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Mrs. Gandhi's Last Prayer

Touching Death-bed Scenes

Release Was Not Offered

Mr. Devadas Gandhi's Statement

Allahabad, Feb. 23, Mr. Devadas Gandhi, in a statement to the Press, says:—

The numerous messages of fellowship and sympathy that have been addressed to me and to my father direct at his detention camp address call for something more than a public acknowledgement of gratitude. It would, I think, be improper of me to keep to myself the treasured and sacred memory of my mother's last moments and not share them, in so far as they can be publicly shared, with the vast concourse of my fellow mourners.

She never completely lost consciousness till the last moment. When the Government communique on Sunday pronounced her condition to be grave, she was still hoping against hope to survive the latest phase of her illness. The kidneys had failed to function during the last few days due to the feeble action of the heart and this was complicated by apical pneumonia with fever. The blood pressure had come down to 75-52. The doctors had given up the struggle. When I reached on Monday evening, she was in distress which only the devoted nursing of her fellow-detainees could superficially relieve. It was against medical expectation that she survived the night.

Penicillin Received too Late

In the morning she looked worse but peaceful. On Monday she had clung to a lingering hope. On Tuesday she seemed to be resigned. The mind was at peace and clear in spite of the gathering effects of uraemia. She had refused all medicine and even water since Monday. But she opened her mouth wide for a drop of oranges water at mid-day on Tuesday. It comforted her for a while. Then at about 3 p.m. she sent for me and told me that she was going. "I must go some day, why not today" she pleaded. If the last child she had given birth to, was evidently holding her. But with this remark and other tender and sweet words, in the presence of all the others she tore herself away from me. Never did her articulation sound clearer or her words appear clearer to me. Almost immediately after this, she joined her hands together, sat up unaided and with her head bowed low she prayed for several minutes in the loudest tone she could manage. "God my refuge, they mercy I crave. That is how I would translate into English the winged words which went up from her again and again. When I left the room to cry my tears, Penicillin had just arrived in the verandah of the Aga Khan's Palace. The doc-

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HALF-A-LAKH FOR EXPERT & STAFF

Textile Adviser In India

Story of The Licence Racket

When the vote for Rs. 50,000 to meet the salary of a Textile Representative and staff in India was taken up on Thursday last in the State Council Mr. C. C. S. Corea, Minister for Labour, Industry and Commerce, said that regarding India, the difficulty was the lack of a system there regarding the export of cloth to Ceylon. India gave the military 600 million yards of cloth and 800 million yards were exported to 15 countries including Ceylon. When the 800 million yards were allowed the Indian Government did not say that the 45 million yards allowed to Ceylon was made available in a particular way. The merchants of India were to be the only medium for the export of cloth to Ceylon. Many, however, were not merchants at all but agents who were granted licences and these licences were saleable.

Three Alternatives

Representations were made to the Indian Government that this was unsatisfactory, and a request was made that the Ceylon Government should be allowed to nominate exporters to export cloth to Ceylon, but this was refused. Then the right was asked for the Ceylon Government to purchase the 45 million yards, but that too was turned down. Then it was urged that the prices should be controlled. He heard that India had now controlled the internal prices of mill-made textiles.

When the export licence scheme was adopted in India the price for a licence was one anna a yard, but the amount rose and Ceylon was being made to pay Re. 1 a yard. Ceylon had to go to the licence holders to obtain the cloth. The cloth index rose from 212 to 595 from July, 1942 to August 1943.

Special Representative

A Special Representative was necessary to set up machinery to obtain the proper prices prevailing in India. They should have a man who understood textiles properly and in that they were following the example of Australia which had its representative in India. A man had been found who had a good knowledge of the manufacturing side in England and the business side in Ceylon and India.

In replying to Mr. Thomas Amarasuriya (Moratuwa), Mr. Corea said that the distribution would be through co-operative societies to their members and the balance would be distributed through trade organisations.

The vote was then passed.

"A Hitler", Says M. S. C.

Criticism Of C.D.C. In Council

"Any Other Irregularity"?, Asks Another

(From a Correspondent)

Even Sir Oliver Goonetilleke is not above criticism. In strange contrast to their silence all this time members of the State Council turned the search-light of criticism on Thursday last on the methods of appointment in the Civil Defence Department.

The Member for Galle (Mr. H. W. Amarasuriya) was speaking on two "March" resolutions moved by the Chief Secretary for approval of three appointments already made in the C. D. C.'s Department.

"In fact the Civil Defence Commissioner was.....", Mr. Amarasuriya said in the course of the speech and paused for a suitable word.

