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## THE EIGHTH WEEK OF THE WAR

### Von Ribbentrop's Hysterical Utterances

#### U-BOAT MENACE UNDER CONTROL

#### Allies Facing the War with Courage and Optimism

By Rev. R. S. de Saram,

(In a broadcast, on October 30; covering period October 23 to 30)

WE are now in the eighth week of the War. Two things stand out. First, in spite of threats of the dreadful things that would happen at once to any one who dared to oppose Germany, so far she has not been able to do anything so very frightful. Thucydides Notes on Athenian General say "All armies are most terrible at first; if the appearance of them is long delayed the spirits of men revive, and when they actually come, the sight of them only awakens contempt. If we could strike suddenly while our opponents are still in fear and suspense, that would be the best chance of victory." The Germans appear to have lost that advantage. They had come to believe themselves and had persuaded the rest of the world to believe, that when Hitler struck he would strike like lightning and that his opponents would be mortally smitten almost before they knew they had been struck. Well, that has simply not happened. The failure must cause some surprise in German minds (which cannot be all unintelligent) and must further strengthen the morale, always excellent, of the British people and their allies.

The second thing is the coolness and dignity of the allies' spokesmen as contrasted with the hysterical and undignified utterances of German statesmen. The quietness and lack of bombast of Mr. Chamberlain, Monsieur Daladier's and Mr. Churchill's utterances give the impression of strength; the abusive manner of such men as Ribbentrop and Goebbels make an opposite impres-

sion. Men scold when they cannot do anything more effective.

Coming more particularly to the events of the past week:—On Monday we had news of the first attack on a British convoy by a squadron of German bombers. The result was distinctly encouraging to us. In spite of the ample target that a convoy must offer from the air no ship was hit; while the Germans lost seven bombers. We learnt later that the enemy losses as a result of the air-raids on the Firth of Forth, Scapa Flow and on the convoy amounted to at least sixteen bombers. The damage sustained by the British was inconsiderable. Characteristic was Mr. Chamberlain's comment on these raids. While expressing satisfaction that the raids had been successfully dealt with he warned us against too easy an assumption that enemy attempts would always fail as completely. This avoidance of premature optimism cannot fail to impress us. We feel we have at the head of affairs men, cool-headed, determined, capable, not unduly puffed up by small successes therefore not likely to be daunted by adversity, should adversity come. The Germans are a terrible enemy; nothing is to be gained by underestimating their strength. There is not the slightest danger of that happening. We have leaders who have faced the facts and having faced them are prepared to see us through to victory.

On Tuesday, Von Ribbentrop made a speech at Danzig. It appears to have been a poor

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## MILITARY ADMINISTRATION IN ANCIENT INDIA

### The Hindu Militia

By S. R. Muttukumar

(Continued from our issue of 26-10-39)

#### CHAPTER III.

IN Northern India the men forming the militia were recruited from the Kshatriya caste. The immense standing army of Chandragupta gave special prominence to members of this caste, who were liberally treated in the matter of pay and allowances. (1)

The best men of the Doal formed then, as now, the best soldiers: and Manu recommends the Kings to engage such men, the Matsyas, the Panchalas, the men of Kurukshetra, and Surasana as soldiers, and to keep them in the van of the battle. (2) In this connection, Hsuen Tsiang, the Chinese pilgrim, writes: "The chief soldiers of the country are selected from the bravest of the people, and as the sons follow the profession of their fathers, they soon acquire a knowledge of the art of war. These dwell in garrisons around the palace (during peace), but when on an expedition they march in front as advance guard" (3)

#### Military Life in the North

Megasthenes says: "The soldiers lead a life of supreme freedom and enjoyment. They have only military duties to perform. Others make their arms, and others supply them with horses, and they have others to attend on them in camp, who take care of their arms, drive their elephants, prepare their chariots, and act as their charioteers. They are maintained at the King's expense, and hence they are always ready, when occasion calls to take the field, for they carry nothing of their own with them but their own bodies. As long as they are required to fight, they fight, and when peace returns, they aban-

don themselves to enjoyment." (4)

#### Military Life in the South

In the South of India, on the other hand, there was no distinction of caste in the recruitment of soldiers. Every male adult was trained to be a soldier. A heroic Tamil woman of ancient times sings thus: "My duty is to give birth to a son; the duty of his father is to teach him his family craft; the duty of the blacksmith is to fashion a spear for him; the duty of the King is to train him in military tactics, and to return from the battle-field after slaying his foes is the duty of my warrior son" (5)

It will thus be seen that the Dravidians of South India were not only expert handicraftsmen, but indomitable warriors. In times of peace, instead of wasting their time in idleness and enjoyment of pleasures, they devoted their time to the exercise of their family crafts. It is, however, regretful to note that in later times the South Indian soldiers too got drunk over their toddy and roamed about the market places, especially after the advent of the Roman soldiers as mercenaries under the Thamilian Kings. (6)

#### Military Officers

The country was partitioned into military divisions comprising over two, three, five, or a hundred districts, according to their extent. (7) In each of these divisions there was a body of troops commanded by an approved officer whose territorial limits did not necessarily

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(4) a. Mc Crindle's *Megasthenes* Frag, xxxiii.  
b. Strabo, xv, 1-47  
c. Arrian's *India*, chap. xii, p. 217.  
d. *apud* Diodorus, ii. 41. Frag. i. Mc Crindle's trans, p p. 40-41.  
e. Wheeler's *History of India*, iii. 186-7.

