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Editor:
A. V. Kulasingham, Advocate.

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NEWS FROM FAR AND NEAR

Death of Mr. L. M. Maartensz

The death has occurred after a brief illness of Mr. L. M. Maartensz, retired Puisne Judge. The late Mr. Maartensz was born in 1876 and educated at St. Thomas' College. In 1898 he was enrolled an Advocate of the Supreme Court and practised in Colombo. He was subsequently called to the Bar at the Inner Temple.

No Congress Session this Year

Wardha, Jan. 14

The Congress Working Committee, it is understood, considered the feasibility of holding the annual session of the Congress, but came to the conclusion that in view of the present position, there was no possibility of holding the session.

Rice and Paddy

It is understood that the Government has made an endeavour to secure large quantities of rice and paddy from Burma over and above the quantities normally imported to Ceylon by the Colombo importers, but that so far the Government's efforts have been defeated—principally by the action of the shipping companies.

Hindu Students' Movement

An appeal to ignore caste differences, which were great obstacles in the path of progress, and to cultivate a spirit of service towards their fellow-beings was made by Dr. A. Kandiah, who presided at the 14th annual general meeting of the Hindu Students' Movement at the University College. Dr. Kandiah referred to the Hindu ideal of service which should be put into actual practice.

Increase of Grave Crime

There has been an increase in the number of cases of grave crime in Colombo for 1941 as compared with the previous year, according to statistics issued by the Assistant Superintendent of Police (Crime), Colombo.

The most notable increase has been in cases of burglary and theft.

The total number of cases for last year was 2,530, while in 1940 the total was 2,401, an increase of 129.

STORY OF PENANG AND RANGOON

EXPERIENCES OF CEYLONESE DOCTOR

"WE ourselves thought that the Japanese would attack military objectives in Penang as they did during the first three days of bombing. We never imagined that they would turn on the civilian population afterwards," said Dr. D. L. J. Kahawita, the Ceylonese Medical Officer of Health, who escaped from Japanese clutches, on his arrival in Colombo.

"The lessons those merciless attacks brought home were that all possible air raid precautions should be taken early and—this is very important—the public should follow instructions

"The death roll in Penang and in Rangoon would have been far less if the natural inclination to watch the planes were resisted and instructions obeyed to the letter."

Dr. Kahawita was in Penang town during the Japanese raids on December 8th, 9th and 10th and then from a life-boat in the harbour, he saw the whole town ablaze. He was also in Rangoon during the great air battle of December 23rd, when 17 enemy planes were brought down.

I found a little difficulty in getting out of Singapore when war was declared," said Dr. Kahawita. "The authorities were sympathetic, however, and I ultimately got aboard a ship for Penang."

BOMBS AT RANDOM

"I was there in time for the first raid at 10 a. m. on Monday. The Japanese concentrated their attack on two aerodromes—one on the mainland and one in Penang. A wave of nine planes dropped bombs at random over the harbour, missing the ships, but killing a large number of fish, while a wave of 27 went for the aerodromes. I saw some planes circle the town and our fighters take off, before I took cover.

"The Australian who met the onslaught of the first wave and was shot down, was picked up at sea. I saw him being brought ashore, with only a few burns.

"As our ship was loading cargo, I spent the days ashore and went aboard to sleep. On the streets troops were much in evidence, but not aircraft.

"Whenever the alarm sounded I took shelter in the nearest building. But as the raids were repeated on Tuesday, and on Wednesday without damage to the town I am afraid I joined the crowd and got out into the streets myself. I shall not do so again. I was fortunate not to have paid the penalty, as hundreds of others did later.

"Government, through the newspapers, advised people to evacuate to the mainland during those raids and many people did so. Others showed vacillation about leaving their property behind; they suffered later on for most of them were probably killed. A few, who went into the interior of the Island were saved from the bombs but fell into Japanese hands.

FIRES EVERYWHERE

"Ships in harbour used to move out during the danger hours, and then come back for loading or discharging cargo. Hence my delay in Penang.

"On the fourth day the Japanese attacked the town and caused fires everywhere. I found myself in a lifeboat, with about 20 fellow passengers. There we remained until we boarded a Danish vessel for Rangoon, hardly 40 hours before the Japanese occupation of Penang. We lived on ship's biscuits and water, and that was better than being in the inferno that Penang became.

"On Thursday and Friday, the town was a semi-circle of flames, until at last it was enveloped in smoke. The whole harbour front, I remember, was afire about half an hour after an attack on it.

"The Japs bombed the town incessantly. During one raid waves of 27 planes came over every five minutes and caused fires at intervals of practically 50, or 60 yards. Our A. A. batteries spat defiance but, as has been announced, the in-

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HOW BRITAIN LOOKS AT IT

REACTION TO ANTI-BRITISH PROPAGANDA

Tinnevely, Jan. 10.

"If the man-in-the-street in Britain was asked to name Public Enemy No. 3 of not only England but of humanity, he would name Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru," said the Rt. Revd. S. C. Neill, Bishop of Tinnevely, in the course of an address at the Centenary Hall, Palamcottah, on "Hopes and Fears for 1942."

Earlier in his address, the Bishop referred to Hitler as Public Enemy No. 1 and De Valera as Public Enemy No. 2.

Though the situation in the Far East was menacing, the Bishop said, he believed that the worst phase of the war was over. As a man of religion and a pacifist, he had felt uneasy over the war, but, on the whole he was satisfied that the war was inevitable and the cause of the Allies was in the main right, in spite of their previous follies in some matters.

Dealing with India, the Bishop said that he was glad that the leaders of Indian Nationalism were returning to the plane of realism. Though India had her grievances against Britain, Indians must realise what the man in the street in England thought about the attitude of the Indian leaders. Whatever mistakes Britain had made in India, the cause for which she was fighting now was just and the people in Britain could never forget the unhelpful and even hostile attitude of the Indian leaders.

He pointed out that the British people, along with others, would certainly vote Hitler as Public Enemy No. 1, but if the British were asked to name Public Enemies Numbers, 2 and 3, they would not mention Mussolini and the Japanese Emperor, but some others.

"STRAIN TO BRITAIN"

Prefacing his remark by saying that he did not want to offend the Indians, the Bishop said that it was his duty to tell them what the man in the street in England felt and added that to the man in the street in Britain, Public Enemy No. 2 was De Valera, whose attitude of neutrality could never be forgotten by the British, because that had cost Britain se-

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Hindu Organ.

