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Editor:
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NEWS FROM FAR AND NEAR

30,000 Evacuees in India

It is understood that nearly 30,000 evacuees from Burma and Malaya have arrived in India up-to-date.

Indian Congress Treasurer Dead

Seth Jamnala Bajaj, a Member of the Congress Working Committee and its Treasurer, died of heart failure on Wednesday last at his residence in Wardha.

Mr. Bajaj acted as Congress President in 1934. He was fifty-two years old.

Invitation to India

A Government of India Communique states:—"His Majesty's Government are anxious that India should be afforded the same opportunity as the Dominions now being represented at the War Cabinet and on the Pacific War Council for the purpose of the formulation and direction of policy for the prosecution of the war. They have accordingly invited the Government of India to arrange for such representation if they so desire."

Closing of Schools

Opinion was divided as to the closing of schools when heads of schools gathered on Saturday last at the Government Technical College, Colombo, in response to a request by the Minister of Education. The Minister, Mr. C. W. W. Kannangara told that the question of implementing the resolution passed by the State Council has yet to be discussed by the Board of Ministers and with the Governor-Warden De Saram of St. Thomas College was strongly in favour of continuing schools, while some other heads advocated that the usual Easter holidays should begin at the end of this month and continue until the end of April.

Mr. Kannangara explained his ministerial statement in the State Council that boys keeping away from Royal College would not be penalised; what he meant was that he would see that parents of such boys who kept away would not be prosecuted under the Education Ordinance.

HOW BRITAIN IS TAKING IT

A SALVAGE ADVISER IN LONDON

BY DOROTHY BLACK
(In a Recent Broadcast Talk)

Problem of Salvage

YOU may, in your district, shortly be having your own Salvage Drive as we in London have recently had ours, but you will realise that though the public show tremendous enthusiasm during these drives it is essential to keep them salvage-minded week in and week out all the year.

To deal with this problem the Royal Borough of Kensington showed enterprise in appointing three full time salvage advisers, and I was among those chosen. As we are the only three of our kind in the country—in the world for that matter, I imagine—and the idea entirely experimental, it had especial appeal to me coming from a young country with a pioneer background. My first home in London was in Kensington, I trained for the stage at a well-known school of acting in Kensington, and I have lived for two years of war in Kensington, so it seemed suitable in taking up national work that I should do it for this particular borough.

I think I can best describe us as liaison officers between the public, the dustmen (who collect our salvage), and the Borough Council. We canvass shops, houses, flats, etc. from nine till five roughly every day, and persuade the public to save waste paper and cardboard, rags, tins, bottles and bones, and to put them in separate piles beside their refuse bins. You see, the country urgently needs paper and cardboard, previously supplied by Scandinavia, as a substitute for wood pulp, as food containers for troops, and cases for shells; metals and tins make aeroplanes, tanks and guns, rags become fresh textile for sacking army blankets, uniforms (for instance, to equip the Home Guard alone 14,000,000 lbs. of wool were required); bones, even after they have been in the stock pot or the dog has gnawed them, become glycerine for fertiliser and glue for planes; while bottles

and jars are sterilised and sent in thousands back to our factories.

Nothing Wasted

Nothing is wasted in our borough, for our vegetable refuse and garbage go into a special mechanical plant, and become fertiliser for agriculture and top dressing for aerodromes. It is vitally important that salvage is put out separately, as we cannot risk fragments of glass or metal in this special plant, and though we have sorters working all day at our depot on the Thames, paper and cardboard which are clean are, of course, of infinitely greater value.

I was chosen for this job as the Council thought my experience of people in my stage career would be useful, but I think the important thing about all three of us is that we are married women who have brought up families and run homes on limited incomes. We listen to the housewife's point of view, make notes of complaints, and are glad of suggestions. In fact it is up to us to find out if we are getting as much salvage as we ought, and if not, why not. Sometimes it is the housewife's fault, sometimes the Council's, but a personal talk usually solves the difficulty. For example a complaint that neither salvage nor refuse were collected resulted in the discovery that that the dustmen's call at a particular house was at an early hour before the housewife had put her bin out. Another, that our dustmen threw all the separated salvage in with the garbage, was related when the housewife examined our vans and saw neat separate receptacles for each lot of salvage inside.

Dustmen Only Human

We have to remind the public that dustmen are only human—they also have livers and domestic upsets and 'off' days with many weary steps to climb—and we impress on the

Continued on page 5

PACIFIC WAR COUNCIL

IMPORTANCE OF ITS DELIBERATIONS

London, Tuesday.

An official communique issued tonight from No. 10, Downing Street, says: "A meeting of the Pacific War Council was held at No. 10, Downing Street, this afternoon. Mr. Churchill presided and others present were the Lord Privy Seal, Mr. Attlee, the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Eden, the Prime Minister of the Netherlands Government, Dr. Gerbraudy, the Netherlands Minister to the Court of St. James, Jonkheer E. Michiels van Verduynen, Sir Earle Page, representing the Government of the commonwealth of Australia, Mr. W. Jordan, representing the Government of the Dominion of New Zealand, the Secretary of State for India, Mr. Amery, representing the Government of India, the First Sea Lord, Admiral Sir Dudley Pound, the Chief of the Imperial General Staff, General Sir Allan Brook, and the Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Sir Charles Portal.

Great importance is attached by the British Government to the meeting of the Pacific Council.

Although, naturally, the discussions of such a body must be secret, the fact that the meeting has taken place so soon after Mr. Churchill's recent announcement shows that all concerned with its creation acted with the greatest promptitude with which the present critical position at Singapore is almost certainly connected.

Tonight's meeting puts on a formal basis work which has already been going on in London, Washington, the N. E. I., Australia and New Zealand to cope with the present situation in the Pacific. Mr. Churchill will now be busier than ever, for although it is expected that most of the Council's work will be done in sub-committees, he will be present at the main meetings when decisions will have to be taken.

NO PRIVATE TELEGRAMS TO SINGAPORE

A Post Office communique states that it is now not possible to send private telegrams to Singapore.



