

THE Hindu Organ.

The Only Newspaper in Ceylon for the Hindus

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PUBLISHED EVERY MONDAY AND THURSDAY



VOL. LIII.

'Phone 56.

JAFFNA, MONDAY, JANUARY 26, 1942.

Price 5 Cts.

NO. 78.

NEWS FROM FAR AND NEAR

Kandy M. S. C. as Acting Minister

The Executive Committee of Health unanimously elected Mr. Geo. E. de Silva, the Member for Kandy, as its Chairman, in place of Mr. W. A. de Silva, Minister of Health, who has been granted three months' leave.

Additional Magistrate Colombo

His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to appoint Mr. J. N. C. Tiruchelvam, J. P. (brother of Mr. Em. Tiruchelvam) to officiate as additional Magistrate, Additional District Judge, Additional Municipal Magistrate, Additional Commissioner of Requests and City Coroner, Colombo, during the absence of Mr. W. Thoigodapitiya on leave.

50 Millions For Home Defence

The draft of an Ordinance to be known as the Home Defence Loan Ordinance, for the purpose of raising a loan of Rs. 50 millions for expenditure on emergency purposes, was published in a Gazette Extraordinary. The loan will be raised in Ceylon under the Registered Stock and Securities Ordinance. Power will be taken to issue Treasury Bills in anticipation of the raising of the loan or of any part thereof.

Rice Ration Adjustments

It is understood that the Government has decided that when the rice rationing scheme is introduced the Assistant Government Agents who have been appointed to emergency posts should be given the power of discretion to make various adjustments in the rationing scheme as may become necessary in their area.

In making any modifications in the scheme, the Assistant Governments (Emergency) will be expected to consult the Local Assistant Committees which will be appointed in each area.

Faith in Gen. Wavell

Batavia, Friday.

Sir Keith Murdoch, the Australian newspaper proprietor and editor, has arrived here on his way home to Australia from England. "I have the greatest confidence in General Wavell's leadership," he said after an interview with the Allied Commander-in-Chief in the Southwest Pacific.

HOW JAPAN PREPARED FOR WAR

ORGANISATION OF FIFTH COLUMN

WITH each new move made by Japan in the Pacific, the real meaning of her "peaceful penetration" of the South-West Pacific over the past 30 years becomes more and more apparent, observes H. A. Standish in a cable to the "Daily Telegraph" from Singapore on January 13. It is now evident that every step Japan has taken, whether in the way of commerce or of colonisation, has been deliberately designed to prepare the way for armed aggression. The cases of Thailand and Indo-China provide evidence amply to prove this. Japan had heavily penetrated these countries economically in recent months. Any doubts as to the military purpose behind this policy disappeared on the day war broke out. Experience in Hawaii and the Philippines shows that, wherever Japanese nationals have settled in any numbers, Japan has had an effective Fifth Column on which to call for aid when war came. Right throughout Eastern Asia it is the same story.

For almost 40 years there has been a colony of nearly 20,000 Japanese farmers, fishermen and lumbermen in the Davao area. To-day ports built largely by Japanese enterprise, are the bases from which the attacks on British and Dutch Borneo are being launched. In North Malaya the invaders found valuable supply bases awaiting them at the Japanese-owned iron mines and plantations. It is now evident that many of the Japanese miners and planters have been spying for years. When the moment came, they provided the invaders with detailed maps and information about jungle trails. These have enabled the Japanese soldiers to penetrate the most difficult territory. Sarawak and Borneo were other areas infested with Japanese Fifth Columnists—planters, fishermen, merchants and tradesmen who lived like model citizens, yet were in fact simply enemy agents.

There has also been extensive Japanese infiltration of

the Dutch East Indies, where on the eve of war at least 7,000 "settlers" were living. They were promptly interned, but many left carrying with them information that has given the Japanese commanders the most accurate picture of the situation. For years it has been realised that many Japanese enterprises in the South Seas have had doubtful industrial value. An example was the so-called experimental cotton plantations in Dutch New Guinea. This and similar enterprises were controlled by the South Seas Development Company, sponsored by the Japanese Government. Production and profit were the least important functions of these companies. Their sole business was to keep these fake enterprises going at strategic points throughout East Asia and the South-West Pacific. The most recent example of all was the so-called commercial airline to Portuguese Timor. Timely Allied action in occupying Portuguese part of the Island deprived Japan of the fruits of this "peaceful penetration". But, even so it is significant that the long-range Japanese aircraft which bombed New Guinea were similar to those used on the Timor service.

POSTAL RATES INCREASED

On and after February 1st, the postage rates on the following classes of correspondence for India will be increased as shown:—

By surface mail: Letters: 10 cents for the first ounce and five cents for every additional ounce. Postcards—Five cents for each card. Printed matter packets—Four cents for every two ounces.

By air mail: Letters—20 cents per half ounce. Postcards—12 cents each.

Registration: 20 cents per article in addition to postage.

GREAT BUILDER OF MODERN INDIA

RANADE'S WORK FOR THE NATION

Bombay, Jan. 18.

In all departments of national endeavour and uplift, Ranade was a pioneer, and it would be bare truth to say of him that he was the most considerable and influential among the builders of Modern India, observed the Rt. Hon. V. S. Srinivasa Sastri, presiding over the Centenary of the birthday of the late Mr. M. G. Ranade, held in Bombay to-day.

Continuing, Mr. Sastri said that Ranade was cast in a big mould in body and in mind. He was a giant. His studies had amplitude and depth far beyond the common. History, politics, economics, blue books, Sanskrit literature and Marathi literature—thee and similar subjects made up his gargantuan face. His knowledge and experience in the official, and non-official spheres were at the service of a patriotism, fervent and sleepless, which comprehended all the sections and elements of our population. Like a true Rishi he had toleration and mercy for all and planned and laboured for all alike.

Ranade, the speaker continued, rehabilitated the character of Shivaji and the empire that he founded. His close study of constitutional and administrative problems of India and other countries was laid under contribution by the organisers and leaders of the Indian National Congress, and it was well known that his advice and guidance were at the disposal of its Subjects Committee wherever it met year after year.

