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HIGH PERCENTAGE OF LITERACY IN JAFFNA

Downward Trend of Ceylon's Birth-Rate

TENDENCY TO POSTPONE MARRIAGES

THE illiteracy rates for the general community shown by province and district indicate, so far as they are a criterion of literacy or illiteracy, that the Northern Province, in particular, the District of Jaffna, is more literate, in respect of both males and females, than any other province or district, observes Mr. C. E. De Pinto, the Registrar-General, in his report on the Vital Statistics for the year 1939.

Pattalam District had, in 1939, he adds, the highest illiteracy rate for males and Hambantota for females.

Births in the Island

The number of births registered in 1939, was 212,111 comprising 107,908 births of males and 104,204 of females, as compared with a total of 208,389 in the previous year and the annual average of 202,647 during the decade 1929-38. The number for the year 1939 is the third largest recorded in the Island, and represents an increase of 1.8 per cent over that of 1938. The birth rate of the year was 36.0 per 1,000 of the mid-year population. Although it is a little above the rate for 1938 and considerably above those for 1935 and 1936, the trend of the birth rate, is definitely downward. In studying the rates it has to be kept in view that the birth statistics of the period up to 1887, and therefore of the decades 1871-80 and 1881-90, understate the actual occurrences owing to incomplete registration. From the last decade of the last century to the first decade of this century, there was a sharp rise in the birth rate which gradually increased in the subsequent decades, the highest value (of 42.9) having been reached in 1926. Then began the decline. The average birth rate of the past nine years of the current decade was 36.5, representing a fall of 5.5 per 1,000 from the rate of 1926 and of 3 per 1,000

from the average rate for the decade 1921-30. This drop cannot be regarded as slow although a more rapid fall has been experienced in certain European countries in recent times. "While it took France about 75 years to experience a drop in her birth rate from 30 to 20, while this process lasted about 40 years in Sweden and Switzerland, and about 30 years in England and Denmark, in the last 8 or 10 years the birth rate has fallen in Bulgaria from 40 to 29, in Poland from 35 to 26, in Czechoslovakia from 27 to 19."

Most Prominent Tendency

Of the several factors which contribute to the decline of our birth rate the tendency to postpone marriage may be considered to be the most prominent. In the absence of any evidence of an appreciable use of contraceptive methods, it is perhaps safe to assume that the vast majority of the rural population are ignorant of such methods. With the reading public and, in particular, the town dwellers the case may be somewhat different, and within marriage there may be a tendency to limit the family and outside marriage to prevent the unwanted child from coming. But it is unsafe to be dogmatic where data are wanting.

Despite the tendency of our birth rate to decline, it is still one of the highest in the world

Births by Race

The racial incidence of births is shown in Table M below for the year 1938 and 1939. These rates should be regarded as approximate as the population shown in column 2 is but a rough estimate based on the distant census of 1921, the figures for Europeans and Tamils, whose numbers are considerably influenced by migration, being even less accurate.

Table M. — Ceylon: Births registered by Race in 1938

THE FAR EAST IN THE MELTING-POT

JAPAN'S AMBITIONS

ANGLO-AMERICAN COMBINATION THE ONLY HOPE

(BY DEE ORR)

THE Japanese ambitions of "a good meal at the expense of her neighbours" have never been more clearly or outspokenly expressed than by the new Cabinet that has come into power in Japan. Rivalry in the Far East has existed for a long time between Japan and Russia, Japan and America and Japan and Great Britain. In the tussle between Russia and Japan, Britain had always found it wise to back Japan which allowed her a free hand in China. But soon, when Tokio found it necessary "to go south," the conflict of interests between Britain and Japan became increasingly evident. The Eastern Power's growing strength was not a particularly welcome development to the U.S.A., Canada, Australia and New Zealand, which saw in it the rise of the "Yellow Peril". It was the Washington Conference which put the final seal on the severance of the Anglo-Japanese alliance which had long outlived its usefulness.

Britain's Interests

Britain's own interests in the Far East—not to speak of the geographical position of Australia, Japan's land-hunger, and the growth of a totalitarian regime in that country—all these are responsible for precipitating a crisis of the greatest magnitude, threatening the *status quo* in the South Seas. To meet such a menace, the Singapore naval base was built with the greatest speed

and 1939.

Race.	1938.	1939.
1	2	3
Europeans	131	125
Burghers and Eurasians	1,030	1,056
Sinhalese	143,885	146,236
Tamils	49,471	50,261
Moors	12,317	12,805
Malays	799	816
Veddahs	159	160
Others	595	652

The highest district birth rate for the year was 49.4 in the Anuradhapura District, and the lowest 28.3 in the Negombo District.

Urban Births

In the thirty-nine proclaimed

(Continued on Page 6)

and is now regarded as the nerve-centre of the Empire's naval defence in the Far East. But Singapore or no Singapore, Japan appears to have decided on its programme of occupying Indo-China under the excuse of invading the Chinese Republic from the south. The Appeasement pudding, which was offered on many occasions by the former British Governments to Japan, seems to have only whetted the appetite of the Japanese war-lords who are today keen on establishing a thorough-going Monroe Doctrine in the Far East. From all accounts, there seems to be a secret understanding between the Axis Powers and Tokio on the Indo-China adventure, and according to the time-table, it is the simultaneous action of Hitler attacking England, Italy invading the British Somaliland and Japan occupying Indo-China.

Soviet Sympathy

But in the Far Eastern politics, the U. S. A. is too deeply interested to allow an unwarranted disturbance of the present equilibrium in favour of Japan. It is at the same time no less clear that America will not allow her attention to be distracted by or diverted to a fray in the Far East while Europe under England's leadership is engaged in a life and death struggle against Hitlerism. From Russia, too, Japan does not expect any trouble. Though Moscow has been profuse with her sympathy for the young Chinese Republic, M. Molotov has struck a decidedly friendly note towards Japan in his latest speech. The hope, therefore, lies only in an effective Anglo-American combination if the Japanese thrust towards south is to be checked. The Far East, like the Balkans, is in the melting pot. India, too, is drawn nearer and nearer to the actual ring of warfare. But God is in his heaven, according to Simla gods, and everything is moving with perfect harmony.

(Roy's Week/y)

Manager's Notice

The Offices of the "Hindu Organ" and the Saiva Prakasa Press will be closed on Sunday, the 1st and Monday, the 2nd September, 1940, for the Ther & Theertham Festivals of the Nallur Kandaswamy Temple, and there will be no issue of the paper on Monday, the 2nd September.

MANAGER.
Hindu Organ.



