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## THE ABODE OF THE LORD OF DANCING

### The Chidambaram Temple

#### ITS ARCHITECTURAL BEAUTIES AND MYSTICAL SIGNIFICANCE

By Prof. P. S. Naidu, M. A.

CHIDAMBARAM, the abode of Sri Nataraja, the Lord of Dancing! What a world of sweet and sacred images the holy name conjures up before the mind of the devotee! What rapturous delights await him who is *en rapport* with the atmosphere in the holy of holies surcharged with the love of our beloved Lord! Yet, how commonplace the town, and even the Temple, appear to the modern civilised tourist! Chidambaram is a bleak way-side station on the railway which serves the southern part of our country. There is nothing particularly remarkable about the town itself, unless one wants to mention the crocodiles which infest the streams adjoining it. With dirty roads, dilapidated houses, starving cattle and sickly men and women, the town has a haggard look; the electric lights installed recently have added garishness to the depressing scene. As you thread the streets, and enter the Temple you are frankly disappointed. Brick and lime have ruined the beauty of the ancient monument. The granite pavement has become uneven, and grass has grown between the dislocated slabs. At the entrance to the main shrine you find a cow (a live one) stolidly blocking your way and fouling the passage. The visitor may well feel depressed by the uninspiring sights and sounds in the most exalted place of worship in South India.

But, there is another Chidambaram, the true and the inspiring one, the real abode of the Lord of Dancing. Let me lead the reader to it. It is evening, the shadows are lengthening and the hush of night is beginning to envelop the town. It is the hour which, Sri Rama-krishna says, is the most propitious for devotion and for chanting the name of the Lord.

Hark! What soul stirring note is it? It is the deep-mouthed temple bell which is summoning the faithful to evening devotions. For ages have the pure in heart heard and responded, at stated intervals every day, to the almost human call of the great temple bell. The ceremony of the waving of lights has just commenced, and as we step in front of the Golden Hall, the doors of the innermost shrine are thrown open, and there literally bursts into our view the beatific vision of Sri Nataraja. What an entrancing sight! What a soul stirring spectacle! Gone are the gross materialistic thoughts, and gone are the depressing feelings. Presently there falls on our ears the rapturous melody of a Thevaram song. Turning round we behold the decrepit in body, but what a lovely soul that body enshrines. He is pouring out his soul in passionate adoration of his 'sweetheart', Sri Nataraja. The whole building is reverberating with the anguished cry of his innermost heart. We breathe a different atmosphere now. The place has changed. This is the true Chidambaram. And as the evening worship draws to a close, there is only one thought uppermost in our minds. May the Great Lord of Dancing dance His way into our heart and transmute it making it a worthy abode for Himself!

Chastened and purified by this unique experience, we begin to see Chidambaram and the Temple in a new light. Let us now try to understand the real significance of this great centre of pilgrimage. Chidambaram knows no limitations of time or place. It is truly international. Throughout the year special pilgrim trains call at the station fetching devotees from far and near. Yet, it

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## RELIEF TO MORTGAGORS

### Second Reading of Bill Passed

#### RIGHTS OF CREDITORS WILL BE SAFEGUARDED, ASSURES MINISTER

THE Second Reading of the Bill intended to give relief to mortgagors of immovable property was passed by the State Council on Thursday.

Mr. Corea moved the second reading of an ordinance temporarily to limit the rights and powers of mortgagees; to grant relief to mortgagors of immovable property; to defer the sale of such property in execution of hypothecary-decree; and for other purposes incidental to or connected with the matters aforesaid.

Mr. H. E. Newnham (Nominated) in opposing the Bill said that that was the fifth in a procession of Bills designed to discourage or even to restrain the presumably natural desire of people to restore to its owners the money they had borrowed. In 1932, the excuse for a similar Bill was the depression; in 1939, the excuse was a mild boom when it was feared the lenders would want their money back. Any excuse seemed good enough for that kind of Bill.

No emergency had been alleged. The war was not mentioned. However, according to the minister 20,000 acres of cultivated land had been sold in execution of mortgage decrees in the past 10 years. He would remind the House that Ceylon contained about 3½ million cultivated acres and at a time of depression—a period of 10 years only about half or one per cent of those lands had been sold in that manner. When one considered the proneness to borrow, those figures represented a great tribute to the patience of creditors. It would therefore seem that this Ordinance was clearly intended as a permanent measure. It was particularly serious in that it robbed one party to a contract of his legal rights and barred his access to the Courts.

It seems to be forgotten that people who lend money were not necessarily wealthy. The House was aware that some of

these mortgagees on property belonged to small investors such as widows and orphans. If they were not able to recover their money when they needed it for their own support or the education of their children their position would be deplorable.

The present powers of the Courts, he considered, were quite adequate without weighing the scales so heavily in favour of the debtor.

That declaration of disinclination to repay borrowed money was a very poor preparation for the raising of a public loan for the attempt to industrialise Ceylon. Those who might be inclined to lend money to the Government were being warned very clearly that the Government was at the very least very indifferent to the sanctity of the contract for the lending of money.

Mr. H. W. Amarasuriya (Galle) said that it was very difficult for Ceylonese to borrow further money under existing conditions because they had already borrowed practically full value on their lands. It was very necessary for the Government to save the land of the people of this country from continuing to pass out of their hands to outside capitalists. Today conditions were worse than at any previous time when a similar form of relief was contemplated. The present Bill would enable the Courts to prevent foreclosure under unfair conditions.

Mr. R. C. Kannangara (Morawaka) said that the Bill was intended to protect debtors who might be widows and orphans.

Mr. G. A. Wille (Nominated) said that the fact that the Bill also affected mortgagors on house property made it more serious than it otherwise would have been. It was at first thought that those who were to be given that relief were only small land owners, but it was now proposed to extend the re-

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## Hindu Organ.

