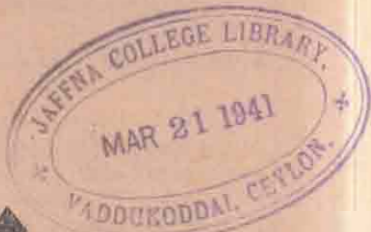


# THE Hindu Organ.



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## MUSSOLINI, HIS METHODS AND HIS CRIMES

"A SINISTER & DANGEROUS RUFFIAN"

HITLER TOOK HIM AS HIS MODEL

(BY WICKHAM STEED)

I SHOULD like to speak of the action of the man who, in President Roosevelt's words, stuck a dagger into the back of his neighbour. And I want to speak less of his felon blow than of the felon himself, to tell what I have known of him, his methods and his crimes, since I had the doubtful honour of meeting him at Milan rather more than twenty-two years ago.

It will be largely a personal story, for it is not based only on hearsay. To the best of my knowledge and belief it is true. I ought perhaps to say that I know something of Italy. I lived there for the better part of six years, I learned the Italian language, I knew intimately the leading survivors of the great Italian Risorgimento; and even after I had left Italy I made a point of going back there, year after year, until 1922.

It was in October of that year, that Mussolini made his so-called "March on Rome"—in a comfortable sleeping-car from Milan with a royal telegram in his pocket that appointed him Prime Minister. As I know the man, I resolved never to set foot in Italy again so long as he and his infamous band of gangster criminals should misrule the Italian people.

### A Faction Leader

The distinction between Mussolini and the Italian people ought always to be borne in mind. He is not a typical Italian. He is a Romagnolo, a native of the anarchical province of Romagna in north-east Italy; which for nearly a thousand years, was perturbed by faction fights under faction leaders of the worst type. Let me explain how I met him. In October, 1917, disaster had befallen the Italian Army at Caporetto. An Austro-German offensive had

broken through the Italian line, with the object—though we did not then know it—of overrunning Northern Italy and of attacking France from the south east while Ludendorff should be his great offensive against the British Army in North-Eastern France early in 1918. In November, 1917, British and French divisions were rushed to Italy in the hope of preventing panic and stopping the rot. But it ought to be remembered that these divisions did not at once go into battle. The knowledge that they were coming encouraged the Italian troops to stand on the River Piave and to check the Austro-German onrush.

One effect of the Caporetto disaster was to bring about an understanding between Italy and the Yugoslav National Committee in London. Millions of Yugoslavs were then subject to Austria-Hungary and the Yugoslav regiments in the Austro-Hungarian Armies had long been among the best of the Hapsburg forces. They had been enraged against Italy by the Italian demand to annex large portions of Yugoslav territory, and they had been partly responsible for the Austro-German break through at Caporetto. But this disaster convinced the Yugoslav National Committee in London that the independence and unity of their country would be past praying for if Italy and the Western Allies were defeated. So the Yugoslav leaders and some prominent Italians met at my house in December, 1917, to work out an Italo-Yugoslav agreement.

### "Duce" or 'Truce'?

In March, 1918, I was sent on an official mission to the Italian front to find means of telling the Austro-Hungarian Armies of this agreement, and

(Continued on page 4)

## THREAT TO THAILAND'S FREEDOM

A KEY COUNTRY TO THE PACIFIC

BRITAIN & U. S. A. ALONE CAN CHECK JAPAN'S PLANS

(BY CHARLES TOWERS)

THE forcible occupation of military, naval and air bases in French Indo-China by Japanese forces is likely to be merely the first stepping-stone towards the complete military control of that vital zone of the Far East to which the French colony belongs. Things have reached a pass where it can hardly be expected that anything but force or at least the terror of force can stay the march of Japan. Ostensibly the Japanese claim that the purpose of their occupation is merely to shorten the war in China through the opening of a new line of attack against General Chiang-Kai-shek and the cutting of the Burmah road. In actual fact, however, the aims of Japan in this part of the world are far more dangerous and suggest a potent threat to vital British and American interests in the Far East.

The strategic advantages which Japan has already obtained are serious enough. Still graver is the fact that effective control of Indo-China brings the Japanese forces in adjoining proximity to the ever more important objective of Thailand. With this latter country in their hands—its capture would be a walk-over for the country is quite incapable of offering any serious resistance—the Japanese would then be able to launch an aerial attack against Singapore from the north. Already by their occupation of ports in Indo-China they have secured essential naval bases from which their fleet could operate effectively against the democracies in the Pacific.

### Threat to the Pacific States

Small wonder that official anxiety is now seriously aroused. The ultimate fate of the Philippines would be involved and, if this archipelago some day fell to Japan, the position of Hawaii also would

be threatened; new roads to attack upon Singapore would then be opened and the status of Malaya and the Dutch East Indies—which provide materials essential to British and American industries—would thus be impaired. The shadow would lengthen out over Australia and New Zealand.

The position of Indo-China and Thailand to-day is like Germany in 1936, when the Rhineland was re-occupied. If drastic and immediate action had been taken at this first indication of Germany's aggressive intentions and disregard of treaties world history might well have been deviated into more peaceful channels than exists to-day. In the same way mutual action by Britain and America immediately in the Far East against Japanese intentions is not only prudent but well-nigh essential if we are to avoid paying a serious price in the future.

Thailand with its 13,000,000 people is still a distant place to many of us. Trading ships and land caravans have never brought it close to the Western World because it is not on the main highway to China. Backed up against saw-toothed mountains in the North, Thailand has always had the 1,000-mile long Malay Peninsula on the south acting like a fence to divert all through traffic down by the convenient Singapore crossroads. Thus during six centuries of Western trade with China the little country has lain in its own quiet backwater, unwashed by the direct current of Western influence. Yet it is the centre spot where three empires meet; British Burmah, French Indo-China and China.

