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THE JAFFNA HINDU COLLEGE

The Premier National Institution

FIFTY YEARS OF PROGRESS

By V. T. S. Sivagurunathan

ALL roads in the Jaffna peninsula are this week leading to a school play ground which ordinarily hides its modest head behind the tall typical live fences of Jaffna. It dare not challenge comparison with the playing fields of some other schools in the district. But today it has been converted into a fairy land of which any institution can justly be proud. For it has been selected to be the venue of the All-Ceylon Industrial Rally and Carnival in connection with the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of the Jaffna Hindu College.

While it lends itself to this purpose admirably and thus helps to adorn a tale it also pants a moral. It is symbolic of what indomitable will can do. It was not donated by a rich philanthropist or an enthusiastic old boy; it has not been leased out at a nominal rent by a benevolent central government or local authority. Every square foot of land in that playing field of about two acres had to be paid for at a rate peculiar to Jaffna.

The unit there is not the acre, but the *lacheham* which is $\frac{1}{16}$ of an acre, and in some parts of the district, even outside the Urban Council limits, a man would consider himself lucky who could purchase a *kuli* i. e. one-upon-two-hundred and eighty eight of an acre for a hundred rupees. This works at nearly Rs. 30,000 an acre in far off Jaffna "250 miles away from Colombo."

Land is not only dear but also hard to obtain. And even where an owner could be induced to sell, it is *kulis* and less often a few *lachehams* that would belong to him in an undivided piece of land. And in the course of acquiring land for a play ground if you stumble against an unwilling owner or an orphaned minor your plight can be better imagined than described! At the entrance to

the Jaffna Hindu College playground the acquisition of which was not free from similar hurdles, and which, by the way stands in need of further extension, may well be inscribed these words of Swami Vivekananda addressed to the Hindus when he visited Jaffna many years ago.

"The human will stands beyond all circumstances. Before it, all the powers, even of nature, must succumb, bow down and become its servants. Such is the infinite power of the will in man, and such is the result."

This play ground is but the latest phase in the gradual development of the Jaffna Hindu College. From here cross the narrow road and you will find yourself in the College premises itself. Here again there is ample evidence of the supreme effort to make the most of every square inch of land. As in the case of other national educational institutions in Ceylon, you will find that buildings have been added to buildings without any definite plan, but as necessity arose and as money "oozed in." "Flowed in" will however be more appropriate if we remember that the Jaffna man has to labour in a manner unknown anywhere else in Ceylon to extract his wealth from the bosom of a miserly Nature.

What she had grudged in material wealth she has more than compensated for by means of other gifts, among which stands foremost the burning desire to acquire knowledge. "Knowledge for knowledge sake"—the East has long been credited with this ideal. India has through the ages had many votaries, and at least during one period of her history Jaffna was in a position to boast of this distinction.

It was during the time of that Naishdika Brahmachari, the great scholar, author, reli-

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THE PROBLEM OF MINORITIES

Sinhalese & Tamil as the National Languages

By J. R. Jayawardene

THE members of the Donoughmore Commission made an extensive survey of the political conditions in Ceylon and after hearing the views of all sections of public opinion and all races in Ceylon, they decided to abolish communal representation.

It was fitting that they should do so, for it was the English who introduced communal representation into Ceylon. "Communal Representation," they said, "was devised with a view to assisting the development of democratic institutions in countries of different races and religions and in the hope of eliminating the clash of the various interests during elections."

It was started as an experiment in some part of the Empire. It became a formidable weapon in the hands of those who believed in "Divide and Rule." The Commissioners had to admit this. "Communal representation," they said, "has not helped to develop an uniting bond or link."

Communal representation seeks to achieve three results. First, the preservation of the culture of a race group. Second, securing of Government jobs for members of a particular race. Third, the reservation of seats in the Legislature for individuals in racial groups. The first is the most important and I will deal with that later. With regard to the second, as far as the Ceylon National Congress is concerned, the Congress has decided to demand an independent Public Services Commission and it is pledged to non-co-operate with the working of any new constitution which does not concede this demand. Even if it were otherwise and if the communal principle is applied to the filling of Government posts, the Tamils who hold more Government posts than their population warrants, will suffer.

The third seems to be the main excuse for the present cry for communal representation. Individuals who wish to throng the seats of civic power

find that the communal cry appeals to the voter's primitive instincts. The cry of Legislative seats for racial groups arises from an incorrect approach to the problems of the masses.

In this country of poverty and starvation, economic solutions must be sought to economic problems. It is the ideas which the legislator brings to the consideration of these problems and not his race or religion which matters. An English socialist in our Legislature will approach Ceylon's problems in a different way from a Tamil Imperialist. Such an Englishman, despite his race, will work for the emancipation of the Tamil masses from a capitalist exploitation. On the other hand, the Tamil Imperialist, sincere though he be, will be helping in the continued exploitation of his own people.

The problems that affect ninety per cent of our people of all races and religions, are the problems of poverty, the lack of food, disease and landlessness. Surely these problems do not require members of racial groups in the Legislature for their solutions. They require men who have studied the political problems before them and who have definite solutions to offer.