MONDAY, JULY 1, 1940.

### WAR AND CEYLON'S FOOD SUPPLIES

EUROPE, IT IS FEARED, WILL before long, be in the throes of an unprecedented famine. HITLER has ravaged almost the whole of Europe and the result cannot be anything else. European economists have already sounded the warning. Any means of sustenance left undamaged will certainly be taken over by the Nazis. The conquered countries must consequently be reduced to abject poverty with hardly any resources to fall back upon. Famine in a Europe thus devastated by the Nazi hordes is a forgone conclusion. The repercussions of the war and the Sino-Japanese conflict are not going to prove less severe in India and Ceylon. Japan's ambitions in regard to Indo-China and her military preparations for a major campaign are portents that should disturb the equilibrium in the East. Then India and Ceylon cannot remain unaffected. Ceylon which even today is a helpless dependent on foreign countries for her food supplies is sure to be hit hard unless she takes step betimes to secure her position by increasing her agricultural products. Burma cannot be depended upon, in a critical time, to supply her usual quota of rice to Ceylon. Therefore the only means of ensuring Ceylon's supplies is to begin producing, in the Island itself, as much as possible of the food requirements of the country. The food drive launched at the beginning of the War does not seem to have made much headway. The Minister for Agriculture and Lands, who has achieved not a little in regard to the agricultural improvement of the country, will have to exert his utmost to see that the present war is made the occasion for a vigorous drive to make Ceylon self-supporting in the matter of food products. It was during and after the last war, that Ceylon realised her helplessness in the matter of food stuffs: a spontaneous urge to cultivate lands became evident at that time, but it soon faded away for many reasons. It is only during times of crises like wars or famines that people turn back to the land. The present therefore is a very opportune time for accelerating the grow-more-food campaign.

### French Possessions Stand by Britain

#### French India Governor's Warning

Pondicherry, Saturday. His Excellency M. Louis Bonvin, Governor of French India, appealed to the people of French India requesting them not to lose confidence because the armistice has been concluded.

His Excellency warns the public not to get discouraged, declaring "all is not lost and all French colonial possessions remain intact."

The Governor declared that till the final victory for the Allies, the French colonial possessions would stand by Britain.

#### Armistice Only Prelude To Bigger Demands

Zurich, Friday.

The Franco German armistice is regarded here as merely the framework of the German demands, giving the German Armistice Commission big leeway to decide how severely France will be treated. The Creusot factory (France's biggest munitions plant) will, in future, work for Germany.

Germany is insisting that French civilian refugees should return home to re-start industries and to bring in the harvest. German troops have begun evacuating the Lyons and the Rhone valley and Savoy, but will not fully retire to the armistice lines till the west coast strip of France is occupied.

The importance of this strip is emphasised in the "Berliner Boersen Zeitung" which says that it gives Germany the possibility of obtaining imports from Spain and Portugal and "creates a path to North Africa which can quickly be enlarged in the course of the forthcoming action against Britain."

#### French to Defend British Soil

London, Saturday.

A representative of General De Gaulle who is organising a French volunteer legion stated in London today "We have already in this country many highly trained air officers, and men and also machines. The second purpose is to defend if necessary British soil."

It is expected that recruiting for the legion will begin next week after General De Gaulle has reached agreement with the British authorities regarding the terms of service.

#### Heavy Nazi Air Losses

London, Thursday.

Reuter's correspondent on the German frontier telegraphs that the intensive propaganda among the Hitler Youth for volunteers for the German air force is regarded here as evidence that the recent losses were heavy. Men belonging to the 1904 & 1920 classes not yet called up have been told to present themselves immediately to the local authorities. The German newspapers are full of announcements of soldiers killed in action.

The Swiss newspaper "Bund" reports that German wounded are housed in hotels and hospitals all along the Rhine, from Basc to the shores of Lake Constance.

### Break Between Congress & Gandhiji

#### A "Tremendous Sacrifice" by Congress

Bombay, Saturday.

"I am both happy and unhappy over the result," writes Mr. Gandhiji in a signed article in "The Harijan" today about the break between the Congress Working Committee and himself and the Working Committee's resolution passed at its latest meeting.

He says he is happy because he is able to bear the strain of the break and unhappy because his word has seemed to lose the power to carry with him those whom it was his privilege to carry.

Mr. Gandhiji, after explaining that non-violence was the only policy with Congress, adds that he could no longer guide the general policy of Congress when fundamental differences were discovered between Congress and himself.

Congress had made, according to Mr. Gandhiji, a tremendous sacrifice of the prestige which Congress gained in the world for unadulterated non-violence.

A Simla message states that Mr. Gandhiji has arrived there.

#### SUPPLY BOARD FOR INDIA

##### Further Impetus to her Production Effort

Simla, Thursday.

Further impetus to India's war production effort is expected to be achieved by the decision of the Government of India to place the whole of India's supply organisation under a unified direction and control.

The control of supply organisation will be carried out by way of a Supply Board whose president is to be Sir Mohamed Zaffrullah Khan.

The Hindu leader, Dr. Moonje, and Dr. Khare, the former Premier of the Congress Government of the Central Provinces, have joined the Governor's Committee in the Central Provinces for prosecution of the war. The Committee, meeting tonight at Nagpur, considered ways and means of raising additional units for the Indian territorial force.

The All-India Hindu League meeting at Lucknow today, passed a resolution calling upon the British Government adequately to equip India to meet any possible contingency as an equal partner in the British Commonwealth.

#### Last Bastion of Europe

New York, Thursday.

