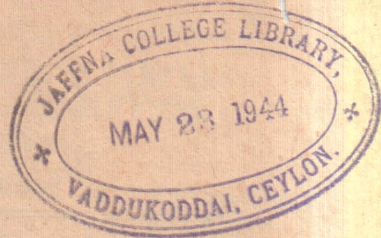


THE Hindu Organ.



The Only Newspaper in Ceylon for the Hindus

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NO. 13.

PENSION FOR PUNJAB ASSEMBLY SPEAKER

It is learnt that the Speaker of the Punjab Assembly, Sir Shahahuddin, who is the oldest member of the Provincial Legislature and has occupied the Chair for a longer period than any Speaker of any Indian Legislative body would be given a pension in all probability after the next Autumn session. The Bill allowing pension to the Speaker who fulfils certain conditions—such conditions will be fulfilled by the present Speaker—will be brought before the Punjab Assembly, whose sanction is a foregone conclusion. The Bill is called the Speaker's Pension Bill and is stated to be on the anvil in the Legislative Department.

AUSTRALIA'S FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

The nationalisation of Australia's financial institutions including all banks and all forms of insurance and the control of big monopolies is urged by the Australian Transport Minister Mr. E. Ward.

Speaking in support of the Labour candidate in the coming New South Wales elections, Mr. Ward said: "I believe industry should be completely under the control of the Commonwealth Government. I know that all my colleagues do not agree with my view, but I believe that many of them are changing their opinions and that they realise there will be no kid gloves in dealing with vested interests."

FOOD POSITION IN MALABAR AND TELUGU DISTRICTS

The food position in Malabar continues to deteriorate and tales of woe due to starvation and hunger in rural areas are being received daily. The present ration is three to five ounces of rice per head per day. Government is commandeering the stocks now lying with the landlords and a consignment of 33,000 bags of rice (being the surplus stock collected from Madras, Bezwada, and Tedepalligudem) has been despatched by boats to British Cochin. Australian flour and wheat from the Punjab also are being rushed to the affected areas.

In Anantapur and Ongole areas also where there is shortage of rice a mixed ration of rice, wheat and cholam is being served.

A CENTRAL CONSUMERS' COUNCIL

To advise them on matters relating to supplies and distribution of consumer goods, the Government of India have decided to set up an advisory body of about 25 official and non-official members to be called the Central Consumers Council.

The functions of the Council *inter alia* will be to keep Government informed of the working of measures taken by them to regulate the distribution and control of the prices of various items of consumer goods, and to offer them suggestions or measures to improve the civil supplies position in the country.

EDUCATIONAL PLAN FOR INDIA

Wardha And Sargent Schemes

Presiding over the thirty-fourth Provincial Educational Conference held at Anamalainagar on the 9th inst. Sir N. Gopalaswami Iyengar, Retired Dewan of Kashmir, urged the Government to take up the Sargent Scheme and implement it at once without waiting till the end of the war so that illiteracy in India may be liquidated within a period of eight years. He estimated the cost to amount to 100 crores of a rupees which could be easily ear-marked out of the 400 crores which will be India's balance of unspent loan money at the end of this year not reserved for any specific expenditure.

Opening the conference Mr. M. Ruthnaswami, Vice-Chancellor, Annamalai University, referred to the importance and the far-reaching extent of the recommendations of the Report on the Reconstruction of Education prepared by Mr. Sargent and paying a tribute to the President of the session said: In him you have an experienced public man who, like many a successful statesman, started life as a teacher, a wise guide and a sound adviser. In him you have an additional guarantee for the success of the session."

In the course of the Presidential address Sir Gopalaswami Iyengar said:

"For many years now, the nationalist-minded intelligentsia of this country have been profoundly discontented with the prevailing educational system—products, though most of them are, of that system. Its objectives have been narrow, its content unrelated to Indian life and genius, its method antiquated and uninfluenced by healthy modern developments in educational technique; its results lamentably disappointing. Perhaps, its greatest condemnation has been its cruel, almost criminal, neglect of the minimum practical and cultural needs of the common man."