Hindu Organ.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 29, 1940

THE INDIAN IMPASSE

IT IS VERY UNFORTUNATE that when Britain is engaged in a life and death struggle to save herself and democracy and freedom for the world, her statesmen should be belying her professions when confronted with the problem of Indian freedom. Britain's war aims have been very clearly declared more than once by several of her responsible statesmen, as the saving of freedom and democracy for the world from Nazi aggression. A very noble aim indeed, for the achievement of which every civilised country in the world should strive hard. India has proffered her unstinted help in fighting the Nazi menace if Britain would recognise India's freedom at the conclusion of the war and in the meantime, as an earnest of her sincerity, institute immediately a National Government at the centre. Britain's response to this demand is the proposal to expand the Governor-General's Executive Council with the assurance to help India attain Dominion Status after the war. The problem of the minorities is again being used as an argument against the immediate grant of freedom to India. In spite of the repeated requests of the Indian National Congress and of many leaders outside the Congress, the British Government persists in emphasising what she has once declared as the limit to which she could go now.

The reaction in India is very threatening. The Working Committee of the Congress has at a recent meeting declared the Government's proposals as unacceptable and has called upon the country to prepare for any eventualities that might arise as a result of a breach between the Congress and the Government. The Government, it appears, now relies on the Muslim League and a few disgruntled reactionaries to deliver the goods. Despite Mr. JINWAH's tall talk, he is now a spent force and can count only on the support of a small percentage of Muslims to stand by

him. The other leaders who offer their support to the Government little realise their hold on the country, in their eagerness, to enjoy power. Every one knows, including the British Government, that there is no other organisation in the whole of India but the Congress that can deliver the goods. It is, therefore, very disconcerting to find that the Government has shown little regard to the demands of this great body and has almost alienated its sympathy at a time when Britain is in dire need of the whole-hearted support of every unit of the Empire. The arrests of Congressmen and the ban virtually on all volunteer organisations, including those of the Congress, make one nervous as to the consequences that would flow from these. The situation is so delicate that it needs very careful handling both by the Raj and the Congress, lest any unwise step should create additional difficulties in the way of Britain's successful prosecution of the war.

We are certain that there are statesmen in both the countries who will not fail, at this moment of unprecedented crisis, to effect a settlement of the Indian problem. What Britain needs now is a little more foresight and imagination, and India a little more patience. The Congress has in fact shown commendable patience and restraint in her attitude towards the British Government. But Britain finds herself unable to come out of the groove of her traditional methods of handling a subject people's problems. It is not so pleasant and easy to part with power. Excuses there will be many. But it needs courage and generosity to overcome them. The minorities problem in India as in every other country can be used as a permanent argument against the grant of freedom. It must end some day. But it is impossible of solution without freedom. The presence of a third party will ever be an obstacle to two parties coming to an understanding. A solution of the Indian problem is absolutely necessary in the interests of both India and Britain. A friendly India will be a tower of strength to Britain in these critical days of a trial of strength with Nazi Germany. We hope Britain will not fail to win over India to her side.

DROUGHT IN THE NORTH

Scarcity of Water

A severe drought is being experienced in some parts of Jaffna and the islands. Most of the wells in the islands and in some of the rural areas have run dry, and a water scarcity is experienced in these places. Some schools in these outlying places have been closed as no water could be had for drinking or cooking purposes.

GERMAN FACTORIES BOMBED

R.A.F. Raid German Objectives

London, Aug. 26.

An Air Ministry communique states: "R. A. F. aircraft continued their attacks on military objectives in Germany last night. Targets in North-west Germany and the Ruhr were bombed as well as armament factories in the Berlin area.

The Berlin correspondent of the Stockholm paper, "Dagens Nyheter" reports that heavy explosions were heard in the German capital last night ten minutes after an air raid warning was sounded. The populace remained under cover from midnight till the "all clear" was given about 3-30 a.m. The message does not mention any damage or casualties.

GOODWILL MISSION TO INDIA

Ceylon Congressmen to Meet Indian Leaders

Colombo, Aug. 27.

The Ceylon National Congress has decided to send a Goodwill Mission, which will include Mr. G. C. S. Corea, its President, and Mr. D. S. Senanayake, to the Indian National Congress shortly.

This decision was reached at a meeting of the Executive Committee of Ceylon National Congress last night.

It was announced to the meeting that the President of the Indian National Congress and Pundit Jawaharlal Nehru had written stating that they would welcome such a visit from Ceylon.

ENEMY AIRFIELDS BOMBED

Damage in Five Countries

London, Wednesday.

An Air Ministry communique states that on Monday R. A. F. bombers made daylight attacks on enemy aerodromes. The scope of these attacks was greatly extended in the night. Twenty seven aerodromes in Germany, Holland, Belgium and enemy-occupied France were bombed.

This announcement lends significance to the statement made by authoritative quarters that the R. A. F. possesses all information on the present disposition of Germany's air forces and that new bases to which she has moved forward will receive the methodical attention of the Bomber Command.

Over Nevelles aerodrome one of our bombers returning from Germany shot down an enemy bomber returning from England.

(Continued)

dedication that the United States are preparing to take speedy steps regarding the sale of racing darts and rammed indiarum ramm such vessels to Britain. --(A daily paper)

The line-typist and the sub-editor cannot help putting in a few damus, when they are over-worked.

SIDE LIGHTS AND LIGHT SIDES

(BY SQUINT EYE)

A RECENT British official report stated that German claims of damage inflicted on the British were "truth multiplied fourfold."

Let it not be supposed that multiplication of truth makes it more true. Till further notice multiplication will mean lies raised to the power of N.

The greatest casualties during the present wars were in arithmetic. See the effect on arithmetic in the China affair, as presented by either side. The extract is a little lengthy, but in the interests of arithmetic, the editor will allow it.

(Chinese Report)

Chungking, July 8.

The War Minister, Hoyin-Ching, reviewing the Chinese war, in the past three years, estimated that the Japanese have lost 1,600,000 killed and wounded. Until last May, the Chinese had captured 760 field guns, 3,300 machineguns and 69,000 rifles. At the beginning of the war, China had two million troops, but now had five million with several millions more under training.

(Reuter.)

(Japanese Report)

"Our army planes have shot down 396 Chinese machines in air battles and destroyed 168 on the ground from July 1937 to June 1940.

"On the Manchukuo-Outer Mongolia border Japanese army planes shot down 1,340 Soviet planes and destroyed 30 Soviet aircraft on the ground.

"It is estimated that the enemy has lost over 3,000,000 in killed, wounded, deserted and surrendered. The number of Japanese killed amounts only to 85,000, while only 57 Japanese army planes have been damaged in China and 137 on the Manchukuo-Outer Mongolia Front."

(Reuter.)

One newspaper the other day told us that the Federal Bureau of Investigation had found that saboteurs had put enemy dust in aeroplane Engines in the United States of America.

Enemy powder in mechanical engines is also an enemy according to the printer's Devil.

In Rajputana in India a Music and Arts Conference has decided that singers should abstain from meat, and that "female artistes should refrain from using lipsticks, cosmetics, iron corsets etc. in their public engagements..."

For abstinence from meat the plea is that singing birds are vegetarian in their food; for the feminine taboo the reason is that in a certain case "it was observed that an artiste used these aids to inveigle a member of the audience into marrying her! Her sin was not that, but she did it" to the utter neglect of the art which she had developed almost to perfection." One love at a time, my dear lady!