Hindu Organ.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1942

MALAYA AND AFTER

AS WE WRITE, THE FATE OF Singapore has been, for all practical purposes, decided. The defence of the island has been without doubt, what one would have expected of a brave army facing fearful odds. The fall of the fortress brings to a close a series of military and naval disasters which have now culminated in the loss of the entire Malay Peninsula. A good deal has been said, and will continue to be said, about the utter inadequacy and hopelessness of the resistance that was offered to the invaders, and only after the bitterness of the defeat is forgotten, history will be able to view in their proper perspective, the tragic events of the last few weeks. Mr. Churchill's speech after his return from Washington revealed some of the inherent difficulties of the situation with which the defenders of Malaya were confronted. The speech makes it clear that, whatever sins of omission or commission the Malayan High Command might have been guilty of, whatever might be said about some of the foolish and irritatingly fatuous communiques that have been issued from time to time regarding the prospects of a successful defence, a total invasion on the lines on which the Japanese have undertaken it, was bound to end in defeat for the bravest army. Let us make no mistake about it: the Japanese attack was well planned and well executed with all the resources at the enemy's disposal. It is therefore not a matter for surprise that in the absence of effective American aid the British forces had to put up a desperate fight against an enemy vastly superior in numbers and in equipment. It is one of the ironies of fate that, but for a natural desire to fall in line with the wishes of the English speaking people on the other side of the Atlantic, British policy towards Japan might well have continued to be as friendly as it was at the very beginning when Japan began to modernise her institutions and her weapons. Even today British naval tradition is held in high esteem by the Japanese who do not forget that their Admiral Fogo, the victor of Tsushima, was himself a product of that tradition.

To us in the North of Ceylon, the war in Malaya has ended in something more than disaster. The men who fought and died have acquitted themselves nobly, though unsuccessfully, of their responsibilities; but the Tamils have given the

enemy in the territories occupied by him a good many hostages whose present position it is impossible to know. Some of our men have lost their lives and there is hardly a village in Jaffna where people are not sorrowing for their kindred in Malaya. We would respectfully request His Excellency the Governor to see that no information concerning the fate of others is withheld from their relations in Jaffna. We are unable to agree that any military purpose could possibly be served by withholding such information. The Tamils can face calamity without flinching, and if there is any news available it is the duty of the Government to release it without delay.

Malaya has been lost, but what about the future? We are thankful to have Lord Moyne's assurance that in due course our people and those who have suffered with them in the beautiful country which they have adopted as their home will get back all that they have lost; but we have no illusions as to the difficulties that remain to be overcome; and we would remind British statesmen that all things are possible, but practical achievement depends entirely on factors outside the realm of mere theory. Even in this critical hour let us remember that Britain can afford defeat, but the British people cannot certainly afford to be discredited by claims which can never be made good except by a concentration of naval and military might sufficient to overwhelm the invaders. With the fall of Singapore and the occupation of Java and Sumatra, which one must expect the Japanese to strive to accomplish regardless of losses, the South China sea would become a closed Japanese lake, and it will be a very difficult matter to dislodge them from their present positions.

The immediate task confronting us all is the defence of India and Ceylon and our outposts in Burma. The Japanese advance in Burma, if allowed to continue unchecked, will result in the isolation of China, and will certainly facilitate the invasion of India by land, which the British military leaders will have no difficulty in understanding. Such a move by the Japanese can be effectively countered by pitting the flower of the Indian and the Chinese armies against the invaders, backed by overwhelming strength in aircraft and tanks. The great question now is, will Britain and America supply the tanks and aircraft needed? Everything depends on the answer to this question. The Conference which the Chinese Generalissimo has had in India and Burma with military and political leaders marks, let us hope, the beginning of a joint defence, which will prove more effective than anything that has been done hitherto for the defence of Asiatic countries. We do not deny that Australia and New Zealand ought to be defended, but these are self governing countries, which, one normally expects, should have provided for their own defence in the first instance.

TOPICS OF THE DAY

By
T. Kathira Vellu

Rice Rationing

Rice Rationing Muddle throws everything else into the shade. In other countries (already engaged in war) rationing begins with luxuries and ends, only if necessary, with staple food. Ceylon puts the cart before the horse. Two measures a week definitely leaves a void, especially among labouring classes. After the Great War, Malaya gave four *gantangs* (cut measures) a week per head. This was substantial. While there are ample reserves here, why begin with two measures? Why foist unknown dealers on an unsuspecting public? Why choose dealers not within easy reach? Why withhold coupon books from some of the depressed classes in rural areas? Why mix up names of low-caste folk and leave them hungry?

Profiteering

Rationing makes rice dealers stiff necked. They seem to confer blessings when poor folk pay money to purchase rice. Furthermore, credit facilities are being withheld, (as Mr. G. G. Ponnambalam feared). The same manager's orders contradict one another. Profiteering is rampant; so much so that government rice depots or people's co-operative boutiques are absolutely essential. Even vital commodities such as sugar, kerosene or coconut oil shoot up in prices, threatening us with further rationing. God knows what local Assistance Committees are about. Ostensibly, food production is their one and all. It is obvious that something is wrong somewhere. The "Kesari" deserves a pat on the back for making up the rice muddle, for offering constructive suggestions.

Jaffna Blackout

The blackout (or "brown out") is now on in Jaffna. Country-folk do not fully understand the implications of a partial blackout. Local Assistance Committees could indulge in necessary propaganda and help to educate simple villagers. The plain fact is that lighting is more or less rationed or restricted. It is high time that Special Police Officers were introduced. Such Officers could help the police and the people in times of emergency; they would also erase the necessity of an internal Security Scheme for the North.

Socialist Thought

Emancipation of Labour is the only worthy object of political warfare.....that those who till the soil should be its first masters, that those who raise food shall be its first partakers, that those who build mansions shall live in them....."
—George Julian Harney.

"Outside of Socialism there is no salvation for mankind from war, hunger and the further destruction of millions and millions of human beings"—Lenin.