Sir N. Gopalaswami Iyengar then referred to the Madras Government Circular of 1937 which limited Government's educational objectives to making the masses merely literate and contrasted it with Mahatma's aims in drawing up his scheme of Basic Education, more popularly known as the Wardha Scheme. He added:

"The Wardha system of Basic Education has ever since leavened educational thought and administration, and even where it has not been wholeheartedly adopted and tried, it has gained increasing recognition for the essential principles on which it is founded. There are apparently no basic schools functioning in this province. The only Training School for training teachers on Wardha lines which was opened by Government at Coimbatore in 1939 was closed in 1941. The Aided Training School opened at Masulipatnam in 1938 presumably still continues to exist but the Director's last quinquennial report on Public Instruction in the Presidency has nothing to say on the quantity or quality of work

done therein. The sneer in para 65 of the report that the Wardha scheme is one "which many laymen praised" is perhaps some indication of the local departmental expert's reaction to what has emanated from Wardha. It is, however, comforting and a matter of some personal gratification to me to read what Mr. Ariyanayagam, General Secretary of the All-India Basic Education Board, said at the fifth annual meeting of the Board held recently at Wardha, viz

"Basic Education has Come To Stay"

"Every Province and State in India which started the experiment of Basic Education has continued it all these five years with the solitary exception of Orissa, where when the Government dropped the experiment the people took it up. The experiment has so far been most successful in the Bihar Province and in the Kashmir State"

"It is, necessary, however, to add that against only 27 basic schools in Bihar, there are 122 in Kashmir and that, in Kashmir, Basic Schools ceased long ago to be a mere experiment. It was the definite policy of His Highness's Government when I left the State over a year ago, to add substantially according to plan to the number of basic schools every year and in due course to convert all schools into basic schools. I have no reason to think that this policy has since been, or will be departed from. Basic education has come to stay in India and is the only sure foundation on which the edifice of national education can be successfully erected. Basic education and the introduction and use in schools of both the Devanagari and the Persian scripts for simple Urdu were among the major satisfactions of my tenure of office in Kashmir. Those satisfactions are the more pleasurable to me now as both these items of policy will constitute the integral parts of the scheme of national education recommended recently for All India acceptance."

Sir N. Gopalaswami Iyengar held that the publication in March last of the Central Advisory Board of Education on Post-war Educational Development in India known as the Sargent Scheme, constituted a fresh landmark in the educational history of this country.

Need for Implementing Sargent Scheme

"The scheme", he said, "is a comprehensive plan covering the entire field of education from the nursery school to the University; it makes provision for a full programme of adult education and for the organisation and enjoyment of leisure; it does not forget the medical care of children at school or their proper nutrition and physical training; it has recommendations to make on the establishments and functioning of employment bureaux." He then gave a brief outline of the scheme which envisaged the minimum provision that a State should make in order to ensure equality of education.

(Continued on page 3)

HAT FACTORY FOR JAFFNA

At a meeting of the Jaffna Urban Council (Mr. C. Ponnambalam, Chairman, presiding). Mr. V. S. S. Kumaraswamy moved that the Minister for Labour Industry and Commerce should be requested to start a hat factory in Jaffna town and a workshop where various manufactures could be carried on with raw materials available in the district such as hemp pith or cork, tender palmyrah leaves, tortoise shell, coconut fibre, bones, chanks oyster shell and palmyrah wood.

He said that industries were being started in South Ceylon and at least one industry should be started in Jaffna. The Minister was willing to start an industry in Jaffna if the necessary premises were made available. The industry would provide employment in normal times for the unemployed in Jaffna.

Mr. S. Patanjali seconded and the resolution was carried.

The Chairman announced that he had received Rs. 16,000 as the first instalment of the Government subsidy for the payment of war allowance and certain conditions had to be fulfilled before the Government would send the balance. The proper rate and other taxes would have to be raised high enough to bear half the cost of the war allowance from next year onwards.

The Chairman also announced that the Chief Engineer and Manager of Electrical Undertakings had approved the increase of electricity charges by two cents per unit for all tariffs from June 1st, 1944.

HARDSHIPS OF PADDY GROWERS

An emergency general meeting of the Batticaloa Association was held on Monday at the Association hall to discuss the hardships endured by the paddy growers of the district owing to internal restrictions imposed by the present regulations in the purchase of paddy by Government.

It was agreed that all citizens should co-operate with the Government in securing the purchase of as large a quantity as possible of the paddy grown in the district, but it was felt that much depended on the working of the scheme.

A deputation was appointed to interview the Civil Defence Commissioner and the Minister of Agriculture and Lands on the subject.

C-G-R NOT TO WEIGH ALL CONSIGNMENTS

The process of weighing every consignment of goods entrusted to the Railway for transport is to be done away with in the case of regular consignors of goods approved by the Divisional Transportation Superintendent. This is to be done to expedite despatch and delivery of goods. The officer accepting the goods is to be permitted to take the weight entered by the sender in his consignment note as correct. Railway stations and goods sheds are, however, being requested to test from time to time the weight of such consignments and report any discrepancies.



Hindu Organ.

