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NEWS FROM FAR AND NEAR

Police Break up Galle Meeting

A public meeting held under the auspices of the Galle Labour Union regarding the rice rationing scheme, ended in confusion and was dispersed by the Police who also arrested two men. Mr. C. G. E. Bertram de Silva, President, was in the chair and there were several exchanges of words between himself and Mr. W. Dahanayake, who was present at the meeting, and between Mr. Dahanayake and Mr. H. W. Amarasuriya, who also addressed the meeting.

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Axis Convention

London, Jan. 18.

A military Convention between Germany, Italy and Japan was signed in Berlin on Sunday, according to the official German News Agency. The Convention lays down guiding lines for common operations against common enemies. On behalf of Germany it was signed by the Chief of the German High Command, on behalf of Italy by the Plenipotentiary of the Italian High Command and on behalf of Japan by the Plenipotentiary of the Chief of the Japanese Army Staff and the Plenipotentiary of the Japanese Admiralty Staff.

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Evacuees From Singapore

A large number of evacuees, men, women and children including British, Indians and Chinese, have arrived in Colombo from Singapore. They have come in several batches closely following one another, and the majority of them are on their way to India. A good proportion of the Chinese, some of them with large families, including very young infants, appear to be prosperous businessmen.

British and Ceylonese hosts were there to meet some of the evacuees when they arrived in Colombo, and offered them the hospitality of their homes. Others found accommodation in hotels and hostels.

There are no Ceylonese among the evacuees who have arrived.

"ALL COMMUNITIES MUST UNITE" NEED FOR MORE REALISTIC POLICY

COMMENTING on the Bardoli decision of the Congress Working Committee, Sir Chimanlal Setalvad says:—

"The Bombay resolution of the Working Committee of the Congress was interpreted by the general public as meaning that the Congress refused to participate in the war, on the grounds of their belief in complete non-violence. Mr. Gandhi himself who was the author of the resolution, took the same view. He says in his recent letter to the Congress President: 'I had interpreted it to mean that the Congress was to refuse participation in the present or all wars on the ground principally of non-violence. I found to my astonishment that most of the members differed from my interpretation.'

"The Bombay Resolution, as now interpreted by the Working Committee, means that the refusal of the Congress to participate in the war effort is based on political grounds *viz.*, that India can undertake the defence of the country only if she is free and independent. In other words, from the Congress viewpoint, the declaration of India's independence is a pre-requisite for India's participation in the war. The independence of India is indeed the goal of all politically-minded Indians. The creed of the Muslim League is also independence. Other organisations like the Liberal Federation, who stand for Dominion Status within the Commonwealth, are also aiming at the same goal, for Dominion Status with equality of status and functions with the other Dominions, is virtual independence.

But insistence upon a declaration of immediate independence or Dominion Status for India lacks realism at a time when Burma has already been invaded, and there is the imminent danger of the war spreading to India. All political controversies should, for the present, be put into cold storage and all communities and interests should join in the war effort.

"The Muslim League has put forward the Pakistan scheme, which has naturally

evoked strong opposition, but they have expressed their willingness to co-operate with other parties and organisations in the war effort on a temporary basis for the duration of the war without prejudice to the views held by different bodies regarding the future constitution of India. They, however, insist, rightly, that there should be a real transfer of power by the British Government to Indian hands. This is indeed a condition which all parties and interests also require to be fulfilled.

"A Working Arrangement Needed"

"The only practical way to make the British Government part with power is to bring about understanding and unity between the different interests and parties in the country. Even if the British Government were to declare India independent, such independence would not be worth a day's purchase unless there is unity in the country. The immediate need, therefore, is that the various political parties and interests in the country should come together and arrive at a working arrangement, whereby Coalition Governments within the framework of the present constitution, can be formed both at the Centre and in the provinces during the period of the war.

"The appeal addressed to the Prime Minister by Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru and others has asked for the formation of a Central Executive, consisting entirely of non-official Indians of all recognised parties and communities, to be put in charge of all portfolios, and the restoration in the Provinces of popular Governments similarly constituted. All this is, however, possible only if the major parties approach each other and arrive at a working arrangement.

"High sounding resolutions of the Working Committee, however, make no approach to this practical handling of the situation. There should be no standing on ceremony and a sense of false move. These negotiations, however, in order to be fruitful, must be con-

CONFIDENCE AT SINGAPORE

VIEWS OF CHINESE COMPANY DIRECTOR

THE people of Singapore appeared to be confident that Singapore would never fall to the Japanese, said Mr. Tan Cheng Lock, C.B.E., a prominent Company Director and banker from the Straits Settlements, in the course of an interview with the Press.

That confidence, he added, was natural in view of the fact that Singapore was so well defended.

During his stay of ten days in Singapore, before embarking for Ceylon, he had experienced a number of air raids, but the residents of that place knew exactly what to do when they heard the "alert" with the result that the casualties were few. The people of Singapore, he said, were now quite used to air raids.

Mr. Lock, who was a Member of the Legislative Council of the Straits Settlements for twelve years and also a member of the Executive Council for some time, expressed the view that Ceylon was lucky to have Sir Andrew Caldecott as its Governor. He had known Sir Andrew since the days he was serving in Malaya. Sir Andrew, he said, had been very popular with everybody.

Mr. Lock, with his wife three daughters and grandchildren, arrived in Colombo on Sunday. In the course of the day he called on His Excellency and Lady Caldecott at Queen's House.

He is a Director of the Hong Hong Steamship Co., the Overseas Chinese Banking Corporation, Ltd, the "Malaya Tribune" and a number of rubber companies.

