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TAMILS OF LOST CONTINENT 12,000 YEARS AGO

An Obstacle to Appreciation of Tamilian Influence

THE MOST CULTURED AND PUREST OF DRAVIDIAN LANGUAGES

By Dr. A. Visvalingam

(Extracts from a paper on "The Tamils,"
read at the Thursday Club, K' Lumpur)

TAMILAGAM, the home of the Tamils in the hoary past, was the Southern region of a large island named Sambu Divu or Navalam. This was one of the first land formations on either side of the Equator bounded in the North by the Vindhya mountains on the South by Australia, East by China, West by Africa.

"It included Le Muria, the lost continent, which covered 700 Kathams (7,000 miles). In the first deluge more than 12,000 years ago Australia, Africa and China were torn asunder; the sea to the North of the Vindhya boundary, and the Himalayas emerged. Some of the people of the lost continent dispersed in different directions, while a large number found a watery grave. The Northern shores of Australia or the Southern land, the East Coast of Africa, the Western littoral of China including Japan were occupied by those who survived—a fact testified by linguistic and ethnic affinities.

"During the second deluge a large portion of Tamilagam with Muthur, or old town called in later times Madura as its capital and ruled by Pandya, was submerged, and of the inhabitants some perished, others took the sea in crafts and pressed to beyond the Vindhya Hills. During this inundation Lanka (Ceylon) was cut off, and the rivers Pabruli and Kumari and mount Kumari disappeared. The Pandyan Capital Mathurai or Kavatapuram was lost in the third deluge.

Second Deluge

"With the second disappearance Manalur or Madura be-

came the Royal City which was later shifted by the changing of the course of the River Vaigai. The people fled for life. Those that took the crafts went along the African shores as far as Erin, while others who took the land route occupied what is now North India, one branch going to the West and traversing Baluchistan, Afghanistan, Persia, Arabia, Turkestan, Mesopotamia and the Southern sea board of Europe another branch going north as far as the North Arctic shores and traversing the northern half of Europe, and a branch spreading to the East traversing Assam, Burma, Siam, Malaysia, Indo-China and China. Traces of this wide dispersion are found in Palestine, Egypt Italy, Scandinavia and in the far off Erin in the names of places with the suffix Ur, in the modes of life pursued, in the resemblances of the Tamilian myths to those of Greece and to the northern Sagas.

"Later Tamilagam was delimited to the region between Tirupatbi (Venkatam) and the sea of of Kumari. This tract comprised the three ancient Tamil Kingdoms, Fandya, Chola and Chera.

Obstacles to Understanding

"Some of the obstacles to understand the antiquity of the Tamil land are the:—

(1) Paucity of records of the ancient Tamilagam.

(2) Earlier European touch with Sanserit literature in North India, the Brahmins' attachment to it, their spiritual predominance in the South, the fallen condition of the Tamil land and its monarchs after the

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WAR NEWS REVIEW AND COMMENTARY

Talk No. 11

(Covering period November 21, to 27, 1939)

By Mr. Stanley de Saram

IN the second week of the war Admiral Reader referred to the Hague Convention, to which Germany was a signatory, and stated that its provisions would be adhered to. One of its provisions read as follows:—

"It is forbidden to lay automatic contact mines off the coasts and ports of the enemy with the sole object of intercepting commercial navigation."

In the eleventh week of the war Germany has indiscriminately sown mines along the trade route of the North Sea, in direct contravention of the principles of international law. A considerable amount of shipping has been lost by the Allies as well as by neutrals. The Dutch has lost the "Simon Bolivar" of 8,000 tons, the Japanese the "Terukuni Maru" of 12,000 tons, while smaller ships belonging to Norway and Sweden have also been sunk. The British have lost the P & O "Rawalpindi" and a number of smaller ships. H. M. Destroyer "Gypsy" was sunk by a mine. The new cruiser "Belfast" has been damaged, but there was no loss of life. It has therefore become necessary to take counter measures against this new menace, the severity of which can be well understood when it is stated that hundreds of mines have been washed ashore on the East coast of Britain. The mines have been laid by German submarines and have also been dropped from enemy sea-plane by means of a parachute. Latest news indicates that it is Hitler's desire to intensify the laying of mines.

Mr. Chamberlain speaking in the House of Commons said:—"This fresh outrage is the culmination of a series of violations of agreements to which Germany had set her hand. I need only recall the sinking of the Athenia with the loss of 113 lives and the subsequent destruction of British, Allied and neutral vessels by mine, torpedo or gunfire. These attacks were made often without warning and to an increasing extent with complete disregard of the rules laid down in the Submarine Protocol to which Germany had subscribed

or to the most elementary dictates of humanity.

"The Government is not prepared to allow these methods to continue without retaliation. I may remind the House that, in the last war, as a measure of justified reprisal for submarine attacks on merchant ships, exports of German origin or ownership were subject to seizure on the high seas. The many violations of international law and the ruthless brutality of the German methods have decided us to follow a similar course now, and an Order-in-Council will shortly be issued giving effect to the decision."

The action has the full approval of the French Government and it is expected to have a further crippling effect on Germany's trade.

In the air the Germans have made 23 flights and raids on the Shetlands, the Firth of Forth, the East Coast and the North of the Thames which were all successfully repulsed and several enemy machines were brought down. On the Western Front there continues to be much aerial activity, seven German planes being brought down in one day. On the Western Front there continues to be much aerial activity, seven German planes being brought down in one day.

