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THE CULT OF REASONABLENESS IN CEYLON POLITICS

IS THE DEMAND FOR WEIGHTAGE UNREASONABLE?

"G. G." EXPLAINS HIS VIEWS ON "FIFTY-FIFTY"

(From a Special Correspondent)

After reading the views of the Political Correspondent of the 'Hindu Organ', appearing in the last issue, I button-holed Mr. G. G. Ponnambalam just as he was seeking a change after a strenuous day in the Jaffna Magistrate's Court.

"Is the idea of fifty-fifty reasonable", I asked. "I have a good many of your skeletons in my cupboard", said Mr. Ponnambalam, "but who told you that I was the author of the fifty-fifty idea? Someone in Jaffna invented it and the wretched thing has been fathered on me by the 'Daily News'".

I promptly agreed. The "Daily News" specialised always in this form of journalism. A cynical humour in the discovery of parents for fatherless children is its strong point.

"Well, if it is not fifty-fifty, it must be something else", I suggested. "What is it?"

"I have always advocated balanced representation," said "G. G." and I am still in favour of it. Parity of representation and political power—that's what I want in Ceylon. The Singhalese are a race or community by themselves. The Tamils and the other minorities form definitely distinct groups with an individuality and history of their own. These minorities are numerous and strong enough to object to being ruled by an insignificant majority of Singhalese voters".

"Talking of minorities", I said, "are their representatives agreed on this point? It seemed to me at one time that some of them were fond of sitting on the fence".

Mr. Ponnambalam pointed out that all the representatives of the minorities except Messrs. Razik and Mahadeva were agreed on the demand for equal representation. The Europeans too were solidly in favour of it.

I admitted that this was a distinct improvement on the past, when the European members, having said many things and left many more unsaid, voted with the Singhalese members at the crucial moment.

With regard to Mr. Mahadeva, I thought that, perhaps, he wished to be reasonable. "Is it reasonable", I asked, "to expect the major Community, however insignificant its majority may be, to concede equal representation to the minorities? If the Tamils were in the position of the Singhalese, would you do it?"

"My dear man", said Mr. Ponnambalam, "you suffer from a typical modern disease. Government by majority is an idea to which I subscribe myself. That has nothing to do with the idea of a government by an irremovable majority like the Singhalese members of the State Council who constitute a distinct racial bloc and vote on racial lines. The principle you have in mind was never intended

to apply to a case like this. There is nothing unreasonable in the demand for equal representation. Take Bengal and the Punjab. The Muslim majorities in these provinces have been reduced to the position of minorities, so that none can indulge in the pastime of forming 'homogenous' Boards of Ministers. Only a coalition of Muslims and Hindus can rule these provinces. Under the old Act even Ireland received one hundred per cent. more representation in the British Parliament than she was entitled to on the principle of counting heads. Take again, the Jewish position in Palestine. The Jews want parity of representation with the Arabs, whatever England may say."

Here I interposed with the remark that the Arab Powers are not at all likely to yield to the demands of the Jews.

Mr. Ponnambalam waived this objection aside. He said he was on the question of reasonableness. "Is it reasonable", he asked, "to expect every state in the American Union to have an equal number of representatives in the American Senate regardless of population? Yet, each of these States receives the same amount of representation in the Senate. It is part of the American Constitution. You will see, therefore, that numbers alone don't count. Besides, the whole trouble in Europe is due to the oppression of minorities".

I agreed that Europe was burning on account of the minorities and a few other trifles.

Mr. Ponnambalam then proceeded to say that the pivot of the entire Soviet Government was the Chamber of Nationalities. "Here is something", he added, "which those who talk a rilly of communalism may well consider."

I admitted that the "Daily News" in particular may profit by the Soviet example. According to that excellent newspaper, races and communities do not exist in Ceylon, and its special correspondent conducts from time to time a particularly special inquisition into the crimes of communalists. This put "G. G." in good humour.

"I am sick", he added, "of people who talk of reasonableness with reference to the question of weightage. Balanced representation, as I have defined it more than once, is the only form of weightage that will work. Besides, who is to decide the amount of weightage that will be regarded as reasonable? The amount must necessarily vary with the outlook of each individual."

I hinted at the possibility that the cult of reasonableness was invented with the sole object of making the Singhalese a little more reasonable.

"There you have it" said Mr.

Indians And The Reforms

Attitude of Indian Government

Now that the Board of Ministers has submitted to the Secretary of State for the Colonies its memorandum on the subject of the new Constitution, more than one section of the minorities is growing restive over the future.

The Indians in Ceylon are an important minority, whose claims to rights of equal citizenship have been thwarted by the Singhalese leaders.

