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The Only Newspaper in Ceylon for the Hindus

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A. V. Kulasingham, Advocate.

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NEWS FROM FAR AND NEAR

Indian Troops In Cey

Indian reinforcements for Ceylon have arrived in Colombo, under the command of Brigadier C. W. Palin, M. C., whose headquarters will be in Colombo.

Civil Defence

Mr. L. M. D. De Silva, K.C., has been appointed Deputy Civil Defence Commissioner in addition to his appointment as Special Commissioner on Bribery and Corruption.

The following have been appointed Assistant Civil Defence Commissioners:

Dr. S. T. Gunasekera, Retired Director of Medical and Sanitary Services;

Mr. Hallock Wijanathan, Retired Municipal Engineer; and

Mr. K. Vaithianathan, C.C.S., who until recently was Information Officer.

A. R. P. Measures

So far as present advice goes, it is considered necessary to have A. R. P. measures for the following areas only; Galle, Jaffna, Talaimanar and Trincomalee. In case further areas are added to this list from time to time by the responsible authorities information will be made public as speedily as possible. In regard to all the areas already mentioned it is hoped that precise instructions will be issued to the responsible persons in these areas to speedily initiate the necessary A. R. P. schemes following the Colombo procedure, with the fullest possible co-operation of the local authority and the public of the area.

First Aid Classes

Medical Officers of Health and Field Medical Officers in the coastal districts of the Island have been requested by the Director of Medical and Sanitary Services to organise First Aid classes immediately. The classes are meant primarily for the members of the staffs of these officers but members of the public are also to be invited to join them. The lectures are to be accompanied by demonstrations. First aid outfits are to be provided at each of the offices, the maternity homes and the health centres.

WHAT LANKA EXPECTS OF HER SONS

GOVERNOR ON THE VALUE OF PERSONAL CONTACT

"UNLIKE Burma and Malaya, Ceylon need not fear continuous aerial bombardment; for which the enemy would require land bases near by," remarked the Governor on Sunday morning in the course of a broadcast "talk."

"Our danger lies," added the Governor, "in short, sharp and intermittent raids by planes from ocean craft. If at the onset of such an attack there arose a panicky stampede through our streets towards the countryside, three things would result. First, a lot of people would be needlessly killed or wounded; second, a lot of people would needlessly leave their jobs and lose their wages; third, essential services and war work would be needlessly held up. We know that all these three things happened in Penang, Singapore and Rangoon."

PERSONAL WORDS

The Governor prefaced his "talk" by saying that unfortunately he had learned too little Sinhalese, and had forgotten too much Tamil, to broadcast in either language.

"I want, however," he said, "to address a few personal words to you listeners, who speak English. The fact that you speak English means, of course, that your parents, and the Ceylon tax-payer, have spent a good deal on your education. Of those to whom much is given, much is expected. Lanka, therefore, looks today to all her people, of your standard of education, for leadership and example."

"The duty of leadership is too often forgotten. Some of you may remember the story of the lazy father in that collection of short Tamil tales called the Katha Manjari. 'Which of your sons is shaping best?' inquired a visitor. 'The one who is setting fire to the thatch behind you' came his reply. There are unhappily sons of Mother Lanka today who are unwittingly setting fire to her thatch, and for precisely the same reason as in

the story. They are not being led or guided.

PORTENTOUS OF VICTORY

"I allude, for instance, to those misled, or rather unled, people who have taken their money out of our Savings Banks or who are hoarding coin. And this at a time when in spite of Japan, the general war situation is more portentous of our certain victory than at any time during the past two and a quarter years!

"All that they have so hard-ly earned and saved has been taken from where it was secure, and now lies hidden where it may be stolen by thieves or destroyed by fire, water or termites. It is up to you, my friends, to arrest this infection before it goes any further.

PERSONAL CONTACT

"How many of you, I wonder, have yet taken the trouble to call their households together, or their office staff, or their factory employees, or their estate labourers, or their tenants for a man-to-man talk about things in general, and so to put them wise? It is such personal contact that is essential in times like the present.

"It is the sure way to scotch rumours and to allay alarm. But it can never come about without your taking the initiative. You cannot expect your employees to make the first move. That is your duty; and the necessity of your doing it and doing it continuously runs through the whole gamut of our current problems."

A. R. P. SCHEMES

The Governor next referred to the local A. R. P. schemes on which, he said, so much work was being done and remained still to do. Much of that work was bound to be fruitless if they did not help it along with their leadership. The tendency to stampede in an emergency as happened in Penang, Singapore and Rangoon was not peculiar to any

MR. JINNAH MORE CONCILIATORY

LEAGUE COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

Nagpur, Dec. 31.

WHILE Mr. Jinnah's public utterance in Nagpur at the All-India Muslim Students' Federation has not inspired anyone as paving the way for an understanding with the Congress or the Government, considerable significance is attached in League circles to the resolution passed by the League Working Committee two days ago. The resolution *inter alia* stated: "The Working Committee, once more, declare that they are ready to shoulder the burden of the defence of the country, singly or in co-operation with other parties, on the basis that a real share of responsibility is given in the authority of the Government at the Centre and in the Provinces within the frame-work of the present constitution, but without prejudice to the major political issues involved in the framing of the future constitution."

It is stated that this is a distinct departure from the previous demand made by Mr. Jinnah, that if the Government desired the co-operation of the League, the latter should be given the majority of the seats in the Central Government if the Congress did not join, and equal representation if the Congress came in. The resolution quoted above makes no mention about the League's share in the Central Government and thereby leaves the issue open to settlement, by negotiation between the various parties concerned. But apart from this question of representation in the Central Government, what is generally more hopeful and helpful, it is stated, is the willingness, evidenced for the first time, on the League's part to negotiate and desire to come to some understanding with other parties. It is believed that opinion in League circles in some provinces, particularly in U. P. is insistent that some agreement should be reached between the League and the Congress.

race or class of people. In the early days it was evidenced in London itself, whose citizens subsequently stood up to the blitz so stoically and heroically.