The Nominated Member, Mr. C. J. Black promoted, "a law unto himself". Mr. Amarasuriya preferred to call the C. D. C. "a Hitler."

The first of these resolutions referred to a Rs. 200 per month post of Staff Officer, Messenger Service, and the second to the posts of two Fire sub-Officers. In both cases the appointments had already been made, a fact which was emphasised by the opposition critics in view of the fact that "March" resolutions provided for prior reference to the State Council if a non-Ceyloness had to be recruited from abroad for a Public Service post.

"Irregular" Query

The discussion was very interesting. The Chief Secretary, in piloting the first motion, pointed out that the Board of Ministers had investigated these appointments and had decided to get them covered by "March" resolutions. On this point the Nominated Member, Major J. W. Oldfield, shot a mysterious question, wanting to know whether in their investigation the Board of Ministers did not find any other "irregular" appointments like these before the House today.

To this query the Chief Secretary in his reply gave a very laconic but vehement "No."

Audit Of Accounts

On Friday last on an adjournment motion, Mr. J. G. Rajagulendran asked whether the accounts of the Civil Defence Department had been audited and were to be submitted to the Public Accounts Committee.

The Financial Secretary replied that the Auditor-General had made his report and it had been before the Public Accounts Committee. But it was not to be published in the ordinary way in view of secret matters it dealt with.

The Speaker said that the report was now with him and he was considering the steps he was to take.

Mr. Natesan hoped that the report would be made available to all members.

HOPES FAIL IN TURKEY

Britain's Strained Relations

Lend-Lease Supplies Stopped

Sequel to Military Talks?

Ankara, March 1

After a fortnight's silence the Turkish Press resumed discussion of the deadlock in Anglo-Turkish relations with considerable heat. The majority of papers reaffirm the principle of Anglo-Turkish friendship, which they profess is strong enough to overcome the present misunderstandings, but maintain that articles in the British Press have misrepresented the Turkish view-point and show a lack of comprehension of vital Turkish interests.

Writing in the paper "Vatan," the well-known leader writer M. Yalman accuses "The Times" of trying to plunge Turkey into war against Germany.

Suspension Of War Supplies

Reuter's Special Correspondent writes: Turkish political and military circles in Ankara reported today that British and American war supplies to Turkey recently ceased to arrive from the Middle East.

This appears to have occurred simultaneously with the return to Cairo of the British Military Delegation which left Ankara on February 4 after five weeks of inconclusive talks with the Turkish General Staff. Observers here believe the two events to be closely inter-related and British circles refuse to comment.

Possible Change of Policy

It is generally felt that the suspension of war supplies in the present circumstances would indicate a possible fundamental change of British policy as regards Turkey and in any case the abandonment of Allied expectations as regards Turkey becoming an active ally in the war.

It is conceivable that an effort might eventually be made to retrieve certain Allied material, particularly air equipment. There is no indication of any change of British commercial policy as regards Turkey. (Reuter.)

GENERAL ELECTION IN TRAVANCORE

Trivandrum, March 2

At a Press Conference yesterday, discussing the reasons which weighed with Government, in deciding upon the dissolution of the Legislature which took effect yesterday, Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar, the Dewan, said that fresh elections could not be further postponed on account of shortage of petrol because war with Japan on a modest computation was not likely to end for a couple of years more and they could not wait indefinitely.



Hindu Organ.

MONDAY, MARCH 6, 1944

THE ROAD TO RACIAL DICTATORSHIP

THE BOARD OF MINISTERS aided and abetted by Mr. A. Mahadeva, are planning to build on the foundations of racial domination, laid by the misguided Donoughmore Commission, a system of rule that will perpetuate the dominance. In the course of the futile series of consultations they had with groups of representatives of the minority communities in the State Council they declared that they were agreed among themselves upon the need for a cabinet system. The British Government had agreed to transfer to the representatives of the people of Ceylon complete power over the internal affairs of the country. The present constitution placed power, though not complete, in the hands of the representatives of one race; and they by reason of their legislative majority planned and plotted to pack the Executive Committees in such manner as to achieve the election of Sinhalese as Ministers. In this nefarious proceeding the leaders of the Sinhalese community sought the expert advice of a distinguished Tamil mathematician and he gave them a formula. Mr. C. Suntheralingam himself publicly said so recently. Packing the Committees however is not such a difficult proceeding as to require mathematical legerdemain, for the Sinhalese have overwhelming majority in the Legislature. The Donoughmore Commissioners, of course, could not have foreseen that their pet scheme—which, by the way, was not original but borrowed, with suitable changes, from a scheme of a Socialist constitution for England suggested several years ago by Mr. Sydney Webb (Lord Passfield)—would be scrapped even without an inquest. It will be remembered that the Commissioners ambitiously hoped that the Ceylon experiment, if successful, may supply the model for the much-needed reform of parliamentary government all over the world. Alas! they have missed the chance of immortality.