(5) *Puranamuru*, 312.(6) *Nedunavada*, 31-35.(7) *Manava Dharma Shastra*, vii, 114.(1) Rawlinson's *Intercourse Between India and the Western World* p. 53.(2) *Dharma Shastra*, vii. 193.(3) *Si-Yu-Ki* i. 82. Beal's trans.

## Matrimonial

The engagement is announced and the marriage will take place shortly of Mr. V. Kandiah, of the Civil Medical Stores, Colombo, with Miss. Ponnappah Poomalar Ammal, daughter of Mr. K. Ponnappah, Commissioner of Sales, Inuvil.

1-11-39  
(Mis. 184, 2-11-39)



## Hindu Organ.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1939.

### AN ORDER OF HINDU CELIBATES

THE SUCCESS OF ANY UNDERTAKING or institution depends first on its objectives and secondly on the persons behind it. Granted the former, the latter is more essential. The history of great institutions and great movements amply proves this. Where there is a single-minded devotion on the part of its promoters, success is a foregone conclusion. The difficulty of finding such men and women is the problem of the Hindu community today, and that is the chief reason why, when there is a sympathetic public to help, most of our Hindu institutions have not made that progress which the foreign bodies have made in this part of the Island. This state of affairs is being borne in daily upon those in charge of Hindu institutions which, in spite of the sincere and earnest work done therein, have not made such advancement. A realisation of this deficiency has led the Principal of the Jaffna Hindu College to mention, at the Old Boys' Dinner the other day, as one of the needs of the College the founding of an Order of Celibates who would devote their whole attention to the College. We are not concerned here with this particular institution but with all Hindu institutions in general. This was also the dream of SRI LA SRI ARUMUGANAVALAR of hallowed memory, whose services to the Hindu community are too great and enduring to need recapitulation. Had he lived a few more years, we should today be having an "order" that would have accelerated the pace of progress and given a deeper cultural background to these institutions. The secret of NAVALAR'S tremendous success, despite many adverse circumstances, was his consecrated life. He took upon himself the vow of celibacy and was wedded solely to the cause of Hindu revival. That, coupled with his dynamic personality, accounted for the glorious record of his inestimable achievements. What one NAVALAR accomplished, the whole Hindu community is struggling to do. All this because there is no

co-ordination of work and workers have not dedicated their all to the work. The striking success of institutions of foreign Missions—particularly the Catholic—and even among the Hindus—the Ramakrishna Mission—is due primarily to the order of monks who have consecrated their lives to the furtherance of the objectives of their Missions. One SWAMI VIPULANANDA today has been able to achieve for the Hindu Community in the Eastern Province what all Hindus have been unable to do all these years. Batticaloa district today has undergone a renaissance, and it is a pity that the Swami has had to go away before consolidating what he has done. We still hope he will be sent back to Ceylon to carry on the Hindu revival in Batticaloa and other parts of Ceylon. His example and the example of other dedicated souls should prove to the Hindus here the absolute need for an Order of Bramacharins to leaven and accelerate the progress of Hindu educational institutions. The foundation for such an order should be laid in those institutions themselves. If every institution would inspire in its pupils the desire for service and respect for Hindu tradition and culture and set before them the ideal of noble Hindu heroes like Naval, Swami Vivekananda etc., then the time is not far distant when we shall be having young men fired with a spirit of service and love of Hindu culture coming out of these institutions as volunteers to join the order which we so much need today. It is a sorry confession to make that we are not having such young men today because our schools do not aim at producing such. If Hindu institutions really aim at spreading Hindu culture, those in charge of the education of Hindu children should see that, even in the secular education they impart, they also inculcate into them the spirit of this ancient culture. We hope a serious effort at founding such an order of celibates will be made ere long.

### JAFFNA MUNICIPALITY IN 1941?

'Tomorrow the Executive Committee of Local Administration will decide when Jaffna is to have a Municipal Council. There is no reason to believe that they will go back on their former decision to establish the Municipal Council as from January 1941.'

Thus writes the Political Correspondent of the "Times of Ceylon" in its issue of the 1st instant.

The correspondent adds: The members of the Executive Committee visited Jaffna a fortnight ago at the insistent demand of the Ratepayers' Association and the pressing invitation of the M. S. C. for Jaffna, Mr. A. Mahadeva. The Ratepayers' Association has, apparently, not succeeded in changing the Committee's opinion on the subject. The latter seem to be all the more determined to give Jaffna a municipality at the earliest opportunity.

## JAFFNA HINDU COLLEGE O. B. A.

### ANNUAL CELEBRATIONS

#### APPEAL TO MAKE GOLDEN JUBILEE A SUCCESS

THE Old Boys' Day at the Jaffna Hindu College was celebrated on Sunday. The celebrations began with Pooja at the College shrine followed by singing competition and a bajana. At 12-30 more than 200 partook of the sumptuous lunch provided by the College.

The Annual general meeting of the Old Boys' Association was held at 2.30 p.m. Mr. A. Coomaraswamy, the President, presiding. After the adoption of the Minutes of the last annual meeting, the Secretary's report and the Treasurer's statement of accounts the election of office-bearers took place.

A resolution moved by Mr. C. Arulambalam, suggesting that the students of the Jaffna Hindu College and the Branch Schools, should sit for the religious examinations of the Vivekananda Society, Colombo, was referred to the Principal.

On the motion of the Secretary, Mr. V. Sivasupramaniam, it was decided to change the month of the Annual General Meeting from August to May.

The President announced at the meeting that the Golden Jubilee of the College would be celebrated in May 1940 and an All-Ceylon Industrial Rally and Carnival would be held in connection with it.

The Secretary, in his report, appealed to all Old Boys to rally round their alma mater and contribute their mite to make the Golden Jubilee celebrations a success.

