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GANDHIJI AND NEHRU

Products of Two Different Types of Education

A COMPARATIVE STUDY

(By a Student of Politics)

GANDHIJI and Nehru are products of two different types of education, Gandhiji being educated essentially under Indian environments, except, of course, for his legal studies in England. Indian culture, traditions and customs have, to a large extent, influenced his attitude towards life. Even his gospel of *Ahimsa* and Non-violence is the result of his being steeped in Jainic traditions and practices, which hold great sway in Gujerat, the birthplace of Gandhiji. He is chiefly a religious and spiritual leader, devoting his time to the right application of spiritual and moral ideas to the political emancipation of India. He is not a person to exploit his enemy's weakness or difficulties for furthering his political cause. He will go by the straight path of righteousness and justice rather than by the back door of expediency and policy. His own personal reactions on the outbreak of the war, when he felt himself morally bound to support the allies in their fight against Germany in spite of Great Britain's attitude towards Indian problem is an instance in point. His motive force has its main spring in humanitarianism, which is his chief and foremost characteristic. Hence his approach towards political and economic problems is more humanitarian than scientific.

He is against all injustice whether religious, political, social or economic, but he will only endeavour to remove the injustice rather than the causes that go to create the injustice. His vision is directed only towards the "next step" or immediate objectives and not for long range and distant view.

Reviving Past Glory

He is fighting for Swaraj for India, for the purpose of resuscitating Indian village economy, Indian life and In-

dian culture, which have been dislocated and paralysed completely in the wake of British rule in India and the impact of ideas of the West. He wants to take India back to her hoary traditions of simplicity and past glory. He thinks in terms of revival of things old rather than reconstructing India in the light of modern developments in the world. He is against mechanised industries because he believes that machine kills the initiative of man, destroys his individuality and ultimately makes him its slave. In other words, he has profound contempt for heavy industries and all his efforts are directed towards building up a network of cottage industries, wherein the peasant or the villager can work for his subsidiary occupation during the months when he is forced to be idle, without losing either his individuality or his contact with his natural surroundings, instead of having to live in crowded cities eking out a bare subsistence for himself and his family. But he overlooks the main fact, according to Nehru, that cottage industries cannot supply the nation's requirements; at best, they can only provide a subsidiary occupation, the products of which he (the peasant or the villager) is himself going to consume. But Gandhiji's answer to this is that since real India lives only in villages, if the requirements of the villagers are met, then the nation's requirements themselves will have been met. According to Nehru, to be a prosperous nation, prosperous in the sense that the country should have enough to live upon, culture and leisure, a country should have heavy industries, distributed throughout the country. For, no country

which has a highly developed system of cottage industries has been a very prosperous and

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MILITARY ADMINISTRATION IN ANCIENT INDIA

Gunpowder and Firearms (Contd.)

INDIAN ORIGIN

By S. R. Muttukumar

(Continued from our issue of 7-12-39)

CHAPTER V.

THE general belief is that it was the Chinese who invented gun-powder and distributed the knowledge to the other parts of the world. This is being disputed now. A writer in the Journal of the North China Branch of the R. A. S. says that gunpowder may have been introduced into China from India.⁽¹⁾ Dr. Oppert also writes: "The question whether China received the knowledge of gunpowder from India, or *vice versa*, cannot be touched here, as there do not exist any trustworthy documents bearing on the question. No Chinese work on this question can, with respect to antiquity, be compared with the *Sukraniti*, so that even if the Chinese should have independently invented gunpowder, the claim as to priority of invention will certainly remain with India."⁽²⁾

Origin of Firearms

Following the lead of Rajendra Lal Mitra and P. C. Ray, Panchanan Neogi in his *Iron in Ancient India* says that "on the ground of the frequent mention of guns and cannons, *Sukraniti* could not have existed in the present form before the 16th century, as it is historically established that guns were used in Indian warfare at Panipat in 1526, these having been introduced in Southern India by the Portuguese"

What we may understand from the above is that, though the antiquity of the *Sukraniti* is admitted, the slokas relating to gunpowder and firearms are deemed to be later interpolations. It need hardly be stated here that this interpolation theory is the stock argument

of all scholars who dispute the originality of any Indian treatise. As far as the *Sukraniti* is concerned, we know that the slokas referring to gunpowder and firearms are not confined to one place, but are scattered throughout the work.

Now, the author of the *Sukraniti* says that this work, when first promulgated by Brahma, contained ten million slokas and that Vasishta and others like himself abridged it for the increase of prosperity of rulers of the earth and of others whose life is of short span.⁽³⁾ The *Mahabharata* states that the first Dandaniti of Brahma contained 100,000 chapters and that Kavya or Usanas or Sukra thinking that the life of a man was too short to digest such an enormous book, limited his *Nitisara* to 1000 chapters.⁽⁴⁾ According to the *Nitiprakasika*, the Dandaniti of Sukra contained 1000 chapters.⁽⁵⁾ On the face of this restriction, it cannot fairly be maintained that some later adventurous pundit interpolated other slokas concerning gunpowder and fire-arms as late as the 16th century.

Moreover, Dr. Oppert, while preparing his edition of the *Sukraniti*, had before him more than one manuscript of the work from different parts of India, all of which contain the passages under references. To argue that the same interpolations were made at one and the same time by one individual is to say the least, puerile. What is more, the nine other Hindu treatises referred to in the last section as containing references to gunpowder and firearms should likewise be deemed as interpolations. This assumption would be still more puerile.

It is hardly imaginable that a work like the *Sukraniti*, often quoted by the *Nitiprakasika*, the *Mahabharata* and other works of

(Continued on Page 6)

(1) Op. cit. vi 82 quoted in Sarkar's *Hindu Achievements in Exact Science*, p. 45.