"Indian English"

"We are all instinctively bilingual, many of us writing in our own lan-

guage and in English. We cannot write like the English. We should not. We cannot write only as Indians. We have grown to look at the large world as part of us. Our method of expression therefore has to be a dialect which will some day prove to be as distinctive and colourful as the Irish or the American. Time alone can justify it."—Raja Rao.

Students' View

"The Government has stopped grants for new teachers. This is a serious curtailment. Although for some time to come the attendance in Colombo schools will be poor, we cannot understand how the same rule applies to schools outside Colombo. In fact it is reasonable to assume that some of the evacuated children would enter schools in other parts. This measure will only increase unemployment among the teachers. Teachers and students should take up this question and see that the new rule is abolished."
—Student News.

War and India

"With things as they are, there would be no popular resistance to a Japanese or German invasion. If an independent Government were in power, the tempo of India might at last be roused."—Mysindia, Bangalore Weekly.

"I offer no apologies, I offer no excuse and I make no promises."—Winston Churchill.

"A happy solution of the Indian problem too is a vital part of our effort."—Mr. Noel Baker, Labour M.P.

War Risks Insurance

"If we are dealing with war risks we should cover the whole population. The damage done will not be due entirely to enemy action but to Governmental stupidity."—Mr. B. H. Aluwihare, M. S. C.

"Needless to say that it is capitalist legislations of this sort which make communism gain ground in the country."—The Ramanathan.

Tit-Bits

"War on the whole is a most destructive agency in the world and human affairs, but it has brought permanent benefit to Ceylon in that Ceylon will be self-supporting in the matter of food."—Sir Andrew Caldecott.

"There is, I remind you, such a thing as the logic of history—we are where we are because we are what we are."—Rev. C. L. Abeynaike.

"We should train ourselves to appreciate and imbibe everything that is best in others..... We shall then find in Ceylon a united nation evolving out of a fusion of the various communities."—Rev. Lakdasa de mel.

Soviet Government

"It would be another matter if legislation could be introduced for the prohibition of private trading throughout the whole country, but so far only one State in the world, Soviet Russia, has, I believe, been successful in suppressing private trading by legislative action (among other measures)," states Mr. G. de Soyza, Acting Registrar of Co-operative Societies, in a memorandum on the necessity for co-operative society estate boutiques.

THREE CHOICES FOR TEACHERS

One of Them "No Pay" Leave For Duration

THREE alternatives have been offered to teachers employed in schools in the Colombo area whose services may not be required in their respective schools consequent on the present emergency.

The teachers have been asked to elect (a) whether they are prepared to do any work other than teaching, (b) whether they are willing to accept teaching appointments in other parts of the country, or (c) whether they would prefer to go on "no-pay" leave for the duration.

Those who express their willingness to do work other than teaching will, it is learned, be asked to assist in A. R. P. and first-aid work or to assist the Emergency Assistant Government Agents in work connected with the food production drive.

Teachers who prefer to continue their teaching work will, wherever possible, be sent out to schools which need additional staff in view of the influx of pupils from the Colombo area into those schools.

Those teachers who elect to do work other than teaching as well as those for whom other teaching appointments can be found, will not suffer any loss of emoluments.

The request made by some schools for financial aid to meet the loss in school-fees occasioned by the drop in attendance has been turned down.

MODIFICATIONS TO FOOD CONTROL SCHEME

Efforts are being made by the Food Control Department to see that people whose employment makes them travel from one food control area to another get their ration of rice without any difficulty.

Apothecaries, engine-drivers and guards of the Ceylon Government Railway, Postmasters who travel with the mails, and commercial travellers will come within this category of workers.

For this class of workers it is proposed that the name of the authorised dealer in rice is not to be mentioned in the ration book. This would enable them to get their rice from any part of the Island.

Arrangements are also being made to see that employers of labour whose labour force numbers either 40 or more are given the privilege to be distributors of rice to that labour force.

Steps are also being taken to provide for the now resident population of estates that have a labour force of 40 and over in a similar manner.

MORE EVACUEES FROM SINGAPORE ARRIVE

Another party of evacuees from Singapore arrived in Colombo on Thursday last. There were over 900, all of whom are European women and children. A large number of them disembarked in the afternoon, and were met by members of the Evacuee Committee on the Jetty.

PURANAS: THEIR PLACE AS RELIGIOUS SCRIPTURES

BY "VYASA"

III

Mahapuranas and their Themes

For a correct understanding of the system of religious thought enunciated in the Puranas, a knowledge of their contents is indispensable. We shall, therefore, give below a brief outline of the contents of the Puranas as grouped according to their religious tenets.

VAISHNAVA PURANAS:

Vishnu Purana

This is one of the most important of the extant Puranas. It belongs to the Pancaratra sect and is the best representative of the whole class of sectarian Puranas, since it is purely Vaishnava in its teaching and yet retains with considerable faithfulness the characteristics of the old non-sectarian Puranas. This is the main work of the Vaishnavas and is frequently quoted as an authority by Sri Ramanujacharya. Vishnu is praised and glorified as the highest being, with whom Brahma and Siva are one. The work is divided into six parts. Contrary to the tradition, which ascribes all the Puranas to Vyasa, Parasara is here directly called the author of the work.

The first book speaks of creation and of many legends including those of Dhruva and Prabalada. It opens with a dialogue between Parasara, the grandson of Vasistha and his pupil Maitreya. Maitreya asks his teacher about the origin and nature of the Universe. Parasara replies by explaining about the universe as he heard from his grandfather Vasistha.

The second book describes the earth, with its seven islands and seven seas and also describe Bharatavarsha and Patala, the planetary system, the sun, the moon etc. This section concludes with the statement that the whole world is but Vishnu and that He alone is the only Reality.

