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NO. 61.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON RETRENCHMENT REPORT

Personnel of Committee

FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S POSITION

Colombo, 18.

THE appointment of members to serve on the Select Committee to examine the Retrenchment Commission's Report led to a great deal of discussion in the State Council yesterday. Most of the argument arose as a result of the omission of the Financial Secretary from the personnel of the Committee first proposed.

In the end the Financial Secretary as well as the Minister of Education were appointed members of the Committee in place of two others who offered to drop out.

Flood Havoc in Jaffna

The Speaker (Sir Waitalingam Duraiswamy) presided when the State Council met at 2-30 p.m. yesterday.

Mr. B. H. Aluwihare (Matale) after obtaining the permission of the House moved that the Select Committee of the State Council, to consider the Retrenchment Commission report should consist of eleven members with power to send for persons, papers and records.

Mr. E. W. Abeygunasekera (Nuwara Eliya) seconded.

Mr. D.S. Senanayake (Minister of Agriculture and Lands) said that the House had decided the previous day to consider the report that had been drawn up by the Commission. The resolution was introduced in the Council by the Financial Secretary on behalf of the Board of Ministers. The House had expressed a desire to refer the matter to a Select Committee of the House. He wanted to draw the attention of the House to the difficulty the House would have in dealing with the subject of cadres and salaries, which was a special subject of the Financial Secretary who had all the figures. Besides that, the Financial Secretary was the mover of the resolution submitting the report to the House. As such he thought that the Financial

Secretary should be on the Select Committee. Even as a matter of courtesy he felt that the Financial Secretary should have a place. He wanted the House to consider that carefully so that they might make some adjustment. But it seemed as if that matter was going to be taken away from the hands of the Board of Ministers when considering that question of cadres and salaries. In that case the Board of Ministers might be associated through the Financial Secretary. They had had a number of Select Committees appointed to consider the cadre and salaries of public servants. And he believed there had never been an occasion in Ceylon where the Treasurer or the Financial Secretary was not Chairman of the Committee. If the Committee considered they could carry on without the Financial Secretary, he had nothing to say.

The motion was passed.

Personnel of Committee

Mr. Aluwihare next moved that the following be the members of the Committee:—Messrs. H. W. Amarasuriya, B. H. Aluwihara, George E. de Silva, A. E. Goonesinha, A. Mahadeva, H. E. Newnham, Dr. N. M. Perera, Messrs G. G. Ponnambalam, Siripala Samarakody, Dudley Senanayake and R. S. S. Gunawardena.

Mr. Aluwihare said that when he consulted the Financial Secretary the previous day whether he would be a member of the Committee, he had replied that he did not see how he could be a member of a Committee dealing with one of his subjects, except as Chairman of the Committee. They could not be guided by any precedent in Ceylon as the Ministerial Constitution had lasted only seven or eight years. He did not think they had any proper precedent here to guide them. That was a committee of the unofficials of that House. They

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WAR NEWS REVIEW AND COMMENTARY

(Covering period November 7 to 13, 1939.)

Talk No. 9.

I rather imagine that very few people will bother to listen in to this week's commentary. In the first place, it is by a professor, and the dullness of professors is proverbial. Secondly, everyone will say "After all, there's practically no news, so why bother?" So they will switch over a Java or somewhere for some jolly music until it's time for the 9.30 Empire relay.

On the whole I am rather disposed to agree with them. However, the comparative dearth of news gives me a chance of saying something myself, instead of merely serving up a re-hash of Reuter's and other bulletins. News, as people get it now-a-days, consisted of certain facts which we may analyse like thus:—(1) Facts which are given out and which are true (2) Facts which are concealed, because either their disclosure would give away important information to the enemy, or would adversely affect morale (the latter is particularly true of the news dished out in Germany). (3) Facts (so-called) which are untrue, and given out for propagandist purposes (very prominent in German news). One must distinguish carefully between these facts and their interpretation. I will try to interpret this week's facts as best I can, though the necessary omission of some of them does violence to my conscience as a historian makes me feel rather like the blind-folded man in a dark cellar looking for a black cat which isn't there.

Our eyes turn first to the Western front. Frequent threats by Hitler and the German press have led us to expect a big movement. If this is coming, we must remember that the favourite German strategy has always been the envelopment of one or both flanks of their enemy. Now the flanks of the Allied front rest on neutral frontiers. Therefore, to affect an envelopment of one or both flanks, it will be necessary to violate the neutrality of Belgium and Luxembourg on the Allied left flank, and of Switzerland and even

Italy on the right. The envelopment of the left flank is easier, and it would be much simpler to affect that by violating the neutrality of Holland also. Therefore, all this week the governments of Holland and Belgium have been strengthening their defences. Holland, from a military point of view, is very weak: so, following the old Dutch tradition, as against Spanish invaders in the sixteenth century and French in the seventeenth, the Dutch are prepared to open the sluices, and to let in over vast tracts of fertile land the sea, from which centuries of unremitting toil have reclaimed it. The shorter Belgian-German frontier has been strongly fortified; but the greatest danger to Belgium comes from a German invasion of her eastern border through Holland. For excellent military reasons, we are not told how much land the Dutch are prepared to flood, or the extent and strength of the Belgian defences. It must be remembered that in a contest between a large and a small country now-a-days, superiority in the air has conferred much added advantage on the former—witness the bombing of Warsaw; on the other hand, the Allied air forces would doubtless help these small countries. It does not follow that the Germans do intend to adopt this enveloping strategy: the precedent of the last war is in its favour—but it might also be considered as a warning. Another suggested possibility is that Belgium might be left alone, and Holland invaded in order to furnish air and submarine bases for attacks on the British navy, British shipping, and objectives within Britain itself.