(2) *Firearms, etc., of the Ancient Hindus*, p. 45.

(3) *Sukraniti*, 4-7.

(4) Santiparva. Rajadharma, LIX.

(5) Op. cit. i, 21-28

Order NisiIN THE DISTRICT COURT
OF JAFFNA

(Held at Point Pedro)

Testamentary Jurisdiction
No. 100/P. T.In the matter of the estate of the late
Palany Vallipuram of Alvai South
Deceased.Vairavan Palany of Alvai South,
Vs. Petitioner.Sithamparam wife of Palany of do
Respondent.

This matter of the petition of the petitioner praying for letters of Administration to the estate of the abovenamed deceased Palany Vallipuram of Alvai South coming on for disposal before S. Rodrigo Esquire Additional District Judge on the 22nd day of September 1939 in the presence of Mr. C. Thanabalasingam Proctor on the part of the Petitioner and the Petition and affidavit of the Petitioner having been read, it is ordered that the petitioner be declared entitled to take out Letters of Administration as the father of the said deceased and that letters of Administration be accordingly issued to the Petitioner unless the respondent or any other person shall on or before the 27th day of October 1939 shew sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

The 7th day of October 1939.

Sgd. S. Rodrigo,
Addl. District Judge.

27-10-39

Extended for 17-11-39.

Sgd. S. Rodrigo

A. D. J.

17-11-39

Extended for 21-12-39.

Sgd. S. Rodrigo

A. D. J.

(O. 61. 14 & 18-12-39.)

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Mis. 212. 11-18-12-39)

**Hindu Organ.**

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1939.

THE JAFFNA HINDU COLLEGE

THE JAFFNA SAIVA PARIPALANA Sabha celebrated its Golden Jubilee last year and the two institutions it founded—the "Hindu Organ" and the Jaffna Hindu College—will be celebrating their Golden Jubilee this year and in the next; the "Hindu Organ" celebrates its jubilee in the last week of this month, and the Jaffna Hindu College in May 1940. It is not for us to say what the "Hindu Organ" has achieved for the community and how far it has served the interests of the Hindus and of the country. The Jaffna Hindu College today certainly occupies a position in the penin-

sula fulfilling the cherished dreams of its founders. Inspired by that great Hindu reformer, SRI LA SRI ARUMUGA NAVALAR, founded by a band of patriotic leaders and nurtured by a succession of leaders of the community the College has grown from strength to strength and fills a large place in the educational world in Ceylon. It stands today, as the Chairman of the Jaffna U.D.C. declared the other day at the Old Boys' dinner, as the beacon of Hindu Culture in the Island. That was the aim of its founders. Though hemmed in by Code restrictions and other difficulties, the institution has shed that light which the Jaffna of those days woefully needed, and the need is there still to help back the stragglers to return to their moorings. The rapid progress it has made in recent years seems to mark the beginnings of rejuvenation with the forthcoming Jubilee. Signs are not wanting to indicate that with the Golden Jubilee the College is going to enter upon a new era of greater usefulness to the community. The public meeting held last week to concert measures to celebrate the Golden Jubilee and the meeting last evening of the General Committee appointed by it clearly prove it. Hindus as well as non-Hindus evinced sincere interest in the welfare of the College and the Tamil community as a whole seem to take a common interest in this institution as the premier national undertaking of the Tamils that needs prosper in their midst for the good and glory of the community. This is tremendously gratifying and enviable. It is also a tribute to the noble principles and ideals that have guided the working of this institution. The College counts among its alumni a large number of Christians, Muslims and Buddhists who look upon it with great affection and gratitude. And the College in turn is proud of them. Its portals are ever open to children of any faith and it means no ill-will or injury to any faith. It is this breadth of outlook that has appealed to all sections of the community. We hope the College will ever continue to be guided, as it has been, by the noble principles of the faith, to uphold and propagate which it was founded. The fortunes of the College are certainly the index of those of the community and we are glad the latter is alive to it. We have no doubt the community will rally round this national institution on this happy occasion of its Golden Jubilee and give it the well deserved help and much needed impetus to serve the community more usefully.

Russia Prepares for Violent Attack**Finns Strengthen Defence Line**

Helsinki, Tuesday.

THE Finns are hastily strengthening their defence line. They are also understood to be planning a counterstroke by pouring very heavy reinforcements into the Petsamo front. The object of this, according to neutral observers, is partly to divert the force of the Russian attack and partly to threaten the Murmansk railway.

There is little indication at present, says Reuter, when this vast offensive may be expected. One theory is that tomorrow, a Russian Holiday, may be zero hour. Other circles think the Red Army will wait until the ice on the lakes is thick enough to bear tanks and mechanised transport.

Finnish observers are gradually coming to the conclusion that the Russians at present have only their third-rate soldiers in the field. It is thought that the Moscow commanders, finding that they have gravely under-estimated the strength of the Finnish resistance, have now decided to bring up their first-class reserves.

Meanwhile, the centre of gravity of the fighting has suddenly shifted from the Karelian Isthmus to the centre of Finland, where the Russians are trying to drive a wedge and split the country in half.

Very heavy fighting is proceeding on what is known as the Rovaniemi front, around the pleasure resort of Suomussalmi, and further north near Kuolaiarvi. The Russians are reported to have a very large force here and the Finns are rushing up reinforcements.

Nazi Designs on Holland

London, Tuesday.

According to the French wireless, ships equipped for the transport of troops and war materials are being concentrated at Hamburg and Bremen.

The broadcaster, commenting on these reports, states that they may indicate that Germany is planning a landing in Holland; alternatively, they may mean that Hitler's plans are directed against Scandinavia as it is unlikely that an attack on Holland will be made before the Spring.

