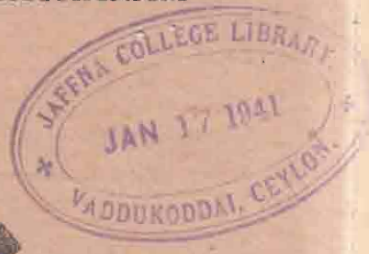


THE Hindu Organ.



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JAFFNA, THURSDAY, JANUARY 16, 1941.

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NO. 77.

SHOPS ACT AND JAFFNA

Memorandum to Minister EXTENSION TO JAFFNA URGED

A memorandum signed by many shop proprietors and shop employees of the Jaffna Urban area has been sent to the Minister for Labour, Industry and Commerce requesting that steps be taken to make the Shops Act operative in Jaffna as early as possible.

The memorandum states:—

Though Jaffna does not stand on a par with Colombo in regard to the volume of business transacted, it cannot be gainsaid that Jaffna does greater volume of business than either Kandy or Galle.

There are almost more than a thousand shop employees in the Jaffna Urban area and there is practically no opposition to the enforcement of the Shops Act and the regulations thereunder in Jaffna.

It looks as though the policy of the Government is to enforce the Shops Act at present in the Municipal Towns only.

A strict adherence to such a policy will amount to penalising such citizens as happen to be outside Municipal areas and employed in shops for no fault of their.

It is highly dangerous and contrary to public policy to allow such an impression to gain currency.

No doubt Kandy and Galle enjoy municipal status, but a perusal of the budgetary position of the Jaffna Urban Council will convince anybody that Jaffna is no second to these towns in point of population, volume of trade, number of business establishments, number of shop employees, etc.

The petitioners rightly are of opinion that the shop employees of such an important town should not be denied the elementary amenities of life, which the enforcement of the Shops Act will ensure them.

We learn that it is the decision of the Executive Committee of Local Administration to hold in abeyance the introduction of a Municipality into

Jaffna during the pendency of the war.

From the way the war is progressing, it looks as if it will take a few years more for the cessation of hostilities.

Hence if the Shops Act is to be enforced in Municipal Towns only, as is done now, the petitioners fear that Jaffna will have to wait for a long time for the enforcement of this Act.

To condemn the large number of shop employees of Jaffna to undergo the discomfort and privations entailed by the present system is unfair and inequitable.

Even educationally and from the point of view of literacy, Jaffna stands second to Colombo only.

Leaving apart considerations of political and historical importance attached to Jaffna, the youth of Jaffna who constitute the bulk of the shop employees will feel the want of sufficient leisure for a healthy development of their lives.

Wherefore the petitioners pray that your honour may be pleased to take such steps as would make the Shops Act operative in Jaffna as early as possible

Saint Sri Thiagaraja Anniversary Celebrations

The 94th Anniversary celebrations of Saint Sri Thiagarajah will be held at the R. K. M. Vaidyeshwara Vidyalaya, Jaffna, commencing at 6 p. m. on Friday, the 17th instant with Poojah, Bhajana, Arathi and a Kathaprasangam on the Saint's life by a devotee. The full day's programme on Saturday, the 18th instant, will include poojah, Aradhana, musical performances by adepts, and a lecture on 'இசையும் இறைவனும்', by Sriman S. Murugesu Mudaliyar of South India, and the celebrations will conclude with a procession in the evening in which the leading musicians in Jaffna will take part.

BUDDHIST & NON-BUDDHIST SINHALESE

SOME MISUNDERSTANDINGS

FACTS WHICH SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES

BY DR. G. P. MALALASEKERA,
(In his Presidential Address at the All-Ceylon Congress of Buddhist Associations)

LAST year in the course of my remarks I said that "any attempt to make a full-blooded Sinhalese the follower of any religion other than his ancestral faith would be like grafting something entirely alien to the stem of an old oak-tree". This passage was taken out of its context, generally misquoted, and all sorts of hard things were said about it. It served at least one purpose; it caused many searchings of heart among non-Buddhist Sinhalese and I have no doubt they discovered things they had not realised fully before. Some gave it a political twist and interpreted it to mean that the Buddhists wished to deny to the Christians their Sinhalese nationality and their rights as citizens of this country.

I must confess that I am absolutely unrepentant and would make the same statement again only with more emphasis. I would, however, add this: We would never deny to anybody what is theirs; that is not the Buddhist way. For Buddhism is the religion of glorious freedom; it gives to every man freedom to think, freedom to worship, freedom to speak and freedom to act as he will. The Buddha has always insisted that men should set great store by freedom, for unless they are free how can they work together on equal terms and with mutual understanding? Not only is freedom a necessary condition of national life; there can be no lasting happiness in the world unless it is filled with free men. Read the Buddha's discourses to the Kalamas if you want authority for this statement and then consider how the followers of such a religion can deny to anybody their rights.