While this strange war continues from week to week, with no fighting on land, no battles at sea, with air forces indulging mainly in reconnaissance and defensive work, and with the warfare being concentrated more and more intensively on the economic side in a gigantic effort to strangle trade, the life blood of a nation, it is as well that we again keep in the forefront of our minds as to why we are at war.

In 1914 Great Britain and France went to war because Germany invaded Belgium, a country whose independence she had promised to respect. But the reason for the war went deeper than that; it was an attempt by Germany to dominate the whole of Europe and eventually the world.

(Continued on Page 5.)

VACANCY

The post of a Lady Assistant with Vernacular Teachers' Certificate qualification is vacant at the Jaffna Hindu College Preparatory Tamil Mixed School. Applications for filling the same will be received until the 10th of December 1939 by the Manager, J. H. C. (Mis. 198. 27-11-7-12-39)



Hindu Organ.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1939.

NAVALAR DAY

YESTERDAY IN JAFFNA AND in many parts of Ceylon from numerous platforms glowing tributes were paid to the memory of the great national leader who passed into history just sixty years ago. Beyond question the late SRI LA SRI ARUMUGA NAVALAR was the greatest personality in the Tamil world during the nineteenth century. There were greater scholars, more gifted men of letters, and even greater saints than the Navalar in that century. But none possessed such a dynamic personality or so profoundly influenced the life and thought of the Tamil world as he has done. His burning zeal for Hinduism and Tamil culture, his dedication to the cause he held so dear, his indomitable courage and intellectual resource gave him an easy ascendancy in Jaffna and in many parts of South India. To the Hindus especially his work assumes a significance all its own. He saved Hinduism from a great crisis not alone from external danger but more from internal corruption and apathy. He appeared at a time when but for his great qualities of leadership Hinduism in Jaffna would have been engulfed by the forces of darkness. It is his unique achievement that he soon brought about a literary and religious Renaissance whose results persist even today. It may be said with perfect truth that all subsequent Hindu religious movements in Jaffna owe their inspiration directly or indirectly to this great leader. It is not without justice that very competent scholars, as well as the Hindu public, rank him along with the four great Saiva Saints as a Saviour of Hinduism and set apart his day for solemn observance.

There is another and perhaps a more significant aspect of his personality which in the heat of religious controversy has been lost sight of or at least has not gained due recog-

niton. At this distance when the heat generated by the controversies of the seventies has all subsided, we have to view him more as a nation-builder than a religious leader. He was not so much an opponent of any creed as of sham, hypocrisy and intolerance and corruption in any form or sphere. His zeal for Tamil culture and literature was second only to his zeal for Hinduism. He is the father of modern Tamil prose and was the master of a simple, elegant and vigorous literary diction which has not been excelled by subsequent writers. He was also the first in the field who laboured hard to bring out authoritative editions of famous Tamil classics and besides has written a number of school texts. He was also a very great political leader in Jaffna and denounced official corruption and injustice unsparingly and with unflinching courage. He showed a singleness of devotion, concentration of energy, courage and intellectual resource which one associates only with the great figures of history. When his life and achievements come to be viewed dispassionately he will be seen to be the maker of modern Jaffna and a nation-builder of the first rank. His life will be an abiding inspiration to after generations urging men to a life of unselfishness and noble endeavour.

STANDARD DIETARY REQUIREMENTS

Nelli Fruit the Richest in Vitamin C

ADVICE TO CUT DOWN SHOP BILLS

At a meeting of the Udavil Rural Reconstruction Society, Mr. Cosmas W. D. Alwines delivered an interesting lecture on Standard Dietary Requirements. Mr. W. Ponnudurai the President of the Society, took the chair and introduced the lecturer. Mr. Ponnudurai said that Mr. Alwines had actively identified himself with Health Propaganda in the North for the last ten years. He had by means of lectures, newspaper articles, Health Weeks and other forms of propaganda helped people to realise the value of local foods and their part in building up the health of the country. Not satisfied with all that work Mr. Alwines had gone a step further and written a book on Health and Dietetics. Though that book was primarily meant for schools, the public could gain a good deal of knowledge of local foods by a perusal of that book.

Mr. Alwines then began his lecture which was illustrated by several charts. At the conclusion of the lecture Mr. Patkinathar proposed a vote of thanks which was carried with acclamation.

Mr. F. C. Thuraingham interpreted the lecture in Tamil.

FINNISH TOWNS IN FLAMES

ATROCITIES OF SOVIET PLANES

WORLD SCORN OF RUSSIAN AGGRESSION

Amsterdam, Saturday.

EVERYWHERE Finnish towns and villages are in flames and people are still streaming out into the wintry countryside to shelter from Russian bombs, according to the latest direct news reaching here.

The skill and accuracy of Finnish artillery has greatly impressed foreign observers, according to the correspondent of the newspaper "Het Volk," who says that an extraordinary high percentage of shells reach their mark.

Eye-witnesses describe the slaughter in the labour district of Soernen, Helsinki's East End, as appalling. People thronged in big open squares to avoid burial in the debris of collapsing houses, and the Russians dropped bombs right in the middle of them. The aeroplanes came so low that they grazed the roof tops, and ruthlessly machine-gunned the terrible civilians.

Inexcusable Crime of the U.S.S.R.

Rome.—The "Resto del Carlino" (of Bologna) declares: "We can never approve this odious aggression."

Amsterdam.—"Moscow's act of violence has aroused the horror and indignation of the whole world no less than did aggression against Poland," declared "Handelsblad."