Whether or not the Donoughmore scheme of government is capable of becoming an efficient system of parliamentary rule cannot be said to have been put fairly to the test, for in Ceylon the experiment was tried under circumstances that from the very beginning rendered all chance of success impossible. The representatives of the Sinhalese people were deter-

mined to work the constitution so as to yield maximum advantage to their own people and the parts of the country inhabited by them. This partisan spirit prevailing among the Board of Ministers has been at the bottom of the utter failure of the Executive Committee system of administration. We have no doubt that any impartial body of investigators will be compelled to come to such a conclusion. His Excellency the Governor, however, in that tendentious document, his despatch of 13th of June 1938 recommending changes in the constitution, wrote "in fairness to the Executive Committees I wish to state that a great deal of hard and useful work has been done on them. Their defects are inherent in the system and not in the manner of its operation." We are afraid the Governor has committed himself to an opinion which will not enhance his reputation either for political judgment or fairness to all the sections of the population. In the despatch the Governor was concerned to reinforce his recommendation that the next reform of the constitution should entrust administration to a "cabinet of the normal type". In the same despatch the Governor indulged in a lot of specious reasoning and misrepresentation in regard to the demands of the minorities whose claims he dismissed with scant attention.

The Board of Ministers and the Sinhalese Press therefore regard the Governor's recommendations as the unalterable "code" which ought to be adhered to by the authorities in England. That is why, for tactical reasons, the Sinhalese leaders pretend to be satisfied with the prospect of power only in the internal affairs of the country. They do not desire to incur the disapproval of authority by seeming to be impregnated with the "Poorna Swaraj" slogan of Indian nationalists. In short what they desire is to secure the transfer of the powers still remaining in the hands of the Governor and his Advisers to the Sinhalese oligarchy, that will ever be in power under the present system of representation, and then seek the co-operation of others in order further to entrench themselves. During the whole course of British rule over Ceylon the Sinhalese never before had such power. Representation in the Legislature was carefully adjusted in such a manner that, even when the Legislature remained a mere debating chamber, no single community had preponderant voice. But the Donoughmore Constitution granted at the same time some considerable power to the representatives of the people and a scheme of representation that ensured a preponderant majority to one section of the population. This was a revolutionary change

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VITAL PROBLEM IN REFORM OF THE CONSTITUTION

SCHEME OF REPRESENTATION AVOIDING DOMINATION BY RACIAL MAJORITY

TRANSFER OF POWER MUST ACCOMPANY SOLUTION OF OTHER ISSUES

By J. Tyagaraja, M. A., L. L. B. (Cantab)
(In an Interview)

"I wish to emphasise a vital point which is being side-tracked by astute politicians. The transference of complete power is being snatched up by doctrinaire politicians as the infallible remedy for all the economic, social and political ills Ceylon is suffering from today.

"From the Ministerial point of view the transfer of power, once settled, the question of representation could be taken up later. But I ask to whom are the British to hand over power?"

"A system of representation acceptable to those sections of the population who are dissatisfied with the present scheme must be devised simultaneously with the transfer of power so that the present position in which power is concentrated in the hands of a racial majority, which is plainly enough, not a political majority, may be changed.

"The minority communities are as keen as the majority community on achieving self-government but they insist upon a reasonable settlement of the question of representation, which is the main issue," said Mr. J. Tyagaraja, in an interview with a special correspondent.

Mr. Tyagaraja, as is well-known, is a candidate for the Mannar-Mullaitivu Seat, rendered vacant by the death of Mr. Jos. I. Gnanamutu. Mr. Tyagaraja recently retired from the management of the State-Mortgage Bank.

Ministerial Scheme

Asked about the recent action of the Board of Ministers in dealing with the Reforms' Despatch to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, Mr. Tyagaraja said that the scheme drafted by the Board of Ministers was not made available to the Members of the State Council or the leaders of the minority communities. Attempts were made by the Board of Ministers to ascertain what the claims were, but when efforts were made to have the details discussed at an open session of the Council, the Leader retorted that the details had been communicated to the Secretary of State and refused to bring up the matter in Council.

