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Editor:
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NEWS FROM FAR AND NEAR

Princess Elizabeth In Council Of State

Princess Elizabeth will be included in the Council of State to serve on any occasion when the King is absent from the realm. A message from the King, requesting this was read and agreed to in the House of Commons.

Revenue Excess

An excess of revenue over expenditure amounting to Rs. 18,642,681 was recorded during the period October, 1942—August, 1943, according to the financial returns for August. The revenue for the 11 months was Rs. 182,972,041. The revenue for August was Rs. 19,971,223, which is Rs. 5,391,099 in excess of the expenditure for the month.

Indian Exports Of Piece-Goods to Ceylon

In reply to a communication from the Southern India Chamber of Commerce on the export of handloom piece-goods to Ceylon, the Government of India have stated that from October 1, individual exporters will be allowed separate quotas for shipment based on their export trade in the six months between October 1, '42 and March 31, '43. This period has been chosen, it is pointed out, because there were no quantitative or other restrictions on exports then.

Aid To China And Russia

The Lend-Lease Administrator, Mr. Edward Stettenius, on an inspection tour of Western (Pacific Coast) war industries, indicated that he was studying means of sending further material to aid China and Russia from the Pacific Coast. He announced the use of a new re-consignment depot at Auburn, Washington, which would relieve the present congestion in San Francisco. Additional action to increase West Coast shipments was now in progress, he added.

More African Troops Arrive In Ceylon

Another large force of East African troops has arrived in Ceylon fully trained and supplied with equipment. This force is a powerful and self-sufficient fighting body, in which all arms of the service are represented. Besides fighting units this new draft includes many highly trained technicians. Medical, signal, artillery and even postal units all have their own specialised staffs. Many of them were born German subjects. When Germany's former allies, the Italians, pressed down towards their homes, they volunteered enthusiastically into the ranks of the United Nations.

POSSIBILITIES OF THE "DRY ZONE"

HOW COLONISATION SCHEMES SHOULD BE WORKED

"THERE is the serious consideration that the population of Ceylon is increasing by about 100,000 per annum; this additional population must be provided for and unless the standard of living is to be continuously depressed, additional land will be essential. The alternative of a large measure of industrialisation could scarcely be carried out on a scale which would provide more than a very partial remedy. Since such a policy would, in any case, be doubtfully desirable, the problem therefore resolves itself into the discovery of additional agricultural resources." Observes Major G. St. J. Orde Browne, C. M. G., O. B. E., in the course of his report on the labour conditions in Ceylon. He further observes:

Here it is necessary to recall the fact that the great part of the population and the existing agricultural activities are concentrated in the south-west quarter of the Island, where the rainfall is heaviest. To the north and east lies the "dry zone" with a scanty population and a low figure of production. The term "dry" is, however, accurate only in comparison with the more fertile areas of the Island; it has an annual rainfall of 50-75 inches with even more in certain spots; it would in fact be highly esteemed and readily exploited in many countries. Clear evidence of its possibilities exists in the numerous large artificial reservoirs or "tanks" which bear eloquent testimony to the engineering ability and enterprise of the Ceylonese of former days. The revival of this ancient system of irrigation would provide great areas well suited to cultivation. The principal difficulty appears to lie in the severe outbreaks of malaria which follow the first clearing of the bush which at present covers the land in question.

Government's Plans

The Government of Ceylon is fully alive to such possibilities and the Minister for Agriculture outlined to me plans for development on a large scale; the complications and difficulties likely to arise are clearly visualized, and colonization on well organised lines is the object in view. A beginning has already been made, while the Labour Department has also initiated some experiments with a view to partial solution of the unemployment problem. There appears to be, however, an opening for organisation on an even wider scale and particularly for

more co-operation with other Departments. The recruiting of colonists is a matter of some delicacy and great importance; careful selection, combined with all possible training, will go far to ensure success. Here the Education Department might render most valuable assistance. I was impressed by the practical outlook of this Department and the efforts made to create and maintain an agricultural bias in the schools; I saw rural elementary scholars actually engaged in cultivation, in surroundings which testified to the keen interest and pride taken in such work. Furthermore I visited the Teachers' Training Centre, where a course was in progress for teachers drawn from actual work being done and the obvious enthusiasm of the students were most refreshing. Such a background should contribute most valuably to the production of potential settlers; the creation of scholarship or bursaries for scholars showing special promise should give additional encouragement. Another source of recruits should be the Borstal Institute at Welapitywela where the boys are given a considerable amount of agricultural training. Efforts might also be made by the Labour Department to induce suitable men among the unemployed to engage in the colonization scheme.

