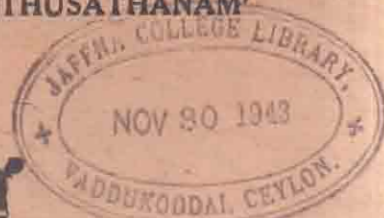


THE Hindu Organ.



The Only Newspaper in Ceylon for the Hindus

Editor:
A. V. Kulasingham, *Advocate.*

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NO. 65.

INDIANS & THE REFORMS.

Representation Must Be Balanced.

FULL RIGHTS.

INDIAN CONGRESS RESOLUTIONS.

Set the task of facing the situation caused by the Reforms manoeuvre of the Board of Ministers the Ceylon Indian Congress Committee has once again reiterated the demand of Indians domiciled in Ceylon that in the future constitution representation in the State Council must be such that the major community's representatives shall not be in a position to outvote the members of all the other communities in the island.

In a resolution passed recently by the Committee they urge that "balanced representation" will achieve communal harmony, for the purpose of paving the way for the formation of political parties on economic issues, and to achieve the goal of equalised distribution of wealth and a socialised form of economy."

The resolution urged that any scheme of reforms "before it is presented to the Secretary of State for the Colonies should be discussed in the country and the State Council with particular reference to the status of the Indians and the minority problem."

It appealed to the Secretary of State not to permit a "disregard of the wishes of ten lakhs of Indians in the country and of the other ten lakhs of other minorities."

Franchise For All

One of the other resolutions was:—

"The Ceylon Indian Congress reiterates its demand for the recognition of the rights of Indians to full citizenship on the basis of a residence of five years and for an opportunity to qualify for full rights of citizenship to those who left Ceylon after January 1, 1939, and were prevented from re-entering Ceylon on account of the ban on emigration of unskilled workers imposed by the Government of India, it being provided that civic and political rights like that of the franchise be given to all who are in the country, with a condition that persons with a residence of less than five years may be asked to make a declaration of intention of making Ceylon their permanent home to qualify for civic and political rights."

INDEPENDENTS WIN MAJORITY

Urban Council Polling Day

KEEN CONTESTS EVERYWHERE

(From a Special Correspondent.)

Amidst scenes of almost unprecedented enthusiasm the elections took place on Saturday last for the eight contested Wards of the Urban Council.

The contests were very keen in almost every constituency. Feelings, almost verging on bitterness and passion, were displayed in some wards. In spite of the pledge to taboo liquor taken by certain candidates it cannot be said that the voters were not subject to this temptation.

In almost every constituency liquor was almost freely distributed among certain sections of the voters. The "drink" is a potent factor in election campaigning and people look upon it as a counsel of perfection for anybody to ask the candidates not to resort to it.

Personations

The personated vote played considerable part in swelling the votes of a number of candidates. There is reason to believe that the votes of absentee Indians and Sinhalese, on a large scale, and of local residents on a smaller scale, were personated with impunity. A few of such personators were caught. Election cars with their flying colours were seen occasionally being driven up to distant Palaly, Chunnakam and other places—not that all the absent voters were to be found in those places.

Routed Association

The only organised group in the town to run candidates at the election was the Rate Payers' Association. This Association had put forward candidates for seven out of the eight contested seats and won only two, the winning candidates being Messrs: Sam. A. Sabapathy and R. Mortimer.

All the other six candidates elected on Saturday were independent ones.

In fact the Rate Payers Association had taken the unusual step of nominating two candidates for the same constituency, in Ward 3, both of whom Messrs. V. A. Thuraiyappah and V. Suppiah were defeated; and the talk of the town was that Mr. Ariya Pathirana, though running as an independent, was having the secret backing of the Rate Payers' Association whose advertised candidate in Ward No. 1, Mr. J. D. Veerasingham

(Continued on page 3)

Social Security Commission.

Labour Committee's Recommendation.

OLD AGE PENSIONS PROBLEM.

The Executive Committee of Labour, Industry and Commerce has decided that a Commission should be appointed at an early date to investigate the work of all the existing social services and the introduction of additional ones with a view to establishing a comprehensive scheme of social security as soon as conditions return to normal.

