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"UNCOMMON SENSE ABOUT THE WAR"

"Old School Ties"

SHAVIAN DISQUISITION ON WORLD AFFAIRS

By Bernard Shaw

(A Letter Addressed to the Nation and New Statesman)

I MUST congratulate you on your very timely assertion of the fact that if we go into conference with Germany and Russia, or with any of the Powers, without a positive programme, which we mean to see through, Germany and Russia will wipe the floor with us. We had better stay out and fight for our old school ties. And this, I am afraid, implies that we must keep Mr. Chamberlain out of the Conference at all costs. He has his virtues; and it would be a pity to turn him down, but he is no match in political argument with the Russian and German diplomatists. His last performance is conclusive. Germany having just conquered Poland, Mr. Chamberlain demands that any conference must proceed on the assumption that Poland has just conquered Germany. And for the rest, he leaves "the choice," that is, the initiative, to Herr Hitler. What are you to do with a statesman who goes on like that? We should be safer with Sir John Simon, who would at least understand that the business of an advocate is not to indulge his own feelings but to capture the jury which, in this case means all Europe, most of Asia, and the United States of America.

But any front bench politicians would be dangerous, and back benchers would be ridiculous. What we need is a War Council of scientifically minded persons possessing the necessary mental qualifications and no parliamentary habits or ambitions, with a staff of expert pleaders well briefed and instructed and gifted enough to be effective on the platform and in the broadcasting studio. Let the ignorant public have its favourite brands of bletcher and bunk from the parliamentary celebrities by all means,

but such stuff cuts no ice in conferences of nations with guns in their pockets.

Hitler does not mind taking chances

Turning to your correspondence column, I must not ignore Mr. Desmond MacCarthy. He thinks my definition of the Russian policy of the Old School Ties as the restoration of the Romanoffs and the Tsardom silly. What is his alternative? The Bourbon monarchy collapsed in 1789, and died so thoroughly that Napoleon, who made dukes and kings of his marshals, confessed that he could not revive the marquises. Yet, when we and the Prussians finally smashed Napoleon twenty-six years later, our victorious O. S. Ts restored the Bourbons as if the French Revolution had never happened. It is only twenty-two years since the Russian monarchy collapsed. What other object than a similar restoration does Mr. MacCarthy suppose our O. S. Ts have in view? Besides, it is bad business to call me silly. If any man calls me silly, however unjustly, people think there must be something in it because Shaw says so. It is not fair, and should be kept out of controversy in public.

It is quite true that we have no guarantee that any agreements a Conference can arrive at will be kept by the parties, Herr Hitler may bear them up the day after. So may we. The Germans must take their chance of that. Herr Hitler does not mind taking chances. The chances he took up to Munich were negligible, but he took a serious chance when he marched into Prague and thunderingly big one when he made for Warsaw. What

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MILITARY ADMINISTRATION IN ANCIENT INDIA

Gunpowder and Firearms

By S. R. Muttukumar

(Continued from our issue of 30-11-39)

CHAPTER V.

THE invention of gunpowder has been ascribed to different nationalities in different countries, and the question as to its authorship and antiquity is still an open one. However, there is clear evidence of the existence of gunpowder in ancient India as will be noticed in the oldest documents mentioning and describing gunpowder are found in India written in Sanscrit. These documents make us understand that the use of gunpowder and its application to the discharge of missiles from projectile weapons was a well-known fact in ancient India

Internal Evidence

1. We find that the *Ramayana* has the following:-

"Then shall his furious shafts be spent,
Even like a snake with fiery heads
And on their flight shall hiss and flame
Marked with the mighty archer's name"

2. The war machines which the ancient Hindus used, whether they were made of metal or of stone, and out of which they hurled iron and lead balls at their enemies, were doubtless discharged by gunpowder. The existence of gunpowder is intimated by Vaisampayana, the reputed compiler of the *Yajurveda*, in his designation of the *nalika* (firearm) and by the application of smoke-balls (*dhumagulika*) which, according to Curnagola, the commentator of Vaisampayana, were really made of gunpowder.⁽¹⁾

(3) The following stanza from the *Atharvanarhasiya* is a clear proof of the fact that the Hindus were familiar with gunpowder at a very remote period: "As the fire prepared by the combination of charcoal, sulphur, and other material depends upon the skill of its maker so also may thou, O' representative of knowledge,

by the application of my faith manifest thyself quickly according to my wish"⁽²⁾

4. Manu says: "Let no man engaged in combat strike his foe with sharp weapons concealed in wood, nor with arrows mischievously barbed or poisoned, or with darts blazing with fire."⁽³⁾

5. The *Nitiprakasika* says the same, but is more explicit. It has: "No one should strike in a combat his enemy with concealed weapons, nor with poisoned arrows, nor with machines kindled by fire (guns), nor also with various stratagems"⁽⁴⁾

6. The *Kamandukiya*, one of the earliest works on *Nitisastra*, says that "confidential agents keeping near the king should rouse him by stratagems, gun firing, and other means, when he is indulging in drinking bouts, or in gambling"⁽⁵⁾

7. Sukra says that "the *nalika* (tubular or cylindrical) *astra* is known to be of two kinds according to large or small size. The short or small *nalika* is the cylindrical instrument to be used by infantry and cavalry, having an oblique (horizontal) and straight (perpendicular) hole at the origin (breach), the length of five *vitastis* (two cubits and a half), a sharp point (*tila*) both at the forefront (muzzle) and at origin, which can be used in marking the objective, which has fire produced by the pressure of a machine, contains stone and powder at the origin, has a good wooden handle at the top (butt), has an inside hole of the breadth of the middle finger, holds gunpowder in the interior and has a strong rod. The instrument strikes distant objects according as the bamboo or bark is thick and hollow and the balls are long and wide."⁽⁶⁾ The *nalika* *astras* may be

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(2) Quoted in Oppert's *Firearms, etc. of the Ancient Hindus*, p. 64.(3) *Dharma Sastra*, vii. 90.(4) *Op. cit.* vii. 45.(5) *Op. cit.* v. 51.(6) *Sukraniti* IV. vii. 389-399.(1) *Nitiprakasika*, V. 52.

