

THE Hindu Organ.



Editor:
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PUBLISHED EVERY MONDAY AND THURSDAY

VOL. LIV.

'Phone 56.

JAFFNA, MONDAY, JUNE 1, 1942.

Price 5 Cts.

NO. 14.

NEWS FROM FAR AND NEAR

Japs Use Poison Gas

A Chinese communique issued on Thursday states that the Japanese are using poison gas shells and bombs.

M. S. C's in University Court

When the State Council meets next Tuesday, one of its items of business will be the election from among its own body of five members to the University Court, under the Ceylon University Ordinance.

Close of Anchy Campaign

A proposal for the entire suspension of the hookworm campaign in all parts of the Island for the duration of the war is under consideration as it has been found that the prospects of obtaining the necessary drug in sufficient quantities are very small owing to existing conditions.

50,000 Planes This Year

The United States will produce the seemingly fantastic Roosevelt promise of 50,000 planes in 1942 by a good margin. Mr. Robert Patterson, Under-Secretary of War, said in a speech in New York, "America is a success as the arsenal of democracy," he added, "and in a few months its production will exceed anything in the world."

Confidence in Premier

After four days of lively debate the Labour Party conference in London ended on a note of unity by sending a striking message of loyalty to the Prime Minister. "We assure Mr. Churchill," said the Chairman, Mr. W. H. Green, "that we stand behind him as a movement to a man and to a woman in his determination to prosecute this war to our determined end."

Britain Has Bread

Lord Woolton, Minister of Food, declared that Great Britain would have plenty of bread for the rest of this year. He told members of the National Assembly of Master Bakers in London: "There are few countries in Europe today that can say with certainty that they have plenty of bread all through the year. I never prophesy until I am quite certain. We shall have plenty of bread all through this year."

SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

THEIR PLACE IN NATIONAL REGENERATION

BY DR. N. R. DHAR, D.Sc., F.I.C., I.E.S.
(In the Prabuddha Bharata)

(Continued from our last issue)

FOLLOWING the model of Cambridge and Oxford, Indian universities have attempted to create useful citizens—ladies and gentlemen—and also to create a few specialists. But unfortunately the system has failed completely and an overwhelming majority of the Indian students going to the universities are extremely poor and ill-equipped and want degrees only to improve their worldly prospects. There is hardly any thirst for knowledge, but there is great demand for degrees. Hence the teaching and instruction are of inferior type and cannot be of first-rate importance.

With the rise of industrialization, specialists and research men and women would be needed and at the present moment most of our Indian universities are not well equipped for such purpose nor is there any congenial atmosphere for the creation of new knowledge and making discoveries, because the majority of the pupils and the teachers is not keen on learning. The pupils want degrees and the teachers, safe and soft jobs for themselves, and want to get on by joining parties. Hence the serious type of students get mixed up with the ordinary ones who are in much larger numbers. During the last twenty years numerous teaching and residential universities have been created in this country, but unfortunately as they are flooded by pupils who want degrees and not learning the result has been most unsatisfactory. What is definitely wanted is that the college system teaching up to the degree standard, should continue and those who want degrees, may go to the college and study for a while, play games, and attend social activities. The truly serious type of pupils wanting research and learning, may go to the universities only post-graduate work should be concentrated. The degree work should be taken away from

most of these universities and be given to the colleges where there is more of *esprit de corps* and compactness necessary for discipline and development of personality. The continental idea of university which is a conglomeration of really learned men as teachers, and seekers of knowledge and truth as pupils, must be encouraged in this country for our national development and industrial progress. For the average pupil the college is good enough for his education and it should end with the degree college.

It has been emphasized by some people that the college and university education should be restricted to very few pupils with the right intellectual and moral capacity, but the present trend of thoughts and ideas of education do not support this view. In Norway, Switzerland, and even in France and Germany, university education has been brought to the doors of everybody who want to join the university. This is the correct thing to do. The higher form of education should be available to all the citizens of the country. But in India due to our poverty the fulfilment of this doctrine will take a long time, as creation of wealth and industrialization will be needed before the highest form of education is really democratized.

India is primarily an agricultural country, but unfortunately there is no agricultural university for the development of agriculture in India. There are only a few agricultural schools in the country, but up till now there was no good agricultural college. Recently some agricultural problems are being tackled at the Universities of Calcutta and Dacca. Some researches on agriculture are being carried out at Naini, Allahabad, Cawnpore, Lyallpur, Delhi, Poona, and Coimbatore. Even in two small towns like Wageningen and Delft, in a small country like Holland,

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DIFFICULTIES DUE TO RATIONING

JAFFNA ASSOCIATION DEPUTATION MEETS GOVT AGENT

(From a Correspondent)

Jaffna, Wednesday.

A deputation from the Jaffna Association consisting of Messrs. N. Chelvadurai, V. S. Karthigesu (Joint Secretaries) C. K. Tambe, V. Manickavasagar and R. C. Proctor waited on the Government Agent, Mr. M. Prasad, this morning at the Jaffna Kachcheri and placed before him the views of the Association on certain matters affecting the interests of the people of the Peninsula.

Mr. Chelvadurai acting as chief spokesman drew the attention of the Government Agent to the difficulties experienced by the people on account of the division of the country into self-supporting and non-self supporting areas. He urged the transportation of paddy into non-self supporting areas from such self-supporting areas as Kilinochchi and Pooneryn. Under the present system of rationing, even to the poor in the self-supporting areas paddy was not available because the land owners demanded exorbitant prices.

Further it was argued that between seasons paddy was not available even in the so-called self-supporting areas to the poor. Should the present system be allowed to continue the Association felt that the food production would suffer. The cultivators most of whom are absentee landlords had taken to food production principally in order to provide the members of their household who include those who perform customary services on which the economic life of the village is based.