The following letter, from Mr. R. Suryanarayana of Madras, appearing in the "Hindu", suggests that the Government of India should protect the rights of Indians:

The visit to Madras of Mr. M. S. Aney, Representative of India in Ceylon, to see H. E. the Viceroy and the published proceedings of the public meeting held at Colombo are all ominous signs. The position of Indians in Ceylon is again in jeopardy. In pursuance of the Declaration of His Majesty's Government, the Board of Ministers have framed the new constitution, for submission to the Secretary of State. "The finished product" will be known only after the Secretary of State examines it. It is said the Board of Ministers had some sort of discussion with 'minority interests'. It is obvious from the telegraphic summary of the proceedings of the meeting of Indians held the other day that the question of the rights of citizenship of Indians does not form part of the reform proposals of the Board of Ministers and the supposed consultation was a mere eye-wash. No reform scheme can be complete without the consideration of Franchise and Representation and so it cannot be that the Board of Ministers have omitted its consideration altogether. In speaking in the State Council, analysing the Governor's powers to reserve any Bill for Royal Assent, Mr. Seneviratne made the amazing statement that on the question of the protection of minorities it had not been necessary to use this power in the past. He conveniently forgot that His Excellency the Governor had to send a message on 11th February, 1941, when attempts were made to affect prejudicially the interests of Indians in Ceylon. India asks for statutory recognition of the various undertakings given by the Government of Ceylon to some of which His Excellency referred in that message. Will the Government of India stand up and insist on their views being heard before the Secretary of State for Colonies examines the reform proposals and sets his seal of approval? Let us not be guilty of crying over spilt milk and look on unconcerned while things are taking shape.

Ponnambalam, "I should like to know how Mr. Mahadeva's reasonableness has helped the Singhalese to be reasonable. Judging from their views with regard to provincial (Continued on page 4)

COLOUR BAR IN BRITAIN

Mr. Sorensen's Warning

London, March 18.

On the eve of the hearing of the colour bar case which is due to come up before the High Court shortly of Leroy Constantine, West Indies cricketer, strong protests against racial discrimination were voiced at a London meeting to-day by British, American Negro-Jewish and Indian speakers.

In homage to Gandhiji, one of the world's greatest men, as the Chairman said, produced by India, the Indian National Anthem was sung, at the conclusion of the proceedings.

Discrimination arose not only from economic and political factors but from a desire to dominate and exploit those who were different and hence assumed inferior, said Mr. Reginald Sorensen. He stressed what he called this psychological cause pointing out that there was no evidence of a scientific character, about inherited biological differences, except perhaps in the doubtful case of the Central African pygmies, but then the speaker added, there were psychological pygmies among us. "I know because I am an M.P." He told the audience of one English family where English, French and African children grew up together and did not reveal vertical, or horizontal differences. Alluding to "evidence of the colour bar in Durban and the hideous treatment of natives", Mr. Sorensen revealed that these conditions were one reason why his daughter felt compelled to return to England after four years of stay in South Africa. He specifically referred to anti-Indian laws in Natal, land reservation in Kenya and other instances of discrimination, asking what was the difference between such segregation and the ghetto system in Europe? He said the most effective and devastating blow against the *Herrenvolk* ideology could be dealt only by giving practical expression to a sense of common humanity. Unless this was done he warned international wars might be followed by inter-racial wars.

Dr. N. Gangulee delivering what the Chairman described as a "nightingale's cry" said that the colonial peoples were bound to be treated as "bastards of humanity" as long as they did not enjoy freedom and concluded with a sixteenth century English sailor's prayer "From hell, Hull and Halifax, please God preserve us."

PERSONAL

The designation of Mr. V. C. Channugam, Head Clerk, Village Committee Uduvil, has been changed to Secretary Village Committee Uduvil with effect from 1-2-44. This new designation is the first of its kind in the Village Committee in the Northern Province.—Cor.



Hindu Organ.

MONDAY, MARCH 27, 1944

URBAN COUNCILS

THE BALANCING OF THE Budget appears to be the greatest difficulty which all urban councils in the island are at present experiencing. When Government began to pay war allowances to its employees, urban councils were forced to consider the need for making similar payment. The employees in some instances had to seek the aid of the Law Courts to compel reluctant councils to pay war allowances. In the end, however, every council decided to pay and has been paying war allowances to its employees. This has resulted in financial difficulty. None of these councils are able to find the funds necessary for these payments. At a meeting of the Jaffna Urban Council it was disclosed that the Council had not sufficient money to pay its employees for March. We do not know what is the state of affairs regarding other councils. The position cannot be very different. The Executive Committee of the Association of Urban Councils has expressed great dissatisfaction with the conditions laid down by the Board of Ministers in the matter of State Grant to councils. The committee seems to be of the opinion that the Central Government should give councils grants for payment of war allowances and without such grants it will be impossible to continue paying such allowances. As a result of the representations made by the committee, a conference has been held between the Minister of Local Administration and the Financial Secretary on the one hand and the members of the committee (of Association of Urban Councils) on the other. We are of opinion that state aid should be forthwith given as councils are unable to pay dearness allowances to their employees without such aid. On the other hand we also feel that it is the duty of all town councils to devise ways and means for finding the necessary funds for the proper administration of their towns. The responsibility of self governing bodies is great. The people enjoying the amenities of town life have to pay for their luxuries. Members of Urban Councils are afraid of making any suggestion for enhancing taxes. We are inclined to think that without increasing the rates, Urban Councils will not be in a position to pay