Paris.—"It would be a most disquieting feature," writes "Perrinax" in "L'Ordre," "if the Soviet were to bring about a revolution in Finland. Traditional imperialism and revolutionary ideology would together form a particularly virulent compound."

Tokyo.—"Chugai Shogyo" declares that the Soviet's inexcusable crime against Finland is overthrowing order in the world and disturbing the equilibrium among nations. The world is returning to the rapacious methods of plunder of the Dark Ages.

"Asahi Shimbun" describes the Soviet action as blatant and contemptible aggression. It is impossible to find any justification for its action which therefore can only be described as perpetration of injustice by terror.

Soviet's Conditions for Armistice

Berlin, Friday.

The basis on which Soviet Russia would immediately cease military operations and be prepared to begin peace negotiations is believed to be defined in a proclamation issued today by the Central Committee of the Finnish Communist Party, according to a Moscow telegram to the official German news agency. It includes:—

(1) The formation of a "democratic people's Government"; (2) The conclusion of a Soviet-Finnish pact of mutual assistance; (3) Certain changes in the structure of the Finnish State and Finland's economic life, "but by no means the Sovietisation of Finland."

INDIA WANTS INDEPENDENCE

"BAFFLING SITUATION" SAYS GANDHIJI

NO IMMEDIATE PROSPECT OF CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE

Bombay, Saturday.

The view that there can be no civil disobedience movement only for the purpose of embarrassing the British Government is emphasised by Mr. Gandhi in the course of an article in today's "Harijan," entitled "Baffling Situation."

He adds that there is no immediate prospect of launching civil disobedience and stresses the importance of spinning and non-violence.

In another "Harijan" article, commenting on an Englishman's letter on the present political situation, Mr. Gandhi declares that the absolute protection of the rights of the minorities is of greater concern to Congress than it ever can be to Great Britain.

In the course of the same article Mr. Gandhi explains the demand for independence as distinguished from dominion status and says:—"Surely India cannot be satisfied with anything less if she is to rank as a free nation."

"I had thought dominion status according to the Statute of Westminster was equivalent to independence."

"The expression 'Dominion status' has a special connotation. It refers to the Commonwealth of Whites who themselves are pillars of imperialism engaged in exploiting non-European races whom they regard as uncivilised."

"India free would be no party to such exploitation, but there is nothing to prevent free India from entering into an alliance with Britain for the protection and freedom of all whether black, brown or white, and therefore if Dominion status is less than independence India cannot be satisfied with it. If it is synonymous with independence then India has to choose how she would describe her status."

Finnish Premier's Broadcast

New York, Saturday.

"We are willing to negotiate every issue that may arise between two neighbouring nations," declared the new Finnish Premier, M. Ryti, broadcasting to the United States, "but we will not consent to barter away our independence nor our right to decide our own affairs."

According to a Paris radio report, the Finnish Minister in Washington has announced that Finland will, as usual, pay the annuities on her war debt to the United States due on December 1st.

The official Soviet Tass agency states that M. Kaunisten, the Premier and Foreign Minister of the new Finnish "People's Government" established at Terijoki, on the Finnish frontier, has informed the Soviet Government of his intention to establish diplomatic relations between the "democratic republic of Finland" and the Soviet Union. The Soviet Government has decided to recognise the "People's Government" and to establish diplomatic relations with it.

ADJUSTMENTS IN CURRENT YEAR'S BUDGET

Necessitated By War

STATE COUNCIL PASSES MOTION ON FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Colombo, Friday.

THERE was a discussion yesterday in the State Council on the method adopted by the Board of Ministers in asking the Council "to take into consideration" a statement of adjustments in the current year's Budget necessitated by the war. It was argued that the proper course would have been to introduce an amending Appropriation Bill—as a war Budget—and also to have given Executive Committees an opportunity of considering the adjustments to the Budget.

Explaining the financial situation the Financial Secretary mentioned that the eventual deficit was estimated at Rs 10½ million. It was proposed that Rs. 4½ million out of that should be found by pruning Budget votes; Rs. 5 million by increased taxation and the rest from the General Reserve.

The debate remained unfinished when the House rose yesterday.

Colombo, Saturday.

In the State Council yesterday the debate on the Statement of financial adjustments made by the Board of Ministers in the current year's Budget came to an unexpected conclusion. After a long discussion on procedure the House decided not to go into Committee to discuss the Ministers' statement item by item, the Leader of the House pointing out that if the House in Committee restored any of the reserved items of expenditure it would mean further taxation.

Later the House passed the first reading of the Excess Profits Tax Bill. The Financial Secretary explained that the Bill would operate only till the duration of the war or till shortly after it, since such measures were not meant for an indefinite period as they would deter people from launching out on new businesses.

In the case of the increased Customs duties on certain articles, the House by a majority vote "referred back" the tax on unmanufactured tobacco.

The Council adjourned till December 12.

LEGAL SECRETARY TO BE CHIEF JUSTICE

Appointment of Mr. J. C. Howard

Colombo, Dec. 1.

Mr. John Curlois Howard, K. C., the Legal Secretary, has been appointed Chief Justice of Ceylon in succession to Sir Sidney Abraham.

The approval of this appointment by His Majesty the King is contained in a telegram received yesterday from the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Mr. Howard's Career

Mr. Howard was Attorney-General of the Gold Coast when he was

appointed Attorney General of Ceylon on July 4, 1936, in succession to Sir Edward Jackson. His subsequent appointment as the first Legal Secretary of Ceylon took effect on October 1, 1936.

