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COMMUNAL DEMAND FOR UNITY IN JAFFNA

Bogey of Unity

DEMOCRACY IN JAFFNA—THE GOVERNMENT OF THE IGNORANT BY THE CLEVER FOR THE BENEFIT OF A FEW

By M. Balasundaram, B. A., B. Sc., Advocate.

A WIT delisted education as the art of misleading people by means of the written word. Politics can be aptly described as the art of misleading people by means of the spoken word. When the spoken word becomes a catch-word or shibboleth, then deception gets enshrined in it in all its force. When communal politicians in Jaffna speak of unity among those in Jaffna they are using the word 'unity' as a catch-word, fully knowing that they can catch the unthinking or the unwary. If anything is to be sacrificed to the so-called idea of unity then there might be some justification for their cry. When raising the cry of unity in Jaffna they like Gonzalo in Shakespeare ignore the full implications of their suggestions. If united opinion in a group as such is justifiable, then united opinion throughout the whole country for a national cause is justifiable.

'Unity of opinion' seems to be misunderstood by those who are using that phrase. Dull lifeless uniformity in a group of things can only be achieved if that group consists of inanimate objects. But when one talks of unity among a group of people one is using that phrase as a prig does to impose his own opinion on that group. Democracy implies that every man, be he wise or foolish, rich or poor, humble or exalted, can think for himself. It means that an average man has as much right to hold an opinion and express it as any worthy like a politician, so that unity among a people who attempt to practise democracy means the opinion of the largest number, and this opinion of the largest number is clarified and made precise by the clash of individual opinions. That is why the British Parliament which is sup-

posed to be a model of democratic institutions depends for its success on the presence of the Opposition. In fact democratic government cannot succeed in the absence of opposition.

It is only recently that the mischievous philosophy of having an artificial unity among people by suppressing individual opinion has risen. Fascism and Nazism both have this conception of artificial unity of a group as its fundamental principle. This implies in practice the imposition of the opinion of a few who are subject to the power of the few. It means the dragooning of vast masses of the population to the sweet will and pleasure of a few individuals.

In Jaffna when people talk unity they should take care not to run into the danger of allowing any sort of Fascism or Nazism in Jaffna. The Communal group has no logic or reason to offer for its attitude, so they find shelter in the catch-word 'unity'. They ask us not to express our opinions even when we disapprove their conduct. If we do what they ask us to do then a sensible man can only exclaim in the words of Shakespeare "Reason thou art fled to brutish beasts and men have lost their reason". We do not wish to nod our heads merely because a particular group of persons have chosen to nod their heads in a particular way. Democracy has been defined in the old well known words of Abraham Lincoln as government of the people by the people for the people. If we accede to the request of the communal group then democracy in Jaffna will become the government of the ignorant by the clever for the benefit of a few.

THE MAJORITY COMMUNITY'S DUTY BY THE MINORITIES

The Need for a Bold Declaration by The Ceylon Congress

THE INDIAN CONGRESS AS MODEL

By C. Arulambalam, Advocate.

IN the issue of the "Hindu Organ" of March 28, 1940, in a contribution to its columns on 'Pleas for a Servants of Ceylon Society, a remodelled National Congress and a National Flag', I expressed the view that the Ceylon National Congress, if it is to justify its name, should have in its ranks duly-accredited representatives of the Minority Communities and that, if it is to draw the Minorities under its banners, it should adopt the policy and action of the Indian National Congress in its attitude towards Minorities in India and I further specified what the policy of the Indian National Congress was in that regard.

The Sinhalese and Tamil Communities in this Island occupy the same position relative to each other which the Hindu and Mohamedan Communities do on the neighbour-Continent. Just as the solution of the Hindu-Mohamedan problem in a way satisfactory to both the Communities is essential if India is to attain Swaraj, so the solution of the Sinhalese-Tamil problem is essential for Ceylon to achieve the same object.

Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, in his Presidential Address at the recent session of the Indian National Congress held on the 19th March, 1940, refers to this question in the following terms:—"It is now nearly thirty years since I first attempted to examine this question as an Indian Mussalman. The majority of the Muslims then were keeping completely apart from the political struggle and they were influenced by the same mentality of aloofness and antagonism, which prevailed amongst them previously in the year 1888. This depressing atmosphere did not prevent me from giving my anxious thought to this matter, and I reached quickly a final conclusion, which influenced my belief and action. I saw India,

with all her many burdens, marching ahead to her future destiny. We were fellow passengers in this boat and we could not ignore its swift passage through the waters; and so it became necessary for us to come to a clear and final decision about our plan of action. How were we to do so? Not merely by skimming the surface of the problem, but by going down to its roots, and then to consider our position. I did so and I realised that the solution of the whole problem depended on the answer to one question. Do we, Indian Muslims, view the Free India of the future with suspicion and distrust or with courage and confidence? If we view it with fear and suspicion, then undoubtedly we have to follow a different path. No present declaration, no promise for the future, no constitutional safeguards can be a remedy for our doubts and fears. We are then forced to tolerate the existence of a third power. This third power is already entrenched here and has no intention of withdrawing and, if we follow the path of fear, we must needs look forward to its continuance. But if we are convinced that for us fear and doubt have no place and that we must view the future with courage and confidence in ourselves, then our course of action becomes absolutely clear. We find ourselves in a new world, which is free from dark shadows of doubt, vacillation, in action and apathy, and where the light of faith and determination, action and enthusiasm never fails. The confusions of the times, the ups and downs that come our way, the difficulties that beset our thorny path cannot change the direction of our steps. It becomes our bounden duty then to march with assured steps to India's national

(Continued on page 4)

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DENTAL NOTICE

S. Inai, (Japanese Dentist)
Colombo,

will be at Jaffna at Tiruchulvam Buildings, Main Street, Jaffna, from 7th to 16th April, 1940.
(Mis. 3. 4-4-40.)



