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LACK OF GOOD LEADERSHIP IN CO-OPERATION

Pleasingly Different Prospect in
Tamil Division

CO-OPERATIVE MOVEMENT AND POLITICS

Last year I had occasion to draw pointed attention to one of the outstanding difficulties of the co-operative movement in Ceylon, namely, the lack of good leaders. The deficiency almost approached total barrenness in the Sinhalese Divisions, and although there has been some improvement since, there is yet room for very much more. The prospect is pleasingly different in the Tamil Division, observes the Registrar of Co-operative Society in his Report for May 1938 to April 1939. There leadership, he adds, has been helped by a favourable environment and a happier state is reported by the Assistant Registrar: "It may not be too much to assume that the 362 societies in the Division have created as many local leaders in the respective places whose words carry weight and influence with them. Apart from this I am glad to record that the movement is attracting another class of people who are useful to the movement and indirectly to themselves. These come from the well-to-do, educated, and leisured class who not only command influence in their respective areas but are respected in other parts as well and whose association is being sought after by people interested in other social, educational, and political activities. I am glad to state that those interested in the movement in my division have not been slow to detect and discard the place-seeker, the honours hunter, and the politician."

Co-operation and Politics

That brings me to a new danger that has arisen to threaten the movement. I have been much concerned to observe of late a growing tendency in almost every part of the country to allow co-operation

to be entangled in politics, whether local or central, and I would wish to take this opportunity of sounding a timely warning both to co-operators and to those who seek to exploit co-operation for political ends. In a country like Ceylon where political thinking is not yet the strong point of the masses and where people are easily swayed by influences, a popular movement like the co-operative movement, in which there is a tempting concentration of the mass vote, soon becomes, for obvious strategical reasons, the object of contention among rival competitors for political power. Every co-operative society, every co-operative Union, every co-operative platform offers the prospect of a vantage-ground to the political agent and the vote-canvasser, every co-operative worker has the temptation of power or profit thrown in his way, every intending candidate sets about organizing "ballot-box" societies which we are sometimes asked to register under the Co-operative Ordinance. The results are disastrous. The motives of co-operation are forgotten, dissension is sown, societies are ruined and our work is undone. What I am saying is not a prediction of possibilities but a statement of actual happenings. A society of 53 members suddenly thins itself down to 19 by the violent purge of those who refused to support the losing candidate at a Village Committee election; another is almost wrecked over a question of urban politics; a political canvasser in co-operative clothing does us ill in one whole District; co-operation in another is torn asunder by a trial of strength between two politically-minded co-operators; and as I write I see in the day's paper an account of the stormy anniver-

SUB-POST OFFICES TO BE OPENED

Reducing Status of Existing Offices

Colombo, April 30.

In accordance with the recommendations of the Retrenchment Commission, sixty "A Grade" sub-post offices are to be created throughout the Island.

The scheme provides for the reduction of small post offices in the country to the status of sub-post offices. This will mean that the type of business they transact will be restricted.

Since 1923, when sub-post offices were first established they could transact business up to Rs. 150 for money orders and Rs. 100 for Savings Bank deposits. No insurance business or foreign telegrams were accepted.

At the "A Grade" offices which will come into existence tomorrow, the limits of business will be Rs. 300 for all transactions, and insurance business will also be accepted.

The salary scale for officers in charge of the "A Grade" offices will also be higher than that of officers in charge of ordinary sub-post offices which will be termed "B Grade."

FREE TAPPING FOR SWEET TODDY

Government Notification

Colombo, April 30.

It was officially notified yesterday that the Governor has decided that the State Council resolution in favour of allowing the tapping for sweet toddy

sary celebrations of a big Urban Bank, at which the recriminations include the denunciation of the committee as a "den of political thieves"! These random instances are, I feel, but the surface eddies of the undercurrent, and I am sure I am not a moment too early with the warning I am issuing to co-operators and to their friends and well-wishers alike. To allow itself to be made the play-thing of politics would be the end of co-operation, and I need scarcely remind the leaders of the movement that although it may be pleasant to be wooed with gifts, it will not be quite so pleasant when the Nessus shirt is actually donned.