MONDAY, MAY 22, 1944

INDIA'S FUTURE

TWO IMPORTANT PRONOUNCEMENTS were made in the course of last week on the future of India. One was a speech at Denver (Colorado) by Lord Halifax, the British Ambassador to the United States, and the other an editorial in the columns of the "Manchester Guardian".

The main object of Lord Halifax's speech was to assure American opinion that the British people were not thinking in terms of ruling the world with the Americans. As for India, the British Government had done everything possible to give her independence and the present stalemate was due to internal dissensions. In view of what happened to the Treaty of Versailles after the last war, it is, no doubt, imperative that American opinion should be educated from the British point of view. There is just the possibility that the American people, while they are willing and prepared to go through the war, may not at the last moment commit themselves to the entanglements of peace. This may well rob the victors of the fruits of their victory. There is, however, one point in the speech which calls for comment. Lord Halifax says that Britain has brought India unity. If this claim is correct, how does it happen that the quarrel between Moslems and Hindus is still preventing India from achieving independence, according to Lord Halifax? We are afraid that the tortuosities of diplomacy have led the British Ambassador into a tell-tale contradiction which is bound to leave an unfortunate impression in the mind of the American public.

The editorial in the "Manchester Guardian" is on entirely different lines and is in keeping with the traditions of that paper. The "Guardian" says that Mahatma Gandhi is not only an apostle of anarchy but also an apostle of liberty. It is in the role of the latter that Mr. Gandhi is, according to the "Guardian", a great asset to Britain. Lord Halifax complains that Mr. Gandhi was never practical. He forgets that some of the greatest champions of human liberty who inspired the British people can hardly be called practical in the proper sense of the term. Some of the stages of the evolution of the British people towards liberty do not strike one as practical at all. But, the message of Mahatma Gandhi, as the apostle of human dignity

and liberty, carries with it a compelling appeal not only to India but also to the rest of the world and we firmly believe, in spite of everything, that if, today, the British people were given the choice between freedom and a bloated and demoralising prosperity founded on the subjection of other countries, they would choose the former.

This, however, is a vital aspect of Mr. Gandhi's outlook on life which the "Manchester Guardian" has ignored. Mr. Gandhi is no doubt a friend of liberty but he is also the enemy of exploitation in any form. He has always refused to truckle to the complacent idea of trusteeship from which reactionary British politicians have drawn their inspiration. If Mr. Gandhi is to become a valuable asset to the Allied cause, it will not do merely to pin one's faith to his devotion to human liberty in general. One must also give heed to his warning that this liberty can never be attained, as long as Governments are free to annex conditions to the attainment of it.

Friends of Liberalism in England will do well to ponder over the problem thus presented to the British people. It is of course quite possible that Mr. Gandhi chose the wrong moment for telling the British people to quit India, but the slogan of the saint may well become the slogan of the masses after the war. There is danger in Mr. Churchill's refusal to face facts. If there is one thing which this war is going to prove, it is that no continent can claim the mastery of another. All right-thinking men and women must try and avert the catastrophe of the future—a war between Europe and Asia.

Notes and Comments

Vagaries Of The Department Of Education

We understand that the Director of Education has just issued a supplementary list of passes in respect of the Senior School Certificate examination held five months ago in December last, and has placed the passed candidates in a newly created third class. The list was not issued to the press but information is being communicated to schools and successful private candidates individually as if it were a private concession. Teachers, parents and students are entitled to know why this Supplementary List was issued so late in the year, why a third class was created and on what basis candidates have been given a pass in that class. The regulations require a pass in five subjects to secure a pass in the examination, and the names of those who satisfied the regulations were duly published in February last. Are the public to understand that those who are now declared to have passed in the 3rd class have scraped through three or four subjects or whether they are those who secured a less percentage of marks in all the

five subjects? The ways of the Department are inscrutable. What is the guidance for the students, teachers and parents with regard to the future?

Once before, the Department announced the results of the Junior School Certificate examination and, when there was an uproar in the country that there had been a general massacre, the Department wrote to the Headmasters of schools and asked for the names of those who were fit to be passed in their opinion. Thereupon, on the Headmasters submitting their recommendations, a further list of passes was issued by the Department. Question papers also once leaked out and were openly published in the press before the examination. The country has yet to know, although three years have elapsed, what steps the Government took to trace the culprits, what punishment was meted out to them and what precautions were taken for the future.

Examinations, if they are to have any value, should be conducted on strict lines, adhering definitely to rules once laid down and must be above all suspicion. It is shilly-shallying of this kind, careless setting of questions, disgraceful printing of question papers and altering the rules and regulations every year that made students, teachers and parents laugh at the Ceylon Government examinations and favour the Cambridge Senior Certificate and London Matriculation examinations. Seeing that few cared for the local examinations the Government abolished the well-conducted foreign examinations and forced the students to patronise the local ones in which people have no confidence at all. No wonder the University authorities find that the standard of students who pass these examinations and seek admission to the University is very low.