Spirit of Ancient Gurus

After giving a brief account of the true "Gurus" of the past Mr. Sastri said: "The teaching and the methods and the subjects taught in these days must be made to suit our new exigencies and environments, but the spirit animating the teachings must be the same as that which led the first settlers to cross the Vindhya Range and establish their colonies in the south. By reviving our ancient traditions in this matter, we may hope in the near future to instill into the minds of our young generations lessons of devotion to learning, diversity

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Hindu Organ.

MONDAY, JANUARY 26, 1942

SUBSIDY TO FARMERS

AS WE POINTED OUT IN THE last issue of the "Hindu Organ", one of the methods adopted by the Government in Britain to encourage food production during the present crisis was a subsidy to farmers. We are glad to find that the Committee of the Low Country Products Association has just approved a proposal to pay a cash subsidy to those who bring abandoned or new land under paddy cultivation in the villages. The proposal, unanimously passed by the Committee, is a step in the right direction, and we hope that the Minister of Agriculture and Lands will see his way to devise some method of assisting those who are willing to co-operate in extending the area under paddy. Abandoned lands cannot, however, be put in the same class as jungle lands brought for the first time under cultivation. Land is generally abandoned after the jungle is cut down and after one or two attempts to cultivate it. But, the conversion of jungle land into paddy fields is a different, and, far more expensive, affair. We trust this distinction will be borne in mind when the question of a subsidy is considered. The Committee's proposal may also, with great benefit to the cause of food production, be so modified as to encourage farmers to obtain better yields of paddy per acre. The present average yield per acre is very poor. The only part of Ceylon where intensive cultivation is the rule is the Jaffna Peninsula, where, however, the yield is considerably affected by a total dependence on timely showers of rain. The yield in Jaffna would be much greater if irrigation was available. But, curiously enough, under the Karachchi Irrigation Scheme for instance, where plenty of water is available for irrigation, intensive cultivation is not, as a rule, practised, and, without such cultivation, it would be impossible to increase the yield. Even the best land requires manuring if it is to give the best results. In our opinion, a substantial increase in the yield is as urgently called for as an immediate increase in the area under paddy.

There is another aspect of the matter in regard to which some form of encouragement by the Government may do some good. We refer to the disinclination of people with the necessary capital to in-

vest their money in land under the various irrigation schemes. This has been the case particularly in Jaffna. Mortgage bonds and promissory notes have been the favourite modes of investment, but the food situation at the present moment may well be expected to bring about a change for the better. Even at present the tendency is towards raising the price of land in Jaffna itself. This is deplorable. The price of paddy fields and garden lands in Jaffna has always been too high to make farming attractive. We are unable to see how there could be any improvement in the present situation by investors' pushing up the price of land to still greater heights. One inevitable consequence of this process would be the hopeless impoverishment of those who invest their money in this manner. The only remedy is to take up more land under the many irrigation schemes that are more easily accessible to the people of Jaffna than others. The Government could do much to encourage the people in this direction by giving a subsidy to cultivators.

Nothing is to be gained by ignoring the reasons for this lack of confidence in schemes of land development. One important reason is undoubtedly the prevalence of malaria in the areas that are available for development. The Government has a distinct duty to perform in this connection. Effective anti-malarial measures are necessary in the case of every irrigation scheme, and this, combined with the education of the cultivators in the causes and prevention of malaria, should go a great way towards overcoming the reluctance of the investors. The other reason is that, owing to various causes, the cultivation of paddy has by no means proved to be a profitable occupation. As we have said, there are definite causes that have combined to produce this unfortunate result. They involve, among other things, questions of methods of cultivation, implements, animal power, and manuring, in regard to all of which the Department of Agriculture should be in a position to give the best and the most practicable advice based on experience. A little financial assistance for bringing new land under cultivation would, in addition, prove a powerful argument in favour of agricultural expansion.

We have no hesitation in saying that the moment is ripe for a comprehensive plan of agricultural development throughout the island. We do not certainly wish to minimise the importance of cultivating substitutes for paddy. Such substitutes can and must be cultivated, but the fact has to be borne in mind that the cultivation of such substitutes can only be partially effective in satisfying the food requirements of the people. What is needed is careful, scientific planning for the island as a whole, backed by the entire resources of the State.

NOTES AND COMMENTS

Plain Speaking

LORD Addison's attack on Sir Robert Brooke-Popham has provoked an interesting discussion in the House of Lords. Both Viscount Trenchard and the Earl of Cork agreed that the attack was regrettable, because of the inadequacy of the information at the disposal of any critic outside the Government and of the inability of the officer attacked to defend himself in public. This, however, is bound to be the case in regard to public criticism of every official sin of commission as well as omission. The official side has almost always the advantage of having first-hand information which is not generally available to the public. In spite of this, however, public criticism is possible as well as necessary, provided it is kept within reasonable bounds. The question of reasonableness would, as the lawyers say, always be a question of fact. The "sunshine" stories of the strength of the Malayan defences, larded out by the former Commander-in-Chief of the Far East, have proved a sore disappointment to many people. As commander-in-chief Sir Robert Brooke-Popham was responsible for the despatch, without adequate air support, of two British capital ships to intercept enemy landings on the eastern coast of Malaya. Judged by results, Sir Robert Brooke-Popham has not proved to be an outstanding success. We take it that Lord Addison was only voicing the feelings of the man in the street when he called Sir Robert a "nincompoop".

Information Wanted

WE understand that the Department of Information proposes to give the public of Ceylon all available information regarding Ceylonese in Malaya. It is time enough that this was done. There is no sense in keeping back information which would not at all help the enemy but which would, on the other hand, allay to some extent the anxiety of people in Ceylon who have friends and relations in Malaya. It is the absence of authentic information, whenever this is available, that gives a fillip to rumour. We do not think that the Government itself knows what is happening in the territory occupied by the enemy, but, with this exception, all information which is not of any military value regarding Ceylonese should be given. The Government cannot be ignorant of the fact that a very large proportion of the bread-winners of Jaffna are in Malaya, and anxiety regarding the fate of these people is natural.

