

THE Hindu Organ.

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

VOL. LI.

Phone 56,

JAFFNA, THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 1940

Price 5 Cts.

NO. 89.

IMPERIAL COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE FOR CEYLON

Early Establishment Urged

RESOLUTION BEFORE CENTRAL BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

THE following motion will come up for consideration before the Central Board of Agriculture at its meeting on the 18th instant:

"That the Central Board of Agriculture is of opinion that an Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture should be established in Ceylon, to be located at Peradeniya in connection with the forthcoming University of Ceylon, the College to be partly subsidised by the Imperial Government and partly by the Government and the Public of Ceylon. Further there should also be established in this Island, along with the College, an Agricultural Research Institute on the lines of the Agricultural Research Institute at Pusa, India. This Board recommends to the Executive Committee of Agriculture and Lands the early establishment of these two institutions."

A Memorandum

Mr. C. Arulambalam, member, Central Board of Agriculture, has prepared a memorandum in support of the motion. The following is the text of the memorandum:—

At present, there is an Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture and Trinidad, which is an Island in the British Empire situated in the Western Hemisphere of the World, off the north coast of South America, its latitude being about 10 degrees north of the Equator. The Trinidad College is subsidised by the Imperial Authorities.

It is suggested that a similar College be established in Ceylon, which is an Island in the Eastern Hemisphere of the World, and located in South Asia to the south of India and in close proximity to it. Ceylon is also, like Trinidad, about 10 degrees north latitude, Ceylon being slightly to the south and Trinidad slightly to the north of the tenth degree.

Premier Crown Colony

Ceylon occupies the premier position among the Crown Colonies of the British Em-

pire. Its Chief Town, Colombo, as a port, occupies the seventh position among the ports of the world, as regards the tonnage of the shipping using its harbour and has been aptly called the Clapham Junction of the East. In Trincomalee, on the east coast of Ceylon, is found one of the best natural harbours in the World and an important Naval Station. Ceylon has a variety of climate ranging from hot in the lowlands along the coast to cool in the hilly country in the interior. It has two zones, the Wet and the Dry, so designated owing to the varying distribution of rainfall in the two Zones. The soil in the different parts of the Island is also of various types. Ceylon also occupies a strategic position as an intermediate meeting place of trade and air-routes between Africa in the West and Australasia in the East.

Thus it is, in every way fitted to be a suitable location for a College of Tropical Agriculture. That well-discerning and well-informed public men were of that opinion will be apparent from the quotations I now proceed to make from the contributions to the columns of the "Tropical Agriculturist" made in the past. To enable the readers of this memorandum to look up the references in full I shall mention, in chronological order, the numbers of "Tropical Agriculturist" from which the quotations are made.

Neither Great Britain nor the United States of America can be said to have a Tropical Department, worthy by the name, attached to any of their Agricultural Colleges. We gather from what has appeared in the English press and the West Indian Magazine that Trinidad is beginning to be looked upon as the locale of the future Tropical College of Agriculture, but surely it is not

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"Most Amazing Specimen of Quibbling"

Madras Paper on Governor's Interpretation

AFTER recounting the events which led to the resignation of the Board of Ministers in Ceylon, the Madras Hindu makes the following editorial comment on the subject:—

It must be evident from the above narration of the facts that most clearly the Inspector-General flouted the authority of the Minister constitutionally responsible for law and order. The attempt made by the Governor to establish that there has been no disobedience of ministerial instructions is one of the most amazing specimens of quibbling we have come across in serious public documents. He says the Minister's letter contained, not an "instruction", but only a request and that the State Council's resolution was only "an expression of opinion" and not "a decision". One who goes through the correspondence will not have the slightest hesitation in coming to the conclusion that the Inspector-General understood the request to be a "direction". He indeed wanted "the instruction"—mark the word—to be addressed to the Magistrate and not to him. As Sir Andrew Caldecott chooses to see no insult to himself in Mr. Banks' attitude, there is perhaps little more to be said about it. But the public will wonder whether Mr. Banks' observations in a State document on the decision of the Governor to appoint a Commission of Enquiry are appropriate as coming from a subordinate official. "I am of definite and considered opinion," he writes to the Home Minister, "that any administrative order that seeks to ignore the finding of the Kandy Magistrate and to set up a Commission quashing the proceedings already taken against the accused persons and usurping the powers of the Court, will have a disastrous effect on estate labour throughout Ceylon and respect for the law generally throughout the country." Sir

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THE MINORITIES AND THE CRISIS

NORTHERN M. S. Cs' ATTITUDE DEPLORED

MASS MEETING CONDEMNS GOVERNOR'S ACTION

"WHEN the freedom of a country is at stake and the rights of the people are to be taken away there is no question of majorities or minorities," declared Dr. R. Saravanamuttu, Mayor of Colombo, speaking at a mass meeting held under the auspices of the Sinhala Maha Sabha on Sunday at Ananda College.

Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike presided.

A resolution condemning the attempt of the Governor to reduce the few political rights granted to the people under the Donoughmore Constitution and pledging support to the Ministers and members of the State Council in their decision not to work the Constitution until those rights were restored was passed by the meeting.

The manner in which the Governor had treated the Ministers at the conference at Queen's House was deplored by some of the speakers.

Reference was also made to some of the minority members in the State Council, and the attitude particularly of the members from the Northern Province was strongly criticised.

"Gravest Since 1915"

Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike and said that the crisis with which the country was confronted was the gravest since 1915. The Ministers realised at the interview with the Governor that His Excellency's mind had already been made up and that it was futile to talk over the matter with him.

