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THE RIVER OF DESTINY

Danube—The International Highway

ITS IMPORTANCE IN THE PRESENT CONFLICT

THE Danube, Historians and writers have described it as the River Destiny. Not far from it, perhaps on its very banks, the Greatest Masters of Music—Schubert, Mozart and Beethoven—have sung of flowers and divine harmonies. Soul stirring and romantic chapters of European history have been written and unwritten by its waters. By its banks Empires have been made and unmade. Its turbulent and tired waters have witnessed the rise and fall of Rome and the end of the Hapsburgs.

For centuries the Danube has been perhaps one of the most important "highways" of Europe. Through this highway the people of Asia poured into Europe. The Romans followed its snake-like course in search of new words and new Empires. The story of Ottoman Empire has the Danube Valley for its setting and background. The Hungarians and Bulgarians and the Jews and Croats and the Asiatic Majyers all, a motley crowd of races and peoples and cultures have punched each other and played with each other on its very banks.

It is an international highway. The Thames belongs to the English and Seine is Latin. The Tiber belongs to all and to nobody. It begins in the Black Forest in Germany, not so very far from the French frontier. It winds its course through almost half a dozen countries. The little stream caressing the rows and ruins of German castles, enters Austria, now Ostmark. Strange neighbours Slovakia, Hungary, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, and Rumania—the Danube reflects their pride and glory and tragedies in its waters.

For centuries, brave and ruthless monarchs, benevolent despots and tyrants have all stood guard on this River of Destiny. To-day again, three powerful dictators look to the

Danube. Herr Hitler has been reported to be eying it more keenly than either Stalin or Mussolini, because the future of Nazi Germany is very closely linked with the Danube.

Experts believe that Germany would need 12,000,000 tons of oil annually to fight a great war. The maximum yearly production of natural and synthetic oil in Germany, Czecho-slovakia and Poland is set at 5,000,000 tons. In 1939 Germany imported from Rumania 1,286,000 tons, at an average of about 127,000 tons a month. These figures fell sharply when the war started. In November last she hardly imported 80,000 tons because the sea routes had been closed.

To-day Germany can only receive this oil by way of the Danube or the railways. In normal times three-fourth of the supply has come via the river way. Throughout winter the Danube has been frozen. Now the spring has come and the river traffic can be resumed. Germany must have this oil or perish. As never before, the Rumanian oil question is the most important question in the Balkans. It has assumed a historic role. The oil too has been making history and now the struggle reaches its climax. The Nazis want this oil and the Allies too are after it.

The spring has come. The River of Destiny is once again ready to play its part. It rolls along in a world of fears and phantoms. Perhaps very soon the German barges will go up and down the river carrying barrels of oil or perhaps gunboats. Perhaps both. According to the latest Press reports London Diplomatic Circles expect that that Germany will shortly create a pretext for despatching gunboats to strategic points on Yugoslavia and Rumanian reaches of the Danube.

The thought fills one with fears and horrors. The "Blue Danube" is no longer so blue! The Viennese Waltz and the

THE EMPIRE'S MAN OF DESTINY

Churchill—The Hope Of Britain

A LIFE OF ROMANTIC ADVENTURE

IT is not true that a rolling stone gathers no moss. Mr. Churchill has gathered a great deal of moss. Not that a stone, whether stationary or rolling, is a suitable symbol for this extraordinary man. He is like a rocket that intermittently dazzles the night sky disappears, and dazzles it again; flashes now from this quarter, now from that; is always meteoric but never extinguished. The principal difference between Mr. Churchill and a cat, as Mark Twain might say, is that a cat has only nine lives. By all the laws of mortality, Mr. Churchill should have perished a score of times, sometimes in laughter, sometimes in anger, sometimes in contempt; but the funeral has always been premature, the grave always empty. You may scotch him for a moment, but you cannot kill him, and we grow weary of pronouncing his obsequies.

Monumental Failures

What is the use of insisting that he is dead when you know that to-morrow he will be so flagrantly, so impudently alive?

"In war, you can be killed but once," he has said, "but in politics many times." It is not

Hungarian Rhapsodies appear to be things of some distant past. The myriad lights of Budapest, in their incomparable setting, that reflect the Magyar's pride in the somnolent waters of the Danube, before me. The memory of the enchanted island haunts me and I think of my friends in the Hungarian capital. To-day apprehension is in the hearts of the Balkans—uncertainty saw at their nerves. They gaze at the Danube, the River of Destiny. It has pleased, but perhaps it has become their curse too, this River of Fear. Watch the Danube, this tragic river, is going to be true to its past.

always so. His father was killed by one self-inflicted wound. He died almost from the prick of a pin, but the tough fibre of the son, due to his American mother, survives as many arrows as legend plants in the body of St. Sebastian. Like the camomile, the more he is trodden on, the more he flourishes. His failures are monumental, but the energy of his mind and the sheer impetus of his personality make his failures more brilliant than other men's success.

An Early Start

At fifty, at an age when most public men are only beginning to catch the limelight, when Mr. Baldwin was unknown and Mr. Bonar Law had not held office, he looks back on thirty years of romantic adventure that would provide material for a dozen normal lives which would find a place in the Dictionary of National Biography on experiences of war; in more continents than Napoleon fought in; on a library of books that would not do injustice to a life spent in literature; on journalism, lecturing, painting; on a political career more full of vicissitudes than any since that of Bolingbroke and on the tenure of more great offices in the State, not merely than any contemporary statesman, but I believe, than any man in our political history. In spite of his ups and downs, I doubt whether anyone since Pitt has spent so large a proportion of the Parliamentary life in office. It is twenty-five years since not from his escape from the Boers as a prisoner of war, he entered Parliament on the "Khaki" tide, and seventeen of those years have been passed on the Treasury Bench.