The gathering then repaired to the new playground where the old boys and present boys played tennis and football. A group photograph was then taken with Sir Waitilngam Duraiswamy, the Manager of the School, as the central figure.

The Principal entertained the gathering to tea.

#### THE DINNER

At 7.30 p.m. the Old Boys Dinner took place. Covers were laid for 130.

There were two sets of diners—the majority using plates and the other plantain leaves. Mr. A. Coomaraswamy presided and had on his right Mr. C. T. Lorage, Divisional Inspector of Schools, and on the left Mr. C. Coomaraswamy, District Judge, Jaffna.

After the loyal toasts Mr. Sam A. Sabapathy, the Chairman of the Jaffna U.D.C., in proposing the toast of the College, said that at a time like the present when mankind stood aghast at a conflagration which might result in the collapse of Western civilization, the eyes of the world looked towards the East. They in Jaffna looked to Hindu College, which stood for Hindu culture. The other institutions stood for other things, for example, St. Patrick's College for sports, Jaffna, College for politics (a voice: "And St. John's College for girls"). (Laughter).

Mr. Sabapathy, continuing, said he hoped that those responsible for carrying on the affairs of that institution would continue to radiate from that power-house the light of Hindu culture far and wide.

#### Golden Jubilee Next Year

The Chairman, in reply said that in May next year the College would celebrate her golden jubilee, with an

industrial rally and carnival. The two pressing needs of that institution were a College temple and the establishment of an order, similar to that of the Fathers and Brothers of the Catholic Church, members of which, vowed to celibacy, would be in a position to give their full time to the spreading of Hindu culture in that institution.

Mr. T. Muttusamy Pillai, Advocate in proposing the toast of the guests, referred to the warm affection with which Mr. Lorage was held in Jaffna. While regretting the unavoidable absence of Sir Waitilngam Duraiswamy, from the festive board, the speaker said that Sir Waitilngam was represented by two of his brothers, the energetic Mr. W. F. Ratnagopal and the lovable Mr. W. Ponnudurai.

#### Dowry System

Mr. C. T. Lorage, Divisional Inspector of Schools, in replying to the toast, referred humorously to an affinity that, he said, existed between the Jews and the people of North Ceylon. Both, said the speaker, were great believers in the dowry system (loud laughter), whatever views a certain Councillor might hold on that subject. (Continued laughter).

The speaker then related the story of a certain Jew, named Solomon, who had three unmarried daughters. Solomon, wrote to his counsellor that he was prepared to give £100 as dowry to any one who would marry the youngest daughter. In the case of the second girl, who was older, he was prepared to give £400, but to the eldest, who was nearly 40, and whose prospects were therefore very remote, the dowry was to be £1,000. The counsellor put these proposals to a young Jew, who replied 'Please make diligent inquiries and find out whether Solomon has any daughters older than the 40 year-old one.' (Loud laughter).

Mr. A. W. Nadarajah, Advocate, and Secretary of the Jaffna College Alumni Association, proposed the toast of the Old Boys.

Paying a tribute to Mr. C. Coomaraswamy, the District Judge of Jaffna, Mr. Nadarajah said: "We are today sadly lacking in leadership. We hope when the time does come for you to take part in public service, you will not hesitate to rise up to answer the call of duty. No man in this peninsula of ours will be able to contribute something more realistic to the progress of our Shaiva faith than you, Sir. When the time does come, all of us whether old boys of this institution or not, as Hindus will readily follow your leadership." (Loud applause).

Mr. Coomaraswamy, replying, said that if that was the wish of them all, he would certainly live up to their expectations. (Loud and prolonged applause).

Referring to the diners, the speaker said that he would divide them into two sections, namely, the plate section and the leaf section. (Laughter). In his opinion outward ceremonial was of little significance. It was the clear heart that mattered. Plates introduced a little more light to the function than the gloomy looking leaves. When some of the organisers of the dinner attempted to ban plates as untouchable, he (the speaker) had cast his vote against such a ban.

#### "Impertinent" Criticism

Before concluding, Mr. Coomaraswamy condemned the habit of "our people" who spoke in disparaging terms of their community. It was sheer impertinence, he said, for any

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## MINISTERS' RESIGNATIONS ACCEPTED

### Governor Takes Over Administration in Madras

#### MORE MINISTRIES RESIGN

#### Gandhiji and Dr. Prasad Invited by Viceroy

Madras, Oct. 30.

THE Governor accepted the resignations of the Madras Ministers today. All ten Ministers met the Governor at 11 o'clock this morning at Fort St George and bade him goodbye.

Following the resignation of the Ministry, the Governor takes over the administration of the Presidency under Section 93 of the Government of India Act of 1935. The Governor will be assisted by an Advisory Board consisting of Messrs G. T. Boag, H. M. Hood and T. G. Rutherford.

#### Allocation of Subjects

The following is the allocation of subjects in Madras:—

Mr. G. T. Boag: General finance and revenue.

Mr. H. M. Hood: Control of the Motor Vehicles Taxation Act and the Public Works Development Department, excluding the subjects assigned to Mr. Rutherford.

Mr. T. G. Rutherford: Home Department, excluding the Motor Vehicles Taxation Act, public and general war section, education of the public, health, industries, labour, trades disputes and factories.

Mr. G. T. Boag, who is now in England on leave is expected by air on November 2 and meantime the Governor will deal with the subjects assigned him. Mr. D. N. Strathairn will be Chief Secretary.

#### No Change in the Situation

It is stated in well-informed circles in New Delhi that as far as the Centre is concerned, acceptance of the Madras Ministry's resignation makes no change in the situation that existed during the last few days. It is assumed that conversations between the Viceroy and political leaders this week will take place according to plan.

