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SHANKARA'S PHILOSOPHY

(BY PROF. A. K. BANERJEE, M. A.)

ACCORDING to Shankara's Advaita philosophy, in its practical aspect, it is the consciousness of the identity of the Self with all and the feeling of unadulterated love generated from this sense of unity for all the embodiments of the Self, that should be at the basis of our conduct in all the spheres of our life. All our duties, domestic, social, national, and international, and even our duties to subhuman creatures, should arise from and be governed by this consciousness of unity expressed in the feeling of love. Self-realization—the realization of Brahman in the self and all—being the ultimate ideal of life, whatever thoughts, feelings, desires, and actions, whatever forms of behaviour, emphasize the differences between man and man, between the self and others and strengthen the sense of difference in the human mind, are condemned.

Bridging the Gulf

All antagonism, rivalry, competition, hatred, fear, etc. Shankara teaches us, arise from the want of true self-knowledge and true self-love, from attachment to unsubstantial things, from pursuit of illusions. In truth, the good of each consists in contribution to the good of all. It is through the cultivation of sincere love for all and the performance of disinterested works for the good of all, that a man can advance in the path of self-realization and shake off the sense of difference which puts obstacles in this path. Self-sacrifice in active life is the path to self-realization. The services which a man renders for the good of the family, the society, the nation, the humanity and the animal world, contribute to the realization of his own self in all. Shankara thus bridges over the apparent gulf between self-love and benevolence, between selfishness and self-sacrifice, between individualism and socialism or humanism. A man must cultivate purity and charity, truth and love, self-confidence and humility, strength and softness, faith in the inner godness of himself and that of all others, in all his thoughts, words, and deeds in order that his self may shine in its true universal and blissful character. Does it not raise morality to a higher spiritual plane? Does it not furnish us with a positive and dynamic morality?

Cause of Religious Frictions

The religious sects generally accuse Shankara of denying the personality of God as the ultimate truth. They think that Shankara's Advaita-vada cuts at the root of positive religion by regarding Brahman as an Impersonal Being. The

inner beauty of his doctrine is generally ignored. From the practical view-point, Shankara, by emphasising the impersonal or super-personal character of the Absolute Spirit, has really supplied all the religious systems of the world with a philosophical basis and brought about harmony and unity among them all. Personal God is certainly the object of worship to all religious men. But the conceptions of Personal God are different in different religious sects. It is the differences of conceptions about the divine Personality that give rise to differences among the religious sects and alienate the sects from one another. It is these differences that become the sources of bigotry, fanaticism, narrowness of outlook, and bitter antagonism among the followers of particular religious communities. Various disturbances in human society have been due to these differences among the religionists, and many irreligious acts have been perpetrated in the name of religion and God.

Conception about God

The conceptions about the nature of God differ so widely in the religious sects that they seem to worship different gods. The God of the Vaishnavas, the God of the Shaivas, the God of the Shaktas, the God of the Christians, the God of the Mohammedans, are different gods, and as such they divide humanity into narrow-minded religious groups. It is an irony of fate that religion which is resorted to for emancipation from all bondages and limitations, all conflicts and discords, all ignoble thoughts, feelings, and desires, becomes itself the source of fresh bondages and limitations, new conflicts and hostilities, various evil thoughts, ill feelings, and desires and actions in relation to fellow men.

The Same Brahman

Acharya Shankara wants to cut at the root of all such differences and discords by proclaiming that Brahman is really impersonal or supra-personal, that He is the One Self of all persons,—that Personal God, in whatever name He may be addressed, in whatever form He may be worshipped, whatever powers and attributes and activities may be ascribed to Him, is the same Brahman, the same Impersonal Absolute Spirit, conceived with the aid of and in identification with diverse names and forms and diverse glorious powers and attributes. It is the same Brahman that is worshipped by the devotees of all religious sects, however they

(Continued on page 5)

FRENCH ALLEGE AGGRESSION

In Indo-China

The present fighting in Indo-China was the result of "premeditated aggression" by Viet Nam (Annamese) forces after they had tried to lull the French into the false sense of security, the French Foreign Office spokesman states.

"During the days of aggression the Viet Nam Government tried to create the illusion of less strained relations", he declared.

Yersin Hospital at Hanoi has been filled with Viet Nam soldiers discharged as patients, while "soothing" messages went sent by Viet Nam leaders to General Morier, commanding the French troops in Tongking, and M. Roger Sainteny, the French Government Commissioner in Hanoi, who was later seriously wounded, he added.

Three messages were sent in the hope of inducing the French military Command to allow the troops to go off duty and disperse in the town, according to the spokesman.

"Fortunately this was not done and all French troops were confined to barracks at 5 p.m. on December 19, the spokesman said,

SPEAKER'S RULING

Mr. Nalliah's Absence From Council

The Speaker of the State Council Sir Waitalingam Duraiswamy, has ruled that Mr. V. Nalliah is still M. S. C. for Batticaloa.

Mr. Nalliah was last present at a meeting of the Council on September 25 and it was surmised that, according to Section 15 of the State Council Order-in-Council, Mr. Nalliah forfeited his seat on December 25. But the Speaker has ruled that the three months should be counted from the day the member was absent from a meeting of the Council.

Mr. Nalliah was absent from the meeting of the Council on November 26, but his name appears in the official minutes of the Council. Mr. Nalliah has told the Speaker that he was absent on this day.

adding that on December 15 Dr. Ho Chi Minh, President of the Viet Nam, sent a telegram to M. Leon Blum, the French Premier, assuring him of Viet Nam's sincere desire for internal co-operation with the French people within the framework of the French Union."

