

THE Hindu Organ.

The Only Newspaper in Ceylon for the Hindus

Editor:
A. V. Kulasingham, Advocate.

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NEWS FROM FAR AND NEAR

"Blood Bank" Appeal

The General Hospital authorities have appealed for more plasma to be stored in the hospital to meet any serious emergency as a result of enemy action. An honorarium of Rs. 10 will be paid to every donor.

Fewer Trains on All Lines

Proposals for the early introduction of a curtailed service on all sections of the Railway, including the Coast, Main and Up country lines, are at present under consideration.

New I.G.P. Indisposed

Owing to the indisposition of Col. G. H. R. Halland, the new Inspector General of Police, it is stated that Mr. P. N. Banks, the retiring Inspector-General will continue in that capacity for a further period.

Loss of Sea Mails from U.K. to Ceylon

A sea mail despatch from the United Kingdom for Ceylon, containing correspondence posted in London between July 25 and August 14 (in the Provinces between July 26 and August 6) approximately, has been lost by enemy action, according to a Post Office communique.

Indian Newspapers' Gesture Of Protest

Many Indian-owned newspapers have not published the New Year honours as a gesture of protest against the recent order passed by some Provincial Governments, banning the publication of a certain class of news. The non-publication of the Honours is in accordance with the decision of the Standing Committee of the All-India Newspaper Editors' Conference.

Absolute Defeat for Axis This Year

The Commander of the United States forces in the Solomons, Admiral William F. Halsey, on Sunday predicted "complete and absolute defeat for the Axis in 1943". He warned the Japanese people that the "heavy rumbling" they now hear "will gradually grow into a shock of bursting bombs, shrieking shells and clashing swords on your own soil. You had better stop now before it is too late," he said.

No Quitting Without Permission

All employees in Ceylon of the Admiralty, the War Departments, and the Air Ministry have been brought under the operation of a Defence (Service Employees) Order, which has been gazetted. No such employee shall, without prior consent in writing obtained from the proper authority, leave or be absent from such employment from the date of publication of the order.

RENAISSANCE OF MUSIC IN SOUTH INDIA

LANGUAGE CONTROVERSY POISONS WELLS OF MUSIC

BY SIR M. VENKATASUBBA RAO

(In his opening address at the Music Conference, Madras)

THERE has been an astonishing renaissance of music in South India in the last decade or two. This by itself is gratifying but it is much more so, as symbolic of the new spirit which is transforming national life. This awakening connotes to some, or shall I say to most simply a new vision of our political destiny. To my mind, however, this is but a partial comprehension of the forces at work. Widespread and unquenchable political yearning there exists undoubtedly, but this is just one aspect of the general revival—a renaissance of the Indian spirit—which has made us take a pride in our past and conjure up a future worthy of that past. Not very long ago under the influence of western ideas, we became insensible of our heritage, forgot our traditions and gloried in imitating whatever happened to be the fashion in the West.

But there has come over us, as I have said, a radical change. It may be worth our while to understand what the elements are which compose this new radiance. First an intense pride in our past and our consciousness of a high mission and to these are allied an urge to assert our primacy in the things of the mind. A feeling is thus born of robust self-respect leading to the proper assessing of our ancient arts.

It is some irony to find that, in our degeneracy, not till Western savants expressed admiration, was our own interest kindled in our culture. It needed a Schopenhauer and a Goethe—our spirit was so enslaved—to make us realise what immortal works India had produced in the realm of philosophy and drama. Nothing will better serve to illustrate this decadent phase than the enthralling story of the caves at Ajanta, where it is stated fresco painting "reached perfection never excelled even by Giotto or Leonardo." For centuries they lay buried under the jungle and were lost to human memory, until in 1819 some Europeans stumbled into the ruins and discovered frescoes "now ranked among the masterpieces of the world's art."