GLOOMY PROSPECT FOR JAFFNA TOBACCO

ITS POIGNANT TASTE

TOBACCO EXPERT'S VIEW

Dambulla, Tuesday.

"IN a few years Jaffna tobacco might not find a market chiefly owing to its poignancy for which most people do not seem to have a taste," said Mr. A. B. Attygalle, tobacco expert of the Department of Agriculture, when he visited the Dambulla Experimental Station with a view to investigating the possibilities of cigarette tobacco cultivation in the district.

He was accompanied by Mr. Jefferie, Managing Director of the Ceylon Tobacco Company. Mr. Attygalle visited many villages in the district and was of opinion that Galewa area would be more adaptable to such a venture.

It is learned that the tobacco company have formulated a scheme to finance cultivators with a view to opening out large cigarette tobacco plantations.

This kind of tobacco, it is stated, has immense potentialities in this area, as in other parts of Ceylon, and it is believed would oust Jaffna tobacco which is being consumed less and less.

without any licence, permit or other authority all over the Island should come into operation from October 1, 1940. The necessary Excise Notifications will be published in due course, to take effect from October 1, 1940.

Tapping for, drawing of or manufacturing sweet toddy without a licence will, therefore, be an offence under the existing Excise Regulations till September 30, 1940, except in those areas specially exempted hitherto from the operations of those regulations.

It will be necessary for any person tapping for sweet toddy to apply for and obtain a sweet toddy licence before May 31. Failure to do so, and particularly after a warning by any duly authorized officer, will, it is pointed out, render such person liable to prosecution up to September 30.

Later Mr Tharmalingam was taken in procession to the residence of his father and the crowd dispersed after wishing him a successful career. (Cor.)

PROGRESS OF CO-OPERATION IN CEYLON

Saving Habit Increases

HOW IT AIDS RURAL DEVELOPMENT

The Registrar of Co-operative Societies in his Administration Report on the working of Co-operative Societies from May 1, 1938 to April 30, 1939, says:—

Now that co-operation has become easily recognizable as good wine without the aid of bush, I shall presently be discarding the old puerility (borrowed, I fear, from the advertising methods of patent drug manufacturers) of crying its virtues by the annual parade of selected cases of individual improvement attained by its means. But before I quite decide, I should like to make some use of the material available to me this year, if merely to enjoy the pleasure of telling the diverting tale of how Prohibition walked behind Co-operation into a village of confirmed toddy drinkers in Kotmale. Temperance was an unknown vice in this village, but when the co-operative society was started, the members were so fired by moral zeal that they passed a rule that whoever exhaled toddy at meetings would be punished with fear-some penalties. The rule had scarcely had time to try the bibulous, when the most bibulous of them all, the worthy president himself, suddenly went totally pussyfoot and had the ruthless amendment passed that no member was at any time to use any pretext whatsoever to taste the sap of the Kitul palm. The rule has been well obeyed and it is said that there was no suspension of standing orders even when thieves were being martyred right and left during the recent drought.

Saving Habit

The same spirit of eager reform that animated this society animates most other societies, although perhaps in them the fruits take more practical shape. For instance, thrift is a habit notoriously hard to develop, but there are few societies that do not give to the inculcation of thrift an important place in their programmes. And the methods of inculcation adopted are sometimes very ingenious and resourceful, if somewhat naive and artless. In one remote society I lighted upon a huge log of wood, compartmented into many tills and so heavy that no smash-and-grab thief could ever hope to smash or grab it, into which members were encouraged to drop those odd coppers and nickels which have so inexplicable a habit of burning a hole in one's pocket. The object was to save the amount of the Village Committee tax, and at the end of the first year's experiment many who had never saved in their lives were delighted to receive handsome amounts which not only enabled them to pay the tax but left over something to celebrate the New Year with. In another society they had adopted a system which they called "pasumbi" thrift or "thrift in bags". At the beginning of the