Questioned with regard to evacuation from Singapore, Mr. Lock said that a fair number of British women and children had left for Australia and other parts of the Empire because it was the policy of the Government to get European women and children out of the country. Most of the evacuees on the ship on which he travelled were Indians he said.

ducted on both sides not by saints, prophets and unpractical idealists, but by practical politicians with a sense of realism coupled with goodwill and a determination to find a reasonable solution."



Hindu Organ.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 22, 1942

FACING THE FACTS

It is time that the public of Ceylon faced the true facts in regard to the food supply. Ceylon-grown paddy is not enough to feed more than one-third of the population. Rationing is, therefore, imperative, and it is not likely to be delayed much longer. There are bound to be many defects in the system, and a certain amount of inconvenience to the public cannot be avoided. The authorities will not fail, we trust, to take note of legitimate grievances and meet them at least half way. We understand that the name of the dealer who is to supply the ration is specified by the authorities. Exception has been taken to this provision, on various grounds. Most consumers get their supplies from their own dealers. It would be interesting to know whether the authorities' insistence on selecting a dealer of their own choice is absolutely necessary. On what principle are these dealers selected by the authorities? We are told that some of the biggest dealers in Jaffna Town are expected to reserve their stocks for the needs of the countryside. Under any system of rationing the interests of the rural areas have, no doubt, to be safeguarded, but it is just possible that the authorities are taking precautions which are not quite necessary and which may defeat the very object they have in view. In any event, there will be no difficulty in finding out what is wrong during the first week itself of the present system being introduced. Officials will have to keep an open mind in regard to the matter and correct any errors in the light of experience. The public, however, will do well to remember that rationing is necessary in its own interests, and that in a country like Ceylon which has been inexcusably backward in producing all the food needed, some inconvenience and suffering cannot be avoided.

But rationing is, by itself, not a remedy for shortage of food. The only remedy is for the population to produce its own food. It is imperative that the public should understand this important aspect of the matter. There is enough land available in the dry zone to feed the entire population. It would be ridiculous, during the present emergency, if the people of Ceylon, and of the Northern Province

in particular, refused to reconsider their attitude towards farming. Their attitude in this matter has been hitherto determined by their ignorance of economic values and their belief that the conditions which enabled them to depend on foreign supplies would continue to exist. For nearly a century the Government and the people of this island have been following the British example in regard to the production of food. Flourishing industries and seapower fostered the illusion in the British mind that supplies from abroad were more profitable and convenient. Many years ago, the late Mr. W. T. Stead wrote in his "Review of Reviews" a series of articles warning the British public of what was going to happen if seaborne supplies of food were interrupted. The British public, however, turned a deaf ear to the appeal. We know what happened during the last war. When the U boats got busy and the sinkings began seriously to interfere with the food supply, Britain woke up to the dangers of the situation. Parks and grass lands were ploughed up, with the result that more food was produced. Farmers were helped with subsidies during the crisis. But, once the war was over, the British public went back to its former ways and left the farmer to fend for himself. Many valuable lessons that were learnt at the time were forgotten. According to a recent writer, previous to 1914, remarkable results had been obtained in Great Britain, with the use of steam engines for ploughing by means of cables, and during the war, the steam plough was instrumental in bringing thousands of acres under cultivation. Once the war was over people forgot all about it. Britain is now wide awake, but once the war is over big industry and big business will combine to make the public forget all that they had suffered and learnt.

It is clear that we in Ceylon cannot simply afford to follow the British example in this respect. There can be no real prosperity for a country which, having the necessary resources, refuses to produce its own food. Even from the point of view of war supplies, it is ridiculous to allow the transport of food to take up so much of British shipping at a time when all this shipping is badly needed for other purposes. There is no reason why Ceylon, which is not an industrial country, should continue to follow the British example which has led to such disastrous results in Britain. Land, as a writer in a recent issue of the "Fortnightly Review" points out, is the world's greatest asset, and it is our duty in Ceylon to see that this asset is developed by the best brains Ceylon can produce. It is inevitable that, in the years to come, Ceylon has to depend on her own resources in regard to food, and we can only do this, in the words of this writer, "if those entrusted with farms are qualified to turn them to good account and if the small cultivator is brought back and made welcome in the countryside that is his proper heritage."

TOPICS OF THE DAY

By
T. Kathira Vellu

That National Committee

PRESIDING over the All-Ceylon Village Committees Conference at his hometown, Veyangoda, Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike attacked the Ceylon National Congress. He had formulated the idea of a National Committee and all associations, except the National Congress, had supported his proposal. This attitude needs some explaining by Congress officials. Among the "Seven Just Men" (Pan-Sinhalese Board of Ministers), Mr. Bandaranaike may be claimed a "dark horse." The time will come when the shackles of communalism are displaced by Nehru-like ideals of nationalism. We in the North do not want a twentieth century Dutugemunu but we certainly do not mind a prospective Prince Arthur (vide Mr. Bandaranaike's horoscope in the 'Nation')

The North's Grievances

PIOUS resolutions passed at the All-Ceylon National Congress Sessions, with President G. C. S. Corea in the chair, must be soon implemented if we remember that the energetic (no sarcasm implied) Mr. J. R. Jayawardene assures us that "from 1931 to 1940 the Congress slept. While Mr. Corea as Minister for Labour, Industry and Commerce has plans for the industrialisation of Lanka, we would like to know where the North comes in. Apart from textile centres, a rural service centre at Puttur and other varied tit-bits, I am curious to know if Mr. Corea, with all his grandiose planning, has established a major industry or a new factory in Jaffna. Another prominent Congress personality, Mr. D. S. Senanayake, Minister for Agriculture and Lands, could pay more attention to Jaffna's agricultural needs instead of complacently requesting us to get on with the 'food production drive'. Training College Lecturer Mr. S. F. de Silva already assures us that every suitable inch of available land is cultivated in Jaffna; that the population is Lanka's densest when cultivated areas per square mile are compared; that the Jaffna peasant is very industrious and of a co-operative turn of mind. We do not want any further Mr. Senanayake's assurances on these points,—we want a national Parakramabahu with plenty of action in him.