MONDAY, JANUARY 19, 1942

THE FOOD SUPPLY

IF THE ISLAND'S SUPPLY OF paddy and rice from Burma is interrupted, it is easy to see that we in Ceylon shall have to depend on ourselves for the production of all the food needed by the population. We hope, however, that the Government will do all that is possible to obtain supplies from Burma. The public is not in a position to know all the facts bearing on this question, but the Government ought to know. A Colombo paper recently complained that rice merchants and the shipping companies thwarted the Government's efforts in this direction. We do not know how far this is correct, but surely the Government of Ceylon need not look to the shipping companies alone to provide the ships. The Government should be able to charter ships or acquire them outright. If this is done, and adequate protection is provided for the ships during the voyage, there is no reason why there should be any difficulty in procuring the paddy and rice Ceylon needs in the present emergency. Things would have been much easier if a certain section of the press and the public had taken up a more reasonable attitude towards the merchants themselves, and encouraged the latter to continue to ply their trade regardless of the risks. Now, however, that the Government itself has been toying with the idea of importing rice on its own responsibility, it would be more satisfactory if the Government explored every possibility before giving up the attempt to import essential foodstuffs.

In the meantime, it would be safer if the people themselves made an earnest effort to produce more food. We have a great way to go before we can claim that Ceylon is able to supply her own needs in the matter of food. It has been stated that Ceylon-grown rice is enough for only one-third of the population. No Government can hope to produce the other two-thirds in the immediate future. But something can be done by carrying out expeditiously existing schemes of production. In the first place, there are the various

peasant colony schemes. We ought to have more of these schemes and every effort should be made to make them a success. Then, there are the schemes for the settlement of "middle class" young men. The Government would be well advised to pay more attention to these schemes and give the young men desiring to take up land under these schemes every encouragement. In the dry zone these schemes have a far greater chance of success than the peasant colony schemes. The "middle class" young men are certainly better educated than the peasants and may be trusted to have more initiative. Given a reasonable amount of training before they take up their holdings, these young settlers will not fail to make good, provided the Government too gives them a helping hand during the first two or three years. Even this assistance may be dispensed with in certain cases. What is needed is that the Government should be more prompt in dealing with applications for land from these young men. We are unable to see why there should be any delay in this matter. So far as the Northern Province is concerned, the Government Agent stated that he had requested the Land Commissioner to hold a land "kacheheri" early. This is a step in the right direction and we hope that in the other provinces too the procedure laid down for the alienation of land to settlers will be speeded up and that the usual red-tape and circumlocution of officialdom will not be allowed to stand in the way of these new schemes. For, by getting on with these schemes without unnecessary delay, the Government will be able to accomplish much more than an immediate increase in the island's food supply; it will also be able to provide these young men with a career. This is an aspect of the matter which cannot be over-looked. The war has brought in its train a good deal of unrest and uncertainty as to the future. Let the Government harness the restlessness and energy of youth to schemes of production, of which, under present circumstances, there cannot be too many in this island. By now the Department of Agriculture should have acquired sufficient experience to make these schemes almost fool-proof.

More than any other part of the island it is the dry zone that needs more attention at the present moment. It is capable of producing all the paddy needed. Its soil is well suited for the production of those substitutes for paddy to which Major-General Inskip, referred the other day. We must not, of course, ignore the possibilities of increased production in the more settled areas, but the development of the dry zone is nevertheless imperative if Ceylon is to produce her own food.

TOPICS OF THE DAY

By
T. Kathira Vellu

Counter-Offensive

WE are immensely satisfied with the appointment of the Libyan campaigner, General Sir Archibald Wavell, as Supreme Allied Commander in the South West Pacific. I remember the famous "Wavell Wedge" and a forward thrust from Burma into Thailand and North Malaya coupled with penetration by Chinese forces into Indo-China is anticipated in due course. United States Secretary of State for the Navy, Col. Knox, assures us that the time is *inopportune* for an American naval offensive in China waters. The British Navy cannot be expected to entertain the idea of an offensive unless our fleet gets the aid of a strong air arm. Too often arm-chair critics plan *grand* strategy, without paying sufficient regard to lack of reinforcements, equipment and vital supplies, difficulties of communication and co-ordinated effort. It must be admitted that the Japs have occupied a considerable amount of Malayan territory but, as I wrote before, the tide will turn. General Sir Henry Pownall tells us that Singapore will be defended to the last. That "nincompoop" Air Marshal Sir Robert Brooke-Topham had lulled us into a false sense of security by his exaggerated speeches and public utterances. The assurance given by Sir Shenton Thomas that, up to January 5, there have been no casualties among the Malayan Ceylonese population recalls my plea for a cool-headed fresh outlook on evacuation.

Hari-Kiri

RUMOURED to be the cause of the destruction of two important British battleships last month were Japanese human suicide torpedoes. To the best of my knowledge, such a torpedo is not feasible and only exists in the fantastic realms of a Jules Verne or H. G. Wells. But the Japs certainly commit a "glorious" form of suicide (*hari-kiri*) when they fail in battle or are captured prisoners of war. Asahi beer, *sukiyaki*, almond eyes and tropical fans do not create this urge for suicide. Plain *Shintoism* does it. This elimination of considerable chunks of the Jap forces is grand strategy from our viewpoint and takes a big load off our minds.

True Story

A New York newspaper reports that the late Leon Trotsky and present-day Dictator Benito Mussolini figured together as *extras* in a film of 1915. Under Hitler's direction Mug is still an extra if Admiral Cunningham wants to know.

Enigmatic India

"FATHER India" throttled Katherine Mayo's bigoted "Mother India". To many of us India's political stage today is a mystic enigma. The Viceroy expands his Executive Council. Jinnah wants Pakistan, Nehru, total independence; Gandhi, non-violence; Rajagopalachariar, conditional co-operation and the exile Subhas Chandra Bose, an alliance with Berlin. Actions like the mass arrests and subsequent release of a few hundred Hindu Maha Sabha men lead to satyagraha, which has a good camp following. That Conservative "masterly inactive" diehard,

THE SIREN SOUNDS

III

A Safe Room

BASEMENTS, cellars, and rooms in a sunken position offer the best protection. The fewer windows the better. Rooms facing the garden or soft soil are preferable; the bombs have less effect in soft soil than if they hit the hard road or pavement.

