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The Only Newspaper in Ceylon for the Hindus

Editor:
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NEWS FROM FAR AND NEAR

No Telegraph Service to Some Places in Malaya

There is no telegraph communication with the following places in Malaya and Sarawak, according to a Post Office communique:—Provinces of Wellesley, Kedah, Trengganu, Kelantan, and Perak, North of Tapah, in Malaya, Brunel, Kuching and Miri in Sarawak.

Petrol Prices

It is understood that there is a probability of the price of petrol being raised by five cents per gallon, and the price of kerosene by one cent per gallon. The increased price, it is learned, may not, if imposed, be levied for a longer period than approximately four months.

Chinese Troops Enter Burma

London, Jan. 2.

Chinese troops have already entered Burma, according to a statement by a Chinese military spokesman at Chungking today. He added that the troops were fully equipped, but their numbers and date of arrival in Burma could not be disclosed. It is officially announced in Chungking that the Chinese in Burma are "a large number and will be under the command of General Wavell."

Accommodation for Casualties

Some of the school buildings in Colombo are to be converted into temporary wards in the event of the accommodation available for casualty cases in the General Hospital being found insufficient. Arrangements have also been made to accommodate the surplus casualty cases from the General Hospital in some of the district hospitals if the necessity arises.

Food Control

THE preliminary work in connection with the introduction of food control has been completed.

It is stated, however, that a considerable volume of work has still to be carried out in all parts of the Island in regard to preparations for food control and it is partly for this work, which is of a very urgent nature, that additional staff is to be requisitioned at short notice. The work in connection with the Rice Reserves Ordinance also involves the employment of additional staff for a few weeks longer.

STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE OF CEYLON

VITAL OUTPOST OF THE EMPIRE

THE Calcutta "Statesman" in an editorial of December 29 comments as follows:—

"Important changes have been made and others may shortly be announced in the organisation of Ceylon's defences. The Imperial Government has entrusted the military defences of the Island to India's Commander-in-Chief, and under him a General Officer Commanding is now in immediate charge of troops in Ceylon. The translation of supreme authority to Sir Archibald Wavell has been cordially welcomed, for it means, as the Governor, Sir Andrew Caldecott remarked in a recent speech to the State Council, that Ceylon no longer stands militarily alone. "As soon as reinforcements are in the Commander-in-Chief's judgment advisable," the Governor added, "we shall find them here."

"Such a change was of course inevitable, for the defence of Ceylon is vital to India's security. That the authority of the Commander-in-Chief in India has only now been extended to embrace Ceylon may indeed come as a surprise to many. There have been complaints of inadequacies and deficiencies in Ceylon's defences but the Government is able to claim that the State Council has voted all the provision, and that Government departments have rendered all the services hitherto requested by the military authorities.

CEYLON'S IMPORTANCE

"Sir Archibald Wavell's assumption of supreme command must be expected to lead to speedy and far-reaching reinforcement of the defences of Ceylon which in the opinion of some military strategists ought to have chosen in preference to Singapore as the Empire's main stronghold in the East."

In the hands of the enemy the Island would be an ideal base for sea and air raiders on Indian ports, cities and communications. While the Middle East and Malaya are the outer bastions of defence to the

West and East, Ceylon now becomes an equally vital strategic outpost in the South.

"Other important changes in Ceylon's defence organization are likely to be made on the financial side. A few years ago India reached an agreement generally recognized as an eminently fair one to this country, for the allocation of defence expenditure between the Indian and His Majesty's Governments.

DEFENCE EXPENDITURE

"In Ceylon however the allocation of defence expenditure is still governed by a system agreed upon over 40 years ago when the Island had nothing like the naval and military forces since raised, which represent a heavy obligation in annual budgets. The Secretary of State has agreed that an overhaul is necessary in the system of distributing the cost between the Imperial and local Governments. A decision may shortly be announced. Ceylon is now wisely observing a nightly blackout though there are people on the Island who consider it a vexatious and unnecessary precaution. The Governor has pointed out however that though the Island may not be liable to the weight and continuity of shore-based aerial attacks, raids by or from enemy ocean-craft on harbours, shipping stores and communications may not in the least be unlikely. If such raids were attempted the Islanders could not expect a warning of more than a few minutes of the coming attack."

CALCUTTA SCHOOLS TO REMAIN CLOSED

Calcutta, Jan. 1.

In view of the unsettled conditions in Calcutta and certain other places in the province the Syndicate of the Calcutta University has advised the authorities of schools and colleges in Calcutta and Chittagong and within a radius of thirty miles from each of these places to keep the respective institutions closed until Jan. 18. The Syndicate has also postponed the various university examinations which were to begin in the first week of February for over a month.

CALL FOR UNITY AND TRUST

MINISTER ON DANGERS OF SUSPICION

AN appeal to all people living in Ceylon—of all communities and races—"to protect each other as a brother does a sister and to lighten each other's burden and share in the joys and sorrows that are in store for us in this critical time," was made by Mr. D. S. Senanayake, Minister of Agriculture, speaking on Thursday at Ananda College Hall on the occasion of the F. R. Senanayake Commemoration Day.

In these times when danger threatens the country, the Government and the people must unite and work wholeheartedly with a single purpose and single aim, he added.

"Let us remember 1915," Mr. Senanayake continued, "and let us not allow petty and private differences to get the better of us. Let not suspicion whether among us or among those who govern us be allowed to creep in for suspicion is a fruitful source of distress and trouble."

Sir Wilfred De Soysa presided over the proceedings.

Mr. Senanayake, in his speech, said he could not say whether the war would spread to Ceylon or not, but he would warn them to take such action as to protect themselves in such an eventuality. If all of them were to try to run away from such a catastrophe it would not be a satisfactory solution.