The Renaissance

Speaking of the renaissance of art, nowhere has it been more pronounced than in the sphere of music. Compare the status accorded to the musician to-day with the hard lot which had been his a few years ago. It passes belief that in India where music is stated to have a history of at least three thousand years, the exponents of this most glorious of the Fine Arts were

relegated to an inferior position and were ranked with dependents and hangers-on. One blushes to think that even the most noted performers had to remain content with the crumbs which their so-called patrons chose to throw to them. Held in scant respect, can you wonder that musicians in their turn ceased to respect themselves? And when self-respect "the corner stone of all virtue" is gone, a moral climate results, most uncongenial to the thriving of art. Happily that day is past. Music societies have sprung up everywhere. Concealed talent is discovered and encouraged, great talent appreciated and revered. Paradoxically, in India the home of music, the art was known to or mastered by a handful held in no special esteem and was treated with indifference by the generality of people. Unlike in ancient Greece where music was considered essential to knowledge in our schools it was neglected and was not included among the subjects of study, with the result, that the young people grew up in utter ignorance of "the art of the prophets, the only art that can calm the agitations of the soul". We could pretend to culture and pass for accomplished persons without a rudimentary knowledge of music. We failed to realise that music of all the liberal arts as Napoleon said has the greatest influence over the passions and is that to which the legislator ought to give the greatest encouragement. Our worship of Saraswati the Goddess playing the Veena the queen of musical instruments, did not deter our forefathers from treating women performers as outside the pale of decent society. We were unaware that in degrading the musician we debased the art. Luckily as I have said, our ideals have changed and are rapidly changing and we have entered upon a new phase full of promise.

"Influence of time Spirit"

That the two societies under whose auspices we meet can claim some credit for this, goes without saying. The influence of the time spirit has been on their side. The radio and the gramophone too have contributed, not a little to the flowering of musical culture. Classical dancing overtaken by obloquy and threatened with extinction has been resented. Reputable young women do not look upon dancing in public as a thing to which stigma attaches, and radio performances by women of good families are fast coming into vogue. In the inclusion of music in courses

Continued on page 4

CEYLON AND INDIA

DRAMATIC CHANGE IN ATTITUDE

"Ceylon is a part of India and must be treated as such, notwithstanding political and administrative differences. The destinies of Ceylon are bound up with the mother country."

Thus observes *The Indian Social Reformer*, in a leaderette under the caption "Ceylon and India." The "Reformer" says:

The declaration of war by Japan brought about a dramatic change in the attitude of Burma and Ceylon towards this country and its people. Not much more than a fortnight before that event, the Burmese Government was insisting on the acceptance by India of an agreement between U. Saw, the ex-Premier, now under detention by the British Government for contact with the Japanese, and Sir Girjashankar Bajpai, then Member for Education in the Government of India and special delegate to negotiate an agreement with Burma. At a Bombay conference, Sir Girja was pressed to tell Burma that Indian troops will not be available for the Defence of Burma if Indians in that country were subjected to humiliating restrictions. Sir Girja blandly replied that there was not a single Indian soldier in Burma. Within a month of this statement, Indian troops were being rushed to Burma and today it is Indian troops which are to reconquer Burma. Unless a radical change has come over the British mentality, after the reconquest, Indians will again be made the victims of the resentment of the Burmese as they were after the last conquest. Ceylon, too, presents a similar spectacle. Sir Baron Jayatilaka, now Ceylon Agent with the Government of India, is profuse in his professions of love for India and Indians. But the Report of the Agent for the Government of India in Ceylon just issued, throws a different light on Sir Baron's attitude in 1941. When the Governor pointed out to Ministers that Ceylon had commitments with the Government of India on several matters on which his Ministry was pressing for legislation, Sir Baron it was who tried to stage a constitutional deadlock. The outbreak of the Anglo-Japanese war and the conquest of Burma by the Japanese stopped rice supplies to Ceylon and brought the erstwhile haughty Ceylonese politicians begging for rice to this country. Ceylon is being defended by troops from India also. In view of Sir Baron's attitude then, we were rather surprised to read the warm encomium, by Mr. Venkatrama Sastry at a complimentary function in Madras, of him as a moderating influence. But India's attitude to Ceylon should not depend on the shifty politics of some of her leaders. Ceylon is a part of India and must be treated as such, notwithstanding political and administrative differences. The destinies of Ceylon are bound up with the mother country.