Partly, no doubt, in order to avoid any such possibility, the Sovereigns of Holland and Belgium have put up what is sometimes called a 'peace kite', to see if hostilities can in any way be brought to an end—more of this anon.

On the Franco-German frontier there are signs of growing acti-

(Continued on page 4)

FOR SALE

A piece of Land 12 Lachams in extent at Pirappaikulam Road, opposite Mudaliyar S. Thiruchitampalam's bungalow. Intending purchasers write to

X
% Hindu Organ
(Mis. 193, 20 & 23-11-39)

Red Cross Flag Day

THROUGHOUT JAFFNA
Monday 4th December 1939
HELP THE WOUNDED IN THE WAR
(Mis. 187 6—30-11-39).



Hindu Organ.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1939.

**FLOOD HAVOC IN
JAFFNA**

THE DAMAGE CAUSED BY last week's rain and cyclone is widespread and tremendous. As reported elsewhere in this issue the loss to livestock and property, besides the terrible hardships of people, has been immense and it is too early yet to assess it. But its immensity leaves no one in doubt as to the gravity of the situation created by this visitation. The homeless and helpless thousands who have sought refuge in public and private buildings and in improvised shelters call for the sympathy of those who have been fortunately exempted from a similar lot. Harrowing tales of suffering and destitution come from the most affected parts of the Peninsula and we are glad to hear that private as well as public assistance was readily rendered to mitigate as far as possible the sufferings of the helpless people. This was a temporary relief which could never be adequate to the demands of the occasion. But it would be too much to expect anything more than that at the moment.

The relief work proper is yet to begin. The Rs. 1000 voted by the Jaffna Urban District Council and all the other temporary relief measures taken by the authorities are but of the moment. The thousands who have been rendered homeless and deprived of their sole means of livelihood in the gardens need to be helped to rebuild their homesteads and restart agricultural occupations. The assurance given in the State Council by the Minister for Labour, Industry and Commerce that

everything possible will be done for immediate relief and that no red tape will stand in its way is welcome. But we hope this assurance will not stop with that. He should see that the authorities here report to him without any loss of time on the extent and nature of the loss and the amount that would be required to put the flood-stricken unfortunates back on their feet. The delay in relief to the people on the last occasion, which almost led to bitter controversy, will not, we trust, be repeated. The provincial authorities will do well to show some expedition in the present instance and thus enable the timely rendering of help possible. We are sure the Minister concerned will be too ready to take all measures necessary to give the people the undisputed relief they so much need on the present occasion.

We cannot let this occasion pass without pointing out to the authorities, both local and central, a deficiency that we have repeated so often and yet to no effect. It has become a practice or a procedure with the authorities to consolidate the bund only after it was breached. The town is lacking in drainage facilities and a little heavier than an ordinary shower is enough to flood a large part of the Urban area. No doubt the natural elevation of land in the town renders effective drainage well nigh impossible. But what we have complained of often and repeat now is that even the existing water-ways are not kept ready to drain away the flood. They get silted before the rains begin with the result that they serve more as obstacles than passages for the water to run out. The town section of the Kankesanturai road, which is a disgrace and an insult to pedestrians, cyclists, motorists and to all concerned, is notorious in this respect. Every year a downpour necessitates a cutting open of the road to let the flood out from one side of the road to the other. The P. W. D. which is in charge of the road cannot congratulate itself in this respect. It seems to possess a peculiar brand of road-making solely perhaps for Jaffna. We hope it will show greater respect to the tax-payer than to its discredited system of road-making and road-maintenance for Jaffna. In short, in the town and in rural areas, much of the ravages of the floods can be arrested by increasing drainage facilities and maintaining drains in trim to cope with floods that should be expected every year. We hope the authorities will learn to stem the tide in time.

**JAFFNA DEVASTATED BY
FLOOD AND GALE**

**Thousands Homeless: Damage to
Livestock and Property**

NEED FOR LARGE-SCALE RELIEF WORK

THE vast damage caused by the unprecedented floods has rendered thousands of people homeless and deprived them of even their scanty food supplies.

In the Urban area the areas most affected are Kandarmadam, Arasavely, Aryaculathady and Tharakulam where families had to leave their homes and seek shelter in cigar factories, maddams, churches, temples and the houses of neighbours.

Immense damage was caused to livestock and property in the rural areas. The villages of Kokuvil, Nandavil, Kopay, Urumparai, Punalikkaduvan, Kantherodai, Alaveddy, Chankalai, Suthumalai, Tellipalai and a few others have suffered terrible losses in livestock and property. Plantain gardens have suffered terrible damage by the gale.

The Jaffna Urban District Council and the Flood Relief Society, besides a few individuals, started immediate relief work.

Many of the lowlying lands are still under water.

Relief work on a large scale is necessary to provide homes for the thousands who are now left destitute.