When Buddhism was introduced to Ceylon by Mahinda he insisted that the head of the Sangha in Lanka should be a son of the soil; not until that

was done was the religion considered to be truly established in the land. The Buddhists of India, then with so powerful a monarch as Asoka at their head, did not wish to retain even the slightest control over the followers of Buddhism in Ceylon. The Ceylon Sangha was autonomous from its very inception. His Lordship the Bishop of Chilaw—whose recent call to men of all religions to unite for the welfare of Ceylon I heartily endorse—has reminded us that when a Christian power harassed the Catholics in the Low-country, it was a Buddhist King, Rajasingha II, that gave them refuge in his capital and defended them from their enemies. And those were the days of despots. He also recalled the times when long-bearded monks, in the great flowing gowns of the Franciscans and Dominicans, walked in the streets of Kandy, honoured by prince and peasant alike, because of their learning and their piety. Such has always been the tolerance that has characterised Buddhism in every country in the world.

No, I repeat; we shall deny nothing to our non-Buddhist Sinhalese brethren; the boot is very much on the other foot.

It is they who have cut themselves off from their age-long heritage, denying to themselves its glory and its advantages. It is a fact that the culture of the Sinhalese, in all its aspects, is indissolubly bound up with our religion. The Right Rev. C. D. Horsely recently published an article on the British Heritage and its connections with Christianity. Whole sentences from it can be quoted as applicable to Ceylon and Buddhism, by merely substituting Ceylon for Britain and Buddhism for Christianity. Here are a few: "Ceylon inherits a Buddhist tradition extending well over 1500 years (we

(Continued on Page 6)

Sale of Toddy Rents 1940-41— Mullaitivu District

NOTICE is hereby given that the Assistant Government Agent, Mullaitivu, will receive sealed tenders for the purchase, subject to Toddy Rent Sale Conditions published in Government Gazette No. 8606 of April 25, 1940 and General Conditions applicable to all Excise Licences published in Government Gazette No. 8368 of May 11, 1938 of the exclusive privilege of selling fermented toddy by retail in the undermentioned taverns during the period March 1, 1941 to September 30, 1941.

For further particulars see Government Gazette No. 8701 of January 10, 1941.

3. The conditions of sale and any other required information can be obtained at the Vavuniya Kachcheri.

Carlton S. Corea,
Assistant Government Agent.

The Kachcheri,
Vavuniya, January 7, 1941.

List of Tavern referred to:—

| No. | Division | Local Area | Date and time of closing of tenders | Place |
|-----|----------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 2. | Maritime | Valayan-Pattus madam | January 27, 1941-10 00 a.m. | Mullaitivu Residency. |
| 6. | Maritime | Alampil Pattus | January 27, 1941-10 10 a.m. | Mullaitivu Residency. |
| 9. | Vavuniya | Kurisdakulam | January 27, 1941-10 20 a.m. | Mullaitivu Residency. |
| 10. | Vavuniya | Kanaga-North rayankulam | January 27, 1941 10 30 a.m. | Mullaitivu Residency. |

[G. 38. 16-1-41]



Hindu Organ.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 16, 1941.

THE SHOPS ACT FOR JAFFNA

A MEMORIAL SIGNED BY many of the leading merchants of Jaffna has been sent to the Minister of Labour, Industry and Commerce urging on him the desirability of extending the Shops Act to Jaffna as early as possible. In point of population and commercial importance Jaffna Town is second only to Colombo. There is no valid reason why the fact of its not being a municipal town should stand in the way of the Ministry extending the operation of the Act to Jaffna. The law allows discretion to the Minister to bring any town other than a municipal area within the operation of the Act if the town population so desires. The present memorial signed by a large number of business men in the town area is obviously an index of such a desire. But for the outbreak of the present war and the opposition of a few obscurantists who wished to make political capital of the municipality issue and started a factitious agitation, Jaffna would now be having a municipality. The war conditions and the opposition of the same group might very probably result in the further shelving of this issue for some years. There are hundreds of shop assistants in the Jaffna town area who all the year round work unconscionably long hours in dingy, stuffy godowns without any holiday. In some shops the working hours extend from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. without a break. Except for a break of one hour in the noon, the shop assist-

ants have to be at their posts and work all through like mill-horses. Only illness or some urgent social engagement can promise them a holiday. Their life is all an unrelieved drudgery the year in, the year out. We see no valid reason why this question of relief to the shop assistants from intolerable drudgery should hang fire till a municipality is established at Jaffna. We may also suggest that the newly elected Chairman and members of the Urban Council will take up this question and see that Jaffna is brought under the operation of the Shops Act in the interests of the health and happiness of a large number of its citizens. We trust that the memorial will engage the serious attention of the Ministry, who will see their way to the early extension of the provisions of the Act to Jaffna.

University College Admissions

We hear on good authority that students from recognised secondary schools who have sat for the London Intermediate Examinations are not admitted to the Final classes of the University College. This, we need hardly say, is an unfair discrimination and will entail the loss of one year's study in the case of numerous students. The University College authorities cannot presume that all these students are unfit for the Final course. Even among University College students who have sat for the Inter examination there must be many who are not likely to secure a pass. A wholesale discrimination against candidates for admission from other colleges will result in the shutting out of many deserving cases from the benefit of University College training. This we hold is very unfair. Students may be admitted on probation for the first term pending the results of the Inter Examination, and if they fail to reach a certain standard in the terminal tests they may be rejected. If the University College authorities so desire, they may require a recommendation from the Principal of the Secondary School the candidates for admission last attended as to their fitness. We hope the Education Ministry will carefully go into the question and see that this sort of unfair discrimination does not obtain.