The Governor had spoken very harshly to Mr. D. S. Senanayake but Mr. Senanayake bore it all up patiently because of the seriousness of the situation that confronted them.

At that interview they decided to confer with the Legal Secretary the following morning in order to find out the legal implications involved. Mr. Senanayake had, however, pon-

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BICKNELL MEMORIAL FUND

"Valli Thirumanam" will be staged at Jaffna College, Vaddu koddai, on Saturday, the 16th March, 1940, at 8-30 p. m. in aid of the Fund by a group of talented amateurs.

RATES: Reserved Rs. 5/-
1st Class Rs. 3/-
2nd Class Rs. 1.50.

Please book your tickets early.
(Mts. 289, 7 & 14-3-40.)



Hindu Organ.

THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 1940.

THE NEED FOR CALM AND WISE ACTION

THE CONSTITUTIONAL CRISIS which, we feared, was assuming serious proportions, seems now to be taking a hopeful turn. Thanks to the change of attitude on the part of the Governor, he has seen it wise to confess to the State Council the grave distress he feels over the situation and to appeal to the people's representatives not to precipitate a crisis but to be "calm, wise and dispassionate." He has further invited the ex-Ministers to help him in resolving the issue and taking similar steps as would eliminate such clashes in the future. His message to the State Council on the eve of the non-co-operation motion, and the mixed yet favourable reception it has had among the Councillors, the readiness he has expressed to discuss with the Ministers a course of settlement, are all a silver lining amidst the dark clouds that have been fast gathering during the last few momentous days.

Now that the various Executive Committees have re-elected the ex-Ministers as Chairmen, the latter can now stand firm in vindication of their rights and powers. The Committees deserve to be congratulated on their bold stand by the ex-Ministers despite the intrigues and manoeuvrings of some ambitious politicians to whom self-respect, honour and patriotism seem to be mere toys in their dirty game of politics. We are particularly very sorry for the part played by certain representatives of the Northern constituencies, which apart from showing up their patriotism has also besmirched the reputation of Jaffna as home of progressive nationalism. The State Council has however vindicated its honour and fortified its Ministers with all the strength necessary to negotiate for a settlement consistently with their honour and the best interests of the country.

The trend of events happily point to a conference between

the Governor and the Ministers, and to the adjournment of the debate on the non-co-operation motion which is now in progress. We are certain that neither the Governor nor the State Council nor the people would like to plunge the country into a state of chaos through non-co-operation which is but the last weapon in the armoury of political warfare. We earnestly wish that sincere efforts are made to avert this calamity at a time when peaceful conditions are the imperative need of the country. We commend the Governor's advice to be "calm, wise and dispassionate" to both parties to the proposed conference, and are certain that if their deliberations are characterised by these virtues a settlement honourable to both parties and conducive to the best interests of the country can be arrived at. Constructive statesmanship is the need of the hour.

Ceylon Hindus in the Straits Settlements

Long Standing Grievance Redressed

Ever since the Widows' and Orphans' Pension Scheme came into operation in the Straits Settlements, Ceylon Hindus in the employ of the Straits Government were not eligible to contribute towards the Scheme as the Law Officers of that Government held that Ceylon Hindus were not debarred from contracting polygamous marriages in that Colony. Strangely enough Ceylon Hindus in the employ of the neighbouring Federated Malay States Government were eligible, nay compelled, to contribute to the Scheme as in Ceylon, and such of those not on the pensionable establishment as were transferred from the F. M. S. Government to the S. S. Government, consequent on the Decentralisation policy, stood to lose the privileges which would have ordinarily accrued to them if they continued to serve under the F. M. S. Government.

These grievances were pressed on the Straits Government over and over for a number of years by the Ceylon Tamils' Association in Singapore and others without success. When Mr. R. Sri Pathmanathan, M. S. C., visited Malaya in 1937 representations were made to him regarding the grievance and he, on his return to the Island, drew the attention of the Hon. The Chief Secretary of Ceylon to those grievances by means of a number of questions in the State Council. He pointed out that the marriages of Ceylon Hindus, unlike those of Hindus in India, were legally registered and were governed by laws in Ceylon which made it a penal offence for any Ceylon Hindu to have more than one wife at a time; and that Ceylon Hindus in the Straits should not be penalised for no fault of theirs. He also urged the Chief Secretary to take steps, through the Secretary of State, to remove the disability complained of.

Mr. T. M. Pillai, President of the Ceylon Tamils' Association in Sin-

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A MATTER OF HONOUR

DUTY OF MINORITIES IN THE PRESENT POLITICAL CRISIS

BY THE REV.
DR. T. ISAAC TAMBYAH

BEING in Colombo for the benefit of my health, I am under strict medical orders to avoid acids, irritants and excitements and I wonder if thinking or saying anything about what people call the political situation does not really come under one of these tabooed categories. I think I'll take the risk and leave it to my doctor to decide.

What strikes one foremost about events that had led up to the present crisis is that it has a lighter side. What, as a mere man in the street, I mean is that the question is not one, at least was not originally one, of the interpretation of the Constitution. Really is it not a constraining into popular speech the official utterances of official persons?

A Pure Question of English

It seems to me that from being a pure question of English, which has not even the merit of a quibble, nor of course the cleverness of casuistry, His Excellency the Governor and the Ministers have evolved matters of grave political concern.

His Excellency has made it very clear that an order issued by a Minister to his subordinate, is an informal request which may, in the discretion of the subordinate, be disregarded or its very contrary carried out.

