be relied upon during the busy season; he has fewer distractions in the form of celebrations of family observances, and is generally more amenable. Furthermore, he has come to Ceylon with the definite intention of earning wages over a considerable period and is reluctant to return home before he has acquired what is, to him, a satisfactory sum of money. His home conditions are more arduous and exacting than those of the Ceylon villager, and he is therefore accustomed to harder and more continuous work; in addition he will face climatic conditions which the Sinhalese labourer finds unpleasant, if not disabling.

Apart from these characteristics, there is a wide difference in the status of the two types; the indigenous worker is largely independent of his employer; if he is the true type of village labourer, coming to work each day from his home nearby, he will require no accommodation on the estate, his family will receive medical attention from some Government institution, and his children will be educated at the local school. He involves no expense for travelling on repatriation and presents no problem of occupation outside his working hours. By contrast the migrant worker entails a far heavier burden on his employer. He must be housed, his food supplies at reasonable rates must be secured, the various wants of his family must be catered for, his travelling must be financed, and his perpetual presence in large numbers on the property constitutes a small administrative problem. The employment of immigrant labour thus constitutes a heavy charge on the estate and greatly increases the overhead cost of management.

This analysis of the characteristics of the two classes will reveal their essential differences; the fact that one class happens to be Sinhalese while the other is Tamil is an accident which in no way affects the economic position involved.

The foregoing description perhaps suggests too definite a distinction between the two classes of workers,

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE

### PROPOSAL APPROVED BY MINISTRY

The Executive Committee of Local Administration has agreed to the formation of a unified service for local Government employees.

The memorandum submitted by the Commissioner of Local Government was approved with a few amendments, the chief of which is in relation to the composition of the Local Government Services Commission. The Committee agreed that it should be composed of three members. The Commissioner of Local Government will be chairman and the other two members to be selected from the public.

## FAREWELL DINNER TO RETIRING JUDGE

"One of those Judges who might well have graced the Supreme Court bench" was the tribute paid by Mr. A. V. Kulasingham in proposing the toast of Mr. G. C. Thambyah, the retiring District Judge of Jaffna, at a Farewell Dinner given in the latter's honour at the Town Hall, Jaffna, by the members of the Jaffna Bar.

Mr. Kulasingham presided. Covers were laid for 75. After the loyal toasts Mr. Kulasingham in proposing the toast of the chief guest said that Mr. Thambyah was undoubtedly one of the greatest advocates Jaffna had produced. After paying a tribute to Mr. Thambyah's deep discerning knowledge of the law the speaker made the observation quoted above.

Mr. Thambyah replied. The toast of the guests which was proposed by Mr. S. Nadarajah was responded to by Mr. V. Manikavasagar, the Jaffna Magistrate.

Mr. S. N. Rajadurai, advocate, proposed the toast of the chairman.

owing to the fact that the situation is being presented from the point of view of the plantations, There is however a large immigrant population employed in the towns and elsewhere; these consist chiefly of various classes of skilled workers, shopkeepers, clerks, and other men of some education. In addition, there is a large labour force employed on the waterfront, in warehouses, and various forms of manual labour, where a marked degree of training, if not skill, is required. Lastly, there are certain jobs, such as conservancy work, which were in the past almost entirely undertaken by Tamil labour. The number of Indians thus employed, otherwise than on the plantations, is estimated at 160,000. The majority of this class have come from India direct to the work that they are doing, but there is also some infiltration from



## Hindu Organ.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 1943.

### LABOUR IN CEYLON

MAJOR G. ST. J. ORDE Browne, C. M. G., O. B. E., whose report on labour conditions in Ceylon has been published as a Sessional Paper, has, it should be admitted, taken great pains to make a comprehensive study of labour conditions here. The report speaks mainly of conditions that existed just prior to the spread of the War to the Far East. He expresses, on the whole, general satisfaction with the conditions that obtained here, and points out certain drawbacks in housing conditions and other details which need improvement.

