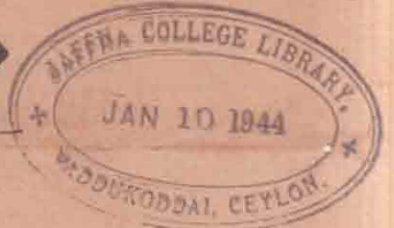


THE Hindu Organ.

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A. V. Kulasingham, Advocate.

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NO. 71.

MINORITIES SHOULD NOT ATTEMPT TO DOMINATE.

—Mr. A. Mahadeva

Two Sinhalese Points of View: Congress and Mahasabha.

"It is not sufficient for us to ask that the Sinhalese should not dominate; but we the minorities should equally be careful not to attempt to dominate the Sinhalese", declared the Minister for Home Affairs, Mr. A. Mahadeva.

At the conclusion of Mr. M. S. Aney's Ramanathan Memorial Lecture on Saturday last Mr. S. Natesan, M. S. C., proposing a vote of thanks to the lecturer and the Chairman, Mr. A. Mahadeva, referred to the constitutional problem and expressed the hope that Mr. Mahadeva will in discharging his grave responsibility bear in mind the rights of the Tamils and act fearlessly and courageously.

Kunti's Advice

In reply Mr. Mahadeva said that Mr. Aney's thesis was that no peace settlement in Europe after the war would be permanent and lasting unless it was based on the principles of justice and righteousness. "I am in entire accord with Mr. Aney. In our local problems too the same principles should be applied. I am reminded of a verse in the Mahabharata in which Kunti pleaded with her son Duryothanan not to enter on an unrighteous war against his cousins and reminded him that because 'triumph doth on virtue wait', his cause being not righteous victory will not attend it. It is not sufficient for us to ask that the Sinhalese should not dominate. But we the minorities should equally be careful not to attempt to dominate the Sinhalese. Any permanent settlement between the Sinhalese and the minorities can be secured only if principles of justice, fair-play and righteousness are observed in our demands. As long as these principles are observed I can assure Mr. Nadesan that I shall make my endeavour to bring about a reasonable settlement of our differences," said Mr. Mahadeva.

Sinhalese Congress Point of View

"For the first time in our struggle for freedom the right to frame our own Constitution has been granted to us subject to certain stipulations and limitations. But I do not think it is necessary for us to pay much heed to these terms and stipulations which have been inspired by a belief that the various communities in this Island are hopelessly divided," said Mr. Siripala Samarakkody, speaking on Saturday from the chair at the Ceylon National Congress session at Ambalangoda.

"As a matter of fact, Mr. Morrison, a Minister of Cabinet rank, speaking to America, for propaganda purposes, stated that His Majesty's Government has always been willing to grant complete self-government to the countries of the Empire but that the disunity of the people was in the way.

"This Congress is prepared to take His Majesty's Government at their word and present a united front to them by making all reasonable concessions to the so-called minority communities. If this is achieved there is nothing to prevent our drafting any constitution we want.

Reasonable Concessions

"I am confident that the Board of Ministers are more or less working on these lines and that they are prepared to make all reasonable concessions to minorities to allay any suspicions that they may entertain in order to unite the country against the imperial menace."

The next direction the Congress desires to give the Board of Ministers is that no provision should be made to enable His Majesty the King to amend, alter, or withdraw the constitution. It is a well-known constitutional principle that once representative government is granted to a colony, the right of the King to legislate ceases unless the constitution specially reserves it.

Dissolution Urgent

"While great attention is paid in Britain to large post-war problems, it is understandable that constitutional reform which is so urgent should await the conclusion of the war. This Congress, therefore, rightly demands the dissolution of the State Council before the end of 1944, and that an election be held under a new constitution," said Mr. Samarakkody.

Sinhalese Mahasabha Point of View

Reference to the Ministers' reforms proposals was made at the All-Ceylon Village Committees Conference at Dikwela by the Chairman, Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike, Minister of Local Administration.

"If there is reasonable co-operation among the various sections of the people and the different parties, I feel that there is a great opportunity at this time of securing the real substance of self-government," he said.

"But, we too seem to be faced with the same vicious circle as India. Britain will agree only if we can agree among ourselves (at least to the extent of a three-quarter majority of the State Council). But agreement among ourselves may only be possible at a test and under circumstances that

DISTRIBUTION OF FOODSTUFFS.

Co-Operative Monopoly Opposed.