Your safest room should be prepared as a blackout room.

Tables and staircases should be strengthened. You may feel a little ridiculous squatting under the table, stairs, or bed, but many of the people who didn't like feeling ridiculous in England are dead.

Flat dwellers should get together, find out the safest flats in the building, and come to a working arrangement to prepare them as shelters.

In warm weather, bricking up and sandbagging of windows may cause unbearable conditions. A simple device is to get all your books, stack them on a table on the inside of the window, or behind the door. Shift your book case to that position, if it's feasible.

Where ground is available, trenches with angles should be built. About 6 ft. of head-room is needed, and they should be covered against missiles. A plain ditch is better than nothing, but trenches can be improved by strengthening sides, boarding of floor, and provision of sanitation and drainage.

Don't Forget These

AND here are some more grim points that shouldn't be forgotten: Keep axes, crow-bars, shovels, and picks handy, in case you have to hack or dig your way out.

If the raids are long, radios and gramophones, books, toys for the children, cards, a thermos of tea, coffee, biscuits, tinned food, rugs and blankets, will all help your own and your family's morale.

Tackling Incendiaries

INCENDIARY bombs were not a grave menace in Spain, because most houses were of stone. English cities had more wood, and they did more damage. But explosive bombs were still the worst.

Of, thermite, phosphorus, or magnesium bombs might be used to ignite cities, towns, forests and crops.

Magnesium bombs of about 2½ lb., are most likely to be used. A large bomber can carry 1,000, and start many fires.

For about a minute there is a violent spluttering, and molten fragments are thrown long distances. They will set curtains, bedding, and other inflammable fittings alight.

When the spluttering is over, the bomb is a molten pool of magnesium, which burns with intense heat for 10 minutes or more.

Don't Throw Water

If, in excitement, or haste you hurl large quantities of water over the bomb, from buckets or hose, it will explode.

Incendiary material will be thrown in all directions, including yours, and more fires caused.

Water for the bomb should come in a spray, from a fine sprinkler or from the type of stirrup pump used in England.

The spray from the stirrup pump reduces the time of burning from 10 minutes to two minutes.

Fires caused by the bomb are dealt with by jet. The stirrup pump can be changed from spray to jet simply by pressing a button.

Colonel L. S. Amery, must go. Press and public opinion demands it. I suggest the Duke of Windsor, now sojourning as colonial governor of the Bahamas, as an appropriate Viceroy of India. It is never too late to end the British policy, "Let the dogs bark, the caravan goes on."

NO CONFIDENCE IN CHAIRMAN

Jaffna Council's Censure

Jaffna, Saturday.

A motion of no confidence in Mr. R. Sivagurunathar, Chairman of the Jaffna Urban Council, was passed yesterday. Crowds thronged the public gallery long before the appointed hour of the meeting.

Mr. C. Ponnambalam moved that the Chairman, by his ruling out and declining to include in the agenda relevant and legitimate questions and a motion submitted by members of the Council, had acted unconstitutionally and in derogation of the rights and privileges of the Council, and by his conduct and manner of administering the affairs of the Council, had lost and forfeited the confidence of the Council.

The Chairman said that it would be embarrassing for him to preside, and left the meeting. Mr. V. S. Ramanathan was voted to the chair.

Mr. Pathirana, seconding, said he was doing so in the interest of the ratepayers. No one spoke against the motion. Messrs. R. R. Nalliah, K. Aiyadurai, V. Suppiah, Chas. Pathirana and Ponnambalam voted for the motion and Messrs. S. M. Aboobucker, S. Arulanandam, M. Sinnathurai and Ramanathan voted against. Thereupon, the pro tem Chairman said he was giving his casting vote, and there was laughter in the gallery. On Mr. Nalliah pointing out the pro tem Chairman's mistake, the motion was declared carried by five votes to four. The meeting then adjourned.

RICE POSITION

SUPPLIES FOR THE PROVINCES

Jan. 12.

From today the Manning Market rice merchants will assist in the scheme for supplying rice to the provinces.

As stated previously, rice sufficient to meet the requirements of consumers for a week is being sent to all provincial areas which are dependant on imported rice, and it is expected that within the next two or three days all such areas will have the requisite supplies.

It was recently revealed that people had even gone to the extent of hoarding locally-grown rice with the result that the price of that variety of paddy had risen to nearly Rs 3 a bushel.

With a view to putting a brake on the tendency of people to hoard locally-grown rice, steps have now been taken to prohibit the transport of rice or paddy from self-supporting areas.

2,319 SIT FOR THE MATRICULATION

FIFTEEN CENTRES

Altogether 2,319 candidates entered for the London Matriculation Examination which commenced at fifteen different centres in the Island.

As many as 1,230 candidates are taking the examination at the seven Colombo centres alone. The other centres at which the examination is being held are Kandy, Jaffna, Galle, Illavai, Manipay, Mount Lavinia, Point Pedro and Vaddukodai.

BRITISH BOMBERS ATTACK PORT SWETTENHAM

ENEMY CLAIMS TO BE 70 MILES FROM SINGAPORE

London, Jan. 16

THE Singapore radio states that fighting continued on the main Malayan front following an attack by Australian troops. The Japanese made a small advance but afterwards the Australian troops held them up throughout the night. Our bombers attacked Port Swettenham, which is now in enemy hands. Bombs were dropped from a low level.

Though the fight in the eastern part of Negri Sembilan State on Thursday morning is officially described as a "local engagement", Singapore is thrilled at this, the first reference to Australian troops going into action, and have seized upon the word "attacked" used in the communique as implying the likelihood that these fresh troops will not necessarily be bound, as previously, by the unavoidable policy of fighting intensive rearguard actions down the Peninsula, and that they will be prepared to take the offensive wherever and whenever practicable. This was undoubtedly a skirmish between strong patrols, and such activity is likely to increase, as any pitched battle between large forces of troops at long range is almost impossible in view of the limited field, which at present is on extremely fluid front.

Heavy rain for the past few days, moreover, has washed out many sections of the main roads, made quagmires of the lesser roads and jungle paths, and rendered the movement by both sides of large bodies of troops and equipment most difficult.

