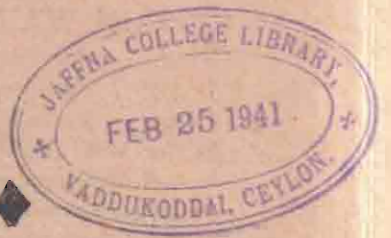


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WILL JAPAN COMMIT SUICIDE?

SINGAPORE AND PANAMA CANAL READY FOR THE FRAY

TWO STRONG LINKS IN THE RING OF STEEL

IS the oft-predicted fight between white man and yellow about to be staged under the blistering sun of the equatorial Pacific Ocean?

The defenders of Singapore, Britain's "Gibraltar of the East," think that—as the Japanese have decided to join the Nazis and Fascists—zero hour may be near. In the jungles surrounding the great fortress British, Indian, Burmese, Malay, Dominion, and Chinese troops (the "King's Chinese," born within the Empire) keep ceaseless watch against any surprise by the Japanese, whom their Foreign Minister recently boasted are "a race rolled into a ball of fire, sweeping everything before it." While Royal Air Force planes dart like mosquitoes high up in the tropical sunshine, guarding the Empire's £30,000,000 strongpoint.

Lion City

The word Singapore means in the Malay language "Lion City". The Malays did not give it that name for nothing.

The defenders of the Panama Canal Zone—America's lifeline on the other side of the Pacific—also think a showdown may be nearing. There, where Uncle Sam's sixteen-inch artillery point their shouts towards Japan, and the jungle conceals hundreds of anti-aircraft guns, searchlights and detectors, the garrisons have been reinforced and America's most modern super bombers are held ever ready to take off and attack any enemy force approaching within a thousand miles of the thirty three mile long canal. Linking Pacific with Atlantic the Panama Canal is another of the impregnable strongpoints of the modern world.

And both British and American forces—standing at the "alert" while the Nazis by short-wave radio across the Atlantic, alternately smirk,

sneer, snarl and snivel at the American people, and utter dark threats about what will happen if Uncle Sam persists in aiding Britain—ask the same question "Will the Japanese commit national suicide?"

Bogged in China

For that is what it would mean if the Japanese Empire, already weakened by four years of war in China, and with a million men still bogged down in that non-stop conflict, was so insane as to attempt to seize the rubber and tin of the Dutch Indies, the oil of Borneo, or the riches of Malaya, in the face of clear statements made both by Britain and the United States that they will not tolerate further smash-and grab raids on the Nazi model in the vital southern Pacific—one of Britain's main trade routes along which steam more than eighty ships weekly bound for England with foodstuffs and supplies. It is those ships which make what happens around Singapore so important to the British people. *If the gangsters hit there, they would be hitting you—in the pantry!*

I had the good fortune to be one of the last correspondents to visit both the Singapore base and the Panama Canal Zone before the military authorities stuck up large notices "secret—keep out." What I was permitted to see makes me very sorry for any optimistic little yellow men who think that, because England is busy elsewhere, this might be a good moment to twist the lion's tail and try to capture the Pacific Ocean!

The entire coasts of Singapore Island (twenty seven miles long, fourteen miles wide) are defended. Behind the beaches are big guns. Throughout the scores of is-

(Continued on page 4)

THE THREAT OF INVASION

WILL GERMANY ATTEMPT?

INDICATIONS THAT THREAT WILL BE MAINTAINED

By Major-General Sir Charles Gwynn

THAT Germany would maintain the threat of invasion throughout winter was to be expected. But does the threat imply immediate or ultimate danger?

The threat, that has real substance behind it, has powerful strategical influences.

The question when and how, if at all, the threat will be carried into effect exercises the mind of the opponent and affects his disposition of forces.

In the present case some expect the threat may suddenly materialise as a sudden devastating blow, synchronising with all other forms of attack by air and sea, when favourable conditions prevail.

That was the form in which invasion threatened last autumn. It might still be the form to be adopted, particularly if the enemy has some new device to create favourable conditions.

On the other hand, it is possible that the German plan is that invasion should be in the nature of a *coup de grace* to be delivered only after Britain has been weakened by prolonged air and sea attack and when a large part of her forces are committed elsewhere.

The one thing that is certain is that the General Staff is under no illusions as to what is involved in the attempt at invasion.

Last autumn they shrank from the attempt in spite of the desperate unpreparedness of Britain at the time.

Their own failure to achieve mastery of the air and British naval supremacy prevented the establishment of the requisite conditions.

Since then Hitler has had the winter in which to perfect new plans, subject only to such direct interruptions as R. A. F. attacks on Germany and on the invasion posts have caused. Indirect interruptions of course have been caused by amazing success achieved by the Greeks and General Wavell against Italy.

These Mediterranean successes, however, have not been of

a nature to disturb the invasion plans. The German General Staff might even regard them as a favourable diversion of British resources.

Yet we know they have not prevented an immense development of Britain's defensive power—the strengthening and reorganising of her navy; the increase of her air force; the formation, training and equipment of her field army; and the organisation and equipment of the Home Guard and coast defences.

Moreover, the intensified air attacks delivered during winter and destructive of civilian life and property have singularly failed to affect the morale of the British people—except to improve it.

Under these circumstances it is difficult to believe that an immediate attempt at invasion would have any better prospect of success than it had last autumn unless some new form of devastating attack has been devised.

There is, however, the inherent improbability that a great gamble would be based on an untried device of any kind.

There are, therefore, I suggest, indications that while the threat of invasion will be maintained, the Germans regard the actual attempt of invasion as a *coup de grace* to be delivered if other plans succeed.

There is the announcement by Hitler and Admiral Raeder of a great intensification of U boat warfare and still more violent air attacks on shipping and cities.

These are well known to be not empty boasts in view of the great effort being made to speed U-boat and aircraft construction in Germany.