A largely attended public meeting was held on Thursday afternoon in the Town Hall, Jaffna, under the chairmanship of Mr. A. V. Kulasingham, Crown Advocate, Editor, Hindu Organ, to protest against the Government's present and proposed methods of food distribution. Among those associated with the Chairman on the platform was Mr. S. Natesan, M. S. C., Mr. N. Chelvidurai, Secretary of the Jaffna Association, acted as secretary of the meeting.

The Chairman said that the present distribution of foodstuffs through co-operative stores was most unsatisfactory with the result that consumers were forced to go to the black market. Dissatisfaction was not confined to a particular community, but was island-wide.

He condemned as unwise Government entering into the field of business with the assistance of highly paid officers with no practical experience. The most alarming proposal was the idea of handing over the entire distribution of foodstuffs to co-operative stores. If the people, particularly the poor, were to benefit there must be an element of competition which would be absent if the Government assumed a full monopoly. He appealed to the Board of Ministers to reconsider the proposal.

The following motion proposed by Mr. M. M. Abdul Cader and seconded by Mr. K. Sri Sundaramoorthy was passed unanimously: "That equal opportunity and facilities be given by the authorities to private as well as co-operative enterprises without regard to a quota of consumers; that as the methods of distribution obtaining heretofore have been found to be eminently satisfactory to consumers no innovation be introduced which would have the effect of crippling private enterprise, or throwing an unduly heavy burden on the co-operative organisation and of adding to the difficulties of consumers."

(Continued from previous Column)

would make democratic self-government itself a meaningless phrase. But the problem is not insuperable.

"If the ideal of freedom has any real significance for us, I am sure that the difficulties that face us can be satisfactorily overcome. Clear thinking is needed, always to keep in mind the things that are really important and not to allow trivial matters to cloud the issue; and also patience and good humour and statesmanship."

Mr. Churchill Ill In Egypt.

Reassuring Medical Bulletins.

London, Dec. 18.

The crisis of Mr. Winston Churchill's pneumonia has passed. The condition is clearing up, states Reuter's Staff Editor.

This is a heartening indication of the bulletin issued this afternoon announcing that 'there has been some irregularity of the pulse but the temperature is subsiding and the pneumonia is resolving.'

Though the Premier must still be regarded as seriously ill, the course of illness may be described as proceeding satisfactorily. —Reuter.

Westminster, Dec. 16.

The announcement that Mr. Winston Churchill, Prime Minister, is ill was made in the House of Commons today by the Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. C. R. Attlee. He said the following bulletin about the Prime Minister's health was being issued from No. 10 Downing Street:

"The Prime Minister has been in bed for some days with a cold. A patch of pneumonia has now developed in the left lung. His general condition is as satisfactory as can be expected."

The bulletin was signed by the Prime Minister's doctors. Mr. Attlee said further bulletins would be issued daily.

Before quoting the bulletin on Mr. Churchill's illness, Mr. Attlee said that Mr. Eden informed the House on Tuesday on his return from Cairo that he had left the Prime Minister to see the work of the conferences through to the end. Reuter

Second Bulletin

London Dec. 17.

Mrs. Churchill is now with the Prime Minister, it is learned in London. She made the journey by air.

The following bulletin on Mr. Churchill was issued from No. 10 Downing Street this afternoon: "There has been no spread in the pneumonia, and the improvement in the Prime Minister's general condition has been maintained."

The bulletin was signed by the three doctors attending the Prime Minister, Lord Moran, Brigadier D. Evan Bedford and Lieutenant Colonel R. J. V. Pulvertaft.

The announcement from No. 10 Downing Street has noticeably relieved the general anxiety and produced the reaction of at least immediate reassurance. So far Mr. Churchill's astonishing toughness is keeping the danger at bay.

The climate of the Middle East is far better for Mr. Churchill than the cold and wet of English winters and the convalescent stage will consequently be greatly helped. —Reuter



Hindu Organ.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1943.

A DANGEROUS EXPERIMENT

At the rally of office-bearers and committee members of the Co-operative Stores in Colombo held last week in the State Council grounds Mr. D. S. Senanayake paid an eloquent tribute to the co-operative movement. The total number of rice ration books served by these stores in Colombo amounts to 285,000. This means, according to the Minister, that 93 per cent. of the civil population of the city is already within the co-operative fold. Each co-operative store seems to be doing an appreciable amount of business. Monthly sales per store amount to about Rs 10,000. There is no doubt that the co-operative movement has a great future in Ceylon. We are glad to have the Minister's assurance that his Ministry is behind the movement and that everything possible is being done to speed it up.

