

THE Hindu Organ.

The Only Newspaper in Ceylon for the Hindus
PUBLISHED EVERY MONDAY AND THURSDAY

VOL. LI.

Phone 56,

JAFFNA, MONDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1939.

Price 5 Cts.

NO. 69.

MODERN WEAPONS OF WAR

Man has Copied from Nature

LOWER ANIMALS AND MODERN WAR

THE designs of the modern torpedoes and life belts, mines and U-boats, aeroplanes and poison gas bombs are not new things to Nature. As a matter of fact it is man who has copied out from Nature the plans for his contrivances. Before man could think of crossing the oceans and flying in the air, many lower animals were able to do them. The colour scheme adopted as a precautionary measure against air raid, is one Nature had employed millions of years ago in protecting the various creatures.

Air raids are carried out by aeroplanes. In the construction of an aeroplane, the idea of flight was taken from birds. But even before birds came into existence insects had taken to flight. There is an insect called the Dragon-fly which is the prototype of the modern plane in miniature. Its body is long and slender. Towards the anterior portion of the body i.e., on the thoracic region, are two pairs of transparent membranous wings arranged at right angles to the sides of the body. At the caudal or hind end of the insect are a pair of small prominences. On the head are situated the two prominent compound eyes blue in colour. Just below the eyes is the mouth. Underneath the wings, on the ventral side of the body, are the legs. All these external parts of the Dragonfly exactly resemble the various parts of the aeroplane. The wings stand for the wings; the legs are in place of the rubber tyres; the caudal prominences represent the hind wings; the eyes are the headlights and the mouth the propeller. Another point of comparison is its mode of flight always producing a hissing sound.

The Torpedo Fish

The modern torpedo might have most probably derived its name from a fish that goes by the same name. The torpedo fish has a body resembling the 'torpedo' which shape facili-

tates easy movement in water. This fish is capable of forming and storing up electricity and for this reason it is called Electric Ray. Electric organs run through the entire thickness of the body and form into a pair of large masses between the head and the pectoral fins. By means of this electric apparatus the torpedo fish is able to ward off attacks of enemies and to kill or paralyse its prey. Many fishes belonging to the group *Elasmobranchii* are able to do this.

There is another fish called the sucker fish whose mouth is modified to facilitate sucking. Just as a U-boat attacks a steamer, the sucker fish attacks the ventral side of a shark or any other big fish and begins sucking up the blood of the latter. Although the attacked fish does not 'split' as a ship, too many sucker fish sucking up a shark means the latter's death. Both the U-boats and the sucker fish are parasites.

The sword fish and the saw fish are also equally dangerous to other marine animals just as the mines and torpedoes are to the men of war.

The 'Submarine' Fish

Stomias Boa is a fish with luminous organs throughout its body. It is a fairly large fish that lives in deep sea regions where solar light cannot penetrate. It produces its own light and its graceful movement in the abyssal region resembles the course of a modern submarine under water with inside all lighted.

Many fishes belonging to the order 'Teleostei' possess an apparatus called the 'air-bladder'. The fishes can contract or expand this bladder at their will and can very successfully sink down or float up with great facility. The functions of the air bladder are numerous, but for our purpose we can safely compare it to the modern life-belt.

Even for the fish the idea of a float is a borrowed one. The

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WAR NEWS REVIEW AND COMMENTARY

Talk No. 13

(Covering period December 6, to 12, 1939)

By Rev. Fr. Peter Pillai

THE War demands and will continue to demand great sacrifices from all of us. But if we are to sacrifice ourselves, we should evidently like to be clear as to what it is all for. The problem of war aims becomes then an eminently practical question, and we must therefore be grateful to Lord Halifax for having spoken clearly on the subject in replying to a debate in the House of Lords. This is how Lord Halifax defined the British war aims. First of all Britain desires the people who have been deprived of their independence to recover their liberties. Secondly, it desires to redeem the people of Europe from this constant fear of German aggression and thirdly, Great Britain desires to safeguard its own freedom and security.

As against the crude effusions of so many Jingoists who are moved by a spirit of vindictiveness against the so-called enemy nations, it was refreshing to hear the following noble declaration from the Foreign Minister:

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

The inspiration for such an exalted conception is not far to seek. For Lord Halifax continues:

"This declaration represents the essential principles of a satisfactory and lasting peace and I most devoutly hope that the sacrifice of this war will lead to a truer appreciation of Christian values."

It is well known that Lord Halifax is a deeply religious man, one who finds in his religion the dynamism necessary for his life of devotedness and of self-sacrifice. In fact, when

he came to India as Lord Irwin in the capacity of Viceroy, it was his profoundly religious nature that appealed to the Indian people who have always maintained the supremacy of spiritual values over mere matter and brute force. Great Britain is indeed fortunate in possessing at this critical juncture, a Foreign Minister whom one can sincerely respect, and for whose views one cannot but have the highest regard.

In his speech Lord Halifax also explains why the method of conferences has failed in the recent past. At the Munich Conference an agreement was reached. Most solemn assurances were given. But then six months afterwards, Hitler changed his mind and found excuses to justify to himself an action which completely contradicted the assurances given earlier. Unless this kind of right about turn after a solemn undertaking becomes impossible, it is evidently out of the question to trust in conferences.

