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LIQUIDATION OF ILLITERACY

South Indian Adult Education Conference

MR. K. SANTANAM'S PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS

SOME practical suggestions for the speedy liquidation of illiteracy, were made by Mr. K. Santanam, M. L. A. (Central), presiding over the second South Indian Adult Education Conference at Madura.

In the course of his address, Mr. Santanam observed that there were two aspects to adult education. One was to eradicate illiteracy and the other to enable the literates to use their literacy to acquire knowledge and broaden their minds. There was no doubt intimate connection between the two. For without the removal of illiteracy, adult education would affect only the small number who were literate at present. Mr. Santanam emphasised that their methods of dealing with illiteracy and adult education, in its proper sense, had to be radically different. In the case of illiteracy their attempt should be to stamp it out at one bound within a short time. They should convert the campaign into a mighty national carnival and make it simply impossible for anyone to continue to be illiterate. On the other hand, measures to give proper education to the adults should be carefully planned and continued over long periods if they were to be of any real value.

A Staggering Problem

Proceeding, Mr. Santanam said that the problem of illiteracy in this country was staggering in its magnitude. According to the census of 1931, literates in India increased from 7 to 8 per cent and there was no reason to believe that the rate of progress had increased in the present decade. They were faced with the appalling fact that the literates in 1931 were actually less than the increase of population between 1921 and 1931 and the illiterates in 1931 numbered more than the entire population in 1921. Thus illiteracy

was actually increasing and if this deterioration was to be arrested, it could be done only by shock tactics which should aim at liquidating illiteracy altogether in a short period. For this purpose, he suggested that they should first seek to produce the conviction that it was a positive disgrace to be illiterate. They should make people understand that illiteracy was a blot on the village and that its eradication was the joint responsibility of the entire village. Intense competition between the villages should be started to eradicate illiteracy altogether and the Provincial Government, local bodies and Congress Committees and other public bodies should assist this competition. A time-limit of one year should be fixed for the completion of this programme and it should be put forward as a political programme that a punitive tax of Rs. 5 per adult illiterate between the ages of 12 and 40 would be levied as an additional cess on land revenue and would be devoted to liquidate illiteracy in the village. Exemption might be given to every landholder who had made his own family and the families of his tenants and labourers literate. A similar responsibility might be laid in urban areas on employers of hired labour. Substantial prizes should be offered to the villages which set the pace for the movement and abolish illiteracy. Mr. Santanam further suggested that four prizes of Rs. 500 each might be offered for each taluk. It would cost five lakhs for the whole province and might be shared by the Provincial Government and local bodies. It might be expected that at least ten times the number of villages would compete.

Adult Education Methods

With regard to post-literate adult education, Mr. Santanam

(Continued on Page 4.)

MILITARY ADMINISTRATION IN ANCIENT INDIA

Laws of War

By S. R. Muttukumar

(Concluded from our issue of 8-2-40.)

CHAPTER VIII.

IT was the duty of every Kshatriya King in ancient India to fight, when the occasion demanded it. Tiruvalluvar, therefore, says: "Those (Kings), who do not through sheer indifference destroy the pride of those who hate them, will certainly not exist even to breathe" (1) Manu also says: "A King, who, while he protects his people, is defied by an enemy of equal greater, or less force, must remember his duty as a Kshatriya, and not shrink from battle. Never to turn back from battle, to protect his people, and honour the Brahmans, are the highest duties of kings, and ensures their felicity. Kings who, seeking to slay each other, exert their utmost in battle, and do not turn back, ascend after death direct to heaven" (2) And yet, the laws of war among the ancient Hindus were more honourable and humane than among other nations.

Laws of War in the North

Apastamba says: "The Aryans forbid the slaughter of those who have laid down their arms, of those who beg for mercy with flying hair or joined hands, and of fugitives" (3) Boudhayana says: "Let him not fight with those who are in fear, intoxicated, insane, or out of their minds, nor with those who have lost their armour, nor with women, aged men, and Brahmans" (4) Manu also says: "Let no man, engaged in combat, strike his foe with sharp weapons concealed in wood, nor with arrows mischievously barbed or poisoned, nor with darts blazing with fire, nor let him in a car or on horseback strike his enemy down on the ground, nor an effeminate man, nor one who sues for life with joined hands, nor one who flees with loosen-

ed hair, nor one who sits down fatigued, nor one who sleeps, nor one who has lost his coat of mails, nor one who is naked, nor one who is a spectator but not a combatant, nor one who is fighting with another. Calling to mind the duty of honourable men, let him never slay one, who has broken his weapons, nor one who is afflicted with private sorrow nor one who is terrified, nor one who turns his back" (5) Sukra also says the same (6)

Gautama says: "No sin (is committed) by injuring or slaying (foes) in battle, excepting those who have lost their horses, charioteers or arms, those who join their hands (in supplication) those who flee with flying hairs, those who sit down with averted faces, those who have climbed (in flight) on eminences or trees, messengers, and those who declare themselves to be cows or Brahmanas" (7) Apastamba says the same (8)

The expression, "who declare themselves to be cows or Brahmanas" is explained by the translator thus: "Persons who declare themselves to be cows or Brahmanas become inviolable on account of the sacred character of the beings they personate. Historical instances are narrated where conquered kings were forced to appear before their victors, holding grass in their mouths or dancing like peacocks in order to save their lives" (9)

And Megasthenes too vouches for the humane laws of war among the Hindus. "For whereas among other nations, it is usual in the contests of war to ravage the soil, and thus to reduce it to an uncultivated waste, among the Hindus, on the contrary, by whom husbandmen are regarded as a class that is sacred and inviolable, the tillers of the soil, even when battle is raging

(Continued on page 4)

(1) Kural 880

(2) Dharma Shastra, vii. 87-9.