month they distribute small paper bags, printed over with instructions, moral exhortations, &c., both among members and others in the village. Into these bags housewives put the little handfuls of rice or "miti-hal" they set aside daily as well as the odd coins they throw into the "miti-hal" pot. The bags are collected by the society and the rice is sold in bulk by auction. The value of each contributor's rice, together with his "pot" savings, is credited to his deposit account in the society and the spirit of thrift is thus cunningly fostered by a device which takes advantage of an ancient local custom.

Non-Credit Uses

Increasing emphasis is now being placed on the non-credit uses of the credit society and societies are being taught more and more to regard themselves as the proper centres of village improvement. This does not mean that an attempt is being made to introduce that form of co-operative "hold-all" known as the "multi-purpose society," which everyone but the amateur enthusiast in rural reconstruction so deeply abhors, but merely that the credit society is being trained to make full use of its many opportunities in the non-credit sphere. Several societies in the Central Division, e.g. Moladanda, Petiyagoda, Hamangoda, have done their villages a great deal of good by organizing health clinics, establishing agricultural demonstration plots, initiating soil conservation, buying members' requirements on the indent system and generally by utilizing the organization present in a credit society to provide themselves with many other benefits besides credit. While these villages occupy now, so to speak, a definite place in the programme of co-operative showmanship, the idea that the co-operative society is the surest foundation of rural reconstruction and that full advantage should be taken of the non-credit possibilities of the credit society is being propagated with considerable vigour.

In the development side of our work a greater rapprochement was attempted last year between ourselves and the Department of Agriculture. The Director of Agriculture had inaugurated a system of agricultural demonstration by the intensive development of "selected" villages, and it was suggested to him that he might be able to achieve even better results if, wherever possible, he selected his villages from among those that possessed co-operative societies. In such villages not only would he be able to secure greater co-operation (in the non-technical sense of the word), but his officers have, ready to hand, the organization necessary to enable them to reach down to the villager.

(Continued on page 5)

Railway Earns More Revenue

Expenditure Exceeds Income

The railway revenue show an increase, both from passenger and goods traffic, since the beginning of the present financial year.

But expenditure continues to be in excess of the income.

The figures for January this year show an increase of revenue amounting to Rs. 498,339 compared with the revenue for the corresponding month of last year.

Excess of Expenditure

The total earnings of the Railway for January this year amounted to Rs. 5,395,000.

The actual expenditure amounted to Rs. 6,498,315, showing an excess of expenditure over revenue of Rs. 1,103,315.

The railway expenditure in January last year amounted to Rs. 6,374,073, showing an increase this year of Rs. 124,242.

The income from ordinary passenger traffic in January this year has increased by Rs. 276,340 compared with the same month of the previous year.

The revenue from week-end tickets has declined this January by Rs. 126,706 and from season-tickets by Rs. 3,838.

There was an increase of income from parcel mails and other Coach traffic amounting to Rs. 4,593.

Rail-car traffic earnings in the month of January declined by Rs. 3,387.

The total revenue from passenger traffic showed an increase of Rs. 147,002.

Goods Earnings

There was an increase of revenue from goods and livestock carried during the month, amounting to Rs. 376,619.

Earnings under the heading of "miscellaneous traffic" showed an increase of Rs. 22,527.

(Continued)

to fear from them. Our opponents make capital of this omission by proclaiming it significant, and have not hesitated to say that the Sinhalese leaders are exploiting our idealism. The mass mind is easily roused to fear and our opponents are busy at it. Our hands need to be strengthened by some declaration or move from the Sinhalese leaders if the forces of disruption are to be stemmed. Therefore in seconding this resolution, I invite responsible leaders like Sir D. B. Jayatilaka and Mr. D. S. Senanayake to make clear their position in regard to the minority fears.