His Own Superman

He comes into the world booted and spurred to ride, and he rides at the gallop all the time. Do the citizens of Dundee cast him out of Parliament, and leave him

(Continued on Page 4.)

Parameshvara College, JaffnaRamanathan Arts and Science
Scholarships

Two scholarships open to students who join the Inter Arts and Inter Science classes of the college will be awarded on the results of a competitive Examination.

For particulars apply to the
PRINCIPAL.

(Mis. 39, 27 & 30-5-40.)

**Application for Enrolment
As a Notary**

I, Mahaganapathy Kurukkal Ramalinga Iyar of Kantharodai, Chunnakam, do hereby notify my intention of applying for admission as a Notary to practise in the Tamil language in the district of Jaffna.

M. RAMALINGA IYAR.

(Mis. 38, 27-5-40.)

**Hindu Organ.**

MONDAY, MAY 27, 1940.

**PARANTHAN
COLONISATION SCHEME**

THE COLONISATION SCHEME which the Sub-Committee appointed by the Executive Committee of Agriculture and Lands has put forward for the inhabitants of the North is, we feel sure, full of great possibilities for the Northern Province. We have on more than one occasion urged upon the people of Jaffna the need for moving down beyond Elephant Pass for a solution of our economic problems. Unless our young men go back to the land and take to an agricultural career the problem of poverty and unemployment cannot be successfully tackled. The labour involved in agriculture in Jaffna is so great and the return so limited that our men, if they can help it, fight shy of it. In the Wannai districts one can get better return with much less labour. The scheme is an attractive one and should recommend itself to the people of Jaffna. It is proposed that Government should give settlers every possible encouragement and assistance. Such assistance will take the form of grants for clearing land and for putting up sanitary houses, free supply of planting material etc. There will be adequate provision of roads and main distributory channels. The Scheme is intended to benefit primarily small farmers who would cultivate their own allotments and not the capitalist. The standard unit of allotment is fixed at five acres of paddy land, and three acres of land for residential purposes and garden crops. The chief complaint which Jaffna people have against the scheme is the want of good drinking water. To

remedy this defect a representative of the Medical Department on the Sub-Committee has undertaken to formulate a scheme for the supply of drinking water, which will be placed before the Committee at an early date.

There will naturally be a good-deal of reluctance among the Jaffnese to settle down in the Wannai district. First of all there is the fear of malaria which levies its toll on the health of the settler. But the Government will provide all possible protection against malaria and do its utmost to root it out from the place. Seeing that a good number of Government servants have to reside for a certain term in a malarial place, the objection is not so serious as it may seem at first sight. It is rather the homing instinct of the Jaffna man and his lack of enterprise that stand in the way of his settling down outside Jaffna. We believe that an agricultural career with the scope it affords for an independent, honest and useful life of a fair competence should prove attractive to any enterprising youngman. Especially our unemployed youth can take to it and slowly work their way up to social esteem and influence. There will be ample facilities for paddy cultivation, fruit and vegetable gardening and animal husbandry. The Agricultural Department will also provide adequate facilities for the marketing of the farm and dairy products. The settlers will have, what is greater than all these results, the satisfaction of making a real contribution to the wealth of the country without leading a parasitic existence. We have no hesitation in hailing the scheme as a real boon to Jaffna and hope that the Jaffna public will not be slow to exploit the scheme to their fullest advantage. By working the scheme in the right spirit they will in the near future build up a Greater Jaffna in this area which will not merely serve as a granary for the people of the North, but will also absorb the surplus population and provide an opening for the landless and the unemployed. The Minister and the Executive Committee of Agriculture have laid Jaffna under great obligation by offering the scheme and are anxious to bring the scheme into operation as early as possible, if the Jaffna public is willing to accept it and work it with earnestness. Jaffna should not miss this golden opportunity.

Public Meeting

A Public Meeting will be held today at 5 p. m. at the Vaidyeshwara Vidyalyaya, Jaffna, to consider the steps to be taken to give a fitting reception to Srimat Swami Madhavanandaji Maharaj, General Secretary of the Ramakrishna Math and Mission.

**An Appreciation of
Mrs. Lalita
Venkatram's Music**By Miss. M. V.
Hutchins(Principal, C. M. S. Girls'
School, Kopay)

My staff and I were most grateful for having been invited to the Kopay Government Training School last Wednesday to hear the singing of Mrs. Lalita Venkataram. One thing that particularly struck me about her was the extreme sweetness of her voice. So many singers in Ceylon seem to strain their throats, and develop a hard quality of voice, instead of producing clear head tones. But there was none of this hardness in her voice. Every note was pure and sweet, and she sang to us continuously for two hours without seeming tired, and at the end, if her father had not stopped her, would, I think, have gone on till midnight, so much did she seem to love her music and to enjoy pleasing us.

Some years ago in Jaffna I went to a play of Tagore's, Shap Mochan, and there for the first time I realised that Eastern music could move one as deeply as can the music of Beethoven, Bach, and other Western Composers. In that play the singers had the same pure, unstrained quality of voice, as Mrs Lalita Venkataram.