Lack of Statesmanship

Mr. Tyagaraja's continuing said that he was unable to understand the attitude of the Board of Ministers because the whole country should know what the demands were. There was nothing in the despatch of the Secretary of State that precluded the matter from being brought before the Council. He condemned the action of the Board of Ministers in not taking the country and the minority leaders into their confidence. "If they had done so it would have been much more helpful to the cause of the Reforms and a settlement could have been reached. This unreasonable attitude was due to a lack of statesmanship and vision on the part of the Board of Ministers.

Balanced Representation

"Are you in favour of balanced representation?" Mr. Tyagaraja was asked. "I would advocate balanced representation rather than

than the provision of safeguards whether vested in the Governor or specifically embodied in the constitution, because such provisions would in the long run prove inadequate. Under the new constitution, the chief feature would be the Cabinet System. Now the Cabinet System in essence is the rule by a political majority which can be turned out of power by the political minority which would act as the opposition party. Here in Ceylon which is a heterogeneous country the political majority would be a racial majority if elected on the present basis of representation. Such a majority would be a fixed and irremovable one. This state of things would be a negation of Cabinet Government. If the Cabinet System is to function successfully in the interests of the country as a whole and not in the interests of a particular section of the community, we should have balanced representation. Under a scheme of balanced representation no one community should be in a position to override the wishes of a combination of all other communities.

Parties Will Grow

To achieve this object the number of seats allotted to the majority community should be equal to the number allotted to the rest. If this is done communal cleavages will ultimately cease to exist. Political parties in the true sense will emerge because once communal claims have been satisfied, members holding like views from different communities will combine for political action. For example members of different communities who are opposed to capitalism and favour communism would form a communist party. Similarly a capitalist party consisting of members of the different communities may emerge when heavier taxation is enforced."

"But is such a scheme fair to the majority community?" asked the interviewer. "Politically it is not inequitable" replied Mr. Tyagaraja. Even in purely democratic countries defects in political representation based on numerical majorities are rectified by certain devices like the second ballot, the referendum etc. Further more in Canada where there are two distinct communities existing side by side, special safeguards for the minority community are incorporated in the constitution."

Equality of Opportunity

"Economically the scheme of Balanced Representation is equitable because two-thirds of Ceylon is unlevelled owing to inadequate representation, which can be corrected if balanced representation is put into effect. Circumstances like climate, fertility of the soil and the production of wealth have resulted in the principal industries being located in one-third of the Island and grant of political power has consolidated this development. The interests of the inhabitants of this area cannot be prejudiced if attempts are made to develop the resources of the rest of the Island." "Are you in favour of the Cabinet System of Government?" "Yes, I am in favour of it subject to the safeguards I have mentioned."

ANOTHER 'PILOT' FACTORY

RS. 72,000 VOTED BY COUNCIL

At the meeting of the State Council on Friday last, the Minister of Labour, Industry and Commerce applied for a vote of Rs. 72,000 under the Public Works Loan Ordinance for the establishment of a strychnine pilot factory.

Mr. Corea said that there was an export market for the product, and they had the raw material in Ceylon. There was a letter from the Australian Government to the effect that they would purchase the total Ceylon output.

There was a dispute between himself and the Financial Secretary as to profit and loss. He did not agree with the Financial Secretary that there would be a loss.

Mr. H. J. Huxham (Financial Secretary) said he had not the slightest objection to export for profit. His objection was to export at a loss. He was certain that after the war Ceylon could not produce strychnine at a profit. Local production costs would exceed production costs of other manufacturing countries.

Mr. H. W. Amarasuriya (Galle) said that as the factory would make a profit during the war it was justifiable to start it, provided its continuance after the war was brought up for consideration.

The motion was passed by 21 votes to five.

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which, whatever the status quo in itself may not have been wrong if those who worked it had been imbued by high ideals and policies. But the Sinhalese leaders, without a single exception, worked to achieve personal and racial aggrandizement. They even went so far as to declare unhistorically that there was nothing wrong in Sinhalese occupying all the key positions in "Sinhalese" country and that that was the case during the time of the Sinhalese Kings.

Power transferred under such circumstances to a body that is bound to be dominated for all time by the representatives of one race cannot be expected to give rise to a "cabinet of the normal type." It will only ensure the continuance of the present dictatorship of the majority race and lead ultimately to utter disunity and rebellion. Mr. J. Tyagarajah has done well to draw attention to these dangers in the interview published elsewhere. In these days when love of political office is fast inducing in certain Tamil leaders disloyalty to the cause of the community it is indeed a relief to have a man like Mr. Tyagarajah in the political field. By character, education and proved ability he is fitted for political leadership. He will adorn any deliberative assembly in the world. He will certainly be an acquisition to the State Council and a tower of strength to the representatives of the minority communities who are fighting for the rights of this betrayed section of the people.