It is understood that Mr. Gandhi and Dr. Rajendra Prasad have accepted invitations from the Viceroy to see him at Delhi, and they are leaving Wardha for Delhi tomorrow morning.

It is understood that they will interview the Viceroy on Wednesday morning, probably at the same time. It is understood that Dr. Prasad drove to Shegaon immediately on receipt of the invitation from the Viceroy, and, it is stated, had a discussion on the attitude to be taken at the interview with the Viceroy.

#### Command the Confidence of the Country

Mr. Rajagopalachariar, interviewed by the Associated Press said: "Our resignations have been accepted. In the absence of a possible alternative Government commanding the confidence of the Legislature or one which may reasonably be expected successfully to get the country to support them, the

Secretary of State has taken over charge of the province on behalf of the British Government. We have resigned while we will command the confidence of the country and the Legislature."

Quoting Wordsworth's "Happy Warrior" he said:

"We should all strive to be happy warriors of that kind."

#### Likely to Become Teacher

Mr. C. Rajagopalachariar is likely to become a Wardha system school teacher.

Mr. Rajagopalachariar told Mr. Mahadeva Desai, after his interview with the Viceroy that if he resigned he would sit down as a Wardha-system school teacher.

"The idea of teaching through crafts is great, but unless one does it oneself one does not give it a fair trial.

"There is no doubt," he added, "politics absorb so much of time that little time is left for the essential things of life. We start so many things, but we no sooner begin to give them a trial than we are caught into the vortex."

#### Governor's Proclamation

Following the acceptance of the resignations of the present Ministers and the impossibility of forming another Ministry at present which will have the support of the working majority of the present Legislature, the Governor has issued a proclamation stating that whereas he is satisfied that a situation has arisen wherein the Government of the province cannot be carried on in accordance with the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935, therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred by Section 93 of the Act and with the concurrence of the Governor-General, he

(1) declares that all his functions under the Act shall be exercised by him in his discretion.

(2) Assumes to himself all powers vested in either Chamber of the Legislature, but not so as to affect any power exercisable by His Majesty with respect to Bills reserved for his consideration or the disallowance of Acts and makes incidental or consequential provisions which appear to himself to be necessary or desirable for giving effect to the proclamation.

#### U. P. Ministry Resigns

The United Provinces Assembly carried Premier Pant's resolution on the war crisis by 127 votes to 2.

After the announcement of the result of the voting the Premier announced that the Ministry would resign immediately.

The Speaker adjourned the House sine die.—

#### Mr. Jinnah to Meet Viceroy Today

It is learned that Mr. M. A. Jinnah will meet the Viceroy on Wednesday.

## OUR INDIAN LETTER

### MANUFACTURE OF MINORITIES

#### THE IMMORAL CINEMA

(By Lanka)

Madras,  
28th Oct. 1939.

BY the time this is in print Congress Ministries would all have come out as a token of the country's discontent and disappointment in regard to England's war aims in respect of India. Twenty seven months of Congress government in eight provinces has certainly left a mark in the country's progress. But who can say that this latest step of withdrawal is not another step forward? Remarkable developments have taken place in the course of the discussion in regard to India's participation in the present war, not the least of which is the Muslim pronouncement that India is no place for democracy. More minorities than were ever dreamed to exist in India were brought into being by a very clever process of invitation, and if the tamasha had been extended a little further there would have been a couple of hundred "representatives" of minority groups to add to the glory of government. As a matter of fact quite a few who had sent intriguing telegrams to the Viceroy expecting a call to Delhi are still on the waiting list. Such is politics in a subject country.

Opinions differ as to the outcome of the Congress move. Some people fear that all the good work initiated and planned by Congress governments would now be stopped or even undone by the office-hunting cliques, while others hope that the crisis would lead to freedom for the country. One thing is certain, the events of the last few weeks have clearly shown persons and groups and politics in their true colours. That is a great gain, indeed.

\* \* \*

SOMEWHAT startling is the decision of the Senate of the Madras University in regard to a proposal that the University should institute research work in the manufacture of photographic cinema and sound recording films. In this age of the silver screen, and at a time when there is a scarcity of raw films in India, one would have expected a ready assent to the proposal. By 59 votes to 21 the Senators rejected the proposal, and some very illuminating sentiments were expressed by them in the course of discussion. Dr. A. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliyar, Principal of the Medical College, practitioner of great repute, deliberately stated that the film industry must necessarily thrive on the weaknesses of humanity, the majority of films were rotten from the moral, material and national point of view, the villagers were now going to bed at midnight and ruining their health, very little of the traditional Hindu family life was left as a result of the cinema's influence, and the industry did not deserve the least particle of sympathy from anybody who had at heart the national regeneration of the country. Though Mr. Satyapuri supported the proposal prominent persons ranged themselves

against it. I devote a paragraph to this here as this will be of immense interest to Ceylon.

\* \* \*

QUITE appropriate to the times is the opinion of Dr. Katju, United Provinces Minister for Justice, in the Congress government, expressed sometime ago in regard to the place of history in school study. There has been a definite movement in the country to produce new history books, and the Minister stated that history should be written from the Indian view point and contain an impartial narrative of events of the past. Books written by foreigners were not history but propaganda, he claimed.