Continued on page 6



Hindu Organ

THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 1942

JAFFNA IN AN EMERGENCY

WE TRUST THAT THE RESOLUTIONS passed at yesterday's Public Meeting on the Esplanade will serve to remind the authorities that it is time something was done to prepare towns like Jaffna for any emergency that may arise. As His Excellency the Governor pointed out in his broadcast message the other day, there is absolutely no reason for anything like panic. There are no land bases from which enemy aircraft could attack Ceylon. It is, however, possible that, as has happened in the Eastern Pacific, the enemy may employ aircraft carriers for the purpose of such an attack. In any event it would be as well to prepare and organise the civilian population of towns like Jaffna to protect itself during attacks from the air, instead of waiting till an emergency actually arises. The statement has been made officially that some of the towns that require A. R. P. measures, in addition to Colombo, are Galle, Trincomalee, Talaimannar, and Jaffna.

In regard to Jaffna, there are certain conditions peculiar to the town which have to be taken into account in organising A. R. P. measures. In the first place we doubt whether, so far, any attempt has been made to provide for the sounding of alerts to notify the public of the approach of hostile aircraft. This is the first thing that should be done and sufficient practice should be given to the residents of the town in distinguishing an alert from other sounds and doing what is required of them after an alert is sounded. Equally important is the task of instructing and training the urban population in the rudiments of self-protection during an attack. It is hardly necessary for us to remind the authorities of what happened in Penang, where the people flocked to the streets to see the enemy aircraft. We are afraid that the same thing is likely to happen here if timely steps are not taken to educate the people. A start must be made by providing every citizen with printed instructions as to what he is to do when an attack takes place. Personal contact must be established between the emergency organisation which the authorities are establishing and the population. While a few model air raid shelters situated at suitable points ad-

joining public thoroughfares, would be necessary to begin with, it would on the whole be wiser not to depend on the protection of shelters, as the time at the disposal of the authorities is too short to permit them to work out a proper scheme for the provision of such shelters. As matters stand at present, even the educated classes are mostly ignorant of the most elementary methods of protection. We trust that the Assistant Government Agent (Emergency) for Jaffna will take steps to remedy this defect without delay. At yesterday's meeting Mr. Oorloff was present and told the audience what the Government was trying to do. Personal contacts like this are desirable but they are not enough. There must be effective organisation and training, not only for the A. R. P. Officers, but also for the populace. There is another matter peculiar to Jaffna which requires prompt attention. Many houses have cadjan roofs and cadjan fences are the rule. This is undesirable in the present situation. The Urban Council cannot in the immediate future bring about a radical change in this respect, but the Council can do much to eliminate cadjan roofs where these are likely to cause a conflagration. Fire-fighting appliances must be provided. This is an essential part of all air raid precautions, and it is very much to be hoped that the Government Agent, Mr. Prasad, will bring some pressure to bear on the Government to see that in this matter the needs of Jaffna are not neglected. With regard to A. R. P. personnel, we would suggest that every effort should be made to recruit volunteers and train them well under the control and direction of the Emergency Officer. We agree that all these things take time and hard work to accomplish, but we feel confident that the officers concerned will be glad to do anything in their power to help the people.

As for food production and supply, we have always held the view that it would be dangerous for any country to depend for its food on foreign, sea-borne supplies, and we regret to find that our worst fears in regard to this matter have been justified by the latest developments. In the Jaffna peninsula, however, all available land is cultivated. It might be necessary, in certain eventualities, to insist on the cultivation of short-term cereals on land which is now being cultivated with tobacco, chillies and onions. This, however, is a matter that requires careful investigation, as any change from the prevailing practice in regard to the cultivation of these crops is bound to affect adversely the rural economy of the Jaffna Peninsula. Nevertheless, we must be prepared to face the necessity for such a change if circumstances require it. As regards the paddy fields of Jaffna, which possess facilities for irrigation from wells, we have suggested in these columns the desirability of cultivating leguminous food crops during the fallow season. Even these crops require a little water, which is not an easy thing to provide. It should be possible for the Emergency Officer to make use of funds at his disposal in order to encourage farmers to provide their wells with certain types of improved water lifts available locally.

THE SIREN SOUNDS

I

IT'S no use deceiving ourselves. Many would not know what to do if enemy bombers come winging in from the ocean.

Some of us say: 'We'll have to learn by bitter experience. You can't shake the people out of their apathy.'

Bismarck, and a few realists before him, said: 'Fools say that they learn by experience. I prefer to profit by others' experience.'

For not having profited by the experience of others, says a writer in an Australian paper, we are all a bit to blame, so recrimination won't help.

First consequence of our inexperience will probably be this: When the bombers are sighted, the warning given, tens of thousands will want to rush to windows, roof-tops, streets, and parks, "to see the fun".

It will be fun, until the bombs fall.

The worst thing you can do in an air raid is to go to a window, roof, or into the open, "to see the fun".

Don't get away with the idea that you can duck for shelter when the bombers come overhead. Modern aircraft, flying high and fast, release their bombs well before the target is reached.

Take Cover

THE Madrid militiaman, Chinese peasant, and London Cockney will all give the same advice: *Take cover immediately*.

If you can't reach a shelter, like the basements, trench or tunnel, in three to five minutes, go into a building, a door archway, beneath a bridge or viaduct.

If caught in the street, or in park or field, lie down flat upon the ground with head resting in folded arms. Blast and splinters move at an upward angle from the explosion.

You are safer sitting than standing, safer lying down than sitting.

Keep your mouth open during an air-raid—it helps to protect lungs against blast. Put a pencil, rubber, or knotted handkerchief between your teeth to keep them apart.

Put loosely packed cotton wool in your ears, to save ear-drums.

Inside a building, if there is no prepared shelter, get under the strongest table or desk, or under the bed. This gives some protection from flying glass and falling debris. Stairs, beds, desks, and tables have saved thousands in England.