The Other Side

THE other side of a question is as important in politics as it is in anything else. The Bishop of Tinnevely said recently that the man in the street in England looked upon Mr. Jawaharlal Nehru as public enemy No. 3. The Bishop was only telling the Indian public what the Britisher is thinking about recent events in India. The British view may be wrong or possibly it may be right. But the Bishop's object was only to emphasise the fact that this was the view held in Britain. It is important for us in India and Ceylon to know the reasons for this view, for the simple reason that it always pays to know what the other side of a question is. Take the case of the United States. It is a fact that the American public has been far more sympathetic towards the cause of Indian independence than any other foreign country. Of late, however, the American attitude in regard to this matter has undergone a perceptible change. We do not stand to gain by ignoring this change or the reasons for it. The "New York Times" sums up its views regarding the detention of U. Saw, the Burman Premier, as follows: "Under British rule, Burma has made

TOPICS OF THE DAY

By
T. Kathira Vellu

Sara A Quisling?

UNDER the headline "Japan's Quisling in Occupied Malaya," the Madras "Sunday Times" of January 18 reports on the whereabouts of that prominent Penang sports critic and Managing Editor of the "Straits Echo," Mr. M. Saravanamuttu, about whom questions have been raised in the House of Commons. Affectionately known to his many friends as Sara, he was a radio commentator, a leading social figure and the foremost Asiatic journalist in Malaya. A friend of Sara and my former boss, Mr. H. L. Hopkin, Editor of the "Malaya Tribune," was, when last I heard of him, reporting on the war from England. I give below extracts from the "Sunday Times" account with my comments in italics.

"The 'Leader' gives an interesting account of the antecedents of Mr. Saravanamuttu (*name misspelt*) who has been appointed High Commissioner of the Japanese occupied portion in Malaya."

This rumour began soon after Penang's fall. A Ceylon newspaper published a report based on an Indian newspaper's garbled story. Leaning on the 'Leader', the 'Sunday Times' attempts to come to our rescue and adds to the general confusion.

"The Straits Echo", which was being edited by Mr. Saravanamuttu, who is a Sinhalese, was owned and controlled by British planters."

Where does the real proprietor, Mr. F. H. Grummit, come in? Besides, Sara is not a Sinhalese though the Indo-Ceylon Agreement may have led Indian newspapers to insist on Sara being a Sinhalese!

"America" wrote Mr. Saravanamuttu, 'can be depended upon to deliver the goods.'

She must do it faster if Singapore is to be saved.

Boyish Chiang

NATIONAL China's Commander-in-Chief, Marshal Chiang Kai Shek, figures in an ancient photo displayed by the "Sunday Times" (from which I quoted the Quisling report). Popular Chiang is minus his moustache and looks extremely boyish, younger than his son, Chiang Wei Kuo. China's heroic resistance against the Japs since 1937 is an object lesson to Malayan defenders. The Sino-Japanese "incident" is the Chinese people's war, — a socialist war against imperialism.

Repression

HINDU Maha Sabha leader, Bhai Parmanand, M. L. A. (Central), said, according to the "Tribune," that the Viceroy had declined to interfere in the recent Bhagalpur Ban on the Sabha's All-India Sessions, as the Governor of Bihar had threatened to resign in case of any such interference. The Muslims of Bhagalpur, for whose sake the Governor had resorted to this repression, had shown their sympathy with the cause of the Hindus by observing "hartal" for four days. *It's a tangled world!*

progress towards independence. To set out to Japan would not only be a betrayal of Great Britain but treason to her own best interest."

THE PACIFIC PROBLEM

Chinese Victory Essential

Calcutta, Jan. 20.

THE view that the fundamental solution of the Pacific problem lay in Chinese victory, was expressed by Dr. C. J. Pao, Consul-General for China, speaking from the Calcutta station of the All-India Radio, this evening, on "Total War and Object Lessons of China".

"We are confident", Dr. Pao observed, "that victory will be ours. We will not only win the war, but also achieve peace with justice. The success of China's war of resistance will mean the success of all her Allies. However, we must pay the price for victory."

Appealing to the friends of China to take her experience as a lesson and to co-operate by action, not words, with China for maintaining human decency and helping in world-reconstruction for the present as well as for the future, Dr. Pao said: "The success of this war depends not only on our gallant soldiers in the front; we civilians in the rear have obligations, and must perform them faithfully without any reservation."

People's Determination

China's formidable weapon, Dr. Pao maintained, was the strong determination of her sons and daughters to resist the Japanese aggression and a firm conviction in the principle that right would eventually overrule might. "Materially, as far as visible striking power is concerned, the figure indicating the number of China's tanks, heavy guns, aeroplanes and so on, is no comparison with that of Japan. In fact, Japan started the war against China with a light heart. Her militarists and their political followers thought that China would be beaten to her knees within three months. But now, after more than four years, during which Japan's wanton destruction of Chinese property and lives on Chinese soil has reached the maximum limit, our victory is assured.

"That the hidden strength of my country, or rather, the invisible power of resistance, has been underestimated is no surprise, but it proves that in modern warfare, the spiritual weapon is not inferior to steel and gun powder. It may seem strange, but it is true out of the ruins and ashes emerged a new China, a China not only capable of defending herself and securing the right place in the family of nations, but also she was able to collaborate with her friends to achieve world-reconstruction for the advancement of civilisation."

Significance of the Conflict

Dr. Pao added that, since the beginning of the Sino-Japanese war, the Chinese had realised that it was not a war merely between the two Asiatic peoples. It was but another phase of the second world war, which was not a war for territorial gains and vested interests, but a conflict between two principles of right and might—a struggle between the forces of construction and of destruction. Neither was it a war, as Japan had advertised, between "haves and have-nots."

The speaker pointed out that the

JAPANESE ENCIRCLING MOVEMENT

HEAVY FIGHTING CONTINUES IN JOHORE

London, Jan. 23.

