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NEWS FROM FAR AND NEAR

Food Supplies From India

The Ceylon Government has it is learned, received certain assurances from the Government of India with regard to the supplies of foodstuffs to be made available for export from India to this country.

Food Production

A proposal has been made that the staffs of the Tea Research Institute and the Rubber and Coconut Research Schemes should abandon their experiments for the duration of the war and concentrate their attention on food production work.

It is stated, so far as the Rubber Research Scheme is concerned, that its technical staff has been reduced from six to two and that if the staff is to be requisitioned for food production work the long-term experiments, which extend over a period of ten years, would have to be abandoned.

It is understood that the services of all the small-holding inspectors are to be utilised for food production work as the Department of Agriculture does not have an adequate staff of agricultural instructors for the proposed intensive food-drive.

Building Materials Controlled

An Order made by the Governor under the Defence Regulations and published in a Gazette Extraordinary on Saturday declared pig iron galvanized sheets, expanded metal and various types of steel goods to be controlled articles.

A further Order called the Building Control Order, 1942, provides that no person shall commence to erect, or proceed with the erection of any bridge or building in the construction of which he proposes to use controlled iron and steel of or above the value of Rs. 250 except under authority of a permit granted by the Controller of Imports.

It also prohibits the erection without a permit of any building of two or more storeys, or any single-storeyed building the estimated cost of which is more than Rs. 10,000.

A third Order under the Defence Regulations declares articles falling within the description of "electric wire and cables" to be controlled articles.

FACE DANGER WITH CALMNESS

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF'S APPEAL TO INDIA

THE following is the statement of His Excellency General Sir Alan Hartley, Commander-in-chief, in the Council of State, India, on the 18th inst:-

"Sir, as one who has served in the Indian Army for nearly forty years, and whose proud privilege it is to conclude that service as Commander-in-Chief, it is, as hon'ble members must appreciate, a source of great pride and satisfaction to have seen that army acquit itself with outstanding distinction in this greatest war of all time. Unlike my two distinguished predecessors, I have not, so far, had the opportunity of seeing or commanding formations of British and Indian troops from this country in the actual fields of operations against the Axis. But, many of the units whose skill and determination were, in a large part, responsible for some of the most outstanding victories achieved by the British Commonwealth in the Middle East, previously served with me on our North-West Frontier. I know them, and I know the stuff of which they are made, and I never doubted that their performance would fail to equal that of any of their comrades in the field.

"Events have moved fast and far since my predecessor, General Wavell, in last November, gave an account, to this house, of the achievements of Indian troops in the various theatres of war. A few days after he spoke to you last November, General Auchinleck struck at the German and Italian armoured strength arrayed on the borders of Cyrenaica. It was the first offensive in the shape of an armoured and aerial blitz, which the Commonwealth has been in a position to launch since the war began. Scarcely three weeks later Japan, while talking peace, dealt those heavy and treacherous blows which spread the flames of war to the Far East. On both the fronts, which as you know we have always alluded to as the bastions of India's defence, and which, as long as they are securely held, prevent active warfare

reaching the shores of India, Indian and British formations from this country were immediately involved. But while to the West, our troops repeated the triumphs of 'Sidi Barrani, East Africa, Syria, Iraq and Iran, those in the East were exposed to the concentrated might of a great and long prepared military and naval Power.

Indian Troops' Heroism in Malaya

"The self-sacrifice and the heroism of those from India who fought step by step as they withdrew, in the face of overwhelming odds, on the Malayan Peninsula, merit no less recognition than the great part played by the 4th Indian Division in North Africa.

The hon'ble members will not expect me to describe in detail the actions in which the 4th Indian Division so distinguished itself in the battle with General Rommel. Suffice it to say that the Division never failed to achieve the successive objectives for which it was made responsible. The reduction of Sidi Omar and Libyan Omar, the battle of Bir el Gubi, and the final full-dress action in the vicinity of Gazala represented the four main stages, from the Division's point of view, of the giant operation, which broke the hold which the Axis then had in Cyrenaica.

"It is fitting too, I conceive, that due recognition should be given on the floor of this House to the magnificent fighting spirit and achievements in this particular operation of the the British Battalions and British Gunners with the 4th Indian Division. The Royal Sussex Regiment at Sidi Omar, the Camerons at El Gubi, and the stand of the Buffs at Gazala, were outstanding contributors to the success and to the high tradition of the 4th Indian Division. Nor must we forget the artillery. In many respects, the battle in Cyrenaica turned out to be a gunners' battle, and to them goes no small share of the credit for

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"GIVE FREEDOM TO INDIA"

MAR CHIANG'S MESSAGE

Calcutta, Saturday.

A suggestion to the Indian people that at this critical moment in the history of civilization, the people of China and India should exert themselves to the utmost in the cause of freedom for all mankind was made by Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek in a farewell message to the Indian people today. The Generalissimo added that should freedom be denied to either India or China, there would be no real peace in the world. He hoped and believed that Britain, without waiting for any demand on the part of the Indian people, would as speedily as possible give them real political power so that they would be in a position further to develop their spiritual and material strength, thus realising their participation in the war not merely to aid in the fight against aggression, but also to realise a turning point in their struggle for their own freedom.

"My farewell message", said Generalissimo Chiang, "is an expression of my high and warm regard and long cherished hopes for India. It comes from the depth of my heart". Continuing, he said:

"Now is the crucial moment for the whole future of mankind. Any people which joins the anti-aggression front may be said to co-operate not with any particular country, but with the entire front. This leads us to believe that the Pacific war is a turning-point in the history of nationalism. The method by which the peoples of the world could attain their freedom might be different from what it used to be. The anti-aggression nations now expect in this new era that the people of India will voluntarily bear a full share of the responsibility for the present struggle for survival and for a free world in which India must play her part.

