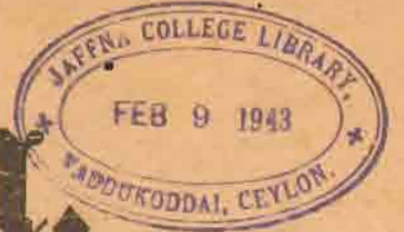


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NEWS FROM FAR AND NEAR

125 Hospitals

The Minister of Health plans to open 125 rural hospitals this year and will shortly put forward his scheme before the Board of Ministers.

Governor Appoints Deputy

Mr R. H. Drayton, C. M. G., Chief Secretary, has been appointed the Governor's Deputy during the absence of the Governor from the seat of Government.

Berlin Asks For More Troops

It was reported in Ankara on Friday, though without confirmation that Germany had made an urgent request to the Hungarian Government to send 20 divisions to the Russian front. The Hungarian Government, the report said, agreed to do so.

Mr. Robison Retiring

Mr. L. Mc. D. Robison, Director of Education, will retire at the end of April and will leave for home after a period of 33½ years in Ceylon. It is understood that in all probability Mr. H. S. Perera, Principal of the Government Training College, will succeed Mr. Robison as Director.

War Prisoners Taken by Japan

It was officially announced in Tokyo that of the 300,000 prisoners of war taken by the Japanese, 18,000 were British, American, Dutch, Australian or Canadian, says the Japanese News Agency. Most of them were interned in occupied territories, but there were some in camps in Japan, Formosa and Korea.

Strict Quarantine Rules

In connexion with the outbreak of cholera at Mannar, the quarantine authorities at Mandapam have been requested to see that all third class passengers from South India should undergo a quarantine period of five clear days in the camp at Mandapam or Tattaparai, until further instructions, before they can be allowed to cross over to Ceylon. The issue of permits to third class passengers has also been suspended.

North-Western India's Danger Lessened

Owing to the recent Russian victories in the Caucasus and the Allied advances in North Africa, the threat of air raids to North-western and Central India has now been greatly reduced and efforts are consequently being made to reduce the expenditure of money and materials on air raid precautions in these areas, says a Press communique, the reduction to be made largely by the discontinuance of building and requisitioning.

SOCIAL SECURITY PLAN FOR FUTURE

IMPLEMENTING THE ATLANTIC CHARTER

BY SIR WILLIAM BEVERIDGE

[The social security plan prepared by Sir William Beveridge at the request of the British Government has aroused great interest. In this article Sir William describes the plan and discusses the aspects of what he says is the "first step to turning the Atlantic Charter from words to deeds."]

THE Atlantic Charter, among other aims, speaks of securing for all improved Labour standards, economic advancement, and Social Security—from words into deeds; for securing that no one in Britain willing to work while he can, is without income sufficient to meet at all times the essential needs of himself and of his family.

The plan hasn't yet been discussed by Parliament, or considered by the Government. What I am telling you is what I have proposed to them. The Security Plan has three sides to it. It includes first a scheme of all-in Social Insurance for cash benefit. It includes second, a general scheme of Children's Allowances, both from the responsible parent, if earning, and when he is not earning. It includes third, an all-in scheme of medical treatment of every kind for everybody.

The main feature of the Security Plan is an all-in scheme of Social Insurance. This scheme applies to all citizens, and not only to those who work for employers. It doesn't apply in exactly the same way to all citizens—one can't very well insure a person who hasn't an employer—say a shopkeeper or a farmer, against unemployment, or insure a person who doesn't earn by his work against losing earnings when he's sick.

But there are things which everyone needs, pensions in old age, funeral expenses, medical treatment; everybody will be insured, and everybody will be insured for these and all the other benefits appropriate to him and his family by a single weekly contribution, paid through one Insurance Stamp. With one exception, the Social Insurance Scheme provides a flat rate of benefit, irrespective of the amount of the earnings that have been lost, for a flat contribution.