Malaria Problem

The problem of the initial outbreak of malaria could perhaps be dealt with by the formation of a small carefully selected body of pioneers; these men should receive high wages and be employed under close supervision in carefully planned camps, with the provision of all possible safeguards to secure them against infection. They might then carry out the initial clearing and such anti-mosquito measures as might be feasible, leaving the land thus prepared available for occupation by the prospective colonists.

The Ceylon authorities are alive to the necessity for the initial support of the colonists until such time as they are able to establish themselves, the need for a hospital, school, church, temple, etc., is recognized, the facilities for recreation will not be overlooked. The launching of such a scheme on large scale lines should therefore serve as a genuine measure for relief of unemployment, and the experience gained should enable further development to be under-

ORIENTAL MUSIC EXAMINATION

ON THE LINES OF TRINITY COLLEGE OF MUSIC

The Divisional Inspector of Schools, Jaffna, Mr. V. K. Nathan, presiding over the annual general meeting of the North Ceylon Oriental Music Society held at St. John's College on the 17th instant, announced that arrangements were being made to hold annual examinations in Oriental Music and to issue certificates similar to those issued by the Trinity College of Music.

Mr. Nathan touched on the necessity for cultivating national song and dance. He looked forward to the day when every child in every home was able to sing as well as to appreciate national music. There was nothing more effective than music to make the home happy and bright.

The following were elected office-bearers for the new year.

President: Mr. V. K. Nathan, Vice-Presidents: The Very Rev. Fr. Emilianuspillai, Rev. J. T. Arulanantham and Mudaliar S. Kandiah.

Secretary: Mr. S. J. Gunasegaram.

Treasurer: Mr. E. J. Jayarajah.

Proceedings concluded with a concert by the teachers and pupils of the mixed school.

taken, thus providing an outlet for the increasing population.

Simpler Co-operative Societies

In connection with projects such as the foregoing, Co-operative Societies should prove very valuable. In this connection, the Sitang Colonial Scheme in Burma should provide useful experience; it controls 120,000 acres producing 80,000 tons of paddy annually (Bulletin No. 5, The Reserve Bank of India of 1939). The Report states, "every colonization scheme should from the outset provide for the marketing of the Colonists' produce.....consumers' co-operative societies should be a part....." (page 52). The Co-operative Department of Ceylon appears to be well organised for such a purpose and is already operating on a wide scale. Examination of the working of individual instances of such societies suggested that some simplification in the system of accounting might facilitate establishment and conduct of such undertakings. In one instance I found that 16 different books, had to be kept up, even the smallest transaction involving several entries, with appropriate accounting and auditing (this elaboration of detail is a noticeable feature of Ceylon, where a hotel will find it necessary to ask for the signature of a

Continued on page 4



Hindu Organ.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 1943.