News Tabloids

MESSEURS D. S. Senanayake and S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike are happy. Many Indians have left Ceylon because of the war situation and more are yet to leave.

Our Treasury officials are also happy. Chetians who hoarded silver coins and planned retirement in India have since reformed.

The Kularatne national costume (worn at the National Congress Sessions) was long ago invented or introduced by the Jaffna Tamil and recently discovered by Lanka's southerners.

Mr. W. A. de Silva, the sick Minister of Health, wants three months' leave, during which a Councillor on his Executive Committee will act for him. Kandy's pride, Mr. Geo. E. de Silva, has been elected again to act as Health Minister.

THE SIREN SOUNDS

IV

Fires First

YOU should deal with the fires first, then tackle the bomb.

Sand is useful to have around for incendiary bombs. If you have no buckets of sand, or sand-heaps, you should go to the beach and get some.

If incendiary bombs are on a non-inflammable surface, like a tiled or stone floor, on the ground or road, they can be smothered with sand, or with earth or ash if sand is not available.

Be careful with your chemical extinguisher. Some of them generate dangerous poison gas from a magnesium bomb.

Some, but not many, incendiary bombs explode after a short while. A bag full of sand (in the bag) thrown over an incendiary bomb minimises the effects of the explosion.

Don't Wait

CITIZENS' initiative is essential. Organise fire-spotters and fire-fighters in offices, flats, factories, and other buildings, without waiting for a Government official to lead by the hand.

Fire-watching rosters should be worked out, to give each a turn in air raids.

Gas doesn't look like an immediate danger. It wasn't used on Madrid, London, or Moscow, although the Japanese used it at Ichang.

It's no use telling people to grab their respirators, because they haven't any.

If gas should be used, the safest bet is to go to high ground. Walk into the wind, and not with it, to get away from the deadly stuff.

Gas was a German gift to civilisation, first used against Canadian troops in the last war.

A. R. P. WORK IN JAFFNA

FIRST PROPAGANDA MEETING

The first propaganda meeting in connection with the A. R. P. work within urban area of Jaffna was held at the Town Hall on Saturday evening with Mr. R. R. Nalliah, the Chief Warden, in the chair.

The Chairman, in explaining the object of the meeting, said that there was no need for elaborate speeches to convince the public of the danger that threatened the well established order of things to which they had been used for over a century. Unlike wars of the past, the present war was being waged on such ruthless lines that it exposed not only the soldier on active service but even the civilian to grave dangers.

State of Preparedness

The enemy might or might not come to Jaffna, but it was very essential that they in Jaffna should be in a state of preparedness to meet all eventualities.

Some of them had been appointed to carry on A. R. P. work in Jaffna. They had accepted that heavy responsibility in the hope that they would have the fullest co-operation and assistance from the public.

In conclusion Mr. Nalliah appealed for honorary workers.

Mr. A. J. R. Vethavanam, A. R. P. Controller, and Dr. S. C. Thurai-rajah, officer in charge of the Casualty Service, also addressed the gathering.

RATEPAYERS MEET

Association And Urban Council

THE Hon. Secretary of the Jaffna Ratepayers' Association writes:—

At a meeting of the Executive Committee of my Association held at its Office on Monday, the 19th January 1942, the resolutions annexed hereto were passed unanimously. Mr. J. D. Veerasingham, Vice-President, presided. Mr. R. Sivagurunather, Chairman, U. C., Kathi S. M. Aboobucker, Chevalier S. Arulanatham and Dr. V. S. Ramanathan, U. C., Members, were among those who attended. 69 other members of the Executive Committee out of a total of 112 were also present.

The Chairman of the Urban Council was asked to explain the circumstances under which the resolution of no confidence was passed against him recently at a meeting of the Urban Council.

Mr. R. Sivagurunather explained the circumstances in detail and stated that on purpose he did not participate in that motion, for he could not preside and vote in his own favour, and in which case the no-confidence motion would have been thrown out.

The meeting accepted the explanation of the Chairman and passed certain resolutions which are sent herewith for publication in your valuable journal.

THE RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 1

"That this Association condemns the vote of no-confidence passed at a meeting of the Urban Council against its Chairman, Mr. R. Sivagurunather, and desires to place on record the unabated confidence of this Association and of the rate payers in general in him. This Association further desires to state that the said vote is the result of the wire-pulling of a minority clique who, taking unfair advantage of the enforced absence of the Chairman, passed the said resolution by a single vote and requests Mr. R. Sivagurunather not to give any weight to the said motion but to continue in Office during the whole statutory period."

Resolution No. 2

"That this Association strongly condemns the action of the member for Ward No. 6, Mr. K. Aiyadurai, who, having got himself elected on the Ratepayers' Association ticket and having pledged himself in writing to co-operate with the Association, for certain reasons, has now betrayed the trust of the voters and gone over to the clique who are determined to weaken this Association, and co-operated with them in passing the said futile vote of lack of confidence in the Chairman of the Urban Council. This Association further resolves to give Member for Ward No. 6 time till the 22nd January, 1942, before 6 p. m., to write to this Association, regretting for his action, admitting that he has confidence in the Chairman and assuring full co-operation with this Association, failing which he should, as undertaken by him at the time of his election, forthwith resign his membership and re-contest the seat and thus find out whether he still retains the confidence of his electorate."

