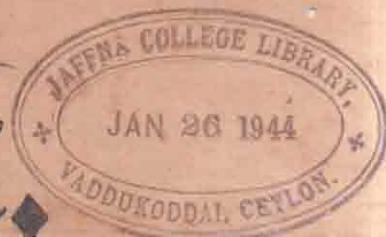


THE Hindu Organ.



The Only Newspaper in Ceylon for the Hindus

Editor:
A. V. Kulasingham, Advocate.

PUBLISHED EVERY MONDAY AND THURSDAY

VOL. LV.

'Phone 56.

JAFFNA, MONDAY, JANUARY 24, 1944.

NO. 80.

CHRISTIAN BODIES NOT OPPOSED TO FREE EDUCATION.

Good Points of Report Welcomed.

Views of Catholic Hierarchy and "Christian Council".

Members of the Catholic Hierarchy of Ceylon recently met at the Archbishop's House, Colombo, to consider certain aspects of the report of the Special Committee on Education.

"Their Lordships welcomed the effort now being made to reconstruct the country's educational system, and decided to co-operate with the Government in any scheme for the realisation of the legitimate aspirations of the people and for the advancement of their intellectual and moral well-being," says the official communique.

Denominational Schools

"The Special Committee had wisely recommended the continuance of the system of assisted denominational schools, which have hitherto done great service to the country. The Hierarchy was confident that the above recommendation would be upheld by the guardians of the liberties of the people. Any contrary decision, would, of course, be intolerable to Catholics because of their obligations of conscience.

"As a necessary corollary to the denominational system, the committee had also very reasonably recommended that the denominational bodies should continue to train their teachers in their own training schools, provided, of course, that these schools maintain the standard of efficiency required by the Government. The Hierarchy, however, thought it reasonable that the minimum number of students required for the establishment of a training school be fixed at 100 instead of 150.

"As for free education, the Hierarchy saw no reason to oppose it as a matter of principle, provided, however, that the country was able to finance it, even in times of depression and further that it was not made a plea for excessive state control. But it was clear that the provisions made in the report for staff and equipment, were inadequate to maintain the present high standard of many of the schools of the island.

Integral Part

"Therefore, it was essential that the fee-levying grant-in-aid schools should be allowed to continue as an integral part of the national system of education. As a matter of fact, no valid reason has been adduced for the abolition of this type of school, which has contributed much to the progress of the country. In order that deserving students may not be deprived, on account of poverty of the opportunity of receiving the best possible education, they should be assisted by a liberal provision of scholarships both by the management and by the Government. The system of free schools, if thought necessary, could, however, exist side by side with the fee-levying grant-in-aid schools.

"It was the opinion of the Hierarchy that the proposed Trust Ordinance would violate the rights vested in them by the law of the land and impede the fulfilment of the responsibilities laid on them by the laws of the Church.

"As regards the proposed salary scale, the Hierarchy thought that the basic salaries were too low, especially of non-graduate teachers, and that some provision was necessary to cover the case of teachers in unhealthy and malarial areas."

Views of Christian Council

While not expressing an opinion either on the financial feasibility or on the possibility of making the transition within a few years to a system of free education up to the University, the Education Conference (convened by the Christian Council of Ceylon to discuss the Special Education Committee's Report) has decided to urge on the State Council that free education for all should be facilitated for as many years as possible of the pupil's career. There should be provision also for adequate additional financial help for needy pupils and students.

The conference met at the Methodist Headquarters, Colpetty, Colombo. There were 17 members present representing between them the Church of Ceylon, the Methodist Church, the Baptist Church, the Dutch Reformed Church and the Jaffna Council of the South India United Church.

At the same time the Conference urges that free education should not come to mean either the impoverishment of other social services or the impoverishment of education itself. Thus it is of the utmost importance that all schools coming within the provision of free education should receive also a sufficient grant for equipment and for the maintenance and repair of buildings. The Conference is of opinion that the equipment grant suggested in the report is woefully inadequate.

The Conference urges also on the State that it recognize that a system of free education requires other far-reaching changes as well in the economic and social life of the country.

The Conference welcomes the report in that it sets forth a national educational policy and programme which is integral, broad based and democratic.

Religious Education

It notes with satisfaction that by and large, education in Ceylon is to be religious in bias and not secular. Thus it heartily approves of the teaching of religion in State schools.

It views, however, with great misgiving the implication in the report that religious teaching in State schools should as far as possible be

(Continued on page 4.)

Urban Council's Dilemma.

Financial Position Grave.

No Funds to Run The Services.

"The finances of the Council are such that we are unable to carry on our essential duties", warned the Chairman, Mr. C. Ponnambalam, at a meeting of the Jaffna Urban Council held on Friday last.