Apart from the attempted weakening of Britain by the interruption of the flow of munitions, Hitler might hope attacks on sea communications would cause a dispersion of naval protection against in-

(Continued on page 5)

CEYLON WAR LOAN

The Jaffna Co-operative Central Bank Ltd., undertakes to purchase Stocks for any applicant and to afford facilities for easy payment. Please therefore send your application in the prescribed form to the undermentioned.

J. SUBRAMANIAM LEWIS,
Manager,

Jaffna Co-operative Central
Bank Ltd., Jaffna.

(Ms. 197. 24 & 27-2-41.)



Hindu Organ

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1941.

THE PACIFIC CRISIS

WAR CLOUDS ARE JUST LOURING in the Far East and nothing but the prudence and caution on the part of Japan can stand between the nations on the Pacific and war. If there is ground for hope that the peace in the East will be maintained in spite of the growing fears and suspicions, it will not be because of the pacific professions and re-assuring statements made by the Japanese Government, but solely because of the measures which the U. S. A. and Britain have been taking for the defence of Singapore, and their manifest determination to maintain the status quo in the East at any cost. There is some hope, though a remote hope at that, that Japan will realise the folly of an expansionist policy in the East and desist from taking any irrevocable step that will plunge the world in a conflagration. The United States has made it perfectly clear that she is determined to resist to the utmost of her power any aggression by Japan against the Dutch East Indies or Malaya or any other place of vital interest to her. The certainty of such resistance should necessarily exercise a chastening influence on the Imperialist ambitions of Japan. But it is also possible that, yielding to HITLER's blandishments and over-rating his military potentialities, Japanese military junta which seems to dominate her foreign policy may place itself in nearly the same position as MUSSOLINI did last June. The bait of Asiatic domination, which is otherwise termed the New Order in the East, may prove too tempting for the Japanese War Lords to reject as suicidal. Greed and wishful thinking have ever gone together in the past in the case of individual and national ambitions. In every instance the combination has only led to terrible miscalculation and eventual disaster.

Events are moving fast in the Far East. There are re-

ports of Japanese forces moving towards the South, of the landing of numerous Australian forces at Singapore, of the despatch of long-range aeroplanes from the U. S. A. and the strengthening of all classes of defences in that sphere. Britain and the U. S. A. are not allowing anything to chance but are doing everything to speed up the defence programme. The British Fleet at Singapore is reported to be sufficiently strong to fight a delaying action till the U. S. A. is able to bring up her fleet to the theatre. Then the combined Fleet strength should prove decisive against Japan. Besides, Japan's resources, having been depleted by some years of fighting in China, will not admit of her embarking on a long-term war. It is only by any lightning stroke that she can ever hope to succeed. But there is absolutely no possibility of either Britain or the U. S. A. being caught napping or unprepared this time. There is also the additional danger from Russia. Japan's pre-occupation with a war in the South will provide Russia with a golden opportunity to pay up old scores and to restore the balance of power in the Far East, either by supplying arms to the Chinese, or by direct action. It is with a view to leaving Japanese hands free for a war in South Asia that Hitler is trying to bring about a rapprochement between Japan and the Soviet by the return of the Sakhaten Peninsula to the latter. It may do the Soviet's heart good to set the Dictators and the two great western democracies by the ears with the fond hope of establishing universal communism on the ruins of capitalism. Should Japanese forces, which were reported to be moving south, attempt to occupy Thailand or French Indo-China by force, that may be the prelude to a conflagration in the Pacific. But even now we feel that Japan is only contributing to Hitler's war of nerves and seeking to divert a part of the British forces to the East, but is not seriously minded to embroil herself with the Anglo-Saxon democracies.

The Late Rev Dr Isaac Tambyah

It is our melancholy duty to record the death of the Rev Dr. Isaac Tambyah which took place in Colombo last week. Though he passed away after a long and active period of devoted service to the country, his unexpected death was shocking news to his numerous friends and admirers in Jaffna. He touched life at many points in all of which he distinguished himself. As a lawyer, publicist and theologian he was deservedly famous for his remarkable contributions. He was admittedly a versatile scholar whose knowledge and wisdom were effectively used

to promote the moral and material well-being of his countrymen. As President of the Jaffna Association he infused into it life and vigour, making it take an active and sustained interest in all matters affecting the welfare of the people. The "Hindu Organ" has every reason to be grateful for his unique contributions. His "Obiter Dicta," apart from being an illuminating and entertaining commentary on men and matters, showed him at his best as master of a chaste and elegant prose style. The country in general and the Tamils in particular will sadly miss his wise and sober guidance. We offer our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family.

Tomorrow's Meeting of Urban Council

A special meeting of the Jaffna Urban Council will be held tomorrow at 5 p. m.

Mr. V. S. Ramanathan will move that "a tax to be known as Entertainment Tax be levied from all theatres, picture halls and every other similar place of public performance which are within the Urban Council areas."

Kathi S. M. Aboobucker will move: "That this Council is of opinion that the Chairman should restrict the licence for cinema shows from 6 p. m. to 10 p. m."

Colombo North By-Election

Nominations for the election of a member for the Colombo North seat in the State Council, to fill the vacancy created by the death of Mrs. Naysum Saravanamuttu, will be received at the Registrar-General's Office today.

So far as can be ascertained at the moment, there are two candidates in the field, Dr. R. Saravanamuttu, Mayor of Colombo, and Col. T. G. Jayawardene.

Labour Adviser to Colonial Office

Major Granville St. John Orde Browne, Labour Adviser to the Colonial Office, will shortly be arriving in Ceylon.

He is expected to stay six weeks here, during which time he will, it is learned, investigate the problem of Indian Immigrant Labour in the Island.

New Chairman of I. C. P. A.

Feb. 22.

The Executive Committee of the Low-country Products Association, at its meeting held yesterday evening, nominated Dr. S. C. Paul for election as Chairman of the Association for this year.

The Late Pandit V. Mahalinga Sivam

A meeting of friends and admirers of the late Pandit V. Mahalinga Sivam will be held on Sunday, March 2, at 9 a. m. at the Jaffna Hindu College Tamil School to consider what steps should be taken to commemorate his services to Tamilnad.