Here we may well ask the question which Lord Halifax has however not asked, why an armistice should not be immediately sought. The reasons for such a course of action are entirely practical. Does there not seem to be a stalemate on the Western Front? The Maginot Line as well as the Western Wall which we have recently been accustomed to call the Siegfried Line have so far maintained their defensive character and we note neither progress nor retreat on either side. Nor do we see any considerable activity on the part of the Air Arm which before the War was expected to reduce Europe rapidly to a mere shambles. Moreover, there does not seem to be any immediate prospect of emancipating Poland either from the Germans or from the Bolsheviks. All the while, however, millions of pounds are being spent every day. It may therefore be asked, and in point of fact,

(Continued on Page 5)

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(Mis. 214. 18-12-39)

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Hindu Organ.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1939.

A SAD FEATURE OF INDIAN POLITICS

A SAD FEATURE OF INDIAN politics today is the part that is being played by MR. M. A. JINNAH of the Muslim League. He has put himself forward as the spokesman of the Muslim Community and as such expects the Congress to dance to his fanciful tunes if the latter means to win Swaraj for India. There are Muslims in and out of the Congress who disclaim his leadership. But he has so artfully insinuated himself into a position of vantage, strengthened by the policy of the Imperial Government, from where he is able to put a clog in the wheel of India's progress. The British Government have made Hindu-Muslim agreement as a preliminary condition for the grant of Dominion status to India. They know that emphasis on this condition will create a situation that cannot be easily tackled by the best of statesmen from any part of the world. Mr. JINNAH, a quondam Congressman, is now the bitterest enemy of the Congress which he has the temerity to characterise as a Hindu body, despite the fact that it is the only All-India organisation that repre-

sents all classes and communities. He wants the Congress to acknowledge his Muslim League as the sole representative of the Muslim community, a demand which the Congress and an appreciable section of Muslims refuse to accede. It seems that Mr. JINNAH has therefore sworn vengeance on the Congress and is determined to oppose it tooth and nail. The Congress leaders, nevertheless, went very far to placate him. MR. JAWAHARLAL NEHRU, it was thought, would succeed. But he is now disgusted with the ways of this arch angel of communalism and declares his inability to carry on any negotiations with MR. JINNAH, who is out to wreak vengeance on the Congress. The communal problem in the country, declared MR. NEHRU, was not communal, but purely political. MR. JINNAH's intransigence is shrewdly suspected to have been inspired by considerations of personal pride and prestige. If the imperial Government followed in the case of India the democratic principles they so zealously practise and profess in the conduct of their affairs at home, matters would have easily solved themselves. The Congress, a non-communal party which ran the majority of the Provincial Governments, is the only party according to democratic practice, which can speak for the whole of Indian India. If the British Government are not prepared to recognise this fact, then the Indian problem is bound to remain unsolved, so long as there is a single loud-mouthed Muslim who can create a rift in Indian politics. This is the unfortunate position in which India finds herself today. It is to be hoped that British statemanship will rise to the occasion and find a way out of the impasse.

NEHRU—JINNAH TALKS

No Basis for Talks Says Mr. Nehru

Bombay, Dec. 14.

The view that the communal problem in this country was not communal in the accepted sense of the term, but purely political was expressed by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru addressing a public meeting this evening.

He said that the acceptance or even a tacit approval of Mr. Jinnah's three pronouncements on his part would mean that there were only three courses left open to him—to leave the country for all time, to retire to the Himalayas or to put an end to himself.

He would do none of those things.

Pandit Nehru felt utterly unable to carry on any negotiations with Mr. Jinnah in these circumstances.

He wrote to Mr. Jinnah that his recent pronouncements were of such a character that there was no basis at all for him (Pandit Nehru) to have any talks with him on the issues concerned.

Graf Spee Trapped

Enemy Pocket Battle-ship

Will She Slip out in Darkness?

Montevideo, Saturday.

IT is learned that the Admiral Graf Spee is preparing to leave Montevideo port at any moment. It is believed that the Uruguayan authorities have given her until midnight tomorrow (4 a.m. G. M. T., Monday) to depart. It was earlier reported that the pocket battleship had been ordered to leave by 5 p.m., local time, tomorrow. It is understood that the time limit expires in 72 hours from the time when the Uruguayan naval experts presented their report to the Government on the condition of the warship. If the Admiral Graf Spee does not leave by the zero hour fixed, she will be interned for the duration of the war.

The London morning papers state that the pocket-battleship busy re-fuelling last night and also took aboard steel plates for repairing the holes in her hull, but this is a difficult task as local Uruguayan workers have refused to help repair the warship. The newspapers differ as regards the hour when the time-limit expires, but most expect that the vessel will make a dash for the open sea before then.

The belief that the Admiral Graf Spee is preparing to slip out at any moment without waiting for her repairs to be completed is not supported by the captains of the sunk British ships who have been released from the battleship. They regard it as unlikely that any attempt will be made by the Graf Spee to run the gauntlet of the British warships patrolling the mouth of the River Plate unless definite orders are received from Berlin.