Unitary Form of Rationing

It was also pointed out how difficult it was under the present system to store all paddy as there were no proper facilities such as suitable store-houses, watchmen &c. The deputation stressed that the only remedy lay in removing the distinction between self-supporting areas and non-self-supporting areas and introducing a unitary form of rationing applicable to the Jaffna Peninsula, Karachchi and Pooneryn. If that suggestion was given effect to there would be cheaper paddy and more equitable distribution of same.

Another subject which came up for discussion was the necessity for the establishment of a State Farm in the Northern Province. The urgency of restoring the major tanks in the Pooneryn District also came up for discussion. The deputation strongly recommended that these tanks and some ponds in Jaffna Peninsula should be taken in hand in order to augment food production.

Before the deputation withdrew it referred to the alarming nature of

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DIFFICULTIES OF FOOD PRODUCTION

SOME PEOPLE ARE UNDER THE impression that more food could be produced once the Government fiat went forth. The Government has shown no doubt a commendable amount of willingness and readiness to meet the exacting demands of the present situation, though there is still some room for improvement in this respect. There has been a good deal of delay in the allotment of new lands for cultivation. We are afraid that this is partly due to the usual red-tape in official routine and the slackness in Government offices and partly to the cumbrous procedure prescribed by the Land Development Ordinance. It is to be hoped that the experience gained by officials during the present year will be utilised to expedite future alienation of land for the cultivation of food products. Executive action, if it is to produce immediate results, must be quickened and circumspection must be kept down to the minimum. The official attitude must be one of open invitation to all and sundry to take up land. The applicant for land must not be made to feel that he is in the same position as the average aspirant to the honour of Government employment. The land is a public asset and the official is only the medium for distributing it. This duty is fairly simple and we see no reason why there should be so much delay in allotting land when someone applies for it. With regard to the Land Development Ordinance, the procedure it prescribes for the issue of permits is too cumbersome to suit the urgency of the moment. There is no special merit in a land Kachcheri presided over by the Government Agent. Every application for land should, on the other hand, be dealt with promptly on its own merits. The Government Agent will have no difficulty in dealing with such application on the information supplied by his own officers and on the knowledge gained by himself after a personal interview with each applicant. We agree that ample precautions should be taken against persons who take up land, not primarily for the purpose of cultivation, but for the sake of the timber available in a particular allotment. No land Kachcheri is necessary to enable the Government to find out to which particular category an applicant belongs. The Government will do well, in addition, to put in a little propaganda of its

own to give the public a clearer idea of the provisions of the Land Development Ordinance. The main object of this Ordinance was to enable the permanent population to convert Crown jungle into inalienable farmlands devolving on the heirs of the owner in accordance with the special rules of inheritance enacted by the Ordinance, which confers on the owner a right of tenure in perpetuity. In Jaffna particularly there is a good deal of misapprehension regarding the provisions of this Ordinance, the most popular belief being that under the Ordinance the Crown grants some form of lease for a limited period. This is not so and we should like the Government Departments concerned to tell the people the truth about the matter. It is true that a good many restrictions are imposed by this Ordinance on the ownership of land, but these are restrictions that are badly needed if the tenure of land is to be made permanent. Just as land is one of the permanent assets of the State, it is at the same time the one permanent asset of the individual and his family. This is the fundamental principle on which the restrictions imposed by the Ordinance are based. It may be found necessary to amend some of the provisions of the Ordinance in the light of later experience, but the Ordinance is, as a whole, a remarkable piece of social legislation intended to benefit the permanent inhabitants of this island. Its provisions, therefore, deserve to be known and understood better.

The Government's duty towards land-holders in malarial tracts does not, however, stop with the alienation of land. In spite of the shortage of quinine, something should be done to enable Medical Officers to issue free doses of this necessary drug to approved land-holders. What is equally important is that the Government should in such areas initiate anti-malarial measures and carry them out. Under the Karachchi Irrigation Scheme little is being done in this direction. We hope that the Minister of Lands and Agriculture will not fail to do what is necessary. The Scheme is one of the biggest and the most promising in the island. It is bound to attract a large number of people from Jaffna if everything goes on well, but it will fail unless all the resources of modern science are utilised to stamp out malaria. Since the production of food remains, for the present, the most vital occupation of the civilian population, the importance of taking all necessary precautions cannot be exaggerated. In the case of the individual eternal vigilance is needed to protect him against malaria. Similarly, if the Government is to do its duty in the matter, it must never relax its efforts to get rid of the scourge.

RETRIBUTION

When the Germans found that daylight attacks from the air on British cities were proving too costly, they resorted to indiscriminate night bombing, which, again, they were compelled to give up when they discovered that the British radio-locator was making things difficult for the night-bomber. The British people stood the test very well, and Mr. Churchill promised them that, at the proper time, he would make the Germans feel in their own persons the consequences of night-bombing. That promise is now being fulfilled. German cities and centres of production are being attacked from the air with forces which are in themselves a sufficient indication of the increase in British air power. These attacks are bound to cause widespread destruction, while their effect on German morale cannot be ignored. While Hitler is once more busy with his schemes in the East and in the Mediterranean, the systematic and persistent bombing to which Germany is being subjected is a reminder to the Germans that the time for a final reckoning is fast approaching; for, if these attacks mean one thing more than another, they predict to a certainty the increasing pressure that will be brought to bear on Western Europe from all sources. There is no doubt that the Germans themselves would have foreseen the possibility of this development and done their best to provide for it, but the utmost they can do in this respect can never be a match for what Britain and America can do. In spite of all that has happened in the Far East, the increase in the air strength of Britain and America is evident, and it goes without saying that every passing month will see a substantial acceleration in the pace of this increase. If Germany and Japan hoped to win by reason of their preparedness in the air, they should have won in the first round. America alone can turn out more aeroplanes than all the Axis Powers combined. The element of surprise has certainly enabled the latter to gain some initial advantages, but it cannot do more. The Germans and the Japanese have only shown the way to their own destruction.