The report covers a vast field of subjects relating to labour and we shall touch here on one or two aspects that concern us at present. It discusses, pertinently enough the characteristics of the two different elements in the Ceylon labour market: the indigenous labour and the immigrant labour. The difference in characteristics between the two is lucidly and faithfully brought out, and the advantages of employing either of them have been correctly appreciated. The immigrant labourer, who has come here solely to make money, is considered more efficient and reliable than the local labourer who is "still essentially a cultivator or peasant proprietor." It is this distinguishing feature and the slowness of the Ceylonese labourer to seek employment outside his village that have necessitated the employment, in increasing strength, of immigrant labour. But a stage was reached in the recent past when Ceylonese politicians feared that Indians were ousting indigenous labour and gravely threatening to alter the very political complexion of the Island. The upshot of this fear complex was a change in the policy of immigration, a change that has brought untold hardships to this island at the present moment.

The report takes no cognizance of the present situation but speaks of conditions that existed before the war. It states: "The growth of the population and a menacing unemployment problem has led to an increasing discrimination between the immigrant and resident labourer. The Ceylon Government, in an effort to protect the interests of its own people, has introduced a preferential policy, requiring the employment of a definite per-

centage of Ceylonese in the various Government undertakings, and this has already had an appreciable effect". The appreciable effect, unfortunately owing to unforeseen circumstances, has been rather unpleasant. The reaction in India to this policy has been much to the disadvantage of Ceylon. The unemployment problem of which the report speaks does not exist at present; on the contrary there is now an insistent demand on all sides for labour both skilled and unskilled. Ceylon is helpless in the matter and her appeals to New Delhi have had no response. The much-feared and easily-had Indian labour has been banned from entering Ceylon's shores. The preferential policy has no doubt helped a few Ceylonese to get employment, but it has largely proved detrimental to the economic well-being of the Island as a whole. There is now a serious dearth of labour to man a most essential service like food production. If the Major were here now he would have a different tale to tell of the labour position. If Ceylon aspires to become self-sufficient, it should follow a more acceptable labour policy and come to some workable understanding with India on this question. We can never have a surfeit of labour for many years to come for the development of the rich yet untapped resources of the Island. The Major's report, if read at the present moment, will leave a wrong impression of conditions obtaining in the country now. It would, however, make profitable reading after the war.

### CHIPS FOR OUR CONSTITUTIONAL WORKSHOP

By R. C. P.

[Special to the "Hindu Organ"]

#### IV

Constitution-framing for the governance of our Island should be a matter of public interest. It cannot be the business of a self-appointed clique.

The Imperial Government has reserved certain subjects to remain exclusively under its own control, and our local government has assented to the reservations. It has also signified its acquiescence to exclusion from economic freedom. The residual subjects which we are permitted to manage cannot be of much concern to Westminster. The chief business of our State Council will be finding ways and means to raise the monies by taxation to pay the public services, expenditure on the reserved subjects and on its own expensive needs. The after-war needs should be heavy and taxation should correspondingly increase. Some experts have said that taxation limits in Ceylon had already been reached. The position, therefore, in all conscience is serious, and unless a large measure of freedom of discussion is allowed and unanimity of opinion on questions involving mixed interests is secured in the framing of the new constitution,

the result should prove disastrous.

There is no need to be in a hurry with the constitution-framing. A consummation devoutly to be wished is agreement between the minorities and the majorities. The minorities are quite willing to co-operate with the majority community in the spirit of compromise and amity. Should the latter, however, prove unyielding with respect to the former's fundamental rights and obdurate against conceding equality of opportunities, then the next step will be to invite the "other side" to intervene. Who else can do the job better than a super-national, like the British, sworn to do justice? It should not be forgotten that the minorities have a claim on the British to intervene to restore the rights which the minorities were deprived only 11 years ago. There is no ground whatsoever to fear that Westminster would treat us aught but fair. There is no analogy between national leaders of India and those of Ceylon.

A knowledge of the form and system of government we had before they were suppressed by the European invaders should be a requisite equipment for rendering material assistance in the framing of our new Constitution. It is a sad commentary, however, on the system of our education that such knowledge is rare in the present generation in spite of the fact that books on polity, politics, ethics, sociology, secular welfare &c. in graduated series by ancient authors are available.