INDIAN EVACUATION

Large number of Indians resident in Ceylon were returning to India because they feared that Ceylon could not give them the security and protection they needed.

He would like to assure the Indian residents in Ceylon that so long as they choose to live in Ceylon they would have all the protection and security that the people of this country could provide.

Incidentally, the departure of the Indian residents proved the contention that Ceylon was not their Motherland. If however, any Indian continued to reside in Ceylon let him throw in his lot with the people of this country and work unitedly to protect each other.

He regretted to have heard of a separate scheme for the pro-

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Hindu Organ.

MONDAY, JANUARY 5, 1942

FACING BOTH WAYS

IN A RECENT SPEECH, A report of which appears in another column, Mr. D. S. Senanayake appealed to the people of the country for unity in the face of the danger that threatens all communities. It is a relief to find that Mr. Senanayake sees in the war in the Far East the strongest possible reason for all communities in the island to cease their bickerings and prepare themselves to face the full implications of Japanese aggression if and when these are permitted to unfold themselves in due course. To look upon Japanese attempts at expansion as a threat only against British or American interests, or as the inevitable reaction of the Japanese to the claims of Western imperialism, would be to ignore plain and obvious facts. Asiatics know what has happened in Korea and what is going on in occupied China. The present temper and ambitions of the Japanese are proof of the great truth that imperialism, as understood and practised by an Asiatic Power driven to high adventure by economic necessities is a great menace to the liberty and well-being of weaker races—a far greater menace than the exploitation by Western countries against which a good deal is heard nowadays. Those who do not realise this can no longer be regarded with any degree of tolerance, they are the real enemies of our people and have to be treated as such.

Mr. Senanayake is, however, evidently unable to convert to his point of view some of his friends who spoke at the last session of the Ceylon Congress. There was a veritable fusillade of speeches at this session against the Atlantic Charter, the white man's domination of the coloured races, and the alleged infamy of expecting the subject races of the British Empire to participate in the struggle against Germany and her allies. A resolution was passed authorising the Working Committee to draft an Ordinance to be introduced in the State Council creating a constitution for "free Lanka". If the British Government refused to give in, the ex-President of the Congress threatened that a non-co-operation movement would be started commencing with withdrawal from the Council. Mr. Wijeyeratne has not told us what he proposes to do after withdrawing from the Council and starting non-co-operation, but it is too easy to see what he means by

the threat. His speech leaves little room for doubt as to his real meaning.

Under these circumstances, only one course is open to those who differ from those champions of Ceylonese independence, and that is to dissociate themselves definitely and unequivocally from the attempt made by the ex-President and his associates to embarrass the Government of Ceylon at a time when the rights and liberties we possess already are themselves in grave jeopardy. Neither Mr. Senanayake nor Mr. Corea has given any indication that they appreciate the necessity for such a gesture. They are content to preach the ideal of unity while the rank and file of the Congress party, who, by the way, represent only a fraction of the population, are allowed to sow the seeds of unrest and dissension amongst our people. Mr. Bandaranaike himself has made pointed reference to this strange contrast between the views of the ex-President and those of the President, but he passes it off with the cynical remark that "there is nothing like having it both ways". If this is the case, then the leaders of the Congress party have utterly failed to understand how dangerous opportunism of this kind can be to the best interests of Ceylon. We agree with Mr. Senanayake that Japanese imperialism is the enemy of all and that the people of this country must stand together like brothers during the difficult times ahead, but we are afraid that the speeches and resolutions of the Congress do not reflect his point of view at all.

The Congress, we note, wants a "free Lanka", and if this is not acceded to by the British Government, which has its hands full in all the theatres of war, the Congress proposes to non-co-operate. If it had an iota of ordinary common sense and wisdom, the Congress would have realised, after its betrayal of the Tamils and the other minorities, that the minority communities could not possibly participate in any such move and that, on the contrary, they would feel it their first duty to support the Government in any action that may be taken to prevent the threat contained in the resolutions from taking practical shape. Even the great majority of their own people would refuse to follow the Congress leaders in their attempt to commit political suicide.

In the present situation the duty of men like Mr. Senanayake is quite clear. They must either curb the morbid racial passions of their followers or they must resign and make way for those who are prepared to do it. The country has had enough of the veiled treason of these men. Neither the Government nor the public will be able to tolerate it a moment longer. As for the threats of the Congress, we would remind the latter that threats have a habit of recoiling on those who utter them.

NOTES AND COMMENTS

Mr. Curtin and the War

MR. Curtin, the present Australian Prime Minister, was one of those who, when Mr. Menzies was Premier, raised the cry that in the fighting in Libya and elsewhere Australian troops suffered heavily for want of sufficient equipment and aircraft. The implications of his complaint were to some extent corrected by a subsequent British official statement which showed that the great majority of the British troops engaged in this fighting consisted of soldiers from England. The attitude of Mr. Curtin's party at the time was a greater embarrassment to the British Government than the criticism of the British Press which was solely directed towards remedying the shortcomings in the matter of aircraft. After Japan's entry into the war, Mr. Curtin has become positively hysterical. Recently he appealed to the United States and Russia for help. We can understand Australian feeling in regard to Japanese aggression, but Mr. Curtin's attempt to determine the general strategy of the Democracies entirely from Australia's point of view is quite unfair. His attitude has been severely criticised by some of the Australian papers themselves. It is not the British people alone who hail Mr. Churchill as the one leader who will win this war for the democracies. Their confidence is shared by all those who have a stake in the war. We do not minimise the danger that threatens Australia, but it is a danger that has to be faced with calm courage and fortitude.