Prerogative of Royalty

Royalty alone has the prerogative of sometimes saying one thing and meaning another, that is to say, a royal request is a definite command, but it is most startling to be told that a distinct command emanating from a competent and duly appointed Minister may be whittled down to just a polite request, a suggestion, a hint only.

His Excellency upon complaint made to him of insubordination in respect of the Minister's order seems to have done more paraphrasing and marked his own official attitude as one of "grave concern and displeasure".

A Wonder of Whitehall

If the Secretary of State were to be instrumental in getting an Order in Council to be promulgated in support of the very unprecise and unprecedented meaning put upon English words, that would be one of the wonders of Whitehall.

What has happened is that the Ministers have been given certain toys and they were a happy lot in their nursery of make believe situations. Each was told: "You play at being Home Minister, you the other and you the other, etc." But one of the boys, Don Baron by name, gave up make-beliefs and took things seriously. He issued an order. Banks gave trouble. Then Daddy Caldecott stepped into the nursery, scolded the boys, told them that their English was all wrong and they threw away their baubles and are now in revolt.

The Subtle Smile

Sir Andrew Caldecott's subtle

disarming smile appears to have failed to produce any effect.

It is very clear, although I am not a constitutional jurist like my good friend, Mr. E. J. Samarawickreme, nor a politician like the Great Goiya, that the country is face to face for the first time, since the great Tamil Boycott, with a crisis of far-reaching consequences. No self-respecting man could be expected to have acted otherwise in the circumstances than the Ministers have done.

Hamlet Without the Prince of Denmark

The fact remains that they have resigned and one wonders if the Government can be carried on through a State Council which has no Ministers. Hamlet cannot be played without the Prince of Denmark. Since the resignation there has been a dangerous lull, the lack of any precipitate action being due to divided feelings on the part of non-Ministerial Councillors. Wrongly and unwisely diverse feelings are at work, a very unfortunate thing for the country.

It is the bounden duty of politicians of all shades of opinion not merely to evince the uttermost courtesy to His Excellency's views, but also to see that the Ministers in their attitude and action have the heartiest co-operation of the entire State Council, to say nothing of the country at large in having His Excellency's views constitutionally corrected.

A Matter of Honour

As a Tamil, knowing Jaffna well, and as President of the Jaffna Association for a number of years I cannot have any hesitation in regretting the refusal and reluctance of Tamil and Indian leaders to stand by the Ministers. It is a matter of honour for the Tamils and the Indians to support the Ministers because it was owing to the Tamils and the Indians in the matter of the Mooloya troubles that the Ministers were led into action which has resulted in their resignation. I feel sure that the matter being put thus, as one of honour for honour, the Tamils and Indian leaders are bound to stand by the Ministers.

Not the Time to Divide

This is not the time to divide the country into factions, this rather is the time for the minorities to rise to the greatness of an occasion that calls for every circumstance of cleavage and disruption to be dissolved.

Strikes are the order of the day and I see that the Bishop of Colombo, the Chairman of the North Ceylon Methodist Circuit, and Warden de Saram are for strikes in the matter of denominational schools. Then why not the State Councillors?

For Good or Evil

The situation is one which is potential for great good or for great evil. It may be exploited for personal gain and aggrandisement, in which case the hands of the clock will be put back by several decades. If on the other hand, as I sincerely believe it is possible, politicians of all shades of thought forget personal or communal interests and seek to uphold the great and solemn constitutional privileges which a progressive country is entitled to have, then without a doubt, the present political situation is pregnant with good only.

—(Daily News)

GOVERNOR'S APPEAL TO STATE COUNCIL

Resignation Causes him Grave Distress

MESSAGE TO STATE COUNCIL

Non-Co-operation Motion Being Debated

SETTLEMENT TALK IN THE AIR

Colombo, March, 6.

THE Governor's Message to the Speaker yesterday after the Message intimating the resignation of the Ministers, concluded with an appeal to the Members to subject the situation to calm, wise and dispassionate review

"before committing themselves and thereby our whole Island to a course of action which can be contemplated with satisfaction or even equanimity only by the enemies of our Commonwealth and of democracy."

His Excellency, in the course of his message, stated that it had caused him great distress that the Ministers should have tendered their resignations "without affording me an opportunity of examining with them the reasons for, or likely consequences of, such action."

"The reason for this Message," explained Sir Andrew Caldecott, "is that I understand notice to have been given of a resolution for non-co-operation by Council in working the Constitution, on the ground that I have gravely infringed constitutional rights.... My steadfast purpose has been, and is, carefully to conserve and guard those rights."

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE

Powers of Committee

The following is the full text of the Governor's Message to the Council:—

1. It has caused me grave distress that my Ministers should have tendered their recent resignation without affording me an opportunity of examining with them the reasons for, or likely consequences of, such a course.

2. At a meeting which I had with them on the 26th February called at the shortest notice, my decision on a particular reference to me was discussed. The papers laid on the table of the State Council at its last session by the Minister for Home Affairs contain both the reference and the decision.

Inability to Vary Decision

3. My refusal to take disciplinary action against Mr. P. N. Banks was in exercise of the responsibilities vested in me by Article 86 of the Ceylon (State Council) Order-in-Council, 1931. I informed the Ministers of my inability to vary this decision but offered to transmit to the Secretary of State any representations that they might wish to make thereon.