CEYLONESE EVACUEES FROM BURMA

INFORMATION MAY BE HAD FROM A RECENT ARRIVAL

A correspondent writes:— Out of about 300 Ceylonese evacuees who were in Burma, about 200 have already arrived in Ceylon by sea as well as land route. About 90 are on their way between Calcutta and Ceylon. The rest, it is believed, are in Burma. Anyone anxious to know of persons who have not yet arrived from Burma may write for information about such persons to Mr. V. Selvadurai, of Naval South, who arrived in Jaffna today from Burma.

PANNAI FERRY BOAT TRAGEDY

Urban Council Demands Commission

(From A Correspondent)

THE report of a Commission can only reveal the truth, and the truth alone can satisfy the people of Jaffna and the rest of Ceylon", declared Mr. Ariya Pathirana in moving the resolution with regard to the appointment of a commission immediately by His Excellency the Governor to inquire into and report on the circumstances leading to the Pannai Ferry boat disaster, at the special meeting of the Jaffna Urban Council held on Thursday.

In the unavoidable absence of the Chairman, Mr. R. Sivagurunathan, Mr. V. Suppiah was unanimously voted to the chair. Before the business for the day was taken up the Chairman said that he would on their behalf and on his own welcome the new nominated member Mr. Pathirana.

Mr. C. Ponnambalam, a former Chairman of the Council, in associating himself with the words of welcome from the chair said that Mr. Pathirana had been nominated as a result of representations made to the Ministry by leading and representative men of Jaffna and by several public bodies.

Request for Commission

Mr. Ariya Pathirana then moved:—"This Council views with great concern the circumstances of the Pannai Ferry Boat disaster, and requests His Excellency the Governor to appoint a Commission immediately to enquire into and report on the matter".

In doing so Mr. Pathirana said:—"Never before within living memory has the peaceful Peninsula experienced such a grim tragedy, a tragedy which, viewed against the background of the circumstances, looks grimmer. It is sad. It is sadder still that my first words in this house should bear a reference to this cruel calamity.

"Let me at the very outset mention that we are not concerned with the actual incident itself. A Magisterial inquiry has already been held and certain allegations have been made by a number of people against the findal and the driver. It is not for us at this stage to anticipate the findings of the court of Law.

"The Government Agent of Jaffna was to hold a public inquiry on the 24th of this month. Representations had in the meantime been made to higher Authorities objecting to his holding an inquiry as the public desired that Mr. Prasad himself should give evidence on certain material points. Personally I have a high regard for Mr. Prasad; but in an instance such as this public opinion must first be satisfied. That, Sir, is one of my reasons for urging this House to pass the resolution standing in my name."

The Salvaged Boat

Dealing with the earlier history of the ferry service in question, Mr. Pathirana read certain paragraphs from the notification appearing in the "Government Gazette" of 6th April 1940 relating to the sale of the Toll and of the Conditions of Sale. He said "the question arises whether this boat has an engine of 18—20 Brake horse power. I have inspected the sal-

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THE MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION

Position in Indian Universities

Shriman Narayan Agrawal writes in the "Hindu":—

Now that the problem of the medium of instruction has evoked fresh interest in the country, it will be useful to know the present position in the various Indian Universities. I wrote to the Registrars of the different Universities in this connection and a gist of their replies is given below:

In the Universities of Calcutta, Bombay, Madras, Delhi, Punjab, Agra, Patna, Dacca, Mysore and Andhra, the medium of instruction after the Matriculation stage is English. No immediate change is contemplated.

In the Muslim University, Aligarh, the medium of instruction in High School classes is Urdu, and the question of introducing Urdu as the medium of instruction in the Intermediate classes is under consideration.

The Registrar of the Allahabad University writes that "the University is fully alive to the necessity of making Hindi or Urdu the medium of instruction, and it will surely take steps as occasion arises."

In the Benares Hindu University "the examinees up to the Intermediate examination are permitted to answer their optional papers in Hindi. Further there is no restriction imposed on teachers and professors to teach their classes in English only. In case they so desire, they can teach in Hindi."

The Academic Council of the Lucknow University has recommended that the medium of instruction and examination should be Hindustani. Final decision has yet to be taken by the Executive Council. The following is the detailed recommendation regarding language and script:

"(a) The language used for instruction and examination should be Hindustani, which signifies the language in our everyday use, supplemented when necessary by words drawn from Sanskrit, Persian, English and other languages. In special cases the Executive Council may exempt individual teachers and paper-setters from the application of this rule.

(b) The script used for all scientific work written or printed, including question papers and answers should be Roman, supplemented by new letters or signs whenever necessary.

(c) The language of books should be left to the discretion of the authors."

Addition of the Roman Script

It is a pity that the Lucknow University is thinking of introducing the Roman script. It is hoped that wiser counsels will prevail and in place of the Roman script both 'Devnagri' and 'Persian' scripts will be introduced.

The Nagpur University Court has accepted the principle of my resolution regarding the gradual introduction of the mother tongue medium. The details have yet to be worked out by the Academic and Executive Councils.

In the Annamalai University "instruction through the medium of an Indian language has not yet been attempted. But, as decided by the authorities, arrangements are being made to get ready suitable text-books in Tamil of the Intermediate standard on the various

THE NEED FOR A NEW OUTLOOK

BRITAIN NOT THE PRESENT ENEMY

MR. C. Rajagopalachari, addressing a meeting at Tinnevely (South India) emphasized the need for a new outlook on the situation.

Mr. Rajagopalachari said that he had been introduced as standing before them "in a new capacity". It was correct to the extent that he was not sailing with the current but was going up-current. The extraordinary conditions through which the country was passing at present demanded extraordinary measures on our part to deal with the problems facing us. A new method should not be rejected off-hand merely because it was not the traditional and orthodox one; it should be considered on its merits. Anything that would be of help in completing the unfinished task should be given a fair chance. Unless we were ready to do so, there would be no scope for growth and healthy evolution.