Mr. Howard was born on January 15, 1887, and was educated at Uppingham and Clare College, Cambridge, where he was an Exhibitioner. He graduated in Natural Science in 1909.

Colombo, Dec. 2.

The new Chief Justice, Mr. J. C. Howard K. C., took his oaths of office last evening before Mr. Justice Hearne in chambers.

Consequent on Mr. Howard's elevation to the Bench, Mr. J. W. R. Illangakoon K. C., the Attorney General, will act as Legal Secretary, and Mr. E. G. P. Jayatilake K. C., the Solicitor General, will act as Attorney-General.

It is expected that Mr. M. T. de S. Amerasekera, K. C., will act as Solicitor-General.

CEYLON RICE DELEGATION

Talks in Burma

Rangoon, Friday.

The Ceylon rice delegation conferred with the Commerce Minister for eighty minutes at the Secretariat this afternoon. The conference, which was of a preliminary character, was also attended by the Commerce Secretary and the Financial Commissioner.

The discussions were solely confined to the question of rice exports to Ceylon. The delegation will resume conversations with the Burma Government next week after meeting representatives of trade associations.

Interviewed by the Associated Press, Mr. G. C. S. Corea said "Our work is partly finished and we hope to stay in Burma for a week".

INDIAN MANGOES OUST JAPANESE

European Markets' Preference

Indian canned mangoes have completely ousted their Japanese rivals from the European markets, it is stated in New Delhi.

Due to their superior flavour, Indian mangoes, though more expensive than the Japanese, have consistently sold better, and the Japanese product has now ceased to compete in the markets.

More and more Indian brands are now being exported, but only two or three have a good hold of the market as a result of their better quality and grading compared with the newcomers.

The North Ceylon Tamil Teachers' Association

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the North Ceylon Tamil Teachers' Association was held on Saturday the 2nd, instant at Vaideshwara Vidyalayam Hall. Over 500 Members from the different parts of Jaffna District were present. In the absence of the President, Mr. K. Muttukumaraswamy Pillai B.A. Vice-President, occupied the chair. He made a few introductory remarks and appealed to all members to work unitedly for the good of the Association without sulking over personal failures.

The minutes of the last Annual General Meeting and the Special General Meetings held on 19-8-39 and 16-9-39 were read and duly confirmed. The Secretary presented his report. It showed that the Association passed through a momentous year; the Association lost confidence in its Representative to the Board of Education by his acts re Quota and Grading of Teachers; the Association elected a Committee to see that the proposed amendments to the Code do not come into force. The Association had on two Special General meetings submitted names of certain persons to be appointed to the new Board of Education. The conduct of some dis-appointed people in trying to manipulate the Committee of the Association to serve their personal aims was deplorable. The report was duly carried.

The Treasurer's balance sheet was read and adopted.

Mr. K. Kanapathipillai, Head-Master American Mission School, Atchuvelli, proposed a vote of thanks to the Hon'ble the Minister of Education and his Committee for having appointed the Association's nominee, Mr. P. Ragupathy, B.A., to a seat in the Board of Education. It was duly seconded and carried with acclamation.

The election of Office-bearers for the ensuing year took place:

President: Mr. K. Muttukumaraswamy Pillai B.A.

Vice-Presidents: Messrs. S. B. Mylvaganam, Head-Master, C. M. S. School, Kockuvil; K. Kanapathipillai, Head-Master, A. C. M. School, Atchuvelli and K. Navaratnam, Head-Master, Hindu College Branch School, Kockuvil.

Secretary: Mr. M. Vaithalingham, Head-Master, H. B. E. School, Kopay.

Asst. Secretary: Mr. C. Saravananthi, Saivapragasa Vidyasalai, Onanganai.

Treasurer: Mr. C. Srinivasan, Mehandan Vidyasalai, Pannakam.

Auditors: Messrs. V. Chelvaraj and S. Ratnam.

The meeting terminated with a vote of thanks at 1-30 p.m.

Government Almanac Suspended

It is learned that as a retrenchment measure, the Ceylon Government Almanac will not be published until further notice.

HIGHER PRICES FOR FOODSTUFFS

PAPER AND JAPANESE CEMENT PRICES UP

INCREASE EFFECTED FROM SATURDAY

Colombo, Saturday.

An increase in the maximum prices of carrystuffs comes into operation from today.

The biggest increases are recorded in the cases of coriander and cummin seed for which housewives will have to pay an additional seven cents per lb.

The importer's maximum price for coriander has gone up from Rs. 55 per candy of 525 lbs. to Rs. 90, while the retail price has been increased from 15 cents to 22 cents per lb.

The importer's price for cummin seed has jumped from Rs. 115 per candy of 525 lbs. to Rs. 171-50, and the retail price has been raised from 32 cents to 39 cents per lb.

Increase in the prices of dhall range from 2 to 6 cents per measure while the prices of dry chillies have gone up by between 2 to 4 cents per lb.

Fennel seed (Calcutta) has gone up by 5 cents per lb.

The price of Maldiva fish, however, remains unchanged.

Rice Prices

The prices of Milchard rice and Broken Raw rice have also gone up by 12 cents per bushel. This will, however, make a difference of only half a cent per measure. The prices of Muttusamba, Kora and P. T. S. remain unaltered.

Increases ranging from 5 to 13 cents have been made in the case of paper. The biggest increases are in respect of Glazed White Wood-free Print and Super-Calendar Print, which have gone up by 13 cents per lb.