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)

DENTAL NOTICE

S. Imai, (Japanese Dentist)
Colombo,

will be at Jaffna at Tiruchelvam Buildings, Main Street, Jaffna, from 7th to 16th December 1939. (Mis 208. 7-12-39)



Hindu Organ.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1939.

THE ATTACK ON FINLAND

WHEN THE HISTORY OF THE present war which is devastating Europe comes to be written, the Russian Dictator will appear as a sinister portent whose wily strategy has set the world in flames. At the outbreak of the War many believed that the present is an ideological conflict between communism and capitalism, that Stalin has very shrewdly set German capitalism against British and French capitalism to see an end of both and to set up a world communism on their ruins. But Stalin now seems to be just an imperialist like any other, bent on extending his grip on the small nations around his borders even without paying the price of a general conflict. Having set Germany and the Democracies against each other he has annexed half of Poland practically without sacrifice of any soldier or gun and has gradually assumed the over-lordship of all the Baltic States one by one. Finland alone remained to complete his mastery of the Baltic Sea. His attempts to gain concessions in Finland by diplomatic intimidation having failed, he has now invaded Finland against all dictates of reason and justice. That a small state like Finland can threaten the safety of Leningrad against the might of Russia is a contention ridiculous in the extreme. Thus the lion is afraid of the cat and attacks it. In the low state to which international morality in Europe has fallen open brigandage has come to be the order of the day. There is little doubt that Finland will be soon forced to accept the terms of STALIN and will be in all but in name a dependency and out-post of Russia. Taking an unfair advantage of the European conflict STALIN is out to re-establish the pre-war frontiers of Russia and build

up a great imperialism which can defy all Europe. The Democracies are not in a position to oppose him and add a mighty ally to Germany. We fear that Stalin's next move will be against Rumania to which the Russian territory of Bessarabia was annexed after the Great War. If he does that, the conflict may be extended to the Balkans and Italy and the Democracies may get involved. The unprovoked attack on a peaceful and prosperous little state like Finland has unmasked the ideological pretensions of Stalin and has caused a revulsion in the hearts of all freedom loving peoples. He can no longer pose as a friend of the proletariat of the world. Even granting that communism is a good thing, it should not be forced down the throat of an unwilling people by the naked sword, but offered only by peaceful persuasion.

CARNIVAL AND INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION

J. H. C. Golden Jubilee Celebrations

MEETING OF WELL-WISHERS ON SATURDAY

A meeting of all those who are interested in the welfare of the Jaffna Hindu College will be held on Saturday, the 9th instant, at 3.30 p. m. in the College Hall, to consider what steps should be taken to make the proposed Carnival and Industrial Exhibition to be held during the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of the College in May 1940, a success. Mr. C. Coomaraswamy, District Judge, Jaffna, will preside on the occasion.

At a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Old Boys' Association, it was decided to utilise the occasion of the Golden Jubilee Celebrations to collect sufficient funds to meet the pressing needs of the College. With this end in view, it was decided that the celebrations should include, inter alia, the organisation of a Carnival and Industrial Exhibition.

The active co-operation of the public is deemed essential for the success of the venture, and the meeting has been convened by the President and the Secretary of the Old Boys' Association for Saturday to enlist this support.

All those who are interested in the welfare of the College, irrespective of their being Alumni, are invited to be present on the occasion and give their support.

FIVE LAKHS VOTE FOR UNIVERSITY

Board of Ministers Approve

Colombo, Wednesday.

It is understood that the Board of Ministers approved a vote of Rs. 5,00,000 yesterday for the proposed Ceylon University at Peradeniya.

The proposed financial provision is required during the current financial year for the purposes of completing the acquisition of the site. Insurance of buildings and partial preparation of the site, playing-fields, road-works, fencing and gates, preliminary work on buildings and special features.

FINNS ORGANISING DEFENCE**Soviet Troops Dispersed**

London, Dec. 5.

The Finns are reported to have organised two strong defence lines north outside Petsamo, where it is stated the Russian manoeuvre to turn the Finnish positions has failed and at Salmjaervi, where it is expected a decisive action will take place.

Petsamo is reported to have been burned by the Finns.

North of Salmjaervi the Finns surrounded two hundred Russians whose presence could only be explained by the fact that they had been dropped by parachutes.

Finnish aircraft attacked and dispersed Soviet troops marching towards Petsamo, according to a Helsinki despatch, which also states that Finnish anti-aircraft guns inflicted heavy losses on Soviet aircraft attempting to bomb hydro-electric plants at Imatra.

It is stated that 40,000 Finns are opposing 80,000 Russians at Karelia.

PASTEUR TREATMENT IN PROVINCES**Provision in Hospitals**

A Start is to be made shortly with the scheme to provide provincial hospitals with anti-rabies vaccine and thus make Pasteur treatment available to people in various parts of the island.

The preparation of the vaccine has already begun at the Pasteur Institute in Colombo, which is to be the supplying centre.