If the Soviet succeeds in occupying Finland, the announcer concludes, Germany may be given an inducement to seize a foothold in Scandinavia, Sweden or Norway being the likely object of Nazi plans.

A Belgian Warning

Brussels, Wednesday.

"Our declaration of neutrality does not take away our right to renounce neutrality in the face of events endangering our essential rights," declared the President of the Chamber, M. Van Cauwelaerts, in a statement today, denying the suggestion that aggression against Holland would not modify Belgium's position.

NEW NAZI PEACE OFFERS

ATTEMPT BY GERMAN JOURNALISTS

FIVE PROPOSALS SUGGESTED

Paris, Monday.

A MESSAGE from Geneva, published in all journals with "every reserve", states that Germany will take advantage of the League Assembly meeting to launch another "peace offensive."

Comment is made on the presence of a large number of German journalists. According to this message, Hitler wishes to inform the Allies of the following proposals for peace:

(1) The reconstruction of Czechoslovakia without Sudetenland.

(2) The restoration of Poland in those centres occupied only by the Poles, the Reich to keep Danzig and the Corridor.

(3) White Ruthenia and Eastern Galicia to be buffer States.

(4) A plebiscite in Austria under international control and

(5) The Allies to be invited to join Hitler in a Pact of Assistance "against the Bolshevisation of Europe."

Reuter's diplomatic correspondent learns that the so called Nazi "peace offensive" at Geneva is being observed in London with a certain amount of amusement.

A number of so-called journalists from Berlin are in attendance in the League corridors accompanied by attractive girl secretaries, and it is evident that the authorisation of unlimited expense accounts has been granted in the hope of influencing the delegations from small States who might relay the suggestions for an early peace on Hitlerite terms to the Allies.

It is noted in London that this lobbying is being carried on with apparent seriousness, but it is added that, so far as the Allies are concerned, the whole endeavour represents so much energy wasted and if not taken in the least seriously.

The extraordinary interest manifested in today's meeting of the League Assembly is evident from the large number of journalists attending, especially German and Italian.

TAMIL INTERPRETER TO GOVERNOR**Question in Council**

In reply to the following question by Mr. A. P. Jayasuriya (Honnai):— Will the Chief Secretary be pleased to state:—

(1) Whether it is a fact that the post of Chief Tamil Interpreter to His Excellency the Governor is now vacant?

(2) If so, whether applications have been called for in the usual way?

(3) If not, why, not?

The following answer was tabled by M. M. Wedderburn (Chief Secretary):—

(1) The post of Chief Tamil Translator and Tamil Interpreter to the Governor has been suppressed and other arrangements have been made for carrying out duties of the post. Similar action has already been taken in respect of the corresponding Sinhalese post.

(2) and (3) Do not arise.

THE CONGRESS DEMAND

LABOUR PARTY'S SUPPORT

CONSERVATION OPINION NOT HOSTILE

New Delhi, Dec. 11

"EVEN Conservative opinion is not hostile to the Constituent Assembly idea," asserted Sir Stafford-Cripps, M.P., to press representatives whom he met this morning soon after his arrival here.

As for the Labour Party, Sir Stafford-Cripps said it accepted the Congress demand and supported it generally. He expressed the opinion that there were definite signs of a more liberal tendency on the part of the British Government.

Discussing the States problem Sir Stafford-Cripps said that he felt that general opinion in Great Britain favoured the establishment of some thing similar to the constitutional monarchies of the Indian States at the earliest opportunity.

Sir Stafford Cripps denied that public opinion in Britain was not interested in India.

He declared that his first impression of India was that the degree of poverty was worse than he ever imagined.

Possibility of a Compromise

Sir Stafford Cripps, in the course of an earlier interview referred to the possibility of a compromise with India.

It was essential, he said that somebody should put forward a practical scheme immediately with a view to achieving a unified India. The minority problem must somehow be faced and solved, so also the problem of the Princes.

Once Britain conceded the major demand, a compromise on minor points should be made so as to accommodate the reasonable claims of vested interests, minorities and Princes.

Asked if the minorities problem had not been solved by the Communal Award—Sir Stafford referred the questioner to the attitude of Mr. M. A. Jinnah (President of the All-India Muslim League) and said that though the Communal Award was regarded as a solution at that time, sometimes they might change their views and that was why the communal question had reopened.

He however, did not advocate a solution of the minorities and the Princes problems in the manner it had been done in Ireland, which unfortunately had been cut into two.

Russia's Demand "Reasonable"

Asked about the war, Sir Stafford Cripps expressed the opinion that it would be a prolonged one and there was determination on the part of all parties in Britain to see it through. He declared that the Allies' blockade was making itself felt in Germany.

He ridiculed the idea of a conference of Powers now, as there was no common basis of discussion. There was complete unanimity of views between Britain and France.

Sir Stafford felt that Russia's be-

Talk on "Examinations"

At the V. N. T. A.

Mr. K. A. Selliah, B. Sc., F. P. S., Dip. Ed., vice-Principal, Jaffna College, delivered a very instructive lecture on "Examinations" at a meeting of the Valigamam North Teachers' Association on Wednesday, the 6th instant at 5 p.m. Mr. S. Srinivasan, M. A., the President, took the chair. The speaker discussed the necessity of examinations and said that although they were a necessary evil, their defects could be reduced to a minimum. He referred to the various drawbacks of the traditional system, and said that vast changes were taking place in Great Britain in the method of testing students. These changes were inevitable, for the economic and social progress of the world necessitated corresponding alterations in the system of Examinations. Testing one's academic attainments alone would not suffice in a mechanised era as ours. The lecturer then spoke of the great care that the examiners in the West bestowed on setting papers and on marking the answers. The chief Examiner always saw to the reliability and validity of the tests before the candidates were put through them. Besides the tests were both subjective and objective, said the speaker, rather than being subjective alone as in the past. He went on to say that one of the redeeming features in England was that the opinion of the Head Master was sought in deciding the fate of all borderline cases. Invariably a viva voce test was held and the Head Master was invited to be present, said the speaker.