4. I confirmed that my decision was based on the three grounds:

(i) that the Home Minister's communication to Mr. Banks was

a request and not an instruction;

(ii) that if it had been an instruction it would have been unconstitutional in the minor sense that the Home Minister had not placed it before his Executive Committee and in the major sense that it concerned the conduct of proceedings before a Court of Law; and

(iii) that there had been no failure on the part of Mr. Banks to give effect to the formula which was reached at the Conference between the Home Minister, the Acting Legal Secretary, himself and myself on the 1st February.

The Correct Procedure

5. The conversation then veered to paragraph 7 of my Minute to the Minister for Home Affairs dated the 18th February. In that paragraph I set out my view of what would have been correct constitutional procedure if the Minister had (though he actually had not) referred any proposed instructions in this matter to his Executive Committee. I stated that the Committee could not justifiably have treated the matter either as so unimportant or as so urgent as not to require reference to me of any instructions to be issued.

6. At this point I understood one Minister to represent that article 45 (2) left the criterion of importance or urgency entirely to the opinion of the Executive Committee so that whatever they opined would be justifiable.

Prior Reference

7. To this I replied that if, on a proper construction of Article 45 (2) an Executive Committee were to decide that an instruction affecting proceedings before a Court of Law should not require prior reference to me I should feel it my duty to see that such a decision was made impossible in future; and to secure that any instructions affecting the administration of justice, or the carrying out by public officers of duties and responsibilities imposed upon them by the law of the land, must be referred to the Governor before any instruction was issued.

8. Article 45 (3) of the Ceylon (State Council) Order-in-Council provides the machinery for defining what instructions should and what should not require the approval of the Governor as explicitly contemplated by the Donoughmore Commission on page 48 of its report.

Schedule Suggested

9. In view of the present unhappy situation that has arisen I now feel that we should consider forthwith what classes of decisions by an Executive Committee should

always require prior reference to the Governor before effect can be given to them. In drafting such a Schedule I should of course take my Ministers into full consultation and endeavour to correlate any Schedule made by me with any Schedule made by the State Council under the same Article. I have already asked the Secretary of State for information as to any limitations observed in the issue of Ministerial instructions to the Police in England, and would similarly refer to him any other proposed items in the Schedule.

10. I have not contemplated, and do not contemplate, any other action in regard to powers of Executive Committees under Article 45.

11. I do not desire or counsel any interference with the practice whereby a Minister directly communicates to a Head of Department his wishes in any matter. If the Head should consider that compliance with any requests so communicated would not be in the public interests it is his loyal duty to his Minister to point out any objections or impediments. If a Minister has occasion to substitute an order for a request his procedure must necessarily conform with the provisions of Article 45 which it is in nobody's power to abrogate.

If paragraph 41 (b) of my Reforms Despatch is represented as such abrogation, my reply is that the phrase "Minister's directions" in that paragraph must, so long as we have our present Constitution, connote directions issued conformably with the Constitution and the general law of the land.

Appeal for Reconsideration

12. The reason for this Message is that I understand notice to have been given of a resolution for non-co-operation by Council in working the Constitution, on the ground that I have gravely infringed constitutional rights. I trust that I have made clear in the preceding paragraphs that my steadfast purpose has been, and is, carefully to guard and conserve those rights for all concerned, to the best of my ability and understanding. Before committing themselves and thereby our whole Island to a course of action which can be contemplated with satisfaction or even equanimity only by the enemies of our Commonwealth and of democracy I earnestly appeal to State Councilors that they will subject the situation to calm, wise and dispassionate review in order that nothing inimical to the country's interest may be done as a result of misapprehension or precipitancy.

The short discussion that followed the reading of the Governor's Message, led to the adjournment of the House till five o'clock so that members should have time to study its implications.

Sir Baron's Motion

Council re-assembled at 5 p. m. Sir Baron Jayatilaka moved the suspension of Standing Orders to enable him to move his motion condemning the ruling of the Governor and deciding not to participate in working the Constitution.

Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike seconded.

Mr. H. R. Freeman (Anuradhapura) called for a division and it resulted in the motion being carried by 21 votes against 12.

Sir Baron Jayatilaka then moved: "That this Council condemns the ruling of His Excellency the Gov-

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SAME CHAIRMEN RE-ELECTED

NOT TAKING OATH OF OFFICE

SPEAKER TAKES MESSAGE FROM CHAIRMEN TO GOVERNOR

FOLLOWING the resignation of the Ministers last week, the seven executive committees of the State Council met Wednesday morning to elect their chairmen and chose the same men.

They are Sir Baron Jayatilaka (Home Affairs); Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike (Local Administration); Major J. L. Kotelawala (Communications and Works); Mr. C. W. W. Kannangara (Education); Mr. D. S. Senanayake (Agriculture and Lands); Mr. G. C. S. Corea (Labour, Industry and Commerce) and Mr. W. A. D. Silva (Health).

The decisions of the Executive Committees were communicated to the Speaker by the Chairmen to enable him, according to the Constitution, to present them to the Governor. The Speaker however was only able to intimate to the Governor that the newly-elected Chairmen were not prepared at present to take their oath of office as Ministers.

Home Affairs: Mr. C. Battuwatudawe presided.

Mr. H. F. Parafitt moved the postponement of the meeting, but found no support.

Sir Baron was elected by five votes to two. Mr. H. F. Parafitt voted for Mr. A. Mahadeva, who voted for himself.

Mr. H. A. Gunesekere was absent. Sir Baron had the support of Messrs. E. R. Tambimuttu, Francis de Zoysa, C. Batuwatudawe and E. W. Abeygunesekere.

Local Administration: Mr. R. S. S. Gunawardene presided and proposed the re-election of Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike.

Mr. Bandaranaike was elected by six votes to one. Mr. A. R. A. Razik, who had a mandate from his community, voted for himself.