The question is often asked "Had we a Constitution? if so, what was it like?"

There is no question but that we had a Constitution. It was unwritten like that which Britain has and of which she is proud. It was flexible and capable of juristic development. It was self-adjusting according to needs, circumstances, and environments. The constituents of the Constitution were derived from our science of ethics, (the faith that politics was a branch of ethics was never allowed to be dimmed) our laws (*Dharma Sastras* and *Niti Sastras*) Sociology, Science of secular welfare (*Artha Sastra*) itihāsas and purānas (legendary literature).

The minutest cell in the body-politic was the family (not the individual) which was in itself a miniature state, its various members functioning like state officials and servants for subjects.

The village was the smallest territorial unit which was either unitary or composite. The composite village had for inhabitants industrialists and artisans of various trades. It was early recognised that each trade imparted a subtle yet forceful influence on the individual moulding appropriate temperament and character in him. The *ethos* so gained characterised the family. Social rank and precedence came to be assigned to the various trades on the ethical significance or the sanitary implications of the respective trades. The inhabitants depended on each other for mutual protection, service and support. The economic balance was maintained in the village which managed its own affairs of irrigation, sanitation, watch and ward etc. The villages were grouped on the ethnic, cultural and economically self-sufficiency basis. There were village councils, district councils and pro-

vincial councils. The democracy in the village was of the unqualified type. Every adult inhabitant was entitled to take part in the proceedings of the Village Council. There was no majority or minority party. A measure lay in abeyance till it secured unanimity to get through.

Representation on the District Councils was by deputies sent from Village Councils.

Besides these Councils, there were guild associations which the King or Viceroy were bound to consult. There were inter-vocational associations embracing inhabitants of wide areas.

The ancient government of ours was Civic in nature. It had no standing army worthy of the name. The democracy practised by our forbears was exactly of the kind which the idealism of Lord Aberdare pictures in his essay in *The Fortnightly* of January 1943 thus: "The whole art of democracy consists in the integration of varieties without loss of efficiency to the whole. The joy of democracy surely lies in the fact that the members of a democratic society can live in their own congeniality groups and yet form an integrated whole. At all costs we must avoid uniformity of pattern. Uniformity and lack of variety are two of the causes of much of our frustration we experience ... Domination is a sin against democracy and our aim must be unity without uniformity."

### JAFFNA COUNCIL MEETING ABANDONED AGAIN

#### NO QUORUM

A special meeting of the Jaffna Urban Council was convened to be held on Tuesday evening at 5 p.m. to consider the situation created by the award of the District Judge in the two Trade dispute cases between the Employees of the Electricity Department and the Council and other items left over from the last meeting of the Council.

The Chairman, Mr. K. Aiyadurai, Messrs. R. B. Nalliah, R. Sivagurunathan and Chevalier S. Arulanatham were present. All the other members were absent. The meeting was abandoned for want of quorum.

Messrs. C. Ponnamobalam, S. M. Abcobucker and V. S. Ramasathan sent a letter to the Chairman explaining their reasons for the absence.

#### FOR SALE

A buggy cart and bull for sale.

Apply to:

Edwin R. Joseph,  
Auctioneer,  
Chandikul.

(Mis. 126, 23-9-43)

#### NOTICE

Tenders will be received by the Govt. Agent, N. P., up to 12 noon on Thursday 30th September, 1943, for the service of transporting salt from the collection areas in and about the neighbourhood of Mailpaddaru in the D. R. O's division of Punakari-Thunakkai for storage at Chivatheru salt storage platform.

Tenders should be made on forms obtainable from the G. A., N. P., from whom all particulars on the subject can be obtained. A tender deposit of Rs. 10-00 should be made before applying for a tender form.

C. CANAPATHIPILLAI,  
for G. A. N. P.

The Kachchuri, 20-9-1943.