RUSSIA ATTACKS BRITAIN

For Communal Trouble in India

The Hindu-Muslim problem was mentioned on Moscow Radio last week by commentator A. Dyakov, broadcasting in English. He said:

"Whenever the British Government have started making some reforms in India, religious and communal animosities in that country have flared up with renewed force. British ruling circles have tried to explain this by the existence of supposedly irreconcilable antagonisms in India. Clashes between Hindus and Muslims are inevitable, they declare, because Hindu and Muslim cultures are totally dissimilar and in fact opposite.

"But Hindus and Muslims had lived together in India for 800 years, whereas the animosity between them, on the admission of British rulers themselves, has been a problem of all-India importance only since the beginning of this century. Even in the 19th century, it was not serious. And many Indian leaders, accordingly, maintain that the pitch which it has now reached is due to the British policy in India. Recent events bear this out.

"The purpose of all the shifty manoeuvring over the formation of Interim Government in India was to provoke Muslim League action

against the Congress which under Indian conditions was bound to bring Hindu-Muslim clashes and bloodshed in its train.

"British ruling circles have always denied supporting the Muslim movement for a division of India. But London newspapers do not trouble to conceal what is concealed in official documents. The Daily Mail, for example, is openly in favour of dividing India into Hindustan and Pakistan. Far from eliminating communal antagonism in India, however, such a division would only make it worse.

"In the whole of India, the Muslim minority makes up 23 per cent of the population, while in the proposed Pakistan there would be a 30 percent minority of Hindus and Sikhs and this Pakistan minority, if such it may be called, is more active and more organised than the Muslim majority, so that a division of India would only intensify the strife which is just what the authors of the division project want.

"So with India as the scene of seething passions and massacres the British would have an excuse for perpetual interference in India's internal affairs and would thus be able to retain their hold on the country," added Dyakov.



Hindu Organ

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1946.

DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURE

IN THE COURSE OF HIS PRESIDENTIAL address at the seventh conference of the Indian Society of Agricultural Economics Sir Manilal B. Nanavati outlined a three-point programme for the development of India's agricultural economy. Sir Manilal's first suggestion was that the inefficient classes which have crowded into agriculture should be removed. The suggestion is based on the recognition of the fact that the inefficient class of agriculturists "had neither the necessary equipment nor the aptitude to pursue this occupation profitably, for in this age of specialisation it was difficult to plead for their retention". According to Sir Manilal, "these classes which were responsible for depressing the level of agricultural efficiency should be helped to quit the field first."

We had the same idea in our mind when we urged repeatedly in these columns the danger of making peasant settlements and peasant interests the corner-stone of agricultural progress in Ceylon. The Ministry of Agriculture and Lands has concentrated its energy and attention on the peasantry almost to the exclusion of everything else. While it is undoubtedly true that the peasant tradition of Ceylon provides a basis for future development, it would be a mistake to assume, at the same time, that the peasants of today are in a position to form the spearhead of Ceylon's march towards agricultural expansion. As pointed out by Sir Manilal, modern agriculture is highly specialised. In Ceylon there are pressing reasons why a very high standard of specialisation is imperative. It is not enough, as Mr. D. S. Senanayake does, to stress the importance of agriculture in the economy of our island. Farming will never take its proper place in that economy unless the farmer himself is qualified to do so. One has only to look at the planting industry to realise the truth of this. No planter of the peasant type could have given Ceylon a highly mechanised and prosperous planting industry. The day is not far distant when food prices will revert to something like their normal level. Against that day it is the business of the farmer and the Government to provide the best possible security in the form of a highly modernised agriculture adapted to local conditions. This is a task which the peasant is not qualified to undertake. It is the duty of the Government to understand this and act accordingly.

SCRAP BOOK

BY
DIARIST

We of the coloured races are glad that General Jan Smuts, Prime Minister of South Africa, realises the fact that the coloured races preponderate in the world. This preponderance naturally entitles them to a predominance in the Parliament of Man—a parliament in which every man, white or coloured, is equal. This is new to General Smuts, because he failed to realise the injustice of the ruling races, whose superiority complex prevented them from realising it. Modern Science, they thought, was everything civilisation ought to be, forgetting that it had its horrors too; western civilisation, they imagined, was far superior to the civilisation of the coloured races, especially that of the Easterners. There was a time when the civilisation of the East was so profound that it would not even admit that a king could do no wrong. History repeats itself, and it would not be surprising when the respective position of the coloured and white races are reversed.

The white man, not satisfied with himself lording it over the coloured races, has taught many of the coloured races to lord it over their brethren. How far this fever of a borrowed superiority complex has caught our own people is evident from the fact that many of us look askance at things which are exclusively national. The way the British Medical Association behaved itself before the Ayurvedic Commission is indeed pitiable. I say pitiable, because it was due to ignorance. The leader of the deputation from the Association turned up his nose contemptuously at Ayurvedha, and sneered that it was fit only to be a monument. He does not feel proud of Eastern culture, arts and sciences. He thinks that everything Eastern or which does not bear traces of Western civilisation must be condemned.

In strange contrast to his evidence

was the evidence given by Dr. Walter Peiris and Dr. S. R. Gunawardene, both British qualified doctors. Dr. Gunawardene advocated a unification of the ayurvedic and western system of medicine to achieve a high standard of efficiency. His faith in these two systems of medicine is equally distributed. He desires a harmonious blending of both, bringing modern science to the aid of ayurvedha. Dr. Peiris on the other hand is firmly opposed to any hybridisation of the two systems. He urged before the Commission the purification of ayurvedha, expressing the belief that it must stand or fall purely by its own merits. Such strong belief must surely be the result of equally strong conviction. The Commission is quite capable of recommending the correct course to be followed. I am glad that the Commission is not going to make a monument of Ayurveda.