**U. D. C. Votes
Rs. 1,000 for Relief**

An emergency meeting of the Jaffna Urban District Council was held on Thursday presided over by Mr. Sam Sabapathy, the Chairman, to consider relief measures rendered necessary by the damage caused by the heavy rains. Mr. Sabapathy stated that he had personally gone round the urban area and found acute distress at Arasavely in Nallur, Kantherodam, Tharakulam and Ariakulam. He found that 600 families were homeless at Arasavely alone and that many dwelling places had collapsed. Churches, cigar factories, maddams and even high roads had been used as sleeping places. Mr. Sabapathy, continuing, said that the channel schemes within the Urban area had worked wonderfully, all water being drained into the sea.

Mr. C. Ponnambalam said that it was the duty of the Central Government to rebuild the houses that had collapsed and he felt sure that the Board of Ministers would help. Meanwhile, the Council should afford immediate relief by distributing rice. The speaker also requested the Chairman to send a telegram to the Board of Ministers informing them of the distress and requesting urgent relief.

Rice Distribution

Mr. R. R. Nalliah said that rice should be distributed that night itself. He had received innumerable petitions praying for relief. Mr. K. Aiyadurai and Mr. Patanjali also spoke.

The Council voted a sum of Rs. 1,000 for the purchase of rice and

curry stuffs for distribution in the areas where the distress was acute. The distribution is to be under the supervision of Mr. Duraiappah member for Ward 3, and two officers of the Council.

The Chairman was authorised to send a telegram to the Board of Ministers to consider the question of relief of distress.

**Minister's Wire to
Govt. Agent**

Mr. G. C. S. Corea, the Minister for Labour Industry and Commerce, informed the State Council on Friday that he had wired to the Government Agent, N. P., to take immediate action in regard to flood relief work in Jaffna and to keep him informed of the position.

Mr. Corea said that his attention had been drawn to that matter by the Member for Kankesanturai on Thursday and that he had taken action immediately. He wished to assure Members that there was no question of red tape at all with regard to immediate relief in the case of floods. Definite instructions had been given to Government Agents detailing the lines upon which relief should be given whenever floods occurred. It was the duty of the Government Agents to carry out those instructions and to grant immediate relief, such as the feeding of people in distress and the housing of people whose houses had been damaged. Apart from those general instructions, he had wired to the Government Agent to take immediate action and to keep him informed of the position. He was awaiting further information.

**Indo-Ceylon Mail
Help Up**

Madras, Saturday.

Reports of the havoc caused by the recent rains in the South show that Tanjore and Trichinopoly are the worst sufferers.

The Indo-Ceylon express which left Madras last night was stopped at Kumbakonam owing to breaches of the railway line near Karunaalur.

Seven coolies are reported to have been drowned near Maharajasamudram river in Tanjore when a rescue boat carrying ten out of 75 coolies, who were stranded on a high mound earth surrounded on all sides by water, capsized.

The South Indian Railway authorities in a press communique state that "through" train service between Madras and Dhanushkodi will be resumed via Madura from November 20th.

JAFFNA MUNICIPALITY IN 1942

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE'S DECISION

POSTPONEMENT TO ENABLE LEGISLATION

THE Executive Committee of Local Administration decided on Wednesday last that a Municipal Council should be established in the Town of Jaffna in January 1942.

The Urban District Council will cease to function towards the end of 1941.

The postponement of the establishment of the new Municipality is for the purpose of allowing time for the necessary preliminary measures to be taken.

Committee's Views

The Whip writes in the "Times of Ceylon."

Progressive Jaffna may with disappointment hail the decision of the Executive Committee of Local Administration to establish a municipality in 1942.

Why disappointment? Because they will never be able to understand why on earth the Executive Committee vacillated.

All the members feel that no case has been made for the postponement of the measure.

They are convinced beyond any manner of doubt that Jaffna should be raised to the higher status of local government immediately.

In the opinion of Mr. K. Natesa Iyer, Jaffna has no claim for a greater share of the government of the country if they are not prepared to accept this higher status offered for their chief town.

Then there is Mr. Razik. He was equally keen at Wednesday's meeting of the Executive Committee, that the introduction of a municipality should not be delayed. Postponement for a while, he said, was only postponing the "evil day".

Jaffna must get a municipality and that at once. So said Mr. Razik.

Mr. Kuruppu, Mr. A. P. Jayasuriya, and Mr. Samarakkody joined him.

Mr. R. S. S. Gunawardene held very strong views on the subject.

The Minister conceded that no valid argument had been adduced for the postponement of the introduction of a municipality.

Although the Committee was unanimous on this point, the Minister pleaded that it was wise to arrive at a solution which would secure the maximum of agreement among the various parties and factions in Jaffna.

He felt that a brief postponement would probably have a healthy effect on the warring sections. He felt that the Municipality should have a chance of coming into being under the most favourable auspices. He is an optimist.

While the Committee did not quite favour this view they desired unanimity in their decision.

With this end in view and realising that time would be a healer, they agreed to what they thought was a happy medium.

One wonders whether those outside this Committee can be so optimistic as the Minister, or, so hopelessly optimistic as his colleagues

HONORARY WOMEN HOUSE OFFICERS

New Avenues for Women Doctors

Honorary women House Officers are to be appointed to work in some of the hospitals in the Island.

Although termed honorary they are to be paid an allowance of Rs. 1,800 per annum as in the case of honorary men House Officers. They are also to be provided with free furnished quarters when available.

They are to be employed normally for a period of two years during which time they will not be allowed private practice. They will be taken on to the permanent establishment as vacancies occur but such honorary service will not establish any claim to permanent employment.