No Means Test

The benefit will be the same for unemployment and disability of all kinds, and after a transition period, for pensions in retirement. It's de-

signed to be high enough by itself to provide subsistence and to prevent want in all normal cases, and it will last as long as the unemployment or disability lasts, without the means test.

The one exception to the flat rate principle is that if disability has resulted from an industrial accident or disease, then after 13 weeks disability benefit will be replaced by an industrial pension, proportionate to the earnings lost, but not less than the disability benefit. In addition to unemployment and disability, the scheme provides benefits to meet many other needs including maternity, widowhood and guardianship of children, training for new occupations.

In regard to old age, the scheme proposes a number of changes. First it makes pensions universal, applying not only to those who work for employers as at present, but to independent workers and to those who don't work for gain at all. Second, it makes pensions conditional on retirement from work. Third it makes pensions in retirement adequate for subsistence, equal to unemployment and disability benefits, but it brings them up to that level, only gradually, during a transition period of 20 years. During that transition, those who need more than they can get of contributory pensions will have their needs met by adequate assistance pensions.

Fourth the plan enables people who go on working after reaching the minimum retiring age of 65 for men, or 60 for women, to qualify for pensions above the basic level, which they would get if they retired as soon as they reached that age.

Of Right

The object of the scheme isn't to force early retirement, but to leave men free to retire when they want to, and to encourage them to go on working while they can. In proposing to introduce adequate pensions as of right, over the transition period, during which the rate of contributory pensions will rise gradually, the plan in my report for Britain follows the precedent of New Zealand. The Plan for Britain is based on the contributory principle of giving not free allowances to all from the State, but giving benefits of right, in virtue of contributions made by the insured persons.

Continued on page 4

ALL-OUT PADDY CULTIVATION

NEW RULES PROMULGATED

New regulations cited as the Defence (Paddy Cultivation) Regulations have been promulgated by H. E. the Governor for the cultivation of all paddy lands notwithstanding anything in any other law or in ancient customs relating to irrigation or cultivation of such lands.

The owner of any paddy land who does not intend to cultivate that land during any season must notify the proper authority, who will take possession of the land for the purpose of causing it to be cultivated.

The authority will not be liable to pay any rent or to deliver any share of the produce of the land, or to pay any part of the profits derived from such produce, to the owner of the land.

Where the expenses incurred by the authority in repairing any damage or defect exceeds the profits derived from the cultivation of the land, the excess will be recoverable from the owner as a debt due to the Crown. Where, at the commencement of the next succeeding season, the repairs continue to be effective and the debt remains unpaid, the authority may retain possession of the land and cultivate it for a period not exceeding two years from the date of the completion of the repairs.

The owner or cultivator of every paddy land which is cultivated during any season must give to the authority of the area the following information whenever it is required by such authority or person:—the date on which it is proposed to reap the harvest on that land; and the names and addresses of the persons entitled to receive part of the produce of the land.

The authority shall have power to enter and inspect any land which is cultivated with paddy or any threshing-floor on which the harvest is stacked or any barn or other place where paddy is stored and to do what is necessary to assess the quantity of paddy that is likely to be produced on that land or threshed or stored.

Fuller details are published in a Gazette Extraordinary issued on the 3rd instant.

REFUSED TO SELL CHILLIES

Price Control Inspector Mr. R. Wijaya-Indra and the police visited the firm of R. M. A. L. R. M. and took the manager, Mr. K. Ramasami-pillai into custody, on a charge of refusal to sell chillies. The party also found, it is reported 220, bags of chillies. The Jaffna police filed plaint before the Jaffna Magistrate charging Mr. Ramasami-pillai with, having been an importer, failed to register himself with the Controller of Prices, Colombo, failing to declare his stock of controlled articles and refusing to sell chillies on demand.

The accused pleaded not guilty and the Magistrate postponed the case.

NOTICE

Mr. S. Ponnusamy, retired Forest Officer, has been appointed Honorary Manager of the Saivapragasa Press, "Hindu Organ" and "Inthusathanam" as from 6th February 1943, in place of Mr. V. Visuvalingam who has left for Kegalé Kachcheri as Extra Office Assistant.