"The vast majority of the world's opinion is in full sympathy with India's aspirations for freedom. This sympathy which is so valuable and so difficult to obtain cannot be appraised in terms of money or

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Hindu Organ.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1942

AMERICA, INDIA, AND THE WAR

THE PRESIDENT OF THE United States has once more given the victims of aggression a pledge that the resources of his country will ultimately triumph and that this triumph will bring once more to the ravaged nations the freedom, peace and prosperity they had lost. He has also outlined, in the plainest language, the broad lines as well as the objective of American strategy. We have great faith in this pledge; we have great faith in this strategy; and we are profoundly convinced that the people of the United States are sincere lovers of that freedom and those free institutions which Germany and her Allies are out to destroy. The spirit of a great revolution against the tyranny of a British King and his advisers gave birth to the American nation of today, and the institutions of the United States are the embodiment of that spirit. It is but fitting that the birthday of the great leader of the American Revolution should have been chosen by Mr. Roosevelt as the occasion for his latest message of faith and hope.

We are confident that future events will justify the faith of the American President, and that Japan will pay dearly for her folly, not because she is an Asiatic Power, but because she is waging war on the freedom of the world. But the defeat of Japan will not by itself suffice to make the world safe for freedom. We look to the Government and people of the United States to see to it that the spirit of the great Declaration of their ancestors, the spirit of Washington and Jefferson, shall henceforth determine the status, rights and obligations of countries like India and Ceylon who are being told for the first time during the last one hundred years that they must look to their own defence. If this is the case, where is the necessity for the well-paid but utterly incompetent hierarchy which made itself responsible for our welfare? The system must go, and it is the duty of the United States to see that it goes before it works further mischief. As Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru has said, the people of India and Ceylon are not birds of passage. This is their country and they have got to live in it whatever happens. The British Prime Minister will do well to recognise these facts before it is again too late.

JAFFNA URBAN COUNCIL

Hitherto we had refrained from commenting on the affairs of the Jaffna Urban Council because we felt that most of the moves in the inner circle of the Council on more than one recent occasion centred round two personal issues—a promise given by the present Chairman to Mr. K. Ayadurai that the former would resign the Chairmanship at the end of one year, and secondly a perfectly natural desire on the part of the malcontents who had failed to secure the Chairmanship to get rid of the present Chairman at the earliest possible opportunity. These were the factors which, coupled with the withdrawal of the Chairman from the meeting which discussed the motion of no-confidence facilitated the passing of that motion. We are aware that other allegations were made against the Chairman, but these allegations can only be proved or disproved, as the case may be, at some such inquiry as that provided by the Urban Councils Ordinance. It is impossible to draw any inferences from these allegations in the absence of such proof. An interesting situation, however, arose on the passing of the no-confidence motion. Would the Chairman resign? Parliamentary tradition required that he should resign.

In the meantime the Chairman's opponents thought another turn of the screw might produce quicker results and accordingly they began to absent themselves from the meetings of the Council which had to be adjourned for want of a quorum. The public noted the move and fully understood that its object was to force the dissolution of the Council. Much as we dislike the methods adopted, we would have welcomed a dissolution which would have had the effect of restoring everybody to the *status quo ante* and in the new atmosphere thereby created, free from entangling promises, the Council would have had no difficulty in electing a Chairman who would be able to command the confidence of its members. The present Chairman himself is a man of the highest character but it is not for him to be judge in his own cause as long as the law leaves the election of a Chairman to the Council.

But, some of the members of the Council certainly overreached themselves when they absented themselves from the special meeting of the Council which had been convened to consider motions relating to the provision of adequate air raid shelters and to vote a sum of Rs. 5000 for fire-fighting apparatus. The meeting had to be abandoned for want of a quorum. They could have

attended the meeting under protest, and contributed their advice to the solution of the problem of shelters which has now become a matter of pressing urgency. The panic in Colombo which, in our opinion is quite unjustifiable, has communicated itself to the urban population of Jaffna. There is even talk of evacuation. People are getting unnecessarily alarmed over the possibility of incendiary bombs setting fire to our cadjan fences running practically from one end of the town to the other. For our part, for reasons which must be clear to any observant mind, we are of the opinion that, for the present, the dire prospects that present themselves vividly to the imagination of these people have no foundation in fact. But the fear and the panic, however, still remain, and they seem to grow from day to day.

Such is the situation in which men whose first concern should be the safety of the public choose to absent themselves from a meeting which was to have devised measures calculated not only to ensure the safety of the public but also to allay the fears of the populace. As we have said, the absentees could have attended the meeting under protest without loss of prestige or principle. Instead, they chose to advise the Chairman by correspondence as to what he should do. The conduct of these members is all the more reprehensible in view of the fact that one of them, Mr. R. R. Nalliah, is the Chief Air Raid Warden for Jaffna Town. Mr. Nalliah is a public man of great experience and we regret very much that he should have so far forgotten the responsibilities of his position as to refuse to attend the meeting. We need hardly say that the conduct of the members in question constitutes a grave dereliction of public duty and a standing reproach to the Tamils of Jaffna. It is not a light thing that the Jaffna Urban Council, which is one of the leading local bodies in the island, should be reduced, by the action of its own members, to its present position of miserable impotence in the face of the greatest danger that confronts Ceylon after a century of almost idyllic peace and prosperity.

On the controversy which has led to the present *impasse* we wish to say as little as possible. It would not, however, be amiss to point out to the Chairman that he owes a duty to himself and the public in the new situation that has arisen. It is quite evident that he is no longer in a position to command the support of a working majority in the Council. The only course open to him, in all the circumstances, is to resign the Chairmanship, and leave the Council to its own devices.

WHAT THEN MUST BE DONE?