Panic

THERE'S one thing Hitler and the Japanese want you to do. This is, to panic, to stampede into shelters, out of the city; to choke outlet roads, disrupt military and civil administration.

Panic is infectious, and it lowers the morale of the civilian population; it breeds defeatism.

East Enders in London, women in Madrid, coolies in Chungking, didn't panic.

This advice is given for the emergency of to-day or to-morrow—if bombers should make hit-run raids from aircraft-carriers, as they made on Hawaii and Singapore.

But you have much more to learn about A. R. P.

Bomb Types

FIRST, an elementary study of the types of bombs likely to be used.

Experts do not expect high explosive bombs of over 500 lb., to be dropped. They would mostly be lighter.

The bomb may have a fuse that detonates on impact; normally, it explodes a few tenths of a second after striking, so that it can penetrate a building before exploding. Delayed-action fuses, operating at varying intervals, are unpleasant things which have to be treated by bomb-disposal squads.

If one of these falls, don't stop to inspect it. It may be the last thing you will see on this earth. Report it to your warden.

TOPICS OF THE DAY

By

T. Kathiravellu

Socialist Thought

NOW that Socialism is in the forefront of progressive thought, I place before readers, without comment, two quotations from Maxim Gorki. "In our present state of culture the hunger of the soul can be satisfied more readily than that of the body.....The men, tattered, drenched with sweat, stupefied by weariness, and din and heat; and the mighty machines, created by these men, shining, well-fed, serene, in the sunshine; machines which in the last resort are, after all, not set in motion by steam, but by the muscles and blood of their creators—in this contrast was a whole poem of cruel irony." Incidentally, the United Socialist Party of Ceylon is publishing a series of cheap pamphlets, the latest being "A. R. P. For The People." In the communist paper, 'The Nation' of December 20, 'Bete Noire' writes that "Comrade Pieter Keuneman goes on boring listeners with his now stale record 'When I was in Soviet Russia'." I, for one, must say that Pieter Keuneman is an orator with an inimitable style, caustic and humorous, of his own and that he was one of the best speakers I listened to, both here and in Malaya. What 'Bete Noire' should know is that great minds think alike and fools never disagree.

Profiteering

IT is pleasing to note that Village Committees are taking an active interest in profiteering and in the food production drive. To my mind profiteers are fifth columnists and should be hunted out. Mr. J. N. Arumugam, Commissioner of Motor Transport, has promised to fix maximum bus rates if bus unions inconsiderately enhance their rates. A slight increase will be tolerated by the public but any inordinate desire to profit because of the rationing of petrol will be resented. As it is the public are utilising other forms of transport whenever available.

Youth Congress

A coterie of well-meaning intellectuals but certainly not physically representative of "youth", the Jaffna Youth Congress has a distinguished president, Mr. C. Suntheralingam, sometime University College Professor of Mathematics. The Youth Congress has unfortunately shown a vacillating front in the fight for political freedom. From complete independence the aim has dwindled to self-determination. In an article in the "Hindustan Times", suggesting the arbitration of America in the applicability of the Atlantic Charter to Lanka, Sjt. K. Santhnam, M. L. A. (Central), criticises self-determination as an obstructive principle, forged with difficulties. I for one am not convinced that self-determination is best at this stage of our political evolution. Neither am I impressed by the mathematical calculation which produced the Pan-Sinhalese Board of Ministers.

Buddhist Congress

A 'Times of Ceylon' editorial trenchantly criticises Dr. G. P. Malasekera's presidential address at the All-Ceylon Buddhist Congress at Kalutara. The position taken up by Professor Malasekera is identical.

Continued on page 5

FURTHER LANDINGS IN MALAYA

Threat to British Left Flank

London, Jan. 5

The Japanese have made further landings on the west coast of Malaya at the mouth of the Perak and Bernan rivers, it is stated authoritatively in London today. The forces thus landed are believed to be large, but the threat to British left flank continues.

An unified Allied command in the Atlantic is reported to have been decided upon according to a Washington despatch to the New York "Times". The New York "Daily News" reports from Washington that an Allied supply council is expected to be established.

WILL JAPAN NOW ATTACK DUTCH INDIES?

Singapore, Jan. 4.

The question as to whether the Japanese will throw the forces released in the Philippines into the drive towards Singapore or use them for an attempt against the N.E.A. is discussed in a leading article in the "Straits Times" dealing with the fall of Manila. The newspaper stresses that the time taken by the Japanese in capturing Hong Kong and Manila and attempting to push down towards Singapore has been fully used by the Allies to marshal their resources and prepare counter-blows. "Grave though the losses of Hong Kong and Manila may be, they are only stages in the campaign which is still in its opening phases", declares the "Straits Times". "Allied grand strategy has been decided and as the Japanese Admiral Suet-sugu admitted a few days ago the full dress war is yet to come. The might being assembled by the A. B. C. D. powers for that full dress war is such that we can look forward to the outcome with complete confidence. But there can only be one end to it all. The great East Asia war will bring peace to the entire Pacific area—and it will not be a Japanese peace."

INDO-CEYLON ISSUE AT CALCUTTA

Calcutta, Jan. 3

The Committee of the Indian Chamber of Commerce, Calcutta, met Mr. M. S. Aney, the Overseas Member of the Government of India, this evening at the premises of the Chamber.

Various questions such as the Indo-Burma immigration agreement, the Indo-Ceylon negotiations, the restrictions on Indians resident in Aden, and the position of Indians in Malaya and Burma vis-a-vis the war situation were discussed at the meeting. The Committee pointed out that the extension of the war in the East made the question of the safety of the large number of Indians resident in Burma, the Malay States, etc., one of immediate and urgent importance. They emphasised that not only was it essential that adequate measures should be taken in those countries for the safety of the Indian population there, but it was also necessary that authentic and early information should be available in India in case harm was being done to the persons and property of Indians abroad.

Mr. Aney gave a sympathetic hearing to the Chamber and gave suitable replies.