The Australian Prime Minister, Mr. Curtin in announcing that the Australians were in action in the Malayan western section, revealed that General Gordon Bennett had cabled: "The troops are eager for the fight. I trust the enemy will soon realise that I am alive."

The Japanese claimed to have captured General Gordon Bennett (referred to in a Singapore message last month as the General Officer Commanding the Australian Forces in Malaya) in the course of the fighting for Kuala Lumpur.

JAPANESE CLAIMS

While Mac Arthur is putting up a magnificent defence in Luzon, the Japanese progress in Malaya obviously increases gravely the threat to Singapore. The Japanese claim to have occupied the whole of Pahang State on the East and on that side to have approached within 70 miles of Singapore. On the West they claim Seremban, Tampin and Gemas. These claims are at present not confirmed, but it seems certain that we have been withdrawing for a considerable distance to the South. With Wavel, Brett and Hart's arrival in the Dutch East Indies, it is to be expected that the Allies' counter-strokes are already in process of being initiated, and some indications of this are afforded by signs of an increased Allied air offensive against the Japanese in Borneo.

In the Southern Philippines the Japanese appear to be intending to use Sarawak, Mindanao, Jolo and the Celebes for advance bases for attacks on the Dutch East Indies and Malaya. The Dutch troops in Bor-

neo are already attacking the Japanese in Sarawak.

In London the view prevails that a sudden improvement in the Pacific situation can be reasonably expected. It is essentially a question of gradually building up the Allied power for full offensive strength while maintaining the defence wherever and so long as possible, and skilfully utilising all available military, naval and air resources. It is for the Allies a race against time. It is also similar for the Japanese, for whom quick results are an imperative necessity.

REINFORCEMENTS TO SINGAPORE

MORE BRITISH TROOPS

Vichy, Tuesday.

British resistance is increasing as the Japanese get nearer Singapore, says a Tokyo despatch to the Vichy news agency.

British and Australian forces, especially regular British troops which were disembarked at Singapore during the last few weeks, it says, are now in the front-lines, while the majority of Indian and Malay troops have been withdrawn to the rear.

The correspondent also says that Allied artillery is now more active and entrenched in better fortified positions. The improved equipment of the Allied forces now being engaged, he continues, indicates a great effort to recover. Their technique of destruction is also better and repairs by the Japanese take longer.

All cars abandoned are first wrecked, while the number of mines laid in strategic zones and on the road has been greatly increased.

CONTROL OF PADDY PRICES

HOARDING OF RICE AN OFFENCE

The Food Controller has fixed the maximum price of a bushel of Ceylon-grown paddy at Rs. 2-50.

The possibility of hoarded rice being seized, in the event of rationing being introduced, was mentioned, by Mr. R. S. V. Poulter, the Food Controller, in the course of a Press Conference.

The law, he said, laid it down clearly that, once a rationing scheme was introduced, any person who had any supplies of rice in his possession should deliver such supplies to the authorities on payment of the purchase price. Failure to do so would involve the seizure and removal of such supplies.

Dealing with the procedure that should be followed in the event of rationing being introduced, the Food Controller said that a Colombo resident, who owned paddy land outside, would not be allowed to bring such paddy to the city without surrendering coupons equivalent to the quantity of rice represented by the paddy to be brought.

PRODUCTION OF FOOD

Mr. Ponnambalam's Suggestions

Mr. G. G. Ponnambalam has addressed the following letter to the Minister for Agriculture and Lands:—

In connection with the Food production drive that has been recently inaugurated owing to the shortage of rice etc. I wish to make the following suggestions for your immediate and sympathetic consideration:—

1. The installation of a pump at the Athulu Spring in Karaveddi

An experiment was carried out in 1939 and it was seen that the Spring has an abundant if not inexhaustible supply of fresh water. If a pump can be erected all the adjoining fields to an extent of nearly 100 acres can be brought under cultivation for food crops soon after the harvesting of the present paddy crops. As it appears to be the policy of the Government to afford assistance to cultivators by the sinking of wells, I would earnestly request you to put this scheme in hand at once as it would obviate the necessity of sinking several wells in the adjoining area. Once again I would ask you to have this done at once.

2. The Bunding of the Vadamaradchi Lagoon.

This question was discussed at a meeting of the Consultative Committee held at the Jaffna Kachcheri last Wednesday the 7th instant at which the G. A., the A. G. A. (Emergency), the Divisional Agricultural Officer, the Maniars and I were present at which it was unanimously resolved to recommend the immediate building of earthen bunds. This would bring a minimum of 5000 acres into immediate cultivation. I am aware that the Vadamaradchi Lagoon scheme has been marked for investigation during the year 1941-42. I venture to think, however, that this will be a long term project and the bunding need not await such investigation. What is required immediately is the prevention of the flow of sea water into the fields. The earth necessary for bunding may be taken from convenient points along the channel where fresh water tanks to a depth of 8 to 10 feet would automatically be created. This would help farmers to irrigate the fields by lift irrigation during the dry season.

3. Literature regarding agricultural products.

Although the Jaffna peninsula is more or less extensively cultivated there are vast acreages of open Palmyrah lands from which certain catch crops could be obtained. I am aware that cowpeas have been known to thrive in such lands. I would like to urge the immediate dissemination of literature regarding cultivability of such lands with Soya beans etc. I shall thank you to give these matters your immediate attention and favour me with an early reply.

OBITUARY

The death occurred at "Mani Mahal", Mallakam, on Sunday the 11th instant of Mr. S. Eliathamby, Commissioner of Sales. He was the youngest brother of Mr. M. S. Subramaniam, Proctor. The funeral took place the same day.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

TEACHERS AND NOTES OF LESSONS

Sir,—In the issue of the "Hindu Organ" of the 5th inst., Mr. T. Kathiravellu has again made an abortive attempt to nullify the effect of the true, sane and well meant observations made by "Spectator" on certain important educational matters. Evidently with a view to substantiating his remarks and giving them greater weight, he has given a long array of his credentials not realising the fact that they can in no way tend to disprove the sound and universally accepted observations of "Spectator." It is very unfortunate that Mr. T. K. who is himself a teacher and who "agrees in main with 'Spectator's' findings on the educational ills of this country" endeavours to cloud the important issues and accuse "Spectator" and "A Teacher" for making their observations under pen-names. Facts will always continue to be facts from whatever source they may emanate. Perhaps Mr. T. K. wants to know who "Spectator" and "A Teacher" are in order to intimidate them with his many credentials. He states that he is assuming the role of one who is engaged in a debate and hence does not use a nom-de-plume as he sometimes does. But "Spectator," being evidently a member of the teaching profession, will not be so foolhardy as to give out his name for fear that he will have to incur unnecessarily the displeasure of certain Inspectors. His studied silence in spite of Mr. T. K's comments on his observations is very much to be appreciated. He perhaps feels that he has only made a statement of facts which will be universally accepted, whatever Mr. T. K. or anybody else may have to say to the contrary.

