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THE TYPE OF UNIVERSITY CEYLON NEEDS

A QUESTION FOR THE PUBLIC TO DECIDE

BY SWAMI VIPULANANDA

(Special to the "Hindu Organ")

I

WHAT type of an institution the proposed university is going to be depends upon what the public of Ceylon want it to be. The men to whom you would entrust the working out of the details may put forward various suggestions. They may, through the press and from platforms, enlighten you as to what is happening in other countries. But the final decision in the matter rests with you, the public—by which I mean the parents, the politicians, the school masters, the journalists, the missionaries, the professional men and the students themselves, in short all who have some interest or other in the problem of higher education. The tailor cuts the coat according to the cloth supplied. Finances have a great deal to do in the matter. But the prevailing ideas as to what constitutes higher education have a great deal more to do.

Does it not appear rather incongruous that Ceylon should be discussing "Academic" questions when the world is in the turmoil of an unprecedented conflict? I understand that war conditions have forced it upon you to bring into being a competent Board of Examiners to carry out for you those duties which the External Examiners of the University of London have been doing for you for so many years in consideration of the fees paid by the candidates. Can you not ask some university either in South Africa or in Australia to come to your rescue and perform the same functions for the same consideration and also render you further assistance by accepting your scholarship students and arranging for their advanced studies. I understand that some of the European residents of Ceylon send their sons for higher education to either of the above countries.

I do not mention India, for you seem to be a bit dissatisfied with our standards here. It may not be altogether unknown to you that seven Indians, all products of Indian universities, have been honoured with the Fellowship of the Royal Society—the blue ribbon in Science in the British Empire. It is needless for me to mention anything further about the international reputation of our eminent graduates and the contributions to the advancement of knowledge made by Indian research workers. I do not know how many F. R. S's Australia and South Africa have produced.

If you choose to send your young men here for post-graduate studies, they may return to you with a less imposing exterior. I read in the papers recently that in one of our colleges the professors have made it a rule to refuse admission to students wearing European clothes. Sartorial embellishments and the snobbery attached to the 'England returned' man may not be secured here but an impartial observer would find that the Honours courses available in this country are quite as good as the Honours courses elsewhere. As I said at the outset it is for you to decide. In passing, I may mention the interesting fact that I have met university professors here, who paid undue regard to my own degree, because the magic word "London" was appended to it. This they did in spite of my telling them that the standard of the examinations was just the same as in their own universities. So you see that the slave-mentality of placing undue value upon the hall-mark of Britain is a common characteristic of all subject countries.

Now to resume our discussion, apart from this war-time

OUR INDIAN LETTER.

EXPANSION—THE BUBBLE BURSTS

INDIA—THE ENEMY OF NEIGHBOURS!

(BY LANKA)

Madras,
24th July 1941.

The Portent of the Burma Agreement

IF the almost auto-suggestive inscription of the V sign could win the victory that is stated to be represented by the awkwardly angular alphabet, then the claims that are made by the Secretary of State for India, the Viceroy and others of that ilk for the expansion of the Viceroy's Executive Council should win the war for India and for the Empire, and put India on the road to Independence. To India this expansion business has proved a mere mockery, though to the gentlemen pitchforked into the positions it might mean a good lift. It must certainly have exasperated patriotic Indians that the British government should produce such a bauble and claim it as a gift to India, after nearly twentyone months of Viceregal interviews with a procession of entities and nonentities and issuing of countless statements from all directions. And an old Congressman, though lately Nationalist—non-party, Mr. M. S. Aney, finds a place too in the new crowd. Advocates of the expansion may say this new move is another milestone in the progress of India on the road to freedom, but Congress will consider it a mill-stone round the neck of India.

necessity is there any true, earnest desire in the heart of the Ceylonese public to establish a centre of higher education and research? I think there is, for the State Council of Ceylon, I remember, spent a lot of time discussing the question of site. Definitely ruling out Colombo, as unfit for the type of university they were going to give us our Councillors decided upon the picturesque surroundings of Peradeniya. You perhaps think that when the university is a going concern in Colombo it can be shifted bodily to Peradeniya. You have a going-

(Continued on Page 4.)

CHILDREN of India should in future remain in the country and earn their living and pass their lives, rather than venture abroad as of old. That seems to be the course if they have any idea of maintaining their national self-respect, after the course of events that have led to the signing of the Indo-Burma agreement. It all seems to be one-sided and advantageous to the smaller neighbour in that so many irksome conditions have been devised for the permission to land, stay or live in Burma. Ceylon can well insist on a similar agreement after this precedent, and who can blame her for it? One point that emerges from all this controversy over Indians finding a home in Burma, Ceylon and perhaps Malaya, and later on other countries, is that wherever the Indian goes, in whatever capacity, he manages not only to oust the locals from positions of power and pelf but also to wield very great influence that goes to make vested interests difficult to be brushed aside in final adjustments. And the local inhabitants at some time or other get the national virus injected into their body politic and thereby nurse grievances galore against the intruders. In Burma murder by the hundreds of Indian inhabitants took place before the question was taken up for consideration. In Ceylon there has been better fortune. With vast expanses of land available, with man-power, brains and capacity it is not inconceivable that Indians will soon find enough room for all their forty-five crores of people in this country and make it the land of prosperity it was in days of yore. Who knows when India becomes free and independent she will prove the big, friendly and brotherly protector of the little brats that now seek to wave her aside contemptuously?