THE COMMUNAL PROBLEM

POSITION CLARIFIED

YOUTH CONGRESS SECRETARY'S SPEECH

Mr. C. Subramaniam, Secretary-elect of the Youth Congress, Jaffna, in seconding the resolution at the last annual Sessions, calling for a settlement of the communal problem said:— "The problem that has been looming large these two years in our deliberations is the communal problem. Almost every speaker yesterday and today has touched on this question. The attitude of the Youth Congress could never have been in doubt. True to our fundamental creed of National Independence, we have consistently kept the ideal of a United Ceylonese Nation in the forefront of our activities. We have never condescended, in our desire to grow, to the short and easy method of appealing to the lowest passions in human nature. We see with shame and with detestation that some of those who call themselves leaders of Jaffna have not hesitated to stoop to means which might bring them the short-lived pleasure of the limelight, though it means, in the long run, suicide for the nation.

But I believe that our position needs restatement and clarification, because, of late, attempts have been made to confuse the mind of the masses. It has been said that unemployment among the Jaffna Youth is due to the Sinhalese Ministry through its policy of racial discrimination and that preferments and promotions in the Public Services have gone, in the first instance, to the Sinhalese and then to the Tamils. While I do not deny that there may be some truth in these charges, I am convinced that they are not true to the extent they are made out. Unemployment among the Tamil Youth is not because of the Sinhalese ministry but due to many causes. The spread of education everywhere now brings as candidates for Government employment from among the Sinhalese a number larger than what used to be and more in proportion to the population, so that, naturally and even without favour or discrimination, they will stand a greater chance of being chosen. As regards the charge of discrimination in the matter of promotions, it is high time we ceased hugging the delusion that merit is the monopoly of the Tamils and bore in mind that if some do not get promotions it is not due to racial discrimination alone.

The other charge is that while we of the Youth Congress have for many years been proclaiming in season and out of season that the Tamils have nothing to fear from the Sinhalese in co-operating with them, no responsible Sinhalese leader like Sir D. B. Jayatilaka or Mr. D. S. Senanayake has yet come forward to allay the fears of the minorities by declaring, as the Indian National Congress leaders are never tired of declaring, that the minorities have nothing

(Continued on previous Col.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Mr. Ponnampalam Climbs Down

Sir,—It seems as though good sense is dawning upon Mr. G. G. Ponnampalam. The other day at Galle, Mr. Ponnampalam staged a mild climb down from the Fifty-Fifty formula when he said that what he wanted for the minorities was a nearly balanced representation. (The nearness of the balance was not precisely defined by him). Then at the Mallagum Meeting, where it is maintained five thousand hung on his words, he is reported to have said that all sensible people should work for Sinhalese-Tamil Unity. I for one am happy at these faint flickerings of good sense in Mr. Ponnampalam. Happy though I am, I should in fairness ask Mr. Ponnampalam a few straight questions. Was the preposterous Fifty-Fifty demand made by him meant to advance the cause of inter-racial unity? Were his efforts to bring all the minorities into one camp against the Sinhalese people a measure calculated to promote Sinhalese-Tamil unity? Did he think of promoting goodwill between the communities when he made his notorious Nawalapitiya speech. Why further did he suffer his faithful henchman Mr. Karthigesu to indulge in the venomous anti-Sinhalese stuff he poured out at Mallagum? More than all else is it not a fact that today there is greater tension between the Tamils and the Sinhalese and is not the present unhappy state of affairs largely Mr. Ponnampalam's handiwork? It is significant of the change that has come over Mr. Ponnampalam or perhaps over his supporters that the Mallakum meeting passed only an innocuous loyalty resolution and did not register any views about Fifty-Fifty or Sinhalese domination.