The sudden departure of four United States old type destroyers from the Canal zone to the east coast of the United States, is regarded by local observers as an in-

(Continued on previous Col.)

OUR INDIAN LETTER.

JINNABETES AND MUSLIMITIS
DIAGNOSED

Education Breeds Want of Faith

(By Lanka)

Madras,
24th August 1940.

ELEVEN months or thereabouts of Congress contemplation of the virtues of patience and restraint have only helped to strengthen the British Government's belief that Congress action "for the duration of the war" at least was ruled out. Mahatma Gandhi's occasional asseverations on the unholiness of any agitation in these troubled times, and on his want of faith in the preparedness of the nation for a struggle also added to the Britisher's feeling that the Indian situation was not "so serious" as some people thought. It is only on these premises that the continued rejection of the Indian demand by the British government could be explained. Appeals, advice, requests, demands, all have fallen flat on the ears of the British government. Now, this result could have been foreseen by you and me months ago even before any discussion took place; but Congress and the chief political leaders could not base a movement on intuitive assumptions of British intransigence. They had to proceed step by step, for the sake of order. The strange result is that today Congress, in spite of its enormous strength, stands discredited in the politics of the country. Clever handling of the situation by the British, helped greatly by the faithful co-operation of "minorities" has managed the thing so wonderfully. While Mr. Jinnah kept his end up with bull-dog tenacity Whitehall scored off its own bat at the other end. One should wipe one's eyes to see that really the British government could throw overboard many a recognised principle of modern democratic and parliamentary government to sustain its determination to keep India at bay by egging on the Muslims and minorities in their wildest claims. Even Pakistan, once derided, is well on the way to recognition by the British government. And all to deprive India of her right. What times are ahead.

A Majority Obstacle

WHAT, really, could be the cause of the steady antagonism of Mr. Jinnah to Congress and Gandhi, is a question many would like to be answered. Those who have followed Mr. Jinnah's attitude since three years ago would not have failed to notice that all along the line he has deliberately evaded stating his demands to the Congress plainly. Every time one sought clarification his reply was that it had been made on some previous occasion, or stated in a newspaper article, so that enquirers were confounded by a man who went about grumbling in general but would not say what the grouse was about. But beneath all this confoundment was a streak of intolerance. Once, perhaps unwittingly, Mr. Jinnah let us into the secret of his trouble. Hindus, he stated, by their forms of worship, their beliefs and practices could never form part of the Indian nation alongside of Muslims. This was said some months ago, and re-

cently one of his lieutenants in Bengal asserted that Congress, as composed of Hindus, can never win independence for India, because their philosophy was an obstacle. Only Muslims could win independence for the country. This is reason number one, and reason number two is that Hindus in India form a numerical majority that looks like being permanent, unless Mr. Jinnah and company devise methods to convert the majority into a minority. There, in a nutshell, is the whole cause of Muslim recalcitrance, as represented by Mr. Jinnah and the Muslim League.

Enlightenment Comes

STRANGE light was thrown on present day negligence of temple-worship in India, by the statement in the annual report of the Tirupati Devasthanam that the decrease in money offerings to the temple on the hill was due partly "to spread of education and enlightenment among masses and the consequent decline of faith". Oh for the gift of our education and enlightenment.

Gandhi's Laugh

PEOPLE inclined to laugh at Mahatma Gandhi's fad of non-violence throughout the world may pause a little to consider the opposite condition. Mr. Cordell Hull, the U. S. A Secretary, recently stated that every nation should be armed, and if the small nations in Europe had armed betimes the present strife would not have come. Likewise if all nations had disarmed no strife would have come, either. Gandhiji's case is that a good result could be obtained without expensive preparations, loss of blood and property. Laugh, now, if you will, ye swearers by the sword and shell.

Disappointment Over
Indian SituationPossibility of a Fresh
Review of Situation

Bombay, Aug. 24.

The London Correspondent of the *Sunday Chronicle* says: There is every possibility of a fresh review of the Indian situation being taken up by the British Government after the receipt of a detailed report from the Viceroy on his present talks with the leaders of the Muslim League and other minority parties.

Labour circles, who know India well, says the Correspondent, are impressing upon Labour members of the Cabinet that efforts to expand the Viceroy's Council without the co-operation of the Indian National Congress will fail to secure the whole-hearted co-operation of India for the energetic prosecution of the war.

The *News Chronicle* says, adds the Correspondent, that Congress rejection of the Viceroy's offer has come as a disappointment in official circles in London. (*Hindu Cor.*)

SINHALESE - TAMIL
UNITYTHE MOVE TO COMPOSE
DIFFERENCES"A RIGHT MOVE," SAYS
THE "TIMES"

THE move on the part of certain Sinhalese and Tamil politicians to compose the differences which at present keep these communities politically apart is to be heartily welcomed by all who have the true welfare of the country at heart", says the "Times of Ceylon" editorially under the caption, "A Right Move".

The paper adds:—"This is a step we have repeatedly urged on the leaders of the two communities and it is a matter of no small gratification to us that tentative efforts are being made to reach an understanding. The President of the Congress, Mr. G. C. S. Corea, has been approached by certain representatives of public opinion in Jaffna who feel that the time has come to heal the breach between the two principal indigenous communities. The Congress, we are told, appointed a sub-Committee while Jaffna had deputed Mr. Mahadeva, the State Councillor for Jaffna, to act as plenipotentiary. A meeting took place between the sub-Committee and Mr. Mahadeva. Views were exchanged and there for the time being the matter rests. The proposal discussed was whether the representatives of the North would be agreeable to accept an additional five seats as the quota for the Northern and Eastern Provinces out of the additional ten seats by which it is proposed to enlarge the new Council under the next Constitution. Two of the remaining five seats have been earmarked for the representation of Kandyan rural interests.

This is essentially a matter for the Tamil community to decide. We can only suggest that now that a sincere effort is being made to reach a settlement, these patriotic endeavours should not be jeopardized by hasty criticism. All will applaud the attitude of Mr. Corea when he expresses his conviction that by a reasonable distribution of the eight additional seats remaining after the allocation of the two seats earmarked for the Kandyan rural interests the unanimous support of the minorities can be secured for the reform proposals. He is confident that this method of distributing the additional seats would not violate the principle of territorial representation. This is a profoundly true saying. Much mischief has already been done by over-emphasis of the ideal of territorial representation. After all, the method of representation, whether territorial or communal, is not an end in itself, but is only the means to an end. That end which must be consistently held in view is the creation of confidence. For what is "Stable Government", the end for which every country strives? It is a form of rule under which every section of the people feels secure. Strong in this security, the component parts of the nation contribute their share towards national progress.

"Just as it would be a mistake to over-emphasize one particular method of representation to the exclu-

BOMBING OF
LONDON55 NAZI 'PLANES
SHOT DOWN"HIT THEM BACK"
CRY IN LONDON

London, Aug. 26.