Describing Britain as the "last bastion of Europe," the "New York Herald Tribune" declares: "As long as the British people see any ultimate hope before them and they can pin such hope on the increasing material aid from the Americas, permitting them to maintain the blockade and more nearly to match Hitler's air force—the British Islands can yet become a base from which the vast Hitler power may ultimately be destroyed in his own contradictions."

"We will have no more choice between peace and war than had Norway, Belgium or Holland should Britain be decisively beaten," declared the Governor of New York, Mr. Herbert Lehman, in a speech today. "The only reason we have been safe in the past is because we always had the protection of the great fleet of the friendly sister democracy of Great Britain," he added.

### JAPAN FOLLOWING MONROE DOCTRINE

#### IN THE FAR EAST AND SOUTH SEAS

#### WOMEN AND CHILDREN LEAVE HONG-KONG

—o—

Tokyo, Saturday.

THE Japanese Foreign Minister, Mr. H. Arita, broadcasting today, said that Japan was following a policy similar to the Monroe Doctrine regarding the Far East and the South Seas. In this spirit Japan was engaged in the task of establishing a new order in East Asia and was determined to leave no stone unturned in eradicating all activities for assisting General Chiang Kai-shek. "Countries in East Asia regions and the South Seas are very closely related geographically, historically, racially and economically and the uniting of these regions in a single sphere on the basis of their common existence is a natural conclusion", he declared.

"When the present war broke out the Japanese Government at once declared its policy of non-involvement. Naturally Japan expects that the Western Powers will not exert an undesirable influence on the stability of East Asia.

"I desire to declare that the destiny of these regions is a matter of grave concern for Japan".

London, Saturday.

All that could be said in authoritative quarters in London with reference to the broadcast of Mr. Arita, Reuter learns, was that a number of questions are still under discussion between the British and Japanese Governments.

These discussions are being conducted through the British Ambassador, Sir Robert Craigie, at Tokyo. The Foreign Office has received within the last two days a report from Sir Robert Craigie on the latest phase of the discussions which are under urgent consideration by His Majesty's Government.

#### Compulsory Evacuation

A Hong Kong message states that the Government Gazette announces that the Government of the Colony has decided on the compulsory evacuation of all British women and children of European race.

The evacuation is to be completed by July 5th and no exceptions will be allowed, save for women registering as nurses who have no children.

The evacuees will first go to Manila after which they will probably be sent to other destinations. It is learned that the Australian Government has offered its co-operation in receiving some of the refugees.

Meanwhile schemes for the evacuation of women and children of other sections of the community are being drawn up and will be put into effect as soon as possible.

#### THE JAFFNA URBAN COUNCIL

The Adjourned Meeting of the Jaffna Urban Council will be held at the Office of the Council tomorrow at 5 p. m.

# WEEK BY WEEK

## South - East Europe The Next War Zone?

(BY MAN ABOUT TOWN)

THE great democracy of yesterday is no more. France has drunk her cup of humiliation to the full. Deprived of a Clemenceau, and a Poincare, in the hour of her greatest crisis, France's hero of Verdun gave orders to cease fire. The surrender has the taint of treachery. The terms imposed by the Dictators reduce France to a vassal. She has gone the way of Poland, Denmark, Norway, Holland, and Belgium. Pre-war French government can be described as one of divided counsels, vacillation, ineptitude and drift. Above all their full faith in the Maginot fortress culminated in the quick fall of France. The German war machine was thus able to disintegrate the morale of the French people. France for the present is dead.

### What Next?

Hitler says that the war in the west is over. Air raids on Germany and England are the order of the day. But South East Europe threatens to be the war zone now. The Red Sphinx of Moscow is on the move. With characteristic slyness, Stalin consolidated himself in the Baltic. Now to Rumania. Here Hitler has helped him to satisfy his demands on Rumania, lest the Nazis provoke Russia against them. Hitler also will want a free passage for his troops into the Balkans. He must come to the aid of his ally. The scene shifts to the Mediterranean with the reported march of German troops to the Spanish frontier. Hitler may try a shy at Gibraltar. Italy may march into Yugoslavia and thus have contact with the German High Command by land in the Balkans. In these movements Turkey's position is delicate. As it is, with her pact with England, she scotches the Berlin-Baghdad dreams, the Rome-Iraq dreams and the Moscow India dreams at one blow. Will she be loyal to her treaty obligations?

### Whither America?

Experience has shown that the Power which dominates Europe tends to expand outside Europe, and aim at world power; that would certainly be the case with a victorious Germany. Could such a disturbance of world equilibrium be a matter of indifference to America? If Germany were to supplant Britain as a world power, can Americans imagine that those international conditions by which they profit today—a system of liberty, and of inter continental exchanges, together with a general use of English—would still persist? America should know that the fall of the British Empire would mean a grave set-back for the U. S. in every continent, including its own. The general opinion in the U. S.—at least among Republicans,—is that she will in no case intervene in Europe unless the British fleet is sunk. Here is the conflict between a decisive political factor and the traditional instinct of abstention pulling in different directions. It can safely be affirmed that a threat of ruin to the British Empire would

entail American intervention. She has no ambition to do what Britain has done, but it profits her if Britain continues to fulfill the task which it performs.

### German Estimate of the Huns

Two famous Germans correctly estimate the savage character of the Germans. Goethe, the poet, says, "The Germans are born brutal; education will make them ferocious."

Heine, the philosopher, says "Christianity has occasionally calmed the brutal German lust for battle but it cannot destroy that savage joy."

"And once that restraining taskman, the cross is broken, then the old combatants will rage with the fury celebrated by the Norse poets."

"Then the old stone gods will rise from unremembered ruins, and Thor will leap at last, and bring down his gigantic hammer on the Gothic Cathedra's; Don't smile; it is no mere fantasy.....German thunder is truly German."

"It takes its time but it will come. And when it crashes it will crash as nothing in history crashed before. Never doubt it. The hour will come."

