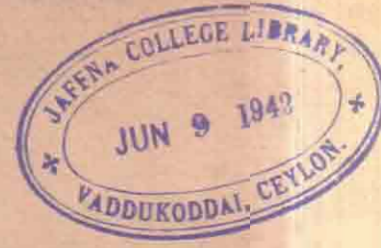


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NEWS FROM FAR AND NEAR

Mr. C. Coomaraswamy's New Post

Mr. C. Coomaraswamy, until recently District Judge of Jaffna has been, it is understood, appointed Government Agent of Uva, succeeding Mr. J. R. Walters who has been appointed Controller of Currysuffs.

Minister's Control of Granaries

By an Order under the Food Control Ordinance, the Minister of Labour, Industry and Commerce, G. C. S. Corea, has assumed control of the Chalmers Granaries and the Manning Market where rice is stored for the purpose of trade.

The Minister has also published an Order prohibiting the removal of any rice or paddy which is imported into Ceylon from the Custom's premises at the various ports or places mentioned in the Order except under a permit.

India Must Be Held, Says Sir G. S. Bajpai

"India will fight—is fighting," declared the Indian Agent General, Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai, speaking at the Institute of Technology. He declared that India must be held not only for her own sake but for the sake of China, and pointed out that India and China must receive the implements necessary for effective resistance. "Neither lacks manpower, but each is in urgent need of planes. Each looks to the United States for a prompt and effective supply of these essential implements of war."

Coconuts in Heaps Awaiting Transport

Owing to rail and road transport difficulties, it was revealed at a meeting of the planters and traders in and around the Ganewatte area that a large quantity of coconuts in heaps are germinating, and thousands of candies of copra in estates' and traders' stores are mildewed. It appears that for some time no transport of this commodity has been made from Ganewatte, and road transport has become very costly owing to the rationing of petrol.

GERMANS NOW REALISE THAT CONQUEST THREATENS THEM

RUSSIAN VICTORIES THE TURNING POINT

BY F. A. VOIGT
(In a recent Broadcast)

HOW are the Germans taking defeat? In the last war they lost the Battle of the Marne, but at the time they did not realise how important a battle it was. They hardly knew they had lost it until after the War when its importance became known. They lost the Battle of England in the autumn of 1940 but again the Germans public were not aware of its importance. Had the German won the Battle of England, all would have been over for us. But when they lost it, the loss and the importance of the battle could be concealed from their own public. So until last November the Germans as a whole were not conscious of defeat—to them the war seemed like one unbroken succession of victories extending over more than two years.

The German defeats in Russia are very different. The German casualties are so big that they cannot be concealed. Far too many German families have lost a father, a son, a husband. Men home on leave from the Russian front are sometimes changed almost beyond recognition, so fearful is the ordeal they have been through—mud, mosquitos, vermin, a most formidable foe, and, during the last few weeks, cold so intense that the bolt or trigger of the rifle cannot be touched with the bare hand.

Breakdown of Medical Service

More terrible than anything else perhaps is the breakdown of the German medical service in Russia. A wounded German has little chance of survival in the intense cold. His lowered resistance easily brings on pneumonia. The lack of field hospitals and casualty clearing stations, the great distances between the front and the base hospitals mean almost certain doom for a severely wounded German. The sufferings of the German forces in Russia today probably exceed

anything experienced in this war and in the last, and the German civilian population are getting to know it. Nor can the fact of the continuous retirement be concealed.

How are the Germans taking it, now that at last they know defeat, now that there is no prospect of victory such as in November seemed so near?

How Defeat Affects Them

The change of tone in the German press and in German broadcasts, and what we hear about the outlook of the ordinary German, gives us some idea of the way defeat has affected the German nation. The whole national outlook has been transformed. Whereas until the end of November, that is to say, until the Battle of Rostoff and Moscow, the Germans were confidently determined to win the war, they are now grimly determined not to lose it. There are even some, especially in the German business world, who believe that Germany cannot win the war—but that she can, and will, win the peace.

We have sometimes over-rated our chances at the outset of a campaign, but on the whole we have, thanks chiefly to the Prime Minister, refrained from being too hopeful. We have been aware almost from the very beginning that the war would be a hard one and a long one. In his New Year's message to the German armed forces in 1941, Hitler said that year would see the consummation of the biggest victory ever won. He must, even then, have been thinking of the Russian campaign. And indeed, the consummation of what would certainly have been one of the biggest victories ever won, seemed very near, so near that Hitler declared it was as good as won in November. But the Russian counter-offensive in that same month destroyed these hopes.

German Hopes

In November, so it seemed

COINS SCARCE AGAIN

HOARDERS BUSY AT IT?

A shortage of one-cent and five-cent pieces is being experienced at present which, if not remedied in time, may develop into a situation similar to that created some ago.

Already shop-keepers, traders and those in the transport services are hard put to it to find enough small change for their customers, and many people have been greatly inconvenienced as a result.