Hindu Organ.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 7, 1943.

ASIA AFTER THE WAR

WHILE MESSRS CHURCHILL and Amery and their friends are going their own way in regard to Asia, it has been left to Vice-President Wallace of the United States to lay down certain fundamental considerations with regard to the post-war status of Asiatic nations. Mr. Wallace believes that the standard of living in Asia is very low, and, unless Asiatic nations see some chance of better life after the war is won, they are not likely to have much enthusiasm for helping the United States in the war. "I am thinking", said Mr. Wallace, "particularly of the nearly one billion persons in Asia as well as in Latin America. Four-fifths of these peoples live on the land. Most of them are only a small fraction as efficient as United States farmers, because their small farms lack machines.... Thousands of their leaders have received excellent technical education. We know they are as intelligent as anyone. The rank and file want education too. They want the machines of modern civilization. They want our capital and technical aid, because that is their only quick way to get a higher living standard". Mr. Wallace recognises that, if America helps Asia on these lines, America will ensure her own security for many centuries "as well as the opportunity of establishing a vast and mutually profitable trade."

The American Vice-President has outlined a very practical programme. It is a programme that ought to be put into operation without delay, if Asiatics are to be convinced of the benefits victory is going to give them. The British Government too has its obligations in the matter, but this is no reason why colonial Governments like ours, vested with full administrative authority for all practical purposes, should not contribute their just share towards carrying out this programme. The Ceylonese Board of Ministers has nowhere got beyond a somewhat vague recognition of the necessity for helping the peasants, thereby implying that the average standard of living for Ceylon is that of the peasantry. Their idea of post-war Ceylon is a world of little men who will go obediently to the polls and refrain from asking inconvenient questions. The least the Ministers can do is to get at the facts and prepare a comprehensive plan and do their very best to carry it out.

NOTES & COMMENTS

Indian Labour for Ceylon

AS we wrote in the last issue of the "Hindu Organ", Indian labour is badly needed in Ceylon. The Planters' Association seems to have made representations to the Government on this subject, with the result that the Ceylon Government has requested the Government of India for a further supply of Indian labour. It is understood that negotiations are proceeding between the two Governments. It is not only in the field of food production that Indian labour is needed. Any increase in the present output of rubber will also depend on the influx of Indian labourers into Ceylon. This was inevitable in view of the conditions prevailing in this country, but the Ministers seem to have deluded themselves into the belief that the indigenous labour available was quite sufficient for the purpose.

Feeling in India

THAT feeling in India is bitter against our Board of Ministers has to be admitted. Already, the announcement that negotiations are proceeding between the two Governments in regard to the question of Indian labour is meeting with a good deal of opposition from certain Indian leaders. Mr. R. Suryanarayana Rao of the Servants of India Society, in a recent communication to the press, wants the Government of India to refuse the request from Ceylon for more labourers on the ground that the Ceylon Government has failed to redress the grievances of Indians. Mr. Rao suggests that "powerful interests" are at work to lift the ban on the outflow of Indian labour to Ceylon and that Indians must unite to prevent the Indian Government from yielding to their demands. We have always held the view that the Ministers' attitude towards Indians and Indian labour is not at all desirable or necessary to safeguard the interests of the permanent population. These interests can be safeguarded in a manner consistent with the welfare of our own people and the self-respect of Indians. Either the Ministers have failed to acquaint themselves with the real economic conditions in the country, or, having the knowledge, they stolidly refuse to face the facts for reasons best known to themselves. But, in any event, it is Ceylon that stands to lose. We are glad, therefore, that the Government has at last approached the Indian Government, and we hope that every effort will be made to arrive at an understanding.