Workmen have arrived from Buenos Aires (The Argentine) to repair the battleship. It is understood that they will not begin until tomorrow at the earliest. They have come from Buenos Aires because the workmen of the only firm in Montevideo capable of making the repairs refused the task because of their anti-Nazi views.

The general belief in Montevideo is that, if the Graf Spee leaves, she will slip out under cover of darkness to minimise the risk of being intercepted by British warships. One suggestion is that she may make a dash for Buenos Aires and again take refuge, thus prolonging the situation and leaving more time for a final decision. It is reported, without confirmation, however, that the American countries may protest against the violation of the neutrality zone.

U. S. Story to Royal Navy

New York, Friday.

The "New York Daily News" says editorially: "The British Navy's nailing of the German sea-raider, Admiral Graf Spee, is likely to prove a decisive battle of the war—decisive in favour of the Allies. The victory shows that the British are holding unbreakable control of the sea and means that the Allies can eventually starve Germany into submission. Hitler will be wise to begin thinking of another peace offer."

The "New York Times" says: "The final discovery of the Admi-

FINLAND CALLS UP RESERVISTS

BRITISH WAR MATERIALS TO FINLAND

GOVERNMENT'S DECISION

Helsinki, Friday.

While the Finnish armies continued today to hold the Russian attacks on practically every front, a proclamation has been issued by the Finnish Government calling up the last class of reservists. As a result, all men up to the age of 40 and all officers up to the age of 60 will now be mobilized. Men over 60 are theoretically exempt, but already many over this age are serving in some capacity.

One of the bravest of the Finnish companies now at the front is commanded by Lieut. Lutilainen, who has been nicknamed "Terror of Morocco," owing to his distinguished service in the French Foreign Legion and elsewhere.

A Russian destroyer has been damaged and, it is believed, sunk by a coastal battery in the Turku Archipelago, north of Helsinki, in the Baltic. Russian aircraft today dropped bombs on a few localities southwest of the Finnish archipelago and the Petsamo district, but did no damage. Finnish aircraft made numerous reconnaissances and set fire to a column of fuel lorries today.

War Material from Britain

London, Friday.

In connection with the Prime Minister's statement in the House of Commons on Thursday—that the Government had decided to permit the release and the immediate delivery to Finland by manufacturers of a number of aircraft—it is learned that, in addition to these aircrafts and a quantity of gas-masks, the Government will release claims to such war materials desired by Finland as can be spared by British needs. The necessary export and other licences will be granted to those manufacturers with whom Finland may place orders.

Some war-like stores have already left England, going via Norway and Sweden for safe passage.

A New Registrar of Marriages

Mr. C. Chitsabaisan of Neervely has been appointed Registrar of Marriages for the Division of Valigamam North and East. He has his office as Neervely.

ral Graf Spee after weeks of search and chivving and harassing tactics which forced her in-so port, must be counted a major victory for the British.

"The British success has been achieved through those qualities for which the Silent Service has long been famous—skilful seamanship and dogged courage."

"The pocket-battleship, although of ingenious construction, is plainly not the final answer to everything. The chief political interest in the affair is the completeness with which it blew up the 300 miles neutral zone (off the North and South American coasts—that singular product of the Pan-American conference."

HOW GOVERNMENT COULD ENCOURAGE LOCAL PRODUCE

Committee Says a Great deal could be Done

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE

"THE Committee recognizes that much has been done to encourage the purchase of local produce, and that the machinery exists for the purpose; but they are not satisfied that a great deal more could not be done," observes the Committee appointed to examine the question of purchase by Government so as to encourage local enterprise and industry. The Committee further observes:

Difficulties undoubtedly still persist. The Government Storekeeper has to contend with an unwillingness on the part of departments to accept the Ceylon-made article; instances brought to the notice of the Committee included, for example, strong objections raised by certain Heads of Departments in Colombo to the supply of locally-made cloth for peons' coats. Such an attitude cannot but discourage producers, and every effort should be made to modify it. Only if manufacturers can depend on an established Government practice of local purchases, and on encouragement of industries through such purchases, can the procedure to be followed by the Government Storekeeper be expected to yield satisfactory results. At present a manufacturer starting a new line cannot be reasonably certain that he will get encouragement from Government by way of purchase of his article.

Another main difficulty is to decide how far Government should press a policy of purchase of locally-made goods for its departments in preference to imported goods where the quality and durability of the former are inferior or prices are substantially higher. We do not consider that the Treasury Circular reproduced as Appendix I. to this report goes far enough; it should emphasize in definite terms the preference which Government expects all departments to give to the local article. The hesitation of individual officers must be overridden; for any lukewarm attitude on the part of Government intensifies the difficulties which pioneer manufacturing enterprises have to overcome. It is generally an admitted fact that in countries industrially nascent the public accustomed to patronize imported manufactures are extremely reluctant to purchase indigenous articles. This reluctance is due partly to the force of habit and partly to the absence of an industrial consciousness. In such circumstances it is all the more incumbent on the part of Government to give a lead to the public by purchasing indigenous manufactures. We suggest, therefore, that since the standard rate of import duty is now 15 per cent. the margin of 10 per cent. only in favour of local product allowed in the Treasury Circular should be increased to the higher figure, and reference should be required to the Deputy Financial Secretary only where the local price exceeds that of the comparable im-

ported article by 15 to 25 per cent.

