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## THE TAMILS AND THE UNITED NATIONAL PARTY

By S. SIVASUBRAMANIAM

It was reported in the "Daily News" that Mr D. S. Senanayake, Leader of the State Council, presided for the first time at a meeting of the promoters of the proposed United National Party. It was further reported:

(1) that the draft manifesto and constitution of the party were adopted;

(2) that an appeal to the public to join the party would be made; and

(3) that a public announcement is to be made shortly with regard to the New Party.

Willy nilly, the Tamils must consider their position vis a vis the New Party, even as they must reckon with the other parties in Ceylon. The relationship of the Tamils in particular towards any party formed by Mr. Senanayake will be an important factor in the immediate future of the Tamil community in Ceylon, in view of the fact that Mr. Senanayake appears to have gathered a considerable amount of political power in his hands.

It is desirable that the Tamils should in their own interests, participate in the exercise of political power. *Taking our due share in the executive of the country at this critical juncture is one of the best ways of service to the community.* In order to obtain a share of political power it is normally necessary for any community to be represented in the Executive of the Government of the country. If on the other hand it would appear that holding office in the future Cabinet of Ceylon will prove harmful to the Tamils, then we would have no option but to stand out of office. But under normal circumstances the balance of advantage is generally in favour of participation in cabinet responsibility. The Tamils, it is patent are not boycotting the New Parliament. Though it does not follow that non-boycott of the Parliament necessarily involves acceptance of office under the New Constitution, it would appear as things are today, that *acceptance of office in the Cabinet and in Parliament would prove more beneficial to the Tamils than abstention.* Of course, circumstances may change by the time Parliament starts functioning. Subject to this proviso, it is prudent to go on the footing that *acceptance of office under honourable terms is desirable and necessary.* For this purpose co-operation with Mr. Senanayake and his party is necessary, apart from co-operation being a virtue in itself when adopted in the pursuit of a wholesome national programme.

It is obvious that we must await the publication of the policy and

programme of the new party with sympathetic albeit cautious expectation. If the policy and programme are found generally acceptable to the interests of the Tamils, *the Tamils would be well advised to co-operate. If the Tamils decide on co-operation the question as to when the co-operation is to commence, whether before the elections to the Parliament or subsequent to the elections is a matter which requires further consideration in the light of what happens hereafter. It must however, be mentioned that co-operation with the United National Party, or for that matter, with any other party, does not necessarily mean that the Tamils should join the ranks of such a party.*

The Tamil community has among its numbers a good quota of Parliamentarians, administrators and men with judicial and legal experience who, by virtue of their integrity, ability and experience, judged by Ceylon standards—putting things at their lowest—are able to hold their own with representatives of other communities and make a significant contribution to the common weal. Of one of our public men it was mentioned over 10 years ago by the then Legal Secretary (the present Chief Justice) at a reception given to the former, that if the next Government did not avail itself of his services and elevate him to high office, it would be so much the worse for Ceylon. The reference was to Mr G. G. Ponnambalam. We have two Tamil members in the Board of Ministers at present Mr Mahadeva and Dewan Bahadur I. X. Pereira, who are, if I might be permitted to say so, qualified in every way to hold office in the next Cabinet. Then we have able administrators now in Government service, men with judicial and legal experience, and elder statesmen, who should find places in the Cabinet and as Presidents of the Houses of Parliament. These, however, do not exhaust the list of persons among the Tamil community who are eligible for office under the new constitution.

Political affairs in Ceylon are in a fluid state today, and the Tamils *must tread the path of compromise.* The Tamil people and their leaders would do well at this juncture to reflect on a wise and weighty statement uttered by Burke that

*'it is a very great mistake to imagine that mankind follow up practically any speculative principle, either of Government or of freedom, as far as it will go in*

Letters to the Editor

## JAFFNA ISLANDS CONSTITUENCY

Sir,—While the Delimitation Commission is considering the question of dividing the Province in Ceylon into Electorates according to certain principles laid down in such a way that the interests of the people are best served I wish to point out that there is in the Jaffna Districts a unique area, which deserves special consideration.

There are eight islands off the Jaffna Peninsula with a total population according to the latest Census returns of 5,000. Of these islands Karainagar connected for more than 50 years by a causeway with the mainland may be considered as part of it physically. Further, due to this connection Karainagar has developed educationally and economically and is in advance of the other islands. For this important reason Karainagar should be included in the Electorate with which it is contiguous on the mainland.

For another and more important reason it should be excluded from the Islands Electorate. These islands more than any other place in the whole country have to be given the consideration mentioned on page 126 of the Soulbury Commission's Report 13 (3)—"in dividing a Province into electoral districts the Delimitation Commission..... shall also take into account the transport facilities of the Province its physical features etc".

Now these Islands, seven in number, lying within an area approximately 500 sq. miles are separated from one another, with very inadequate and irregular means of transport. Even what is available is made infinitely more difficult by both the South West and the North East Monsoons when at their height.

Means of communication are very unsatisfactory, and irregular. There is no telegraphic communication except for Kayts. Sometimes owing to inclement weather it takes days to go from one island to another. A tour of all the islands in normal weather will take more than a week.

Further, Sir the population itself of the seven islands (exclusive of Karainagar) is about 41,000. To this number must be added 10%, for a very large number of members of the permanent population are out of the Islands and there are no outsiders resident there. With this 10% added the population will be 45,000, which, considering the physical

argument and logical illation, *All Government, indeed every human benefit and enjoyment, every virtue, and every prudent act is founded on compromise and barter. We balance inconveniences; we give and take.'*

sical features and the inadequacy of means of transport and communication, deserve a seat by themselves in the Parliament.

It may be pointed out that the average population for an electorate in the Northern Province is 52,000 (population of N. P., 480,000 into 9 electorates) and the "real" population of the seven Islands, excluding Karainagar will be 45,000 for an area of 500 sq. miles. Again considering the circumstances mentioned above this difference of 8,000 within an area of 500 sq. miles should be conceded and these seven islands treated as a Unit for electoral purposes.