M. MYLVAGANAM
Secretary
Saiva Paripalana Sabha



Hindu Organ.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1943.

RACIALISM AND LABOUR

THE ATTITUDE OF THE Ministers, particularly the Minister for Agriculture and Lands, towards the employment of Indian labour has never been in doubt. The Ministers have never made a secret of their hostility towards such employment. Some time ago Mr. H. R. Freeman explained in the columns of this paper how the Ministerial policy was being carried out. According to Mr. Freeman, it was being carried out so thoroughly that urgent work in the jungle villages of the dry zone was held up for want of Ceylonese labour the employment of which was insisted on by the Ministers. Now, we do not question the right of the Ceylon Government to take measures for the protection of Ceylonese labour where such protection is needed, but, as we have repeatedly stated in these columns there is no question of any competition whatever between Ceylonese agricultural labourers and those imported from South India. Imported labour is needed mostly in the planting districts and in the areas that are being opened up for the production of food. In the old, settled villages of the island where agricultural holdings are small the labour available locally is in most cases sufficient for all essential purposes. If, on the other hand, it was desired to encourage the employment of Ceylonese labour on estates, by virtually imposing a ban on imported Indian labour, it must be stated, in fairness to all concerned, that the experiment has been tried and has failed. There was really no need for this experiment in view of the earlier experience of employers of Ceylonese labour in the planting districts.

Under these circumstances the conclusion is irresistible that the hostility of the Ministers' Government towards the employment of Indian labour has not been actuated by any regard for the welfare of the permanent population. It has its roots deep down in the desire of the leaders of the

Singhalese community to prevent at all costs the immigration of Tamil labour from South India. And what is the reason? As we have said, the reason is not economic but it is undoubtedly political and racial. The prevention of Tamil immigration automatically checked any increase in the Tamil element in the permanent population. As long as the Ministers had this achievement to their credit nothing else mattered. As for the vast spaces that yet await development, Mr. D. S. Senanayake's view is that, if the Ceylonese can develop these spaces with their own labour, they are welcome to do so; he would not be a party to any development with imported Indian labour. Mr. Senanayake, who has never been a model of discretion, blurted out the truth to Mr. Venkatarama Sastri, a member of the Indian Delegation which visited Ceylon, and Mr. Sastri has timed his revelation for the most crucial moments in the recent history of India and Ceylon. There is no doubt that Ceylon wants more Indian labour, whatever the "Daily News" may say to the contrary. Ceylon wants this labour not only to increase the output of her plantations but also to increase her production of food. It is at a moment like this that Mr. Sastri has come out with his statement to the press about the real attitude of the Ministers towards the whole question of Indian labour.

The other day at Jaffna more than one Singhalese Minister appealed for Singhalese-Tamil unity. One of the Tamil speakers pointed out that such unity could be secured and maintained only if the Board of Ministers took care to see that its policies commanded the approval and support of all sections. The Ministers cannot commit themselves to policies tinged with the spirit of a narrow racialism and yet hope to secure the support and friendship of the other communities. We refuse to believe for a moment that the immigration of Tamil labourers on terms suitable to the feelings and interests of both sides is a greater calamity than the tragedy of a country like Ceylon, with two-thirds of its territory in jungle, with a small population unable to produce its own food, preferring to wait for the time when Ceylonese labour will be able to develop this territory into smiling farms and gardens. Does Mr. Senanayake know the fate of people who adopted a similar attitude? Kruger and his Boers behaved exactly as Mr. Senanayake is doing and the result has been something to which the Boer extremists have never been reconciled.