A very interesting discussion took place at the end of the talk when examination papers set by local examiners were referred to.

Mr. T. T. Jayaratnam, the Secretary, proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the lecturer, and the meeting terminated at 7 p.m.

Museum Committee of Management

The Governor has appointed the following to be unofficial members of the Committee of Management of the Colombo Museum:—

Mr. C. H. Collins, Mr. Leslie de Saram, Mr. W. W. A. Phillips, Mr. W. H. BiddeW, Mr. C. H. Z. Fernando, Mr. T. B. Ratwatte, Diyawansa Nilame, Dr. Andreas Nell, Dr. Paul E. Pieris, Mr. W. A. de Silva, Mudaliyar A. C. G. S. Amarasekera, Mudaliyar C. Rasanayagam, Dr. A. P. de Zoysa, Dr. S. C. Paul, Rev. Rambukwelle Siddhartha and Mr. H. W. Mediwake.

manded of Ireland was reasonable, but he considered that Russia's method of achieving her object was unfortunate.

Sir Stafford Cripps left for Allahabad by air. After spending the night at Jodhpur, he will reach Allahabad tomorrow morning.

He has provisionally arranged to stay in India for 18 days after which he is leaving for China.

IMPORTS CONTROL

Ban on Certain Goods Removed

A Gazette Extraordinary amends the Defence (Control of Imports) Regulations to allow the importation of:—

Goods imported by visitors or residents returning to the island, in quantities approved by the Principal Collector of Customs.

Goods imported by the agents or the members of the staff of the agents of any shipping company.

Samples or patterns imported by commercial travellers or indenting merchants and such of those goods as may be imported before December 31st, 1939, on a licence granted by the Principal Collector of Customs.

Several new items, have been included in the schedule of imports by licence, such as beer, ale, portar and all other malt liquors, manures, wireless goods, including batteries and accumulators, electrical goods, silk, satin, artificial silk, wool or cotton, including cotton banians, hosiery, haberdashery, millinery, articles of solid silver or gold, imitation jewellery, preserved fish (other than dried, salted or tinned, but including potted fish and jadi), fruits (other than dates) dried or preserved, otherwise than in sugar syrup or spirits, spirits other than brandy, rectified spirits of wine and spirits denatured to the satisfaction of the Principal Collector of Customs, waxes of all kinds other than sealing wax, vegetable oils, fats and greases (other than essential oils, olive oil and substitutes for ghee), hides and skins (raw or salted), raw rubber, manures, etc.

The New Legal Secretary

A telegram has been received from the Secretary of State for the Colonies intimating that Mr. R. H. Drayton, Attorney General of Tanganyika, has been selected for appointment to the post of Legal Secretary, Ceylon.

The salary attached to the post of Attorney-General Tanganyika, is £1,000. As Legal Secretary, Ceylon, Mr. Drayton will receive £2,400.

New Magistrate for Jaffna

It is understood that Mr. E. V. R. Samerawickreme, the Jaffna Magistrate, has been appointed Magistrate at Matara from January 1, 1940.

Mr. Vernon H. Wijeratne, the Matara Magistrate, will succeed Mr. Samerawickreme in Jaffna.

Reading and Recitation Radio Competition for Schools

Jaffna Central College has won this year both the Senior and the Junior Challenge Cups for boys. This is the first time that any school, outside Colombo, has won these Cups.

The following are the winners: Senior: S. Sittampalam Junior: S. Sanmugarajah.

LANGUAGE OF COURT PROCEEDINGS

VERNACULARS "IMPRACTICABLE"

VIEW OF COLOMBO AND JAFFNA PRACTITIONERS

That till the teaching of the Sinhalese and the Tamil languages is made compulsory in all schools it will not be practicable to conduct proceedings in the vernacular in the Magistrates' Courts was one of the arguments advanced at a meeting of the members of the Chavakachcheri Bar, held to consider the Legal Secretary's circular regarding the practicability of conducting proceedings in Magistrates' Courts in the vernacular.

The meeting, which was held at the Chavakachcheri Courthouse, was presided over by Mr. C. R. Thanitiah.

In the course of a lengthy discussion, Mr. V. S. Kathigesu pointed out that there were practical difficulties in the way of introducing the vernaculars in conducting Court proceedings. The criminal Procedure Code gave authority to Heads of Departments to conduct their prosecutions without the assistance of members of the Bar. Such of those officers as were not proficient in both the vernaculars took the place of English in the Courts.

Another argument urged by the speaker was that no innovation, however desirable it might be could be introduced now. The first step would be for the Council of Legal Education to demand from the final year law students a fair working knowledge of both the vernaculars.

In his (the speaker's) opinion the study of both the Sinhalese and the Tamil languages should be made compulsory in all schools before the Government could think of making any change in the existing arrangement of conducting Court proceedings in the English language.

Mr. K. Kasipillai proposed and Mr. V. S. Kathigesu seconded the following resolution:—

"As it is not practicable to conduct proceedings in the vernaculars in the Magistrates' Courts, it is desirable to continue the present arrangement of having all proceedings in the English language."

Messrs. C. Rajaratnam, R. D. Sivaguru, and V. Kanagasabai spoke in support of the resolution, which on being put to the house was carried unanimously.

It was further resolved that a copy of the resolution be forwarded to the Chavakachcheri Magistrate.