At first the present shortage was regarded as a temporary phase but the situation appears to be slowly deteriorating, to judge from the difficulty of obtaining any change even when a ten-cent or twenty-five cent note is tendered in a shop or tram car.

Hoarders at it Again

This difficulty does not, however, arise when notes of larger denominations are tendered because of the abundance of small paper currency of the fifty-cent, twenty-five cent and ten cent denominations as a result of the action taken by the Treasury on the last occasion when there was a shortage of coins of these monetary values.

The shortage of one-cent and five-cent pieces is said to be the result of hoarding on the part of certain people.

Silver coins are fast disappearing from circulation and it is on a rare occasion now that one gets even a silver ten-cent piece by way of change. With the disappearance of the silver coins the hoarders appear to have taken to the storing of copper and the nickel five-cent coins under the impression that the conversion of the copper coins in particular will fetch them good profits when copper becomes scarce.

to the Germans, there would be signal victory and then, very soon after, peace. More than this. There was the prospect of immense booty, of farms and cornlands and mines and industries which would supply Germany with almost all she needed. There would be slave populations working for Germany. There would be an abundance of important jobs open to all—the job of administering and reorganising the occupied territories, of building up the 'New Order'.

(Continued on page 6)



Hindu Organ.

MONDAY JUNE 8, 1942.

NOMINATIONS

BY TWENTYFIVE VOTES TO one the State Council passed the motion introduced by Dr. A. P. de Zoysa that "in the opinion of this Council nominations of members to Municipal and Urban Councils should be discontinued". It appears that the Executive Committee for Local Government desired this and the State Council has obligingly passed the motion. At first sight one would be inclined to think that the Committee, in desiring the discontinuance of nominations, was performing a great act of self-denial. The Legislature has, for certain good reasons, provided for the nomination of a certain number of members to Urban and Municipal Councils. The Executive Committee was the body that made the nomination, though, nominally, the Governor was supposed to nominate. There used to be numerous interviews with members of the Executive Committee and hurried visits to Colombo in connection with these nominations. It is even alleged that some members of the Executive Committee used to visit Provincial towns in search of local material to aid them in the discharge of their duty. After a good deal of activity on these lines and much more of intrigue, the Committee makes the nomination and is rewarded for its pains with protests and grumbings from every corner of the island. Suggestions of bribery and corruption are made. Even at the meeting of the State Council that passed the motion Mr. G. G. Ponnambalam sneered at Mr. Bandaranaike's inconsistency in foisting on the Jaffna Urban Council "those who were not acceptable to the circles of the Hon. Minister". There was a sting in this observation that would not have been lost on Mr. Bandaranaike. Under these circumstances the Executive Committee must have thought that it would, on the whole, be best to keep out of the way of temptation. To be tempted by an aspiring and unscrupulous public on every occasion on which the Executive Committee is about to discharge the duties of its high office in the matter of nominations to local bodies is certainly unpleasant. Even when the Committee manages to resist temptation, it is assailed on all sides with charges and allegations that are, to say the least, very painful.

The Committee has, therefore, decided that nominations

should be discontinued and the Council has indorsed its decision. It seems to us, however, that neither the Committee nor the Council has chosen the best way out of the difficulty. In a country like Ceylon the system of nomination has also its place. There is no doubt that we are all democrats, and very fierce ones at that; but our ways are not so completely democratic as we would have the world believe. This is a truth which no honest man can deny. Nominations, therefore, may be allowed to continue without offence to our comparatively undeveloped democratic instincts. But, the cause of the whole trouble has been the conduct of the Executive Committee itself in making a nomination. Even if we disbelieve all these stories about bribery and corruption, there remains the hard and unpalatable fact that the Committee has made nominations which no body of men with any claim to moral or intellectual honesty would think of making. We remember one particular nomination to the Jaffna Urban Council some years ago. The Government Agent had made his recommendations which were later rejected by the Executive Committee for no other reason than that the temptation to do wrong proved too much for this particular Committee. Again, in 1940 two gentlemen were nominated as members of the same Council on grounds which did not at all commend themselves to the public in Jaffna. The Executive Committee knows very well why the public was dissatisfied. Mr. Bandaranaike is regarded as the culprit responsible for the nomination of one member on this occasion and the reasons which prompted him to commit this positive indiscretion—an indiscretion utterly incompatible with the responsibilities of his office—will not bear examination for a moment. The last nomination to the Jaffna Urban Council is vitiated by the same defect, though, in justice to the young member nominated, we must admit that he shows signs of a promising career in the administration of the town of his adoption. Mr. Bandaranaike will realise, from these remarks of ours, that the average Jaffna man has a very keen sense of justice and will not ignore real merit, though the precedent the Minister created in 1940 was vicious in the extreme. Other towns too have had the same experience as Jaffna. The remedy for this sorry state of things is not the discontinuance of the system of nomination but to purge the Council of men who refuse to do their duty. We are unable to agree with the suggestion made in the course of the debate on the motion that it is so very difficult for the Committee to exercise its powers of nomination. In our opinion, the task

is a perfectly simple one, unless it is complicated by considerations that are entirely irrelevant. As regards the motion itself, we hope that His Excellency the Governor will not allow himself to be influenced by the apparent unanimity with which it was passed. Since nominations are necessary, they must continue. If the Committee refuses to have anything to do with it, let us hope that the Governor himself or the Minister will make the nomination on proper materials.