(3) Dharma Sutra, II 5. 10. 11.

(4) Dharma Sutra, I. 10. 18. 11.

(5) Dharma Shastra vii. 90-93.

(6) Sukraniti, IV. vii. 716-21.

(7) Op. cit. X, 17. 18

(8) Op. cit. ii. 5 10 11.

(9) S. B. E. vol ii. p. 229, note

HELP**The Hindu Board of Education**

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(Mis.)

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Jaffna Hindu College.

14-2-40.

(Mis.)

Change of Name

I, Vaitilingam Kandiah, of Perumalkovilady, Vannarponnai East, do hereby inform the Government and the General Public that from this day I shall use and sign my name as

Vaitilingam Sinnadurai.

Perumalkovilady,
Vannarponnai East,
12-2-40.

(Mis. 272, 15, 19, 22-2-40)



Hindu Organ.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1940.

**EDUCATING THE
MASSES**

WE PUBLISH ELSEWHERE AN address by Mr. K. SANTANAM, M. L. A., on the liquidation of illiteracy. He makes very bold suggestions which, if adopted, will certainly solve the problem of illiteracy speedily and effectively. It is possible in a country like India where national organisations, chiefly the Indian National Congress, have prepared the country for the carrying out of such schemes on a wide basis. The masses, though a large percentage of them are illiterate, have learnt to have

confidence in their leaders and in the efficacy of the schemes that have a popular appeal. Thanks to the mass movements led by GANDHIJI, the masses are sound at heart and it is no easy task for any traducer to lead them along any evil path. But even then the need for the liquidation of illiteracy is very keenly felt there. Village libraries, travelling libraries and adult education classes have been organised for this purpose, and very useful work is being carried on in this direction. In Ceylon, we claim a larger percentage of literates than in India. But the literacy here is of a type that does not make itself felt in the national life. There is no doubt compulsory education for children up to a certain age. This only gives them a smattering knowledge of the three R's. The mass of the people lack in general knowledge and in ideas of civic life. They are just so many dry leaves, particularly during election times, moving here and there, carried away by the wiles of campaigners. What the masses need, is a discerning sense which they could be made to acquire by a system of adult education which should help them to view public questions in their proper perspective and act in a manner that would contribute to the public good. They should be taught to respect principles and not persons. If persons are to be respected, it should be done because of the high principles such men represent. The masses in India have learnt this great lesson, in spite of the illiteracy that is still a blot on the country. This has been made possible by the towering personalities of great leaders who have dedicated themselves to the service of the country and to noble ideals. The masses could not but respond to the call of such servants of the country, and the result has been that by following them and learning their methods of work, the Indian masses in general have acquired a sense of discrimination which helps them to choose the right type of leader whom they should follow, and the right cause they should support. In Ceylon we are yet a long way off in this respect. In the absence of leaders who can perform this miracle as in India, the need for adult education cannot be over emphasised. The village committees and other local bodies can take up this task. The Central Government should not stint expenditure on schemes meant for this purpose. If adult franchise should prove useful to the country, adult education should be taken up in all earnestness. Then alone will the Government truly reflect and represent all that is best in the country.

**FOREST OFFICERS IN
POINT PEDRO****Jungles Inspected**

Pt. Pedro, Wednesday.

A deputation from the Point Pedro Maha Jana Sabha met the Assistant Conservator of Forests, Major C. P. Jayawardana, with Mr L. A. T. Abayasundere, District Field Officer and Mr. S. Ponnuswamy, Forester, at the Resthouse, Point Pedro at 10 a.m., the 12th instant. The deputation was led by Mr. Sam T. Solomons, President of the Sabha. On arrival at the Resthouse Major C. P. Jayawardana was garlanded by Mr. Solomons, and Mr. Abayasundere by Mr. M. Philip, the treasurer of the Sabha.

Mr Solomons said that great hardship was being caused to fishermen engaged in curing fish when they had to transport the dried fish from Chundikulam, Point Pedro, as the dried fish got damaged by salt water in transit. The deputation asked for permission from the Forest Department to use for purposes of dunnage the dead twigs from jungles neighbouring Chundikulam. A permit system to use such dead wood for dunnage, and particularly arrangements to have the permits issued at Point Pedro instead of at Jaffna, were asked for.

The Forest Officers gave a full and sympathetic hearing to the deputation and were later taken to the Maha Jana Sabha Office, where over 200 members of the Sabha were present. A demonstration followed, showing how the dead twigs were used at the bottom of 'Vallaus' (small boats) to protect the dried fish.