Another Caprice

The Department of Education has issued a notice to the Managers of Schools, without notification in the press, that certain subjects have been newly added to the syllabuses of the Junior and Senior School Certificate examinations of December 1944. They are Commercial Geography and Type-writing for the Junior examination; and Logic, Economics, Commercial Arithmetic, Elements of Commerce, Book-keeping and Accountancy, Shorthand, Type-writing, Religious knowledge, Civics, Homecraft and Needlework for the Senior examination. The circular issued from the Education Office is dated 19th April, and schools reopening after the long vacation came to know about the change only by the middle of May. Can any school possibly teach these subjects within the next six months to enable the students satisfy the examiners? Cambridge, London, Madras and other Universities usually announce such changes three years ahead so that schools might start teaching the subjects from the lower forms in an elementary way and finish up the syllabuses in the final Certificate classes. Not only this. To read and understand the circular one requires half a dozen previous circulars. It says: Amend Circular No.....ofas follows: Add.....to paragraph.....after the words..... Read.....Section.....thus.....add.....omit.....words in line.....page.....To Group.....add.....

After Group...add...Make a Note of.....etc. etc. Further it is said that the syllabuses on Religious Knowledge will be issued later. Perhaps they will be circularised a month or two before the examination and Heaven only knows how many criticisms they will give birth to from different pandits of different schools of different religions. And yet young boys and girls are expected to get through such a welter with two or three months' preparation! Another interesting feature is the inclusion of Shorthand and Type-writing in Sinhalese or Tamil for the S. S. C. examination.

The Ceylon University

The *Ceylon Daily News* mourns over the fact that out of the 904 students in the University 514 had their homes in the Western Province and 172 in the Northern Province whereas the other seven provinces which contain two-thirds of the entire population of the Island were represented by only 218 students. There is nothing to be surprised at this state of affairs. Provinces like Uva and Anuradhapura and those which abound in Indian coolies cannot be expected to turn out undergraduates by the hundred. Again the census must have been taken from the addresses given by the students on admission to the University. A large proportion of the population of Colombo consists of the people from "the seven provinces" temporarily or permanently resident in Colombo to earn their livelihood and naturally their sons and daughters would have given their Colombo addresses. This has led the *Daily News* to conclude that all such students are from the Western Province.

Another Grievance

While the provincial strength is the grouse of the *Daily News*, the Minister of Education complains that Christian students at the University are outnumbering those of other religions. What does it show? It can only mean that Christians are more progressive educationally than the rest although they are small in numbers. By the way, the *Catholic Messenger* points out that out of 904 students at the University only 364 are Christians, and the other 540 are non-Christians.

Communal Unity

While our local contemporary the *Morning Star* says in its issue of 25th February that the grant of Home Rule to India would mean that "the Hindus would dominate the scene and persecute the minorities," our Minister of Education says that our Island is being ruled by Christian managers of schools. Further our Minister of Agriculture says that Ceylon has become the hunting ground of the Indian masses. Cannot these great advocates of nationalism, inter-communal unity and peace restrain themselves at least until the war is over, since such bickerings will lead us nowhere but to ruin?

H-S-C EXAMINATION

The Executive Committee of Education has decided that hereafter the H. S. C. examination should be held by the Department of Education. For the last two years it was held by the University of Ceylon and it is said that the same standard will be maintained.

The Late Mr. James Hensman

The death of Mr. J. M. Hensman took place at Chundikuly, Jaffna, on the 18th inst. at the age of 95 years. He was one of several distinguished brothers who went over to South India for University education in the middle of the last century. He was a distinguished graduate of the Madras University, a well-known mathematician and profound scholar of the English language. He had a keen intellect and great administrative capacity. He was the Principal of the Government College, Kumbakonam, known as the Cambridge of South India for a long time and later of the Government College at Anantapur. That was the first time a non-European was appointed Principal of such first-grade Government Colleges and during Mr. Hensman's Principalship they enjoyed great reputation. The Rt. Hon. Mr. Srinivasa Sastri, Sir K. V. Reddi (sometime Ag. Governor of Madras), Mr. T. R. Venkataraman, the great mathematician, Justice Sir Sankaran Nair and several other distinguished men of South India claimed Mr. Hensman as their 'guru'.