Mr. A. Ponnaiya, Retired Superintendent, Copay Training College, is convening the meeting.

SMALL-POX AT NALLUR

VICTIM A GIRL

WOMAN CONTACT GOES TO MULLAITIVU

A case of small pox is reported from Kalviankadu, Nallur. It was discovered on Saturday that Sarojini Devi, a 14-years-old daughter of Mr. Rajeswara Mudaliyar, Notary Public of Kalviankadu, was suffering from small-pox. Dr. S. C. Thuraijah, Medical Officer of Health, had the case isolated and all contacts segregated.

It appears that Mr. Rajeswara Mudaliyar returned from India early in January and developed fever and a rash. Kander Paruwathy, who returned from India with Mr. Mudaliyar to Jaffna, went to Mullaitivu and developed fever and a rash on February 10th.

This case was notified and on inquiry the M. O. H. found four cases in the house of Mr. Mudaliyar.

The four cases were modified cases and have recovered. The fifth case is that of Sarojini Devi.

Dr. Helaart, Divisional Medical Officer, in company with Dr. Thuraijah, visited the area and left for Mullaitivu on Saturday.

Mass vaccination is being carried on in that area and every precaution is being taken by Dr. Thuraijah.

N. P. Teachers Provident Society Ltd.

The Seventh Annual General Meeting of the Northern Province Teachers Provident Society was held on the 22nd inst. at 10 a. m. in the Jaffna Central College with the President, Mr. J. W. Arudpiragasam, B. A. in the Chair. After the items in the Agenda were gone through, the following Office-bearers were elected for the ensuing year:—

President: Mr. J. W. Arudpiragasam, B. A.

Vice President: Mr. S. Swaminathan, B. A.

Secretary: Mr. S. P. Rasiah

Asst. Secretary: Pundit K. Thambapillai.

Treasurer: Mr. P. Thambu

Committee:—Messrs. A. C. Sundrampillai, B. Sc., T. V. Chellappah, S. V. Elyatamby, S. K. Rasiah, K. Subramaniam, B. A. A. M. Samuel, A. Ponniah, A. Kanagasabai, B. A., S. Karthigeyar, and K. V. Atmanantha-arana.

Ex-King Alfonso Dead

London, Saturday.

Ex-King Alfonso of Spain, the monarch who was bombed on his wedding day in the streets of Madrid and survived seven other attempts to assassinate him died peacefully today at the age of 54 in a Rome hotel after one of the stormiest careers of any ruler of modern times.

His death comes only a few weeks after he renounced all his rights to the Crown of Spain in favour of his son the Infante Juan.

The fact that he was lying seriously ill in the Rome hotel with angina pectoris was first revealed eight days ago.

Death of Rev. Dr. T. Isaac Tambyah

A Scholar and
Politician

Glowing Tributes to His Memory

The death occurred after a brief illness at his residence at Borella, on Wednesday of the Revd. Dr. T. Isaac Tambyah, Vicar of Holy Trinity Church, San Sebastian.

The late Dr. Tambyah, who was 71 years old, had been a prominent public figure for a number of years, taking a leading part in political and other activities.

He leaves a widow.

He was also Vice-Principal of the Colombo Divinity School, was for several years a leading figure in the political life of Jaffna. He served last as Priest-in-Charge of the Bandarawela Anglican Church.

Born on August 18, 1869, at Jaffna, he was educated at St. John's College, Jaffna, and at St. Thomas' College, Colombo, where he held the Divinity Scholarship till 1891, when he removed to Jaffna, after which he practised for some years in the Straits.

He was ordained in 1929.

His Writings

He was the founder of the "Ceylon Review" and edited that publication till it was sold. He also edited the "Ceylon Law Review and Tambyah's Reports. He was the author of the "Digest of the Law of Contract and Commentary on the Ceylon Penal Code." "Fore-gleams of God," "Psalms of a Saiva Saint," and "Evangelism in Ceylon." Besides, he has edited collections of poems by various writers and the "Garland Verse Collection of Ceylon."

Reference in Court

When the District Judge, Mr. C. Coomaraswamy, came on the Bench on Thursday, Mr. Kanagasabai, Crown Advocate, addressing him referred to the passing away of the Rev. Dr. Isaac Tambyah.

Mr. Kanagasabai in the course of his speech, referred to the time when Dr. Tambyah practised at the Jaffna Bar.

When he (the speaker) came to Jaffna in 1905, to practise his profession he found that most of the work in the District Court and in the outstation Courts were being divided between Dr. Tambyah and the late Mr. H. A. P. Sandarasekera, K. C. After practising at Jaffna with great success for many years, Dr. Tambyah went back to Colombo and then to England where he was called to the Bar. From England he proceeded to Penang where he enjoyed a very large practice.

The last period of his life saw him as a Priest of the Anglican Church. Dr. Tambyah was a voracious reader and without contradiction it might be said he was a great scholar whose mastery of the English language was unique, in that in a few sentences he could put down ideas which many a one would require sheets of paper to do so.

He was a man cultured in the true sense of the word, and one

CATHOLICS AND MARRIAGE

Sin to Marry Outside Flock

A circular letter on "Marriage" has been addressed by Dr. J. M. Masson, Archbishop of Colombo, to the Archdiocese, and will be read in Roman Catholic Churches during Mass.

The Archbishop states that a Catholic who marries a non-Catholic (Protestant or non-Christian), in a Protestant Church or in a Registrar's Office, not only commits a sinful act, but such an attempt at marriage being invalid, the persons who have gone through it have fulfilled an empty ceremony and are no more husband and wife after it than before.

Catholics who would attempt such marriage and Catholics who would co-operate in it, are warned of the gravity of this sin, for which a fitting reparation must be made.

"We, therefore, warn you," concludes the Archbishop, "of this sin, and scandal resulting from attempt at marriage which is null and void, and by co-operating in it by your presence."

who was listened to with great respect.