war allowances to its employees. The ratepayers should not be made to bear the whole burden; they should not be called upon to find all the money necessary for these payments, but they should certainly pay a part of it. For the present Government should provide the amount necessary to enable the Urban Councils to pay its employees, and without delay, Government and the Urban Councils should arrive at a reasonable settlement of the problem. The executive committee of the Association of Urban Councils is of opinion that the Board of Ministers is unreasonable. We hope that a satisfactory settlement will be soon effected.

Home Minister In Jaffna

Jaffna, Sunday

On representation made to him by the traders of Jaffna Mr. A. Mahadeva, Minister for Home Affairs called at Jaffna Kachcheri and discussed certain aspects of Food Control and distribution with Mr. R. M. Davies Government Agent on Friday.

The Minister drew the attention of the Government Agent to the fact that the authorised distributors of 200 rice coupons and under had been ordered to close down and that Kachcheri was considering the closing up of business of those dealers with 400 coupons and under and also that of wholesale dealers of 2000 coupons and under. In the course of the discussion it transpired that it was only in Jaffna that these measures were being experimented with. Mr. Mahadeva drew the attention of the Government Agent to the fact that in a communication addressed to him Mr. Senanayake, Minister of Agriculture and Lands had stated that he had rescinded the order re: closing down of business with 200 coupons. Mr. Davies stated that the emergency department of his Kachcheri was short of hands to cope with the increasing volume of work.

Mr. Mahadeva strongly deplored the discriminating method applied in Jaffna and remarked good humouredly that the experiment could be likened to the trying of a medicine on a dog.

It is learnt that the government Agent appreciated the points urged by Mr. Mahadeva and it is expected that the present anomalous situation in Jaffna would be set aright and brought into line with prevailing practice with the rest of Ceylon.

Mr. Mahadeva also brought to the notice of the Government Agent that the traders had complained that the miscellaneous articles were not being supplied to them by the Kachcheri although the Colombo authorities had sent these articles to be supplied to them. It appeared that these articles were being diverted to co-operative stores for distribution contrary to the intention of the Colombo authorities. It is expected that the Government Agent will also remedy this grievance.

Minister at the Jaffna Civil Hospital

Mr. Mahadeva paid a visit to the Jaffna Civil Hospital on Saturday

IMPORTANT CONFERENCE IN WASHINGTON

Eire And Hungary Believed Among Subjects Discussed

Washington Tuesday.

The highest military, naval and Cabinet officials met today in an unannounced conference with the Secretary of State. Mr. Cordell Hull. All those who attended arrived by private entrances to the State Department. There was no announcement immediately about the purpose of this extraordinary meeting. Those present included the Secretaries of War and the Navy and their Under-Secretaries and the highest ranking admirals and generals. The Secretary of the Treasury Mr. Henry Morgenthau and the Chairman of the American Red Cross, Mr. Norman Davis, also attended the conference. News of the meeting gave rise to speculation that new measures against Eire were being considered. Observers did not rule out the possibility that the Hungarian crisis was also discussed.

Eire is treated by Britain as a Member of the British Commonwealth but is excluded from the benefits of all special war time measures. The Statute of Westminster does not provide conditions of consultation. This reply was given by Mr. Paul Emrys Evans, Under-Secretary for the Dominions, in the House of Commons today in reply to Mr. Edgar Granville (Independent), who asked what advantages of membership in the British Commonwealth of Nations Eire now enjoyed and if she subscribed to the conditions of consultation under the Statute of Westminster. Professor Savory (Conservative for Belfast University) remarked that the citizens of Britain than the citizens of all the other Dominions, especially regarding military service and the practice of medicine Eire enjoyed far greater privileges in. There was no further Governmental reply.