That reminds me that Mr. Ponnampalam did make an effort to raise a laugh against the Youth Congress over that war resolution. The British Government, he said, were considering an immediate armistice as a result of the resolution and that the Governor of Ceylon was in communication with the Home Government about the repercussions likely to result from this resolution. A certain personage of some importance in the Youth Congress told me that such results were not anticipated by the Youth Congress when it passed that resolution. They knew, they said, that at the meeting Mr. Ponnampalam would be addressing at Mallagum, he would exploit that resolution to win further favour in the eyes of the European association and in those of his bosom friend Mr. Kerr. This person went on to tell me that this resolution was introduced at the last moment just to do Mr. Ponnampalam this kindness. In fact, he assured me, Mr. Kerr has already taken steps to have Mr. Ponnampalam made a Muhardiram or an earl, at the conclusion of the war!

Mr. Ponnampalam said at this meeting that those who professed to work for Sinhalese-Tamil unity should first work to bring about unity among the Tamils themselves. I really am at a loss to understand how an intelligent person like him could have talked such puerile stuff. When the Youth Congress speaks about Sinhalese-Tamil Unity, its ideal is, that racial considerations should not enter into the field of

politics and that recognising their common allegiance to the common motherland, the Sinhalese, the Tamils, the Muslims, the Burghers, and the Indians, who have made Ceylon their home, should work for Ceylon's freedom. This being so, is it not patent that the unity of the Tamils, under the Fifty-Fifty banner (presumably that is the unity Mr. Ponnampalam wants) would jeopardise the ideal the Youth Congress has placed before itself.

Jaffna,
15.40.

Yours truly,
A Tamil.

Need for Debt Conciliation Bill

Sir,—The Secretary of State for the Colonies would not agree to recommend to His Majesty to give his assent to the Debt Conciliation Bill as recommended by the local legislature because the bill fails to provide some safeguards to the foreign capitalists. The retort given by the Minister for Agriculture to the objections raised by the Colonial Secretary has been more than crushing.

Here is a typical example of indebtedness.

An agriculturist held 6 acres of land which were worth Rs. 6000 in 1920. He borrowed early in 1922 on promissory note a sum of Rs. 1000/ from a money lender. The promissory note recited Rs. 1000/ as principal to be repaid in three years at 18 per cent interest per annum, the interest to be paid annually. Actually the creditor charged only 12 per cent interest if paid regularly, 18 per cent being the penal rate entered in the bond and intended primarily for evidence in court. That penal rates of 24 per cent and 36 per cent are quite common must not be forgotten. The borrower was paid in cash only Rs. 860, Rs. 120 being deducted in advance as interest for a period of one year. Interest however was calculated on Rs. 1000. Prices being steady and high, the borrower was able to pay annual interest till 1928. He therefore paid Rs. 720 in the shape of interest. The note was renewed twice for Rs. 1000/ once in 1925 and once in 1928, partly perhaps because the borrower was unable to repay principal and largely because the creditor not only did not press for principal but actually discouraged the borrower from repaying it. The depression commenced in 1928 and the farmer then found himself unable to repay even interest. The penal rate of 18 per cent therefore came into force and the note was renewed in 1931 for Rs. 1,540 (Rs. 1000 being original principal and Rs. 540 being interest for 3 years at 18 per cent per annum). The debt mounted in 1934 to Rs. 2,370 (Rs. 1,540 being principal Rs. 830 being interest on this for three years at 18 per cent annum). The note was renewed for this sum in 1934. The creditor by this time was getting scared. So, after a little while, he took the case to court and claimed a sum of Rs. 2,370 as principal. The debtor did not contest this claim. He knew that he would gain nothing by contesting the claim. He was almost certain to lose his case. His expenses would be enormous, as he would have to engage a lawyer and go up and down to Court for the numerous

hearings spread over a year or two perhaps. So he wisely remained at home and allowed himself to be decreed ex parte. The court going upon documentary evidence, decreed for plaintiff a sum of Rs. 2,370 as principal and perhaps over a hundred rupees as cost and interest. The total value of the decree came therefore to Rs. 2500. The defendant had no money. He only had his land and a thatched cottage. These were put to court sale. The land which was worth Rs. 6000 in 1921, could not fetch even Rs. 300 in 1934. There were no bidders. The plaintiff eventually bought in all the land, as well as the cottage in settlement of the decree. In this way the debt was cleared by recourse to the Civil court. The defendant was rendered a landless and homeless pauper.