Jaffna.  
(Mis. 125, 23-9-43)

**Letter to the Editor**

**URBAN COUNCIL, JAFFNA**

Sir,—It pained me to learn that some of the Urban Councillors walked out when a meeting of the Council was being held early this month. This habit is being frequently indulged in by a type of Councillors all over the Island to whom the responsibility of representation seems to carry no weight. That is probably their concept of democracy but let me remind those of what His Excellency the Governor Sir Andrew Caldecott said in December last at a meeting of the Y.M.C.A. in Colombo that representatives elected or nominated who prevented the functioning of a Corporation by walks-out or stay-aways were "traitors to democracy" and "enemies to the development of self-governing institutions." They deserved and His Excellency hoped they would always receive public contempt.

Their behaviour would seem to demonstrate that democracy is synonymous with bad manners and ignorance. The "Times of Ceylon" in its editorial note of September 15 writes:—The Jaffna Council has betrayed the electorate, indulged in petty, acrimonious squabbles and disgraced local government in Ceylon."

P. Q. CHRISTIAN.

Jaffna, 17-9-43.

**ORDER NISI**

**IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA**

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 154.

In the matter of the Last Will and Testament of the late Vallipuram Thambu of Nallore. Deceased. Valliammai widow of Vallipuram Thambu of Nallore. Petitioner.

Vs.

1. Thillaiammah daughter of Thambu
2. Thambu Ramalingam
3. Thambu Kandasamy
4. Kanagapooaniammah daughter of Thambu Thanganachohiyar daughter of Ponnudurai and
6. Vallipuram Chellappah all of Nallore. Respondents.

This matter coming on for disposal before G. C. Thambyah Esquire, District Judge, Jaffna on the 19th day of August 1943 in the presence of Mr. R. R. Nalliah, Proctor on the part of the Petitioner and on reading the affidavit and petition of the Petitioner,

It is ordered that the abovenamed 6th Respondent be appointed guardian-ad-litem over the minors the abovenamed 1st to 5th Respondents for the purpose of representing them and to act on their behalf in this action and the 5th Respondent to be produced in Court and that the said will be declared proved and that the Probate be issued to the Petitioner as she is the executrix named in the Last Will unless the abovenamed Respon-

**ORDER NISI IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA**

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 25 In the matter of the estate of the late Ratnesa Aiyer Paramasamy Aiyer of Kondavil Deceased. Paramasamy Aiyer Somasundarakurukkal Nadarajah Aiyer of Kondavil Petitioner.

Vs.

1. Somasundarakurukkal Subramania Aiyer
2. Somasundarakurukkal Thiagarajah Aiyer
3. Ledchumiammah widow of Somasundarakurukkal of Kondavil Respondents.

This matter coming on for disposal before G. C. Thambyah Esquire District Judge Jaffna on the 27th day of August 1943 in the presence of Mr. T. Kumaraswamy Proctor on the part of the petitioner and on reading the affidavit and petition of the petitioner.

It is ordered that the abovenamed 3rd respondent be appointed guardian-ad-litem over the minors the abovenamed 1st and 2nd respondents for the purpose of representing them in the further proceedings in this case and that the petitioner be declared entitled to Letters of Administration de bonis non to the estate of the abovenamed deceased unless the respondents abovenamed shall on or before the 3rd day of September 1943 appear before this court and show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this court to the contrary.

This 31st day of August 1943.

Sgd. G. C. Thambyah, District Judge.

Extended for 24-9-43.

Sgd. G. C. Thambyah, D. J.

(O. 41, 20 & 23-9-43)

**DENTAL SURGERY, JAFFNA**

Mr. S. Chas. Pathirana, Licensed Dentist and Optician will be at the Dental Surgery, 43, Main Street, Jaffna, from the 3rd to the 15th of every month.

**KURUNEGALA BRANCH**

From the 20th to the 30th he will be at his branch Dental Surgery, opposite Courts, Kurunegala.

His Jaffna Patients are advised to make prior appointments, if possible, by writing to his Kurunegala address.

(Mis 98, 5-8—31-12-43.)

dents or any other person shall on or before the 24th day of September 1943 appear before this Court and show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary. This 20th day of September 1943.