morning in the company of Mr. N. Chelvadurai Secretary of the Jaffna Association and Mr. S. P. Nadarajah, Member Jaffna Urban Council. The Minister was taken round the hospital by Dr. C. Candiah Medical Superintendent and Dr. S. Ramapathan Medical Officer. The Minister was distressed to find the manner in which many expectant mothers were accommodated in the verandahs and under beds. At the outpatients department which was visited next he found about 250 patients awaiting treatment packed like sardines on the narrow verandah of the building and the Doctors there working under most difficult conditions. For want of space in the female medical ward, patients suffering from typhoid, dysentery and other infectious diseases were lumped together in the ward in the similar conditions prevailing in the maternity section. The state of affairs in the male section was not much better. Mr. Mahadeva undertook to urge on the Minister of Health and Minister of Communication and Works the immediate necessity of proceeding with the construction of two temporary wards and of the maternity ward of 34 beds for which a sum of Rs 68,000 had been voted six months ago on the urgent representation made by Mr. Mahadeva and the Jaffna Association.

Minister's Tribute To Manipay

Addressing a public meeting of rate payers of Manipay Parish yesterday evening Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike, Minister of Local Administration, paid a great tribute to the varied activities in which the Village Committee of Manipay was successfully engaged in. The Minister expressed the hope that judging by the progress that the Committee was making, it should become a model to the 400 Village Committees in the Island.

The meeting which was held at the Manipay Memorial English School was presided over by Mr. Bandaranaike.

Mr. Thiagarajah Chairman V. C. in welcoming the Minister said that it was essential for every Village Committee to keep the rate payers informed of the details of the Committee's administration. The speaker further stressed that the V. C.'s should not be merely satisfied with repairs to roads and lanes, but they should play an important part in providing essential amenities such as free reading rooms, play grounds etc.

The next item was the distribution of National Food Campaign Medals and Prizes in Savings Certificates to the successful competitors at the Vegetable Garden Competition organised by the Village Committee. It is interesting to note that this competition was the first of its kind in the North and second in Ceylon next to that of the Colombo Municipality. The C. D. C.'s Medal for the Best Garden in the Parish was won by Mr. K. Chornalingam, C. D. C.'s Medals for the best Chilli Plot and Onion Plot in the parish were awarded to Mr. N. Sinnatambay and Mr. N. Velayuthan respectively.

Mr. E. W. Kannangara then delivered a short address on local administration.

Mr. S. Natesan, M. S. C. in the course of his address said that it was gratifying to find that with its heritage of the past Manipay was giving a lead to the rest of Jaffna in the matter of local administration. Among the winners of prizes, the speaker said he was pleased to note that Mr. Chornalingam, the well known Tamil dramatist, had taken to the tilling of the soil.

The Very Rev. Father Chas Mathews, A. R. P. Controller, in an appeal for more intensive food production observed that the general attitude of the young men of Jaffna towards agriculture was one of contempt.

Before concluding the Reverend speaker stated that "if leadership is the power to get common people to do uncommon things", the Chairman of that Village Committee was a great leader indeed.

Mr. V. Kanapathippillai, Vice Chairman, V. C., read an interesting report of the varied activities of the Committee during the past year.

Messrs. V. K. Nathan, S. C. Gunaratnam and Dr. S. C. Thuraijah also spoke.

Mr. Bandaranaike in the course of his address said that the Committee deserved credit because they realised the importance of local authority. In that country of theirs, there was a tendency to despise local authority such as Urban

(Continued on page 3)

INDUSTRIALISATION OF INDIA

Sir M. Visvesvaraya Urges Five-Year Plan

Nagpur, March 18.

The urgent importance of industrialisation of India in any plan of post-war reconstruction was stressed by Sir M. Visvesvaraya delivering his presidential address over the fourth annual conference of the All-India Manufacturers' Organisation. "What should be done by Government now, if they mean business," said Sir M. Visvesvaraya, "is to deduce a five-year-plan from the figures given in the Fifteen Year-Plan and work up a complete five-year-plan with detailed schedules. There is urgent need for starting new industries and need also for making active preparations from now for establishing heavy industries as soon as war is over. To meet this need, industrial leaders and businessmen among us are prepared; but Government show unpreparedness, unwillingness and will not discuss any connected plan openly".

Among development of prime importance that cannot wait, Sir M. Visvesvaraya mentioned the starting of industries like the automobile, aeroplane, power machinery generally, machine tools, iron and steel, heavy electrical industries, ship-building, special defence machinery and industrial plant, heavy chemicals, dye-stuffs, rayon and plastics. If industries were given facilities, he added, as was done in every progressive country, they would give abundant employment both to leaders and workers and they would bring to the front a great number of people capable of organising, controlling and regulating occupations and services. "What the country urgently wants now, is more occupations and larger production and income".

The speaker referred to the schemes recommended by the Baroda session of the conference last year, and said that the organisation had prepared, for every province, an approximate statement of industries which at present existed as well as a list of new industries for which there was room and scope. "Our aim is to induce the provincial leaders to choose at least two new heavy industries out of the list, and begin preparations for establishing them, so as to be able to start actual construction as soon as war is over."