The price of Japanese cement has been increased from Rs. 1.85 per bag of lbs. to Rs. 2.10 per bag—an increase of 25 cents. The price of a cask of 375 lbs. has been raised by Re 1.

The prices of English brands and Indian brands of cement remain unchanged.

REVISION OF CEMENT PRICES

Controller's Circular to Dealers

The Controller of Prices, it is understood, proposes to revise the control prices of cement.

With that object in view, he has circularised all cement importers and dealers calling upon them to furnish a statement showing the stocks, imports, sales and prices of imported cement from October 7, 1939 to November 18, 1939. The statements are to be in the form of weekly returns.

It is stated that at the time control prices were fixed for cement, representations were made to the Controller by dealers pointing out that the maximum price fixed did not provide for any margin of profit.

A DANGEROUS PRECEDENT

A HITCH IN JAFFNA SCHOOL SOCCER

CHAMPIONSHIP ISSUE

THE Principal of the Jaffna Central College has protested against the decision of the Jaffna Schools Sports Association that Jaffna Central should meet Jaffna College at the Soccer final to decide whether Jaffna Central or Jaffna College and St. Patrick's are to be joint Champions.

A special meeting of the Jaffna Schools Sports Association was held at St. Patrick's College, presided over by the Rev. Fr. T. M. F. Long, President of the Association, Mr. R. J. Thurairajah, the Assistant Secretary, acted as Secretary.

Representatives from St. Patrick's College (2), Jaffna College (2), St. John's College (2), Jaffna Hindu College, St. Henry's College (2) and Jaffna Central College (2) were present.

The Chairman explained that the Principals of St. Patrick's and Jaffna College, after the first re-play agreed to another re-play. But later they independently came to the conclusion that the football season was unduly prolonged, causing difficulties in the work of the schools. The Association also had agreed to the principle at the beginning of the football season that the season should close, as far as possible, about the middle of November. They had, therefore, agreed to explore the possibilities of closing the season early. Their suggestion was that Jaffna College and St. Patrick's be declared Joint Champions of Group "B" and that the Champions of Group "A", Jaffna Central College, should meet one of the Joint Champions of Group "B", the selection of this to be by toss of coin. But this procedure could not be adopted without the decision of the Association. That was the purpose for which the special meeting was called.

The matter was discussed and the following decisions were carried:—

In order not to prolong the season there be no re-play between Jaffna College and St. Patrick's.

Jaffna College and St. Patrick's be declared Joint Champions of Group "B".

Jaffna Central to meet one of the two Champions of Group "B" by toss of coin. Winner of toss to meet Jaffna Central. If Jaffna Central wins the final match Jaffna Central to be sole Champions. If one of the Joint Champions of "B" wins both to be Joint Champions.

Each of the resolutions was voted upon separately.

The toss for the selection of the team to meet Jaffna Central took place and Jaffna College won.

Jaffna College thus meets Jaffna Central College to decide whether Jaffna Central or Jaffna College and St. Patrick's are to be Joint Champions.

A Protest

The Principal of Jaffna Central College Mr. J. W. Arudhpiragasam, after consultation with the Sports Committee of the College, has sent a letter to the Hony. Secretary of the Jaffna Schools Sports Association, stating that the College has decided not to meet either Jaffna College or any other College, unless, according to the rules of the Competition it is asked to play against the winning

LETTER TO THE EDITOR.

Dangerous Night Journey By Road

Sir,—I had the misfortune to travel by bus leaving Anuradhapura 9-30 p.m. last night for Jaffna. The bus left Anuradhapura, with full complement of passengers and we were held up time and again en route as herds of cattle, deer, buffaloes refused to let the bus go and slept leisurely on the middle of the roads.

The passengers on the whole encountered a perilous journey. On arrival at Murikandi, we all got down and invoked the aid of the 'Pillaiar' for a safe passage home. Between Palai and Eluthumadavil, the running of the bus reminded me of a piece which I recited before Mr. Horsburgh, who was at one time the G. A. at Northern Province, about the Cataract of Lodore: Reading, Speeding, Shocking, Rocking, Darting, Parting Bumping, Jumping and Thumping etc. for which I had a prize from Sir Baron, then Mr. D. B. Jayatilake, a school master and Sir Waitilingam listened too, while the condition of the passengers reminded me of a Madras crowd, who were breaking their necks listening to the melodious singing of "Musiri".

I have travelled by air, ocean boats, sailing junks and could imagine journeys in submarines, Man-of-Wars and Minesweepers as I have seen the vessels and this journey by bus is nothing less dangerous.

There would be a remarkable absence of objectivity if I do not specify the purport of this letter. They are:

(a) In view of the danger to the travelling public in this jungle road, the Government may consider cancelling the night running of buses, seeing that the needs of the travelling public are adequately served by rail.

(b) The road between Palai and Eluthumadavil is in a very dangerous and disgraceful condition.

(c) There is hardly hairbreadth space available for two big size motor vehicles to cross and a good deal of lorries passed us and this hazardous journey is undertaken probably to escape detection of overloading.

(d) Half dead bullocks with overloaded carts are driven in carefree style, where buses have to stop, shout and get right of way.

(e) The drivers are on the steering the whole night.

(f) The new Motor Ordinance contains provisions for the limitation of working hours.

Yours etc.

S. VVDILINGAM.

Tholpuram, 30 Nov. 1939.

team in the 'B' Division. The reasons given are:—

The Committee was not justified in giving its approval to any private agreement between two Colleges, when such agreement affects a third College.