On retiring from service about 40 years ago he took a leading part in our public affairs. He took active interest in the Jaffna Association and as its President for ten years made it a vigorous and powerful body. It was he who made it agitate for constitutional reforms for the first time in the Island and the Chilaw Association then followed up. The people once sent up a petition also to the Governor to nominate him as one of the Tamil representatives in the Legislative Council. He took great interest in agriculture and was perhaps the first in Jaffna to instal a pumping plant for watering his coconut and mango plantations. Owing to a serious accident he met with he was bed-ridden for twenty years and yet did not cease to read or make his contributions to the press until his eye-sight began to fade and health fail. A few years ago the Rt. Hon. Srinivasa Sastri made a special journey to Jaffna, on his way back from Australia to India, to pay a visit to his guru. One of his brothers Mr. E. S. Hensman retired as Controller of Revenues, Madras, and a host of his relations have held and are holding high appointments in Ceylon and India. Writing about him in the *Times of Ceylon* one who knew him says:

"By the death of the G. O. M. of Jaffna, in his 95th year, Ceylon has lost perhaps the last survivor of that small band of intellectual giants of an almost forgotten generation, who by their culture and character set a high standard of public integrity and moral leadership over their contemporaries so lamentably lacking in our present day public life in Ceylon."

NEW WAGONS FOR C.G.R.

It is understood that a large portion of the promised supply of 250 wagons from abroad has been received by the Railway. Almost all the wagons thus received have been put into the regular service and have contributed appreciably to the present improved goods transport service on the Railway. These waggons have the advantage of conveying a heavier load of goods than the old wagons.

Educational Plan For India

(Continued from Page 1)

an opportunity for every citizen man or woman. Emphasising the urgency of the problem and cautioning against delay in proceeding with the further necessary steps for implementing a national educational system Sir N. Gopaldaswami Iyengar observed:

It is of the greatest urgency, therefore, that the final shaping of this key-plan and of the detailed provincial subsidiary plans as of course of their implementation is at the earliest possible time, placed in the hands of really National Government, both at the Centre and in the Provinces. In saying this, I wish make it clear that it is not my purpose that the present Government of India to whose Post-War Reconstruction Committee the Central Advisory Board of Education has made this report should put it on the shelf until they are replaced by a National Government. They cannot be permitted to escape the duty which lies on them, so long as they hold office, of finalising this plan according to their lights and, if the setting up of a National Government is delayed, of implementing the first stages of the plan even during the period of the War. My point is merely that, for taking decisions on the vital issues raised by a plan of this magnitude and importance and more so, for enforcing it, the presence in the seats of power of National Governments commanding the support of all sections of public opinion is an advantage, whose value can scarcely be exaggerated. The sooner such Governments are enabled to assume power in this country, the better prospects there will be for the success of this and other similar schemes.

Sargent & Wardha Schemes

Sir Gopaldaswami Iyengar then called attention to the claim of the authors that the Sargent scheme embodied many of the educational ideas of Mahatmaji. "One of the fundamentals of the Wardha Scheme was that Basic Education was in content to be equivalent to both elementary and secondary education. Gandhiji insisted that it should cover 'all the subjects up to the Matriculation standard except English, plus a vocation and should take the place of what passes to-day under the name of Primary, Middle and High School education. It does not appear that this fundamental idea has been given full effect to in the Sargent Scheme which provides for an additional two or three years schooling before one can attain the new Matriculation level." He said that the First Wardha Committee of the C. A. B. specifically recommended that the principle of learning by doing, i. e., by purposeful creative activity, should be implemented by the activity being of many kinds in the lower classes of the Basic School and later in the higher classes leading to the basic craft the produce from which should be saleable and the proceeds applied to the up-keep of the school." "The content of the Basic School curriculum and the way in which it is implemented in schools are of the supreme importance. It is for expert educationists to watch the application of the principles and arrest in time any material departure therefrom." Sir N. Gopaldaswami Iyengar criticised the acceptance of the idea in the scheme segregating the junior and Senior Basic Schools with a selective test at 11 for pupils. He said that (i) that there should not be separate junior and senior Basic Schools each with its own buildings, equipment and head master, but that there should be a single Basic School in the same building (with 8 classes when fully developed) and, though divided into a junior section of 5 classes and a senior section of 3 classes, with a single head master control-

ling and administering both; (ii) that there should be no middle school sections in a High School which should consist only of the 3 or more post Basic classes for boys and girls above 14.