INDO-CEYLON TALKS "A PLOT"

MINISTER ATTACKS HIS COLLEAGUES

According to Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike the resumption of the Indo-Ceylon talks in Ceylon last September, after the abortive attempt in Delhi in 1940, was the result of a deep laid plot.

Proposing the rejection of the draft Indo-Ceylon Agreement, as "detrimental to the vital interests of the people of this country", he said at the 15th annual sessions of the All-Ceylon Village Committees Conference at Nittambuwa, at which he presided, that the resumption of the talks had originated with a secret despatch of the Governor to the Indian Government with the knowledge of only one or two Ministers.

That despatch was still being kept a secret, and if that document was ever made public it would be an eye-opener to the people of this country.

When the resumption of the talks was first mentioned in the Board of Ministers, Mr. C. W. W. Kannangara and he alone protested but their protests were of no avail as the other Ministers had already agreed to the proposal.

After telling the conference of the "innumerable disadvantages" the agreement would bring to the people of the country who, he said, would be swamped and crushed by the Indians, Mr. Bandaranaike declared Mr. D. S. Senanayake seemed to be totally ignorant of the agreement to which he had set his signature, as disclosed in his explanation to the Ceylon National Congress. Mr. Senanayake's interpretation of the agreement was diametrically opposed to that of Mr. Venkatarama Sastri, who had stated that not a single Indian resident in Ceylon could be sent away if the draft agreement was ratified.

Whose view were they then to accept—Mr. Senanayake's or Mr. Venkatarama Sastri's? he asked, adding that the latter was one of the ablest lawyers of South India.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT DEFECTS

After extending a cordial welcome to the delegates, who had gathered in large numbers from all parts of Ceylon—it was a particular pleasure to him, he said, that he was able to welcome them in his own district of Veyangoda—and thanking the Chairman and other members of the Reception Committee for the arrangements made, Mr. Bandaranaike said that one of the chief defects in local government in this country was the corruption and inefficiency that inevitably arose as the result of the appointment, the dismissal and disciplinary action of their officers being in the hands of members of such bodies.

Very often pressure was brought to bear on members from various quarters which it was not easy for them to resist. If an independent Local Government Commission were to deal with those matters, at least as far as the higher officers were concerned, it would not only be a great relief to members, but it would undoubtedly effect a great improvement in the administration of local bodies. That matter was receiving his consideration.

It was true that the best and fullest use of those powers and responsibilities had not yet been made; but he was glad to see the rapidly increasing scope of the work being done by V. Cs. for the betterment of the conditions of their areas. Most V. Cs. had now trained midwives and maternity and child welfare centres. When he was Chairman of the Village Committee of Egodapotha Perawa they were the first to start a maternity and child welfare centre, which was now flourishing. Many V. Cs. were beginning to take an interest in the encouragement of industries and agriculture; industrial centres were being started, agricultural competitions were being held, and minor irrigation works, such as clearing of elias and repairing of village tanks were being undertaken. Some village committees had started housing schemes for the poor. Others, particularly in the north, had started public libraries.

One of the chief needs of the villages was to have good water for drinking and bathing. He had asked Government Agents to send up full lists of all such needs in their areas so that all necessary rural wells and water schemes could be provided at Government expense.

WAR CLOUDS

"War has come very close to our shores, and V. Cs. can help a great deal in much of the work that arises as a result in our villages," he said. "As you know, a new scheme of administration has been devised to deal with these problems. A.G.As. have been appointed to various areas who will be in charge of this work, assisted by committees consisting of the State Council members for the area, police, agricultural, and health officers and the chief headmen of the areas. These will be helped by various local committees that should be up in every village consisting of the V. C. member, the headman and one or more influential people of the village assisted by young and active men of the village (who can form a sort of civil guard). If necessary each V. C. area can be in the charge of a small committee consisting of the Chairman, V. C., the V. A. (if there is one) and a few influential people of the area to supervise these local committees. The work that will have to be done is to take all necessary steps for the growing of food crops, to see that regulations in regard to the price of rice, etc., are observed, to do propaganda work, and generally to work with the authorities in preserving public security."

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 Indian Music. Apply before 10-1-1942, to the Manager, Jaffna Hindu College and Branch schools, Jaffna."

(Mis 164, 1-1-42—8-1-42)

AIR RAID PRECAUTION FOR COLOMBO

Plan By Officer From India

It is understood that the Colombo Air Raid Precautions Scheme drawn up by Lt.-Col. A. J. Reeve, Director of Operations and Training, Civil Defence, New Delhi, was placed before an informal meeting of members of the Colombo Municipal Council.

The scheme was accompanied by a statement from Dr. D. M. de Silva, Air Raid Precautions Officer, Colombo, indicating how the recommendations made by Lt.-Col. Reeve are proposed to be carried out. The extent of the assistance which the Central Government hopes the Colombo Municipal Council will afford was also indicated in a note, which was placed before the meeting.

With regard to the Air Raid Warning System, Lt.-Col. Reeve stated that information regarding the movement or approach of hostile aircraft will be made available to a Civilian Liaison Officer, who will be established in the Fire Commander's post. This Officer will be responsible for informing the A. R. P. Controller in the Control Room as to when the siren should be released. The sirens will be connected in such a way that they can be released simultaneously by one switch operated from the control room.

A Combined Control and Report Centre and one Report Centre will be established in Colombo. The former should be situated as near as possible to the centre of the town while the latter should be located at or near the Law Courts.

An outdoor messenger service is to be established to provide an alternative means of communication in case of a breakdown of the telephone service.

THE NEW CITY OF POLONNARUWA

The final plans for the proposed new City of Polonnaruwa, which is to be built so as to avoid the disfiguration of the ruins of the Ancient City as has occurred at Anuradhapura, are now ready and will be finally approved by the Executive Committee of Agriculture and Lands at an early date.

A tentative plan for the construction of the new City, formulated by an official Committee consisting of the Construction Engineer of the Irrigation Department, Mr. B. M. Chabiani, and the Town Planner of the Local Government Department, Mr. O. Weerasinghe, was prepared early last year.