Later the Officers visited the various private firewood stalls in Point Pedro and examined the kind of wood on sale. Finally Major Jayawardana promised the Deputation that he would recommend to the Head of Department that permits at the rate of 50 cents per cwt. be issued on the first day of the month to those engaged in curing fish.

After lunch, the Forest Officers visited the jungles along the coast near Kudathanai and Kudarappu. Major Jayawardana expressed grave concern at the rate the trees in the jungle were being cut. He said that if the jungle disappeared the sand would shift with the monsoons and cause untold harm to agriculture. Illicit trade in firewood was probably the cause and he wished to make arrangements to put a stop to such traffic. (Cor.)

**FAVOURABLE TRADE
BALANCE****Rise in Exports**

A visible trade balance of Rs. 7,129,000 in favour of Ceylon is shown in the Customs returns for January, 1940, compared with Rs. 2,429,000 in January, 1939, and Rs. 700,000 in January, 1938.

The total imports for the month amounted to Rs. 26,445,807 and the exports, Rs. 33,146,089. These figures include the value of postal articles.

In January, 1939, the value of imports was Rs. 20,778,921 and exports, Rs. 23,204,007.

Tea exports amounted to Rs. 16,711,301; rubber, Rs. 10,777,438; copra, Rs. 208,894.

January figures show a general rise in both imports and exports.

**Amendments to
Education Code****Protest Against
Minister's Scheme**

The Executive Council of the Northern Province Teachers Association at a recent meeting recorded its unqualified protest against the amendments suggested to the Education code.

The most vicious principle in the amendment, declared one speaker, was that of the voluntary nature of the grant. This, it was felt, meant the scrapping of the existing salary scheme, the result of years of agitation.

If Government regarded the grant as a voluntary payment, there was no guarantee that the manager would pay the teachers their stipulated salaries, he could by no means be sure of getting back from the Government what he had spent.

Managers had been penalised and rightly so—for their infringement of the principles and practice laid down by the code. How could the Government with a clean conscience repudiate obligations which it undertook in all solemnity? The Salary Scheme did not certainly contain provision for unilateral repudiation.

The State Councillors of the north, urged another member, should be called upon to declare in public their attitude to the amendments.

After further discussion the following resolution was unanimously passed: "The Executive Committee of the N. P. T. A., records its qualified protest against the amendments suggested to the Education Code, since their effect will be to jeopardise the provisional security of teachers and to cause grave harm to the cause of education".

**Finns Standing Solid
As Rock****Russian Losses Amount
To 40,000 Men**

Helsinki, Wednesday.

The Finns are still standing solid as a rock on the Mannerheim Line.

The Russian losses during the fortnight of their Karelian offensive are now believed to amount to 40,000 men, while the Finns have destroyed 200 tanks in three days.

The small coastal town of Bornga, where it is estimated that 250 bombs were dropped in 15 minutes yesterday, is still burning.

Heavy guns bombarded Viipuri (Viborg) throughout yesterday, but no serious damage is reported. Several hundred planes flew over the Summa sector, bombing and machine-gunning, and it is estimated that over 300,000 projectiles have been hurled in this narrow sector daily.

Positive Anglo-French Aid

New York, Wednesday.

It is persistently reported here that Britain and France are preparing three divisions—one each of Polish, French and Canadian troops—for possible transport to Finland, should the Soviet onslaught succeed or should Germany intervene in Scandinavia.

OFFICERS OVER 55 TO RETIRE

URBAN COUNCIL'S DECISION

CARRIAGE OF FOOD-STUFFS IN BUSES

THE Jaffna Urban Council has decided to retire its Officers who are more than 55 years old.

At the last monthly meeting of the Council, the Chairman, Mr. C. Ponnambalam, stated that in the Works Department there were 25 coolies with eight Overseers to supervise them. He added that five of them were more than 55 years old and could be retired with a pension.

Mr. Sam A. Sabapathy moved that all officers over fifty-five should be given notice. Mr. K. Aiyadurai seconded and the motion was passed.

The Council considered a letter from the Commissioner of Motor Transport calling for suggestions for framing by-laws regarding the carriage of goods in omnibuses. It was suggested that vegetables, poultry, yam, curry stuffs, bags of rice or paddy and other articles of food value, should be allowed in omnibuses.

A letter from the Commissioner of Local Government Board was then considered. It stated that there was no provision in law to grant a rebate of Rs. 750 which the Council had decided to give to the "Gala" and 'bus stand renter for 1939 on account of the control of 'bus traffic by the 'Bus Union and the increase in the price of petrol.

The Chairman said that if the town had a Municipal Council they would have been able to give the rebate without the sanction of the Local Government Board. The Council resolved that the Chairman should write to the Commissioner explaining all the circumstances.

Mr. Sinnathurai asked whether the alternator of one of the engines

CHINESE TRIUMPHS

Japanese Withdraw from Kwangsi

Chungking, Monday.

Further successes in the Chinese counter offensive in Southern Kwangsi are claimed in the latest Chinese military dispatches.

Over 16,000 Japanese are said to have been killed or wounded in three days' fighting in the neighbourhood of Pinyang, where the Chinese have reached the outskirts of the town. Other Japanese units are retreating from Shanling.

The Chinese state that the bad weather is hampering Japanese air action. Chinese military observers declare that Japanese air activity on all the fronts is much less marked than at the start of the war.