The third book begins with an account of the Manus and the ages over which they ruled. Then follows a discussion on the four Vedas, their division by Vyasa and his pupils and on the origin of the various Vedic Schools. Then comes an enumeration of the eighteen Puranas and a list of all the sciences. The question is raised how one may attain liberation as a devout Vishnu-worshipper. In a dialogue between Yama and one of his servants, it is explained that he who is pure in heart and leads a virtuous life and has directed his mind to Vishnu, is a true Vishnu-worshipper and therefore, is free from the bonds of the god of death. This is followed by an exposition on the duties of the castes and asramas, on birth and marriage ceremonies, ritual ablutions, the daily sacrifices, the duties of hospitality and conduct at meals. The last two chapters of the section describe the origin of the heretical sects hostile to the Veda, whose adherents, especially the Jainas, called Digambara, and the Buddhists known as Raktambaras, are represented as the worst of evil doers.

The fourth book gives us a history of the solar and lunar dynasties and concludes with lists of kings of Magadha, the Saisunagas,

Nandas, Mauryas, Sungas, Kanvayas etc. It also speaks of foreign barbarians and the terrible age brought about by them, an age without religion and morality which will only be ended by Vishnu in his incarnation as Kalki.

The fifth book is specially devoted to an account of Krishna, his boyish tricks, his sports with Gopis and his various deeds in life.

The sixth book deals with the Krita, Treta, Dvapara Yugas and the evil Kali Yuga is described in the form of a prophecy. It inculcates devotion to Vishnu as sufficient to earn salvation for castes and persons, and ends with chapters on Yoga and final emancipation.

Bhagavata Purana

This purana is better known as Srimat Bhagavatam and is considered the holiest of the Puranas by the Vaishnavas. The work begins as usual with cosmogony. Vasudeva is the Supreme and active creator. The work is divided into 12 books. In the third book we have an account of the creation of Brahma, of the Varaha incarnation of Vishnu, and of his incarnation as Kapila, the author of Sankhya Philosophy. Buddha also appears among the incarnations of Vishnu. Traditional stories of Dhruva, Vena, Prithu and Bharata are given in the fourth and fifth books. A variety of legends, intended to inculcate the worship of Vishnu, fill the sixth. The legend of Prabalada is given in the seventh, while numerous other legends are narrated in the eighth. The ninth book narrates the solar and lunar dynasties. Tenth book is entirely devoted to the life of Sri Krishna. The eleventh book describes the destruction of the Yadavas and the death of Krishna. The twelfth book gives the lists of later kings like what is found in the Vishnu Purana. The date of this Purana is said to be not later than 800 A. D.

Brihat Naradiya or Naradiya Purana

This Purana is purely a sectarian work lacking all the characteristics of a Mahapurana. It describes the Vaishnava feasts and ceremonies illustrated by various legends and contains chapters on the glorification of the Ganges, the duties of the castes and asramas, the funeral sacrifices and explanations. It is preeminently a work of Vishnu Bhakti.

Garuda Purana

Garuda, the mythical bird, once worshipped Vishnu and received a boon from him that he would become the author of a Purana Samhita. Consequently, Garuda spoke out the Garuda Purana to Kasyappa. Vishnu then imparted it to Rudra, Brahma and other Gods. Brahma imparted it to Vyasa, Daksa and others. Vyasa to Suta and Suta to the Sages Saunaka and others in the Naimisa Forest.

This Purana consists of two Khandas—Purva and Uttara. It is a work of encyclopaedic character containing almost everything of general interest. In the Purva Khanda there are chapters

PRICE CONTROL FOR ATTA FLOUR

Chillies up by six Cents per lb.

The price of atta flour was controlled from Friday last in view of the increasing demands for this commodity from the general public.

Since the rice rationing scheme came into being the price of atta flour has been gradually going up. With a view to preventing profiteering, it was therefore decided to fix the maximum price at 13 cents per lb.

The retail price of dried chillies has gone up by six cents per lb. in the course of one week. Last Friday the price of this commodity was 20 cents per lb. During the week-end a price order was issued fixing the maximum controlled price at 26 cents per lb. The reason for this rapid increase in price, it is stated, is that Tuticorin season is coming to an end and that dried chillies will not, therefore, be available from there for some months.

During this part of the year dried chillies are generally imported from Calcutta and Singapore that source of supply will not be available. In Calcutta the prices it is stated, have gone up.

The retail price of Bombay onions has, on the other hand, decreased from 12 cents to 9 cents per lb.

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(Mis. 187. 16-2-42.)

on almost all the five themes of the Purana as well as on astronomy, astrology, testing of gems, chiromancy, medicine, grammar, politics, details of the worship of different deities, vows, initiation, holy places, Yoga, knowledge of the Supreme Brahma, and the stories of the Ramayana, Mahabharata and Harivamsa. The Uttara Khanda is a voluminous work and treats of everything connected with death, the dead and the beyond. We find doctrines on the fate of the soul after death, Karma, re birth and release from birth, on omens of death, the Path of Yama, the fate of the Pretas, the torment of the hells, and the pretas as causing evil omens and dreams.

"The contents of the present Garuda", writes Dr. Hazra, "do not conform to the description of the Garuda given in Matsya, the Skanda and the Agni Purana." The Garudana Purana is a Vaishnava Purana. It was compiled with a view to glorify Vishnu and to preach His worship. The methods of the worship of Siva, Durga, Ganesha and Suya also are found in this Purana, but these deities are never given so much importance as Vishnu. They are said to be Vishnu's attendant deities. The date of the Purana is assigned between 800—1000 A. D. The Uttara Khanda is considered a later addition.

THE INSCRIPTIONS

By A. V. Mylvaganam, Royal College

In South India

IT is very late in the history of South India that people began to realize the importance of inscriptions. They have subscribed a fund of information for the reconstruction of Indian history. The Tamil inscriptions range from the 6th to the 16th century and are found scattered all over South India. A few belonging even to the 18th century have been found; but these are of not much importance.

The South Indian inscriptions are very often found on the walls of temples, rocks and mountain caves. But they are seldom found intact, because of the ignorant land-owners and Chettiyars who only cared to rebuild such temples by pulling down the old construction and not read what valuable material they contained. But of late the Epigraphic department has taken care to see that at least the remaining inscriptions are not disfigured or mutilated.