The above is the report of the Committee on the motion of Mr. P. de S. Kularatne, urging the introduction of a National Health Insurance Scheme, contributory old age pensions and unemployment insurance.

Financial Problem

The Financial Secretary, commenting on the Executive Committee's report states that no one will object to the provision of increased social services in Ceylon provided the country can afford these without jeopardising even more necessary benefits. He quotes from a recent statement of Sir William Beveridge to the effect that in the United Kingdom the national income is sufficient to provide for everyone all necessary social services, but that in countries like India the national income is not sufficient for these purposes, and the problem which must be tackled first is the increase of the national income to an adequate level.

Old Age Pension

The Executive Committee has approved of a scheme of non-contributory old age pensions for persons who are 70 years of age and over. The scheme is estimated to cost Rs. 6,830,000 a year, including Rs. 200,000 as administration charges.

The qualifications for the receipt of such pension, it has been recommended, should be as follows:

(1) The pension should be payable to all persons resident in Ceylon of 70 years and over, who can show a minimum residence qualification of 30 years immediately prior to attaining the age of 70 years; (2) Persons who are possessed of means which give an income of Rs. 60 per annum or over will be excluded; (3) A husband and wife whose joint income exceeds Rs. 120 per annum also will be excluded.

CONTROL OF EDUCATION.

A Problem Discussed.

DENOMINATIONAL Vs. STATE SCHOOLS.

Concerning the "Control of Education" the Special Committee on Education write:—

"The school system we have evolved will consist of the primary school in the primary grade, and the practical, senior and secondary schools in the post-primary grade. We are primarily concerned with the control of these types of schools. The question as to who should have control of education is still a burning question with us although it has been definitely answered in a number of progressive countries. It leads us to the consideration of the advantages and suitability to this country of (a) a State system of public education, and (b) the voluntary system commonly known at the present day as the denominational system. We have amidst us either system in operation side by side. We have seen how in 1920 an attempt was made by the then administration to introduce a system of State education without much success. The legislation of 1920 no doubt provided for an expansion in the number of Government schools, and there was in fact such an expansion, but denominational schools too increased in number. Whilst Government schools increased from 895 in 1920 to 1,395 in 1930 the Assisted schools increased from 1,868 to 2,245. The controversy as to State v. denominational system was again revived in 1939 when the present Education Ordinance was in draft.

Balanced Support

"There was no question at that time of "scrapping" the denominational system. But denominationalists got alarmed and demanded that the opportunity should be taken to give the denominational system a legal status. On the other hand a considerable body of public opinion expressed itself in a favour of a State system. The memoranda submitted to us at the outset of our inquiry and the oral evidence taken by us indicate that the support of either system is more or less equally balanced. All Christian organizations are opposed to a State monopoly of control. Among the Hindus and Buddhists opinion is divided. The Muslims are mainly on the side of denominational education but realizing that they do not have the necessary resources to establish their own schools prefer state schools for their children to those conducted by other denominations. In these circumstances we are compelled to weigh carefully the advantages or otherwise of either system of control.

Meaning of State Control

"We would make it clear that mere State control of education does not necessarily connote a State System,

(Continued on page 4.)



Hindu Organ.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 1943.

THE TOWN COUNCIL

THE case for an efficient and strong system of local government in this country is unquestioned. Looked at from the point of view of educating the masses of the voters to cultivate a proper recognition of the value and responsibility of the vote and of training the elected representative in the onerous duties of administration the progress so far achieved in Jaffna cannot unfortunately be said to be satisfactory. The transition from Local Board administration to Urban District Council government took place under very happy auspices. The town was lucky in its first elected Urban Council. In its first chairman the Council had a man of unquestionable integrity, close knowledge of public affairs in general and of the town in particular, and one gifted with the rare capacity always to subordinate personal prejudices and predilections to the commonweal. Under his guidance the new institution became one of the most efficient of its kind in the island.

If the standard set by the late Mr. A. Canagaretnam had not been allowed to deteriorate the affairs of the town will not be in the present state of utter neglect. Urban Council administration has become absolutely Lilliputian. It has become the by-word for muddle. Take, for instance, the sanitary service which it provides. A single day's investigation will show how perilously inefficient it is. Not only do the conservancy coolies do their work in a don't-care-a-d--attitude but the service appears to be so badly organised that when one of the men goes on leave his work remains undone until his return, or sooner only if a persistent rate-payer takes it into his head to torment authority. We have known cases where conveniences in dwelling houses have remained uncleaned for days together. The consequences of maladministration are found widespread over the whole field of the Council's work.