Resolution No. 3

"That this Association places on

Continued on page 4

FURTHER ENEMY LANDINGS NEAR MUAR

EFFORT TO OUTFLANK BRITISH FORCES

Singapore, Jan. 19.

THE Japanese are making desperate efforts to outflank British and Imperial troops on the west coast, writes Renter's Special Correspondent. Further Japanese landings south of the Muar River by barges and small boats were reported yesterday (Sunday). Although there is every indication that the British are getting the situation under control in the Muar area, these latest landings constitute a growing menace because of the limited forces of the defenders.

The first place where the landings were reported is a little over ninety miles north of Singapore Island, although Japanese infiltrations there are believed to be only small. Along the main North-South road the situation is far more encouraging. Artillery duels continue in the Gemas area and Australian guns are literally peppering enemy positions. The sight of British planes near the forward areas has greatly cheered the British troops.

General Sir Archibald Wavell, the new Commander-in-Chief, recently visited the front in Malaya. His visit lasted for some days. At front-line positions he was able to see for himself how things are developing, according to the Singapore radio.

The bombing and machine-gunning of Japanese barges at Tampin by bombers of the Far East Command was described by a squadron leader who said "after dive bombing and damaging a five hundred ton steamer just outside Malacca, our planes concentrated on some troop carrying barges which were close to the shore south of Malacca. Their formation was completely disorganized under a heavy shower of bombs. Two of the barges ran into a creek in an effort to escape and thus revealed the presence of a large concentration of sampans. We scored direct hits on them with bombs and we gave them a dusting with machine-guns. We saw debris flying about and floating on the water.

"On our way home we attacked a two-masted sampan with machine gun fire.

"On the return journey one of our bombers was attacked by three enemy fighters but our escorting fighters drove them off."

Slight British Withdrawal

London, Jan. 19.

A G. H. Q. communique (Singapore) announces today: "The enemy has maintained pressure on both the Muar and Segamat fronts. In the Muar area the enemy succeeded in infiltrating a number of troops southwards in the coastal belt, and there has been some withdrawal of our troops to meet this movement.

"This morning aircraft of the Far East Command carried out heavy bomb and machine-gun attacks on concentrations of enemy transport on the roads in the Muar River area. Vessels and barges on the river were also bombed and machine-gunned. During this operation our aircraft were attacked by enemy fighters, which were in turn intercepted by our fighters. In the ensuing engagements one enemy aircraft was destroyed, and one

damaged. Three of our aircraft are missing.

Air Raids on Singapore

"It is now confirmed that during yesterday's raids over Singapore one enemy aircraft was shot down in addition to the two reported yesterday. The casualties resulting from yesterday's air raids so far reported are 56 killed and 135 injured. The majority of these are civilians."

A Japanese Domei Agency despatch to Tokyo from Malaya claims that Japanese forces driving southward down the west coast of Malaya are now fighting with the British at a point less than twenty-five miles from Singapore. This, it is stated, follows the capture by the Japanese of Pontian Besar, twenty-five miles west of Johore Bahru.

Strengthening Air Arm In Malaya

The Australian Government is taking steps to expedite the strengthening of the air arm to support the Australian troops in Malaya. This assurance was cabled by the War Minister, Mr. Forde, to Major-General Gordon Bennett, who had previously cabled: "A.I.F. successfully holding positions. Men's spirit excellent. Position well in hand."

General Wavell made a tremendous impression amongst the troops with whom he chatted informally when he visited the Malayan front en route to establish his headquarters in Java.

On one occasion a tyre of his car got punctured and General Wavell stood by the roadside watching convoys passing, when suddenly there was a mass attack by Japanese bombers. General Wavell refused to wear a tin hat or take cover during the bombing, but remarked with a grin to nearby troops and pressmen: "I understand that you fellows have had a fair amount of this sort of thing lately." The Press party offered General Wavell a ride in their war car, but he said: "No thank you gentlemen, I will be all right."

APPOINTMENTS FOR FOOD CONTROL

The Office Assistants and Extra Office Assistant of a number of Kachcheries and the Assistant Government Agents (Emergency) have been appointed to do Food Control work, under the Food Control Ordinance. In addition the following officers have been appointed to be Assistant Food Controllers:—

Messrs. C. F. Ingledow, G. K. F. Wickremasekera, A. Sarivannamuttu, G. S. P. Dahanayake, K. Williams and D. D. Rajapakse.

TEACHERS AND A 200-DAY YEAR

Resolutions protesting against one-session schools being required to work 200 days in the year, and the decision of the authorities that no new appointments to teaching staff should be made for the present were passed at a Committee Meeting of the Colombo Teachers' Association held at Zabira College.

DETENTION OF U. SAW

Burmese Premier And Japan

London, Jan. 18.

U. Saw, the Premier of Burma, has been detained by the British Government. A statement issued from No. 10, Downing Street, to-night says:—

"From reports received about U. Saw's movements after his goodwill mission to this country it has come to the knowledge of His Majesty's Government that he has been in contact with the Japanese authorities since the outbreak of the war with Japan. This fact has been confirmed by his own admission.

"His Majesty's Government have, accordingly, been compelled to detain him and it will not be possible to permit him to return to Burma."

It was reported on December 19, that U. Saw, who left England on November 5, after negotiations in London regarding Dominion Status for Burma, had returned to America from Honolulu where he was reported to have been stranded at the time of the Japanese raid on the Hawaiian Islands on December 7.