By
R. Sivapathasundram

THAT the recalcitrant disposition of the Emergency Officers attached to Kachcheries in agricultural districts is not sufficiently stimulating the industry of Food Production through the different Local Assistance Committees that are supposedly functioning under their wings for nearly two months is distressingly evident from the absence of even a semblance of change in the nature and extent of the usual "money crops" due primarily to the pathetic lack of timely propaganda instructing the peasants—what to grow and what not to grow, when to idle and when not to idle, where to get their seeds, cuttings, cereals etc, how to protect their crops from thieving man and straying cattle—on these and other matters very vital to the success of any scheme of Food Production. Surely an enterprise of this nature to receive a sustaining stimulus must be related to the cultivators who alone are real producers. All others are bumptious self-seekers struggling to obtain meaningless publicity even during times of exasperating uncertainty of our food situation.

The Headman's Role

IT is chimerical to expect the minor and Chief headmen to perform diligently these arduous and full-time duties in addition to their official distractions. The whole country is very painfully conscious of the myopic muddle the Government made of the simple issue of Rice Coupons which was further exploited by driving helpless consumers to the clutches of dealers whose only qualifying grace was they were personally known to some miserable headmen with no more conscience than foxes in poultry farms. If experiences count for anything then it is time that the authorities effected a sensible division of labour by opening up agricultural centres under the charge of Local Assistance Committees who should be directly responsible to Emergency Officers. Which is more expedient? A single headman to survey the economic needs and then distribute materials to encourage production in his division or ten local assistance committee members to do the very job? Which is less liable to breed corruption? The close privilege of one or the prying eyes of many? Which is a louder propaganda? The wailing voice of one headman or the growing voices of ten members of a Committee? Which is a more exhaustive and surer survey revealing the ownership, extent and situation of all cultivable lands lying today uncultivated and the causes thereof? The survey of one hookworm ridden headman or that of ten members? In short, who is a more intelligent and practical Emergency Officer worth the taxpayer's penny? He who sits at leisure entrusting the headman with the pressing national duty of increasing our Food Production or he who divides this job between ten just men of a local Assistance Committee? Does not this distribution of activities, because of greater skill, economy of

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Opinions expressed by writers in contributed articles do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor.

NO QUORUM FOR THIRD TIME

Jaffna U. C. And A. R. P.

THE five members of the Jaffna Urban Council who had expressed no confidence in the Chairman sent letters to the Secretary of the Council on Monday authorising expenditure on emergency measures just before a special meeting, convened by the Chairman (Mr. R. Sivagunathar), was to be held to consider air raid precautions.

The meeting had to be abandoned for want of a quorum, only two members Messrs. S. Arulanandam and V. S. Ramanathan, besides the Chairman, being present. This was the third meeting abandoned since the motion of no confidence was passed.

The nominated members, Messrs. V. Suppiah and S. C. Pathirana, in a letter to the Secretary, stated that Rs. 5,000 had been sanctioned by the Council for expenditure on emergency measures but no action had been taken yet except for belated cutting of trenches in the Council premises. The letter suggested that trenches should be dug in the market areas, in the premises of the courts, churches, temples, mosques and other crowded places; that the oil installations be removed elsewhere; and that schemes be prepared for evacuating poor people, especially those resident in the Karayur slum area.

The letter also suggested that as the Council had a surplus of more than Rs. 66,000, Rs. 15,000 should be left in the hands of the Local Defence Committee for expenditure on measures to protect life, limb and property in Jaffna, or in the alternative, the expenditure of Rs. 15,000 on the said measures should be authorised. Also, a fire engine should be bought for Rs. 5,000.

The other three members, Messrs. R. R. Nalliah, C. Ponnambalam and K. Aiyadurai, also sent a letter authorising the expenditure of monies on emergency measures and for the purchase of fire fighting apparatus.

FEWER & SLOWER TRAINS

A new railway time-table will be issued about the middle of next month.

Special trains will be reduced, to conserve rolling stock and other material, and skeleton services will run on sections where there is normally little traffic. On the main line, the number of trains will be more or less the same as at present.

The Jaffna night mail will leave Colombo Fort half an hour in advance of the present time. Similarly the departure of the Talaimannar train from Colombo has been advanced by 50 minutes. It will leave Colombo Fort at 7.25 p. m. instead of 8.15 p. m.

PETROL CUT LIKELY

Motorists might well be prepared for a further reduction in their petrol rations next month. The Petrol Controller, Mr. J. N. Arumugam, gave this information to a reporter of "The Times of Ceylon". He did not, however, think that it would be a "drastic cut". It is not likely that next month's cut will affect the motor lorries and omnibuses. The Petrol Controller is now preparing the lists for the issue of coupons for next month from the last day of February.

WAR THREAT TO INDIA

DELHI SPOKESMAN'S SURVEY

New Delhi, Feb. 18.

"WAR is now definitely at India's doors and we may have a difficult time in India for the next few months until the daily growing strength of the Allies makes itself felt and we take to the offensive," observed a military spokesman.

He declared: It has been pointed out on many occasions that the year 1942, especially the first six or eight months, would probably be a critical period in this war. Two major factors which we have been watching for some time contributed to the present situation, namely, Germany's attack on Russia affecting the position in the Middle East and the entry of Japan into the war.

When Germany attacked Russia, things looked quite possible as if Germany would succeed before winter came in overrunning the Ukraine, capturing Leningrad, Moscow and Rostov, bottling up the Baltic and preventing supplies to Russia from the north reaching their destination. It was thought that Moscow might be taken, forcing an industrial and political withdrawal to the rural area. It was also thought Germany might secure the Don Basin and the oil fields in the Caucasus. If that had happened, it would have affected the strategic position in Syria, Palestine, Iraq and Iran. We should have been engaged in a big struggle. However, that did not come off.