The Director of Medical and Sanitary Services, according to last Friday's Gazette, is calling for applications for these posts from recently qualified Ceylonese women medical practitioners possessing a medical degree or diploma registerable in the United Kingdom.

Governor to Leave for Ceylon on Nov. 22

Madras, Nov. 17.

Sir Andrew Caldecott, Governor of Ceylon, who proceeded to Madras on October 30 for the purpose of taking deep X-ray treatment, will leave for Ceylon on November 22, by the Indo Ceylon Express.

Sir Andrew Caldecott, has been staying at Government House as the guest of the Governor of Madras, Lord Erskine and Lady Marjorie Erskine.

Dr. A. M. de Silva, Senior Surgeon of the Colombo General Hospital in the course of an interview with the Associated Press on Tuesday, said that Sir Andrew Caldecott was progressing very satisfactorily.

who succumbed to his sweet nothings and swallowed the sugar-coated pill.

I really cannot understand what happened to Mr. R. S. S. Gunawardene. Why did he not press for a division?

Loyalty to the Minister for old times sake, I suppose!

Whatever mess they made of this matter, one good safeguard they adopted.

The Minister was made to agree to introduce without delay a draft bill fixing the date of the operation of the Municipal Council as from January, 1942.

Legislation will also be introduced to give an extension of life to the Urban District Council by one year.

Ordinarily the U. D. C. would have ceased to function at the end of 1940. Now it will go on until the end.

This will not make the Central Ratepayers Association very happy. At the same time the present U. D. C. may try to think that they have not been let down.

It is necessary to make it distinctly clear that this short delay in the introduction of a municipality is not due to the fact that the committee are convinced by the arguments adduced by the C. R. A. Or, that they accepted the sanity of their point of view.

It was merely a desire on the part of the Minister to be good to everybody.

REMOVAL OF BAN ON PADDY

Ministers' Decision

Colombo, Nov. 18.

The Board of Ministers, it is understood, has decided that there should be no further prohibition of the removal of locally grown paddy of rice from certain areas.

Some of the prohibitory notices recently published have already expired and the others still in force are due to expire by the end of this month.

Sequel to Scarcity

The steps to prevent the removal of paddy and rice from certain areas to others were taken, it is stated, on representations made by Revenue Officers consequent on the scarcity of crops caused by drought followed by excessive rains. It was reported that the smaller producers sold their stocks without reserving anything for their own consumption.

It is now reported that the prohibition has caused hardships to many producers who wished to sell a portion of their stocks to supply themselves with their other wants while the larger producers have been prevented from selling their surplus stocks.

Election of Acting Minister

The Executive Committee of Labour, Industry and Commerce, it is understood, will meet on Thursday morning to elect one of its members to act in place of the Minister of Labour, Industry and Commerce, Mr. G. C. S. Corea, who will have by the time left for Rangoon for conversations with the Government of Burma over Ceylon rice supplies.

The Minister of Labour, Industry and Commerce, it is learned will leave for Calcutta next Wednesday night by the overland route and, if no steamer is available from that place, will leave for Rangoon by one of the Dutch Air Liners.

Mr. V. Coomaraswamy, the Food Controller, will accompany the Minister.

Mr. M. H. Kantawala, Ceylon's Trade Representative in Bombay, will join the Minister at Calcutta and go with him to Rangoon.

Mr. Corea is expected to be away for about a fortnight.

Provincial Road Committee, N. P.

Messrs. S. Natesan, J. V. Chelliah, S. M. Aboobucker, K. Somasundaram and Mudaliyar C. Kanapathipillai have been appointed members of the Provincial Road Committee, Northern Province, for 1940.

Barbed Wire and Cement

Maximum retail prices for barbed wire and cement have been fixed under the Control of Prices Ordinance.

SUGAR FROM TODDY

NOT ECONOMIC

MOTION REJECTED BY AGRICULTURE BOARD

THE Central Board of Agriculture at its meeting held on Friday at Peradeniya rejected a motion by Mr. C. Arulambalam recommending to the Executive Committee of Agriculture and Lands the undertaking of scientific investigation in order to devise methods for preserving unfermented palm juice and to promote the manufacture of sugar from unfermented palm juice to replace imported sugar.

In the course of the discussion on the motion, Dr. R. Child (Director, Coconut Research Scheme) declared that coconut toddy was not an economic base for the manufacture of sugar. As regards the production of sugar from the palmyra he pointed to the failure of the Ceylon Refineries after two years' working. If any attempt was to be made to make Ceylon less dependent on imported sugar the thing to concentrate on was sugarcane itself, on which the Department of Agriculture was working now.

Uduvil Rural Reconstruction Society

The following is a programme of lectures arranged by the Uduvil Rural Reconstruction Society to be delivered at the Uduvil Village Committee hall:—

20-11-39 President: Mr. W. Ponnuthurai; Speaker: Mr. Cosmas W. D. Alwines; Subject: "Diet." 22-11-39 President: Miss R. S. Paul; Speakers: Messrs. N. Ponniah and C. Arulambalam; Subjects: "Cottage Industries" and "Revival of Cottage Industries". 25-11-39 President: Mr. S. Natesan M. S. C.; Speaker: Mr. S. K. Thuraisingham; Subject: "Agriculture". 27-11-39 President: Mr. T. C. Rajaratnam; Speakers: Messrs. K. Nesiiah and R. C. S. Cooke; Subjects: "Modern Denmark" and "Co-operation in Rural Reconstruction Work." 29-11-39 President: Mr. N. K. Ampalavanar; Speaker: Mr. S. H. Perinpanayagam; Subject: "Social Service."