The Philippines

JAPAN is making the attack on the Philippines in great force and Manila has been occupied. As our readers are aware, the attack is being made from the north as well as the south. Mechanised troops and a strong Air Force are being used in conjunction with the large army that has been landed at various points in the islands. Mr. Roosevelt has given the Government and the people of the Philippines a solemn pledge that all the resources of the United States will be thrown into the struggle to restore the independence of the Philippines. There is not the slightest doubt that this pledge will be honoured but the situation in the Philippines is dangerous and it must be tackled without delay. Once Japan is allowed to establish herself firmly in the Philippines, the task of dislodging her will be far more difficult. The defence of the Philippines is of vital importance to Malaya and Singapore. As matters stand at present, with the Philippines in her hands, Japan may be able to isolate Singapore and also press her attack on Malaya with greater vigour. Whatever may be the dangers in the situation that has developed in the Far East, we feel confident that the combined strength of the United States and Britain will be able in the long run to roll up the Japanese naval forces towards Japan's home waters and deal effectively with the invaders in the countries in which they had established themselves for the time being.

Fighting in Malaya

It must be confessed that the news about the fighting in Malaya does not make pleasant reading. The British forces have been pressed back to the south of Ipoh, which is the biggest town in the State of Perak and also the centre of the tin-mining district. Kuala Lumpur, the capital of the Federated Malay States, and Port Swettenham have been bombed. With the aerodromes in Northern Malaya in Japanese hands, bombing of Malayan towns is inevitable, but it is to be hoped that every attempt will be made to send more fighter planes to deal with the bombers and to strengthen the anti-aircraft defences. The latest cables indicate that British resistance has stiffened considerably.

TOPICS OF THE DAY (BY T. KATHIRAVELLU)

Atlantic Charter Debunked

FURTHER to the Indian debunking of the Atlantic Charter, John Foster Dulles, Chairman of the United States Church Commission, criticises the Roosevelt-Churchill declaration as being "too full of pious platitudes," according to the American magazine "Time." Place all non-self-governing nations under international mandate, allow every nation free trade with them, prepare them for "ultimate self government," are some of the comments. The Chairman urges the formation of "an international federation for peace" that would include every country to "eradicate that immoral principle of national responsibility which the sovereignty system now sanctifies." I personally feel, in Aldous Huxley's words, that "we are all shorn lambs and, unless the wind were tempered for us, should feel extremely chilly under the blast."

Jap Policy

I promised readers a commentary on the war situation in Malaya but I find that Reuters' "Analyst" is doing this job so well that I feel it presumptuous on my part to trespass on his preserves. Always remember that, much as you may dislike reading what I write, it could have been considerably worse. The Japanese have as many virtues as failings. They are fanatical believers in the axiom, "the East is East and the West is West and ne'er the twain shall meet," which, if I remember rightly, is borrowed from Rudyard Kipling. Furthermore, it is apparent, as Mr. Churchill says, that a juvenile military officers' junta holds the whip hand in Japan and this accounts for the Japs' forward policy. Admittedly the Japs are having the better now but even the worm will turn.

The Tide Will Turn

His Imperial Highness Sun God Hirohito of Japan, who is almost worshipped by his subjects, will soon receive shocking news. The Malayan authorities were definitely not prepared for Thailand's submission and the Jap forces, with numerical superiority and the aid of their air arm, forged their way through difficult terrain and dense jungle. A stand will have to be made with backs to the wall and Lower Perak and Selangor will be the scene of stern fighting though the British forces in Malaya have not got very modern equipment and tools. War with Japan came too soon for this.

Malayan Forces

As a former cadet and an ex-volunteer, I can safely say that the defence of Malaya need not cause unnecessary panic among us. Without giving away military secrets, I should stress that the Volunteer forces amount to at least four battalions in the Straits Settlements. These are not seasoned troops or crack regiments but are composed chiefly of Straits-born patriotic civilians who know what they are up against. To supplement this there is the newly established Malay Regiment (a body of regulars), the M. S. V. R. the M. V. I., the J. M. F. and other local troops,

Continued on page 5

CAPTURE OF MANILA

Fighting Still Going On

London, Jan. 2.

According to the Japanese War Office, Manila has fallen. There is no confirmation of this report from any other source.

EARLIER NEWS

Washington, Jan. 1.

Turned at bay on the approaches to Manila, General MacArthur's forces consisting of Americans and Filipino scouts are hitting back hard at the outnumbering Japanese forces, which are attempting to surround the island capital.

Two isolated units have been successfully re-grouped.

General MacArthur's forces in the Philippines are believed to be fighting along an irregular frontier about 200 miles long and embracing the Cavite navy yard, Manila itself and at least sections of the six provinces of Cavite, Rizal, Bulacan, Pampanga, Zambales and Batan. As the last line of defence of Manila Bay the defences on the fortress of the island of Corregidor and the adjoining islands are believed to be strong enough to enable the defenders to carry on a fight, perhaps even for weeks if necessary.

If Manila falls it is believed that General MacArthur's troops will be withdrawn to the mountains in eastern Luzon, where they will wage guerilla warfare, which is the type of fighting at which Filipino scouts are specially adept.

Axis reports claim that Manila is completely encircled by land, with the Japanese troops only six or seven miles away at one point and the Tokyo radio has broadcast an appeal to the city to surrender. A Manila despatch to the Vichy News Agency said that the fall of the city seemed imminent and said that gunfire could be clearly heard in the district.

According to private advices reaching New York the fall of Manila is expected hourly.

MANILA A LIABILITY

The Chairman of the U. S. Senate Foreign Relations' Committee, Mr. Connally, said that Manila's fall is to be expected because the Philippines had long been considered a liability instead of an asset. Mr. Connally said that the distance from the United States made it virtually impossible to reinforce the islands.

Americans should prepare themselves for a "long period of disappointment", Senator George said.