The Russian counter-attack has apparently met with good success and has altered the position. The German army has received a severe blow and the German people have been shown that their armies are not so invincible as they thought. It also gave us the opportunity which we wanted in order to strike westwards from Egypt. For various reasons, the situation in Libya and Cyrenaica is still obscure.

Likely German 'Blitz' in Spring

Whatever may be the course of the war in Russia, there is still the definite possibility, almost probability, that Germany may stage a 'blitz' either through Anatolia, possibly through the Black Sea, when the spring arrives. There is still a definite threat and danger to invade Great Britain, to give a knock-out blow as Mr. Churchill feels. It must be remembered that Germany has still large resources despite considerable losses.

Japan, for reasons of her own, not clear to us, decided to come in against the United States, and ourselves and it seems quite clear she is striving for a quick decision. It may be she realises that unless she strikes when she did, things might have gone too far, and an opportunity for aggression might not occur again. Whatever that may be, she is putting in all her available forces to force the issue. The attack in the way in which it was delivered was largely from the point of view of keeping us and the United States guessing about her intentions until the very last moment. Singapore was securely guarded on the seaward side, and therefore the Japanese did not attempt a *coup de-main* from the sea. Actually, her strate-

gy has been to seize aerodromes on land and thereby give fighter and bomber support to her land and sea forces.

Present Position in the Pacific

The situation at the present moment is that the United States forces in the Philippines are still resisting. Malaya is gone, Rangoon is definitely threatened and Tenasserim is occupied. Landings have already been made in South Sumatra and therefore Java is now threatened. Various landings have been made in the Netherlands East Indies and various islands in the Pacific. It goes to show that Japan is endeavouring, in the first instance, to secure her perimeter in the South-Western Pacific right down to New Guinea and consolidate her position within these limits. Secondly, Japan may wish to secure Rangoon in order that she may cut the life line on the Burma Road along which American supplies go to China, so that she may be in a position to force the issue with the Central Government of China.

All these developments affect India's position. War is now definitely at India's doors and we may have a difficult time in India for the next few months until the daily growing strength of the Allies makes itself felt and we take to the offensive.

If Japan intends to give a knock-out blow and take big risks, we must regard neither the Bay of Bengal nor the Indian Ocean safe from the depredations of Japanese warships. This has very considerable implications for India. If she succeeds in consolidating her position in Burma, Japan may step up towards East India or she may decide that India is too big a problem and therefore confine herself for causing as much deterioration of the Indian morale as possible, disruption of communications and interruption of our war effort. These are definite possibilities.

It may be that Japan will decide to launch sea borne raids against India itself. We have to realise that the Indian East Coast is 2,000 miles against which, as long as Japan has the initiative for the time being they can strike. If they did this in any strength, they would have to protect their convoys with major fleet units. This task is by no means easy as owing to Philippines holding out, they have no place where they can repair major units except in Japan, 4,200 miles away.

Possibility of a Sea-Borne Attack

But this does not exclude the possibility of a sea-borne attack on India. The problem of dealing with such a large area is a very big one. There is, however, no reason why Japan could not land parties in India if they intend to do so. Their main idea may, however, be to strike hard by every means in their power at the morale of the people of India, and the possibility of assistance of fifth columnists to them in their tasks cannot be excluded.

The Japanese ships are known to be striving to extend their sphere of activity. War is, therefore, definitely at India's doors.

SINGAPORE TALES

Evacuees' Experiences

FINAL phases in the battle of Singapore were vividly described by the Editor-in-Chief of the Tribune group of newspapers, Mr. E. M. Glover, who has just arrived in Colombo. He left Singapore on February 11th, having carried on publication of his newspaper until the military authorities ordered the staff to leave.

"Even when the Japanese had got to the end of the Malayan Peninsula and were facing Singapore, the general public there did not think the Japanese would gain a footing on the Island," he said.

"For practically a week they remained very quiet. Late on Saturday night, February 8th, they started a terrific bombardment on the west side and in the early hours of the morning they succeeded in getting a brigade of men across.

"The actual point where they landed was almost entirely a mangrove swamp: it was where a landing was least expected.

"Within 48 hours they had got more troops across; they had repaired the causeway sufficiently to permit tanks to negotiate the passage.

"By this time it was clear that Singapore was doomed.

Direct Hit on Office

"Some days before the 'Tribune' office had received a direct hit from a 250-lb. bomb. The paper was then printed in an emergency office five miles away. Forty-eight hours after the Japanese landing this office came within machine-gun fire and the staff were ordered out by the military.

"Only a few people were able to get away. Singapore presented a pitiful sight as they left. Fires were burning almost from one end of the Island to another; the oil conflagration at the Naval base, which had been burning for four or five days, still belched

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Those who met Marshal Chiang Kai-shek recently in Delhi were greatly impressed by his knowledge, vision, courage, and grim determination. Discussions with his staff took place and were held in a spirit of great cordiality, and they have cemented the relations between India and China. These deliberations should have far-reaching influence on future events. The link now cemented with China will have far-reaching results in the military world. This is one bright spot.

"We Will see Light"

The seriousness of the situation should not be minimised; but although we may have a difficult time for the next six or eight months, we will see light. What is needed is to put up a bold front as people in other countries similarly situated have done. Just as the morale of the people in Great Britain, China, Egypt and other countries has not been affected by the proximity of war, so in India the morale of the people must be maintained.

The spokesman added that reinforcements are on their way to the Pacific Theatre and they would be used to the best advantage as the situation required.

FACE DANGER WITH CALMNESS

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the destruction of a high proportion of the German and Italian armoured formations.