Yours etc.,
S. VYDIALINGAM.

Colombo,

That Conference

Sir,—It was announced in the "Hindu Organ" that at a Conference restricted to only those who were invited a number of "plenipotentiaries" were appointed to bring about a settlement of the political issues with the majority community. From the very nature of the conference it is too much to assume, as it appears to have been, that those present had unquestionable and duly delegated power to settle the question without any sanction from the general body of Tamils. The conference was not "composed of delegates duly appointed by some recognised democratic process. As it is the conference is liable to be termed as a packed body wedded to one way of thinking". If a decision on controversial questions is to be taken it can be regarded as just and reasonable only if it has been taken after providing opportunities to hear and weighing both sides of the question. As the unanimous decisions reported to have been taken at the conference are a sealed book for all the others it is not possible to feel satisfied that the "settlement" if it comes about, will effectively and adequately safeguard the interests and allay the anxieties of the Tamils. The straight course would have been to invite general opinion on the proposed terms of settlement before they are put forward before the representatives

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of the majority community. If it is the intention to ascertain the general opinion of the Tamils after the "settlement", then it would be like putting the cart before the horse.

Yours etc.,
UNITY,

Uduvil,
Chunnakam.

Jaffna Train Service

Sir,—It is very painful to find that our mail train which leaves Colombo at 7 p.m. and scheduled to arrive at Kankasanturai at 6-10 a.m. on the following day is arriving at Kankasanturai several hours late. This failure to keep up to the scheduled time continues since December last, and it is not known whether it will be cured.

If the present old engines running in the Jaffna line are replaced by some new engines as in the South, this sickness can be remedied. Not only this particular train is running late, but the whole train service in the Jaffna line is disorganised by the delay of this train, and the trains are not running according to the time table. Is it that, Sir, the "Jaffna Train" can run at any time?

Will our Railway Heads, please, wake up and see that the Jaffna Trains do run promptly according to the time table? If it is impossible the time table can be revised.

Yours truly,
A. THEDCHANAMOORTHY.
Kankasanturai,
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CRITICAL STAGE IN CAMPAIGN IN NORWAY

Germans Establish Land Connections Between Oslo and Trondheim

London Tuesday.

MOST of the London newspapers emphasise that a critical stage has been reached in the campaign in Norway. "The Times" heads its editorial: "Setback at Trondheim," and says:

"A junction between the German forces based on Oslo and the garrison at Trondheim, if it has not already been established, is now certainly imminent. The hope of quickly cutting off and reducing the German troops in Trondheim has, for the moment, failed and it is now the Allied force operating south of that city and its fjords that is being attacked on two sides and is in danger of being cut off. On a longer view, the principal task henceforth is clearly to establish and to hold a line that will bar the access of the invader to the long narrow strip of country running between the Swedish frontier and the North Sea and extending far into the Arctic circles."

"The Times" adds that behind this line, the Allies must build up military and aerial strength sufficient to overtake the start gained by the enemy and to enable them, in due time to resume the offensive and to clear Norwegian soil of the invaders.

"The process of expelling the aggressor," it declares, "is bound to be longer than contemplated in the optimism engendered by our first naval successes, but there is no thought anywhere of relaxing the effort required for the ultimate deliverance of Norway."