Mr. Senanayake's speech, however, contains implications regarding the policy of the Ministry towards private enterprise for which public opinion in Ceylon is not ripe and for which the Ministers have received no mandate whatever from the people. We refer in particular to the Minister's hope that within a few days more all Colombo will be served through co-operative stores. His ambition seems to be that the entire island should be served by co-operative stores. If the Ministry stops there and gives the movement every legitimate assistance, there can be nothing against it. We are informed, however, that the Ministry has already taken steps to squeeze out the private trader. The licences of authorised distributors who have less than 200 coupons have been cancelled and it is feared that gradually the Ministry will eliminate the others.

We repeat that the experiment on which the Ministry is embarking is a highly dangerous one. The elimination of private trade by the authority of the State would mean that trade would become a Government or semi-Government enterprise. The qualifications of the Board of Ministers in this direction are not at all impressive. We remember what happened to the Mission that was sent out to India to buy rice. The co-operative movement cannot by itself suffice to supply all the needs of the consumers. Besides, in

the absence of healthy competition, which the Ministers desire to eliminate, it is not in the interests of the consumers that they should be virtually forced to give their custom to any particular store. What Mr. Senanayake is evidently trying to do is to deny the citizen his right to buy wherever he likes and to limit his choice to a particular store. We are convinced that this is an encroachment on the rights of the people, for which even the present emergency affords no justification.

As we have said, the co-operative movement has a great future before it, but we do not share the Minister's view regarding the machinery through which the movement has got to work. The machinery is human and it has all the defects of human nature. Does Mr. Senanayake know what these defects are? We wonder. The Minister dwelt at some length on the question of profits. According to him, the business of a co-operative store yields profits which will be shared by many. This, however, is not everything. It has to be remembered that the profits come as the result of a form of compulsion which is only possible in times of war.

As Minister of Agriculture and Lands Mr. Senanayake has been entrusted with a task which bristles with difficulties. He is extremely unwise in adding to these difficulties by trying to destroy private trade. In spite of his efforts in the direction of increased food production, the country has still to be content with a rice ration which is certainly poor testimony to the results achieved by him. He is now hitting out in another direction. We suppose that politicians have to keep themselves alive by dangling one attractive bait after another before the public, but the people of this country are not so ignorant as to be taken in by every new bauble which has caught the fancy of the Minister.

We trust that members of the State Council will consider carefully all the implications of the attitude of the Board of Ministers towards private trade. As pointed out by the *Ceylon Daily News*, the success of some of these co-operative stores is due to the fact that the Government has become the sole importer of many essential foodstuffs and has adopted the policy of commandeering stocks imported by private traders. If imported stocks are commandeered, the inevitable result will be that private traders will not take the risk of importing these stocks. The Government will be saddled with the entire responsibility for supplying the consumers. Even in these days the Government should not assume this responsibility. But, once the war comes to an end, what is going to happen to Mr. Senanayake's schemes? Will the

MINISTER OF EDUCATION ON DENOMINATIONAL SCHOOLS.

Deficiencies of The System and How to Set Them Right.

The Minister of Education, Mr. C. W. W. Kannangara, Chairman of the Special Committee on Education, sums up his objections to the system of denominational control of education in the following rider appended to the Report of the Committee. Mr. Kannangara writes:—

"Although there are some points on which I do not see eye to eye with the views of the majority contained in this Report, I subscribe to it as a whole. However I feel that I would be lacking in my duty if I do not place on record my disagreement with the opinions and conclusions stated therein on the subject of the denominational control of education. I refer to the recommendations in paragraphs 63, 64, 65, and 67 and the arguments adduced in support of the continuance of the present denominational system. These are summarized in paragraphs 345 and 347. I also disagree with the recommendation in paragraph 163 that Managers of denominational schools should be allowed the right to select candidates of particular religious persuasions for teaching posts in their schools in preference to those who have been placed higher in order of merit at the examination.

"As early as 1911 the deficiencies of the system of denominational control were commented on by an impartial observer, namely Mr. J. J. R. Bridge, an Inspector of Schools of the English Board of Education. Some progress has no doubt been made under the denominational system, but a one-sided advance cannot make up for the rivalry and bitterness of feeling between different religious communities which the system has engendered. A most deplorable and disturbing feature of the educational system in vogue since the British connection has been inequality of opportunity which had been aggravated by the denominational system. Religious communities with comparatively less resources and without organizational strength and solidarity have long suffered under a sense of frustration and a sense of injustice. Even to-day the Kandyan Buddhists and the Muslims make demands for various special concessions, because they feel keenly the serious handicaps under which they labour under the present system which they criticize as one based on an artificial equality without real equality of opportunity for all the communities.