"As hon'ble members must have seen in the newspapers, the 4th Indian Division was actively engaged in maintaining contact with the enemy on the Egyptian border throughout the pause between June of last year and the middle of November. There were a series of small actions arising from patrols seeking to find out as much as possible about the enemy's dispositions. When our assault in November began, the 4th Indian Division first deprived the German raiding column of a tank-proof sanctuary provided by the fortified positions round Sidi Omar. Following further successes, at Libyan Omar, the division drove on as the leaders of the infantry advanced behind the British Armoured forces, and finally became involved in the pursuit of the defeated Axis armies from Gazala onwards. Taking the coastal route by Derna and Giovanni Berta, units of the division beat down in quick succession every delaying position the enemy tried to hold and lost little time in reaching Cirene, Barce and Benghazi.

Syrian Operations

"Formations from the Fourth Indian Division, particularly the Fifth Indian Infantry Brigade, which was involved in the Syrian operations, have been almost continuously in action since late in 1940. And never once have their exemplary discipline and fighting spirit flagged.

"Reference must also be made here to certain units of the Fifth Indian Division which accomplished a striking thrust, from Siwa, in the south of the Egyptian desert and captured the Italian garrison of the useful but lonely oasis of Jalo far in the interior of Cyrenaica. That little operation was carried out with a dash and determination which achieved a well deserved and conspicuously inexpensive success.

"By this time General Rommel had withdrawn south of Jedabya where a combination of terrible weather and communications which were stretched to many hundreds of miles prevented General Auchinleck from following him up in force. The hon. members will recall that, at the beginning of our Western Desert Offensive in November last, rain in Cyrenaica seriously handicapped the German Air arm giving support to their ground forces. Unprecedented storms and rain swept over Cyrenaica in January where this time it was our forces who had to suffer all the impediment of bogged communications, and unserviceable aerodromes. As a result, General Rommel was able to reform his battered units and with the help of reinforcements which had got through at some cost across the Mediterranean, to launch a counter-offensive against the forward units of the Eighth Army. This counter-offensive began in early January. The Fourth Division for which there had been some prospect of well-earned rest and respite at Benghazi, naturally became again

immediately involved and fierce fighting took place.

"The Seventh Indian Infantry Brigade was south of Benghazi and was cut off by columns of German tanks which cut the road north of the town. Efforts by the remainder of the Fourth Indian division to break through to the rescue of the beleaguered party were unavailing, and it appeared that the whole of the Seventh Brigade and also a part of the Fifth Brigade would be lost. For 2 days there was silence, and the worst was feared. Then the seventh Brigade suddenly appeared back in our lines west of Tobruk. It is one of the most thrilling stories of the war. The brigade was led out of the trap, not to the north and east as the Germans expected, but to the south-west. Right through the German lines they went, and, then turning east, made their way back. On the way they frequently passed enemy columns; but by a combination of bluff and boldness managed to deceive the Germans and so got through safely. Full details are not yet available, but it is believed that most of this personnel of the Brigade have escaped, although they lost a certain amount of vehicles and equipment.

"In the meantime, the remainder of the Fourth Indian Division was carrying out a fighting retreat to the north of the hills. Closely followed by the enemy, who constantly attempted to encircle them or break through the rear guards, the Fifth and Eleventh Indian Infantry Brigades safely rejoined the main body of the Eighth Army near Gazala. This retreat was excellently carried out. I can now say that the military education of this great division is complete; for now they have had their first experience of what a retreat means.

A Tribute to the fourth Indian Division

"I should like to tell the hon. Members what a highly placed British service officer on a visit from the Middle East to Delhi said to me the other day about the Fourth Indian Division. He said that it was the finest fighting formation at present in the Empire. It is pleasant to hear that from a completely unprejudiced observer. And in a message received from the Middle East a week ago, I was delighted to read that, in spite of their present setbacks the morale of this famous Division is just as high as ever.

"I must now turn to the grim picture on our Eastern flank. Here our Indian soldiers have been engaged in a number of retreats and desperate defenses, and I fear our losses have been heavy. The first serious reverse, in which Indian troops shared with British and Canadians a heavy sacrifice, was in Hong Kong. There the Fifth Battalion the Fourteenth Punjab Regiment, the Hong Kong-Singapore Royal Artillery and medical personnel, involved in the capitulation after a short but determined struggle. They had to hold great frontages with little force—four miles to a battalion. They had been faced by odds of about four to one without any air support at all. A contributory cause of the surrender was the destruction of the water-supply. The garrison had

done its best. It is an honourable defeat. A British Army officer who managed to escape has spoken enthusiastically of the great fight put up by our Indian soldiers.

"To turn to another theatre of war in North Malaya, Gurkha and British Battalions, including Indian States Forces Battalions, met the initial Japanese onslaught. Without any declaration of war, the Japanese launched large forces, amounting to four divisions, from Southern Siam and drove blind-headed for Northern Malaya. Admirably equipped for the purpose and with large numbers which enabled them to hold strong bodies on the coast in the rear of our positions, their direct assault could not possibly be stemmed for any length of time with the forces at our disposal. As hon. members are well aware, the enemy had, in addition, superiority at sea and in the air. The fall of Singapore is a great though not crushing defeat. I have few details of the actual events in which our men took part, and how it is unlikely that we shall know the full story until later.

In Singapore and Burma

"You will have seen in the papers today the list of units present in Singapore. I must not give any further details; as to do so would merely give the Japanese information with which to check their captures. It is not likely that any whole units have escaped but small parties may have been able to get away. I cannot however, hold out much hope. The loss of these brave men, as well as of their valuable equipment, is, of course, most serious. There is just one thing I should like to mention. Fantastic stories have been put about by the enemy of desertions by Indian troops. All I can say is this. Far from deserting in the heart-breaking conditions in which they found themselves, large bodies which were from time to time cut off by Japanese landings in the rear, or by infiltration, refused to surrender and forced their way back by jungle tracks after immense exertions. And this happened. I would have you note, time and time again, when it would have been so easy to surrender and have done with it all.