It was wrong to allow two Colleges in the same division to be bracketed as Champions, since it was contrary to the rules and the spirit under which the football competitions have been conducted all these years.

It was neither right nor fair that any team not participating in the final match should have any claim to the Championship.

The step taken, it is stated, creates a dangerous precedent.

Tamils of Lost Continent 12,000 Years Ago

(Continued from page 1)

golden age, the aversion of the self-styled Brahmin of the South towards the Tamil and mother tongue, the extraordinary influence of Aryam (Sanskrit) as the language of the royal spiritual guides on the Tamil people their language and their literature and the fewness of the European researchers under the direction given by Maxmuller in the Golconda of Tamil literature and philosophy.

"The greatest obstacle to a right appreciation of Tamilian influence in the evolution of Indian culture is the wider currency and established position of what may be called the 'Aryan myth'. Prof. Slater says 'the word "Aryan" is legitimate enough provided the definite meaning is attached to it, as a name for the invaders from the North-west who introduced the Sanskrit language into India. It is illegitimate if used to imply the theory popularised by Maxmuller that the ancient "Aryan" race of men, superior to other races, spread from the original Aryan home somewhere in Europe and Asia, over India, Persia and Europe, displacing the previous occupants, all regarded as inferior mentally, physically and culturally, and bequeathing to their descendants the various languages of the Indo-Germanic family. All attempts to harmonise that theory have broken down hopelessly, and Maxmuller himself had to admit that language is no test of race.' Nevertheless it lingers on even now in Europe, where we now hear of Nordic-Aryans more frequently than ever before.

"The probable date of the Aryan intrusion was about 1750 B. C. The Aryans, says Prof. Slater, must be regarded as relatively barbaric invaders, provided by their horses with an immense advantage of rapid and concerted movement, and so for military and political mastery of peoples, who as in the case of the Sumerians and Dravidians, lacked this equipment for power, in spite of their superiority in those elements in culture which make for wealth and civilisation whose superiority in wealth was an enticement to the invaders'.

"An old Greek myth discusses the relative merits of the equine and pre-equine culture. Poseidon and Athena disputed as to which was entitled by having conferred the more valuable gift, to give a name to the city known to us as Athens. Poseidon gave the horse, Athena the olive, and the jury of gods gave the verdict to Athena, because her gift was associated with peaceful industry, and of Poseidon with war.

"The ancient India which Sir John Marshall has exposed in digging up the ruins in Mohenjodaro, has rolled back the curtain, that hid the origin of Indian civilisation. India ranks to-day with Mesopotamia and Egypt among the pioneers of civilisation.

Twelve years ago the Aryan myth that civilisation in India began with the invasion of the Aryans about 1750 B. C. may have held its ground. But the culture and civilisation revealed by the excavations at Harappa in the Punjab and Mohenjodaro in the Sind going back to about 3000-4000 B. C. have no room for that fallacy to continue further. These two cities which are now barren supported an urban population about 5,000 years ago. The cities were planned and built on modern lines of town planning on the rectangular American model. Their system of sanitation was superior to anything that was in Europe before the last century.

Civilised Community

"They had ships on which they ventured out on the open sea. They knew the art of writing, and some of the seals and figurings show they had well advanced in arts and crafts. Broad and straight streets were paved with burnt bricks admirably laid. On either side are the walls of two-storeyed houses built in a continuous line on a uniform plan. Down the middle of a street is a drain covered with brick or stone, with chambers at intervals containing a soak away and holes for periodical cleaning. Most of the houses are well preserved and are built round a court-yard. They are well planned and provided with an external staircase suggesting a flat. Every house has its bathroom and a shoot for rubbish leading down to the public conduits in the street. Wells are numerous. A huge tank built of bricks laid with gypsum cement is seen surrounded by rows of little bath rooms. It had an arrangement for changing the water with a well engineered drain. All these indicate that these cities enjoyed a capable municipality which understood town planning, and knew more about sanitation than was known to us about a century or two ago. Copper and bronze, gold and silver were the basis of civilisation. Wheat and barley were grown and cotton was cultivated, and a precious fragment of cloth has survived. The ox, the buffalo, the sheep, the pig, the goat and dogs were domesticated. Elephants were harnessed, but horse and camel were rare though their existence appears to have been known. Primitive carts on wheels similar to those of to-day rolled the paved streets. The children appear to have been provided with toys which include birds that whistle and a bull that wags his head—the writings on the seals show a script allied to the Sumerian cuneiform type.

The Language

"The language—the name Tamil, signifying 'sweet' is characteristic of the language. It is one of the most copious, refined and polished spoken by man.

"Tamil, the language of Tamilagam, is also one of the earliest (if not the earliest), languages of the world. It is the most cultured, and also the purest of the Dravidian languages, and is spoken by over 20 million people in India and Ceylon, and by immi-

(Continued on Page 5.)

Prohibition of Liquor Traffic

A Govt Orphanage for Every Province Suggested

Colombo, Dec. 1.

The introduction of legislation to prohibit traffic in all liquors is proposed in a motion notice of which was given at yesterday's meeting of the State Council by Mr. H. W. Amarasuriya (Galle).

Establishment of a Government orphanage in every Province is suggested in a motion by Mr. A. Ratnayake (Dumbara) notice of which was given yesterday.

Other motions notice of which was given yesterday, were:—

Mr. A. Ratnayake (Dumbara):

This Council is of opinion that the handloom weaving industry should be assisted by an adequate subsidy from Government.