The Danger of Wrangling

WE are, however, unable to agree with Mr. Suryanarayana Rao that all outstanding disputes must be settled before the ban on Indian

labour is lifted. This view of the matter fails to take into account the new situation that has arisen by Japan's entry into the war. The present is hardly the moment to go on wrangling about the treatment meted out to Indians in Ceylon. We concede that Indians have certain legitimate grievances, but these grievances are not such as will not keep till a more normal and favourable opportunity presents itself. Ceylon wants more food and more essential commodities like rubber. We cannot have these unless we have more labourers. The first thing to do is to give Ceylon the labourers she wants. Besides, so far as Ceylon is concerned the dispute had been settled by what is known as the Indo Ceylon agreement. The onus of accepting this agreement is on the Indian Government.

Position of Indian Labourers

WHATEVER may be the grievances of Indians in Ceylon, it is not fair to suggest that the position of the Indian labourer in this country is anything but satisfactory. The Indian labourer knows that his services are in demand in Ceylon and he gets far better wages than he is able to obtain in India. Indians may rest assured that their unskilled labourers know the real position and it is only the official ban that prevents these labourers from bettering their condition by emigrating to Ceylon. The whole trouble has been caused by the political twist given to the question of Indian labour—by some Indian leaders in India and by our own Board of Ministers at this end. In the present abnormal conditions it would be unpardonable folly to rake up old disputes and grievances, as Mr. Suryanarayana Rao wants.

The Cut in the Rice Ration

THE latest cut in the rice ration—from one measure to half a measure weekly—will, we hope, spur the Government to further efforts towards producing more food. According to recent announcements, the Government has not been idle and schemes designed to provide a considerable addition to the island's food supply will soon be put into operation. But, as we have repeatedly urged in these columns, the success of these schemes will depend very much on the man-power available for the food front. At present there is a scarcity of labour even in the field of food production, but every village in the island has a large number of able bodied men who are doing nothing. It would be a good idea to form labour battalions throughout the island and train them for farm work. If voluntary service does not attract recruits, the Ministers will do well to think of conscription. The people of Ceylon must have their food, and every man who is not doing essential work must be drafted into these labour battalions.

A More Sober Estimate

AFTER the enthusiasm and high hopes raised in America by the Allied landings in North Africa, American opinion seems to have sobered down to a more realistic estimate of the magnitude of the task that awaits the Allied Nations. In England too public opinion is more alive now to the difficulties ahead. There is no doubt that the Allied Nations are better off than they were at the beginning of 1942, but they have still a long way to go.

TOPICS OF THE DAY

By
T. Kathira Vellu

Singapore Lesson

O. D. Gallagher, seasoned war correspondent, writes in his *Retreat in the East* that the Japanese were bombing the fully lit-up city of Singapore (every single street light on) in the early morning of December 8 1941. The first news that one section of civil officialdom had that it was an enemy air-raid came from a woman of some will power, who managed to convince the police that the raid was real. Meanwhile search went on for the one individual who had the key to the central switch which would black out the city. They found him after the Japs left. And so the war was on.... We in Ceylon have done, and hope to do, better.

Garlands of Bombs

Tales about Japanese soldiers draping themselves with garlands of bombs and then charging into seemingly impregnable enemy positions are grim fact, not fiction. So says Hallett Abend, famous U. S. correspondent in his book *Ramparts of the Pacific*. Both Army and Navy flyers have often been known to power-dive a bomb-laden plane straight at an important objective. They serve an Emperor directly descended from the Sun God.

Empires To Remain?

Winston Churchill has stated publicly that he has not "become the King's First Minister to liquidate the British Empire". The *Madras Sunday Times* asks whether it is not significant that so far no subject nation has been promised freedom within a fixed time limit?

Mug's Spiritualism

Mussolini has taken up spiritualism—and is now more confident of victory than ever, according to a report from Lisbon.

Coconut Power

Experiments carried out in Colombo in the production of alcohol from toddy have proved successful, and motor-cars are being run on a mixture of the spirit with petrol.