THE TROOPS AND THE PEOPLE

WE ARE NOT SURPRISED AT the terms of the motion brought forward in the State Council by the member for Kelaniya. The incident referred to by Mr. Jayawardene is by no means the only one that has taken place in recent times. Similar incidents have occurred in other places as well. It must, however, be admitted that the military authorities concerned have, almost in every case, taken prompt and vigorous action to punish the culprits. In regard to certain incidents which were brought to our notice but which were never published in the press, we were satisfied that the commanding officers did all that was possible in the circumstances. As pointed out by the Chief Secretary, there are bound to be difficulties in identifying the culprits who are strangers to the island. This difficulty would, however, not be present where a party of aggrieved villagers took a marauding soldier before the commanding officer concerned and made their complaint. We agree with Mr. Jayawardene that this would not be possible in every case, and it is the duty of the military authorities to see that no opportunity at all is given for such incidents as that referred to by Mr. Jayawardene. Mr. Drayton, the Chief Secretary, said that, in the particular area where the incident occurred, the bolts from all the rifles had been removed so as to render the rifles useless for the moment. We are not at all satisfied with this explanation. It is for the military authorities to determine the degree of preparedness for the troops under their command, but what is more to the point is that no soldier should be allowed to slip away from the camp in the hours of darkness and create trouble in an adjoining village. The Chief Secretary seemed to think that some form of fence was necessary to prevent soldiers from leaving camp without permission. Is it not possible to take other measures which should act as a check on unauthorised expeditions like the one referred to by the member for Kelaniya?

We recognise, however, that incidents like these are bound to occur at a time like the present, and that it is the duty of every honest and patriotic citizen to refrain from giving a racial twist to such incidents. As pointed out by Mr. D. S.

Senanayake, whether the culprits of this particular incident were East Africans or not, it was the act of individuals and not of communities. Besides the East African soldier has many lovable qualities. He is brave and trustful. What have our Councillors to say to the scoundrels, mostly Ceylonese, who attach themselves to these soldiers and trade on their weaknesses? There is a common technique that is followed. After winning the soldier's confidence and getting his fee, the pimp points to someone's house as the place where the woman is to be found. The East African, who knows little of our ways, gets into the house and an incident occurs. The poor man thinks that the contract is complete as soon as the money is paid into the hands of his guide and the house is pointed out. In addition to the tightening up of control over the movements of soldiers, something should be done to stamp out the vermin who live on these ignorant soldiers. They are a menace to the troops as well as the civilian population. After all, the soldiers are trying to defend the country, and some consideration is due to them. It would be also as well to remember that most of these incidents are due to ignorance regarding conditions in the island, and that these incidents are, as stated by some of the speakers on the motion in the State Council, by no means confined to the East African troops. Many of these incidents can be avoided if the people concerned take up a correct attitude in regard to the matter, and no room should be given for the impression that the attitude of the civilian population is not helpful to the army. Take a common instance. Soldiers after a tiring march in the midday sun get into a thinly fenced compound for rest and pluck young coconuts for a cool drink. The owner should have the tact and the decency to make the action of the soldiers perfectly legitimate and welcome. After all, it is the duty of the civilian population to help the troops in every possible way.

The attitude of His Excellency the Governor to Mr. Jayawardene's request for an interview regarding the Kelaniya incident came in for a good deal of criticism by members of the Council. His Excellency had referred Mr. Jayawardene and his deputation to the Minister for Home Affairs, as His Excellency himself was unable to do anything in the matter. Technically the Governor did the correct thing and we are glad to have the Chief Secretary's assurance that there was no refusal by His Excellency to see the Member for Kelaniya. But, if, as pointed out by Mr. D. S. Senanayake, the Governor had taken the action

that was undoubtedly open to him, the discussion in the Council could have been avoided. The Governor is the head of the civil administration which is still functioning.

We trust that, in view of the assurance given by the Chief Secretary, the matter will be dropped so far as the State Council is concerned. The military authorities, however, cannot be too vigilant in the matter of preventing similar incidents.

40 HOUSES SET ON FIRE

ONE KILLED IN FATAL FRACAS

On Friday evening owing to an incident in the Vasavilan-Palaly area twelve miles from Jaffna, when a woman is stated to have been molested by a group of labourers, trouble arose between the residents and the labourers.

The labourers in large numbers swarmed into the area, burning down, it is stated, nearly 40 houses with thatched roofs. The belongings of the occupiers, which included clothes, grains, jewellery and other valuables, said to be worth over a lakh of rupees, were destroyed.

In the course of the conflict a resident of the area, was seriously injured by blows with clubs, and succumbed at the Civil Hospital, Jaffna, on Saturday morning. Ten other residents, including one woman, were removed on Friday night to hospital. About six labourers were said to be injured.