Asked at a Press Conference whether the War Department had instructed General MacArthur to leave the Philippines if Manila fell, the U. S. War Secretary, Mr. H. L. Stimson, replied in the negative. Asked about the "Pravda's" attack on the declaration of Manila as an open city Mr. Stimson first said that he was unable to comment, but added that when the American people were fighting an uphill fight under most skillful commanders he would not join in any outside criticism. "Nothing has occurred to make us believe that General MacArthur's defence has been other than masterly."

ENEMY HELD SOUTH OF IPOH

SITUATION IN KUANTAN CONFUSED

Singapore, Jan. 2.

FANTASTIC accounts issued by the Tokyo radio that masses of bombs have fallen on Singapore and that the city is in a state of commotion can categorically be denied.

Hitherto Japanese air raids have caused very little material damage and there is definitely no visible disorganisation of the city's everyday life as a result of these raids. The raids on Port Swettenham, which inflicted some military damage, are thought to have been directed against British rubber exports, for it is the main port of Kuala Lumpur—the heart of Malaya's rubber industry.

Attempting to push on southward from Ipoh, the Japanese are pursuing their usual tactics, disregarding casualties and intent only on driving forward at any cost. It would appear that our troops are fighting a withdrawing action designed to hold the Japanese advance as much as possible and inflicting the most possible casualties with a view to slowing the enemy's momentum.

Reports that the Japanese are frantically preparing rafts and other improvised means of water transport along the banks of the Perak River suggest that the enemy intends to use the river as a means of communication to try to outflank our troops on the main road running from Ipoh to Kuala Lumpur. In the eastern front of Malaya the Japanese have been unable to make any appreciable headway to the south from Kota Bharu.

On the British front in North-West Malaya the Imperial troops are holding the Japanese south of Ipoh.

For the second consecutive day there has been no major development on this front, according to a British communique, which refers only to small brushes with Japanese scouting parties.

Singapore had two air-raids on New Year's Eve which resulted in 17 casualties, but no military damage.

KUANTAN SITUATION

The situation regarding Kuantan is confused. Tokyo claims that the port and town of Kuantan have been captured, but it cannot be confirmed in Singapore. All that the military authorities vouchsafe is that "the fight continues in Kuantan" and the aerodrome is held by the British.

It was known for many months that Kuantan with an aerodrome within 190 miles from Singapore and one road leading across the Peninsula to Kuala Lumpur would be one of the probable points for an attempted penetration.

The Japanese even staged one attempted landing here in the first days of hostilities but this was repulsed. Since then the Japanese have succeeded in sending patrols down the coastline from Kota Bharu to Kuantan although there is no proper road here. It would seem as if the Japanese have succeeded in gaining a spearhead by a tactical surprise.

CHANGE OF TACTICS

Reuter's Special Correspondent says that we appear to have suc-

cessfully held the Japanese advance south of Ipoh for the time being. The general tactics have apparently been altered slightly since the push began and the campaign is now being fought on much more orthodox lines.

Our troops have learned to tackle the infiltration tactics with which the Japanese first caused such confusion and, it is understood, we are now counter-attacking repeatedly in an attempt to prevent the enemy establishing himself in any major threatening position.

As a result the Japanese are now being forced to use more artillery in an attempt to break our resistance. They are also continuing aerial attacks on our communications.

ATTACK ON CELEBES

An official communique states: "On the Perak front there was contact with small parties of the enemy. There has been some enemy shelling. One of our companies supported by artillery inflicted about 100 casualties on the enemy and destroyed a small enemy ammunition dump. Our casualties were slight."

"At Kuantan fighting continues. There were a number of air-raids on Port Swettenham on December 30 with some damage to military objectives. No damage was done to aerodrome. Enemy aircraft made some further raids on our communications. Slight temporary damage was done."

"Information has been received that the bulk of our troops have been successfully withdrawn from Sarawak and are in touch with the Netherlands East Indies forces in West Borneo."

The Japanese report an air-raid on the Celebes, according to the Rome radio adding that the airports were attacked. Japanese warships took part in the operations. Other Japanese warships shelled and destroyed military objectives on the Island of Serong (between Celebes and New Guinea.)

"Analyst" report that correspondents in Singapore believe that General Pownall is conserving his main air force for future eventualities.

The air battle for Singapore may be as dramatic as the air battle for Britain.

The recent Japanese air raid on Rangoon proved conclusively the superiority of British and American aviators.

The Chinese people are confident that Britain, America, China and the Netherlands East Indies will deal a knockout blow to Japan in the next few months, declared the Chungking radio in a broadcast to Australia tonight.

"Singapore will be held," said the announcer, emphasising the combined military and industrial might of the A. B. C. D. Powers.

China today entered the sixth calendar year of her resistance to Japanese aggression. The predominant thought in the minds of the Chinese people, the announcer continued, was the call made by General Chiang Kai-shek in a New Year message in which he warned the nation not to underestimate Japan.

"There are no good grounds," he

DOOR NOT CLOSED

Congress Share In War Effort

Bardoli, Jan. 1.

MR. GANDHI in an interview to Press today stated:—

"If any one had thought, as I had thought, that the door to Congress participation in the present war on the ground of Congress non-violence has been closed for ever by the Bombay resolution, then they may now know that the Bombay resolution had not quite closed the door."

"Undoubtedly, as the resolution said, the Poona resolution lapsed, and, therefore, the Poona offer lapsed. But the Congress now through the Working Committee has made it clear that the door is not barred altogether against Congress participation, certainly not on the ground of non-violence."

"The key for unlocking the door remains principally in the hands of the British Government and the Working Committee very properly declined to state the terms on which that door can be opened. It will depend upon varying circumstances, but in my opinion, the chief circumstance is the Government."