The Japanese withdrawal from Kwangsi is admitted in field despatches received in Tokyo. It is stated, however, that the withdrawal is according to plan after "inflicting a crushing blow on 30 Chinese divisions". It is added that the Japanese have now made "a triumphant return to their base."

at the Power House had gone out of order.

The Chairman called up the Electrical Superintendent, who stated that the alternator had gone out of order four or five months ago and that the engineer of the Government Electrical Department had reported how it should be repaired. The Superintendent added that it would cost more than Rs 2,000 to repair. The Government engineer had not reported that it was due to the fault of any officer of the Council.

The Council requested the Chairman to inquire and report on the cause of the alternator going out of order and the officers responsible for it. Until such the question of increments for the Electrical branch will be deferred.

Basic Hindu, Moral And Cultural Instruction

Gita Dharma Mandal's Scheme

Every Hindu boy and girl must know the epitome of Hindu Philosophy.

"The meaning of the Vedas is contained in the second and third chapter of Gita. The rest of the Gita explains the same theme."

Shri Shankaracharya.

"The Basis of the whole theory of the Gita is contained in these chapters. (Second and Third)."

Lokamanya Tilak.

"Every Hindu boy or girl must know Gita. The theme of the Gita is contained in the second chapter and the way to carry out the message is to be found in the third chapter."

Mahatma Gandhi.

The—Gita—Dharma—Mandal is working for the last fifteen years for the spread of the Gita. It popularised the Gita—Jayanti Day celebrations throughout India. Hindus of all schools of thought annually take part in these celebrations. As the Gita is free from narrow dogmatic and sectarian spirit and as its appeal is universal, every Hindu, in modern times, is attracted by the book. Its hold on both the educated and uneducated Hindu is still as firm as ever.

Whatever other religious education a Hindu may get in his life, a working knowledge of the essence of Gita should form the starting point of all other religious knowledge and instruction. By this basic preparation the Hindu will be able to correlate all fragments of religious thought which he may gather afterwards, into a single synthesis.

Owing to the present economic conditions and several other factors, it is difficult for the average Hindu to go through all the seven hundred verses and digest the whole so as to evolve for himself a workable plan to guide his actions in the par-

IF NEAR EAST IS THREATENED

PREPAREDNESS OF ALLIES

FORMIDABLE FORCES STATIONED

Kantara, Tuesday.

IF the Nazis or the Russians strike towards the Near East, the Allies are ready. A formidable force is stationed at vital points in this area and its strength is growing. Today, the Suez Canal zone echoed across the desert as the transports carrying the "Aussies" crept in the darkness up the Suez Canal. The decks resounded with the tramp of troops taking up disembarkation stations. Although it was past midnight, Kantara was alive with excited Arabs eager to welcome the boys from "down under."

One of the biggest armies ever to cross the seas in a single unit arrived in the Near East yesterday. It consisted, says Reuter, of the New Zealand expeditionary force and the second Australian imperial force—so called to distinguish it from the first Australian imperial which fought in the last war.

There is a strong squadron of the Royal Air Force in Egypt, warships of the British Royal Navy at Alexandria and strong British forces in Palestine. The Egyptian army, which three years ago numbered 8,000 men, is much increased in size today. The French are also prepared. In Syria there is a large French army under the command of General Weygand, one of the ablest of French generals. Egypt no longer fears attack. The Suez Canal is safe.

ticular sphere of life in which he moves.

Hence it has become necessary to select a suitable portion from the Gita, for the universal spread of its teachings. The verses in the second and third chapter of the Gita provide us with such an epitome of the Gita.

The oldest commentary on the Gita extant to-day is that of Shri Shankaracharya and it expressly says that the second and third chapters contain the main theme of the Gita. This is so obvious to every reader of Gita that it is unnecessary to dilate upon it any further. Quite naturally, both Lokamanya Tilak and Mahatma Gandhi support the view found in the oldest extant commentary on Gita that the second and third chapters contain its essence.

The Gita-Dharma-Mandal has prepared a plan for the universal spread of this essence of Gita. The working out of the plan on a large scale throughout India requires the co-operation not only of all Hindu religious Institutions, Maths, Ashrams, Associations, Clubs etc. but also of a number of volunteers. The aim to be achieved is, that every Hindu boy or girl between 11 to 15 years in age must be able to recite these two chapters and must understand the meaning of each verse therein.