The story of a vegetable farm at Trincomalee has been made public. Indeed, like the adventurous penny it has its own adventures too, passing through various hands. The Assistant Government Agent started the vegetable farm; the Air Raids Precaution Controller, Trincomalee, took it over an year later and ran it with the aid of the Essential Services Labour Corps. In fact, this strange vegetable farm must have had the thickest veil of secrecy thrown over it, for 99.999 per cent of the people of Ceylon do not know anything about the Civil Defence Expenditure. Nobody knows what this vegetable farm produced, whether vegetables or "money" crops. The same applies to state farms. It is doubtful what they produced. Even if at all they did produce paddy, it would have been at least five times the price paid by Government for a bushel.

Notes and Comments

A Good Lead

Disputes of a trifling nature which arise among the villagers could be easily settled without recourse to Law Courts and without expense, to the mutual satisfaction of the parties concerned, if only a correct lead is given by the intelligentsia in the villages; and we congratulate the Manipal Central Conciliation Board on the way in which it has set itself to settle petty disputes among the villagers. We understand that the Board has settled 14 cases amicably during the last three months. The cases, we are told, related to family disputes, encroachment on properties, quarrels and partition of lands. Not content with the settling of such disputes, the Board has now planned for the prevention of crime and it has resolved to form "vigilant" parties in the villages to patrol at nights to prevent thefts. Thanks to its untiring Chairman, Mr. C. Thiagarajah, Manipal has once more given the lead in village welfare work and it is for the other village institutions to emulate this example.

Oil Politics

The Oil Pact just now concluded between the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey and the Anglo-Iranian Company is another dice cast on the board of Middle East politics. It is an open secret that Britain for a long time past has been considering the Middle East as a strategical position to defend her Eastern territories from Soviet menace. By the pact just now concluded the Wes-

tern Powers, viz. the Anglo-American bloc, will be now in a better position to use the Middle East countries as a spring board to attack Russia if and when the latter thinks of "aggression". Russia knows this; and she is strengthening her positions adjoining the Middle East on a scale unprecedented in military history. In the circumstances it is futile for the Arabs to expect justice from Britain and the U. S. in their conflict with the Jews. In fact, Saudi Arabia, in spite of its being an important Arab State, has sold the Palestine Arabs, in the latest transaction in the matter of oil wells, to the Anglo-American powers, for a mess of pottage.

World Peace

The Christmas message of His Holiness the Pope is very opportune and should serve to warn the statesmen of the world, of the dangerous path they are once more pursuing. "All over Europe" states His Holiness, "people are in a state of constant anxiety that the flame of a new conflict may burst forth..... the spring is pant and may snap at any moment." To the leaders of nations in whose hands the destiny of the world lies, the Pope has sent forth an appeal to consider three things if the world is to be spared the horrors of another bloody war. He has appealed to the world statesmen to answer the expectations of people to mitigate and dispel the disturbances under which they are suffering, to remove dangerous in-

ternational frictions, unite all their energies and all their good intentions to prevent the prolongation of the intolerable state of uncertainty and to speed up as much as possible the advent of a definite peace among all states. The exhortation of His Holiness to banish the spirit of brutal violence from future generations, if sincerely taken to heart by the statesmen of the world, will go a long way to establish the real foundation of an everlasting peace and prosperity to the world.

Sovereignty and Indian Princes

In whom does sovereignty rest in the Indian States? Sir N. Gopalaswami Iyengar an authority on States affairs, and a former Dewan in a premier state, and Sir Alladi Krishnaswamy Aiyer, the eminent constitutional lawyer, assert that sovereignty vests in the people and not in the ruler of a State. On the other hand, the Princes supported by constitutional authorities like Sir C. P. Ramaswamy Aiyer, state with all vehemence that sovereignty vests in themselves. We are afraid we cannot agree with either of the two theories advanced. In the present circumstances, sovereignty rests neither in the people nor in the princes, but in the third party, viz., British autocracy. What the Princes and their people should do now is to wrest that sovereignty from that third party. When that Paramountcy which is now vested in the British Crown disappears, the question as to the party in whom that should vest in future could be settled amicably between the princes and their subjects. It is indeed high time for the Indian Princes who number more than 600 to look into things as they are and as they will be without any more pinning their faith and hope to an alien power which is quickly quitting the scene. Of this large number of princes most of them except about 10 or 12 will have to retire with good grace with a pension and allow their territories to become part of adjoining provinces. The few that may remain would do well if they did not allow themselves to be fooled into imaginary security by statements from men of Sir C. P. Ramasamy Aiyer's type. No doubt these statements are flattering today; but they will be null and void tomorrow in the new order of things. The "Divine Right of Kings" is a myth; and that myth was exploded as early as in the 17th century. Therefore, if the few Indian Princes who will have their territories intact in the new Indian picture, are wise, they should make up their differences with their own people and share sovereignty with them even as the King of England does. Otherwise "they will", as Mr. K. T. Bhashyam, ex-president of the Mysore State Congress aptly states, "lose both cash and credit and not all the Sir C. P.'s in the world can save them from disaster". The enlightened Maharajah of Cochin has already shown the way for his brother Princes by granting constitutional reforms of a far reaching nature and by asserting that he derives his rights from his subjects. The future of Princely India is in the balance; and much depend on the trend of events during the coming weeks.