The third factor of racial culture is important. Culture implies the existence of a national language, religion and customs. As far as the Tamils are concerned, the Ceylon National Congress has in its policy accepted Sinhalese and Tamil as the national language for a Free Lanka. The customs of the Tamils and the Sinhalese are almost the same and there is very little difference in the practice of their religions. All the customs of the Sinhalese have come from India as have the customs of the Tamils. In every Buddhist temple the Hindu Gods are revered and worshipped. Culturally, therefore, the Tamils need have no fear from the Sinhalese in a Free Ceylon.

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Hindu Organ.

THURSDAY, MAY 23, 1940.

CONSTITUTIONAL REFORMS IN MYSORE

THE CONSTITUTIONAL REFORMS which the Maharajah of Mysore has sanctioned and which will soon come into force mark a substantial advance on the existing constitution and is decidedly superior to anything existing in other Indian states. At least in the case of Mysore the charge that the Indian Prince's rule is a naked mediaeval autocracy becomes unfounded in the face of these reform proposals. The advance is most marked in the matter of the composition and functions of the Legislative and Executive Councils. The existing Council consists of 53 members of whom 21 only are elected, the rest being officials and nominated members. Under the new constitution, of the 68 members 44 will be elected and 24 will be nominated. So that this two-thirds elected majority will be able to exercise great influence over the budget and legislation unlike the elected element in the existing constitution. There is also provision for the election of a President and a vice-president who can be removed by a vote of no-confidence. No legislature in an Indian state possesses an elected president or vice-president. The Council under the New Constitution has all the powers of the legislature in an Indian Province except the one of turning out the Ministry, and in one respect even greater powers. Full rights of discussion, voting, interpellation are vested in the Council as in British India. Like the Governor, the DEWAN also has the power of certifying money votes, and the power to make emergency ordinances for six months. The provisions embodied in the constitution for discussion of the budget, for the rejection of demands, for passing resolutions on the actions and policies of Governments in all departments of administration will provide adequate opportunities to the Legislature for giving expression to its dissatisfaction or disapprobation of the policy of the Government. While in most Indian States in which the budget is placed before the Legislative Council only discussion is allowed, but no voting thereon, and even in the few States like, Travancore and Cochin where voting is allowed, it does not extend to the salaries of higher officials, in Mysore every item of expenditure and the salary of every official including the Dewan is subject to the vote of the Council, so

that in this respect the Legislative Council of Mysore enjoys a higher status than that of any other Indian state. As for the DEWAN'S certifying power, it is expected that it will be exercised only in cases of absolute necessity and only with the approval of His Highness who will be furnished with a full report on the matter with the arguments for the action of the Dewan.

The next important improvement is as regards the composition of the Executive Council which contains the germs of and foreshadows the establishment of, responsible government in the near future. The existing Executive Council contains only two members who are both Civil Servants, but the new Executive Council will consist of 4 ministers of whom two at least are to be selected from amongst the elected members of the Representative Assembly or the Legislative Council. There is no provision for party government as it has an unsavoury odour with the princes, and perhaps rightly so, when we consider the want of political experience among the public and the absence of clearly defined non-communal parties. The Ministers will be chosen by the Maharajah and will hold office during his pleasure. Hereafter the Dewan will not overrule the Ministers in any matter and in the event of any difference of opinion, the Maharajah will be the final authority. It is also suggested that the other two Ministers also may in course of time be selected from among elected members of Council.

In one respect only the Reform proposals have been reactionary, namely the introduction of separate communal electorates. In this matter the Prince's hands have been forced by the uncompromising attitude of the three Muslim members of the Reforms Committee who took their cue from the Muslim agitation in British India. Though it is hoped that in course of time there may be a return to non-communal electorate or at least to joint electorate, yet our experiences in British India indicate that when concessions are once made to communalism it is difficult to cry halt later on.

Alike in material prosperity, the wisdom, fairness and efficiency of the administration and in constitutional advance Mysore is easily the most progressive state in India and presents a sharp contrast to many of them. The ruler is a religious prince whose one interest is not the accumulation of wealth and luxury or the concentration of all power in his hands, but the happiness and progress of his subjects. It is to be hoped that in the fullness of time Mysore will have full responsible government and will be a model democratic state, not second to any Indian Province.

All-Ceylon Industrial Exhibition & Carnival

Art Section

An Impression

By Milly

I have just returned from the All-Ceylon Industrial and Carnival at Jaffna after a very enjoyable hour spent amidst Art Exhibits sent in by the members of the Winzer Art Klub. I believe this is the second occasion on which the public have had the privilege of seeing an exhibition consisting solely of work done by the Winzer Art Klub and students or its members. I have also had the pleasure of wading across the green, where original designs turned out by our craftsmen are on view.

The hundred odd exhibits on view consisting of paintings, drawings, stumpings, clay models etc., in a variety of styles and media compare well with the standard of art in the British Isles.

I am no authority on art, neither am I an art critic, but I was an art teacher for sometime in the lower classes and am now married to an art master. Permit me to express the opinion, if Winzer Art Klub were given the necessary support by the public, one day or other, their work will equal, if not excel the work at the other Art Shows in the Island.