The inscriptions reveal us a good deal about the customs, manners, village government and administration of justice in olden times. We can also judge the literary standard of the common people and of the scribes from the language of the inscriptions. But this is possible only to a certain extent since their language and style of writing vary according to place and time. It also depends on the scribe. But when we come across inscriptions belonging to the same king we see that they are almost the same in form no matter from what part of the kingdom they are obtained.

Question of Language

The dialect of one country is not often understood by another. The scribes who will be well acquainted with the spoken language of their king's court will naturally inscribe in that same language on rocks or temple walls that lie even at the extremities of his kingdom. But the people inhabiting the vicinity of these temples and rocks should not be understood to have spoken that very same language represented by the scribe. Even to-day we can see a Tinnavelian conversing with a Tanjorian without fully understanding every word in their conversation. For example the words கோக்காக்காலி, வெய்வெண, சீனி, etc convey slightly different meanings in these respective areas.

Further, the errors in spelling similar to the substitution of ங for ஞ and ஞ for ஞ should be attributed to the scribe and to none else. The wrong constructions, the liberal use of casual endings, the superfluity in the number of ஆகிய, உடைய and உம், a non-stop complex sentence with innumerable clauses and such other faults are very often met with in the inscriptions. These are to be attributed only to the carvers.

The descriptions of Mamallapuram, Kanchi and Pudakkottai have their meikkirti in Ahaval metre. Though this is generally the rule in all Chola and Pandya inscriptions there are exceptions. Some are in a corrupt Vruttam (விருத்தம்) metre while others are in simple prose. For instance the plates of Mallikarjunan have the meikkirti in prose thus.—கண்டகுண்டு கொண்டு கொண்ட காடு குடாதான், பூழுவதெட்சிண பச்சிடி உத்திர சந்த சமுத்திராதிபதி

etc—No doubt these encomiums have been worded by some learned person in the palace of the King. But the grammatical errors are evidently not his. The rest of the inscription will be dictated to the scribe, or the main points might be given to him and he is obliged to use the little vocabulary at his command to express those ideas. Hence we see that in the inscriptions after the Meikkirti the prose is different, base and often full of errors.

Nature of Inscriptions

We now give a general idea of the nature of the inscriptions. These are known by various names sasana, prasasti (order) Kalvettu etc. The text is generally written by the chief minister and handed over to the king for his approval. The King seldom goes through the entire script but is satisfied with the Meikkirti which contain the encomiums about him and his dynasty. After the 11th century these too have been written in prose. The edicts of Raja Raja I commence with the auspicious words "திருமகன் போலப் பெருநிலச் செவ்வியும்" and those of Rajendra commence with "திருமன்னிவகா இருநில மடந்தையும்" etc. But the Cochin plates of the Puttu Vaippu Era begin differently. They have அருளிச் செய்து etc. as their headline. It is worthy of note that in all the inscriptions belonging to the same king, the headlines do not differ very much. The later inscriptions of Puttu-Kottai belong to one king seem to vary a little from the earlier ones belonging to the same king.

One Chain of Ideas

The inscriptions contain one chain of ideas shuffled into a single sentence often long and unyieldly. We come across a superfluous use of casual endings like இல், கு and ஆல் in them. Further, the Medial particles உம், ஆகி ஆகிய a'ong with குறிச் சொமகி, குறித்து etc are found to occur in abundance. ஆது and ஆந்து also occur but in rare cases. The language of these inscriptions is peculiar. We do not find the like of these in any contemporary literature. Possibly, many colloquial words that were in use in those times have crept into this piece of literature.

The dropping of letters (கெடுதல் விகாரம்) the phonetic changes, the variations of அ/ஆ, க/கய, ச/ச, ச/ய etc are well marked. The occurrence of ஃ at the beginning of a word is an outcome of Sanskrit influence. There is no inscription without the use of at least a few Sanskrit words and one or two Grantha characters. In most of them the Meikkirti starts with the salutation ஸ/ஸி, ஸி/சி, ஸீ and proceeds with a number of Sanskrit attributes to the King.

Certain words seem to have had slightly different meaning in the inscriptions. The words ஊர், சகரம், and ஶாடு, for example, seem to have conveyed a different meaning in those days. They were invariably used to mean the people in the village, city or country and not directly the places they signified. That is, the synecdoche of place (இடவா குடுபயர்,) has been more in vogue than the simple direct Noun (பெயர்ச் சொல்) Reference to this may be

SAMOOGA SEVAI SANGAM VANNARPONNAI

The Hon. Secretary of the above Sangam writes:—

The following telegram was received from our Patron, Mr. G. G. Ponnambalam, M. S. C. in reply to the request made by us through our President.

Our Telegram

Ponnambalam
Gitanjali
Colombo.

Hopper women and rice boutique keepers ceased work by rice ration. Sangam requests you represent and obtain relief to starving thousands.

Karalasingam
President.

The Reply

Proctor Karalasingham,
Vannarponnai,
Jaffna.

Minister authorises uncouped issue of local raw rice any quantity for hopper women and tea boutique keepers. If traders refuse apply Government Agent for permission immediately. Inform develop-

Ponnambalam M.S.C.

MATRIMONIAL

MANICKA IDAIKKADAR—SIVAMANGALAM

The marriage took place on Wednesday the 28th January, 1942, at No. 126, Bandarawela Road, Badulla, of Mr N. Manicka Idaikkadar, C. C. S., son of the late Mr. T. Nagamuttu and Mrs. Nagamuttu of Vannarponnai, Jaffna, and Miss Sivamangalam, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. K. Sinnappu of "Lakshmiavilla," Kuala Lumpur.

The ceremonies were performed according to Hindu rites.

A largely attended reception was held at the residence of Dr. Thamotheram, the uncle of the bride-groom the same day.