THE effect of the bombing of London, even though on a small scale, has been typical. On all hands, in streets, restaurants, trains and buses have been heard the words "hit them back", with the suggestions that Berlin should pay dearly for the London damage.

There has not been the slightest sign of fear or panic, and air raid shelters, instead of being silent refuges, have been noisy with community singing.

A Ministry of Home Security Communique says that it is now known that during last night's raids on a town in the Midlands some casualties were caused and a few were killed. Municipal, industrial and residential property was damaged. All fires were either extinguished or controlled by the morning and good work was done by the A. R. P. and Auxiliary Fire Services. Further information confirms that in the rest of the country the casualties were few and the damage not serious.

An Air Ministry communique this afternoon states that further reports show that one more enemy aircraft was destroyed by our fighters yesterday making the day's total 55. One of our pilots previously reported missing is now known to be safe.

consideration of all other aspects of it, so also it would be a mistake to make a fetish of numbers. The point is not how many more seats one community should have or how many less seats the other should have but whether by a fairer distribution of seats the present distrust cannot be removed and a feeling of confidence instilled. As in business, so in politics which concerns the business of Government we cannot afford to be sentimental. The business man takes reasonable precautions. Beyond that, he must rely on the good faith of the people with whom he has dealings. So also with the business of Government: Every constitution must impose safeguards which in some respects may necessitate the observance of ratios and proportions. But there is no ratio, proposition or scheme that is absolutely rogue-proof. Hence the prime importance of the mental attitude of the people concerned. That is why we attach considerable significance to the present effort of the representatives of the two communities to find a formula for a settlement. It suggests that the best elements among both the Sinhalese and the Tamils have realized that nothing is to be gained by dissension and distrust and that it is only by mutual confidence they can do the best by themselves, by each other and by the country at large. Let them strive after justice, the rock on which every constitution must be based. Let them work so that no section of the people, however small or unimportant, has reason for complaint. As soon as that is done, self-government will become an assured fact."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

PADDY CULTIVATION

Department has no Control of Irrigation ?

Sir,—The report of the Director of Irrigation for 1939 reveals certain facts which to my mind contains some relevant and useful hints to the paddy growers of this country. The cultivators, as the Director rightly point out, always prefer a Yala crop to Maha. I do not really know why they insist on this except in the case of saline and submerged areas. I had in fact time and again urged on the consideration of the authorities concerned to make in the first instance a thorough and definite classification of all lands for the purpose of determining the time of sowing, the methods of cultivation and the amount of irrigation levy to be imposed. The cultivators do not seem to realise the adverse conditions obtaining in Ceylon for cultivating their lands entirely on the alkaline process and the large quantity of water required for the purpose. This is a matter in which the Agricultural Department should interest itself and induce the cultivators to grow paddy chiefly on the dry-farming principles without shirking responsibilities which are essential to develop the indigenous as well as the chief industry of the people. But I am aware of a concrete case in which the Director of Agriculture declined to render the assistance necessary for the cultivation of "Manavari" lands in extent of about 30,000 acres in this district merely to avoid the difficulty of employing an additional Agricultural Instructor even if it was considered that the staff already provided for was inadequate to cope with the work.

Under the present arrangement, the Irrigation Department has little or no control of irrigation except to lay out channels and to repair or construct works as the Government Agent decides, according to the resolutions passed by the meeting of proprietors and it is therefore clear that the authority concerned with the management has little or no knowledge of the technical side of the question.

In my opinion there is very little co-ordination of the services which are now being maintained for the development of paddy industry in Ceylon and that the present wastage of water is largely due to the following reasons:—

- (1) Fields, terraces and bunds are not well prepared.
- (2) Lack of thorough and efficient system of distribution.
- (3) Want of thorough know-

Parameshwara College J. S. C. Results

Of the 8 students sent up from Parameshwara College for the J. S. C. examination in June 1940, the following seven were successful. The first two were in the first division.

1. Meenadchisundaram M. (First Division)
2. Vadivale S. (do)
3. Thambirajah J. K.
4. Panniah A.
5. Vinayagamoorthi S.
6. Sachidanandan R.
7. Balasubramaniam S.

ledge of the Ceylon soil under irrigation and of the system of cultivation practised in the different districts.

(4) Lack of the knowledge of water requirements of the crop, among those in charge of water distribution.

Yours etc,
K. KANAKASABAI
Batticaloa,
22nd August, 1940

The Nallur High Festivals

Conveniences for Worshippers

Sir,—The annual High Festivals of the Nallur Kandasamy Kovil are being conducted by the Manager and several thousands of worshippers are daily performing their vows with great convenience this year inside the temple premises. The whole of the court yards are being kept clean and tidy and are being watered properly to allay the dust nuisance and to keep the atmosphere cool.

The Police are keeping order and discipline without interfering with the worshippers and it must be said to their credit that not a single item of theft or any act of the breach of peace is reported so far. This is mainly due to the fact that worshippers particularly the women folks do not unnecessarily stay or sit down in clusters inside the temple premises and start unnecessary talks about matters current and mundane. Further the traffic on the approach roads are being regulated well this year.

Thanks are due to the Chairman, Urban Council, for establishing a Market for the Festival Season in close proximity to the temple and that the congestion of all the approach roads is cleared and that worshippers are able to move on freely without the usual rush on the roadways. The Chairman will do well to see that no permits or licenses are issued to hawkers to halt by the sides of the roads particularly between the Arasady Junction and the Somasundaram Road. The sanitary arrangements for the visitors are quite good and convenient. The latrines are kept clean and well lighted.

It is very noticeable that a small saloon car is very busy on the Somasundaram Road i. e. the western courtyard of the temple and that the driver of this tiny car is even challenging the Police Constables on duty if he is given signals to stop. This driver boasts of a permit and goes on at random. But the owner of this car will do well, if he is a respecter of any religion, to divert his route during the festival season as he is not road-blocked and as he need not to cover a long distance except a couple of hundred yards in case of deviation of route.

Yours etc.,
E. SATHASIVAM,
Kopay
22nd August 1940,

Road Policy of Govt.

900 Miles of Minor Roads Taken Over by P. W. D.

Referring to the road policy of the Government the Director of Public Works states in his Report for 1939:—

In accordance with the policy adopted by the State Council in 1937 a further instalment of 151.52 miles of minor roads was taken over by this Department in 1939-40. Proposals aggregating to 470 miles in this respect were received from the Chairmen of the various District Road Committees. They were then inspected and reported on by the Executive Engineers of the Department. The final selection of the mileage taken over was made with due regard to their suitability for transfer to this Department and also to the priority as recommended by the Chairmen, District Road Committees. Since the inception of this policy the Public Works Department has taken over 900 miles of minor roads, and judging from the unsatisfactory condition of the roads that are now being handed over it is for consideration whether the number of miles to be taken over annually should not be lessened.