Unity Necessary to Resist Invasion

We should not use our quarrel with Britain as a pretext for inactivity in the face of the dire calamity that threatened our country in the shape of foreign aggression. This danger had arisen just when we were nearing our goal and all chance of our successfully reaching our goal would depend on the success with which we warded off this danger. Let not people delude themselves with the fond belief that the Japanese would give us freedom after achieving victory; anyone who knew how the Japanese were governed in their own land and how they ruled over Korea and occupied China would understand the folly of this belief. It was a pity that at this time the people and the Government of this country were divided and that the rulers had not learnt the lessons of the Malaya folly. Otherwise, they would long ago have granted India Swaraj and enlisted an enthusiastic Indian nation on their side. But a greater pity than even this was the fact that the people were disunited, threatened as they were by a great danger. Our lack of unity would simplify the enemy's task. But once unity was achieved, the Japanese would realise the futility of trying to take India by marching through lakhs of Indian villages, where each one of the

millions of the villagers was determined to resist the invader to the utmost.

To day the question was not one of helping Britain's war effort; it was one of self-defence, the protection of our hearths and homes, the honour of our womenfolk and our life and property. It would be futile, even foolish, to discuss at this stage where the blame for the present difficulties lay; wisdom would consist in seeking a remedy for it. As for Britain, she would be consulting her best interests and also India's if she came to a speedy understanding with India, late as the hour was.

Britain had always used our mutual differences against us to deny us freedom. But that should not make us forget that the differences were a reality and that we should address ourselves to their solution. At a time of grave danger like the present, the need for such understanding became all the more urgent. Once we solved the problem, it would no longer be available to our rulers for use against us. If in spite of this, Britain did not yield, we would be the stronger for having solved the problem to wrest what we wanted from her. The imminence of the foreign danger made the task of bringing about a speedy understanding extremely urgent.

UNITED EFFORT ESSENTIAL

Ramnad, May 21.

Mr. C. Rajagopalachari addressed a public meeting at the local Cricket Pavilion this evening under the chairmanship of Mr. A. Somasundaram, a Congress Worker. The Raja of Ramnad, Mr. Rajaram Pandian, Messrs. Maulana Saheb and Abdul Sattar, several members of the bar and citizens of the place were present.

Mr. Rajagopalachari was accorded a great ovation when he rose to address the gathering. Referring to the critical times through which India, particularly South India, was passing as a result of the war situation he said that the snug belief that danger to India could come only from the northwest had been exploded. The Japanese, with the command of the air and sea for

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optional subjects of study for the Intermediate course. So far text-books in Logic, Economics, Physics, Chemistry have been published and text books in other subjects—Mathematics, Botany, Zoology, History will be published shortly. As soon as text books are got ready, the question of teaching them in the language will be considered."

The Registrar of the Travancore University writes thus:

"This University fully appreciates the need for reform in this direction, but practical difficulties, such as the lack of suitable text-books of the right standard in the various subjects, the problem of the migration of students to and from this University etc., have stood in the way of any scheme of an extensive reform being adopted. This University has, however, organised a Department of Publications which is engaged in the preparation of glossaries of scientific

and technical terms in Malayalam, which will remove the chief obstacle in the way of the production of scientific books. It is hoped that the activities of the department will pave the way for the production of suitable text-books and this ultimately make University teaching possible in Malayalam. It has also to be borne in mind in this connection that, unless a well planned and uniform policy is adopted in this matter by all the Indian Universities, reform is difficult if not impracticable. This University will always be prepared to consider and to fall in line with any well-considered scheme in this respect which may be sponsored by a competent body."

The Registrar is right in pointing out the desirability of concerted action. I expect that the Inter-University Board will tackle the problem in all seriousness at an early date.

MILITARY ACTS AGAINST PROPERTY

Opportunity Offered For Redress

A notice issued to the press by the Department of Information states:—

Cases have arisen where the Military have inadvertently committed acts against the property of Civilians. In many of the cases the civilian owners concerned have been at a loss to know the correct authority to apply to for redress. The Military Authorities are most anxious that all cases in which civilians feel themselves wronged or that their property has irregularly been interfered with should be brought to the notice of the proper military authority with the least delay. In order that this may be expeditiously accomplished the following information is published.

Property owners should endeavour to ascertain the rank and name of the individual concerned and the name of the unit to which he belongs. These details should be forwarded when making a report and will greatly facilitate enquiries and will aid a rapid settlement of the affair.

Property owners should in the first place communicate direct with the Unit Commander concerned or to the nearest Military Headquarters. If contact cannot be made with the Unit Commander property owners should write or telephone to Headquarters Base Area, Tel: 3291 in the cases occurring in the Colombo Area, and similarly at Trincomalee they should report to Officer Commanding Troops Tel. 285. The Military Authorities would prefer to settle these matters locally but if such settlements cannot be reached then the property owners are at liberty to report the case, with full details, to Command Headquarters, Colombo.

It is emphasised again that when making a complaint of this nature it is essential that the fullest details and particulars regarding the offenders should be produced to the military authorities. It is only by the production of this information that a rapid and satisfactory investigation can be completed.

PILGRIMAGES INADVISABLE

A press communique states:—

It is hereby notified for general information that, in view of the present emergency, it is considered highly inadvisable that there should be large gatherings of pilgrims at the customary religious festivals, such as the forthcoming festivals at Madhu, Talavilla, Kataragama, Serowila, etc.

Those who, in spite of the present risks and difficulties, propose to attend the festivals, should take their own food supplies with them.

The facilities, which are usually provided on the occasion of these festivals, such as the issue of cheap tickets on the Railway, the running of special trains, etc., will not be available this year.