The Kokuvil Hindu College

The Kokuvil Hindu College re-opens on the 22nd instant after the Pongal Holidays.

Provision has been made by the authorities to prepare students for the S. S. C. and London Matriculation examinations.

CEMENT FACTORY AT KAYTS?

COMPANY PROMOTER'S PROPOSAL

GOVERNMENT CONSIDERING SCHEME

TERMS and conditions offered to the Ceylon Government by a company promoter for the establishment of a cement factory are now being considered by the Executive Committee of Labour, Industry and Commerce.

It is understood that the proposal is to float a company to run sugar, paper and cement factories, but cement will be taken up first. One of the main conditions laid down by the proposer is that no other factory should be set up in Ceylon for 50 years.

This condition is not considered unreasonable by the technical advisers of the Government.

The proposer also wants certain concessions on the duty on raw materials and machinery, coal, and import duty restrictions and lays it down also as a condition that the Government should acquire all necessary land at Kayts.

Enquiries are now being made by the Department of Commerce and Industries as to what Crown land is available at Kayts.

As regards investment the proposer, it is understood, is willing to make the larger share open to the Ceylon public. If the Ceylon public does not subscribe the amount then he wants the right to subscribe a further percentage.

He also wants the right of management and stipulates his allowance; for the directorate he proposes five, two of whom are to be his men, two from the public and one from Government.

The proposer undertakes to employ Ceylonese for all unskilled labour and desires the right to import skilled labour on the promise that meanwhile Ceylonese will be trained to take their place.

Land for Sugar Crops

When the sugar factory is started he requests that Government should acquire necessary land for the plantation of sugar cane and provide all other facilities. Similarly, when the paper factory is started, Government should make all arrangements for the supply of raw materials.

These conditions are said to be far more favourable than any others received so far, but the technical advisers of Government seem to be of opinion that paper, cardboard and cement should be taken together.

Research work on the cheap manufacture of paper and newsprint from citronella grass has been completed by the Department of Commerce and Industries.

Citronella grass is now a waste product of which about 100,000 tons are available annually in the Southern Province. An economic method of pulping, it is said has been worked out by the Department and it is likely that the company promoter will examine the details of this method.

Costs May Be Lower

Official opinion on the proposal is said to be favourable in that it is thought that cement and paper industries can be successfully established in Ceylon and that pro-

WAR SUPPLIES FROM CEYLON

A Department to be Established

Proposals for the establishment of a separate local department for the manufacture of war supplies are now being examined by the Board of Ministers. If these proposals are ultimately accepted by the Ministers, it is most likely that Mr. W. L. Murphy will be the head of this department.

Knowing what the Army requires, the first essential the local authorities had to find out was what Ceylon could produce.

As the Army list runs into several thousands of items, a committee of two engineers was appointed, one from the Railway and the other from the Military, to examine this list and to state what in their opinion could be made in Ceylon.

This Committee have completed their examination and copies of lists prepared by them have been sent by the Ceylon Government to the War Supplies Department of India.

On hearing from them which articles they would like Ceylon to supply, steps will be taken immediately to go ahead with their manufacture.

To ascertain the exact details of the available factory capacity, both Government and private, an officer has been appointed to investigate, and his report is now being awaited.

It is understood that the suggestion for the establishment of a separate department emanated from the Secretary of State.

Estimates for the establishment of a steel rolling factory have been received and are now receiving the attention of the Executive Committee of Labour, Industry and Commerce.

COLOMBO BEGGARS ARRESTED

Charged with Begging from Visitors

Colombo, Jan. 15th.

Twenty-five boys, three girls, two women and four men were arrested on Monday by the Fort Police, for begging for alms from visitors to the Island.

The accused were produced before Mr. Aelian Pereira, the Acting Colombo Magistrate yesterday and on the application of the Police, the Magistrate allowed each of them bail in Rs. 50 and directed them to appear in the Municipal Court of Colombo today.

Local Commerce Examination

The Ceylon Chamber of Commerce examination is to be reinstated this year and will be held annually, at least for the duration of the war.

duction costs will be lower than in many factories in India.

It is also said that raw materials are suitably situated for exploitation and that fuel is obtainable at lower rates than in a large number of similar factories in India.

Need for Building Up Surplus

Commissioner's Advice To Urban Councils

Prompt Collection of Rates Emphasised

"A good many Councils have yet failed to realize that prompt collection of revenue is essential for the efficient Administration of local services and the provision of amenities for which the demand is ever increasing" writes Mr. E. W. Kannangara, the Commissioner of Local Government, in his administration report on Urban Councils for 1939.

"The year was one of consolidation and steady progress." "Housing, slum clearance, maternity and child welfare work received greater attention than in the past, but on account of the limited resources of most Councils no rapid advance was possible," he observes.