AND NOW WITH THE SIKHS

A 24-hour curfew was imposed on Mahabadi city on Sunday last after a Sikh-Muslim clash during which the police twice opened fire to disperse the rioters.

Seven casualties have been reported so far as a result of stray assassins and police firing. A number of cases of looting and arson also have been reported. The clash arose over a Sikh religious procession.

Mammoth Meeting Supports Tamil Congress

(By Our Staff Reporter)

IT is the inherent right of the Tamils to choose whom they want to send to the next Parliament as their accredited representatives and no one has the right to dispute it" said Mr. A. V. Kulasingham, Advocate, in the course of his address at a mass rally of the All-Ceylon Tamil Congress held at Kaithady on Saturday last.

The rally was held to mark the occasion of inaugurating a branch of the All-Ceylon Tamil Congress at Kaithady. On a most conservative estimate, it can be said that 5000 people attended, including a number of ladies, and it was said that that was the biggest rally ever held at Kaithady.

Messrs G. G. Ponnambalam, A. V. Kulasingham, S. J. V. Chelvanayagam, V. K. Paramanayagam, V. S. Karthigesu and K. Kanagaratnam on alighting at the Kaithady junction were profusely garlanded and taken in a mile long procession to the accompaniment of Oriental music to the Tamil School where a public meeting was held. Brahma Sri Kumaraswamy Kurukkal presided.

Nefarious Propaganda

Mr. A. V. Kulasingham, who was the first speaker traced the events that led up to the decision of the All Ceylon Tamil Congress to set up its own candidates in the coming Parliamentary elections and appealed to the people to cast their votes only to Tamil Congress candidates. After making the remarks quoted above, Mr. Kulasingham drew the attention of the people to the nefarious propaganda carried on by certain individuals, who at the behest of a caucus headed by Mr. D. S. Senanayake, are bent on disrupting Tamil solidarity. Mr. Kulasingham exhorted all Tamils, wherever they are, to be united under one organisation, for in their Unity lay their strength. "The Tamil Congress is the only representative organisation of the Tamils and it is the bounden duty of all Tamils to strengthen it. The Tamils have been for long past the torch bearers in the freedom fight of this country. We will continue to be so; but we do not want to be dictated to by anybody—no matter who he is" concluded Mr. Kulasingham.

What is Communalism?

Mr. S. J. V. Chelvanayagam who addressed next refuted the charges levelled against the Tamil Congress as being a communal body and asked, "If I call myself a Tamil am I communal? If by calling myself a Tamil I am dubbed a communalist, I take pride in being called so" he said.

A Sinhalese Raj

Mr. K. Kanagaratnam in a brief speech described the Anti national activities of the Senanayake clique which rules the country today and which, to capture power in the new Parliament has constituted itself into the United National Party. "It is the Senanayake caucus which breeds communalism in the country today" said Mr. Kanagaratnam, "and it is this caucus which wants

to see a Sinhalese Raj established in Ceylon within the least possible delay: The hoisting of the Sinhalese flag over the building of Ceylon's Trade Commissioner in London is one typical example of the narrow-minded patriotism of the Senanayake coterie." Mr. Kanagaratnam warned the people against falling into the pit-falls dug by Mr. Senanayake and his local show boys whose promises and avowals of nationalism and broadmindedness were not worth the paper they were written on.

A scathing denunciation of the policy so far pursued by Mr. A. Mahadeva was made by Mr. V. S. Karthigesu, Proctor, who said that Mr. Mahadeva had, by his actions and association with Mr. Senanayake betrayed the Tamils for ever.

A Dirty Lie

Mr. G. G. Ponnambalam, said that the U. N. P. was a clique of

Our Task

Modern Civilisation with its scientific temper and secular humanism, is uprooting the world over the customs of long centuries and creating a ferment of restlessness More than ever before we are divided and afflicted by formidable evils of fear, of suspicion and of misunderstanding. To remove these evils, which are the original causes of war, to give a soul to the growing world unity, is the task assigned to our generation. In this great work of creating a new pattern of living, a new social mind, some of the fundamental insights of Hindu culture may perhaps be found useful. —Sir S. Radhakrishnan.

capitalists bent on sucking the life blood of the toiling masses of this land. It was a coterie of opportunists bent on sharing Parliamentary honours, and in the circumstances, no one need be surprised if it was dissolved even before the General Elections. "A certain amount of propaganda is now being carried on by Mr. Senanayake and his local stooges to paint the Tamil Congress as a communal body, the sole aim of which is to fight with the Sinhalese. This is a dirty lie, as dirty as those who propagate this" asserted Mr. Ponnambalam; he said: "The Sinhalese are our own brothers and they will ever be so; in spite of Senanayakes and Mahadevas. It is true we are opposed to capitalist exploiters of the type of Mr. Senanayake and Co., and in fact the Sinhalese masses themselves have realised this truth and begun to see Mr. Senanayake in his true colours" concluded Mr. Ponnambalam.

After several others had spoken, a branch of the Tamil Congress was formed and an influential committee elected.

Cholera has again broken out in Polonnaruwa. A worker living by the Railway Station was affected and met his death last week.