That this Council is of opinion that the vote for charitable allowances should be increased and the Revenue Officers should be instructed to grant prompt relief in the case of those in distress.

Selling of Ganja

Mr. R. S. Tennekoon (Katugampola):

In the opinion of this Council Ganja should be sold in approved quantities to approved Ayurvedic Medical practitioners in all places where opium is now sold by Government.

German Troops Active

French Counter Attack

London, Saturday.

Great activity by German troops along the Moselle and a portion of the river Sauer forming the German-Luxembourg frontier is reported from Brussels. Infantry, cavalry and motor transport are said to be continually on the move, while soldiers and workmen are busy on fortifications.

Persistent rains during the past week have caused new floodings and many points of the German barbed wire entanglements are inundated.

Patrol operations are daily observed between the villages of Pelt and Spach by Luxembourgers from Schengen. The German attempt heralded by artillery fire to raid a French post east of the Moselle was easily beaten back by a French counter barrage before it could get near its objective.

Enemy artillery is also active south of Saarbrücken but the air forces of both sides are grounded because of the continued bad flying conditions.

A Paris *communiqué* states that there was nothing of importance to report during the night.

Jaffna Hindu College Y. M. H. A.

Annual Celebration

The Jaffna Hindu College Young Men's Hindu Association celebrated its 23rd Annual Celebration yesterday, the Guru-Pooja day of Sri La Sri Arumuga Navalar. The celebration started at 4 p. m. with a pooja to Sri Nadarajah in the hall downstairs. The entrance and the hall upstairs were decorated with garlands and leaves and plantains which created a religious atmosphere in the College premises. A public meeting was held at 5 p. m. in the hall upstairs. Mr. M. Mylvaganam, the president of the Association, occupied the chair. Songs in praise of Arumuga Navalar were recited by Mr. S. Sivasubramaniya Iyer. A lecture on 'குரு பழக்கம்' was delivered by Mr. A. R. Shanmugaratnam, Principal, Government Training College, Kopay. Srimal Sivapiragasa Yokeeswarar delivered a lecture on 'செந்தேவை'. Mr. V. Ramasamy Sarmā, Tamil Pundit, Jaffna Central College, delivered a lecture on 'ஆறுமுகநாவலர்'. Mrs. V. Subramaniam of the Matric D class delivered his Tamil speech on 'ஆறுமுகநாவலர் கிடைக்கும் ஆற்றியதென்றது'. Mas. M. A. M. Aliph declaimed Swamy Vivakananda's speech on 'The Goal of life'. Prizes were distributed to the prize-winners in the Tamil and English declamations contest.

Tamil Declamation

1st Prize: V. Subramaniam Matric D, and 2nd Prize S. Senthirajah Matric D.

English Declamation

1st Prize: Mas. M. A. M. Aliph Pre-Matric B, and 2nd Prize, Mas. K. Elangarajah, Pre-Matric B.

The meeting came to a close at 9 p. m. with a vote of thanks to the lecturers and the public who attended the function by Mas. S. Velauthupillai of the Matric B. class.

Tamils of Lost Continent 12,000 Years Ago

(Continued from page 4)

grants in Assam, Burma and Malaysia, etc. It was the language of the Indian Peninsula and was spoken in different parts of the world. The language spoken now at Kamchatka in the north eastern corner of Asia is, according to Sir W. W. Hunter, a dialect of Tamil. The language spoken by the Maoris of New Zealand and the numerous groups of islands round about that country are allied to Tamil. The language spoken in Tarcany in Italy is a dialect of Tamil. It is said that the Chinese language has some affinity to it. The three great classical languages—Sanskrit, Hebrew, and Greek—contain Tamil words in their vocabulary. As one of the earliest languages, it has been built up on a natural line—its sounds are the outcome of the natural use of the organs of speech, its letters too represent the natural sound-emotions. It is rational, and every rule in it has its *raison d'être*. The alphabet is mystical, and every letter has and is associated with some mystical significance. No other alphabet has this proved distinction."

WAR NEWS REVIEW AND COMMENTARY

(Continued from page 1)

In that great fight Great Britain and the Empire had many allies—France, Italy, the United States etc., and eventually, after more than a million British subjects had lost their lives, Germany was defeated in 1938. As a result of the Peace Treaty which followed, Germany agreed to limit the size of her armies and was forced to give up her rule over non-German peoples like the Poles.

The last war was called "the war to end wars." We all hoped that never again would one country try to dominate the rest of the world by force. For some years after 1918 it looked as if that hope might be realised. Great Britain and France demobilised their armies, navies and air forces to an extent which, as events have proved, was dangerous to their safety. Peoples like the Czechs, Slovaks and Poles who previously had been under the domination of others set up independent countries of their own and hoped to be allowed to live in peace. All the great countries of the world signed a solemn Agreement that never again would they resort to force. If they had any quarrels with each other, they would try and settle them by negotiation.

In Germany, most people seemed to think that the war had been a ghastly mistake into which they had been led by their rulers. It had resulted in misery and starvation and the death of over two million Germans. The Kaiser had run away and left the Germans to their fate. In future, they would rule themselves in a democratic way.