In Burma also, as you know, the Indian troops have been fighting against a strong attack, and have been slowly pushed back. The stoutness of their defence has given time for some reinforcements to reach that country. In the north, Chinese troops have come into Burma and taken over a section of the front in the protection of their life line, the Burma Road. The unity and common interest of India and China is shown by the visit of Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek. Our troops and his are now fighting alongside each other.

"In spite of our present situation, there is no cause to lose heart. Admittedly our losses are grievous and the situation is serious, but in other wars, as well as in this, we have pulled through from even greater situations.

"But I must warn you. We must be prepared for more bad news before the tide turns. We must be prepared for attacks on our shipping on the seas, and we must be prepared for attacks on

ORDER NISI

IN THE DISTRICT COURT
OF JAFFNA

(held at Point Pedro)

Testamentary Jurisdiction
No. 169/P.T.

In the matter of the intestate estate of the late Leethia Sethupillai wife of Kathiresar Jeremiah Nagamuttu of Varany Idai-kurichy. Deceased.

Kathiresar Jeremiah Nagamuttu of Varany Idai-kurichy

Vs. Petitioner

1. Nagamuttu Samuel Ratnasingham of do
2. Nagamuttu Richard Balasingham of do
3. Lily Rasammah daughter of Nagamuttu of do
4. Rose Seevamalar daughter of Nagamuttu of do
5. Appaccuddy Theivar of Nagarkoil. Respondents.

This matter of the petition of the petitioner praying for letters of administration to the estate of the abovenamed deceased Leethia Sethupillai wife of Kathiresar Jeremiah Nagamuttu of Varany Idai-kurichy coming on for disposal before L. W. De Silva, Esquire, Additional District Judge on the 8th day of November, 1941, in the presence of Mr. C. Thanabalasingam, Proctor, on the part of the petitioner and the petition and affidavit of the petitioner having been read, it is ordered that the 5th respondent be appointed guardian ad-litem over the minors the 1st to 4th respondents abovenamed and that the petitioner be declared entitled to take out letters of administration as the husband of the said deceased and that letters of administration be accordingly issued to the petitioner unless the respondents or any other person shall on or before the 8th day of January, 1942, show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this court to the contrary.

Sgd. L. W. de Silva,

Addl. District Judge.

S--1--42.

Extended for 5-3-42.

Sgd. N. Penniab,
A. D. J.

(O. 70. 26.2.42 & 2.3.42.)

this land of India from the air and by bombardment from the sea, and we may even have to face the possibility of a landing. One thing I feel quite certain, and that is the enemy will lose no opportunity for spreading panic and undermining the morale of the people.

Defence of India

"We must face these threats in a spirit of calmness. To brave men danger is an incentive to additional effort. I am able to give you that military preparations to meet the new situation are well in hand. But we must have equipment to replace our losses; and I urge all men in the factories, in the mills and in the workshops to work as they have never worked before. I will repeat the Prime Minister's famous message: 'Give us the tools and we will finish the job.' We in this case, means the soldiers, sailors and airmen of India. And I say that on the workmen of India lies the responsibility for providing the sinews of war to keep the horrors of conflict away from our fields and from our cities."

THE ELEMENTS OF SAIVA SIDDHANTAM

SIDDHIYAR—AN INTRODUCTION

(By a Science Graduate)

X. 'Alavai' (அளவை) or Methods of Proof (Logic)

(Continued from our issue of 23—2—42)

Inference for others consists in explaining one's own inference to others by the use of language, and the words used are of two kinds: Anuvayam (அநுவாயம்) or positive statement and Vetirakam (வெதிராகம்) or negative statement. The words used for an argument are divisible into five parts (though the last two are not essential), to wit: (1) Metkole or Pratigna (மேற்கோள் அல்லது பிரதிஞ்சை), the enunciation of the proposition or assertion, (2) Hetu, the reason adduced for proving it, (3) Utharanam (உதாரணம்), the citing of similar instances or analogies in support of the proof, (4) Upanayam (உபநாயம்), application, and (5) Nigamanam (நிசுமனம்) conclusion. These are best explained by illustrations. The following is an Anuvaya statement: There is fire on the hill (Pratigna), because there is smoke there (Hetu) Where there is smoke there is fire, as in the case of the kitchen (Udaranam). Similarly there is smoke on the hill (Upanayam). Therefore there is fire on the hill (Nigamanam) It will be noticed here that Upanayam is practically the application of the Hetu to the Pakkam in the Pratigna, or its repetition with special reference to the Udaranam and that Nigamanam repeats the Pratigna with some emphasis as the conclusion (முடிந்தது முடிந்தல்), the Q. E. D. (quod erat demonstrandum—which was to be proved) of Euclid. An example of a Vetireka statement would run as follows: There is fire on the hill (Pratigna), because there is smoke there (Hetu). Where there is no fire there is no smoke, as in the case of the tank (Udaranam). The hill is not without smoke (Upanayam). Therefore the hill is not without fire (Nigamanam).

There is a further subdivision of Anumanam on a different basis as follows: (1) Purvakadchi Anumanam (பூர்வகடச்சி அனுமானம்) as where the existence of a particular flower is inferred from a particular smell as a result of previous observation, (2) Karuthal Anumanam (கருதலனுமானம்) as where a man's intelligence and erudition are inferred from his words and (3) Agamic Anumanam (ஆகமவனுமானம்) as where we infer that a man's present actions will bear their fruit later on from the statement in the Agamas that our present experiences of pleasure and pain are the result of previous Karmam.