On Saturday morning, twelve of the houses were still burning. A car in a garage at Vasavilan Junction was burnt down.

Mr. W. F. Ratnagopal, Chief Fire Officer with a tender and pumps rushed to the spot to put out the fire, but was unable to do so owing to the depth of the wells. Mr. M. J. Manning and Mr. Seneviratne, Assistant Superintendents of Police, and Mr. R. M. Davies, Government Agent, motored to the spot on Saturday morning. Mr. Seneviratne is still at the scene with sub-inspector Reuben of the Chunnakam Police.

The Deputy Inspector-General of Police (Provinces) is expected here in this connection.

On Friday night the women in the area were panic-stricken and fled to the neighbouring villages of Kurumbakaddy, Katuvan and Atchchuvally, while the men sought refuge in the churches, temples and school premises.

The Jaffna Magistrate, Mr. V. Manikavasagar, motored to the Civil Hospital to record the statement of Sinnathamby Sella-thurai, one of the injured men.

JAFFNA URBAN COUNCIL ELECTIONS

November 8, 1943 has been fixed to receive nomination papers from candidates for election to the Jaffna Urban Council.

"THE COLOMBO VANOLI ISAI MANDALAM"

INAUGURAL MEETING

The inaugural meeting of a Tamil Music Society called the "The Colombo Vanoli Isai Mandalam" took place on the 18th inst., at 4.30 p.m. at the Saiva Mangiyar Kalagam Hall, Wellawatte. Srimath Swami Vipulananda, Professor of Tamil, Ceylon University, who has made valuable research work in the Carnatic Music presided over the meeting. This was attended by a large number of ladies and gentlemen.

The Swami, in his opening speech said that in India life was saturated and consecrated with music, and that there was no nation that has not made music the hand-maiden of spiritual aspiration. He also referred to the research work he has made in music.

Mr. H. S. Perera, the Director of Education, spoke about the utility of music and said that he would give all the possible help for the dissemination of the knowledge of music in Ceylon.

Mr. K. S. Arulanandiy, Principal, Training College, Colombo, spoke about the duties and functions of the artistes of the "Colombo Vanoli Isai Mandalam" and also about the aesthetic value of Music.

Sir Ratnajotbi Saravanamuttu traced the history of the Musical performances of the last thirty years in Colombo, and laid great importance on the development of the South Indian Music. He was very much pleased to find the aspirations and hopes he had thirty years ago had been fulfilled by the present generation. Mr. M. S. Thiruvilingam and Mudaliyar S. Sinnatambiy also spoke about the growth and development of Music in Ceylon.

A letter from Major J. P. Appleby, Post Master-General was read by the president, wherein the P. M. G. had stated that he would give his best of assistance for the development of Tamil Music at the Broadcasting Station, Colombo, and that their movement would always receive his careful and sympathetic consideration.

A certain portion of the Musical performances was relayed from the premises of the Saiva Mangiyar Kalagam.

Mr. K. Kanagaratnam, Controller of Subsidiary Foodstuffs, thanked all the ladies and gentlemen on behalf of the conveners and expressed the hope that all ladies and gentlemen, to whom appeal had been issued to make liberal contributions to enable the "Mandalam" to start a school for teaching music.

He particularly stressed that every child should be afforded an opportunity to study music in all public schools in Ceylon, as without music and religion no education will be complete.

MR. V. S. S. KUMARASAMY TO STAND FOR URBAN COUNCIL ELECTION

Mr. V. S. S. Kumarasamy, B. A., Proctor B. C. has announced his candidature for the "Temple" Ward in the forthcoming Jaffna Urban Council elections.