Mrs. Gandhi's Last Prayer

(Continued from page 1)

tors had little desire to try it. Pneumonia was only a contributory factor. The final failure of the kidneys would not have been relieved by Penicillin. And besides it was too late. Yet, this wonder-drug for pneumonia was being mechanically gotready.

At about 5 o'clock, I gathered courage to face mother again. Now she smiled. This smile, however, revived my interest in Penicillin and I thought it my duty to pursue the matter with the doctors. They were willing to try it but offered little hope of success. When Gandhiji came to know that I had approved the idea of giving painful injections to mother, he sacrificed his evening walk in the garden to reason with me. "You can't cure your mother no matter what wonder-drugs you may muster. I will yield to you if you insist. But you are hopelessly wrong. She has refused all medicines and water these two days. She is in God's hands now. You may interfere if you wish to, but I advise against the course you are adopting. And remember you are seeking to cause physical pain by an injection every four or six hours to a dying mother".

The Last Moments

It was not for me to argue. The doctors felt most relieved, just when this swiftest of all wrangles I have ever had with my father was over, word came that mother had called out for him. He immediately took over from those who were giving her restful support. He leaned her against his shoulder and tried to give her what comfort he could. As I stood in front watching along with ten others, I saw that the shadow on mother's face had deepened; but she spoke and moved her arms about for fuller comfort.

Then in the twinkling of an eye the collapse came. Tears rolled down from several eyes while Gandhiji forced back his. The entire group stood in a semi-circle and chanted the favourite prayer which they had been used to say so long in her company. Within two minutes she was still. As one of the inmates remarked to me she waited for us to finish our meals. The last meal of the day in the detention camp is taken at about 6 p.m. She died at 7.35 p.m.

I am on my way to Allahabad, as I write these lines, with her remains which will be consigned to the Ganges on Monday. There consist of a literal handful of tiny motherly bones.

It was Gandhiji's clear decision that this ceremony of immersion in the confluence of the two great rivers be performed. "What crores of Hindus do as a sacrament is what will please your mother" he said to me. The decision was reinforced by a telegram from the revered Pandit Malaviya expressing a wish that this should be done.

"Most Trying Of Ordeals"

The illness dated from September, 1942, in the detention camp. It was then for the first time that heart symptoms were noticed. She had never had heart attacks before although she had been in indifferent health for the past four or five years. But after the initial setback in September, 1942, she never regained normal health. It is no exaggeration to say that both physically and mentally she was not equal to the strain of incarceration. She had been through terms of imprisonment before, notably one which included solitary confinement in a village in the interior of Rajkot when she came to the verge of disaster, but this last one was throughout for her the most trying of ordeals in which both the spirit and the body withered. The palatial surroundings and atmosphere were the antithesis of what she was used to. The barbed wire fences and the sentries com-

pleted the picture. I do not injury to the memory of my dear mother when I tell the public that she pined to get back to what she herself described to me last year as the low roofed cottages of Sevagram. The fact of indefinite detention weighed still more heavily upon her and not all the creature comforts of the realm could give her peace of mind and spirit. The thought of thousands of others, some of them intimately known to her, suffering similar restraint made her misery more acute and one of her silent prayers to which she had dedicated herself during the past year and a half, was that she and Babu may be kept permanently in detention if only the others could be freed.

No Offer Of Release Made By Government

Would her release from prison during the last serious stages of her illness have helped? It would have helped, if she had been also offered the option of returning to the detention camp when she desired to do so. That would have constituted a complete formula of "kindness". But the fact remains that she never had the benefit even of the psychological aspect of an offer of release, except the last merciful one from the Maker. I was therefore, shocked and amazed to find that the Agent of the Government of India in America has made a statement to the effect that the Government of India had wished on several occasions to release her, but that she had refused to avail herself of the offer. This is even contrary to the official announcements made on the point in India and I have seen no explanation so far for the different version put out in America.

How Gandhiji Stood The Ordeal

I ought to add a word as to how Gandhiji has stood this ordeal. He was looking obviously fagged. He grieves over this tragic gap which has come into his life, for she, in a large measure, is responsible for what he is to-day. But he maintains a philosophic calm and keeps his emotions under the control expected of him. The atmosphere around him was one of sadness without gloom and when my brothers and I parted company with the camp on Friday, he cracked his customary jokes as a substitute for tears. His health, I believe, is good.