\* \* \*

NOTE also the reaction of a scholar who has been caught in the whirlpool of anti-Aryan feeling in South India, to the study of Hindi. Mr. Somasundara Bharathi, former professor of Tamil in the Annamalai University, has averred that however much one might be proficient in one's mother-tongue the learning of an alien tongue made that person more or less a slave to it. The learning of English, he said, had made many including himself to assume and adopt English ways of living. Tamilians would lose their identity and their civilisation by learning Hindi, and even if boys learnt Hindi he would not agree to Tamilian girls learning Hindi. His colleague, Swami Vedachalam, alias *Marai-malai-ad-gal*, another profound scholar, has stated that he derived more knowledge from the study of English than from that of Sanskrit!

## LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEES

### Education Ordinance in Operation

In connection with the working of Local Advisory Committees under the new Education Ordinance, Ceylon is to be divided into six divisions.

This decision was arrived at by the Executive Committee of Education which discussed the fixing of the number of Local Advisory Committees and the boundaries and the functions of these Committees.

The Executive Committee decided to approve the delimitation of the Island into six divisions as agreed upon by the Divisional Inspectors subject to the amendment that the Mullaitivu Revenue District should remain in the Northern Division.

The Committee further decided to approve the boundaries of the areas as decided upon by the conference of the Divisional Inspectors.

It was also decided that the Departments of Health, Education, Agriculture and the State Council should be represented on Local Advisory Committees.

# THE EIGHTH WEEK OF THE WAR

(Continued from page 1)

sort of affair. Germany has a bad case to start with. The speech seems to lack even the merit of having made the best of a bad job. Perhaps the fault is not Ribbentrop's. Perhaps he is as able as he thinks he is. It just happens that the case is too bad for even the cleverest advocate. Or it may be that Ribbentrop is not quite the man he thought he was. Or it may be a combination of both these possibilities. Anyway I think we can adapt Queen Victoria's famous remark to some one who was trying to tell her a penny story and reply "We are not impressed."

One wonders when reading a speech such as that of the German Foreign Minister whether words have ceased to have any meaning for these men or whether they think like Humpty-Dumpty that they can make words mean what they like. "When I use a word" said Humpty-Dumpty "it means just what I choose it to mean." Ribbentrop seems to be of a similar mind. Looking through his speech one comes across such phrases as these: 'Hitler's magnificent offer to Poland' 'This war has been imposed on Germany' 'The German Government must make the Polish Government fully responsible for events' 'Britain wanted war' 'Mr. Chamberlain did not come to Munich to prevent war' 'By declaring war Mr. Chamberlain has broken his agreement with Hitler that Britain and Germany would never go to war with each other.' Well, words cannot resist; but facts can. They are stubborn things. Humpty-Dumpty had a great fall, so the story goes; and he may have another.

Ribbentrop made two points. First, Britain caused the war. This preposterous nonsense deceives no one except the German people themselves—and not all of them, perhaps.

The second point was an attempt to point out the great advantage to Germany of the Russo-German pact. The pact clearly wants some explaining to the German people as Mr. Chamberlain quietly pointed out. There must be considerable bewilderment in German minds as to how the man who in 1936 warned England and all Europe against Communism 'his most terrible of all diseases' came to negotiate the pact at all. They must wonder more when they hear (if they do hear) of Russia's growing power in the Baltic. So something had to be said to justify the pact. Ribbentrop took the line of utility. Large supplies of raw materials could be obtained from Russia. He referred also to the restoration of the traditional friendship between Russia and Germany—another Humpty-Dumpty like phrase from the forger of the Anti-Comintern pact—but we will let it pass. Let us return to the question whether Germany is likely to gain much advantage from the Russian pact. She has gained one distinct advantage. She is safe from attack in the East. When that is said

it would appear that all is said. It is hard to believe that Russia will ever actively aid Germany with either men or war equipment. A triumphant Germany must be the last thing she wants. Will she supply raw materials? Yes, certainly—if Germany will pay. But Germany is going to find it very hard to pay either in money or in goods. Then again it has to be remembered that Russia is a country which is rapidly developing on the industrial side. She needs a vast quantity of her raw materials for her own needs. She can only spare her surplus to Germany and that, economists tell us, is not very great. Thirdly, there is the difficulty of transport. Russian produce has to be brought immense distances and the Russian Railway system is far from adequate for her own needs. War is a wasteful business and it may be doubted whether the Russian can deliver materials fast enough even if they were available. Transport by sea is for a considerable portion of the year not feasible as the Baltic ports are frozen. It may reasonably be doubted if the Russian pact is going really to be of great advantage to Germany when it is reckoned what it has cost her—namely the puzzlement of her own people and the shaking of their confidence in their leaders; the exposure to the whole world of the unscrupulous nature of German diplomacy; and lastly, the active friendship of Italy. For it is incredible now that Italy will side with Germany.

Dr. Goebbels has burst into speech again with a nonsensical tirade, against Mr. Churchill. Mr. Churchill, so says Dr. Goebbels, sank the Athenia. All this sort of thing is so much to the good. The world is not going to be dominated by a people whose leaders talk like this.

Russia has addressed a note to Great Britain protesting against the list of articles that she has declared to be contraband. She says that by including in the contraband list such articles as fuel, paper, cotton, footwear, clothing and footstuffs Britain creates the possibility of arbitrariness in classing all articles of popular consumption as contraband. The Soviet note says that such action violates international law, gravely impairs the rights of neutrals and destroys international trade. The note is being carefully studied. The subject of contraband is a constant matter of disputes between neutrals and belligerents. There is at present no treaty in existence on the subject to which the Soviet and Great Britain are both parties. Since that is so there is no standard by which the matter can be judged except the practice of the past to which the British list at present being enforced, conforms.

The 'Times' devotes an article to the subject and points out that the distinction for instance between food and munitions is very difficult to draw. All fats, to take one case, can be converted into propellants. To compel a nation with whom one is at war to choose between starving the people and starving the guns is a justifiable line of action.