"A Teacher" has evidently on his own initiative come forward to champion the cause of the "Spectator" and defend him, when there is absolutely no need for it. But he has done a signal service. He has given wider publicity and greater recognition to "Spectator's" well meant observations.

"A Teacher" did not at all appear to clamour for a debate in connection with Mr. T. K's notes on "Topics of the Day" written on the 22nd of December. No sane person will agree that "Spectator's" observations would have in any way tended to side-track the work which is being done by the Special Committee of Education. Mr. T. K's observations that 50% of the teachers do not either write Notes of Lessons or do so only after persuasion is far from the truth, as every teacher is now aware of the fact that he will have to lose his increment, if he fails to write Notes of Lessons even for a single day and if it comes to the notice of any Inspector. Mr. T. K. does not believe in criticising the doings of those in authority, because the proverb says, "To err is human". It is true that everybody has his good mood and bad mood at times. But if an inspector pays an incidental visit to a school when he is not in good mood, Mr. T. K. can easily imagine what the fate of the teachers whom he may happen to tackle is likely to be. What "Spectator" may have meant by a meaningless farce is the so-called notes sometimes written by cer-

tain teachers merely to satisfy the Inspectors and not to benefit them or the pupils in any way. Mr. T. K. seems to have an inordinate tendency to remove words and phrases from their proper context and give them a misleading interpretation. He is of opinion that Inspectors may by all means take tea in the house of a Manager or Principal, as otherwise "the Ceylon Tea Propaganda Board may take objection to the discrimination and because the present is a socialist age." He has cleverly avoided touching on the practice of Inspectors' taking lunch, as perhaps the Tea Propaganda Board does not stand to gain or lose by it. One should always be prepared to call a spade a spade, or rather give the devil his due. If the Divisional and District Inspectors of the Northern Division deserve to be applauded, there is no harm done by saying a good word about them. Illuminated address has no doubt its own use, but when you speak of the comparative merits of two parties, an address cannot certainly take the place of statements to be made in a contribution to the press. Perhaps it may be feasible to do so in Malaya from where Mr. T. K. seems to have derived his inspiration. He says that there are certain things not done in polite society and that good wine needs no bush. This statement of his is doubtless true, but it is not at all applicable to the reference which "Spectator" seems to have been obliged to make when there arose a necessity for mentioning the comparative merits of Inspectors.

I am afraid that the morbid curiosity and the childish tongue-in-the-cheek audacity of "A Teacher" will have to vanish like dew before the sun, when he becomes aware of the many qualifications and varied experiences of Mr. T. K. both in Malaya and here in Ceylon. A Solomon like busy body like him may keep on treading on people's toes, if the Editor of the "Hindu Organ" tolerates it even when he does so without any need or discrimination. But Mr. T. K. will do well to carry on this trade only when the occasion demands it.

I am also a teacher, but cannot boast of the credentials of which Mr. T. K. has every reason to be proud. I do not hold a brief either for "Spectator" or for "A Teacher". We, teachers, had a sigh of relief when "Spectator" made certain valuable observations as the result of which we thought that there would be some useful reforms. But Mr. T. K. who has of late been making valuable contributions to the columns of the "Hindu Organ" in regard to certain burning questions of the day has, by some of his meaningless and hair-splitting arguments, unfortunately spoilt the effect of the service rendered by "Spectator" for the cause of education, in spite of the fact that he is himself a teacher. "Spectator" does not seem to have had any particular grievance against any individuals. "A Teacher" has unwittingly raised a hotnet's nest instead of ignoring the Notes of Mr. T. K. who only made a passing, though misleading, reference to "Spectator's"

observations. The outcome of the letter of Mr. T. K. to the issue of the "Hindu Organ" of the 5th instant may be regarded only as a storm in the tea-pot and the less we speak about it hereafter the better it would be for all concerned. Let all of us, teachers, subscribe to the well considered views of "Spectator", as they are sure to produce beneficial results and let the interested parties take them for what they are worth.

Yours etc.,
Uncertificated Teacher.

FOOD PRODUCTION

Sir,—The Government with the aid of Mr G G Ponnambalam is carrying on a campaign for food production in Vadamaradehi and I feel I ought to place before the public certain aspects of a part of the scheme namely 'the Killinochchi Colonisation and Food Production Scheme.'

The Government Agent, Northern Province, and the member for Point Pedro detailed the amount of help the Government was willing to give to persons who would venture out to Killinochchi. They also referred to the existence of a Hospital at that place where patients who suffer from malaria could get treatment.

At a meeting held in pursuance of this campaign I, as a humble member of the audience, agreed with whatever the member for Point Pedro said and urged upon the people the necessity of venturing out to Killinochchi and at the same time suggested two things to the G. A., N. P. and the member for Point Pedro. In the first place I appealed to the Government for an intense anti-malarial drive in the colonised area. This suggestion by some curious process seems to have offended the susceptibilities of the member for Point Pedro.

Secondly I appealed to the member for Point Pedro to start a campaign to collect funds for the help of the colonists. I also mentioned the fact that he was in a position to approach persons who are rich for substantial subscriptions and reminded him how his enthusiasm for the Plane Fund had been responsible for the collection of more than a lakh of rupees.

But strange as it would appear to many of his admirers, he replied that such a programme was an impossibility.

Disappointed therefore with the response of the fastidious member for Point Pedro I appeal to the public through your press to start and help the collection of a fund for supplementing the assistance given to Colonists by the Government.

I remain, Sir,
Yours truly,

C. THARMAJULASINGHAM,
Point Pedro, Proctor S. C.
12-1-42.

"MATINEE AND THE STUDENT POPULATION"

The members of the Jaffna Urban Council were wise enough in banning the 9.30 shows. The authorities of the two theatres concerned, in order to balance the income, have made matinee shows a regular feature.