Besides, during the days of the Portuguese and the Dutch, in fact ever since the Tamil incursions into Ceylon began,

Tamil immigration into Ceylon has proceeded unchecked. The *Thesawalamai Code*, while mentioning the fact of this immigration, adds that the immigrants who settled down in the Northern Province became subject to the law of *Thesawalamai*. The question is not merely, as suggested by the "Daily News", one of the kind of labour the Ministers are prepared to employ. The real question is whether the Ministers who have been entrusted with the task of government are to be permitted to continue a policy which, by stopping the process of immigration which has continued for centuries, now threatens to injure the vital interests of this island; which aims at weakening the strength of the Tamil population in Ceylon with the definite object of benefiting the majority community politically. We are not prepared to believe that the Imperial Government will stand by and allow the Ministers to pursue such a policy which is harmful to the interests of the island and the Empire. While every part of the British Empire is straining every nerve to produce more food and the other essentials of war, it would be suicide to allow any Government, least of all the Ceylonese Board of Ministers, to continue its present policy unchecked—a policy which must necessarily impede the island's war effort.

THE DUTY OF FARMERS

The Indian Government is finding it more and more difficult to supply rice to Ceylon. There is famine and scarcity of food in several provinces in India. It is the duty of farmers under these circumstances to grow as much food as they can in the first instance. There is a dearth of labour in Ceylon. The member for Naramala and his friends may pride themselves over the motion they have successfully carried through in the State Council—that there should be no immigration of Indian labour into Ceylon. Their chief argument appears to be that the food situation will be made more complicated by importing labour from India. It is an undisputed fact that the hands that produce are numerically not a fraction of the mouths that are fed. Our councillors need not therefore fear that by importing labour from India to promote food production we shall be faced with the problem of having to feed more mouths. Speaking for and on behalf of the pioneer farmers at Kilinochi and other places in the Northern Province, we may say without hesitation that farmers are finding it impossible to cultivate, much as they would or should desire, on account of want of the necessary labour force. There are several young men in Ceylon, some of whom have prosecuted their studies up to the Matriculation, in the

fond hope of getting employed. Most of them are still unemployed, though some of them have been drafted into emergency services such as the A. R. P. and others into the R. A. S. C. etc. The present moment is a good opportunity for our young men to throw away their Fuji silk shirts and take to the plough. There is no use of adding more and more to the number of unemployed and swelling the number of mouths that have to be fed without attempting to increase the number of hands that produce. Every cigar factory in Jaffna can and ought to own collectively a farm south of Elephant Pass. If the cigar makers can spend two days in a week during some weeks in the year in cultivating, they will succeed in producing more than enough not only for themselves but also for their families. There is a variety of Kurakkan known as *Veechukkurakkan* which can be grown in about 80 days. No manuring is necessary. The present time is opportune for cultivating *Veechukkurakkan*. Even within the peninsula, there are spaces that can be brought under cultivation. While some are making every attempt to increase food production, several are remaining idle without making any effort. No country can be great which depends on other countries for its food; no people can be said to be free who are economically dependent on other peoples. Therefore it is our duty to make our little island self-supporting in every respect, and particularly at this juncture, in the matter of food supply.

The harvesting season has begun in Jaffna where most of the farmers are small-holders. What they produce is hardly sufficient for themselves and their dependents. It is the duty of every big land-owner to let Government have all quantities in excess of his requirements. Government has fixed the price at which it would buy paddy from producers at Rs 4 per bushel. Though in the blackmarket paddy is being sold at Rs. 15 a bushel, the price fixed by Government is not unreasonable. The law is sometimes said to be an ass because it works hardship, but we should not forget that legislation takes into consideration only the greatest good of the greatest member and cannot provide for individual cases. Many a man feels that having cultivated his land with great difficulty he should not be called upon to surrender his paddy. Such an attitude is natural and justifiable in normal times. In times of emergency there should be emergency legislation to meet the contingencies caused by the emergency. To keep on complaining against the hardships caused by emergency legislation will be useless. It is the duty of every farmer who has more than what is necessary for his requirements to sell his excess paddy or other grains to Government without intending to profit himself in the black market.

WAR SAVINGS MOVEMENT

JAFFNA JOINS IN EFFORT

The War Savings Movement was inaugurated in Jaffna at a public meeting held on Thursday at the Jaffna Central College hall. Mr. M. Prasad, Government Agent, presided.