Shop Ordinance in U. D. C. Areas

The operation of the Shops Ordinance is shortly to be extended beyond the Colombo Municipal limits.

Closing Orders for shops in Municipal town of Colombo, Kandy and Galle have already been notified by the Minister of Labour, Industry and Commerce to enable representations to be made on the proposed closing hours before they are enforced.

Proposals to extend the operation of the Ordinance to the Urban District Council areas are also being considered.

WAR NEWS REVIEW AND COMMENTARY

(Continued from page 1)

Reconnaissance by air has increased, and a number of aerial combats have consequently taken place: on Monday last a French squadron of nine fighters took twenty-seven German planes by surprise from above, and brought down nine without any loss to themselves—a notable exploit. The general impression is that the Allies have shown themselves superior to the Germans both in air manoeuvring and in the quality of their planes. One remembers that in the last war air supremacy oscillated from one side to the other, but that at the end the Allies were definitely superior. On Saturday we were informed that two day-time attacks had been made by considerable German forces on the French, on fronts of one mile and 600 yards respectively. The French adopted their favourite tactics of falling back, beating off the attacks by concentrated artillery and machine gun fire, and successfully reoccupying the positions. The attacks seem to have been carried out in a manner very similar to the large-scale raids in the last war: they may well have been for reconnoitring purposes, or to gain minor tactical advantages. The type of attack is common as a means of trying to find out weak places in the opposing line; but it does not seem to have found them this time.

Very little has been heard of naval activities this week; there has been no news of the German surface raiders (pocket battleships and so on), and very little of sinkings, either of Allied shipping or of U-boats. German aeroplanes have carried out some reconnaissances over the eastern coast of Britain, but their presence has speedily become known, and they have been driven off without difficulty. Mr. Churchill has given some information as to the circumstances under which the battleship "Royal Oak" was sunk in Scapa Flow, and also disclosed the fact that the submarine Oxley had been lost earlier in the war: the frankness with which this was done has created a good impression, and has not undermined the general morale.

From a military, naval, and air point of view, these (what a pity there isn't a single good adjective in the English language to combine these three), the week's news is inconclusive. It may point to an attack on a large scale by envelopment of a flank, as I indicated earlier, or equally, it may not: a message from Moscow on Thursday indicated the former as more probable. Undoubtedly, the most interesting event of the week has been the narrow escape from death of Hitler by a bomb explosion in Munich, the original home of Nazi movement. It took place in the famous beer-cellar where Hitler organised his first unsuccessful attempt at violence (known as a "putsch") in 1923. The bomb, which was placed immediately over the place where he was speaking, seems to have been

timed to go off towards the end of his speech: owing to an earlier start and finish than was expected, he escaped. The matter is very obscure, and it has been suggested, especially by the French papers, that the whole thing was a put-up job. Personally, I think this unlikely, as the place was regarded almost with veneration, by the Nazi party. A more reasonable view is that it points strongly to desperate action by a jeerily embittered opposition in Germany, and either treachery or inefficiency in the ranks of the Gestapo—the German Secret police. However, it may be, many innocent people will doubtless support for it. The German authorities are not quite decided whether to blame the Jews or the British Secret Service: it may be noticed that they have not seen fit to accuse their old enemies the Communists.

This they might well have done for only a day or two before, the leaders of the Communist International in Russia (that Comintern against which Germany, Italy, Japan and Spain united in the anti-Comintern pact) issued a manifesto calling upon the proletariat of the countries at war—Germany included—to rise and overthrow their capitalist governments. This very clearly shows the attitude of Russia, which has hitherto been distinctly puzzling. For some years the great need of Russia was for peace, and even now it is doubtful if she is really ready for a major war. Stalin kept the Comintern very quiet, and people began to talk of a change of heart and a loosening of some of the restrictions on the holding of private property. It is now obvious, as was clearly stated, from Rome in answer the next day, that the Soviet has no intention of giving up the principles which Communist leaders have so often and so violently expressed—the idea of a world revolution of the proletariat. From a military point of view, the Russians are doing their best to consolidate their position on and beyond their Western frontier, and in the Baltic Sea. Their hectoring tone to Finland has shown that they have no more scruples as to the way to treat smaller nations than their German neighbour. History has few instances of more cynical pacts than the Russo-German one of August 25th. Everyone's sympathy must go out to Finland, in the firm stand which her government and people are taking up to defend the just and normal rights of a decently civilised and highly democratic nation. Finland, during the twenty years of its independent history has done nothing to offend anyone. One is irresistibly reminded of the story of Nabrew's vineyard. It is perhaps worth noting the report that the Russo-German frontier is being strongly fortified on both sides. The most rueful memory of the week is that of A. mistice Day. Those who, like myself, took part in the delirious rejoicing of November 11th 1918, never dreamed that its twenty-first anniversary would have seen

(Continued on Page 6)

Letters to the Editor

Flood at Suthumalai

Sir,—The recent heavy rains in Jaffna have caused a heavy flood in Suthumalai. The pond, situated in the heart of this village in front of the Amman Kovil, is terribly overflowed. All the surrounding fields and about half the village are submerged. The depth of the flood in the neighbourhood of the fields is more than 13 feet.