### Axis World Carve-Up!

In a future world carve-up, the Axis partners are agreed. The main points of agreement are—Italy to have Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt, British Somaliland, Gibraltar, Tangier, the Suez, Malta, Corsica and a large portion of Southern France. Germany on the other hand is to have the rest of the conquered European countries, along with British Africa, India, Ceylon and the Pacific!

### An Uncle Sam on the Present Conflict

The National Socialist movement in Germany began as a crusade against Bolshevism, but now finds itself strangely engaged in a war which it can hope to win only with the aid of the Bolsheviks.

Russia the "bulwark of peace" as its rulers have sanctimoniously declared for twenty years was engaged in a disgraceful attempt to conquer a neighbouring republic. King George VI says that England has no material gain in mind in this war, that England is only fighting for freedom.

### War Contribution by U. C.

I am glad that the popular member of the U. C., Mr. K. V. Sinnadurai, has given notice of a motion for the grant of Rs. 1000/- for the Gloucester Fund. But in keeping with the status of the premier town of the Tamils, I am sure, Jaffna U. C. can contribute more. Will another member or Mr. Sinnadurai himself move a motion for the grant of another Rs. 1000/- for the "Send a Plane Fund" or the War Fund sponsored by the Government? I am sure the Jaffna Council can afford to contribute Rs. 2000/- for the destruction of evil forces in the world. In this connection, I am

## Law to Prevent Sale of Private Lands

### New Bill to be Introduced

It is understood that the Executive Committee of Agriculture and Lands has approved the introduction of an Ordinance to prohibit the sale of private land in Ceylon to non-Ceylonese.

The proposal to bring into operation such an Ordinance, which was first mentioned at the re-opening of the completed Kalawewa tank, was considered at a meeting of the Executive Committee of Agriculture and Lands. The Committee, it is learned, approve the proposal to give instructions to the Legal Draftsman to draft such an Ordinance.

### Under Irrigation Works

The Ordinance, which is primarily meant for the protection of private lands under the reclaimed major irrigation works, will become applicable to areas which from time to time are proclaimed under it.

In any area brought under the operation of the new law, no sale of land will be allowed to any person unless that person has been previously approved by the Commissioner of Lands as its purchaser.

### In case of Court Decrees

The provision requiring the prior certificate of the Land Commissioner will be applicable even in the case of a sale under a decree of Court.

If no approved purchaser is available, it is proposed that the Government should purchase the land to be sold under Court decree and deal with it subsequently as Crown land.

It is glad that the Committee of Local Administration did the right thing in giving a ruling on the legality of local bodies giving grants to War funds.

### Grow More Food

The problem of an adequate supply of food in Ceylon will be a big one in the future. With the war extending to the Middle East and disturbing conditions in the Far East, supplies by sea will be difficult. As things are, at any moment Burmese supplies may be cut off. Hence the importance of a Grow More Food Campaign in Ceylon. The Department for Food Production was established at the beginning of the War. The Minister of Agriculture got a Million Rupees vote for this department. Mr. Hobday proposed certain schemes for more food production. After that nothing is heard. Will our Minister for Agriculture see that an all island drive is made for increased food production. It is high time that Ceylon became self-sufficient in regard to her food supplies. There are vast areas of land suitable for paddy cultivation.

The Government is ever willing to launch colonisation schemes and give the necessary financial aid. But the indifference of our own people is so great that they are not enthusiastic over such schemes. Decades of regular supplies of paddy and rice from foreign markets have given our people a sense of security that they have become so callous to such dangers as food shortage. If the people are not going to voluntarily help in this national task, I think the best course open for the Government would be to insist by law that every citizen should be responsible for a certain amount of food production.

## Russia Occupies Rumania

### Bulgaria and Hungary To Act?

London, June 28.

Soviet troops began to enter Bessarabia and Bukovina at dawn, according to a Bucharest telegram to the Italian Stefani Agency.

The troops have been ordered, the dispatch adds, to occupy Cernauti and Chisinau, the chief towns of Bukovina and Bessarabia respectively, before this evening, as well as Cetatea-Alba at the mouth of the Dniester. The Soviet occupation has hitherto caused no incidents. The Rumanian troops are reported to have received orders to withdraw without offering resistance.

Squadrons of Soviet planes covering mechanised forces and infantry are entering Rumania. It is stated that the Soviet's reply to Rumania's request for a conference on the Russian demands was that Russia wished to occupy the territories she demanded first and "discuss questions and details later".

### Minor Clashes with Rumanian Troops

Some minor clashes occurred between troops of the Red Army and Rumanian soldiers who had not received orders not to resist, but for the most part the Soviet occupation proceeded without incident.

The Rumanian Government has sent another Note to Moscow, asking for guarantees for the safe evacuation of the Rumanian civil and military authorities in the occupied areas, and for the recovery of state property there.

It is expected in Rome that Hungary and Bulgaria will make their demands on Rumania within the next 24 hours, according to a broadcast from Rome to the Columbia Broadcasting System of New York. The speaker added that Italy was not prepared to offer any opposition to Russia's moves in Rumania, and it is understood in Rome that the Soviet Union had offered Italy increased trade in return for Italy's acceptance of the Soviet's action.

## Japanese Air Raid on Chungking

The offices of the British Diplomatic Mission and the Consulate-General were gutted in a Japanese air raid on Chungking, the Chinese capital, and the western suburbs.

The Charge d Affaires, Mr. P. M. Broadmead, and the Assistant Military Attache, Major Millar, who were both in the Embassy dug-out, were badly shaken by the blast of the explosions, but were unhurt. Both offices were made completely uninhabitable.