A Singapore communique issued today states: "Yesterday in the Mersing area, contact with the enemy continued. Our artillery has been actively harassing the enemy with effect. On the central front our forward troops are in contact with the enemy in the Chaah area, where fighting is now in progress. In the west enemy activity has increased in the Batu Pahat area with indications of some infiltrations eastwards. Heavy fighting continues on the north front about Bukit Payong. There was considerable enemy air activity throughout the day against our forward troops."

Commenting on the Singapore communique authoritative circles in London say that it indicates that the British forces are making a general withdrawal from the various areas in which operations are taking place. Apparently the Japanese are attempting an encircling movement on Singapore.

The nearest point the Japanese have reached to Singapore is probably Batu Pahat, about 75 miles distant.

Nineteen Japanese 'planes were shot down and probably seven more destroyed in a big air battle over Rangoon today, when Japanese 'planes, estimated at about seventy in number, attempted to raid Rangoon in two waves. They were however, prevented from reaching the city. The R. A. F. lost two aircraft.

The New York radio stated today that a Netherlands submarine has sunk four Japanese ships off Sarawak.

Direct Hits on Japanese Warships

Dutch bombers and fighters have made a smashing attack on a concentration of Japanese ships in the Macassar Straits between Borneo and Celebes, it was announced at Batavia today. They scored twelve

Chinese were the first victims of aggression and the first to herald resistance, and said, "As a gentleman simply cannot share the same roof with a bandit, so will the Chinese and all decent people in the world be unable to live with the Japanese so long as they do not change their aggressive policy and action. You would, therefore, appreciate why China fights on until her war aims are achieved, irrespective of what Japanese propaganda may be." "We want to live as a free people now," he said, "and for ever and to make the world safe for democracy. We want a democracy as it is in China today, a form implied in the teachings of the Three Peoples' Principles, of Dr. Sun Yat Sen, the Father of the Chinese Republic, viz., the Principles of nationalism, democracy and livelihood. That is to say, our democracy does not only stress the political aspects of our people, but also on their economic side. China's revolution for her national reconstruction and her resistance against the Japanese aggression will not be considered complete until these principles are fully realised

direct hits on eight warships and transports without loss to themselves.

Bombs hit one large warship, one heavy cruiser, one cruiser and one large transport. Dive bombers dropped bombs of 80 lbs. calibre on one destroyer, two large transports and one small transport.

HURRICANES IN SINGAPORE

Singapore, Jan. 23

The Singapore radio states that Hurricane fighters smashed their way among Japanese bombers over Singapore on Thursday morning and brought down five of them. They also damaged one Japanese fighter. These are official figures. Other Japanese aircraft were also damaged.

It is now revealed that the British air defences have been strengthened by a number of twelve-gun Hurricane fighter planes.

Aircraft of the Far East Command also successfully bombed and damaged enemy convoys yesterday. Official sources speak of heavy fighting in the Bukit Payong area in the west.

According to the Singapore radio some Thai forces are digging themselves in at a point thirty miles south-east of Myawaddi in Burma.

A Singapore communique today states: "A small formation of our fighters encountered a superior enemy force in the Yongpeng area this morning and as a result of an engagement one of our fighters is missing. Normal patrol and reconnaissance activities were carried out by our aircraft."

"The force of enemy aircraft that raided Singapore yesterday consisted of about 54 heavy bombers, escorted by fighters. Later reports show that our fighters shot down six enemy aircraft for certain and two probably, damaging a number of others. Military damage was again confined mainly to buildings and casualties were slight. Civilian casualties were 58 killed and 170 injured.

"Enemy aircraft again raided Singapore this morning and were intercepted by our fighters, which destroyed one enemy bomber, and probably one other also."

Japanese Incursion into Burma

The latest Japanese incursion into Burma is on a bigger scale than any previous attack, though it is not certain whether this is the campaign envisaged by a Rangoon military spokesman earlier this week when he mentioned that a possibility of simultaneous drives against Singapore and Burma could not be ruled out, writes Reuter's Special Correspondent in Rangoon.

The aim of the Japanese drive is obviously Moulmein, where the River Salween enters the Gulf of Martaban about 100 miles across which lies Rangoon and the fountain-head of the Burma Road. This is the prize the Japanese are aiming at. The importance of this Japanese thrust from their central position in Thailand must, therefore, be in no way minimised.

CEYLONESE IN MALAYA

Efforts To Obtain Information

IT is understood that the Information Department is making an effort to obtain news concerning Ceylonese in Malaya and the Straits Settlements and to issue periodical announcements concerning them.

When the Ceylon Government offered the Straits Government assistance in the evacuation of Ceylonese refugees from Malaya, the reply was that there had been no application from Ceylonese there for repatriation.

It is, however, known that there are considerable numbers of Ceylonese of all classes in Malaya, and it is felt that any information about them published in this country is certain to be welcomed by the public.

It is pointed out in this connection that the Overseas Department of the Government of India has inaugurated a special branch to make inquiries regarding Indians living in the different theatres of war, especially in Malaya and other parts of the Far East, and the information so obtained is regularly published.

In the effort to be made by the Ceylon Government it is learned that all the available sources of information will be used, including such organisations as the Red Cross.

The information to be published will include such matters as arrangements for evacuation and transport facilities.

"START RATIONS NOW"

ADVICE BY PLANTERS

Deniyaya, Saturday.

Reviewing the activities of the Morawak Korale Planters' Association for last year at the annual general meeting held this morning Mr. M. H. Villiers, the Chairman, referred to H. E. the Governor's statement recently that less rice might prove a blessing in disguise to the country and lead to a more nutritive diet being consumed.

Mr. Villiers suggested if there was likely to be a shortage of rice—and that seemed to be very likely in his opinion, if not now, in the near future it should be rationed at once in a mild manner and create a demand for other home-grown foods. "This would get the people," he said, "into the habit of looking to the garden for food rather than to imports from outside, and they would be more ready to support a system of control should the real necessity arise in a greater degree later on."