As it has been clearly shown here these seven islands (excluding Karainagar) are similar in all conditions, physical and economical and suffer from the same disabilities in the matter of transport and communication and rationally will make one unit. None of the conditions or disabilities apply to Karainagar which is easily absorbed with the mainland, without any disadvantage to itself and much benefit to the other seven islands.

In fact according to the recommendations of the Soulbury Commission and in the interest of the people of these islands two seats should be allocated to this backward area teeming with physical and economical difficulties and obstacles to development.

Yours etc.,  
Chandrapal.

Colombo, 7-6-46,

## Commissioner Enjoys Bus Ride

The Vadamardchy Co-operative Motor Services Society Ltd. which was allowed a road service licence from Tondamanar to Manipay via Atchuvely Oddakapu'am, Vassvilan, Kadduvan, Chunnakam Maruthanmadam and Uduvil had its new service inaugurated by Mrs. J. N. Arumugam wife of the Commissioner for Motor Transport on Saturday the 1st June.

Mudlr G. Subramaniam C. C. S., J. P. the President of the Society welcomed the visitors.

The Commissioner delivered a message from the Hon'ble the Minister for Local Administration. In his message the Minister expressed his hope that the Society would maintain an efficient and ideal bus service. He congratulated the people of Vadamardchy for organising themselves into a co-operative to run bus services.

The Commissioner and others including the Assistant Registrar of Co-operative Societies travelled a few miles by the buses.

## WANTED

An Assistant Editor for the "Hindu Organ" Jaffna. Salary according to qualifications. Applicants with previous experience preferred. Apply stating age, educational and other qualifications to the Manager Hindu Organ Jaffna on or before 25th June, 1946. (Mis. 81, 11-26)



## Hindu Organ

TUESDAY, JUNE 11, 1946.

## SECRECY OF THE BALLOT

IT WAS REPORTED A FEW days ago that the Board of Ministers had decided to recommend to His Majesty's Government that the present method of voting at elections to the State Council should be changed for the purpose of minimizing certain abuses prevalent now. Their recommendation is that the present system of coloured boxes be abandoned and that the voters be required to register their votes by marking a cross on the ballot-paper which will contain the names of candidates, in alphabetical order, in English, Sinhalese and Tamil. It will be remembered that this was the system in vogue before the introduction of universal franchise in 1931 since every voter in those days was required to be able to read or write one of the three languages. Even then in the pre-Donoughmore days, it was a common sight to see a large number of "spoilt" papers with crosses marked in any corner and blank papers put into the boxes after the crosses were marked either on the walls of the cubicles or on the table provided in the cubicles, although all voters were supposed to be literate.

Now, it appears our Board of Ministers have no illusions about the ability of our illiterate voters to the Soulbury Parliament to mark a cross against the name of the candidate of their choice in the ballot-paper. Since the advent of Free Education, a Parliament, and Dominion Status round the corner, all and sundry are, perhaps, expected to have developed a sixth sense to feel by touch or sight, the name of a candidate, whether in a national or foreign language, without being able to read a single letter of the alphabet. In case a voter has not developed this sixth sense, under the Soulbury Constitution, he is required to tell the Presiding Officer who the candidate of his choice is and the Officer will mark the ballot-paper with a cross. Where is then the inviolable secrecy of the ballot? However honourable the presiding officer may be the opinion will not fail to gain ground that in future the result

of elections will depend on the mercies of the presiding officers who will be in the fortunate position of marking at least 50% of the ballot-papers at every election booth. It is a matter of common knowledge how in the past presiding officers and other officers at election booths have been helpful to particular candidates. Under the new dispensation the work of the Presiding Officer will not only be an enviable one but a very lucrative one too.

In the wake of the recommendation of the Board of Ministers comes the draft of a proposed Ordinance, in a *Gazette Extraordinary* of last Thursday, to amend and consolidate the laws relating to the election of all local authorities such as Municipalities, Urban Councils, Town Councils and Village Committees. The proposed Ordinance is undoubtedly an improvement on the present laws relating to elections of these bodies. The conduct of elections under the new law is to be placed in the charge of a central authority, to be called the Commissioner of Elections assisted by Assistant Commissioners, Election Officers and Assistant Election Officers. Electoral lists will be prepared for the Village Committee elections as well. All possible steps are to be taken to prevent impersonation and to ensure that elections are conducted in an orderly and efficient manner. Heavy penalties, imprisonment as well as fine, are proposed for impersonation, bribery, treating etc. But the most important aspect of democratic elections—secrecy—is to be violated by authorising the presiding officers to mark the ballot-papers on behalf of voters unable to read. Precaution is to be taken to see that the Presiding Officer, while being instructed by the voter, will be "within sight, but not within hearing of the Polling Agent." It is true that light travels very much faster than sound, but there are such things as "field of vision" and "field of hearing" differing in different persons. A Polling Agent placed out of hearing from the Presiding Officer may not be able to see at all what tricks the latter plays. How the distances will be adjusted to suit different individuals the proposed Ordinance does not indicate. But one thing is certain, and that is that in the elections to the new Parliament it is the Presiding Officers who will seal the fate of candidates and not the voters.

We are glad that Mr. B. H. Aluwihare, M. S. C., has given notice of a motion in the State Council that the Council opposes the violation, under any excuse, of the present secrecy of the ballot. We do not know whether this motion will be taken by the Council before the Ministers' recommendation is accepted by His Majesty's Government. It is now for

public bodies to take up the matter and acquaint His Excellency the Governor with the people's views inasmuch as the present Board of Ministers have ceased to represent the views of the people and long ago begun to do things as they like.

## TEACHERS' SALARIES

It is rather difficult to understand what actuated the Salaries Committee to commit so egregious a blunder as to recommend a scale of salaries for teachers which is no way commensurate either with the high cost of living at present or with the importance of their work. We have it from a member of the State Council that the Salaries Committee ignored the recommendations of the Executive Committee of Education for a better scale of salaries for teachers. It is strange, indeed, that Sir Oliver Goonetilleke with so many seemingly impossible achievements to his credit should have turned a deaf ear to the Executive Committee's recommendations. His failure to understand the principles that underlie these recommendations does not at all speak well of the high talent with which he has been credited or of the generosity which the "Reds" credit him with towards the minor employees. If Sir Oliver feels that teachers are not entitled to the high position they claim to be theirs in the life of the country, then by what train of thought did he arrive at the conclusion that the Principal of Royal College is the one and only member of the teaching profession who is entitled to enjoy the privileged position of drawing a salary of Rs. 13,200—Rs. 15,000 per annum? Perhaps in Sir Oliver's worthy estimation none else could claim to be principal *in excelsis*. This is, indeed, strange generosity.