The refrigerators, in which the vaccine is to be preserved in the outstation hospitals, have been ordered by the Director of Medical and Sanitary Services.

The Jaffna, Galle, Kandy, Kattara, Negombo, Kurunegala and Kegalla hospitals will be provided with facilities for Pasteur treatment after the present financial year.

SECRET SITTING OF PARLIAMENT**Matters Connected with Ministry of Supply**

London Dec. 5.

In the House of Commons today Mr. Chamberlain, the Premier, announced that he would give one day for a secret sitting of the House to consider matters connected with the Ministry of Supply.

It is understood that the secret session will be held on December 13.

According to present arrangements, Parliament will adjourn for Christmas on December 14 until January 16, 1940, but could be summoned immediately if necessary.

SUGGESTIONS FOR AN ARMISTICE**BRITISH TERMS****LORD HALIFAX ON WAR AND PEACE AIMS**

London Dec. 5.

Dealing with the terms on which Britain would lay down arms, Lord Halifax, foreign Secretary, replying on the debate in the House of Lords on War and Peace aims said that the answer was given by M. Daladier a few days ago when he said that France—and he might have added the United Kingdom—would lay down arms when she could treat with a Government whose signature could be trusted.

Referring to the suggestion of an armistice and a conference, Lord Halifax said—

"It is of little use deluding ourselves with wishful thinking about the results to be achieved by a conference until the primary lesson is learned by those who would participate therein, namely, that force is a bad plan. There is no evidence yet that Germany has learned that lesson.

Two Conditions

The two prerequisites for a conference are:—

(1) There should be evidence that the German Government is willing to accept the terms corresponding to the purposes for which we took up arms;

(2) There should be the security that any settlement reached will be respected.

"On any other basis a conference would achieve nothing and will be only a lever to enable the leaders of Germany to make their people believe that on the whole the old method of force has not worked too badly."

Lord Halifax said he would summarise what the British war purposes appeared to him to be.

Lord Halifax continued: "We desire the peoples who have been deprived of their independence to recover their liberties. We desire to redeem the people of Europe from this constant fear of German aggression and we desire to safeguard our own freedom and security.

"It is quite true to say that we do not seek aggrandisement and to redraw the map in our own interests and still less are we moved by any spirit of vengeance.

"On the contrary if Germany is able to restore the confidence, which she has destroyed, we aim at a settlement which will encourage her to take her rightful place in Europe and we wish to create an international order in which all peoples will be secure under the reign of law in which they might determine their political and economic life free from the interference of more powerful neighbours.

NOTICE

There will be a brief service of commemoration at the grave of Rev. John Bicknell when the permanent memorial stone is set up in the Udavil Cemetery, on Friday, 15th, December, at 3.00 p.m. All are invited to come.

S. K. BUNKER,
Principal, Jaffna College.
(Mis. 207. 7-12-39.)

A SOCIAL REVOLUTION FOR FOOD REFORM

The Essentials of a Sound Dietary

By Cosmas W. D. Alwines

WE are in the throes of a Food Drive. A million rupees has been voted by the State Council to augment Food Production. The Food Production has come to Jaffna. Everybody is talking of increasing the food of the people. It is therefore very opportune that we should increase not only the food grown in the Island, but also make the people realise the importance of some of the foods grown in the Island, and the part those foods can play in building up the health and vitality of the people. A Social revolution is needed to make our people realise the value of our foods. Once they know the value, once they understand the folly they will shake off their admiration for the foreign food, and we need no food production drive. The prices of various foods would so adjust themselves that the farmer will grow the food he needs and the food the country needs. I say that a change of heart is necessary, because unless we realise the value of our food crops and eat them because we feel they are good for us, enthusiasm generated by State Grants and State Farms would have little value. They would be mere flashes in the pan, or as they describe it in Jaffna, the proverbial fire in the haystack. The moment the crisis is past, the people will revert to their old dietary habits and things would be as bad as before. Ceylon has had this experience. This social revolution with regard to food should start from the top and infiltrate to the bottom.

Main Principles

To begin with this Social Revolution should take as its main principles the following:

1. The price of an article of food does not regulate its dietetic value. An expensive article of food is not more nutritious than a cheap article of food.

2. The place or origin of an article of food does not give it any respectability or dietetic status if I can use such an expression.

3. The mere fact that a food is advertised in various forms, does not make it more nutritious than another food that does not figure in the newspapers, periodicals, neon-signs etc.

4. Do not be blind to the defects of foreign foods and do not exaggerate the defects of local foods.

5. Make inquiries about the value of a food, before you begin using it. There are fads, fancies and fashions in foods, just as in other things.

6. Let us not be peninsular or insular in our outlook. Let us select the best foods we have, use them and if our means can afford, then let us use the food of other countries, till such time as we can provide ourselves with what we need. Charity begins at home, but does not end there.

A Plank in National Uplift

I shall refer to some of these points in detail later. Now to make a start, I wish to emphasise that one of the planks of national

uplift is good health. If there is one single factor that influences Health, it is nutrition. That Nutrition influences Health is seen in two very remarkable instances in Ceylon. Investigations have proved that 65 per cent of cases of blindness in Ceylon are due to dietary errors. Just think what that means. Two out of three children who are blind could have been saved if they had been given the proper kind of diet when young. An American Doctor who had come to Ceylon to do some research work was shocked that such a state of things should exist. The other is a case which you all know. Diabetes is on the increase in Ceylon and especially in Jaffna. It is said that the incidence of Diabetes in Ceylon is the highest in the world. This is again due to errors in diet. Between those two extremes, we have thousands and thousands of people especially children undernourished, stunted, an easy prey to any disease. The Malaria epidemic became more virulent owing to undernourishment.