The damages are very heavy and the calamity is terrible. This flood is unparalleled in the history of our place. Many have been deprived of their homes, are wandering for shelter in the neighbouring villages. The plight of the farmers is pathetic. The only fields of the village which form the sole means of our living are submerged and we are deprived of our crop. Cattle and sheep perished in the flood. Many dwellings were swept away by the flood. The daily wage earners are suffering for want of food and clothing. What a pathetic sight it was to see the old, the sick, the young and the tender babes being carried away in rafts through the flood with the only hope of saving their lives. No schools and no dispensaries function here. No temple 'poojas' were performed. The road and lanes are impassable. In short, we live in a land of ocean, constantly shaken by the fear of venomous snakes and other dangers.

The flood is stagnant and the waters in the neighbourhood of the fields would take more than three months to subside. The poor victims are in dire need of food, cloth and temporary shelter. Even after the flood subsides the farmers require pecuniary help to rebuild their destroyed homes, to procure the necessary materials and to manure and cultivate the flooded farms. We strongly appeal to our Government Agent and State Councillors and the other authorities concerned to come to our immediate rescue. We also pray that a way should be found for these stagnant waters to pass into the nearest sea. Only thus can the yearly visitation of this flood with its many ravages be extenuated to a great extent.

S. Subramaniam
Suthumalai, (a sufferer.)

Registrar of Births, Deaths & Marriages Karainagar

Sir,—With reference to an account of a "public meeting of the residents of the island of Karainagar" appearing in your issue of last Thursday may I be permitted to draw the attention of your readers to the fact that the meeting was in no sense "a public meeting". The audience consisted of the few F.M.S pensioners and a couple of others who were interested to push forward their nominee probably on the advice of some office clerk some where. The Chairman, a non-Israel to the island, thought that the Government Agent was recommending a medical man (sic) perhaps, an Ayurvedic physician. Why, then, is the necessity for this "Public meeting". Surely no one in his senses, even the F. M. S. pensioners, could imagine for a moment that the authorities would depart from the terms offered in their Notice calling for applicants for this post. In short it is attempts of this sort

SALE OF MARKET RENTS 1940

NOTICE is hereby given that sealed tenders will be received by the Chairmen of the Sanitary Board, Jaffna District, at the Jaffna Kachcheri up to 12 noon on Tuesday, 28th day of November 1939, for the purchase of the exclusive right to levy rents and fees in respect of the following markets for the period 1st January 1940 to 31st December 1940—both days inclusive.

- Point Pedro (a) Vegetable market excluding the 13 permanent stalls.)
(b) Fish market.
(c) Omnibus stand and gala.
Valvettiturai (a) Vegetable market.
(b) Fish market.
(c) Omnibus stand and gala.

Kayts—Vegetable and Fish market (excluding the 3 shop rooms.)

2. Every tender must be made on the prescribed form a copy of which will be supplied by the Chairman of the Sanitary Board, Jaffna District, on a deposit of Rs. 10/- for each form, to be made at the office of the Sanitary Board, Jaffna.

3. Tenders may be sent by post or be deposited in the tender box provided for this purpose at the Jaffna Kachcheri.

4. The person making the highest bid or tender in respect of any market shall be declared to be the lessee of the said market. Such person shall immediately on his being declared to be the lessee deposit 1/10th of the amount of his tender or bid, in cash as security and shall enter into a bond in the form and on the conditions specified for this purpose by the Chairman of the Sanitary Board, Jaffna District, within one week of his being declared to be the lessee.

5. Further particulars may be obtained at the office of the Sanitary Board, Jaffna.

M. PONNAMBALAM,
for Chairman, S. B., Jaffna.
Sanitary Board Office,
Jaffna, 15th November 1939.
(G. 32. 20 11-39.)

Order Nisi

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 775
In the matter of the Intestate Estate of Kandiah Elankainayagam of Tellippalai East Deceased.
Kandiah Elankainayagam Thambay of Tellippalai East

- Vs. Petitioner.
1. Elankainayagam Maheswary
2. Elankainayagam Subramaniam
3. Elankainayagam Kathirkamalingam
4. Kandiah Thirunavukkarasu alias Nadarajah, all of Tellippalai

Respondents.
This matter coming on for disposal before C. Coomaraswamy, Esq. District Judge Jaffna on September 4, 1939 in the presence of Mr. K. S. Kanagarayer, Proctor, on the part of the petitioner having been read:

It is ordered that the 4th respondent be appointed guardian-ad-litem over the minors, the second and third respondents for the purpose of this action and that the petitioner be declared entitled to have letters of administration to the estate of the abovenamed deceased, as his heir unless the respondents or any other persons interested shall appear before this court on October 18, 1939, and state objections or show sufficient cause to the contrary.
September, 29, 1939

(Sgd.) C. Coomaraswamy
District Judge
The above Order Nisi is extended for November 24, 1939
(Sgd.) C. Coomaraswamy
October 18, 1939, District Judge.
(O. 57, 20 & 23-11-39.)

that have brought "public opinion"—there was none here—into grave disrepute!

Yours etc.
Karainagar Truth

LULL CONTINUES IN WESTERN FRONT

RECONNAISSANCE BY ENEMY PLANES

GERMAN CARGO BOAT SEIZED

Paris, Saturday.

A *communiqué* states that there is nothing of importance to report from the front during the night. Yesterday enemy aircraft flew over French territory.