"Having been insulted often enough the Working Committee will not court any further insult by making any offer. After all, its position is absolutely clear and everybody knows what the Congress stands for and what it wants. Everyone should, therefore, know that nothing will be accepted by the Congress short of what it stands for."

BURDEN CAST ON GOVERNMENT

"Therefore the burden of the next steps is cast on the Government. This is the chief thing that is relevant at the present time."

"I have a pressing cable from those English friends who are interested in India's freedom and who are lovers of their own people. I have not replied to that cable. They have reminded me of the Andrews legacy. Whatever their meaning of the reminder my meaning could only be one. The one indissoluble bond between Charlie Andrews and myself was that we would never compromise our conscience on any account whatsoever and in all that I have done I can fearlessly claim I have been guided by conscience."

"I made it clear in my letter to Maulana Sahab that I could not possibly identify myself with the door of participation being kept open in any shape or form because that would mean, in my opinion, a recantation of all that Congress stood for for the last twenty years or more. I would not be guilty of selling that heritage even for the independence of India because it would not be real independence."

said, "for sanguine expectations of an early victory. During the next few months great activity on the part of the Japanese is to be anticipated. Bad news may continue to come of the progress of the operations in the Pacific. The shadows of Japanese aggression are now looming over the Indian Ocean and we find that Burma and India may be threatened or even invaded."

"We ought to prepare ourselves for the worst possible situation that can arise. I believe that when a certain stage has been reached, the Allies will find themselves in a position to inflict overwhelming punishment on the enemy."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

TEACHERS AND NOTES OF LESSONS

Sir,—In the issue of the 'Hindu Organ' of Dec. 29, "Spectator" finds a doughty champion in "A Teacher", who clamours for a debate in connection with my "Topics of the Day" Notes of Dec. 22. I join the fray without, I hope, infringing too much on your space. At the outset I must say that I agree in main with Spectator's findings on the educational ills of the country. At the same time I did not wish to sidetrack the splendid work being done by the Special Committee on Education! I had to criticise certain aspects of Spectator's remarks. What I write is for the consumption of the general public and my fervent hope is that "Spectator" and "A Teacher" do not only form my public! Let me first deal with Spectator's two articles and, in doing so, I shall be dealing trenchantly with "A Teacher."

While I agree that more constructive, incidental, inspection visits are necessary, it is obvious that about 50% of teachers here do not write Notes or do so only after persuasion. Admittedly we do not have a perfect inspectorate but to err is human. "Spectator" says: "The Inspector should go to a school.....when he is in a good mood." To say the least this is impracticable. To stretch the statement a bit further we should work only when we are in a good mood! I am now in a bad mood but I am working. A P. G. Wodehouse (the bloke now in Germany) would say—"One scarcely knows whether to laugh or weep!" "Spectator" states that "the writing of notes of lessons for certain subjects, especially in the lower classes, is an absolute waste of time and energy and the sooner it is done away with, the better it would be for all concerned." I emphasise that notes are necessary for all classes and notes are not, to quote "Spectator", a "meaningless farce"

A rule, says "Spectator," declares that "no Inspector should take tea in the house of a manager or a principal during his visit." The Ceylon Tea Propaganda Board is sure to object to this discrimination! As the present age is a Socialist age, this rule seems silly and I applaud those inspectors who sometimes break this principle, behaving in a healthy schoolboy spirit. If "Spectator" wishes to applaud the Divisional Inspector and the District Inspectors (of the Northern Division only, please note!), he could have presented illuminated addresses instead of doing the applauding through the press. There are certain things which are absolutely not done in polite society. And good wine needs no bush!

And now on to Spectator's rear-guard, "A Teacher." For his benefit I should say that the Malayan practice is to prepare Notes of Lessons weekly and in advance by Mondays. Schemes for the year and for the term are viewed as necessary preparation for subsequent Notes of Lessons. In Malaya we have detailed, printed record books for Notes of Lessons where the teacher en-

ters the work planned and the work accomplished for the day. I agree with "A Teacher" when he says that "a person's education and training for the teaching profession may be regarded as a sort of preparation for his whole career as teacher," but the statement that "the writing of notes as an indication of his daily preparation of the lessons is superfluous and hence unnecessary" is disgustingly illogical. Training instructors always stress the importance of daily preparation of work and all shades of opinion subscribe to this view. The compilation of Notes is part and parcel of such preparation.

"A Teacher" proceeds to exhibit a 'childish tongue-in-the-cheek audacity to ask: "Is it too much to hope that Mr. T. K. will hereafter make observations on matters in which he is well versed and truly interested and which need criticism and improvement without treading on unsafe grounds?" I am a government trained teacher of Singapore with experience of teaching in several Malayan schools. I now happen to be an assistant master, Sri Somaskanda English School, Puttur, and, incidentally, the Secretary of the Valikamam East Teachers' Association. So much for my credentials to satisfy the morbid curiosity of "A Teacher." But I am afraid that, as I am also a journalist (a Solomon-like busy-body), I have to keep on treading on people's toes and if the cap is certain people, they just have to wear it. I fail to see why "A Teacher" has unwittingly shouldered the task of analysing my comment of December 22, the greater part of which was not food for Spectator's digestion.

Lastly, why hide under pen-names? The snake-in-the-grass attitude seldom pays. I confess that I use a nom-de-plume (Vetas) but that is only when I assume the press reporter's role and never when I engage in debate through the correspondence columns of a newspaper.

Yours etc.,
T. KATHIRAVELLU.

Vaddukoddai,
1st January, 1942.

A CORRECTION

"St. John's College, Colombo", in line 2 of para 8 of my letter which appeared in the "Hindu Organ" of the 29th December 1941 re London Matric results, 1941, should be read as St. Joseph's College, Colombo.