Hindu Organ.

THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 1940.

LANGUAGE PROBLEM IN CEYLON

IT IS A HAPPY AUGURY FOR the future of the Tamils that the Jaffna youth is beginning to realise the benefit of a knowledge of the Sinhalese language. The only language that now serves to bring together the two major communities of Ceylon is English. This language is known only to a small percentage of the people and has not therefore helped much in bringing the two communities together, but has succeeded in creating a class of English-speaking men and women who seem to have very little in common with their "vernacular" kith and kin. This is regrettably true of the Tamil as well as the Sinhalese community. So we in Ceylon fall into four main groups of people—the Anglo-Sinhalese, Anglo-Tamil, Sinhalese and Tamil. The last two form the large mass of the Island's population and are the back-bone of the country. It is a pity that while the other two groups which form a small minority

have a common medium, though foreign, of understanding each other—more often of misunderstanding,—the two major groups, though they feel alike and would act alike under similar circumstances, have unfortunately no common language to bring about mutual understanding and knowledge. If the Sinhalese masses would be in a position to come into direct touch with the Tamil masses, and vice versa, much of the misunderstanding that has been created between them by interested individuals would be happily resolved and the communalism which stalks the country today would fade into the limbo of forgotten things. A campaign to bring about this consummation will be a great service to the motherland. We congratulate the Jaffna Youths' Social Service League on having made a beginning in this direction. Their example should certainly serve to inspire the other parts of the peninsula to spread a knowledge of the Sinhalese language among the Tamil people. The advantages of a knowledge of Sinhalese to a Tamil are too obvious to need mention. The lot of the Sinhalese and the Tamil communities is cast together in this Island. Those who have the best interests of the communities in particular and of the country in general will not be slow to realise this. It is heartening to find that some schools both in the South and the North have made a start in this direction and we trust that the Minister of Education who himself is an ardent advocate of this campaign will earnestly take up the question. This is admittedly one of the most effective means of building up a united Ceylonese nation.

MR. SENANAYAKE ON NEED FOR CO-OPERATION

The Value of Discussion

Colombo Tuesday.

Mr. D. S. Senanayake, Minister of Agriculture and Lands, presided at the Silver Jubilee celebrations of the Prince of Wales Literary Union, Grandpass, last night.

In the course of his speech he stressed the need, for harmonious co-operation among the people of this country.

Differences of opinion among individuals were, he said, bound to exist so long as the world lasted and they therefore should not non-co-operate simply because they could not see eye to eye with one another on any particular subject.

No man was perfect, and even in the worst of mankind there were some good qualities.

They should regard it as their duty to discuss questions on which differences of opinion existed, weigh the pros and cons, and endeavour to arrive at some agreement acceptable to both sides.

Protest Meeting

Amendments to Education Code Opposed

A meeting of the citizens of Jaffna was held at the Vaisheshwara Vidyalayam, on Monday the 1st April to protest against the proposed amendments to the Education Code. Mr. A.R. Subramanniam, Advocate, presided. The following resolutions were passed:—

"This meeting notes with alarm the attempts made by the Minister of Education to paralysse the stability and hamper the usefulness of Assisted Schools, and calls upon the Members of the State Council to take effective steps to protect the interests of these schools."

"This meeting records its disapproval of the suggestions put forward by the Board of Education in connection with the proposed Amendments."

"These suggestions of distinguishing between tuition fees and other fees, based on an erroneous conception of education, encourage and legalise malpractices in the collection and disbursement of school fees."

"This meeting of the citizens of Jaffna emphatically protests against the new Amendments to the Code of Regulations which the Minister of Education is submitting to the State Council. These Amendments constitute an undue and unwarranted interference in the management of Assisted Schools, which form an integral part of the educational system of the country."

British Navy in Scandinavian Waters

Pocket-Battleships Destroyed?

London, Tuesday.

While no official comment is available as to the suggestions put forward that the British Navy had probably destroyed or badly crippled both the Admiral Scheer and the Deutschland, authoritative quarters have good reason to believe that, as the result of the air attacks carried out at Wilhelmshaven, the Admiral Scheer was badly damaged, and that the Deutschland may have been one of the ships damaged during the attack by British submarine near Heligoland Bight.

The German news agency admits that a group of German patrol boats were attacked by British planes west of Sylt with 25 bombs. All the bombs, it says, missed their targets.

British reconnaissance planes, it proceeds, were forced to fight by German fighters which formed an "air barrage" off Heligoland Bight. The news agency adds that one Bristol-Bleheim bomber was shot down after a pretty long air battle. The bomber was said to have crashed very suddenly so that the crew had no time to jump with their parachutes.

On inquiry at the Air Ministry today, it was learned that the report that a British aircraft had been shot down over Heligoland was unfounded.

State Council Rejects No-Confidence Motion

MR. ALUWIHARE'S MOVE FAILS

SIR BARON AGAIN LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Colombo Wednesday.