There are said to be 65 varieties of specious argumentation or fallacious inference made up of four kinds of wrong proposition (பகைப் போலி), three of plausible reasoning (ஏதப்போலி) which may be subdivided into 21 kinds, 18 of incorrect analogy (உவமைப்போலி) and two of defeatist attitude (தேரல்வித்தானம்) which are subdivided into 22 kinds.

The third kind of proof, Urai or Agamam, by which we perceive things which are incapable of perception by direct observation or inference, is divided into Tantra, Mantra and Upadesa words (தந்திரம், மந்திரம், உபதேசம்). These are the words of the Nirmala All-Knower and deal, the Tantra portion with rituals (Sariya and parts of Kriyai), Mantra with the contemplation of God by controlling the mind, &c., (Kriyai and Yogam) and Upadesa with the nature of the beginningless and endless One (Gnanapatham).

The nature of the objects (Prameyam, பிரமேயம்) known with the aid of these different kinds of Alavai (Pramanam, பிரமானம்) is of two kinds, Pothu (பொது) and Sirappu (சிறப்பு). Pothu Iyalpu consists of the features common to all things of any class but not to things of other classes while Sirappiyalpu means the special characteristics of any particular thing or group of things (species) which distinguish it from other things or groups of the same class (genus) as well as other classes.

A word here as to the terms Pothu or Thadatta Lakshanam (தடத்தலக்கணம்) and Sirappu or Unmai (உண்மை) or Sorupa (சொருபம்) Lakshanam used in Agamic literature before we proceed further. The words generally used in translating these words into English are *general* or *common* or *relative* and *special* or *real* or *absolute*, respectively, though these words do not exactly convey what is intended in the original. The words *general* or *common* and *special* as used ordinarily have reference to the attributes of genus and species, or classes and subclasses or individuals in the ordinary logical sense as above. The word *real* again would appear to connote *reality* in the other camp, which is not the case. The words *lower* and *higher* used by other schools of philosophy in describing the two states or aspects of the Supreme (Brahm) do not find favour in our philosophy. The words *relative* and *absolute* would seem to be the nearest approach, the Thadatta state of a thing being its nature in relation to other things and its Sorupa state being its nature by itself without any reference to anything else. Thus the Thadatta definition of God (Parthi) is His existence in Adwaita (non-dual) relation with the world (உலகவெளவாதி மேறும் உடனுணர்வு) in the words of Siddhiyar and the Sorupa nature is Ekam (aloneness) or Sabhitanandam (existence, knowledge and bliss) or better still we should say His being beyond the reach of word and thought (வாய்க்குமறையினால், நிழல்), being incomprehensible through Pasa Gnanam and Pasu Gnanam. In other words His Sorupa state can only be comprehended through Pothu Gnanam (அவணகுணே அணுகக்கூடாது). We can know something of His Pothu Iyalpu by reading and investigation (குறாபச்சியறிவு), while His Sorupa Iyalpu can only be comprehended by actual realization (அனுபவ ஞானம்) with the aid of His Sakthi or Anai (Grace).

OBITUARY

MR. T. N. SUBBIAH

We deeply regret to record the sudden and untimely death, at the age of 44, of Mr. T. N. Subbiah, Proctor, which occurred on Tuesday at 10 p. m. at his residence at Van-narponnai West. Mr. Subbiah was for some time in indifferent health, though he was attending to his professional duties. He attended Court on Tuesday itself. After dinner, as usual he read the day's papers and retired to bed when he suddenly complained of a pain in the chest. He got up and walked up as far as his office and collapsed before any medical aid could be summoned.

The funeral took place yesterday and was largely attended. The remains were cremated at the Kompanyanmanal crematorium, Mr. S. Muttukumaraswamy Chettiar, father-in-law of the deceased, setting fire to the pyre.

Mr. Subbiah leaves behind a widow, an only daughter and a host of relatives and friends both in Ceylon and in his mother-land India.

Glowing tributes were paid in the course of references made at the Courts of the District Judge and the Magistrate and at the crematorium, to the rare talents and public spirit of Mr. Subbiah who was associated with almost all the public movements in Jaffna. He was a member, till his death, of the managing Committee of the Jaffna Saiva Paripalana Sabha. We offer our very sincere condolences to the members of the bereaved family.

PROPAGANDA MEETING AT KOPAY

A largely attended public meeting was held at Kopay on the 19th instant at 8 p. m. at Siravanapavanaudha School under the auspices of the Local Assistance Committee, Kopay. The Chairman Adigar A. Naganathar presided. Messrs. V. Visuvalingam, Office Assistant, Jaffna Kachcheri, R. S. Edwards and Head Master M. Vaittialingam, spoke on the occasion. The need for food production and Air Raid precautions was urged and explained. The Adigar made a special appeal to encourage the Palmyrah jaggery industry, as the shortage of sugar might come to us in the near future owing to the war conditions. Special arrangements have been made to rehabilitate the industry. (cor.)

SINGAPORE TALES

Continued from page 3

forth black smoke which hung over the entire city.

"Several parties of civilians and others got away only to be bombed and machine-gunned" within sight of the Banka Straits.

"The A. R. P. and volunteer services, composed largely of Asiatics, put up a grand show right to the last.

"The Japanese mainly used anti-personal bombs. These are quite small and their bark is worse than their bite."

Mr. Glover said the Johore line could not be held largely because of the terrific fire and bombing brought to bear on our forces by the Japanese and their intense air machine-gunning.

WHAT THEN MUST BE DONE?

Continued from page 2

time and general efficiency, ensure production a hundredfold?