The new Council, the election of which was completed on Saturday last, will enter on its task under none too happy auspices. No one will envy them. The work that awaits them will require not only single-minded devotion to duty but the capacity to subordinate all other considerations to the one and only objective of providing a decent and efficient administration. This ideal is not too

sannyasic for men to achieve. For that is the ideal which every "city father" in every civilized country follows.

Too long in recent times have cliquism and personalities been allowed to drag down the name of the Council. Once members get elected they deliberately or by pressure of circumstances get mixed up in the personal squabbles of the previous Council which seem to be the only continuing "policy" that one Council leaves to the other. If members of the old Council do not get returned to the new one in sufficient numbers those that are in and those that are left out for one reason or another join hands to see that their pet squabbles are not decently buried; and the new comers fall a prey to the magic wands wielded from one direction or another; with the result that the new Council becomes only a replica of the old. Why this competition in an attempt to do things that injure the interests of the town? We do not know. Neither are thoughtful men whom we have asked able to tell.

Among the newly elected twelve, there are only five members who have previously been on this body. Only one sitting member has been elected. Seven are new comers. There is thus every reason for the public to expect that there will be a complete break with the past. We would faintly hope that the new body will begin its work resolved to redeem the good name of the town and see to it that administration is freed from outside interference. No man however great his influence in one field or another should be allowed to attempt to "influence" policy except through the open door of public discussion; and the executive officers should be protected from the attentions of "party bosses". As a beginning we think each of the newly elected members will do well determinedly to resolve not to be canvassed in regard to the choice of the next Chairman. Each member is the equal of the other. The members will be doing their duty by their constituencies and cultivating their own self-respect by refusing to be influenced either by their colleagues or by other interested persons in the matter of the election of the Chairman. It ought not to be difficult for twelve intelligent men to meet at the Council board and arrive at a decision on this matter without the "expert" guidance of others. If at the beginning they thus taboo wire-pulling and log-rolling the outlook for the future will indeed be bright and encouraging. Certainly there is no habit we need so urgently to acquire as the recognition that the parish needs to build its methods on the ideas of the civilized world.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

DRAFT CONSTITUTION FOR CEYLON.

Sir,—The message of the Secretary of State does not say that others than the Board of Ministers should not submit for his consideration a draft constitution for his consideration and later by the expert commission or committee. It is also open to any member of the State Council to frame one and secure the approval of the State Council and the consent of the Secretary of State for the Colonies. The final test would be, which of these would get 75 per cent approval. Mr. Bandaranaike has summoned a committee to frame a constitution and the Jaffna Association can also do it, so also the National Congress. It is foolish for the Leader to suppose that he is alone delegated with that task. Certainly not. His scheme, when put to the test, might be turned down and he might shed tears. It is pathetic to see the minority members to pitch with the Leader instead of putting up a scheme where their claims are suitably embodied so that the Leader or the Secretary of State for the Colonies may not overlook. They should not content themselves with the position of somebody preparing one and they only to cast a vote for or against any scheme.

A responsible Government can only be framed by a mandate from the people who enjoy adult franchise. It should not be the monopoly of the Leader. A general election must come and a constituent assembly must be created to frame a constitution that the people want. The Leader should not aspire to be Manu, the Lawgiver. He himself is unequal to the task and must depend on somebody's advice. It is not a good arrangement.

In framing a constitution for Ceylon, only a Federal system of Government with regional parliaments is suitable when the people are not homogenous. Under the British rule, the rule benefitted and elevated the Lowcountry Sinhalese while it undermined the influence and importance of the Kandyan Sinhalese and the Tamils. A balance must be created. It is noteworthy that a Kandyan Sinhalese is not a Minister in this council when they live in 5 out of the 9 Provinces. One Tamil under much protest came to be a Minister. It is not surprising that the Leader who is a Low Country Sinhalese is trying to maintain that position in the new constitution.

When responsibility is transferred from British hands to native hands, the people must see that their rights are properly secured under a Charter of people's rights like the Magna Charta of England. Such rights must be declared and form part of the constitution.