"Proposals on Adult Education Halting"

Sir N. Gopaldaswami Iyengar characterised the proposals in the Report in respect of adult education as halting, timid and quite out of place in respect of a matter which is of extreme urgency and importance. Quoting relevant passages from the Quinquennial Report on Education in Madras from 1937-38 to 1941-42, he said: The Madras Government did not believe in the need for educating uneducated adults because their average expectation of life was poor and the funds spent on attempting to educate the adult were a waste of money. Sir N. Gopaldaswami Iyengar continued: "Three considerations emphasise the paramount urgency of liquidating the illiteracy of the adults in the quickest possible time. These are: (a) Envisaging as we do a free democratic India in the post-war period, it is incumbent on those in power now to make every possible member of the State particularly those who have passed the age of majority and will be called upon to exercise the vote—an effective and efficient citizen in order to give reality to the ideal of democracy. (b) Literacy at least is essential to all adults to be able to discharge this duty; and this can be acquired by adults within a much shorter period than will be required for making all children pass through a course of basic education for eight years. (c) The education of adults in advance in this way will be a powerful force in accelerating the introduction of universal compulsion as soon as the preliminary planning and preparatory work is completed.

Russian Achievement

"By literacy in this connection I mean what the Report has clearly indicated, namely, not merely the three 'R's but also some elementary instruction related to the adult's vocation and some general knowledge of civics, economics, history, geography and hygiene. Twenty-five years from now for the liquidation of illiteracy is too long a period. I have suggested a target of 15 years for the introduction of universal compulsion. Our ambition should be to achieve practically universal adult literacy within half that time." He then referred to the Russian achievement in liquidating mass illiteracy by overcoming numerous obstacles similar to those that confront India to-day. "Every device of persuasion and compulsion was used in the literacy campaigns to the Soviets; all the machinery of social life was brought into use to organise adult education. The schools became the centres of communal activity in the villages: the granting of social benefits, in some districts, became conditional on school attendance.

"Behind the Russian drive were urges: Revolution, Party, Leadership, Soviet economy—which are lacking in this country. All the same it need not be impossible to achieve our objective. The State should not merely, as the Report insists, accept the primary responsibility of tackling the problem of adult education. It should enthuse the nation by means of a Plan which will promise reasonably quick results and initiate and sustain a drive itself with the nation's leaders actively co-operating with it. The absence of National Governments is a handicap, but they should be installed in power without further loss of time.

AGRICULTURAL CONSCRIPTION

The Minister of Agriculture and Lands will move the following motion in the State Council this week;

"This Council is of opinion that, in view of the vital and pressing need for ensuring a sufficiency of food to the people of Ceylon, it is imperative, if voluntary effort fails, that the existing powers should be exercised so as to require all able bodied males to render service in the production of any form of food, suitable provision being made for exemption on the grounds of youth, age, health, employment, avocation or for other sufficient cause."

MATRIMONIAL

SENTHINATHAN—

CHELVADURAI

The marriage of Mr. S. R. Senthinathan, Asst. Electrical Engineer, Kandy Municipality, with Miss Sivam Selvadurai, daughter of Mr. N. Chelvadurai, Fractor, S. J. took place on the 11th inst. at the bride's residence 'Brindaban', Hospital Road Jaffna.

SITTAMPALAM—

SIVAPRAKASAM

The marriage of Mr. K. Sittampalam of the Income Tax Department, Colombo, with Miss, Gnanambikai, Sivaprakasam, sister of Mr. S. A. Lingam, Pita Ratmale, Haputale, and of Mr. S. Sornalingam, P. W. D. Vallachenai, took place at 'Paranjothi Villai', Anaikottai, Jaffna on the 11th inst.

SIVAGURUNATHAN—

SUNTHARAMPILLAI

The marriage of Mr. A. Sivagurunathan, Advocate, of Thavady, Jaffna, with Miss Canagaletchumy ammal Chuntharampillai, daughter of Mr. V. Chuntharampillai, Retired Postmaster, took place on Thursday, May 18, at the bride's residence at Anaikottai, Jaffna.

CEYLON DEFENCE DEPARTMENT

Distribution Of Milk Foods To Co-operative Societies.

Representatives of Co-operative Societies who go to buy their allotments of milk foods at the various branches of Wholesale Co-operative establishments are requested to produce letters of authority signed by their Chairmen and Secretaries showing full particulars of previous balance quantities obtained in the previous month, how they have been disposed of, and the balance left over.

PROPAGANDA OFFICER.

G. 25. 22 & 25.4-44

TODDY RENT SALE, 1944-45 MANNAR DISTRICT

Tenders are hereby invited for the purchase of exclusive privilege of selling toddy in Mannar District during the period 1 July, 1944, to 30th June 1945. Tenders should reach the Assistant Govt. Agent, Mannar, not later than 11 a. m. on Monday, May 29th 1944.

The conditions of sale and any other particulars can be obtained on application at the Mannar Kacheri.

C. SITTAMBALAM,

8th May, 1944.