Another matter in which Sir Oliver is to blame is in recommending a maliciously humiliating scale of salaries for Oriental Pundits and Vernacular Teachers. A paltry salary of Rs. 576—Rs. 900 is recommended for them. In this respect Sir Oliver alone is to be held responsible. Mr. Collins, a non-Ceylonese, is perhaps not in sympathy with the adoption of the national languages as the official languages, and the mother tongue as the medium of instruction. But Sir Oliver, a son of the soil, if perhaps, not in sympathy with these, is at least expected to have given his benediction by recognising the indisputable fact that the Oriental Pundit is as learned in his subject and language, if not more, as the graduate of a British University is in his. The vernacular teacher is also learned in his particular way. Therefore, any policy, which can reasonably be made to be consistent with the policy of nationalisation pursued in this country, but is not so, is to put it mildly, highly unpatriotic.

The importance of the teaching profession cannot be under-estimated. The teachers have a mission to perform—the mission of shaping the future generation of this Island. The responsibility of teachers is as great as the responsibility of the men who guide the destiny of the island. It is the former who shape the lives of men who are destined to be in the future governments of the country. The position of teachers is unique; their responsibility is greater. It is, therefore, imperative that the teaching profession should be filled by men morally and intellectually superior to those in any other profession. To secure the services of such men at least a living wage must be paid. If the State fails to remedy the blunder committed by the Salaries Committee, it will be condemning this Island to be burdened by a morally and intellectually weaker younger generation.

## IN MEMORIAM

## V. Thamotherampillai,

FOUNDER—CHAVAKACHCHERI

HINDU COLLEGE

DIED 24-5-46

by

T. Muttucumaru

Gone to bliss through Vidhya Dharma (வித்யா தர்மம்), and Sivajaya Kainkariya (சிவஜய கைகரியம்) the Saiva patriarch of Thenmaradchi, V. Thamotherampillai, the Founder of the Chavakachcheri Hindu College.

His full life long and eventful in years, and good and noble in deeds is a representative one of the times he lived in. A junior contemporary of the great Sri Sri Arumuga Navalar the morning star of the Saiva and Tamil Renaissance, Thamotherampillai did to Thenmaradchi what Saiva stalwarts like Ramanathan, Pasupathy Chettiyar, Casippillai and Nagalingam did for Jaffna or Tamil in general to stem the tide of aggressive waves of Christian Missions.

A business man that he was, Thamotherampillai carried on unostentatiously his work of serving his community truly and nobly without seeking power or pelf and name or fame. He had a grip of realities. He saw his own kith and kin, friends and neighbours all taking easy victims to the allurements of cosy jobs and easy money through church-ridden English education. With prophetic instinct, he followed in the wake of Sir Ponnambalam Ramanathan. He gave to Thenmaradchi, temples of worship and learning. The Pillaiyar Temple of Sangaththanai, the Chavakachcheri Hindu College and the Sangaththanai Tamil Mixed School are standing monuments of Thamotherampillai's signal services to his community in his noble endeavour to safeguard against alien influences the time honoured customs of the race. To ensure the continuity of these religious and educational foundations to perpetuity he made endowments and philanthropically transferred without any proprietary claim the management of the schools to an incorporated Hindu Organisation viz the Board of Directors of the Jaffna Hindu College and Affiliated Schools, and this body of Hindu Educationists honoured Thamotherampillai in recognition of the great and meritorious services rendered to the community by electing him a life Director of the Board.

His love for the Saiva Religion and Tamil ear-ring was great pure and simple. Every time he happened to talk to a teacher he emphasised the importance of making religion the integral part of Education and of holding Guru Pujahs and organised temple worship of school children. In fine, a devoted Siva Bhondan that he was, he expected the teachers of the schools he established to impart both by precept and example an education that would make the children in their charge true Hindu citizens.

Thamotherampillai has done his work and has gone to lasting Peace. It is for his children and children's children both of his loins and of his community in Thenmaradchi to chant the glories of this great and good man by taking up and continuing his work for all time.

# General & Economic Conditions etc., of Ceylonese in Malaya

REPORT BY MR. V. COOMARASWAMY

Representative of the Government of Ceylon in Malaya.

I left Ceylon by Royal Air Force Flying Boat on the 7th November, 1945, and arrived at Singapore on the following day. I was in Malaya for 75 days and was able to visit all areas where there were appreciable numbers of Ceylonese from Singapore to Alor Star. I visited 30 towns and motored over 2,500 miles. Everywhere large numbers of Ceylonese representatives of all communities met me at public meetings or receptions or at informal discussions. At Kuala Lumpur, the biggest Ceylonese stronghold, about 700 attended the meeting, at Singapore 400 and at Seremban 350. The total number of Ceylonese I contacted at these meetings and visits was about 3,000, representing approximately 50 per cent. of the Ceylonese families resident in Malaya.

2. Malaya is a country approximately twice the size of Ceylon and with a population of about six million people. Climatically the country is hot and moist. The land itself is tolerably fertile though it lacks the richness of the volcanic soil of the neighbouring island of Java. This together with its high mineral content constitutes the economic importance of Malaya. Though politically and constitutionally Malaya is the land of the Malays it contains a heterogeneity of races which has few parallels in the world. This is the logical penalty of the natural lassitude and inactivity of the original inhabitants who are mostly peasant farmers and fishermen with little aptitude for association with the new undertakings which transformed Malaya in a very short period from an obscure and undeveloped land into a country with tremendous and varied economic possibilities. The most important of these new developments were the plantations and the mining industry, and the lack of interest shown by the Malays in these directions was causative of large numbers of labourers immigrating from the neighbouring subcontinents of India and China. A large Tamil labour force came from South India to develop the rubber plantations while Chinese workers have for centuries exploited the local tin mines. This movement has developed to such an extent that the immigrants now outnumber the Malays themselves. The main races now in Malaya are the Malays, Chinese and Indians. Important minorities are the Europeans, Eurasians, Siamese, Ceylonese and the Sakai aborigines. A curious feature is that despite long association with each other very little assimilation has taken place between these races who for the most part have found it possible to keep their ideologies, customs, languages and religions remarkably distinct.