Sgd. G. C. Thambyah, District Judge.

(O. 37, 20 & 23-9-43)

**CONTROL OF BETEL PRICES OPPOSED**

A public meeting of betel growers was held on Tuesday at the Saiva Vidyasalai Hall, Kollankaladdy, Tellipallai, to protest against the Government control of the price of betel.

Mr. S. Natesan, M. S. C., was voted to the chair.

Messrs C. Vanniasingham, N. Sangarapillai and V. Sangarapillal spoke on the hardships suffered by the betel growers as a result of the control of prices by

the Government. Betel, they stated, was grown mostly in the Tellipallai area and the growers there were those who were affected most.

A resolution was unanimously passed calling upon the Government to remove the control.

An association known as the "Tellipallai Betel Growers' Association" was formed with Mr. C. Vanniasingham as president, Messrs N. Sangarapillai and N. Kandiah, vice-presidents; Mr. K. Sivarsa, Secretary and Mr. G. Vaithilingam, treasurer.

**ROYAL ARMY SERVICE CORPS**

WANTED men for training as CLERKS, STORE-KEEPERS and DRIVERS in the R. A. S. C. Good pay and prospects and OPPORTUNITIES EXIST FOR PROMOTION TO COMMISSIONED RANK IN THE R. A. S. C. Candidates should be between 19 and 40 years of age, physically fit and willing to serve overseas. Those to be trained as Clerks and Storekeepers should be educated up to the 6th Standard in English while those wishing to become Drivers are only required to speak, read and write English.

Proof of age may be required by the Recruiting Officer. Family allowances will be issued only after marriage and birth certificates of children are produced.

**RATES OF PAY AND ALLOWANCES**

Daily rate of pay on enlistment is Rs. 2.00 per day.

Accommodation, food and uniform will be provided and in addition the following allowances will be paid.

	Rs.	cts.
Wife only	36.90	per month of 31 days
Wife & 1 child	50.89	
Wife & 2 children	63.45	
Wife & 3 children	74.56	
Wife & 4 children	85.56	

Maternity Benefit will be paid in all cases of the birth of children to the wives of R. A. S. C. personnel who are enlisted for General Service.

Applicants should apply personally at the Central Recruiting Office, 39, Galle Road, Colpetty, between 8.30 and 10.30 a. m prepared for immediate enlistment on any week day.

CHIEF RECRUITING OFFICER, CEYLON

(Mis. 92, 29-7-43—)

T

**THE JAFFNA MUTUAL BENEFIT FUND LTD.**

(Established 1918)

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Authorised Capital	Rs. 800,000.00
Amount of Calls made	Rs. 134,367.00

SHARES: 8000 shares of Rs. 100/- each. 75 monthly instalments of Re. 1/- per share will earn Rs. 100/- for each at the end of the period. Shares issued all times.

CURRENT ACCOUNTS opened and interest allowed at 1% per annum on the average monthly balance when it does not fall below Rs. 500/-.

FIXED DEPOSITS received for periods of 3, 6, 9 and 12 months and interest allowed at 1, 2, 4 and 6 % respectively.

DRAFTS issued on the National and Imperial Banks to Colombo and the Principal cities of India. Remittances to and from F. M. S. by special arrangements.

INDIAN MONEY bought and sold

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LIMITED STOCKS—SHOP EARLY.

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(Mis. 123, 23 & 27-9-43)

## LABOUR CONDITIONS IN CEYLON

Continued from page 1

the estate labourers, though probably only to a small extent. In many cases also, men are to be found who are of Indian or other overseas origin but whose families have been for one or more generations in Ceylon and have, therefore, become identified with the Island, though they cannot be termed Sinhalese.

The growth of the population and a menacing unemployment problem has led to an increasing discrimination between the immigrant and resident labourer. The Ceylon Government, in an effort to protect the interests of its own people, has introduced a preferential policy, requiring the employment of a definite percentage of Ceylonese in the various Government undertakings, and this has already had an appreciable effect. Economic pressure has reinforced this, and many tasks are now undertaken by Ceylonese which were formerly performed exclusively by Indians. The proportion of Ceylonese to Indians on plantations is also certainly rising, and in all directions the Islander is gaining ground in the labour market.