The press in Ceylon is unable to create the necessary public opinion against the indecent haste and secret preparation of a constitution without the knowledge of the people. The very act of the Leader himself in not consulting the council on the nature of the constitution and its powers is against liberty and freedom of mankind in Ceylon. He will be doing a great disservice to the country by selfish, conceited and arrogant leadership.

Yours truly
"Rationalist"
22-11-43

GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS

Sir,—The proposal to do away with paying wards in Government Hospitals needs more careful consideration than it seems, it has yet received. Hospitals in Ceylon, unlike those in England, owe their existence to the taxpayer. They are government hospitals, and the staff both scientific or lay, are borne on the establishment of government and subject to rules of discipline of the govern-

ment service. The rich and the poor both contribute to the revenue of Government, and individual to individual the rich more or the poor less—the proportion is indicative of their respective standards of life's comforts.

In the government hospitals provision exists like that in the railways, for classified accommodation of patients entering the hospital for treatment. The patient has the choice of his ward and pays for the comforts he receives.

The present proposal is to wipe out the classification and limit the service to the poor.

Is this fair? Is it politic to break faith with a large section of the taxpayers? What reason there could be for government to exclude its milk cow (rich tax-payer) from its general humane service. Did not Government receive donations of buildings in hospital premises on the distinct understanding that they should be reserved for specified class of patients (e. g. the Skinner's ward, Twynnam's ward, Dyke ward, Seamen's ward &c.) Is it prudent, thus to widen the existing gap between the rich and the poor? The Minister of Agriculture "ministered" the last eleven years in his own way to the poor to the exclusion of the rich with what results we know. He is seen now whistling to the winds for the co-operation of the rich to secure a "little rice for the poor."

In the proposed Hospital Reform the objective sought is said to be that of finding profit to Private Hospitals and Nursing Homes. These are too few in number to take over the service, but few or enough, one is tempted to ask why this partiality for the profession when the present policy of government is to enter every nook and cranny of private enterprise, take over and administer.

On the trail of the proposal comes the demand that honorary physicians and surgeons should be appointed to the government hospitals. What is the object a doctor has in view when he seeks office without a salary on the Hospital staff? It is absurd to say that the object is philanthropic. There are other professions than Medicine. Would the members of any of them claim that they are actuated solely by philanthropy? Do men who go to the Bar set forth with an intention to enforce a claim to philanthropy.

The proposal should be resisted with every lawful weapon at our disposal.

Yours truly
R. C. P.

SIR P. RAMANATHAN'S GURU PUJA.

Celebration at the Girls' College.

The Guru Puja of the late Sir P. Ramanathan will be celebrated on Thursday, the 2nd December, next at Ramanathan College commencing at 10 a. m.

The Program:

- 10 a. m. Abishekam and Puja at Samadhi Temple.
 - 1 p. m. Mahesvara Puja and feeding the poor.
 - 4 p. m. Music.
 - 5 p. m. Katha Prasaadam by Mr. C. Coomaraswami Pillai on Kammappa Nayavar.
- All are welcome to the function.

PERSONAL

Mr. S. Mahadeva, of the Public Works Department, has been elected a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, London, in recognition of his published articles and lectures on his wide travels.

MORTGAGE LAW COMMISSION.

Chairman on Its Object.

His Excellency the Governor has issued a Commission to Mr. L. M. D. de Silva, K. C., and Mr. G. Crossette Thambyah for the purposes of inquiring into and reporting upon the reform of the law of mortgage and the commercial laws of Ceylon.

The purposes for which the Commission has been appointed are set out as follows:—

(1) To inquire into and report upon the law of Ceylon relating to the hypothecation of movable and immovable property and to the procedure for the enforcement of hypothecary charges on such property with a view to removing such defects as may be found therein;

Credit Facilities

(2) To make recommendations relating to the amendment of existing law and to the enactment of new legislation, with a view to removing defects and supplying deficiencies in the law which limit the availability in Ceylon of adequate credit facilities for agricultural, industrial and commercial purposes; and

(3) To inquire into and report upon the nature and extent of the protection which may properly be afforded by legislation to the ancestral and other lands of agriculturists, so as to preserve a sufficient portion thereof for the maintenance of themselves and their families.