In fact, it may be safely said that the extraordinary interest in matters of art evinced by the Jaffna public in recent times is to a great extent due to Mr. S. R. Kanagasabai, Asst. Inspector of Art and his colleagues.

On behalf of the public of Jaffna, I appeal to the Jaffna U. D. C. members to make provision to have a Picture Gallery at Jaffna where paintings and important drawings of big men of Jaffna can be exhibited.

CONFUSED SITUATION IN THE FRONT

But Not Hopeless

London, May 21.

A French War Office spokesman stated that French troops have evacuated Laon, which has been occupied by the Germans without a fight.

The German attempts to cross the Aisne and attacks against Montmedy were repulsed.

A Paris Communiqué states: "In spite of numerous engagements, the night brought no important changes in the situation, which remains confused between the Somme and the region of Cambrai. Enemy attacks were repulsed at various other points, notably on the Aisne and in the region of Rethel. Our aviation continued intensive night bombardments behind the enemy lines."

Fighting continues East of Cambrai and the regions of St. Quentin and Peronne, though the German push to the West here is less vigorous.

STRAINING EVERY NERVE TO AVOID CONFLICT

WILL NOT EMBARRASS BRITAIN

Bombay, May 18.

"Anyway the present suspense cannot continue. It has to end one way or the other," declares Mr. Gandhi in the Harijan today in the course of an article headed 'Non-Cooperation,' replying to a letter from a political friend who pleads with Mr. Gandhi not to use Satyagraha at the present juncture, as the weapon is being used often by those in the right.

Mr. Gandhi sets out that in many cases its wise use has proved absolutely efficacious. He reiterates that he will do nothing to embarrass the British.

"I am straining every nerve to avoid a conflict but they may make it inevitable. Even so I am praying for a mode of application which will be effective and still unembarrassing in the sense of violent outbreaks throughout the country."

On Wrong Track

Mr. Gandhi proceeds:—"Hindu Muslim unity is a morsel by itself. But my friend is on the wrong track when he suggests that unity should be hastened for fear that the Muslims are raising their demands. Demands against whom?"

"India is as much theirs as anybody else's?"

"The way to unity lies through just demands not through ever-increasing demands, whether just or unjust. The demand for partition puts an end to all efforts for the time being."

"I hold that communal understanding is no prerequisite to the British for doing justice on their part."

"When they feel they want to recognise the right of self-determination all difficulties they put forth as obstacles in their path will melt away like ice through the sun's rays."

Right of Determination

"The right of self-determination means the right of determination by every group and ultimately every individual."

"The demand for a constituent assembly presumes that the determinations of groups and individuals will coincide. Should it happen otherwise and partition becomes the fashion either we shall have partition or partitions, rather than foreign rule, or we shall continue to wrangle among ourselves and submit to foreign rule, or else have a proper civil war."

"Anyway the present suspense cannot continue. It has to end one way or the other, I am an optimist, and I have every hope that which we come to grips, Hindus and Muslims and all others will throw in their weight in favour of India which all will claim as their own."

New Baron

London, May 20.

The King has approved that the dignity of a Baron of the United Kingdom be conferred upon Sir Henry Page-Croft, recently appointed joint Parliamentary Secretary to the War Office.

The New Baron will be responsible for answering for the War Office in the House of Lords.

SIR BARON FORESEES MORE WARS

Ramakrishna Mission Reception To Secretary

THE marked contrast between the types of service which the Ramakrishna Mission was called upon to render in America on the one hand and in countries in the East, like India and Ceylon, on the other, was emphasised by Srimath Swami Madhavanandaji Maharaj, General Secretary of the Ramakrishna Mission in India and abroad, at a reception given to him at the local headquarters of the Mission in Wellawatte, yesterday afternoon, on the occasion of his arrival from India on a visit to Ceylon.

In America where, in the midst of opulence and luxury, there was spiritual discontent, the Mission had to direct its attention to meet that demand for spiritual solace, while in the East, in India and Ceylon, for instance, the services of the Mission were in the main devoted to educational and social activities.

Sir Baron Jayatilaka, who presided at the largely attended meeting held in connection with the reception after paying a high tribute to the great service to humanity rendered by the Ramakrishna Mission in Ceylon and in other countries, said that at the present moment, in spite of all the teachings of the great teachers, the world was mad. It was the so-called civilised world which was madder.

Way To Peace

When the so-called Great War was fought, they were told that it was being fought to put an end to all wars. Within less than quarter of a century a greater war was now being fought, and they were told that this, too, was to put an end to future wars.

"Do not believe it" said Sir Baron "It will lead to another, war perhaps more destructive than this, if there is anybody left to destroy when this war is over.

"If we want to ensure peace, if we want to restore peace and maintain it, the present attitude with regard to the life, and action of man kind must be changed."

Today, Sir Baron continued, the hero was the man who shot down a number of his so-called enemies—not personal. It was the man who had done a physically brave act that was honoured and given the Victoria Cross or some distinguishing mark. That was not the way the great Teachers of India taught.