Colombo Court's View

At a meeting held on December 12 at the New Court's Law Chambers in the presence of the Magistrate Mr. Aelian Pereira Mr. E. B. Weerakone proposed and Mr. Merrill Pereira seconded the following resolution:

"The opinion of all the practitioners of the Colombo Magistrate's Court is that it is impracticable to conduct Court proceedings in the Vernaculars."

The resolution was unanimously carried.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Railway and the Transport Problem

Sir,—The Executive Committee for Communications and Works rejected the Transport Commission recommendations for the formation of a Railway Board stating that they are quite competent to guide the destinies of the Railway. The present financial position of the Railway and its administrative measures thoroughly justify the appointment of a Railway Board. His Excellency the Governor in his despatch dated 13th June, 1938, to the Secretary of State commenting on the Executive Committee System states in paragraph 13:

"(a) Administration has become cumbersome and dilatory the Committee agenda which I regularly see, are inordinately overloaded with a resultant loss of perspective. At the meetings much ado is often made about small things, while big questions receive too summary a treatment."

"(b) Administration has become centrifugal, each Committee goes its own way without any common direction or control. Where overlapping is recognised and a matter dealt with by more than one Committee procedure becomes still more combrous and dilatory".

"(c) The fact that the Ministers owe ministerial office to their having been elected by the Committees as their Chairmen means that they have no common allegiance. Their authority is not original but derivative, and therefore intrinsically weak."

In summarising the summary of the principal defect His Excellency states that "there is no determining, co-ordinating, eliminating, controlling or designing force behind the administrative machine, everything depends upon bargaining and compromise. As a result there can be no fixation and concentration either of policy or of responsibility."

It is the defects mentioned above that have brought the Railway finances to this perilous state. The trend of discussion in the State Council between the Minister of Communications and that of the Local Administration has been highly competitive instead of being complimentary. The other day I represented the Jaffna Bus Owners at the Anuradhapura, Kachcheri where an Officer of the Motor Transport Department, a European Member of the Civil Service, heard objections to the issue of licences for Buses and Lorries and the impression I have gained is that the existence of the Railway and the facilities it provides is no concern of the Motor Transport Department. By all means competition must be encouraged but such competitions must be healthy and not cut-throat. State Councillors and the Ministers seemingly feel that they will assist the poor by encouraging the motor industry without regard to the fact that millions have been sunk in the Railway and that is a national asset as it makes every one of the Islanders pay if they make the railways pay. The General Manager of Railways is not permitted to raise objections under the New Motor Ordinance even though his department serves the interests of the travelling public efficiently and adequately.

As a payer I feel that the fortunes of the railways are my direct

concern and I have therefore preferred an appeal to The Tribunal of Appeal to restrict the issue of license. Seeing that the Railway loses millions of rupees every year and the transport problem is *The Problem of the Island*, I would earnestly urge the Government to consider

1. To amend the present Motor Ordinance so as to permit the General Manager of Railways to raise objections under the New Motor Ordinance.

2. To the appointment of a Railway Board drawn from the Commercial community.

The transport problem is unfortunately not peculiar to Ceylon but all over the world and I know by experience certain Colonial Railways are no more a losing concern not because they have been bolstered up but by reasonable control and coordination.

Yours &c,
S. VYDIALINGAM.

The J. S. C. Examination

Sir,—It is a well known fact that the J. S. C. examination has earned a notoriety for a number of drawbacks which have been pointed out to the authorities more than once in a very convincing manner. The Department wants us to believe that the examiners are exceedingly careful in the setting of question papers as well as in the valuation of the answer papers. The Headmaster of a certain school told me that in the J. S. C. examination held in June this year one of his pupils failed owing to the shortage of only a single mark in the aggregate and that another pupil's failure was due to the lack of only half a mark in the average for English and Literature in both of which he had obtained pass marks. Both these pupils, he told me, had satisfied all the other conditions required by the Departmental regulations. When representations were made about the sad fate of these unfortunate pupils, the Director is reported to have written to the Headmaster that the first candidate could not have obtained in any one of the fifty or more answers he wrote to the questions in connection with the eight sections he offered, even a single mark more than was given by the examiners, moderators and others who were responsible for the marking of the answer papers. In the case of the second candidate also the examiners were reported to have been so careful that even the shortage of half a mark in English could not have been made up. According to what the Director wrote to the Headmaster referred to above, the validity and reliability of the valuation of the J. S. C. answer papers are so very perfect that nobody could alter even by half a mark the marks once given by the examiners. I do not think that any sound educationist will subscribe to the Director's view in regard to this matter. No psychologist will admit that the marks given by any examiner to an answer paper in English Composition can ever be perfect and hence unalterable. We may, no doubt, be proud of the ex-

aminers of the J. S. C. examination, if they are as perfect as the Director makes them out to be. But unfortunately, it is admitted by all eminent educationists in all parts of the world that perfection can never be attained by any examiner in the marking of answer papers in subjects like English, History, Literature etc. The Director will be doing a distinct service to the schools and colleges of this Island, if he will select as examiners only those persons who are well versed in the limitations of the system of marking now adopted in the case of certain subjects and who will make a careful study of what is being done in some of the most advanced countries in the world in regard to the valuation of answer papers. The Headmaster of a school should be given an opportunity of seeing how a candidate's answer paper has been marked, if he feels that justice has not been done to any particular candidate. After all, it is the Headmaster who can be trusted to give a correct estimate of a pupil's real attainments.