THE FOOD POSITION

The remarks made by Mr. K. Adamally in the course of an interview with a "Times of Ceylon" representative, regarding the food position in Ceylon, deserve careful consideration by the public. Mr. Adamally has just spent three months in India. In the course of his visit he has been able to observe things on the spot. As the result of his inquiries and investigations he advises the people of Ceylon to join "in one big battle for food". In India large acres of cotton and groundnut have been replaced by food crops and even then, according to Mr. Adamally, India is faced with shortage of food. "So that", says Mr. Adamally, "the tendency that has hitherto grown in Ceylon to be dependent on India for her food must be checked. In the coming months India herself will feel the pinch severely on account of large exports to other countries, which have become necessary owing to the present situation. Here in Ceylon we must be prepared to face an acute shortage of food ourselves, and the one way to meet it is by cultivating every available inch of ground, and by starting new industrial enterprises even in a small way." We have said the same thing in these columns with regard to the food position. It would be highly dangerous to depend on India for our food supply. Apart from the increased difficulty of transport, India is certainly not self-supporting in the matter of food. But with the present demands on her food supply, India will not be able to maintain uninterrupted and adequate supplies to Ceylon. Let the people remember that once they depended on Burma for their food. This source is now cut off. Let us not repeat the mistake by depending on India. Ceylon has plenty of land. There is plenty of room for the expansion of her agriculture. Now is the time for men in the position of Mr. Senanayake to seize the opportunity with both hands and make Ceylon self-supporting in the matter of food. With all the supplies that are reaching the island, the fact has to be faced that the food position

is getting very serious. There is a good deal of profiteering going on and it must be assumed that illicit sales are on the increase. The prices charged by illicit sellers of foodstuffs are a clear indication of the actual position in the country in regard to food. Labourers in areas under the Karachi Irrigation Scheme are now clamouring for paddy in preference to cash. From the point of view of the farmer this is a welcome sign, but it bodes ill for the people as a whole. Let the Minister act on Mr. Adamally's advice and bring our jungle lands under cultivation.

FLAGS OF UNITED NATIONS

HONOURING CEREMONY ON JUNE 14

A telegram has been received from the Secretary of State intimating that the following announcement from No. 10, Downing Street was published in the English Press on the 2nd instant.

"June 14th is a day on which the United States are accustomed to honour their flag as the emblem of their freedom, strength and unity. This year the American people have been invited by President Roosevelt to honour also the flags of those states who have signed the Declaration of United Nations of January 1st 1942. His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom are desirous also of arranging a similar tribute to the flags of all those valiant people who are fighting with them in the cause of freedom. Suitable arrangements are being made and it is hoped that ceremonies for this purpose will be held on June 14th throughout this country."

EXAMINATION DECISION

A Government Gazette notification confirms the news published last week that the Cambridge Senior School Certificate and the London Matriculation examinations will not be held after the examinations of December, 1942, and June, 1943, respectively.

A NEW DEPARTMENT

FOR DISTRIBUTION OF FOODSTUFFS

A new Department within the purview of the Ministry of Labour, Industry and Commerce which will be charged with the responsibility of carrying out the distribution of foodstuffs is in the course of formation.

Mr. J. R. Walters, until a few days ago Government Agent in Uva, has been appointed head of this new Department as Controller of Distribution.

The new Department, it is learned, will for a beginning deal with the distribution of curyustuffs which it was decided recently, should be purchased by the Government from importers and distributed for retail sale throughout the island.

It is proposed that the distribution of other commodities, such as flour and sugar should also be entrusted to the new Department till ultimately it will be responsible for the distribution of all foodstuffs other than rice.

FOODSTUFFS BEING BURIED

Railway Ramp Alleged

The question of the price of commodities was raised in the State Council on Thursday by Mr. B. H. Aluwihare. He said that the price of grain had already been decided by the House in that the same price as was paid to foreign grain should be paid to the locally produced stuffs. The non-payment of that price discouraged the local cultivator. Government was not taking sufficient care to build up its own stocks with local grain. Government was not only allowing any man who had money to buy enormous stocks but was also undermining the whole of the rationing scheme.