Lord Buddha had said: "He is not a hero who conquers thousands, but he is a hero who conquers himself." Unless such teachings were accepted by the world, there could not be permanent peace on this earth. That was why Missions like the Ramakrishna Mission, which tried to carry that message of love and compassion to all parts of the world, was doing a really great service to humanity.

The Swamiji was presented with an address of welcome which was read by Mr. S. Somasundaram, on behalf of the members, devotees and friends of the Ramakrishna Mission (Ceylon Branch) from different parts of Ceylon.

The address stated that the Swa-

miji represented in an eminent degree the spirit of renunciation and selfless service for which the Order of Sri Ramakrishna Math and Mission had always been distinguished and which the Swamiji was one of the most worthy members.

Mr. C. Nagalingam handed the framed address to the Swamiji.

The Swamiji in the course of his speech dwelt on the Mission's work in different parts of the world, explaining the main ideas and ideals with which they were actuated. In one respect their Mission differed from similar organizations because they believed that it was not so much by the volume of output but by the quality of the work the Mission did that they must consider themselves successful or not.

Further, whatever work the Mission did was done not as an act of goodness and charity towards others, but as an act of sacrifice and devotion to God. The main creed of the Ramakrishna Mission was the Vedanta, which was the essence of the teachings of the Vedas, and represented the most ancient spiritual knowledge and the quintessence of spiritual teaching.

It was the unity of existence, the solidarity of life, that the Mission was out to impress on the minds of the people with whom they came in contact. They must seek to realise unity in diversity because if they considered their differences as final, then life's purpose would not be fulfilled.

Normally, those differences were too much accentuated in the world. The result was that humanity had failed to make the progress expected of it. There had been great spiritual teachers—teachers of the first magnitude—who had spread the light of truth and knowledge who had actually gained first hand knowledge and experience of the eternal spiritual truths, but in spite of their teachings, the world did not seem to have profited by them very much.

Discontented America

The Ramakrishna Mission was an organisation intended to disseminate the ideas of truth and show the way to humanity, to realise that every religion was a path to God-head. Just as different roads led one to a central city, so was each religion devised by God for different human beings to follow.

Swami Vivekananda in this modern age wanted to find an instrument to bring those ideas into the mind of the public, and the Ramakrishna Mission was trying to fulfil that purpose.

Speaking of the Mission's work in America, the Swamiji said that in spite of the material progress, behind all the glamour of opulence, there was a wave of discontent, a craving for something more abiding than luxury, that would not go away with death. It was spiritual discontent, and the Mission's work in responding to that demand was greatly appreciated and generously supported by the Americans.

New Colonization Scheme

To Benefit Small Tamil Farmers

Seven thousand acres of good irrigable land available for colonization under the Karachchi-Iranamadu Development Scheme in the Northern Province, will be placed at the disposal of the inhabitants of the Jaffna District and special preference is to be given to applicants of the small farmer class.

The sub Committee appointed by the Executive Committee of Agriculture and Lands to report on this scheme has provisionally decided to recommend that early steps should be taken to settle four to five hundred families in this land.

To make the scheme as attractive as possible it is proposed that Government should give settlers every possible encouragement and assistance. Such assistance will consist of grants for clearing land and putting up sanitary houses, free supply of planting material etc., in addition to the provision made for roads and main distributory channels.

It is stated that residents in Jaffna are not altogether keen on settling on this land and unless the authorities are able to make attractive offers the objects in view may not be achieved. The sub-committee, of which Mr. C. L. Wickremesinghe, Land Commissioner, is chairman, therefore proposes to consult public opinion in Jaffna before it makes its final recommendations to the State Council.

In the past very few Jaffna residents have settled in this area although quite a large number of them have readily gone out to places in the Vavuniya and Anuradhapura districts and helped to develop land there.

One of the chief complaints against the scheme is the lack of good drinking water. Well water is stated to be unsatisfactory and tank water is not readily available to all settlers.

To remedy this defect the representative of the Director of Medical and Sanitary Services on the sub-committee has undertaken to formulate a scheme which will be placed before members at an early date.

The Areas

The areas to be developed under the scheme have been divided into the following units—

Paranthan area—a block of about 1,500 acres situated to the south and west of the existing paddy fields at Paranthan.

Murasamottai area—a block of land covering about 3,000 acres marked as irrigable and suitable for development. It excludes an extent of about 300 acres which is unsuitable owing to bad soil.

Murasamottai Extension area—

How Inspector was Drowned

Car Dropped Right Into Stream

The most tragic casualty of the floods was the death of Inspector Navaratnarajah of the Wattegama Police. Apparently he was proceeding in the direction of Lewella on the Dunubara side. At the turn-off to the Lewella Road at Madawala (seven miles from Kandy on the Katugastota-Wattegama Road) there is a bridge over a stream which last night had risen above the level of the road. It was revealed after the flood subsided that the embankment on the further side of the bridge had given way. Mr. Navaratnarajah had driven over the bridge at about midnight unaware of the damage to the road and the car apparently dropped right into the stream, Mr. Navaratnarajah, who was alone, being trapped inside it and drowned. Villagers of the locality who had seen the lights of a car disappear raised an alarm, but it was not till this morning after the water subsided that the car was discovered about a hundred yards below the bridge. The body of Mr. Navaratnarajah was found at the wheel in full uniform and was taken to a hut close by where the inquest was to be held.