The "Daily Telegraph" says: "It has been the prime element of strength in the Allies' moral position that their Governments have felt themselves under no necessity of concealing or misrepresenting the truth when matters were critical. There is no example in history of a nation being more firmly resolute in the prosecution of a war than Great Britain and France. What has to be faced in the Norwegian situation falls immeasurably short of any extreme demand upon the firmness of the Allies. It is merely that events in this secondary theatre of the war have not, so far, developed in accordance with the hopes we had entertained."

The "Daily Telegraph" adds that it has been evident for some days to all who studied the news of the Norwegian campaign, and still more so perhaps to those who read between the lines, that all was not going well for the Allies in that field of operations.

A call for more official information on the situation is made by the "Daily Herald", and the "News-Chronicle" stresses the vital necessity of a unified, vigorous and imaginative direction of the three British Services in order that co-operation can be achieved and decisions promptly taken.

British Shipping Diverted from Mediterranean

Why Precautions are being Taken

London, Tuesday.

It is learned in authoritative circles that pronouncements by Italians in responsible positions and the attitude of the Italian Press have recently been of such a character as to make it necessary for His Majesty's Government to take certain precautions as regards British shipping which would normally pass through the Mediterranean.

The Government does not intend, however, to continue these precautions any longer than necessary and they hope that circumstances will permit their cancellation in the near future.

British merchant shipping is being diverted from the Mediterranean and is to travel via alternative routes, including the Cape. No details are at present available regarding the precautions concerning Mediterranean shipping, but Reuter understands that they involve a diversion to some extent of British shipping via Capetown instead of Suez.

Has Claims to Make, Says Rome

"Italy is not neutral and she does not intend to be pushed aside in the present conflict because she has claims to put forward," said the Rome radio today, commenting on the broadcast of Mr. R. Menzies, the Austrian Federal Premier, to Italy.

One of these claims refers to Italy's freedom in the Mediterranean.

"Mr. Menzies says that Italy owes her immunity in the last century to the help of France and England. The truth, however, is that the Great Powers of today, which are the Great Powers of yesterday, have often tried to oppose with arms Italy's claim to independence."

Signor Mussolini will preside over the Cabinet meeting to be held in Rome tomorrow. It is announced that the Cabinet henceforth will assemble on the first day of each month. Political circles believe that tomorrow's meeting will deal with the negotiations between Britain and Russia and Yugoslavia and Russia and the trade talks between Britain and Italy.

Personal

Mr. S. U. Somasegaram, District Inspector of Schools, Galle, has been transferred to the Western Division, Office, Colombo. Mr. S. K. Rajasingham takes Mr. Somasegaram's place in Galle.

PROGRESS OF CO-OPERATION IN CEYLON

(Continued from Page 3)

It is in times of stress, e.g., droughts and depressions, that the beneficence of co-operation becomes most active. Not only then do good societies learn how to husband and economize their resources, but others too, inspired by the resourcefulness of the societies, begin to ask for co-operative assistance in the solution of their problems. Several societies in Vavuniya have provided themselves with threshing mats which they hire out to members, who now obtain a better price for grittyless paddy threshed on mats instead of on the bare floor. The jungle society of Kottandar-Nochchikulam, which had been reduced to desperation by a succession of droughts that killed their paddy, decided last year to take to garden cultivation (an innovation so far as their village was concerned) and lent money to members for the purpose of building the necessary wells. The unemployed of Jaffna have tried to find a remedy for their troubles by the organization of artisans' societies and of a large thrift society for cigar workers. And the last request for the aid of the Wonderful Lamp was from some Sinhalese barbers in an Up-Country town, who wanted to start a barber-saloon on co-operative lines. On investigation, however, it was discovered that their project had no economic purpose and was only a threat of retaliation to a political visitor whose views had not been quite to their liking.