Allah Baksh

With the dismissal of Allah Baksh (of Sind) the democratic freedom that Indians enjoy has broadened down to yet another precedent. Baksh was the Prime Minister. He had renounced his Khan Bahadurship. *History passes over Amery's head.*

Advertiser Shaw

Shaw spent over sixteen years in London before his first play was produced, and in the nine years between 1876 and 1885 earned only £6 by spasmodic literary efforts—£5 being for a "patent medicine advertisement"—A. C. Ward.

Today's Tale

Mathematics was not John's strong point, and at the examination he was set a problem as follows:

"If one horse can run one mile in a minute and a half, and another horse can do the same distance in two minutes, how far would the first horse be ahead if they ran a race of two miles at their respective speeds."

John wrote, "I have been told not to have anything to do with horse-racing in any form."

SCHOOLS' BROADCAST PROGRAMME PREPARED TO COVER ONE YEAR

A Schools' Broadcast Programme for the year 1943 has been prepared by the Education Department. This is the first time that the programme for the whole year has been prepared in advance. Up to now the practice has been to issue the programme term by term.

By preparing the programme for the whole year in advance, it has been made possible to allow speakers to treat each topic exhaustively in a series of talks extending throughout the year.

The talks on particular topics have been fixed for particular days of the week. This arrangement will enable schools to make suitable provision for the talks in their time tables.

The talks occupy 3 fifteen minute periods each day. The first period will be confined to talks in English, the second to talks in Sinhalese, while during the third period the talks will be in either English, or Sinhalese or Tamil.

PALNI: THE SACRED HILL OF MURUGA

(PALNI: The Sacred Hill of Muruga by M. M. Somasundaram, B. A., B. L., Executive Officer, Sri Dandiyuthapuri Swami Devasthanam, Palni. Published by Sri Dandiyuthapuri Swami Devasthanam, Palni.)

South India is famous for its Temples and Shrines. They are the repository of all that is worth possessing in Architecture and Sculpture. The architectural grandeur of the South Indian Temples has attracted the attention of art critics of the world. Dr Ananda Krishna Cooraraswamy, Percy Brown and James Fergusson have written voluminously on the Architectural excellence of South Indian Temples. But their writings are costly and are not within the reach of all. Mr. J. M. Somasundaram of Palni has been doing a great service to the general public by publishing small handbooks on South Indian Temples. His first publication was "The Tanjore Temple" which was well received by the public. He has also published in Tamil a book on the Temples of the Chola Kings. He has now added one more to the list. "Palni: The Sacred Hill of Muruga" is a book of 48 pages with 9 Art plates and 26 illustrations. The book deals with the temple of Palni and other adjoining shrines. "A Kannadaya Udayar" descendant of Puliypani, a disciple of the Siddha Bogar is stated to have first set up the worship at this small shrine on the Siva-giri. This shrine attracted the attention of Cheraman, ruler of Kerala. It is said, the Chera was none other than the canonized Saiva Saint, Cheraman Perumal Nayanar, the last of the Cheraman Perumals of Kerala, and the contemporary of St. Sanderar of IX Century A. D. Mr. Somasundaram gives the history of the temple based on literary and epigraphical evidences. In the Appendixes a list of Literature on Palni and an English Translation of "Tiru Murugarruppadai" by the late Mr. J. M. Nallaswamipillai, B. A., B. L. are included.

The book is a very useful addition to the literature on South Indian Temples and will be of use not only to the pilgrim and the tourist but also to students of South Indian History. All the information which a pilgrim desires to possess about Palni is found within the covers of this excellent little book.

K. Navaratnam.

RICE RATION REDUCED: BREAD MADE CHEAPER

PROBLEM OF RICE SUPPLY FROM INDIA

From Monday the rice portion of the weekly ration has been halved throughout the entire rationing area. The total ration however, remains unaffected. For instance, the ordinary individual who used to draw a measure of rice and the balance of the ration in wheat or flour is entitled to receive only half a measure of rice and the balance of the ration is generally available in wheat or wheat flour.

There is a proportionate reduction in the rice part of the ration allotted to children and manual workers.