Mr. Navaratnarajah was a popular officer with an excellent record.

He leaves his wife and three children.

totalling about 2,000 acres.

Other areas total about 600 acres.

Construction expenditure up to the end September, 1938, amounted to about two and half million rupees. Any new expenditure on the development of the three main allotments will be met from the assistance to peasants and colonists vote under the Land Commissioner's estimates.

The sub Committee while agreeing that the scheme should benefit primarily small farmers who would cultivate their own allotments decide that only wet weather paddy cultivation should be permitted. On this basis the standard unit of allotment was fixed at five acres of paddy land for residential purposes and garden crops.

In the Paranthan area about 500 acres have been found unsuitable for cultivation on account of the very poor fertility of the soil.

It is interesting to mention that under Karachchi-Iranamadu scheme which was started about twenty years ago about 20,000 acres of irrigable land were found available for alienation. Of this, about 7,500 acres were sold during the early stages and 2,000 have since been alienated by the Crown under permits.

The Iranamadu tank, unlike others, was constructed by the British and is of recent origin.

The All-Ceylon Industrial Rally

Mr. Goonetilleke's Speech

Mr. O. E. Goonetilleke, Auditor-General, opened the All-Ceylon Industrial Rally and Carnival at Jaffna Hindu College the other day. Mr. C. Coomaraswamy, President of the Carnival Committee, said that Mr. Goonetilleke had by sheer merit risen to one of the highest posts in the service. He had heard it said that Mr. Goonetilleke was the "darling of the Donoughmore Constitution."

His acceptance of their invitation was greatly appreciated by them all. Except in the dirty game of politics, the Sinhalese and the Tamils had always shared each other's joys and sorrows.

Mr. Coomaraswamy announced that Mr. G. G. Ponnambalam, a vice-President of the Rally and Carnival, had sent a cheque for Rs. 101 towards the fund. He hoped that the good example set by Mr. Ponnambalam would be followed by others interested in the College.

Mr. Goonetilleke said that he always took very great interest in institutions like the Jaffna Hindu College. Fifty years in the life of an institution was a very proud record.

He urged them to persevere in their campaign till the required Rs. 100,000 was collected. He hoped that they would not confine their appeal to Jaffna alone but give the rest of Ceylon also the privilege of contributing towards that fund.

Crowds continue to visit the Carnival grounds.

Russia to Join Allies?

Red Fears Nazi Win

New York, Sunday.

A Washington despatch to the "New York Times" says that diplomatic reports reaching Washington indicate that the Kremlin is shocked by the success of the Nazi drive in the Low Countries. The despatch says that a strong possibility has developed that, if the Allies succeed in breaking the impetus of the present blitzkrieg, the Soviet will change its foreign policy and line up with the Allies.

The message further says that reports from Moscow states that something approaching panic exists among the Soviet rulers and that there is every reason to believe that this has communicated itself to Stalin. Officials realise that a Germany dominating Europe would have Russia at her mercy. The spectre of German troops on the steppes appears to have arisen.

It is added that according to reliable information, the internal situation in Russia is far from good and that the Soviet is not strong enough to step in if an Allied defeat, regarded in Moscow as at least possible occurs. It is felt in Washington, however, that if the Allies can check Hitler now, Stalin might join the Allies.

THE JAFFNA HINDU COLLEGE

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gious preacher and social reformer Sri la Sri Arumuga Navalar, when the swiftest and most willing vehicle was one's pair of legs, that young men from all parts of the peninsula flocked in numbers to sit at his feet literally and drink of his inexhaustive fountain of knowledge.

A saint and seer he was not slow to realize the potential value of English Education, and in his school which is still the premier Hindu Tamil institution in Jaffna he made provision for teaching English as well. Many religious Educational societies and institutions owe their origin to him and to the vigorous campaign he carried on behalf of his religion and his mother-tongue.

Among these stands foremost the Jaffna Saiva Paripalana Sabhai whose newspapers the "Hindu Organ" and the "Inthasathanam" have already celebrated their Golden Jubilee. This Sabhai was also responsible for founding the Hindu English school which, keeping pace with the progress of the times, has grown into a college which is celebrating her golden jubilee today.

The man in the street in those days insisted on calling it the Nagalingam School just as the proud father of a young hopeful of those days desired his son to qualify as a Nagalingam. This was the unconscious and unpremeditated tribute paid to the public service rendered ungrudgingly by the late S. Nagalingam, the first manager of the Jaffna Hindu College, and an advocate of great repute. Jaffna, conservative that it is, still persists in associating schools with their managers rather than with their principals, and often presumes to judge their work by the reputation of their manager rather than by the devotedness of the Principal and staff. Judged even by this "conservative" standard the Jaffna Hindu College has been more than fortunate and even successful. After Mr. Nagalingam came Mr. V. Casipillai, a man with whose name every movement for the good of Jaffna was always associated, so much so that it has become a household word even in far off nooks and corners of the peninsula. Mr. A. Sabapathy who succeeded him brought to his office that sincerity of purpose and thoroughness of method which characterised his work as a merchant, journalist and legislator. His successor, Sir Waitalingam Duraiswamy is still with us, and is the Patron of the Golden Jubilee Celebrations. An appreciation of his services can perhaps be best expressed by the hope that when the Diamond Jubilee comes round, he may still be the Manager of Jaffna Hindu College.

