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INCREASING TREND OF PRISON POPULATION

Reflection of the Disquieting Increase of Crime

PRISON ADMINISTRATION LAST YEAR

THE increase in prison receptions though not so remarkable as that of 1939 over 1938 still indicates the serious upward trend of the prison population and is a natural reflection of the disquieting increase of crime in this country during the past decade, says the Inspector-General of Prisons, Mr. C. C. Schokman, in his administration Report for 1940.

Two of the most important events during the year, says Schokman, were the introduction as from October of the revised prison and hospital dietary scales and as from November of the Emergency Remission Rules. The former represents a great advance on the previous scales of food which in many respects were out-of-date, inadequate and unscientific and in revision special attention was given to the nutritional aspect of food values in the light of modern research on the subject of dietetics, the provision of alternative diets for those who are vegetarians by choice or religious conviction, the elimination of waste and a complete overhaul of hospital diets.

Protest Against Kurakkan

Unfortunately and in spite of previous experiments which gave no indication of any general opposition to one item in the change over, the substitution of *kurakkan* or millet gruel (so rich in calcium and certain vitamin contents and therefore strongly recommended by the Diet Revision Committee) for the former rice "congee" or gruel plus the elimination of bread in the early morning meal resulted in widespread and on the whole unreasonable opposition to this innovation on the part of a large body of prisoners particularly in Welikada Prison. The main grounds for objection appeared to be due

to (a) the innate conservatism of prisoners to changes in long established custom, (b) a feeling of prejudice against *kurakkan* on the footing that it is a type of food only eaten by the poorest classes of the rural population whose standard of living approximates to the bare subsistence level, (c) objection to consuming it in the form of gruel which is not the usual method of preparation, and (d) an erroneous impression that it was likely to cause digestive disturbance and to be "heating for the body". While it is true that *kurakkan* as an article of food is somewhat less palatable and tasty than the former rice gruel there is also not the slightest doubt that a good deal of the opposition and subsequent disorder in Welikada Prison was due to the machinations of certain subversive elements among the prisoners. The matter was reconsidered by the Government and it was decided to revert to the former morning meal of bread and rice gruel.

The Emergency Remission Rules were introduced as a war economy measure and also as a means of affording some immediate relief to the increasing scale of over crowding in the Prisons. Under these new rules, which do not apply to civil prisoners, prisoners convicted of "crimes" as defined in the Prevention of Crimes Ordinance and persons imprisoned in default of furnishing security, non-remission earning prisoners sentenced to terms of over 7 days and up to 30 days are, subject to good conduct, eligible for premature discharge on completion of half the sentence remaining after serving 7 days while in the case of remission earning prisoners sentenced to terms exceeding one month and up to 1 year the amount

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SHELLEY AND VEDANTISM

HE EXPRESSES MANY OF THE TRUTHS TAUGHT BY HINDUISM

By Prof. J. P. Sinha, M. A., (Hons) L. L. B., D. Litt

RECENTLY I was reading a commentary on Vedanta Philosophy; simultaneously, I was also studying the works of Shelley and there appeared to be a surprising concordance. In his songs Shelley gives expression to thoughts which resemble those of the Vedic Upanishads; the grand truths he utters are the truths of the Philosophy of the East. Like his own spirit in the Prometheus Unbound

He will watch from dawn to gloom,
The like-reflected sun illumine
The yellow bees in the ivy bloom,
Nor heed, nor see, what things they be;
But from these, create he can
Forms more real than living man,
Nurslings of immortality.

This faculty of looking beyond the phenomena to the noumena was a special gift of Shelley; perhaps no English poet possessed it to such a rare degree. And this is a gift which belongs pre-eminently to the Hindus. In a similar manner, to Shelley's mind, to use the language of the Bible, the things which are seen are temporal; those not are eternal. Plato thought this world was one of shadows; Kant calls it appearance only, and the Hindu philosophers believe it an illusion. Shelley's idealism certainly approaches this oriental idealism. The Hindu philosophers breathed a more ethereal atmosphere; to them, the world and the strivings therein were more phantasms and dreams. "What is the need of enjoyment of pleasures in this body, which is assailed by lust, hatred, greed, delusion, old age, death and grief" (Maitrayana Upanishad). To Shelley also, there is nothing in the world but

Envy, and calumny, and hate
and pain,
And that unrest, which men
miscall delight. (Adonais)
And then again:
I dare not guess; but in this
life
Of error, ignorance and strife,
Where nothing is, but all things
seem,
And we the shadows of the

dream,
It is a modest creed, and yet
Pleasant if one considers it,
To own that death itself must
be
Like all the rest, a mockery,
(The Sensitive Plant)

In "Hellas", he writes in a similar strain. Mahomed, Sultan of Turkey, threatens the freedom of Greece; and during the war that ensues, he summons Ahasuerus, the Jew, and asks him to unveil "the unborn hour cradled in fear and hope" and make "the future present." During the consultation, the Jew admonishes the Sultan and tells him:

Sultan! talk no more
Of thee, and me, the future
and the past;
But, look on that which cannot
change—the one,
The unborn, and the undying,
Earth, and ocean.
Space and the isles of life, or
light, that gem
... .. the whole
Of Suns, and worlds, and men,
and beasts, and flowers.

Is but a vision;—all that it inherits
Are notes of a sick eye, bubbles,
and dream;
Thought is its cradle, and its
grave; nor less
The future, and the past, are
idle shadows
Of thought's eternal flight—
they have no being;
Naught is but that which feels
itself to be.

Towards the end, he prophesies that the world's great age will begin anew. But like the Hindu philosophers, he is finally convinced that existence in this world means misery and sin:

Oh cease! must hate and death
return?
Cease! must men kill and die?
Cease! drain not to the dregs
the urn
Of bitter prophecy,
The world is weary of the past,
Oh, might it die, or rest at last.