To understand more clearly the problem of malnutrition in relation to disease we can use a very homely example. Let us compare the building of the body to the building of a house. How careful a man is to see that the proper building materials are used. There are people in Jaffna who build their houses as if they are meant to stand a siege. You know how much money a man will be prepared to invest on door and window frames. If you ask him the reason he will tell you that it is a waste of money on using the cheap kind of timber because they would begin to warp or decay soon. But how many will be prepared to give the same care to building up the body of a child. "A random assortment, too much of some kinds and too little of others, are thrust into the mouth with touching faith that from the muddle will be produced a durable structure, pleasant to look at, working efficiently and able to resist the weather and the entry of intruding disease germs." Many a parent would be ashamed to allow his child with torn clothes. In the case of girls they would consider it a social stigma if the child had no jewels, but malnourishment they seem to accept with perfect sangfroid, with a casual remark that that will be all right some years hence.

Important Facts and Terms

To understand standard dietary requirements, we should be familiar with certain important facts and terms. The first is the Calorie. This is a heat unit. By means of an instrument called the calorimeter, physiologists have measured the exact output of heat of the body under various conditions of work. The heat value of foods have also been similarly measured. The Unit of heat is the major calorie, the amount of heat required to raise the temperature of 1 kilogram of

CONTROL OF PRICES MAY SOON END

Ministry Considering Withdrawal

Colombo, Dec. 5.

It is understood that the control of various foodstuffs may be discontinued in the course of a few days.

The desirability of such a step, it is learned, is now being considered by the Ministry of Labour, Industry and Commerce.

The control of rice supplies at the Chalmers Granaries and the Manning Market was withdrawn early last month. The question whether the control of rice prices should be terminated is also under consideration.

Other Commodities

There is, however, every likelihood of the control of prices of other food commodities like chillies, coriander, Maldivian fish, onions and dhal ceasing almost immediately.

It is stated that the supplies of all food commodities at the present moment are ample and there is no danger of a shortage in the near future.

If the control is suspended, the Food Control Department will continue to keep a watch on developments in the local market and re-adopt control measures if and when they become necessary.

water 1 degree Centigrade. The amount of calories required will vary with age, climate and the work done. The average for an adult has been estimated at 3000. For a child 2 to 3 years of age 900.

The next term is protein. This word from the Greek means 'I am the first'. It supplies the body building material and renews the material when worn out. Animal foods such as milk, eggs, fish and meat contain the best protein. Vegetable foods like the pulses are also a rich source, but these proteins are not so suitable for the body—that is they are not easily reformed in the body in the substances the body needs. The amount of protein needed by the body varies with age and the work done. The growing child requires more protein than the adult per unit of body weight.

An adult man or woman doing ordinary work requires 65 grammes of protein. An adolescent requires 80 and a child 8 to 12 requires 70. One third of the protein requirement of the body must be met from animal sources. Fat is a fuel food. It is necessary for the building up of fatty tissues. There are two sources for fats—animal and plant. The fats from animals are much better than the fats from the plant. We in Ceylon depend for a good deal of our fat from the coconut, which we incorporate into our daily diet in the pittu and hoppers and the curries.

Carbohydrates are another source of energy. We get the carbohydrates from plants alone. Cereals, yams, roots and tubers are our sources of carbohydrates in the form of starch, while sugar

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"FOLLOW THE CHILD"

DR. MONTESSORI'S PLEA

TRIBUTE TO INDIA'S CULTURE

"ALLOW me first of all to express my happiness for the privilege that Providence has bestowed upon me by making it possible for me to realise a long-cherished dream of being able to visit India. My satisfaction is even greater at being able to arrive here to day when war once again shrouds Europe in a dark wave of barbarities and terror. Coming from there, India looks like a different world, splendid under an eternal sun of effulgent light. Its light has given warmth to my soul which was prostrated in sadness," observed Dr. Maria Montessori, the famous educationist, replying to the address presented by the Madras Corporation. She added:

This country which has known the advantages of the Hindu, Buddhist and Mohammadan civilisations, which has kept during the centuries its attachment to purely spiritual values through peace and which has always extended its generous goodwill to men, has returned to me the certainty that principles of education which are based upon a feeling of love for the son of man and which do not consider race and religion can flourish and find here a fertile application.

India's Genius

I consider myself especially fortunate that Madras is the city where destiny and the disinterested interest of The Theosophical Society have brought me. I entered the City not as someone bearing a gift but as a humble pilgrim who comes to visit a place over which the spirit of the great Tamil poets and singers, who spread so much light in their time, still hovers. I visit in Madras the capital of a land which knew how to keep intact the traditions and the culture of ancient India. And in front of them I bow respectfully. The exigencies of my task have not yet allowed me the leisure to visit them but it is my most ardent wish to rest my eyes upon the jewels of architecture of Madura, Chidambaram, Rameswaram and Srirangam. The soul of one who was born in Italy, the source of European art and the zealous keeper of most beautiful monuments which tell step by step of its past and present glory, cannot remain indifferent to the testimony which the Rock Temples of Mahabalipuram with their carving and sculpture bear to a civilisation that knows no equal. Nor can my soul which has been tempted by Theosophy and dedicated to children understood and free from long centuries of incomprehension remain indifferent to the philosophical systems of Sri Sankara and Ramanuja. I feel all the potentialities of to-day's genius of India which sprouts in this generous land and which seeks as in the past its expression in the gentle arts of music and dancing. I feel that India wakes, and I foresee the day when lofty and imposing, crowded with distinguished individualities, endowed with spiritual strength, India will offer to the world the light which will dissipate the shroud of darkness which enfolds it. India will then make known the characteristics of true service and will teach to a

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR.