A hand grenade was thrown through the gate of the British Embassy building at Reikiang, causing a deafening explosion, early this morning. A Chinese employee was slightly injured. The perpetrator escaped.

## BOMBAY PORT CLOSED

### Bombs on British Offices

A Single communique says the Port of Bombay has been temporarily closed to shipping. All other Indian ports are open.

## Ceylon Oil For Palestine

### Prospects of Better Market

It is understood that the Secretary of State for the Colonies has informed the Ceylon Government that the Palestine Government has expressed its willingness to waive its high import duty on coconut oil if Ceylon exports coconut oil to that country in a denatured state, i. e., if the coconut oil is rendered unfit for human consumption.

### Why Duty has been High

The question of the high import duty levied by the Palestine Government was taken up by the Minister of Labour, Industry and Commerce, and representations were made on the subject through the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

The prohibitive duty on coconut oil was intended as a protective measure in favour of olive oil which is edible and is a product of Palestine.

For the same reason the Italian Government used to allow the entry of coconut oil into Italy only on condition that it was rendered inedible by the addition of caustic soda by the Italian Customs authorities.

### Only for Lubricants

The Palestine Government has now agreed to allow the importation of coconut oil from Ceylon, removing the excessive duty thereon, provided that it is used only for industrial purposes, i. e., mainly for the manufacture of lubricants.

It is considered possible in these circumstances to develop a better market in Palestine than is now available for Ceylon coconut oil.

Last year Palestine bought 1,480 cwts. of coconut oil from Ceylon valued at Rs. 20,489.

## "Man to Man, Britain Is Far Superior"

London, Friday.

"Man to man, we are better than the Germans," declared Mr. Richard Law in a stirring peroration. "That has been proved time and again—on the sea, in the air and on the battlefield. Man to man, we will beat him here."

"And then we will attack him and attack and attack until we have swept back for ever the foul tide that has submerged Europe."

"Hitler has never been up against the people of England before. There is a lesson coming to him."

## The Karai Union of Malaya

The annual general meeting of the Karai Union of Malaya was held at the Yv. Kananda, Ashtama, Kuala Lumpur, on Sunday, 5th May 1940. The election of office-bearers for 1940 resulted as follows:—

President, Mr. S. Eliathambay  
Vice-President, Mr. S. Chelliah  
Honorary Secretary, Mr. A. Ampalavanar

Honorary Treasurer, Mr. G. Arulandiam

Committee members: Messrs. S. Sinaathambay, S. Selliah, K. Chellatharan, M. Ponnampalam, and K. Muttiyah.

## The Abode of the Lord of Dancing

(Continued from page 1)

must be remembered that the Temple is in the heart of the Tamilnad, was built by Tamil architects and sculptors, was patronised by South Indian princes, and was immortalised by the unparalleled devotion of the Tamil saint, Sri Nandanar. Moreover, Tamil poetry and Tamil music have, for ages, served to keep aflame the sacred emotions of the devotees of Sri Natarajah. So, in a sense, the Temple is the repository of all that is best and highest in Tamil culture. On the architectural, sculptural, religious, and even mythical and legendary sides, the famous shrine is the expression of Tamil culture. It is worth while making an attempt to study the Chidambaram Temple from various points of view, for, when we have caught the reflections from a few facets of this multi-faceted gem, we shall have gained deep insight into the foundations of that culture.

The dance of Siva is the central theme of all legends connected with the Temple. Sri Nataraja, the Lord of Dancing, is the greatest amongst the names given to Lord Siva. The three-fold cosmic activity of creating, preserving is symbolised by the great rhythmic movement portrayed by the image in the holy of holies of our Temple. "The dance, in fact," says Dr. Anandacoomaraswami, "represents His five activities, namely, Srishti (creation), Sthiti (preservation), Samhara (destruction), Tirobhava (illusion) and Anugraha (release)." The typical image of Sri Natarajah is described by the learned doctor as one "having four hands, with braided and jewelled hair of which the lower locks are whirling in the dance. In His hair may be seen a writhing cobra, a skull, and the mermaid figure of Ganga; upon it rests the crescent moon, and it is crowned with a wreath of cassia leaves. In His right ear He wears a man's earring, a woman's in the left; He is adorned with necklaces and anklets, a jewelled belt, bracelets, finger and toe rings. The chief part of His dress consists of tightly fitting breeches, and He wears also a fluttering scarf and sacred thread. One right hand holds a drum, the other is uplifted in the sign of 'Do not fear'; one left hand holds fire, the other points down upon the demon Moyalagar, a dwarf holding a cobra, the left foot is raised. There is a lotus pedestal from which springs an encircling glory (Tiruvasi), fringed with flame, and touched within by the hands holding drum and fire."

The meaning of the image may be understood only in the light of the legends narrated in the Koilpuranam. It is not without special significance that Tamil thinkers have essayed to condense into the Koilpuranam the most exalted ideas of their philosophy. The doctrines taught by Appayya Dikshita and Uppathi Sivacharya are some of the rarest and sweetest flowers of the delicate plant nurtured in the Tamil cultural soil, and the concrete manifestations of that culture must be studied and interpreted with care and thoughtfulness.