U. Saw was on his way to New Zealand and Australia for a visit before returning to Burma and had reached Honolulu when the Pacific hostilities broke out. Until he came to England last autumn to plead for post-war Dominion Status for Burma he had never been west of Suez.

For three weeks after his arrival with presents for Mr. Churchill on what was described as a goodwill visit, he maintained a silence in accordance with the strictest of diplomatic codes.

Cryptic Utterance

Then he spoke with frankness and after stressing that the people of Burma felt that the Japanese were a very clever race he declared cryptically: "We would rather trust the devil we know than the devil we don't. If it be said that we cannot defend ourselves—say against Japan—we ask to be allowed to build up our defence before we are given Dominion Status."

Before setting off on his journey home via America, U. Saw spoke once more saying that "though the results have not fulfilled the high hopes that my countrymen and I entertained, I shall leave your shores with no bitterness."

No indication has been given of where U. Saw is at present. It is recalled that when in London, U. Saw was provided with facilities to examine at first hand the great strides made in Britain's war effort and he visited factories and saw the R. A. F. at work.

It is understood that he discussed defence measures relating to Burma since he was entitled by reason of his office to know something of Britain's plans. He was in Honolulu when the Japanese launched their attack there. Until then the Japanese had many agents in that area.

The detention of the Burmese Premier, U. Saw, is front page news in New York. U. S. radio commentators also display considerable interest.

"BRITAIN SPEAKS"

BY GORDON MACDONALD, M. P.
(In a Recent Broadcast Talk)

WAR creates many problems, problems of all sorts. No sooner has one problem been dealt with and disposed of, than several others make an appearance, demanding prompt and sometimes drastic action.

War not only creates new problems, but what is just as annoying, it frequently aggravates old problems and at the same time makes their solution far more difficult.

Not the least of such problems is the problem of the social services.

It is quite true that all sections of a nation are affected by the war. None escapes. But they are not all affected to the same extent. That section of the people who are wholly or even partially dependent on one or other of the social services, are usually most seriously affected. War is so costly a business. It imposes so colossal a burden on the country that the position of the social services, if not imperilled, is certainly handicapped.

The cost of the social services in Britain has increased during the twentieth century by leaps and bounds. Whereas in 1900 they cost the State 30 million pounds a year, in 1940 they cost 500 million pounds. And when war has added to this burden another ten million pounds a day, it will be realised that any extension or improvement in the social services is no easy proposition.

Ever since its formation in 1899 the Labour Movement in Britain has devoted much of its attention to the social services. It has concentrated to an exceptional extent its efforts and energies to establishing them in every sphere.

The activities of the Labour Movement, especially on the political side, were the inevitable reaction to the private charity attitude of the nineteenth century. Then the pitiable plight of the poor and needy was left to the kindness and sympathy of those who were better placed. It was for the well-to-do, out of the goodness of their hearts, to show an interest in their less fortunate fellow mortals. This may have been good in its way, but the Labour Movement from its very inception, set itself to change all this, and to make the care and welfare of the less fortunate a State responsibility. For the last fifty years it has continued to press both in peace and war, for better and more adequate social services. This was the one test of good government. All legislation was judged from this standpoint. The only question asked was, did it safeguard or improve the position of the poorer classes.

Up to the moment of the declaration of war, though the Labour Movement was wholehearted in resisting Hitler, it nevertheless pressed for legislation on behalf of the workers.

After the declaration of war, the same policy was pursued. Full support to the war effort, accompanied with unremitting attention to the social needs of the nation.

When the Labour Party decided to join the Government, there was

great anxiety on this issue. It was feared that the social services may be starved and neglected, and that the result would be disturbing if not disastrous to the Labour Party.

The responsibility would be placed on the Labour Members in the Government, and the Labour Party in Parliament. However, the decision to join the Government was almost unanimous. And when we look back over the period of the war, especially since the time the Churchill Government was formed, though it has of necessity been compromise legislation, there is certainly no need for any regrets.

All the social services in Britain have been improved, many have been extended. The record of social legislation stands out, when we keep in mind the terrible preoccupation of the war, and remember, also, the gulf that separated the different political parties on many if not most of these social services.

For instance there is the case of the Means Test, as applied to the unemployed and to the old age pensioner. For ten years the Labour Party, both inside and outside Parliament, has clamoured and clamoured loudly and persistently for the removal of this vicious test, but they clamoured in vain. The Government of the day resisted every attempt to amend it.

The effect of such a test was, that when a member of a household had the misfortune to have a prolonged period of unemployment, then the household income was taken into account, before deciding whether the individual was entitled to receive any assistance or not. Needless to state such a condition caused much illfeeling amongst the workers in general, but in particular amongst those workers subject, through no fault of their own, to months—in some cases—years of unemployment. But there it stood—the law of the land, with every indication that it would remain unaltered.

It was only after the Labour members entered the Government that it was drastically modified, but even then not abolished. The injustices associated with the operation of the previous Means Test, however, were certainly removed, and the position of many of the unemployed was substantially improved.

Let me give one instance of the result of the change. Take the case of a family consisting of father, mother, and an adult son. The son is unemployed. The rent of the house is 9-per week. The only income into the household is the wage of the father which is £4.10.0 roughly 20 dollars a week. Under the old Means Test, the wages of the father would be taken into account before deciding the application of the unemployed son, with the result this son would not receive a penny piece.

It is only necessary to state, that under the law as amended, he would receive an allowance of 15-per week, to show how welcome the change would be.