### Japanese Aims

As far as Japan is concerned the importance of Thailand consists in her wealth in certain raw materials which are

(Continued on Page 4.)



## Parameshvara College

The Old Boys of Parameshvara College are kindly requested to send their present addresses to the under-mentioned. The general meeting is fixed for the 30th of March, 1941.

**T. Pararajasingam,  
M. R. Karalasingam,**  
Joint Secretaries.

Parameshvara College,  
Jaffna.  
(Mis. 212. 20-3-41.)

## THE RUBIYAT OF OMAR KHAYYAM (Fitzgerald)

TRANSLATION IN TAMIL POETRY  
Copy 50 Cts. including Postage

**V. R. TambyRajah,**  
'Melita', Hospital Road,  
JAFFNA.

(Mis. 209. 17 & 20-3-41.)

## Veemankamam Bilingual School Tellippalai

Wanted Lady Teacher - Tamil  
Trained with English, Music desirable. Apply to The MANAGER,  
(Mis. 206. 13 & 20-3-41)

## WANTED

Teachers of Vocal and Instrumental music for the Summer School to be held during April 1941 at Jaffna. Apply before March 25 1941, to the Divisional Inspector of Schools, Jaffna.  
(Mis. 211. 20-3-41)



**Hindu Organ**

THURSDAY, MARCH 20, 1941

## THE PANNAI FERRY

THE DECISION OF THE Government to sell the toll of the Pannai ferry on a five-year lease, with conditions stipulated for quicker and more convenient transport of passengers, goods and vehicles, was hailed particularly by those in the islands, to whom modern facilities of convenient transport in their frequent travels to and from their homes seem mere fiction rather than realities. This ferry is almost exclusively used by residents of the islands of Mandaitivu, Velanai and Pungudutivu. The annual toll collected at this ferry clearly indicates the immense volume of transport that takes place here. On an average a minimum of Rs. 7,000 a year will be a reasonable estimate. The Government gets by sale of this rent a sum varying between Rs. 5,000 to Rs. 6,000 a year. The amount is collected by levying a toll rate of 5 cents for every passenger and increased rates for goods and vehicles. Allowing a margin for the two items mentioned last, it will not be very wide of the mark to estimate the number of passengers who use this ferry at about a lakh. The Government's decision to sacrifice

the major part of the revenue from this ferry in the interests of such a large number of passengers, was therefore looked upon as a concession to public convenience and utility. The toll has been sold, under these conditions, for the paltry sum of Rs. 2105, on a five-year lease, whereas in past years it fetched between five to six thousand rupees annually. One thus finds that the Government has sacrificed a minimum of Rs. 22,000 of its revenue. This has been done not that it needs no funds particularly at this time, but solely out of its laudable consideration for the unfortunate residents of these farflung islands, who deserved better treatment at the hands of the authorities. The renter of this ferry has, in return for this huge concession, to provide a power boat of not less than 18-20 brake h. p. capable of carrying and providing accommodation for at least fifteen passengers and a second power boat of not less 12 brake h. p. capable of towing or otherwise propelling the ferry boat provided by the government for the transport of vehicles. The provision of these power boats is meant for the quicker and more convenient transport of passengers and vehicles than was possible under the old conditions in which it took about an hour for a passenger boat and longer in the case of the ferry boat to cross the Pannai lagoon. According to the new arrangement it should be possible to cover the distance in about ten or at most fifteen minutes.

This new order was to have begun in October last year. The new renter assumed charge on October 1. But the change from the old order of conditions to the new is very slow in coming. The public who were expecting the dawn of a glorious motor age at the Pannai ferry were sorely disappointed. The old filthy man-propelled boats continued their snail-like course on the Pannai lagoon and a tedious hour was wasted in the boat. This was too much of an insult to a people who expected a great revolution in their methods of travel. Representations were therefore made to the authorities as a result of which some improvements seem to have been made. But these have not proved satisfactory. There is a strong public discontent in this connection. Memorials and petitions have been sent to the authorities representing that the Conditions of Sale have not been fulfilled by the renter even after the lapse of so many months, and that the public have not been provided with the facilities stipulated in the terms of the rent. It is not possible to enumerate the many grievances of the public within the restricted space at our disposal, but we would point out that conditions at the ferry are not

what they should be. After a perusal of the Tolls Ordinance and the Conditions of Sale of the Pannai Ferry, we are in a position to state, with first-hand knowledge of the conditions obtaining at the ferry, that the public, not to speak of the authorities, are being fooled by the renter. The same old filthy boat propelled by one-man-power is more in evidence there even to this day than the "power boat" which makes an occasional appearance evidently to prove its existence. Most of the transport of passengers is carried out, it seems, by means of these man-power boats. Several reports of grievances come to us from people who use this ferry and we understand these have been intimated to the authorities too. The renter is there to make his money, and it is the duty of the authorities to see that he makes it after duly fulfilling his obligations. It is clear that no effective supervision is made by the authorities at this ferry. A surprise visit by any official would reveal to him the breaches of the Tolls Ordinance and of the conditions of sale, which are so evident as to be noticed even by a casual visitor who has an idea of the rules and regulations governing the rents.

We are surprised at the attitude of the authorities in tolerating so far the unsatisfactory conditions at the Pannai ferry. Having sacrificed almost the whole of the revenue derivable from this source, with the laudable object of doing good to the public, it is the clear duty of the authorities to see that their terms are strictly adhered to at the ferry. They should have seen to it that in October everything was up to the stipulated conditions. Six months have almost passed and yet the public are not getting the full benefit of the generous concession made on their behalf. It is time the Minister for Communications and Works took a serious view of the matter and rectified it so as to assure to the public facilities promised by the new rent. The ferries in the Jaffna District need strict supervision. They are proving more a nuisance than a public utility service.