Political Work

Referring to Dr. Tambyah as politician, Mr. Kanagasabai said that he had actively participated in politics for the past 15 years, during which time he had identified himself in all matters that pertained to the welfare of the Tamils.

When the Jaffna Association was resuscitated, its first President was Dr. Tambyah. Dr. Tambyah continued to hold that office even at Bandarawela.

In requesting the Judge to make a minute in the records of that Court and forward a copy of same to the deceased's widow, Mr. Kanagasabai said that they all mourned the death of a great personage, a man respected for his many qualities including scholarship and culture. By the death of Dr. Tambyah the Ceylon Bar had lost its most senior member.

Mr. Coomaraswamy in associating himself with all that had been said stated that though Dr. Tambyah had not appeared before his Court yet he (the speaker) had as a school boy heard of his great ability as a leading advocate.

The Funeral

The funeral of the Rev. Dr. Isaac Tambyah took place at the General Cemetery Kanatte, on Thursday.

The Bishop of Colombo, The Rt Revd. C. D. Horsley, officiated, assisted by the Ven'ble F. L. Benen, Archdeacon of Colombo, Revd. J. E. Farmiloe, Bishops Chaplain, the Revd A. J. Kendall Baker, Canon S. M. Thomas, and the Revds. Basil Jayewardene, Ivan S. Corea, L. O. Toussaint, C. H. Wikramanayake, D. L. Welikala M. Refuge and A. B. Kanagaratnam.

The following were the pallbearers:—

Sir Baron Jayatilaka, Dr. S. C. Paul, Mr. E. R. Tambimuttu, Dr. Lucian de Zilwa, Mr. G. A. Willie, Mr. E. W. Perera, Mr. L. E. Blaze, and Mr. M. L. de S. Amarasekera.

Re-Examining J. S. C. Candidates

A Protest

Kegalla, Friday.

A resolution protesting against the re-setting of the English and History papers in the J. S. C. examination of November, 1940, was unanimously passed at a meeting of the Committee of the Kegalla Teachers' Association held yesterday at St. Mary's College Hall.

The reasons set forth were the extra expenses the candidates would have to incur in proceeding again to the different examination centres and the fact that many of the candidates had already left College, some of them having secured employment and others having left for Colleges where pupils are prepared for the S. S. C. examination. These students would be penalised for no fault of their own.

It was also stated that most of the candidates had lost touch with their work. Some preparation would be needed by the candidates before they were again fit for the examination and the new school curriculum would have to be disorganised.

It was pointed out that when the History questions appeared in the "Ceylon Observer," the Department should have immediately cancelled the paper and taken the necessary steps then and there.

Two suggestions were put forward that:—

(1) The History paper be scrapped and five subjects be considered sufficient for a pass for the candidates who offered History.

(2) The English be judged from the other papers and, if needed from the Principals' Confidential Reports.

RESOLVING INDIAN DEADLOCK

Conference Likely Next Month

Lucknow, Feb. 21.

It is understood that a conference is likely to be held early in March, probably in Bombay, to see what steps can be taken for the removal of the present political deadlock and to consider the changes to be made in the constitution of the Government at the Centre.

Prominent leaders, it is stated, are likely to attend the conference.

Surprise Audit for U. Cs.

The question of a more comprehensive audit of the accounts of Urban Councils is being considered by the Commissioner of Local Government consequent on representations made by the local bodies concerned.

It is pointed out that the audit at present carried out by the Auditor General's Department is by no means satisfactory, as irregularities and defalcations have been revealed from time to time.

It is further stressed that the Urban Councils pay the Government about Rs. 30,000 a year for the audit of the accounts of all Councils, but that they do not get value for their money.

Alleged Cheating Of Insurance Co.

Quick Death of Insured

Saturday.

Mr. V. B. Vaman, head assistant of the local branch of the Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada, said at the further hearing of the insurance conspiracy case that the company's suspicions were aroused by the fact that the man insured died within 17 days of a medical report on a revival policy. The company stood to lose Rs. 9,000 as a result of the deception practised on it.

Inspector, J. W. L. Attygalle, of the C. I. D. is charging Mr. Arunasalam Sundram, an agent of the company, Mr. R. Sivagurunathan, a P. W. D. sub-overseer, Mr. V. Kandiah and Mr. P. Inoasipillai, with conspiring to cheat the company by inducing the company to accept applications for policies on the life of Mr. Thambiah Chellappah (Mr. Sivagurunathan's uncle) and with forgery of those applications.

It is alleged that a younger man posed as Mr. Chellappah for the medical examination.

Mr. Vaman stated that in the alleged application of Mr. Chellappah for Rs. 3,000 insurance, his age was given as 50. The alleged signature of Mr. Chellappah had been witnessed by the agent who, in his report, stated that he knew the applicant for 15 years, and that the applicant received an annual income of Rs. 1,000.

At the same time, the company received from Dr. Evarts his medical report in which he remarked that Mr. Chellappah, who was introduced to him by the agent, was strong and vigorous. The doctor also noted that he had "a small fatty tumour below right ear (harmless)".

Inspector Attygalle: I make an application to Court to make a note that Mr. Kandiah has a tumour below his right ear.

Witness stated that later the policy was increased to Rs. 6000 and then to Rs. 9,000. A year later the policies lapsed owing to default of payment of premiums. A few days afterwards the policies were revived and at the same time a medical report on the life of Mr. Chellappah was received from Dr. Chelliah.

Seventeen days later the agent wrote to the company that Mr. Chellappah had died "on or about August 25th, 1937". Mr. Sivagurunathan, as beneficiary, claimed the sum of Rs. 9,000.

As the assured had died 17 days after the medical examination, the company grew suspicious and made inquiries.

Witness learnt from the Vidane of Karanavai North, in whose area Mr. Chellappah lived, that he had suffered from partial lunacy, rheumatism and diabetes.

Chellappah Nagalingam, a cousin of Mr. Chellappah, stated that Mr. Chellappah was 70 years old at the time of his death and had no tumour on his neck or cheek. He was a poor man and suffered from diabetes.