INDIA'S FIRST TASK DEFEAT JAPAN, VISCOUNT WAVELL SAYS

London, Thursday-

The Viceroy - Designate, Lord Wavell, considers India's first task to be the defeat of Japan. Speaking in London today at a reception by the Royal Empire Society, attended by the Duke of Gloucester, Lord Wavell said: "I go to India with the full realisation of the great difficulties and dangers to be faced. India was on the defensive and even in danger of invasion, but now she is moving in company with her allies to the assault. The United Nations owe much to India for her efforts in this war and those efforts will continue to the end. But we must realise the great strain under which India's economic, transportation and financial systems are suffering and be careful that we do not put too heavy a burden on them. The next few years will be very critical for India's future. I go there with a sense of very grave responsibility, but also with a vision of the great future in front of India if we can help her leaders to choose the right path."

Referring to the final broadcast by the Duke of Gloucester when he visited India more than a year ago, Lord Wavell added: "Your Royal Highness said of India, I remember: 'United she can be great and powerful beyond measure.' I am sure that we all wish to see her united and great and powerful and that, in partnership with our Commonwealth, she may solve her own problems and may make her contribution to the peace and prosperity of the world to which her geographical position, history and traditions both entitle and oblige her."

In a striking tribute to the Indian Army, Lord Wavell said: 'The Fourth Indian Division arrived in Egypt just before the war and was for a long time my only trained division and our shield in the Middle East.'

ORDER NISI

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.

In the matter of the estate of the late Chellamuttu wife of Swaminather Ponnampalam of Chunnakam Deceased.
Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 160
Swaminather Ponnampalam of Chunnakam Petitioner.

Vs.

1. Kanagarayapillai Thuraiappah and wife
2. Sarasvathypillai both of Chunnakam Respondents.

This matter coming on for disposal before G. C. Thambyah Esquire District Judge Jaffna on the 26th 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 petitioner be declared entitled to Letters of administration to the estate of the abovenamed and that the same be issued to him accordingly unless the respondents abovenamed shall on or before the 20th day of September, 1943 appear before this court and show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this court to the contrary.

This 7th day of September, 1943.

Sgd. G. C. Thambyah,
District Judge.

Extended for 8-11-43.

Sgd. G. C. T.

D. J.

(O. 40. 20 & 27-9-43.)

TEXTILE TRAINING SCHOOL OPENED

LABOUR MINISTER'S TRIBUTE TO JAFFNA

Speaking after the formal opening last evening of the Government Textile Training School, Mr. G. C. Corea, the Minister for Labour Industry and Commerce said that that institution was the first of its kind in the North. It was a tribute to the enterprise of the people of the peninsula with regard to the hand-loom industry.

The school is housed in hospital road, Jaffna. After the formal opening a public meeting was held on the lawn presided over by Sir Waitlingam Duraiswamy.

Mr. Corea after making the remarks quoted above said that school had been opened because the government felt that it would be placing too great hardship on the people here to compel them to go down to Colombo and qualify at the Technical College, Colombo. At that school it would be possible for those selected from time to time to go through a course of training in hand loom weaving and become qualified teachers.

His hope and the hope of his Department was to see that as fast as possible Ceylon would produce hand loom cloth on a large scale. Hand loom weaving industry could certainly raise the economic condition of the people.

In the course of his general observations with regard to the present industrial development of the country by his Ministry Mr. Corea expressed the hope that the cement factory would be established in that peninsula at the earliest opportunity.

Mr. S. Natesan, M. S. C. in the course of his remarks said that the Minister had laid the foundation for the cement factory by his remarks that evening. He would assure the Minister that he would earn the undying gratitude of the people of Jaffna by establishing the factory.

Mr. K. Aiyadurai, the Chairman of the Urban Council appealed to the people to take to hand-loom weaving.

Sir Waitlingam in paying a tribute to Mr. Corea's efforts in the direction of the Industrial Development of the country hoped that school would prove to be of benefit to the people of that peninsula.

Mr. D. H. Balfour, the Director of Commerce thanked Sir Waitlingam and others for their presence and encouragement that evening.

PRICE CONTROLLER'S MISTAKE

CONTROL OF BETEL AND TOBACCO PRICES

In the State Council last week Mr. G. G. Ponnambalam (Point Pedro), expressing surprise that tobacco prices should have been fixed by the Food Controller, said he had a shrewd suspicion that it was neither the Food Controller, nor the Minister of Agriculture who was responsible for the control of tobacco, but those who were interested in the dearness allowance. He urged the repeal of the control order.