Uplift

The Central Division, with its reconstruction bias, also attempted some uplift work last year among the "harijan" of Ceylon, the Rodiyas and the Kinnarayas. The uplift of these people is peculiarly difficult and must be undertaken with the greatest patience, if it is to succeed, and the psychology, as much of the workers as of those amongst whom they work, must undergo a radical change before any satisfactory results can be achieved: it is, for instance, fatal to take up this kind of social endeavour in the spirit of patronage or with that offensive sympathy which the ardour of the reformer is too often disposed to show towards the depressed and the down-trodden. Two credit societies are under organisation in two Rodiya Kuppayamas and one is approaching registration. The credit need of the Rodiya people are very small, but the object of the societies is to wean them from their traditional avocation of mendicancy and to instil in them those feelings of self-respect, which constitute the very foundations of human personality and to the most elementary forms of which the tyranny of custom has denied them the right for centuries. The Kinnarayas are the mat-weavers of Dumbura. The Department of Commerce and Industries had begun to teach them better methods of work and invited us to organise a society for their benefit. They are a tiny community and apparently little amenable to discipline and instruction, while their troubles are aggravated by

the fact that with Japanese competition the Dumbura mat has ceased to be a utility article and has been driven to seek refuge in a profitless curio market.

There was also co-ordination between the Department of Commerce and Industries and the Co-operative Department in respect of societies for the artisan classes. In several places where the industrial demonstration parties of the former had been at work we were invited to organize producers' sale societies, and these organizations will be noticed under the section on Marketing and Production. They have, however, not been able to get fully under weight owing to delay in obtaining money from the vote for State Aid to Industries, from which it was originally expected they would be able to derive their finance.

A new type of society over the organization of which we have been busy for the last two years is the Arbitration Society. It is yet in the paper stage, but progress has been made up to the point when it has been possible to send the by-laws to the Attorney-General for scrutiny vis-a-vis the general law of the land. The Arbitration Society provides for the settlement by consent of civil and other village disputes without recourse to law, and if it can be popularized, there can be no doubt that it will prove an excellent weapon in reducing crime in the country.

It has not yet been possible to make a start with the consolidation of fragmentary holdings. The subject has been carefully studied, but it is felt that no really useful results can be achieved in this country until a special consolidation law is passed. A law for the Registration of Title to land is now on the stocks, and the time for framing the consolidation law will be immediately after this has been enacted. In the meanwhile a rather unexpected application for a Consolidation Society has been received from a far-off village, so that we may yet be able to make our first beginning with consolidation without waiting for a special law.

Last year I drew attention to the very important part that co-operation can play in the development of the State Colonies and to the great difficulty of introducing it amongst them as they are at present constituted. Nevertheless, we have since been able to register a credit society among the older settlers of Nachchaduwa Colony and the practicability of organizing societies at Minneriya is being investigated. But credit alone cannot do much to assist the colonists. Every aspect of their economic life must be organized co-operatively, and it is hoped that it might be possible to devise a comprehensive scheme under which it will be possible in future to conduct all colonization on a co-operative basis. This hope has been mainly inspired by the success of the Sittang Colonies of Burma and of the Jewish Tenancy Co-partnership societies of Palestine.

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VICE-CHANCELLOR OF MADRAS UNIVERSITY

Sir Muhammad Usman

Madras, April, 26.

It is learnt that Sir Muhammad Usman has been appointed Vice-Chancellor of the Madras University in succession to Mr. S. E. Ranganathan.

Sir Muhammad Usman has been a fellow of the Madras University since 1921 and has served on the Senate and Syndicate of the University.

Sir Muhammad Usman was elected to the Madras Legislative Council in 1920 and was appointed Member of the Governor's Executive Council in 1925 holding that office until 1934. He acted as Governor of Madras in 1933.

Japan's Unsuccessful Attempt

Chungking, Friday.

The drive begun nine days ago by three divisions of Japanese troops into the Chungking and Taihong mountains in an attempt to clear the Chinese from South Shanshi has been unsuccessful, according to the latest Chinese field dispatches. It is claimed that the main strength of the Japanese forces which pushed south into Taihong mountains has been thrown back after bitter fighting in the vicinity of Kaoping, north of Chingpen.

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