I wish to bring to the notice of the members of the Urban Council that these Matinees will be ruining the Jaffna student population. Students restricted by parents from seeing films have now a golden opportunity before them to see the

KARAINAGAR HINDU COLLEGE

LITERARY ASSOCIATION ANNIVERSARY

(From a Correspondent)

The Anniversary of the Literary Association of the College was held on the 22nd December, 1941, under the distinguished chairmanship of Mr. V. Manickavasagar, Magistrate, Kayts. The Secretary, Mr. V. Ponnambalam, read his Report for the year 1941, which was followed by two declamations one in English by Miss. Vimala Kanagasabai on 'Sir Ponnambalam Ramanathan' and another in Tamil by Mas. P. Vanniasingham on 'the Mother-tongue as the medium of instruction.' The College dramatic amateurs then staged a mock trial at the Court of International Justice of two world personalities—Hitler and Gandhi. This was greatly appreciated and the credit for its success goes mostly to the young actors. This was followed by a scene from 'Nandanar' which was interspersed with choice musical renderings to accompaniments from behind the scene.

The lecturer, Mr. S. G. de Zoysa, A. S. P., Jaffna, was received amidst great ovation by the audience of the evening. He reciprocated their sentiment and in the course of his speech on 'Crime and Its Protection' he extended his co-operation if the public were behind him. In fact, he said, it was the public who determined the security of society by upholding law and order. He enlisted their sympathy to keep down prices of essential goods.

Mr. V. Manickavasagar, the chairman, supported Mr. Zoysa and requested the audience to speak out the truth in all matters which would abolish crime altogether from society. Mr. Arunugam kindly translated the two speeches in Tamil. Mr. V. Subramaniam proposed the vote of thanks. The Principal, Mr. A. Kanagasabai, requested the public to support the institution. The function then came to a close.

matinee. They tell some lie or other—going out for a walk or going for football practice—and make their parents believe the truth of their statements by silly promises.

I will quote an instance that happened yesterday. A certain student left the house by 2 p. m. telling his parents that he was going to the dhoby's house to get some clothes and returned home by 7 p. m. after seeing how "Saku" was treated by her mother-in-law at the Windsor theatre. When questioned by the father as to his late coming the son replied that the dhoby had gone somewhere and was waiting till he returned. But he (dhoby) did not turn up.

The main reason for the banning of the 9.30 shows was to prevent crime, theft and to see that the city was calm at night. It would be better if the Urban Council members would permit the 9.30 show instead of the matinee, for, by the matinee shows, the character of so many a student who would be a "true gentleman" in years to come is spoilt. It would be better to look to the safety of the young ones than of the old.

Thanking you for the space.

I am,
Yours truly,
T. RAJABATNAM

Koddaddy,
Jaffna

DEFENCE OF CEYLON

HOW CIVILIANS SHOULD CO-OPERATE

The following has been issued by the Department of Information:

1. Since Japan entered the war it has become necessary to put Ceylon's defence in a state of complete readiness. Our local forces have therefore been reinforced by soldiers from India, and during the coming weeks they will all be frequently practising what they would do if the enemy were to attempt a landing on our shores.

2. It is necessary that the civil population should assist these exercises by themselves practising what they would need to do if there were a real enemy landing. *This is not to run away but to stay quietly in their homes.* In Belgium and other invaded countries people running away have been invariably machine-gunned on the roads both from the air and by enemy ground troops. The person who wants to be safe therefore must stay at home. An enemy does not waste his ammunition on individuals or on houses; he fires on crowds in roads and open spaces.

3. It is important that motor vehicles, bullock carts and hackeries be kept off roads and lanes during military exercises. If there were a real enemy landing the roads and lanes would of course have to be left unobstructed for our troops and defence vehicles. During practices similar conditions must obtain, and military vehicles will operate in numbers and at speeds dangerous to any traffic. *Keep off the roads therefore whenever troops are on exercise or in action.*

4. The military authorities will give notice to local authorities when they are about to have a practice or exercise, and a warning will be sounded by tomtom or otherwise. *Do not be alarmed when you get this warning but stay quietly in your house, garden or field.* Such co-operation with the Military authorities will not only assist them but will also accustom you to what would occur a real enemy landing.

NOTICE

Jaffna Saiva Training School, Thirunelvely

ADMISSIONS—TWO YEAR COURSE, 1942

Applications for admission to the Jaffna Saiva Training School will be received by the General Manager, Hindu Board Schools, Jaffna, for the two-year course of training at the above School, till the 15th February, 1942, from applicants who have passed the London Matriculation or Cambridge Senior or the Tamil S. S. C. Examination with Tamil as a subject or the Ceylon Teachers' Certificate Examination, Tamil.

All applications must be in the Education Office, Colombo, by the 28th February, 1942.

Forms of application can be obtained from the Director of Education, Colombo.

Only those whose applications are forwarded through us, will be selected for training at the above school.

General Manager
Hindu Board of Education,
Jaffna, 12-1-42
(Mis. 17, 19, 22 & 26-1-42)

IN A BLACK-OUT CITY

A COMMON ELEMENT

[Contributed]

LIGHT has its joys, and sometimes darkness also. It is a beautiful city if not for the black-out. When the streets and houses are well lit the majesty and the splendour of the city give an enchanting appearance. Now the stars of the firmament, the Moon and a few dim and shaded lamps above dispel the utter darkness. The great majority of mankind dislike this gloom. There are however two classes of people who derive pleasure in the darkness—they are the lovers and the robbers. The former enjoy to their hearts content under the light of the stars, while the latter seize the opportunity to pursue their profession to perfection. The ideals that possess and move the lover and the robber to action are poles asunder. But in darkness they find a common element, the element of secrecy which gives both freedom of action.

POSITION REVERSED

In ordinary times the driver of a motor-car, for the matter of that any person in charge of a vehicle, would be prosecuted if he should drive the vehicle without having the same sufficiently lit. But now the position is reversed and he who has too much light on his vehicle is prosecuted. Cars, Tram cars and Omnibuses are driven in the dark with little or no light. In order to avoid accident the speed of these vehicles is reduced to a minimum. While the tram-cars proceed slowly in the darkness the street urchin enjoys a free ride, for he knows that his joy ride would not be detected by the authorities. In the darkness spurious coins make their appearance. They are freely circulated and the corner of counterfeit coins makes a fortune.