The Vedic Upanishads speak of the Brahman (the one supreme God) as the unborn and the undying, undecaying, without parts, without action, tranquil, without fault or taint. And Shelley makes Ahasuerus speak of the one, the unborn,

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JAFFNA - MALAYALAM TOBACCO CO-OPERATIVE SALE SOCIETY LTD.

Applications are invited for the post of Manager of the Jaffna-Malayalam Tobacco Co-operative Sale Society Ltd., Jaffna. Applicants should possess a sound knowledge of English and Tamil specially of Accounts.

Salary:—Rs. 100/- per mensem plus Rs. 25/- per mensem as house-rent allowance. Increase of salary possible in the future.

Age:—Applicants must be over 30 years and under 45 years of age.

Security:—Candidate selected must be able to furnish security in Rs. 2,000/- cash and Rs. 3,000/- in unencumbered immovable property.

Applications written in English stating date of birth, qualifications, any commercial experience and accompanied by copies of recent testimonials should reach the undersigned on or before 15th June, 1941.

Any form of canvassing by candidates will be deemed a disqualification.

Hony. Secretary,
Jaffna-Malayalam Tobacco
Co-operative Sale Society Ltd.
3rd Cross Street
Jaffna.
29-5-41.

(Misc. 40-2 & 5-6-41.)



Hindu Organ.

MONDAY, JUNE 2, 1941

THE FRIEND-IN-NEED SOCIETY

THE CENTENARY OF THE Jaffna Friend-in-Need Society, which was celebrated on Saturday, is a proud event in the history of Jaffna. That the Society has carried on its noble work of giving relief to the poor for the past one hundred years is a fact of which everyone connected with the Society can feel legitimately proud. It is not easy to maintain for such a long period an institution, more particularly an institution which depends largely on public benefaction. But the fact that this has been successfully done so in Jaffna is at once a tribute to the public-spiritedness and charitable disposition of the generations that have unstintedly supported the noble work of the Society, and a proof that the Society has had in the course of this century a succession of indefatigable and selfless workers who have done much for the progress of the Society. The thanks of the present generation of Jaffnese are due to the founders of this Society for the start they gave for organised charity in a country where charity was generally of an individual type, and to the succeeding line of office-bearers and members who have made it possible for the Society to continue its great work. The Society, it is re-

gretted, is not in a position, for lack of sufficient funds, to help the growing number of persons who seek relief from it. It is only a limited number that is now benefitted by the Society. The Governor who presided at the centenary meeting and several other speakers felt it necessary, therefore, to appeal to the audience to join the Society in larger numbers and thus enable it to be of help to more of Jaffna's poor. The appeal, we hope, will not have fallen on deaf ears. The beginning of the second century should be the occasion for doubled effort on the part of the Society to increase its strength and its funds. The indefatigable Secretary, Mr. R. R. Nalliah, who has achieved not a little during his long tenure of office will, we are certain, launch a fresh membership drive and collection campaign and place the Society in a position of increasing usefulness to the poor of this peninsula.

Newsprint Control Order in India

Simla, Saturday.

A Newsprint Control Order was issued today in the Gazette of India Extraordinary. It provides that after June 15th no person shall sell newsprint other than to a newspaper press; that no proprietor of a newspaper press shall use newsprint for any purpose other than for printing newspapers including supplements and annuals with the special permission of the Government and that returns of consumption shall be made by all newspapers and returns of stocks by all dealers.

Governor Visits Historic Temple

His Excellency the Governor, accompanied by Mr. R. B. Naish, Government Agent, visited the Veeramakali Amman Temple at Nallur, in the morning on Saturday and inspected the construction of a new Chariot for the Temple.

District Judge of Kandy

Mr. C. Nagalingam, Additional District Judge, Colombo, will assume duties as District Judge of Kandy on July 1.

Mr. Waldo Sonsoni, District Judge of Kandy, and Mr. James Joseph, District Judge of Kallutara, will succeed Mr. M. W. H. de Silva and Mr. C. Nagalingam, respectively as Additional District Judges of Colombo.

Asst. Director of Sanitary Services

The Executive Committee of Health has unanimously recommended that Dr. W. G. Wickremasinghe be appointed permanently to the post of Sanitary Services.

BEEDEY TOBACCO AMONGST PALMYRAH GROVES

Smugglers Disappointed

Pt. Pedro, Thursday.

On receipt of information yesterday in the early hours of the morning Mr. F. C. A. Speldewinde, Asst. Preventive Officer, and his staff, assisted by the combined station, Valvettithurai, motored to Pa'ai, 10 miles from Point Pedro, and seized 24 bags of uncustomed beedy.

The beedy had been landed by 'vallam' in the morning and hidden in a palmyrah grove. The smugglers, having hidden the beedy, had dispersed, some among the trees, and a few on palmyrah tree tops to keep watch. They were expecting a lorry in which to remove the beedy, but the Preventive Officer and his party came upon the smugglers so suddenly that the latter had no time to carry away their beedy or to give warning. On the appearance of the Officers, the disappointed smugglers left the beedy behind, and one of the watchers on the tree top barking his chest in his hurried descent. The duty involved was estimated to be about Rs. 9000.

(Cor)

FIRST AMERICAN FOODSHIP IN BRITAIN

Flour, Cheese and Eggs

London, Saturday.

The first shipload of food sent to Britain by the United States under the Lease and Lend Act reached a British port today. It included one thousand tons of flour, over four million eggs, and 120,000 pounds of cheese. Mr. Roosevelt's 'defence expediter' in England, Mr. Harriman, was at the docks to welcome the ship.

It was the first practical application of his declaration before leaving America that "the job of feeding Britain is one of America's major problems." Aboard the ship, where the unloading was already beginning, Mr. Harriman formally transferred cargo, paid for by American citizens and acquired for Britain by the United States Department of Agriculture, to the British Food Minister, Lord Woolton, who received it on behalf of the British Government.