Then, in 1933, the position changed. Germany, like most nations suffered severely from the slump of 1911. Taking advantage of the situation which arose out of this depression, Hitler and his political party, the Nazis, seized the supreme power in Germany. Everyone knows his history; how he started life as a house-painter in Vienna, went through the Great War as a Corporal and then afterwards, started to preach his extraordinary doctrine, Nazi-ism. What does Nazi-ism mean? It is all explained in that remarkable book written by Hitler himself, 'Mein Kampf' (My Struggle)

The Nazi philosophy of life is that there is a superior race called the Nordics. The Germans regard themselves as the principal Nordics in the world. Because they are Nordics they have the right to rule the rest of the world and to impose their ideas and culture on everybody else. Nothing else matters: European races who are not Nordics must submit to their domination. The State is everything, the individual does not count at all. Freedom of speech, freedom of action and even freedom of thought by the individual must not be tolerated. All power must remain in the hands of the

leader, whose will is law and who must be obeyed without question as if he were a god.

Most people like to believe that, if a man or a nation gives a solemn promise to do something, he will keep it. But Nazi-ism teaches that a pledge should be kept only so long as it is convenient to keep it. No more barbarous doctrine has ever been preached in the history of mankind. Before Hitler actually came to power, few people took him seriously. Even in Germany, the majority could not really believe that he meant it. But he did. Gradually, stage by stage, the doctrine of Nazi-ism was put into force. Thousands of people were put to death and tens of thousands imprisoned in concentration camps because they dared to question Hitler's will or were thought to be in any way dangerous to the Nazi party. Private property was confiscated; men were compelled to work for the State where and when the Government should direct; the Jews especially were ill-treated, hundreds were beaten to death and thousands deprived of all their possessions and left to starve. Men could be arrested by the Secret Police and either put to death or imprisoned without trial. Liberty of thought and action was more and more restricted until, today, a German can be executed (and many of them have been) if he dares to listen to a radio broadcast from any foreign country.

But all this is no concern of ours, so long as it is limited to Germany alone. If the Germans like to put up with this form of Government, then that is their affair. It is true that it is a philosophy of life which we in the British Empire do not understand and would not tolerate. We believe in the rights of the individual. We believe in freedom of speech, freedom of action and freedom of thought. We believe in religious toleration, in rights of minorities and in the sanctity of our pledged word.

But the danger to the world and to ourselves arose when Germany started to put this idea into practice in foreign affairs. First of all came the occupation of the Rhineland by German troops, although Hitler had agreed that it would not again be fortified; then the seizure by force of Austria, in spite of the fact that only six months earlier Hitler had given a solemn promise to respect its independence. This was followed in the Autumn of 1938 by the occupation of Sudetanland in Czechoslovakia and the 'settlement' at Munich Hitler then gave to Mr. Chamberlain, the Prime Minister, his solemn assurance that he had no more territorial claims in Europe and that he had no more interest in the Czechs. Nevertheless, the remainder of Czechoslovakia was invaded by German troops in the Spring of 1939. The Czech army was disbanded and the whole country placed under German control, a control which has been exercised in a particularly brutal way.

Two facts then became clearly evident: firstly, that not the slightest

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WAR NEWS REVIEW AND COMMENTARY

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test reliance could be placed on Hitler's word, and secondly, that there was no limit whatsoever to his ambition and determination to dominate the world by force.

It was for these reasons that the British Government gave a guarantee to Poland, Rumania, Greece and Turkey that if their independence were threatened, Great Britain would come to their aid.

During the summer of 1939, it became obvious that Poland was to be the next victim. A torrent of abuse and lies was started against the Poles, although it was only in 1934 that Hitler had stated publicly that he had no quarrel whatsoever with Poland and had signed a treaty of non-aggression with them for ten years. Every endeavour was made by President Roosevelt of the United States of America, His Holiness the Pope, Signor Mussolini of Italy and the Government of Great Britain to settle all outstanding questions between Germany and Poland by negotiation. But it was obvious, as Mr. Chamberlain has put it, "Hitler would not have it." Without warning or declaration of war, Poland was invaded. Its towns were ruthlessly bombed from the air, and automatically France and Great Britain fulfilled their pledges to Poland and declared war on Germany.

What are we fighting for? It is to save our Empire and the world from domination by the Nazi creed. It is a struggle which concerns the Ceylonese in his paddy field, the Indian in his village, the African and the West Indian as much as the peoples of Great Britain. We, in the British Empire, differ as individuals in many things—in race, in colour, religion and history—but we have certain things in common—toleration, liberty of thought and word, a sense of justice, respect for minorities and the opinions of others. Our forms of government may vary, but we all believe in the ideal of democracy and the right

of peoples to live their own lives. These are the things which bind us, and it is our belief in them which enables so many millions of people to pay common allegiance to one ideal. That ideal and all that it means to each one of us is in danger, perhaps the greatest danger that has ever forced it. If Nazism were to triumph and German rule were to spread over the world as it has ever so much of Europe, everything that we prize and everything that makes life worth living would have gone. The Ceylonese, the Malay, the Indian and all the peoples of the Empire would come under Nazi rule with all its brutality, its repression and its denial of liberty. All the steady economic progress which these peoples have made would be lost; all their political aspirations would disappear for ever.

We have no quarrel with the common German people, but with Hitler, the Nazi Party and the German Government. They are our enemies and either we must destroy them or they will destroy us and our liberties.

We are a great Empire. In France we have a powerful and trusted ally. Never before have the peoples of the Empire, in Europe, Asia, Africa, America and Australia, been more united. We know that a long and bitter struggle lies before us. We know that it is not a struggle which concerns Europe alone. We have realised that it concerns every man, woman and child in every part of the British Empire. By that unity, and knowing that we are on the side of right and justice against the forces of evil and tyranny, we shall triumph.

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