"The spasmodic efforts made by Councils will be of no avail in solving the vital problem of removing the slums and providing adequate housing for the poorer classes unless financial assistance by way of grants is afforded to a much greater degree than exists at present."

1939 was a disappointing year in that schemes for providing pipe borne water supplies to those towns which were inadequately served with water from wells did not make any progress. On account of the war and consequent rise in the price of materials several schemes were postponed indefinitely.

The failure of most Councils to follow the programme for collection of revenue laid down in the Financial Rules and Order of the Local Government Board has in some cases resulted in the accumulation of large arrears which are increasingly difficult to collect as the current rates too fall into arrears. Granting extensions of time for payment of rates only makes the position of the rate-payers worse in the end. As for electricity dues there is no excuse whatever for allowing arrears to accumulate. If adequate deposits are taken from consumers and supplies cut off immediately payments fall into arrears there will be no difficulty in collecting the dues promptly.

Several Councils have yet failed to realize the advantages of carrying out the conservancy and scavenging services departmentally instead of giving them on contract. The superiority of the departmental system is so obvious that an enumeration of its advantages is unnecessary.

Revenue Collection

The Batticaloa, Beruwela, Chilaw and Kalutara Councils had each a surplus of less than Rs. 10,000. The financial position of these Councils requires careful watching in order that further commitments likely to endanger their stability may not be lightly undertaken.

The need for Councils to build up a reasonable surplus to be kept as a reserve to meet emergency expenditure or to replace wasting assets cannot be overstressed especially at a time like the present. Apart from the fact that such surpluses inspire confidence in the

INDIAN MINISTER TO VISIT CEYLON

Sir G. S. Bajpai

Colombo, Jan. 14.

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai, the leader of the representatives of the Government of India at the recent Indo-Ceylon exploratory talks in Delhi, is arriving on a brief visit to Ceylon this week.

He is expected in Colombo on Thursday morning by the Talaimannar train.

It is learned that, at the request of the Governor, the Governor's new Saloon is to be conveyed to Talaimannar for Sir Girja Shankar to travel down to Colombo.

Certain arrangements are also being made with regard to his stay in the Island.

The purpose of his visit is not definitely known.

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai has been a member of the Viceroy's Executive Council since April last year and is in charge of Education, Health and Lands.

Councils' administration there is the added advantage that the raising of loans for works of public utility becomes easy when a Council's credit is high.

A good many Councils have yet failed to realize that prompt collection of revenue is essential for the efficient administration of local services and the provision of amenities for which the demand is ever increasing.

Bandarawela, Chilaw, Hatton-Dikoya, Kalutara, Kegalle, Matale collected their rates promptly.

The administration of the Councils in general continued to be maintained in a satisfactory manner, but for a few cases of misappropriation or irregularities, which came to light.

Correspondence

The Chairmen of the following Councils without the prior approval of their Councils spent money in excess of the authorized provisions:—Dehiwela Mount Lavinia, Panadura, Bandarawela, Koionnawa, Beruwela, Kegalla, Matara and Kurunegala. Such action on the part of executive officers is quite unconstitutional and is hoped that this practice will be discontinued in future.

It is of the utmost importance that Councils should prepare their budgets after careful consideration of all the needs of their areas so that the programmes of expenditure once adopted may be adhered to scrupulously. Supplementary votes can only be justified in the case of any emergency or unforeseen services, which cannot be postponed for the following year without detriment to the interests of the ratepayers.

Seventeen Councils increased their surpluses during 1939, while ten—Ambalangoda, Badulla, Bandarawela, Dehiwela Mt. Lavinia, Gampola, Kurunegala, Matara, Nuwara Eliya, Trincomalee and Weligama—had their surpluses reduced.

The Councils as a whole have attended to correspondence without undue delay. In this respect there has been a slight improvement on past practice. The Matara Council, however, showed no inclination to deal with correspondence except in a most casual way. Repeated reminders evoked little or no response.

MANIPAY HINDU COLLEGE

QUESTION OF OWNERSHIP

PUBLIC MEETING PROTESTS AGAINST PRIVATE CLAIM

A PUBLIC meeting was held at the Vivekananda Vidyalalai Hall, Manipay, on the 8th instant at which the question of the ownership of the Manipay Hindu College was discussed. Committees were appointed to take action in settling the question of ownership.

Dr. K. Kathiravelu presided and Mr. S. Rajendram, Proctor, acted as Secretary pro-tem.

The Chairman speaking said that at a meeting of the Old Boys' Association held on December 26, 1940, it was sought to ascertain why the Board of Directors of the College had not functioned for the last ten or twelve years, and, in the course of discussion the Principal of the College, who is also ex-officio President of the Association, had stated that the Board was functioning and when questioned as to who the Directors were, he had replied that he was not authorised to divulge their names.

Gazette Notice

In view of that ominous reply and in view of a notice appearing in the Government Gazette of December 20, 1940, which states that the proprietors of the College were Messrs. S. Pararajasingham, S. Dorasamy and S. Pathmanathan (sons of the late Mr. W. Sangarapulle) that meeting had been convened to consider what steps should be taken to clarify the position as regards the proprietorship of the College, which for the last 30 years was believed to be vested in the public.