If ever the success of an institution depends on any individual, that of a school must largely depend upon the Principal, and in this respect too, the Jaffna Hindu

College has been more than fortunate. Mr. Nevins Selvadurai was head of this school for more than 30 years almost continuously—a record in more ways than one! Ceylonese as a race are "notoriously well-known" for lack of confidence in themselves and in men born and lived in this country. Intrigues raise their heads from unexpected quarters and sometimes create a funeral atmosphere when a wedding march is being played! It is no mean record therefore for a Ceylonese—and that a Christian—to have been the head of a Hindu educational institution in his own town for thirty years on of the fifty it has been in existence. A man with such a strong and charming personality and with such transparent honesty as Mr. Nevins Selvadurai possessed was bound to leave his impress upon all those who came in contact with him, and it is not his old boys alone that would always cherish grateful memories of him that lived the life of virtue, "that golden mean between too much and too little."

The present Principal Mr. A. Coomaraswamy, who has the additional qualifications of being a Hindu and an Old Boy of the College, has already six crowded years of service to his credit. With a staff that is loyally and wholeheartedly assisting him and a management that is cheerfully and consistently "backing" him, he has been able to extend the college activities in many directions, the most noteworthy innovation being perhaps the teaching of Sinhalese in the Upper Classes by resident Buddhist priests.

With nearly 800 pupils on the roll of whom about 150 are boarders and with six branch schools in different parts of the district which serve as feeder schools, the question of accommodation must always remain a pressing problem with the Jubilee year Principal. But the Jaffna Hindu College principals have always been fortunate in having loyal and enthusiastic old boys and sympathetic and generous well-wishers, and to the hundreds that will be taking the road leading to the Carnival ground, should be added thousands in other parts of Ceylon and the Straits Settlements and the Federated Malay States and elsewhere, whose hearts are full of gratitude for those pioneers who have gone before us, whose eyes are full of admiration for those who are shouldering the burden today, and whose minds are full of thoughts for those who in the years to come will enter the portals of the Jaffna Hindu College. And what better asset can a College wish for this day of rejoicing, this day of her Golden Jubilee?

Hindu Board of Education

The managing Trustees of Subramania Vidyasalai, Karainagar West have given the management of the school to the Hindu Board of Education. This is a registered school.

It may be mentioned here that this is the 99th institution under the Board's management.

Narvik in Allied Hands

Enemy Transports Sunk

Paris, Saturday.

Narvik is now virtually in Allied hands and an attempt by the Germans to relieve it by sea from Tromsheim has been repulsed.

German transports have been sunk or captured by Allied warships, states a Havas dispatch from the Narvik front.

Refugees arriving at the Swedish frontier says that the superiority of the Allied air forces in the Narvik area over those of the Germans is very marked. In the course of an air battle, several German machines were brought down.

There is now only one way by which the Germans might escape from Narvik towards the Swedish frontier and this hole is likely to be blocked by the Allies at any moment.

North of the town, the Allies are pursuing the Germans in the direction of the frontier. Allied pressure on the town grows daily stronger. Naval units maintain a steady bombardment and aeroplanes fly over the town continuously.

NEW C. I. C. OF ALLIED FORCES

General Weygand

Paris, Sunday.

General Maxime Weygand has been appointed Chief of the French General Staff and Commander-in-Chief in all the theatres of war.

The decree appointing General Weygand, Commander-in-Chief, was signed by M. Albert Lebrun, President of France, after a conference between M. Reynaud, General Petain and General Weygand which lasted for over an hour. It is not yet known what functions General Gamelin will have.

The Problem of Minorities

(Continued from Page 1)

On the contrary, I think, it is the Sinhalese who should ask for safeguards. A Free Ceylon means that India is also Free I cannot conceive a Free Ceylon not being united to India or even part of an Indian Federation. At such a time the Sinhalese Language spoken only by three and a half million people, and the Sinhalese people equally small in numbers, will have to face a tremendous rush of Tamil culture through the cinema, books and contact from the Indian mainland.

But while we are debating these academic problems, the majority of our people live and die in wretchedness, while the foreigner lives in luxury with the money which properly belongs to the children of Lanka.

BRITAIN WILL NOT BUY CEYLON OIL AND COPRA

Cheaper Purchases From F. M. S.

It is understood that the British Ministry of Supply has declined to buy any coconut oil or copra from Ceylon.

A message to this effect, it is learned, has been received from the Secretary of State for the Colonies in reply to the representations made to him by the Minister of Labour, Industry and Commerce that the fall in local copra prices was due to the low level of the prices fixed by the British Ministry of Supply for copra from the Straits Settlements.