SCHOLARSHIP EXAMINATION

AT JAFFNA CENTRAL COLLEGE

Two Scholarships of Rs. 30/- to students who have passed the Fifth Standard and two scholarships of Rs. 60/- to students who have passed the J. S. C., will be awarded on the results of a competitive examination. For further particulars apply to the Principal on or before 14th January 1942.

J. W. ARUPPRAGASAM, Acting Principal.

(Mis. 165, 8 & 12-1-42)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**"ELEMENTS OF
SAIVA SIDDHANTA"**

Sir,—In the article "Elements of Saiva Siddhanta" by a 'Science Graduate' which appeared on the 1st January 1942, there are some criticisms on Sanskrit Scholars of the world, both Indian and Western, who have rendered yeoman service to the spread of Indian culture. The writer of the article who is evidently not a student of Sanskrit, is ridiculing the English Translations of the Rig Veda and is casting aspersions on the scholarship of Sayanacharya, the greatest commentator of the Four Vedas. The 'Science Graduate' is placing the translations of the great scholars in the same category as the schoolboy attempts, such as, "give-come-knife" for "Kodduwakathithi", and "thunder-bread" for "Idiappam" etc. The great commentary on the Rig Veda by Sayanacharya was for the first time critically edited and published by Prof Max Muller with the assistance of many Indian and Western Scholars. Even to this day no book has superseded it. Great Sanskrit Scholars like the Late Lakshmana Bala Gangadhara Tilak and the late Sir Ramakrishna Gopal Bandharkar, M. A., Dr. Gangadhar Jha, M. A. Dr. Surendranath Das Gupta, M. A. Principal, Sanskrit College, Calcutta, Mahamahopadhyaya Kuppuswami Sastri, M. A. Vidya Vajraspati, Miss Sakuntala Sastri, M. A. B. Lit., Veda Tirtha, and a host of others have not only commended the English translations for the preciseness and critical acumen they exhibit, but also have freely drawn from them for their research. Dr. Abinash Chandra Das, M. A. the great Vedic Scholar, writes as follows in his book on "Rig Vedic India": "My indebtedness to those Archaeologists and Oriental scholars, European, American, and Indian, whose works I have consulted and drawn freely, is immense. But for the results of the investigations made by them in their respective subjects, it would have been quite impossible for me to collect materials for, and write this work."

The English Translations have, not only received the approval and admiration of Indian Scholars but also have been prescribed as text-books in Indian Universities for Higher Studies in Sanskrit Literature and Indian Philosophy. How dangerous, therefore, it is for a person who is ignorant of the Sanskrit Language, to come forward to criticise Sayanacharya and other scholars who have done a great deal for the study and dissemination of Sanskrit learning! Such uncalled for attacks on the labours of great men who lived and died for culture will do no good to any one.

Even the "Sivagnana Bodham" of which the 'Science Graduate' speaks very highly is said to be a translation of the 12 sutras found in the Raurava Agama. How inconsistent, therefore, it is for people who rely on translations for their authority, to come forward to criticise translations in other languages.

In this connection I would like to know from the writer of the article the exact 'Mandilas' and 'Suktas' in which the following words and incidents occur in the sense in which he imagines them to have been used;

"such words as Rudra, Triambaga (three-eyed God), Pasupati, Bharga, Gourie, Ganapati, Vira (Virapatra), &c in the Rig Veda."

"Kandaswami in the form of fiery sparks from Akasa is found in one of the Rig Veda Mantiras."

"reference to Parvati Deviyar is found in the Rig Veda."

"reference to Gananandwa Mantiram in the Rig Veda."

Thanking you for the space,

I am, Sir,

Yours truly,

"A Student of Comparative Religion."

Jaffna,
4th Jan. 1942.

**EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT**

Sir,—Mr. Francis de Zoysa is reported to have said in the middle of last year in one of his budget speeches that bribery and corruption was rampant in the Education Department and nothing could be got done without paying something; not even an interview could be obtained. Unless he was sure he would not have made such a damaging statement.

I am aware of a case where the Director of Education himself showed undue favouritism. I was the manager of a Tamil Mixed School. The proprietor himself wanted to become the Manager but the Department did not approve of his becoming the Manager. As he and the head teacher did not like the idea of my continuing as Manager, I resigned. The proprietor nominated one Mr. Swaminathan of Kopay as Manager. I wrote to the Director strongly protesting against the nomination of Mr. Swaminathan as Manager as, among other reasons, he was residing about 4 or 5 miles from the school in the town and as such he could not adequately supervise the working of the school as the female teacher is the head teacher's wife to whom he has been very lenient and as the other assistant is greatly indebted to the head teacher to whom his appointment was due. The matter was referred to the Divisional Inspector of Schools who upheld my protest and recommended that Mr. Swaminathan be not appointed manager. The proprietor was accordingly informed, the letter having been signed by one of the Assistants to the Director as such small matters were not dealt with by the Director himself, and an information copy was sent to Mr. Swaminathan. Mr. Swaminathan who apparently was anxious to become the Manager got the proprietor to write again to the Director. He also remarked that the letter was signed by only an Assistant and that he would see that he is appointed by approaching the Director himself. To my great surprise, Mr. Swaminathan was appointed manager, the letter to him having been signed by the Director himself and an information copy was sent to me. I then addressed a letter to the Director stating all circumstances, and I received a reply that Mr. Swaminathan was appointed Manager after due consideration and I again wrote to him that I was unable to understand how he was appointed Manager after due consideration and informed him that he was not ap-

**A DEMOCRACY
CONFIDENT OF ITS
CAUSE**

By The Rt. Hon. Herbert Morrison, M. P.

(In a recent B. B. C. Talk)

We British have, on the whole, been a happier people in the last two years than we were in the two previous years. This shows that the moralists are right, and that happiness doesn't depend so much on one's outward circumstances as on one's state of mind. We went to war, not because war exploded on our own doorstep—it did not—but because our consciences had been systematically outraged by Nazi performances at home and abroad for several years. We went to war with a thoroughly clear conscience. We have it still.