It is learned that all R. A. F. machines in yesterday's reconnaissance flight over north-west Germany returned safely to their base.

There was a brief air raid alarm in the Lille area this morning.

A Berlin High Command *communiqué* states that on the Western Front there was local patrol activity. An attempt by three British planes, to attack Wilhelmshaven was repulsed. Some German planes carried out reconnaissance flights over a wide area in France.

It is revealed that one of the German planes which flew over the Vosges region yesterday made a forced landing. The crew were taken prisoner.

Unprecedented Agreement

Paris, Saturday.

Referring to the War Council's decision regarding economic co-operation, 'Petit Journal' writes that such complete agreement is without precedent in the whole annals of history and will reduce the costs of the war for both countries.

'Pertinax', in 'Ordre' sees it as a precedent for European and even world collaboration after the war.

German Ship Seized

London, Saturday.

The German steamer Gloria, carrying a cargo of wheat, has been taken to a Scottish port with a prize crew aboard. The German crew has been interned.

Order Nisi

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 783.

In the matter of the estate of the late Arunasalam Muttiah of Navatkuly Deceased. Nallammah widow of Arunasalam Muttiah of Navatkuly

Petitioner

1. Arunasalam Arumugam of Achchela presently Sundry Shopkeeper, Sungei Beri, Selangore, F. M. S.
2. Karthikesu Thambiah of Sirupiddy, presently Teacher, Tirunelvely, Jaffna

Respondents

This matter coming on for disposal before C. Coomaraswamy Esquire, District Judge, Jaffna, on the 2nd day of November 1939, in the presence of Mr. R. Sivagurunathar Proctor for the petitioner and an affidavit of the petitioner dated the 28th day of October 1939 having been read.

It is ordered that the petitioner, as the widow of the deceased, is hereby declared entitled to have Letters of administration to the estate of the said deceased, issued to her accordingly, unless the Respondents or any other person interested, shall appear before this Court on or before the 29th day of November 1939 at 10 A.M. and show cause if any to the satisfaction of the Court to the contrary.

This 2nd day of November 1939
Sgd. C. Coomaraswamy
District Judge.

(O. 58. 20 & 23-11-39)

SELECT COMMITTEE ON RETRENCHMENT REPORT

(Continued from page 1)

did not mind having the Financial Secretary on that Committee but a condition had been laid down demanding that he should be Chairman. They should repudiate that. They did not want to take that matter out of the hand of the Board of Ministers but they wanted to be of help to the Ministers. They wanted to form their own independent opinion on the matter. They wished to have the Financial Secretary as a collaborator but not as Chairman, as he was already committed to those proposals.

Mr. D. Senanayake said that Mr. Aluwihare should not have trotted out in that house what transpired at a private conversation. If they thought that the Board of Ministers had made up their minds about that matter he would ask them to carry on.

Mr. Ponnambalam said that the usefulness of the Select Committee would be reduced to a great extent if they did not have the Financial Secretary on it.

Mr. H. J. Huxham (Financial Secretary) said that he would be very glad to be relieved of having to serve on that Committee. If the Committee had to consider the representations of all who were dissatisfied with the salary scales they would have to sit daily. He did not know if he would be able to devote all his time to that.

Open Mind

The Minister of Agriculture and Lands had pointed out that it would be desirable to follow precedent and that if he was to be a member of that Committee he should be its Chairman. He had consulted his colleagues and he agreed with them. The Ministers had an open mind.

Mr. George E. de Silva (Kandy) said that it was absolutely necessary that that Committee should be independent of the Board of Ministers. But that did not eliminate the possibility of their getting assistance when it was needed.

Dr. N. M. Perera (Ruanwella) suggested that Mr. C. W. W. Kannangara should be included on the Committee.

Sir Baron Jayatilaka (Leader of the House) said that hitherto no Committee of that nature had been appointed in which the Treasurer or the Financial Secretary was not a Member. If the Financial Secretary was not included in this Committee it would be absolutely necessary that the Treasury would have to submit its own report on the Select Committee's report. That meant that a few months more would be taken before the House would be able to express any opinions on the Select Committee's report. This was a retrenchment measure. Everyone was keen on reducing

the cost of establishments as soon as possible.

Financial Secretary as Chairman

Mr. H. W. Amarasinghe (Galle) objected to the Financial Secretary serving as Chairman of the Select Committee on account of the influence he would exercise over it.

Mr. A. Mahadeva (Jaffna) said that he shared the view that it would expedite consideration of that matter if not merely the Financial Secretary but one or two other Members of the Board of Ministers also served on the Committee.

As regards the attitude of the Financial Secretary, he was not clear whether it was a case of prestige that he did not want to serve as a Member of the Committee.

Mr. G. A. Wille (Nominated) said that they were all anxious that that Committee should do a successful bit of work. The presence of the Financial Secretary on it would be of very great assistance.

He moved as an amendment that the Financial Secretary be substituted for Mr. S. Samarakkody and that he act as Chairman of the Committee.

The Speaker: You must get the consent of the Member.

Mr. Wille: I have ascertained the willingness of the Financial Secretary to act as Chairman... It will be expedient to have the Financial Secretary as Chairman.

Mr. Huxham said that it was not a question of personal prestige at all. What he had in mind was that he would be succeeded by the Finance Minister and he wanted to leave for him the position he should hold. If any Member of the Board of Ministers was appointed to a Committee to deal with a subject which he was in charge of he should be its Chairman.