Matrimonial

SIVASAMBU—RATNADEVI

The marriage was solemnised on Wednesday, the 28th ultimo of Mr. S. Mandalanayagam, Kirma, Vidhane, Chunnakam, with Miss Ratna Devi, daughter of the late Mr. T. Chellappah, Vidhane, Punnalaikadduvan.

A largely attended reception was held at the bridegroom's residence, "Selva Vasam", Chunnakam, on the following two days.

SIDE LIGHTS AND LIGHT SIDES

(By Squint Eye)

What the Hess is wrong with Nazi Germany?

Rudy Hess in the Island Fortress is reported to be writing and talking and talking and writing. He never had a chance over there in the Fatherland.

Princess Juliana emphasising that Germany had not conquered the spirit of the Dutch raises the slogan, "The Netherlands will rise again."

Then the highlands will go down?

"You can go by train anywhere in Ceylon, first class for two weeks—for only Rs. 50" says an advertisement in the foreign press by the Ceylon Government Publicity Bureau.

I wish I could, but the foreign guys whom the Bureau wants to catch won't know till they have booked at the Fort station that fifty rupees does not take them far.

—News Item.

This is the age of glamour, thanks to the cine-stars, and homophobia or any pathy had better invest some money on lipstick and rouge.

"Scots vote for Indian Freedom", said a newspaper headline for a paragraph about a conference at Glasgow.

That's the trouble, the English, the Irish, the Scots, the Americans, all will vote for it.

People in England from next month will have to take their own sugar to the restaurants if they would like their tea or coffee to be sweetened.

Some of us may recall the days in Jaffna when we drank our plain tea in coconut shells, between bites from a chunk of palmyrah jaggery.

War geography has brought to light place names that were not commonly known, such as Sciassicamanna and Amba Alagi in Ethiopia, Ramnad and Tondi in Iraq and neighbouring territories.

Here is further food for thought to those inclined to trace the origin of language and race. Many names in Norway and Finland had a Tamil ring about them, Amba Alagi is suggestively Tamil, Sciassicamanna has an eastern ending, while Ramnad and Tondi are names of places in South India, though the westernised form of Ramanathapuram passes muster for Tamil. For this reason of getting at the origin of names let the war go on for some more time.

Additional Magistrate, Mallakam

Mr. T. Kumaraswamy has been appointed to be Additional Magistrate, Additional Commissioner of Requests, Jaffna, at Mallakam; Additional Magistrate and Additional Commissioner of Requests, Kayts; and Additional District Judge, Jaffna, during the absence of Mr. V. Manickava-agar, from June 7 to 13, 1941.

GOVERNOR CALLS FOR "JAFFNA'S ANSWER"

LARGE CROWDS THROUGH CARNIVAL

RS. 3000 CONTRIBUTED ON FIRST DAY

HIS Excellency the Governor opened the "Jaffna's Answer" Carnival on Saturday at 5 p.m. Two planes from the Aero Club, Colombo, flew over the town earlier and dropped pamphlets inviting the people to attend the Carnival.

Boy Scouts in charge of Mr. R. C. S. Cooke, District Commissioner, presented a guard-of-honour to His Excellency on arrival.

The Idea of the Carnival

Mr. C. Coomaraswamy, District Judge, in welcoming His Excellency the Governor said that in the absence of the President, Mr. Prasad, the honour had fallen on him to extend on behalf of the Committee of the "Jaffna's Answer" Carnival, a hearty welcome to His Excellency and to express to him their heartfelt gratitude for the trouble he had taken in coming all the distance to encourage them by his presence. The people of Jaffna were all alive to the magnitude and the seriousness of the struggle that was going on and in which the forces of evil were trying to get the mastery of the world. They were all alive to the great sacrifice that was being made by the brave men who were laying down their lives in the cause of justice, freedom and civilisation. When after Dunkirk the cry came forth for planes and more planes, it was decided by the people of Jaffna to send a plane as a special war contribution. For this idea, the speaker believed, the youthful energetic member for Point Pedro had been chiefly responsible. He had been able to arouse much interest and enthusiasm and it looked as if the plane would soon be flying. But unfortunately, although the people of Jaffna were second to none in any other part of the Empire in their loyalty to the throne or in their appreciation of the justness of the cause for which the Empire was fighting, they had not got as long a purse as those in other places.

V Cs' Contribution

It was said that a sum of a lakh of rupees was required to send a plane. Out of this a sum of about Rs. 71,000 had been collected and they were struggling to find the balance. The Village Committees voted a contribution amounting to about Rs. 12,000 or Rs. 13,000 but owing to some unfortunate political development a ban had been placed on it for a time and though it had since been removed they were disappointed to find that they were not getting the full amounts originally voted by the various Village Committees. Even if they had got the full amounts voted they would not have reached the amount required for the plane to fly.

At that stage the Rotary Governor Gardiner appeared on the scene and after the success of the "London Calling" suggested that they should organise a Carnival to make the required funds. The suggestion was taken

up by the Government Agent, Mr. Prasad, who had had already shown great interest in the plane fund, and he immediately called a meeting and took the necessary steps to organise the Carnival. As he had had already arranged to go on a short holiday to India he went with the full hope of returning to be in time to be present at the opening of the Carnival. But unfortunately he had been held up by the floods which had caused wash-ways in the South Indian railway. They all regretted his absence that day. The speaker had no doubt that Mr. Prasad himself would be very sorry about it. On behalf of the Committee the speaker thanked Mr. Gardiner for all that he had done in connection with this Carnival.

The necessary arrangements, Mr. Coomaraswamy continued had had to be made in rather a short time and, thanks to the energy and efforts of the chief executive officer, Rev. Fr. Long, assisted by a band of willing workers, they were able to have the opening ceremony performed by His Excellency that day. He hoped that with the encouragement given by His Excellency they should be able to realise the required amount to put the plane on its wings. He wished to take that opportunity to thank also the "Tatler" of the "Times" for generously consenting to give to their plane fund the proceeds of the sale of all its tickets of the "C" series in the "Tatler Klondike". He then asked His Excellency to be graciously pleased formally to call for "Jaffna's Answer."