When France fell I am not sure whether there was a country anywhere in the world outside the British Empire which thought we could survive. We ourselves were not over-troubled by doubts; indeed I don't think we thought about ourselves at all. We just met the situation in what seemed to us the only possible way.

The same thing happened when the heavy raids began. Some people may have had their doubts about how the mass of people in our great cities would react—the 'poor little street-bred people' whom Kipling deprecated. But the street-bred people were just as tough as any people in the world, and as true to national type as the young men in the Spitfires.

Well, it was pleasant to find, when the first shock of the onslaught had passed, that we had stood up to it pretty well. Ever since then we have enjoyed the comforting sense that the whole free world respects us, and that we have earned the right to respect ourselves.

My own ministerial duties have enabled me to see how people reacted to some of the worst shocks of the war. I was Minister of Supply after Dunkirk when the country was almost defenceless in important respects against invasion on land. I was working among colleagues who knew the full facts about our nakedness, yet neither among them nor among the people at large—who sensed what they did not actually know—did I ever find an impulse to waver or a thought of defeat. Later on when the bombs began to fall I

pointed already after due consideration. In the meantime the proprietor and the head teacher boasted that Mr. Swaminathan got a certain member of the Executive Committee of Education to speak to the Director and got him appointed Manager. This is in all probability true as Mr. Swaminathan himself already stated that he would see that he is appointed Manager by approaching the Director. This school is a small vernacular school and papers relating to the appointment of a Manager could not have normally gone to the Director but would have been dealt with by an Assistant as was done originally. This is a clear case of undue favouritism on the part of the Director.

Yours etc.

K. SIVAPRAGASAM,
1-1-1942.

**THE FIRST RAID ON
RANGOON****AN EYE-WITNESS'S
ACCOUNT**

Calcutta, Dec. 31.

An account of the Japanese bombing raid on Rangoon on December 23 was given at the weekly luncheon meeting of the Rotary Club at the Great Eastern Hotel yesterday by Mr. Z. Haq, a Rangoon businessman, who arrived in Calcutta a few days ago.

The alarm, said Mr. Haq, was given at about 10 a.m. and at 10.25 the bombing started. The people, instead of taking cover, ran into the open and crowded the streets and open spaces, and even the old race course, with the result that hundreds of lives which might have been saved were lost.

Even when bombs were falling, people did not seek shelter. He knew of one instance where 25 lives were lost by the splinters of one bomb alone. A bomb fell about 250 yards from his house, but he with others escaped because they were in a shelter.

The bombing, he said, was indiscriminate. The Ram Krishna Hospital, which had ministered to hundreds of people, including probably some Japanese, was hit and destroyed. One school was also hit.

The Government estimate of 600 casualties was, in his opinion, a right one, but he believed that at least 400 lives could have been saved if the people had taken shelter.

Mr. Haq also emphasised the danger from glass splinters.

He became Home Secretary and Minister of Home Security, responsible for the Civil Defence of the country. The first shock fell on London, London whose citizen I am, London which I know, London whose pre-war development I had some share in planning. I saw the Londoners in their shelters, great masses of them huddled in the big improvised East-End shelters of the early blitz period; smaller groups in their street shelter; individual and families—these the great majority—who stayed at home and faced what was coming. Never did I see a sign of panic. I saw the Civil Defence Services in London to come out into the street and on the roof tops to do their duty, quiet determined people to whom the war suddenly assumed a new reality, when the bombs fell upon their own Bermondsey or Poplar or Brompton Green.

Later I was near Coventry on the night of the great raid last November, and I was early on the spot next day. I don't suppose any city had ever had to endure such an onslaught in one single night before. I presided when the municipal heads of Coventry, its Mayor and the chairman of its Emergency Committee, its Chief Constable, the head of its Fire Service and the other chief officers with representatives of the Government Departments and Army came together for a Council of War. They came straight from fire fighting and rescue work with their faces still blackened and their eyebrows burnt; some of them from bombed homes to which they could never return.

Continued on page 6

INDIAN CONGRESS WILLING TO CO-OPERATE NEW WORLD SITUATION TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT

Bardoli, Dec. 30.

The Working Committee have issued a lengthy statement in the form of a resolution, explaining the policy of the Congress and expressing their view on the resolution passed by the A. I. C. C. at Bombay on September 16 and stating that the definition of the Congress policy therein given still holds.

The resolution states:

"Fourteen months have elapsed since the Working Committee held their last meeting and during this period the world has fallen ever deeper into the abyss of war and rushed headlong towards self destruction. Members of the Committee have met again on their release from prison and given earnest thought to all the national and international developments during this fateful period of human history. The burden of guiding the Congress and the nation at this critical stage, when old problems assume a new significance and the war has approached the frontiers of India, bringing new problems in its train, is a heavy one which the Committee can only shoulder worthily with the full co-operation of the people of India. The Committee have endeavoured to keep in view the principles and objectives for which the Congress has stood during these past many years and considered them in the larger context of world conditions and world freedom. The Committee are convinced that full freedom for the people of India is essential and even more especially in the present state of world turmoil, not only for India's sake but for the sake of the world. The Committee also hold that real peace and freedom can only be established and endure on the basis of world co-operation between free nations.

"The Committee gave full expression to their attitude towards war in their statement issued on September 14, 1939 wherein they condemned the Nazi and Fascist aggression and expressed their willingness to help the cause of freedom and democracy, provided the objectives of the war were clearly stated and acted upon in so far as was possible in the present. If freedom and democracy were those objectives, then they must necessarily include the ending of imperialism and the recognition of the independence of India. Subsequent pronouncements made on behalf of the British Government and their reactionary and oppressive policy made it clear that this Government was determined to maintain and intensify its imperialist hold and exploitation of the Indian people. The British policy was one of deliberate insult to Indian nationalism, of a perpetuation of unrestrained authoritarianism and the encouragement of disruptive and reactionary elements. Not only has every offer made by the Congress for an honourable compromise been rejected, but public opinion voiced by organisations regarded as moderate has also been flouted.