An hour's training per day for about two months, is sufficient for this purpose. If Hindu teachers who have knowledge of Sanskrit, sufficient to teach these verses, decide to devote their spare time re-

(Continued on page 4)

All Ceylon Industrial Exhibition and Carnival

At Jaffna in May 1940

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Military Administration in Ancient India

(Continued from page 1)

in their neighbourhood, are undaunted by any sense of danger; for the combatants on either side, in waging the conflict, make carnage of each other, but allow those engaged in husbandry to remain quite unmolested. Besides, they neither ravage an enemy's land with fire, nor cut down its trees."⁽¹⁰⁾

Rawlinson observes that "India changes little, and when the English troops were besieging Delhi in 1857, the ploughman went on with his work between the Ridge and the doomed city, just as Megasthenes describes him as doing"⁽¹¹⁾ Dutt also remarks: "These rules have been scrupulously observed from the ancient times to the days of modern Rajput warfare, and foreigners have noted peaceful villagers following their daily occupations, and husbandmen ploughing their fields without concern, whilst hostile armies were contending within sight for the destinies of kingdoms and nations"⁽¹²⁾

Laws of War in the South

The laws of war in the South were not less honourable and humane than in the North. Tiruvalluvar says: "The learned say that fierceness in war with an enemy is indeed great valour, but to become a benefactor to him in case of an accident is the extreme test of that valour"⁽¹³⁾ The *Purapurul-Vemba Malai* also has:

"Touch not the temples, where sacrifices are offered;
Spare the dwellings of the holy ascetics;
Enter not the houses of the sacred Vedic Brahmans;
Let all the rest be abandoned to our warriors as their guerdon"⁽¹⁴⁾

The Pandyan king Muthukudumip Peruvalluvar (முதுகுடும்பெருவய்யா) was about to surprise the owners of cattle. He advanced with his forces, and before mustering them for battle, he uttered the following words of warning as he was anxious that there should be no unnecessary bloodshed either of cattle or non-combatants; "Ye cows; ye Brahmans of like sanctity: ye women; ye who are suffering from disease; ye who have not obtained sons of priceless value, whose sacred duty is to care for those who dwell in the Southern Regions performing on their behalf the sacred rites, we are going to shoot out our swift arrows; therefore hasten ye to your sheltering fortress."⁽¹⁵⁾

This king is said to have subdued his various enemies by his true heroism in battles, and without resorting to any foul play or stratagem.

Sympathy Towards Soldiers

It is touching to note that the

(10) Fragment I. Mc Crindle's trans. pp. 31-2.

(11) *Intercourse Between India and the Western World*, p. 52

(12) *Civilization in Ancient India*, ii 103.

(13) *Kural*, 773

(14) *Verae*, 44.

(15) *Puravanura*, 9.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR.

Drive Against Tuberculosis

Sir,—I wish the following be taken into consideration as a measure to prevent the dreadful disease.

(a) All Government, Municipal and Mercantile employees of the City be periodically examined by a competent medical Officer. To effectively carry out this examination, all heads of departments and firms must maintain a Card for each employee with detailed particulars of name, nationality, age, etc.

(b) The examination must be made at reasonable intervals and the medical opinion must be recorded in the column provided for.

(c) Immediately a case is suspected, the patient must be sent to the "Preventorium" and treated at Government expense.

(d) The suspected person must be under observation for at least a period of one year. The Government or the employers must pay the full salary of the patient for the benefit of his family or dependents.

(e) After the observation period, if the chances of recovery are good, the patient must be kept for another period and if the recovery is beyond hope, the patient must be invalided out of service and kept in isolation wards to prevent infection etc.

2. In my opinion another source which contribute for the origin of the disease is the want of nutritious food for the poor and middle classes. When compared to other cities, the catering done for the poor and middle classes in Colombo is not at all satisfactory. In a city like Singapore, one can have a light meal for a sum ranging from 5 cents and that also of a nutritious quality. Of course, the catering is done there by the "Frenchmen" of the East, the Chinese. In this city except at expensive Hotels, one can only have a meal (rice and curry) for a minimum of 25 cents and light meal consists of some oily cakes.

3. The benevolent Malayan Government work in the lines indicated in paragraph 2 above. Will the enterprising Mayor of Colombo give this matter consideration?

Yours etc,

S. VYDALINGAM.

Colombo,
11th February 1940.

sympathy of the ancient Thamilian kings towards their wounded soldiers was unbounded. In the *Nedunavada* we get a picture of Pandyan Neduncheliyan in encampment at midnight. The king is not confining himself within his tent. He is busy in paying encouraging visits to his wounded soldiers, who fought gloriously for him by cutting down to the ground the ornamented trunks of his enemies' tuskers. The blaze of the torch held near him lights his path. The royal umbrella protects him from the northern wind. The night garment loosening from his shoulders is held by his left arm, while his right hand rests on the shoulders of his aid-de-camp bearing the royal sword. In this manner, led by the field-marshal, he goes from tent to tent encouraging the wounded soldiers by his pleasant countenance and sweet speech⁽¹⁶⁾

Truly the ancient Hindu monarchs combined violence with benevolence.

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(16) Op. cit. lines, 176-187.

Liquidation of Illiteracy

(Continued from page 1)

said that the methods should be entirely different. Here haste would mean waste of effort. Village libraries were the basis of such education. The village school and the teacher were the natural places and the custodians of such libraries. But in India, the school was not yet a safe place to keep libraries and the village teacher had hardly the standing to run it. Though his pay was not less than that of the village munsif or the karnam, the village teacher had no like influence in the village. The teacher in the village would come into his own only when he belonged to the locality and had a house, some lands and relations in the neighbourhood. Like the rural doctor, he should be a permanent resident of the village for the entire period of his service. He would then become the librarian and the centre of adult education. Till some such reform is effected and the Village Panchayats were reconstituted with more powers and funds, the village library movement would have to be built up in a different fashion. The idea of travelling libraries was a good one, but if it was to be efficient, there should be full-time workers and their pay and the cost of conveyance would be too heavy to permit the application of the idea on a large scale. For the present, he thought, honorary librarians should be recruited from among the leisured class in the village who had good houses and were public spirited. A shelf with 100 books and a register might be deposited with them and arrangements might be made to replace a fourth of the books each month from a central library in the taluk centre. Mr. Sanatnam also suggested that it might be laid down that one year of rural service should be an essential condition for the issue of an S. S. L. C., or Matriculation certificate and another year for the degree in the arts course.