Mr. Ponnambalam submitted to the Council a memorandum on the financial position.

After hearing the memorandum and the Chairman's explanatory speech the Council discussed the matter and on the motion of Mr. Sam A. Sapapathy resolved to appoint a committee consisting of Messrs. P. Mortimer, V. S. S. Coomaraswamy and K. V. Sinnadurai, (Vice-Chairman) to: (1) explore directions in which reduction could be effected in expenditure and (2) devise methods of increasing revenue.

The following are extracts from the Chairman's memorandum:

"The Surplus on 31-12-42 was Rs. 88,169 36 Cts. The Revenue for 1943 was Rs. 270,779.10 Cts. The Expenditure for 1943 was Rs. 320,190.22 Cts.

Thus there was a deficit of Rs. 49,411.12 cents for the year 1943.

War Allowances

The main reason for the deficit is the payment of war allowances at Government rate. The Council did not pay war allowances for the whole year in 1943. The total sum paid as war allowances during 1943 was Rs. 46,502. Thus if we had not paid the war allowance, our deficit would have been only Rs. 2,908 87.

Before I proceed further I should state that the estimated expenditure for 1944 for payment of war allowance is Rs. 71,652.00.

According to the Budget for 1944 adopted by the Council the estimated revenue is Rs. 294,080.00.

The estimated expenditure is Rs. 293,385.00. The estimated expenditure makes provision for payment of war allowance for two months only. The actual surplus on 31st December 1943 is Rs. 38,758.24. But the Council has to pay the Government Agent, N. P. Rs. 1,500 and the Government Factory Rs. 7,292.00 makes a total of Rs. 8,792. Besides these amounts there might be re votes for some works commenced during 1943 and not completed aggregating to about Rs. 2,000. So the net surplus on 31st December 1943 must be considered to be Rs. 27,966.24. We have already passed a supplementary vote for oil purchased. We have to set

(Continued on page 4.)

THE MANNAR SEAT.

Candidates Feeling The Pulse

Election Bosses Being Consulted.

The Hindu Organ understands that Mr. J. Tyagarajah, M. A., L. L. B. (Cantab), Manager, State Mortgage Bank, Colombo, is actively canvassing certain individuals and bodies who have influence among voters in the Mannar-Mullaitivu constituency.

Mr. Tyagarajah intends to resign the Managership of the Bank and contest the forthcoming election for the above seat in the State Council if he receives sufficient encouragement from the election bosses with whom he is in communication.

Mr. Tyagarajah contested the Val-gamam North seat unsuccessfully some years ago. He is a Barrister-at-Law and a cousin of the former member for Mannar, the late Mr. R. Sri Pathmanathan.

Other Candidates

It is not unlikely that Mr. T. M. Sabaratnam, Proctor, may decide to come forward. He is from Mullaitivu and has much influential support. It is understood that Mr. Sabaratnam is being persuaded, by certain friends, to contest the seat. During the last by-election he voluntarily stood down in favour of the late Mr. Gnanamuttu and was of immense assistance to the latter. Mr. Sabaratnam has had legislative experience having been some years ago a member of the Legislative Council.

If two other stable candidates are in the field Mr. O. Suntharalingam, who contested Mr. Gnanamuttu in the last by-election, may be persuaded to come forward counting on the support of his former supporters and on winning over some from among those who supported his former rival.

At the last by-election Mr. Suntharalingam got 5544 votes against 8293 polled by the late Mr. Gnanamuttu.

DISTRESS IN BENGAL.

At a meeting of the Managing Committee of the Manipay Parish Social Service League held on Saturday the 15th inst; it was resolved to remit to the Fund, Rs. 400, proceeds of the play "Chandra Hari" staged in Manipay in aid of the Bengal Distress Fund.

ON THE SICK LIST.

Mr. A. Coomaraswamy, Principal, Jaffna Hindu College, who entered the Jaffna Civil Hospital recently for treatment, is progressing.



Hindu Organ.

MONDAY, JANUARY 24, 1944.

JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS.

THE Ceylon Daily News has given birth to a Frankenstein's monster that threatens not only to undermine the confidence of the citizen in the impartial administration of justice by the minor judiciary but give rise to a new field of public dissension. In a recent issue the newspaper published a "communicated" article entitled "The judicial Service" in which the writer says that "within the last two years it would appear that political and communal considerations have affected disproportionately recruitment to this important service" and that since the death of Mr. J. W. R. Langa koon "there has been a sort of feverish anxiety to increase the proportion of selections from the minority communities." Proceeding to a consideration of figures the writer says, with bitter regret, that out of a cadre of 49, the Judicial Service now has no less than 28 "minority" men while the Sinhalese have only 21 which is less than 43 per cent. The Tamils have the writer goes on to calculate, 33 per cent of the service while they are only 13 per cent of the population, the Burghers who are only less than 1 per cent of the population have secured 22 per cent of these appointments while the Muslims comprising 7 per cent of the population have only 2 per cent.