## ORIENTAL MUSIC ACADEMY WELLAWATTA

### Music and Dance Recital

A very interesting programme of Oriental Music and Dances was given under the auspices of the Oriental Music Academy at St. Peter's College Hall, Bambalapitiya, under the distinguished patronage of Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Watson, in the presence of a very large gathering of music lovers. This programme proved a splendid success considering the fact

## A RURAL ARMY FOR CEYLON

### PLAN OF THE SECOND R. R. CONGRESS

#### RURAL RECONSTRUCTION IN CEYLON

A ten-year plan of Rural Reconstruction work was drawn up at the Second All-Ceylon Rural Reconstruction Congress held last month at Kirinda, Matara. The Congress also decided to start nine rural centres in the nine provinces and to organise a rural reconstruction army to carry out the programme.

The enthusiasm shown by the delegates representing the various parts of the Island gave one hope that the movement was a serious one and meant real service to the country.

The following is a brief authorised report of the Congress which was held at the Abayawardana Buddhist Girls' School, Kirinda, Matara, from February 22nd to 28th, 1941.

At 2.45 p.m. vast crowds mustered strong from various parts of the Matara District. A large number of delegates from Jaffna, Badulla, Kandy, Talawakelle, Hambantota, Chilaw, Matugama and other parts of the Island eagerly awaited the arrival of Mr. G. C. S. Corea, Minister of Labour, Industries and Commerce, who was expected to preside over the opening session of the Second All-Ceylon Rural Reconstruction Congress.

The Muslim Boy Scouts of the First Weligama Troop, in picturesque fez caps and uniforms presented a guard of honour to the Minister, Mr.

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that this institution was started just 10 months ago and included several instrumental and vocal items by eminent artists.

The proceedings began with a tableau of goddess Saraswathi and a dance by the pupils with songs artistically rendered by the boy students accompanied by the Academy Orchestra. Sangeetha Vidwan S. V. P. Velaudha Bagawathar gave a display of classical music followed by Sri Subbhara Devi's which was a rare treat ever heard in Colombo, the latter justifying the many gold medals she had won in this field. The dance items given by the Jaffna exponent of Bharata Natyam was well appreciated. This was followed by heart rending music of the academy prodigies (Masters Gopalan and Selhukulasingham) who distinguished themselves very creditably. The Veena and Violin recitals of Misses Leela Thambiab, Jayaraya Malar was well applauded.

The programme was well supported by the instrumental recitals of Ramanatha Puram, P. Veegarathalam, and P. S. Mani Iyer (Violin), M. Ananda Iyer (Flute) and T. N. Nadarajah, S. P. Mudaliyar, and Thamba Prifai the Jaffna expert (Mirthangam).

The Academy under the able guidance and supervision of the Principal Mrs. Kanaganbige Anmal with the help and co-operation of such a qualified staff and the public seem to serve a great purpose in the revival of the art of Oriental Music in this Island. (Cor.)



# MESSAGE INEVITABLE RATHER THAN INOPPORTUNE

## GOVERNOR'S REPLY TO MINISTERS' PROTEST

### FIVE REASONS FOR HIS MESSAGE TO STATE COUNCIL

THE protest addressed by the Ministers to the Governor and His Excellency's reply thereto on the subject of the Governor's Message to the State Council of February 11 on "Undertakings given to the Government of India" have been published as a Sessional Paper.

A minute by the Governor, authorising the publication of the Sessional Paper states that, after consultation with the Board of Ministers, he has given authority for the immediate publication of the correspondence therein by reason of the unauthorised publication of the Ministers' memorandum.

#### Request to Newspapers

The Ministers, in their Memorandum to the Governor, maintain that the statements quoted by the Governor in the schedule to his Message to the State Council are "mere information conveyed to the Government of India of the actual position existing at the time, and can by no stretch of imagination be interpreted as undertakings binding as for all time."

#### The Governor's Reply

The Governor, in his reply to the Board of Ministers, states:—

I have the honour to address you with reference to your statement of views dated the 28th February on the subject of my message to the State Council on "Undertakings given to the Government of India."

2. In the third paragraph of your statement you express the opinion that I have failed to observe Royal Instruction No II. I have always been scrupulous to observe that Instruction and I am not conscious of having failed to do so in regard to this matter. You will remember that I first told you of my intention to make a statement at our meeting on December 18th, 1940. I have not a record of my exact words but this is how I summarized them two days later on the 20th December.

I added that judging from its Report our Delegation does not appear adequately to have borne in mind still current undertakings given by Ceylon in respect of immigrants since 1923 and that I should feel it necessary when the Report is published to make a synchronous statement making clear my own position.

On the 24th January I gave to the Minister for Local Administration at the joint request of him and the Minister for Agriculture and Lands a list of what I regarded as our undertakings to India, a list that was in substance identical with the Schedule to my Message.

#### Divergence of Views

3. I wish at this point also to invite remembrance of the fact that long before the recent Indo-Ceylon conversations I expressed and maintained the view that items of information supplied to the Government of India for publication under Rule 17 of their Immigration Rules were undertakings. If my memory is correct my attention was first drawn to these undertak-

ings in connection with the legislation to amend the Village Communities Ordinance in 1938. The following passage occurs in paragraph 11 of my despatch No. 418/1938 on that subject:—

"The undertaking given to every Indian immigrant, quoted on page 10 of the Legal Secretary's report that

"Indians in Ceylon have the same legal rights as members of the local population."

would thus be fully implemented because the resident labourer whether Indian or Ceylonese would be treated exactly alike."