But this question of Means Test applied also to the Old Age

RATEPAYERS MEET THE FOOD POSITION

Continued from page 3

record loyalty of the other members of the Urban Council, who owe allegiance to this Association and refused to be parties to the no-confidence motion against the Chairman".

Resolution No. 4

"That this Association desires to make known to the voters of Wards nos. 1 and 4, and to the general public the tactics of their members (Messrs. R. R. Nalliah and C. Ponnampalam) who, absolutely regardless of the interests of the Town, indulge in obstructive methods in Council to gain their own selfish ends."

"This Association further desires to draw the attention of the Hon. the Minister and members of the Local Administration Committee of the State Council and His Excellency the Governor, to the activities of the two nominated members (Messrs. S. C. Pathirana and V. Suppiah, who having banded themselves into a clique with the members for Wards nos. 1 and 4, systematically obstruct the administration of local affairs and render proceedings in the Urban Council almost impossible by their actions and speeches."

Resolution No. 5

"That this Association desires to offer to the Provincial Authorities its fullest co-operation in all civil defence measures in this Town."

Resolution No. 6

"That this Association desires to request the Government to amend the ration-control regulations so that coupon holders may be enabled to get their supplies of rice from distributors of their own choice and so that they may obtain the supplies according to their means either day or for two or more days, instead of fixing a week's supply as the normal ration compulsion."

Resolution No. 7

"That this Association desires to warn the Chairman and Members of the Jaffna Urban Council of the danger of encouraging self seeking adventurers who foist themselves as champions of the working class and by organising mushroom labour unions and threatening strikes seek to disturb the peace and tranquility of the Town. This Association knowing as it does that the recent threats of strike uttered by a certain man, who has no interests in the Town and who is actuated only by motives of self-aggrandisement, on the alleged behalf of the scavenging and conservancy labourers of the Council is intended to create discontent among ignorant workmen and obtain certain benefits under duress desires to submit to the Urban Council that any action taken at the behest of such irresponsible people will in the long run bring about consequences hurtful to all administration. The alleged labour union, it is noteworthy, came into being only a few weeks back and the only work it has done is to attempt to spread discontent among the labourers and hold out the promise that by the threat of strike the Urban Council would be compelled to do its bests".

Pensioner, and was just as objectionable. What the alteration meant in his case will be seen by this one instance. Before the change was made a father entitled to pension, living with his wife and an unmarried son, paying a weekly rent of 8/6, the son earning £3 per week; the old man in

Continued on page 5

Change of Diet Necessary

Addressing the Yam and Root Crops Exhibition at Peradeniya, Major-General Taskip said:

"In a war of this magnitude it may happen that countries which are not self-supporting in food production find themselves short of certain commodities which they are accustomed to include in their daily diet. England, of course, has suffered in this way from the very beginning of the war. While I speak without any authority it may be that the war may lead to a shortage of rice in this country.

"I was discussing this question with a friend the other day and he hinted that shortage of rice might lead to all sorts of unpleasantnesses. My reply to that was: I don't believe a word of it. (Applause) The Ceylonese are a very intelligent race and if other countries can adapt themselves to shortages in certain food commodities by using substitutes I am quite sure they can.

"People think that a change in staple diet is very difficult to bring about. Let me give you a few instances to prove that this is not the case.

"In the last war I went with the Indian troops to France. The men could not get atta but very soon they took to ordinary bread. They were given jam instead of ghee. At first they refused to eat it, but after a few days they couldn't get enough of it.

"Again in this country Indian troops have not yet been given any meat; so they are taking to eating fish. None of them have ever eaten fish before and they don't even know how to cook it, but I shouldn't be surprised if in the end they prefer fish to goat and that's going to help your fishing industry no end. I make no excuse for taking the Indian as my example because I know you are interested in the troops that have come here to defend your country and your homes against the ruthless Japs, should they be foolish enough to come this way.

"I have myself during the last war, during a shortage of vegetables, cut grass, bottled it and eaten it as spinach. This was a case of 'needs must when the devil drives' but one can get used to anything.

MOTTO OF HIS REGIMENT

"In conclusion, there is just one point I want to emphasise, and that is—we must be prepared for any eventuality, and it is up to every family now to consider what they will do if the worst comes to the worst, which I don't believe it will. I would like to pass on to you the motto, which was given to my regiment a hundred year ago by the famous soldier, Sir Charles Napier—'Ready, aye ready' (Applause).

"I hereby, formally declare this Exhibition open and I do so with the earnest hope that through it the value of the yam as a food product will become known throughout the length and breadth of the Island." (Applause)

THE ELEMENTS OF SAIVA SIDDHANTAM

SIDDHIYAR—AN INTRODUCTION

(By a Science Graduate)

IX. Siddhiyar and its Author

(Continued from our issue of 12-1-42)