The Director called for confidential reports from Headmasters about the pupils presented for the J. S. C. examination during a certain period in the recent past and consulted them in regard to borderline cases, as he then thought that the valuation of the answer papers by the examiners might not in all cases be so valid and reliable as to decide all cases of passes from the marks given by them. As the Headmasters were naturally compelled to press the Department to pass certain candidates, who, in their opinion and according to the marks scored by them in the tests held by the schools were fit to pass, the examiners who had first failed these candidates seem to have thought that it would be a slur on them, if their decision was not regarded as final. As the result of this, the Director has now cancelled the system of consulting the Headmasters. It is reported that the Director feels that the privilege is being misused by certain Headmasters. How this could be so fails to understand, if the Department knows its business as it ought to. It is a matter of common knowledge that all those who were recommended by the Headmasters were not accorded passes. The system of consulting the Headmasters in regard to borderline cases is in vogue in the west at the present time, and it is reported that it gives entire satisfaction to all the parties concerned and that justice is done to every candidate as all the important factors are taken into consideration.

The standard of the question papers varies from time to time without any previous information being given to the schools and colleges about it. At the last November examination, even questions outside the prescribed portion were set by the examiner of Tamil. How indifferent some of the examiners are is only too well known to the schools and colleges. Even when the standard of a paper is to be altered, it should be done slowly and steadily instead of making a radical change most unexpectedly and without any provocation. It is very much to be regretted that the public has begun to think that the Department is not able to hold the local examinations satisfactorily even after so many years of preparation. The Director, even though he did not call for confidential

reports at the last June examination, was good enough to send the marks scored by the pupils. It is feared that even this may not be done in the case of the examination held last month.

It is hoped that the Director will devise some method of conducting the local examinations in a satisfactory manner as is done by the London, Cambridge and other universities, so that justice may be done to the candidates who sit for these examinations

Yours etc.
Spectator.

Police Station at Anaicoddai

Sir,—Your Editorial note in the last issue of your valuable paper on the above subject has been most appropriate indeed. The public owes a deep debt of gratitude for the very impartial manner in which you have stated the view of the public and that of those mostly affected in recent times. The Police themselves would admit that "Moothanayarkovilady" is the den of criminals and it is people of this very locality who require police protection the most. With this end in view the public agitated for the opening of a Police Station here. The Maniagar of the place who is also in charge of other villages which this new police station is interded to serve would have stated, if consulted, that it is this locality which should have a Police Station for more than one reason. For it will arrest the crime in the centre of activities itself and the place will be a real centre to other adjoining villages of Navalp, Manipay, Sanguvely etc. It is most inconceivable why this reasonable request of the people cannot be acceded to when there are a good number of houses on the Navalp Vaddukodai road near about Moothanayanar Kovilady. If this is done both the public and the Government would be profited and it is hoped that the Agent of the Province will at least now intercede in this matter and grant redress.

An Inhabitant.

Anti-Rabies Vaccine Treatment

Sir,—The decision of the Government to provide provincial hospitals with Anti Rabies treatment and thus make Pasteur treatment available to people in various parts of the Island is a most welcome innovation.

One feels greatly disappointed that an important place like Jaffna is not to be provided during the financial year the with necessary facilities for such treatment. It is surprising that the Jaffna hospital which is situated more than 220 miles from the central institute and which is equipped with electric lighting so that refrigerators could be installed for providing the vaccine should be left out of the scheme for such treatment. Towns like Badulla, Batticaloa, Trincomalee and Nuwara Eliya which are situated close to each other are selected as places where such treatment is urgent. I am unable to follow the arithmetic contained in this decision.

Yours etc.,
S. Vydialingam,
Maliban Hotel 8 Dec. 1939,
Colombo.

GANDHIJI AND NEHRU

(Continued from page 1)

even in Japan, which has developed cottage industries to a considerable extent, they have co-ordinated heavy and cottage industries so as to be complementary to each other. In short, his ideal is one that was practised in ancient times by our forefathers, viz., "High thinking and plain living," which, according to many, is impossible in the present phase of the world.

He is the only Indian of importance who has been able to study and interpret the mass mind, though some people believe that he has occasionally committed some blunders in his leadership. They would cite the cases of withdrawal of non-co-operation movement due to the Chauri Chaura incident and his description of the Bihar Earthquake as a divine punishment for untouchability in Hinduism for which he was taken to task by Rabindranath Tagore and Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru.

He is a puritan and a saint and hence his rigid adherence to, and application of, certain moral and religious principles in the realm of politics. That also accounts for his zeal for social reform like Temple Entry and removal of untouchability.

Nehru: In comparison with Gandhiji, Nehru is a finished product of western education. There is nothing oriental about him except perhaps, his dress, all his thoughts, ideas and ideals being the result of his being steeped in western culture. Even in his outlook and mental make-up, he is absolutely western.

To him, India is not a unit, although he fights for Indian independence. The world is the one unit and hence he is an internationalist to the marrow of his bone. In religion, he is a rationalist. Like Gandhiji, he will not allow injustice, whether political, social or economic, to be inflicted upon anybody by any group or any set of person, even that justice had the sanction of law behind it.

He is a firm and profound believer in Socialism because he is convinced that Capitalism can never survive the catastrophe that is constantly overtaking it and that it is merely struggling for its existence by a series of make-shifts. He has the poet's imagination to envisage the break-down of the capitalist structure of society, and the various devices employed by capitalism to prop itself serve only to strengthen his conviction that capitalism is on the road to its collapse, which is inevitable. He is a firm believer in Socialism because he is also convinced strongly that Socialism alone can offer the best solution to the present ills of society, namely poverty, hunger, misery and unemployment, which exist in spite of the world's resources being abundant. In other words, he will abolish poverty amidst plenty.