SEEING FRIENDS

It is a difficult problem to see one's friends after dusk. In the darkness one stumbles into the wrong house and greets the very person whom one does not want to see. Mutual explanations and apologies are exchanged and one gropes his way back home with the aid of a walking-stick and the light of the glow worms. In order to avoid unpleasant clashes with the person of another one whistles, clears the throat, coughs, claps his hands or makes some sound or other while walking in the dark.

UNEASINESS

Generally, there is uneasiness and panic in a black-out city. One must shop early, finish his work early, and return home early. For a journey in the dark may prove to be a most unpleasant experience. One must be prepared to fight darkness and encounter robbers and looters. Even home—sweet home—is not absolutely safe. Although the city is blacked out to prevent the enemy from knowing the key positions of our metropolis there may be indiscriminate bombing. So the town-folk desire to evacuate from the city to country homes. Packed trains leave the Railway stations and with bag and baggage men, women and children go to country homes. The population of the town shrinks. The number of 'To let' boards increase and the land-lords bemoan their fate. A wrong air raid alarm takes the

populate off their feet. People are instructed not to run into the streets and open places. But they do the very thing which they are told not to do. In every one's lips there is a tale of woe. Rumour spreads and people spread fears real and imaginary. As the war comes closer and closer to Ceylon's shores everyone is uneasy. Even the child feels it—for his sweet-meets and toffees have become dearer. We want victory and peace; and may God give us both.

MANIPAY SOCIAL SERVICE LEAGUE

The Third Annual General Meeting of the Manipay Parish Social Service League was held on Thursday the 8th January 1942 at the Manipay Vivekananda Vidyasalai Hall. The report for 1941 of the Managing Committee and the Treasurer's Statement of Accounts were submitted and adopted. The following office-bearers for 1942 were elected with a Managing Committee of twenty members:—

Patrons: Mubandiram S. K. Swaminathan and Mr. A. Sallamuttu, M.B.E., President: Mr. C. Thiagarajah, Vice-Presidents: Dr. K. Cathiravelu, Mr. R. Dharmalingam and Mr. Sundarampillai, B. Sc., Hon. Secretary: Mr. C. N. Devarajan, Assistant Hon. Secretary: Mr. S. Muttukumaraswamy, Hon. Treasurer: Mr. Sivakolundhu Muttukumaraswamy, Assistant Hon. Treasurer: Mr. K. Sivaguru, Auditor: Mr. N. Sinnatamby.

At the close of the business meeting, a public meeting was held in the outskirts of Velakkai Temple, presided over by Sir Waitilingam Daraiswamy Kt. Mr. C. Thiagarajah, the newly elected President, welcomed Sir Waitilingam and those present and in appealing for co-operation, stated that with the fine team of men in the management there should be no difficulty in carrying out successfully their ambitious programme for 1942.

Mr. M. Prasad, C. C. S. Government Agent, advised people to give primary importance to food production, and appealed for people's co-operation in this matter.

The other speakers were Rev. Father G. T. Balasundaram, Messrs. T. Muttusampillai, A. Sambandan, M. Balasundaram, S. Thangarajah, Advocates, Dr. K. Cathiravelu, Dr. C. Chelliah of Johore and Mr. C. N. Devarajan, and Dr. S. C. Tautairajah, M. O. H., Jaffna.

Numerous messages were read including those sent by Sir Baron Jayatilake, Sir John Tarbat, Mr. W. A. de Silva, Minister for Health, Mr. Geo. E. de Silva, M. S. C., Mr. G. C. S. Corea, Minister for Labour, Dr. W. G. Wickremasinghe, Assistant Director Sanitary Services, Rev. S. K. Bunker, Mr. S. D. Tampoe, Advocate, Mr. C. Coomaraswamy, District Judge, Mr. W. D. Niles, Advocate, Mr. H. R. Freeman, M. S. C., Mr. G. A. Wille, M. S. C., Dr. R. M. Kennedy, Miss. M. P. Dore, Mr. J. P. Kanagasabay.

ORDER NISI

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 847.

In the matter of the intestate estate of the late Parupathayppillai wife of Sabapathy Vaitilingam of Chulipuram Deceased.
Suppar Sampanthar of Chulipuram Vs. Petitioner.
1. Sapapathay Vaitilingam of Chu-

KUALA LUMPUR FALLS

MORE CHEERING NEWS EXPECTED

Singapore, Jan. 13.

THE last days of Kuala Lumpur, the second greatest city in Malaya with a population of a hundred thousand, the fall of which is now officially confirmed, makes one of the strangest stories of this strange Malayan warfare, writes Reuter's Correspondent with the British forces. It is depressing to write about withdrawals, but the withdrawal from Kuala Lumpur was one of the most magnificent transport feats in the history of this campaign. For nine hours continuously the main north-south road was swollen by troops and transport all of which were taken back more than fifty miles, almost without a mishap.

The troops went back singing and the Gurkhas, in particularly high spirits gave the thumbs up sign to the few Chinese and Malayan children remaining in the villages en route.

I drove through Kuala Lumpur on Sunday afternoon with the sound of regular explosions behind us as the bridges were blown up. This once famous social centre of Malaya presented a bizarre appearance. The free distribution of goods to the native population to prevent them falling into Japanese hands created astonishing scenes.

The natives carried away food, drinks and clothing on bicycles, rickshaws, ox-carts and motor-cars. Clouds of smoke arose as we left—apparently the railway station had been fired. As we drove to Seremban there was every indication that the Sappers were attending to the famous "Kajang Pass" which should hold up the enemy for some time. Maybe there will be a lull in the fighting for a few days until the Japanese catch up and contact our forward lines. But more cheering news in the form of a dramatic announcement which may change the situation considerably in our favour, can be expected at any moment.

Chulipuram presently of Tantock-seng's Hospital Singapore.

- (Minor) Vaitilingam Arichunan and
- (Minor) Vaitilingam Gnanakuru both residing with the 1st respondent.
- Kanagasabay Subramaniam of Chulipuram Respondents.

This matter coming on for disposal before C. Coomaraswamy Esquire, District Judge of Jaffna on the 8th day of August 1941 in the presence of Mr. M. K. Subramaniam Proctor on the part of the Petitioner abovenamed and the affidavit of the Petitioner dated 7th day of August 1941 having been read.