The reply of the Secretary of State and the question of what further representations should be made to him has, it is learned, been referred to the Board of Ministers.

Declining Prices

Towards the end of March copra prices began to decline and early in April prices ranged between Rs. 30 and Rs. 35 per candy. Since then prices have recovered in the neighbourhood of Rs. 30 per candy.

The Minister of Labour, Industry and Commerce sent a cable to the Secretary of State appealing to him to secure the purchase of a portion of the British Government's requirements of coconut oil from Ceylon. He pointed out that the price fixed for copra from the Straits Settlements was uneconomical for Ceylon.

The Secretary of State, it is understood, states in his reply that

the Ministry of Supply has so far obtained the required quantities and the necessary reserve from the Straits Settlements and that, therefore, there is no necessity now to buy any coconut oil or copra from Ceylon.

The Secretary of State also states that the Ministry of Supply is of opinion that it is not necessary to buy at a higher price from Ceylon when it can obtain supplies of copra from Straits Settlements at a lower price.

TURKISH DEFENCE PREPARATIONS

Additional £ 20 Million Asked For

Ankara, May 21.

The Turkish Government has submitted a Bill to the National Assembly requesting extraordinary credits amounting to £20 million for national defence. The extraordinary credit totalling £25 million already granted is in addition to the £20 million from the ordinary Budget for national defence.

It is reported that another military mission is leaving for Syria under General Gandaz, vice Chief of the General Staff, to join that headed by Field Marshal Tehakmaz already there. Field Marshal Tehakmaz is presumably conferring with the Allied military chiefs.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR.

Prayer for Peace and Victory for the Allies

Sir,—It is announced in the papers that His Majesty George VI has desired that Sunday May 26th 1940 should be observed as a day for prayer for peace and victory for the Allies in all churches of the British Empire. It is incumbent on all peace loving people of the British Empire to observe this day as a day of national prayer not only in Churches but also in Hindu and Buddhist temples and mosques. As everyday advances, it is understood that the enemy is gaining ground. We all Hindus, Christians, Buddhists and Mohammedan should pray to God this day and beg of God to end the war as early as possible in favour of the Allies. In the Modern World we cannot be indifferent to this most important topic which engages the entire attention of the people and which strikes terror into the hearts of all the peoples of the world. Whenever evil begins to set aside righteousness, Lord Shiva renders help to the depressed in some form or other. This can be seen from the Puranas. So let us all wish and pray to the Almighty, the Giver of all things, to grant us the great boon—the early downfall of Hitlerism so that it may be stamped out altogether in order that the people may live in safety, peace and amity. Sir, I wish to bring to the notice of the Hindu public through the medium of your valuable paper and appeal to them to conduct a special Poojah in all Hindu temples in all the villages in Jaffna praying for the early redemption of the world from the ever threatening and fierce tyranny caused by a man who is conquering countries after countries with lightning like rapidity.

May Lord Shiva shower his choicest Grace on the Allies and make them win the war as early as possible with great honour.

Yours etc,
Pro Bono Publico

Elalai West,
20-5-40

RELIEF FOR LAND DEBTORS

Memorandum By L.C.P.P.

"Ceylon is the only country that has failed to do its duty by her agriculturists. The Government should freely use the credit of the State for obtaining funds at a low rate of interest and in turn should lend that money to help those owners who were debt-ridden and are now helpless. It is useless to expect debtors to help themselves," states Mr. James P. Fernando, Chairman of the Low Country Products Association in a memorandum he has submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture on the Agricultural Credit and Debt Conciliation Bill.

Mr. Fernando further states that coconut-producers have suffered and continue to suffer great hardships through lack of ready money to maintain themselves or to maintain their properties in a proper state of cultivation. Al-

THE NAVY IS THERE

Whole Sea Service in Constant Action

Rugby, May 20.

The dramatic events which are happening in Belgium and France have once more relegated the activities of the Navy to the accustomed obscurity. The normal duties of both the Navy and the Mercantile Marine are not so spectacular as they are arduous and valuable and it is often forgotten that the whole sea service has been in constant action ever since the war began.

Take for instance the continuous operation of mine-sweeping on which depends the keeping clear of entrances to ports and harbours. The number of mines swept up have never been published and the strenuous activities of these small craft working in all weathers are reflected only in the honours and casualty lists.

Guarding Convoys

Again numerous vessels are employed in guarding convoys and the fact that up to May 8, 1940 British, Allied and neutral ships have been escorted in British convoys with the loss of only 31, proves the efficiency of this branch of naval activity.

In addition there is an anti submarine campaign unceasingly prosecuted, the results of which are never published, but may be said to be reflected in the substantial lessening of merchant ships sunk.

FLOOD SITUATION IS NOW BETTER

Official Statement

The following communique was issued today by the Irrigation Department—Colombo Flood Schemes:

The situation on the Colombo North and South flood schemes is well in hand, and the flood bunds are doing all that is required of them.

The river level at Nagalingam Street is not likely to undergo any further appreciable rise, but it may stay in the neighbourhood of 11 feet for some little time.