A. G. A. Mannar

G. 26. 22-5-44.

The Dance of Siva

(Continued from last Issue)

Another verse of Unmai Vilakam explains the fiery arch (tiruvasi): The Panchakshara and the Dance are identified with the mystic syllable Om, the arch being the Kombu or hook of the ideograph of the written symbol:—'The arch over Sri Nadaraja is Omkara is the contained splendour. This is the dance of the Lord of Chidambaram'.

ஒக்காரமே நற்றிருவாசியும் நகலின்
சீக்கா வெழுத்தே நிறைசுடராம்—ஆந்
காரம்
அறிவாரணியம் பலத்தா
குடலிது

பெற்றார் சிறப்பற்றார் சின்

The Thiru-Arul-Payan however (ch IX. 3 explains the *tiruvasi* more naturally as representing the dance of Nature contrasted with Siva's dance of wisdom. "The dance of matter (Prakriti) proceeds on one side; the jnana dance on the other. Fix your mind in the centre of the latter."

ஊன் நடன் மொருபா லொருபாலா
ஞான நடத்தா

The first dance is the action of matter-material and individual energy. This is the arch, *tiruvasi*. Omkara, the dance of Kali. The other is the Dance of Siva—the Akshara inseparable from the Omkara-called ardhamastra or the fourth letter of the Pranava, Chaturtam and Thuriyam. The first dance is not possible unless Siva wills it and dances Himself.

The general result of this interpretation of the arch is, then, that it represents matter, nature, Prakriti; the contained splendour, Siva dancing within and touching the arch with head, hands and feet, is the universal omnipresent Purusha. Between these stands the soul, as YA is between SI-VA and NA-MA.

Now to summarise the whole interpretation we find that the essential significance of Siva's Dance is threefold:—*First, it is the image of His Rhythmic Activity as the source of all movement within the Cosmos, which is represented by the arch; Secondly, the purpose of His Dance is to release the countless souls of men from the snare of illusion; Thirdly the place of the Dance, Chidambaram, the centre of the Universe, is within the Heart.*

In these notes I expressly refrain from all aesthetic criticism and have endeavoured only to translate the central thought of the conception of Siva's dance from plastic to verbal expression, without reference to the beauty or imperfection of individual works. In conclusion, it may not be out of place to call attention to the grandeur of this conception itself as a synthesis of science, religion and art. How amazing the range of thought and sympathy of those rishi-artists who first conceived such a type as this, affording an image of reality, a key to the complex tissue of life, a theory of nature, not merely satisfactory to a single clique or race, nor acceptable to the thinkers of one century only, but universal in its appeal to the philosopher, the bhakta, and the artist of all ages and all countries. In these days of specialisation, we are not accustomed to such a synthesis of thought; but for those who 'saw' such images as this there could have been no division of life and thought into water-tight compartments. Nor do we always realise, when we criticise the merits of indi-

vidual works, the full extent of the creative power which, to borrow a musical analogy, could discover a *raga* so expressive of fundamental rhythms and so profoundly significant and inevitable.

Every part of such an image as this is directly expressive, not of any mere superstition or dogma, but of evident facts. No artist of today, however great, could more exactly or more wisely create an image of that Energy which science muts postulate behind all phenomena. If we would reconcile Time with Eternity, we can scarcely do so otherwise than by the conception of alternations of phase extending over vast regions of space and great tracts of time. Especially significant, then, is the phase alternation implied by the drum, and the fire which 'changes', not destroys. These are but visual symbols of the theory of the day and night of Brahma!

In the night of Brahma, Nature is inert, and cannot dance till Siva wills it: He rises from His rapture, and dancing sends through inert matter pulsing waves of awakening sound, and lo! matter also dances appearing as a glory round about Him. Dancing, He sustains its manifold phenomena. In the fullness of time, still dancing, he destroys all forms and names by fire and gives new rest. This is poetry; but none the less, truest science.

Again, this Nataraja is not only Truth, but Love: for the purpose of His Dance is Grace the giving of freedom to countless individual souls. Lastly also, how supremely great in power and grace this dancing image must appear to all those who as artists have striven in plastic forms to give expression to their intuition of Life.

It is not strange that the figure of Nataraja has commanded the adoration of so many generations past: we, familiar with all scepticisms, expert in tracing all beliefs to primitive superstitions, explorers of the infinitely great and infinitely small, are worshippers of Lord Nadaraja still!

TO CONTEST MR. AMERY

The Vice-Chairman of the British Communist Party, Mr. R. Palme Dutt, has been adopted as the prospective candidate for the Sparkbrook division of Birmingham, the seat at present held by Leopold Amery, the Secretary of State for India. Mr. Dutt is the Editor of the *Labour Monthly* and was formerly the Editor of the *Daily Worker*. He has written a number of books including; "Modern India" in 1926, "India today" in 1940 and "Guide to the Indian Problem" in 1942.