4. In view of what I have written in the two preceding paragraphs I cannot agree that I have failed to observe Royal Instruction No. II. It is of course unfortunately true that a divergence of opinion between us in this matter has been manifest since the 18th December, 1940. I am however unable to assent to the view that there has been a failure on my part to consult you or ignorance on your part as to my intention to make public my own position.

#### Previous Statement

5. I now turn to the fourth paragraph of your statement in which you record your strong disapproval of the occasion chosen by me for sending this message. It will be remembered that my Message is not the first public statement that I have made in this matter. At the opening of the Bank of Ceylon on 1st August 1939, I made a short statement of a dozen facts

Three of the twelve facts stated by me were as follows:—

(i) Any legislation to restrict immigration or to limit the employment of immigrants by quotas, or to impose a tax on their employers, could not be assented to by the Governor but would have to be reserved under the Royal Instructions for signification of His Majesty's pleasure.

(ii) On the 27th June 1939, an undertaking was given to the Government of India that we would refer for an expression of its views any definite proposals that may be placed before the Governor for restricting immigration into Ceylon:

(iii) There has never been, any scheme, much less legislation for compulsory repatriation. Any such legislation would under the Royal Instructions need to be reserved for signification of His Majesty's pleasure.

6. On the 26th August, 1940 a memorandum giving in general terms the Ministerial proposals in regard to immigration and residence permits was sent to India, and it was suggested that the Indian Government might wish them to be discussed in the course of the Informal Conversations in November. On the 12th November the Conversations ended without agreement having been reached on this or any other subject. The comments of the Government of India on the proposals had not yet been received

at the date of my Message to Council.

#### Whitehall Suggestion

7. On the 26th November, 1940, there was laid before the Board of Ministers a suggestion received by telegraph from the Secretary of State for the Colonies that, in order to avoid future difficulty, a copy of any Immigration Bill should be forwarded to him in draft form for consideration.

8. On the 14th December, 1940, the Board of Ministers decided to recommend to the Governor that the Report of the Ceylon Delegation should be published at the earliest possible moment as a Sessional Paper. This recommendation, to which I demurred was discussed at our meeting of 18th December, 1940, (already mentioned in paragraph 2 supra), when it was agreed that publication of the Report and Proceedings must wait until copies had been sent to and received by the Government of India. Synchronised publication (on the 11th February) was subsequently arranged. It was, however, made clear to me at this meeting of the 18th December that in the opinion of at least two Ministers the delay in publication was unfortunate and that the country should be forthwith prepared for the introduction of restrictive measures.

9. On the 21st January the Board of Ministers instructed the Legal Secretary to draft immediately (if possible within a fortnight) legislation on the basis of the proposals alluded to in paragraph 6 supra.

10. Paragraph 20 of the Minutes of the Board of Ministers for the 4th February records as follows:—

"The Board considered a memorandum dated 27th January, 1941, by the Legal Secretary on the proposals ... for the control of immigration, and appointed a Sub-Committee ... to prepare and forward to the Legal Secretary for draft legislation (which the Board had earlier decided should have full priority) a memorandum of instructions on the subject taking into consideration the observations made by the Legal Secretary in his report. In this connection the Chief Secretary stated that His Excellency the Governor had asked him to draw the Ministers' attention once more to the suggestion of the Secretary of State... that for the avoidance of future difficulty a copy of any proposed legislation on this subject should be sent in draft for his prior consideration before introduction."

#### Five Points

11. When therefore I sent my Message to the State Council five things were clear to me:

(a) that the Report of the Ceylon Delegation, which would be before Members as a Sessional Paper, showed that the Delegates had not adequately borne in mind what are to me plainly and incontrovertibly undertakings given by Ceylon to India;

(b) that legislation was being prepared without waiting for the views of the Government of India on your general proposals.

(c) that although the Secretary of State had suggested that any Immigration Bill should be sent to him in draft, the introduction of priority legislation was imminent, the details of which had not been made known either to me or to the Government of India.

(d) that the amity of Ceylon's relations with India was in jeopardy; and

(e) that Members of the State

(Continued on Page 5)

## MINISTER AT PT. PEDRO

### NEEDS OF THE COUNTRY

### MEMORANDUM DISCUSSED AT CONFERENCE

"THE present question of Indian immigration is one on which we in Jaffna also feel very strongly. We feel that Ceylon cannot afford to sever all political, social and economic connection with India, which will be the virtual result of the passing of the present Immigration Bills". Thus states a memorandum presented to Sir Baron Jayatilaka, Minister for Home Affairs, during his official visit recently to Point Pedro, by the President of the Point Pedro Maha Jana Sabha, Mr. Sam T. Solomons. The Memorandum was discussed with the Ministers at a conference held in the Point Pedro Rest House. Dr. C. Sabapathy, Messrs. N. Sivagnanasundaram, R. W. M. Walton, C. P. Thamotharam, C. Thanabalasingam and V. Arunachalam were among those present.

The following are extracts from the memorandum:—

#### Agriculture

Instead of running model farms and doing costly theoretical propaganda, the Department will do well to experiment with new manure, seeds etc on private farms selected in rotation as done in Nagarkovil, South India.

#### Industries

Instead of thinking of large scale industry it will be more advisable to open small industrial concerns to be run for a definite number of years with a view to getting the local people interested in them and setting up smaller concerns of their own.

#### Pottery

The pottery industry in Ceylon affords the greatest scope for improvement as practically every type of clay is found in the Island. Besides Pottery on a small scale is being carried on in certain villages.

Free permits should be given to bring clay from Moorthur (near Trincomalee) to Point Pedro.