SINNAKADAI TAMIL YOUNG MEN'S ASSOCIATION TRINCOMALEE

The inaugural meeting of the Sinnakadai Tamil Young Men's Association was held on Saturday last, in the premises of the Sinnakadai "Murugan Alayam" with Mr. Sanchukannu, in the chair.

The following were elected office-bearers:—

President: Mr. T. Ahambaram; Vice President: Messrs. V. Kulandaveloo and P. Poopalpillai; Joint Secretaries: Messrs. K. Muttuoumaru and R. Palaniand; Treasurer: Mr. S. Mahalingam; Assistant Treasurer: Mr. G. N. Ramanasamy; Committee Members: Messrs. S. Vallipuram, V. Ahambaram, P. Sivasunderam, K. Sarangapani, S. Paramanatham, K. Chellarajah, V. Chitravelayathan, K. Mayavar, S. Karapahipillai and K. Marcaidu; Auditors: Messrs. K. Rasiah and K. Coomaraswamy.

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Letter to the Editor.

EXERCISE BOOKS FOR SCHOOLS

Sir,—

It is well known that on account of the scarcity of paper schools in the Island experience untold hardships in the matter of procuring text books, exercise books etc. for their pupils. The Government is rendering some assistance in the case of exercise books for which permits are being issued by the Controller of Paper. There is a general feeling that justice is not being done in the distribution of the available quantity of exercise books. The Controller of Paper is issuing permits for the purchase of exercise books in an unsystematic and unjustifiable manner with the result that some schools are issued permits which enable them to supply three or four exercise books to each pupil, whereas other schools do not get any permits at all or get permits which do not enable them to give even one exercise book to each pupil. This invidious distinction is inexplicable. The same is the case with lead pencils, slates, pen nibs etc.

Certain schools in Jaffna are obliged to charge for exercise books higher prices than those charged by other schools, because the former have to purchase their stock from dealers in Colombo. There are dealers in this commodity in Jaffna from whom some fortunate schools are allowed the privilege of purchasing their exercise books.

It is hoped that the irregularities mentioned above will not be repeated when permits for exercise books are issued to schools for the second term of the year.

May we also hope that the Divisional Inspectors will not be indifferent in future in regard to this all important matter vitally affecting the efficiency of schools?

Jaffna, 2-3-44.

JUSTICE.

[The writer of this letter is the Headmaster of a school. E.I.H.O.]

MILLION-RUPEE POOR RELIEF

VOTE APPROVED BY STATE COUNCIL

The State Council, on Thursday last, passed a supplementary estimate of Rs. 353,000 for poor relief both in urban and rural areas.

The motion that the supplementary estimate be passed was proposed by the Minister for Labour, Industry and Commerce on Tuesday and the debate continued till Thursday.

It was stated during the debate that the total vote on this account had already shot up to one million rupees. Several members took part in the debate and most of them desired that State Councillors should be given places on the Committees administering these relief funds.

ANGLO-AMERICAN CONFERENCES

Washington, March 2.

Acting Secretary of State, Mr. Edward Stettinius, disclosed to-day that Anglo-American Conferences on subjects of common interests not directly related to military operations are being arranged.

Reuter.

MAMMOTH CASSAVA ROOT

When the Cassava plot of the Manipal Hindu College garden was harvested a cassava root 7½ ft long and 10½ lbs in weight was dug up.

'ISLAND SERIOUSLY UNDER-POLICED'

Proposals to Strengthen The Force

Inspector-General's Scheme

Question of Disarming The Police

The whole island is seriously under-policed.

Applying the United Kingdom standard, where crime is comparatively light the number of constables employed on the prevention of crime and the protection of person and property should be well over 6000 compared with the present strength of 3006.

Col. G. H. R. Halland, Inspector-General of Police, emphasised these points in memoranda, submitted to the Home Minister (which are published as a Sessional Paper) embodying his proposals for the reorganisation of the Police Force.

Question Of Arms

"In dealing with the question of arms it is obviously necessary that the Police in a country like Ceylon must have some suitable weapons and know how to use them," writes the Inspector-General of Police. "Armed criminals still abound and the use of the knife is unfortunately still prevalent.

"In this connection it must also be remembered that in the United Kingdom there is very strict control over the possession of fire-arms by members of the public and that the Courts take very serious notice of the use of firearms in the commission of crime and of any assaults on or obstruction to the Police in the performance of their duties. This is a necessary corollary to the policy of an unarmed Police Force; but while conditions in Ceylon have not yet reached a point in these respects to make it wise for the Police to be completely disarmed, I am satisfied that there should be as an objective the progressive disarmament of the Force and such changes in its characteristics as will make it clear that it is a body of civilian Police Officers rather than a quasi-military corps."