Great is the adoration with which the Siva Gana Siddhi, 'the bulkiest and most learned of the Tamil Shastras,' has been hailed by the wise. வள்ளுவர் தூல் அன்பர் மொழி வாசகம் தொல்காப்பியமே, தென்னு பரிதேவமுன் வசய உரை—தூணிபதே, தொண்டர் புராணம் தொகு சித்த ஜாதம், தண்டமிழின் மேலாம் தாம் says Umapathiyar, placing it side by side with such standard works as Tiruvachagam, Tirukkural, &c. பார் விரித்த தூலெல்லாம் பார்த்தறியச் சித்தகனின், தூர் விருத தப் பாதி போ தம் says Guna Sampantner the founder of Tharumapura Athinum in his Sivabhogasaram. (Half a stanza of Siddhiyar is enough to understand all the vast lore of this world) And following him, says Thayumanavar: பாதி விருத்ததால் இப்பார் விருத்தமாக உணமை, சாதிதார் பொருடையாத் தான் பணிவத எக்காரணம். There is another well-known saying சிவனுக்குமேற் றெய்வயில்லைச் சித்திக்கு மேற் சாத்திரம் இல்லை (Just as there is no God superior to Sivan, so there is no Shastram greater than the Siddhi) Nirambavalagier calls it மைண்டம் மேலும் பெருமான் அடியை மருவி அருள், கை கண்டு உணரும் சிவ ஞான சித்தித்தகல் (the sea of Siva Gana Siddhi to be understood with the Divine Grace of the Lord with the jet-black throat). அருமறை தூதிக் அனைததும் அன்பதமதானும் அக்காததும் அடங்கிய வாரும் அற ளனைத், தரு விதைபுள் அடங்கியத தூர் தன்மை எஞ்சச் சாற்ற சிவாகமப் பொருள் கன் தலை எல்லாம், தரு முனிவா சிவஞான சித்தி என்கிற செப்பினர் says Sivagra Yogi the commentator. (In the same way that the Vedas are comprised under the 51 aksbaras (letters) and as the tree is contained in the seed, even so is the gist of all the Agamas brought out by the excellent teacher in the Siva Gana Siddhi).

And well are these praises merited. Siddhiyar as Nallaswami-pillai observes 'stands as the bulkiest and most learned contribution in the field of philosophy in the vast Tamil, and will bear comparison in that respect with the best production in Sanscrit.' Siddhiyar and its predecessor Siva Gana Bhdham are 'two works which have been rarely paralleled even in Sanscrit'. They have their source in the Agamas, the original Sanscrit, but the mode of handling of the subject is indeed truly original. Well has it been said of Tamil writers that "though they have borrowed largely from Sanscrit, the subject receives altogether an independent and original treatment... No doubt gold from Sanscrit source is taken but before it becomes current coin it receives the stamp or impress of the Tamil writers' genius." In short, the Tamilian never copies but he adapts. And to no work could these words be said to apply with more appropriateness than to Siddhiyar. The lucidity of expression, the elaborate treatment of the subject, the closeness of reasoning and the vastness of erudition displayed herein by our author are indeed something marvellous. The careful student will notice how intricate and often ingenious are the points raised and how nice and to the point are the replies given. Indnumerable are the puzzling questions in the problem of life which our author has solved for us. And to the opponent he is indeed a terror and a scourge. In short, as an ordinary treatise, speaking from a purely logical and literary point of view, Siddhiyar may safely be said to have but few equals. And spiritually, to the sincere and sympathetic it is a source of the greatest solace. The definitions given, the proofs and the descriptions, the paths described and Siddhas unfolded, the Goal aimed at and those that reach it, all these and else must be duly learnt, carefully thought over and truly understood. To such indeed the Goal is by-

(To be Continued)

"BRITAIN SPEAKS"

Continued from page 4

this case would get his bare 10/- pension; in the new conditions he would receive in addition to his 10/- another 16/6 per week. It is estimated that some 250,000 in all benefited from this change.

It may be arguable whether the Workman's Compensation Act is a social service in the strict meaning of the term, but it cannot be denied that it is a piece, and a very important piece, of social legislation. It is a piece of social legislation which has been substantially improved during this war. In fact, a drastic change as regards workmen's compensation was introduced, and a supplementary allowance was added to the compensation of each injured workman, and for the children provision was made for an allowance of 4/- per week each for the first and second child and 3/- for each additional child under 15 years of age.

This means that an injured worker in receipt of workman's compensation with three children under 15 years of age would receive 16/- a week more as a result of the change in the law.

The improvement in the case of the person unable to attend to his work owing to sickness is not so satisfactory. He only gets an increase of three shillings a week and this is from January 1942. This is partly due to the variation in treatment that has continued throughout the history of social services. But mainly to the fact that in the case of the unemployed provision has been made for the children; the same now applied to the children of the injured worker in receipt of workmen's compensation, but there is no provision whatever in the health insurance legislation for the children of the sick person. This is one aspect of the problem that is engaging the active attention of social workers of all political parties.

In the meantime the children in general are provided for by other services and these services have not been overlooked during the war, but have been improved. For instance, irrespective of income all expectant mothers can obtain one pint of milk at the reduced rate of 2d. per pint; should the husband's wages be on the low scale the milk is supplied free.

This special provision for expectant mothers applies also to all children under five years of age.

As regards children of school age, the Board of Education has sent out a circular to Local Education Authorities urging them (a) to extend the provision of free meals on the recommendation of the teachers or other persons in regular contact with the children from day to day; (b) to provide nourishing mid-day meals at cost of food to children from a distance and for children whose mothers are at work; (c) to reconsider favourably the question of providing communal meals for evacuated children; (d) to provide free milk for a larger number of children and to increase the ration to two thirds of a pint per day.

The vigilance of the Labour Movement with reference to child welfare is to be seen from another angle.

The Board of Education issued a circular to local authorities proposing that older school children could be of assistance in agriculture during the harvest, and that school holidays should be arranged with this in view. Before such proposals were carried out, the Trade Union Congress contended that certain safeguards would be necessary. They suggested the following. First: children should only be allowed to do light agricultural work. Second: Local Education Authorities should be compelled to adopt a standard by law, laying down the maximum hours for which children of 12 to 14 years of age are to be employed on any day, or in any week, such maximum not exceeding four hours a day. Third: Local Education Authorities should be compelled to make returns of any alteration of school holidays to meet agricultural requirements, and of the number of days, during secondary school terms, on which children are to be released for the land.