"These figures show a marked disparity which is obviously to the disadvantage of the major community", affirms the writer. Attempting to prove his theory stated earlier that there has recently been a "feverish anxiety" to augment the number of selections from the minority communities he points out that out of 11 appointments made during the last three years "six have gone to Tamils, two to Burghers and three have been doled out to the Sinhalese." According to him and the writer of the editorial comment on the subject these figures cannot be explained as due to a dearth of suitable candidates from the majority community.

The editorial writer says that the question is a delicate one "on which any controversy would be unseemly" and proceeds to affirm pontifically that "the last thing we want in this country is a judiciary whose personnel is regulated according to a communal quota." After some further padding

about "honest men" in the minority communities repudiating any desire that they should be appeased by special treatment in such appointments and that the newspaper "has no doubt whatever that the Legal Secretary and the Appointments Board do their best to make their choice on grounds of merit and on nothing else" it proceeds to state that the figures furnished in the "communicated" article are "instructive if not eloquent." The paper suggests that one conclusion that may be drawn from the facts is that "the majority community is singularly lacking in legal talent."

The logic of this writer is indeed exasperating. Granted that the Legal Secretary and the Appointments Board have endeavoured to do their work honestly the only conclusion that could fairly be drawn from the facts is that in their judgment candidates from the majority community were found suitable in the proportion in which they were appointed vis a vis the other candidates. Bereft of all make-believe the real complaint is that Sinhalese are not appointed as a matter of right in preponderant numbers regardless of merit. Why should not that community which until recently had all the Ministerships for itself have the major portion of appointments not only in the Judicial Service but in all other Services? For is not "Sri Lanka" Sinhalese country? The key jobs, including the Ministerial ones, were held by Sinhalese during the time of Sinhalese Kings, declared Mr. J. L. Kotelawala soon after his election as Minister. The late Dr. W. A. de Silva repeated *ad nauseam* that Ceylon is Sinhalese country. He even went to the length of saying that all who inhabit this country must be willing to call themselves Sinhalese.

We regret to have to draw attention to these wordy excesses of short-sighted men. But that is the sure index of the state of mind of those who count in the community. The mental attitude revealed therein is the cause of all political ills in Ceylon. Political vice catches as well as virtue. The spirit of grab displayed in the seizing of the political jobs has spread to other departments. How else is one to account for this petty attitude in a newspaper that always pretends to stand up for principles? Judges in Ceylon are nominated by the Executive. If this method is unsatisfactory will those who complain prefer them to be elected by the Legislature or by the people as is the case in certain countries? If that be the case let them say so. The people will then understand. If however it is suggested seriously that the Tamils, to mention the community with whose affairs we are primarily concerned, get preferential

treatment in these appointments to 'appease' them we desire categorically to tell our contemporary that the Tamils are not such political children to take these alleged substitute privileges in place of their legitimate rights in the wider field. The flower of our manhood, some of whom apply for these judicial appointments, will certainly consider it below their self-respect to employ any but the most honourable means to secure them. On the other hand is their any valid reason to suppose that the Legal Secretary's Department is susceptible to influence, political or other? The Tamils are to-day politically back-numbers. The constitution has reduced them, who for long occupied a position of equality with the other major community, to one of utter subordination. They have no political influence. The head of the Government has frequently been hailed as a "correct" constitutional Governor. Did he not, to the satisfaction of the *Daily News*, condemn as impracticable the political demands of the Tamils? And will a subordinate of the Governor, in recommending judicial appointments to him import the thrice condemned "communal balance" principle?

"There is no better test of the excellence of a Government than the efficiency of its Judicial system", wrote Bryce. In spite of the fact that no Tamil, with one exception for a brief period, was ever appointed to the Supreme Court Bench this community never made any suggestion that judicial appointments were being made on indefensible lines. The present attempt to discredit the selection of the minor judiciary is ill-conceived and is bound to have evil consequences. We do not care who gets these appointments, provided that the right men are always chosen. The selectors being human some wrong choices are likely to be made; but that will neither invalidate the method nor imply communal partiality. The knowledge that he "can rely on the certain, prompt, and impartial administration of justice" is the surest ground for the welfare and security of the citizen. It is therefore utterly irresponsible conduct to suggest that appointments to the judiciary are made for any other reason than those of efficiency, when such a charge cannot be proved. Men of honesty, impartiality, independence and legal knowledge must continue to be chosen to fill the places of judges, no matter to which race or community or religious persuasion they belong.