Mr. S. Natesan (Kankesanthurai) supported Mr. Ponnambalam.

Mr. J. R. Jayawardene raised a similar objection to the control of betel leaves.

Mr. D. S. Senanayake said that he had already asked the Food Controller to receive a deputation

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, 39A, 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—)

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LECTURE ON SIVATHONDU

Srimath Swami Avinashanandaji of the Ramakrishna Mission delivered a lecture on 'Sivathondu' at the Vivekananda Society Hall, Hill Street on Sunday the 5th instant at 5-30 p. m. Mr. N. Nadarajah, K. C. presided. The Swami in the course of his lecture dwelt exhaustively on the various forms of devotion and service performed in temples; this form of Sivathondu

leads one to the wider form of service to all devotees of God; this, in turn, leads to the widest form of Sivathondu that of service to all humanity who are but manifestations of the same supreme lord.

A meeting was held at the Society Hall, on Thursday the 16th instant to bid farewell to Srimath Swami Avinashanandaji before his departure to Holi Kasi. Mr. S. Natesan, M. S. C. the President of the Society presided. Besides the President Messrs H. M. Desai, S. Sinnathamby, Interpreter Mudaliyar, Supreme Court and K. Ponniah spoke of the great qualities of the Swami and of the great services he had rendered to the cause of Hinduism in Ceylon. The Swami in the course of his reply expressed his gratefulness for the kind sentiments voiced by the speakers. Continuing he said that although he was going to be physically separated from his friends in Ceylon there would be no separation in spirit. He paid a tribute to Srimath Swami Vipulanandaji through whose untiring energy and help, he said, much of what he had accomplished in Ceylon had been rendered possible. One of his ambitions while he was in Ceylon, had been to establish a Thevaram Padasalai and he hoped that some day even in his retirement in India; he would hear the happy news that a school had been established in Ceylon to teach devotional music. Finally he exhorted the audience to follow the teachings of the Gita—to do their duty regardless of the fruits and leave the rest to God. Purity of mind and implicit faith in the Lord were the keys to success in the path of spiritual progress.

After the distribution of prasadam the meeting came to a close at about 7-30 p. m.

NOTICE

Danger to cattle and human life by leopards and bears in Ponnaveili and Veddukadu areas in the Punnakari—Thunnukkai Divisional Revenue Officer's Division is apprehended. Intending hunters are requested to communicate with the undersigned, if licences to shoot at night are required.

2. A reward of Rs. 5 for each animal shot may be paid on production of satisfactory proof of the destruction of the animal, if sanctioned by the Conservator of Forests.

Sgd R. M DAVIES,
Government Agent,
Northern Province,

The Kacheheri,
Jaffna, 18-9-43.

(Mis. 127, 27-9-43)

from Point Pedro on the subject of tobacco control and a reply could be given only after the deputation was heard. He admitted that a mistake had been made in the Food Controller taking charge of tobacco control and a reply could be given only after the deputation was heard. He admitted that a mistake had been made in the Food Controller taking charge of tobacco. It would, in due course, be passed to the Labour Ministry.

FOUNDER OF INDIAN NATIONALISM 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHICAGO PARLIAMENT OF RELIGIONS

The first of the series of meetings arranged to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the World Parliament of Religions at Chicago was held at the Ramakrishna Mission, Wellawatte, on Saturday the 11th September at 5.30 p.m. under the joint auspices of the Ramakrishna Mission and the Vivekananda Society. Mr.

POSSIBILITIES OF THE "DRY ZONE"

Continued from page 1
numbered voucher, complete with carbon copy, for a box of matches value one halfpenny). In other countries Co-operative Societies are quite successfully conducted with a far simpler system, and consideration might discover possibilities for reducing complications which must at present be a formidable obstacle to the creation of new Societies. One way of eliminating much pay accounting would be the introduction of books of tickets of various values, the cost of the book being the only item requiring entry; this system works very satisfactorily elsewhere and might well merit adoption in Ceylon.