Mr. Villiers mentioned that a police station at Deniyaya seemed to be by census their most urgent need; the health of the labour force appeared to be generally good; fourteen estates reported employing more Sinhalese than they used to; seven estates reported shortage of Tamil labour; and that no meetings of the Wages Board were held during 1941 and there was, therefore, nothing to report on that subject.

PRESERVATION OF FORESTS

PROGRESS OF RESERVATION

The Administration Report of the Conservator of Forests for 1940 has been issued in an abridged form. Following are the main points in the report:

The area of forest at present in charge of the department is 3,545,698 acres, representing 21.9 per cent of the total area of the Island. Reservation is still proceeding as mapping out under the Land Development Ordinance proceeds. The mapping out of reserved forest areas in the Northern, North-Central, Central, North Western, Western, Southern, Sabaragamuwa, and the Uva Provinces resulted in an aggregate gain of 109,572 acres. By excision 29,097 acres were lost. As mentioned in last year's report, the distribution of reserves is not balanced, the majority being in the Dry Zone where the sparsely stocked forests, although providing the pick of the durable hard woods, are markedly deficient in general utility and soft wood timbers. Details of the progress in forest reservation and demarcation are given in Standard Form II. in the Appendix. All forest areas selected for administration by this department, whether mapping out is completed or not, are included under "Reserves approved but not legally constituted."

The regrouping of reserves into Working Circles, corresponding as far as possible with territorial Range units, and the discontinuance of single species Schemes and other overlapping Schemes, is resulting in a general modification of the Working Plans layout. Good progress has been made with the selection and grouping of reserves for inclusion in the new Working Circles, and compartment systems for all Circles in which there is, or has been, exploitation are in course of preparation. The completion of the revisional Working Plans cannot be undertaken until more is known about the silvicultural requirements for the forests now under regeneration fellings.

Silviculture

The year has seen several changes in the silvicultural policy, mainly in the direction of giving greater emphasis to natural as distinct from, and, whenever possible, to the total exclusion of artificial regeneration. The Wet Zone forests, and in particular the *hora* type, are unquestionably well suited to natural regeneration methods of development. Similar type of treatment is being tried in the Dry Zone forests, and although work is still not far advanced, early results are showing some promise. The opening up of reserves for seeding fellings, in both the Wet and the Dry Zones, is progressing rapidly and full advantage is being taken of a good market for firewood and lower grade soft wood timbers.

In addition to the start made with large scale seeding fellings, a certain amount of progress has been made with cleanings and thinnings in areas of advanced regeneration. A number of advance growth areas have been located, the result of old operations, or in some cases heavy illicit fellings, and they are proving very useful for experimental purposes.

"ELEMENTS OF SAIVA 'SIDDHANTA'"

By 'A Student of Comparative Religion'

THE thanks of the students of Saiva Siddhanta are, undoubtedly, due to the 'Science Graduate' for having undertaken to write a series of articles on 'The Elements of Saiva Siddhanta'. After the late Mudaliar S. Sabaratnam, J. P., and Mr J. M. Nallaswamipillai, there were very few attempts made to write on Saiva Siddhanta in English. The progress made in the fields of Comparative Religion and Historical Research during the last 20 years has been so vast that an exposition of the principles of Saiva Siddhanta in the light of modern thought was a desideratum. The 'Science Graduate' has come forward to supply this great need and his labour of love richly deserves the admiration and gratitude of all students of comparative religion. Attempts made in the cause of the spread of knowledge, from whatever source they may come, should receive the support and encouragement of all interested in the spread of culture and knowledge.

The few observations which I propose to make on his articles are not meant to be a criticism of his valuable contribution but are meant to elucidate certain aspects of the issues raised in them. In the article on "The Elements of

and for training the field staff in clearing technique. Experimental regeneration operations on a comprehensive scale were carried out to test the relative merits of plain girdling and poison frill girdling in Dry Zone forests, and the response of this type of forest to such treatment.

The Up country plantations call for little comment. Good progress has been made towards bringing the thinnings up to date. The 463 acres of dry *patana* grass land, planted up last year to form wind belts for a proposed Colonization area, have done exceedingly well. In view of the results obtained, it has been decided to increase these shelter plantations by about 250 acres a year.

The *jak* plantations in the North-Western Division were increased by 50 acres, bringing the total area planted up to 4,745 acres. Underplanting with mahogany has been completed throughout all the plantations, while all natural growth coming in has been retained as additional ground cover.

In the Northern Division progress under seeding, fellings, for the supply of firewood to the Railway, was somewhat slow due to the initial difficulty in making Railway transport arrangements to cope with the not inconsiderable output. Once this was overcome steady progress was made. Out of the 948 acres of old teak plantations in this Division, 305 acres were thinned and a profitable market was found for the outturn.

A further 224 acres of new plantations, raised under Co-operative Reforestation Agreements, brought the total area of plantations under teak in the Eastern Division up to 6,612 acres. Thinnings were carried out over an area of 768 acres.

Saiva Siddhanta" which appeared in the "Hindu Organ" of 5th January 1942, are found the following observations: "But unlike the Vedanta Sutras which have a Saiva Bhasyam we had occasion to say in a previous article, the *Gita* has no such commentary and it has only had a mixed reception in *Tamilakam*." The remarks about the *Gita* are incorrect because there are three Saiva Commentaries on it. Vasugupta (9th Century A. D.), the founder of the Advaita Saiva Philosophy of Kashmir known as Pratyabhijana Dharsana and to whom Shiva Himself is said to have revealed the "Shiva Sutras", wrote a commentary on the *Gita* called 'Vasavi-Tika' of which the first six chapters are still to be found existing as incorporated in another Saiva commentary on the *Gita* called 'Lasaka' by Rajanaka Lasakaka. Sri Ramakantha Sivacharya also wrote a Saiva Commentary (10th Century A. D.). The Saiva commentaries of Vasugupta and Ramakantha are much earlier to the Bhasya of Sri Nilakanta on the Vedanta Sutras. The date of Sri Nilakanta according to modern research is placed in the 11th century A. D. and it has been very definitely proved that Sri Nilakanta was not a contemporary of Sri Sankara. Further, I would like to point out that the *Gita* was rated so high that even rival sects have claimed it or plagiarised from it. The Vira Siva Sripati Panditaradhyas refers to it as *Iswara Gita*; the Sivadvaita Nilakanta Sivacharya respects it and quotes from it as *Smriti*.