Britain's position would appear to be somewhat as follows. These

restrictions arise out of a state of war. We did not desire war. We sought to avoid it. Now that it has broken out, our aim is to bring it to as speedy a conclusion as possible. To secure this end one most effective method is to make it as difficult as possible for the enemy to secure the supplies required for war. The sooner the war is over the better for trade.

However good the answer the matter is a delicate one and requires tactful handling. We may be sure that the British Government will do all it can to meet the point of view of neutrals.

Von Ribbentrop's speech appears to mean that Germany is now determined to fight the war to a finish. That is the interpretation Mr. Chamberlain put upon it. The allies accept this determination with equal determination. They too wish to see the thing through knowing that the world would be an intolerable place to live in till Nazi-ism is driven from it and good faith between nations is established.

What reaction this prospect of a long war will cause among the German people must be a matter of speculation. Signs are not wanting, that they never expected it to happen, that they had been led by their leaders to believe that England and France would never fight; that the brilliance of German diplomacy backed by threats of war would continue to win bloodless victories. They are disillusioned now. All the clumsy attempts to separate England and France only cause these two allies to draw together. The Germans have plenty of brain but they seem to underestimate the intelligence of other people. Which Frenchman is going to believe that he is fighting this war for England and not for France? The German people if they have not realised it already must now realise that they are opposed to an England and France firmly united and determined to see the war through. It is hard to say what their reaction will be when this truth gets really home. They are a brave people; powerful and devoted to their fatherland. But they have been on a war-footing for years already; they have lived for several years with stretched nerves; they had gone short of food even when it was peace; they have seen some bewildering changes of policy on the part of their leaders and they find themselves involved in a war which their leaders assured them would never come or if it came would soon be triumphantly over for them. They are a docile people and easily led, but it is not too much to hope that some doubts as to their leaders' reliability and wisdom is beginning to stir among them. Facts go to show that conditions already are bad in Germany. Long hours of work, poor food and the anxiety of the war are most likely to bitter them. Indeed it may be said with truth that financially, economically and in morale Germany had paid the price of a war before it had even begun.

On the western front nothing of note has happened. Large enemy concentrations appear to mean preparations for a big offensive but the weather is unfavourable for large-scale operations. Concentrations of troops and planes in large numbers of

(Continued on Page 5.)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

### Jaggery Instead of Sugar

Sir,—The price of sugar is daily becoming prohibitive to the average citizen and the Government would do a very great service, if it will see its way to permit tapping sweet toddy without any restriction, with as little delay as possible. A group of us discussed this question with Mr. Mahadeva M. S. C., the other day, and he expressed the view that the Govt's fear is that the establishment charges of the Excise dept. would be considerably disturbed as they have to appoint more preventive officers. This, in my opinion, is an unfounded fear.

Unlike the old days, there are Government pensioners of unquestionable integrity in every village who can be entrusted with the work of supervision as Hony Excise officers. In every lane at every village, illicit sale of arrack goes on now and if Hony Officers of the calibre suggested above are appointed, I dare say that these illegal practices will be stopped in a week. These pensioners are virtually Government Officers and they can be taken to task for any laxity of discipline etc. Mr. Hobday, the Director of Food Production, would not be accused of stepping outside his province, if he will please look into the question of assisting the poor to make their own jaggery.

Yours etc,  
S. Vydialingam  
Nervally, 31 Oct. 1939

### Toddy For Health

Sir,—Much ink is spilt on the effects of toddy on the people of this Island. Even the doctors are of varied opinion. The people of the North, who are more experienced to say on the subject, are of opinion that fresh toddy, if taken in normal quantities, helps the healthy development of the body. The labourers and the depressed classes, who cannot afford a better diet than a monotonous one are in special need of toddy. Large sections of the population are on the border line of vitamin B I deficiency and suffer from a disease called beri-beri. Toddy is said to contain vitamin B I in plenty. To support what I say I am quoting below an extract from Professor J. B. S. Haldane.

"Nauru or Pleasant Island lies in the Pacific Ocean near the equator, and contains large deposits of phosphate. So its inhabitants contribute to the world over-production of food by exporting portions of their native land. They were in the habit of drinking toddy made from fermented palm juice, and on occasion became very tipsy in consequence, which doubtless lessened their efficiency as excavators. Nauru is governed by Australia under a mandate from the League, and the paternal Government issued an ordinance forbidding the use of toddy. Perhaps the efficiency of the natives as labourers increased, but their infantile mortality rose to 50 per cent within six months of this law coming into force.

It was found that the children at the breast were dying of beri-beri, a disease due to deficiency of vitamin B I. This substance is nearly absent from the rather monotonous diet of the mothers, but is present in large quantities in the yeast from which toddy is made. The medical Officer of health discovered this fact, and doubtless after an appropriate delay, toddy was allowed again. The infant mortality immediately fell to 7 per cent."

K S. Ponnuthurai  
Chundikuli.  
31-10-39

## The Eighth Week of the War

(Continued from page 4)

the Dutch frontier makes it possible that the Germans are contemplating an invasion of Holland for the purpose of conducting intensive aerial and submarine warfare against England.

The campaign against the U-Boats goes steadily on. Mr. Chamberlain announced last week that the U-Boats were being driven to operate further and further from their bases and the rate of destruction was such as to encourage the hope that the menace would be overcome. Sinkings of merchant ships by submarines still continue and the method of them has lately become more ruthless. Yet these sinkings are decreasing in number and the allies retain the mastery of the seas with all that that implies in respect of trade and the obtaining of supplies. The improbability of Japan coming in on the side of Germany further strengthens the naval supremacy of the allies.