Religious Teaching

"I am of opinion that a system of public education for the future must be entirely free and under public control, i. e., under the control of the State and or the local authority. I do certainly subscribe to the proposition that no education can be complete unless imparted against a religious background. Religious instruction should form part of the curriculum of schools and colleges. But I do not agree with the school of

Government be able to compete with the private trader? We do not think so. We are afraid that the Ministry is taking a narrow and twisted view of the possibilities of the co-operative movement and is, on the strength of it, trying to eliminate private enterprise. It is the duty of the State Council to consider this matter and persuade the Ministers that that such a radical departure from past policy cannot be permitted.

thought that holds that State education is *per se* godless or soulless, because it is imparted by the State. On the other hand all the usual activities of the State—maintenance of law and order, of economic and social services—have a meaning and purpose only in relation to the lives of its citizens, namely the provision for them of a fuller and a richer life both materially and spiritually. It must also be remembered that all State institutions are run by "sufful" men and women. Accordingly it is not beyond human ingenuity to devise a system of education subject to public control in which there will be adequate arrangements to ensure a religious background and atmosphere appropriate to the pupils concerned and without violating the principle of State neutrality in matters pertaining to religion. In such a system arrangements could be made by the executive authority in consultation with the parents and the respective religious organizations for providing religious instruction in the school to pupils of the particular denominations.

Alternative Courses

"If the advocates of the denominational system are serious in their contention that a religious background is indispensable to education, such a background should be ensured for every child attending a denominational school. But, in accordance with the denominational system as prevailing at present, religious background and religious instruction are provided only in the religion of the body or organization that controls the school with the result that numbers of children who do not belong to that particular denomination have to forego a valuable part of their education. If the protagonists of denominational control are to be consistent, they must agree to make adequate provision for the religious instruction of any child attending a school in the religion to which the parent of the child belongs. In my view this should be an indispensable condition of the continuance of the denominational system.

Reductio ad Absurdum

"I would go further and say that even the existing denominational schools should be required, on pain of forfeiture of the support they now receive from public funds, to provide for the instruction of children of unlike denominations in their respective religions. Such a course involves the right of entry to teachers of religious instruction belonging to other faiths which the supporters of the denominational system have hitherto resisted. The alternative is for the State to insist on the ideal denominational system in which children of each denomination only are taught in schools under the control of that denomination. But then from the point of view of national unity the State cannot support a movement to divide its future citizens and segregate them on the basis of creed. This *reductio ad absurdum* furnishes a complete argument in support of my view that in a country of diverse religions a State system of public education is all the more essential. A decision to provide free education up to and including the University stage will reinforce my argument for complete State control.

Freedom of Parents

"I do not for a moment intend that the denominational system should be "scrapped". If any section of the people desire that their children should be educated in denominational schools they should not be denied that right. But there is no reason why they should expect

(Continued on page 4.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

The Reforms Conferences.

Sir,—The public is thankful to your political correspondent for having exposed the tendentious report published in a daily Colombo paper that the Board of Ministers are making an honest endeavour to meet the demands of the minorities. The Ministers are doing nothing of that sort. The statement of your political correspondent in your issue of the 9th December is in effect borne out by a subsequent report appearing in the same Colombo daily paper in this evening's issue. The relevant sentence of that report contributed by the political correspondent of that paper runs as follows:

"In an effort to meet the objections raised by minority leaders that the reforms scheme prepared by the Ministers is being kept secret, a number of minority representatives have been invited by Mr. D. S. Senanayake, Leader of the State Council, for a discussion of their proposal and to hear any fresh suggestions that minority leaders may have to put forward."

The cat is now out of the bag. The object of this conference is primarily to meet the objections raised by minority leaders that the Ministers' Reforms Scheme is being kept secret and not so much as to meet the demands of the minority leaders for a just solution of our political problems. It is understood that having failed in their attempt to get the five resolutions which appeared in an earlier issue of the Hindu Organ, discussed in the State Council, the minority representatives in Council were preparing to take further steps to protect our position. To prevent such further steps being taken, it transpires that Mr. Senanayake with his usual cunning has now invited the minority representatives in Council, including the Tamil members to discuss matters with the Ministers. The procedure adopted is wrong from more than one point of view. What was required by the minority representatives was discussion and consideration by the State Council in public session of the Reform Proposals of the Ministers. It is only such discussion, consideration and voting in the State Council that will enable the Secretary of State and the public to form a correct view of the Ministers' proposals and to act accordingly. The second defect in the procedure adopted by the Ministers is that they have invited minority representatives not for a round table conference sitting together at the same time but individually or in groups at different days, following the notable or notorious example of Sir Stafford Cripps in India who made it a point to meet Indian Leaders at different times and separately.