#### Soap-Making

In Malabar 30 years ago the Madras Government started a soap factory in Calicut and encouraged local people to study the art. In a few years, time every other house in Calicut became a miniature soap factory. The Government then stopped its factory as it had already served its purpose. Now more than 90% of the washing and toilet soap used in South India is of local manufacture.

Conditions in North Ceylon are exactly similar to those in Calicut.

Other possible industries in which Government can help are, sugar refinery, leather and hide etc.

#### Fisheries

A large number of Point Pedro people are engaged on the fishing industries. They are still using the same methods as were practised centuries ago. The Government has to do something to improve their methods. This can be done only by appointing an expert.

#### Immigration

The present question on Indian

(Continued on page 5)



## Mussolini, His Methods and His Crimes

(Continued from page 1)

also the Allied determination to liberate the Yugoslav and all the subject peoples of Austria-Hungary. With Italian help the means were found. They proved effective. But that is another story.

After having accomplished my mission I was urged by Italian friends to see a man, named Mussolini, at Milan towards the end of April, 1918. On enquiry I learned that he was editing a revolutionary Socialist paper, the *Popolo d'Italia*, which was receiving subsidies from the French Foreign Office and from an Italian armament firm at Genoa, with dribbles from a British source in Rome. The prospect of meeting so impartial a revolutionary seemed interesting. So I had two hours' talk with Benito Mussolini.

There is an Italian word that exactly describes the impression he made upon me. It is *truce*. The best Italian dictionary gives the following list of its approximate meanings. They are, 'cruel atrocious, brutal, barbarous, horrible'. In later years, when Mussolini had taken to himself the title of *Duce* or 'Leader', his Italian opponents always called him the *Truce*.

In the course of our talk I explained to Mussolini—whose paper was then urging Italians to fight on for victory—the immense advantages which Italy would gain by standing forth as the liberator of the subject Austro-Hungarian peoples, and as the friend of Balkan nations that were striving for unity and independence. Such a policy, I argued, would enable Italy to enter the peace conference with a moral and political prestige not inferior to that of the President of the United States while the friendship of the liberated peoples would safeguard her in future against any attempt from any quarter to imperil her own security.

Mussolini, whose mind works swiftly saw every point at once. And to every point he added comment which showed that he was thinking how the peoples, whom Italy would have helped liberate, could afterwards be hoodwinked, played off against one another and betrayed. I left him with the feeling that I had been dealing with one of the most sinister and dangerous ruffians whom it had ever been my misfortune to meet. To some Italian friends who wanted to know what I thought of him, I said 'He is a criminal, perhaps a great criminal the accent may be on "great" but criminal. They said they thought I was exaggerating and that he was neither so great nor so criminal as I imagined.

### A Bomb for the Cardinal

Four years later, in April 1922, half a year before Mussolini's 'March on Rome', one of these Italians reminded me of what I had said in 1918, and told me that he had come to share my view. He explained that Mussolini had been carrying on a villainous campaign against the Cardinal Archbishop of Milan whom he attacked, with vile abuse daily in the *Popolo d'Italia*. The

Cardinal's organ had replied vigorously. Then, one day, Mussolini had sent for the assistant editor of the *Popolo d'Italia* had, showed him a neat little package, and had asked him to address it in his clear handwriting to the Cardinal Archbishop. Mussolini explained that his own handwriting was almost illegible—which it is. When the package was addressed Mussolini blotted the ink with a clean piece of blotting paper, and instructed the assistant editor to have it sent to the Archbishop's Palace by a public messenger. "I have had enough of this row with the Archbishop" Mussolini added 'so I bought him a little present as a peace-offering.'

Two hours later a sensation was caused by the announcement that the Cardinal Archbishop's secretary had opened a package addressed to the Cardinal and had found in it a live bomb which he had thrown out of the window. It had exploded in the courtyard, doing some damage but, fortunately, injuring nobody. The police had traced the public messenger who, however, could not say who had given him the package.

Thereupon Mussolini's assistant editor rushed into Mussolini's room, exclaiming 'Was that your present to the Archbishop?' Mussolini opened a drawer, took out the clean piece of blotting paper, held it up and answered, 'Is that your handwriting? Shut up, Horrid! The assistant editor bolted from the office, but Mussolini managed to get the scandal hushed up.

### The Real Mussolini

In later years I verified this story in a quarter which knew all the details. It was confirmed in every particular. It was entirely in keeping with my impression of the man, and with his conduct during and after the semi-Communist disorders that had broken out in Northern Italy in September 1920. Mussolini, who by that time had formed his *Fasci* or bands of Blackshirts, had offered their help to some groups of revolutionary workmen who had seized a number of factories. The workmen refused his help and presently returned the factories to their owners. Mussolini then sold the services of his Blackshirts to financiers and industrialists who used them to break the heads of the workmen. The outbreak of disorder was suppressed. In July 1921, Mussolini wrote in his paper that if anybody still talked of a Bolshevik or Communist peril in Italy after what had been done in September, 1920, he was an ignorant fool. Yet the cry against the Communist peril was readily spread by Mussolini's Blackshirts and served to put them into power, in later years a British officer in Rome asked Mussolini whether it was true that there had been no Communist peril in Italy after September 1920. Mussolini answered 'It is quite true but it is also true that I climbed into power on the shoulders of silly people who thought there was a Communist peril.'

This is the real Mussolini. All the villainies he perpetrated after his 'March on Rome', all the beatings, murders and doings of his cruelties with castor oil, were carried out under his orders. If ever

the true story of the murder of Matteotti, the Italian Labour leader, can be published in the light of evidence taken by a Commission of the Italian Senate, it will reveal one of the most unspeakable crimes that stain the history of any country. The revolt of Italian feeling against it would have smashed Fascism if Italian Liberals had been bolder and if the King had backed them. Having escaped this danger Mussolini made a prisoner of the King by compelling him to abrogate the Italian Constitution with its guarantees of individual freedom, upon which Italian unity was legally founded under the House of Savoy. By assenting to this destruction of the legal basis of his throne, the King of Italy became a powerless instrument of Mussolini's will. Even the order of succession to the throne has now to be decided by the Fascist Grand Council over which Mussolini presides.