The Commission is authorised and empowered to hold all such inquiries and make all such investigations into the abovementioned matters as may appear to it to be necessary.

Draft Ordinances in Report

The chairman of the Commission, Mr. L. M. D. de Silva, K. C., in the course of a Press interview said that the commission would approach the problems it had been asked to investigate with a very open mind. It was anxious to examine the difficulties and dissatisfactions which the public were experiencing and for this reason proposed soon to invite by advertisement every person who had anything to say on the subject to say it.

After examining the replies received it would itself issue a questionnaire to everyone interested including, of course, members of the legal profession, asking for views and suggestions on specific points.

Finally, it would hear evidence and make its recommendations. A feature of the report would be draft ordinances embodying its recommendations.

Difficulties To Overcome

Coming to the terms of reference themselves, Mr. de Silva said, that the first term related to the investigation of the law of mortgage in Ceylon with a view to removing defects.

This investigation would have to be very closely and care-

THE URBAN COUNCIL

TOMORROW'S MEETING

A special meeting of the Jaffna Urban Council will be held at the Office of the Council tomorrow, the 30th November, at 5 p.m.

Pursuant to notice Mr. C. Ponnampalam will move:—

i. "The petition of the Revenue Inspectors of the Council for an increased initial salary and salary scale be considered and dealt with by the Council.

ii. "That this Council resolves to meet one-fourth of the cost of providing noon-meals for school children within the Urban area."

BEGAL RELIEF FUND (FLAG DAY)

Collected by the Jaffna Central Committee

Amount previously acknowledged
Rs. 573-65; Innuvil Hospital 31-00; Valvettiturai Vidiasalai 17-00;.....
.....29; Karavaddi Vigneswara College 34-00; Kamalasanay Vidiasalai Madduvil 15-00; Driberg College 5-00; Parameswara College 15-05; Kokuvil Hindu College 18-01; St. John's College Rs. 53-35; Union College Rs. 5-65; Jaffna Central College Rs. 13-10; Jaffna College Jaffna College Rs. 26-80; Vigneswara College Rs. 4; Victoria College Rs. 33-23; C. M. S. College & Schools, Kopya Rs. 52-05; St. Joseph's School Mathagal Rs. 10; Manipay Hospital Rs. 10; Total Rs. 946-14.

J. Subramaniam Lewis,
Hony. Treasurer.

COUNCIL TO ADJOURN FOR TWO MONTHS

From End of Next Week.

Eight supplementary estimates and a number of Government resolutions figure in the agenda of the State Council for the sessions commencing tomorrow, November 30.

At the conclusion of the business this week, it is proposed that the Council should adjourn till Tuesday, February 8.

WANTED

An experienced compositor for English news work and Jobs. Applicants must state age and experience and enclose recent testimonials:

MANAGER,
Hindu Organ.

fully conducted. There was always a pitfall. It was very easy to remove existing defects by legislation, but not so easy to be sure that the new legislation would not give rise to worse difficulties. It was not easy to anticipate all the problems that might arise.

REQUEST TO MODIFY CRIPPS PLAN

INDIAN UPPER HOUSE'S RESOLUTION

New Delhi, Nov. 24.

The Council of State (Upper House) passed without a division a resolution conveying to His Majesty's Government the request that the Cripps proposals be modified so as to make them acceptable to the people of India.

Sir Mohamed Usman, Leader of the House, quoted Mr. Amery's speech of April 28, 1942, and said it

made it clear that His Majesty's Government would always be prepared to consider agreed suggestions put forward by responsible Indian leaders for the modification of the Cripps proposals within the framework of the draft declaration.

He added that it was not reasonable to ask His Majesty's Government to modify these proposals when they had no reason to believe that any fresh attempt on their part would meet with general acceptance in India. Agreement among Indians themselves was, therefore, the first stage before approaching His Majesty's Government with the request to modify the Cripps proposals.

INDEPENDENTS WIN MAJORITY.

(Continued from page 1.)

was made to stand only with the purpose of dividing the votes likely to be secured by the winning candidate Mr. S. P. Nadarajah.