BHARATHI DAY CELEBRATIONS

Poet Subramania Bharathi Day was celebrated at the Vivekananda Society Hall, Hill Street, on Sunday the 12th instant at 5.30 p.m. Mr. K. S. Arulandhy M. Sc., Principal, Government Training College, presided. Muthu Thamil Pulavar M. Nallathamby delivered an inspiring address on the life and work of Subramania Bharathiar. He illustrated Bharathiar's patriotism, his love of nature and his simplicity with extensive quotations from his works.

Bharathiar's songs were sung by the pupils of the Vivekananda Vidyalayam and by Sangeetha-bushavam Balasubramania Aiyer and Mr. Kulanthavelu.

The chairman in his concluding address paid a tribute to Bharathiar in the poetic composition of his own. He stated that the versatile genius of Bharathiar had left its indelible impression on modern Tamil literature both verse and prose. His poems dealt with a variety of subjects—lyric, epic, dramatic, philosophic and political.

Bharathi Week at Chankanai

Under the auspices of the Chankanai Thoddilady Co-operative Society, a reading room in memory of the late Sri Subramaniya Bharathi was opened by Mr. K. Thillaiambalam, B.A., Headmaster, Sandilipay English School. A portrait of the poet specially made for the occasion by Sri Sarma was installed. A public meeting was held under the presidentship of Mr. P. Mudaliyar Jegarajasingham, president of the Gana Ranjitha Sabah. After a welcome address by Mr. T. Ponnampalam, Sri Sarma spoke at length on the works of Bharathi. Messrs. S. T. Nadarajah, S. Srinivasan, S. Setbukavalar and S. Subramaniam also spoke. A vote of thanks was proposed by Mr. S. Arumugam. The deliberations continued throughout the week.

M. S. Aney, Representative of the Government of India who was expected to open the celebration was unable to be present owing to a bereavement. In his absence Srimath Swami Avinashanandaji formally opened the proceedings with a reference to the appearance of the unknown young preacher from India, Swami Vivekananda, before the first World Parliament of Religions, with the message of the spiritual treasures which India offered to the world.

A keenly appreciated recital of devotional songs and music was provided by Srimathi Janaki Eamasamy Reddiar, Miss N. Sabaratnam, Miss M. Chinnappu, Mr. T. Manickavasagar and Mr. R. Kolanthavelu. Dr. W. Balendra, who was the first speaker, said that at this date fifty years ago, the young unknown Swami from India who took by storm that assembly of representatives of the world's religions, had warned Europe and America

that organised religion would not stand the test of time.

Mr. D. C. R. Gunawardene said that the teaching of Vivekananda, as he understood it, was that it was the duty of every person to examine the background of his own culture, apply to that the fundamental spiritual truths, and see how he could translate those truths to the fullest benefit of humanity and to the fullest spiritual expansion of oneself.

Mr. H. M. Desai said that Swami Vivekananda was the father of modern India and the founder of Indian Nationalism. Had no Vivekananda been born in India there would have been no Gandhi.

Srimath Swami Vipulanandaji quoted from Swami Vivekananda's address to the Parliament of Religions at Chicago; he also referred to the tribute paid to him by the poet Subramania Bharathiar. It was primarily through Swami Vivekananda that the Western World came to know

of the greatness of Hinduism.

To commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the Parliament of Religious Dr. W. Balendra a life member of the Vivekananda Society, and one whose ancestors and relations had contributed to the cause of Hindu religion in Ceylon, undertook to erect a new building soon after the termination of the war at the Vivekananda Society premises at Hill Street, Colombo, and to donate the same to the Society. The Doctor earnestly desired that the Ramakrishna Mission and the Vivekananda Society should persevere in their attempt to harmonize the best in all religions and cultures so that the foundations for Lasting Peace could be truly laid, in accordance with the spirit of the message of Bhagavan Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa and Srimath Swami Vivekananda.

Srimath Swami Siddhatmarandiji proposed a vote of thanks to the speakers and Mr. M. Ambalanar seconded.



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