K. Sivapragasam.

30 MINUTES AHEAD

From 1 a.m. today, January 5th, all clocks in Ceylon should be advanced by 30 minutes.

The Governor has approved this daylight saving measure.

OBITUARY

SRI SANGARA SUPPIAH
SWAMIGAL

It is with deep regret that we learn that Srimat Sangara Suppiah Swamigal passed away at about 2 p.m. on 3-1-42 at Keerimalai. His body was entombed yesterday near the Samathy Shrine of Sadiammah of Nallur at Keerimalai. Srimat Sangara Suppiah Swamigal was a Brahmin of Uduvil. He renounced the world at the age of 28 and travelled as a pilgrim during the early stages of the 38 years of his life of renunciation. He possessed a sound knowledge of Tamil, Sanskrit and English and knew well the truths of the Hindu Shastras and Puranas. He also possessed an aptitude for music and was able to captivate the hearts of one and all with his melodious soul-stirring vocal music.

He distinguished himself as the ablest lecturer in 'Kathaprasangam' during the present generation to the accompaniment of music. Thousands of people would attend any meeting where he delivered a 'Kathaprasangam' and acquired a good knowledge of the truths of Hinduism and learned the correct method of singing Tamil religious hymns. Several people after listening to his discourses had given up evil practices like drink, meat-eating etc. which are condemned by the Saiva Religion and reformed themselves.

He collected money through his lectures from the Hindus of India, Ceylon and Malaya and made a decent temple-car (Ratham) for the famous Sivan Temple of Thiruvallangadu. On account of this noble work, the Hindus of South India call him 'Thiruvallangadu Adigal'.

The Jaffna Saiva Paripalana Sabai employed him as an honorary Saiva religious lecturer prior to his renunciation when he toured the different parts of the Jaffna peninsula and delivered useful and instructive lectures. Even after his return to Ceylon in 1924 from India where he spent his life of renunciation he had delivered several lectures under the auspices of the Sabai at the Jaffna Hindu College. The last lecture delivered by him in Jaffna was at the Jaffna Hindu College in 1938. He said then it was his last lecture and exhorted the audience to lead a religious life and mentioned certain things which every Hindu should recite daily.

He is one who sacrificed his body, mind and soul for the service of Hinduism and the welfare of the Hindus. The Hindus of India, Ceylon and Malaya must remember him and feel grateful to him. May his soul rest in peace at the holy feet of the Lord of Thiruvallangadu.

"SCHOOL ALIVE TO WAR RESPONSIBILITIES"

The Rev. Bro. R. Albert, Hon. Secretary, Ceylon Headmasters' Conference, wishes to assure parents that the heads of schools are very much alive to their responsibilities. They are keeping in close touch with the civil and educational authorities to ensure the safety of their students and will be guided by them in determining their policy in the present situation and taking whatever measures may become advisable.

CALL FOR UNITY AND TRUST

Continued from page 1

tection of the wives of the planters. It did no good to anyone to live in fear in this country.

Whatever joy or sorrow awaited this country the people were prepared to share it with those who reside in this country. If they were to allow suspicions to have the better of them or if they were to allow suspicion to grow among those who governed them it would develop to a fruitful source of danger to all.

FOOD PROBLEM

Mr. Senanayake next referred to the threatened food shortage and said, that the people should economise in food as much as possible and also share with each other what they have. If anything were to happen to Burma the food situation in Ceylon would be serious. The people of this country could even now save her from impending starvation. That could be done only by intense cultivation.

"If you have one square inch of land in Ceylon," exclaimed Mr. Senanayake, "plant it with food crops and save this country from starvation. Along with such activities you must also try to evolve a national diet for the people. We must try now itself to include in our daily diet yams and beans and fruits.

"In Colombo you cannot cultivate paddy but you can plant in your compounds such things as papaws, pumpkins, plantains and yams. In England flower gardens had been converted into plantations. Let us follow suit and save this country from starvation."

Mr. Senanayake in conclusion referred to Colombo and the danger of falling bombs and said that there were many who lived in Colombo who had no real business in Colombo, and whose residence did not benefit the city in any way. It was better for such people, he said to live outside Colombo, but let those whose daily work was in Colombo not leave the city.

Mr. Geo E. De Silva said that the late Mr. F. R. Senanayake had spent his life in trying to uplift the people irrespective of their caste, religion, race or social status.

The Revd. Father D. J. Anthony spoke next.

Dr. A. P. De Zoysa said that it was time that an authentic biography of the late Mr. Senanayake was written for inspiration of future generations.

Muhandiram P. Wackwelle and Mrs. M. W. Ariyaratne Perera also spoke.

Sir Wilfred De Soysa said that the Government and the people should work together in perfect understanding and co-operate with each other.

WANTED

"Wanted for the Karainagar Hindu College a Hindu Lady teacher who should have passed either the London Matriculation examination or the Cambridge or Ceylon Senior School Certificate examination. Preference will be given to one who is good at Needle-work and India Music. Apply before 10-1-1942 to the Manager, Jaffna Hindu College and Branch schools, Jaffna."