Hearing was adjourned until March 3rd.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THE JAFFNA OVERSEER CORPS

Sir,—The reply of the Secretary of the Chundikuli Maha Jana Sabha that "Jaffna owes its position today to the intellectual superiority of its sons, and Ceylon owes its position today and is able to enjoy a degree of self-Government owing to the Jaffna brains in the public life, past and present of Ceylon and that Jaffna had a virtual monopoly over the overseer business because others were not fit, intellectually or otherwise to be overseers," is quite appropriate and correct, compared to the observation made by the Secretary to the Minister of Communications and Works that "it is owing to the overseers and sub-overseers, past and present, that Jaffna today is what it is and for that reason Jaffna should be proud and thankful that it has had a virtual monopoly of the overseer business."

Thanks to the Governor-General who ordered the first batch of American Missionaries, who went to India in 1812, to leave Calcutta on board the same vessel by which they arrived. One of them, on his return, having accidentally landed in Ceylon, was struck by the opening which it presented for missionary enterprise and being encouraged by the Governor, Sir Robert Brownrigg, to undertake it, made representations to the American Board. A company was sent out in 1816, who proceeded to take up their residence in Jaffna, which has since been the scene of their remarkable and useful labour. The praise of being the earliest and most enterprising pioneers of Western education in Ceylon, during the British period, is due to the American Missionaries, who founded the Batticotta Seminary (now Jaffna College) in 1823 at Vaddukottai to give higher education in Western and Eastern literature and sciences. The Batticotta Seminary granted its own Diplomas which were recognised by the Government of India and Ceylon.

Ceylon's great road-maker, Major Skinner, though dead, still lives to us in his great works. His noblest work was the organisation of the Overseer Corps, which chiefly aimed at promoting native interest. The great service the Corps rendered to the public needs no mention. Well did it become a great man to choose, train and encourage native talent. The overseers trained in his time were students of this far-famed Batticotta Seminary, whose ability, industry, and intimate knowledge of the works in the Island did not fail to catch the eye of Major Skinner. He raised to the office of Superintending Officers more than three gentlemen taken from the ranks.

He promoted Mr. Armstrong to the rank of Commanding Officer of the Tenth Division of Pioneers which was raised by him. Among Mr. Armstrong's construction works, the most lasting and useful one was the Punnalai Causeway, a splendid roadway over the lagoon between the island of Karainagar and the Peninsula. Mudaliyar Velupillai was the builder of the famous Katugastota bridge. He died in harness on his way from Mannar to Jaffna on March 14, 1876. As a horseman, he was well known in his day, and Major Skinner in one of his

letters remarks of him: 'He was born in the saddle and died in harness'. Among those trained by Major Skinner who received Government appointments as Superintending Officers were the late Mr. Sherman, who constructed the larger portion of the Balan-goda-Hupputale road, the late Messrs Pethaperumal, Harward, and Woodall, all of them Jaffna Tamils, who distinguished themselves in the Department.

No other than Sir Emerson Tennent said, "Jaffna is the only part of Ceylon in which the entire population of Ceylon seem clearly to appreciate the value of roads and are anxious to afford every facility and contribute every assistance for their construction." Messrs A. M. & J. Ferguson who had been to Jaffna in 1891 had recorded the following: "A horse conveyance from Jaffna had been arranged before hand, and in this we soon made experience of the far-famed Jaffna roads, which in the 45 miles of the day's driving altogether proved as smooth and pleasant as the best of our Colombo Cinnamon Gardens Roads." The Fergusons had also recorded the following: "The great want along the Batticaloa road after leaving the coconut and rice region up to Bibile (some 90 miles) seems to be population." Mr. Birch discussing the need of settlers in the Eastern Province wrote: "Above all I should like to form a Jaffna Colony, and if liberal terms are offered, I believe we ought successfully to do so." Such was the demand for the sons of Jaffna then.

Yours faithfully,
Borella. "MURUGA AMMAN."

For The Eye Of The Authorities Concerned

Sir,—It is high time that people living in rural areas are taught to observe the rules of hygiene and are even compelled by law to observe them in the interests of public health. Diseases such as enteric, typhoid and malaria are ravaging the district and the obstinate do not seem to co-operate with the authorities in stemming the progress of such ravage. People must be compelled by law to use latrines. One outstanding characteristic about most of our people is that they do not hesitate to pass their excreta in public though they are careful to eat in private. It is a very common sight to see people answering the call of nature in public at all hours of the day on the roadside, along the railway line irrespective of the passers-by having to look at their doing so. Open spaces bordering on the public road are being used very frequently as more or less as public latrines and it is an ugly sight for the passers-by to see them doing so, besides their endangering public health. Unless legal steps are taken to prevent this nuisance, epidemics will continue to ravage the district and the mortality thereby will be great. The Village Committees should co-operate with the Sanitary Authorities in matters affecting the health of the general public.

Tellippalai East, Yours etc.,
18.2.41. R. KANDIAH.

Will Japan Commit Suicide?

(Continued from page 1)

lands fringing the harbour and naval base are anti-aircraft defences. There are airfields large enough to handle hundreds of fighting planes and the underground bomb proof oil tanks contain enough petrol and oil to supply aerial and naval fleets through many months of blitz, even if not one more cupful reached the defenders.

Years ago I watched this amazing fortress being hewn out of the virgin jungle. To construct the naval base alone, nine million cubic yards of earth had to be displaced, while one and a quarter million tons of granite and concrete were used in the actual construction.

Later I was present at manoeuvres at Singapore and saw the whole set-up in action. The commander of the defending air forces over a cocktail at the end of a hot mimic fight ("hot" in two ways—the average temperature at Singapore is around 90 degrees every month of the year) told me it would be impossible for any enemy force to approach within two hundred miles of the Base without being discovered and bombed to the bottom. Others there said the same thing; everyone in Singapore believes it. Which is why today the defenders are not worrying overmuch because Hitler—having failed to frighten the Cockneys back home—is now trying to "put the wind up" Singapore with bogey-tales about a great Japanese Armada which may attack any day.