The latest move on the part of the Ministers to hoodwink the minority communities should be strongly resisted by our leaders; it is only by strong and united opposition on the part of the minorities that they could hope to save themselves from political extinction. If the minority leaders are divided among themselves they will be doing the greatest disservice possible to their respective communities and to the country. Again if the Tamil representatives are divided among themselves at this critical juncture,

they will be causing irreparable harm.

It is trusted that each one of our minority representatives will bear in mind at this critical time that what is wanted is not a few more crumbs here and there in the way of additional seats for their respective communities in the State Council but the frank and whole-hearted recognition in the future constitution of the principle of non domination by any particular community in the national life of the entire country, so that Ceylon will have real, national and democratic self government with the least possible delay. If the Sinhalese leaders are really serious about self-government, we can surely get it, if they gracefully do the right thing by the Tamils and the other minorities, without further manoeuvrings and stratagems. Let the Tamil Minister make the matter clear to his ministerial colleagues,

Colombo, COMMONSENSE,
Dec 13.

ROYAL SOCIETY OF TEACHERS.

Sir,—Further to my letter on life membership of the above Society (published in these columns some time ago), I am informed by air-graph from Mr. R. A. Spencer, Secretary of the Royal Society of Teachers, that candidates holding teachers' certificates awarded by government departments in the dominions and colonies are required in addition to possess some other qualification, such as the Intermediate examination leading to a degree of a recognised university, or a Diploma of the College of Preceptors, London. Such candidates will receive special consideration from the Teachers Registration Council acting as the Executive of the R. S. T.

In my previous letter I presented the case for registration with clarity sufficient to have some effect in Ceylon and I received some inquiries. The Teachers Registration Council, being governed by orders made by His Majesty in Council, is unable to depart from the statutory rules governing admission to registration and membership of the Royal Society of Teachers. Under these conditions, except for the foregoing paragraph, only trained graduates or teachers classified in Ceylon as such) are eligible for full Life Membership (M. R. S. T.)

I am expecting more sets of application forms from the Secretary of the R. S. T. Those of your readers who desire to correspond direct may write to the Secretary, Royal Society of Teachers, 20 Gordon Square, London, W. C. 1.

T. KATHIRA VELLU,
Secretary,
Valikamam East Teachers' Association.

THE URBAN COUNCIL.

BUDGET MEETING TOMORROW.

A special meeting of the Jaffna Urban Council will be held at the Office of the Council tomorrow at 5 p. m. to consider and adopt the Budget for the year 1944.

U. C. MEMBER "BOUND OVER."

Alleged Threat To Kill Crown Proctor.

The Jaffna Magistrate, Mr. V. Manicavasagar, made order on Friday last binding over in Rs. 100/- Mr. Ariya Pathirana, Nominated Member of the Jaffna Urban Council, to keep the peace.

In this case Mr. S. de La Harpe, Chief Inspector of Police, Jaffna, filed a report and led evidence on Monday last to have Mr. A. Pathirana bound over.

The Magistrate ordered notice on Mr. Ariya Pathirana to appear before him on Tuesday, which he did; and the inquiry proceeded.

Police Evidence

Sub-Inspector B. W. Sugathadasa, giving evidence said that Mr. Pathirana contested Ward No. 1 at the Jaffna Urban Council elections but was unsuccessful. On December 11, Mr. R. R. Nalliah, complained to the Police that Mr. Pathirana threatened to do bodily harm to him and had stood in front of his (Mr. Nalliah's) house and abused him.

He (witness) went down to where Mr. Nalliah lived: at about 6.30 p. m. that day and saw Mr. Ariya Pathirana and his father standing on the road in front of Mr. Nalliah's house. Witness asked them to go away and went along with them. Mr. Ariya Pathirana said: "I do not mind saying in front of the Police Officer that I will kill Mr. Nalliah".

Witness further said that on the same day there was a complaint by Mr. T. S. Thuraijajah that Mr. Ariya Pathirana had pointed a gun at him and that he had to run and take shelter in a house.

After recording further evidence the Magistrate ordered notice on Mr. Ariya Pathirana.

Inspector de La Harpe also filed a plaint charging Mr. Ariya Pathirana with having threatened to shoot Mr. T. S. Thuraijajah, with a gun.