REPLY TO CORRESPONDENT.

"Democrat" will do well to send his contribution to the Colombo daily Press. The Vice-Chancellor's letter was originally published there,

MAN AND HIS DESTINY.

According To Saiva Siddhantham.

BY K. NAVARATNAM.

After the descent of Divine Grace, the Soul turns its face towards God and becomes aware of His Glory and Power. The desire to love him and to be united with Him increases and a period of intense Sadhanas ensues.

The religious life of a devotee is divided into four stages according to the intensity of Saktinipatham. Devotees in the stage of Manthathara Saktinipatham practice Charva; in the stage of Mantha Saktinipatham practice Kriya; in the stage of Theevra Saktinipatham practice Yogam; and those in the last stage called Theevrathara Saktinipatham practice Jnana. The four paths (Natratham) lead to the Ultimate Union of Soul with God. Charya includes worship of God through the aid of temples and Images, and service to God's Devotees and to all beings. Charva is fully external in form and worship. Kriya constitutes learning the scriptures (Jnana sastras) performing internal worship and observing ceremonial rituals with a view to purify the mind and promote devotion. Kriya is both external and internal in form and method. Yoga is the control of the organs of action and instruments of knowledge, performance of Pranayama, Contemplation and Meditation on God and His Infinite Attributes. Yoga is purely a psychological process of purifying the mind and body. The Four Paths of Saiva Sadhanas may be compared to the Ascetical and Mystical Theology of Western Mysticism. Charya and Kriya come under the Purgative Way or the beginner's Path of Purification; Yoga comes under the Illuminative Way of Contemplation and Quiet; Jnana comes under the Unitive way or Spiritual Marriage.

Bhakti

The omission to mention Bhakti or Devotion explicitly in the scheme of Saiva Sadhanas should not be misunderstood. The Four Paths are the physical and mental activities prescribed for a devotee to develop Bhakti or Devotion to God. Bhakti is essential to all the four steps, and it is necessary to vivify all acts of worship and all right living. Even Jnana, the perfect knowledge, is not separated from or opposed to Bhakti; the two mutually complete each other. Therefore, Bhakti is the end and aim of all religious practices. What all Saiva Mystics have yearned for is Unforgettable Love (Idaiyara Anbu அடைவார் அன்பு) to the Sacred Feet of the Lord.

Even though in million waters he bathes,
If for the Lord he bears no love,
He appears the fool who water pours
Within a pot with holes, and shuts
The lid and thinks the water safe,
As fire in wood, as ghee in milk,
The Luminous One lies hid within.
First fix the churning stick of Love,
Pass round the chard, intelligence,
Then twirl, and God will bless thy sight.
Sings St. Appar in praise of Bhakti.
Even though, with bones for fire-wood,
The flesh is torn to lines and burnt,
Except to those who internally melt themselves into Love,
God is not accessible.
says St. Thirumular. The sole aim of true religion is to reach God through Love. God is Love and the Soul has to transform itself into Love for complete Union. Ceremonies, rituals, temples, scriptures and austerities are but means to realise God as Love.

(Continued on page 3.)

Peace Offensive In Full Swing.

Alleged Nazi Proposals.

That Mystery Story of Pravda.

London, Jan 21.

The German overseas news agency today published without comment a series of reports said to have been published in neutral papers of "peace proposals submitted by German diplomatic representatives to the British in various neutral countries" which it said, "have created a sensation in the Turkish press." The German agency gave these reports in tabulated form quoting as its source the Ankara correspondent of the Swiss newspaper "Gazette de Lausanne" who said it was stated that they were relayed from the Moscow radio. Berlin listed the alleged "proposals" in this order:

- (1) Germany declares herself prepared to evacuate the occupied territories;
- (2) Germany agrees to withdraw behind her 1939 borders;
- (3) Germany agrees to the security conditions imposed by the Allies;
- (4) Germany agrees to the demilitarisation of the Rhineland;
- (5) The German fleet, including U-boats, to be handed over to Britain;
- (6) Germany, by way of compensation, to claim some freedom in the East;
- (7) Hitler to remain in power until these conditions are fulfilled;
- (8) After the conditions of the truce have been accepted, Hitler to resign and his functions to pass into the hands of a Supreme Council of German Generals.

Reuter adds that no record of such a broadcast from Moscow can be traced.

Allies' Terms Unchanged

Josef Goebbels has evidently been encouraged by the "Pravda" incident to persevere in the dissemination of peace proposal rumours. His aim is palpably, as usual, to sow discord between Britain and Soviet Russia and the United States and particularly between Britain and Soviet Russia as is betrayed by the proposal that Germany should obtain "some freedom in the east" Reuter.