### Why They will Lose

Had Fascism not triumphed in Italy by crime, force, guile and terror, Hitlerism would not have arisen in Germany. Hitler learned his technique from Mussolini whom he took as his model. Of the two I think Mussolini the more criminal, Hitler the more astute as a political gangster. Each distrusts the other thoroughly though both know that they stand or fall together. If it be asked why Mussolini has now thrown in his lot with Hitler the answer is that he could not afford to see Hitler overthrown lest he perish likewise. Nor could he afford to see Hitler triumph single handed, lest Mussolini get little or no loot. The two gangster gamblers are staking everything upon one throw of the iron dice.

They will lose. They may ruin Germany, Italy, and half the rest of Europe. But they will fail. They are fighting not only against the forces of freedom but against the power of the truth and against the truth it is written that the gates of Hell shall not prevail.

### Order Nisi

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF  
JAFNA

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 950

In the matter of the estate of the late  
Arumugam Sabapathippillai of  
Vaddukkoddai West

Deceased.  
Arumugam Sabapathippillai of  
Vaddukkoddai West

Vs. Petitioner.

1. Nagesvary daughter of Sabapathippillai of do
2. Sivapakkiam daughter of Sabapathippillai of do
3. Valliachchippillai widow of Arumugam Sabapathippillai of do.

Respondents.

This matter of the petition of the abovesaid petitioners coming on for disposal before C. Coomaraswamy Esqr. District Judge, Jaffna on the 4th day of December 1940 and the affidavit and petition of the said petitioner having been read, it is ordered that the abovesaid 3rd respondent be appointed guardian of them over the moneys of the 1st and 2nd respondents and that Letters of Administration be granted to the petitioner unless the said respondents shall appear before this Court on the 17th day of January 1941 and show cause to the satisfaction of the Court to the contrary.

This 19th day of January 1941.  
Sgd. C. Coomaraswamy,  
District Judge.

Extended to 26-3-41.  
(D. 97. 20 & 24-3-41)

## Threat to Thailand's Freedom

(Continued from page 1)

confined to the tropics, notably tin, rubber and teak, besides rice which is her largest export and in her strategic position. Besides the threat offered to British and American interests there is a more immediate attraction to induce a quick conquest of the country. It is the fact that Thailand gives almost direct access to western China by modern transport systems which could very rapidly be greatly extended. For instance, the railway which ends now at Chiengmai, could be extended to the Burmah frontier, and there is already in existence a dry weather motor road from Chiengmai as far as Keotung in the Burmese Shan States. Thailand has already spent several millions of pounds on road construction in the northern part of her territory. Japan certainly would not wish to see another potential "Burmah" road into China opened, hence yet one more reason for the immense importance of Thailand as a key position on the flank of the Pacific.

Thailand's strategic position on the air routes from Europe to China, French Indo-China, the Dutch East Indies, the Philippine Islands, and to Australia should also be emphasized. The country has become very air-minded. Wireless beacons and meteorological stations now stretch across the country. At least fifteen first-class airports for civil aviation are now in operation and form indeed a vital link in international air communications in the Far East. In Japanese hands their present peaceful use would undoubtedly be menaced and they would be turned into weapons for aerial aggression.

The Government of Thailand has never shown any designs on neighbouring territory and they have also shown that they have no wish to become a totalitarian State. "We consider freedom our greatest national treasure", Premier Phya Babol told the writer in Bangkok. "We want to earn the right to be called 'The Land of the Free in Asia', and we feel that we would be a happy nation". Such sentiments, of course, are anathema to the military rulers in Japan.

The threat to Thailand's freedom, happiness and independence is immediate. Japan's claws can only be successfully clipped by an open understanding between Britain and the United States in the Pacific. Will it come in time? (Hindu.)

### NOTICE

Restriction of Vehicular Traffic During Vannaopomai Sivan Temple Panguni Festival

Vehicular traffic will be restricted on certain roads in Jaffna Town on the following dates:-

23rd March, 1941 to 13th April, 1941, from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 2 a.m.

The roads chiefly concerned are, Karlasaturai road, Manipay road, Sivan Kovil—Pannai road and the Loop road opposite the Sivan Temple.

S. G. De SOUSA,  
Asst. Supt. of Police, N. P.  
Police Office,  
Jaffna, 14th March, 1941.  
(G. S. L. 20-341.)



## A Rural Army For Ceylon

(Continued from page 2)

Balfour, Director of Commerce and Industries and Mr. C. F. Ingledow, A. G. A. Matara, as they alighted from the car. Men and women Delegates representing various races and organisations greeted Hon Mr. G. C. S. Corea with a song. "Mangala wel, jaya mangala wel!" The ceremony ended with the singing of the R. R. S. Anthem which appealed to all to practice Brotherhood irrespective of race, caste or creed and work for the spiritual and temporal progress of Sri Lanka. With lifted hands the vast assembly of visitors joined in chorus, "Sinhala, Dravida, Lankey, Muslim, Sahothara Rakhave sayvoam, Jeya may, Jeya may...Ilanga Mathavin Jeya may."

Mr. Darrell Peiris (Dayananda Prijadarsi), chairman of the Reception Committee and his colleagues received the Minister and his party and escorted them to the Swadesi Exhibition. Most interesting among the exhibits were the different varieties of R. R. S Ink, soap, etc. and a model smoke-proof inexpensive kitchen on modern hygienic lines, highly suitable for village houses, constructed by Mr. J. H. Renfrew and nurse Gladis Brito Paulickpulle. This kitchen was the centre of attraction to the thousands of visitors who poured in at all hours of the day to receive instructions from nurse Paulickpulle, who spared no pains in instructing them in the art of constructing it.