BATTLE OF CAUSEWAYS IN JAFFNA

HISTORY OF AGITATION RECOUNTED

THE *Times of Ceylon* of 27th May has the following leader under the caption, "Causeways in the North":—

Attention has once more been drawn, this time in a tragic manner, to the absence of proper communications between Jaffna and the islands surrounding it. To the west of the Jaffna Peninsula lie an inner and an outer ring of islands. To the former group belong Karativu, Velanai and Mandaitivu; to the latter the islands of Pungudutivu, Delft and a number of smaller islands. Till recent times the only unbroken road connection between the Jaffna Peninsula and the islands was by a causeway at Pannalai connecting Karativu. Ferries and Motor boats connected the other islands and the Peninsula. Again, south-east of Jaffna town and across the lagoon is the Pooneryn division on the mainland which has been gradually developed for cultivation. Till the Jaffna-Pooneryn causeway was sanctioned a few years ago access to this fast growing centre of cultivation was possible only by boat or by a circuitous route via Elephant Pass. The tragedy of last week occurred in the crossing between Jaffna and Pannai which is in the Kayts division. An agitation for the construction of a causeway between Jaffna and Pannai was carried on in the days of the Legislative Council. The project might have materialized but for a counter-agitation started in favour of the Araly causeway, which prevented the Pannai causeway being undertaken. Whatever might be the immediate cause of the tragedy which is now under investigation, it lends support to the demand for the early construction of the Pannai causeway.

The subject of the Jaffna causeways has engaged the attention of the people and the Government for nearly three-quarters of a century. A proposal to construct a causeway to connect the town of Jaffna with Velanai Island was included by the Government Agent, Northern Province, as far back as 1870 or even earlier in his annual recommendations for Public Works. A Sessional Paper on the subject was published in 1930, setting out the various reasons for and against the suggested alternative sites. These were summarized under three main heads: (a) a causeway to connect the island of Velanai with the mainland; (b) a causeway to connect the island of Pungudutivu with the island of Velanai; and (c) a causeway to connect the Jaffna Peninsula with the Pooneryn Division. The first of these three causeways, between Velanai and the mainland, was included in the estimates for 1927-28. A start might have been made but two difficulties intervened. One was the depression and the other a counter-agitation. In view of the heavy expenditure involved the undertaking of so big a project was not deemed wise during the depression. What confirmed the Government in its decision to

stop the project was the volume of protests against the construction of the causeway. Numerous memorials were presented to the Government protesting against expenditure on this particular causeway and urging the prior claims of other causeways which were said to be more urgently needed. No work was done and the vote lapsed.

After the passing of the depression when it became once more possible to undertake new public works controversy broke out again. In 1935 the relative merits of the various causeways were canvassed with vigour and imagination. The Executive Committee of Communications and Works of the last State Council submitted the facts concerning the various causeways to the State Council in order to ascertain the opinion of members regarding the policy to be followed. The Committee itself was of opinion that the construction of a causeway between Pungutivu and Velanai should be given precedence. Immediately the competing claims of the Jaffna-Pooneryn causeway were urged. In the debate in the State Council some members advocated the immediate construction of one causeway, other members the other causeway, and yet other members with perfect impartiality, suggested that both causeways should be taken in hand simultaneously. The last-named carried their intention through, and provision was made in the estimates for 1936-37 for making a start with both the causeways, Jaffna-Pooneryn and Velanai-Pungudutivu. The cost was to be met from revenue as the finances permitted. While the works were in progress the State Council decided to finance the works not from revenue but from the 1937 Loan Funds. This was done and in 1938 a vote of Rs. 625,000 was obtained from these funds for the Jaffna-Pooneryn causeway and another vote of Rs. 420,000 for the Velanai-Pungudutivu causeway. If the history of the causeway agitation teaches anything it is that if local rivalries are kept in abeyance and a united demand is made, the people of Jaffna and the islands will get all the causeways they want—not simultaneously but as circumstances permit.

DIFFICULTIES DUE TO RATIONING

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profiteering in carry stuff and other commodities all over Jaffna and pressed on the Government Agent the need for the immediate establishment by Government wholesale and retail Depots. The Urban area would not so long as the present dead lock continue in the Urban Council be in a position to come to the rescue of the suffering ratepayers.

Mr. Prasad thanked the deputation for its valuable suggestion which he said would receive his most careful consideration.

IMPORTANCE OF FOOD PRODUCTION

PUBLIC MEETING AT MANIPAY

At a public meeting convened by the L. A. C. Manipay at the request of the A. G. A. (E.), N. P. Mr. J. R. Sinnathamby A. G. A. (E.) addressed the gathering on Food Production, Rumours of war etc. He said that in Jaffna there was not sufficient Crown land to increase the food production work. He was able to do much work at his fast station as there was extensive forest land. However he would do his best under the circumstances. Referring to the L. A. C. he said that it was a useful body and it gave valuable informations to Government.

Dr. S. Chelliah of Vaddukoddai encouraged the youngsters to render service to the Island by joining the Military and by helping the British to win the war. Mr. S. Chelliah of Suthumalai drew the attention of the people to the importance of cultivating those food crops and thanked the A. G. A. (E.) for his encouraging words.

Mr. S. Muthucumaraswamy, Secretary of the L. A. C., pointed out that more help should be given by Government to poor cultivators in the way of materials, seeds, manure etc free. He referred to the free grants for sinking wells and said that one of the conditions was that one should own 1½ acres of land so as to deserve the concession. The owners of such extents were generally well-to-do people and hence he requested the A. G. A. (E.) to make the condition more feasible by giving free grants for sinking wells on the common boundary of two lands owned by two different poor cultivators. With a vote of thanks proposed by him the meeting terminated. (Cor.)

AIR RAID PRACTICE AT PUTTUR

Puttur, Tuesday.

Co-operation from the public was satisfactory at an Air Raid practice held here on Monday afternoon. The conduct of the A. R. P. Practice was in the hands of the Head Wardea, Mr. K. Rajaratnam. The warning signal was given by K. V. bugles and temple and church bells, all sounding simultaneously. All wardens reported for duty and were dispersed to their various sectors. Traffic was stopped and people advised to take shelter.