In the article which appeared in the issue of the 21st July 1941, the 'Science Graduate' observed that Sri Kanta's commentary on the Vedanta Sutras was more true to the spirit of the Vedas and the Agamas than that of Sri Sankara. In support of his statement he quoted Dr. Taittiri, the translator of Sankara and Ramunuja Bhasyas into English. He also further stated that the famous Appayya Dikshita wrote a commentary on the Bhasya of Sri Kanta. Appayya Dikshita's opinion of Sri Kanta Bhasya is just the reverse of what the 'Science Graduate' maintains. Appayya Dikshita in his 'Sivadvaita Nirnaya'—An Inquiry into the System of Sri Kanta, writes: "Hence it is that what has been concisely indicated and provided for by Sankara is elaborated by Sri Kanta Sivacharya in his Sivadvaita." (see Sivadvaita Nirnaya, p. 28). Appayya Dikshita wrote his 'Sivadvaita Nirnaya' to show that Sri Kanta elaborated the Doctrine of Advaita of Sankara.

It may be of interest to all students of Saivism to know that the Sivadvaita Philosophy of Sri Kanta has more doctrinal similarities to the teachings of the *Gita* and the Advaita Saiva Philosophy of Kashmir than to the Saiva Siddhanta of South India. The Advaita Saiva Philosophy of Kashmir holds: "That the Universe with all its infinite variety of objects and means of experience, is nothing but a manifestation of the immanent aspect of Parama Shiva

himself. It has no other basis or ingredient in it. This aspect of His is called Shakti (Power), which being an aspect, is not in any way different from, or independent of, Parama Shiva, but is one and the same with Him. If anything, it is His creative Power, and is spoken of as His feminine aspect. Shakti again has several, indeed an infinite number of aspects or modes, of which five are the most fundamental and primary ones. These are: Chit Shakti, Ananda Shakti, Iccha Shakti, Jnana Shakti and Kriya Shakti. (Kashmir Saivism, p. 43-45). Sri Kanta maintains: "The Lord is both the material and the efficient cause of the world. The world is thus the result of a transformation of Brahman. But transformation would imply change, that is defect, in Brahman. Hence, Brahman's prinama (transformation) has to be understood as holding only of His Chit Shakti (Intelligent-Energy). This Chit Shakti is the material cause which takes on the form of the worlds, Intelligent and non-intelligent. Brahman Himself (whom Sri Kanta identifies with Siva) is the efficient cause. But these are distinguishable aspects of Brahman, not different entities."* Because of the relationship to the Lord, through Chit Shakti, the world partakes of the Existence, Intelligence and Bliss of the Lord." (Sivadvaita Nirnaya, p. 17) The Bhagavad Gita, says, "Animating My Prakriti, I project again and again this whole multitude of beings.** Earth, Water, Fire, Air, Ether, Mind, Intellect, Egoism are the eightfold division of My Lower Prakriti. But different from it, is My Higher Prakriti—the Spirit—by which this Universe is sustained. In Me the whole Universe—both sentient and insentient—originates and dissolves." (B. G. Chapt. VII.) The Prakriti of the *Gita* may be compared to the Chit Shakti of Sri Kanta from which the Intelligent and non-Intelligent things of the world evolve.

Saiva Siddhanta as opposed to all the above schools of thought holds Siva as the efficient cause and Maya, a separate entity which has nothing in common with Siva, as the Material Cause of the Universe of Matter.

From what has been enumerated above, it may be clear to anyone that Sri Kanta's Sivadvaita has more leanings towards the Saiva Advaita Philosophy of Kashmir and the Bhagavad Gita than towards Saiva Siddhanta.

Competent scholars do not accept Appayya Dikshita's interpretation of Sri Kanta's Sivadvaita. The purpose in my having quoted him is to show that there is a school of thought, represented by no less a person than Appayya Dikshita, which holds that Sri Kanta preached Sankara's Advaita and nothing else. An historical and doctrinal analysis of Sri Kanta's Philosophy and Advaita Saiva Philosophy of Kashmir will be a fascinating and useful study of an important aspect of Saivism. I shall reserve it for another suitable occasion.

Ceylon University College
Scholarship Examination, 1942
The above examination will begin on March 23, 1942, and end on March 30, 1942, as previously notified.
W. IVOR JENNINGS,
Principal,
Ceylon University College,
Colombo, 17th January, 1942.
(G. 34. 26-1-42.)

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

NEW APPOINTMENTS IN ASSISTED SCHOOLS

Sir,—May I be permitted to make the following suggestions on the above through the valuable columns of your paper.

It is true that the Government at present has to curtail the ever-soaring expenditure incurred on the salaries of teachers and the maintenance grant to vernacular schools. But no one will fail to see the hard blow struck by the Education Department by a recent circular that no appointments should be made, including the filling up of vacancies in schools.

The practical difficulties resulting from this circular are many and their results are often serious, telling upon the cultural progress of the growing generation of the island. In the first place, when a vacancy arises, it cannot be filled, thus making the school under-staffed and taxing the teachers with over-work. This naturally tells upon the quality of the work, not to speak of the teachers' health, which is also an important consideration.

Secondly, I know some schools, where there is only one well qualified teacher as the Head Teacher, who is able to carry on things well. If a vacancy arises due to untoward circumstances, the head teacher's post cannot be filled by suitable men. This would naturally bring down the standard of the school.

Thirdly, I think the present circular issued by the Department is necessitated by the fall in the attendance in Colombo schools. But though the students may have left Colombo, I am sure they might have gone to some other place and joined other schools. As a matter of fact, I know many schools where the number of students has increased much since the beginning of this year. Hence, it is not right to assume that the number of school going children in the island has appreciably gone down.