The estates were able to buy and lay by stocks. The producer, however, was not allowed to sell in a free market. Orders had gone out, he believed, from the Ministry that paddy was to be bought at Rs. 2.50 and kurakkan under Rs. 2. His information was that the price for foreign kurakkan delivered in Colombo was Rs. 6 and delivered in Kandy Rs. 9. Foreign paddy was Rs. 3.52. A bag of rice delivered in Colombo cost about Rs. 20. If a fair price was paid very soon Ceylon would be self-supporting.

Putrefying Foodstuffs

Mr. G. G. Ponnambalam raised the question of transport in respect of foodstuffs. While consumers in Colombo were suffering sometime ago from the want of certain foodstuffs the very foodstuffs were putrefying in Jaffna. Onions and potatoes in enormous quantities were being buried in Jaffna and consignors were refusing to take charge of the consignments. The Railway had to pay money to the people for buying the stuff putrefying in its godowns.

"There is a ramp going on in certain railway stations by some railway officials who demand Rs. 150 for a waggon in order to circumvent the order of priority," he alleged.

The Minister for Labour and the Minister for Communications and Works should act immediately in the matter. A scheme should be devised by which Government could take over the importation of foodstuffs completely.

The other point he wanted to urge was that the House should be told what the food situation was. They wished to know how much of the 33,000 tons of rice a month which India was prepared to give had come to Ceylon. What was the present stock of imported rice and how long would it last?

Mr. J. L. Kotalawala said that the question of the Railway had been considered by the Board of Ministers. A Priority Committee had been set up. It started work only the previous day and had done well allocating the waggons among all concerned.

The question of allowing an opportunity for the discussion of the matters raised was then considered and it was thought that time could be set apart for it that day or the next.

COMPLAINTS ABOUT FOOD DISTRIBUTION

IMPORTANT DISCLOSURES BY MINISTER

Colombo, Friday.

IMPORTANT disclosures about the food situation were made both this morning and yesterday evening by Mr. G. C. S. Corea (Minister of Labour, Industry and Commerce) in the State Council when the subject was broached on adjournment motions. Mr. Corea was forced to discontinue his statement yesterday evening because of want of a quorum but an opportunity for him to resume was afforded when the House reassembled at 10 a.m. today. Mr. Corea revealed that:

(1) From today Government would take over the sugar stocks and issue them to traders by permits;

(2) Flour and wheat stocks were embarrassingly abundant and it was proposed to issue these commodities in lieu of part of the rice ration;

(3) The currystuff position improving daily, the recent difficulty in regard to onions and potatoes not being due to a scarcity but transport problems which were now being solved.

(4) Public prejudice against broken Karachi raw rice, which had been certified as being fit for human consumption, must either be overcome or else 50,000 bags of that variety of rice would have to be destroyed.

Mr. H. F. Parfitt (Nominated) asked the Minister whether he had been advised by competent authority that broken raw rice now issued to estates and others, was fit for human consumption. On the estates they had great difficulty in getting the labourers to eat the raw rice as they complained that it upset their digestion.

Mr. Geo. R. De Silva (Colombo North) asked the Minister what the position was in regard to the importation of currystuffs. He inquired whether Government proposed to buy currystuffs direct or through local trade channels.

Mr. S. Natesan (Kankasanturai) inquired what arrangements had been made by Government to purchase and stock country rice; what prices were paid for country rice; had they any relation to the prices paid for imported rice.

Mr. G. R. Whitby (Nominated) referred to the stocks of flour now in the Island, which, he said would go bad as flour did not keep for more than three months and suggested that the Minister should investigate the possibility of asking the military to utilise some of the existing stocks, replacing it later, if necessary.

Minister's Disclosures

On the question of foodstuffs, Mr. Corea replied that the broken Karachi raw rice given out was not unfit for human consumption, as certified by Dr. Lucius Nicholls, and as testified to by His Excellency the Governor after a practical experiment. The question they were faced with was that they had 50,000 bags of that rice which they had either to make use of in the best possible way or destroy.

In regard to sugar, the position was that importers had stocks of which a reserve had to be kept under the Essential Commodities Ordinance.

He proposed to take over the control of sugar stocks now avail-

able and distribute them to traders on a permit system. The order was ready and would be applied from today. Once those stocks were exhausted, the stocks purchased by Government and which had now arrived would be distributed.

The effect of the order to be put into operation from today was that everybody who had stocks, over and above a certain quantity, had to declare, and after that those stockists were prevented from removing a grain of sugar.

He then gave facts and figures showing the position with regard to flour and wheat was very satisfactory. It was proposed to distribute a portion as part of rice ration scheme, thereby saving rice and paddy.

The position of currystuffs was improving daily, although it was not as yet quite satisfactory. The position in regard to onions and potatoes had been very difficult owing to local transport. Large shipments had been held up for a fortnight with the result that large quantities had perished.

There had been some improvement in the position of local transport since two days and he hoped that that improvement would continue. One other difficulty that had to be contended with was the insufficient warehouse accommodation in Jaffna.

As a result of the large stocks of onions and potatoes available, it had been suggested to him temporarily to suspend the imports.