Sir M. Visvesvaraya criticised the attitude of Government in the matter of the establishment and growth of heavy industries in this country, and said, "Since promises have been held out from the year 1917 that India will have the status of a Dominion Government soon, the British Government cannot complain if we demand the same facilities as those enjoyed by Canada and Australia for developing our industries". He urged Government to reverse their economic policies.

The speaker analysed the Fifteen-Year-Plan now before the country, and said: "The plan is in refreshing contrast to the patchwork proposals and fragmentary schemes hitherto put forward by the authorities or Reconstruction Committees at New Delhi. We trust, with all this information now before them, the committees will not fail to give the necessary prominence to industries in the final proposals due from them. There is no standard plan in existence to guide in such matters, but the principles followed by the authors of the Fifteen-Year-Plan are sound, and one may be sure that the bulk of the business population of India will heartily support their proposals."

Sir M. Visvesvaraya suggested a five-year plan of economic reconstruction, which should provide for the many urgent needs and developments under industries. He urged the re-

Letter To The Editor.

Playground and Park) for Manipay

Sir,—The words in brackets in the above heading are a pure invention of Mr. C. N. Devarajan in his letter appearing in the "Hindu Organ" of the 20th March 1944, and an invention invented for a purpose.

The genesis of a central playground for the Manipay Parish is as follows. The Commissioner of Local Government in his advice to the various local bodies emphasized the great importance he attached to play grounds, as they play an important part in improving the health and building up the physique of the youth. In pursuance of this advice and as the Committee felt that a demand really existed as some schools and clubs in the area had asked for assistance to provide a public playground, the Chairman of the Village Committee with the advice and consent of members of the Committee representing the ratepayers of the various wards of the parish approached Mr. A. Sellamuttu, M.B.E., on the subject. This gentleman, well known for his philanthropic gifts and acts, readily realised the importance of the project and volunteered (and was not persuaded as Mr. Devarajan would have us believe, to place a well constructed Playground in a fairly central spot in the Parish at the disposal of the Committee to be maintained by the Committee. To say that Mr. Sellamuttu required any persuasion to make this gift is a calculated insult not only to his intelligence, but also to his spirit of philanthropy.

There is no question of a Park at all. It was unanimously decided by the elected representatives of the taxpayers to accept the offer of Mr. Sellamuttu and thereafter to maintain the ground, and this maintenance, (which is not expected to commence for at least another two years) would cost the Committee approximately Rs. 60 only per annum. What a small sum to pay for such a necessary amenity.

To bolster up his case, Mr. Devarajan imports a lot of irrelevant things into his article. He glibly states that the Playground of the Manipay Hindu College will be available for the youth of the Parish at all times. But would it be? Was it ever open to the public?

Mr. Devarajan insinuates that this ground will be used only by about 15 or 20 boys in the neighbourhood. This is a misstatement! He invents a Park, provides for a Park staff involving an expenditure of over Rs. 3000 a year—which is about 50 per cent of the gross revenue of the Committee. Was not his imaginary case built up with a definite design of holding up the Village Committee, Manipay, to public contempt and ridicule?

With the colossal expenditure of hundreds of millions on the Paddy and Food products drive, Mr. Sena-

ting up of a separate department of industries in the Central Government working in close Association with an Economic Council or Development Board, special development staff to carry out the directions of the organisation, adequate tariff protection, special effort to make preparations for the early starting of a dozen heavy industries, and the working out of a detailed scheme for the investment of industries of capital of not less than Rs. 1,000 crores by both Government and the public, and added that the programme should measure calculated to double the value of the output from both industries and agriculture in five to seven years' time.

A. P. I.

RESTRICTION ON RAILWAY TRAFFIC

Passenger traffic on the Railway during the Easter holidays, the Sinhalese and Hindu New Year and the Full Moon "Poya" celebrations of next month is to be restricted between all stations says a Colombo paper. This is the first time that the booking of passengers to and from all stations is to be restricted, the restrictions on previous occasions being limited to certain specified stations. This step has been taken by the Railway authorities with the object of preventing a rush of holiday-makers and pilgrim bands and limiting railway travel to passengers on business. Locomotive power and rolling stock have, it is stated, to be conserved in this way for the duration of the war to cater only to essential traffic and genuine travellers.

17,000 SARONGS For Immediate Distribution To Co-operatives

For the supply of textiles to co-operative stores the Senior Asst. Registrar has now prepared a distribution scheme which will be published shortly in the press.

The Senior Asst. Registrar states that the quantity of sarongs available for distribution is limited to about 17,000 at present so that all stores cannot be supplied forthwith.