3. Amidst this medley of peoples Ceylonese have settled and formed an important section of the Malayan community not so much through strength of numbers or by economic superiority as by the nature of the posts they hold. According to the census of 1931 out of a total population of 4,385,346 the number of Ceylonese in Malaya was 18,407 of which 12,374 were males, and 5,673 were females. The present

Ceylonese population in Malaya is estimated at about 25,000 people of which about 22,000 are Tamils, 2,500 Sinhalese and 500 Burghers. These three communities have generally developed in widely varying spheres of operation, and accordingly there is very little association culturally or socially or in economic matters. Illustrative of this is the unnecessarily large number of Ceylonese communal associations both Sinhalese and Tamil that exist in the various towns in Malaya. These associations, though begun with excellent ideals, seldom live up to them and seem more desirous of undermining each other than performing the functions for which they were constituted. It is understood that a Ceylon Federation was mooted some years ago and ended in a fiasco on account of a lack of agreement between the various associations. A fresh one has just been formed and it is to be hoped that, with the younger generation taking a leading part, all difficulties and obstructions will be overcome and Ceylonese in Malaya will be able to present a united front to face the bigger issues that are bound to arise with the rehabilitation of Malaya.

4. The Ceylon Tamils are by far the largest section of the Ceylonese in Malaya and no record of the activity of the Malayan Ceylonese will be complete without a reference to them. In the early days of British rule in Malaya, the very low standard of literacy of the local population resulted in a few of them being competent for work in the Government service and consequently they took little part in the administration and development of the country. The acute shortage of trained staff for administrative and clerical functions caused the Government of Malaya to appeal to the Government of Ceylon to send Ceylonese for service to Malaya, and from the year 1867 at the invitation and encouragement of the Malayan Government large numbers of Ceylonese subordinate officers, practically all of whom were Ceylon Tamils from Jaffna, secured employment in building roads, in surveying lands and in doing the work of clerks, dressers, etc. About 25 years ago more than 50 per cent. of the junior officers in the Government services: General Clerical, Railway, Post and Telegraphs, Medical, Public Works, etc. were Ceylon Tamils. They earned for themselves a very high reputation for efficiency and loyalty. These qualities got them preferential treatment in all Government offices. From time to time the General Manager of Railways recruited further Ceylon Tamils in increasing numbers and today in addition to the large clerical staff in the Head Office, practically all Station Masters or Booking Clerks in the various Railway Stations of the F. M. S. Railways are Ceylon Tamils. Many are also employed in the Railway workshops. It is understood that of the total Railway employees numbering about 12,000, between 50 and 60 per cent. are Ceylon Tamils.

5. Of about 22,000 Ceylon Tamils in Malaya today, about 33

per cent. is in the town of Kuala Lumpur, the capital of Malaya. The standard of literacy among them is fairly high and several have secured senior appointments in the Medical, Educational, Clerical and Technical Services. While most of them are Government servants, there are a few planters, miners and business men amongst them. Their contribution to the rapid growth and development of Malaya is considerable. If any fault can be found with them, it is that they were content to work for a salary rather than strike out on their own in a country in which fortunes were made and lost overnight. Not for them was the risky glamour of business and investment. Whatever their difficulties they unlike other races in Malaya have contrived to keep one foot firmly in their native Ceylon and the other is but loosely placed in Malaya. Their hearts and minds are constantly with their friends and relatives in Ceylon, and in all of them even among the rare cases who have invested and settled in Malaya, there is ever present the desire to go back to Ceylon when their job here is done.

6. The Sinhalese community as a whole is more interested in business and for the most part hail from the Southern Province. The most prominent trade in which they are engaged is the sale of jewellery; and in this line they are the foremost in Malaya. There are few large towns in which Sinhalese have not set up their establishments. Ipoh, Taiping, Penang, Kuala Lumpur, Singapore, all have their Sinhalese jewellers, and they extend to their trade the same acumen and shrewd business capacity for which the Southern Province is noted. A small number are clerks in the Government service or in mercantile establishments and estates, and a few are professional men and teachers. The Sinhalese in Malaya have shown themselves to be better "mixers" and their association with the other races in Malaya is more intimate and cordial. There has, therefore, been more absorption of Sinhalese by the other races and a proportionately larger number of them look to Malaya as their home rather than Ceylon. Financially too the Sinhalese community, on account of the nature of their work, is better off than the Tamil. They have re-invested their money in Malaya and this stood them in very good stead during the difficult period of the Japanese occupation.

7. The number of Ceylon Burghers in Malaya is very small and most of them are in mercantile establishments and on estates. They too have been absorbed in Malaya and few, if any, look forward to returning to Ceylon except on holiday.

After describing the Japanese invasion Mr. Coomaraswamy proceeds:—

12. In such conditions, education was bound to suffer and again as a community the Ceylonese were badly hit. The Ceylonese in Malaya, belonging as they did with a few exceptions to the middle class, had always been very anxious to give the best possible education to their children and dependents even at great personal sacrifice. There were hardly any in the whole Ceylonese community who were illiterate. Whenever

they could afford it they sent their children to Ceylon for their education. Although it is true that all communities suffered in the matter of education, it can fairly be said that in Malaya the Ceylonese more than any other community were more concerned about the education of their children and the educational set-back during the Japanese occupation was more serious in their case than in the case of any other community. During the Japanese occupation, schools were re-opened and teachers and children instructed to return. Instruction was for a time through the medium of English. Soon the hatred of the Japanese for anything British and their growing belief in the dream of the Greater East Asia Co-prosperity Sphere made them forbid the use of English and to order that Japanese or Nippon-go as it was called should be the medium of instruction. Towards this end, schools for the teaching of the Japanese language were opened up and all teachers were ordered to study Japanese. After they had passed a qualifying examination, they were sent back to their schools to impart their knowledge to the children. The result was that the number of children attending school dwindled to a very small proportion when compared with the pre-Japanese time. As far as higher education was concerned, Raffles College closed down while the King Edward VIIth College of Medicines, Singapore, re-opened, but functioned unsatisfactorily. The Technical School, Kuala Lumpur, alone functioned with most of its normal staff and the medium of education continued to be English. This was not so much due to any desire of the Japanese to encourage education but rather to the necessity of having as many trained technicians as possible to fill subordinate posts in essential departments. To this end the standard of the students entering the College was reduced by lowering the qualifications necessary for entrance.