The Magistrate ordered summons on the accused.

Messrs: G. Thanabalasingham, Proctor, W. M. Coomaraswamy, Alfred Swampilla, Proctor and others also gave evidence.

Mr. R. R. Nalliah, Crown Proctor, giving evidence said that he took an active part in the recent U. C. elections and supported Mrs. P. Nadaraja, the successful candidate against Mr. A. Pathirana. After the results were announced Mr. Pathirana abused him and one of Mr. Pathirana's companions took some earth and threw it towards witness's house cursing him. On December 11th Mr. A. Pathirana standing in front of his house called out to him "you chandiyafellow Nalliah, get out I will make an end of you". A little later Mr. Pathirana's father, Mr. Charles Pathirana said, "you chandiyafellow come out. I will shoot and kill you". Witness telephoned to the Police.

His Nomination

Mr. Ariya Pathirana said that in April, 1942, several persons attempted to get themselves nominated to the Urban Council in place of his father, who had resigned. He was one of the aspirants and Mr. R. R. Nalliah gave him a letter of recommendation to Mr. A. Mahadeva. After his nomination he did not act according to the wishes of Mr. Nalliah.

New Education Bill.

Britain's Far-Reaching Measure.

London, Dec. 16
Government's Education Bill, the most far-reaching educational reform measure in Britain's history, was issued today. It provides for the school leaving age to be raised to fifteen on April 1, 1945. Much heavier penalties for non-attendance—including jail for the offending parents—are also included in the bill. Superseding all existing education acts, the Bill which received its formal first reading in the House of Commons yesterday, is expected to have its second reading debate soon after Parliament reassembles in the New Year. —Reuter.

He refused to vote in Council for the removal of the then Chairman, Mr. R. Sivagurunathan, when a no-confidence motion was placed before the Council in May, 1942. Subsequently he refused to support Mr. Nalliah's nominee for the chairmanship. He also opposed the scheme for a redistribution of wards proposed by Mr. Nalliah as it was calculated to create pocket boroughs. He related other instances where he had disagreed with Mr. Nalliah.

In the recent elections he contested Mr. S. P. Nadarajah, nominee of Mr. Nalliah, and Mr. J. D. Veerasingham, the Rate-payers' Association candidate. The contest was really between him and Mr. Nalliah. Between November 27th and December 11th there were no incidents. "On the evening of December 11th Mr. Vinasithamby and Mr. Somasunderam, both ardent supporters of his, were assaulted opposite Mr. Nalliah's house. He and his father set out to see Mr. Vinasithamby at the hospital and as they passed Mr. Nalliah's house his father said in Tamil, "You chandiyafellow, why do you get people to assault my men. Let us put an end to it".

Just then sub-Inspector Sugathadasa came and at his request they turned back. While returning he narrated to the sub-Inspector the incident relating to the assault on Mr. Vinasithamby, and Mr. Somasunderam and he asked Mr. Sugathadasa whether Mr. Nalliah's influence extended to the police station. He told Mr. Sugathadasa: "I have killed his influence partially and I will kill him completely." Mr. Sugathadasa said: "You will go to the gallows."

Witness being anxious about his safety and exasperated at the police attitude, said: "You record my statements." Respondent and his father went home.

At 7.30 the same evening he was getting ready to address a public meeting in connexion with the establishment of an English school for the depressed classes. Inspector de la Harpe asked him what his destination was, and said he had banned the meeting. The Inspector drew his attention to the fact that a gun was in the car. Witness had the gun, which had been placed there by his father, removed and went to Vadiry and addressed the meeting. He left Vadiry for home at 1 a.m.

The inquiry lasted from Tuesday till Friday morning last when the Magistrate delivered his order.

Mr. Sam A. Sabapathy, with Mr. C. D. Singaratnam appeared for the police, while Mr. P. Ragupathy, instructed by Mr. Vital Moses, appeared for the respondent.

DENOMINATIONAL SCHOOLS.

(Continued from page 2)

"exclusive" schools of this kind to be supported from public funds, in the same manner and to the same degree as at present. The State can make educational provision only up to a point. If any individual or group is dissatisfied with the nature and extent of such provision, such individual or group is free to make alternative provision at his or its own expense. So that State education does not, as is sometimes supposed, militate against the theory of the freedom of parents in the matter of the choice of schools for their children.