Mr. C. Thiagarajah said that he had been connected with the Board as Director for several years from its inception. After recounting how the institution came to be founded, and the services and contributions made to it by leading men of Manipay, he said that soon after Mr. Sangarapulle's death there was a move to name the College "Sangarapulle College."

After a protest was made by some of the Directors, the Board of Directors decided not to change the name in fairness to the other benefactors.

"Wrong and Improper"

Mr. C. N. Devarajan said that probably as there was no legally constituted Board of Directors in existence now, Mr. Pararajasingham had to mention himself and his brothers as the proprietors.

What the public would have desired was that he should have mentioned their names as trustees, and even at that stage the speaker said he hoped that Mr. Pararajasingham would not hesitate to revive the Board of Directors, incorporate it by law and hand over the property to the trustees.

In reply to a question by Mr. K. Shanmukam, Bar-at-law, Mr. A. Sellamuttu, a benefactor of the College, said that it was the intention of the benefactors that the

DEPUTY MAYOR OF KANDY

Gate Muhandiram N. Canaganayagam Elected

Gate Muhandiram N. Canaganayagam was unanimously elected Deputy Mayor of Kandy.

He has been a resident of Nuwara Eliya and Kandy for the last 30 years. He is the son of Adigar A. Naganather J. P. & U. P. M. of Jaffna. He is a proprietary Planter and Chief Shroff of the Kandy Branch of the National Bank of India Ltd. He is an Associate of the London Institute of Bankers, and a Fellow of the Royal Economic Society (London). He is a keen Social Service worker. He is a Vice President of the Kandy Social Service League, Secretary of the Boy Scouts Local Association; Treasurer of the Hospital Supply Association (Kandy Branch); Committee member of Discharged Prisoners' Aid Association, of The Home for the Aged, and of the Friend-in-Need Society; Member of the Planters' Association of Ceylon, and of the Low Country Products Association.

He is held in high esteem by members of all communities.

JUNE MATRICULATION EXAMINATION

No Extension of Date for Entries

Colombo, Tuesday.

Although the London Matriculation Examination, which was due to commence today, has been deferred owing to the non-receipt of the examination papers, no extension of the date for sending entries for the June 1941, examination is to be allowed to candidates.

A circular to this effect is being sent out to all schools.

The implication of this circular is that all candidates desiring to sit for the Matriculation examination in June 1941, will have to send in their entries on the date originally fixed, although in all probability the January examination will not be held till after that date.

It is stated that an extension of date is not possible owing to postal difficulties.

Kathapirasangam

Mr. S. Murugesu Mudaliyar of Purasai, S. India, will deliver two lectures on Bharata—Pattabishkam and "Markandeya Charitram" at the Jaffna Hindu College Tamil School on Sunday the 19th and Monday the 20th inst respectively.

College should be run as a public institution.

Mr. Shanmukam said that it was very wrong and improper for any person to claim the College as his private property. As citizens of Manipay their wish was that the College should flourish and advance from age to age as a public institution. (Applause.)

A number of resolutions were passed by the meeting appointing committees to take action in regard to the question of ownership of the school. It was also resolved to protest to the Director of Education.

Tuberculosis in Rural Areas

Preventive Work by Local Bodies Suggested

The problem of making arrangements for combating tuberculosis in the areas under Local Government authorities, other than Municipalities, is now engaging the attention of the Department of Medical and Sanitary Services and the Department of Local Government.

A communication from the Department of Medical and Sanitary Services to the Commissioner of Local Government, it is understood, suggests that the question should now be taken up and that all the Urban Councils, Sanitary Boards and Village Committees should be asked to consider what they are prepared to do for the control of tuberculosis in their areas.

Government Aid

The Government, it is stated, is prepared to undertake medical treatment in these areas and provide hospitals and hospitalisation of patients; but it is pointed out that these measures by themselves are not sufficient for the control of the disease and that the local government bodies should undertake preventive measures.

It is urged that local bodies should appoint sanitary officers and nurses for carrying out preventive work and form Tuberculosis Care Committees composed of social workers to assist in the work.

Committee's Duties

It is suggested that these Committees should

- (1) find suitable work for those who have recovered from tuberculosis;
- (2) help in providing food for families, whose bread-winners are disabled by the disease;
- (3) visit houses and direct early causes of tuberculosis and their contacts to the proper authorities;
- (4) obtain nourishment and clothing for patients who may be in their houses and,
- (5) carry on educative propaganda.

Preventoria for Children

It is also suggested that the local authority should remove a patient to a new house if he is living in a house in a crowded area.

It is also proposed that apart from housing and slum clearance schemes a local body should provide a number of houses in a healthy area for occupation by patients.