I preferred her songs with words, to those sung to the Tamil Solfa. Words, even if one does not understand them, put a greater depth of meaning into the song. I admired the way in which her fingers moved so easily over the strings of the Veena. I admired also the perfection of the rhythm, and the mirthangam player was a most skilled accompanist. The peculiar rhythms of the mirthangam are strange to Western ears, but there is an indescribable fascination about them.

I wish there were more singers with pure, clear, unstrained voices to do justice to Tamil music, for so many Tamil songs are spoiled by the harshness of the singer's voice. Even the professional singers from India often seem to have hard voices. Yet many Tamil songs well sung have an indescribably haunting beauty of their own, and perhaps nothing, more strongly than a *thevaram*, can draw one into the spirit of worship and make one prostrate oneself before God.

**REDUCTION OF
DUTY ON CEYLON
TOBACCO****Travancore Action**

News have reached us that as a result of persistent representations from the Ceylon Government and Jaffna Merchants, the Travancore Government has given a rebate of Rs. 65 per candy on Ceylon Tobacco imported into Travancore.

It may be recalled that very lately a deputation consisting of the Registrar of Co-operative Societies, the Asst. Registrar of Co-operative Societies and Mr. T. C. Rajaratnam, President Malayalam Tobacco Sales Society visited Trivandrum and interviewed the authorities on this subject.

WEEK BY WEEK**BY MAN ABOUT
TOWN**

The War goes on at terrific speed. In Belgium and France, the war rages fierce; simultaneously Germany eyes at the coastal ports of France. Hitler's hordes are doing their work of destruction with demonic thoroughness. The German High Command boasts. "We are at the gates." Their objective is England. Meanwhile the Allies under General Weygand are resisting the enemy with all their might and power. With the resources, man-power and determination of the Allies, the ultimate result is never in doubt.

Neutral and American opinion is now veering more and more on the side of the Allies. About India's sympathies there was never any doubt. Her hatred of Nazism was well known. The Nationalists leaders of India take a noble view. They will not embarrass England at a critical period as this, though Britain had not treated India fairly.

Rome Bares Teeth

After a week of calm, Rome has again begun to growl and thunder. Anti-Allied feeling has been worked up to fever pitch, and there have many an incident in which British subjects were insulted. Americans have been advised to leave the country, and street demonstrations have become wilder and wilder. It is perhaps the setting of the stage ready for a plunge in the war. But the Allies are prepared for these things and their Navy has left Alexandria for Mediterranean manoeuvres according to plan. The Allied middle East Army is another formidable factor. Till now Italy has not taken the fateful step. But at any moment it may happen.

Strength Compared

The fighting and commercial strengths of the Allies and Germany are strikingly compared in the "War Weekly," London. As will be seen, the disparity is very great on commercial side and also where the respective navies are concerned. The latest figures available for fighting strengths are as follows:—Mobilised men Allies, 5,250,000; Germany 5,500,000; Bombers and Fighters 3,800; 4,275 Cruisers, 98; 11 Destroyers 236; 22 Submarines 134; 100. The respective commercial strengths are: Oil reserves 31,075,000; 7,100,000 tons; Merchant ships 24,000,000 tons; 4,000,000 tons. Gold £ 1,250,000,000; £ 40,000,000.

Right Lead

The Town Hall Conference held some time ago has given the Tamils the right lead. It has demolished once and for all, the claim of some noisy politicians that they alone speak for the Tamils; and by leading support to the idea of inter-communal unity, it has demonstrated to those outside Jaffna that Tamils except the fifty-fifty junto,

(Continued on Page 5.)

Vacant Post

Applications for the undermentioned post in the office of the Village Tribunal of Delft, Islands, will be received by the Government Agent, Northern Province on or before June 7, 1940. The post is non-pensionable. Local candidates will be preferred. Office Assistant Clerk; Salary Scale Rs. 240—18—492 per annum.

BRITAIN NOW TOTALITARIAN TO FIGHT TOTALITARIANISM

Emergency Measures Receive Royal Assent

READY TO MEET ALL EVENTUALITIES

London, Wednesday.

A measure greatly extending the emergency powers entrusted by Parliament to the Executive for the duration of the war passed through all its stages in both Houses of Parliament yesterday and received the King's assent by Royal Commission—all within about three hours yesterday afternoon.

The predominant feeling in both Houses was summed up by Mr. Lees-Smith in a few sentences: "We are setting a precedent now. It is not time for discussion, but for action—time for showing that the House of Commons can be a completely efficient instrument for the conduct of the war."

Mr. Attlee, the Lord Privy Seal, said the same thing in another way when, at the end of a speech moving the second reading of the Bill, he declared amid cheers: "While these powers are necessary, the real force behind us today as today is the will and the determination of a free people."

Able to Meet All Eventualities

The purpose of the Bill was described by Lord Caldecote in the House of Lords as to extend the existing law so as to give the Government complete control over persons and property, and to enable the competent authority to acquire and direct the services of every individual to be used as directed.

Enlarging on the provisions of the Bill in the House of Commons, the Lord Privy Seal made clear that it was drafted to meet all eventualities and that the powers could at need be exercised through Regional Commissioners.