It has been suggested that the Government Storekeeper should do more than he does now to assist local manufacturers whose goods are rejected. We consider that he does now as much as can be expected in this direction with his present staff, and that if his duties were increased in this respect two or three technical officers would have to be attached to his department. But this necessity must be faced; the assistance available to would-be as well as existing local manufacturers should be greatly extended. New enterprises could be greatly stimulated if before the venture is launched and capital sunk therein, manufacturers could be advised on the acceptability of samples helped to attain the required standard, and assured of regular orders provided it is maintained. We propose a solution set out in our second recommendation below.

It must further be observed that the acceptance of local tenders in itself will increase the work of the Government Storekeeper, since his department must carry out the process of inspection which is done as regards imported goods by the Crown Agents for the Colonies. We fully recognize that if the acceptance of our recommendations leads to any considerable increase in the proportion of local goods bought or of imported goods locally purchased, this will necessitate an additional staff officer in the Government Stores Department, apart from other increases among subordinate and technical staff. We suggest, however, that Government should be prepared to meet such additional expenditure if it is likely to assist local producers, manufacturers or trading firms; and to determine whether the desired advance can best be achieved merely by strengthening the Government Stores Department, or whether it is necessary in addition to add to the staff of the Departments of the Government Analyst or of Commerce and Industries. In any case the closest co-operation is essential between these departments.

Recommendations

The Committee proposes the following alterations of the present practice. We recommend that—

(a) Twice a year there should be a notification in the local papers publishing for general information a schedule of articles required by Government which are being or might be made in Ceylon, and inviting manufacturers of such articles to send their names to the Government Storekeeper for inclusion in his list. In accordance with his present practice the Government Storekeeper will call upon persons named in the list to tender before placing orders for imported articles.

(b) The onus determining what articles are to appear in the schedule should not rest wholly on the Government Storekeeper. The Director

Chinese Launch Attack

Three Towns Raided

Chungking, Dec. 15.

The Chinese have launched a general attack on the Yangtze front and are making good progress.

They claim to have captured a number of strategic points and also state that the South China Japanese army is bogged at Nanning and that the Chinese continue to exact heavy toll by ceaselessly attacking the route from Nanning to the sea.

Three Towns Raided

Launching lightning attacks small Chinese mobile columns within the past week fought their way into Taiyuan, Nanchang and Hangchow three provincial capitals occupied by the Japanese and set fire to munition dumps and supply depots before withdrawing.

No attempt was made to hold these strong military bases. Well-informed quarters in Chungking are of opinion that the attacks were principally designed to prevent the Japanese sending reinforcements to the Manning area, where the Chinese are expected to launch a big offensive in an attempt to capture that strategic city.

of Commerce and Industries might profitably compare the complete list of Government's requirements with those for which local tenders are invited, and investigate the possibility of increasing the number of articles which might be brought locally. In so doing he should encourage suggestions from the public; and also give special attention to the possibility of replacing imported articles with local products which though not identical in character, would offer adequate substitutes—such as wooden instead of iron bedsteads, local leather for cloth in the bindings of Government publications, brass instead of aluminium or iron ware for cooking utensils, &c.

(c) There should be close and continuous co-operation generally between the Government Storekeeper and the Department of Commerce and Industries. Where all local tenders of a given article are rejected on the ground of quality or price samples of the most promising tenders should be forwarded in all cases with a short report to the Director of Commerce and Industries who will pass the reports to the appropriate officer of his department for consideration whether any steps can usefully be taken to advise or otherwise assist the local manufacturer to improve the quality of his article or reduce its cost.

It appears to us further, if we may venture somewhat beyond our strict terms of reference, that the following suggestion might with advantage be considered:—

(d) Tenders should regularly be invited locally, as well as through the Crown Agents, for the supply of all special requirements especially where large quantities are involved; and also as far as practicable for the supply of stock requirements, in order that a comparison of quotations may be made and orders be placed in the cheaper market. This procedure should in the first instance be ap-

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THE NEW WORLD TO BE

FREEDOM FOR COMMON PEOPLE

SIR STAFFORD ON NEW DEMOCRACY

Allahabad, Dec. 10.

Sir Stafford Cripps, addressing the students this morning, under the auspices of the Allahabad University Union, gave an idea of the "new world which might be evolved and which every nation should make efforts to bring about as a result of the major international tragedy which is being enacted to-day." "In this world it will not be enough," said Sir Stafford, "merely to have planned economy for the benefit of the common peoples of the world; there should also be a large degree of democratic freedom for the common people in the new scheme of things."