The unfortunate part about the taking over of these minor roads is that the public expect an immediate improvement to these roads as soon as they are taken over and blame the Department if they see nothing done, whereas the policy laid down by the State Council is for the Department to maintain these roads almost in the same condition as they were maintained by the District Road Committees until such time as the traffic thereon justifies special expenditure.

LORD NORTH AND SISTER KILLED

Explosion of Land Mine

London, Aug. 25.

Lord North and his sister, Lady Cynthia Williams, were killed as the result of an explosion on the south-east coast today.

Lady North was critically injured. The explosion was heard and felt several miles away and is understood to have been caused by a land mine.

Lord North was the eldest son of the Earl of Guildford. He was 38 years of age. In 1927 he married Joan Louise, elder daughter of Sir Merrick Burrell. He leaves one son and two daughters.

LONDON CHURCH HIT

London, Aug. 26.

The church in the City of London which was hit on Saturday night's air raid was St. Giles, Cripplegate. The statue of Milton, which is outside the church was also hit. St. Giles, which survived the Fire of London, was the church in which Oliver Cromwell married and John Milton was buried.

MAINTENANCE OF ROADS

ADEQUATE PROVISION URGED

POOR CONDITION OF MINOR ROADS

Roads in Ceylon are acknowledged to be good, but with a steady decrease in maintenance they cannot indefinitely continue so and as the success of trade so largely depends on transport facilities I consider it would be very unwise to undermine unduly this structure. I would much rather see improvement works delayed so long as adequate provision is made for maintenance for I fully realise the danger of letting the roads get out of hand for once they start to deteriorate they fall to pieces rapidly necessitating the expenditure of large sums of money to put them to right.

Thus observes the Director of Public Works in his Administration Report for 1939.

Generally speaking our main roads have been maintained in a good condition and the minor roads in as good a condition as funds permitted. With the large number of minor roads recently taken over by the Department in accordance with the policy adopted by the State Council in 1937 and the existing number increasing every year at the rate of about 150 miles, the proper maintenance or any improvement of these roads has been made extremely difficult specially in view of the fact that most of these minor roads are in a very poor condition. The secret of successful maintenance is regular inspection and the careful pursuance of a "stitch in time" policy. In this connection it may here be noted that a number of districts has been abolished due to retrenchment thereby making the size of the remaining districts larger and supervision more difficult. The changed conditions render it somewhat difficult for the Executive Engineers to be in very close personal touch with all the work going on and this is unfortunate.

The vote for road maintenance has been steadily going down, whereas traffic has been steadily increasing, particularly lorry and bus traffic, and I think a point has now been reached when it is essential to increase the votes.

Obituary

MRS. V. RAMALINGAM

We regret to announce the death of Chinnachipillai, relict of the late Mr. V. Ramalingam, of Urumpilai North, on Saturday, the 24th August 1940, at 2 p. m. The funeral took place the next day and was well attended. She was 90 years old. She was the mother of Mrs. S. T. Pillai, Mr. R. Malyaganam, Retired Chief Clerk, I. M. R., K. L., Mr. R. Thambipillai, I. S. M. of Kuala Lumpur, Mr. R. Thuraiappah, Mrs. S. Aranasalam, the late Dr. R. Vythingam, Mr. R. Seenivasagam, Retired Technical Assistant, Pahang and Mrs. M. Cheliah, wife of M. Cheliah, F. M. S. Pensioner. She leaves behind a host of relations and friends to mourn her loss. (Cor.)

CRIME AGAIN AT MANIPAY

ANTI-CRIME SOCIETY MEETING

STEPS TO COMBAT CRIME

Manipay, 28.

A MEETING of the Manipay Parish Anti-Crime Society was held in the Manipay Hindu College Hall with Mr. E. Murugesampillai, J. P., Proctor, S. C. and the President of the Society, in the chair yesterday at 5 p.m. All the branch societies in different villages were well represented.

The Chairman after congratulating the Society for the very efficient work done by the Anti-Crime Committees in different villages of the Parish in reducing crime successfully, deplored the recrudescence of crime which had necessitated a fresh and continued effort on the part of the Society to achieve its purposes. He invited the various committees to give their whole-hearted cooperation to the staff of the Police Station which will soon be established at Anaicoddai.

Mr. M. R. M. Jebaratnam, the Hon. Secretary, in giving a brief outline of the work of the Anti-Crime Society, commended the courage and sacrifice of the patrol parties that succeeded in wiping out crime from the Parish by their vigilance and thanked the Chief Headman and the minor headmen for the untiring energy and support, they gave in organising and conducting the patrolling of the villages. The fault lies with the people in not co-operating with them in bringing criminals to book. He also thanked Mr. P. R. Kirishnaratna, A. S. P., N. P., and his staff, and men for their willing co-operation and advice in conducting patrol parties. He recounted how Mr. R. B. Naish, the then Govt. Agent, N. P., helped and encouraged the society by his presence in almost all the meetings held and how he worked for the establishment of a Police Station at Anaicoddai. They have to profusely thank the local and Colombo dailies and weeklies for their support given. He also had to mention the names of Mr. S. D. Thampo, "the lion of the Bar", Rev. Father S. Gnana-pragasar, O. M. I., Rev. S. K. Bunker, Rev. James S. Mather, Rev. J. M. Singhanayagam and Mr. S. C. Arnold for their hearty co-operation and advice and for raising public opinion without which the effort made by the Society would not have been successful. A special mention has to be made of Mr. V. Veerasingham, the Vice-President for all what he had done for the Society.

Recrudescence of Crime

The increase of crime in recent months such as caste troubles, cattle thefts, crop thefts etc., is mainly due to the absence of unity among people. This unity can be brought to a stage by establishing Conciliation Boards in each village to settle the disputes between castes, between families etc. Our duty to the country should be as far as possible to prevent litigation and the time, energy and money of our people should be better utilised

in production of food and necessary articles for the country. The Social Clubs, Sports Clubs, Navally Social Service League, Y. M. C. A., Y. M. H. A., educational and religious bodies must unite to stamp out criminal tendencies among the people of this country. He appealed that an Anti-Crime drive should be made through the Schools and Colleges and emphasised the necessity of permanent Conciliation Boards not only to settle disputes as soon as they arise, but assist the Police and Headmen in detecting crimes and proving the crimes by real eye witnesses. He hoped that the Anti-Crime Society would take early steps to see that no crime is proved by an act equally criminal. He advocated Rural Reconstruction in all its aspects as the sure remedy for crimes.