Another duty of the local authority, it is suggested, should be the maintenance in preventoria of children of tubercular families, who by X-ray and serological tests are pronounced to be liable to the disease

OBITUARY

MR. T. THAMBIPILLAI

We regret to record the untimely death at the age 39 of Mr. T. Thambipillai, the popular Ayurvedic Physician of Thaddateru, Vannarponnai East, which occurred on Sunday last at his residence. He had an attack of enteric and entered the Manipay Hospital from where after a few days he was removed to his home on Sunday. The stream of visitors from all grades of society that called at the hospital and later at the house and the record gathering at the funeral which

STATE MORTGAGE BANK

Reduction in Rates of Interest

The rate of interest payable on loans granted by the State Mortgage Bank has been reduced by 5 per cent, according to a notification published in the "Gazette".

The following are the new rates of interest:

(a) 6 per cent per annum where the amount of the loan is less than Rs. 5,000.

(b) 5½ per cent per annum where the amount of the loan is less than Rs. 10,000 but not less than Rs. 5,000.

(c) 5 per cent per annum where the amount of the loan is less than Rs. 50,000 but not less than Rs. 10,000.

(d) 4½ per cent per annum where the amount of the loan is not less than Rs. 50,000.

From November, 1939, the rates of interest on the above had been 6½, 6, 5½ and 5 per cent, per annum, respectively.

PREPARATIONS FOR INVASIONS

Activity in Belgium Reported

London, Monday.

In preparation for the coming attempt to invade Britain, thousands of workers have been drafted by the Germans to repair the waterways and bridges destroyed during the invasion of Belgium, according to news received in London by Inbel, the Free Belgium news service.

The Germans are aiming first at re-establishing navigation between Bruges, Ghent, and the Port of Antwerp. Men have been working day and night to repair canals. Some 750 bridges were destroyed during the fighting last May and hundreds of ships sunk in the waterways and ports.

A system of "voluntary" labour service on the Nazi model has been started in Belgium and a special camp is due to be opened this week for the instruction of leaders to take charge of the labour camps. Despite the propaganda drive carried on for some months, the number of "volunteers" for labour service is very small, says the Inbel news service.

Personal

Mr. M. I. Kuruvilla, Vaddukodai has passed his B. A. Hons. in English of the London University.

took place the next day bore testimony to the wide popularity he enjoyed. He was particularly a friend of the poor to whom his death is a staggering loss. His amiable qualities, success as a physician and his charitable turn of mind had endeared him to a large circle of clients. He commanded a large practice. All the boutiques at Thaddateru were closed on Monday as a mark of respect.

The remains were cremated at the Kompayanmal Crematorium.

He leaves behind, besides a young widow and a three-month old child, his father and a host of relatives and friends with whom much sympathy will be felt.

Swastika and Fish Symbols

Unique Finds at Anuradhapura

Co'ombo, January 14.

The excavation work on the newly discovered site of the ancient Pachina Tissa monastery at Anuradhapura is steadily proceeding under the supervision of Mr. S. Paranavitana, Archaeological Commissioner.

The monastery is situated in a block of land ten to 15 acres in extent overlooking Nuwara Wewa, and right round this block of land there is a canal and stone steps leading into the water from the mainland.

The site comprise a square raised platform-like block of land an acre in extent, resting on beautifully constructed elephant figures with monolithic pillars in lime and brick.

On the four corners of this raised platform there are ruins of four structures. The one on the right as one enters from the main entrance is octagonal in construction, and is the only one of that shape so far discovered in Anuradhapura. Moreover the other three buildings on this platform show indications of there having been roofs covering them but there is no indication whatever to show that there had been a tiled roof for the octagonal structure on the right.

Most Interesting Discovery

According to Mr. Paranavitana, there had possibly been a dagoba on this structure or some other roofless shrine. He has come to this conclusion because there is no entrance to this building.

The most interesting discoveries in this octagonal building are three beautifully carved square rock slabs. In one two Sri Padmas (foot prints) of the Buddha are found. In another building a stone slab carved with two beautiful fishes in relief has been found while in the building on the left hand corner of the platform there is a carved swastika.

All these stone slabs are square and of the same size.

There had undoubtedly been objects of religious worship placed in these shrines, and according to Mr. Paranavitana these objects are very interesting from the point of view of a study of comparative religion, fishes being the sacred symbol of the Pandyan Kings of South India.

Independence Day In India

Gandhiji's Instructions

Wardhaganj, Jan. 11.

Mahatma Gandhi has issued the following instructions for observing Independence Day:

I hope that every man and woman in India, whether Congressmen or otherwise, will realise the gravity of the struggle and will resolve, on the forthcoming Independence Day, upon dedicating himself or herself to the service of the country in terms of the millions.

Swaraj, based on non-violence, does not mean mere transfer of power. It should mean complete deliverance of the toiling, yet starving, millions from the dreadful evil of economic serfdom. This can only be attained by the propertied few identifying themselves with the millions and by their readiness to sacrifice their all for the latter's sake.

It must be a day of fraternisation, the abolition of untouchability from our hearts, the giving up of spirituous liquors, self-spinning and the sale and spread of Khadi and village industries.

There is to be no Civil Disobedience that day. For we must not invite disturbance of our meetings, processions, and Prabhat Pheries on that day.