"Some form of planned control," continued Sir Stafford, is essential and the doctrine of *laissez faire* has disappeared from the political field for good, it was once believed that, by a slow process of evolution, we would arrive at a stage of civilisation in which the common peoples of the world would come into their own. But it has been demonstrably proved during the last twenty years, that matters, if they are allowed to drift, have tendency to affect adversely the interests of the common people. The vested interests go on asserting themselves, and power tends to concentrate in the hands of the ruling classes as contrasted with what may be called the masses of the people."

Sir Stafford said that some form of planned economic life was essential, and it had been recognised to be so generally. But different countries had put the interests of different groups in the primary position in their planning. In Russia planning put the interests of the working masses in the forefront. In Germany special attention was paid to the middle classes and the small capitalists. In Britain, the big capitalists and financiers came into their own, and so on. Thus the talk of democracy became a mere catch phrase. Its significance differed in the mouths of different people.

"A Great Educational Process"

"We have now to create," observed Sir Stafford, "a common democratic idea throughout the world which will be based on planned economy and in which the interests of the common peoples of the world will be primary. This planning will create a whole range of new freedom which the world has never seen before. An example of this planning I saw in the Basic Training College here yesterday. It is truly a great educational process. So far from diminishing the area of freedom by the State, such national effort will greatly extend the whole range of education. In this planning all other interests will be subservient to the educational, social and economic interests of the common peoples. However, one thing will have to be guarded

(Continued on page 4)

Letter to the Editor

THE JAFFNA URBAN
RATE PAYERS' CENTRAL
ASSOCIATION

Sir,—At a Public Meeting of Rate-payers held in the Jaffna Esplanade some months back, the principal object of which was to oppose the constitution of a Municipal Council in Jaffna in place of the present Urban District Council, a Rate-payers' Association was formed with the above name.

The Committee, appointed at that meeting, considered that an Association of that type should be organised in a constitutional manner to serve as a permanent organisation to protect the interests of the Rate-payers. A sub-committee was appointed to draft the Rules and Constitution for the Association. It was entrusted by the sub-committee to draft the Rules and Constitution. The drafted rules after being approved by the sub-committee were adopted with slight alterations at a General Meeting of the Association held on 5-9-39.

In the adopted rules the objects of the Association were defined as follows:—"The objects of the Association shall be to safeguard the interests of the Rate-payers, who are resident within the Jaffna Urban Area, or who, if not so resident have property in that area for which they pay assessment tax, in the following matters:—(a) Assessment and recovery of taxes by the Local Authority (b) Public Utility Services provided by the Local Authority such as Scavenging, Conservancy, Lighting, opening and maintaining of Communications or any other service (c) Keeping a keen watch over Local Administration generally (d) Promotion of the Social, Economical and Physical welfare of the residents of the Jaffna Urban Area and (e) Any other matter in which the interests of the Rate-payers are concerned.

The Rules provide for the constitution of Branch Ratepayers' Associations in the different Wards of the Urban Area and their affiliation with the Central Association. They also provide for the election of representatives to the Committee of the Central Association from the different Wards.

The Rules have been printed both in English and Tamil. It is hoped that a General Meeting of the Association will be held at an early date to elect permanent Office Bearers and Committee to carry out the objects of the Association in a constitutional manner.

Besides the Metropolis, other important Towns in the Island such as Galle and Kandy, have Ratepayers' Association of their own to safeguard the interests of the ratepayers. Besides the above Municipal Towns the progressive Urban District Council Town of Dehiwala—Mount Lavinia has a well organised Ratepayers' Association working in its area.

Jaffna, which is the second largest Town in the Island in point of population, should have an efficiently working Ratepayers' Association to co-operate and collaborate with the Local Authority in promoting the welfare ratepayers in the Jaffna Urban Area.

I am, Sir,
Yours in service,
Jaffna,
12-12-39, C. ARULAMBALAM.

How Government Could Encourage
Local Produce

(Continued from page 3)

plied to a limited number of articles and extended later to others if it is found desirable. Commodities on which it is agreed that this experiment might first be tried are:

Asphalt, cyanide gas, barbed wire, galvanized iron buckets and tubes, mild steel bars, rolled steel joists, B. R. C. fabric, cement, jumper steel, steel mammothies, steel plates, asbestos plain and corrugated sheets and ridgings, pig iron, coal tar, gunpowder, disinfectant, mosquito netting, khaki bleached and unbleached drill, blue serge cloth, sheeting and shirting; electric cables and any other electrical goods recommended by the Director of Electrical Undertakings; bismuth carbonate, epsom salts, potassium bromide and iodide, sodium salicylate, compound sulphur ointment, turpentine, cotton wool, lint, insulin, and quinine.

On this point we are unwilling to accept the "non-possimus" attitude expressed by the mercantile representatives whom we examined. We consider it important that Government should actively encourage the purchase of imported articles through local importers and indenting firms. As long as the C. I. F. prices of the articles do not exceed the imported price of materials supplied through the Crown Agents, preference should be given to purchase of locally supplied articles. Where such articles are imported for the Government by local importers they should continue to be allowed entry free of Customs duty. Where they are already in Ceylon, the Customs duty paid on them by the importers should be taken into account in making the comparison with the Crown Agents' prices.