Governor's Speech

His Excellency declaring the Carnival open said that he was not going to make a long speech because he was sure that all those present were more anxious to go round and see for themselves what wonders had been provided for them by the promoters of that good cause. He wished, however, to say one or two words about that cause. Two months ago at the Carnival held at Nuwara Eliya he had said that they the defenders of liberty and human justice were going to have a very critical six months. They had had news and then came good news. The fight was a ding-dong one and as far as one could see it would continue to be so to the end of this summer. There had been undoubted defeats. There was the evacuation of Norway, France, Greece and it looked as though they were faced with the evacuation of Crete. Why was that so? Whereas their enemies for five years past spent all their energies and resources on weapons of war, the Allies had failed to exercise their own energies in that direction. They were now paying for their mistake; they wanted peace which was no longer possible. The British Air Force should not only be made equal in number to those of the enemy but should be doubled and trebled. The answer was "Jaffna's Answer". To-

THE POST-WAR WORLD

Six Raj Principles For Its Guidance

Madras, Wednesday.

Six principles for the guidance and the foundation of the new world after the war laid down by Sir Mohamed Zafrullah Khan, Law Member of the Government of India, were broadcast in a talk from Simla yesterday. The principles were abolition of the system of interest bearing loans, discouragement of hoarding money and capital, abolition of the law of primogeniture, discarding racial or national privilege or superiority, the provision of the minimum necessities of life for every citizen and the establishment of a system of trade by barter.

wards that Mr. G. G. Ponnambalam started a movement some months ago and today they were bringing that movement to a successful conclusion. The first plane with the name Jaffna would be soon in the sky fighting 'the enemy'. "The war will be a long war. There cannot be a final conclusion without a long period of testing and fighting." It was said that Jaffna was loyal and he knew the people of Jaffna with some of whom he had worked for 33 years and he could say that there was no more loyalty in other parts of the British Empire than that of the people of Jaffna. He knew that the Jaffna man had a sound horse sense.

His Excellency said that he felt that they all had made their best effort towards that movement. He was sorry that he was not able to spend more time and money as he had to leave for Colombo. He wished to subscribe towards the fund and had left a certain sum with Rev. Father Long. It was possible for others present to follow that lead. His Excellency turned round and wished to know whether there were any to subscribe. He wanted such persons to stand up and make their offer.

Hardly had His Excellency's appeal been concluded Mr. Veeragathipati Suppiah, Urban Councillor and Malayan friend of His Excellency stood up and announced his contribution as five hundred rupees. His Excellency clapping his hands said smilingly, "Good old Tondaimannar to the fore." Mr. Suppiah's example was taken up by eighty five year old Atikar Naganathar who announced his contribution of one thousand. This was followed by Dr. S. Subramaniam with five hundred rupees.

His Excellency, concluding said that when he went back to Colombo he would tell them that "Jaffna's Answer" would be ready at the close of the carnival.

There are many exhibits and amusements which are a source of attraction to the public. There are about thirty amusement stalls in charge of enthusiastic helpers, which promise to collect a good amount towards the fund.

The refreshment sal, under the able guidance of Mrs. C. Coomaraswamy, wife of the popular District Judge, is a very attractive one.

The dodgem cars and the casinos are a source of great amusement and attraction.

School exhibits and the Geography Section reveal the potentialities of Jaffna Schools.

"A MATTER OF PRIDE" FOR JAFFNESE

FRIEND-IN-NEED SOCIETY

GOVERNOR PRESIDES AT CENTENARY MEETING

THAT he certainly subscribed to the doctrine that it was the duty of the State to afford relief and assistance possible to the sick, decrepit and the unemployed, but that there were other things equally the duty of the Administration, observed His Excellency the Governor, presiding at the Centenary Celebration of the Jaffna Friend-in-Need Society.

The Centenary meeting of the Jaffna Friend-in-Need Society Limited was held at 9.30 a.m. on Saturday at the Town Hall, Jaffna, with His Excellency the Governor in the chair.

On his arrival at the main entrance with Mr. R. B. Naish, the Government Agent, His Excellency was received with Oriental Music by Messrs. S. Kanagasabai, a Vice-President of the Society and R. B. Nalliah, the Honorary Secretary and conducted to the platform. Mr. P. Morimer garlanded His Excellency.

Others accommodated on the platform were Messrs. A. Mahadeva, M. S. C., R. Sivagurunathan, Chairman, Urban Council, Justice J. H. B. Nihal, S. Natesan, M. S. C., Rev. James S. Mather, Chairman, Methodist Mission, North Ceylon District, Very Rev. T. M. F. Long, O. M. I., and Atikar A. Naganathar.

Mr. Nalliah, the Secretary, read the Report.

The Very Rev. Fr. T. M. F. Long speaking on behalf of the Roman Catholic Mission felicitated the Society on its completion of a one hundred years of social service. They were all aware that the Jaffna man was practical in everything he undertook and did it with a thoroughness and efficiency as could be seen from the work of that Society.

Rev. James S. Mather, speaking next referred to that day as a "Red Letter Day" in the history of Jaffna. That day they were celebrating the centenary of the good work done towards the relief of the suffering humanity of Jaffna.

After paying a tribute to the interest His Excellency always evinced in Social Service work, the speaker emphasised the fact that His Excellency had always a warm corner in his heart for Jaffna. (Applause). He said that they should always be grateful to the services rendered by the previous officers of that Society. Mr. Mather particularly referred to the late Rev. Percival one of his (the speaker's) predecessors in office, who had been the Society's first Secretary and one of the speakers at the inaugural meeting of that Society.