The toast of the couple was proposed by Mr. J. R. Walters, M. A., Government Agent, Uva, to which the bridegroom replied. (Cor.)

found in the Puthu Kottai Sasanam e.g. செரிஞ்சிக்குடி ஊர் இசைத்த ஊரோம் etc. It should be noted here that ஊர் does not refer to all the inhabitants but to the select few who are elected to execute the minor legal duties of the village.

The Chola inscriptions have one peculiarity. We do not find the use of இ or ஊ in them. When such words containing these letters occur, they are often substituted by the short இ and உ. For example, சிழப்பாந்தென்னை, ஆழர்க்கோட்டம் etc. As in Ola Manuscripts so in Sasanas, we meet with letters which can be construed in many ways. For example, 'செ' may mean any one of the following செ, சே, செர், சேர், செர, சேர, and so forth. Hence a word like செணர் will be written in the form செணா—and it is up to the person who decipherers it to interpret it to the best of his knowledge in keeping with the context.

This will give us an idea of what an amount of difficulty the publishers of Sangam works have to undergo in reading from the originals.

JAFFNA TRADERS' CHAMBER, KANDY

ADDRESS ON AIR RAID PRECAUTION

Under the auspices of the Jaffna Traders' Chamber Dr. S. Ariyaratnam, the School Medical Officer delivered a lecture on air raid precautions, at The Central Hindu College Hostel hall, on the 7th instant.

Before the lecture commenced the Chamber passed a resolution to the effect that all profiteering should be checked and that steps should be taken to render all possible help to the people in distress especially on account of the war conditions.

Dr. Ariyaratnam in the course of his lecture said that it was useless to think and talk of the grand air raid shelters in countries like Britain and America, but that it was wise to utilise the small materials at our disposal to do something at least to safeguard our lives in case there was an air raid, which he hoped was quite unlikely. Constructing proper trenches, and flocking to rooms without windows would be a means of safety; and all glass doors and windows should be replaced or pasted with paper to prevent glass pieces from flying about and injuring persons within when a bomb exploded. They should also make it a practice not to run into streets with curiosity when an aeroplane is seen. Finally a knowledge of first aid would be of considerable importance and help, and he advised the Chamber to have necessary medicines etc. of their own in their own shops as well as for the people at large. He also advised the traders not to be frightened and discontinue their business.

The Doctor enumerated these in detail and later explained certain doubts, about which questions were asked. The meeting terminated with a vote of thanks proposed by Mr. P. Suppiab. (Cor.)

NORTHERN PROVINCE TEACHERS' PROVIDENT SOCIETY

The Eighth Annual General Meeting of the above Society was held at the Jaffna Central College on the 7th inst. at 10-30 a. m. The President, Mr. J. W. Arudpiragasam, B. A. presided.

The Secretary's report showed that the total number of members was 325. The Treasurer's statement of accounts and balance sheet revealed a sum of Rs. 47081/35 to the credit of the members.

The election of Office-bearers for 1942 resulted as follows:—

President: Mr. J. W. Arudpiragasam, (re-elected), Vice-President: Mr. S. Swaminathan, B. A., (re-elected), Secretary: Mr. S. P. Rasiab (re-elected), Asst. Secretary: Pundit K. Thambapillai (re-elected), Treasurer: Mr. P. Thambub (re-elected).

Committee: Messrs. A. C. Sundrampillai, B. A. (re-elected), T. V. Chellappah (re-elected), S. V. Elyathamby (re-elected); S. K. Rasiab (re-elected); K. Subramaniam, B. A. (re-elected); A. Ponniah (re-elected); S. Karthigayer (re-elected); K. V. Atmanathasarma (re-elected); M. Vythilingam and A. Elyathamby: (Cor.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Sir,—Adverting to my letter of the 1st January, 1942 on the above subject, which appeared in the "Hindu Organ" of the 8th idem, I wish to submit certain facts for the information of the public and for the attention of the Department.

I wrote to the Director of education that if Mr. Swaminathan's appointment to the said school (Thaddateru Tamil Mixed) as Manager be not cancelled, I would represent matters to the Minister of Education and if necessary to the Governor. The Director did not reply. In the meantime, as the attendance of the pupils fell below 100, one trained teacher had to be discontinued. I represented matters to the Divisional Inspector and suggested that the head teacher Rajaratnam be discontinued. Though he desired this, he left the matter to the manager who recommended the discontinuance of another teacher Sabapathy who is the son-in-law of the proprietor, I made the said suggestion for the good of the school as the head teacher and his wife should not be in the same school as the former treated the latter with undue partiality in that he allowed her to attend school late, to go home early, to go home and stay there long during the interval, to rest during periods while he took her class &c. &c. According to the recommendation of the Manager, asst. teacher Sabapathy was discontinued. However the Divisional Inspector, it appears, thought that for the good of the school the head teacher and his wife should not be kept in the school and advised the Manager to transfer the head teacher to one of the other schools under his management and to retire his wife as she is sickly suffering from asthma and consequently inefficient. No steps have so far been taken though there was a rumour that the head teacher was to be transferred to a school at Kopsy. Incidentally it may be mentioned that all the teachers were found unsatisfactory at the last inspection and were all punished by stoppage of increments of the head teacher and an assistant and reduction of the salary of the head teacher's wife and fine for another teacher. In all the above circumstances it is very essential that the head teacher and his wife should not be allowed to remain in the school. The head teacher should either be transferred or his wife be condemned and retired at the earliest opportunity.

K. SIVAPRAGASAM.

Van-West,
3-2-42.

LOCAL ASSISTANT COMMITTEE CHANKANAI

Sir,—Will you please give publicity to the following:—

Eight public meetings were held in the Changanai Parish comprising about 23,000 inhabitants. The A. R. P. Controller, the Chief warden, A. G. A. the lecturer of the Agricultural Farm School and other prominent men addressed the meetings. The meetings were held under the auspices of the Local Assistance Committee.

The following resolutions are on the Agenda of the Committee meet-

PROTEST MEETING AT POINT PEDRO

Point Pedro, Tuesday.