[The Pravda recently published a cable from a "Special Correspondent" in Cairo reporting "a secret meeting between two British personalities and Ribbentrop" to discuss peace terms. The report led to much diplomatic activity. The British Foreign Office issued a categorical denial. President Roosevelt expressed himself as "mistified" as everyone else, not having the faintest idea of what it was all about. The Soviet Government however has not yet made any statement in this connection.]

THE SAIVA PARIPALANA SABHA.

Annual General Meeting

The 35th Annual General Meeting of the Saiva Paripalana Sabha, Jaffna, will be held on Saturday the 29th inst. at 3.30 p. m. at the Jaffna Hindu College Hall.

Besides the passing of accounts and annual reports and the election of office-bearers, the Report of the Special Committee on Education will be discussed.

PREMIER BACK IN ENGLAND

In Time For All-Out Attack From West.

London, June 18,

The Prime Minister, Mr. Winston Churchill, returned to London this morning. The special train arrived at about 10 o'clock and a large gathering of Ministers, Service Chiefs and relatives were on the platform. Within an hour of his arrival, Mr. Churchill was in his room in the House of Commons. His appearance in the Chamber was the occasion for a great outburst of cheering. His entry was a complete surprise to most Members.

Dramatic Surprise

When Mr. Churchill entered the House of Commons, he was greeted with a tremendous ovation. His return was a dramatic surprise to members who had not expected him back so soon. As the Prime Minister made his way to his accustomed seat, Members sprang to their feet, waving order papers and cheer after cheer rang through the chamber. It was a remarkable personal tribute and Mr. Churchill seemed taken aback by its warmth.

Mr. Churchill's dramatic re-appearance in the House of Commons signalled his complete recovery. He has returned in time to supervise the finishing touches to the grand offensive from the west. The planning of this all-out attack was one of the main jobs that took him out of Britain last November for vital conferences with the Allied leaders. Then, the Prime Minister was struck down by pneumonia—his second bout of this illness—but only for a brief period, during the height of the attacks, did he let the direction of the British war effort slip from his grasp. The first moment the fever was broken by a wonder drug, he began to work again and the ether was jammed with code messages radioed back and forth between his sick bed and the War Cabinet in London.

Mr. Churchill told the House of Commons that he would like in the near future to make a general war statement to the House, including the war in Italy, but asked to be given some latitude about the actual date.

Not until last Sunday was it revealed to the world that Mr. Churchill had been convalescing at Marrakesh in Morocco. Here he had important talks with General Charles de Gaulle with whom he discussed the part France would play in the attack from the west.

—Reuter.

MATRIMONIAL.

PANCHARATNAM— NAGARATNAM.

The marriage of Mr. C. Pancharatnam, of the Prisons Department, Colombo, son of Mr. and Mrs. A. Chelliah, of Urumparai, with Nagaratnam, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. K. Suripillai, of Kokuvi, was solemnized at the bride's residence on Monday last and was largely attended.

HOUSE PROPERTY FOR SALE.

That commodious newly built modern house "Rajasthan", Clock Tower Road, Jaffna. All modern conveniences. Apply to:

P. THAMBYRAJAH,
Selvastan,
Kurunagella.

(Mis. 212,

DEATH OF MR. R. S. PANDIT.

Nehrus Bereaved.

The death occurred on the 14th inst. at Lucknow of Mr. R. S. Pandit, husband of Mrs. Vijaya Laxmi Pandit, sister of Mr. Jawaharlal Nehru.

Mr. Pandit who was 51 had been suffering from pleurisy. He was arrested during the August disturbances and was released on October 8 last on grounds of health.

The late Mr. Pandit was a scholar. He translated into English Kalhana's *Rajatarangini*, a history of Kashmir in Sanscrit.

MAN AND HIS DESTINY.

(Continued from Page 2)

Jnana

When the devotee is well established in Charya, Kriya and Yoga Theevratha a Santinipatham sets in. God appears in the form of a Guru to direct him and guide him into the mysteries of the Unitive Way called Jnana or Samarga. The devotee takes up the practice of 'Sivokam Bhavana' and tries to identify himself with Siva and finally attains Union. The attainment of One-ness with Siva is called Mukti or Liberation. In Mukti there is an identity of essence inspite of difference in existence. The individuality of the Soul is not annihilated but it completely identifies itself with God and appears as one.