The Results

The following were the results of the polling:—

Ward 1.	Mr. S. P. Nadarajah	614
	" Ariya Pathirana	563
	" J. D. Veerasingham	36
Ward 2.	Mr. J. Patric	1273
	" Vital A. Moses	1211
Ward 3.	Mr. J. Sebastianpillai	953
	" V. A. Thuraiappah	471
	" V. Suppiah	96
Ward 4.	Mr. P. Dasipillai	588
	" V. M. Saravananamuttu	404
Ward 9.	Mr. S. M. Abdulcader	1332
	" S. M. M. Aboobucker	1254
Ward 10.	Mr. Sam A. Sabapathy	905
	" A. Kanakasabai	655
Ward 11.	Mr. S. R. Thalayasingham	609
	" C. C. Somasegaram	519
	" C. T. Navaratnam	151
Ward 12.	Mr. P. Mortimer	511
	" E. T. Hitchcock	495

MATRIMONIAL.

The marriage of Mr. Canapathipillai Vamadeva, of the Civil Defence Department, with Miss. Kathiravetpillai Mangayarkarasy will take place tonight at "Vel Vasa", Ponnalai, Vaddukodai. Friends and relations please accept this invitation.
Mis. 171.

WANTED

An assistant for a cloth store at Vannarponnai. Business experience a recommendation, but not essential. Retired teachers and other pensioners may also apply. Business hours 9 a. m. to 7 p. m. Apply in own handwriting stating age, Educational qualifications (English and Tamil), salary expected &c., and enclosing copies of recent testimonials to P.

C/o V. T. S. SIVAGURUNATHAN
Jaffna.
(Mis. 165. 25 & 29-11-43)

WAR'S CHALLENGE TO CHRISTIANITY.

A BRITISH CHURCH LEADER'S ANALYSIS.

By Dr. J. H. Oldham.

In a recent broadcast the Archbishop of Canterbury maintained—and I agree with him—that what is at stake in this war is the preservation of a tradition and civilisation, made up of strands that derive from Greece and Rome and Palestine. In particular, there lies at the heart of it a belief in the dignity, freedom and responsibility of man, as a being answerable to the law of God and intended to live in the world as his child.

Dignity of Man

This faith in the dignity of man and in God's love and purpose for him is either, as a wise man once said, the greatest truth about the world that has ever been set forth, or it is the greatest delusion ever cherished. There is no half-way house. This faith, which is an affair of the mind and spirit, is clearly something which cannot be either promoted or defended by bombs and bullets. How then is it involved in the war? The answer is that in order to do its work in the world it has to build institutions which are in accord with its spirit, such as the systems of law and justice which have taken shape through the centuries. It can flourish only in the soil of freedom, and a network of liberties have been won and secured by the courage, perseverance and sacrifice of many generations. It is this great and precious tradition and these hard-won liberties that the United Nations are defending. They are fighting for the survival of the peoples who still cherish these gains of civilisation and want to preserve and extend them in a new reign of barbarism. It is on these grounds that Christians feel it right to support their Governments in this war.

Means To An End

The war can of course do nothing to achieve or further spiritual ends; while victory is essential all that it can do is to keep open the opportunity of continuing to work for them. If we have this distinction clearly in mind, it will be evident that the winning of the war is only a means to an end. It is the end that matters. If we fail to remember that, the terrible fate may overtake us that through our blindness our sacrifices may turn out to have been in vain; we may win the war and lose all that makes it worth winning.

It is the greatest possible delusion that we can act in one way through the years of war and suddenly become different people when it is over. Life is all of a piece. Our acts leave their mark on our character. We cannot allow ourselves to become brutal and callous for years and then expect to find in ourselves resources humanity and mercy for the tasks of peace.

"Law of God"

We have therefore to make sure that the war is not waged in such a way as to defeat its own ends. If it is a struggle, as the Archbishop said, between two completely opposed conceptions of life, that difference must never be blurred. For example, it is impossible for us, like the Axis Powers, to make the nation the object of our ultimate loyalty. The cause we are defending is bound up with belief that there is an eternal and unchangeable law of God by which both individuals and nations are impartially judged. We are bound by the law, no

(Continued on page 4.)

WAR'S CHALLENGE TO CHRISTIANITY.