Whereas Gandhiji will be satisfied by merely increasing the standard of life of the masses in India by a couple of annas more, and allow zamindars and capitalists to exist side by side with the

poverty-stricken masses, Nehru will not allow this inequality and anachronism to continue in society, or people being divided into rich and poor, or the employer and the employee, or the zamindar and the tenant, because to him mankind is one and there cannot be castes and classes or differences based on birth or social standing. He is so firmly convinced that Socialism has an unanswerable case that he is impatient, nay surprised, that those who argue that India is not fit for Socialism or that it does not suit India's genius are not aware of the exact import of, or have an intelligent understanding of what socialism means and aims at. He is a revolutionary in the sense that he wants to change men's outlook towards everything old and worn out.

He is an uncompromising opponent of zamindarism because he is convinced that it is the zamindari system that has resulted in the impoverishment, degradation and misery of the Indian peasantry, the real backbone of the country. Also he is convinced that zamindarism has led to absentee landlordship and the exploitation of the poor and ignorant peasantry by the landed aristocracy. He also wants collectivisation of agriculture in India, because, according to him, the fragmentation of holdings, which is the result of the law of inheritance in India, has resulted in agriculture being made a deficit economy. He has also a firm and unshakable faith in the necessity for the application of machinery and latest methods of farming and cultivation because he wants to increase the production of foodcrops sufficient to feed the hungry mouths of India, and to bring under cultivation the vast tracts of land lying fallow due to the absence of irrigation facilities.

As land cannot support the large masses of the agricultural population to lead a decent standard of life with culture and necessary leisure, he wants that the surplus population should be diverted to heavy industries, the development of which has long been delayed owing to the political exigencies of the Government, and which is a real economic desideratum.

He wants that India should be, as far as possible, self sufficient in the sense that the people must have enough to live up and export the surplus in exchange for necessities from other countries. Being a socialist and an internationalist, he does not believe in "autarky" or economic nationalism. In other words, he aims at a sort of dynamic equilibrium between industry and agriculture in India, and thereby remove two of India's worst evils, viz., poverty and unemployment.

Mr. Nehru, unlike Gandhiji brings to bear a scientific mind in the study of economic and political problems. He does not believe in tinkering with things, because he believes in attacking the root cause that gives rise to the evil. In short, Nehru has the statesman's gift for long range perspectives, to use a felicitous expression of Mr. Basil Mathews, coupled with the idealism which his scientific mind and his eager and restless soul are striving to achieve. (Roy's Weekly)

Order Nisi

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 794. In the matter of the estate of the late P. RM. Raman Chettiar of Visvanathapuram in Puthukottai State, South India

Deceased.

P. RM. RM. Ramaswamy Chettiar of Visvanathapuram in Puthukottai State, South India, by his attorney — Ponniahpillai son of Sockalingampillai of Vannarponnai Jaffna

Petitioner.

And,

1. Savanna Peyna Reena Ravanna Mana Venaitheerthan Chettiar al as Sockalingam Chettiar.
2. and wife Karuppayee of Kadathanpatty in Puthukottai State, South India.
3. Ana Muna Ravanna Mana Muthukaruppan Chettiar, and,
4. his wife Venaitheerthal of Sockalingapuram in Rayavaram, Puthukottai State, South India.
5. Walliammai widow of P. RM. Raman Chettiar of Visvanathapuram in Puthukottai State, South India.
6. Pana Ravanna Mana Palaniappa Chettiar of do
7. Pana Ravanna Mana Alagappa Chettiar of do.
8. RM. AL. RM. Alagappa Chettiar of do.

Minors—

The 6th and 7th respondents are minors appearing by their guardian-ad-litem the 8th Respondent

Respondents.

This matter of the petition of the abovenamed petitioner praying for grant of letters of administration over the estate of the abovenamed deceased, coming on for disposal before C. Coomaraswamy Esquire, District Judge, on the 6th day of December 1939 in the presence of Mr. S. Coomarasuriar Proctor on the part of the petitioner, and the affidavit of the petitioner dated the 2nd August 1939 having been read: It is declared that the petitioner is entitled to have Letters of Administration over the estate of the said deceased issued to him unless the respondents or any other person shall, on or before the 20th day of December 1939 show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

This 12th day of December 1939.

Sgd. C. Coomaraswamy District Judge.

(O. 60. 14 & 18-12-39)

Order Nisi

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 803 In the matter of the intestate estate of Murugesu Kanapathippillai of Navaly North Deceased. Kanapathippillai Kanagasabai of Navaly

Deceased.

Vs. Petitioner.

Kanapathippillai Kanagasabai of Navaly presently of the Railway Audit Office Colombo

Respondent.

This matter coming on for disposal before C. Coomaraswamy, Esq. District Judge Jaffna on the 28th day of November 1939 in the presence of Mr. S. Thirunavakkarasu Proctor for petitioner and the affidavit of the petitioner dated the 28th day of November 1939 having been read.

It is ordered that letters of administration in respect of the estate of the abovenamed deceased be granted to the Petitioner as son and heir of the said deceased unless the abovenamed Respondent or any other person shall on or before the 17th day of January 1940 show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

The 5th day of December 1939.

Sgd. C. Coomaraswamy District Judge.

(O. 59. 14 & 18-12-39)

CEYLON INDIAN CONGRESS

Branch to be formed in Jaffna

At a general meeting of the Indian Association of Jaffna held at the Lanka Ayurvedic Hall, Jaffna, with Mr. T. N. Subbiah one of the Vice Presidents in the chair, it was decided to form a branch of the Ceylon Indian Congress for the Northern Province in January.

Auction Sale

D. C. J. 14044.

Arundasalam Edward of Velanai East Plaintiff.

Vs.