All members of the Committee were present—Messrs. Bandaranaike, Gunawardene, Samarakody, A. P. Jayasuriya, Natesa Iyer, Razik and J. Kuruppu.

Communications and Works: Major J. L. Kotelawala was re-elected without dissent at the meeting over which Mr. A. E. Goonesinha presided.

Major Kotelawala secured the votes of Messrs. Goonesinha, D. P. Jayasuriya and J. H. Illangantilleke.

Messrs. E. C. Villiers, G. G. Ponnambalam and S. P. Vythilingam declined to vote.

Mr. Villiers wished the meeting postponed and his motion to that effect was lost.

Three Candidates

Education: With Mr. R. S. Tennekoon, Deputy Chairman of Committee, in the chair, the Committee re-elected Mr. C. W. W. Kannangara as its chairman.

Mr. Kannangara secured in addition to his own, the votes of Messrs. A. Ratnayake, D. D. Gunasekera and H. W. Amarasuriya, Dr. A. P. de Zoysa voted for Mr. A. Ratnayake, while Messrs. S. Natesan and T. B. Jayah voted for Mr. Wille.

Mr. Wille desired a postponement of the meeting in order to find out the exact position of the ex-Ministers. He failed to find support.

Agriculture and Lands: This Committee re-elected Mr. D. S. Senanayake without dissent as its chairman. Mr. S. D. Dharmaratnam presided and the others present were Messrs. Senanayake, B. H. Aluwihare,

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Crisis and the Governor

Indian Example

Sir,—The "heartfelt" appeal made by His Excellency the Governor to the State Councillors for their "calm, wise and dispassionate review" of the situation will deceive no one.

We know that even devils can quote scripture; it is not the law but the spirit of the law that matters.

Many of your readers are aware of the circumstances under which the Indian National Congress accepted office in India. They knew that the Governors had reserve powers which they could interpret and use to suit their purpose. The Congressmen therefore insisted upon the Governors giving an undertaking not to use these reserve powers in the day to day administration, and it was only when such an undertaking was given that they accepted office. Similarly the Ministers in Ceylon were assured by Sir Andrew Caldecott who clearly defined the powers and responsibilities of Ministers and Heads of Departments in the following utterance of his:

"The Minister is responsible to the State Council and so to the country for the policy and programme of each Department under his charge; the Head of the Department is responsible to the Minister for the carrying out of both policy and programme and also for furnishing him with the necessary professional or technical advice when policy is being shaped or a programme drawn up. Such advice should be fully recorded, and if the Minister should disregard it, he does so on his own responsibility. The Head of a Department must unreservedly carry out the Minister's directions on programme and policy even if he considers them wrong, the Minister, not he, is responsible to the country. On the other hand, the Minister should not interfere in matters of Departmental personnel or internal working; the Departmental engine can be efficiently driven only if there is a single head on the regulator."

I am sure therefore that your readers will now see the reasonableness of the action of our Ministers, and hope that the country will stand by them, forgetting the communal differences in this great fight for a great constitutional right.

5-2-40

Yours &c.
NACHIKETA

Annual Meeting of Rate-payers

Sir,—According to the Rules of the Jaffna Urban Rate-payers Central Association, the branch Rate-payers Associations were formed in wards Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 on the 25th, 26th, 27th and 29th February and 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th March, 1940 respectively in order to elect representative to the Central Association from each ward. Large numbers attended and much enthusiasm was shown in all the wards.

The Annual General meeting of the Central Rate-payers' Associa-

tion will be held on Saturday, the 9th March, at 5 p. m. in the office of the Association at No. 73, Stanley Road.

The Annual Report and accounts will be presented, and office-bearers and Committee will be appointed for the next year.

On Sunday, the 10th March, there will be a grand mass meeting under the auspices of the Central Rate-payers Association, at the Esplanade facing the Courts at 4-30 p. m. when several important resolutions will be passed.

The members of the State Council representing the Northern Province are expected to be present and to address the meeting.

Loud speakers will be fitted.

Yours faithfully,
NADRAFAN,
I/r Hony. Ag. Secy.
Jaffna, 5-3-40

Order Nisi

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 841.
In the matter of the estate of the late Nallathamby Muttuvelu of Vannarponnai East Deceased.
Muttuvelu Sivapathmasantharam of Vannarponnai East Petitioner.
AND
Parasagthy widow of Muttuvelu of do Respondent.

This matter of the petition of the petitioner abovenamed praying that Letters of Administration to the estate of the deceased abovenamed be issued to him coming on for disposal before C. Coomaraswamy Esquire, District Judge Jaffna, on the 14th day of February 1940 in the presence of Mr. V. K. Subramaniam Proctor on the part of the petitioner and the affidavit of the petitioner dated the 14th day of February 1940 having been read.

It is ordered that the Letters of Administration of the Estate of the deceased abovenamed be issued to the Petitioner as son and sole heir of the deceased abovenamed unless the Respondent shall appear in Court on the 13th day of March 1940 and show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

The 14th day of February 1940.
Sgd. S. RODRIGO,
District Judge.
(O. 83.7 & 11-3-40)

Order Nisi

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA

Testy No. 842.
In the matter of the intestate estate of the late Sattanathar Thamby of Vannarponnai West Deceased.
Sivayogampal widow of Sattanathar Thamby of do
Vs. Petitioner.
1. Thamby Poomalar
2. Thamby Visayampal
3. Thamby Pushparane, all of do and H. Sattanathar Subramaniam of Kokuvil Respondents.