Police Station for Anaicoddai

Sir,—I am given to understand that the Police Station for Anaicoddai is to be opened shortly. But as usual interested folks are anxious to have the Police Station in Manipay. Why should Manipay enjoy the privilege of two Police Stations? The one at Chankanai serves the need of Manipay. The Police Station at Anaicoddai will be a deterrent to the criminal element in this village. I am credibly informed that some interested parties are endeavouring to have the Police Station near Manipay Hindu College. I am sure the College authorities would not consider that a compliment. I hope fairplay and not wirepulling will win the day. A Police Station for Anaicoddai must be in the heart of the village of Anaicoddai to be of the greatest use and to fulfil its real purpose—the control of the criminal element.

Yours etc.
Fairplay.

Jaffna 29th Nov. 1939.

Soviet Planes Attack Arctic Port

Oslo, Friday.

A Soviet planes today attacked Petsamo, Finland's only ice-free Arctic port but no damage is reported. The highway leading to Petsamo near the Norwegian frontier was also bombed. A mail-van and motor cars on it were machine-gunned. Soviet submarines have closed the Petsamo Fjord, preventing refugee ships from proceeding to Norway.

Reports that Petsamo has been captured by the Soviets after a bombardment and is now in flames are current. Hundreds of refugees are said to be crossing into Norwegian territory.

It is learned in Helsinki that Soviet troops have occupied the port of Petsamo following further raids by Soviet planes.

A *communiqué* says: "Russian troops were very active during the day along the south-eastern frontier, especially north of Lake Ladoga where the fighting was very severe, but the Russian attacks were completely repulsed largely owing to the new Finnish automatic rifle constructed for forest fighting. Several villages were destroyed by fire. The Finnish losses in the small fighting in the Karelian Isthmus were also very severe. The enemy there was repulsed except at a few points. Fighting continues. The Russians lost at least eight tanks today and 11 yesterday. The losses of the Russian air force today were at least nine planes. All the Finnish planes returned safely."

Soviet warships off the island of Seitskar are alleged to have sunk a ship full of escaping coast-guards and to have practised rifle fire at the coast-guards as they swam.

Although Helsinki and many other towns were raided yesterday little damage was done and not a single soldier has been killed on the Karelian front.

MILITARY ADMINISTRATION IN ANCIENT INDIA

(Continued from page 1)

made of iron, or some other have to be rubbed and cleaned daily and covered by armed men" (7)

"The instrument has first to be cleaned, then the gunpowder has to be put in, then it is to be placed tightly at the origin of the instrument by means of the rod. Then the ball has to be introduced, then the gunpowder at the ear. Fire is next to be applied to this powder, and the ball is projected towards the objective" (8)

The balls projected from these instruments were made of iron with other substances inside, or without any substances. What we may infer from this is that some of the big balls projected most probably by cannons had inside smaller balls or some exploding materials. For lesser *nalas* or guns the balls were made of lead or any other metal. (9) These balls were flung at the air by the touch of fire. (10)

Sukra also gives the following recipe for the preparation of gunpowder: "Five *palas* of *suvaralavana* (saltpetre), one *pala* of sulphur and one *pala* of charcoal from the wood of *arka* (*Calotropis gigantea*—gigantic swallow wood), *snuhi* (*Euphorbia nerifolia*—triangular spurge) and other trees burnt in a manner that prevents the escape of smoke e. g. in a closed vessel, have to be purified, powdered, and mixed together, then dissolved in the juice of *snuhi*, *arka* and garlic, then dried up by heat, and finally powdered like sugar. This substance is gunpowder." (11)

8. The following verse appears in *Naisadha*, which describes the adventures of Nala, and which is said to have been composed about the 12th century A. D. by Sriharsa a Brahman: "The two bows of Rati and Manmatha are certainly like her (Damayanti's) two brows, which are made for the conquest of the world, the two guns of these two (Rati and Manmatha) who wish to throw balls on you, are like her (Damayanti's) two elevated nostrils." (12)

9. In the second *stavaka* of the *Bharatacampu* composed by Anantabhata about 1580 A. D. we find the following simile: "The fierce warrior who killed his enemy with heaps of leaden balls, which emerge quickly from the gun lighted by a wick, is like the rainy season which killed the summer with hailstones which descend quickly from the rows of black clouds lighted by lightning" (13)

10. The following passage appears in the Preface to the *Code of Gentoo Law* compiled about the year 1773 A. D. by an assembly of eminent Hindu pundits under the authority and supervision of Mr. Hastings, Governor-General of India: "It will no doubt

strike the reader with wonder to find a prohibition of firearms in records of such unfathomable antiquity; and he will probably from hence renew the suspicion which has long been deemed absurd, that Alexander the Great did absolutely meet with some weapons of that kind in India as a passage in Quintus Curtius seems to ascertain" (14)

External Evidence

The above suspicion is confirmed by Flavius Philostratus who in his history of Apollonius of Tyana mentions that, "when that extraordinary man was travelling in India, he had among others learnt the real reason why Alexander the Great desisted from attacking the Oxydracae. These truly wise men dwell between the rivers Hyphasis and Ganges; their country Alexander never entered, deterred not by fear of the inhabitants, but, as I suppose, by religious motives, for had he passed Hyphasis, he might, doubtless, have made himself master of all the country round them; but their cities he never could have taken, though he had led a thousand as brave as Achilles, or three thousand such as Ajax, to the assault; for they came not to the field to fight those who attack them, but these holy men, beloved by the gods, overthrow their enemies with tempests and thunderbolts shot from their walls."