Agriculture for Prisoners

Agricultural and Industrial education to those who serve prisons has to be undertaken and the prisons should be located where lands are available, and the criminals have to be made farmers with state aid and made useful citizens. Such a step would solve the crime problem a great deal and make the country to produce more food. More work for the unemployed will reduce crime in this country both among the literate and illiterate, and each Anti-Crime Society should formulate schemes and submit to the Government to improve the economic condition of the country. The Hon. the Minister of Agriculture and other Ministers and Heads of Departments are more than willing to help the people. They should consider them as friends. The schemes they suggest should be of practical nature. The success of colonization greatly depends on the people who take lands. People who have had farming experience and who have the pioneer's adventurous spirit will succeed in the enterprise. The youths who have taken up to thefts as a profession have in them great adventurous spirit; if only this great quality could be utilized in food production they will be a great asset to our Nation. For boys and girls of schools Industrial Workshops should be established in the Schools and Colleges to turn out articles we import from foreign countries. The old boys and girls should be allowed to work in the workshop. We should not wait for Government to establish them. He appealed to the old boys and girls to assist their Alma Mater in establishing such workshops which will bring some income for their daily expenses. The Hon. the Minister for Industries will assist them if they are really keen and his advisors will always be at their disposal. He appealed to the teachers, parents and leaders of the people to train the children and youths of the country to follow the foot-steps of the pioneers who created a history for Jaffnese in foreign lands for their honesty, sober habits, hard-working, simplicity of life, loyalty and love for their home and country.

Resolutions

The following resolutions were passed unanimously:—

1. That this Society expresses its gratitude to the Hon. the Minister of Home Affairs, the Inspector General of Police, the Government Agent, N. P., the Assistant Superintendent of Police, N. P., for the Police

BAN ON UNIFORMS AND DRILLING

Warning to Indian Congress

Simla, Tuesday.

"Drilling of a military nature and the wearing of uniforms resembling military or official uniforms are no longer lawful activities," reiterates a Government of India communique, commenting on the resolution passed by the Congress Working Committee which referred to the prohibition of these activities and concluded by directing that the normal routine of Congress Volunteers be carried on.

The communique states that the prohibition is not directed against any particular association, but framed under the Defence of India legislation. It adds that drilling and the wearing of military uniforms are followed by the army and the police for definite objects—the use of display of military force.

Those who imitate military methods must be presumed to have similar objects in view. No Government can tolerate the growth of non-official organisations to claim that such methods are necessary for their existence.

This applies with even greater force to an organization which is openly pledged to non-violence."

In their resolution Congress stated that volunteers were organised for promoting communal harmony, maintaining order, teaching discipline and cannot be mistaken for military or police by their dress or otherwise.

Budget Debate

The Budget debate was resumed in the State Council on Tuesday, after tea interval. For want of a quorum, the Council adjourned until 10 a.m. yesterday.

Station that is to be established at Anaicoddai.

2. That Coalition Boards be appointed for each village and that Messrs. E. Murugesampillai, J. P., V. Veerasingham, B. A., V. Mailvaganam, (Chairman, V. C.), Mudir. S. M. Visuvalingam and R. N. Sinnayah (to act as convener) to form a Central Conciliation Board and draft a constitution and that all village Conciliation Boards to co-operate with the Police to put down crimes.

3. That the Divisional Inspector of Schools, N. D., be required to devise ways and means to effect an anti-crime educational drive in the North and co-operate with the Anti-Crime Society of the Manipay Parish in organizing an anti-crime drive among the schools and Colleges of the Manipay Parish.

4. That early steps be taken to see that crops in the fields and gardens are not robbed by the thieves and prevent thefts of cattle and goats.

5. That the Society expresses its gratitude to the Chief Headman, Mr. R. N. Sinnayah and the minor headmen of the Parish for effectively suppressing the crimes in this District.

6. That a fund be collected for War Purposes and sent by the Anti Crime Society as early as possible and the Udayar of the Parish be authorised to collect the funds.

With a vote of thanks to the Chair, the meeting terminated.

(Cor.)

TAXATION BEFORE BUDGET

Strong Protest in Council

Colombo, Aug. 28.

Spirited objection, led by M. B. H. Aluwihare (Matale) was taken in the State Council this morning, to Mr. C. H. Collins (Acting Financial Secretary), moving the taxation proposals before the budget debate itself had ended.

When it was explained that this procedure was necessary because the financial year would end this week, the Ministers were taken to task for not introducing the budget in June, as provided for by law.

Mr. C. W. W. Kannangara, Education Minister, explained that a promise made last year by the Home Minister not to introduce fresh taxation before retrenchment in the Public Services was carried out could not be implemented because of an unsatisfactory reply from the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Mr. D. S. Senanayake, Minister of Agriculture and Lands, was holding the floor when the House adjourned until 2.30 p.m.

The proposed additional taxation as announced by Sir Baron in his introductory budget speech, are:

Increase in the unit rate of income tax from six per cent. to seven and a half per cent.

Increase in the import duty on petrol to Re 1 a gallon; and

Increase in the general import duty rate on sugar, refined and candy, to Rs. 6-50 per cwt.

COMPULSORY SERVICE IN BURMA

Rangoon, Aug. 26.

The Governor, Sir Archibald Cochrane, has announced that compulsory service will be instituted for all European British subjects.

MATRIMONIAL

THURYAPPAH — SELLADURAI

The marriage took place on Thursday last at the bride's residence at Aiyankovilady, of Miss Kanthymathy, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. S. Thuryappah, and sister of Mr. T. Thiruchittampalam, Asst. Irrigation Engineer, with Mr. T. Selladurai, of Alaveddy English School. There was a large gathering of friends and relatives present at the ceremonies and later at the reception on Sunday.

KULASINGHAM—KANDIAH

The marriage of Miss Manonmani, daughter of Mr. A. V. Kulasingham, Advocate, and Mrs. Kulasingham, with Mr. V. Kandiah, was celebrated at the bride's residence at Karainagar on the 22nd inst. at 8 p.m. and there was a large gathering of friends and relatives present on the occasion.

THAMBIPELLAI—SINNATAMBY

The marriage of Mr. S. Sinnathamby, son of Mr. S. Sabaratnam (Retired Town Overseer, P. W. D. Kandy) of Tinnevely, with Miss Ananthavally, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. V. Thambipillai, and niece of Mr. M. Vythialingam, Proctor, and Dr. J. M. Somasundaram was celebrated at the bride's residence at Chandilipay on Thursday last at 9 p.m. A largely attended reception was held at the bridegroom's residence on the following day.

Hungarian-Rumanian Dispute

London, Saturday.

According to the Stefani agency conversations between Rumania and Hungary in regard to Transylvania have again been broken off.

The Hungarian delegation left the conference room at 2 a.m. and went to a ship anchored on the Danube.

A member of the Rumanian delegation stated that the Hungarian counter proposals could not be approved by Rumania "today, tomorrow or in the future."

The Hungarians are returning to Budapest this afternoon.

Well-informed opinion believes that eventual arbitration by Germany in the Hungarian-Rumanian dispute is inevitable in view of the present prospect of deadlock in direct negotiation. Orders have been issued severely restricting the public transport services. The majority of the motor bus services will be stopped from tomorrow and the number of taxis drastically reduced.

It is unofficially reported that civil railway services to the east are also being severely cut and an intensification of military measures is expected.