In the air events make one wonder what has become of the much heard-of crushing superiority of Germany. In such actions of which we have heard the Germans appear to have come off second-best. The R. A. F. continue their reconnaissance flights over Germany and the machines return unmolested. The sound of aeroplanes flying overhead cannot be a very comforting sound to people in Germany and they must wonder why, if their air force is so very superior, these flights are still allowed to go on. In a war of nerves it cannot help a people to know that enemy planes can fly over their country at will. Perhaps this in addition to reconnaissance is the purpose of these flights. Certainly German planes would not be allowed to fly unmolested over France or England.

Special interest attaches to the Pope's Evangelical published on Friday. Germany is not specially mentioned but every one knows whom he means when he says "The world has been brought to the present horrible abyss by disrespect for the pledged word, the spread of the doctrine of force, and the absence of mutual confidence among nations" and when he condemns State autocracy as contrary to the principle of natural reason and Christian conscience. When it is remembered that Italy is a Roman Catholic country, that many Germans and nearly all Austria is Roman Catholic such an utterance has direct significance at a time like this.

On Friday the United States Senate passed the Neutrality Bill and then by an unexpectedly larger majority voted the repeal of the arms embargo. The next stage is that the Bill should go to the House of Representatives where a small but safe majority is expected to see it safely through. The repeal of the arms embargo on the 'cash and carry' plan will be of great assistance to Britain and France who could then draw upon the vast resources of the United States to supplement their own. Holding the mastery of the seas and possessing the ability to pay, these countries will be able to obtain war supplies from America while Germany, even if she had the money to pay, would not be able to benefit as her ships

## Military Administration in Ancient India

(Continued from page 1)

correspond with any of the civil magistrates. (8)

It may also be observed that for every ten members of each of the constituents of the army there was one commander called *pad ka*, ten *padikas* under a *Senapati* and ten *Senapatis* under a *Nayaka* (leader.) (9)

Sukra mentions the following officers of the military department—

- (1) *Pattipala*, head of 5 or 6 infantry.
- (2) *Gaulmika*, head of 30 infantry
- (3) *Saamtika*, head of 100 infantry
- (4) , head of 1000 infantry
- (5) 'head of 10,000 infantry

He also enumerates the following:

(1) *Anusatika* was an assistant to *Satanika* who trained the soldiers in the morning and in the evening in military parades, and who knew the art of warfare as well as the characteristics of battle-fields.

(2) *Senani* was like *Anusatika* an assistant to *Satanika*. He knew of the military necessities, contingencies; and the battle-worthy soldiers, and appointed functions for the guards and sentinels. He was in charge of the commissariat, general health and comfort of the troops.

(3) *Pattipa* was he who conducted the rotation of watchmen on duty at night.

(4) *Galmapa* was he who knew carefully those on night duty.

(5) *Lekhala* was the clerk who was expected to know how many soldiers were in the camp, how much salary has been received by them, and where the old soldiers had gone.

(6) *Nayaga* was the master of twenty elephants or of twenty horses. (10)

Kautilya gives a description of the duties performed by some of the military officers. He writes: "The Superintendent of Infantry shall know the exact strength or weakness of hereditary troops buried troops, the corporate body of troops, as well as that of the army of friendly or unfriendly Kings and of wild tribes. He shall be thoroughly familiar with the nature of fighting in low grounds, of open battle, of fraudulent at-

(8) Elphinstone's *History of India* p. 22.

(9) *Arthashastra*, Bk X chap. vi p. 452

(10) *Sukraniti*, ii 281 ff.

dare not venture upon the seas.

Without unwarranted optimism we can say we have made a good beginning. The war is not won. Germany is powerful and her people are brave. She may be desperate and she may fight hard. But our cause is good; our strength is great and will increase. We can afford some reverses should they come. Germany cannot. Her leaders only hold their positions because they have always so far succeeded. If reverses come such position will be shaken. Without undue optimism we can face the future with calmness and with confidence.

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tack, of fighting under the cover of entrenchment, or from heights, and of fighting during the day and night, besides the drill necessary for such warfare. He shall also know the fitness of troops on emergent occasions." (11)

"With an eye to the position which the entire army trained in the skillful handling of all kinds of weapons and in leading elephants, horses and chariots, have occupied, and to the emergent call for which they ought to be ready, the commander-in-chief shall be so capable as to order either advance or retreat. He shall also know what kind of ground is more advantageous to his own army, what time is more favourable, what the strength of the enemy is, how to sow dissension in an enemy's army of united mind, how to collect his own scattered forces, how to scatter the compact body of an enemy's army, how to assault a fortress, and when to make a general advance. Being ever mindful of the discipline which his army has to maintain not merely in camping and marching, but in the thick of battle, he shall designate the regiments by the names of trumpets, boards, banners, or flags." (12)

### Pay of the Army

It is remarkable that, although we are told by many writers, from Megasthenes downwards, that military men in ancient India were maintained at the king's expense, and although the pay of the king's civil officers was settled with some minuteness, not a syllable is said regarding that of the army. It is possible that the army might have been paid by separate assignments of land to each individual soldier, in the same manner as the local troops of the small states in the south of India.

Some colour is given to this assumption by the fact that a similar system of payment to troops was in vogue in later times. Elphinstone writes: "According to their plan, the number and description of troops to be maintained by each chief was prescribed the pay of each division carefully calculated, allowances made for officers sometimes even to the extent of naming individuals; a sum was allotted for the personal ex-

(Continued on Page 6)

(11) *Arthashastra* Bk II, chap. xxxiii, pp. 175-6

(12) *Ibid*, p. 176.