At 3 p. m. the chairman of the Reception Committee delivered his address of welcome recounting at length the early history and the struggles of the pioneers with an inspiring vision of hope for the next ten years.

Mr. Corea in his address said that he was inspired by Mr. Peiris' illuminating records of various experiments conducted in different parts of the Island during the past ten years.

"I give my whole hearted backing to any programme of Rural Reconstruction. I am sorry the Board of Ministers have not taken steps to co-ordinate their activities to tackle the most vital problem of the hour—Rural Reconstruction.

"After five centuries of stagnation we have awakened to progressive ideas. Let us not be satisfied with the little progress that we have made. Let us awake, arise, bestir ourselves, free ourselves from selfishness and give our lives to promote such a vital movement as Rural Reconstruction. We must proceed and halt not. Every Ceylonese should be grateful to Mr. Darrell Peiris, the leader of this movement for having trained a band of voluntary workers who have consecrated their lives for the Spiritual, Cultural, Social and Economic Regeneration of Rural Lanka. Mr. Peiris is helping you all to become rich by teaching you various Cottage Industries. My message to you all is, "strive to earn all you can and make Lanka once again a Prosperous Nation."

Rev. Baddegama Pujaratana Thero, Principal Vidyalaya College, Miss. Elsie Cook, E. B. G. S. Ananda College, Mudaliyar S. W. R. Ilangagoon, Mr. D. Wanigasakera, M. S. C., spoke next.

On the following day at 3 p. m. the Jaffna delegates dressed in Khaddar, & Gandhi cap and the Muslim delegates presented a Guard of Honour to the Hon. Mr. C. W. W. Kannangara, Minister of Education who presided over the Mass Meeting.

Mr. Kannangara said "through schools alone can this movement be successfully carried out. I am get-

ting the Director of Education to instruct lady teachers to play a more active part in R. R. I am taking steps to get teachers to do more for the movement. I have mobilized the unemployed teachers into a Rural Reconstruction army and by the end of the year I expect to have 1200 in that army employed in rural service. I warn teachers not to spread Sama Samaj ideas in the schools.

"I take this opportunity to thank publicly Mr. Darrell Peiris and his colleagues for the selfless service they are rendering to the nation through our Teachers' conferences. I hope there will be more Congresses organised in the future. This is no longer Mr. Darrell Peiris' work. It is now your movement and mine. I promise to give all my support for a Ten Year Programme of Rural Reconstruction.

Mr. W. R. Watson, Assist. Director of Education warned those who were trying to divide the land with petty minded prejudices of caste, creed and race. The other speakers were Mr. Renfrew & Mrs. Gladis Renfrew, Miss H. G. Somawathie, Rev. H. Vajira, Rev. Dhammavasa Nayake Thero, Rev. Ralukandagamma, Rev. Pannalankara Thero, Rev. Pannasekara, Messers E. C. Kannangara, D. M. Rajapakse, M. S. C., Mr. Chas S. Peries, D. J. Stembu, Mr. H. DonSinnayaka, S. L. B. Kapakotuwa, assistant Director of Education, Sri Kukulana Devarakitta Maha Thero, Mr. Emil Fernando of the Tea Propaganda, Mr. Gunasena de Soysa, Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Rev. Paramahesa Vajiranana Maha Thero, Mr. Irving Goonawardana of the Coconut Board, Mr. S. SenathiRajah, Secretary, Youth Social Service League, Jaffna, Mr. Dias A. Wickrama Singhe and Mr. Jayasekara, Joint Secretaries All-Ceylon Rural Reconstruction Congress, D. J. S. Jayakodie, Rev. R. A. M. Abayasekara, K. K. Nadarajah, and Prof. Rudra of Jaffna.

The Jaffna Delegates S. SenathiRajah and K. Nadarajah dressed in Kadhi, gave spinning demonstrations on the charka and Takli right through the Congress. They were exceedingly popular and were greatly appreciated.

Various Industrial classes were given to the delegates e.g. The manufacture of Ink, soap, Distempers, jam, syrup, coir work, Rattu work wool work etc.

Every morning the delegates were instructed in Paddy Cultivation, Intensive cultivation on the Notaris system, cutting of contour Drains, Digging compost manure pits, Beekeeping, Dairying, etc.

Professor Rudra gave regular classes in Physical culture in addition to his demonstrations of feats of strength.

## Obituary

MRS. S. CATHIRAVETPILLI

The funeral of Sivakampillai, mother of Mr. C. Ragnathan, Assistant Registrar of Co-operative Societies, took place at Moolai on Tuesday, the 18th instant.

The deceased was the widow of Swaminathar Cathiravetpillai who predeceased her by about 22 years. She was over 90 years of age and passed away last Sunday night. Besides Mr. Ragnathan, her only son, she leaves two daughters, six grand-children (including Mr. S. Seenivasagam and Mr. S. Coomaraswamy, Proctor, of Colombo), and three great-grandchildren.

The remains were cremated on Tuesday morning, the last rites

## Minister at Pt. Pedro

(Continued from page 3)

immigration is one which we in Jaffna also feel very strongly. We feel that Ceylon cannot afford to sever all political, social and economic connection with India, which will be the virtual result of the passing of the present Immigration Bills. We are also for some sort of restriction of future immigration but we feel it unfair and impracticable to impose any sort of discrimination against the Indian population already in the Island. It is unfair because Ceylon owes a good deal to the Indians for her present state. The estates which are the source of a good fraction of the Ceylon revenue were opened up by the Indian labour. It was Indian capital that built up a good portion of Ceylon business. It is true that the present unemployment and the sad economic plight of the Ceylonese are partly due to Indian Immigration. But we do not think they can be improved all of a sudden by restricting Immigration. It is all based on the wider question of supply and demand when there is a local supply, the foreign supply will automatically stop. We even think that we will want a certain type of Indians for the development of local Cottage Industries.