(Continued from page 3.)

less than our enemies. It is extraordinary how unthinkingly some people clamour for retaliation. Why should we take it for granted that, because the Axis Powers act in a certain way, we must necessarily do the same? We profess to have different principles; why should we slavishly imitate our enemies? Things that are odious and shameful when they are done by the Axis are no less odious and shameful when they are done by ourselves.

A Problem

We cannot, of course, in waging war leave out of our reckoning the technical advances which have created new weapons possessing a more terrible destructiveness than ever before. We cannot avoid using these weapons. It is nonsensical to engage in war and to hesitate about dealing the strongest possible blows at the enemy's military power. To wage war half-heartedly would be to frustrate our deliberately chosen purpose, and if we embark on war we must not shrink from the consequences of our decision.

But equally, Christians cannot shut their eyes to the inhumanity of modern war. The persistent, pitiless rain of metals and explosives from the sky on the habitations of men, destroying both them and the work of their hands, is an utter reversal of the purpose of civilisation. Modern methods of warfare are indiscriminate in their effects and compel us to inflict death, wounds and life-long disability on children and other innocent, or relatively innocent persons. The methods which have to be used to achieve victory are utterly contrary to the purpose for which Christ came into the world.

Contradictions

War thus confronts us as Christians with intolerable contradictions. What attitude are we to take towards them? Three things seem to me to be demanded of us.

First, we have to discover how to preserve under modern conditions the vital distinction on which the Christian conscience has always insisted between killing in war and murder. Those who are opposed to war altogether keep telling us that once you engage in war the line between what is permissible and what is not permissible gets pushed further and further back until, as one friend wrote to me, it comes to be drawn in hell itself. Admittedly the line, like a good many other boundary lines, is difficult to draw. But the principle seems to be clear. If we are fighting in a just cause whatever is clearly necessary to achieve a proper military objective is permissible, even if it causes incidental and unavoidable injury and suffering to non-combatants. Whatever goes beyond that—all destruction, that is merely wanton—is wrong, and those who light-heartedly inflict it or sanction it have the guilt of murder on their souls.

Real Tragedy

Secondly, we must not deceive ourselves in regard to the evil character of many of the acts that are required of us by military necessity. Many people think that it is simply a question of deciding that a particular course is necessary

and right, and that when we have so decided our conscience is clear. But the Christian view goes much deeper into the heart of things. It sees that the real tragedy of the human situation is that we have got into a position in which there is no escape from doing what is wrong. We are apt, when we think of sin at all, to limit it to individual false choices. But St. Paul had a profounder insight when he wrote of sin as a power reigning in the universe and holding men in slavery. His view comes closer than the other to the facts of human experience when he describes himself as sold like a slave to sin. It is important that we should realise this deeper truth that we are all bound together in a solidarity of sin. It will free us from the fatal folly of supposing that evil is only in our enemies and not also in ourselves, and thereby save us from the mistakes into which those inevitably fall who are lacking in the spirit of penitence and humility.

Thirdly, if we have to take part in the inhumanities of war, it becomes all the more necessary that we should diligently cultivate at the same time the opposite qualities of mercy and compassion and seize every opportunity of giving expression to them. Not even in war can we forget that pity is Godlike Christ continually insisted that it is in the exercise of mercy that men most fully manifest their kinship with God. His own acts were prompted, as the Gospels constantly record, by the motive of compassion. Mercy and pity are the humanising forces in the relations of men. To let them die is like allowing organic matter to disappear from the soil, so that it becomes arid and barren.

Treatment of the Enemy

In the treatment of our enemies after the war the same principles must be our guide. If any persons ever deserved punishment it is certainly those who have been guilty of unspeakable brutalities and wanton cruelty to the defenceless victims in their power; though the punishment on a vast scale even of war criminals is found when the matter is looked into, to be beset with greater difficulties than is commonly supposed. As regards the Axis peoples as a whole whatever measures are most likely to deter them from again plunging the world into war, it is the clear duty of statesmen to adopt. What those measures ought to be is a task of statesmen and must be based on an un-sentimental and just appraisal of all the factors in the situation. But for this difficult task of appraisal cool heads are essential, and nothing is more certain to cause blunders which will sow the seeds of future wars than that we should allow ourselves to be swept away by blind passions of revenge. There is only one thing that will enable us to deal rightly with those who are now our enemies so that they may one day become good neighbours, and that is a clear vision of the kind of world we want and a firm purpose to achieve it. To allow the divine quality of compassion to burn in us as a flame will be our greatest asset in the task of reconstruction. Sympathy is the key to true understanding. It is the healing force which must infuse and invigorate all our efforts to establish and rebuild the world.