As regards the Kelaniya side of the river, ample warning of the overtopping of the flood bund was given, so that there should be no danger of inhabitants being surprised by flood waters. The actual time of overtopping was about 8 a.m. on Monday the 20th, after irrigation officers by means of rapid local work, had postponed the occurrence of overtopping by some five hours.

The low lying Kelaniya, Pimapitiya and connected areas are now to a large extent inundated, and are being administered and patrolled by the competent authorities. The irrigation staff were evacuated by boat this morning from the Kelaniya bund, as there was no further useful work they could do.

The flood is bigger than that of May, 1930, the river gauges at Hanwella, Koduwela and Nagalingam Street all having recorded flood levels in excess of the 1930 maximum.

Already nearly 80 per cent of the coconut lands have passed into the hands of non-Ceylonese creditors through foreclosures.

Mr. Fernando declared that Government should immediately proceed to establish land mortgage Banks as recommended by the Banking Commission, in every provincial town of the Island.

U. S. WILL NOT BE BEHIND

High Armament Programme

Washington, May 20

The Assistant Secretary of War Mr. Johnson, addressing over 100 representatives of the aviation industry asked manufacturers to achieve President Roosevelt's goal of 50,000 planes as quickly, efficiently and cheaply as possible.

Mr. Henry Morgenthau, the Secretary of the Treasury, and Mr. Harry Woodring, the Secretary of War, spoke in a similar strain.

Shadow Factories

At the conclusion of the conference it was stated that Government representatives had urged:

- (1) Acceleration of the execution of Allied orders;
- (2) Acceleration of the production of aero-engines, with immediate extension of the necessary plant;
- (3) Governmental guaranteed orders to justify the expansion of existing factories;
- (4) Construction of 30 shadow factories, each producing 100 planes monthly.

The acceleration of the delivery of orders now in hand will probably necessitate all the factories working 24 hours a day.

BIG BATTLE NEAR SEDAN

British Tanks in Action

London, Monday.

Along the leafy lanes of France and across the carefully cultivated countryside, the battle of the "bluge" (between Sedan and Maubeuge) still rages says Reuter's special correspondent with the B. E. F. Germany heavy columns, led by tanks and shepherded by a vast fan of bomber formations like a flock of birds, are striking westward in a tremendous effort to enlarge the breach in the original Allied line.

In their path, deeds of heroism of a high order are of hourly occurrence. British armoured vehicles from the south charge into the invader's flanks, while French formations challenge them in front.

Farm-carts, motor-cars and lorries turned on their sides; tree trunks, railway trucks and any other kind of obstacle are being used to barricade the roads. Anti-tank guns are being rushed into position; fighting vehicles are sent speeding to the battle zone; and troops are being rushed to fill gaps.

Badoglio's Report to Mussolini

Rome, May 20.

Marshal Badoglio today personally reported to Mussolini on inspection he made of Italy's western frontier.

The afternoon papers in Rome display stories of alleged German victories under huge headlines.

The "Piccolo" states that the Germans are continuing "their triumphal march towards the Channel coast, whence they will be able to deliver a serious threat to Britain."

"AUSSIES WILL BE THERE"

Welcome to Second Batch

London, May 17.

The War Office announces that the second contingent of the Second Australian Imperial Force has arrived in Egypt and is now proceeding to Palestine, under Major-General I. G. Mackay. The troops are in excellent spirits.

In a message of welcome on behalf of the British Government, Viscount Caldecote, the Secretary of State for the Dominions, says: "At this critical hour, your arrival brings us all encouragement and is a very welcome demonstration that the Australians will be there."

Announcing the arrival of the troops, Mr. R. G. Menzies said: "The arrival says in the clearest fashion to Britain and France, we were on your side when the war began; we will be with you to the end."

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Order Nisi

IN THE DISTRICT COURT
OF JAFFNA

(held at Point Pedro)

Testamentary Jurisdiction
No. 124 / P. T.

In the Matter of the estate of the late Ganapathipillai Mahason of Thunnalai South, Kaddaiveli Point Pedro. Deceased.

Nesamany widow of Mahason of Thunnalai South

Vs. Petitioner

1. Mahason Ganesan
2. Sivathevy daughter of Mahason
3. Mahason Arunakirinathan
4. Thangachchy widow of Thiagarajah—all of Thunnalai South Respondents.

This matter coming on for disposal before S. Rodrigo Esquire Additional District Judge of Jaffna on the 4th day of May 1940 in the presence of Mr. M. Sivapragasam Proctor on the part of the Petitioner and on reading the petition and affidavit of the petitioner.

It is ordered that the 4th, respondent be appointed Guardian-ad-litem over the minors 1, 2, and 3 respondents that the petitioner be declared entitled to take out Letters to the estate of the deceased Ganapathipillai Mahason and that Letters of administration be issued to the petitioner, unless the respondents appear before this Court on or before the 30th day of May 1940 and shew sufficient cause to the contrary.

This 10th day of May 1940,

Sgd. S. RODRIGO

Additional District Judge.

(O. C. 20 & 23-5-40)

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