So it is best that the Department does not interfere with the smooth working of the assisted schools, which the managers will carry on according as the number of the children in their schools increases or decreases. If there is a fall in the attendance and the consequent reduction in the fees collected, the managers are at full liberty not to appoint new teachers in their schools.

Yet as an emergency measure the following mild and reasonable

MATRIMONIAL

RAMANATHAN—

SIVAKAMY AMMAL

The marriage of Miss. Sivakamy Ammal, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. S. Thuryappah of Aiyankovilady with Mr. K. Ramanathan of the Anaradhapura Kachcheri, son of the late Mudaliar R. Kandiah, J. P., & of Mrs. Kandiah, will be celebrated on Wednesday, the 28th January, 1942, at 9 p.m. at the Bride's residence.

Reception at the Bride's residence on Friday the 30th inst. from 4 to 8 p.m.

Friends and relations are cordially invited.

No individual invitations.

Seats Carpets.

(Mis 173, 26-1-42)

measures may be adopted by the Department, the necessity of which no one would certainly dispute.

1. The managers of schools may be requested to see that the strength of the staff in each school, as it stood on the last day of the last year, is not increased by any means, until such time as the Department would deem necessary. By this only the bare vacancies arising can be filled and no new appointments arising out of an increase in average attendance may be made. Also the total number of teachers in assisted schools in the island will not be increased until such time as the Government considers otherwise. This measure is quite a reasonable one and will not check the cultural progress of the growing generation in the island.

2. The additional increments to teachers (by way of two increments for Pundits etc.) over and above the usual salary scale may be temporarily suspended.

3. Even the usual increments for teachers may be temporarily withdrawn as an emergency measure, so that all teachers will have to continue in the same salary as on the last day of the last year.

4. A small levy may be made on the salaries of teachers.

In conclusion, when such reasonable and moderate measures are available, it is a pity that the Department wants to understaff the school and cause more of unemployment among the teachers, trained and untrained who, having been in service, contributing to pension fund, are deprived of their chances of continuing as teachers, when vacancy arises.

Will the authorities concerned reconsider the matter and alleviate the feelings of the teaching world?

A Sympathiser.

MR. SARAVANAMUTTU'S JAPANESE POST

QUESTION RAISED IN PARLIAMENT

London, Jan. 21.

In the House of Commons today Captain Gammons (Cons.) asked the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, Mr. G. H. Hall if he was in a position to make a statement regarding the activities of Mr. Saravanamuttu, a British subject appointed Japanese High Commissioner for Penang, and in particular, as to whether Mr. Saravanamuttu had accepted this appointment voluntarily or under duress.

Mr. Hall said: "The Secretary of State has seen reports in the Press to the effect that the person named in question had been nominated by the Japanese to the post mentioned, but he was not in a position either to confirm or deny the statement."

Capt. Gammons: "It is proposed to make a declaration that any British subject willingly co-operating with the Japanese in any territories overrun by them will be charged with treason when the war is over?"

Mr. Hall: "I will call the attention of the Secretary of State to that observation."

TEACHERS AND FOOD PRODUCTION

ELEMENTS OF AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS

Increasing Local Food Production, A.R.P. Practice, and Propaganda are the three activities in which Schools are expected to co-operate with the Government.

The time for talking is long past and what is now needed is action, declared the Director of Education, Mr. L. Mc. D. Robison in an address to the heads of Schools and Colleges in the Central College Hall on Friday evening.

A very large gathering of men and women teachers was present in response to a notice which had been issued by Mr. A. J. R. Vethavanam, Divisional Inspector of Schools, and the presence of the Government Agent, Mr. M. Prasad, was specially appreciated.

Justifying the first place he deliberately gave to Food Production, Mr. Robison briefly gave statistics of Ceylon's normal imports of such foodstuffs as rice, sugar, salted and dried fish, dried chillies, and other curry-stuffs and the principal sources of supply. Japan's southward march through Siam and Malaya, and the bombing to which Burma was exposed would seriously curtail supplies. Therefore every bit of available ground should be cultivated. In passing, Mr. Robison suggested that teachers would do well to pay more attention to geography.

He also alluded to the failure of Rural Scheme Schools in Jaffna, which he attributed to the parents' notion that the schools' business was to teach from books and get students to pass Examinations. He had heard of parents who said that they did not send their children to school to learn agriculture. This attitude, he hoped, will change.

The A. R. P. warden, Mr. Robison emphasised, must be an intelligent person capable of adapting measures to the needs of the moment. Dependence on rule of thumb was useless since the enemy varied his methods of attack. The kind of bomb used—high explosive, incendiary or a combination of both—for instance, would not be known until the bomb had actually dropped.

The tendency to run out into the open on hearing the sound of the aeroplane was dangerous and he commended the example of a local school where the only pupil who did so was promptly caned. The "catastrophe of Penang" Mr. Robison mentioned, was the result of this tendency. For two days, in succession people ran out to watch passing aeroplanes, and it was on the third day that bombs were dropped. The nationality of the plane was immaterial and everyone should remain indoors when a plane was overhead.

Dealing with A. R. P. drill, Mr. Robison said that practice was necessary to ensure that everyone knew what he was expected to do and learnt to do it when the alert was sounded. No one should be allowed to remain standing when the others lay prostrate. On the subject of Propaganda Mr. Robison felt that teachers could do a great deal of work in checking mischievous and alarmist talk,

FOOD PRODUCTION MEETING OF FARMERS

A Public meeting of the Karaveddi Farmers was held at Karaveddi Pillayar Kovil grounds on the 10th inst. with Mr. A. K. Chinatamby in the chair to consider what steps should be taken to increase food production in Karaveddi.

Mr. K. Sivasangaran, Proctor, the Organising Secretary explained to those present the objects of the meeting.

Those present resolved to form themselves into an Association called Karaveddi Kamakaram Sangam.

The following were elected office-bearers of the Sangam.

President: V. Kandappu
Hon. Secretary: K. Sivasangaram

Asst. Secretary: V. K. Chinatamby

Treasurer: V. Kanapathipillai and a Committee of nine others.

The following main resolutions were passed unanimously.