Subject Continued

When the State Council resumed at 10 a.m. today, Sir Baron Jayatilaka moved the adjournment of the meeting.

Mr. G. G. Ponnambalam (Point Pedro), speaking on the adjournment motion repeated the questions he had raised earlier, in order to enable Mr. G. C. S. Corea to continue the statement he was making yesterday when the Council was forced to adjourn for want of a quorum.

Mr. Ponnambalam added that from the statement already made by Mr. Corea, there appeared to be a woeful lack of co-ordination among the different departments. The Food Control Department should have anticipated all the difficulties it was now complaining of. Merely to point out that Government departments partially buying food had themselves suffered large losses was hardly the remedy for the situation.

The figures quoted by the Minister in regard to wheat and flour were misleading. What would be the position of wheat and flour in the event of a complete failure of rice and paddy. A good deal of notice to the people was necessary of the proposal to supplement the rice rations with flour.

Mr. R. C. Kannangara (Morawaka) asked the Ministry to consider the advisability of procuring spare parts for Diesel lorries which owners of these lorries themselves were unable to procure. The transport problem would be greatly eased if Diesel lorries now lying idle in garages could be put back on the road. It had to be noted that there was ample oil fuel.

Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike (Minister of Local Administration) stated that more than a hundred

PANNAI FERRY RENT

Request to Transfer Management to V. C.

That the Pannai Ferry tent should not be sold to any individual or individuals and that its management be handed over to the Allaippiddy Village Committee, was one of the requests made at a public meeting of the inhabitants of Mandaitivu, Allaippiddy and Mankumpan held on Wednesday at the Parasakthy Vidyasalai, Allaippiddy. Mr. V. Selvadurai presided and Mr. K. Kailasapillai was elected Secretary.

A vote of sympathy with the relations of the victims of the Pannai tragedy was passed all standing. The following were among the other resolutions passed.

"This meeting requests His Excellency the Governor to appoint a Judicial Commission to inquire into the circumstances of the Pannai tragedy".

"This Meeting requests the Government to take immediate steps to construct a causeway at Pannai and to obtain now a token vote from the State Council for this purpose."

The meeting also urged the Government to pay relief to the poor dependents of those who lost their lives in the tragedy.

Village Committees had already opened check food depots in their village areas and many more would be taking similar action. It was impossible for the Central Government to start food depots all over the country.

With regard to transport, the question of the formation of limited liability companies for buses was under consideration. If bus owners could not ultimately agree to join in such a scheme, other Governmental action would have to be taken.

The position was similar as regards lorries. There was at present some sort of group organizations controlling the lorry transport of the country. It was his idea to develop these so as to maintain a check on the issue of petrol coupons with a view to regularising service. Through these organizations alone, he thought, petrol coupons could be distributed among the various lorries operating in a group so as to assure the maximum use being made of them. He would get into communication with India for obtaining Diesel lorry spare parts, if it was true that India could supply them.

Result of Greed

Mr. D. S. Senanayake (Minister of Agriculture and Lands) said that the transport difficulty experienced in Jaffna was due to lack of co-operation and the greed of some merchants. If the Jaffna people had only utilised the machinery in existence although the profits would not have been great, there would not have been this confusion.

The first mistake made was that the people who were producing the onions abandoned the co-operative societies and wished to make larger profits by selling direct to the traders. The result was that when the traders were unable to transport the onions, the producers wanted the Marketing Commissioner to buy the onions which had in the

Continued on page 4

NOMINATIONS TO LOCAL BODIES

STATE COUNCIL VOTES FOR ABOLITION

THE State Council continued on Wednesday, the debate on the following motion of Dr. A. P. de Zoysa:-

"That in the opinion of this Council nominations of members to Municipal and Urban Councils should be discontinued."

MR. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike (Minister of Local Administration) said his Executive Committee came to the conclusion that nominations might desirably be abolished to elected Local Bodies such as Municipal Councils and Urban Councils. There were certain principles which should guide nomination.

In the first place the persons nominated should be persons who could do some service to that body. But that was not the only principle. There were cases where nominations were made to represent particular interests and that had led to some confusion being caused. Sometimes situations arose where there were no clearly defined interests and the Executive Committee was faced with various names.

The question arose whether it was possible to have a clear-cut principle. His personal opinion was that nominations could be totally dispensed with without causing serious difficulties.

It was possible to have clear-cut principles such as whether only technical officials should be nominated or whether they should be made purely to represent communal interests. At present the nominations were made nominally by the Governor. His Excellency had written to him suggesting that that matter might be taken into the hands of the Executive Committee or of one person such as himself. The task of the Executive Committee in making nominations was an invidious one. These Local Bodies had functioned sufficiently long to make it desirable to abolish nominations. That was his personal opinion and also the opinion of his Executive Committee.