"The Congress was, therefore, compelled in order to defend the honour and elementary rights of the Indian people and integrity of the nationalist movement to request Gandhiji to guide the

Congress in the action that should be taken. Mahatma Gandhi, desirous of avoiding embarrassment to his opponent, as far as possible, especially during the perils and dangers of the war, limited the satyagraha movement which he started to selected individuals who conformed to certain tests he had laid down. That satyagraha has now proceeded for over fourteen months and about twenty-five thousand Congressmen have suffered imprisonment, while many thousands of others who offered satyagraha in the Frontier Province and elsewhere were not arrested. The Committee desire to express their respectful appreciation of Gandhiji's leadership and of the response of the nation to it and are of opinion that this has strengthened the people throughout this period.

British Attitude on Freedom Issue

"That attitude of the British Government has been hostile to Indian freedom and it has functioned in India as a completely authoritarian Government, insulting the deeply cherished convictions and feelings of the people. Neither the profession of freedom and democracy nor the perils and catastrophes that have come in the wake of war have affected this attitude and policy and such changes as have taken place have been for the worse. The recent release of a number of political prisoners has no significance or importance and the circumstances attending it and the official pronouncements made make it clear that it is not connected with any change of policy. The large numbers of detenus who are kept in prison under the Defence of India Act without trial and whose only offence seems to be that they are ardent patriots, impatient of foreign rule and determined to achieve the independence of the country, still remain in prison. The recent arrests of prominent persons and their treatment in prison also indicate that the old policy is being pursued as before.

"While there has been no change in the British policy towards India, the Working Committee must nevertheless take into consideration the new world situation that has arisen by the developments of war in the world and its approach to India. The sympathies of the Congress must inevitably lie with peoples who are subjects of aggression and who are fighting for their freedom, but only a free and independent India can be in a position to undertake the defence of the country on a national basis and be of help in furtherance of the larger causes that are emerging from the storm of war.

"The whole background in India is one of hostility and distrust of the British Government and not even the most far-reaching promises can alter this background, nor can a subject India offer voluntary or willing help to arrogant imperialism which is indistinguishable from Fascist authoritarianism. The Committee therefore are of the opinion that the resolution of the A. I. C. C. passed in Bombay on September 16, 1940 holds good to-day and defines Congress policy still."

SANDILIPAY HINDU ENGLISH SCHOOL

FOUNDER ENTERTAINS OLD BOYS

"It reflects immense credit for an infant institute like Sandilipay Hindu English School to have achieved so much in the fields of curricular and extra-curricular activities in so short a period as ten years from its inception" said the chief guest, Mr. M. Ratnasabapathy, B. A. (Hons.), of St. Peter's College, Colombo, speaking at the tea party given by the founder, Mr. P. Mudaliyar Jegarajasingam, on Friday the 2nd instant to the Old Boys who were successful in the various public examinations.

Continuing his speech, he paid a glowing tribute to the founder, by whose untiring efforts and extremely practical ways the school had steered its way through thick and thin to its present enviable position. He also stressed on the fact that the school has, under the stewardship of his good friend, Mr. K. Thillaiambalam, B. A., risen from its primary stage to one of the most efficient Junior Secondary Schools in the peninsula.

Miss S. Sarawanamuttu, B. A., a member on the staff of the school, said that that was a memorable event in the history of the school, and advised the boys who had gone out of the portals of the institute, to cultivate in them a sense of justice and fair play and to be ever grateful to their alma mater which had done a great deal in moulding their character.

The founder expressed in words mingled with emotion that he was deeply moved by the presence of the Old Boys there, and thanked them all for their ready response to his invitation. He brought home to them the maxim 'God helps those who help themselves' and exhorted them to become good and useful citizens by their disinterested service. He also wished them every success in their later life. (Cor.)

TOPICS OF THE DAY

Continued from page 2

deal with that taken today by the Hindus of Kanka. Children should be educated in schools belonging to or managed by their respective denominations if the state is unable to provide more government schools, where the proper atmosphere and "no conversions" are assured. While it is admitted that Christian missionary organisations are better run, Buddhists and Hindus alike are heading for a militant religious revival. Conversion has never been the ultimate aim of Buddhist and Hindu work; we are tolerant and we only seek to apply the principle, "Do unto others as they would do unto you." Here is Maxim Gorki on the subject. He writes, "One talks so much about 'Christian culture' Why lie? How the dence is it Christian? Where is the simplicity in this culture of ours? There is no evangelical simplicity anywhere. People have bred cunning, evil thoughts and scattered them over the world like a pack of mad dogs. The fools."

A Correction

IN 'Men and Matters' last week I wrote that Mr. S. Annamalai of Vaddukoddai says that there are about a million non-Christian children in Christian schools. This

ANOTHER RAID ON RANGOON

BURMA'S LINE OF LIVING STEEL

Rangoon, Jan. 5.

For the second successive night enemy aircraft made a moonlight raid on Rangoon in the early hours of this morning. A few explosions were heard at a distance. No details are available at present. Indian troops have occupied positions along the eastern frontier of Burma. They together with thousands of Burman troops and the powerful Chinese forces who have arrived make a continuous chain of fortifications in the territories through which enemy offensives may be expected.

Since the beginning of the war in the Pacific the Burma garrison has more than trebled itself. When the time for an Allied offensive from Burma comes, the Indians will be in the thick of it, writes an Indian Army observer. He adds: "We send out patrols frequently. A platoon every now and then disappears into the jungle in the direction of the Silveen, the turgid river meandering roughly along the Thai-Burma frontier as far as the Gulf of Martaban. The patrol makes its way through jungle country of a density which must be seen to be believed. After days, even weeks valuable information is brought back."