All-clear was sounded by tom-tom beating. Anti-personnel bombs were reported to have dropped in Puttur West. No one was trapped in wreckage. Four casualties arrived at the First Aid Post at the Government Dispensary, Puttur, from this area, First Aid having already been given by the teachers and senior students of the Sri Somaskanda English School, Puttur. Two minor (walking) cases were reported from Sirapiddy; action was taken by the staff of the Sirapiddy Tamil Hindu School. The treatment given in all cases was very satisfactory.

Twelve trained First Aid volunteers were on duty at the First Aid Post and nine women volunteers at the Sub-Post for female casualties (Jeyon's Dispensary). They were

THE NEED FOR A NEW OUTLOOK

Continued from page 3

the time being at any rate in their hands, were in a position to attack North East, East and South India. The people of these areas ordinarily supposed to be "non-martial" were today called upon to undergo a severe test of standing up to a powerful, swift and ruthless aggressor. On the stand they made, depended the safety of the rest of India. The responsibility devolving on the people of the south was therefore as heavy as the glory of rising equal to it would be great. If South India acquitted herself well in this hour of danger not only to herself but to the whole of India, her part would be written in letters of gold in India's history.

There was, Mr. Rajagopalachari said, no problem at all for those who were not bothered about deferring the country or who thought in terms of a change of rulers. The problem had, however, to be faced by all who wanted, by whatever means they could, to defend the country against all aggression, for the alternative to resistance would be continuation of bondage. Slavery would be India's lot whoever won unless she shed her blood in profusion for the defence of her borders from all aggression at this hour. The need of the hour was not to carry on controversies but to remove all factors that made for disunity and thus reduced our capacity for effective action. His own belief was that at the end of the war India was bound to be free.

Unity was thus the need of the hour, Mr. Rajagopalachari continued. Some held that unity could not be achieved so long as the British were there; others said that without unity, we could not compel the British to yield to our demand. This vicious circle must be broken. Unity was essential for two purposes—for resisting aggression as well as for wresting power from unwilling Britain. To achieve unity would, therefore, mean achieving two things at once. His own proposal was intended to help this process. If unity was achieved between Hindus and Muslims through a Congress League understanding, he was almost certain that the Japanese would give up their aggressive intentions against India and Britain would no longer be able to profit by these differences and continue to rule over us. The strength that the Indian people would have developed through such unity would be something irresistible.

PANNAI TRAGEDY INQUIRY

The public inquiry into the Pannai Ferry Boat disaster fixed for the 24th May, 1942, by the Government Agent, Northern Province, Jaffna, was postponed as cases are pending in the Jaffna Magistrate's Court in connection with the incident.

under the control of Mr. S. S. Vadivale, Apothecary, Puttur. The A.R.P. Instructor, Mr. Pillai, trained the wardens while the First Aid workers were trained by Mr. Vadivale. The M. O. H., Dr. S. C. Thuraiajah, and the Schools' Medical Officer, Dr. J. S. Amarasingham, had paid several visits to complete arrangements for the emergency.

THE ELEMENTS OF SAIVA SIDDHANTAM

SIDDHIYAR—AN INTRODUCTION

(By a Science Graduate)

XV. Concluding Remarks

(Continued from our issue of 23-5-42)

Another misconception, and that a most unwarranted one, is that we expect our young men to eschew everything non-Tamil. No one who has actually read through our articles would accuse us of being exclusive or trying to dictate to our young men as to what and what books they may read and what they should not. It is unnecessary to repeat here what we have said over and over again quoting chapter and verse to prove our contention that the Tamilian as a rule is never exclusive but is ever all-inclusive. If we have criticised any school of writers more than others it is the so-called Thani-Thamili-Vadies who would decry every thing Sanscritic and would even go to the extent of fabricating stories of non-existent Vedas and Agamas in ancient Tamil.

It is idle to pretend that general reading of diverse books setting forth views of various shades and schools of thought does not expand one's mental outlook. Man as he is is an imperfect being. Unless and until it comes to a matter of actual realization of the Truth (Pati-Gnanam), his vision is circumscribed and he is possessed of limited or what is called localized knowledge only (செல்லுபடியு) and this localized knowledge is increased and broadened by extensive reading and hearing from others. The basic concept of the Siddhanta teaching of Tri-Padarthas for instance is to be found in the Rig Veda Mantiram regarding two birds seated on a tree of which one eats the fruits while the other merely looks on without eating. No one will say that the study of this Mantiram alone or of the Sri Pancharakshara Mantiram or even of the whole Sata Rudriyam which appears about the centre of the central (or Yajur) Veda is enough for our spiritual uplift. All the fundamental principles of the Saiva Siddhanta system of religion and philosophy again are to be found in a nutshell in the twelve short Sutras of Siva Gnana Bodham which occupies a central position in the Agamas. A study of these no doubt forms an intellectual and spiritual treat to the enquiring student, but no Siddhanti would say that their study alone is sufficient and that the Siva Gnana Siddhi (which was written on the express instructions of Meykandan) and other Shastras or, for the matter of that, any other books are redundant. Siddhiyar itself gives on the whole a more detailed idea of the same teachings as are taught in the Siva Gnana Bodham together with brief codified accounts of various Purvapaksha (i.e. non-Siddhantic) systems of religion and philosophy as known to Arulnandi Devar in his day, commencing from Lokayatam or materialism and different sects of Buddhism and ending with different phases of Ekantavadam, Sankhyam and Pancharatram. This again is no reason for any one to presume that the reading of other books whether they be in Tamil or Sanskrit or English or in any other language is of no use.