Mr. Sanatnam, concluding, stated that it was necessary to infuse new life and enthusiasm to the masses at the bottom while struggling for freedom at the top in their national life was to burst forth into flower and fruit. Like untouchability, illiteracy and ignorance were responsible for much misunderstanding, injustice and exploitation. Abolition of untouchability and eradication of illiteracy were closely linked together and were indispensable branches of their struggle for freedom. He hoped that the Conference would give a new and dynamic impulse to the people of South India to emancipate themselves from the darkness of illiteracy, ignorance and superstition.

Basic Hindu, Moral and Cultural Instruction

(Continued from page 3)

gularly for helping on this plan, in their own localities, the collective result will be most impressive. In the centres in which the Gita-Dharma Mandal and its branches work directly for this plan, the following method has been adopted:—

On the Ekadashi Day of every month, there will be examination, testing the knowledge of Hindu boys and girls from 11 to 16 years of age, who are taught these two chapters. They will be examined and the teacher or the volunteer who did the work of teaching will be given from 2 annas to 8 annas per pupil according to the marks in their examination. If possible along with the certificate every pupil will be given a booklet containing the text of the two chapters with simple meaning in the provincial language.

Those institutions and volunteers who agree to help on this scheme, will be provided with copies of the certificates and the booklets when they will be printed. Care should be taken about correct pronunciation of the verses, and it should be ascertained that each pupil is new and has received all the instruction from the teacher or volunteer concerned.

All Hindu religious institutions and Hindu teachers and volunteers are requested to hold the scheme. Its success depends on the co-operation of all.

G. V. KETKAR,
Secretary, Gita Dharma-Mandal,
Sadashive Peth, Poona City.

New Legal Secretary Arrives

Mr. R. H. Drayton the new Legal Secretary, arrived in Colombo, on Saturday. He was until recently the Attorney-General of Tanganyika.

Order Nisi

IN THE DISTRICT COURT
OF JAFFNA

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 595.
In the matter of the estate of the late
Kandapillai Ku'athungam of Uduvil
Deceased.
Devasundram widow of Kulathungam of Manipay Petitioner.

- Vs.
1. Sita Devi daughter of Kulathungam
 2. Sattiapama daughter of Kulathungam of do, the 1st and second respondents are minors by their guardian-ad-litem the 3rd respondent and
 3. Kandapillai Edirnayagam of Uduvil

Respondents.
This matter coming on for disposal before C. Coomaraswamy Esquire District Judge, Jaffna on the 25th day of May 1939 in the presence of Mr. T. N. Subbiah proctor on the part of the petitioner and the affidavit of the petitioner having been read.

It is ordered that the petitioner be declared entitled to have letters of administration to the estate of the said intestate as his wife unless the respondents or any person or persons interested shall appear before this Court on the 1st day of December 1939 and state objection or show sufficient cause to the contrary.

8th November 1939.
Sgd. C. Coomaraswamy,
District Judge.

Order Nisi extended
for 23-2-40.
Initd. C. Coomaraswamy,
District Judge.
(O. 77. 12 & 15-2-40.)

THE NAVY'S TASK

By Major-General
Sir Ernest Swinton

IN the last war it was the Army which suffered the greatest losses and had the hardest time—whether it was in Europe, Asia or Africa; and we soldiers used to look upon the sailors as the lucky people who had the comparatively 'cushy' jobs. The sailors themselves admitted it.

During the three months that this war has now lasted, the roles have been dramatically reversed. No doubt the Army has had plenty of work, and some hardship and discomfort, but it has so far had no fighting and no casualties. Its activities have up to now been merely preparatory. The Navy, on the other hand, has this time been right in it from the word 'Go', and has since been continuously on guard every day and every night ready for action at any moment. And it has already suffered considerable loss. Its sphere of action is even greater than that of the Air Force. There is no sea in either hemisphere which is not ploughed by the keels of our war vessels—the White Ensign shows itself from Scapa Flow to Auckland, and on the North Sea—which the enemy still calls the 'German' Ocean.

In taking about what the Navy is doing, one naturally begins with the Battle Fleets. We all know that 'somewhere' Battle Fleets are in existence, waiting to bring to action the strongest naval forces that the enemy dares to send out against them. They are maintaining what is called a distant blockade, and have to be in a perpetual state of readiness, because the initiative—that is, the advantage of making the first move—rests with the enemy.

So much for the heavyweights. From what I have said you can see that they are contributing to what is really the first duty of our Navy as a whole—namely, maintaining the sea communications of our scattered Empire, upon which our physical and economic life absolutely depend.