This matter coming on for disposal before C. Coomaraswamy Esquire, District Judge Jaffna on the 14th day of February 1940 in the presence of Mr. S. Patanjali Proctor, on the part of the petitioner and the affidavit of the petitioner having been read; It is ordered that the abovenamed 4th respondent be appointed guardian-ad-

item over the minors the 1, 2 and 3rd respondents and that the petitioner be declared entitled to have letters of administration to the estate of the said intestate as his widow unless the respondents or any other person or persons interested shall appear before this Court on or before the 20th day of March 1940 and state objection or show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.
S. RODRIGO
Al. District Judge
Jaffna, this 21st day of February 1940
(O. 84.7 & 11-3-40)

Imperial College of Agriculture for Ceylon

(Continued from page 1)

for a moment to be supposed that a West Indian College will serve the needs of the Eastern tropics. In many points there is no coincidence between the West and East Indies, and even if this fact be disputed is it to be imagined that one institution will suffice for both hemispheres? The selection of Trinidad need not affect the question of a College of Tropical Agriculture for the East and when we come to consider the matter closely we must naturally associate Ceylon with such an institution—Mr. Hamel Smith, editor of "Tropical Life" in the "Tropical Agriculturist", September, 1912.

Tropical Agriculture, like Tropical Medicine, wants specialisation. This is being provided in the case of the latter; why not in the case of the former also? There is no institution in England that can adequately train a man for an agricultural life in the tropics; and that has been the reason, no doubt, why those who have finished their course in an English College have come out to Ceylon as cadets, before proceeding to the African Colonies as officials. *Tropical Life*, in writing about this subject, refers to the West Indies as a likely place for such an institution; but Ceylon must surely be given precedence when the comparative merits of the two Colonies are considered in this connection. It is unnecessary to go into further details on this point, but whether the Western Tropics are to have a college or not, the advantages of a similar institution for Ceylon cannot be gainsaid. No one should imagine for a moment that the idea of a College is to provide a training for European planters only. It must serve the interests of all, whether European or Ceylonese, who desire to qualify as cultivators of the products which go to constitute the great agricultural industry of the tropics... The point I wish to bring out is that all interested in the agricultural prosperity of the Island, whether European or Ceylonese, should look upon the College as a national necessity and should approach Government with a wish that such an institution should be started without undue delay—so that Tropical Agriculture may receive the same fostering care as is being bestowed on Tropical Medicine and thereby develop pari passu—a correspondent in the *Tropical Agriculturist*, January, 1913.

We feel confident now that the

facts have been set out that if there is to be an Imperial College it will be established in Ceylon... An Imperial College of Agriculture would be supported, we imagine, by an Imperial Grant, subscribed to by the Dominions and the Colonies. This would take the form of an annual subsidy or of a Foundation Grant. In addition to the Imperial Grant there should be a Ceylon Foundation Fund subscribed to by the people of Ceylon and also perhaps by the great Commercial Houses of London and the Steamship Companies interested in Ceylon welfare. Perhaps India would also join in subscribing to this Fund as the Institution would certainly be of great benefit to her. Lastly the College would no doubt also be provided for by a Government *Vox*—editorial of the *Tropical Agriculturist*, April, 1913.

In answer to a remark in the *Ceylon Observer*, we agree with that paper and Professor Dunstan that, if there is to be only one University of Tropical Agriculture to start with, Ceylon certainly ought to be chosen. We are equally certain that the second institution should be in the Western Indies, preferably Trinidad, as the soil and the climatic conditions generally of that Island would, we believe, be found preferable to Barbados, which should otherwise be chosen, if only as the older Colony (*Tropical Life*) footnote in the *Tropical Agriculturist*, May, 1913.

A scheme for the proposed College of Tropical Agriculture prepared by the then Director of Agriculture and drawings of two designs for the College Buildings appear in the *Tropical Agriculturist*, August, 1913.

It may be taken for granted that everyone is agreed that the time has come when an institution in which instruction in Tropical Agriculture may be obtained must be established. It may also be taken for granted that if it is decided that only one such institution should be provided, the choice of a locality will lie between Trinidad, British West Indies, and Ceylon. Between the facilities which these two places respectively offer, I shall not attempt to judge, each one having facilities which the other has not, but, as one who has spent some time in both places, I should unhesitatingly give judgment in favour of Peradeniya, as possessing the climate the more conducive to study—A. Rutherford, in the *Tropical Agriculturist*, October, 1913.

I have just read with very great interest your proposed scheme for the College of Tropical Agriculture in Ceylon, and have an editorial on the subject for the *Philippine Agriculturist and Forester*. There should certainly be a College of Agriculture in the British tropics, and I feel sure that it could not be established anywhere else with initial advantages equal to those it would have at Peradeniya—From a letter to Mr. R. N. Lyne, Director of Agriculture, Ceylon, from Dean E. B. Copland, College of Agriculture, University of the Philippines, in the *Tropical Agriculturist*, November, 1913.

—(To be continued)

THE MINORITIES & THE CRISIS

(Continued from page 1)

dered in the evening on the way they had been treated and submitted his resignation to the Governor the same night.

The members of the State Council had by a large majority approved of the action of the Ministers, and had also decided to non-co-operate in the working of the constitution until satisfactory redress was obtained.