13. When the Japanese occupied Malaya, they introduced their own currency and for some time both Japanese and British currency were valid. Later they proclaimed that British currency was no longer legal tender and ordered the surrender of all British currency under pain of punishment. Consequently some British currency was surrendered while the rest went underground. Gradually inflation set in and prices started to rise not so much through a shortage of articles, but through bad distribution and graft. The result was that in late 1944 and in 1945 prices of articles were fabulous. The Ceylonese at the beginning were not badly affected. Their salaries were cut but they still had a living wage. A British dollar equated to a Japanese dollar in purchasing power. Food was plentiful as the British had left behind them three year's supply of essentials in Malaya. But gradually when the inflation of currency commenced and their reduced salaries remained static, the Ceylonese generally suffered, for food supplies became smaller in the market and people were forced into the Black Market even for their es-

(Continued on page 4)

## Fundamentals of Religion

By MEHTA RANJIT MAL, B. A., LL. B.

(Continued from our issues of 4-6-46)

HAVING offered some criticism on the scientist's view of life, let us proceed to deal with the view of life as held and laid down by the spiritualists from time immemorial. According to them, the human body is only a vehicle for the soul or spirit and after leaving this body, it continues to exist. The soul is subject to certain weaknesses and limitations but possesses such superb latent powers that it can, if it rightly exerts itself, overcome all weaknesses and limitations and attain to a state of complete freedom from all pain, worry, and change on the negative side, and perfect illumination and permanent blessedness on the positive side. This state is called by the name of salvation in the religious books. This subject is so vast and intricate that only a glimpse or dim outline can be given here and a person interested in the subject can seek further information from persons advanced in the spiritual line or from books by well-known authors like Swami Ramtirath, Swami Vivekananda, Mrs. Annie Besant, Sir Anand Swaroopji, Maharaj of Dayalbagh, Shri Arabindo Ghose, Sir S. Radhakrishnan and others. In this article, the intention of the writer is to give a rough idea of the fundamentals of religion and the above is more or less by way of introduction and explanation.

Human life has two aspects—internal and external—and as religion seeks to provide for both these aspects, it has got two branches—spirituality and morality—in order to deal with them. True religion can be only that which is eternal and universal. If it lacks in any of these factors, it cannot be said to be true. If it is based on true knowledge, then it must be eternal and not subject to variations in its fundamental principles. As human nature is the same more or less throughout the world, its principles must be of universal application. In order to understand and appreciate the scope, history and development of religion, we must recognize the fact that there are certain principles common to all the well-known world religions and as they are based on truth and wisdom they must be taken to be the fundamentals or essentials of religion. As religious teaching has passed through the hands of innumerable persons—some good and wise, others indifferent, and a large majority given to personal aggrandisement, it has got mixed up and been overpowered by a mass of dogmas and rituals, the value of which is dependent upon time, place, and circumstances. On account of ignorance or wrong motives, these dogmas and rituals have been given undue importance and have been placed on the throne of religion which should be occupied only by a body of certain clear and definite principles which are of an eternal nature and universal application and therefore generally acceptable to humanity.

The acute differences which we see in the different systems of religion must also be attributed to the insistence on dogmas, rituals and matters of detail by the present-day religious teachers who

are mostly lacking in the true insight of religion. That a truly religious man has no sectarianism, creed or dogmas about him is fully and strongly illustrated by the example of the late His Holiness Shri Shanti Vijayji who practised and preached a message of peace and universal love (the same old message given by Bhagavan Buddha, Christ and other exalted teachers of humanity) and was revered by millions of persons belonging to different stations in life and different religions. It was an inspiring lesson to see ruling princes, millionaires, Europeans officers, Parsis and Mohammedans, notables and the poorest of the poor going to His Holiness for taking guidance from him and feeling fully satisfied by his teaching.

The fundamental principles of true religion may be enumerated as under:—

(1) A person must control his wants and desires and practise self-control. All forms of penance, austerity, good manners, modesty, humility, courtesy etc are covered by this principle.

(2) He must do all that he possibly can to alleviate the sufferings of his fellow creatures and to promote their moral and material welfare. All forms of charity, philanthropy and benevolence are covered by this principle.

(3) He must devote some time to meditation, concentration of mind, self-analysis and practise a state of mind which will gradually lead to a complete cessation of all desires, feelings and passions and will result in perfect peace, tranquillity and indescribable happiness which is quite separate from and independent of all outward circumstances.

The details into which these principles have been and should be worked out must be left to time, place, and circumstances. All forms of really religious activities can be traced directly or indirectly to the fundamental principles mentioned above and as they are common to all religions, the emphasis laid on so-called religious differences, in the matter of the application of these principles by ignorant and self-seeking persons is not only silly and senseless but also a repudiation of real religion by these so-called religious persons, because the avowed object of religion is to promote peace, harmony and goodwill among human beings. 'Peace on earth. Goodwill towards all men'. This is the message of true religion given to humanity from time to time by illuminated souls.