There are, it is learned, adequate supplies of wheat and the authorities expect that generally wheat preparations will take the place of rice in most homes in all parts of the Island where the rationing system is in operation.

Popularity of Substitutes

The Food Control authorities do not, it is stated, propose for the present to insist on the acceptance of wheat by the public when they purchase their rice rations.

More and Cheaper Bread

As part of the Government plan to encourage the public to use bread, more bread and still more bread in place of rice, the ration of which has been cut, the price of bread has been brought down and arrangements are being made to make as much bread available as the public demand warrants.

Bread is being sold from Monday morning at all Municipal currysuff depots in Colombo at 23 cents a pound, which is one cent below the maximum controlled price.

It is understood that applications from bakers to increase their allotment of flour up to twice their present issue will be entertained by the authorities. This increase of bakers' rations of flour will be throughout the Island.

A greater output of bread and a lower price are expected to provide some measure of relief to those who have been seriously affected by the cut in the rice ration. Those who have not yet learnt to make palatable preparations out of wheat and wheat flour will now be able to have unlimited quantities of bread.

Situation in India

Mr. S. H. Moosajee, who visited Karachi by air and also spent a few days in Bombay, Lahore, Delhi and Madras, and returned to the Island on Monday, brings news regarding food supplies.

He thinks that for the present there will be an increasing difficulty in obtaining supplies from India, as the food situation there is acute in spite of India having had a satisfactory crop this year.

Orders have been issued in the various provinces of India prohibiting the sending of foodstuffs from one province to another. There is apparently a keen desire to conserve stocks. In addition to this, the transport question has become more difficult, and even where foodstuffs are available, it will not be possible to export them to Ceylon without a licence from the Central Government. This stringency, however, will not last indefinitely as the Government of India has created a new department to deal with the food question alone, and it has been placed under the direction of Mr. Holsworth, who is a highly capable officer of the Indian Civil Service.

When this Department gets into its stride, the quota for Ceylon will be met. Sir Baron Jayatilaka and Mr. V. Ithianathan are doing their very best at Delhi but, under the existing conditions, the immediate prospect is not very encouraging.

Given, however, a short breathing space our representatives are bound to show good results."

Intensive Food Production Drive

Simultaneously with the news of the cut in the rice ration to half a measure a week comes information from Peradeniya of an even more intensive and energetic food production drive by the Agricultural Department.

Far-reaching changes in the scope of duties assigned to officers of the Department are to be effected as a result of decisions made at conferences in Peradeniya and Colombo recently with the Minister of Agriculture and the Civil Defence Commissioner.

The main departure from what hitherto has been agreed policy is that the manpower of the Department is to be thrown into the vital task of producing food for the country; the laboratories alone will continue along the approved lines of agricultural research.

Already, to operate within the next fortnight, there have been transfers among the Divisional Agricultural Officers, upon whom in their new spheres, have been placed the responsibility of planning and opening up vast areas in food. In the Dry Zone, it is understood, nearly five thousand acres are to be brought under cultivation as soon as labour conditions will permit.

HUMAN HAIR USED TO MAKE CLOTHES

London, Dec 30
The Ministry of Economic Warfare stated to-day that human hair is being spun and woven for use in making clothes and shoes in most of the occupied countries in Europe. Leather is so scarce that nearly all footwear is made with wooden soles and canvas uppers. Textile material is also being made from gorse and nettle plants. A new German clothing ration card coming into operation on January 1 means that the German woman will get roughly 50 per cent less clothing in a year than the British woman and that of very inferior quality, while the German gets little more than half of what the Englishman gets. German fashion papers now advertise men's suits made without wool and containing hundred per cent rayon or staple fibre.

PRICE OF MUTTON

The Chairman, Jaffna Urban Council, writes: As a result of the representations made me supported by Messrs. S. M. Aboduck and C. Ponambalam, the Price Controller has fixed the following prices for mutton within the Revenue District of Jaffna.