There are two legends connected with the dance of Siva Nataraja at Chidambaram, one relating to the complete rout of materialism and scientific realism, and the other to the synthesis of dualism with Advaitism. In the forest of Taragam, runs the first story, there lived a sect of heretical rishis, the Karma Mimamsins, who were engaged in preaching and practising doctrines of a grossly materialistic type. Then as now, the glamour of science was debasing the spiritual elements in man's soul. Then as now, there were men who preached the most dangerously false but attractive doctrine that science is religion, and that science leads us to understand the subtler and finer aspects of the soul. Siva securing the aid of Vishnu came down to destroy these enemies to humanity. The evil ones suspecting danger, started an *abhichara homa* that is, they pooled their scientific knowledge, and the power which such knowledge gave them over nature, in order to let loose the destructive forces. There came out a terrible tiger to attack the gentle saviour of man. The tiger symbolises the ferocious, intolerant, arrogant power which modern science has released, and which like a gaunt spectre is stalking contemporary Europe. Lord Siva destroyed the tiger, ripped off its skin, and wore it as a garment. The homa flames burst forth higher and thicker than ever, and there came out a vile reptile, symbolising the sinister and demoralising influences of a materialistic culture based on scientific realism. The benevolent Lord transmuted the spirit of the serpent (and not its body), and decked his own body with it. The Mimamsakas or the scientists made one more effort and there came out of the sacrificial fire the dwarf Moyalagar, the embodiment of all that is evil, vile and wicked in man. And then there occurred the miracle. Lord Siva became Sri Nataraja, and with Moyalagar as his dance pedestal performed the famous dance which captivated the hearts of the heretics. These were converted to the way of righteousness, and became ardent worshippers of Sri Nataraja. The homa served a double purpose. While the performers believed that the force generated by it would destroy Siva, it really purged their minds of evil and wickedness. The knowledge of the material world which these heterodox persons acquired was still in their possession, but the evil emotions generated by that knowledge were allayed, their sting having been taken off by the grace of the Lord. This beautiful Tamil legend indicates the lines along which they who value things of the spirit should work, in order to curb the evil forces which modern science has let loose. Not by destroying science, but by assimilating it, by infusing the spirit of the philosopher and the sannyasi into the restless and desire-filled body of the sciences, should we seek to control the vast energy released by scientific knowledge. Already, the transformation has begun. The writings of Eddington, Jeans, Haldane and even those of Huxley (the latest I mean) indicate clearly that the true scientist has seen and realised the strict limitations of science, and therefore,

(Continued on page 6)

## Direct Blow to Hitler

### Nomination of Mr. Wendell Willkie

London, Friday.

The nomination of Mr. Wendell Willkie, the 48-year-old lawyer and utilities magnate, by the Republican Convention of Philadelphia is regarded in informed circles in London as a direct blow to Hitler, states Reuter.

Ever since the war began, the Nazi propaganda machine in the United States has done everything in its power to strengthen isolationist sentiment in America, but despite all its efforts has met with a major setback.

The nomination of a candidate so friendly to the cause of democracy in Europe as Mr. Willkie has shown himself to be must be a source of great pleasure to Britain.

Mr. Willkie polled 998 votes out of a possible 1,000 and the nomination was clinched by a last-minute and unanimous break of the large Pennsylvania delegation.

The Republican foreign policy planks are expected to receive a much more liberal interpretation from him than they would have got from Mr. Taft.

Mr. Charles McNary, the minority leader in the Senate, is reported to be Mr. Willkie's choice for the Vice-Presidency, but Mr. McNary has been insisting that he would not accept the nomination.

## Compulsory Service in India

### Skilled Technicians to Be Called Up

Silma June 28.

Compulsory national service for skilled Indian technicians to supplement voluntary recruitment of technical personnel for factories engaged in war production is provided in an Ordinance issued today.

About four thousand skilled and semi-skilled technicians are to be compulsorily recruited to meet the requirements of these factories during the next few months.

If these technicians are at present employed, the Ordinance gives Government the power to compel the firms concerned to release men for employment in war production work.

The Ordinance also gives Government power to enforce the reinstatement of these technicians in their former jobs after the emergency is over. In order to replace the men thus removed from their present employment, a Departmental Committee has been set up to report within a month on the steps necessary to fit existing technical institutions to train skilled artisans.

## Sir Stafford Cripps Hands Credentials

Moscow, June 28.

Sir Stafford Cripps, British Ambassador in Moscow, presented his credentials today to M. Kalinin, President of the Supreme Soviet.

Afterwards Sir Stafford Cripps and M. Lozovsky, Vice-Commissioner of Foreign Affairs, conversed for forty-five minutes.

## Rumania Yields to Russia

### General Precautions Against Others

London, Thursday.

It is confirmed in official circles in London, says Reuter, that Russia has presented a 24 hour ultimatum to Rumania which expires at 10 to-night. It is believed that Bucharest has accepted the Soviet demands.

An official communique broadcast by the Bukharest radio tonight says: that the Rumanian Crown Council, after examining the Russian Note asking for the cession of Bessarabia and Northern Bukovina to the Soviet, "desirous of preserving peaceful relations with the Soviet has approved the decision of the Rumanian Government to ask the Soviet to fix a date and place for a meeting of the delegations of the two Governments to discuss the Soviet Note. The Soviet answer is awaited"

It is learned from unofficial but responsible, Rumanian circles that Rumania has decided to cede to Soviet Russia the whole of Bessarabia and two districts of Bukovina, and that a general mobilization has been proclaimed in Rumania chiefly as a precaution against any Hungarian revisionist move against Transylvania.

(On April 9th, 1918, Bessarabia was joined to Rumania and the Bukovina on November 28th, 1918. The Dobronja (Dobrudja) which Bulgaria claims, was annexed after the Peace of Bucharest in 1913. Transylvania, which Hungary says belongs to her, was added to Rumanian territory on December 1st 1918.)

## Good Old war of Nerves Again: Hitler Reckons Without his Host

Zurich, Friday

The Berlin correspondent of the "Neue Zürcher Zeitung" says that Hitler is planning a triumphant entry into Berlin on August 1st "after his victory over Britain". Sappers are clearing space for a victory parade and orders have been given for the erection of stands.

The correspondent further says that preparations for an offensive against Britain are proceeding at a tremendous speed. Meanwhile, the German Press is full of protests against British raiders who are alleged to drop bombs at random on villages.