Sir Baron Jayatilaka was re-elected vice-Chairman of the Board of Ministers, following the defeat in the State Council of the censure motion of Mr. B. H. Aluwihare by eight votes to 24. Sir Baron himself declined to vote on the motion and he was followed by his ministerial colleagues and nine other members.

At the meeting of the Board of Ministers held immediately after the State Council adjourned for the day, Sir Baron's re-election was proposed by Mr. C. W. W. Kannangara, Minister of Education, and seconded by Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike, Minister of Local Administration. Sir Baron therefore, goes into the State today once again as its leader.

Mr. B. H. Aluwihare moved the following motion:—

"That this House considers that Sir Baron Jayatilaka having jeopardised the safety of the people of this country by proposing the Internal Security Scheme whilst withholding the fact that the Police repudiated his authority; having with the Inspector-General of Police consented to a formula which defeated the resolution of the House that the Mooloya prosecutions be postponed pending the inquiry by the Governor's Commission, and having asked the Governor for rulings which diminished the authority of the Ministers, has lost the confidence of the State Council and is unfit to be the Chairman of the Committee for Home Affairs or the Vice-Chairman of a Board of Ministers."

REFORMS TALKS AGAIN

Governor to Confer with Ministers

It is understood that the subject of the Reform of the Constitution will shortly be considered at a conference between the Governor and the Board of Ministers at Nuwara-Eliya.

No definite date has yet been fixed, but it is learned that the meeting will probably be held on April 16.

A despatch from the Secretary of State for the Colonies on the subject will be considered at the meeting.

Strangling Effect of the Blockade

New York, Monday.

"The strangling effect of the Allied blockade has been underestimated in other countries, but not in Germany," says the "New York Times", which states that semi-official sources in Germany admitted in February that the blockade had wiped out 50 per cent. of Germany's foreign trade. It adds: "If the Germans admit so much, one can suspect that the true extent of the damage has been greater."

MY PILGRIMAGE TO MAHATMA GANDHIJI'S ASHRAM AT WARDHA

By *Muhandiram V. Nagalingam*
(Written exclusively for the "Hindu Organ")

IT would be interesting to readers of this short account of my trip to India if I start it by saying that this was my second visit to India. The first one being in 1902, exactly 38 years ago whether I went to prosecute my studies at the Madras Christian College when the eminent and distinguished educationist, the Rev. Dr. Miller, was the Principal of the College. On my arrival at Madras in this trip I was met at my hotel by Mr. Muhammad Musa Sait, Sheriff of the City of Madras for 1938-39, a wealthy merchant who was my classmate and friend at College in 1902. He took me round the city in his swell car and showed me all the changes the city had undergone since our college days. The aquarium at Triplicane supposed to be the best in the East was visited, and it was indeed a gorgeous sight. The marvels of the deep have all been mobilised, so to say, in glass houses with the natural setting to which each individual groups and species are accustomed to. On the invitation of the Madras Radio Station Director I gave a broadcast talk on "Madras past and present" at 9.15 p.m. on the 25th ultimo which was listened into by many of my friends both in India and Ceylon, and reports received say the talk was interesting and the reception good.

After spending four days in Madras on my onward journey I proceeded to Wardha by the Grand Trunk Express train of the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway Coy which took me to my destination after 24 hours' continuous run. The Wardha Railway Junction is important in as much as it is situated in a central position in Central India with railway lines leading from it to the important cities of India, such as Bombay, Delhi, Calcutta and to the North Indian Cities. I wish to state here parenthetically that it is not at all enjoyable to travel alone in the parts as no one seems to understand Tamil or English, and are not sufficiently communicative as to elicit any information about men and matters up there. It would certainly be enjoyable and pleasant if a few friends join to form a touring party. From Wardha Railway Junction I went by a two-wheeled horse carriage known as Tonga which took me to my destination, the Mahatma's Ashram at Sevagram. This is a small village 5 miles west from the Railway Station, and is inhabited by a couple of hundreds of Harijan families. The landscape presents a desolate, barren and dry appearance. The temperature of the place at the time of my visit was 110 degrees. I am told that it rises to 119 degrees during the months of April and May. The heat was something unbearable during the day and the nights are very cold. It is in this open desolate spot of the country that Mahatmaji has brought into being an Ashram.

The Harijan village is about a quarter of a mile from it. Most of the labourers engaged in

building houses, sinking wells and turning the surrounding plots of land into vegetable gardens are the Harijans from this village. I am told that this land was donated to Mahatmaji by the well-known Congress worker Seth Jamnal Bajaj who is a very influential and wealthy resident of Wardha. The Ashram has a number of buildings built of wattle and daub walls and roof constructed of wooden rafters, bamboo reapers covered with bamboo mats and half round tiles made on the spot. Mahatmaji's hut is on the southern side of the group of buildings. There are about 30 to 40 Ashramites of both sexes mostly from North and Central India. Their chief occupation is spinning. Mr. Chinnalal N. Shah is an English educated Ashramite and is the Manager of the Institution. The work of constructing new residential buildings and sinking wells as planned by Mahatmaji is proceeding apace. There is a Dispensary attached to the Ashram with a lady Doctor—an M. B. B. S. She is one Shri Susila Nair. Her brother Sjt Priyela is the under Secretary of Mahatmaji. My greatest interest centered round Sjt Banzali Bhai an M. Sc from Bombay. He is with Mahatmaji for the last 20 years and is the spinning instructor and lavatory superintendent. My object in going to this Ashram was to fulfil a vow I made some years ago that is to do lavatory work and to meet and receive the blessing of the Mahatmaji. I achieved my object and my visit to the Ashram was a success. It was after 5 days of my arrival at the Ashram that Mahatmaji, his wife Kasturi Bai Gandhi and the Secretaries returned to Sevagram after their visit to Patna in connection with the All India Congress Working Committee's deliberations and the reception accorded to Mahatmaji by the Gandhi Seva Sangh there. My friends want me to say why I chose to do lavatory work. My answer is self-immolation and self-abnegation. It was to discipline the mind to respond to any sacrifice one would wish it to submit. It is a training to feel for the poor.