ETHICS OF TAMIL SEERS

Mr. S. Somasundara Bharathiar, formerly Professor of Tamil at Annamalai University, who is on a visit to Ceylon delivered a lecture on "The Moral Ideals of the Ancient Tamils" at the Vivekananda Society Hall, Hill Street, Colombo, on Tuesday last.

Mr. K. Kanagaratnam, Acting Auditor-General and Vice-President of the Society, presided.

The lecturer drew attention to the important place given by ancient Tamil seers and thinkers to man's duties as well as rights in their scheme of ethics in contrast with certain codes, some of which emphasized only the duties of man and others the rights of man. He also referred to the high status occupied by women in ancient Tamil society.

POET NALLANTHUVANAR

When did he Live?

Mr. S. Muttiah of Thavady, Jaffna, writes:

In Canto XI of Paripadal, the ancient Tamil Sangam work, Nallanthuvanar gives an account of the positions of the Sun and Moon and other planets and also of a Lunar Eclipse.

Calculations reveal the following fact:—The new moon referred to in his first line of the poem falls on the 13th of June 17 A. D. The positions of Venus, Mars, Mercury, Jupiter and Saturn are as described in the poem on the new moon day.

The position of Rahu also is correct for the Eclipse (Lunar) which falls on the 27th of July 17 A. D.

The mentioning of Canopus (Agastya) shows the approximate time of beginning of the Lunar Eclipse and also to what Rasi it belongs.

The mentioning of Alcyone (Krittika) shows the month etc and the period between the time of Nallanthuvanar and the Black Yajur and Atharva Vethas. In these Vethas it is mentioned that the Vernal Equinox was in Krittika and when the Sun enters it, New Year starts.

Nallanthuvanar takes his longitudes from the Vernal Equinox the date of which is March 22-23, 17 A. D.

The Ayanamsa for that year is nearly 3 degrees 45 minutes. Ayanamsa is considered from the first point of Asvini; in that case if longitudes are to be reckoned from the Equinox the Ayanamsa of 3d 45m. is to be subtracted to make them Sayana.

The poet states very clearly in his poem about the ending of Grishma and the beginning of Varsha just on the Lunar Eclipse day. This statement along with other facts firmly establishes, beyond doubt, the time in which he lived, i. e. 17 A. D.

I cannot give all the details of my calculations in such a small article as this, but when validity is required by the authorities responsible for the research of the Tamil language and Authors I am quite prepared to submit my calculations and explanations.

The author of the Indian Chronology and Indian Panchanga states in his I.P. that the positions of the planets and the lunar eclipse, as described by the poet were on the 89th day of the Indian Solar year of 634 A. D.

I find that the facts mentioned in the poem do not fully tally with the date of 634 A. D.

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE JAFFNA

Applications for admission to the London Inter Arts and Inter Science classes will close on June 15th.

PRINCIPAL.

(Mis 31. 18 & 23)

ORDER "NISI" DECLARING WILL PROVED, & C

IN THE DISTRICT COURT
OF JAFFNA

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 229

Sellachby widow of Arunasalam
Nagalingam of Karainagar West

Vs. Petitioners.

1. Sabaratnam
2. Pakkiam
3. Sandrasegaram
4. Sarma
5. Tharumiah
6. Rasammah
7. Nagaratnam
8. Kerubal
9. Pathmavathy
10. Umathevy all children of Arunasalam Nagalingam
11. Palanimuttu Chelliah all of do

Respondents.

In the matter of the Last will and testament of the late V. Arunasalam Nagalingam deceased, of Karainagar West

This matter coming on for disposal before James Joseph Esq., District Judge Jaffna on the 7th day of March 1944 in the presence of Mr. A. Kanagasabai, Proctor on the part of the petitioner, and the affidavit of the above-mentioned petitioner and of the witnesses to the said Last Will having been read.

It is ordered that the Will of the abovenamed deceased dated 29th September 1943 and numbered 279 be and the same is hereby declared proved unless the respondents or any other person or persons interested shall, on or before the 31 day of March 1944 show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this court to the contrary.

It is further declared that the said 11th respondent, be appointed guardian ad litem over the minors 1—10 respondents and that the said petitioner, is the executrix named in the said will and that he is entitled to have Probate of the same issued to her accordingly unless the respondents or others interested shall on or before the 31st day of March 1944 show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this court to the contrary.

This 22nd day of March 1944.

Sgd. James Joseph.
District Judge.

Time to show cause
extended to 29th May 1944.

Sd. James Joseph
D J.

(O 15 18 & 22)

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