By "SENTINEL"

"Woeful Misrepresentation"

MR. M. W. H. de Silva, the Representative of the Government of Ceylon in India is alleged to have made an attempt, in an address to the Rotary Club at New Delhi on December 5, to place upon the European planters of Ceylon the blame for any disabilities under which India thinks her nationals are suffering in Ceylon. He was reported to have said that places where labourers lived in Ceylon were not open for the Sinhalese to visit, that Indian labourers were not allowed to go out of the estates even for shopping at the bazaar, that Planters discouraged any association between the Indian labourers and the Sinhalese, that the Planters took upon themselves the task of looking after the labourer's interests and that they opened schools for the labourer's children rather than allow them to attend state schools. Mr. Kenneth Morford, President of the Estate Employers' Federation was taken aback at these statements and refused to believe them as correctly reported since they came from such an eminent and responsible personage as the Representative of the Government of India. He refused to comment on the remarks pending confirmation of the report.

Mr. Singleton Salmon, Chairman of the Planters' Association of Ceylon, said that if Mr. de Silva's speech was correctly reported it showed a disregard of the numerous labour laws and that it was singular and unworthy of an eminent King's Counsel. He said further that the statements were "the result of either woeful ignorance or wilful misrepresentation," and sincerely hoped that the Ceylon Government would make a public disclaimer that those statements were representative of their views. Neither any correction of the report of Mr. de Silva's speech nor any public disclaimer by the Government of Ceylon has so far appeared.

Mr. G. R. Motha, Secretary of the Ceylon Indian Congress has expressed his view that Mr. de Silva has indulged in wishful fancies in an attempt to cover the injustice that is being done to the Indian labourers in Ceylon. He says that the European planters have their share of the responsibility for the present plight of the labourers, but the political, occupational and social restrictions imposed on the labourers is the handiwork of the Sinhalese politicians since the introduction of the Donoughmore Constitution in 1931. He contends that it was the Sinhalese politicians who debarred the Indian labourers from occupations in various spheres outside estates and form village settlements and that on the other hand, during the last fifty years Sinhalese villagers had shared in estate work to an ever increasing extent. He further points out that the relations between the Sinhalese and Indian labourers are so friendly that thousands of them joined in the hartals organised by the Indians as a protest against the continued denial of the civic and political rights to Indian labourers. In the Knavesmire estate incident, according to Mr. Motha, the one comforting aspect was the sympathy

BE CAREFUL

Of the Crackers on Sale

Since Christmas Eve, thirty cases have been admitted to the General Hospital and the Eye Hospital, Colombo, for treatment of injuries caused by crackers.

In one case, eight people were admitted, all from Peliyagoda, with serious injuries to their hands and bodies. Ten more cases from the same area were treated at the O. P. D.

To the Eye Hospital twelve cases have been admitted since Christmas. In one instance a man completely lost his eye. In another case, the doctors at the Hospital are still fighting hard to save the sight of two children.

"It has been found," observed a Medical Officer, "that in most cases the crackers explode quite quickly. People ought to be more careful when they light these new crackers. In previous years it was rarely that one had cases of this nature."

shown by the neighbouring villagers towards the Indian labourers who were being prosecuted and persecuted.

Mr. de Silva cannot deny the above facts unless he is "usefully ignorant" of the conditions prevailing in Ceylon. But the consolation is that Mr. de Silva is only representing the Government of Ceylon. As such he is doing his duty quite faithfully.

"Woeful Ignorance"

Mr. de Silva's ignorance of conditions in Ceylon is confirmed by that part of his speech before the Rotary Club at New Delhi where he says that ninety per cent of the people in Ceylon are Buddhists. The total population of Ceylon is 6,484,409 according to the census of 1946. If according to Mr. de Silva 90% are Buddhists the other 10% viz 648,440 must belong to all other religions. Does he know that the census figures show that there are 1,291,094 Hindus, and 1,012,404 Muslims and Christians alone in the Island? As a matter of fact the Buddhists number only 64% of the population of Ceylon and not 90% as Mr. de Silva wants India to believe.

Panacea for Communalism

Mr. de Silva seems to have further indulged in fancies as he is reported to have hoped in his Rotary club speech that "some day it would be the privilege of the Ceylonese to bring back Buddhism to India and see whether we cannot by means of that religion put a stop to the communal disputes and disagreements prevailing in India." Alas! Ceylon, the land of 90% Buddhists does not know and will never know what communal disputes and disagreements are, unless such exist among the contemptible balance of 10%! Ceylon wants to be India's mentor now. Let Mahatma Gandhi and Nehru and Jinnah become Buddhists, even as Kannan-gara and Bandaranaike were converted to Buddhism, and India will become as happy a land as Ceylon to live in, marching towards complete Freedom.

(To be Continued)

Communism-its Future

Philosopher Visualises A Communist World

PROF. George Santayana predicts that the Russian way of life soon might envelop the entire European continent, and perhaps the world some day.

At eighty-five this world-famous Spanish-born philosopher and former Professor of Philosophy at Harvard does not share the popular fear of the "Red menace". He is mellowed and speaks reassuringly of the world's discords and fears.

"If communism came to Italy tomorrow, I'd say: 'Well let's try it,' he said in his small room in Rome's Santo Stefano Rotondo convent, where he makes his home.

"I won't live to see it but I believe that Russia soon may dominate all Europe, with Germany and France going communistic willingly and other nations following. And it is possible that this change can occur without war."

Professor Santayana said Russia was the logical nation to lead any move toward one world government because "Russia already lies within the trend and has a strong fifth column in most countries."

He believes this first step toward one-worldism would divide the world into two distinct spheres, with the United States leading Britain and other nations in the Western bloc. If the trend to one world government continues to envelop the globe, he believes the government will be communistic.

"Unfortunately this probably would require another war," he said.