Rumania's opposition to any solution except the exchange of populations has hardened. The Rumanian press campaign has reached a climax. All the newspapers publish figures of the Rumanian army watching the frontier and of the navy controlling the Danube.

Berlin correspondents recognise the unfavourable course of the negotiations, but say that German circles expect an early settlement of the major issues.

Meanwhile, M. Maniu's Transylvanian movement to prevent the cession of territory to Hungary shows no signs weakening and the Rumanian-Hungarian frontier is becoming restive. Orders have been issued that air raid precautions should be undertaken and shelters got ready by September 15th at the latest.

Matrimonial

PONNAMPALAM --SAMUEL

Mr. Issac Ponnampalam B.A., of the Jaffna Central College, was married to Miss Mary Selvammar Samuel, the youngest daughter of Mrs. C. M. Samuel of Manipay on the 17th inst.

The Rev. S. P. Vijayarathnam and Rev. S. Selvarathnam officiated at the Navaly Church. The bride was given away by her brother Mr. Edwin S. Samuel.

She was attended by Misses Alexandra Mather and Lily Mather as Bridesmaids and the little Misses Devi Kanaganayagam and Evanglyn Samuel as flower girls and Master Arumanayagam as Page Boy.

The Bridegroom had as bestman Rev. Samuel Jegasothy and Mr. William Mather as groomsman.

A reception followed at the bride's place at 1st Cross Street, Jaffna, when Advocate Thiruchelvam of Colombo supported by Mr. V. Veerasingham the Principal of Manipay Hindu College proposed the health of the newly married couple. Mr. Edwin S. Samuel thanked those present on behalf of his mother.

Only a few relatives and friends attended at the wedding was a very quiet one.

High Percentage of Literacy in Jaffna

(Continued from page 1)

towns the births registered in the year under review numbered 36,059, representing a birth rate of 42.8 per 1,000 of the urban population. The year 1938 had 33,186 births and a birth rate of 39.9. The increase in the rate for 1939 is noteworthy. The high urban birth rate reflects the influx of child bearing women to town hospitals for their confinement.

Sex Proportion at Birth

Of the 212,111 births registered in the year reviewed 107,903 related to males and 104,208 to females. The sex ratio at birth was accordingly 1,036 males to every 1,000 females. The excess of male over female births is a recurrent experience in Ceylon, and may be associated with endogamy, the chief feature of the caste system prevalent in the country. "The belief that endogamy has this result does not merely arise from modern inquiries into the subject, since the Talmud is quoted as stating that mixed marriages produce only girls."

The sex ratios of recent years seem to point to a decreasing masculinity. Among the different races the sex ratios at birth in 1939 were 984 males among the Europeans, 992 among the Burghers and Eurasians, 1,034 among the Sinhalese, 1,039 among the Tamils, 1,033 among the Moors, 1,194 among the Malays, to every 1,000 females born in each community.

Plural Births

1,280 cases of twins (2,560 children), 8 of triplets (24 children) and one quadruplet occurred in 1939. The quadruplets were born in the Kegalla District in the month of November, and three of the children were males and the other a female. In reckoning the number of plural births only livebirths are taken into account. One out of every 164 mothers had more than one child at a birth, as against one out of every 155 in the previous year.

Stillbirths

Stillbirths are registered only in the proclaimed towns. The number registered in 1939 was 2,590, representing a rate of 72 per 1000 live births. This is a high rate, but its trend, is downward.

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THE HINDU BOARD OF EDUCATION JAFFNA.

16th ANNUAL REPORT (1939)

To be presented by the Hony. Secretary, Mr. C. Ponnambalam, Advocate, and Chairman, Urban Council, Jaffna, at the Annual General Meeting on the 31st August, 1940, at the Jaffna Cherniya Street Bilingual School.

We take this opportunity to place on record our abiding sense of loyalty to His Imperial Majesty in this grave hour of crisis and we earnestly pray that His Majesty's Government will carry this War to a victorious conclusion, and thereby ensure for us the Freedom of Religious worship and assembly we have enjoyed for ever so many years under British rule. We call upon the Members of the Board to continue to contribute their mits towards the successful prosecution of the War.

On the birthday of His Majesty the King, we had prayers and Poojas in all our Schools for the long life and happiness of His Majesty, the King, and for a speedy victory of the Great War.

The Hindu Board of Education has done good work during the year, 1939. The Committee regrets that the Annual General Meeting was not held earlier than today. The Committee met 8 times during this year.

Congratulations.

We congratulate our Secretary, Mr. C. Ponnambalam, on his election as Chairman, Urban Council, Jaffna, by the unanimous vote of the City Fathers, who have thereby given ample recognition to his services during the past five years to the town of Jaffna.

Condolences.

Three of our Directors (viz. Messrs. V. Sathasivampillai, C. Saccavanamuttu, and M. M. Kanagasigam) have passed away. We mourn their loss with their widows and children.

Institutions.

Today there are 99 Institutions as compared with 93 Institutions which we had at the time of the last report. These Institutions are located as follows:—

1. Delft6.	10. Jaffna15
2. Punguduthivu ...7.	11. Vadamarachy ...6
3. Nainathivu ...2.	12. Thenmarachy 17.
4. Eduvaithivu ...1.	13. Pachalaipali ...2.
5. Leyden7.	14. Pooneryn ...2.
6. Karaimagar ...3.	15. Malakithivu ...3.
7. Vali West ...13.	16. Vavuniya ...1.
8. Vali North ...7.	17. Nawalapitiya ...2.
9. Vali East. ...4.	18. Badulla ...1.

Of these 99 Institutions, 92 are registered for Government aid. The Vannarponnai Veeramakaliamman Vidyasalai has been registered for Government aid during the year under review.

During this year, the following registered schools have been placed under our Board of Management. Viz.

1. Jaffna Urelu Ganesha Vidyasalai
2. Jaffna Vathiriy Thevaraiyaly Vidyasalai
3. Karuthivu Subramania Vidyasalai

Of the 92 registered schools, of ours only 12 registered Schools have been placed under our management by the Proprietors as registered schools.

There are 7 unaided schools. Viz.

1. *The Jaffna Thaiyiddy South Sivagurunatha Vidyasalai.*

This school has been declared by the Education Committee as fit and efficient for the registration. It may be registered with the next annual inspection of the school in September, 1940. It will be remembered that when this School was Gazetted for observation and was about to receive Government aid, the registration was delayed owing to the action taken by the Education Committee. This happened about four years ago.

2. *The Punguduthivu Raja Rajeswari Vidyasalai.*
3. *The Vannarponnai Sri Waitialinga Vidyasalai.*

This school may be registered even during the War.

4. *The Punguduthivu Sir Duraiswamy Vidyasalai.*
5. *The Ponnalai Varatharajaperumal Vidyasalai.*
6. *The Jaffna Sinhalese Night School.*

These last three schools were started after the War, and are not likely to be registered till the War is over.