He hopes to give the first opportunity to co-operative stores far away from Colombo. The distribution will be carried out in rotation.

Maya has, we believe, confessed that things have not turned out as expected. When such things go awry in well irrigated lands, both artificially and naturally, and with a more fertile soil than arid Jaffna, is it not preposterous for Mr. Devarajan to make this plot of land pay its way by sinking two wells and cultivating it!

Mr. Devarajan characterises the playground affair as a white elephant at an insignificant cost of Rs. 60 a year. Had he been actuated by the best of motives, he would not have rushed into print with his theories and ill digested facts. The average man would have written to the Committee offering constructive criticism. Mr. Devarajan offers destructive criticism through the Press. Why?

The most amusing part of his article is when he invents a Park and associates it with the production of "evil and mischief". It is evidently to be inferred that Parks, Playgrounds and Pavilions are fruitful centres of evil and mischief! What if the watcher he would have the Committee to appoint to prevent "evil and mischief", be himself the creator of such evil and mischief, or become a willing tool for a couple of coppers to accommodate persons inclined to evil and mischief? He evidently appears to be endowed with a fertile brain and soaring imagination!

Lastly Mr. Devarajan appears to accuse the Village Committee, Manipay as being prompted to do things with a view to publicity. Publicity has become an essential ingredient in modern official, business and social life, and there is nothing to cavil as it provided it is based on facts.

Yours Etc.

P. C. Hallock, M. Daniel, K. Saravanamuttu, K. Kandiah, M. Perampalam, T. Ponniah, T. Sabapathy, V. Kanapathippillai, Vice-Chairman, C. Nadarajah, P. Shanmuganathan, S. Thirumampalam, P. Coomaraswamy and M. Thanikasalam.

Members, V. C. Manipay. Manipay, 24th March 1944

Some Aspects of Nationality

The Federal Idea as A Solution

Nationality was not a thing of comparatively recent growth, but had its root down in the very beginnings of human society, stated Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike, Minister of Local Administration, in the course of a lecture at the Ceylon University under the auspices of the Ceylon Geographical Society.

Mr. P. E. P. Deraniyagala, President of the Society, presided.

Mr. Bandaranaike who spoke on "Some Aspects of Nationality", said that nationality as it existed today had in its making a number of ingredients, which had shaped it in the form it appeared today. The basis of nationality was race, subject to certain exceptions. Fundamentally a nation grew out of the idea of the family. The next development was its broadening out to the larger family that existed in the Pastoral Age. Then came the village consisting of a number of large related families, and a number of villages gave the nation. Therefore, the idea of a nation was based on family idea with some exceptions, of course.

An important ingredient to the formation of a nation was religion. When a nation reached its full stature of nationhood, religion did not become so binding as in the early formative years.

The other ingredients, Mr. Bandaranaike continued, were language, customs and traditions, and the psychology of nationality which was the most important.

Most of the things they valued were due to the national spirit, said Mr. Bandaranaike. It was at the height of a country's nationalism that the best literature had been produced. It was so with the literature of Greece and other countries. A good many religious leaders like Christ and Buddha had been imbued with the national spirit.

Thus the preservation of national individuality was a very important factor, as each such nation could make its own peculiar contribution to the progress of humanity. They must have a strong nationalism if they wanted to have a successful internationalism, he declared.

Mr. Bandaranaike thought the solution of the future would lie in a proper use, adaptation, extension and use of the federal idea and the formation of federal groups. The federal groups should form one supreme federal council dealing with peace and war, and other world issues.

Minister's Tribute To Manipay

Continued from page 2

Councils and Village Committees. Now that was all wrong.

The next point which he wished to emphasise continued the speaker was the publicity given by the Manipay V. C. to the work it was doing. He complimented the Committee on its publication of annual reports giving facts and figures of the work done.

He also complimented the Committee on the wide range of work it was engaged in. The Minister then made the observation quoted above.—(Cor.)

M. P's Invitation To Mrs. Naidu

Public Support in Britain

(From the "Hindu's" Special Correspondent)

London, March 16.

There has, I understand, been widespread response to the recent letter in *The Manchester Guardian* asking for an expression of public support for the suggested visit of Mrs. Sarojini Naidu to Britain to state the Congress case. The signatories Miss Vera Britain and Professor G. E. G. Catlin have received hundreds of letters, mostly from women, from all parts of the country, from individuals as well as women's organisations.

I gather that a considerable number of letters have come from titled women and others prominent in the different walks of life, writing in several instances from fashionable and exclusive women's clubs in the West End of London. Some of them have met Mrs. Naidu and know her personally; others offer financial aid if necessary and all express the fervent hope that one of the greatest personalities of modern India will be allowed to renew contacts with the British people and explain the Indian national standpoint thus helping to dispel misconceptions and resolve the deadlock which is universally deplored.