"Undermined Public Confidence"

Mr. G. G. Ponnambalam (Point Pedro) said that the history of these nominations at the hands of the Executive Committee had so undermined public confidence that even those who were in favour of nominations continuing would unreservedly support the motion rather than run the risk of having unacceptable nominations. They got to take this power of making nominations from the hands of the Minister and his Executive Committee. That was a sad commentary. He had endeavoured in vain to find some principle which animated the Executive Committee of Local Administration in recommending the nominations.

Mr. Bandaranaike: I am sorry that we were unable to follow certain recommendations of the Member for Point Pedro.

Mr. Ponnambalam: I would certainly recommend that those who were not acceptable to the circles of the Hon. Minister should not be foisted on the Jaffna Urban Council.

Continuing, Mr. Ponnambalam said that every single nomination recommended by the Executive

Committee had earned the opprobrium of public opinion.

A Difficult Task

Mr. R. S. S. Gunawardene (Gampola) said that nominations at all times must necessarily be a difficult task.

He had not been able to find out in what way the nominations made by the Executive Committee were unacceptable to the country. In a large majority of cases those nominated members had been unanimously elected to be Chairman or Vice-Chairman of their Urban Councils.

It was not to be denied that in certain cases the nominations were made on communal considerations.

In all other cases they were made on merit. Representations made by the Government Agents and the public were considered by the Executive Committee. There was one occasion when the Governor had complimented the Executive Committee on its nominations. They were the nominations to the Colombo Municipal Council.

Mr. Gunawardene said for the Jaffna Urban Council a Sinhalese was nominated on the communal principle. If in a Sinhalese area it was justifiable to nominate Tamils and Muslims it was not unfair in a Tamil area to nominate a Sinhalese.

Mr. Gunawardene argued that the nomination of defeated candidates was quite justifiable. Because a small ward turned a man down it did not mean that he was unacceptable to the whole town, he said.

The Executive Committee was not too keen on going on with these nominations. The main case for nominations had been the communal principle. He did not think that that was in the best interests of the country.

In Support of Nominations

Mr. T. B. Jayah (Nominated) said he liked to know whether the mover objected to nominations on principle or because he felt that the Executive Committee of Local Administration was not doing its duty. Very often some of the members who had much to do with nominations said that these nominations were not made on a communal principle. In Kurunegala, on one occasion, the only Muslim who had contested a seat was defeated. It was well-known that that town was full of members of the Muslim community. That candidate was strongly recommended by the Government Agent, and all the elected members felt very strongly that he should be nominated. But the Committee nominated a member of the majority community.

On the last two occasions, however, better counsels prevailed and the Executive Committee did the right thing. If the Executive Committee was composed of men with a high sense of duty he was sure they would make the right type of nominations.

The principle of nomination was a generally accepted principle. It must be supported. At elections they could not always get the right type of men. Therefore, it was very essential that the Governor should be able to make

COMPLAINTS ABOUT FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Continued from page 3

meantime become rotten. Jaffna had produced nearly 80 per cent. of their requirements in onions but unfortunately owing to lack of co-operation and foresight and the greed on the part of the producers, a good portion of the onions produced became rotten.

Mr. G. C. S. Corea (Minister of Labour, Industry and Commerce) in reply, said that the paddy issued now as a ration was the imported variety.

The situation in regard to the distribution of currysuffs throughout the Island had eased considerably and prices too had fallen. What they had now to deal with was the non-co-operation of some big importers with the Food Control authorities. Some steps were necessary to ensure that retail dealers throughout the Island obtained their supplies at controlled prices.

There were two ways of meeting the problem. One was to license all importers and to compel them to sell to those who only held Government permits; the other was for the Government to set itself up as a large distributor.

Big Scheme

In the first place, it was proposed

nominations in order to fill the gaps and make those bodies useful institutions. It was necessary that minority communities should not go unrepresented. He did not think that readjustment of wards would serve the purpose.

Mr. D. S. Senanayake said the Executive Committee itself had recommended that nominations should be abolished. By their experience they had come to that conclusion. With regard to any nomination there was bound to be difference of opinion.

His own reason for supporting that motion was that very often they found that in these towns there were parties. It so happened that by these nominations there was the possibility of a minority party becoming the majority party. The Member for Gampola had said that often a nominated member had become Chairman. That so happened because one party often bribed the other. In local government it was the wish of the people of the locality that should prevail.

Dr. A. P. de Zoysa said his idea was that for public work they did not want communalism. They wanted citizens of the Island.

The motion was put to the House and passed by 25 votes to 1. The member who rose to vote against it was Mr. Freeman.

to purchase the stocks of the importers and make them available to the trade. That could be done only in two ways, either by the Government having these stocks in a central store from which it could be distributed throughout the country or by the establishment of a sub-station which would carry out its distribution. In all these cases, it required some kind of permit so as to enable a few people to remove all available stocks.

Initial steps had been taken and the Scheme prepared. They hoped to put it into operation at the earliest possible time.