The Allies have certain great advantages over the Germans. First, their Navies are immeasurably stronger in capital ships and every kind of surface craft. Secondly, the British Isles and the north coast of France block access from all parts of the world to the German ports. Apart from traffic in the Baltic, every ship bound to or from Germany for any port outside the Baltic has to pass north or south of the British Isles. One result of the Allied blockade and of the activities of the Allies' Navies elsewhere on the high seas, is that every German merchant vessel is either covering in a home port or lies useless, interned in the port of a neutral country. There are actually four hundred German vessels so immobilized at present.

In retaliation for our contraband control, the Germans have again had recourse to submarine warfare on a great scale. They are trying to starve us out. They tried last time and failed. In this war they have already discovered that their U-boats are neither so effective nor so safe as they had hoped, and they are concentrating

Nazi Activity Towards Slovakia

Movements of Troops

Paris, Monday.

There is considerable activity among the German military authorities at Prague, states the Havas correspondent in a dispatch from the German frontier. He adds that there have been new movements of troops in Bohemia and Moravia towards Slovakia.

The hospitals in these regions have been ordered to reserve 50,000 beds from March 1st and an order, commandeering horses was issued on Sunday.

The correspondent states that the Protectorate authorities have ordered the military authorities to organise defence against a possible Czech rising.

A fresh lot of arrests has been made in Prague, especially among members of the former party of Dr. Benes.

more on mines. They used mines in the last war, too, but the keynote of their present campaign seems to be an attempt to frighten all shipping, especially that of neutral countries, from entering British waters. The most recent step in this direction has been the sowing of mines, including the so-called 'magnetic' mine, in extra-territorial waters.

You can see that the tasks of the Allied and German Navies are about as different as they could be. I am going to risk a picture. Think of the seas of the world as large fields in which a number of rabbits—the merchant ships of the Allies and Neutrals—are disporting themselves in their habitual runways, that is to say, going about their lawful occupations, to and fro across the world. Think of the German submarine or surface raider as a ferret let loose in some of the fields. He has no difficulty in killing a fresh rabbit every ten minutes—or every minute. Then think of our patrols as terriers; and imagine a couple of terriers after the ferrets. It's harder for them to catch the ferrets than it is for the ferrets to catch the rabbits. The ferret has a hundred rabbits to go for; the terriers have only one ferret. Of course, the marshalling of the mercantile vessels into convoys and giving them protection makes the task of the ferret more difficult and dangerous; but it does not alter the essential difference between the two jobs.

I have heard it said also that hunting out a raider or a few submarines across the Seven Seas is like looking for a needle in a haystack. It is worse: it is like looking for an active and disappearing needle in one of several haystacks. Now as to some of these 'haystacks', the area of the North Sea 23 million square miles. The area of the Atlantic is 31½ million square miles—that is to say, 138 times as great. As to visibility—visibility from the masthead of a ship on a clear day is 10 miles; visibility from an aeroplane—when the ship carries one—is 50 miles. If you assume the Atlantic to be the top of your writing table, the range of vision from the masthead of a ship would be no more than the space covered by the point of a pencil while that from an aeroplane would be no more than that covered by the butt.

Urumparay Health Association

Seventh Annual General Meeting

The Seventh Annual General Meeting of the Health Association, Urumparay was held on 20th January at 5 p.m. in the C. M. S. School.

The following are extracts from the report presented at the meeting.

Twelve committee meetings were held during the year under review.

On the resignation of Mr. K. Manickam as he wanted to go to Malaya, Mr. V. Nalliah was appointed until the return of Mr. Manickam.

The total number of dry earth latrines in use on 1st December 1938 was 86 and 9 were added to the register during the year.

The rate of conservancy fees was one rupee per mensem, per bucket.

The labour force consists of two men and one boy. The men were paid Rs. 25 00 each and the boy Rs. 6 00, per mensem.

There were three conservancy carts in use during the year under review.

The dumping of the night soil was done as usual at the Vemban Cremation ground.

Finance

The total receipts during the year amounted to Rs. 1154-55 against an expenditure of Rs. 1033-35. The balance standing to the credit of the association on 30-11-39 was Rs. 421-17. Of which a sum of Rs. 100 is in the general account and Rs. 300 of the Reserve fund account is in the Ceylon Savings Bank.

Snakes

During the year under review 36 poisonous snakes were destroyed and rewards amounting to Rs. 19-50 were paid. A sum of Rs. 10 was donated by the Malayan Urumparay Union and the association thanks the union for it.

Hearse

At the request of the Urumparay Union, the hearse which was presented by the Malayan Urumparay Union was taken over by the Association. A shed to accommodate the hearse was erected at a cost of Rs. 83-19. Of this a sum of Rs. 50 was donated by the Malayan Urumparay Union. The association thanks the union for its continued support. The hearse was put in use from 1st July 1939. And the people were notified by tom-tom and leaflets, but so far it was used only once.

Reading Room

Your committee feels the need of a free reading room and library and it appeals to the Urumparays in Ceylon and Malaya to render help.

Health

Your committee has the greatest pleasure to inform you that Mrs. J. V. Adams L. M. P. (Madras) has been appointed midwife of the Urumparay Health centre. The village committee is awaiting approval.

The Health Officer, Jaffna, has been approached by your com-

SMALL-POX AT PT. PEDRO

Case Proves Fatal

Point Pedro, Wednesday.