—BBC Press Service.

CONTROL OF EDUCATION.

(Continued from page 1)

for even under a denominational system the State has to exercise over schools a certain measure of control; for example, State control must ensure the maintenance of a minimum standard of educational efficiency. By a State system we mean a system in which the schools are owned, controlled and administered by the State. Very few in this country favour a perfectly State controlled system in which a central administrative authority defines and prescribes virtually every aspect of its organization, curricula, courses of study, &c. The State system we discuss here is one in which control will be confined to what are called the *externa* of education, i.e. matters such as compulsory attendance, character of school buildings, medical inspection and health of children, size of classes, qualifications, salaries and appointment of teachers and above all ownership of schools. We are agreed that the *interna* i. e., those aspects of education for the promotion of which teachers and pupils are brought together, namely, curricula, courses of study methods of instruction, &c. should not be made subject to prescription by the State.

The Main Argument

"The main argument for a State system of public education rests on the thesis that the State as the representative of the people should alone have the right to determine the nature and the means which will guarantee both its own stability and the welfare of its citizens. In the West education was for a long time in the hands of the Church and private bodies. But with the rise of the political concept of nationalism and the realization that national welfare and security depend on education State interference became inevitable. In some cases this resulted in conflict between Church and State, in others in a partnership between them. As all things that constitute progress and welfare depended on education, mass education became an imperative need. This could only be attempted by a powerful organization such as the State. With the development of democratic institutions the idea of equality of educational opportunity took root. The State could, it was argued, achieve equality of opportunity and justice in social life better than any other body or organization. By equality of opportunity is not meant the same opportunities for all children for obtaining the same education. It really means opportunities for obtaining an education for which a person is best suited. There is a further argument for a State system of education. No system of mass education can be satisfactorily carried out unless it is financed from funds raised by taxation.

Certain Advantages

"Now under our democratic procedure if public funds are expended on any project public control is inescapable. It is also urged that the teaching profession being a large one, the greater part of the salary cost of which is now borne by the State, opportunities for employment in it should be available to all deserving persons and the State alone could distribute these opportunities impartially on the basis of merit and not of race, caste or creed. Countries like France, Germany, the U. S. A., Italy and Russia have accepted a State system of public education. We are, however, not certain that its operation in these countries, particularly in countries where education had been fashioned to subservise the ends of totalitarian ideology, has always produced desirable results. We do nevertheless admit that there are certain advantages in a State system. But

TRANSLATIONS OF REPORT ON EDUCATION

It has been decided to publish the Report of the Special Committee on Education in Sinhalese and Tamil also in view of the far-reaching effect of its recommendations on the educational system of the Island.

The Minister of Education proposes to engage the services of eight translators on piece-work rates. They will be paid at the rate of Rs. 2 per each printed page of English. The total cost is estimated at Rs. 800.

A bonus of Rs. 500 is proposed to be made to Mr. K. Alvapillai C. C. S. for his work as Secretary, of the Special Committee.

there are disadvantages too. The tendency to encroach on individual liberty is inherent in such a system. There is the possibility of collective aims being unduly stressed and a uniformity of views incompatible with the democratic way of life might result. We do not, however, think that the system of Government schools in existence at present has suffered from any of these disadvantages. It is difficult to say either from theoretical argument or from the experience of the operation of both the denominational and State system in other countries that one is superior to the other. With certain religious communities it would appear to be a strong conviction that education must be conducted under denominational auspices. We do not believe that in seeking to control education denominational bodies are influenced by any desire to play the "high and dangerous game of power-politics". Neither do we agree with the witness who stated at Kandy that "denominational schools often serve as political outposts". At the same time, for some years there has been a growing body of opinion which has expressed itself strongly in favour of a national system emphasizing, quite apart from individual development, equality of opportunity and certain national ideals common to all sections of the population. We therefore recommend that the system of direct State control and the system of denominational control should be permitted to exist side by side."

To be continued.

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