Exploits of extraordinary skill and endurance by the R. A. F. and the havoc they are wreaking by day and night on military objectives in Germany and in enemy-occupied territory are contained in Air Ministry communique.

One of these announces: "On Wednesday, R. A. F. bombers made daylight raids into Germany. In spite of enemy fighter attacks, an oil plant at Gelsenkirchen and railway sidings at Soerst were bombed.

During Wednesday night, further bombing operations were carried out. Our aircraft attacked seaplanes based on Texel and Helger and aerodromes at Schiphol, Waalhaven and DeKooy, in Holland. Aerodromes at Dortmund and Bonn, and at Handorf, near Munster, and at Langenhagen, near Hannover, were also bombed.

## Vivekananda Society Religious Exams

### Becoming Very Popular

THE Examinations in religious knowledge, held by the Vivekananda Society, Colombo, have become very popular, states the 37th Annual Report presented at the last Annual General meeting of the Society.

The Report further states:

These examinations were usually held during the December holidays each year, but in view of the fact that the annual departmental examinations of the schools that present students for these examinations were fixed for December, our 1939 examinations were held in March 1940. It is proposed to fix the future date of these examinations for a convenient time during the Easter Holidays. The results of the examination held in March last will be published shortly. Over 2,000 students from 45 schools entered for the examinations.

The gold medal won at the examination in 1938 together with the prizes and certificates won by the 5 schools at Karainagar were presented to the winners at the Annual General Meeting of the Saiva Maha Sabal, Karainagar, in December last. All the other prizes and certificates were duly sent to the various schools. With the exception of the gold medal which is the first prize in the Senior Examination, all prizes were in the form of books. The gold medal costing about Rs. 25/- was once again, as during the past seven years, presented by the Trustee (Mr. V. T. S. Sivagurunathan) of the "Annapakkiya" Memorial Fund. We are thankful to the ladies and gentlemen who contributed towards the prizes and other expenses connected with these examinations. Siva Sri S. Kumaraswamy Kurukkal, Pandithai R. Pathmasani Ammal, Pandit Sivang Karunakulaya Pandiyanar, Pandit K. Sivasambu and Messrs. N. Sivagurunathapillai, A. Sittampalam, S. Saravanapavan and K. Arunugam have placed us under great obligation by having acted as Honorary Examiners. Our thanks are due to the Presiding Examiners and the authorities of the schools and colleges where these examinations were held.

**Religious Instruction to Hindu Prisoners in the Colombo Jails and to the Inmates of the Lepet Asylum.**—The Headmaster of the Vidyalayam, Mr. K. Arumukham and the Senior Assistant, Pandit K. Sivasambu, continued doing this work during the year. We are very grateful to them for doing this honorary work. It is hoped that others will follow the example set by these gentlemen and offer their services in this direction. We are also thankful to the authorities of the Prisons and the Asylum for the courtesy shown and the facilities afforded to the preachers.

**Vidyalayam.**—There are at present 408 pupils (239 boys and 170 girls). Of these 27 are non-Hindus. The average attendance for the school year is 323. The total number of pupils and the average attendance last year were 161 and 308 respectively. Although a certain amount of addi-

tional accommodation was obtained by the removal of the side walls to the furthest ends of the school hall, the question of adequate accommodation still remains a problem. The arrangement by which some of the classes are held in the open verandah of the old building is unsatisfactory, particularly because it causes considerable inconvenience to the residents. This matter will have to receive attention at an early date.

**Suburban Activities.**—The literary and religious classes conducted in Wellawatte for some years past were continued as usual on Sundays and Wednesdays at the Saiva Mangaiyar Kalagam Vidyalayam Hall. Pandit Sivang Karunakulaya Pandiyanar is the teacher. We are glad to report that the classes have grown in popularity and several new members have joined them recently. The Study of திருவாய்மொழி & சிவஞானசித்தியார் was concluded during the year and as a mark of rejoicing the students of the classes organised a public celebration at which the President of the Society, the Teacher of the Classes and Pandit M. Nallathambiyar delivered addresses and commended the work done at these Classes. At the meeting a purse was also presented to Pandit Sivang Karunakulaya Pandiyanar by his students as an expression of their gratitude for the service rendered by him.

The average attendance at these classes is 50. At present classes are being held for the study of பெரிய புராணம், திருக்குறள், சிவஞானபோதம் & திருக்கோவையார். Here is a rare opportunity for the members resident in the southern suburbs to study and acquire knowledge of their religion. We trust that even larger numbers than at present will attend these classes. If there is the demand arrangements can be made to organise more of the classes in different centres. At the request of the members of the classes the Pandit is writing an explanatory treatise in prose on சிவஞானசித்தியார் which will be published under the title of சிவஞானசித்தியார் விளக்கம்.

We cannot but record our appreciation of the very good work which is being carried on by the members resident at Wellawatte. We hope that the activities at Wellawatte will be copied by the members resident in other suburbs.

**Finance.**—The total receipts of the Society for the year exceeded the total payments by the sum of Rs. 2,192.36 as against a surplus of Rs. 565.21 last year. A net sum of Rs. 532.40 has been advanced during the year to the Vidyalayam. Since the date of closing the accounts a sum of Rs. 1,072.50, being the interest due to the Ceylon Saiva Paripalana Sabha for the years 1937 & 1938 as a sum of Rs. 367.50 due to this Society as room rent, has been paid to the Trustees. The sum of Rs. 500 being the other debt due to Mr. A. Nagalingam has also been paid together with interest Rs. 83.75. Mr. Nagalingam was kind enough to waive a sum of Rs. 83.75 as part interest.

It is again pointed out that the amount shown as due from the defunct firm of A. R. A. R. S. M. is a bad debt and should be written off as otherwise the society's financial position is not correctly shown.