An eminent jurist who was the first Editor of the "Hindu Organ" and a *quondam* President of the Siva Paripalana Sabhai which owned the Hindu College also during its infancy and boyhood (—perhaps we should say girlhood,—) used to advocate the teaching of all the principal religions of the world including Buddhism and even Christianity and Mohamedanism to our children in the Hindu College, his only proviso being that our own Saiva form of religion and philosophy should be taught first from their infancy and that the rest should follow when the children grew a bit older and reached a comparatively more discriminatory stage in their intellectual development. His idea was that it was then only that the children could understand and appreciate the excellence of their own national heritage. His judiciously weighed words giving expression to his well-balanced views on this question from the presidential chair at the mammoth gathering that assembled in the Hindu College premises to greet Swami Vivekananda on his way back from America some 45 years ago made a deep impression on the minds of the audience in which we too had the good fortune to be present and which had already been roused to rapturous heights by the impassioned address of the illustrious Swamiji. And we can endorse that great man's advocacy by a tual personal practical experience. We have made a careful study of the Bhagavat Gita with the commentaries of Sankara and Ramanuja (in English translations of course) and of the Taittiriya and some other Upanishads clothed in Sankara-Sayana garb (in English again), having been a regular member of classes held or rather groups of students that met together regularly, for the study of these works as well as of Siva Gnana Siddhiyar and other Shastras at the Colombo Vivekananda Society rooms long ago. We have also read lectures and writings of Swami Vivekananda, Prof. Max Muller and others on the one hand and of Swami Vedachalam and others at the other extreme end, besides the reading at intervals of the Bible and other Christian and other literature. We had the good fortune however of having the necessary home training in a Saiva atmosphere first into the practical and then the theoretical aspects of the Saiva system of religion and philosophy during our infancy and boyhood. We had read some of the simple prose works of the great Navalar written in elegant and chaste and at the same time easy Tamil for the use of beginners, his first, second and third readers, his first and second Saiva catechisms and his Periya Purana Vachanam among others, and we were a regular reader from almost its very inception of the Indu-Sadanam which contained illuminating articles on religion and philosophy from the pen of its first Editor and other Tamil scholars. All this stood us in good stead in later years and all our later reading of various books both in Tamil and English

PANNAI FERRY BOAT TRAGEDY

Continued from page 2

vaged boat which appears to have a Chevrolet bus engine improvised to fit it. It is for a Commission to utilise the services of a competent engineer to examine the boat and report on it.

"The public would like to know whether according to the conditions of sale plans were submitted to the Government Agent by the renter and if so whether the boat concerned conforms to the specifications laid down.

"Article 16 of the conditions of the sale of Toll states:—'The power boat so provided shall be seaworthy and manned to the satisfaction of the Government Agent who shall have the power to reject any boat which may appear to him either unseaworthy or underpowered or insufficiently manned..... The Government Agent shall if it appears to him desirable so to do, determine the number of men to be provided by the renter for the efficient working of the ferry.....'

Did the Govt Agent do it?

Continuing, Mr. Pathirana said. "The public is anxious to know whether the Government Agent was satisfied whether the boat was seaworthy and manned adequately. He had the power to reject the boat if it was unsatisfactory. Has the Government Agent determined the number of men that should be provided; for it is alleged that on the day of the tragedy the boat carried only one tinda. These are questions which could be answered by the Govt. Agent when he is called upon to give evidence before the proposed commission.

"What the public feels is that this tragedy could never have occurred had the Government Agent who is the licensing authority, inquired into and acted upon any one of the many representations made to him from time to time since the present renter took up the services in October 1940." At this stage the speaker read the editorial of the "Hindu Organ" of March 20, 1941 which stated that there was a strong public discontent and that the public, not to speak of the Authorities, were being fooled by the renter.

Memorials to Govt.

Continuing, the speaker stated that he was indebted to certain leading gentlemen of the islands for sending him copies of memorials submitted to the Authorities from time to time. He read an extract from one of the memorials submitted by the Velanai Co-operative Society in November 1941. In that memorial which was signed by 80 residents of the place it was stated that invariably the boats and the motor launch were overcrowded so much that the passengers ran a great risk to their lives.

Speaking further Mr. Pathirana said—"You will remember that in April 1941 a public meeting attended by nearly 2000 people was held at Pannathurai to condemn the unsatisfactory nature of the service. The member for Kankesanurai in the State Council presided at that meeting, and the vigorous personality of the member for Point Pedro lent weight and support to that evening's deliberations. All the

same, not a wall of the Kachcheri crumbled.

"When one takes all these in the proper perspective, one is compelled to make the only inference that the authorities have been sleeping over these affairs."

Mr. Pathirana concluded by making the observations quoted above.

Mr. V. S. Ramanathan seconded the motion.

Why No Action was Taken

Mr. Ponnambalam, supporting said that the loss of lives was due to the fact that the renter did not have sufficient number of boats.

He said he was informed that petitions were sent to the authorities complaining about overloading but owing to the influence of certain leading men who were interested in the renter no action had been taken. Leading families of Pungudutivu had lost their kith and kin and some who died might have turned out in later life to be of great service to the Tamil community. An independent and impartial commission should be appointed.

Mr. S. M. Aboobucker, speaking next, said that they had to thank the mover for having brought that motion and given them the opportunity to acquaint themselves with the details and with certain representations already made in connection with the Pannai Ferry service.

What He Saw

After stating that the speech and arguments of Mr. Pathirana had been pregnant with facts and figures, Mr. Aboobucker said that no son or daughter of Jaffna would not have shed tears of blood when they heard about this tragedy which could have been easily averted. The boat had capsized within sight of the people standing at both ends of the ferry. It was stated that 19 people had found watery graves but he (the speaker) feared that the number was much more. Several complaints had been made that the renter did not own sufficient number of boats for the transport of goods and passengers. He (the speaker) had occasion to go 10 or 15 days prior to the tragedy to Mankumpun and found that the renter did not take into consideration the convenience of the people. The renter seems to have his own way of doing things. He had not conformed to the regulations. He was merely bent upon making money. Even on the day that he (the speaker) travelled there were complaints by the people that very many people were left behind and that they were held up from 7 a.m. till 4 p.m. Before concluding, Mr. Aboobucker said, that the Commission should fully investigate the matter. It should find out what the obligations of the renter were and whether he was carrying them out. The public wanted to know the full facts and the public must be satisfied.

The resolution was put to the house and carried unanimously.

On the motion of Mr. Pathirana the Council directed the Secretary to telegraph the text of the resolution to His Excellency the Governor.