We do not advocate a radical change but the present system of getting supplies through the Crown Agents requires modification in several ways so as to keep abreast of modern trade conditions and tendencies. In these days of intensive trade competition when several local firms hold exclusive selling arrangements with manufacturers, their services may well be utilized to secure more advantageous prices. It is an admitted fact that manufacturers and exporting firms quote very special prices if the inquiry is for Government requirements for they know such requirements are large and likely to be repeated at frequent intervals. More favourable freight rates can be obtained from the Shipping Lines if they can anticipate the shipment of fairly large quantities at regular intervals. We would emphasize therefore that quotations should be called for concurrently from both the Crown Agents as well as from local importing firms. Reasonable time should be given to local firms to get into touch with their overseas principals to quote rock bottom prices. The system adopted by the Colombo Municipality may with advantage be followed by Government as regards imported supplies. The Municipality obtains competitive quotations through local firms as well as from their London Agents and further they keep a list of reliable firms and this list is revised once a year in June, after insertion in the local press of advertisements inviting would be contractors to send in their names if they desire to quote for the

supply of articles specified in the advertisements.

In addition to the above, certain detailed suggestions arose during our investigations, on which we offer the following recommendations:—

(1) The Civil Medical Stores should consult the Director of Commerce and Industries as to the possibility of supplying all bandages locally; and with the Commissioner for the Development of Agricultural Marketing for the supply of castor oil and of ginger.

(2) We are not satisfied that local timber is being exploited on economic lines, and recommend that the Forest Department or Railway should in the first instance provide one or more sheds for the seasoning of local timber, and its steaming in marketable sizes, which should then be used by the Public Works Department in preference to imported varieties. Public Works contracts should further always provide for the use of local produce where serviceable. It is moreover doubtful whether seasoning by mere exposure to the air is altogether satisfactory. We advocate therefore that the desirability of installing a kiln for the chemical seasoning of local timber be fully investigated.

(3) In order to encourage organized production and distribution, public institutions such as hospitals and prison should be required to obtain their supplies of milk, eggs, rice, &c., as far as possible through the Marketing Department.

[The Committee consisted of Messrs H. J. Huxham (Chairman), N. Howavitarne, M. F. Parfitt, I. X. Pereira and R. Sri Pathmanathan.]

Junior Domestic
Examination

Pt. Pedro, Thursday.

The following students from the Girls' Bilingual School, Point Pedro, have come out successful in the Junior Domestic Examination recently held.

Misses. Easvaradevi Arumugam, Kanagammah Kandiah, Maniccam Srinivasagam, M. Thirumany Murugupillai, Thevanappillai Velupillai, Packialachamy A. Vapilli and Mahesvary Venapar.

THE NEW WORLD
TO BE

(Continued from page 3)

against. Mere planned economy may lead to Fascism, Nazism or other brands of totalitarianism in which the individual is lost in the machine and has no freedom or liberty. To make democracy really assert itself, planned economy should be coupled with essential freedom and liberty for the common peoples of the world. There should be no personal or sectional interests."

Tribute to Congress

Sir Stafford said that the history of the Indian National Congress was the history of great self-sacrifice, and the cause of the Congress was not only national but international in its significance. Freedom and liberty were indivisible and international in their bearing. India's freedom, concluded Sir Stafford, would mark a great step forward in the interests of the common peoples of the world.

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 alias 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 Man. Palaniappa Chettiar of do

Minors 7. Pana Ravanna Mana Alagappa Chettiar of do.

8. RM. AL. RM. Alagappa Chettiar of do.

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. Coomarasurier 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 Naval North
Deceased.
Kanapathippillai Kanagasabai of Naval

Vs. Petitioner.

Kanapathippillai Kanagasabai of Naval 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. Thirunavakarasu 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)

WAR NEWS REVIEW AND COMMENTARY

(Continued from page 1)

some do ask, why one should not practise Realpolitik, and come to terms with Germany.

The answer is implicit in Lord Halifax's own declaration. First of all, even if you leave out of count, all considerations of honour and justice, and elementary international decency, and merely follow our interlocutors in their chosen field of Realism in politics, you must come to the conclusion that an armistice settles nothing, if you make the armistice with men who have an ineradicable incapacity to keep the plighted word, and who only bow before the argument of force. But then if Great Britain had ever been sincere about its war aims, it would now be for it the depth of ignominy to sacrifice Poland after having proclaimed to the world that it entered the war primarily to fulfil its guarantee to Poland. It is to the credit of Britain that no responsible spokesman of the nation has ever publicly suggested that Poland should be immolated on the altar of British self-interest. When Britain entered the war, it knew full well that no immediate help could have been given to Poland. It was painfully aware that Poland had to pass through the crucible of suffering, and that the final resurrection and triumph of that courageous nation was to become a reality only after an arduous victory over Germany had been obtained, and that probably after a long drawn struggle. It is therefore undoubted that the fine traditions of honour of both Allied countries will never permit them to betray the Polish people to whom they have given their promised word.

In his speech Lord Halifax spoke feelingly of the unjust aggression to which the brave Finnish people had been subjected at the hands of the Bolsheviks.