Referring to the present Secretary, Mr. Nalliah, the speaker described him as one who was burning with a passion for service towards his fellow-men. He was taking a very great interest in the work of that Society.

Before concluding Mr. Mather said that they had before them the solution of the social evils and problems such as unemployment, pov-

(Continued on page 5)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Jaffna Carnival and Liquor Bar

Sir,—The Jaffna Carnival is to open on Saturday, 31st instant, and the disturbing and sad news is out at the last moment that there is to be a Liquor Bar. This places a large number of people in Jaffna in a most difficult position because, while we are eager to do all we can to help in the raising of funds for the War, we are strongly opposed to giving a helping hand to any undertaking where liquor is sold as is proposed to be done at the Jaffna Carnival. There are thousands of young people under our influence, and we would ordinarily have taken them all to the Carnival. But the Liquor Bar is now a serious obstacle. Already protests have been sent to the Committee in charge of the Carnival, by several leading people like Miss L. G. Bookwaler, Principal Uduvill Girls' Schools, Mr. R. S. D. Williams, Principal, Jaffna Central College, and a host of others in similar responsible positions. Two years ago when the Jaffna Hindu College had its Carnival, there were a few who wanted the Liquor Bar, but the Committee overruled it, because its Chairman, Mr. C. Coomaraswamy, C. C. S. and others opposed it. There is really a very strong feeling in the Jaffna Peninsula against having alcoholic drinks sold at such places where all sorts of people congregate. The great religions of this land strongly prohibit its use and condemn it. Certainly nothing should be done to hurt our religious beliefs, which we respect so highly. The Methodist Synod which met in Jaffna in January last, discussed this subject, arising out of the Carnival held at Batticaloa last year, where they had a Liquor Bar, and the Synod passed a resolution requesting our people to take a firm stand in such cases, and not to help them because in such places people were tempted to drink, and in hundreds of cases had their first drink, which later ruined their lives and that of others connected with them.

I do appeal to those in charge and to all helpers, that even at this eleventh hour they would decide not to have the Liquor Bar, and help everybody to join heartily in working for a good cause in which we all are eager to have a share.

Yours etc.

JAMES S. MATHER,
Chairman,

Ceylon Methodist Church,
North Ceylon District.

Jaffna,

May 29th, 1941.

P. S.

If it is too late to stop the Liquor Bar, won't the Committee be generous to decide not to open it till after 10-30 p.m. when we all shall have gone away with our young people?

J. S. M.

The Co-operative Union
Hospital, Moolai

Sir,—

I note that Mr. C. Ragnathan has denied in the press in your issue of 22nd inst. the statement he is alleged to have made against the then committee of management at a General Meet-

ing held in November 1940.

From his contradiction the following pertinent questions arise:

1. Has he supplied a true copy of the statement read out by him in the said meeting to the then committee of management? If not why not?

2. Does he admit that at a committee in which he was present a member of the then committee in his remarks referred to "petty inspectors" of the Co-operative Department? If so what action he took in connection with that remark.

3. Mr. C. Ragnathan's contention seems to be very vague. He states that the condemnatory words were not in his written statements. Is there anything to prevent his using these words without their appearing in the written statement or if they had been there would it be difficult to expunge them from it later to suit his purposes?

4. If he has not used these words what was the occasion for almost all the then committee members to rise up in a body and shout out their intention to resign? What was the occasion to bring in a new committee of management in place of the one among whose members were many prominent men who had devoted their time, energy and money for the founding and nursing of this institution up to that time? A large number of people who were present at the General Meeting assert that these words were used by the Assistant Registrar Mr. C. Ragnathan. Why should they do it if he had not used them.

I think an answer to these questions would considerably clarify the situation and I hope Mr. C. Ragnathan would be kind enough to answer them in the interest of Co-operation and of the Hospital Society and of the public in general.

Yours etc.,
A. SANMUGAM.

Tholpuram,
24th May 1941.

Sir,—We have read Mr. C. Ragnathan's letter published in your issue of the 22nd instant in which he denied that he made the statement "The present Committee is dangerous, incapable and unfit and nothing short of wholesale removal would satisfy the department," at the General Meeting held on 2nd November, 1940.

At that time we were members of the Committee of Management.

We were present at the General Meeting and we assert that Mr. C. Ragnathan used these words which prompted us to announce in the General Meeting that we would resign. Later, on reconsideration although we agreed to continue in the committee, a General Meeting was held on 8-12-40 and the present Committee of Management was elected. All the present trouble in the society is due to these incidents.

Yours etc.,
S. KARTHIGASO,
K. S. PILLAY,
S. ARUMUGAM,
S. SINNAOITY.

INCREASING TREND OF PRISON
POPULATION

(Continued from page 1)

of remission earnable is increased from one quarter to one half. The effect of these provisions has been to bring about a welcome reduction of about 225 in the daily average population and its restriction to offenders who have for the most part been convicted of minor offences is calculated not to disturb the deterrent aspect of imprisonment for the more serious classes of crimes. Though satisfactory up to a point the resultant economy in maintenance and relief of congestion are considered to be insufficient to meet the situation and the question of extending the scope of the rules further is under examination.

Increase in Number of
Prisoners

The total number of Prison and Training School receptions (as distinct from the number of individuals admitted) during the last year was 31,826 (31,497 in 1939) with a daily average of 4,759.27 (4,510.63). The increase in receptions though not so remarkable as that of 1939 over 1938 still indicates the serious upward trend of the prison population the probable causes of which have been referred to in the 1938 report and is a natural reflection of the disquieting increase of crime in this country during the past decade.

The total of 31,826 receptions is made up as follows:—

- (a) convicted prisoners 19,718
(daily average 4,033.82)
- (b) unconvicted prisoners 12,051
(daily average 725.27)
- (c) Training School inmates: 57
(daily average .18)

Of (a) 19,203 were men and 515 women; 76 were sentenced to death and 18 executed; 13,854 or 70.26 per cent. were imprisoned in default either wholly or in part of money payments; 11,913 were first offenders and 7,805 were reconvicted persons; and 2,085 were youthful offenders between the ages of 16 and 22.