Jivan-Muktas

Devotees who have attained liberation from the bonds of Anava Mala while in the body and have identified themselves with God are called Jivan-Muktas. They have no I-ness and My-ness. They are fully absorbed in the Peace and Bliss of God known as Sivanandam. God acts in and through them for the good of the world. They are the living embodiments of spiritual wisdom and radiant beacons which guide us towards God. Their experiences and teachings form the sacred scriptures of religion. Jivan-muktas do exist even now in India and Ceylon and will continue to exist always.

CO-OPERATIVE UNION HOSPITAL BUILDING FUND.

The Committee of the Co-operative Union Hospital, Moolai, gratefully acknowledges the following donations to the building fund—

C. Raganathan, Senior Asst. Registrar Co-operative Department Colombo, Rs. 1000; V. S. Kathiravelpillai, Ponnaai Rs. 1000; P. Muthiahpillai, Mill owner, Vaddukkottai Rs. 200; S. Maruthanathan Vaddukkottai Rs. 1000; Dr. S. Subramaniam, Jaffna Rs. 100; Mr. S. Sangarapillai, Karainagar Rs. 50; Mr. K. Subramaniam, Karainagar Rs. 50; Mr. K. Thambiah, Kaddu Rs. 50; C. Navaratnam, P. W. D. Overseer Vaddukottai Rs. 50 and R. Thuraiappah, Merchants Tholpuram Rs. 50. Total Rs. 8000.

WANTED.

A Manager for the Neeraviady Co-operative Stores Society Ltd. The Manager should secure the services of a suitable shop-assistant. Salary for both Rs. 60 per mensem.

A knowledge of accounts and English will be preferable.

Security: Cash Rs. 500 - or property Rs. 750.

Applications close on 5-2-44.

For further particulars apply to

P. THAMBU,
Hon'y Secy.,
Neeraviady C. S. S. Ltd.
Jaffna.

(Mis. 211,

MASS EDUCATION IN AFRICA

Special Committee's Recommendations

London, Jan. 14.

A White Paper has been published this week on "Mass Education in African Society" embodying the recommendations of a special Sub-Committee of the Colonial Secretary's Advisory Committee on education in the colonies on the lines of the Sargent Report on Indian education. The report is regarded as one of the most important documents coming from the Colonial Office in recent times. In brushing aside the belief that it would take three centuries to wipe out illiteracy in African territories the framers of the report believe that it would be possible to accomplish it within one generation by the use of shock tactics and modern technique.

The Objectives

The objectives recommended are: Firstly, universal elementary education; secondly, extension of adult literacy with the development of literature and libraries, thirdly, planned mass education of the community as a movement of the community itself; fourthly, effective co-ordination of welfare plans and mass education plans.

The report recognises that universal schooling which is defined as the first goal must entail the sacrifice of quality to quantity and suggests the adoption of a system followed in the Dutch East Indies with the limited aim of teaching the Three R's and little else to all children within three or four years. The report is also greatly concerned with the problem of abolishing the gulf between the literate and the illiterate and visualises that mass education movement could be advanced by concentrated campaigns against specific evils. It suggests the enrolment of progressive educated Africans as voluntary teachers and leaders of these campaigns and proposes the appointment of mass education officers, who would act as "Officers Commanding combined operations" and correlate the work of all the agencies concerned.

An Original Recommendation

One original recommendation in the report is that the mass education plan employing mobile cinemas vans, handbills, pamphlets, lectures, classes etc. would build around such problems as infantile mortality, soil erosion and malnutrition, thus combining the teaching of literacy and other techniques with practical remedial measures. Thus education will be made the means to an end which every one will recognise to be good.

The report declares that a good deal can be learnt from the methods by which the Russians and the Chinese almost worked miracles in the conquest of illiteracy. It emphasises that mass education must become a truly popular movement enlisting the wide enthusiasm and co-operation of every man and woman who is already literate. Pointing out the success of this method in Russia, the report says, "there is a definite attempt to link all mass education of children, adolescents and adults with their local environment, whether urban industrial, collective farm or rural village. All adults trained in literacy classes are expected to take part in their neighbourhood in propaganda work for better agriculture, prevention of tuberculosis etc. and so make use of their new found knowledge".

EDUCATIONAL REFORMS

The Executive Committee of Education met again on Friday and considered its resolutions on the recommendations of the Special Committee on Education to be moved in the State Council.

URBAN COUNCIL'S DILEMMA.

(Continued from page 1)

apart at least Rs 10,000 for necessary supplementary votes. Deducting Rs 10,000 there is available a sum of Rs. 17,966-24 from the surplus in December 1943. This sum will not enable us to pay war allowance for two months, i. e. till end of February 1944. If we utilise the surplus available we may be able to pay war allowance till the end of April 1944.