Cottage Industries are far advanced in India. Only if you encourage Indians coming down to Ceylon our Industries will flourish. Take the case of the few Cottage Industries we are having now. It is people from Malabar who picked up soap making as I mentioned above under the heading Cottage Industries that came over to Ceylon and started this Cottage Industry here first. Even in Point Pedro Soap making was carried on, but had to be given up for want of encouragement. The same remark applies to such manufacture, weaving and spinning etc. As I said before even the Wellawatta Weaving and Spinning Mills are an Indian concern. I believe there is still the necessity for more of Indians coming down at least for some time more.

## Fishing

Even the local fishermen cannot sever connections with India. For one thing we have to go India for our Kaddumaram fishing boats, nets etc. Only last month I went to South India on behalf of the Co-operative Society to buy fish-

being performed by Mr. Ragnathan who returned that day from Travancore where he had gone on official business. The funeral was largely attended and the bereaved family were the recipients of numerous messages of sympathy.

MR. P. KULANDAYELU

We regret to record the untimely death at the age of 42 of Mr. T. P. Kulandavelu, Headmaster, of the Jaffna Hindu College Tamil School, for over 20 years, on the 15th instant at his residence at Tharankilappu.

The funeral took place the next day and was largely attended.

He leaves behind a widow, a three-year-old son, a brother and sister and an aged father and a host of relatives and friends with whom much sympathy will be felt.

## Message Inevitable Rather than Inopportune

(Continued from page 3)

Council should be informed of my position.

In these circumstances I consider that the occasion of my Message was inevitable rather than inopportune.

## "Historical" Position

12. The statement in your fifth paragraph, that of the undertakings listed in the Schedule to my Message only one can in any sense be considered an undertaking, is in my view irreconcilable with historical fact. By virtue of her Emigration Act India placed herself in the position of being able to assure to such of her nationals as emigrated to any country the political and other conditions which such Indians would enjoy there. Before allowing further emigration of assisted labourers to Ceylon plantations she accordingly addressed questions to the Ceylon Government in regard to all classes of immigrants on the replies to which depended her approval of such emigration.

To maintain that the replies were statements of contemporaneous circumstance, and not undertakings as to the conditions which emigrants would enjoy here, is to stultify both question and answer, and to ignore the purpose of the Indian Emigration Act itself.

13. It follows from the preceding paragraph that it is impossible for me to entertain the view advanced in your sixth paragraph that, if Indians who have been allowed to emigrate here on the strength of past statements were deprived by Ceylon of the enjoyment of the conditions described in those statements, India would be at liberty merely to ban future emigration.

14. You have asked that a copy of your statement of views should be forwarded to the Secretary of State for the Colonies. This I am doing, and am sending also a copy of this reply. The juxtaposition of the two will indicate clearly to him the differences that have unhappily arisen between us.

ing nets, boats etc to the tune of Rs. 4000.

## Loose Talk

We regret to note that there is a lot of loose talk in Ceylon by responsible people about the Indian question. Only yesterday I read in one of the evening papers about the statement made in Bombay recently by Mr. Raja Hewavitarne that the feeling in Ceylon was solely against the South Indians and that Ceylon had no bitter feelings against the North Indians.

I do not think that we can hope to get a change of mind in the Indian Government by such loose talk.

In conclusion I may say that we are in sympathy with the idea of restricting the Indian immigration. What we doubt is the correctness of the present procedure. Even the repatriation of the daily paid Indians last year could have been done much more amicably by negotiation with India than was done. After all, the sending away of 2000 men need not have created such a commotion and resulted in such bitterness and exaggerated talks on both sides of the Bay of Bengal.



## "Karavalai" Mudalalies Conference in the North

Point Pedro, Monday.

A public meeting under the auspices of the Point Pedro Maha Jana Sabha was held at the Sabha's Hall presided over by Mr. C. P. Thamotheram, Member, Sanitary Board. The Chairman in his opening address appealed to them to take special interest in improving the sanitary condition of the locality and said that he was aware that the Sabha was taking great pains to improve the Beach and widen the Beach Road. Mr. P. Nadasan, Sanitary Inspector, Point Pedro, gave a very instructive and interesting lecture on "Formation of good Health habits". Mr. T. R. Joseph, Secretary proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman and to the lecturer for having lent posters, exhibits and models for the occasion. The Conference followed.

### Resolutions

Over five resolutions touching the working conditions of 'Kara-

valai' Mudalalies in the Chundikulam, Thalai-addy and Pokarappu area were adopted at the annual Conference of 'Karavalai Mudalalies held under the auspices of the Point Pedro Maha Jana Sabha which concluded its sittings yesterday. Mr. A. Perumynar, Maniagar, Pallai, presided.

The resolutions which were discussed by the Executive Committee of the Conference earlier in the day, were moved from the Chair and adopted.

One of the resolutions, which roused some opposition from the Chair, was in regard to the salt license, issued through the Kirama Vidan, which took a long time for the issue to Karavalai Mudalalies and requested the authorities to send to the Sabha for recommendation. The Chairman promised to consider the matter with his head of the Department.

Mr. Sam. T. Solomons, President of the Sabha, thanked Maniagar Mr. A. Perumynar and the 'Karavalai Mudalalies for having come in large numbers and from distant places and encouraged the Conference. (Cor)

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