Limits of Control

"The State system of education which I have supported for a considerable time and do support now should not be understood as including within its scope any kind of control or prescription of content or methods of education. In any democratic system these are matters that are left for free development by teachers. I consider that State control should primarily cover establishment of schools, admission and attendance of pupils, and appointment, emoluments and disciplinary control of teachers. The last is the most important. In connection with the appointment and disciplinary control of teachers, the denominational system has lent itself to grave abuse. In my experience as Minister for Education I have not found any other aspect of Assisted school administration taking up such a disproportionate part of the time of the Department of Education and the Executive Committee.

Selection of Teachers

A school should be deemed to be a public trust so long as it is supported from public funds. But the denominational principle insists on regarding the school as a private trust meant to be administered primarily in the interests of a private individual or of the members of the denomination concerned. These managements accordingly claim that no person other than a member of the denomination can hold a teaching post in a denominational school. I have throughout opposed this position. The claim, however, has been pressed on Government, but no definite decision has yet been taken. It is difficult to expect the service of education to improve if appointments to teaching posts are made on grounds other than those of character, competence and efficiency. It will not be denied that character and efficiency are not the monopoly of members of any particular religious persuasion.

Grounds of Policy

"Further, apart from educational considerations, there are those of general policy. The teaching service is a large one. There are now about 22,000 teachers. I cannot acquiesce in any system that aims at reserving any proportion of these posts for persons of a particular religious persuasion. Only a State system can guarantee the impartial distribution of employment among all sections of the population on the ground of merit. Even if the present Assisted school system is to be retained, I am of opinion that appointments and disciplinary control of teachers should be under the control of the Department of Education. Teachers as a body have all along expressed dissatisfaction with the position in which Managers exercised the power of dismissal and disciplinary control. Here again, experience has shown that teachers do not get a fair deal under the existing denominational system.

Untenable Grounds

"Printed attention must be drawn to the fact that, apart from the grounds of character, competence and other considerations that make a person unfit for an office, the denomi-

national system has evolved certain untenable grounds for discontinuance of teachers. For example, a teacher is sometimes discontinued for changing his faith or for marriage with a person of a faith different from that of the management. Teachers of Assisted schools are also transferred by way of punishment for reasons unconnected with their efficiency as teachers or the welfare of the school. These are some of the disabilities imposed upon the teacher by denominational control of schools. Contentment in the teaching profession can be secured only by making tenure of teachers similar to that of public servants. Such a proposal will, however, be resisted by denominational managers as inimical to the interests of denominational schools. The solution therefore is a State system of schools maintained from public funds side by side with a system of private schools receiving comparatively limited aid, if any, from public funds administered according to denominational principles.

Training Schools

"I take particular exception to the recommendation for the continuance of the system of denominational training schools. If the teachers of the future are not to be brought up in a free atmosphere with opportunities for mixing with one another, irrespective of race, caste or creed, their training, I am afraid, will be narrow. It is bad enough that pupils should be segregated during the primary and post-primary stages of their education in denominational schools; but it is intolerable, from the point of view of breadth of sympathies, that, once they have left post-primary schools, they should be again segregated in denominational training schools. Finally, the products of the denominational training schools are to be sent out as teachers again to denominational schools. They will never imbibe the spirit of tolerance and sympathy for the other man's point of view, which are qualities so essential in a teacher. Here again, I agree that religious atmosphere and religious instruction are necessary. But adequate provision for this purpose can easily be made in State Training schools. I cannot also support the proposal that entrance to training colleges should be made to depend on a candidate's religious persuasion. I consider that after adequate notice teacher training should be taken over by the Department of Education under its direct control."

OBITUARY

Mr. R. SAYAMBUNATHAR

The death occurred yesterday of Mr. R. Sayambunathar, at his residence at Thalalayal, Van, East, at the ripe age of 97. He was for over three generations the school master of the village. He was an ardent devotee, strictly following the precepts of religion in his life and was for over half a century the *puranikar* of the village temple. Until very recently, when infirmity of age incapacitated him, he used to read or expound the Shaiva puranas in the temple.

A man of great piety and exemplary life, he was much respected.

He leaves three sons, Messrs S. Sathasivam, F. M. S. Pensioner, S. Annachalam, presently of the Ceylon Government Railway, and S. Subramaniam, in the F. M. S., a daughter, Mrs. Thillaiampalam, and a large number of grand and great-grand children.

The funeral was largely attended.

AUCTION SALE

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA

No. 114.

Nagalingam Eliyathambiy of Velanai East Plaintiff,

Vs.

Kathirgamar Maruthappa and wife Nagaretnam both of Vannarpannai East Defendants.