Mutton with bones 60 cts a lb.
Mutton without bones 70 cts a lb.
Mutton dead weight 50 cts a lb.

NOTICE

Applications are invited from candidates from the Jaffna District between the ages of 25 and 30 and who have passed the Senior School Certificate Examination or an equivalent or higher examination for training as Village Cultivation Officer, Karachi Scheme. Applications should reach the undersigned not later than 1 p.m. on the 20th January, 1943. Further particulars will be furnished on application.

C. CANAPATHIPILLAI
for Government Agent, N. P.
The Kachcheri,
Jaffna 5th January, 1943.
(Mis. 178. 7-1-43)

INDIAN INDEPENDENCE HINDU SABHA TO START 'ACTIVE MOVEMENT'

Cowpore Jan. 1.

It was unanimously resolved to resort to an "active movement to compel Great Britain to recognise India as an independent nation of the world, as well as to defend the integrity of India against the Pakistani Muslims" at the session of the Hindu Maha Sabha yesterday.

The resolution read: "In view of the fact that Great Britain is not prepared to part with power as has been clearly proved by their rejection of the national demand formulated by the Sabha and in view of the fact that the Pakistani Muslims are actually threatening civil war, and particularly in view of the fact that the principle of Pakistan, is being encouraged by the British Government as evidenced by the Cripps scheme this session of the Hindu Maha Sabha have come definitely to the conclusion that an active movement must be resorted to, to compel Great Britain to recognise India as an independent nation of the world as well as to defend the integrity of India against the Pakistani Muslims."

To devise ways and means for mobilising the resources of the Hindus to cope in the external aggression and internal disorder and to prepare Hindu forces to fight out this struggle efficiently, this session authorises the Working Committee to formulate plans before March 30, with a view to that end.

CEYLONESE FOR GIFT FUND

Though final figures of the amount collected by the Ceylonese Forces Gift Fund are not yet available, it is known that over Rs. 95,000 has already been received. Many thousands of parcels were prepared and despatched to members of the Ceylon Forces in the Island and serving overseas. The great majority of these should have reached units in time for distribution at Christmas. The Commander-in-Chief wishes to thank all contributors and all those, particularly the members of the Committee under the chairmanship of Mr. J. A. Martensz, who organised the appraisal and despatch of these parcels and the many ladies who cheerfully helped in the heavy work of packing them.

WANTED

A Manager with business experience for the Manipay Co-operative Stores. Salary Rs. 30 per mensem. Appointment from 1st February 1943 on probation for three months. When made permanent, cash security of Rs. 50/- should be given. Applications close on 20th instant.

Apply to:

V. Veerasingham,
President, Co-operative Stores,
MANIPAY.

(Mis. 177. 7 & 11-1-43.)

ROOFING TILES

THE LAST SHIPMENT
FOR THE YEAR

just arrived.

THE
MALAYAN TRADING Coy.
JAFFNA.

(Mis. 175. 31-12-11-43)

RENAISSANCE OF MUSIC IN SOUTH INDIA

Continued from page 1

of study we see the first signs of a welcome change. And above all—this has a psychological value—we are not startled by the large fees demanded by some performers (not only in the sphere of music but also the theatre and the cinema), fees that might excite the envy even of lawyers.

Publishing a journal, rescuing ancient works from oblivion, stimulating systematic study of scientific music, raising the popular taste, setting standards which scholars approve, conducting Teachers' Colleges for music and holding competitions—these are among the achievements of the Music Academy and it may well be proud of them.

Here let me sound a note of caution. I have referred to our pride in the past but I hasten to add that it is not conceit begetting self-complacency but a pride that spurs us into present action. Let us not slide into the belief that we have reached perfection and there is no scope for further improvement. In the West where music is relatively recent, it has made, I have read, amazing strides in the last three hundred years. This is due to constant research and experimentation, the absence of which accounts for our stagnation not only in music but in other spheres. In sciences like Mathematics and Medicine, in arts like Painting and Music we had attained great heights when the West was plunged in darkness; but we came to a standstill and fell behind. Specialists in music speak of the incalculable benefit we can derive from a study of western technique, leading to the adopting of new ideas and the supplying of deficiencies in our system. Progress is the law of life, and to change is the way to progress. Who would believe that the violin so much prized by us, was a foreign product imported from Italy about 1600 A. D.? To be averse to all change, without discrimination, is a sign of decadence.