The Silent Warning

Considering that almost the entire U. S. fleet—including thirteen battleships—has for months past been concentrated in the Pacific as a silent warning to the Japs, the Singapore garrison regard those Nazi and Japanese threats as so much hot air. If there's any race to Singapore the U. S. fleet may be relied upon to win it by a wide margin.

The other day an American Admiral caused a sensation by remarking in public that the United States could lick the Japanese in three weeks any time! Which may have been a slight exaggeration but only a slight one, I have seen a good deal in my travels east of Suez, of both navies, and I agree with the American officer who told me recently that ship for ship and ton for ton the American Navy is twenty per cent superior to the Japanese fleet.

The Japanese know that, too. Will they commit suicide just to oblige Hitler? Hardly likely—and yet here is Tokyo yapping about even a nice, friendly visit by the American fleet to Singapore being "an act of war". These tough totalitarians are so touchy!

About six thousand miles east of Singapore—just across the the ocean road—is the Pacific end of the heavily-fortified Panama Canal the military secret Uncle Sam keeps with the help of the greatest concentration of guns, aircraft and military might existing anywhere in the New World.

The Panama Canal connects Atlantic and Pacific across the centre of the Americas saving

ships a detour of thousands of miles round Cape Horn. If an enemy could destroy or block that 'ditch' American warships would face a voyage of weeks instead of hours in order to pass from one ocean to the other. Which is why, long ago, the American Government considered every conceivable method of attacking the Canal—from bombs to suicide ships which might be blown up when in the canal locks—and took all necessary precautions.

Will they Dare?

Today the United States remain technically a non-belligerent, but that country is taking no chances. All unauthorized persons and possible fifth columnists have been expelled from the Canal Zone. Every ship wishing to pass through is searched from stem to stern for explosives before being allowed to approach. Additional divisions of American troops quietly trained during the past twelve months for tropical warfare have been sent down to the "ditch". Warships patrol a belt of ocean five hundred miles wide at each end. Bombers regularly patrol the air above it.

If the Nazis or Japs plan to block the canal and prevent the U. S. fleet being speedily concentrated either in the southern Pacific or Atlantic oceans—well as the Americans say, "They've got four more thinks for their penny."

Uncle Sam isn't so dumb as the gangsters seem to think. The Nazis and their pals cannot secure a foothold anywhere in the Americas from which to attack the canal. As for any aircraft carrier approaching from the sea—U.S. air force keeps special extra-large bombs in stock to deal with that!

So long as Britain rules the waves, the Nazis cannot get within three thousand miles of the lifeline of the American Navy. Will the Japanese ever dare to send warships 4,000 miles from their nearest bases on such a mad gamble? If they ever did then all experts agree it would be "good night" to the "Land of the Gods" which Americans rudely call "the scrap iron Empire". Uncle Sam's gunners and pilots aren't worrying either way. Some of them complained to me recently that "nothing ever happens at Panama" and expressed a wish that the Hon. Japanese would "try something" and thus give them a bit of bombing practice.

Yes, Britain's 'Lion City' guarding one approach to the Pacific, and America's Panama Canal which controls the other, are prepared for squalls. These two gateways to the Orient are a long way from foggy London but nevertheless they are links in the ring of steel flung around the international barbarians. In a real sense they are part of the defences of Britain and freedom everywhere. And their defenders—British, American and colonial—can be relied upon, if the war flames spread, to show that brand of cold deck courage which these last weeks has caused the whole world to raise its hats to Poplar, Bermondsey and Bethnal Green.

In the words of one British Tommy I talked with at Singapore not long ago: "If anyone starts muckin' around here they won't air cop a packet.—(Tit Bits)

200 BOMBERS TO SINGAPORE

AMERICA RE-INFORCING PACIFIC FLEET

JAPANESE CIRCLES GLOOMY

Washington, Friday

THE simultaneous announcement that the British are flying 200 American bombers to Singapore and that America is reinforcing her Pacific air fleets can indicate only that the policies of the two countries are running on parallel lines. This is the belief in most political circles here.

Japan, it is believed, will think twice before hazarding any adventure. Some Japanese circles here are very gloomy and express anxiety in connexion with the Pacific situation. Pro-British groups are concentrating their efforts towards having the United States naval forces stationed at Singapore.

Confirmation that planes were being flown across the Pacific to the Far East was obtained today when the British Embassy here announced that aircraft were being flown to the Far East from the west coast of the United States. The Embassy refused further details.

AMERICA WARNED

Startling Statement by Yap Ambassador

London, Saturday.

Startling statements by the Japanese Ambassador in Rome, Mr. Horiki, in an interview with the newspaper, "Gazzetta del Popolo," of Turin, are quoted by the Italian news agency, Stefani.

The Ambassador stated: "The victory of the Axis is certain, and no American intervention can change the final course of the conflict." England's situation he described as "Extremely difficult but not desperate."

He declared that Japanese foreign policy would continue to be based on agreement with Berlin and warned Mr. Roosevelt that he should reflect many times before allowing himself to become gradually involved in actions which could not any longer be stopped. Henceforth, he said, everything depended on the decision of one man—Mr. Roosevelt.

"It is necessary that America should henceforth understand all acts which may involve her in war against the Axis may automatically unleash a conflict with Japan."

Referring to the adjournment of negotiations between Thailand and Indo-China, the Ambassador emphasised that certain proposals had to be examined by both sides but the question at issue ought to be, and should be, settled. Negotiations between Japan and the Dutch East Indies for rubber and oil were of a peaceful character and it was thought that agreement could be reached without much difficulty.

A. M. I. C. E. Examination

A cablegram has been received from London that Mr. C. Poologarathnam, of the Public Works Department, Colombo, has been successful in the Section A of the Associate Membership Examination of the Institute of Civil Engineers. Mr. Poologarathnam is the son of Mr. V. Chumtharampillai, Postmaster, Kaduganawa.

Have Germans Entered Bulgaria?