What is believed to be a case of small-pox was detected by Mr. P. Nadasan, Sanitary Inspector, of Point Pedro, at Thumpalai, a village two miles from Point Pedro.

The case proved fatal and the Sanitary Inspector brought this to the notice of the Medical Officer of Point Pedro, who also suspects it to be small-pox. Telegrams have been despatched to the M. O. H., and Medical Superintendent of Jaffna.

The victim was Sithamparapillai Velupillai, a trader of Vavuniya, who is said to have arrived at Thumpalai about three weeks ago.

Information has now been received that Dr. S. F. Chellappah, Assistant Director of Sanitary Services, will arrive with the M. O. H. to examine the body and give his diagnosis.

The Sanitary Inspector and police have taken all precautions.

Matrimonial

RATNAVEL—VISUVALINGAM

The marriage took place on Monday, the 12th instant, at Mallakam of Dr. C. Ratnavel, Medical Registrar, Kandy, eldest son of Mr. C. Mudaliyar Chellappa, Manager, Victoria College, Chulipuram with Miss Satgunadevi Visuvalingam, eldest daughter of Mr. N. Visuvalingam, F. M. S. pensioner and proprietary planter, of Mallakam. The bride is a grand-daughter of Mr. S. Sabathypillai, Notary Public, Chunnakam. (Cor)

mittee to give a series of lantern lectures on Health matters and as the slides have been lent out, this could not be done. However he has promised to give the lectures when the slides are available.

Child Welfare Centre

The Malayan Urumparay Union has very kindly given its financial support to the maintenance of his noble cause by donating a sum of Rs. 200-00 and a further sum of Rs. 50-00 towards its equipment. Your committee hopes that every member will subscribe his or her share to make this a complete realisation.

Reserve Fund

Your committee thought it advisable to set aside a sum of Rs. 300-00 of the balance as a reserve fund to acquire a piece of land and put up buildings to house the labourers and carts. They are at present temporarily housed on a leased block.

Office-bearers

The following Office-bearers for 1940 were then elected:—

Chairman. Mr. S. R. Gnana-ratnam.

Hon. Secretary. Mr. K. Kumaravelu.

Hon. Treasurer. Mr. A. Kandiah.

Committee Members:—Messrs. M. K. Ponniah, A. Nagamuttu, S. Velauther, D. S. Saravanamuttu, S. Rajathurai and M. Nasathurai.

MR. ROOSEVELT'S PEACE MOVE

MR. SUMMER WELLS'S MISSION

GERMAN ATTITUDE NOT ENCOURAGING

London, Saturday.

AN Amsterdam cable states that no authoritative news of German reaction is yet available respecting Mr. Roosevelt's latest move in the direction of peace. Wilhelmstrasse circles, however, were not encouraging when neutral correspondents enquired about the German attitude.

"If England", they were told, "insists that peace can only be possible after the Nazi regime has been destroyed, Germany too stands firm by her war aims—the destruction of British world domination. How is it possible to reconcile two such diametrically opposed viewpoints?"

Rome reports that official circles do not hide satisfaction in the American announcements. It is thought that Mr. Summer Wells will remain in Rome sufficiently long to enable him to have conversations with Signor Mussolini and Count Ciano—as already reported, in order that he may have a clearer view of the European situation. Mr. Roosevelt is sending Mr. Summer Wells, American Under-Secretary of State, to make a personal survey of conditions in Italy, France, Germany and Britain.

Mr. Summer Wells is leaving the United States on Saturday week and will go direct to Italy in the liner Bex. At the same time, Mr. Cordell Hull, American Secretary of State, announced that informal diplomatic conversations have been started with Neutral Governments in view of the desire of all neutral nations for a restoration of world peace.

No. 550

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(Y 64 14-6-39—13-6-40) F-T.

Order Nisi

IN THE DISTRICT COURT
OF JAFFNA.

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 831.

In the matter of the intestate estate of the late Alagar Sandrasegaram of Tellippallai East, Jaffna.

Kengamuttu widow of Alagar Sandrasegaram of Tellippallai East, Jaffna.

vs. Petitioner.

1. Sandrasegaram Sivastubramaniam
2. Sandrasegaram Balasubramaniam
3. Sandrasegaram Kamaladevi all of Tellippallai East, Jaffna and
4. Alagar Saravanamuttu of Tellippallai East, presently at Colombo.

This matter coming on for disposal before C. Coomaraswamy Esquire, District Judge, Jaffna, on the 26th day of January, 1940, in the presence of Mr. S. Nadarajah, Proctor, on the part of the petitioner, and the affidavit and petition of the petitioner having been read.

It is ordered that the abovenamed 4th respondent be appointed guardian ad-litem over the minors, the abovenamed 1st to 3rd respondents for the purpose of representing them and acting on their behalf in this case and that the petitioner be declared entitled to administer the said estate as the lawful widow of the deceased and that Letters of Administration be issued to her accordingly unless the respondents shall appear before this Court on the 16th day of February, 1940, and show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

This 26th day of January, 1940.
Sgd. C. Coomaraswamy,
District Judge.

(O. 76, 12 & 15-2-40).

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