It may be noted here that in the apocryphal letter which Alexander is said to have written to Aristotle, he describes the frightful dangers to which his army was exposed in India, when the enemies hurled upon them flaming thunderbolts.

In the *Mujmaluk Tawarikh* which was translated in 1126 from the Arabic into which language it had been translated a century previously from a Sanskrit original we read, "that the Brahmans counselled Hal to have an elephant made of clay and to place it in the van of his army, and that when the army of the king of Kashmir drew nigh, the elephant exploded, and the flames destroyed a great portion of the invading force" (15)

The Rev. T. Maurice writes: "The use of firearms in the earliest and consequently the anti-deluvian period of their empire (India)..... opens a wide field for reflection, since it appears to prove that the natives of this country had immemorially the use of gunpowder, and the metallic instruments of death which are employed in the offensive use of that destructive article." (16)

I have given three proofs in support of the fact that the use of gunpowder and firearms was known to the Hindus from early times, the first from an ancient Roman, the second from a medieval Arab, and the third from a modern Englishman. More external evidences can be adduced, but space will not permit it.

(To be Continued.)

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(14) Op. cit. pp. LII, LIII quoted in Oppert's *Firearms etc. of the Ancient Hindus*, p. 69.

(15) Quoted in Oppert's *Firearms, etc. of the Ancient Hindus*, p. 64.

(16) *History of Hindustan*, I, 442.

"Uncommon Sense About the War"

(Continued from page 1)

chance have we against him if we are afraid to take chances or to fight without a guarantee of victory? The Poles had the best guarantee of victory in the world, the support of the British Empire. Result; Another Partition of Poland. After that what sane diplomatist is going to twaddle about guarantees? If there is a Conference, its first rule of order had better be that any Frenchman who mentions securities or any Englishman who mentions guarantees shall be booted out the room.

The climax of Desmond's inventiveness about me is reached when he says that the axis of my political judgments is that Stalin is incapable of sin. I really cannot go quite so far as that. I do not consider even Mr. Chamberlain incapable of sin. The utmost I can do in that direction is to say to the plenipotentiaries at the Conference (if there is to be a Conference.) "He that is without sin among you, let him cast the first stone at Stalin."

"Must Know What We are Fighting for"

I must not be understood as proposing that we should go into conference as Pacifists and surrender a discretion. I agree entirely with *The New Statesman and Nation* that we should go in with suite as big a bundle of demands as Herr Hitler or Stalin or anyone else, and that, though there must be a general Cease Fire during the Conference (for the plenipotentiaries cannot very well confer in gasmasks) we must keep our powder dry, as I advised Stalin to do on the only occasion on which I had the privilege of meeting him. If we cannot agree, we must I suppose, fight it out; in which case, my position will be simplified, for if a situation is produced, in which I must kill a German or the German will kill me, the only question left is which of us is the quicker on the draw.

But as I am a born coward, and dislike extremely all this blackout business and ruinous taxation and the rest of it, I shall still want to know what I am fighting for. Mr. Chamberlain has cleared up that question to a certain point. He declares that we are not out for territorial conquest or material acquisitions of any sort. This means that the war is a purely ideological one. That is, we will not cease from military fight, nor shall our sword sleep in our hand, until we have forcibly smashed National Socialism in Germany and Communism in Russia, and replaced both by the British Constitution, under which we are producing wage workers, who have had only one day's employment in nine years, and authentic histories like Miss Ellen Wilkinson's *The Town That Was Murdered*, which should have as a sub-title *Das Kapital Up to Date*.

Now call me a Defeatist or anything else you like, but for the life of me, I cannot consider this result probable. It is not solely that, as an old Marxist, I regard it as out of the line of historical development. I do not preach that you cannot put the clock back; nothing is easier; our

(Continued on page 6)

DECEMBER EXAMINATIONS

J.H.C. & Branch Schools Pre-J.S.C. Examination

Much has been said for and against examinations, but they seem to be a necessary evil and seem likely to be with us until some genius revolutionises the entire system.

The month of December in particular must be very nauseous to the school-going population. The island-wide 5th Std. examination was on the 1st. The J. S. C. examination finished on the 3rd. The Cambridge examinations will follow suit. The promotion examinations in all schools must be over by the 15th. Amidst all this bustle the J. H. C. & Branch Schools Teachers Association have taken a laudable step in co-ordinating and standardizing the material under their purview and have made a start by holding an examination for such pupils in their schools as are likely to go to the J. S. C. next year. This examination will be held in the J. H. C. and Branch Schools on Saturday the 9th beginning at 9 a.m.

They mean to extend their test further and mean to profit by experience.

INDIAN INDUSTRIES CONFERENCE

Two Ceylon Delegates

The Executive Committee of Labour, Industry and Commerce has recommended that Mr. D. H. Bal four, Deputy Director of Commerce and Industries, and Mr. E. G. S. Paul, of the Department of Commerce and Industries, should represent Ceylon at the All-India Industries Annual Conference to be held at Bangalore, commencing on December 15.

The Ceylon (State Council Elections) Order in Council, 1938

No. 30—Kays Electoral District.

No. 31—Kankasanturai Electoral District.