(—we had not the good fortune to learn Sanscrit, and what little we have come to know of the treasures of thought in that language—we could only glean from their sometimes incorrect translations and reproductions in English—) only confirmed us in our conviction regarding the excellence and pre-eminent position of our own Saiva Siddhanta system of religion and philosophy. (—We are sorry we have had to indulge in this personal note but the reference was unavoidable for our purpose.) (To be continued)

SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Continued from page 1

there are large agricultural and technical universities where first-rate research work is being carried on by many learned men and women. There are agricultural universities in Sweden near Upsalla and in Switzerland near Zurich. In America and Germany also large agricultural universities have been established. I think it is very urgent to establish an agricultural university in Bengal with the Bose Institute as its nucleus.

During our lifetime we have seen the magnificent progress which America and Russia have made in the realm of industry and commerce through the help of applied and pure science and engineering. In India also after establishing technical universities and instituting research scholarships or national fellowships for research, if we devote ourselves wholeheartedly to the pursuit of applied science, then within a period of twenty to twenty-five years, India may perhaps attain the same standard of industrial prosperity as America or Russia.

The rich people of our country up till now have been founding Dharmashalas and temples, but only a few, like Jamshedji Tata, Sir Rashbehari Ghosh, Sir Tarak Nath Palit, have made princely donations for scientific research. It is very necessary for other well-to-do Indians to follow the example of these 'princes', otherwise India cannot progress industrially. The immortal Pasteur, the pride of France and the world and the greatest benefactor of humanity, appealed to mankind by declaring that scientific and technical laboratories and research institutes are the temples of the future where mankind will be elevated and strengthened and asking well-to-do persons to endow such temples and create ample resources for such institutions. The French people and other nations responded generously to the appeal of Pasteur and established in Paris a palace for research named after him, where important researches leading to the alleviation of human suffering, have been carried on and are in progress now.

India requires thousands of such research institutes and technical and agricultural universities for its regeneration and material prosperity, and the money spent on them will be more than repaid by the results achieved in such institutions.

(Concluded)

AUCTION SALE

D. C. J. No. 17269

Vallipuram Kandiah of Neervely North

Vs.

Kulanthai velu Sivasubrah of Neervely North.

PROPERTIES

All that piece of land called Vada-vappulam in extent 16 Lms. of paddy culture situated at Neervely and bounded on the East by the property of Sithamparum wife of Sinnathamby, North by the property of Thiagarajah Ratnasabapathy, West by the property of Ramalingam Velupillai, South by the property of Ramalingam Velupillai and others.

2. All that piece of land called Perinkadu in extent 7½ lms. of paddy culture situated as aforesaid and bounded on the East by the properties of Kandian Sithamparum and

SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA (held at Point Pedro)
No. 1578 P.

Veeragathiar Velupillai of Puloly East
Plaintiff

Vs.

1. Vallipuram Chelliah
- 2 and wife Thangammah
3. Vairamuttu Kanjiah
4. Namasivayam Sivagnanasundaram
5. and wife Manonmany all of Puloly West Defendants.

To the abovenamed Defendants
Whereas the abovenamed Plaintiff has instituted an action against you the 1st and 2nd Defendants in this Court for the recovery of the sum of Rs. 1000/- being principal and interest due on Mortgage Bond No. 2489 dated 20th September 1934 and attested by V. Senathirajasegaram N. P. for costs and for further interest and whereas you the 4th and 5th defendants have been made parties to this action as mortgagees of the said mortgage you are hereby summoned to appear in this Court either in person or by Proctor on the 19th day of February 1942 at 9 O'clock of the forenoon, to answer the abovenamed Plaintiff. And you are hereby required to make notice that in default of your so appearing the action will be proceeded with and heard and determined in your absence. And you will bring with you or send by your Proctor which the plaintiff desires to inspect and any documents on which you intend to reply in support of defence.

The 9th day of February 1942.

By order of Court
Sgd. S. MANICCAM,

14-5-42. Secretary.

Extended and reissued for
4-6-42.

Drawn by
M. Esurapatham,
Proctor for Plaintiff.

Note 1. Should you apprehend that your witness will not attend of your own accord you can have a summons from this court to compel the attendance of any witness, and the Production of any document have a right to call on any witness to produce, by applying to the court at any reasonable time before trial, and depositing the necessary subsistence money.

Note 2. If you admit the demand, you should pay the money into the court, with the cost of the action, to avoid the summary execution of the decree which may be made against your person or property, both if necessary.

(Mis. 46. 1-6-42.)

others, North and West by the property of Velupillai Sabapathy and shareholders, South by the property of Kathiresar Vinayar.

3. An undivided ½ of all that piece of land called Arasollai in extent 20½ lms. paddy culture situated as aforesaid and bounded on the East by the property of Vallipillai wife of Thambu and others, North by the property of Nagappan Vallipuram and others, West by the properties of Sinnapillai wife of Thilliampalam and shareholders, Sinnathamam wife of Pandari and others, South by the property of Kathirithamby Sinnappu and others.

4. An undivided ½ of all that piece of land called Pannalai and Eechhantaravai in extent 35 Lms. P. O. but by possession 42 lms of paddy culture situated as aforesaid and bounded on the east by the properties of Sinnappa Suppar and Sinnappa Sinnathamby, North by the properties of Arumugam Rajalingam and others, South by flood water course.

In terms of the commission issued to me by the District Court of Jaffna in Case No. 17269 I shall sell the above properties by public auction on Thursday the 30th June at about 3 p.m. at the spots.

N. KANDIAH
Commissioner,

(Mis. 47. 4-6-42)

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Printed, and published by PANDIT V. T. SAMBANDHAN, residing at Veerarponnai West, Jaffna, for and on behalf of the Proprietors, the Saiva Paripalana Sabai, Jaffna, at their Press, the Saiva Prakasa Press, Veerarponnai, Jaffna, on MONDAY, JUNE 1, 1942.