Mr. Prasad said in his opening speech that the people could, without any fear, buy the savings certificates because they were backed up not only by the Ceylon Government, but also by the Imperial Government. Even if the worst should happen to Ceylon, which they were sure would not, the Imperial Government will honour these certificates. He knew several cases in India, where Burma refugees who had these certificates, were paid the money by the Indian Government.

Mr. R. Y. Daniel, Commissioner, Ceylon War Savings Movement, addressing said that it was important that in wartime everybody saved all they could. It was quite unnecessary for him to speak to a Jaffna audience on the value of thrift. He expected people in Jaffna would appreciate the objects of the War Savings Movement better than any other elsewhere in the island. Mr. Daniel then explained the whole scheme in detail, and appealed to the people to give the Movement their best support.

Mr. R. R. Nalliah said that the "War Savings Movement" meant self-help, and God helped those who helped themselves. The war was no doubt their war. Their entire political and economic future depended entirely on the outcome of this war. That did not of course mean that war savings movement was sacrifice without any compensation, it simply meant that their contributions to either the Ceylon Government War Loans or investments in Ceylon Savings Certificates would accrue to their credit and would come back to them with interest free of Income Tax at the moment they required it most—after war.

The people of Jaffna always supported wholeheartedly, he said, a good cause. Investing money on Savings Certificates was a sound investment. It was really better investment than investing money on Mortgage Bonds and Promissory Notes. That served a double purpose. By these investments they helped themselves and the war.

Rev. James S. Mather, Chairman, Methodist Mission, North Ceylon District, addressing said that the Jaffna man was one who would do his best for any worthy cause, provided he was convinced of it. The people in Jaffna live peacefully because others were fighting for them, and held up the enemy elsewhere. Otherwise what happened to Malaya and Burma might have happened to Ceylon. Therefore they should help the war effort and invest not only their savings, but even make sacrifices and give generously.

Mr. K. Aiyathurai, Chairman, Jaffna Urban Council, appealed to the people to join the Savings movement.

Very Rev. Fr. T. M. F. Long said that there was everything to be said in favour of the object of the meeting. He tabulated his reasons as follows:—

(1) The scheme would make the Jaffna man better *qua* Jaffna man; it

THE MINISTER AND HIS MILLIONS

With a single voice the State Council has sanctioned the sum of eight and a half million rupees asked for by the Minister of Agriculture for Food Production. A consideration of the needs of the country in the matter of food, especially in the face of the warning of the Commerce Member of India that exports of foodstuffs may be stopped after March 1943, will indicate that the sum voted is neither excessive nor colossal. It is the Food Policy pursued by the Minister in the last three or four years that stirs a doubt in the heart of every dispassionate citizen whether this sum will not be squandered with the same thoughtlessness as in the past. However violent and sophistic his protests be, the conclusion is irresistible that his uneven concentration upon particular districts in the South has led to disappointing results. No prudent man will ever put all his eggs in one basket. Even the Minister is aware of the deterioration in the food situation, for, in the course of his reply in Council he is reported to have expressed himself thus: "The situation is by no means satisfactory. It is certainly grave..... The situation today is worse and everyone of the members should co-operate with me". The curious contradiction in this gloomy prognostication is that this Minister has always had in the past the co-operation of the Members in Council. With what results? It will be well for the Minister and for the good of the country as a whole to revise his agricultural policy of experimenting and dumping of national revenue in malarially infested jungle tracts in Minneriya and elsewhere.

With all suavity the Minister exclaimed in Council that the Emergency A. G. A's in different districts have been responsible for bringing under new cultivation an extent of 210,000 acres and that only Rs. 2,000,000 have been consumed by this national enterprise. A fuller and more exhaustive pronouncement on the details, such as extent and situation of the work done in the different provinces or districts

would make the thrifty thrifter (2) It would appeal to the horse-sense of the Jaffnese. This war was not in the Irishman's phrase 'a private fight'. All could, all should and had to join in the fight for the ultimate necessities and for the fundamental right to live one's own life without dragooning, jack-booting and regimentation. Thus we should by saving our money, save ourselves and save the world.