(Mis 164, 1-1-42—8-1942)

THE ELEMENTS OF SAIVA SIDDHANTAM

SIDDHIYAR—AN INTRODUCTION

(By a Science Graduate)

VIII. The Siddhanta Shastras and Other Sacred Books

(Continued from our issue of 1-1-42)

We should not omit to touch here on two more Sanscrit works of some note, to wit:—the Vedanta Sūtras and the Bhagavat Gita. Veda Vyasa who like Sri Krishnar and Gautama Buddha is generally reputed to be an Avatar (அவதாரம், incarnation) of Vishnu and who rearranged the four Vedas in their present form, composed among others the Vedanta Sūtras as a sort of compendium of the Upanishads. He is also the author of the Maha Bharatham, towards the middle of which great epic is placed the dialogue between Sri Krishnar and Arjuna known as the Bhagavat Gita. We have already had occasion to say something regarding the greatness of these two great souls. The Gita happened to be the first great Sanscritic work we studied. Of course it was not in the original but in English translations that we read it like any other ordinary English-educated Tamilian. The burden of Sri Krishnar's song that one should do his duty without looking to the fruits thereof made a great impression on us and was the guiding star of our official life extending to a period of close on forty years. This teaching is practically the same as St. Appar's maxim என் கடன் பணி செய்க இடப்படுத and the Irai-Pani Niral (இறை பணி சிறந்த) of the Siva Gnana B dham.

But unlike the Vedanta Sūtras which have a Saiva Bhashiyam as we had occasion to say in a previous article, the Gita has no such commentary and it has only had a mixed reception in Tamilakam. There are two widely divergent opinions regarding its message and the occasion on which it was delivered. Sri Krishnar, the great Yogi and saint that he was was also a great politician and diplomat, a greater diplomat perhaps than the late Lord Curzon of Kedleston who once made an indiscreet sweeping remark regarding the veracity of the Hindus and received a mild rebuke from the mild Hindu the late Gopala Krishna G. Khale who gently enquired whether he (Curzon) always spoke the plain untarnished truth and nothing else when he was in the consular service of His Britannic Majesty, a much greater diplomat certainly than the twentieth century apostles of 'scrap of paper' solemnity the late Kaiser Wilhelm and the present Fuehrer Hitler. Sri Krishnar had a set purpose to achieve: கீ பாத அமரில் யாவனாயும் நீருக்கிப், பூ பாரம் தீர்த்தப் புரிந்தாய் புயல் வன்னு... 330 we read in the Tamil Mahabharatam, also... பூதவிராட இடர் தீர அரும சமர் புரிதொழில் முற்றிய பிற், சீர சிந்தாமலேயு என்ம அருள் செய்து விடுத்தனே. And he did not scruple to deviate from what to others appeared to be the straight path when the need arose. He did not scruple to suggest that Arjuna was a coward—Arjuna who was filled with real pity and remorse at the thought of the carnage he was to cause including the slaughter of some of his highly respected and venerable elders, not to speak of other near and dear relatives and friends. He did not scruple to handle his favourite discus (சக்கரம்) during the war treating his promise to Duriyodhanan (that he would not touch any weapon) in scrap-of-paper-like fashion. He did not scruple to prevail upon Yudhistiran the embodiment of virtue, truth and patience to tell a half-truth though the latter protested (பெரியயினுல் ஆன்வது தீர்த்தப் புயி செலவோ என்ம நக்கான்) He did not scruple to suggest to Bhiman to hit Duriyodhanan below the belt to gain his object. We shall say no more. It is no wonder if the Pandavas themselves with all their love and reverence for Sri Krishnar were forced to exclaim that no one could equal the subtleties of Gods like him (இனமயோர்க்க வல்ல விரகு யார் வல்லாரே) and it is no wonder certainly if some Siddhanta writers felt and gave expression to their conviction that the sermon on the battlefield was intended to deceive the brave but saintly warrior Arjuna and placed it on a par with or only a little higher than the Buddha's teachings as adumbrated in the Tri-Pitakas which have a background not acceptable to the Saivas though they contain some excellent teachings at the same time. The verdict may be a correct one or it may be an incorrect verdict like that of St. Viranmimar against St. Sundarar or, better still, like that of St. Kalikkamer (அயர்க்காம நாயனார்) who felt that St. Sundarar had done an improper thing in employing his God (the Servant of his servants) as an errand boy and preferred to die rather than have anything to do with "the sinner" Sundarar. Our teachers have never shrunk from giving expression to their convictions in unmistakable terms and calling a spade a spade if the occasion demanded it, though they were in the vanguard of the torch-bearers of the ideas of unity in variety and tolerance towards other creeds which they considered to be but different paths towards the same goal.

A few words by the way regarding the Saiva conception of Avatars (or incarnations) may not be out of place here. But this article again has grown a bit too long and we reserve our comments on this question for another occasion.

As we have already stated, the fourteen Siddhanta Shastras together with the twelve Saiva-Tiru-Muras form the bed-rock of Saiva Siddhantam in the Tamil language, and they are based on the Vedas and Agamas which are in Sanscrit. Besides these there is a large number of other works such as Saiva Samiya Neri, Olivilodukkim, Gnana-mirtham, Sivatharumoththiram, Kanda Puranam, Koyil Puranam, the works of Arunagirinathar, Kamara Gura Parar, Thayumanavar, &c, &c, which are all very instructive. Then there are the many ethical treatises beginning with the simple aphoristic sayings of Auvaiyar and ending with the Muppai of Tiru-Valluvar,—the famous Tiru-Kural, in speaking of which Dr. Pope says: "In this great and ancient language there exists, amongst much else that is interesting and valuable, an ethical treatise not surpassed (as far as I know) by anything of the kind in any literature."

"GREATNESS OF OUR CAUSE"

KING'S BROADCAST TO EMPIRE PEOPLES

London, Dec. 25.

BBROADCASTING to the British Empire this afternoon (Thursday), His Majesty the King, said, "I am glad to think that millions of my people in all parts of the world are listening to me now. From my own home with the Queen, and my children beside me, I send to all Christmas greeting. Christmas is a festival of the home. It is right that we should remember those who, this year, must spend it away from home. I am thinking as I speak of the men who have come from afar, standing ready to defend the old homeland, of the men who in every part of the world, are serving the Empire and its cause with such valour and devotion by land and sea and in the air. I am thinking of all those women and girls as well as men who, at the call of duty, have left their homes to join the services or to work in the factory, hospital, or field. To each one of you, wherever your duty may be, I send you my remembrance and my sincere good wishes for you and for yours."