In connection with labour, Mr. Attlee said it was essential to see that there was no loss of skilled labour, and the Minister of Labour intended to work in the closest co-operation with the Trade Unions and employers, organisation. It might be that cases would arise where the customary practices of industry that had been agreed between employers and employed would be set aside for the time being. But everybody engaged in this great effort could be, as they should be, satisfied that the rights which they waived would remain in being. The Ministry of Labour would be given the responsibility of supplying the labour required for the munitions programme, and he proposed to set up at once a Production Council consisting of the representatives of the chief Government Departments concerned with munitions supplies—the Admiralty, the Ministry for Aircraft Production, the Ministry for Supply, the Ministry of Labour, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Mines—

which would be presided over by the Minister without Portfolio, Mr. Arthur Greenwood.

Mr. Attlee stated that the first meeting of the Munitions Production Council would be held tonight.

Sir Robert Kindersley, in a speech, said he was authorised by Mr. Attlee to give an assurance that personal savings would be in no way affected by the Emergency Powers Act.

NAZIS ARRESTED

England Takes Action

Acting in pursuance of new powers conferred on him through the amendment of 18 B of the Defence Regulations, enabling the Home Secretary to order the detention of members organisations which had associations with the enemy or are subject to foreign influence or control and which may be used for purposes prejudicial to the national security, Sir John Anderson yesterday ordered the detention of a large number of members of the British Union of Fascists and others.

Amongst those arrested during the course of the day in pursuance of these orders were Sir Oswald Mosley, Raven Thomson, N. Francis Hawkins, F. E. Burdett, Capt. U. A. Hick, C. F. Watts, H. McKechnie, Bruning and Mrs. Dachre Fox. Other persons arrested today under Regulation 18 B, but not connected with the arrests of members of the British Union of Fascists, included Capt. A. M. Ramsay, M. P., President of the Right Club, and John Beckett, Secretary of the British Peoples' Party.

German Invasion of Eire Feared

London, Wednesday.

The possibility of a German invasion of Eire is causing concern to many members of the House of Commons, Reuter's Parliamentary Correspondent learns. The question was discussed at a meeting of Conservative members tonight. It was decided to ask the Premier to receive a deputation to discuss the matter.

The problem is regarded as urgent because, among other things, of the activity of Irish extremists in Ireland. Questions will be put to Mr. Churchill in the House of Commons tomorrow.

U. S. Fears War will Spread Further

Washington, Wednesday.

A general warning has been issued to all Americans in Iraq, Palestine, Tunis, Egypt and Tangier, to leave, while communications are still open.

British Policy Towards India

Mr. Amery Reiterates Goal Unaltered

London, Thursday.

The new Secretary for India, Mr. L. S. Amery, made his first statement in the House of Commons today when he explained the "attitude of the Government to the present regrettable political deadlock in India."

Mr. Amery said: The attainment by India of free and equal partnership in the British Commonwealth is the goal of our policy.

He proceeded: "We recognise that it is for the Indians themselves to play a vital part in devising a form of constitution best adapted to India's outlook.

"The promise already given that the present scheme of the Act of 1935 and the policy and the plans on which it is based are to be open to re-examination at the end of the war necessarily implies discussion and negotiation, and not dictation.

"We have no desire to delay any of the steps that may pave the way towards an agreed settlement that will take account of the legitimate claims of all communities and interests. On the contrary, we have been and are only too anxious to make our contribution towards such a settlement.

"The difficulty at this moment lies in the acute cleavage of opinion in India affecting issues fundamental to the character of the future constitution and even to an approach to the problem, I refuse to regard the cleavage as unbridgable. I cannot think it is beyond the resources of Indian statesmanship to find at any rate such provisional accommodation as would admit resumption of office with general consent by Ministers in the provinces, and the appointment to the Governor-General's Executive Council of representatives of public men on the basis already offered. I believe that such a provisional solution in the present deadlock would be eagerly welcomed by an overwhelming body of Indian public opinion.

"India from the outset of the war has made manifest her sympathy and support for the Allied cause, and it is the sincere and earnest hope of the British Government that, in the situation which faces the whole of the civilised world today, existing differences may be put aside and the leaders of the great political parties in India, will come together in agreement in support of the common effort."

A Hint to Italy

Malta, Wednesday.

"If Malta were attacked the Maltese would throw the aggressor out as they had done throughout their history," declared the Governor, Sir Bonham Carter, in a speech to the Council of the Government today. "The Maltese are British—more British than some people think," he added.

ALL CARDS ON TABLE

BIGGEST GAMBLE IN HISTORY

GERMAN REGIMENTS IN DIFFICULTIES

German official circles openly admit that the Reich is now playing all its trump cards on the Western Front, according to neutral correspondents in Berlin. It is stated that the Germans realise that the result of the war will probably depend on the issue of the present operations. Consequently, says Reuter, they are throwing into battle all their reserves of mechanised material.

The operations in Northern France and Belgium are believed to comprise the first part of Hitler's plan. The German troops, however, are meeting a resistance with which they do not appear to have reckoned. The second phase of the plan would be a direct attack against Britain.

The German news agency admits that the Allies have brought up numerous reinforcements, especially motorised and mechanised units, despite the strong German air attacks, but states that all attempts to break the German lines have failed. The report adds that fresh German infantry divisions have been brought up, so that at some points the Germans now have a numerical superiority.