(3) The scheme based, as it was, on the co-operative idea was sure of a powerful local response as Jaffna was the place for sound co-operative schemes. (4) Lastly, the scheme would appeal to the 100 per cent loyalty of the population in the North. Jaffna had already done its bit in more ways than one: it was proud of its 'boys' serving with the colours, it was proud of its plane and unless every sign of the present and future was at fault it would have reason to be still prouder of its participation in the War Savings Effort.

The following Committee for the Urban area was elected:—

Messrs K. Aiyadurai, V. Subbiah, K. R. Nalliah, S. M. Abubucker, R. Sivagurunathan, J. W. Arudpragasam, A. Cumaraswamy, Ariya Pathurana, V. A. Duraiappah, A. Thillampalam, C. S. K. Namasiyayam Chettiar, V. Rajasegarim, C. Nadarajah, Dr. S. Subramanian, Dr. E. P. Kanagasabai, Rev. James S. Mather, Rev. J. T. Arulanatham and Very Rev. Fr. T. M. F. Long.

Savings Certificates were purchased that evening itself for Rs. 8500/-

By R. Shivapatha Sundram

would have been more inspiring than such pithy declaration. In fact it would have been more to our edification if the Minister had computed the probable return of yield from this acreage and from the laudatory labour of the Emergency A. G. A's. But some of these Emergency A. G. A's have become ditatory in their official correspondences. An Emergency A. G. A peccant in passionately hugging Red Tapeism in the transaction of his official business must be suitably and speedily dealt with by the higher authorities. Will it be indecorous to hope that the Minister, if he had his way, should ask for powers under the Defence Regulations to spank these officers publicly—a punishment less stringent than whipping!!

In the past six months there have appeared in the daily papers reports relating to the activities of almost all the Emergency A. G. A's save and except those of the Northern Province which is one of the chief paddy growing areas in the Island. Is it because they have been specially enjoined not to increase production in the North? Or is it due to a lack of appreciation on the part of these officers of the difficulties of the cultivators in the arid North? These officers are generally of the middle classes and hence cannot realise the harrowing hardships of the producers or cultivators unless they seriously endeavour to brush aside all snobbishness and establish a common touch with the lower classes. It can never be achieved by speaking through the existent Local Assistance Committees. Has there ever been an effective check by these officers of the work done by these committees in the matter of distribution of free seeds, grains and other materials for the production of food? This will be a fruitful subject matter for inquiry by the Minister. It will indeed be more conducive to the efficient administration of agricultural policy if these officers are placed under the Ministry of Agriculture.

No one will deny that the Minister is always urged by altruistic intentions whenever he goes to the House for money. Even a prodigal is that in his own way. But unfortunately the success of any scheme to increase production of food does not depend solely on delirious wishes. The conception of an agricultural programme intended to produce immediate results must be based on a regional and economic survey which will reveal the potentialities and needs of each district in the Island. One would suppose that it is the burden of the Emergency A. G. A to provide his Minister with the necessary data, to probe the causes that conspire to render paddy cultivation a precarious industry. In some districts with no irrigational facilities the uncertainty of rains whilst in others the floods and yet elsewhere pest and wild beasts have been the causes of the ruin of paddy cultivation.

If the food drive is to gather any appreciable momentum, the Minister with his millions of rupees should be persuaded by the Council to revise his irrigational policy. The Great Parakrama of old exhorted his officers with the pregnant words: "Not a drop of rain should be allowed to flow into the ocean without profiting man." The realisation of this exhortation is easier of attainment today than in any century past due

EXEMPTION FOR JAFFNA FARMERS REQUEST BY JAFFNA ASSOCIATION

A resolution requesting the Government to exempt paddy growers in Jaffna Peninsula, who owned less than five acres of land, from paddy requisitioning, was passed at an executive committee meeting of the Jaffna Association, Dr. C. Sivathamparam presiding.