The size of the undertaking might be gauged from the fact that Government might have to be a distributor to more than 2,000 retail dealers. It was reasonable to keep present importers in the import trade, and he was prepared to assure for them a reasonable profit. But if the situation arose where the importer stood out, Government would have to act as importer. The possibility had not been left unconsidered. Government was preparing to meet an eventuality of that kind.

He was making enquiries to see if wheat could be used for direct use as food in its grain form. Detailed information on the food situation could not be given without disclosing vital information to the enemy. For causes affecting the purchase and transport of rice and paddy from India, it was essential that the country should conserve its rice supplies by using substitute foods such as flour.

Mr. Corea denied the statement of the Mayor of Colombo, that persons who had no connexion with the rice trade, had been appointed as importers of rice. The persons appointed, he said, were those who were already connected with the rice trade. It was not fair, he said, to cast aspersions on people who had been of the greatest service to the country.

With regard to internal purchasing of paddy, it had been decided to buy paddy at Rs. 3 a bushel but because there was not a ready offer the Board or Ministers was considering the purchase of paddy at prevailing market rates. The question of internal purchases turned on two alternatives. Should the Government compulsorily buy up paddy and kurakkan at rates which they considered reasonable, or follow current market rates? It was found that kurakkan could not be bought at Rs. 4-50 a bushel. As much as Rs. 7 85 was being offered today in the open market. The policy had to be declared.

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SUBMARINE ATTACK ON DIEGO SUAREZ

U.S. WARNING AGAINST USE OF POISON GAS

London, June 5.

An Admiralty communique says: "The Admiralty announce that a submarine attack was made on Diego Suarez on May 30th. Japanese claims to have damaged a battleship of the Queen Elizabeth class and a cruiser of the Arethusa class are untrue. There were no casualties in His Majesty's ships.

"It is not intended to give the enemy any information regarding details as this would assist him in future operations of a similar nature."

Mr. Roosevelt today warned Japan of sharp retaliation by the United States if the Japanese persisted in using poison gas in China.

Libyan Situation

A Middle East communique issued in Cairo today says: "British and Indian columns yesterday attacked in the rear an enemy force, including tanks, which was attacking our positions at Bir Hakeim. Our air forces were active in this area destroying dive-bombers and bombing and shooting up enemy concentrations. There is nothing to report from the east front."

Docks At Dieppe Bombed

An Air Ministry communique issued today says: "Last night our bombers attacked the docks at Dieppe. Airfields in Holland were bombed by aircraft of the Bomber and Fighter Commands. No aircraft is missing."

Enemy Bases in S. W. Pacific Pounded

A communique from Allied Headquarters in Australia says: "Timor: Our air force attacked Koepang aerodrome, encountering heavy anti-aircraft fire, but all the bombs dropped in the target area, destroying anti-aircraft installations and starting fires.

"Rabaul: An Allied flight bombed wharves and the adjoining areas. Hits were made on carpenters wharf and the warehouse area, starting numerous fires. Hits with incendiary bombs were scored on a military camp. We had no losses.

"Solomons: In an Allied reconnaissance at Tulagi an enemy float plane on the water was machine-gunned."

Nazi Attacks Repulsed on Kalinin Front

Several German infantry attacks have been repulsed by a Soviet unit on the Kalinin front, according to a supplement to today's midday Soviet communique. The supplement also says that 20 German planes were destroyed on the ground in a raid on a German occupied aerodrome and a German infantry attempt to drive a wedge into the Soviet lines on the Murmansk sector, south-west of Moscow, was repulsed, 280 Germans being killed.

Thirty-seven German planes were destroyed on the ground and three in air combat when Red Air Force bombers made surprise attacks at dawn on an enemy aerodrome on the south-western front, the Moscow radio reports.

JAPAN'S AIR ARM

COPIES OF ITALIAN AND GERMAN TYPES

(By John Macdonald)

The Japanese Air Arm is similar to the Navy in the matter of originality. All aircraft used are copies of standard aircraft used by Western Powers. These copies are in most instances pre-war and therefore behind the present day standards of either Germany or Britain or America. A leading illustrated magazine recently published an article which stated that many Japanese bombers have a speed of only 310 miles per hour and are obsolete. Also that the pilots suffer from serious psychological disadvantages because of the peculiar food that they eat. These statements are the result of wishful thinking. Japan has a small but efficient air force, and its pilots are skilful and courageous.

Japan's air forces are popularly thought to be rather inferior. The best thing that has so far been said of them is that the machines are "made in Japan" and therefore second rate materially and in workmanship, and the pilots have plenty of courage but their flying ability is poor.