Comparison between the capacity and qualities of the immigrant and the resident labourer is not easy, and considerable divergence of views exists. Primarily, allowance must be made for the essential difference, owing to circumstances, between the resident migrant labour and the worker from the village, as set forth above; apart from this there appears to be little ground to support any marked discrimination. The general consensus of opinion appears to be that the Sinhalese is a better craftsman or skilled worker, but that, for sustained hard work, the Tamil is more reliable. Against this view must be set the fact that some of the hardest work in Ceylon is done by Sinhalese, e.g. the exacting plumbago mining, and the heavy work connected with the loading of ships in the port of Galle. The alleged fastidiousness of the Sinhalese is contradicted by the increasing numbers in duties. The irresponsibility of independence, sometimes alleged to their disadvantage, is probably attributable to their peasant proprietor mentality and is likely to be eliminated by economic pressure. The only instance which I met, where Ceylonese had proved incapable of performing a task even after careful training, was the stoking of certain naval vessels where after a fair trial, it was found necessary to employ more expensive Lascars from Bombay. With this exception, I found no reason to suppose that Ceylonese labourer is not capable of performing any of the various tasks to be found in the Island.

### Housing Conditions

Referring to housing conditions the report observes:

The standard of housing in Ceylon is, for a tropical country, high in the principal cities, conditions in certain parts need improvement; while houses are substantially built and generally in good repair, overbuilding is common and back-to-back construction limits ventilation; the standard of sanitation is better than might be expected in Ceylon, is, in fact, in this matter decidedly superior to many of the towns of India, Africa, and the West Indies. The main evil is overcrowding; visits by day, repeated at night,

suggested that this existed to a serious degree, though here again, conditions were by no means as bad as those to be found in various other countries. Rents in Colombo tend to be high, and men without families therefore frequently live in a community, each contributing from 50 cents to Re. 1 monthly as rent, and sharing the services of a common cook. There is some antagonism between the various sections of the population in Colombo, and they are inclined to accuse each other of overcrowding and a general low standard of living; personal inspection led me to the conclusion that these accusations were mostly exaggerated. The standard of urban accommodation is still somewhat low in comparison with that of other countries.

Housing conditions on plantations vary greatly, all degree, from quite good to very bad, existing. The matter has been receiving increasing attention of late years and the Planters' Association states that its mem-

bers have spent Rs. 50,000,000 on housing during the last five years. The requirements of the Government of India necessitate the provision of housing for Tamil labourers and standard requirements have been laid down by the Medical Department.

Sanitation is generally good; on a few estates, where local conditions were favorable, excellent water borne systems have been installed, the design of which is well suited to the habits of the users. Elsewhere, the bucket system is in use, and is less objectionable than usual owing to the comparative scarcity of the house fly in most parts of Ceylon. Deep pits are also in use and give good results. Generally it may be said that on the majority of the larger plantations the sanitary standard is good, though in some smaller properties conditions are bad.

### Medical Arrangements

Medical aid is provided on a large scale, there being over 100 Government hospitals and almost as many

private hospitals maintained by estates; in addition there are over 700 Government dispensaries and nearly as many on estates. Special campaigns are carried on by the Medical Department against malaria, ankylostomiasis, leprosy, smallpox, filariasis, and yaws; of these, malaria presents a serious problem in connection with any project involving the clearing of bush land but it is not of such great importance on most plantations nor among urban labourers. Maternity work is well provided for and some 750 qualified midwives are maintained, of which the plantations are responsible for 170. Public health is maintained by 23 Medical Officers of Health, 55 Field Medical Officers, and 310 Sanitary Assistants.

From the foregoing figures it will be observed that the medical requirements of the Island are well provided for; it is, in fact, from the point of view of the manual worker, decidedly in advance of most tropical countries.



# ISLAND-WIDE WAR SAVINGS WEEK

23rd--30th OCTOBER 1943

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