Pursuant to a notice signed by some Lawyers and two pensioners, a meeting to protest against the decision of the Executive Committee of Local Administration to convert the Sanitary Board area of Point Pedro into Village Committee Area, a big hostile crowd assembled in a very orderly manner at the Sithivenayagar School Hall on Sunday the 8th inst. 4-30 p. m. to vote the conveners down. Seeing the hostile crowd Mr. N. Sivagnanasundram, the chief convener announced that the conveners were abandoning the meeting as Mr. G. G. Ponnambalam, the member for Point Pedro, had sent a communication to the meeting asking upon himself the responsibility for the Executive Committee's decision. (con.)

STATE COUNCIL SUMMONED BY THE GOVERNOR

H. E. The Governor has by a proclamation in the Gazette Extraordinary summoned a meeting of the State Council for 10 a. m. on Thursday.

It will be remembered that when the Council resumed after lunch on Friday last it was found that there was no quorum despite the fact that several important matters, including a war risks insurance bill, awaited disposal. The Speaker fixed the next meeting for February 24th.

ing that is to be held on the 14th instant at 4 p. m.

(1) That the A. R. P. measures formulated by the authorities for the Parish are extremely unsatisfactory and that ways and means be found to provide adequate shelters.

(2) All the Members of the Committee who are physically fit are urged to apply to enrol themselves as special Police Officers with a view to maintain Law and Order.

(3) That Agricultural Associations be formed in each village with a view to improve existing agricultural methods, cattle breeding, poultry farming &c with the assistance of the Government.

(4) That Prison labour for agricultural work be employed, housing the prisoners at suitable centres in huttid camps under minimum security conditions.

(5) With a view to help the peasants and reduce the enormous man power which is estimated to be roughly 24,000 hours a day, wasted in the Courts of the Jaffna Peninsula this Committee urges the Government to increase the working hours of all Courts by one hour in the morning and one hour in the evening. In the emergency of the time, the Committee feels that all concerned must undergo some hardships.

(6) To do away with the levies made in the markets for cultivated products.

(7) To do away with the practices of the middle-men in the markets and if necessary to introduce a license system for brokers.

(8) To consider the election of Head Warden, Casualty and Rescue Officers, 20 Sectional Wardens and 300 Volunteers for the Parish.

Yours truly,

S. VYDIALINGAM.

Actg. Secretary, Local Asst. Committee, Chankanai. Village Committee Office, Chankanai, 12th February 1942.

HOW BRITAIN IS TAKING IT

Continued from page 1

dustmen that the public will do their best with co-operation, that salvage benefits both rich and poor, employer and employed alike. Our dustmen's attitude towards us, by the way, was a little dubious at first, but when they realised that we were not there as sort of Gestapo spies but to ease their task for them too, we became the best of friends, and most of them are very decent fellows. We are not supposed to know it, but they call us the 'S. S. Girls' or 'Salvage Sallies'.

I find that a good many complaints date back to some concrete case—an unsatisfactory dustman, perhaps, who has long since been dismissed—but which has rankled ever since. My job then becomes that of a psychologist, and I encourage the injured party to get his or her grievance out of their system once and for all by letting them grumble ad lib. at me, before promising efficient and courteous treatment in future, and tactfully suggesting the best way to secure this.

I was frankly nervous when I first started my work as to the kind of reception I would get, but, although I have interviewed about 80 to a 150 people a day for weeks on end, I have encountered kindness and civility practically wherever I have gone. Our borough is rich in variety, for it includes historic Kensington Palace (scene of Queen Victoria's famous six o'clock call), 'Millionaires' Row', foreign legations, de luxe modern flats, tall and derelict Victorian houses, homes of celebrities with world renowned names—I was green with jealousy over one of my colleague's haul of tins from Epstein himself—and some of the poorest tenements in North Kensington. I was warned that these slums were particularly 'tough' and approached them with trepidation. I found their inmates warmer-hearted and more human than almost any other district, and have spent some of my happiest days among them. They haven't much to give in these days of paper shortage and limited tinned goods, but they have a very practical realisation of the value of salvage, and organise their 'widow's mite' with pride.

The Courageous Poor

I should like to add I never cease wondering at the courage of these poor people. Bombed sometimes two and three times they gather up what is left of their humble possessions, and start again in some dank and dark basement. 'Salvage Miss?' they say to me, 'if it's going to beat that there Hitler we'll put it out!' And some of them put up a really remarkable show under drab conditions. In a particularly sordid street I came across a minute garden crammed with flowers including hydrangeas and cosmos, and

A. R. P. WORK IN JAFFNA

LACK OF ENTHUSIASM DEPLORED

Although propaganda work had been going on for nearly a month the enthusiasm shown and the interest taken by the educated people in the urban area was sadly deficient, was the observation made by the A. R. P. Controller, Jaffna, (Mr. A. J. R. Vethavanam) speaking at a special meeting of the Rotary Club Jaffna held at the Jaffna resthouse on Wednesday last.

The speaker also deplored the fact that not a single woman had so far given her name for A. R. P. Work and appealed for volunteers, both men and women, for civil defence work.

Mr. Justice Cannon, speaking next stressed the fact that the secret of the A. R. P. organisation was dedication. The A. R. P. was an organisation for the protection of the people and that fact should be realised by all.

Mr. R. R. Nalliah, Chief Air Raid Warden expressed disappointment that only thirty people had responded to the appeal made for Wardens in the urban area. They required two hundred to act as Wardens.

Mr. M. Prasad presided at the meeting.

NO QUORUM AGAIN

JAFFNA U.C. DEADLOCK CONTINUES

There was again no quorum for the meeting of the Jaffna Urban Council fixed on the 13th inst. We understand that only four members including the Chairman, attended the meeting.

above a window-box full of yet more flowers, a Cape canary singing cheerily in a gilded cage. The owner, a grey-haired woman with a shining rosy face, showed me also her back kitchen garden, in which she had produced at least a dozen different kinds of vegetables in a few square feet, and had even coaxed a stunted apple tree to grow and bear one solitary but glorious apple! Needless to say, her salvage arrangements were perfect, and I went away feeling Hitler might beat many things, but never the spirit of the British housewife.