While this proposal has evoked a large volume of support from women and political circles in general it must be added that considerable doubt exists whether the Government of India will respect the wishes of public opinion over here, sceptics pointing out to the restrictions imposed on Mrs. Naidu's freedom of speech even in India. It is felt in some British quarters long connected with India and familiar with the outlook of Gandhiji and others that a more promising line of effort would perhaps be to continue to focus attention on the patent unreasonableness of the demand that Congress leaders should individually and without mutual consultation withdraw from positions adopted jointly and as a corporate executive body.

Meanwhile, it is rumoured here that the first cabled invitation to Mrs. Naidu addressed to a well-known Bombay hotel was returned undelivered with the explanation that the addressee could not be traced. The reply to a second cable sent to a different address is now awaited.

NOTICE.

Distribution of Subsidiary Foodstuffs in Jaffna District.

Arrangements have been made to distribute the currysuffs mentioned below at the rates specified against each commodity to each consumer not attached to a co-operative retail store from Monday, the 27th instant to 2nd April 1944 (both days inclusive).

- (1) Corrid whole or peas 1 oz per head
 - (2) Tamarind 1 oz per head
2. Consumers are advised to draw their ration of the above articles along with their ration of other commodities.

E. B. Tisseverasinghe,
for Govt. Agent N. P.

Jaffna, 22-3-44
[G 64 27-3-44]

NOTICE

Sugar-Distribution

A small quantity of sugar will be distributed outside the present rationing scheme through selected Co-operative Stores Societies in the Jaffna District. For further information, consult the Asst. Registrar of Co-operative Stores Societies, N. D. or the nearest Chief Headman.

2. The scheme comes into operation from April.

E. B. Tisseverasinghe
A. G. A. (E)

Kachoberi (E)
Jaffna, 24th March, 1944.
G. 65.

DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL DEFENCE

Distribution Of Textiles To Co-operative Stores

1. Much publicity has recently been given to the arrangements that are being made to distribute textile goods to Co-operative Stores through the Agency of the Co-operative Wholesale Establishment and it is likely that an impression has gained that supplies of Textile goods are available to all Co-operative Stores in very satisfactory quantities. This impression would be a very erroneous one. The position as regards the supply of textiles is bad and the aim of the C. W. E. will be to see that as equitable a system of distribution as possible is introduced.

2. The Textile Controller has taken power under a new regulation to divert stocks from importers to any quarter and in any proportion he likes. When this arrangement has been made it is likely that a continuous supply of textiles proportioned to the needs of Co-operative Stores, will be assured to the C. W. E. for distribution. In the meanwhile the Textile Controller has been able to give the C. W. E. a certain quantity of textiles by arrangement made on a voluntary basis with 3 sources of supply. Messrs. Moulana & Messrs. Panyakat have agreed to give the C. W. E. 40% of the stocks they had in hand on the day the arrangement was made. The Wellawatte Spinning & Weaving Mills will give the C. W. E. until further orders, 75% of its total production.

3. A good part of the stocks that have been made available to the C. W. E. just now consists of sarongs, sarees and camboya. These articles are very scarce in the market at the present time. The supply however that the C. W. E. has received is scarcely sufficient to distribute sarongs (for instance) at the rate of 3 sarongs per Society (the average number of consumers in a Society is over 1000). Impartial distribution of these stocks to Societies would therefore be of little use and some other more practical method has to be devised. It has therefore been decided that a District or Districts should be taken up in rotation for the purpose of distributing supplies. Publicity will be given in the Press to the District or Districts that will be taken up at one time. The present supply of sarongs (for instance) are scarcely sufficient to give to 100 societies in a way that would enable them to supply a sarong per family amongst half their sarong wearing members. This basis of distribution will be abandoned when supplies become continuous or regular (see para 2 above).

4. The main basis of rationing of cloth in a Co-operative Store should be as follows:—

- (1) 1 Sarong per consumer for 6 months
 - (2) 1 Saree " " " 6 "
 - (3) 1 Camboya " " " 6 "
 - (4) 1 Vertie " " " 6 "
 - (5) 6 Yds of grey or long cloth per family
- The supply of towelling and of coloured or dyed poplins should be restricted to 2 yds per consumer for 6 months until the position improves.

5. Each Store that receives supplies of textiles will be provided with a stock of ration cards in which the name of the consumer and of the kinds and quantities issued to them can be noted.

6. This new task of distribution which the C. W. E. has undertaken is a very difficult and invidious one (at the present time) but I have no doubt that every Society will understand the situation and co-operate with me to the fullest possible extent.