Of (b) 11,521 were men and 530 women and the daily averages of debtors, witnesses, pending inquiry and awaiting trial persons were 7.93; 46; 424.90 and 264.25 respectively.

Of (c) the numbers of first offenders and reconvicted lads were 7 and 50 respectively. In 13 cases imprisonment had been resorted

to on previous occasions, 5 were ex-reformatory cases, 18 had been caged on previous occasions, 12 had been bound over and 13 fined in previous cases. In 41 cases their ages on reception were between 17-19 and in 46 cases the nationality was Sinhalese. Although 52 had been born and domiciled in rural districts it is significant that in 40 cases the offences had been committed in towns. Total illiteracy was found in 28 cases while in 26 cases the standard of literacy was very low. In 32 cases there were disruptive home influences due to the absence of either both or one of the parents. In 30 cases the parents or guardians owned no property whatsoever while in 17 other cases the amount of property owned was very small or uneconomic. In 55 of the cases the offences were against property, 52 of them being for burglary, theft and allied offences. One lad only was found to be incorrigible after admission to the School and has his term of detention commuted to one of imprisonment by order of the Governor.

A remarkable feature of these figures is the unexpectedly slow rate of admission into the recently established Training School for Youthful Offenders (57 during the 10 months of the year) compared with the large number (2,085) of youthful offenders admitted into prison during the whole year. It is by no means probable as suggested that all such youthful offenders who were sent to prison would have been eligible or suitable for the Training School to which committals are subject to a system of selection even after the statutory requirements have been fulfilled, but even after making allowances for these factors the disproportionate ratio of such committals to prison is very striking. The attention of Magistrates has been drawn to the facilities at their disposal under the new Youthful Offenders (Training Schools) Legislation and further action in this matter is under consideration.

Value of Prison Labour

The estimated value of prison labour employed on (a) Public utility works, (b) Prison domestic services, and (c) Industrial undertakings was Rs. 176,087.74; Rs. 192,449.60 and Rs. 113,482.11 respectively. To the last mentioned figure must be added the value of materials (Rs. 133,741.10) utilized in the production of prison-made goods bringing the total under this head to Rs. 247,223.21 as against Rs. 248,537.93 in 1939.

(Continued on page 5)

NOTICE TO S. S. C. STUDENTS

The following Books are in the Press:—

- (1) Notes on "Poems Old and New"

(with summaries, numerous paraphrases &c.)

Price: Re. 1-00.

- (2) Notes on "Narrative & Descriptive Essays"

(with summaries, numerous Questions & Answers, &c.)

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ORDERS BOOKED NOW.

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1-6-41.

(Mis. 41. 2 & 5-6-41.)

"Pakia Vasa," Nallore, Jaffna,

CIGARETTE TOBACCO

Scheme to Encourage Cultivation

A cigarette tobacco cultivation scheme will be conducted during the forthcoming Yala season at Chilai, Northern Province. The scheme will be on lines similar to that carried out during the Maha season at Wariyapola and Ganewatte.

Artificial manure to the value of Rs. 40 per acre will be issued to twenty cultivators at the appropriate stage in the growth of the plants to be applied according to instructions issued by the Tobacco Officer, and the cost of this will be recovered after the harvest. Government will purchase the green leaf at certain prices and this will be sold to the tobacco companies after curing and grading.

Chithampara Vidyalaya Inter House Sports Meet

Point Pedro, Thursday

The Annual Inter House Sports Meet of Chithampara Vidyalaya was held on the School grounds yesterday with Mr. C. Coomaraswamy, C. C. S., District Judge, Jaffna, in the chair. Mrs. Coomaraswamy distributed the prizes. The chief speakers of the day were the Principal Mr. S. V. Aiyangar, B. A., Mr. C. Ratnasingam, Proctor, Mr. S. R. Ariyaratnam and Mr. K. S. Krishnan, B. A., champions of the meet were:—

- Post Seniors: K. Sangarapillai (Blue House)
 - Seniors: N. Paramalingam (Red House)
 - Intermediates: V. Retnavadivelu (Green House)
 - Juniors: A. Retnasingam (Red House)
 - Infants: A. Duraisingam (Blue House)
 - Girls under 9: T. Thevarangitham
 - Girls over 9: R. Mahaswary
- The inter house athletic challenge cup was awarded to the Red House. Red House 124 Points. Green House 101 Points. Blue House 95 Points. (Cor)

Obituary

MISS N. C. TWYNAM

The death occurred in Jaffna on 30th May of Miss Nora Cecilia Twynam.

She was the youngest daughter of the late Sir William Twynam, K. C. M. G., who for many years was G. A. of the Northern Province.

During the last war, Miss Twynam received the M. B. E. for her grand work in connection with the Jaffna Branch of Queen Mary's Needlework Guild. The Queen, as a matter of fact, personally referred to this effort as being some of the finest needlework turned out during those anxious years.

Miss Twynam started the Girl Guide movement in Jaffna, and was closely associated with Church work in the Province. Her father, it will be remembered, lived in Jaffna when he retired, and died in 1922 at the age of ninety five. He is recognised as one of the finest Civil Servants Ceylon has ever had.

Miss Twynam was 78.

"A Matter of Pride" For Jaffnese

(Continued from page 3)

erty and distress, and he hoped that those problems would be solved by their taking the necessary preventive measures. The speaker stressed the fact that Malaya had closed its doors to them and that Jaffna was too small a place to afford relief to the sons of the soil. They could not think of the Vanni District, which was too full of that deadly germ of Malaria. Mr. Mather appealed to those present to join the Society in larger numbers and thus help in directing their charity along right and proper channels. (Applause)

Mr. A. Mahadeva, Member for Jaffna, in the State Council, in the course of a humorous speech, expressed his pleasure at His Excellency being able to find the time to move on to the senerer atmosphere of Jaffna. The world in which they lived was a hard one and it was harder to do good to one's own neighbour.