On Sunday the 3rd Mahatma and party arrived at the Ashram just about the evening prayer meeting was over. There was a flutter and the inmates one by one went towards where Mahatmaji stood and worshipped him. It was night time and he was not able to make out who I was. He, however, enquired in Hindi who I was. Everyone conversed and answered his questions in Hindi and some in Gujarati. He cracked jokes with some of the boys and girls and patted them on their back with the word *Kamp* which in Gujarati means "How". His characteristic laughter rang and echoed in the darkness, his exuberant humour and wit were in full play. The ignorance of the language made me a silent onlooker. As soon as he entered his hut he began his 24 hour silence which ended on Monday night. The daily routine of work was carried on. The morning and evening constitutional walk was

SIDE LIGHTS AND LIGHT SIDES

(By *Squid Eye*)

Books Unwritten:

"Divided we Fell, United we stand up", by the Homogeneous Ministry of Ceylon.

"One Man, One Vote"—by An Aspirant to Ministership.

For the Indian National Congress at Ramgarh a gang of eighteen pickpockets from Indore went "to try their luck" but were arrested duly.

On a previous occasion Subhas Chandra Bose lost his purse, and this time another visitor also lost his purse in the assembly. So it's not all saints in the crowd.

Tokyo.

Domei Agency understands that a barter agreement has been concluded between Japan and Rumania under which "a special Rumanian product now in great demand in Europe" will be exchanged for Japanese cotton piecegoods. —(Reuter)

As the war wears on we will get the news in crosswords. "A neutral vessel of five letters was attacked by a one-letter enemy."

Dr. Montessori in a message to the Indian Congress "requests it to take into consideration the need for the independence and freedom of the great people of childhood which can be achieved by humility and non-violence on the part of adults."

The old tag will now have to read, *Spare the Child and Spoil the Rod.*

After elaborately describing his medicine an advertiser hopes, "the discriminating public will sift the gold out of sand, and thus will not deprive themselves of the boon that our medicines confer"

We have experience in Ceylon of the stuff that comes as medicine but how many of us has the patience to sift the substance out of the sawdust?

in no way interfered by the observance of silence. Everything was normal and usual except that, he did not speak. On Tuesday afternoon I was introduced by Sjt Mahadeva Desai, Mahatmaji's Private Secretary and was ushered in by Shri Rajkumar Amrut Kaur, a member of the Kathiawar royal family who is a personal Secretary to Mahatmaji. As soon as I went in I worshipped him. He inquired if I am not in good health since my arrival at the Ashram. I said that it was so. He further remarked that he understood that the food and the weather at Sevagram did not agree with me. I replied that it did not agree with me at all. For this he said that it was for this that you came. Then he smiled and said "You have achieved your object". This refers to my lavatory work I did before his arrival and which was communicated to him by Dr Susila Nair who attended on me during my illness a couple of days earlier. While conversing with me he noticed some mistake in the spinning of a lady Ashramite who was engaged in that work close by and pointed out to her the defect and made her to do it correctly. Turning to me he said "God has given me food, he has given me leadership but not the time" This he uttered in a pensive and rueful man-

German patrols have shown more cleverness than they did in the last war and old British soldiers with the B. E. F attribute this to the Hitler Youth movement and hiking. Germans are less sheep-like than formerly. They change their routes when on patrol and have mastered the art of noiseless movement. German gunners have also improved and do not shell the same places at the same time as was their habit in 1914-1918.

(News from The Front)

The present war looks like a mutual-admiration affair.

Nabha's Hair

Question of his hair (headlines in an Indian paper) It's only a slight difference, after all.

A Colombo shop advertises Ladies' Ladder-proof Stockings. Must be the kind that wont rip when caught in the ladder pin.

Tokyo, March 7.

Mr. Takao Saito who had made an offensive remark about the "China incident" by a "slip of the tongue" has been expelled from the Diet.

A slip of the tongue in the diet, sometimes is serious, as readers may know who have bitten their tongues when eating.

Palghat Dhobies will not strike, says a newspaper headline.

So much the better for the clothes of their patrons. The dhobies there must have taken to modern methods of washing.

"In political controversy people should keep their heads cool," said Mr. Subhas Chandra Bose in regard to the ugly incident of a Bengali having hurled a shoe at Mr. Gandhi recently in Bengal.

Mr. Bose's men tried to keep their feet cool.