Language in Music

I now turn to a topic which I would fain not touch upon—the feeling imported on the score of language, which is poisoning the wells of music. I deplore it on two grounds—first from the standpoint of the Tamil-Telugu solidarity, and secondly the standpoint of art. In this vast land, search where you will, you will hardly find two sub-groups more inter-blended than the Tamils and the Telugus, more closely bound by a common thought-structure, more impelled by common motives and proud of common achievements. It would be idle to deny that differences exist—don't they exist between parent and child?—but we agree more than we differ. For generations, the Tamils were ravished by the music of Thyagaraja, Shyama Sastry and Dikshitar, to mention but three names. Why has this sudden change come about? One cannot too strongly deprecate the inroad of political and party feeling into the domain of art. Have you read how sinister movements and strange obsessions have disturbed the rich and varied musical life of Germany? To feel that self-respect is involved in the matter is thoroughly wrong. There are spheres where the geni-

ORDER NISI

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF
JAFFNA

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 63

In the matter of the Intestate of the late Ponnambalam son of Sinnacuddy Arumugasamy of Changanai in Jaffna Deceased.
Vettivelu Chinniah of Changanai in Jaffna Petitioner

Vs.

- Minors—
1. Sinniah Thiagarajah of Changanai
 2. Sinniah Saththiamoorthy of do.
 3. Sinniah Sothinathan of do.
 4. Vaitalingam Vallipuram of Changanai

Respondents.

This matter coming on for disposal before G. C. Thambyah Esquire, District Judge Jaffna on the 27th day of November 1942 in the presence of Mr. T. Sangarapillai Proctor on the part of the petitioner and on reading the affidavit and petition of the petitioner.

It is ordered that the abovenamed 4th Respondent be appointed Guardian ad-litem over the minors the abovenamed 1st to 3rd Respondents for the purpose of this Testamentary Proceedings and that the petitioner be declared entitled to Letters of Administration to the estate of the abovenamed deceased and that the same be issued to him accordingly unless the abovenamed Respondents or any other person shall on or before the 15th day of January 1943 appear before this court and show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this court to the contrary.

This 27th day of December 1942
Sgd. G. C. Thambyah,
District Judge.
(O. 85. 7 & 11-1-43.)

us of the Tamils shines out. Who is not bewitched by their Thavarams and Prabandams or who can resist the sublimity of their classical works on philosophy? Is one to taboo divine singers because they found Telugu—the most mellifluous of the Dravidian to guess—to be the suitable vehicle of music? The true touchstone of art is its power of appeal. I think it a tragic irony that wizards of song should be put under a ban by the very Tamils whose land it was that produced these musical giants. It is against reason and contrary to nature to prefer the second-best to the best, and to deprive the public of the music which master hands have produced, music which delights the ear and stirs the soul, would be an unforgivable offence. The new creed which has a few sturdy apostles, I am assured by some of the most gifted of music lovers among the Tamils, has so far found no echo in the hearts of the Tamil public or Tamil performers. But we are apt to be taken unawares by notions, however wrong, which creep stealthily into our minds, because statements which at the start make no appeal acquire great power through iteration. It behoves us therefore to see that this menace is removed and that the art does not suffer. Would that Tamil compositions could come into being that might rank with, if not surpass, those say of the celebrities known as the Musical Trinity. No one would more devoutly wish for it than myself. It is through interchange and not through boycott of cultures that we can grow in stature and rise once more to our ancient glory. To create unity out of diversity has been stated to be India's special gift to mankind. To believe that statement would be to prove false to our national genius.

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(G. 45. 4 & 7-1-43.)

A. I. RAJASINGHAM,
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