Mr. T. B. Jayah (Nominated) seconded Mr. Wille's amendment.

Mr. Dr. S. Senanayake remarked that it was not proper to leave out the name of a Member who was not present in the House. (He referred to Mr. Samarakkody).

Mr. Mahadeva: To help the House I am perfectly willing to stand out.

Mr. H. E. Newnham (Nominated): So am I.

Mr. Huxham said that he would be very happy if Mr. Wille would not press his amendment. There was clearly opposition to his coming in.

Mr. Wille then withdrew his amendment.

Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike (Minister of Local Administration) said that he wished to remove a misconception in the mind of some Members. That motion was brought up by the Financial Secretary in order that the House might discuss the Retrenchment Commission's Report. But the Board of Ministers was not in any

India and Britain

Gandhiji on the Main Issue

Wardhaganj, Friday.

Mr. Gandhi, in the course of a statement cabled on November 14th to the "News-Chronicle," says: "I observe that the main issue between Britain and India is being confused by the British Press. Does Britain intend to recognise India as an independent nation or must India remain Britain's dependency? This question has not been raised by Congress to gain any advantage over Britain, but to enable the people of India to decide how they should behave during the world crisis. The issue thus becomes purely moral for owing to her material and military control of India, Britain is able to regulate the Indian and British garrison and drain India's wealth at her will. Eight provinces out of eleven have said in emphatic language that they cannot participate in the war if it does not mean, among other things, India's complete freedom.

"To fling the minorities question in India's face is to confuse the issues and to raise the question of Princes is still more untenable. They are part of the Paramount Power and it is no wonder that Hitler challenged the British Government to prove its sincerity by recognising India as a free nation. Whatever his intention of issuing the challenge it cannot be denied that it is pertinent."

Mr. Gandhi concludes: "Any way, let the British public know that the Congress demand is unequivocal and is capable of being satisfied if there is a will to shed imperialism."

way committed to all the details of the Report.

He regretted that an unfortunate atmosphere of bitterness and suspicion had been unnecessarily created. Every Member was only too anxious to deal as effectively as possible with that question of salaries and cadre.

A matter like the appointment of this Select Committee should be decided in a friendly spirit. Two Members had expressed their willingness to stand down. The most satisfactory solution would be to ask the Financial Secretary to serve on the Committee as a Member not as Chairman, and also to include the Minister of Education who had much experience on such Committees.

Amended Motion Passed

The Speaker: Prior consent of the Minister of Education and the Financial Secretary has not been obtained.

Mr. Bandaranaike: They have consented as far as I am concerned.

Mr. Bandaranaike then moved that the Minister of Education be substituted in place of Mr. Mahadeva.

The House agreed.

He next moved that the Financial Secretary be substituted in place of Mr. Newnham.

The House agreed.

The motion as amended was then passed.

War News Review and Commentary

(Continued from page 4)

us plunged into another war with Germany. The great massed service at the Whitehall Cenotaph could not take place, but services of beauty and dignity were held in London, as also here in Ceylon. Many of us old soldiers could not but wonder if, after all, our friends and comrades had died in vain.

To conclude, I will briefly review the political situation. The plea for peace put forward by the rulers of Holland and Belgium has been promised serious consideration by both sides. But as far as the Allies are concerned the answer sent yesterday by His Majesty the King and the French President were anticipated in a strong speech by Lord Halifax, the Foreign Secretary, early last week. He said "We are fighting against the substitution of brute force for law as the arbiter between nations, against violation of the sanctity of treaties and disregard for the pledged word. We have learned that that there can be no opportunity for Europe to cultivate the arts of peace until Germany is brought to realise, that re-current acts of aggression will not be tolerated! The whole thing would not be put more clearly. Until states, countries, powers, nations—call those what you will,—are willing to observe the same decent toleration under the sanction of laws, towards each other that individuals do in any well-conducted society, the life of man will be, in the words of the old philosopher Hobbes, nasty, brutish, short and intolerable!

Hitler, for his part, in his speech immediately before the bomb explosion, delivered one of his usual ranting orations, in which he tried to drive a wedge between France and Britain. The present German propaganda, directed before the war to pointing out that Britain ought to be friendly to Germany in spite of the evil schemes

of the French, now suggested that things are exactly the other way round. He said that Germany was prepared for a five years war—indeed, he ordered it: that there was no lack of petrol or other essential supplies. The speech produced a bad impression in neutral countries, and only served to emphasise the solidarity and determination of the Allies.

There is little doubt that his position is far from secure. There has been for a long time a large minority of the German people definitely opposed to him: the appeal to national patriotism does not seem to have converted them. Even in the majority which supported him, there are many signs of distrust, of which the most typical is a growing feeling for a revival of monarchy—witness the arrest of one at least of the ex-Kaiser's sons. This is especially dangerous to him, as the feeling is likely to be strongest in the Army, and it is the Army which must of necessity count for most in Germany today: already several prominent generals of monarchist sympathies have been removed from their commands. The German people are docile, easily led, even sheep-like: but there is a limit even to the endurance of sheep. The Nazis have tried to make much capital out of the providential escape of the Fuhrer: doubtless it will be ascribed to the good old German God! Unfortunately, there is considerable doubt in present-day Germany as to who exactly the good old German God is—one rather suspects that he wears a small black moustache.

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