PAST STUDENTS' TRIBUTE

To Their Former Lecturer

A complimentary dinner to Mr. A. J. R. Vethavanam, Divisional Inspector of Schools, and Mrs. and Miss Vethavanam was given by Mr. Vethavanam's past students of Government Training College in the period 1918-1936. The dinner was held at the Jaffna Resthouse, Mr. J. C. Charles presiding.

The Chairman said that Mr. Vethavanam, while at the Training College had been a most impressive lecturer, not only imparting knowledge but also instilling an enthusiasm for knowledge.

Mrs. F. C. Kanagatongam, principal of the Girls' Bi-Lingual School, Pandatharippu, dwelt on the sociable qualities of Mr. Vethavanam. She mentioned his belief in equal freedom for boys and girls not only in the classroom but also outside it.

Mr. S. Veerasingham of the Atchavely English School acknowledged Mr. Vethavanam as his guru as he was the only tutor who had diagnosed his defects which were a passion for English literature and a want of patience in the teaching of Classes. He assured Mr. Vethavanam, amidst laughter, that he had got rid of the first defect while the second still remained.

Mr. Vethavanam, in reply, said that that was the second occasion on which past students of the Training College had honoured him. He hoped that they would continue to carry on the Training College spirit.

Enemy Out For Channel Ports

Boulogne Captured

The capture of Boulogne, the French port on the English Channel, by the enemy yesterday, and its occupation as part of a general move to capture all the French Channel ports, has injected a new note of gravity into an already serious situation.

It is stated that practically all the British troops in that area got away and that the Germans were able to take possession of the port city because they had stronger forces than we were able to deal with. The occupation of Boulogne is part of the Abbeville movement by enemy mechanised columns.

It is added that, although there is no wish or intention to withhold any information from the public, military considerations, for the time being, enjoin reticence, especially in the definition of places where enemy detachments appear or from which they are evicted. There is good reason for believing that many German detachments are isolated and are unable to communicate with their headquarters, and it is not proposed to assist the enemy Command by advertising their whereabouts. Paris reports emphasise the tendency of the French High Command to observe great discretion in statements made during the present phase of the operations.

HINDU BOARD OF EDUCATION

Subramania Vidyasalai was started fifty-two years ago by the late Mr. Sithamparappillai Subramaniam of Karainagar has been placed under the management of the Hindu Board of Education by his son Mr. Kandappu and other trustees of the school. This is the oldest Hindu School at Karainagar. The late Mr. Arunachalam was its Head-master during the early years. The school celebrated its Golden Jubilee two years ago under the presidency of Sir Waitalingam Duraiswamy. Then glowing tributes were paid by him to the founder Mr. Subramaniam and his son Mr. Kandappu for the great example they have set to the Hindu public by spending good deal of their money from time to time in constructing necessary buildings for the school. This is the 92nd institution that is managed by the Hindu Board.

Honours List Deferred

It is announced officially that publication of the honours list which would in the ordinary course have taken place on the day appointed for the observance of the King's Birthday, June 13th, is necessarily postponed for a few weeks owing to the changes in the administration.

Government Ceramic Chemist in the North

(From our own Correspondent)

Point Pedro, Friday.

Under the auspices of the Thunnalai Potters' Association, an interesting lecture on 'Pottery' was delivered at 4 p.m. yesterday at the Kandasamy Temple Veethy, by Mr. D. Sunderavelu, Ceramic Chemist of the Department of Commerce and Industries, Colombo. Mr. Sam T. Solomons, President of the Point Pedro Maha Jana Sabha and of the Vadamaradchy Co-operative Union, was the chair.

There was a large gathering present, both members of the public and of the Potters' Association. In introducing the lecturer, the Chairman said that Mr. Sunderavelu had come at a time when Indian Pottery was tending to oust Ceylon pottery. The lecturer (Chairman) pointed out that with superior clay, the local potters could compete very favourably with potters outside. It was up to the Government to make arrangements with the Railways to transport clay at concession rates from places like Mankulam, Muringan, Ouanthai or Valaichenai.

Mr. Sunderavelu then explained in detail the new method of making and 'burning' pots. By that method, pots will be less liable to be broken and a larger of return will accrue to the potters. He illustrated his lecture with a 'wheel' with which he said would mean quicker work than with the wheels now in use in Thunnalai. The lecturer promised to convey to the Director of Commerce and Industries the request of the President as regards the transport of clay from other places. After several questions had been put to the lecturer and answered by him, Mr. Velapper Neelakuddy proposed and Mr. S. Kandiah seconded a hearty vote of thanks to the lecturer which was carried with acclamation. Later Mr. Sunderavelu accompanied by Mr. Solomons went round the village to see the efforts of the local potters.

Prayer Day

"The Governor has received a telegram from the Secretary of State for the Colonies to the effect that it is the desire of the King that Sunday, May 26th, should be observed as a day of national prayer on behalf of the Nation and the Empire, of their Allies and of the cause in which they unite," states a House Ministry communique.

"The Christian Council of Ceylon has already, in accordance with His Majesty's wishes taken steps to urge upon all Christian people the whole-hearted observance of next Sunday as a Day of Prayer.

"Buddhists, Hindus, Moslems and Christians, not represented on the Christian Council of Ceylon are kindly invited to set this day apart for similar observances according to their religions.

"His Excellency joins with the Minister of Home Affairs in commending such observance to all the people of Ceylon."