"I do not forget what the others have done and are doing so bravely and so well in civil defence. My heart is also with those who are suffering—the wounded, bereaved and anxious, and the prisoners of war. I think you know how deeply the Queen and I feel for them. May God give them comfort, courage and hope. All these separations are part of the hard sacrifice which this war demands. It may well be that it will call for even greater sacrifices. If this is to be, let us face them cheerfully together."

"ONE GREAT FAMILY"

"I think of you, my peoples, as one great family, for that is how we are learning to live. We all belong to each other. We all need each other. It is in serving each other and in sacrificing for our common good that we are finding our true life. In that spirit, we shall win the war and in the same spirit we shall win for the world, after the war, a true and lasting peace. The greatness of any nation is in the spirit of its people; so it has always been since history began and so shall it be with us."

"The range of the tremendous conflict is ever widening. It now extends to the Pacific Ocean. Truly it is a stern and solemn time. But as the war widens, so surely our conviction deepens of the greatness of our cause. We, who belong to the present generation, must bear the brunt of the struggle. And I would say to the coming generation, the boys and girls of to-day and men and women of to-morrow—train yourselves in body, mind and spirit so as to be ready for whatever part you may be called to play and for the tasks which will await you as citizens of the Empire when the war is over. We must all, older and younger, resolve that having been entrusted with a great cause, at whatever cost, God helping us, we will not falter or fail. Mark yourselves ready—in your home and school—to give and to offer your very best."

"We are coming to the end of another hard-fought year. During these months, our people have been through many trials and in that true

humility which goes hand in hand with valour have learnt once again to look for strength to God alone. So—I bid you all—be strong and of good courage. Go forward into the coming year with a good heart. Lift up your hearts with thankfulness for deliverance from dangers in the past. Lift up your hearts in the confident hope that strength will be given us to overcome whatever perils may lie ahead until victory is won. If the skies before us are still dark and threatening, there are stars to guide us on our way. Never did heroism shine more brightly than now, nor fortitude nor sacrifice, nor sympathy, nor neighbourly feeling. And with them—the brightest of all stars—is our faith in God. These stars we will follow with his help until light shall shine and the darkness shall collapse. May God bless every one."

MESSAGE TO MERCHANT NAVY

London, Dec. 25.

The King in a Christmas message to the British Merchant Navy, says, "After more than two and a quarter years of war, the flag of the British Merchant Navy and fishing fleets still flies as proudly as ever far and wide over the seven seas. Your fellow countrymen know what all of you have endured to keep it so and as all important cargoes arrive in an unending stream, so do their gratitude and admiration grow. Many a great danger you are constantly facing with such courage and devotion, but you have the satisfaction of knowing that our power to protect you and hit back at the enemy becomes more formidable every day. I thank you and join in sending you the heartiest Christmas greetings and good wishes."

TOPICS OF THE DAY

Continued from page 2

excluding cadets and scouts. It is common knowledge that reinforcements of regular units, (British, Indian and Australian) have been pouring into Malaya. In spite of Japan's initial success and sporadic bombings, Singapore remains the strongest naval fortress in the East, admirably suited for defence. A British naval offensive in China waters will do immense good to civilian morale.

War Cabinet?

WHEN there was talk of a Local Defence Committee, rumours were spread concerning the formation of a War Cabinet. It was then not realised that any change in the Donoughmore Constitution could be introduced only through a Parliamentary Order-in-Council and with the necessary sanction of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, Lord Moyne. Such a change could not materialise overnight, especially in wartime. So those of you who visualised Mr. G. G. Ponnambalam as Minister of Propaganda or Dewan Bahadur I. X. Pereira as Minister of Supplies are doomed to disappointment! However, the embracing of the minorities on the Defence Committee is a welcome move by the Governor and certainly in the right direction.

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(Y. 31 B. 11-8-40—10-8-41.)

(M)

ORDER NISI

IN THE DISTRICT COURT
OF JAFFNA

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 1102

In the matter of the intestate estate
of the late Alagammah wife of
Subramaniam Sellathurai of Kan-
kesanturai, Jaffna. Deceased.

Subramaniam Sellathurai of Kan-
kesanturai Jaffna presently of
Madulsima Petitioner.

Vs.

1. Sellathurai Senathirajah of
Kankesanturai, Jaffna

Minor. 2. Parameswary daughter of
Sellathurai of do Respondents.

This matter of the petition of the
abovenamed petitioner praying that
the 1st respondent abovenamed be
appointed guardian-ad-litem over the
minor 2nd respondent and that letters
of administration be issued to him in
respect of the estate of the above-
named deceased coming on for dis-
posal before C. Coomaraswamy Es-
quire District Judge Jaffna on the
11th day of December 1941 in the
presence of Mr. A. V. Sathasivam
Proctor for petitioner and the affida-
vit and petition of the abovenamed
petitioner having been read:—

It is ordered that the 1st respon-
dent abovenamed be and he is hereby
appointed guardian-ad-litem over the
minor the 2nd respondent and that
letters of administration in respect of
the estate of the abovenamed de-
ceased be issued to him accordingly
unless the respondents or any other
persons shall appear before this
court on the 30th day of January
1942 and shew sufficient cause to the

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[Q. 115, 23-10-41—22-1-42.]

satisfaction of this court to the con-
trary.

Sgd. C. Coomaraswamy,
District Judge.

Jaffna this 18th day of
December 1941.

Drawn by
Sgd. A. V. Sathasivam,
Proctor for petitioner.

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