Let all those who care for their future welfare in this world and also in the next world take this message to heart and practise it to the best of their ability. Those short-sighted people who only care for pleasure which means amusement in most cases must pause and consider. Pleasure is momentary, fickle and fleeting. It is sweet in the beginning but bitter and painful in the extreme in its results. It must be distinguished from happiness which is based upon

## General and Economic Conditions, etc., of Ceylonese in Malaya

(Continued from page 3)

In addition, estates and mercantile establishments did not function or functioned only haphazardly, throwing large numbers of people out of work. The only solution to the Ceylonese was the sale of their personal effects, even their clothing. Every article had a price and there was always a buyer. The Japanese made no effort to stop this inflation and in fact encouraged it by printing more and more notes and purchasing any article they wanted with them. The great majority of the Ceylonese who depended practically entirely on a fixed salary were reduced to sore straits and their future would indeed have been very bad were it not for the timely surrender of the Japanese. The more enterprising among them started new industries, the most noteworthy of which were the arrack distilleries started by Ceylonese throughout Malaya. For their food many of them were compelled to take part in the "Grow More Food" campaign organized by the Japanese. Every person had his home garden and special areas were allotted to persons for compulsory food production. The rice ration was one gantang (8 lbs.) per month for a male, and proportionately less for women and children. Those who lived in the town alone received the ration. Those in the country had to grow their own food or starve. The commonest substitutes were ragi (kurakkan), maize, sweet potatoes and tapioca (manioc) which were grown abundantly. The result was that the cost of living rose fantastically. During the latter part of the Japanese occupation an average family could hardly live on an income of \$6,000 a month. The cost of rice was about \$50 a lb., ragi \$20 a lb., salt \$30 a lb., sugar \$80-100 a lb., and vegetables \$15-25 a lb. A sarong cost about \$2,000-2,500 and a yard of the cheapest cloth \$400. Gold fetched \$5,000-6,000 a sovereign, a cow cost \$35,000 to 50,000, and a car \$75,000 to 100,000. The only way in which Ceylonese could live was on their home produce and by the sale of whatever articles they had, and, as it was whimsically stated at a meeting of the Ceylonese, the foresightedness in the creation of the much maligned dowry system was only appreciated during the latter part of the Japanese occupation.

(To be continued)

the solid foundation of a well-regulated and well-disciplined life. But blessedness ultimately leading to salvation is something quite superior to happiness and it can come only after prolonged and persistent practice of the fundamental principles of religion—eternal and universal—briefly referred to above.

Human life is too precious and noble a thing to be spent solely on the pleasures of the flesh in respect of which we stand on the same plane as the brutes. Let us pause, think and act wisely in our own true interests.

—'Prabuddha Bharata'

## Colombo Tamil Kalagam

The fourth annual general meeting of the Colombo Tamil Kalagam was held on the 26th ultimo, at the Kalagam Hall, Wellawatte, under the presidentship of the outgoing president Mr. A. Sabaretnam.

The following office-bearers for the ensuing year were unanimously elected:

Patron: N. Nadarajah Esqr. K. C., Vice Patrons: Messrs A. Gardiner, K. Kanagaretnam and A. Sabaretnam. President: K. S. Arulnandi. Vice Presidents: Dr. K. Kanapathipillai, Dr. T. Nallanathan, Messrs. M. S. Thiruvilangam, K. Retnanather, and K. Mathiaparanam. Secretary: Vidwan V. M. Kanagasunderam. Asst. Secretary: Mr. U. Kandasamy. Treasurer: Mr. V. Ponniah. Asst. Treasurer: Mr. S. Ponnudurai. Librarian: Mr. K. A. Thangarajah. Estdt. Secretary: Mr. A. V. Retnarajah. Membership Secretaries: Messrs. A. Retnavadivel & R. Seethapathi Iyer.

The following committee members were also elected:

Messrs. Kula Sabanathan, V. Selvanayagam, S. Ponnambalam, S. Nadarajan, K. P. Retnam, M. Vairavipillai, P. Kanapathipillai, R. Kulendran, K. Vairamuttu, R. Sivarajah, S. Shiva- pathasundaram.

Mr. N. Nadarajah, K. C., speaking on the occasion stressed the necessity of establishing a Tamil University in Jaffna and also the long-felt need of providing Tamil Research Scholarships available at the Ceylon University.

### ORDER NISI

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA  
Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 526  
In the matter of the estate of the late Sellakannu wif of Kandiah Nagerajah of Vannarponnai East  
Decreed,  
Kandiah Nagerajah of Vannarponnai East and presently of Kumbrupitiya  
Petitioner.

Vs.

1. Panagumbikai daughter of K. Nagerajah  
2. Thanalechami daughter of K. Nagerajah  
3. Nagerajah Parmanathan  
4. Theivansipilli widow of Kanagasabai (l) of do  
Respondents.

This matter coming on for disposal before R. R. Selvadurai Esquire, District Judge, Jaffna on the 2nd day of February 1946 in the presence of Mr. C. S. Somasegeram 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 of the property of the minors the abovenamed 1st to 3rd respondents and that letters of administration to the estate of the abovenamed deceased be issued to the petitioner as the lawful husband of the abovenamed deceased, unless the respondents abovenamed or any other person appear before this court on the 29th day of March 1946 and show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this court to the contrary.

This 2nd day of February 1946  
sgd R. R. Selvadurai,  
District Judge.

30.5.46.

Order Nisi Extended for 20.6.46,  
Initd. R. R. Selvadurai  
D. J.

(O. 21, 11 & 14.)

**SPEAKER'S RULINGS CHALLENGED**

**No Races, No Big Salaries**

The Speaker's rulings on the amendments proposed on the Salaries Bill by some members of the State Council were detrimental to the interests of the teachers, so observed Mr. P. Ragupathy, Advocate, at a mammoth public meeting of teachers held at the Town Hall, Jaffna last Saturday.

The members of the Executive Committee of Education had done their part. The Minister had done his, though he failed to convince his colleagues, the other Ministers. The Speaker of the State Council, in giving such unconstitutional rulings was also responsible for the dire straits in which the teachers were, and for frustrating the sympathies of members and ministers enlisted on behalf of teachers, added Mr. Ragupathy.

Mr. C. Muttucumaraswamy pillai presided and, explaining the objects of the meeting, he said that they were gathered there in such large numbers to consider the differential treatment accorded to the teachers in the recommendations of the Salaries Committee. The Government had committed a grave blunder and all those interested in education must strive unitedly till the blunder was rectified.

Mr. S. Rajaratnam, former member of the Legislative Council, in moving the resolution condemning the salaries proposed for teachers as detrimental to the cause of education and grossly unjust by the teachers said that he was grieved that teachers were not paid a salary commensurate with the present cost of living. He further deplored that, at a time when they were reviving the national languages and seeking to adopt the mother tongue as the medium of instruction, the Salaries Committee had recommended a most humiliating scale of salaries for Pundits and Vernacular Teachers.