THE EMPIRE'S MAN OF DESTINY

(Continued from page 1)

apparently and, this time, finally dead under the load of his transgressions? He sits down, like a Caesar, to write a history of the war as brilliant as it is brazen, and leaves soldiers and statesmen gasping at his boundless effrontery (at a nerve, a cheek, an audacity that reduces them to amazed helplessness. "I will not go back to the Admiralty," said Lord Fisher to me in the midst of the Ministerial crisis of 1915. "I will not go back to the Admiralty if Churchill reappears in the Cabinet. How can I fight Tirpitz if every moment has to be spent in watching Churchill?" He is like an embodied fury in a Rugby pack. He twists and turns and wriggles and lunges; but always he emerges from the scrum with the ball racing for the goal. He obeys no one. He is his own superman, and is so absorbed in himself and in his own fiery purposes that he does not pay others the compliment even of being aware of them.

Intractable

His isolation is unprecedented. He has personal friends, the chief being that other kindred spirit, Lord Birkenhead, and his loyalty to them is notorious; but he is an Ishmael in public life, loathed by the Tories whom he left and has now returned to; distrusted by the Liberals, on whose backs he first mounted to power; hated by Labour, whom he scorns and insults, and who see in him the potential Mussolini of a wave of reaction. His genius is the genius of action and he loathes "the canker of a long peace and a calm world." He sees life in terms of war, and his high and turbulent spirit is only entirely happy when politics and war are merged in one theme.

When someone told Harcourt that Randolph Churchill was practically an "uneducated man" Harcourt replied. "If he was educated, he would be spoiled." In the academic sense, Mr. Churchill is as uneducated as his father. He was an indifferent scholar at school, and of formal learning, he would still be out-classed by Macaulay's fabulous schoolboy. It is said that Randolph Churchill, on his mournful visit to South Africa after his sun had set, sought to find a career there for a lad who had to earn his living and gave no promise of a career at home. Perhaps, if Winston had been educated he, too, would have been "spoiled" in the sense Harcourt meant. He would not have been the Churchill we know, the Churchill who flings himself into life with the uncalculating vehemence and passion of the boy in the school playground. "There are times," says Mr. Wells in speaking of him, "when the evil spirit comes upon him, and then I can think of him only as an intractable little boy, a mischievous, dangerous little boy, a knee worthy little boy. Only by thinking of him in that way can I go on liking him."

Unschoolled

His appearance supports the impression. In spite of the bowed

shoulders, the thinning hair, and the portentous gravity of bearing, there is still the sense of the intractable, unschooled boy, the terror of the playground, the despair of the master. The pouting petulant lips give a note of childish wilfulness to the face, and the smile, which borders on a grin, has a hint of boyish mischief that has not been discovered. But if he is uneducated in the school sense, and if he is rudimentary in the moral sense, his intelligence is extraordinary, his understanding powerful, his intellectual activity unrivalled, his will despotic. He has little contact with ideas or ideals, but he sees the play of the life and the clash of material forces vividly and imaginatively and leaps at his conclusion and convictions with an assurance and imperiousness that impose them on those who doubt and hesitate. One man with a conviction will overwhelm a hundred who have only opinions, and Mr. Churchill always bursts into the fray with a conviction so clear, so decisive, so burning, that opposition is stamped.

A Genius without Judgment

That is the explanation of the astonishing part he was allowed to play in the war, from the Antwerp fiasco to the Russian fiasco. He triumphed by the sheer energy of his mind. He swept his colleagues by the fervour and passion of his vision. He could not be repressed; he could not be denied. If his wisdom had been equal to his force, he would have been the towering figure of the war. But, as I think, Lord Oxford once said of him, "He has genius without judgment." He sees only one aspect of a situation at a time and the ardour of his vision exercises a maniacal and perilous spell. His inspirations which sometimes have a touch of genius, should have been listened to, and then he should have been stood in a corner and forbidden to speak while wiser men examined them and decided. For unless Mr. Churchill is silenced, he will win in a dialectical "war of attrition." He will wear them down by his tireless attack; by the intensity of his feeling, the versatility of his proof. For he knows his case as he knows his speeches—word and letter perfect. He leaves nothing to chance. He works at the documents like a navvy; he recites his arguments with ceaseless industry. He practises on every body. His life is one long speech. He does not talk, he orates. He will address you at breakfast as though you were an audience at Free Trade Hall, and at dinner, you find the performance still running. If you meet him in the intervals, he will give you more fragments of the discourse, walking up and down the white with the absorbed self engaged. Napoleonic pretentiousness that makes his high seriousness tremble on the verge of the comic. He does not want to hear your views. (He does not want to disturb the beautiful clarity of his thought by tiresome reminders of the other side. What has he to do with the other side when his side is the right side?) He is not arguing with you, he is telling you. (A. G. Gardiner.)

The Dances of Prof. Nair and Mr. Molligoda

Performance at Hindu College— an Appreciation

The dance recital which formed part of the Hindu College Jubilee entertainments was obviously arranged in great hurry and the printed programme gave only the bare titles of the dances. In the programme of Uday Shankar and Menaka, on the other hand short synopses of the individual items are included—a feature which enables the spectators to follow intelligently and gauge the measure of success of the dancer's execution of his theme—pattern.