Before leaving I requested him to give me his blessing. To this he said "You have achieved your object, now go and keep well". I then wanted something written and given so that I may take it home. It is then he wrote on a leaf of my letter pad form which I held in my hands the words in Tamil "Neeril Eluththakam" meaning as explained by him that life is comparable to writing on water. After this I left him and was about to go out of his hut; he looked at me and said once more "keep well". It is interesting to note that a Muslim lady by name Amtul Bai is one of Mahatmaji's personal attendants I have seen her escorting him at prayer time and helping him to rise from his seat by offering her hand to his. Before I close this I feel it my duty to mention the name of Shri Sarala Devi an English lady who is in the educational section of the Ashram and to whom my sincere and grateful thanks are due for the very hospitable and kind manner she acted as my hostess during my short sojourn at that Ashram. As I confine myself to an account of my interview with Mahatma Gandhiji in this article I do not propose to give details of my tour in Northern India. But suffice it to say that I visited Allahabad, Benares, Calcutta and other places of interest enroute.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

THE COMMUNAL BOGEY

Sir,

I desire to question the Minority Communities—above all the prominent minority the Tamils—whether it pays to play the tune of perpetual discord. Are we to perpetuate the weed of discord or are we to cultivate the seed of concord? The indiscreet indecency to be quick to perceive the dust in the neighbour's eye while carrying the moat in his own eye is as true today as it was in the days of Jesus. Well our forefathers were wise men during the days of Jesus.

There is a saying that human mind should be akin to a swan drinking the milk mixed in water leaving water aside. We must regard a man even for the 1 per cent of good deed or word frankly expressed without designs whereas we must suspect a man with 99 per cent good superficially actuated with a sense of tact and design. A glass of pure water is more welcome than a pond of dirt.

Between man and man there should be generous and healthy understanding. Our economic, political and social interests are identical. We must learn the good lesson to praise each other's good acts rather than harp each other's wicked acts. The nobility of the Sinhalese race is engraved eternally for us being called frankly in the word *Dutugemunu* (wicked slayer) of saintly *Ellara*. Take religious sentiments in our history as well as those of other sections of the human race had given the innocent incentive to many a barbarous act. Man despite racial or national feelings should examine these two historical figures critically wherein was the basic cause for cleavage in our national affairs. Hats off to *Dutugemunu* though he was the first to sow the seed of discord—merely for the single act of his amiable edict to honour the tomb of *Ellara*, that Emperor of Lanka who was the last of that righteous line of *Mahavamsa*.

Religious and communal passions may pay as it had filled the coffers of imperialists and exploiters who had stepped in to draw dry the already down-trodden and helpless mass due to post-*Ellara* internecine wars. The wealth so got cannot but tend to leak into channels of spite and war as is the case in the international affairs of today. Do men consider this state of affairs normal and healthy in the

constitutional life of nation? Are we to ape the west?

Certain Councillors of Ceylon consider it worthwhile to pursue a line of policy based on communal antagonism relying on the good sense of the Governor to extend his protecting arm over the head of minorities. Giving vent to suspicions in the intentions of the major community, which should inevitably predominate the Council Chambers, might give rise to endless animosity and waste of energy. Let us honour wherever there is a genuine deed or word irrespective of personalities, whether it be from *Bandaranayake*, *Ponnampalam* or *Jinnah*, the Indian. If *Mr. Senanayake* works to improve the Sinhalese districts let him do so more energetically, for those parts may require first attention in view of the deplorable state in which those districts are. Let us be a little patient and generous. When he has improved those parts at least to equal the other parts he might turn to do his bit to other parts as well from the crumps of revenue allotted to his department. Ceylon is an entity. If one part is improved economically other parts cannot but derive benefits. We must judge things in the long perspective without questioning every step.

The lead given by the Editor of the "Hindu Organ" is nothing extraordinary. The editorial words are a product of sober thinking unlike those of our hot-headed representatives intoxicated with the variety of prestige at the expense of one another and the mass refusing to lead or to be led along the avenues of national prosperity or at least communal harmony. If every short-sighted politician, without evincing even a shadow of responsibility, were to champion with questionable motive the cause of the ghost of communalism with a view probably to set up multiple thrones like the Indian *Jinnah* then there will be no end to our communal drum.

We hope there will be sober thinking in all directions with the one and only end in view to free our Motherland from the shackles of dependency and despondency without giving the loaf to the monkey for justice. To that goal let us all stride,

Yours etc.,
C. VELUPILLAI

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THE MAJORITY COMMUNITY'S DUTY BY THE MINORITIES

(Continued from page 1)

goal. I arrived, at this definite conclusion without the least hesitation, and every fibre of my being revolted against the former alternative. I could not bear the thought of it. I could not conceive it possible for a Muslim to tolerate this, unless he has rooted out the spirit of Islam from every corner of his being."

The Indian Congress President in the passage quoted above, gives his view as to how the Mohammedan should act in the matter of striving for *Swaraj* for India. He appeals to his Mohammedans compatriots to throw in their lot with other communities in achieving the object of a 'Free India.' Should not the Ceylon Tamils also work hand in hand with the Sinhalese and others in achieving *Swaraj* for Lanka?

If we trace back the history of the organisation which now calls itself the Ceylon National Congress we shall find that when it was launched, chiefly through the efforts of the late *Sir Ponnambalam Arunachalam* and some of his fellow-workers of all Communities, the Minority Communities were well-represented in it. But when the idea gained ground that the Majority Community, and in particular a section of it (the Low Country Sinhalese), was going to dominate it unduly the Minorities withdrew from it. From then up to now that organisation is only representative of a section of the Sinhalese Community.