Minority Manoeuvres

Some of the minority members were opposed to that decision and were manoeuvring to take advantage of the crisis to urge their claims. Mr. G. G. Ponnambalam had got certain resolutions passed by the Jaffna Association disapproving of the action of the Ministers. They, perhaps, regarded that matter as one affecting only the Sinhalese. If that were so it was a warning to the Sinhalese to sink all their differences and work unitedly till they achieved what they wanted. They did not know what the future had in store for them. It might be that they had to pass through a phase of sufferings and privations and, therefore, they should unitedly prepare to face the situation. He would make one promise. He would not ask them to suffer what he was not prepared to suffer.

Dr. N. M. Perera, speaking next appealed to all political parties to sink their differences and unite to fight for the constitutional freedom of the country.

Mr. C. W. W. Kannangara who proposed the resolution said that when the motion for the appointment of a Commission to inquire into the Mooloya episode was moved in the State Council by Mr. G. G. Ponnambalam he remembered Dewan Bahadur I. X. Pereira speaking in a very plaintive manner in support of the motion but today he was opposing the attitude of the Ministers.

That was the attitude of an Indian Member of the State Council. The elected Indian representatives, Mr. Natesa Iyer and Mr. S. P. Vytilingam were, however, with the rest of the members in approving the action of the Ministers. He regretted that Mr. Natesan, who also hailed from India, had adopted a different attitude and was manoeuvring against them. The four European Members who had supported that motion were also against them.

In conclusion, Mr. Kannangara expressed regret at the fact that even the Muslim members were manoeuvring against them. That was a lesson for the Sinhalese that when a major issue was at stake they had to face the situation alone.

Mr. Sripala Samarakkody, seconding the resolution, said that it was only the Sinhalese who had agreed to work the Donoughmore Constitution. The people from Jaffna boycotted it for several years. Sir Baron Jayatilaka, the Leader of the State Council, had stated that a Sinhalese Minis-

try was formed because it was the Sinhalese who had agreed to work the Constitution and because a former Governor had wanted unanimous decisions from Ministers in certain matters. A grave crisis had now arisen and he would, therefore, point out to them the need for calm deliberation. There might be forces at work trying to exploit the situation and the Police would also resort to their usual devices and create unpleasant situations and put them in danger. He would ask them to beware of that.

Mr. A. E. Goonesinha speaking next said that there were people in this country who liked to fish in troubled waters. That the Englishmen in the Council should take up an attitude opposing the representatives of the permanent inhabitants of the country was not surprising, but that the representatives of the minorities should oppose them in a matter affecting the vital interests of the country were deplorable. Mr. G. G. Ponnambalam and Mr. Sri Pathmanathan had taken the liveliest interest in the motion for the appointment of a commission, Mr. Sri Pathmanathan had even asked whether the Sinhalese were silent because it was a Tamil who had been killed. But how did they act now? Such turn-coats would not be tolerated in the public life of any other country.

Mr. Rajah Hewavitarne, speaking next, said that at a time when they were trying to forget the events of 1915 and co-operate with those in charge of the administration of the country the Governor had chosen to give a new interpretation to the Donoughmore Constitution and forced them to non-co-operate with him. A testing time was ahead of them and, therefore, they should prepare themselves to meet the situation unitedly.

The Communal Canker

Dr. R. Siravanamuttu said that when the freedom of a country was at stake and the rights of the people were to be taken away there was no question of majorities or minorities. It was not only some of the minority community members but there were also some of the major community members who were against the action taken by the Ministers. He knew that there were some who thought that a great chance had offered itself to them to become Ministers. Jaffna was unfortunate with regard to its representatives. When the 'live-wires' of the Jaffna Youth Congress boycotted the Donoughmore Constitution they of the South had left them severely alone, with the result that there sprang up in Jaffna a party opposed to the Sinhalese. That was the party that was now in the State Council. They were the communal minded people in the Northern Province. He hoped the nationalist Youth Congress would have a dominant voice in the next elections in Jaffna. The Youth Congress supported the action of the Ministers and was sending its representatives to Colombo to give strength to the non-co-operation movement. When that movement was in pro-

Governor's Appeal to State Council

(Continued from page 3)

ernor in upholding the action of the Inspector-General of Police in refusing to carry out the instructions issued to him by the Minister of Home Affairs regarding the postponement of the criminal cases instituted in connection with the Mooloya Estate incidents as a grave infringement of our Constitutional Rights and decides not to participate in working the Constitution until such rights are restored."

Sir Baron in the course of his speech called for unity of action at the present crisis and also submitted that those who would oppose them would be guilty of treachery. The second speech in the debate came from the Member for Veyangoda, the ex-Minister of Local Administration, who made a detailed reference to the control exercised over the Metropolitan Police by the Home Secretary in England and submitted that the position was similar in this country.

Mr S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike seconded the resolution.

SETTLEMENT SUGGESTED

Governor's Readiness

Colombo, March 6.

When the State Council resumed this afternoon Mr. S. W. R. D. Dias Bandaranaike (Veyangoda) continued his overnight speech on Sir Baron Jayatilaka's motion, condemning the Governor's attitude in the Banks-Jayatilaka affair.

There was, he declared, ample material sufficient to cause the Head of the Police Department to be moved from office.

Mr. Bandaranaike announced, on behalf of the ex-Ministers, that the Governor had expressed his readiness to discuss with the Ministers a course of settlement which was honourable to the members of the State Council and in the best interests of the public.

Ceylon Hindus in the Straits Settlements

(Continued from page 2)

gapore, has now written to Mr. Sri Pathmanathan that their battle had at last been won and that he had been notified by the Colonial Secretary, Singapore, Straits Settlements, that Ceylon Hindus in the Colony were eligible to contribute to the Straits Settlements Widows' and Orphans' Pension Scheme. Mr. Pillai also thanks Mr. Sri Pathmanathan for the interest and trouble he took over the matter which had greatly contributed to the success of their efforts.

gress and when their common Motherland was in sorrow it would become clear to them the Sinhalese and the Tamils, the Buddhists and the Hindus were all there to serve her with devotion and prayer and not with violence.