Judging from the title, I first thought that Venugopal Dance would represent Krishna with his flute and his traditional escort of *gopinis*. But from the dance itself I received scarcely any impression of the serenades of Krishna. Probably the dancer had in his mind not Krishna of the impish pranks, but Krishna the boy-herd, who loved the cows in his charge with a tender love, and who while grazing them on fresh pastures regaled them with the sweet strains of his flute. This charming phase of Krishna's character which is seldom depicted in the South Indian talkies, is most exquisitely brought out in the Prabhat picture *Gopal Krishna*.

Kamadeva struck me as being stiff, uncertain and diffident, not the self-confident god who fearlessly aims his shafts indiscriminately on men and gods alike. This could be justified if the dancer was thinking of Kama advancing all unwillingly, at the importunate entreaties of the gods, in a vain endeavour to shake the firmness of Siva immersed in his all-absorbing meditation.

The snake-charmers Dance depicts a common street scene belonging to contemporary life. The Peacock Dance should bring home a picture of the vain bird showing off the glories of his tail and the majesty of his tread to his admiring mate. Young Molligoda seemed to be surer of himself in this dance, though he has far to travel to achieve all the artistry of which the theme is capable. The final item was the dance of a primitive hunter on the scent of his prey and in it Professor Nair seemed to me at his best. There was power and overflowing vitality in all his movements.

The large-heartedness of the dancers in agreeing to perform at such short notice deserves special mention. Further it was a labour of love. Prof. Nair was, I understand, on a holiday, but with an artist's generosity he allowed his holiday to be interrupted to enrich the jubilee entertainments. And the people of Jaffna are artistically the richer for the experience. They gratefully appreciate the noble gesture of the two dancers, even as they fully admired their eloquent *mudras*. —A. R. S. &

Kaiser in Germany?

German circles in Madrid declare that the former Kaiser has arrived at Potsdam where he is said to be receiving every attention.

WEEK BY WEEK

(Continued from page 2)

are ready to march hand in hand with the Sinhalese towards political and economic progress. The conference has given to the Tamils the much needed lead.

Vindication.

One hears a lot of noise in certain quarters trying to belittle the representative character of the leaders that took part in the conference. All the noise is due to the self-importance, bigotry and wilful blindness of those opposed to the move for communal unity and progress. The public know well that actual communal unity and progress are apt to irritate men who at the time profess to strive at unity and yet at the same time work against it.

Political Jaffna has come to realise that one man alone is responsible for the dangerous stagnation in the public life of the Tamils. He is not merely content with following a definitely recalcitrant policy. He is out to drive a permanent division between the Sinhalese and the Tamils. The preposterous fifty-fifty demand has not only been summarily rejected by the Sinhalese and the Governor but, what is much more significant, by the better minds among the Tamils. The majority of Tamils feel that a purely communal outlook on the part of the Tamils would be suicidal both to them and the country. Hence the rallying of the progressive and sane elements among the community. The fifty-fifty demand is so manifestly absurd that no argument is needed to prove its utter absurdity. This theory is politically unwise and morally perverse. The conference has made a constructive approach to the communal problem in this Island. Ceylon is the home of the Sinhalese and the Tamils. They must and will live together. They are both politically slaves, economically exploited, culturally they are up against odds to preserve their ancient culture and civilisation. Then it is best that there should be an understanding between the two major communities. These alone prompted the conference to take the initiative.

A Ray of Hope

And this Conference provides a ray of hope in this encircling gloom. There are political differences between the two communities. The Conference is aware of this. But these can be easily resolved if only interested wire-pullers would stand aside. The Tamils do not want to be made political scapegoats by designing and interested men.

Bluff!

A few Jaffna Association politicians with whom I have had talks in the last few days have expressed to me their firm conviction that the fifty-fifty demand would never be granted even by Lord Loyd. And that this demand is a huge bluff on the part of the communalists to wrest as much concessions as possible from the Sinhalese. They say that they do not at all believe in this novel theory of balanced representation. The tragedy of the situation is that Mr. Ponnampalam believes that all those who are in the Jaffna Association necessarily share his views.

Europe Today

Eight months of war—this German military machine has been grinding the lives and liberties of

TEACHERS AND POLITICS

Madras Govt. Modify Order

Ootacamund, May 18.

The Government have issued orders modifying the earlier G. O. which prohibited teachers from participating in elections or the election campaign. The Government, it is learnt, have now withdrawn the objection to teachers of secondary schools and Colleges, if permitted by the management, to stand for elections to local bodies and the Legislature and also participate in the election campaign.

The ban on the elementary school teachers, however, continues to remain. (The Hindu)

Mahatma will Leave 'No Stone Unturned'

Wardha, May 24.

"I will leave no stone unturned to bring about a peaceful and honourable settlement of the present deadlock," said Mahatma Gandhi, when interviewed by the Associated Press on Mr. Amery's statement in the House of Commons last night.

"While, hourly, the butchery is going on in the West and peaceful homes are being destroyed, I have not the heart to say anything publicly in regard to Mr. Amery's statement in answer to Mr. Wedgwood Benn. Suffice it to say that I will leave no stone unturned to bring about a peaceful and honourable settlement of the present deadlock."

London Matriculation

Nearly 600 candidates passed in the London Matriculation Examination held in January, 1940. Of these 171 are from Jaffna District, namely: 38, Jaffna Hindu; 27, St. Patrick's; 19, St. John's; 12, Jaffna College; 11, St. Henry's; 10, Jaffna Centre; 9, Ramasathan; 9, Scanda Varothaya; 6, Parameshwara; 5, Victoria; 3, Manipay Hindu; 3, Hartley; 3, Vigneswara; 3, Chithampara Vidyalayam; and 13, Private Study.