7. *The Jaffna Classical School.*

This school is situated in Thinnevely and is being run as an unaided school. It is continuing to do good work in higher work in Tamil and also in Sanscrit and Sinhalese. We mean to continue to run the school without Government aid.

Junior and Senior School Certificate Examination Classes. (Tamil)

We prepare students for the J. S. C. and S. S. C. (Tamil) Examinations in many of our schools. Year after year a good number of students succeed in these public examinations.

Teachers and Students.

There are today 16,000 students and 500 teachers in our 99 schools as compared with 14,885 students and 465 teachers at the end of 1938. Our teachers are continuing to maintain a high standard of efficiency in their work. Their relationship with the parents and the public in the different villages continues to be on the whole cordial. Their loyalty to the Board and its noble ideals is commendable.

Finance.

All our aided schools (Tamil and Bilingual) are being continued under the system of Direct Payment of salaries to teachers. We received, besides, what was given to the teachers by Direct Payment during the year 1939 Government Grant amounting to Rs. 16369/9/7. Donations and subscriptions Rs 12,98 1/67.

We spent on salaries of teachers Rs. 5456/78, on furniture and equipment Rs. 107 13/30, and on lands and buildings Rs. 2479/40. The total grant, including the salaries paid by Government direct to our teachers in our registered schools during the year under review is Rs. 309,352/06.

During the last 16 years we have spent Rs. 126,791/48 on our different schools over and above what we received as Grant and what our Local Managers and Local Committees had spent on them.

During the last 16 years, in round figures, the Board received Rs. 907,000/- in cash by way of subscriptions and donations, and Rs. 350,000/- by way of lands and buildings.

Loss on New Schools.

During the last five years the Board had lost nearly Rs. 40,000/- on its new schools. The total liability of the Board by the end of 1939 was Rs. 20,000/- In the Board's early days, schools were registered for aid from the time of their opening. Later, a period of three months lapsed from the start, before Government aid was given. During the last five years no Government aid was given, unless the Board has maintained at its own cost its new schools for a period ranging from 8 to 15 months. In the case of our Thaiyiddy South Sivagurunatha Vidyasalai, it is a much longer period as mentioned above. We are afraid that most of the schools started after the War may not be registered till the War is over.

Free Mid-day Meals.

The Board is unable to understand the principle on which schools are selected by the Department for providing free midday meals. It is affecting the attendance in some schools adversely. There are many Hindu Villages where Christian Schools exist by the side of Hindu Schools. The attendance increases in the Hindu Schools and the very existence of the Christian School is threatened. Then the prop of a free midday meal is given to the Christian school, though the children attending the Hindu School are also from similar poor homes of the same Village.

Appointment of Teachers.

In the case of Christian Schools which are worked on the quarterly payment of grant, when a teacher resigns or retires his place can be filled up by a teacher of higher qualification. In the case of Hindu or Buddhist Schools which are under the direct monthly payment system, no teacher with higher qualifications could replace a retiring teacher of lower qualification. Owing to the dearth of more qualified teachers, the Hindus were forced to mark time with un-qualified teachers. When these teachers retire, the Hindus are compelled to be content with unqualified teachers.

Orphanages.

By the efforts of Mr. A. Chellappa, our former General Manager, the Jaffna Saiva Girls' Orphanage was started in rented premises with 30 orphans in it.

There are in the Saiva Boys' Orphanage 73 students as compared with 51 for last year. It is having a separate Boarding establishment now.

Many applications of deserving orphans to the 2 Orphanages had to be rejected for lack of funds and accommodation, besides the restriction of the number by Government.

Classical School.

The school started by Pandit S. Kanapathypillai of the staff of our Jaffna Saiva Training School, is continuing to do very good work under his energetic control. Higher Tamil and Sanscrit and Singhalese are taught in this school. Tamil is taught by Pandit Kanapathypillai and three other Pandits, who are his old students. Singhalese is taught by the Buddhist Priest (Rev. Sri Sumana Thero) of the Sri Naga Vihara. Sanscrit is taught by a highly qualified Brahmin Priest. We are proud that this Institution has during the short time of its existence done very good and useful work. Our thanks are due to the different teachers who do honorary work.

The Jaffna Saiva Training School.

The quota allowed for our Training School is 51. By this restriction of the number, Hindu Students are forced to seek admission to the Christian Training School, and many are directly and indirectly made to embrace Christianity, either before they enter such Schools or before they pass out of the Schools.

Bilingual Schools.

The Board has 5 Bilingual Schools today. One of the Bilingual Schools (Punguduthivu Subramaniya Bilingual School) has to be re-converted into a Tamil School, during the year under review, for financial reasons. The success of these schools will be seen in another year or two when they have got over the transition period.

The Jaffna Hindu Ladies College.

No serious effort has been made yet to collect funds for the necessary buildings or buy the additional lands necessary for the same. It is a crying need. We appeal for workers in this great and urgent cause of the Hindus.

Religion in our Schools.

Greater interest is being taken now in our Schools in Religious Education. There is room for further improvement in this direction.

Health Activities.

The Board Schools are being made to take a keen interest in Health Education too. The practical work done by Mr. V. Subbiah, Head Teacher of our Madduvil North Kamalasangam Vidyasalai in the school and in the village deserves our sincere thanks.

Spinning and Weaving.

We are introducing spinning and weaving in our schools. We are trying to give an agricultural bias to our students by encouraging practical work in gardening and food production, besides, promoting the study of rural science. The chief difficulty is the scarcity of water. In certain places, there are no wells. We are sinking them whenever we find we could spare some money. In certain areas, the wells are so deep that water lifting is a real problem. Our idea is to concentrate on weaving and spinning in such areas.

Mr. S. Rajaratnam.

We are glad to state that the Honourable the Minister for Education and his Committee have been pleased to withdraw the ban on Mr. S. Rajaratnam and he is eligible to become the Manager of the Board Schools.

Conclusion.

The Hindu Board of Education has completed 16 years of useful and meritorious services to Hindu Ceylon. It has grown from strength to strength. Today it is the largest educational institution in Ceylon. Almost every wage-earning Hindu has some time or other contributed his or her quota towards the success of the Board. The rich Hindus have not shown their practical appreciation of our work by opening their purse strings. Today it has 99 institutions including the Jaffna Saiva Training School, and the Boys' and Girls' Orphanages, catering to the educational need of the 16,000 Hindu children. There are yet over 50,000 Hindu children receiving their education in alien atmosphere or receiving no education at all. The earlier the Hindus provide for the education of these Hindu children, especially girls, in a Hindu atmosphere, the better it would be for the common weal of the Hindus. May we make our earnest appeal to all Hindus, especially, the young to take up the work that lies before them. The heart of the Hindu race is sound and we are confident that the Hindus would show their keen and practical interest in the work of the Board. Every Hindu who pays 2 3/4 cents a day becomes a member. Every Hindu becoming a member would hasten the day when every Hindu child would receive its education in a Hindu atmosphere thus realising the ideal of the Great Srila Sri Anantanga Navalar.