Messrs. Piyadasa Sirisena, Thos. Amarasuriya, Timothy de Silva and N. H. Keerthiratne were among the other speakers.

The resolution was then carried unanimously and the meeting, which lasted four hours, came to a close.

GLOUCESTER FUND

Mr. V. Suppiah of Tondamanar acknowledges the following further contributions received towards his appeal for Gloucester Fund.

	Rs.
Previously acknowledged	1350
Messrs. Mohammed Sultan & Sons, Pt. Pedro	10
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" T. Sabaratnam, Vathiry	5
Mr. S. V. Sannungam, Kokuvil	5
" J. R. Sabaratnam, Urelu	5

Total 1450

A further list will appear in the next issue.

Same Chairmen Re-Elected

(Continued from page 3)

D. M. Rajapakse, H. L. Ratwatte, G. E. P. de Silva and H. R. Freeman.

Mr. R. C. Kannangara was absent and Mr. Freeman declined to vote.

Labour, Industry and Commerce: By five votes (two, and one declining to vote, the Committee re-elected Mr. G. C. S. Corea.

Mr. Rajah Hewavitarne, Dr. N. M. Perera, Messrs. D. P. R. Gunawardene and Dudley Senanayake voted for Mr. Corea, while Mr. L. X. Pereira voted for Mr. R. Sri Pathmanathan, Mr. H. E. Newnham declined to vote.

Mr. R. Sri Pathmanathan was in the chair.

The meeting, by a majority, desired Mr. Corea not to present himself to the Governor, as matters stood at present.

Health: Mr. W. A. de Silva was unanimously re-elected chairman of the Executive Committee of Health. Mr. Geo. E. de Silva presided at the meeting.

All members were present—Messrs. de Silva, D. H. Kotalawala, D. Wanigasekera Geo. E. de Silva, G. C. Rambugpotha, Capt. E. A. Nagawala, Mrs. Naysum Saravanamuttu and Mr. F. H. Griffith.

The meeting requested Mr. de Silva to explore all avenues for a peaceful settlement of the crisis and Mr. de Silva undertook to do so.

The ex-Ministers, after their re-election as Chairmen, met in conference in the State Council Board room and deliberated for one and a half hours. The Speaker later carried a message from them to the Governor at Queen's House.

"MOST AMAZING SPECIMEN OF QUIBBLING"

(Continued from page 1)

Andrew Caldecott cannot very well agree with Mr. Banks without stultifying himself; and yet the published correspondence does not show he has repudiated these views.

It is not our view that departmental heads have no rights of their own or that it would be right for their political chiefs to obstruct them in discharging their statutory duties. But, in the present case, so far as published documents go, we are unable to see that the Ministers have done anything to offend these principles. The sections of the Police Ordinance, which have been dragged in to prop up a poor case, far from supporting Mr. Banks, only show he has violated even those sections. "It shall be his (a police officer's) duty," one of the sections quoted by the Governor, says, "promptly to obey and execute all orders and warrants lawfully issued and directed to him by any competent authority." There is no question that a direction was given to Mr. Banks by a competent authority. If he felt that the direction was wrong, the constitutional remedy for him was to refer it to the Governor and abide by his decision. Sir Andrew Caldecott's contention that the Minister's direction was unconstitutional is entirely irrelevant to the question whether he (the Governor) allowed a subordinate to flout the Minister's authority. It can only serve to cloud the issue, and go to strengthen the impression left on the minds of the impartial public that the Governor is by no means happy over his part in this sorry episode.

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(Mis. 274, 12-2-40 to 12-3-40.)

Order Nisi

IN THE DISTRICT COURT
OF JAFFNA

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 834.

In the matter of the estate of the late
Kathiravelu Muttukumaru of Sandilipay
Deceased.

Rasammah widow of Kathiravelu
Muttukumaru of Sandilipay

Vs. Petitioner.

1. Wijayalochumy daughter of Muttukumaru
2. Rajalochumy daughter of Muttukumaru
3. Muttukumaru Sivagnasundram,
4. Muttukumaru Arumugasadas,
5. Muttukumaru Muttukumarasurier all of Sandilipay, and
6. Kathiravelu Ambalavanar of Kopay South

Respondents.

This matter coming on for disposal before C. Coomaraswamy Esquire District Judge, Jaffna, on the 7th day of February 1940 in the presence of Mr. R. Sivagurunather Proctor for the petitioner and an affidavit of the petitioner dated the 5th day of February 1940 having been read:

It is ordered that the abovenamed 6th Respondent be appointed guardian-ad-litem over the minors the abovenamed 1st to 5th Respondents, and that Letters of Administration to the estate of the abovenamed deceased, be issued to the petitioner accordingly as she is the widow of the deceased, unless the Respondents abovenamed or any other person or persons interested shall appear before this Court on or before the 13th day of March 1940 and show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of the Court to the contrary.

This 7th day of February 1940.

Sgd. S. RODRIGO,
District Judge.

(O. 81. 4 & 7-3-40)

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Printed and published by S. ADCHALINGAM, residing at Vannarponnai East, Jaffna, for and on behalf of the Proprietors, the Saiva Paripalana Sabai, Jaffna, at their Press, the Saiva Prakasa Press, Vannarponnai Jaffna, on THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 1940