1. Kanapathippillai Muthuthamby and
2. Aiyampillai Ponniah both of do Defendants.

Under and by virtue of the commission issued to me by the District Court of Jaffna, in the above case, I shall sell the undermentioned properties by Public Auction on Monday the 22nd January 1940 commencing at 9 a.m., 9.30 a.m., 10 a.m., 10.30 a.m. and 11 a.m., respectively at the respective spots.

PROPERTIES REFERRED TO:

1. A piece of land situated at Velanai in the Parish of Velanai in the Islands Division of the Jaffna District Northern Province called "Mekutheliyal" according to possession 12 Lms. V. C. palmyrahs and young palmyrahs cultivated plants and bounded on the East by Lane, North by the second land here in below described, West by the property of Rasammah wife of Muthuthamby and on the South by the properties of Nagamuthu widow of Arumugam, Sellammah wife of Arumugam, Thangamuthu widow of Kanapathy.

Of this an undivided half share.

2. Land situated at do called "Thekkutheliyal" in extent 18½ Lms V. C. do "Kilakkutheliyal" in extent 6 Lms. V.C. Total extent is 24½ Lms. V. C. with share of well, house, palmyrah, young palmyrahs, Iruppai and coconut trees and other plantations and bounded on the East by Lane and the property of Sivakampillai wife of Somanathapillai, North by the properties of Sivakampillai wife of Somanathapillai, Annamuthu wife of Nagamuthu, Kathiravelu Murogasu and Sellamuthu wife of Thilliampalam, West by the property of Sellamuthu wife of Thilliampalam and on the South by the property of Rasammah wife of Muthuthamby and the first land mentioned above. Out of the whole of this an undivided 13 Lms. V. C. and 4 kls. but exclusive of the house the whole of the remainder.

3. Situated at do called "Aiyainram" in extent 11 Lms. V. C. with palmyrahs, young palmyrahs and well and bounded on the East by Lane, on the North by Road, on the West and South by the property of Ponnammah wife of Kathiravelu. The whole hereof.

4. Land situated at do called "Thalvupulam" in extent 20 Lms. P. C. and bounded on the East by the property of Sivakampillai wife of Somanathapillai, North by the properties of Ponnachchi wife of Nagamuthu and Raman. Appapillai, West by water channel and South by the property of Vathilingam Nagalingam. The whole hereof.

5. Land situated at do called "Varaniampulam" in extent 14 Lms. V. C. and 6 kls. with well, palmyrahs and young palmyrahs, coconuts and Margosa trees and bounded on the East by Lane, North by the property of Velan Perumal, West by the properties of Nagamuthu Arumugam, Sellammah wife of Manickam and on the South by the property of Thainai wife of Sinnan and Naganathar Aiyampillai. The whole hereof.

S. MUTTUKUMARASWAMY Commissioner of Sales.

"Siva Villa" Manipay 11-12-39 (Mis. 213. 14-12-39)

MILITARY ADMINISTRATION IN ANCIENT INDIA

(Continued from page 1)

undoubted antiquity and genuineness, should have been mutilated for the sole object of braggadocio, in order to prove to Europeans and others the mental superiority of the ancient Hindus by ascribing to them the original invention and manufacture both of gunpowder and firearms; and that the very object of the forgery should have been frustrated afterwards by keeping the work so zealously secret then, except to a few initiated pundits, it was totally unknown to the public!

Finally, Neogi's statement that firearms were introduced into India by the Portuguese in the 16th century is flatly contradicted by the fact that the Portuguese themselves, on their first arrival in India, were struck with the display of fireworks and firearms by the Indians. Castanheda says in his description of Vasco de Gama's entrance into Calicut: "The procession again set out, preceded by many trumpets and saebuts sounding all the way; and one of the Nayers carried a caliver, which he fired off at intervals."⁽⁶⁾

Introduction to the West

On the other hand, there is every reason to believe that firearms went from India to the western world. There is an old tradition that the Arabs possessed at an early date a knowledge of the manufacture of gunpowder and that they obtained it originally from India, as was the case in many other arts and sciences. That the Arabs received their earliest gunpowder supplies from India, and that this country was the original seat of its invention was very strongly urged by Mr. Langley in a paper read in the French Institute in 1798. This opinion was also upheld by John Beckmann (1739 - 1814) in his *History of Inventions and Discoveries* which has passed through many English editions. He writes: "I am more than ever inclined to

(6) Elliot's *History of India*, vi 467.

accede to the opinion of those who believe that gunpowder was invented in India, and brought by the Saracens from Africa to the Europeans, who, however, improved the preparation of it, and found out the different ways of employing it in war, as well as small arms and cannons". This is supported by the fact that the first country in Europe where projectile weapons were used was Spain from where the knowledge of firearms spread to other European countries. It may also be noted that in the Arabic language cannon is known as "top" and gun as "tufang". Both these terms are derived from the Sanskrit "tvak" (Thamil, தப்பாக்கி or தவக்கு), meaning a firearm.

Philological Evidence

If gunpowder was introduced into India from China, as was generally supposed, it is but natural to expect that at least some of the Indian names for it should have affinity to the Chinese name, as for instance, sugar=சீனி, betel=பெற்றி, and so on. But the Sanskrit name for gunpowder is *agnicurna*, fire powder; and the Thamil name is *Vedimarundu* (வேடிமருந்து), explosive powder. Both these terms are purely native.

The Sanskrit term for gun is *nalika* which is derived from the word *nala* (நாழி) meaning a reed, a hollow tube. Considering that the Indian guns were in ancient times made out of bamboos, and that some bamboo guns are still used in Burmah, the name appears both appropriate and original. That the idea of bamboo being the original material for guns was still in the mind of the author of the *Sukraniti* seems to be indicated by his calling the outside of the stock of a gun *bark* (tvak)

(To be Continued.)

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