This Sangam requests the Government and the Minister of Agriculture to provide immediate irrigation facilities for the Athulu fields by tapping the resources of Athulu Tank.

(2) This Sangam requests the Government to distribute the following seeds to Farmers immediately after harvest. (1) Sweet Peas (2) Black grams (3) Gingely (4) Onions (5) Thinai (6) Sami.

The meeting directed the Secretary to forward the resolutions to the G. A., N. P., the Minister of Agriculture and the Member for Point Pedro.

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, Thamil.

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)

particularly in the villages.

Those who might desire guidance on the activities mentioned were directed by Mr. Robison to visit the Catholic School at Colombogam where, he said, good work is being done.

In conclusion Mr. Robison said that the size of the gathering was an assurance of the co-operation of teachers in all measures taken by the Government Agent as the head of the Province.

Before the meeting began, a set of A. R. P. instructions was distributed by members of the local Inspectorate.

THE KANDY TAMILS' ASSOCIATION

At a meeting held under the auspices of the Kandy Tamils' Association in the Saiva Maha Sabha Hall on 10-1-42 at 7 p.m. with Mr. S. U. Somasegaram B. A. (Hons.) London, District Inspector of Schools in the chair Revd. Lakdas de Mel M. A. (Oxon) Vicar, St. Pauls, Kandy, delivered a lecture on "Some Social Problems."

Our social problems, he said, are in the main ascribable to two fundamental causes, viz hunger and human relations.

Besides the craving for food which the "word" hunger generally means it implies the want of facilities that conduce to happiness and progress within the compass of a society. The problem of hunger is the nightmare that torments the poor. Be it in the town or in the village, one meets countless underfed starving men, women and children. They represent human society at its lowest. The want of food is not their sole difficulty. Proper medical treatment, education and the like are denied to them. Their life is one long drawn out tragedy of wait and misery. This state of affairs is the direct result of the accumulation of wealth in the hands of the capitalists.

The remedy lies in the hands of the social worker. He must enlist the sympathy of the people at large to combat the difficulties confronting the poor. He must form a well-knit organisation capable of affording the poor, the relief they need in the different spheres of their life. Having formed an organisation he should with its support persuade even the capitalists themselves to contribute their share to the task of uplifting the poor and ameliorating their conditions. To achieve our objects in this matter it is folly to seek help from outside Ceylon. We have enough in us of the talents to achieve what we desire. It is enthusiasm and confidence in our ability to forge ahead, that we want. Once we have these we reach our goal, with comparative ease.

We should not pause here, our next object should be the readjustment of relations in the fabric of society on a broad basis. National prejudices must be eschewed to attain this end. We should train ourselves to appreciate and imbibe everything that is best in others. We then shall find Ceylon a happy meeting ground of all world cultures and civilisations. We shall then find in Ceylon a united nation evolving out of the fusion of the various communities.

Revd. Lakdas de Mel urged that we should harness our talents to solve our social problems ourselves and to work our way through to success.

Mr. Somasegaram, the Chairman, then addressed the gathering. Having referred to Revd. Mel in terms of the highest praise he outlined what he considered to be our social problems. Concluding he urged that we should be useful members of society by leading simple yet noble and exemplary lives as done by our forefathers.

Mr. Charavanapavan then proposed a vote of thanks to the learned lecturer which was seconded by Mr. A. Navaratnam, the Hon'y. Secretary. (Cor.)

GREAT BUILDER OF MODERN INDIA

Continued from page 1

of studies and personal loyalty to the teacher, without which no system of school or college education can ever bear any fruit. This, however, is not all. In addition to these lessons, our new teachers must know how to introduce their pupils to a correct appreciation of the forces which are at work in the wider world outside, and which in spite of temporary checks or seeming reverses, represent all that is best in human efforts for the elevation and happiness of man. Our teachers must enable their pupils to realise the dignity of man as man, and to apply the necessary correctives to tendencies towards exclusiveness, which have grown in us with the growth of ages. They must see that our thoughts, our speech, and our actions are inspired by a deep love of humanity and that our conduct and our worship are freed where necessary from the bondage of custom and made to conform as far as possible to the surer standard of our conscience."

Concluding, the speaker catalogued the past teachers of India and said, "A race that can ensure a continuance of such teachers can, in my opinion, never fail, and with the teachings of such men to guide and instruct and inspire us. I, for one, am confident that the time will be hastened when we may be vouchsafed a sight of the Promised Land."

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 Thangaratnam
5. Nadarajah Sundaralingam
6. Saraswathy widow of Arumugam Nadarajah all of Thavady, Jaffna Respondents

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 respondents and that letters of administration 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 November 1941 in the presence of Mr. V. Thamothersampillai, 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 respondent 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 issued 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 satisfaction 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. Thamothersampillai
Proctor for Petitioner
(O. 57. 22 & 26-1-42)

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(O. 115. 23-10-41—22-1-42.)

ORDER NISI

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA

Testamentary No. 1106

In the matter of the estate of the late Sinnapillai wife of Ramanather Kandiah of Karaitivu East Deceased.

Kandiah Ponnampalam of do Vs. Petitioner.
(1) Kamadohipillai (2) Subramaniam (3) Kathiravelu (4) Mageswari (5) Karalapillai all children of Kandiah and (6) Parupathy widow of Kandiah all of do. The 1-5 Respondents are minors by their guardian-ad-litem the 6th Respondent Respondents.

This matter coming on for disposal before C. Coomaraswamy Esquire District Judge on the 7th day of January 1942 in the presence of Mr. A. Kanagasabai Proctor on the part of the petitioner and the affidavit of the petitioner having been read; it is ordered that the 6th Respondent be appointed guardian-ad-litem over the minors the 1-5 Respondents and the petitioner be declared entitled to have letters of administration to the estate of the said intestate unless the respondents shall appear before this court on the 11th day of February 1942 and state objection or shew cause to the satisfaction of this court to the contrary.

Sgd. C. Coomaraswamy,
District Judge.

13-1-42 (O. 61 26 & 29-1-42)