The teachers were not given an equitable scale of salaries because they were not race-goers, added Mr. Rajaratnam.

Rev. J. S. Mather, in seconding the resolution, said that the teachers were an army of men working for the social progress of the country and the salary scheme had made it impossible for them to secure men worthy of the task imposed on them.

Rev. Father L. A. Singarayar supporting said that the salaries scheme was a great stumbling block to the educational progress of the Island. It was unfortunate that Government had made it so unattractive that persons took to it only as a last resort. The teaching profession required the best brains and it cannot secure them without adequate remuneration.

The resolution was unanimously passed.

Mr. S. R. Kanaganayagam, Advocate, in proposing a resolution requesting the Board of Ministers to remedy the grievances of teachers by taking suitable steps to provide a just and equitable scale of salaries said that it was universally admitted both in and out of the State Council that teachers had not got a square deal at the hands of the Salaries Committee. Sir Oliver had assured that the proper stage to remedy anomalies or make amendments was in the Budget. They should, therefore, press their claims before the Board of Ministers to incorporate in the Budget a more equitable scheme of salaries for teachers. Their unions should be strengthened and they should carry on an island-wide agitation that would compel the State Council to recognise their just demands.

Mr. K. Kandiah seconding the resolution said that they must all unite and make the State Councillors feel they cannot ignore the teachers' claims with impunity.

Pandit S. R. Kandaswamy supported it. The resolution was un-

animously carried.

Mr. J. C. Amarasingham proposing a resolution requesting His Excellency the Governor for an arbitration Board to adjudicate upon the grievances of teachers said that a worthy standard of national education cannot be maintained unless teachers were paid adequately.

Mr. S. Swaminathan seconding the resolution strongly criticised the State Councillors for their apathy.

Mr. A. E. Tamber in support said that the 30,000 teachers should band themselves into a powerful trade Union to fight for their rights and not depend on the whims and fancies of the Ministers and State Councillors.

Messrs. A. Joseph, P. Ragupathy, Advocate, S. Ambikaipakan and S. Kanapathipillai offered comments.

After the resolution was passed Mr. S. Natesan, M. S. C., who was present, being invited to speak, said that the Executive Committee of Education was most anxious that the Sinhalese and Tamil teachers should be given a scale of salaries commensurate with the importance of their work in the new scheme of education, but the recommendations made by the Executive Committee were ignored by the Salaries Committee. It would be most deplorable, he said, if educational progress were to receive a set back at this stage by the failure of the State to redress legitimate grievances of the teachers. But he would assure them that the members of the State Council would avert such a crisis.

Mr. Natesan pledged himself to fight for the teachers' cause tooth and nail.

He further said that he had given notice of a motion requesting the Board of Ministers to redress the grievances of teachers before the next budget was introduced. He hoped that the motion would be debated on Wednesday next and that the Board of Ministers would take timely action.

**All - Ceylon Tamil Congress**

Mr. G. G. Ponnambalam, President of the All-Ceylon Tamil Congress, and some representatives of the Congress propose to hold group conferences in Vadamardchy on the 13th, in Valigamam West on the 14th, in Valigamam North on the 15th and in Jaffna Town on the 16th of June to consider the present political situation in the Island and the future programme of the Congress.

**IMPORT AND PAPER CONTROL TO END**

It is understood that the Board of Ministers decided during last week's consideration of the budget estimates of the Ministry of Labour, Industry and Commerce, to wind up Import Control and Paper Control.

**The Jaffna Malayan Relief Fund AN APPEAL**

Ladies and Gentlemen who have not yet returned the collection lists and cards issued to them in connection with the above Fund are requested to send them back immediately with the collections in their hands to the undersigned to enable the accounts to be closed.

R. Sivagurunather  
A. Arulambalam,  
Treasurers Malayan Relief Committee,

Van East,  
10-6-46.  
(Misc. 83-11-6-46.)

**THE ORIENTAL BANK OF MALAYA LTD, JAFFNA**

**CHANGE OF PREMISES**

We, the Oriental Bank of Malaya Ltd., Jaffna, and Joseph & Co., have the pleasure to announce to our clients and the general public that owing to exigencies of accommodation, our offices will be removed from our present premises to No. 9, Chapel Street (1st. Cross Street Junction) Jaffna as from the 1st June 1946.

Jaffna, S. P. Joseph,  
15th May 1946. Manager.  
(Mis. 53-21-5-46 to 21-6-46)

**NOTICE**

The Estate of the late Mr. Kandappa Charavanamuttu Visiting Agent of Coconut Estates who died on the 11th May, 1946 and whose death was notified in the Ceylon Daily News of 13th May 1946

Any person or persons owing any moneys to or claiming any share or moneys from the Estate of the above-named late K. Charavanamuttu should notify their claims within one week from the date hereof to the undermentioned address; R. Jeremiah, Proctor S. C., 134 Hultsdorf Street, Colombo. Proctor for Chelappah Vesalatchi, intended administratrix.  
(Mis 85-11)

**FOR SALE**

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(Mis. 80-11 & 14)

**Distribution of Cane Jaggery (Sakkarai)**

Cane jaggery is available for issue to bona fide consumers. Applications for the commodity should be made to me immediately.

M. SRIKHANTA,  
A. G. A. (E)  
Jaffna, 5th June, 1946.  
(G. 34, 11)

**Post of Food Production Officer**

APPLICATIONS will be received by the undersigned up to June 20, 1946 for a post of Food Production Officer in Mannar District, on the salary scale of Rs. 100/-Rs. 8/-Rs. 132/- per month and a travelling allowance of Rs. 50/- per month if the selected candidate maintains a car or Rs. 31-50 otherwise.

QUALIFICATIONS:-Diploma of School of Agriculture (Peradeniya), Retired Agricultural Instructors of the Department of Agriculture may also apply.

The post is non-pensionable, temporary and terminable at short notice.