Signs Of An Open Move

London, Saturday.

Well informed circles in London have no confirmation of the report that German troops have entered Bulgaria, says Reuter's Diplomatic correspondent. But there are signs that an open move will take place in the near future as distinct from covert and infiltrating movements which have been going on for some time.

Amongst these indications are the drastic curtailment of railway traffic in Bulgaria during the past two days, elaborate bridging preparations in various parts of the Danube and also the acquisition of houses at strategic points, making them available for German staff officers.

The latest information suggests that ice is breaking up on the lower Danube, although the river is still frozen in Hungary, where it is narrower. It is understood that hitherto no German troops in uniform have appeared in Bulgaria and there is thus no question of the British Minister departing.

Such a decision would have to be made by the Minister himself if and when Bulgaria becomes occupied territory. At the moment, however, Bulgaria retains her nominal independence.

There is no official confirmation in London of the report that certain units of the German army have crossed from France into Spain, at the invitation of the Spanish Foreign Minister, to assist in rebuilding and rescue work at Santander.

Reports from many quarters that German troops have been throwing pontoon bridges across the Danube between Rumania and Bulgaria and closed the river over a distance of fifty miles may be part of the German war of nerves directed against the Bulgarians and Greeks.

German precautions to mask their moves are so strict that accurate knowledge cannot be obtained but it can be assumed that it is unlikely that the Germans could establish such bridges for many hours at a time owing to masses of ice flowing down the river from ice barriers higher up, and also because of the Danube's great width in this section, an average of one mile almost the whole way between Bulgaria and Rumania.

OBITUARY

DR. N. SINNAKUTTY

The remains of Dr. N. Sinnakutty whose death occurred on Friday the 14th instant at his residence at Telipallai were cremated according to Hindu rites at the Telippallai crematorium on the next day.

The late Dr. Sinnakutty who was 80 years old died after a brief illness. He was in the F. M. S. Medical Service for 32 years and was in charge of Hospitals in various stations. He retired in 1918 and spent his retired life in Jaffna.

He leaves behind a son Dr. S. V. Murthy of Bukit Merajam, Straits Settlements, a daughter Mrs. Kandiah, wife of Mr. A. Kandiah of the Colombo Municipality and a large number of relatives both in Malaya and Ceylon to mourn his loss. (Con.)

Agricultural Propaganda

Experiments With Paddy

The Propaganda Division of the Agricultural Department adequately discharged its function as the "Loud Speaker" of the Department by means of field days and propaganda meetings held at different centres in the agricultural districts of the Island, participation in Agricultural Shows, public lectures, surprise visits to villages with the propaganda van, posters and handbills, says the Acting Director of Agriculture in his Report for 1939. The Propaganda Officer, he adds participated in the following exhibitions during the year:—

- (1) All Island Cattle Show, Colombo.
- (2) Nuwara Eliya Agri-Horticultural Show.
- (3) All-Island Mango Show, Jaffna.
- (4) Kotmale Show.
- (5) Salpiti Korale Cattle Show, Piliyandala.
- (6) Murungan Poultry and Goat Show.
- (7) Palugama Vegetable Show.

The Division carried out special propaganda for the purpose of encouraging the keeping of bees. A measure of the very considerable success achieved is provided by the fact that over 2,500 double super hives of the Newton model popularly known as the Martandan type were issued by the Division alone.

Of the crops connected with village agriculture paddy is naturally the most important. Scientific investigation on the cultivation and breeding of paddy is carried out by the special division of the Paddy Officer whose report is annexed as Appendix G. The Paddy Officer made several trials in the harrowing of a growing paddy crop with a long-pronged tooth harrow and reported a considerable increase in yield as a result of this operation. But propaganda for the popularization of this practice was held over pending the results of a large scale field trial because it is a practice which, carried out on an experimental scale, need not necessarily yield true results. As in past years the field work with paddy consisted of the popularization of high-yielding strains and the demonstration of improved methods of cultivation. In some cases the failure of the 1938-39 north-east harvest and of the 1939 south-west harvest caused a serious setback to the extension of the area under pure-line paddy. The farmers had no seed paddy and the Government had to buy whatever varieties of paddy were available in the market for issue to them. But there was considerable extension in those areas which were not affected by irregular weather conditions. For instance, in the Northern Division 8,958 bushels of pure-line seed were issued to the public from Government farms. In the Eastern Division the area under pure-line paddy is estimated at 10,000 acres. The most popular strains were *Vellai Illankayan*, *Pachchai*, *Perumal* and *Odduvalan*. With regard to improved methods of cultivation the following extract from the report of a Division with regard to the work in one village is quoted as an illustration of the nature of the work done by the field staff.

SAMOOGA SEVAI SANGAM

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Samooga Sevai Sangam of Vannarponnai, Jaffna, was held on the 22nd instant in the Sangam premises at about 7.30 p.m. The President Mr. S. C. Chithambaranathan took the chair. After the Reports of the Secretary and Treasurer were duly passed, and after the Election of the Office-Bearers, the following two resolutions were unanimously passed:—

1. "In as much as the introduction of the Shops' Act into Jaffna will benefit a small number of the Employees only without due regard being given to the convenience of the Consumers, and as such, the said step will violate the political principle called the "Greatest good of the Greatest Number", and as there is a general slump in the entire business world of Jaffna today, this Sangam resolves that the Shops' Act should not be enforced in Jaffna."

2. "In furtherance of the Resolution passed just now, this Sangam resolves to send Messrs. M. R. Karalasingham, V. Sivasubramaniam and N. P. Appar in a deputation to interview the Hon'ble the Minister for Labour, Industry and Commerce and appeal to him not to introduce the Shops' Act into Jaffna".

The election of the Office Bearers for the year 1941-42 resulted as follows:—

Patron:—Mr. G. G. Ponnampalam M. S. C.