Speaking amidst laughter Mr. Mahadeva said that they in Jaffna were not slow in recognising their own merits. As Member for Jaffna he felt that they had done what was expected of them. After condemning indiscriminate charity Mr. Mahadeva said that the Society during its handed years of existence had dispensed over 7 Lakhs of Rupees in the relief of distress in that part of the country.

His Excellency the Governor said they would be disappointed if they expected a well prepared oration or a set-speech from him as he had not been able to do so as he was very busy during the past week. He was not sorry to come to Jaffna because he felt that in coming there he would be renewing old acquaintances. That morning as he looked at the audience he was able to spot at least three familiar faces of those who had been associated with him in the early days of his career.

Continuing His Excellency said that he wished to say a few words about an aspect of that Society. In these days of Socialistic Government that aspect was overlooked. That aspect was "God helps those who help themselves". That was based on a text in the Scriptures which said "To him that hath more will be given and from who hath not, even what he hath will be taken away from him". In illustration of the above His Excellency referred to the taking over of the F. I. N. S. Hospital by the Government and the subsequent dwindling of the membership of the Society.

Commenting on the statement contained in the Report with regard to the Society's supply of a need which should have been provided by the Central Government, His Excellency said that he did certainly subscribe to the doctrine that it was the duty of the State to afford relief and assistance possible to the sick, decrepit and the unemployed, but there were other things equally the duty of the Administration. He referred especially to the difficulty in the balancing of the budget for the forthcoming year.

His Excellency was not surprised that Jaffna should have shown self-sufficiency and enterprise in the working of that Society. It was not only a matter of pride but it was their duty to con-

MALAYAN CEYLONESE ASSOCIATION

Annual General Meeting

In the absence of the President, Mudaliyar V. Ponnampalam, Mr. W. Wijaretnam, the Vice-President, occupied the chair at the Annual General Meeting of the Malayan Ceylonese Association, Jaffna. A letter from the President regretting his inability to be present, reviewing the work of the past year and urging all members to contribute what they could to the Jaffna Plane Fund was read. The following Office-Bearers were elected.

President: Mudaliyar V. Ponnampalam.

Vice-President: Mr. W. Wijaretnam.

Hony-Secretary: Mr. A. Tamby-Rajah.

Hony-Asst. Secretary: Mr. V. ThambyAyah.

Hony Treasurer: Mr. S. Sabaretnam.

Committee:— Messrs. J. Sabaretnam, V. Suppiah, K. A. Ratnasingam, J. R. Vethanayagam, T. N. Appadurai, S. Karthigasoo, K. Sinnadurai, V. Nalliah, V. N. Bartlett, K. Valayutham, S. Murugasoo & R. Saravanamuttoo.

Hony. Auditors, Messrs: M. Nadarajah & T. Arunasalam.

A Sub Committee composed of Messrs. V. Rajaretnam, R. J. Sabaretnam, K. Valayutham, T. N. Appadurai & S. Karthigasoo was appointed to select a suitable site for putting up a building for the use of the Malayan Ceylonese as a sanatorium at Keerimalai and the General Committee was empowered to purchase the land.

tribute their service to the needy following the noble work done by the organisers of that Society.

His Excellency advised the Society not to knock at the Government Treasury door for large additions to their funds from the Government before they could improve their position by their individual effort and enterprise. He appealed to those present to make a centenary effort and said that he hoped that the membership of the Society will be increased as he saw in that hall a very large gathering of non-members. He referred to the number of members (61) who were present at a meeting of the crippled Association at which His Excellency presided sometime last week out of a population of 4½ Lakhs. He was glad that the membership of that Society was 298.

His Excellency before concluding referred to the death of Miss Twynam, the daughter of the late Sir William Twynam, Government Agent of the Province, and said that her funeral should synchronise with the Centenary Celebrations of that Society of which her late father had been President for many years.

His Excellency expressed the hope that the Jaffna plane would be in the heavens to fight the enemy and the forces of evil.

Mr. S. Kanagabai, Acting Crown Advocate, proposing a vote of thanks to His Excellency paid a tribute to Sir Andrew Caldecott's interest in Jaffna.

Increasing Trend of Prison Population

(Continued from page 4)

With the exception of the Training School, all institutions controlled by this Department have continued to be over-crowded in varying degrees during the year. In fact over-crowding in the prisons has now become chronic and in view of the lack of funds for additional building or new institutions no relief in this direction seems possible or likely till the various alternatives to imprisonment, either recently introduced or contemplated, are adopted in sufficient measure to make any radical difference in numbers. The effect on the situation of this postulate even is a matter for conjecture in view of the general increase in crime the pace of which would appear to outstrip any reduction that may eventuate by reason of such alternatives. During the latter part of the year however some relief to the conditions of over-crowding was afforded through the instrumentality of the Emergency Remission Rules which are referred to elsewhere in this report and which brought about a reduction of about 200 in the daily average population in December, 1940, and the succeeding months of the new year.

Prison Industries and Employment

Prison industries have continued to function on a somewhat diminished scale though work was on the whole plentiful during the year. New innovations have been the introduction of basket weaving in Wellkada and Bogambara Prisons on a larger scale and of paddy and fruit cultivation in the Training School as part of the agricultural programme planned for that institution where over a 100 bushels of paddy were harvested from the first sowing. Instruction and training in a wide range of occupational trades is provided in the industrialized Prisons coupled with a system of gratuity payments for good conduct and skill, and in general it may be said that the whole of the long-term population of first offenders and about one-third of the number of long-term reconvicted offenders who are specially selected for the purpose have the opportunity of being trained and are engaged in one or more industrial undertakings which not only play an important part in their regeneration and reformation while in prison but will be of use to them after discharge.