Security for the Crops

THEN there is the question of protecting the smiling crops from robbing idlers and trespassing cattle, the marketing of what remain of such depredations, the fixing up of prices to break up profiteering and the checking up of the stores of perfidious dealers who refuse to sell pleading insolently an exhaustion of stock. Here again the different local assistance committees under an Emergency Officer can be co-ordinated to collaborate in the preparation of a price list for his district. The Food Controller must be absolutely guided by these bodies spread throughout the Island in setting his imprimatur on any price list for any district. The local committees must be given authority to organise bands of desirable villagers of unquestionable antecedents to patrol their respective areas at nights. Further, each committee should be vested with Government authority to enter into depots, shops, stalls or markets to detect profiteering and other despicable irregularities. Today peace officers and police officers are instructed to accompany a committee member when the latter sallies forth to beard the trader in his den. By the time the zealous member manoeuvres to establish contact with the unctuous headman or the notoriously greedy policeman the situation becomes confused to the extent of the resourceful trader being in earnest doubt as to the identity or even genuineness of the particular purchaser whose representation alone switched this intricate machinery in epileptic motion. Such perfunctory and sterile performance of duty may drive desperate even peace-abiding but frustrated human beings to take the law into their hands.

What is Needed

THE Legislature must not with smug complacency imagine that the mere appointment of Emergency Officers or Special Police Constables has with Aladdin's touch solved the urgent problem of Food Production or preservation of public peace. Emergency Officers are simply creatures with executive functions. They have not the power to magically clothe the local assistance committees with the necessary legal status. The Government should promptly by necessary legislation define the members of these committees to be Special Peace Officers directly answerable to Emergency Officers and not to minor or chief headmen. Moreover it should provide the Emergency Officers with stationery and funds to subsidise the local committees if they are to operate speedily. Mere promises to provide these local bodies with the requisites of production such as seeds, grains, cuttings, agricultural implements, sinking of wells, etc will be of no avail. A start must be made now if the people are to be saved six months hence from the jaws of lingering death from starvation.

The complexities of the present time unmistakably reflect the growing necessity to take the admirable advice of Humpty Dumpty in "Through the Looking Glass":—"I told them once, I told them twice, They would not listen to advice, I said it very loud and clear, I went and shouted in their ear."

"GIVE FREEDOM TO INDIA"

Continued from page 1

material and should by all means be retained.

He concluded by hoping that the people of India would wholeheartedly join China, Britain, America and the Soviet Union and participate in the struggle for the survival of a free world until complete victory had been achieved and until the duties incumbent on them in these troubled times had been fully discharged.

ORDER NISI

IN THE DISTRICT COURT
OF JAFFNA

(held at Point Pedro)

Testamentary Jurisdiction
No. 173/PT.

In the matter of the Intestate Estate
of the late Karthigesu Chinnathamby of Karaveddy East.

Deceased.

Karthigesu Veluppillai of Karaveddy East. Petitioner.

1. Thanalakshmi daughter of Chinnathamby
2. Chinnathamby Kanapathipillai
3. Easwari daughter of Chinnathamby
4. Saraswathy daughter of Chinnathamby
5. Sivagamidevi daughter of Chinnathamby
6. Manonmany daughter of Chinnathamby
7. Chinnathamby Sivasenthimathai
8. Ratnam widow of Chinnathamby all of Karaveddy East. Respondents.

This matter coming on for final disposal before L. W. de Silva, Esquire, Additional District Judge, Jaffna, on the 14th day of February, 1942, in the presence of Mr. K. Sivasangaram, Proctor, on the part of the Petitioner and the Petition and affidavit of the Petitioner having been read.

It is ordered that the 8th Respondent be appointed Guardian-ad-litem over the minors 1st to 7th Respondents that the Petitioner be declared entitled to take letters of administration, and that letters of administration be issued to the Petitioner as brother of the deceased unless the Respondents shall appear before this court on or before the 5th day of March 1942, and shew sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this court to the contrary.

This 18th day of February, 1942.
Sgd. L. W. de Silva,
Additional District Judge.
(O. 69. 25-2-42 & 2-3-42)

NOTICE

IN THE DISTRICT COURT
OF JAFFNA

D. 601

Yokamma wife of Chelliah Coomarasamy of Kandarmadam, Jaffna.

Vs. Petitioner.

1. Chelliah Coomarasamy of do Respondent.

Whereas the abovenamed Petitioner has made an application to this Court on the 18th November, 1941, to deal with her property as she likes without joining her husband as a party to any instrument. Notice is hereby given to the public that any person or persons interested in this matter shall appear before this Court on or before the 17th March, 1942, and show sufficient cause to the contrary if any otherwise the Petitioner will have the right to sell the land called Palluvethoddam in extent 3 1/2 Lms. situated at Vannarpounai West without joining her husband the 1st Respondent.

By Order,
P. GNANAPIRAGASAM,
Secy.

4-2-42.
(Mis. 180. 5-2-42.)

ORDER NISI

IN THE DISTRICT COURT
OF JAFFNA

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 1116

In the matter of the estate of the late P. J. Sinnadurai of Suthumalai late of Kuang F. M. S.

Deceased.

Muttamma widow of Pavilu John Sinnadurai of Suthumalai

Vs. Petitioner.

1. S. Alagendirajah,
2. Poomalar daughter of Sinnadurai
3. S. Selvarajah
4. Pommalar daughter of Sinnadurai and
5. Valuppillai Tampu all of Suthumalai Respondents.

This matter coming on for disposal before C. Coomarasamy Esquire District Judge on the 3rd February 1942 in the presence of Mr. E. Murugesapillai Proctor and the affidavit of the Petitioner having been read: It is ordered that Letters of administration to the estate of the deceased be granted to the Petitioner as his lawful widow and that the 5th respondent be appointed guardian-ad-litem over the minors 1st to 4th respondents for the purpose of protecting their interest and of representing them in these Testamentary proceedings unless the respondents shall appear before this court on the 11th day of March 1942 and state objection to the contrary.

The 3rd day of February 1942.
Sgd. C. Coomaraswamy
District Judge.
(O. 68. 23 & 26-2-42)

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