Professor Santayana believes Germany is ripe to go Communistic after the four-power occupation ends. He said France showed a strong trend toward total communism, and that other European nations such as Italy and Spain would follow because their populations contained large elements who desired communism.

Professor Santayana gave his opinions in a two-hour discussion that ranged from his hatred for publishers' brightly coloured book jackets to the world's future. He displayed complete detachment and objectivity in discussing politics, giving the impression that he was willing to accept the intentions of all nations as basically sincere.

However, discussing discords at the Paris peace conference, he said the peace was being made by "too many professors—like myself—keep repeating the word 'democracy'."

"Democracy should not be imposed upon any nations," he said.

On another occasion he said that Spaniards were more democratic than Americans "because they hold more real affection for one another." He discussed "democracy" in terms of human beings rather than governments, and declared that true democracy was evident in the "Arabian Nights," "where beggars become kings, and know exactly how to act as kings, and kings can become beggars and know exactly what to do."

Professor Santayana believes the German people will recover swiftly from war destitution and he believes President Truman's demands for

Vaddukoddai Hindu English School Old Boy's Association

A public meeting of the past students of the Vaddukoddai Hindu English School was held in the School hall on Thursday the 26th of December, presided over by the Principal of the School, Mr. S. Sivagurunathapillai.

The Principal, in his address, after giving a brief history of the School and the services rendered by it to the people of the locality stressed on the pressing needs of the School—especially the lack of accommodation and a laboratory.

Mr. V. Nagalingam, Proctor, said that the interests of the Alumnus should be in the hearts of its past students.

Mr. K. Kanagaratnam stated that all should contribute their mite for the completion of the new building.

Dr. S. Kandiah also spoke. Mr. K. Vairavanather thanked all those present.

The following were elected office-bearers:

President:—Mr. S. Sivagurunathapillai.

Vice-Presidents—Mr. K. Kanagaratnam, Muhandiram, S. Coomarasamy and Dr. S. Kandiah.

Joint-Secretaries:—Messrs. M. Maheson and K. Vairavanather.

Treasurer:—Mr. Maruthapillai.

—Cor

He Became a Muslim—and Married

One Mr. S. Sabanayagam was charged at the Colombo South Magistrate's Court with having kidnapped Sylvia (15), a student of the Presbyterian Girls' School, Dehiwala, and daughter of Mr. J. D. Hassim.

Mr. Sabanayagam pleaded guilty to the charge. As Mr. Hassim did not wish to go on with the case in view of Mr. Sabanayagam having married his daughter and having become a Muslim, the Magistrate sentenced Mr. Sabanayagam to furnish bail in Rs. 200 to be of good behaviour for a period of two years, and to pay a fine of Rs. 25 as Crown costs.

PERSONAL

Mr. E. J. Rajaratnam has been appointed additional Assistant Government Agent, Kalutara.

Gate Mudaliyar V. Ponnambalam, Treasurer, the Board of Directors, the Jaffna Hindu College and branches, has been appointed a Justice of the Peace for the Judicial District of Jaffna.

Jewish immigration into Palestine are wrong.

"Palestine cannot support too many people," he said "It is better to assimilate refugee Jews into other large countries like the United States and Australia."

News in Brief

The possibility of an Indian being appointed to the important post of Deputy Director General of UNESCO is believed to be under consideration.

M. Champetier De Ribes, the sixty year old former minister representing the M. R. P. was elected President of the French Senate on Friday last.

A sweeping amnesty for "little Nazis" in the American zone of Germany was announced last week by General Mc. Narney Commander of the U. S. theatre in Germany.

The Financial Department of the Polish Embassy in London have issued a statement declaring that the return of gold to the value of £ 10,000,000 belonging to the Bank of Poland which had been deposited with the Bank of England for duration of the war is now being refused by the British Government.

COMING A. I. C. C. SESSION

It is learnt that the All-India Congress Committee session to be held at Delhi on January 5 will be a one day session. The British Government's Statement of December 6 will be the only subject of discussion at the session.

The Real Police Chief

"Will be Senanayake and not Mr. Aluvihare"

Mr. Philip Gunewardena said at a meeting held under the auspices of the Sama Samaj Party at Gorkana on Sunday last that in the normal course they would have been highly gratified at the appointment of a Ceylonese as Police Chief, but Mr. R. Aluvihare would be a mere figure-head. Mr. D. S. Senanayake would be the real Police Chief.

Mr. Gunewardena also referred to the question of unemployment and added that if a Labour Government was returned to power in the new Parliament, it would solve the problem of unemployment.

The salaries scheme, he said left the rich people still better off, but gave a meagre dole to people, who had been the hardest hit.

Mr. Bernard Soysa said that the State Council after sixteen years of existence had failed to bring any relief to the masses.

Mr. W. J. Perera said that the United National Party had collected a lot of money from bus owners and had promised to look after their interests.

Mr. Harry Peiris said that a large sum of money was spent at the expense of the people to keep Mr. G. C. S. Corea in London.

Mr. Robert Gunewardena and Mr. M. E. Fernando were the other speakers at the meeting.

LOWER RANKS PROTEST

Against the Appointment of Ceylonese Inspector General of Police

THE lower ranks of the Police Force have decided to submit a memorial to the Governor protesting against the appointment of a Ceylonese as Inspector-General.

An official of the banned Police Sergeants' and Constables' Association said that though in evidence before the Police Commission the Association had urged the appointment of a Civil Servant as Commissioner of Police, its members now feared that if a Civil Servant was appointed political implications might arise to the detriment of public welfare and the Force.