Most of these housewives have got to know their 'salvage lady', as they call me, and to treat her as a friend, and I find myself advising not only on salvage, but on children's ailments, matrimonial troubles, sanitation, and a hundred other domestic problems. I feel I must put it on record that bachelors and 'grass widowers' are especially good about their salvage—is it that men organise better than women, I wonder?—and 'Grannie', having sat useless in the chimney corner, has not only emerged triumphant to 'mind' the grandchildren while 'Mother' does war work, but finds she can do her bit with salvage too, and is happier and busier than she has been for years. Children are also excellent salvage workers, mercilessly bullying 'Dad' for cigarette packets, and 'Mum' for tins and waste paper.

"Greta Garbage"

It's very funny, but I'm never allowed to forget salvage even in

Continued on page 6

JAPANESE SOLDIER'S BATTLE DRESS

LARGE AMOUNT OF EQUIPMENT CARRIED

The American Magazine "Time," describes the average Japanese soldier's battle dress as follows:

In battle dress, a Japanese soldier looks like a badly-wrapped brown-paper package. His legs are too short, his pants are baggy, his leggings droop, his tunic is loose, his kit askew. He wears muddy leather shoes. He may have on a sweater or messy fatigue clothes. But the sloppiness is misleading. For his size, this man-weapon carries an extraordinary amount of equipment. His 25-calibre rifle or machine-gun is light, accurate to 1,000 yards. He can carry 400 rounds of its little bullets, twice as many as the load of large bullets, the larger U. S. trooper totes. He carries a bayonet, a canteen, helmet with a little gold star on it. He carries five days' rations of rice and sardines, tends his own cooking.

Physically, he is as tough as he is unhandsome. From the top of his shaved head to the bottom of his splaytoed feet he is hard. His buttocks are big with marching. His arms are strong; he can dig himself into a shallow trench quickly, neatly. His eyes are generally good; there is no physical reason why his aim should not be clean. He walks like a duck, runs like a man cut off at the knees.

ORDER NISI

IN THE DISTRICT COURT
OF JAFFNA

Testamentary Jurisdiction
No. 875

In the matter of the estate of the late
Thangamuttu wife of Visuvalingam
of Manipay. Deceased.

Vs.

1. Visuvalingam Kanagasabapathy of do now of P. W. D. Ragalla
2. Visuvalingam Ratnasabapathy of Hindustan Construction Company of Trincomalee
3. Kacapathipillai Kandiah and wife
4. Sivagnanam both of Chilaw and
5. Poomany daughter of Visuvalingam of Manipay.

Respondents.

This matter coming on for disposal before C. Coomaraswamy Esquire, District Judge Jaffna, on the 27th of May, 1940, in the presence of Mr. V. S. Somasuntharam, Proctor on the part of the petitioner and the affidavit of the petitioner having been read; It is ordered that the abovenamed 1st Respondent be appointed guardian-ad-litem over the minor 5th Respondent and that the petitioner be declared entitled to have Letters of Administration to the estate of the abovenamed deceased unless the Respondents or any other person or persons interested shall appear before this court on the 21st day of August, 1940, and state objection or show cause to the contrary.

This 9th day of July, 1940.
(Sgd.) C. Coomaraswamy,
District Judge.

Time to show cause extended
to 25th February, 1942.
(O. 65. 12 & 16-2-42.)

HOW BRITAIN IS TAKING IT

Continued from page 5

my private life! My theatre friends all know me now as 'Greta Garbage', and wherever I go complete strangers from Hampstead and Chelsea, Aberdeen and Torquay and Cardiff, when they hear what my job is, tackle me about their salvage problems at tea and dinner and sherry parties. At a recent rather smart war wedding I saw puzzled glances coming the war of another guest and myself enthusiastically talking refuse over the champagne!

During our fortnight Salvage Drive we advisers concentrated chiefly on persuading shops and firms to part with dusty files and ledgers which have lain in attics and cellars for years, now unnecessarily tempting incendiary bombs. These documents are treated strictly confidentially and we arrange special collections for them. One old-established firm produced, besides ledgers, about fifty large army biscuit tins, which had lain in a shed since the last war, and which the owners were, at my suggestion, quite relieved to be rid of at last.

Private individuals brought out incredible amounts of hoarded rubbish, as well as articles of sentimental and intrinsic value, including beautifully bound volumes, a packet of love letters from a woman in Dorset, a delicate lace Edwardian sunshade, a Crimean medal. And a little boy brought his tin top to one of our salvage shops himself and a keel if it would help to kill Hitler.

But it is our regular weekly collection of salvage that counts, and it is interesting to know that our paper returns alone have gone up 100% since we three started our activities. I personally find it a most satisfying job for war time; you see, every bit of salvage we bring in means shipping space and sailors' lives saved, and the elimination of future possible Dunkirks and Cretes. We are literally fighting the Battle of the Atlantic on the dustbins as well as on the sea. I need not add we are going to win in both places.

ORDER NISI

IN THE DISTRICT COURT
OF JAFFNA
Testamentary Jurisdiction
No. 1107T

In the matter of the estate of the late
Thaiyalnayagam wife of Veerakathi
Chelliah of Changanai. Deceased

Vs.

Pethachippillai widow of Vaithilingam
Vallipuram of Changanai.

Respondent.

This matter of the petition coming on for disposal before C. Coomaraswamy Esquire, District Judge, Jaffna on the 9th day of January 1942 in the presence of Mr. R. Kannudurey, Proctor, on the part of the petitioner and the petition and affidavit of the petitioner having been read it is ordered that the petitioner be granted letters of administration to the estate of the late Thaiyalnayagam wife of Veerakathi Chelliah unless the respondent shall show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this court to the contrary on or before the 18th day of February 1942.

This 20th day of January, 1942.
(Sgd.) C. Coomaraswamy,
District Judge.
(O. 66. 12 & 16-2-42.)

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