Now at least will rise up from every heart a feeling of thankfulness that Providence has prevented Great Britain from entering into an alliance with the Bolshevik Government. Many of us who had studied the subversive activities of the Communist International (called the Comintern) and who knew of the intimate connection between the Bolshevik Government and the Comintern, were filled with a very great anxiety lest in order to interpose what appeared to be an effective check to Nazi aggression, Great Britain might conclude an alliance with Bolshevik Russia. To us the very thought was a nightmare. We rejoiced therefore when that alliance did not materialise. But many there were who at that time could not help feeling that Great Britain should have been more accommodating and that she should at all costs have made a pact with the Soviet. The invasion of Poland and its Bolshevization opened the eyes of most of these critics of British policy to the real nature of Soviet Russia. But there were still a few who had a sneaking regard for a country which had been so often called the greatest peace-loving democracy of the world.

But even these have finally been convinced by the wanton aggression of Finland. It now appears that one of the chief reasons for the failure of the Anglo-French-Soviet mutual assistance pact was the refusal of the Allies to barter away the freedom of the Baltic nations. In return for Soviet aid to the allies, England and France were to persuade the Baltic countries to put at the disposal of the Soviet fleet naval bases on the coast of Aesel and Dago and the Aaland Islands.

During the week the fighting in Finland has been severe. The port of Petsamo in the North, eagerly coveted by the Soviet, as it is one of the few ice-free harbours in the Arctic has been the scene of many a ding-dong battle, and it would appear to be still in Finnish hands. Salmijaervi the centre of the nickel zone has been severely bombed and is now almost destroyed. In the South, Helsinki has been repeatedly bombed. There is a great deal of fighting in the region of the Karelian Isthmus. Owing to the lakes and marsh lands, the Finns have an advantage which they are using to the full although they are opposed by a force which is calculated to be at least twice as strong as theirs.

The Russians have a motorised army, while the Finns are skis, are better able to move about on the frozen lakes and concentrate on the menaced points. Many Soviet tanks have been caught in traps, while others have been attacked by Finnish tanks and destroyed. The Soviet air force is without doubt very much more powerful than that of Finland. But they have not had it all their own way and the Finnish anti-aircraft guns have worked with deadly accuracy. The Finns have a series of defences similar to the Maginot Line called the Mannerheim Line, and if we are to trust to Finnish sources of information, a breach has not yet been made in this defensive wall. The Finns have also made some attacks, both by air, and by means of armed motor boats. But it is their defence which has been truly astounding. It has roused the admiration of the world. A people of at most 4 millions are pitted against 180 millions and after all these days are yet holding their own. A fervent appeal has been made by Finland to the world to help its cause. The League Council has met, and is about to expel Russia from the League. It seems that the Russian defence is that it is not at war with Finland. It is only concerned with a small punitive expedition, because it does not recognise the Helsinki Government. It seems that the true Government is that of a community called Kuoinen with whom Stalin has entered into a pact for the cession of certain Finnish territories in exchange for money and other territories. It is true that the Finnish people do not accept the Kussinen government. But then they ought to, and that is why Stalin is anxious to persuade them by effective means as to what is good for them. Moreover, continues the Bolshevik defence, it is well known that the Helsinki govern-

ment was threatening Leningrad and in sheer self-defence Stalin had to intervene. If the League Council is unwilling to see the point, says Stalin, so much the worse for the League.

It is to be feared that beyond expelling Russia from the League and recommending the cause of Finland to its members, the League will not be able to come to the effective assistance of the unfortunate victim of aggression. What Finland is asking for is not mere sympathy but tangible assistance. Sweden is sending some volunteers, the United States has suspended the Finnish debt payments due to it, and some few aeroplanes have been dispatched. But however heroic the resistance of the valiant Finns, unless real assistance is given to them, and that very soon, they cannot but be swallowed up by the great Bolshevik monster. After Finland, it will be the turn of Sweden and Norway. As regards Sweden, the Soviet may not have it all its own way, as its iron ore is coveted by Germany also.

There was an article in the organ of the Comintern that Rumania was to be obliged to enter into a mutual assistance pact with the Soviet. That this represents the Russian view has now been officially denied by the Bolshevik Government, but the article is nevertheless significant. Rumania is naturally very much alarmed. In the Baltic it was merely a question of Russia and Germany partitioning the countries as they liked. But the problem is slightly more complicated in the Balkans. For there is Turkey, on one side which has made a pact with the Allies. On the other side Italy is keenly interested in the Balkans as it has officially declared during the week through the Fascist Grand Council. It is true that this same Grand Council has affirmed the maintenance of Italo-German relations. There is nothing new in that. But the recent attacks on Soviet Russia that have been published in the Italian papers give ample proof that Italy will certainly intervene if the Soviet endeavours to swallow up the Balkans.

Before leaving the Eastern scene of operations, I must mention that evidence is accumulating of the Russian terror in Poland. It is remaining true to type.