Rev. James S. Mather who moved the resolution said that it was difficult to find anyone who owned more than five acres of land. The owners did not cultivate the land themselves, as they were engaged in other pursuits, but either employed labour or had a system whereby tenant cultivators gave part of the harvest to them. It would seriously affect paddy cultivation in Jaffna if Government took the paddy and paid, as was proposed, less than the cost of production.

Mr. C. Arulanpalam seconded and the resolution was passed unanimously.

SCARCITY OF SAFETY MATCHES MANUFACTURERS EXPLAIN POSITION

That any scarcity of matches is due to hoarding and other factors beyond the control of the manufacturers, is maintained by the Match Manufacturers' Association which asserts, in a statement, that the production of matches has been "very satisfactory" during the last three months. It points out that the production for January was 7,624,800 boxes.

At a conference between match manufacturers and the Director of Commerce and Industries, the Director, it is learned, was informed of the fact that owing to the shortage of materials six or seven factories would go out of production by the end of this month leaving only about five factories in operation. There was a likelihood, therefore, that the output of matches would be reduced to such an extent that after supplying Service requirements there might be less than half the normal output available for civilian needs.

to the gigantic strides science has made. In Russia, a sixth of the world in extent, two decades of detruined human effort have with the aid of scientific knowledge brought about vast revolutionary changes in the methods of cultivation. For long desolate the Northern district has been cruelly treated in respect of irrigation facilities. No statesman in the last 10 years or more, however unimpeachable his political integrity, has paused to consider justly her claims. Mr. K. Baasingham, former M. L. C., that balanced and gifted statesman, proposed in Council, on 3-7-1939 that 'the utilisation of the Mahaweli-ganga for irrigation from Dambulla even to Elephant Pass was not outside the region of practical engineering and finance..... Extensive irrigation works, especially river and canal irrigation, will go very far to encourage food production.' The Minister is often proclaimed as an astute goiya, and every goiya, be he from the North or South, knows that plants to thrive need water too besides land, labour and manure. Give "the villager who wastes his life in trying to get a living out of that most unremunerative of all cultivations, paddy growing" all that he needs and then with Carlyle spur him with the clarion call:—"Produce produce, were it but the pitifulest infinitesimal fraction of a product, produce it in God's name."

SOCIAL SECURITY PLAN FOR FUTURE

Continued from page 1

themselves as well as by the employers and the State. For pensions contributions naturally must be paid over a substantial transition period, before pension age is reached.

For people in Britain, the practical point of most interest is to know what will be the rates of benefit and contribution. It isn't possible to be quite definite about that, because the benefits are related to the cost of living, and we can't tell for certain now what the cost of living will be after the war. What I've done in the report is to suggest provisionally the rates of benefit that would be enough for subsistence if the cost of essentials after the war is a little less than at this moment.

On that basis, the most important provisional rate suggested in this report is two pounds a week for a man and wife in unemployment, in disability and as retirement pension, with lower rates for a single person, or for a man whose wife is also working. To these, and to all other benefits, children's allowances at the rate of eight shillings a week for each child are added. Taking the children's allowances into account, a married man with two children will get 56 shillings a week, without means test, so long as unemployment or disability lasts.

The contribution corresponding to these benefit rates is for an adult man in employment four and threepence a week for himself, and three and three-pence a week from his employer, with lower rates for women and for young persons. By paying these contributions, insured persons in employment will pay about 25 per cent. of the whole value of the cash benefits received by them, exclusive of children's allowances, and of national assistance. The other 75 per cent. of the cash benefits come from employers and through the State. Children's allowances and national assistance will come wholly from the State.

Time and Amount

For people outside Britain, the most interesting point in the Scheme is not the exact number of shillings a week paid as benefits, or required as contributions. The important thing is that the Security plan is part of a national minimum, of giving benefits as of right, which are adequate in amount, that is to say last as long as the need lasts and don't vary with the previous earnings of the person insured.