When the Donoughmore Constitution came into effect it was realised that that Constitution made it possible for the Majority Community to dominate the political stage if it wanted. After the State Council had come into existence with its Sinhalese majority, although this fear of domination was there, the Minorities agreed to work the Constitution. In the first Board of Ministers the representatives of the Minorities found place as Ministers, and the apprehensions of the Minorities were allayed for the time being. When the State Council had its second term the new Board of Ministers was constituted of Sinhalese members only, this justifying the prediction made by the late *Sir Ponnambalam Ramanathan* that, under the Donoughmore Constitution, it was possible always for the Majority Community to dominate the Executive Committees and through them the Ministries if it wanted. The members of the all-Sinhalese Board of Ministers justified its constitution in that manner on the ground that it was a homogeneous Board and by its nature could work with Collective Responsibility.

It has to be admitted that the Minorities, and in particular the Tamils, view the future (to quote the Indian Congress President) with "suspicion and distrust". If they are to substitute "courage and confidence" for "suspicion and distrust", the reorganised Ceylon National Congress must follow the lines of its Indian prototype in its policy towards the Minorities in this Island.

At the last General Election

held in India under the provisions of the present Government of India Act the Indian National Congress put forward candidates on the Congress ticket and in several of the Provinces in India the Congress representatives were returned with big majorities. In the Congress Ministries formed in the Congress, Provinces the leading representatives of the Minorities found place, thus showing that the Congress policy of a sympathetic attitude towards the Minorities was being acted upon.

The Ceylon National Congress should model itself on the lines of the Indian National Congress without delay both in its Constitution and its working and after it gets the Minorities under its banners it should become the dominant political body to run the Government in this Island.

If *Swaraj* is to be the goal for Ceylon, as it should be if the principle of self-determination is to find application, then the Majority and the Minority Communities should be fellow-workers towards it. The policy of equality of opportunity and service should be followed in all national matters whether political, social or economic.

Although the Sinhalese and Ceylon Tamil Communities are racially different and have cultures of their own, yet it has to be admitted that their close contact for centuries has brought about a sameness of political outlook. Every Community in this Island, belonging to the permanent population, should consider itself Ceylonese first and Sinhalese, Tamil, Mohamedan or Burgher second, in the sphere of politics, where all-Ceylon matters are concerned.

The Indian Congress President in his peroration says:—"This thousand years of our joint life has moulded us into a common nationality. This cannot be done artificially. Nature does her fashioning through her hidden processes in the course of centuries. The cast has now been moulded and destiny has set her seal upon it. Whether we like it or not we have now become an Indian Nation, united and indivisible. No fantasy or artificial scheming to separate and divide can break this unity. We must accept the logic of fact and history and engage ourselves in the fashioning of our future destiny."

The National Ceylonese view should supersede the individual communal view.

To adopt a simile, the different Communities may be separate as the fingers in matters of language, national art, culture etc. but one as the hand in political life. Just as the Indians, in spite of their differences of language, culture etc. consider themselves to form the Indian Nation so should the Ceylonese realise that they form the Ceylonese Nation. Then only will the future of Ceylon be assured on the lines of self-determination.

It is left to the Majority Community to extend the hand of friendship and comradeship to the Minorities and by allaying all suspicion of domination draw the Minorities to be (to quote the expressive words of the Indian Congress President) "fellow passengers in the boat voyaging to the ultimate destination of *Swaraj*."

Youth's Social Service League

Opening Ceremony of Sinhalese and Spinning Classes

The opening ceremony of the Sinhalese and spinning classes under the auspices of the Youths' Social Service League, Jaffna, came off on Saturday the 30th March 1940 at about 9.30 a.m. at the "Kala Nilayam" Hall, Vannarponnai, Jaffna. Mr. A. Coomaraswamy, M. A., Principal Jaffna Hindu College, presided. The hall was almost full.

Mr. A. Coomaraswamy addressing the gathering said, "I am very glad that this league is attempting to do some practical social service. Unlike other organisations which start with all pomp and ceremony and fade away in an year or two, their league should have the tenacity of purpose and should take to social service as a lifetime work. Social Service should not be taken as a hobby or pastime but as the primary object of one's life. Social service does not mean going to the State Council and making long speeches in the Council Chamber. A unity of purpose, a common language and inter-marriage are the three factors essential for Sinhalese-Tamil Unity. The introduction of spinning is a step taken in the right direction for it would help the people to become self-dependent. Everyone should take to it as a part of the daily routine of work."

Mr. K. K. Nadarajah, Asst. Editor, 'Inthusathanam', speaking next dwelt on the glorious past of the Tamils who, he said, were distinguished for their patriotism, courage and charity. He quoted many examples from the Tamil National poet Barathar and from the classics to illustrate these qualities. He said that spinning was a noble undertaking and that Mahatma Gandhi had made it the primary condition of Indian Swaraj.

At this stage Mr. A. Coomaraswamy had to leave the place to preside at a meeting of the Jaffna Hindu College Carnival Committee. Then His Holiness Rudrakoteswarar took the chair. The swami related his experiences with the Madras Social Service League.

Mr. C. Arulampalam, Advocate, and representative for Jaffna at Central Board of Agriculture, speaking next said, "The study of Sinhalese is indispensable for all non-Sinhalese residents in Ceylon. It will bring about a closer understanding between the various Communities of the island. In ancient days spinning formed one of the major occupations of the Jaffnese. But later on it began to be neglected. It is very necessary that we should revive it."