What Evidence Shows

These remarks are those of an ill-informed person whose wishes have got the better of his thinking capacity. Evidence alone shows that the Japanese air force is something that the Allies in the Pacific must treat with careful consideration. If the raids by Japanese planes on Malaya, the Philippines, Java and New Guinea were carried out by obsolete aircraft and bad pilots they must have had more than their fair share of good luck. In Malaya the Japanese Navy fighters of the "O" type proved very successful. The pilots of these machines must have been carefully trained and they must have worked in co-ordination with the other planes to a remarkable extent. It is true that when the Hurricane arrived on the scene the Japanese planes

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showed a remarkable tendency to dump their bombs and run away as quickly as they could. The fighters too seemed reluctant to do their jobs after that first surprise encounter when 12 Japanese planes were brought down within 30 minutes. That was the first time that the Japanese came up against the Hurricane. But then better men than the Japanese have run away from the Hurricane when it on their tail. No, much as we might like to wish that the Japanese air force is badly manned and made up of old crates that are falling to pieces, the thinking man must admit that it cannot be.

In the fighting in Malaya it was noticed that the Japanese used a number of German planes particularly the Messerschmitt-109. Whether these planes were built in Japan or shipped there before the war is unknown, but they were there and they were used. They were better planes than the Japanese "C" type fighters but they were not so numerous. Also used was a large two-engined bomber which resembled the first British Whitley. This machine proved to be a better performer than the standard Japanese planes used for the same type of work.

Where the Japanese will eventually fall down as regards their air programme is in the field of production. At present with the factories working at full speed and with the resources that they have, they are able to turn out at the very most 350 planes per month. How does that compare with British and American production which has competed with German production? And these 350 planes per month have been proved to be copies of earlier German and Italian planes, now out of production.

ASSISTANCE TO CULTIVATORS

SEED PADDY AND CASH

At the meeting of the State Council on Thursday Mr. Simon Abeywickrema (Udugama) asked:—

(1) Whether the Government Agents were authorised to give assistance to cultivators under the following heads:—

(a) Supply of seed paddy in places where seed paddy could not be procured by Government and cash assistance to cultivators for the purchase of seed paddy on their undertaking to return to Government after the harvest the same quantity of seed paddy for which they received money.

(b) Supply of bone meal manure to cultivators.

(c) Supply of planting materials such as manioc cuttings, yams, kurakkan.

(d) Supply of agricultural implements.

(e) Cash assistance up to Rs. 8 per acre to garden land cultivators.

(f) Supply of fence sticks at Government expense to cultivators.

The Minister of Agriculture and Lands replied:

(a) Government Agents and Assistant Government Agents were authorised to issue seed paddy to needy cultivators at their discretion either on loan or as a free issue. In special circumstances the Government Agent, Southern Province, was given advances up to Rs. 10,000 to enable him to make such cash grants to cultivators to purchase seed paddy to be recovered at harvest in kind. This was done in consultation with the Financial Secretary.

(b) Yes.

(c) Yes.

(d) Yes.

(e) Yes in some cases when the land was private bare or coconut land.

(f) No.

NOTICE

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The Sanitary Board Office,
Mannar, 1st June, 1942,
(G. 19. 4 & 8-6-42.)

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GERMANS NOW REALISE THAT CONQUEST THREATENS THEM

Continued from page 1

The dreaded winter would not be so dreadful, for there would be new supplies of fuel, food, and clothing in plenty.

But now, for the first time since the war began, the Germans realise that Germany is in danger, that conquest now threatens her. Until the Battles of Rostoff and Moscow, the Germans were waging a war of conquest—today they are fighting for survival as a Great Power. They know that if they survive as a Great Power, that is to say, if their armed might remains unbroken in the end, and if they retain at least some of their conquests, they will at least not really have lost the war. For the Germans anything short of complete and final military defeat means that the chance of victory in the long run has not vanished. If so they think, they cannot win this war, they can, if they emerge from it unbroken, gain a breathing space and prepare for the Third World War, just as after the First World War, they were able to recover and prepare for the Second. That is why we shall not really have won the war and the peace unless the armed might of Germany is broken and is kept broken.

The Turning Point

There is no sign of internal dis-

ruption in Germany. We should be very sceptical with regard to reports about dissensions between Hitler and his generals and between the generals and the National Socialist Party. It would rather seem that the Germans have, in defeat, rallied behind Hitler. It may be that the influence of the German officer corps will grow and that the influence of the Party will diminish. The militant, cursading idea for which the Party stood has certainly been shaken. But a sobered Germany is not less dangerous than an enthusiastic Germany. Serious opposition there is none—movements like those headed by Otto Strasser and other people outside Germany mean nothing in Germany.

We must not be taken in by any German revolution. Revolution may come but its purpose may well be to infuse more vigour into the conduct of the war. It may show a democratic exterior in the hope that the Allies will believe that 'the other Germany' has come into existence, a Germany with which there can be a premature peace. Many Germans believe that if they turn democratic in good time, they will be let off easily.

Perhaps the Russian victories are the turning point in the war. For the first time the Germans are aware that they can lose the war even if they do not yet believe that they will lose it.

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