In giving a flat subsistence benefit in return for a flat contribution irrespective of the previous earnings, the security plan proposed for Britain differs from the security schemes of almost all other countries in the world, which are based not on a national minimum, but aimed at giving in unemployment or sickness or old age, a proportion of the wages that have been lost. That proportion may be more than the minimum required for subsistence, or may be less.

In giving a flat subsistence benefit, and in other respects, the Security plan of my report is quite unlike the Social Insurance Scheme of the United States or the Soviet Union or of Germany before the war. It's as British as

the British climate and the British character.

The nearest thing in comprehensiveness and in method that can be found to compare with the proposals of my report anywhere else in the world is at the other end of the world, geographically. In the place which, in many other ways, is nearer to Britain than any other country in the world, namely New Zealand. The contributions I've been talking about, include a payment for a full medical service of every kind for the insured person and for all his dependents, at home and in hospital, general, specialist and consultant service, all that is needed for restoration to health and prevention of disease.

Exactly how this medical service should be organised, how doctors should be paid, and how hospitals should be financed and controlled, are matters left open in the report for further enquiry, but in one way or other, comprehensive medical treatment is part of the whole plan.

First Step

The national minimum for every citizen today should include being well; being as well as science applied to prevention and cure of disease can make him. The Plan, as I've set it out briefly, is a completion of what was begun a little more than 30 years ago, when Mr. Lloyd George introduced National Health Insurance, and Mr. Winston Churchill, then President of the Board of Trade, introduced Unemployment Insurance. The man who led us to victory in the last war was the Minister who, more than 20 years ago, had the courage and the imagination to father the scheme of Unemployment Insurance, a thing then unknown outside Britain, is a man who is leading us to victory in this war.

I'd like to see him complete in this war the work that he began in Social Insurance then. But that is only my personal hope. What I've been telling you about is my proposal to the Government. The Government aren't committed in any way to anything that I've said; they've only just seen my report, and you won't expect them to make up their minds—they oughtn't to make up their minds—without full time for consideration. But I hope that the Government and Parliament, when they've had time to consider the Plan, will adopt it.

Having begun to work on this problem of Social Security myself more than 30 years ago; having lived with it for the past year and a half, and discussed it with all the people who know most about it, I believe that this plan, or something like it is what we need. It's the first step—though it's one step only—to turning the Atlantic Charter from words into deeds.

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(Mis. 196. 4 & 8-2-43)

TRIENNIAL ELECTIONS WELCOMED

RATEPAYERS' DEPUTATION TO MEET MINISTER

The decision of the Executive Committee for Local Administration to have the triennial Urban Council Elections in Jaffna this year is welcomed by the Jaffna Urban Rate-payers' Association.

The Executive Committee of the Association has passed the following resolutions at its meeting held on the 2nd instant:—

(1.) "This Association is of the opinion that the Jaffna Urban Area should be divided into twelve wards.

"This Association therefore requests the Minister for Local Administration to appoint a committee consisting of three members of the Urban Council, three representatives of this Association and one Local Government Official to so re-distribute into twelve wards as to satisfy the various needs of the Town."

(2.) "This Association endorses the suggestion contained in the following resolution of Mr. Ari

Pathirana, moved at the Special Meeting of the Urban Council held on 28.1.43:

"As this Council feels that some of the Members and Rate-payers are in a position to give material evidence in the matter of the proposed enquiry into the Electrical Employees' Strike, this Council requests the Minister for Local Administration to detail a competent Officer to take full evidence in Jaffna and report to him before he comes to Jaffna to confer with the Members of this Council."

which was lost by the Chairman—whose conduct in the matter of the strike has been questionable—exercising his casting vote in addition to his personal vote."

(3) This Association resolves to send a deputation consisting of:— Messrs. K. Sanmukam, C. C. Somasegaram, S. Coomarasurier, J. D. Veerasingham, M. Jacob, S. S. K. Valarasan, V. M. Velayuthapillai and C. Nidarajah, to wait on the Minister for Local Administration on Friday the 12th instant, and place before him the views of this Association on the several matters pertaining to the welfare of the Town."

"THE HINDU ORGAN"

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