## Jaffna Hindu College O. B. A.

(Continued from page 2)

one to criticise the community as a whole. Such a critic, in his (the speaker's) opinion, was wanting in self-respect when he expressed such sentiments. There were in Jaffna some sycophants who thought that by talking in disparaging terms of their community they could curry some personal favour with foreigners.

Mr. Coomaraswamy in conclusion expressed the hope that his countrymen would cultivate the habit of talking well of each other.

Mr. V. Sivasubramaniam, Advocate, Secretary of the Old Boys' Association, proposed the toast of the Chaitman, who, he said, had contributed a great deal towards making the institution what it was today.

### Dog Tax

The Jaffna Urban District Council at its last meeting decided to impose for the year 1940 a registration fee of Rupee one on every dog and Rupee one and cents fifty on every bitch kept within the administrative limits of the Jaffna Urban District Council payable on April 1.

### Auction Sale

D. C. J 13898.

Mary Josephine Thuraiyappah widow of Parohal Joseph Thuraiyappah of Jaffna Town Plaintiff.

Vs.

Murugar Anthonimuttu Solomon of Chundicully Jaffna.

PROPERTIETS

(a) All that piece of land called "Athiadyvaval and Mairlankaiaddyvaval and Pulam" and other parcels in extent seven Lachans of Varagu Culture and ten kuls (7 Lms. V. C. and 10 kls.) with stone built house, kitchen, well and other appurtenances belonging thereto situated at Chundicully in the Parish of Chundicully of the Division and District of Jaffna Northern Province, Ceylon and bounded on the East by lane, North by the property of Mariammal wife of Gnanapiragasam, West by Pond and on the South by the Jaffna U.D.C. Channel.

(b) All that piece of land called "Athiaddyvaval and Mairlankaiaddyvaval and Pulam" and other parcels in extent 3 Lms. V. C. and 12 kls. with boutique, well and other appurtenances belonging thereto situated at Chundicully aforesaid and bounded on the East by Road, North by the property of Thankam wife of Sinnathamby, West by the property of the abovenamed defendant and on the South by lane.

(c) All that piece of land called "Athiaddyvaval" and "Mairlankaiaddyvaval" and "Pulam" and other parcels in extent 7 Lms. V. C. and 10 kls. with well and other appurtenances belonging thereto situated at Chundicully aforesaid and bounded on the East by Channel, North by the property of Elizabeth widow of Raphielpillai, West by lane and on the South by Channel.

(d) All that piece of land called "Puliyankulavalavu" in extent 5 Lms. P.C. and 10<sup>3/8</sup> kls. with house, kitchen, well and other appurtenances belonging thereto situated at Chundicully aforesaid and bounded on the East by the property of Anthonipillai Andrew, North and West by lane, and on the South by lane and by the property of Anthonipillai Gabrielpillai.

In terms of Commission issued to me by the District Court of Jaffna in Case No. 13898, I shall sell the above properties by Public Auction on Wednesday the 29th November 1939, at about 3 p.m. at the respective spots.

N. KANDIAH,

Commissioner, Van. West.

(Mis. 183. 2-11-39)

## Military Administration in Ancient India

(Continued from page 5)

penses of the chief himself; and every particular regarding the terms of office, the mode of mustering, and other arrangements, was laid down, portion of territory was then selected, of which the share belonging to government should be sufficient, after deducting the expenses of collection and other charges, to supply the amount which had been shown to be requisite, and the whole territory yielding that amount was made over to the chief. The chief was now placed in the situation of the governor of a revenue division, and exercised all the other functions which are now united in the holder of that office" (13)

However, the *Niti-prakasika* ascribed to Vaisampayana, the same to whom the Yajurveda is assigned, and who recited the contents of the *Mahabharata* to Janamejaya, the great-grandson of Arjuna, makes us understand that the military men in ancient India were paid in gold. It says: "The crown-prince, who was generally the next in command to the King, received every month 5,000 varvas, or gold coins; the commander-in-chief drew 4,000 varvas; the atiratha, the first charioteer, who was usually a royal prince, received 3,000 varvas; the maharatha 2,000 varvas; the ratika and the gajayodhi, 1,000 varvas each; the ardhharatha 500 varvas; the ckaratha (commander of a chariot), and the leader of an elephant got each 300 niskas. The general commanding all the cavalry obtained 3,000 niskas; the general in command of the whole infantry received 2,000 niskas. An officer commanding 1,000 men of infan-

try got 500 niskas; an officer who led the same number of troopers received 1,000 niskas; an officer who had 100 small pattis under his command and who must ride a horse drew only 7 varvas, while a private got 5 suvarnas." (14)

We are also told by the same authority that fourteen other officers connected with the military department were each paid 15 varvas a month; and the 13th in the list was the army paymaster. (15) This mode of payment is also mentioned by Sukra who, however, gives another scale of salaries, and who lays down the maxim that "the ruler should annually withdraw money from the soldiers for their accoutrements." (16)

Whatever the mode of payment might have been, one fact is clear and that is, the military department was very handsomely treated in the matter of pay. This is supported by Megasthenes who writes that "the pay which the soldiers received from the state was so liberal that they could with ease maintain themselves and others besides" (17)

(To be Continued.)

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(14) Op. cit. vii. 33-42 quoted in Oppert's *Weapons, Army Organization, etc. of the Ancient Hindus*, pp. 7-8.

(15) Ibid.

(16) *Sukraniti*, IV. vii. 53-9.

(17) Arrian's *Indika*, Chap. xii. Me. Crindles' trans. p. 217.

No 309

(13) *History of India*, p. 81-2

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