The Labour Movement is determined that all that is humanly possible must be done to win this war, but whilst they are prepared to make any effort and submit to any sacrifice necessary for this purpose, they are nevertheless, not satisfied that it is necessary to neglect the children, nor to increase the burden of those who are least able to bear it, in order to make the maximum war effort. War imposes a heavy, a very heavy burden on a nation, at the same time it must be remembered that there are those within a nation both young and old, whose strength will not permit of any additional burden. It is with these that the social services are mainly concerned, and it is to the eternal credit of the nation and Parliament that they have both the will and the ways of dealing with this most deserving section even in time of war.

Such a policy not only brings comfort and consolation to the recipients, but it helps and helps immensely in the maintaining of the morale of the people as a whole. It gives great satisfaction to the relatives and friends of the recipients, who are members of the Forces, or who are engaged in some branch of war work.

It is certainly a factor, and an important factor, in the war effort. It is as such that Parliament has throughout the war been prepared to give to the social services the utmost consideration and the most generous treatment possible under the circumstances.

HINDU MONK IN CEYLON

Sri Sri Swami Vireswaramanda, Assistant Secretary of the Ramakrishna Mission, is on a visit to Ceylon and is expected in Jaffna tomorrow. The Swami was President of the Mayavati Ashram for a long time and is the author of a number of religious books. He has translated into English the Brahma Sutras with the commentary.

NORTHERN ASSIZES

The Jaffna Assizes begin on February 2nd, 1942 and will be presided over by Mr. Justice Gannon.

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 Ceylon 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. 171, 19, 22 & 26-1-42)

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[Q. 115. 23-10-41-22-1-42]

ORDER NISI

IN THE DISTRICT COURT
OF COLOMBO

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 9839
Testamentary Jurisdiction District
Court of Jaffna No. 1090

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

Vs. Petitioner.

1. Kandiah Narendranathan
2. Pathmadevy and
3. Indradevy daughters of Karthi-
gesu Kandiah
4. Chinnathamby Ambihaipahan
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 above-
named and the affidavit of the peti-
tioner dated the 8th day of October
1941 having been read.

It is ordered that the 4th Respond-
ent abovenamed be and he is hereby
appointed Guardian-ad-litem of the
minors the 1st, 2nd and the 3rd Res-
pondents 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 show 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. 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. Sapapathy Vaitilingam of Chu-
lipuram presently of Tancock-
seng's Hospital Singapore
2. (Minor) Vaitilingam Arichunan
and
3. (Minor) Vaitilingam Gnanakuru
both residing with the 1st res-
pondent.
4. Kanagasabai 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 Respond-
ent abovenamed be and is hereby ap-
pointed guardian-ad-litem of the mi-
nors the 2nd and 3rd Respondents
abovenamed to represent them for all
the purposes of this action and the pe-
titioner be and he is hereby declared
entitled as the father of the abovenam-
ed deceased to have Letters of Admini-
stration 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)

ORDER NISI

IN THE DISTRICT COURT
OF JAFFNA

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 1085

In the matter of the intestate estate
of late Arumugam Ponniah of
Thavady, Jaffna

Deceased.

Rasammah widow of Arumugam
of Thavady, Jaffna

Vs. Petitioner.

1. Arumugam Suppiah
2. Arumugam Subramaniam
3. Nadarajah Parameswary
4. Nadarajah Thangarat-
nam
5. Nadarajah Sundara-
lingam
6. Saraswathy widow of
Arumugam Nadarajah
all of Thavady, Jaffna

This matter of the petition of the
abovenamed petitioner praying that
the abovenamed 6th respondent be
appointed guardian-ad-litem over the
minors the 3rd, 4th and 5th respon-
dents and the letters of administra-
tion to the estate of the abovenamed
deceased be granted to the petitioner,
coming on for disposal before C.
Coomaraswamy Esquire, District
Judge, Jaffna, on the 4th day Novem-
ber 1941 in the presence of Mr. V.
Thamotharampillai Proctor, for the
Petitioner, and the affidavit of the
petitioner in support of the facts in
the petition having been read:

It is ordered that the 6th respond-
ent be appointed guardian-ad-litem
over the minors the 3rd, 4th and 5th
respondents and that the petitioner
be declared entitled to have letters of
administration to the said estate is-
sued to her accordingly as the lawful
widow of the abovenamed deceased,
unless the Respondents or any others
shall appear on or before the 10th
day of December 1941 before this
Court and show cause to the satis-
faction of this Court to the contrary.

This 4th day of November 1941.

Sgd. C. Coomaraswamy
District Judge

Now time extended to the
30th January 1942

Drawn by
Sgd. V. Thamotharampillai
Proctor for Petitioner
(O. 57. 22 & 26 1-42)

ORDER NISI

IN THE DISTRICT COURT
OF JAFFNA

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 1056.

In the matter of the estate of the
late Puvaneavary wife of Chelliah
Kandiah of Vaddukoddai West

Deceased.

Chelliah Kandiah of Vaddukoddai
West

Vs. Petitioner.

1. Sarojini Devi daughter of
Chelliah Kandiah of do
2. Kanagasabai Thampoo of Thol-
puram

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 peti-
tion of the said petitioner having
been read; it is ordered that the said
2nd respondent be appointed guardi-
an-ad-litem over the minor the 1st
respondent and that letters of ad-
ministration be granted to the peti-
tioner 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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Y. 20. 1-4-41—31-3-42. (T)

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on THURSDAY, JANUARY 22, 1942.