## Relief to Mortgagors

(Continued from page 1)

Relief to owners of house properties. The Bill on the whole was far too one-sided. It sought to protect the interests of the debtor, but ignored the interests of the creditor. It was a great point against the Bill that the repayment of principal might be put off indefinitely. He could understand if the rate of interest, where it was too high, was to be reduced or the principal was to be scaled down where the value of the land had depreciated.

### Reply

Mr. G. C. S. Corea, in reply, said that the Bill might be looked upon with a certain amount of misgiving by some lawyers even though they used honeyed expressions on behalf of unscrupulous money-lenders. It was no use speaking of sympathy oozing from every pore for the down trodden and then oppose any measure intended to grant them some relief.

Mr. G. A. Wille rose to a point of order on the ground that the Minister was indulging in veiled insinuations against anybody.

Mr. Wille said that it was cowardly for the Minister to make such insinuations.

The Deputy-Speaker asked Mr. Wille to withdraw the word "cowardly" and this was done, Mr. Wille adding that the Minister should observe some decency in debate.

### "Cant And Humbug"

Mr. Corea said that if his remarks applied to the Nominated Burgher Member he was the best judge of its application. He reminded the Member that he had opposed the Debt Conciliation Bill which had provided for a "scaling down of the principal" as was now suggested by Mr. Wille when it suited him. Mr. Wille talked glibly of breaches of contract in other respects to suit his arguments. Mr. Wille wanted the small landowners in distress to suffer and rot in agony. "Let us give up this cant and humbug and realise that it is the duty of the Government to protect its people, when in distress, as far as possible," said Mr. Corea. That Bill was not intended to be an indefinite measure of relief to debtors in distress, but was to operate only for one year, after which the State Council would have to decide again whether it was necessary to extend it or not, according to the circumstances then existent.

Mr. Corea in reply to Mr. Newham, pointed to the provisions already included in the Bill to meet the criticisms made.

The motion was then put to the House and carried by 17 votes to 5.

The Bill was then referred to Standing Committee B.

At this stage Council adjourned till 2.30 p.m. on July 9.

## A Public Reception

A public reception was accorded to Mr. C. Arulambalam, J. P., Advocate, at the Stanley School on Saturday, the 29th June 1940, at 6 p.m.

In conclusion we earnestly appeal to all members to sink differences of opinion, if there be any, and work wholeheartedly for the furtherance of the objects of the Society.

# The Abode of the Lord of Dancing

(Continued from Page 4)

acknowledges himself a humble suppliant at the shrine of philosophy and religion.

The other legend is not easy to interpret, though we can see, readily enough, the general trend of its significance. In response to the fervent prayers of Adi Sessa, Lord Siva consents to dance once again the inimitable dance which destroyed the evil forces released by materialism. The dance is to be performed in the same place, and at noon on the appointed day (the day of Arudra Darshan which is celebrated annually here) to the unbounded joy of his devotees, Siva grants darshan as Sri Nataraja to Vishnu, Adi Sessa, and hosts of other celestial beings. So far we have no difficulty in following the idea behind the story. But a purely local incident is sandwiched between the two legends. When Siva comes down to give darshan to his devotees, Kali the universal mother refuses to allow him inside the Temple. She challenges the Lord to a dancing contest, and it is said, that after a long and not unequal contest, Siva suddenly shot his leg high and straight above his head. The Mother would not imitate this pose. So she had to acknowledge defeat, and quit the shrine. But how could one conceive of a place without the universal mother? The whole universe is hers. The whole universe is She. And, there She is, inside the temple, in a different place as Sivakami (the beloved of Siva). The Nrittasabha where the contest is supposed

conciled in practice. It is the same spirit that animates Tamil culture which has found expression in our Temple. Within the same shrine, and almost under the same canopy we have the sancta sanctora of Sri Nataraja and Sri Govindaraja. What a magnificent example of philosophic and religious synthesis is presented to our eyes in this ancient Temple!

There is another exalted idea that is symbolised by our Temple. The devotee is standing a few feet away from Sri Nataraja, leaning on the long iron rail, to get an unclouded view of the beatific face, and as his personal meditations draw to a close, the officiating priest inside suddenly opens a side door and whispers, 'Now, look! This is Chidambara Rahasyam.' The devotee sees a large garland of golden cassia leaves encircling Nothing. That Nothing is the Rahasyam or secret. It is akasa or aether. The manifestation of Siva in Chidambaram is in the form of akasa. There it is, akasa symbolising the highest reaches which the mind of the most exalted Advaitin can soar to. And let us not forget that this high watermark of the most perfect type of Advaitism is to be found in the Tamilnad, and is an expression of its culture. (*Prabuddha Bharata*)

(To be Continued)

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to have taken place contains an exquisite image of Sri Nataraja in the Lala a Tilaka pose. But the place has a deserted look. The shrine of Sivakami, on the other hand, is the loveliest place that one can set eyes on.

We constantly hear it said that Siva and Vishnu are one. Sri Ramakrishna's verified speaking of God as formless, and as having a lovely and auspicious body. He worshipped often at the shrine of Radhakanta in the Dakshinamur temple. He showed, by example as well as by precept, that the irreconcilable views of God may be easily re-

## Notice

IN THE DISTRICT COURT  
OF JAFFNA

In the matter of the Travancore  
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**Notice to Creditors—Case No. 1. 2**  
Creditors are hereby notified that the first Dividend of 60 p. c. of their claims will be paid to them on their application to the District Court Jaffna.

Receipts, Pass-books, Cash Certificates, Drafts, as the case may be, should accompany the application.

By Order of Court  
J. Subramaniam Lewis,  
Liquidator.

(Mis. 67. 27 & 1-7-40)

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