Mr. S. SenathiRajah, the Secretary proposed a vote of thanks to the speakers and to those present. Mr. Arunesarajah seconded. Then the Sinhalese class was started, the teacher being Rev. Wewagama Sinkarakita Thero.

The Spinning Class was postponed to the 6th of April owing to the unavoidable absence of Mr. P. Navaratnam, Headmaster, "Tinnevely Textile demonstration centre", who was expected to have conducted the class.

DOCTOR DISCHARGED

Jaffna, Wednesday.

Mr. Thomas Poage Hunt, a former insurance agent of the Pearl Life Assurance Co., and Dr. Marimuttu Vettivelu, retired Government Medical Officer, a Sub-Agent at Jaffna for the Pearl Life Assurance Co., were discharged by Mr. E. V. R. Samarawickrema, the Jaffna Magistrate, in the alleged insurance fraud case.

The charge was one of cheating the Branch Manager in respect of the proposals made to the Company for the insurance of the lives of Messrs. M. S. Thambiturai, G. S. Chelliah and R. M. Ponnudurai, and of dishonestly inducing the Branch Manager in Colombo to accept the said proposals and to pay commissions of Rs. 5.25, Rs. 5.43 and Rs. 5.34 on the policies.

Dr. Vettivelu was charged with abetment.

Mr. Ian R. G. Smith, Insurance Manager, Harrisons and Crosfield was cross-examined at length.

Messrs. E. M. Ponnudurai, M. S. Thambiturai, of the staff of St. John's College, Mr. G. S. Chelliah, Headmaster of the Kopay English School, Messrs. R. T. Sevaratnam and E. Rajidurai who had taken policies through Mr. Hunt in the company gave evidence.

After the evidence of Mr. Hunt and Mr. C. Thuraietnam, the Magistrate discharged both Mr. Hunt and Dr. Vettivelu.

Vaddukoddai Bids Farewell to D. M. O.

Vaddukoddai, Monday.

That Sir Waitialingam Duraiswamy, who was one gifted with a truly national outlook, had well and truly laid the foundation of a bridge that would span the gulf between the two Major Communities in the Island was the statement made by one of the speakers at Jaffna College premises on the occasion of the farewell by the public of Jaffna West to Dr. S. K. Chinniah, D. M. O., Vaddukoddai on the eve of his retirement from Public Service.

Sir W. Duraiswamy presided, the Rev. S. K. Bunker and Mr. M. Sabaratnasinghe spoke on the many excellent qualities of the retiring D. M. O.

This was followed by the presentation to Dr. Chinniah of an illuminated address in English, which referred to the fact that the Doctor was remarkably free from the supercilious condensation and the unfelling impatience that too often marked the high official in Ceylon.

Messrs. S. D. Tampoe and J. V. Chelliah also spoke.

Sir Duraiswamy, speaking next, said that the presence of that large gathering was ample testimony to the popularity of the doctor. He (the speaker) had come from South Ceylon in order to pay his own tribute to Dr. Chinniah's many services.

Dr. Chinniah briefly thanked the speakers and the gathering.

Mr. S. Kandaswamy, Proctor, Secretary the Reception Committee, after making the remarks quoted above said that they were glad that they had as their representative in the State Council one who was the guiding star in every movement that was directed towards the ushering in of peace and harmony among the various communities.

Retired Official on Murder Charge

Mr. R. C. Proctor Remanded

Chilaw, Tuesday.

Mr. R. C. Proctor, retired Deputy Registrar of the Supreme Court, was remanded with two others by Mr. C. J. C. Janz, Chilaw Magistrate, in connexion with the death of a man named Peter.

Mr. Proctor has been admitted to the remand hospital and an application is being made to the Supreme Court for bail.

Mr. Jansz accompanied by Mr. C. C. Dissanayake A.S.P., and Inspector Roosmalecog, motored to Kusala, a village six miles from Chilaw, and some distance opposite the Kottage Farm on which Mr. Proctor resides.

A whole day inquiry was held. R. K. Joseph Perera is alleged to have had an encounter with Peter who died later in hospital. J. Juan Fernando, Chinniah and Mr. Proctor are alleged to have joined in the assault at various stages.

Peter is then alleged to have been dragged to Mr. Proctor's farm.

Mr. Proctor is alleged to have been standing at noon on the day of the assault under a coconut tree not far from the gateway of the farm. One witness said that Mr. Proctor had given Peter a dig as he was being dragged within the gates. Another witness stated that it was Chinniah who had dug Peter.

Mr. C. A. L. Corea, with Mr. J. L. Corea, appeared for the accused persons and moved for bail on the ground that there was no evidence to the effect that the prosecution would be hampered. He added that Mr. Proctor was an aged invalid pensioner.

The application was refused and further inquiry was fixed for April 15th.

Train Fire

A vestibule of the Jaffna mail train to Colombo was slightly burnt due to a spark from the engine falling on the leather covering. The damage was slight as the fire was detected early.

This is the second time during the last week that a fire of this kind has broken out on a train. On the last occasion a vestibule of the Trincomalee train in which the State Councillors were travelling, to inspect the defences was completely burnt out.

Personal

Mr. S. Ponnuswamy of 'Ponnalayam' Neeraviady presently Forrester, Jaffna and sometime at Batticaloa is retiring after 30 years service. He has taken three months leave preparatory to retirement.

Mr. K. Nadarajah has taken up his oath as Proctor and will practice at Jaffna.