No. 32—Jaffna Electoral District.

No. 33—Point Pedro Electoral District.

NOTICE is hereby given that the revised registers of voters relating to the above-named electoral districts have been certified, and that such registers are open for inspection during office hours at the Jaffna Kacheheri.

R. B. NAISH,

Registering Officer for Electoral Districts No. 30, Kays,

No. 31, Kankasanturai, No. 32,

Jaffna, and No. 33, Point Pedro, The Kacheheri,

Jaffna, November 28, 1939.

(Mis. 206. 7-12-39.)

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INDIA.

(Y 64 14-6-39—13-6-40)

F.T.

A Social Revolution for Food Reform

(Continued from page 3)

and jaggery are also sources in the form of sugars.

Then we come to the Vitamins. These are substances found in foods in very small quantities but are very essential for growth and health. They are dynamic, protective and regulative. The important vitamins are the A, B1, B2, C, & D.

In addition to these foods we require mineral salts. The chief salts needed by the body are Calcium, Iron, Phosphorus. This chart will show you the foods in which the mineral salts are found in abundance. If a person takes milk, green leaves, fruits, and eggs in his daily diet, then it will be possible for him to get the vitamins, proteins and mineral salts that his body needs.

How to Improve Diet

Having said so much about some of the essentials now let us see how we can improve our diet. In the first place we are using too much rice. Rice is one of the poorest cereal.

It is poor in protein, vitamins and mineral salts. How are we going to remedy this defect? The best and the cheapest way to remedy this defect is by supplementing rice with millets. We can ring the changes on kurakkan, chami, tinai, varagu, cholam. Here comes the first principle I set out at the beginning. Because rice sells at 16 cts. a measure and one of the millets sells at 3 or 4 cts. this is no criterion that rice is therefore four times as good as the millets. The composition on this chart shows you the difference between rice and the millets. Things have degenerated to such an extent in this land that there seems to be a social stigma attached to those who eat kurakkan, chami, tinai etc. If an enterprising business man would tin kurakkan and give it an attractive name and advertise it as a fine body building food and send it from over the seas then we would all be proudly taking it and telling our neighbours how we eat that excellent food at a rupee a pound. Then no one would say that is indigestible, coarse, etc. The foreign label and the price would cover all its sins.

In this connection I wish to say that advertisement has become such an indispensable part of our civilised life that things suffer for want of advertisement.

I am reminded of the verse:
The codfish lays a million eggs,
The homely hen lays one,
But the codfish never cackles
To say what she has done,
And so we spurn the codfish
And the homely hen we prize,
Which demonstrates to you an me,
That it pays to advertise.

Some years ago an important organisation was started in England called the Political and Economic Planning Committee. It consisted of some of the best brains of England regardless of political parties. This Committee issued a number of reports on various aspects of public life. The P. E. P. report on the Health of Britain was brought out in 1937 with the help of more than 200 authorities and organisations. It is a report running into over 200,000 words and is a massive volume of information, one of the most important and comprehen-

sive surveys of the subject ever made. This Report states that in Britain "Over £ 3,000,000 a year are spent in urging in the newspapers the merits of proprietary medicines and health food."

The report states also "The extravagant nature of many advertisements (and particularly those for 'health foods') tempts the ignorant sections of the community into purchasing and eating foods which is not actually harmful is almost completely lacking in nourishing constituents. Numerous examples might be cited of well-known foods and beverages advertised as possessing outstanding health giving qualities which are in reality mere stimulants."

The words, nutrition, nourishing, energy, vitality etc. are used in such a way as to mislead the public. Half truths are dangerous things—a famous English writer once remarked that half a truth is the blackest of lies.

A Serious Defect

Another outstanding defect in our diet is the absence of milk and milk products from our daily diets. Milk has become a luxury and no serious effort is being made to tackle the problem. The damage done to health is incalculable, especially in the growing child. I wonder how much of the one million rupees voted for the food drive is going to be devoted to make a serious start at least in improving the milk supply of the Island. Prof. V. H. Mottram of the London University mentions that in budgeting for food 38 per cent of the money spent on food should be set apart for milk and milk products.

I hope we would all go back to the good old habits of the older generation and use more butter, milk, and curds. These are more digestible than whole milk.

Fruits are also a luxury with most people then an article appearing in the daily dietary. So much is the fascination for the foreign that the mention of fruit means to most people the grape and the apple. Our indigenous fruits are relegated to the back-ground. Fruits are needed to supply the body with Vitamin C and mineral salts. It may surprise you to hear that the fruit richest in Vitamin C is one of the humblest of our fruits—the Nellikai. It is ten to twenty times richer than the orange. It is known as the Indian gooseberry. A small fruit will give a person the Vitamin C requirements for a day. Here is another example of how the cost never made a food less nutritious. A cent of nellik will be enough for a week.

We should use more pulses in our daily dietary. Those who are not vegetarians should take more fish and eggs. What a sorry reading is the Customs annual returns to see the amount fish Ceylon imports. Ceylon is an Island. 15 million rupees worth of fish are imported a year.

Those who are not farmers and who are not food producers can help the Food production drive if they will make a vow that they will at least cut down their foreign food bills and use more local foods. You will gain financially and will help to keep the money in the country and what is more important you will enjoy better health.

"Follow the Child"

(Continued from page 3)

materialistic world the values to be cultivated in order to obtain a human society in which peace and serenity will be the rule and not the exception.