G. DE SOYSA
Registrar of
Co-operative Societies.

(M. 243 27-3-44)

The Cult of Reasonableness In Ceylon Politics

(Continued from Page 1)

representation, the Singhalese leaders are as unreasonable as ever."

I remarked that the minorities were to blame. They should have listened to the late Sir Ambalavanar Kanagasabai, who, like Sir Macan Marikar, believed in praying to Allah, provided the camel was well tied. I said the reform movement began the process of untying, and this is the result.

"Besides", said Mr. Ponnambalam, 'the idea that the Singhalese may make a concession on the side of reasonableness is wrong and mischievous for other reasons. If they don't concede anything, is nothing but surrender the only course for the minorities?'

I admitted that a fight was inevitable and I was not backing out of it. But, the morale of the minorities—will it stand the strain?

"Talking of morale", said Mr. Ponnambalam, "you are the fellows with your talk of reasonableness who are conspiring to destroy the morale of the minorities. I have been doing my best all these years to help you and you yourself once subscribed to the demand for balanced representation. And now here is the *Hindu Organ* trying to be reasonable. Don't you see that your reasonableness will never convince the Singhalese but will certainly divide the minorities?'

I admitted the impeachment, and reminded Mr. Ponnambalam that the public is an animal that needs constant prodding and the Editor of the *Hindu Organ* is perhaps not an exception to the rule. "There is no question of any division", I added by way of encouragement, "the minorities are more united now than they were in the past over this question of safeguarding their interests. If you go slow, you may yet succeed."

ORDER NISI IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 225 T
In the matter of the Last Will and Testament of the late Kunchachi widow of Tanukody Sinnathamby of Delft East Deceased.

1. Thanukodi Samugam and wife
2. Poora Am both of Delft East Vs. Petitioners.

1. Sinnathamby Arumugam
2. Nugalasingam Kaniah
3. Nagalingam Appukaddy
4. Sinnathamby Selladurai
5. Sinnathamby Murugesu
6. Sinnathamby Subramaniam
7. Kunchachi widow of Sinnathamby of do Respondents.

This matter of the Petition of the abovenamed Petitioners coming on for disposal before James Joseph Esqr. District Judge Jaffna on the 24th day of February 1944 in the presence of Messrs. Aboubucker & Sultan Proctors on the part of the Petitioners and affidavit of the five witnesses who subscribed their names as witnesses to the Last Will and

Control of Paper

The attention of users of paper, printers, binders, rulers, retail traders in paper and manufacturers of paper is drawn to the Controlled Articles (Paper) Order, 1944 and to the notice issued by me, which were published in the Government Gazette Extraordinary No. 9,243 of March 21, 1944.

Under these regulations:—

(1) Printers, binders and rulers are required to apply to me for registration not later than 12 noon on Wednesday, the 5th April, 1944.

(2) Application for registration as retail traders in paper may be made at any time. Authority already granted under the Controlled Articles (Paper) (No. 3) Amendment Order remains valid.

(3) Applications for registration as manufacturers of paper must be made not later than 12 noon on Saturday, the 29th April, 1944.

(4) It is an offence for any person to sell or purchase or otherwise acquire any quantity of paper except under the authority of a permit issued by me. This does not apply to packed letter paper sold under my authority or to letter pads.

The Controlled Articles (Paper) Order, 1944, regulates, among other things, the page area, number of pages and frequency of publication of newspapers, printing or publishing of any magazine, journal, or ephemera, book, brochure, pamphlet, price-list, sale catalogue or any other similar matter, the printing and supplying of all other printed matter items and the distribution of plain paper.

Applications for all printed matter requirements must be made through a printer and applications for plain paper must be made to me direct.

Copies of these regulations are obtainable on application to me, price being 15 cents per copy.

A. C. RICHARDS
Controller of Paper.

Office of the Controller of Paper,
47 Ward Place,

Colombo, 22nd March, 1944.
G. 63. 27.

Testament of the abovenamed deceased, having been read:

It is ordered that the abovenamed 7th Respondent be and she is hereby appointed Guardian-ad-litem over the minors 4—6 Respondents for the purpose of representing and watching their interest in these proceedings. It is further ordered that the Last Will and Testament of the abovenamed deceased dated 20th September 1943 and now deposited in Court be and the same is hereby declared proved and that Letters of administration with copy of the said Will annexed be issued to the 2nd named Petitioner as the sole Legatee named therein, unless the Respondents or any other persons interested shall appear before this Court on the 28th day of March 1944 at 10 a.m. and show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

The 24th day of February 1944.

Sgd. James Joseph,
District Judge.

O. 100. 23&7)

ZENITH OPTICAL Co.,

11 MAIN STREET, JAFFNA

FOR EVERYTHING

OPTICAL

Mis. 199.

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