But we have not made sufficient provision for necessary maintenance in the Budget. Our roads are in a very bad condition. The rate-payers and residents of the town and visitors to the town are complaining. The roads require immediate attention. We have provided only Rs 16,000 in the Budget for maintenance of roads. We require at least Rs. 30,000. So we require at least another Rs. 14,000 if we are not to allow our roads to become sort of lanes.

Policy Regarding Grants

The policy of the Government as decided by the Executive Committee of Local Administration is to pay as grant to local bodies the expenditure incurred by them (the local bodies) in paying war allowances provided the local bodies have increased their rates since the war by 30 per cent. The Jaffna Urban Council has since the war, reduced the rate from 12½ to 10 per cent. This was done in 1940 as there was strong public opinion among certain sections of rate-payers against the new assessment of the Local Government Valuer. Under these circumstances will the Central Government or the Executive Committee consider any application we make for grant from Government? The application made by the previous Council has been refused. In view of our present precarious financial position if we renew our application will we succeed? Perhaps if we increase our rate from 10 to 12½ per cent the Executive Committee of Local Administration will give us a grant to meet the cost of paying war allowances. If we increase our assessment rate from 10 to 12½ per cent. (to our pre-1940 rate) our revenue will increase by Rs 19,544 and there is a strong probability of our getting as grant from Government Rs 71,652 per annum as long as we pay war allowances. We will also get Rs. 46,502 which we paid as war allowance during 1943.

Are there any other means of increasing our revenue. The Electricity Revenue may be increased without causing hardship to the poor man. My suggestion is that in the case of Part I Tariff the minimum charge be raised to Rs. 4 per month and cost of current to 60 cents per unit. The increase of revenue thereby will be Rs 9,040. The cost of current under Part II Tariff be raised from 6 cents to 9 cents and the increase in revenue thereby will be Rs. 2,317-02. Thus

the total increase in electricity revenue will be Rs. 11,357-02.

If we increase the tax on cycles from Re. 1/- to Rs 2/- the increase in revenue will be Rs 2444/- There is also the question of increasing the tax on other vehicles. Cart-hire, carriage-hire and rickshaw hire have gone up. Should not the Urban Council also share in the increased income of owners of hiring-carts and hiring rickshaws etc. This matter requires very careful consideration.

I am not making any suggestions myself and I am only giving food for thought to the members.

Grant Essential

But if we obtain grant from Government to meet the cost of war allowances incurred and to be incurred by the Council, there is no immediate necessity to find fresh sources of revenue.

Even if we increase our assessment rate from 10 to 12½ per cent increase electricity revenue as suggested above, and increase the tax on vehicles, we cannot meet the cost of paying war allowances to our employees. Perhaps if we increase the assessment rate from 10 to 15 per cent, and increase other sources of revenue as suggested above, then we may be able to meet the cost of paying war allowances. But this is out of the question.

The only way of solving the financial problem of the Council is to get grant from Government. We must endeavour our best ourselves and through the "All Ceylon Association of Urban Council" to get grant from the Government without increasing our rate. If we are unable to achieve this, we shall reconsider the matter a month later.

We cannot decrease our expenditure. On the contrary we have to increase our expenditure if we are to maintain the services we are responsible for.

So we must get grant from Government to meet the cost of paying war allowances. If so we can carry on our duties. Otherwise a great problem faces us which we have to consider very carefully.

Since writing the above it is brought to my notice that in Colombo and in some other towns the cost of electric current has been increased.

Before I conclude I wish to state that we are compelled to pay war allowances to employees of the Electrical Department under the award of the District Judge in T. D. 1. If we are compelled to pay war allowances to employees of one department we should pay war allowances to employees of other departments as well. So we should consider our financial position on the basis that we are compelled to pay war allowances at Government rate to all our employees.

Another motion moved by Mr. Sam A. Sabapathy was also passed. The motion was as follows: "that the Council do request the Central Government to contribute as grant the expenses incurred and to be incurred by the Council in paying war allowances to its employees."

CHRISTIAN BODIES NOT OPPOSED TO FREE EDUCATION.

(Continued from page 1)

given by the members of the staff of these schools. This would mean that religion would become a consideration in the appointment or transfer of the staff of State schools. This Conference feels that this is a dangerous possibility and that were it allowed, the principle of State religious neutrality would be seriously compromised. Therefore this Conference urges:

(a) that the appointment or transfer of teachers in State schools should not on any account be affected by the religious affiliation of the teachers concerned.

(b) that the Department of Education should draw up and recommend an agreed syllabus of religious instruction to be a regular part of the curriculum at all stages, the syllabus to include biography, comparative history of religion, the great religious books of the world, ethics and elementary metaphysics.