I.G.P.'S MAIN CONCLUSIONS

Certain of the proposals made by the Inspector-General in these three memoranda to the Home Minister have already been approved by the State Council and put into effect, e. g., the recruitment of four experienced British officers on a temporary agreement and the strengthening of the Officers' cadre of the Force as well as the payment of certain temporary allowances to all Sergeants and Constables.

The following is a summary of the main conclusions reached by Col. Halland regarding the steps necessary for the reorganisation of the Police Force:—

The whole Island is seriously under-policed. In the United Kingdom where crime is comparatively light the standard of policing is one Constable to about 1,000 persons in rural areas and one Constable to about 400 persons in the densely populated urban areas. Applying this standard to Ceylon and taking the population at approximately 6 million the number of Constables employed on the prevention of crime and the protection of person and property should be well over 6,000 as compared with the present strength of 3,006. Moreover under war conditions the strength of Police in the United Kingdom has been increased by an average of about 50 per cent. by the employment of whole-time war reserve constables.

Increase By 2,179 Urged

During the first five months of

1943 I reviewed the needs of the Island in this respect and on June 4, 1943, I submitted a memorandum to the Minister of Home Affairs in which I recommended that the establishment of the Force should be progressively increased during the next five years by a total of 2,179 Constables plus the necessary Inspectors, sub-Inspectors and Sergeants. A detailed schedule was prepared for each Province and District showing the allocation of this increased establishment.

This report was considered by the Executive Committee of Home Affairs but no definite or constructive action has been taken on it. Much arrears in personnel have now to be made good.

No substantial improvement in the efficiency of the Ceylon Police Force can be effected without more generous treatment of the Constable and the amelioration of his conditions of service on the lines of my recommendations in Section II—"A" of this memorandum (re salaries of lower ranks.) This is a matter of first class importance and it should be given serious attention without delay. This reform is a necessary preliminary to the introduction of other much-needed improvements.

The whole Force is seriously under-officered in the gazetted ranks both as regards numbers and quality. I have dealt with this matter in greater detail in a separate memorandum.

(It may be mentioned that Col. Halland is strongly against the direct appointment of sub-Inspectors and Probationary Assistant Superintendents of Police, being of opinion that these appointments should be made by promotion.)

RECOMMENDATIONS

As a necessary preliminary to the reorganization and improvement of the whole Force it is essential to take the following steps in addition to the action recommended above:—

(a) For the next four or five years the main direction of the Force must be in the hands of experienced British Officers imbued with the traditions and ideals of the British Police Service.

(b) The Headquarters of the Force must be strengthened by the immediate creation of two strong Departments:—the Administrative Department and the Criminal Investigation Department.

(c) Adequate training establishments must be provided both for advanced courses of training and the improved training of the Recruit Constable. These establishments should be under the direction of one of the four British Officers from England and it will be necessary to staff them adequately with selected Ceylonese Officers who will themselves require preliminary training as instructors. Additional accommodation must also be provided.

Reorganization in matters of detail can be undertaken systematically and with success in the coming years only if there is a determined and sustained effort on the part of the authorities to make good the serious deficiencies which have accumulated in past years. These deficiencies in staff, equipment, conditions of service, organization and methods of working are such that no Police Force in the United Kingdom could attempt seriously to fulfil its responsible functions effectively if it were working under the handicaps from which the Ceylon Police Force has now suffered for some years.

WANTED.

Wanted immediately for the Sathasiva Bilingual School, Analaitivu, a certificated lady teacher English or Tamil trained or Teachers' Certificate may apply.

Apply to V. Chellappah, Manager, Thalaitiyali, Vannarpannai East, Jaffna.

Miss. 231.

INTER-COLLEGIATE DEBATE

NON-VIOLENCE AND NATIONAL PROGRESS

The Jaffna Hindu College Inter-Union will be "at home" to the Jaffna College Inter-Academy on Thursday the 9th March.

The function will begin at 5-30 p.m. with a football match. This will be followed by a social and a debate. The subject of the debate will be that "Non-violence is not a potent weapon for national progress."

Jaffna Hindu will propose and will be represented by Messrs. Y. Durairwamy (President), S. Shanmugadas and A. Mahadeva, while the Jaffna College team will consist of Messrs. C. Gunasingham, S. D. Jayasingham (President) and Miss Ruby Appadurai. A short Variety entertainment will follow.