Signs of Reawakening

The signs of this reawakening are all over your great land. Wherever I have gone I have met young Indian people who go to seek whatever little good our land can offer them to bring it back to their Mother. And in America and Europe the voice of India is heard, and wherever I found myself, the eyes of those who live in the spirit were turned towards this country who begins to express this ideal of justice. Further proofs you have given me to-day by your statistics, by the fact that fifty thousand children are in your care and that you have insured for yourselves the valuable collaboration of thirteen hundred teachers. A new day is dawning, and a new life is centred in this great country. And that the new wave of civilisation that is starting from you is in the right direction is shown by the love you bring to your children. Your strength and your future hope depend on the importance you will bestow on the child.

"Follow the Child"

Human society is composed of two active elements. One is the adult who is the elaborator of exterior civilisation. The other is the child who is the zealous keeper of all the gifts of the race, of its tongue, of its culture, of its physical and moral health. Up to now socially only one of these two elements has been taken into consideration—the adult with his struggles and his efforts. And up to now the spirit of struggle and war has prevailed in the world. The spiritual treasures of the children have remained unknown. Their valuable contribution to the problems of to-day the human society has lost. Now these treasures begin to be known. Tomorrow perhaps they will no longer be lost and then a new civilisation will prevail in the world—a civilisation made of love and peace, a civilisation dictated by the laws which God has placed in every man who is born.

The education of to-day, such as it is, and the circumstances of struggle and repression in which evolves the life of childhood have destroyed these laws and have made the attribute of force and ferocity, which distinguished the other forms of animal life, also prevail among humanity.

You, Honourable Sir, have suggested that contemporary events call for radical reforms in the education of our children if we are to establish peace on earth and goodwill to all men. You have asked for my collaboration in the effort that the Corporation of Madras and, indeed, the whole of India is making in this direction. I cannot but feel honoured by this invitation and I cannot but express my deep gratitude. I can but answer as I have answered the Indian teachers who have come to ask my advice and be trained in my course. Follow the lead of the child, and you will have the reform you seek. The child has in it the laws which guide its physical and psychical growth. Adopt a system of education which respects these laws and which takes advantage of them to transmit with incredible success those elements of material culture and those elements of spiritual development of your country. Give the possibility of incarnating the spirit of the great Indian people to all your children, rich or poor, and the great contribution which your race has to offer the world will be transmitted by their means to the peoples who are waiting for it.

Point Pedro's Want

A Sports Club

Point Pedro, Monday.

On Saturday the 2nd inst. Mr. W. Richard D. de Silva, Magistrate, Point Pedro, declared the new Volley Ball and Padder Tennis Courts open in the new premises kindly leased out by Mr. V. Chinna-thamby, of Valvettiturai to the Point Pedro Athletic Sports Club. The premises which are adjoining the Police Station, Point Pedro, were gaily decorated and the tent erected for the occasion was full to its capacity with ladies and gentlemen in spite of the inclement weather. Mr. W. Richard D. de Silva was received by the Officials of the Club and garlanded by Mr. P. V. Senathirajah one of the Joint Secretaries of the Club.

The President of the Club Mr. N. Sivagnanasundram addressed those present on the urgent need for a Sports Club at Point Pedro and deplored lack of facilities for Sports at Point Pedro. He referred to the fact that while every other Sanitary Board or U. D. C. provides playing fields for Sports and recreation, Point Pedro was singularly wanting in it. Then he called upon Mr. Silva to open the new Volley Ball and Padder Tennis Courts, the requisites for which were generously presented to the Club by Mr. S. A. Rasaratnam and Mr. F. C. A. Speldewinde respectively.

Mr. Silva addressed those present and said that it should be the duty of every one to support an Institution of this kind because it tends to develop a spirit of fellow-ship and good-will and would also stop the increase of crime. He then declared the Courts open and took part in the First Padder Tennis Game. A Volley Ball match was simultaneously played. This was followed by a Social in which refreshments were lavishly served. Mr. K. Muttuchmaru, Proctor, Point Pedro, then proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Silva and referred to his pleasing personality and engaging manners and said that the public of Point Pedro were proud of having a Magistrate who gave ungrudging encouragement and support to such activities which benefitted the public. The function came to a close with three hearty cheers to Mr. D. Silva which were lustily responded to. —(Cor.)

"Uncommon Sense About the War"

(Continued from page 4)

Houses of Parliament hardly do anything else. But as ideas have no regard for frontiers, an ideological war is apt to produce civil war, that is, revolution. Even without such complications, ideological wars last thirty years, not three. And even with Mr. Maynard Keynes in his most jocular mood, (which delights me) demonstrating that the more we spend on war, the richer we shall all be, thirty years' war will cost a lot of money. Already our Labour Party, though much more warcrazy and fuller of pugnacious pep than the War Cabinet, is clamouring for a confiscation of capital. I am a capitalist and an economist; and I don't like it.

Herr Hitler does not want to face it. Our Old School Ties want to face it, only because their old schools have left them with the social outlook of Jane Austen and Anthony Trollope, and the military outlook of Edward the Third. Let me warn them that they are no longer an educated and disciplined aristocracy, facing a rabble of uneducated and undisciplined blackguards. The Nazi old school tie and the Red Russian one carry with them an education and a discipline of which Eton and Harrow, Winchester and Rugby have no conception, because you cannot educate Englishmen. I have been trying to do it all my life; and I know. Then, why put ourselves in the wrong, and Herr Hitler in the right, by refusing to get together and see whether this permanent ideological Trotskyan war is really unavoidable? If it is, we can fight as easily after a conference as before it.

I am too old to have any conscience in this or any other matter, but I still hate to see people making fools of themselves.

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