The following passed in the first division: S. Sivaraman, Manipay Hindu College; E. J. Ratnesar, St. John's College; P. Kanagasabapathy and A. Sambasivam, Jaffna Hindu College; R. Kathamuttu, Chithampara Vidyalayam; and A. Sivalingam Jaffna College.

one nation after another. The destruction wrought so far is indeed colossal. Cities that hummed with life have become a heap of ruins. Flourishing industrial centres have turned into graveyards overnight. And heedless of the widows' sobs and the orphans' tears the Nazis devil the conquered races to work for feeding their militarism. Eight months of war! When we look back the tragic drama unfolds itself act by act, scene by scene the events crowding one after the other. Hitler had in him the power to say when the war would begin. He said so and Europe today is all ablaze. But it is not for him to say when it will end. The Allies will fight to the finish till Hitlerism and all the wicked things it stands for are wiped out from Europe and the world.

Nazis Seek to Overthrow Empire

King's Message

London, May 24.

The King in the course of a broadcast message to the nation tonight said: "I am going to speak plainly to you in this hour of trial, I know that you would not have me do otherwise. Let no one be mistaken. It is no mere territorial conquest our enemies are seeking. It is the overthrow complete and final of this Empire and of everything for which it stands and after that the conquest of the world."

ON JUNE 3RD

First Sitting of New Court

The first sitting of the Court of Criminal Appeal in Ceylon will be held on June 3rd, presided over by the Chief Justice, Mr. Justice Keuneman and Mr. Justice Nihill.

The appeal, which will also be the first of its kind to come up before the new Court, is that of Seedin de Silva, a former Buddhist monk, who was sentenced to death at the Kalutara Assizes by Mr. Justice Wijeyewardene. The appeal is on a question of law and hence an application for leave to appeal in the first instance does not arise.

GERMANS ISOLATED

Also Stalled for Lack of Fuel

New York, Friday.

Five thousand German troops belonging to mechanised units are reported to be isolated in Amiens, according to a broadcast by the National Broadcasting Company's Paris representative. He added that other Nazi mechanised forces are "stalled" owing to lack of fuel. Allied forces are reported to be busily mopping up these isolated Germans.

Near East Military Border Talks

Istanbul, Saturday.

General Tchakmak, Commander-in-Chief of the Turkish Army, has returned from a week's visit to Beyrouth where he conferred with the Chief of the Allied Forces in the Near East, says the "Ankara Telegram".

General Assim Gunduz, Vice-Chief of the Turkish General Staff, accompanied by the Assistant General Secretary to the Foreign Ministry and military experts left Ankara to go to Beyrouth. It is stated that the Mission will discuss matters connected with the common borders of Turkey and Syria.

Bigger Force for Home Defence

London, Saturday.

The British War Office announces that it has been decided to form additional companies for certain home defence battalions for special duties in Britain. Age limits will be 18 to 19½. It is intended to transfer men when they reach the age of 20 to training units for the field army. Men engaged in munitions and shipbuilding or undertakings producing army supplies will be advised to remain at work.

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[Mis. 242. 4-1-40 to 31-5-40]

Two Ways of Closing A Tavern

There are two ways of closing a tavern, said Sir Baron Jayatilaka, in the course of a speech delivered at a public meeting held when a school was opened in Talgahpotta, a Village in the Kurunegala district.

One is by public option and the other by boycotting taverns, Sir Baron explained.

Order Nisi

IN THE DISTRICT COURT
OF JAFFNA

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 866.

In the matter of the estate of the late Sellamma widow of Canapathipillai of Manipay

Deceased.

Canapathipillai Selvaratnam of Manipay

Petitioner.

vs.

1. Canapathipillai Nadarajah,
2. Mahespari daughter of Canapathipillai and Arumugam Mahalingam of Manipay

Respondents.

This matter of the petition of the petitioner coming on for disposal before S. Rodrigo Esquire, District Judge on the 1st May 1940 in the presence of Mr. E. Marugesampillai, Proctor and the affidavit of the petitioner dated 1st May 1940 having been read; It is ordered that Letters of Administration to the estate of the deceased be granted to him and that the abovenamed 3rd Respondent be appointed Guardian-ad-litem over the minors 1st and 2nd Respondents for the purpose of watching their interests in these proceedings unless the Respondents shall appear before this Court on 12th June 1940 and state objection to the contrary.

The 8th day of May 1940

Sgd. C. Coomaraswamy

District Judge

(O. 7. 27 & 30-5-40)

A monk had earlier deplored the action of the Board of Ministers in advising the Governor to sanction the free issue of permits for tapping sweet toddy.

Sir Baron appealed to the gathering to close taverns by the second method.

The delay in giving effect to the wish of the State Council in the issue of free permits, he said, was due to the action of the Ministers.

But they were unable as a democratic body to resist when the Council insisted on the issue of such permits.

The remedy was in the hands of the electors. He requested those who were present to question their representative in Council how he had voted in that particular debate. Next year men would come round to solicit their votes. Then it was for them to insist that on entry into the State Council they would reverse the action of the present members. Unless a candidate was prepared to give that assurance, voters should not elect him as their representative.

The building for the school, which was opened, was donated by Mr. M. Piyadasa.

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