The day may begin with Prabhat Pheries, followed by flag-hoisting and flag-salutation. In the evening, there may be processions, terminating in public meetings where the pledge may be explained clause by clause and administered by the Chairmen and solemnly accepted by the audience.

Where there are already restrictions, they must be obeyed. From such voluntary obedience comes the strength for, and the light of, Civil Resistance.

Reports on Delhi Talks

The report of the delegation of the Board of Ministers to the exploratory conference with representatives of the Government of India at Delhi will be tabled at the meeting of the State Council on January 28.

The Government of India will issue a statement on the same subject at Delhi on the same day.

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INCREASE IN PRICE OF COCONUT OIL

Indian Demand for Copra

Consequent on the increased demand for copra by Indian buyers, the price of coconut oil has gone up by Rs. 5 a ton during the last fortnight.

During the same period the price of copra has risen by Rs. 3-75 per candy.

On Monday coconut oil was in demand at Rs. 207.50 per ton, whereas the ruling price at the beginning of this year was Rs. 202.50.

The major portion of the copra sold at the Central Sales Room has, it is learned, been purchased for export to India and, consequently there has been a decrease in the quantity of oil manufactured in the Island during the last few days. This is the reason given for the rise in the price of coconut oil.

BIG INCREASE IN EXPORTS

Rs. 58 Million Worth More in 1940

The total value of the Island's exports for the twelve months of 1940 shows an increase of Rs. 58 million over the figures for 1939, and an increase of Rs. 102 million over the 1938 figures.

The total value of imports has also increased since 1938.

The following are the figures for the past three years:—

Total Value of Exports:

1938: Rs. 284,822,779
1939: Rs. 328,106,229
1940: Rs. 386,812,356

Total Value of Imports:

1938: Rs. 235,529,101
1939: Rs. 242,359,560
1940: Rs. 282,595,229

Pt. Pedro Sanitary Board Ratepayers' Association

A meeting of the ratepayers of the Sanitary Board of Point Pedro was held at the Sithivimayagar School on the 12th instant. Ratepayers turned out in large numbers. The meeting resolved to form an Association called the Point Pedro Sanitary Board Ratepayers' Association, its aim being to safeguard the interests of the ratepayers.

Office-Bearers

The following were unanimously elected Office-bearers:—

President: Mr. N. Sivagnanasundram, Advocate, Point Pedro.
Secretaries: Mr. N. A. Rajaratnam, Practor, and Mr. K. Kandapillai, Teacher.

A Committee of nine persons was also elected.

Mr. S. N. Ramasamy addressed the meeting on the increased assessment rates and other topics of interest to ratepayers. The Association authorised the Committee to move in these matters and make representations to the Chairman, Sanitary Board, Jaffna. (Cor.)

PROVINCIAL COUNCILS

Scheme Now Ready

Colombo, Jan. 15.

It is understood that the Minister of Local Administration will shortly consult the other Ministers on the proposal for the establishment of Provincial Councils in Ceylon as the apex of the Local Government system.

The proposals, approved by the Executive Committee of Local Administration in 1939 and laid before the State Council, have it is learned now been reviewed and the administrative details of a complete scheme for the establishment of these councils are now ready.

Question of Finance

The scheme will shortly be placed before the other Ministries so that all the arrangements which concern them may be considered.

One of the principal questions, which have been considered in the formulation of the new details it is learned, is that of finance.

The question has been considered whether the new Local Government Councils should raise their own revenues or whether they should make use of the incomes of existing local Government bodies; what kind of staffs they require and to what extent they could make use of existing staffs.

It is understood that it has been decided that, while a certain amount of additional revenue might be necessary to enable the functioning of the new councils, that amount would be small.

Similarly with regard to staffs, it has been found that, while a number of new officers may have to be recruited, the new Council would be in a position to avail themselves largely of the services of the staffs of the existing Urban Councils.

Outline of Scheme

The outline of the scheme, which has already been approved, consisted of the setting up of Provincial Councils in respect of the revenue districts, on the lines of the English County Councils, with statutory or non-statutory committees of the Council, to which will be delegated various duties the ultimate responsibility for which will be vested in the Council.

The State Council unanimously approved the scheme.

R. A. F. Vs. Luftwaffe

London, Wednesday.

The correct figures for war plane losses for the year 1940 as a whole (and the part of the operations in which the R. A. F. made the main use of its growing strength took place in the last six months) are:

German 4,118, British 1,679.

This does not include many German aircraft whose destruction was not confirmed by actual observation.

Jaffna Best Place for Prohibition

Thenmaradchchi Deputation

Monday.

It was urged that Jaffna was the best area in Ceylon for the Minister of Home Affairs to launch a new scheme of total prohibition as was done in certain parts in India, by a deputation from the Thenmaradchy Maha Jana Sabhai before Mr. S. H. Wadia, Excise Commissioner, at the Chavakacheri Rest House today.

The Tree Tax system was introduced with the idea of giving fresh toddy at the foot of the tree but now they found Jaffna being flooded with toddy, every garden a miniature tavern, said the deputation which consisted of Mr. V. S. Karthigesu, the President of the Sabhai, and Mr. V. Kandiah, the Secretary.