The memorial will be signed by the lower ranks as individuals and not as members of the Association, which has been banned by the Inspector-General of Police, Col. R. R. M. Bacon, against whose decision the Association has appealed to the King.

Despite these differences the members of the Association want Col. Bacon to continue in office for the full period of his contract. They feel that he has done splendid work and that he should be given a further chance.

"Practically the whole of the Association is trying its utmost to prevent the present I. G. P. from leaving," the spokesman added.

It was the general opinion of the majority of the ranks that if the recommendations of the Police Commission regarding the appointment of a Ceylonese as head of Police administration were enforced it would mark the first stage of the ultimate downfall of the Force.

Indian Soccer Team to Tour Ceylon

In response to an invitation from the Ceylon Football Association a strong Indian team from the Aryan Gymkhana, India's premier soccer club, will be arriving in Ceylon shortly.

The Indian team will consist of the best players in India and be drawn from the leading football centres and will represent the cream of Indian soccer. The team's itinerary includes two Test matches against All-Ceylon and will practically be the same as that which was selected to tour South Africa in June.

The invitation to India is one of the first steps by the C. F. A. to promote soccer and raise its standard in the Island.

PARDONED.

The Acting Governor, Sir John Howard has granted a Free Pardon to the former Knave-mire Estate Labourers who were recently charged in the Kegalla Magistrate's Court and convicted of trespass.

STALIN TO RETIRE

According to the Globe News Agency, Marshal Stalin will retire next spring. At a meeting at Sochi, a fortnight ago, Stalin is said to have named M. Molotov as his successor, Globe States.

Letter to the Editor

AYURVEDHA

Sir,—The censorious attitude of Dr. E. M. Wijerama, Dr. Walter Peiris and some other allopathic doctors towards the indigenous systems of medicine finds no justification in the sight of one who views things from an utilitarian stand point. One versed in the European system cannot grieve the merits of medical men practising the oriental system. A latitudinarian refined by true culture, with liberal views, will never despise a science of which he is entirely ignorant.

Most allopathic doctors in Ceylon do not know how popular the indigenous systems of medicines are in countries like India and China. In the Tung Wah Hospital in Hong Kong where there are free outdoor dispensaries both for Chinese and European treatment 197,736 patients were treated in the dispensaries in 1924, and of this number only 48,140 or 24% chose European treatment. Dr. Walter Peiris did not know till he was told by Dr. Mendi, Registrar of the College of Indigenous Medicine, that there were 125 patients waiting for admission to the hospital which had only 85 beds.

Lord Hardinge, Ex-Viceroy of India said: "When I remember how many of those who have means and access to best doctors still prefer to be treated in accordance with the indigenous system of medicine, I come to the conclusion that I should be wrong to discourage the scheme which aims at improvement and development of this branch of medicine."

Colonel. Ganapat Rai, I. M. S.: "I am not ashamed to state that on many an occasion I have succeeded with indigenous system where allopathy failed."

C. E. Clerk, M. A., M. D.: "If the physicians of the present day would drop from the pharmacopoeia all the modern drugs and chemicals and treat their patients according to the indigenous methods there would be less work for the undertakers, and fewer chronic invalids in the world."

Dr. M. R. Samey, Ph. D.: "Old Ayurvedists discovered germs of disease more than 2000 years ago and yet they had the common sense not to call them as the universal causes of diseases."

The graduates of the College of Indigenous Medicine do not practise Western medicine and they are prohibited by law from doing so. They are however trained to use modern scientific methods for the diagnosis of diseases, e.g. the use of the stethoscope, thermometer, sphygmomanometer, etc. They do not thereby become hybrid practitioners as some witnesses before the Ayurvedic Commission called them.

Capt. Pannikar and Dr. R. B. Lenora the only two medical men in Ceylon with dual qualifications, are two of the busiest private medical practitioners in Colombo. About 15 years ago the secretary of the B. M. A. Ceylon branch who went to India to study the new movement there regarding the indigenous systems of medicine, reported that there were several practitioners in Calcutta who combined both Eastern and Western systems of medicine and that they were credited with charging Rs. 63 00 for a visit and Rs. 31-50 for a consultation in their rooms and that one or two of them were reported to be enjoying an income of Rs. 20,000.00 per month.

Therefore no false sense of nationalism should keep the allopathic and indigenous systems of medicine in water tight compartments. It may not be long when we may be able to speak of Ceylon medicine as we speak of Ceylon Law—which is an eclectic system drawn from Roman Dutch Law,

INTER-ASIAN
CONFERENCEMr. George E. de Silva
Will Represent Ceylon

Mr. George E. de Silva, Minister of Health, will represent Ceylon at the Inter-Asian Relations Conference summoned by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Vice-President of the Interim Government in India. The conference will be held in New Delhi between February 15 and March 31.

Thirty-two countries in the East have been invited for the conference among them being Japan, the Soviet Republics in the East, Syria, Indonesia, Burma and China.

The arrangements for the conference are now being made by the Indian Council of World Affairs. This body is a non-political organisation representative of all sections of opinion in India. The Chairman of the organising committee is Pandit Nehru, and other members of the Working Committee are Pandit H. N. Kunzru, Mr. B. Shiva Rao, Mr. K. Santhanam, Dr. P. S. Lokhanathan, Dr. D. G. Mulkherkar, Mrs. Hannah Sen, Dr. P. P. Pillai and Dr. A. Appadorai (Secretary).

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[MIS 248, 15-3-46 to 14-3-47.]