N. A. DIAS,  
Asst. Govt. Agent, Mannar,  
The Kachechi,  
Mannar, 31st May 1946.  
(G. 30-11, 14 & 18)

**REVISED SCALE OF RATIONS**

The ration table to be followed from 10-6-46 (52nd week of rationing of 5th series) until further intimation will be as follows:-

Class.	Rice or Meas.	Paddy & Meas.	Wheat & Flour Lbs.	Whole or Wheat Meas.	Kurukkan Meas.
Infant	1/2	or 1	1/2	or 1/2	or 1/2
Child	1/2	or 1 1/2	1/2	or 9/16	or 9/16
Ordinary	1	or 2	1/2	or 1	or 1
Maleworker	1 1/2	or 2 1/2	5/8	or 1 1/2	or 1 1/2

The Kachechi,  
Jaffna, 7th June, 1946.  
(G. 33-11)

**NOTICE**

**Insolvency Cases Nos. 196 & 197 D. C. Jaffna**

M. C. Thendauthapany and M. C. Santhirasekaram—INSOLVENTS.

Notice is hereby given that a Meeting of all the creditors of the insolvents in the above Cases will be held at 10-30 a. m. on the 25th June 1946 by this Court for the appointment of an assignee.

By order of Court,  
V. KATHIRKAMAPILLAI  
District Court, Secretary,  
Jaffna, 29th May, 1946.  
(Mis. 78-11)

**ORDER NISI**

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA (He'd at Point Pedro)

T estamentary Jurisdiction No. 311PT

In the matter of the Last Will and Testament of the late Mary Thangamah daughter of Arulanandam of Imayanan Deceased.

Thamotherampillai Appakuddy of Imayanan Petitioner.

Vs.

1. Samuel Selventhiran son of W. H. D. Nallamanickam; 2. Isabella Givana alias Se'vathey daughter of W. H. D. Nallamanickam appearing by their guardian ad litem; 3. W. H. D. Nallamanickam of Imayanan presently of Colombo; 4. Christian Pushparani daughter of Arulanandam Nesamanickam of Imayanan; 5. Stanley Pusharatnam son of Arulanandam Nesamanickam of Imayanan minors by their guardian ad litem; 6. Arulanandam Nesamanickam of Imayanan; 7. A. D. Rajamanickam of Dor 8. Emily Paruthambam widow of Arulanandam of do Respondents.

This matter coming on for disposal before E. J. Wijeyawardene, Esq. Esq. Additional District Judge, on the 1st day of May 1946 in the presence of Mr. K. S. Nanthambiy Proctor on the part of the petitioner and the petition and affidavit of the petitioner having been read.

It is ordered that the Last Will No 821 dated 24th March 1944 and tested by K. S. Nanthambiy Notary Public and now deposited in Court be declared proved, that the petitioner as executor appointed under the said Last Will be declared entitled to take out Probate and that Probate be issued to him accordingly unless the respondents above named or any other person shall on or before the 31st day of May 1946, appear and show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this court to the contrary.

The 1st day of May 1946.

E. J. Wijeyawardene,  
31-5-46 Addl. District Judge.

Time to show cause extended till 4th July 1946.

Int'd E. W.  
A. D. J.  
(O. 23-11 & 11)

M. SRIKHANTA,  
for Deputy Food Controller,  
Jaffna.

## ORDER NISI

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 122

In the matter of the Estate of the late Bernardpillai Joachimpillai of Cathedral Street in Jaffna

Deceased  
(Dead) Victoriarillai widow of Bernardpillai Joachimpillai of Cathedral Street in JaffnaOriginal Petitioner,  
Joachimpillai Aruvavakam Dominic of Cathedral Street in Jaffna

Vs. Petitioner.

1. Joachimpillai Francis Benedict
2. Joachimpillai Simon Joseph and
3. Joachimpillai Benjamin Victor, all of Cathedral Street in Jaffna Respondents.

This matter coming on for disposal before R. R. Selvadurai Esqr. District Judge of Jaffna on the 3rd day of May 1946 in the presence of Mr. Vital. A. Moses, Proctor, on the part of the petitioner abovenamed and the affidavit of the Petitioner dated 12th March 1946 having been read:

It is ordered that the said Petitioner be and he is hereby declared entitled as the eldest son and one of the heirs of the deceased abovenamed to have Letters of Administration to the estate of the said deceased issued to him unless the respondents abovenamed or any other person or persons interested shall on or before the 21st day of June 1946 show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

Sgd. R. R. Selvadurai,  
District Judge.

(O. 20. 7 &amp; 11)

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(Mis. 248. 15-3-46 to 14-3-47.)

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SOLE AGENTS

(Mis. 250. 19-3 to 19-9-46) T

## ORDER NISI

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 532

In the matter of the Last Will and Testament of the late Gnanammah wife of Sinnathamby Kathiravelu of Vannarponnai East Deceased.

Paakkiam widow of Sinnathamby Sabapathy of Vannarponnai East

Vs. Petitioner.

1. Pathmavathy daughter of Sinnathamby Kathiravelu
2. Maheswary daughter of Kathiravelu and
3. S. Kathiravelu Ravendrakumar all of Vannarponnai East
4. Sinnathamby Kathiravelu of do and present y of Colombo Respondents.

This matter coming on for disposal before R. R. Selvadurai Esquire District Judge, Jaffna on the 7th day of March 1946 in the presence of Mr. C. C. Somasegaran 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 1 to 3 respondents and that the Last Will and Testament of the abovenamed deceased dated the 25th November 1945 and attested by C. C. Somasegaran Notary Public under No. 2761 and filed of record in this case be declared proved and that Probate be issued to the petitioner as the executrix named in the said will unless the abovenamed respondents appear before this court on the 7th May 1946 and show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this court to the contrary.

This 7th March 1946.

Sgd. R. R. Selvadurai

7-5-46 District Judge.

Order Nisi extended for 25-6-46.

Insd. R. R. Selvadurai

D. J.

(O. 22. 11 &amp; 14)

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(Misc. 243 B, 12-3--12-9-46 T.)

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(Mis. 48. 17-5 to 17-7-46.)

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(Misc. 196. 7/1-7/7/46.) T

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Mis. 71. 4-6-46 to 4-11-46.

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