Under and by virtue of the Commission issued to me in this case I shall sell by public auction the undermentioned property on Thursday the 3rd day of February 1944 commencing at 4-30 p.m. at the spot.

Property Referred To:

Land situated at Vannarpannai East, Vannarpannai called Aninchilady in extent one lm. V. C. and 12 kls, with house, shed, latrine, well and other appurtenances and bounded on the East by lane, North by the properties of the heirs of the late Sellakannupillai wife of Selladurai west by the land belonging to Mohideen Mosque and south by the property of the heirs of the late Subramaniam.

V. A. DURAYAPPAN, Commissioner.

Jaffna, 10-12-43.

(Mis. 192, 20.)

NOTICE

Distribution of Subsidiary Foodstuffs in Jaffna District.

Arrangements have been made to distribute the undermentioned articles to consumers through their Authorised Distributors from 21-12-43 to 26-12-43 (both days inclusive):—

(1) Coriander one oz per head

(2) Mysore Dhall two oz per head.

2. Consumers are advised to draw their ration of the above articles along with their ration of other commodities.

Sgd. E. B. Tisseverasinghe for Deputy Food Controller.

Jaffna 19th December 1943.

G. 32.

WANTED.

A Science Graduate and a lady teacher for service in the Manipay Hindu College. Ability to teach Botany, Music and Housecraft and games will be additional qualifications. Apply to the Manager, Manipay Hindu College, Manipay before the 23th of December.

Mis. 190.

MANIPAY HINDU COLLEGE —SCHOLARSHIPS.

Deserving candidates will be given scholarships to study in the H. S. C. Class. Apply to the Principal, Manipay Hindu College, Manipay.

Mis. 191.

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.)

ORDER NISI

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA

[Told at Point Pedro]

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 219/P.T. In the matter of the Last Will and Testament of the late Subramaniam Jegasothy of Puloly West Deceased, Thamootherampillai Arumugam of Puloly West Petitioner.

Vs.

1. Jegasothy Gnanakaran of Puloly West, a minor by his Guardian-ad-litem Sivapackiaratnam widow of Jegasothy of Puloly West
2. Kanagambikai daughter of Arumugam by her Guardian-ad-litem Sethupillai widow of Sabapathipillai of Puloly West Respondents.

This matter coming on for disposal before L. W. de Silva, Esquire, Additional District Judge on the 1st day of December 1943 in the presence of Mr. N. A. Rajaratnam, Proctor, on the part of the petitioner and on reading the petition and affidavit of the petitioner:

It is ordered that the Will of Subramaniam Jegasothy deceased dated the 21st day of October 1942 and now deposited in this Court be and the same is hereby declared proved unless the Respondents or any other person shall on or before the 13th day of January 1944 show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

It is further declared that the said petitioner is the Executor named in the said Will and that he is entitled to have Probate of the same issued to him accordingly unless the respondents or any other person shall appear before this Court on the 13th day of January 1944 and show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

Sgd. L. W. de SILVA, Addl. District Judge.

The 6th day of December 1943.

[O. 64.]

MANIPAY PARISH SOCIAL SERVICE LEAGUE.

In Aid Of The Bengal Distress Fund.

Under the distinguished patronage, and immediate presence of Mr. James Joseph, District Judge, and Mrs. Joseph

"Chandra Hari"

(a burlesque on "Harichandra", full of fun from start to finish) by Rao Bahadur P. Sambandha Mudaliar, B. A., B. L., (will be staged at

The Manipay Hindu College Hall,

on Saturday, 1st Jan. 1944, at 9 a.m. by the members of

The Jaffna Sangeetha Abivikthi Sabha and Shanti Nilayam.

The amateurs taking part in the play include: Dr. K. Cathiravelu, Messrs. K. Chornalingam, K. Saravanamuttu, V. Sinnadurai, T. Ariaratnam, A. J. Casipillai, S. Gnana-sundaram, K. S. Ponnambalam, S. Chithiravelu, R. Senathirajah, J. G. Rajab, V. Kanapathipillai, etc.

Rates of Admission: Rs. 3, Rs. 2 & Rs. 1

C. Thiragarajab, President.

K. Chornalingam, Hon. Secretary.

Tickets can be had from:

M. Vallipuram, Manipay, Hon. Treasurer.

(Mis. 185, 13, 16 & 20.)

WANTED.

Sri Somaskanda English School, Puttur

From January 1944, a graduate as Headmaster for above school. Apply before 24th December to the undersigned.

S. PONNAMBALAM, Manager, Chunnakam.

Mis. 187.