He is a brother of late Mr. K. Sabaratnam, Bar-at-Law and the nephew of Mr. Velupillai, F. M. S. Pensioner.

Mr. S. Ponnusamy, Forester, Jaffna, who was acting Divisional Forest Officer, Jaffna and Batticaloa, for a considerable time is retiring from service in June next, after 30 years' service. He is going on three months' leave preparatory to retirement.

Russia Building Defence Works on German Frontier

Bucharest, Tuesday.

Reports from Cernauti, on the Rumano-Polish border, state that Russia is going ahead rapidly with the construction of concrete defence works along her new frontier with Germany in occupied Poland. The inhabitants are stated to have been warned to evacuate the frontier region and move at least six miles into Soviet occupied Poland.

Order Nisi

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA

Testamentary Jurisdiction No 821
In the matter of the intestate estate of the late Arulambalam Yoke-swaram of Vannarponnai in Jaffna Deceased.

Arulambalam Somascentia of Vannarponnai West Jaffna

Vs. Petitioner.

1. Yogammah widow of Arulambalam of Vannarponnai West
2. Sivamany widow of Yokeswaram of Sivalingapuliyady Oddumadam Jaffna. Respondents.

This matter coming on for disposal before C. Coomaraswamy Esquire, District Judge, Jaffna, on the 11th day of January 1940 in the presence of Mr. V. Navaratnam Rajah, Proctor, for the petitioner and an affidavit of the petitioner dated the 17th day of November 1939 having been read;

It is ordered that Letters of Administration to the Estate of the abovenamed deceased be issued to the petitioner accordingly as he is a brother of the deceased unless the Respondents or any other person or persons interested shall appear before this Court on or before the 8th day of April 1940 and show sufficient cause if any to the satisfaction of the Court to the contrary.

This 11th day of January 1940.

Sgd. C. Coomaraswamy

District Judge.

(O. 87. 4 & 8-3-40)

Order Nisi

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA

(held at Pt. Pedro)

Testamentary Jurisdiction

No. 118 P. T.

In the matter of the intestate estate of Sivapakiam wife of Rasiyah of Karaveddi North. Deceased, Sithamparapillai Rasiyah of Karaveddi North presently of Dehiwala.

Vs. Petitioner.

Minor. 1. Thavamani daughter of Rasiyah of Karaveddi North

2. Kathirasipillai widow of Kandiah of do

Respondents.

This matter coming on for disposal before E. V. R. Samarawickrema Esquire, Additional District Judge, of Jaffna, on the 14th day of March 1940 in the presence of Mr. T. Balakrishnan, Proctor on the part of the petitioner abovenamed and the affidavit of the said petitioner dated 12th March 1940 having been read;

It is ordered that the petitioner abovenamed be and he is hereby declared entitled, as the husband of the deceased abovenamed, to have Letters of Administration to her estate issued to him, unless the respondents or any other person or persons interested shall, on or before the 11th day of April 1940 show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

It is further ordered that the abovenamed 2nd respondent be and she is hereby appointed Guardian-ad-litem over the minor the 1st respondent abovenamed for all the purposes of this action unless the respondents shall on or before the 11th day of April 1940 show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

The 14th day of March 1940.

Sgd. E. V. R. Samarawickrema,

Additional District Judge.

(O. 88. 4 & 8-4-40.)

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Saiva Samaya Viruthi Sangham, Araly

The annual General Meeting of the Saiva Samaya Viruthi Sangam, Araly, was held on Saturday 23rd March 1940 at 6 p.m. at Sree Ganesha Vidyasala Hall, Araly North. Over 300 members including ladies were present.

Sir, Waitbilingam Duraiswamy presided.

The following resolutions were passed:—

1. That the Hindu Board of Education be requested to transfer the local management of the Sree Ganesha Vidyasala schools (Tamil and English) with all financial responsibilities, to a local manager appointed by the Committee of Management of the above Sangham.

2. That steps be taken to conduct regular Religious Classes for adults and children.

3. That a Library and a Free Dispensary be established as early as possible.

Then the following were elected as office bearers for 1940-41.

Patron: Sir Waitbilingam Duraiswamy.

President: Mr. W. Fonnudurai.
Vice-Presidents: Dr. C. Somasundram, Mr. V. Sivapiragasam, Mr. R. Sanmugam.

Hony. Secretary: Mr. K. Supramaniam.

Hony. Treasurer: Mr. S. B. Kandiah.

Hony. Assistant Secy. and Treasurer: Mr. C. Kugadasan.

Manager of Schools: Mr. S. Kawalingam.

Committee Members

Messrs. C. T. Storer; S. Chelliah; S. Dharulingam; V. Sabapathy; V. Canapathipillai; S. Coomarasoori; K. Selvadurai; S. Chinniah; K. Sundaramoorthy; S. Kandiah; V. Sangarapilla; Mrs. Ponnammamma Ponnampalam; Mrs. C. Somasundram; Mrs. S. G. S. Maniam; Mrs. K. Candiya; Mrs. K. Subramaniam; Mrs. Nannitamby; Mrs. S. B. Kandiah; Mrs. V. Tamboo; Mrs. S. Kanagasabapathy; Mrs. T. Balasubramanian; Mrs. S. Dharinaratna; Mrs. A. Selvadurai; and Mrs. T. Visuvalingam.

The meeting terminated with the singing of Thevaram.

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