ORDER NISI

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 222
Order Absolute in the first instance declaring Will proved.

In the matter of the Last Will and Testament of Thangamuttamra wife of Ambavannar Saravananattu of Vannarpannai East, Deceased.

Ambavannar Saravananattu of Vannarpannai East, Petitioner.

This matter coming on for determination before James Joseph, Esq. District Judge, Jaffna, on February 16, 1944 in the presence of Mr. S. Kandasamy, Proctor on the part of the petitioner abovenamed; and (1) the affidavit of the said petitioner dated February 10, 1944 and (2) of the attesting Notary and witnesses dated February 14, 1944, having been read.

It is ordered that the Will of the said deceased of which the original has been produced and is now deposited in this court be and the same is hereby proved and it is further declared that the said petitioner is the sole Executor named in the said Will and that he is entitled to have probate of the said Will issued to him accordingly.

Sgd James Joseph
District Judge.

25th February 1944
O. 84.

ORDER NISI

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA

(held at Point Pedro)

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 230 P.

In the matter of the intestate estate and effects of the late Kathirippillai Chelliah of Udappiddy, Thanakkarakurichchy Deceased.

Annamah widow of Kathirippillai Chelliah of Udappiddy Thanakkarakurichchy Vs. Petitioner

1. Chelliah Balakrishnan
2. Chelliah Kathirigamathamby
3. Chelliah Veeravagu
4. Kathirippillai Elathamby all of do.

The 1 to 3 respondents are minors by their guardian-ad-litem the 4th respondent. Respondents.

This matter coming on for disposal before L. W. de Silva, Esquire, Additional District Judge, Jaffna on the 25th day of February 1944 in the presence of Mr. K. Sinnathamby, Proctor on the part of the Petitioner and the petition and affidavit of the Petitioner having been read;

It is ordered that the petitioner abovenamed as the widow be declared entitled to have Letters of Administration to the estate of the said deceased and that Letters of Administration be issued to her accordingly unless the respondents abovenamed or any other person shall on or before the 24th day of March 1944 appear and show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this court to the contrary.

Sgd L. W. de Silva
Addl District Judge.

The 25th day of February 1944
[O. 86]

CHAVAKACHCHERI HINDU COLLEGE

SRI RAMAKRISHNA-VIVEKANANDA CELEBRATION

The Saiva Service Society of Chavakachcheri Hindu College celebrated the Sri Ramakrishna-Vivekananda Day.

The celebration began at 7 p.m. with a puja conducted by a senior brahmin pupil of the college, Mr. Raj. Ariaratnam and the college choir gave a recital of the Sri Ramakrishna Kirtan by Swami Vivekananda. Miss Subadhra Devi Navaratnarajah rendered a poem entitled the "Red Lotus". The Principal in his opening remarks pointed out that Ramakrishna-Vivekananda was at one and the same time the spiritual father of Indian nationalism and spiritual herald of international socialism. Miss Saraswati Mailaganam and Mrs. V. Navaratnarajah made declamations in Tamil and English respectively of Swami's opening address at the Chicago Parliament of Religions.

Mr. V. Chittampalam, Advocate, and Viyabarana Mahopaya U. R. Sarma spoke on the Swami's Mission.

Miss Navaneetham enlivened the audience by violin solos. The pupil of the college acted a play depicting the life and teaching of Swami Vivekananda written specially for the occasion.

NOTICE

All applications for permits to transport country rice or country paddy must be made hereafter to the Assistant Government Agent of the area in which the applicant is resident, no matter where the paddy field is situated. The application must be accompanied by a return on form D. F. C. 34 in duplicate, copies of which can be had on application from the Assistant Government Agent of the area.

This does not in any way abrogate the notice dated 29-2-44 previously issued by me under Regulation 7 of the Defence (Purchase of foodstuffs) Regulations requiring particulars of crops in the Jaffna District to be furnished to me within six weeks of the publication of that notice.

R. M. DAVIES

Government Agent N. P.

Jaffna Kachcheri,

3rd March 1944.

G. 57.

A. R. P. FOR SCHOOLS

A meeting of Headmasters and Principals of Valigamam West was held at the A.R.P. Centre Manipay on the 1st of March. The Revd Fr. Chas. S. Mathews, A.R.P. Controller, presided. Mr. C. Thiagarajah, Chief Air Raid Warden explained the objects for which the meeting was convened and briefly outlined the proposed Internal A.R.P. Scheme for Schools. Several items of importance were discussed. It was the opinion of the meeting that an A.R.P. instructor should conduct refresher courses in First Aid etc. in Schools in the area.

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