Describing the quick gathering and dispersing tactics employed by these troops, the observer says that on the day he arrived at one camp, he saw stocky, hard-bitten men from the foot-hills of the Himalayas racing up hills sharply rising hundreds of feet, driving heavy lorries and leading thousands of mules that supplement their motor transport for supplies. Next day when he visited the spot there was not a sign of life. Overnight the whole battalion of mules, tents, stores and all had vanished into the hills.

OBITUARY

MR. S. KANAPATHYPILLAI

The death occurred at Mandaitivu on Wednesday, December 31st of Mr. S. Kanapathypillai, well known landed proprietor and Manager of the Sittiviniyagar Temple, in his 76th year. He leaves behind two sons, Mr. K. Kailasapillai, Chairman, Allapiddy Village Committee and K. Kanagaratnam, student at University College, two daughters, Mrs. S. Pasupathy Chettiar and Miss Rajaledchumiammal, besides a number of grand children and relations. The funeral took place on the next day at 10 a. m. and was largely attended. The remains were borne in a palanquin and cremated in the family crematorium at Mandaitivu West, the eldest son setting fire to the pyre. The poor were fed on 3-1-42 in remembrance of the deceased. (Cor.)

is wrong. Mr. Annamalai's figure was 100,000.

Today's Prediction

NAYLOR predicts in the 'Sunday Observer' that Mussolini will die a gangster's death. An Indian Swami, resident in America, predicted not so long ago that one of the following would die pretty soon: Hitler, Mussolini, Stalin. Let us hope for the best, — the removal of one of the first two would be a splendid New Year gift. Let Providence protect Stalin.

WHAT LANKA EXPECTS OF HER SONS

Continued from page 1

ally. Stampede was the natural and inevitable consequence of people not knowing what to do or where to go when danger was on them.

"It is essential," continued the Governor, "that each shall be instructed definitely and specifically beforehand. Not only must they be told beforehand, but they must practise beforehand. The staff of every household, every office, every shop, and every factory must be trained to be a team. The head of the house, of the shop, of the office or the factory must captain the team and place his field. If you happen to be his employee, and not on your own, it is your duty to help him.

BEGINNINGS OF STAMPEDE

"I am told that when the air raid siren sounded the other day there actually occurred the beginnings of a stampede in parts of Colombo. Nothing of the sort, however, occurred on the Queen's House premises; Why? Because each of us had a pre-arranged station to go to under a plan of which we all have copies and which we practise. Every householder, shop keeper and employer of indoor or outdoor labour must draw up such a plan, talk about it regularly with his employees and hold practices. The A. R. P. authorities will give all possible assistance and advice; but however large and efficient the A. R. P. organisation becomes, it can never relieve employers and people of superior education of their duty to give a lead and set an example.

"And remember this, that any scheme that you draw up and practise must not stop short at the all clear signal. It must include getting everybody straight back to their work. If when the "All Clear" sounded everybody rushed out into the streets to exchange experiences, or to go sight-seeing, our roads would become blocked just when quick and unobstructed passage was necessary for fire engines and ambulances.

DISCIPLINED TEAM

"As I have already said, the leadership and example which Lanka expects, and has the right to expect, of each of us can only be achieved on a basis of personal contact with those whom it is our duty to lead and guide. Please make and maintain that contact without delay; and so make sure that, if the hour of trial comes we stand our test as a tough united and disciplined team and not as a collection of weak and feckless individuals.

"We have just entered on a new year. There are bound to be rocks and knocks ahead, but I believe that 1942 will see us well along the road to final victory. Let each of us make a personal contribution thereto. Each of us can, if he will; and I hope that these few words of mine this morning may have helped to show how.

"I thank you all for listening to me and give you my best wishes for the new year. Let me conclude with a paraphrase of a Latin epigram, from Martial: 'A leader's efficacy lies in his having got to know the people who will follow him.' Exactly so."

A DEMOCRACY CONFIDENT OF ITS CAUSE

Continued from page 4

The first thing they wanted to say to me, representing H. M. Government, was that after that night and after fifty such nights they were more firmly determined than ever to carry on the war until Hitlerism was wiped out. Only after they had made that quite clear did they pass to the urgent problems of the moment.

Other blitzed towns I have visited also while their wounds were raw and their fires still smoking; always the spirit has been the same.

There is among us today a degree of national unity as nearly absolute as anything human can be. There may a tiny minority with special views (and I do not speak disrespectfully of minorities, for even in war time Britain has preserved all the essentials of democratic life) but that minority is not one per cent. Among the ninety-nine per cent, the only difference of opinion is whether or not the Government is doing everything possible to win the war in the shortest time.

As Home Secretary it is for me to decide whether our small band of fascists, our Mosleyites, should be detained or let go.

I have let most of them go because I was satisfied that they were no longer potential dangers to the country. We have at this moment only some 697 British subjects in internment; of those 317 are of enemy origin. Of the scores of thousands of aliens in the country, many technically of enemy origin, only 9,700 are still detained. A democracy confident of its cause and of itself, does not need irresponsibly to use the big stick at home, even when its life is threatened, although it must be firm with subversive elements. You do not get such unity as Britain shows today except in a country that is free, and knows it.

It is as well for the cause of freedom that Britain is thus unified, sure of herself and her purpose. For we have grim times ahead. The mood of optimism which followed the spectacle of Russia's tough resistance is passing. Whatever the next few weeks may show, Germany has already added great and rich provinces to the territory under her control. We realise that she may acquire still further additions to her war potential—factories, mines and granaries. These, with the resources of the Europe she is so busily organising, will make a still more formidable base from which to launch that continuing drive for world conquest on which she is desperately bent.

We do not deceive ourselves either about Germany's purposes or about the power of the thrust that she can make to fulfil them. The Nazi's purpose is, by force or by fraud, by action or by waiting, by infiltration or by the knock-out blow, to bring every nation and every continent, one by one, under their sway. We British have long ceased to harbour delusions about them. We have seen Hitler's bloody path of conquest strewn with the corpses of Europe's wishful thinkers. We know that his course is not yet run and that bitter trial will be our lot until it is.

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