President:—Mr. M. B. Karalasingham

Vice Presidents: Messrs. N. P. Appar and K. K. Nadarajah

Joint Secretaries: Messrs. S. K. Balasubramaniam and M. Vaidhyalingam

Joint Treasurers: Messrs. S. Thuraiappah and R. Perumalchettiar

Auditor: Mr. S. Olagathapillai

Committee

Messrs. C. Chithambaranathan, C. Chellarajah, C. Nadarajah, V. Sivasubramaniam, S. P. M. Nadir, N. Ramasamy, K. Ponnappah, N. S. Senathirajah, M. Subramaniam and S. Nagalingam.

ration of the nature of the work done by the field staff.

Wiyalagoda

A Field Day held in January served to advertise the effectiveness of the improved methods demonstrated in the 10-acre model paddy plot worked in the *maha* 1938-39 and which yielded 340 bushels. The superiority of superphosphate, which is cheaper, over bone meal and the value of water in weed control were two outstanding points. Transplanting was also demonstrated in one acre. The Government Agent, Province of Sabaragamuwa himself went through the fields and was told by the cultivators about the remarkable differences in the appearance between the model plots and the cultivators' fields. Encouraged by these results cultivators readily attended a meeting and arranged details well in advance of the season for work in *maha* 1939-40. A 10-acre model plot has been worked again and the entire extent transplanted. This plot was used for training over 100 men, women and children from this and neighbouring villages.

INDUSTRIAL CORPORATION FOR CEYLON

Financial Secretary to Report

The consideration of the proposal of the Director of Commerce and Industries for the creation of an Industrial Corporation has been deferred by the Executive Committee pending a report by the Financial Secretary.

A limited liability company with a large capital is the main idea behind the scheme, so as to enable it to undertake various manufacturing enterprises leading to the industrialisation of the country. It has been suggested that Government should subscribe a quarter or half of the capital of, say, five or ten million rupees, in order to retain a controlling voice, and that the remainder of the shares be open to public subscription.

The Minister of Labour, Industry and Commerce supports the proposal and says that it is not desirable for Government to continue for ever to carry on by itself the various industries that have already been started or will shortly be started by the Department of Commerce.

THE THREAT OF INVASION

(Continued from page 1)

vasion.

Attacks on sea communications and air attacks directed against economic war power are of their nature long-term campaigns. Such forms of attack are more consistent with an attempt to wear down Britain's power of resistance than with a plan for immediate invasion.

Similarly the attempt to close the Sicilian Channel and the threat of action against Greece and in the Balkans would have little effect on an immediate invasion project.

They might, however, be planned to induce Britain to disperse her naval and air strength and to some extent her land forces before the invasion was ultimately effected.

On the whole conditions do not seem at present to favour the invasion attempt.

On the other hand, by maintaining the threat of invasion Germany can exploit the advantages of her central position. For the threat cannot, should not, and will not be ignored. So it prevents Britain from exercising her full strength in the Mediterranean.

But should France, as one may hope, refuse to acquiesce in Hitler's demands, and should the United States decide to intervene actively against U-boat attacks on shipping then in desperation a German attempt at invasion, as the main and leading feature of her attack on Britain, might be made.

It must not, however, be supposed that Britain will stand tamely on the defensive waiting for threat of invasion to mature.

Her own counter-offensive action is her best means of upsetting Hitler's plans, whatever they may be.

It has already shattered Italy's ambitions and has proved more than a complete antidote to Hitler's war of nerves. (Roy's Weekly)

Order Nisi

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 924.

In the matter of the estate of the late Kanapathippillai Ramanathan of Vaddukoddai West.

Deceased.

Thangakuddy widow of Sabapathiar Kanapathippillai of Vaddukoddai West Petitioner.

Vs.

1. Kandiah Ramalingam
2. and wife Sornaladchumy of do
3. Thuraismy Sabaratnam of do
4. Thuraismy Chelliah of do
5. Thuraismy Theiventhiram of do
6. Kanmaniammal widow of Naganathar Kandiah of do
7. Velupillai Chinniah
8. and wife Navamaniammah of do
9. Vaitilingam Murugesapillai
10. and wife Manonmany of Vaddukoddai West Respondents.

This matter of the petition of the abovenamed petitioner coming on for disposal before C. Coomaraswamy Esqr. District Judge, Jaffna on the 3rd day of September 1940 in the presence of Mr. V. P'agalingam, Proctor for petitioner and the affidavit and petition of the said petitioner having been read: it is ordered that letters of administration be granted to the petitioner to the estate of the said deceased unless the said respondents shall appear before this court on or before the 28th day of November 1940 and show cause to the satisfaction of this court to the contrary.

This 8th day of November 1940

Sgd. C. Coomaraswamy,
District Judge.

Extended to 26-2-41.
(O. 90, 20 & 24-2-41.)

Order Nisi

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA

(held at Point Pedro)

Testamentary Jurisdiction
No. 143 P. T.

In the matter of the Intestate Estate and Effects of Arumugam Arudpiragasam of Imayanam, Uduppiddy, Deceased.

Chellappackiam widow of Arumugam Arudpiragasam of Imayanam, Uduppiddy Petitioner.

Vs.

1. Arumugam Kuhapiragasam of No. 221, Panchikawatte Road, Maradana, Colombo.
2. Arudpiragasam Emperuman of Imayanam, Uduppiddy Respondents

This matter coming on for disposal before Simon Rodrigo Esquire, Additional District Judge, Jaffna on the 11th day of February 1941, in the presence of Mr. V. Dharmalingam, Proctor for the Petitioner, and the affidavit of the Petitioner having been read:

It is ordered that the 1st Respondent abovenamed be and he is hereby appointed Guardian-ad-litem over the minor the above-named 2nd Respondent to represent him in the Testamentary Proceedings and that the petitioner be and she is hereby declared entitled to take out Letters of Administration to the estate of the deceased as widow of the deceased and that the Letters of Administration be issued accordingly unless the Respondents or any other person shall on or before the 27th day of February 1941 appear and show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

Point Pedro, this 11th day of February, 1941.

S. RODRIGO,
Addl. District Judge.

(O. 91, 20 & 24-2-41)

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