It is ordered that the 4th Respondent abovenamed be and is hereby appointed guardian-ad-litem of the minors the 2nd and 3rd Respondents abovenamed to represent them for all the purposes of this action and the petitioner be and he is hereby declared entitled as the father of the abovenamed deceased to have Letters of Administration to the above estate issued to him accordingly unless any person or persons interested shall on or before the 10th day of September 1941 show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

This 20th day of August 1941.
Sgd. C. Coomaraswamy
District Judge

Extended for 23-1-42
Intd. C. C.
D. J.
(O. 59, 19 & 22-1-42)

STORY OF PENANG AND RANGOON

Continued from page 1

sufficiency of aircraft was felt.

"Soon a dense pall of smoke hung over the town. It was difficult to distinguish much of it, let alone landmarks. We could not see whether there was resistance.

"Before this happened, however, I saw squads of fire-fighters at work, but the efforts were evidently futile.

"I believe most of the population had evacuated the town on Thursday. Those who remained were mercilessly machine-gunned."

Dr. Kahawita had no news of the Ceylonese journalist, Mr. M. Saravanamuttu, as he had not met him.

The larger shops, he added, had closed their doors and, at Butterworth, authorities had ordered one to be opened. The small Chinese shops, however, remained open in between air raids.

RANGOON SCENE

Reaching Rangoon on December 19th, Dr. Kahawita embarked aboard a Chinese vessel for Calcutta. That ship, too, waited for cargo, hence he was able to see the A.R.P. measures there.

"The alarm was sounded at 9.30 a.m. and the all-clear at 2.40 p.m., so that the raid became a real battle.

"As the fighters went up and the battle began, crowds—it was the busiest hour of the day—were soon on the streets watching the fight as if it were a boxing match. And when the bombs fell the blast alone caused havoc. The civilian death roll of 600—700 was not surprising.

"Pavement shelters for those caught in the street during an alert were a useful feature", he said. "Every building or workshop also had its own A.R.P. shelter, so that had instructions been followed when the big raid took place on December 23rd there would have been fewer casualties.

"From the ship I watched Japanese airmen bale out. There were five parachutes in the air at one time. I also saw some who were shot drop like heavy logs

"One of the most remarkable sights was that of a Japanese plane exploding in mid air. There was a crack of flame—and then a thousand fragments were scattered about.

"Some of the wharves near us were hit, but the fires were soon brought under control. We were attacked twice but the bombs missed us.

"I read later that General Wavell had been at the airport during the whole raid. He had arrived from Chungking."

Dr. Kahawita helped in attending to the wounded after the raid and also saw the damage done in the city. Many of the casualties, he said, were victims of blast. They had been in doorways, in unprotected rooms, and on the streets and were bleeding from mouth and nose with no external injuries.

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(Q. 115. 23-10-41-22-1-42)

HOW BRITAIN LOOKS AT IT

Continued from page 1

veral hundreds of thousands of tons of shipping and thousands of lives. If the fine ports of Cork and Galway were available to the British, the battle of the Atlantic would not have been such a strain to Britain.

If the man in the street in Britain was asked to name Public Enemy No. 3 of not only England but of humanity, the Bishop continued, he would name Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, because he had been doing his best to turn the sympathies of 400 millions of Indians and their support against Britain for the last 10 years.

Proceeding, the speaker said that he did not say this was a correct view, nor did he say that there was no other side to the picture. He only wanted to tell them that when the war ended in victory, as it was bound to, for the Allies, and the question of the future of India arose, the man in the street in England would ask why it was that for over two worst years of the war the Indians and their leaders, knowing that Britain was fighting for a right cause, did not show sufficient sympathy and support to Britain.

ORDER NISI

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF COLOMBO

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 9339
Testamentary Jurisdiction District Court of Jaffna No. 1090

In the matter of the Intestate Estate of Karthigesu Kandiah of Inuvil, Jaffna Deceased.
Sivajakkiam widow of Karthigesu Kandiah of Inuvil, Jaffna

Vs. Petitioner.

1. Kandiah Narendranathan
2. Bathmadevy and
3. Indradevy daughters of Karthigesu Kandiah
4. Chinnathamby Ambihapahan all of Inuvil, Jaffna

Respondents.

This matter coming on for disposal before James Joseph Esquire, District Judge of Colombo on the 10th day of October 1941 in the presence of Mr. V. Venasitambay, Proctor on the part of the petitioner abovenamed and the affidavit of the peti-

tioner dated the 8th day of October 1941 having been read.

It is ordered that the 4th Respondent abovenamed be and he is hereby appointed Guardian-ad-litem of the minors the 1st, 2nd and the 3rd Respondents to represent them for all the purposes of this action and that the petitioner be and she is hereby declared entitled as the widow of the deceased abovenamed to have Letters of Administration to the above estate issued to her accordingly unless the respondents abovenamed or some other person or persons interested shall on or before the 27th day of November 1941 shew sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

The 3rd day of November 1941.

Sgd. C. Nagalingam
District Judge

Time to show cause extended for
23rd January 1942

Intd. C. C.

District Judge

(O. 60. 19 & 22-1-42)

ORDER NISI

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 1056.

In the matter of the estate of the late Puvanesvary wife of Chelliah Kandiah of Vaddukoddi West.

Deceased.

Chelliah Kandiah of Vaddukoddi West

Petitioner.

Vs.

1. Sarojini Devi daughter of Chelliah Kandiah of do
2. Kanagasabai Thampoo of Tholpuram

Respondents.

This matter of the petition of the abovenamed petitioner coming on for disposal before C. Coomaraswamy Esqr District Judge, Jaffna on the 1st day of August 1941 in the presence of Mr. V. Nagalingam, Proctor for Petitioner and the affidavit and petition of the said petitioner having been read; it is ordered that the said 2nd respondent be appointed guardian-ad-litem over the minor the 1st respondent and that letters of administration be granted to the petitioner to the estate of the deceased unless the said respondents shall appear before this court on the 10th day of September 1941 and show cause to the satisfaction of this court to the contrary.

This 1st day of August 1941.

Sgd. C. Coomaraswamy,
District Judge.

Extended to

21-1-42

(O. 58 19 & 22-1-42)

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