Mr. Karthigesu pointed out to Mr. Wadia that for about two years the system had worked satisfactorily but later some ingenious individual, finding out the defects in the laws and regulations, conceived the idea of running miniature taverns with the result that the system was now in a muddle. These miniature taverns were run close to markets, churches, temples, schools and court houses. Influential men assisted the tipping classes to make confusion worse confounded.

Increasing Lawlessness

Today one found undesirable and habitual criminals congregating in and near these miniature taverns and plotting and planning acts of crime. There was a growing increase in lawlessness and crime.

The deputation further urged that if Government was unable to suppress those taverns, it was better to have in every village taverns controlled by Government. The Sabhai was not for the present Tree Tax system nor for Government-controlled taverns but it was of opinion that Jaffna was the best place for the Minister

ROYAL NAVY SUPREME OVER LUFTWAFFE

German Expert's View

Zurich, Tuesday.

Hermann Goering's air force is powerless against Britain's naval might, according to Captain von Waldeyerhartz, a German naval expert, writing in the "Muenchener Neuste Nachrichten."

Protesting against the Nazi propaganda thesis that the Luftwaffe can destroy the British fleet, he says: "I fully adhere to the views expressed in the report by the United States Senate Maritime Commission that an island people cannot be beaten as long as it maintains naval supremacy."

The building of the battleships Tripitz and Bismark, he adds, proves that the German Naval Command appreciates the importance of capital ships which aerial warfare has not diminished.

The Swedish Press is violently attacked by the Berlin "Boersen Zeitung" today. Particular offence is taken at the report from the London correspondent of the "Aftonbladet" saying that the R. A. F. was about to change roles with the Luftwaffe. "By continuously attempting to assist British propaganda and lying," says the Nazi paper, "the Stockholm Press leaves the zone of neutrality and enters a field ruled by the laws of fighting in which nothing will be forgiven or forgotten, and every stab at Germany will be revenged with a violent blow."

Mr. Kennedy's Successor Chosen

Washington, Tuesday.

A successor to Mr. Joseph Kennedy as United States Ambassador to Britain has been chosen. Mr. Roosevelt announced this at a Press conference today, but declined to reveal the name of the envoy he had selected.

of Home Affairs to launch a new scheme similar to the one in certain parts of India to encourage total prohibition.

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Buddhist & Non-Buddhist Sinhalese

(Continued from page 1)

can say 2000) Right through the history of our race. It has influenced our laws and our social conventions. It has, in many cases inspired us individually and corporately." And then this final sentence. "Yes. Buddhism stands at the heart of Ceylon. It is there embodied, if not enshrined, in the heart of every decent-living and right-thinking man or woman". Now, nobody would dare accuse his Lordship the Bishop of Colombo of jingoist nationalism!

Meanwhile, I would ask my antagonists to ponder deeply over the following facts which have come under my notice during the last few months: A fairly well educated person, father of three children, named Gemunu, Tissa and Mallika—he was converted and promptly changed the names of the children to Joseph, Thomas and Mary; a surveyor, (non-Buddhist Sinhalese) refusing to be present at the funeral of his Buddhist sister because yellow-robed monks conducted the ceremony and he said he "felt out of place", a busload of clerks (all Sinhalese except two Burghers), members of a non Buddhist organization in a Government Department, who went to Anuradhapura but would not visit any of the Dagobas there because they were "Monuments of folly and superstition, whose founders were even now being consumed in hell-fire"—the two Burghers went to the Ruwanveli Dagoba and offered flowers there—and then this a girl student in the Matriculation form of a Convent (daughter of Buddhist parents, the father being an Ayurvedic physician of great repute) burning all his medical books because he found that they were written on ola-leaves and "were obviously the writings of the Devil". These things fill me with unutterable sadness, for they are done by my people, flesh of my flesh and blood of my blood. I wish, as much as anybody else, I could believe they were isolated cases of rare occurrence. But I know that they are neither isolated nor rare and I weep in sorrow. There is no need to remind me of the numerous and glorious

exceptions to this attitude. They fill me with joy.

No, so far are the Buddhists from wishing to deny to their non-Buddhist brethren the fullest share in their national heritage that they now seriously contemplate taking steps to bring to them the message of the Lord Buddha, not as interpreted in the writings of prejudicial padres, but as handed down in Ceylon in the genuine tradition. We feel that we have neglected for far too long our duty to bring back to the fold of Buddhism those of our people that have left it and gone elsewhere. I am sure no one can or will object to that. Six centuries before the Christian era the Buddha enjoined upon his followers to preach to the world his doctrine which is "glorious in the beginning, glorious in the middle and glorious in the end, for the benefit and the welfare of gods and men." And the assurance can readily be given that there will be no eagerness to draw up lists of "converts", no conversions among the aged and the infirm and the sick, nor among children who cannot decide for themselves, and no exploitation of poverty and unemployment. It is, perhaps, not sufficiently known that there is no such word as "Buddhist" in our Scriptures; he that treads the Right way is called the.....or....., "the noble citizen of the world" or the "good man."

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