(c) that also the "right of entry" into State schools be allowed whereby Religious Bodies can arrange for instruction to be given to the children of their respective faiths; the administration of each school to find time within the time table for such instruction.

State Education

The Conference welcomes the recommendation of the Special Committee that the denominational grant in aid system of education should exist alongside a system of State education.

It urges however:

(i) that there should be secure provision for denominational bodies to run private schools recognised by the State if they desire to do so.

(ii) the State education should not be or become secular education.

(iii) that appointment of teachers of State schools be not influenced by denominational considerations.

To the extent that the denominational grant-in-aid system is provided for the Conference welcomes the recommendation that provision should continue to be made for the running of denominational training schools. It suggests that denominational training schools train teachers for primary and practical schools and for the lower classes of the senior and secondary schools, such training schools to be recognised if they have 100 students on the roll and have a primary and practical school attached with a senior or secondary school available for teaching practice.

The Conference urges also that since rules to prevent the exercise of unfair religious influence on the pupils are in operation, the Education Department should have power, when considering the starting of new schools, to see that in any given area there are not more schools than are needed for providing efficient education to the children in that area.

It desires to point out that for the purpose of determining the denomination of a school the State should recognize as belonging to one denomination any combination of Christians.

Educational Trust

The Conference notes the explanation of the proposed Educational Trusts Ordinance, especially the sentences which read as follows: "We realise that in a number of cases the land on which Assisted schools are situated might belong to a church, mosque or temple. We do not contemplate that such land should be brought within the ambit of the proposed legislation." The Conference desires to point out that in the draft of the proposed ordinance published on pp. 154-156, the wording is different. It reads "unless such property forms part of the property on which a church, temple or mosque is situated."

The Conference in seeking to reiterate its uncompromising protest against the latter wording wishes to point out that schools run by a Church cannot be treated in the same way as schools run by an Educational Society, since education is but one form of the service which the Church seeks to render society.

While thus making its mind clear on various aspects of the Report of the Special Committee on Education, the Conference desires to urge on all Christian Churches the importance of co-operating with the State in a national educational policy, not grudgingly but wholeheartedly.

None of the above resolutions refers to the academic problems of education. These lie outside the scope of the Conference. The opinion of Christian educationists with respect to them is bound to be expressed in the various educational associations.

ORDER NISI

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA

Testamentary Jurisdiction No 198.

In the matter of the Estate of the late Ampalavanar Selvadurai of Vaddukoddai East, Jaffna.

Deceased. Nagsaratnam widow of the late Ampalavanar Selvadurai of Vaddukoddai East.

Petitioner.

Vs.

1. Selvadurai Kandasamy.
2. Selvadurai Srikantha.
3. Selvadurai Pashuparathali.
4. Selvadurai Sankarathan.
5. Selvadurai Arunkiripathan.
6. Selvadurai Parasathiy, all of Vaddukoddai East, Minors by their Guardian ad-litem.
7. Ampalavanar Poonampalam of Vaddukoddai East.

Respondents.

This matter coming for disposal before James Joseph, Esquire, District Judge, Jaffna, on 4th January 1944, in the presence of S. V. Somasundram, Proctor, on the part of the Petitioner, and on reading the affidavit and petition of the Petitioner:

It is ordered that the above-named 7th Respondent be appointed Guardian ad-litem over the minors, the 1st to the 6th Respondents, for the purpose of representing them and acting on their behalf in this action and that the Petitioner be declared entitled to letters of administration to the estate of the above-named deceased, and that the same be issued to her accordingly, unless the above-named Respondents shall appear before this Court on or before January 31, 1944 and show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

(Sgd.) James Joseph, District Judge.

4th January, 1944, O 62.

SRI SOMASKANDA ENGLISH FREE SCHOOL.

Wanted Immediately—A Matric or S. S. C. lady teacher with Household or Domestic Science. Knowledge of Music and Mechanics preferred.

Apply to:—

S. PONNAMPALAM, Manager.

'Udaiyar Valaru',
Mennakam, 17 Jan. 1944.
Mis. 208.

NOTICE

Distribution Of Subsidiary Foodstuffs In Jaffna District.

Arrangements have been made to distribute red onions at four oz per coupon holder not attached to a co-operative store from Monday the 24th to 30th instant (both days inclusive).

2. Coupon holders are advised to draw their ration of the above commodity along with their ration of other commodities.

E. B. TISSEVERASINGHE,
Asst. Govt. Agent, (E)
Jaffna.

For Deputy Food Controller
Jaffna, 21-1-1944, N P.
(G. 42)

ZENITH OPTICAL CO.,
11 MAIN STREET, JAFFNA
FOR EVERYTHING
OPTICAL

Mis. 199.