English Law, Indian Codes and the three indigenous legal systems—Kandyan Law, Muslim Law, Tamil Law. When such a time comes they will be no need for one medical college to teach the three indigenous systems and another to teach the allopathic system. Lecturers in indigenous medicine will then be appointed to lecture to the students of the Ceylon Medical College just as lecturers are appointed to lecture on indigenous laws in the Ceylon Law College.

Dr. Das Gupta who while in Galle promised to instil new blood into the indigenous systems will I hope in his report recommend a fusion of the allopathic and indigenous systems of medicine.

It is surprising that Dr. Wijerama who told the Ayurvedic Commission that the Ayurvedic medicine should be allowed to die a natural death, did not appear before the select committee on national languages and protest against making the vernaculars the official languages of the country. What a patriot!

Yours truly,

K. S. THAMBY PILLAI,

Tholpura,

WILL CONGRESS ACCEPT

British Govt's Interpretation

Will Congress accept the British Government's statement of Dec. 6? This was the main subject discussed between Mahatma Gandhi and the Congress leaders at Sri Rampur on Friday last. At the end of the discussions, it is stated, the Congress leaders decided to accept the interpretation put by the British Government for more reason than one.

It is regarded by the leaders, including, it is believed, Gandhiji, that that is the only way of bringing the Muslim League into the Constituent Assembly and preventing a widening of the breach between the Congress and the League. Moreover, the Congress has repeatedly stated that it has accepted the British Cabinet Mission's proposal of May 16 in its entirety and it will be derogatory to the dignity of the Congress to go back on its pledged word. There is no doubt that H. M. G.'s statement of December 6 has complicated the situation, but that was not sufficient reason for the Congress to go back on its earlier decision. The leaders seem to have noted that the only Province which was dead against sitting in Sections was Assam, whereas Baluchistan and the North-West Frontier Province were content to wait until Provincial constitutions were drafted and then opt out of the Group.

It is understood that Gandhiji indicated that the Assam leaders must be persuaded to sit in Section C and if a Group Constitution was imposed on it by the League members, then it must wait and apply the remedy provided in the Cabinet Mission's proposal, namely, to opt out after the first elections under the constitution. Most of the leaders seem to agree with this course.

Cooperation In
The West

Mr. Soyza's Impressions

Mr. G. de Soyza, Commissioner Department of Cooperative Development who represented Ceylon at the 16th international Cooperative Congress held at Zurich returned to the island last week. In a talk with a Press Representative Mr. Soyza stated that the standard of living in small countries in Europe was considerably higher than in any of the large ones. Sweden, Denmark and Scandinavian countries could furnish a pattern for Ceylon to follow.

His impression was that in those countries there was a very real spirit of democracy, which should set a happy example to Ceylon. The study he had made in the countries he visited would, he was sure, be extremely helpful to the new Consumer Movement.

Referring to Europe, Mr. de Soyza said: "I found Europe in general making a rapid recovery from the effects of the war. I could not venture any definite opinion as to whether another war in the near future could be avoided or not. Countries like Sweden, Denmark, etc. most touched by war, were considered more prosperous than other countries. In my visits to these countries I have made an endeavour to make trade contacts on behalf of Ceylon. From the point of view of consumer cooperatives, Sweden, I must say, is the most up-to-date and progressive. The pre-

Shankara's
Philosophy

(Continued from page 1)

may differ in their conceptions about Him. The Impersonal Brahman is really beyond the reach of thought and speech. He is unconditioned by all powers and attributes. He is above all relations and limitations. Whenever we try to form any conception about Him, we must necessarily conceive Him in terms of powers and attributes and relations and expressions, which are within the range of our thought and imagination, and it is these which constitute His personality. The Impersonal is the Soul, and Personality is His embodiment.

Differences Inevitable

We conceive and worship the Impersonal in and through our conception and worship of the Personal. The differences arise in our conceptions, in the names and forms in terms of which we conceive the Reality in the ideas of powers attributes, self-expressions and relations we ascribe to Him. Such differences are inevitable. But we must bear in mind that these differences are in our conceptions, and not in the Reality, not in the Absolute Spirit. When the mind of the religious man is perfectly concentrated upon the supreme object of his worship and meditation, the difference between the worshipper and the worshipped vanishes, the personality of the worshipper as well as the personality of God vanishes, the consciousness of the differences between the self and God and the diversities of the world vanishes and one non-dual absolute consciousness alone shines in its own perfection. Thus all deeply religious men, in whatever names and forms they may worship and meditate on God, ultimately reach the same goal, the same absolute unity of self-luminous experience.

The Universal Religion

Thus the doctrine of Impersonal Brahman supplies the basis of unity and harmony among all religious sects and puts an end to the quarrels among the various diverse orders of votaries of a Personal God. The theistic schools may quarrel with one another about the nature of Personal God, but Shankara's Advaita vada is not at war with any of them. It gives us the basis of reconciliation among all religious doctrines which are founded on diverse conceptions about God and His relation to man and the world. Thus Shankara's religion is not a sectarian religion; it is the Religion of Humanity, the universal religion.

To be continued)

Temple Entry in Madras

The Madras Government have decided to introduce legislation to throw open all temples in the Madras Province to Harijans on a date to be notified by the Government after the passing of the Bill into law.

sence of Ceylon at the Zurich Conference was greatly welcomed and helped to put Ceylon on the Co-operative map."

Burma Red Beans

Fifty tons of Burma red beans are still being withheld from the public pending a further report on them from the Government Analyst.

The Analyst has already reported that the beans are non-poisonous but that they should be cooked in a special way and eaten in limited quantities.



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