BIG HAUL OF OPIUM AT VALVETTITURAI

Valued at 12 to 15 Thousand Rupees

Point Pedro, Friday.

Inspector I. S. Aruampalam, of the Valvettithurai Excise Station, with the Police and Asst. Preventive Officer Mr. E. C. Splewinds detected 71 lbs of opium possessed by one Sinnamah, wife of Ponnar Kanapathy of Polykandy.

Yesterday Sinnamah the accused and the 71 lbs of opium were produced before Mr. W. R. D. de Silva, Magistrate, Point Pedro. She pleaded guilty and Advocate N. Sivagnanasundram appeared for the accused and pleaded for mitigation. The accused was fined Rs. 500 (cor.)

SHELLEY AND VEDANTISM

(Continued from page 1)

and the undying, which alone cannot change:

The one remains the many
change and pass;
Heaven's light for ever shines,
Earth's shadows fly;
Life, like a dome of many-
coloured glass:
Stains the white radiance of
eternity, (Adonais)

The self-same thought is expressed by the Upanishads in different words: "As the sun, the eye of the whole world, is not contaminated by the external impurities seen by the eyes, thus the One Self, within all things, is never contaminated by the misery of the world, being himself without." (Katha Upanishad.)

And Shelley eagerly pants for an absorption into this one Spirit of the Universe, the Spirit of Love or Holiness or Beauty, which changes not. Like the Hindu philosophers, he holds that man has a divine origin, and he eagerly looks forward for the return of man into the Divine Nature.

He is made one with Nature;
there is heard

His voice in all her music,
from the moan,

Of thunder, to the song of
night's sweet bird;

He is a presence to be felt and
known.

In darkness, and in light, from
herb and stone

Spreading itself wher'er that
power many move

Which wields the world with
never wearied love.

Sustains it from beneath, and
kindles it from above.

He is a portion of loveliness
Which once he made more
lovely: he doth bear

His part, while the one spirit's
plastic stress

Sweeps, through the dull dense
world compelling there

All new successions to be
born: they wear;

Torturing the unwilling dross
that checks its flight

To its own likeness; as each
mass they bear;

And bursting in its beauty and
its might

From trees, and beasts, and
men, into Heaven's light.

How near he approaches the
thoughts contained in the Vedas!

He who is in the fire, and He
who is in the heart, and He
who is in the sun, are all one and the
same; and he who knows this,
becomes one with the One.

(M. Itayana Upanishad.)

As the one fire, after it has
entered the world, though one
becomes like unto every form
which it takes, thus the one self
within all things, becomes dif-

ferent: according to whatever it
enters—but it exists also without.

(Katha Upanishad.)

The presence of an all-pervad-

ing Spirit of the Universe, the
highest happiness of man in the
hereafter being the absorption
into that Spirit, the oneness with
Divine Nature—these are the
fundamental thoughts of the Upanishads; and also of the poetry of Shelley.

Similarly, the poem of Mont
Blanc is a fine and exquisite
commentary on that passage in
the Vedas, which teaches us to
look for the presence of that
Spiritual Power even in the gentle

murmur of the brooks, in the
soft swish of the forest leaves, in
the reverberation of thunder and
in the sounding cataract.

Mont Blanc yet gleams on high;
—the Power is there,

The still and solemn Power
many sights.

And many sounds and much of
life, and death.

Shelley, while he beholds the
grandeur and majesty of Nature,
always sees beyond and behind
them:

That Light whose smile kind-
les the Universe.

That Beauty, in which all
things work and move.

For writes Shelley:
Peace! the abyss is wreathed
with scorn

At your presumption, atom-
born!

What is heaven? and what
are ye.

Who its brief expanse inherit?
What are suns and spheres
which flee

With the instinct of that spirit,
Of which, ye are but a part?

Drops, which Nature's mighty
heart

Drives through thinnest veins.

Depart:

So nothing shines unless there
is that one Light, which sustains
the world from beneath and kind-
les it above." What mighty
thoughts are these! How nobly
and grandly are these ideas ex-
pressed in the Vedas also; "There
shines not the sun, nor the moon,
nor stars; neither these lightnings,
much less, earthly fire. After Him,
the shining one, all things shine;
by His light is lighted this whole
world" (Katha Upanishad). Who
after reading these passages can
doubt the faith of Shelley?

In his longer poems, Alastor
represents Shelley himself, who
wanders to find more about the
Eternal and the Unknowable
God. In Prometheus Shelley has
united the spirit of man with the
spirit of God. It is for this absorp-

tion of man into God that
Shelley panted, and here is Pro-
metheus who represents his ideal
of man united to Asia who is the
embodiment of that spirit of Uni-
verse, spirit of Beauty or Loveli-
ness. In the great Sanskrit poem
of 'Gita Govind,' the same idea
is present. Radha is the spirit of
man, hungering for Divine Love
and for absorption into Krishna
the Spirit of God. Radha is united
to Krishna; and even so does the
spirit of man pass into the spirit
of God. This way of describing
the union of God with man is a
mystical way peculiar to the
Greeks and in a greater degree to
the Hindus. The Hindu philo-

sophers understood very well this
mystic way of representing the
union of God and soul. They re-
ally adored the divine presence
existing within beauty; and it was
on the rungs of this ladder of
external types of beauty that they
ascended to the knowledge of the
Eternal Power. In the 'Prometh-

heus Unbound' the same mystic
thought is most beautifully ex-
pressed. There is the union of
Prometheus with Asia, the union
of the Spirit of the Universe with
the spirit of man, Shelley indeed,
in his search after truth, arrives
at some of the grandest principles
of Hindu Philosophy; many of his
verses for in the translations, as it
were, of those particular truths
of the Upanishads.

(Roy's Weekly)

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