On the Western Front there is nothing of great importance. There were a number of raids by the Germans at different points of the line, but they were unsuccessful. There have been a few air attacks on both sides. The British attack on Heligoland now seems to have done more damage to the German Navy than was realized at first. The magnetic mine has no secrets for the Allies, but a method has not yet been perfected to deal effectively with the menace. German submarines are being destroyed fairly rapidly, and observers doubt whether the rate of production of new submarines can keep pace with the rate of destruction.

Mr. Churchill said during the week that a new method of detection of the submarine called the Asdic method was increasingly proved to be effective. Shipping continued to suffer from submarines, mines and the pocket battleships but the losses are already becoming less. During the

Order Nisi

IN 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.)

Sale of Toddy Rents 1939-40 Mullaitivu District

Notice is hereby given that the Assistant Government Agent, Vavuniya, will receive sealed tenders for the purchase, subject to Toddy Rent Sale Conditions published in Government Gazette No. 8448 of April 28, 1939 and General conditions applicable to all Excise Licenses, of the exclusive privilege of selling fermented toddy by retail in the undermentioned taverns during the period 1st March, 1940 to September 30, 1940. For further particulars see Government Gazette No. 8560 of December 15, 1939. The conditions of Sale and any other required information may be obtained at the Vavuniya Kachcheri.

S. S. NAVARATNAM,
Asst. Govt. Agent.

The Kachcheri,
Vavuniya, 11th December, 1939.

List of Taverns referred to:

No	Division	Local Area	Date & Time of closing	Place of Tenders
2	Maritime	Valsayama-pattus dam	16.1.1940 10.00a.m.	
6	do	dam Alampil	16.1.1940 10.10a.m.	
10	Vavuniya	Kanagara-North yan Kulam	16.1.1940 10.20a.m.	
9	do	Kurisodda kulam	16.1.1940 10.30a.m.	

[G. 34, 18-12-39]

week the retaliatory embargo on German exports carried by neutral vessels was brought into operation. The U. S. A. has declared that it does not accept the principle of such an embargo. This difficulty will no doubt be surmounted in a short time.

The immediate future is difficult to foresee. But even if there be a certain number of reverses in store for the Allies in the near future, it seems hardly a matter of doubt that ultimate victory will be theirs. For, not only have they immense economic resources but they are in possession of this formidable moral advantage that the quasi-universality of the allied citizens have a profound conviction of the justice of their cause. For such a cause no sacrifice will be counted too great.

Modern Weapons of War

(Continued from page 1)

float is employed by many primitive organisms as well. The contractile vacuoles of the *Protozoans* and the floats of the *Coelenterates* are both used by the respective possessors for the purpose of floating on water surface.

The mollusc, by name *Sepia* or Cuttlefish, possesses an organ by which it is able to eject a black secretion. This secretion renders the surrounding water dark and inaccessible to its enemies. This reminds us of the present-day arrangements of the mines making safe waters dangerous to voyage.

Poisonous Weapons Among Animals

Offending the adversaries with poisons is very common in the animal world. There are numerous poisonous insects and reptiles like spiders, snakes, etc., which inflict poisonous wounds on their enemies. Poisonous weapons are also found to occur even in still lower animals such as *Coelenterates* (or the family of Sea-anemones). All the animals belonging to this group possess certain organs called the thread cells of the *nematozoans*. These cells are arranged in a battery around the mouth of the animal and they collectively constitute an effective weapons for offence and defence. Each cell is capsule shaped and contains a poisonous fluid and a coiled thread inside. At the slightest touch, the cell bursts out and the thread is thrown out of the sac to its full length piercing any soft substance with which it may come into contact. For the small animalcules in the water the bursting out of the thread cells is more than what poison gas bombs are to humanity.

Regarding the colour scheme adopted by Nature in protecting the various organisms from their enemies, volumes have been written by many eminent scientists. Suffice it to say that all animals are coloured in such a way as to best secure their safety and other interests and not so as to ex-

pose them to danger. The dark colour of a fish on the upper (dorsal) side and the pale white hue on its under-side explains this. When looked from above the black colour coincides with the deep black sheet of water. When observed from below the pale hue is in tone with the colour of the thin layer of water rendered transparent by the outer light rays. The principle underlying colouration in Nature is protection and the same principle has been employed by the A. R. P. Authorities in dimming the lights in streets and vehicles and painting the tram and bus tops with black, to avoid the notice of enemies.

Air-Raid Protection

Another modern air raid precaution is to protect oneself inside an unbreakable bin or box made for the purpose. This idea of protecting by hard cover is inherent in all shell fish. The shell fish residing in shallow waters are subject to waves and their shells save them from dashing against hard substances.

The arranging of sand bags around a building to protect it from raids is also not new to Nature. Many microscopic animals (*Protozoans*) coat their bodies with a protective envelope on which they imbed sand grains. Some *Annelid* worms also cover their bodies with sand particles.

Thus we see that Nature has foreseen in the animal world many of our modern weapons for offence and other contrivances for defence. But animals with animals damned.

"Firm concord holds; men only disagree
Of creatures rational.....
.....and levy cruel wars
Wasting the earth, each other to destroy."

(The Madras Hindu.)

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