NORTH CEYLON ORIENTAL MUSIC SOCIETY

The Summer School of Music will be held this year at Central College, Jaffna, from the 16th of August to 6th September.

Fees Payable in Advance:

| | |
|-------------------|---------|
| Violin all Grades | Rs. 8/- |
| Vocal Adults | Rs. 4/- |
| Do. Children | Rs. 3/- |

A. J. R. VETHAVANAM,

Divl. Inspector of Schools, N. D.
President, N. C. O. M. S.

3.8.41.

(Mis. 80. 4-8-14.8-41.)



Hindu Organ.

MONDAY, AUGUST 4, 1941

THE PANNAI FERRY

WHILE REITERATING THE demand we made in these columns in our last issue for the appointment of a committee to make a searching inquiry into the grievances of the public as regards the Pannai Ferry, we would also draw the attention of the authorities to the grievances the ferry renters have against the Government, which are set forth in a correspondence published elsewhere. The complaints of the public are based on a number of alleged violations of the terms of the contract, while those of the Renters, in effect, on the vital fact of the shallowness of the lagoon which renders an efficient motor ferry service difficult. The minimum depth required for this service, according to the renters, is 3 feet, and this necessary condition, they say, they believed the Government would guarantee as at Kayts. They had asked the Provincial authorities from the outset to dredge the channel so as to maintain the required navigable depth. The proverbial slowness of the Government machinery took about four months to move, and in January, the P. W. D. removed only the silt at some spots in the channel, leaving the dangerous rocks intact which are a great obstacle against the use of the boats specially made and bought for running this service.

In the letter addressed to the Minister for Communications and Works the renters have pointed out the reason why they are unable to give efficient service to the public as they do at Kayts. A major part of the blame for the defective service at this ferry has, therefore, to be laid on the authorities whose business it is to see that the obligations of the contract on their part were fulfilled before handing over charge to the renters. The renters too should come in for a share of the blame in that they should

have insisted on the Government carrying out in time the terms of the conditions. No doubt, at the time the new rent came into effect, the channel would have shown more than the depth required for a motor service. But the authorities and the renters should have known that during the dry months the level of the sea would go down, rendering motor service difficult, if not impossible, and necessitating operations to maintain the minimum depth. By neglecting to provide for this certain difficulty that is bound to arise in particular months of the year, the authorities to a large extent and the renters to some degree have failed to fulfil their respective obligations. In between the two come the public who are the real sufferers in the bargain. Theirs is the unhappy lot of having to put up with the sins of omission and commission on the part of either. Their grievance is logically against the renters whose responsibility it is to see that they provide service as stipulated in the contract. But it is the lookout of the renters in their turn to see that they get the Government provide the necessary conditions for them to run the service efficiently. From what we are able to see we are constrained to observe that the authorities have badly let down the renters whose reputation at Kayts seems to be undermined at Pannai. The resolution at the public meeting asking for the termination of the contract is an expression of the deep disappointment at the manner in which the renters and the authorities jointly manage the affairs of the ferry. While the public blame the renters, the latter in their turn shift the blame on to the authorities. The public are therefore at a loss to locate where the blame lies. That is why we have urged an inquiry which would help to clear the muddle, which the Pannai Ferry Service has proved to be, and rectify matters. We hope the Minister for Communications and Works will take up the matter in all seriousness.

A very practicable solution to the greatest difficulty at Pannai—the shallowness of the lagoon—has been suggested by one of the resolutions passed at the public meeting referred to. A road from either side of the lagoon up to the deepest portion will solve the problem once and for all. The bed of the Pannai lagoon, at most places, is rocky and provides the best foundation for the construction of a road. The road will not cost very much, and the authorities would do well to provide for it from loan funds; for within a few years the amount spent on it could be recovered from toll rates. If the ferry is narrowed down by roads to the width of the Pannai-aru an efficient ferry

service can be run, and this will ensure an increase in the toll revenue. We hope the authorities will see the wisdom of putting this proposal through. It should prove more practicable and profitable than the periodical dredging of the Lagoon.

"The University"

We gladly publish in this issue the first of a series of articles on "The University" by Swami Vipulananda. The subject is of absorbing interest to the authorities, the educationists and the public alike in view of the proposed University at Peradeniya. The Swami is a distinguished scholar, who has had intimate knowledge and experience of our educational needs. He was for some years Dean of the Faculty of Oriental Studies and member of the Syndicate and Academic Council of the Annamalai University; he also served in special Committees of the Madras University in connexion with the Research Department in Tamil. He was also General Manager of Schools, Ramakrishna Mission, (Ceylon Branch) and member of the Examination Board of the Ceylon Education Department. As editor of "Prabuddha Bharata" (Awakened India) today the Swami is in close touch with the educationists and the publicists of India and abroad. We would, therefore, commend these illuminating contributions to the attention of our readers.

Current Commentary

The Budget— Profiteering, Indo- Ceylon Talks

By Politicus

THE Budget Sessions of the State Council is on. Members of the Council seem to have entered into their task of marathon speeches even to the boredom of their colleagues. Marathon speeches and lack of a quorum have been the features of the present sessions. Lack of leadership, lack of preparation, lack of self-restraint and the desire to blurt out something or other contribute largely to the inordinately long speeches. No wonder when State Councillors are indifferent and bored at the utterances of their colleagues there is bound to be no quorum.

As to the Budget itself there is nothing startling. As usual there is a deficit and by a wave of the magic wand, the Leader of the House has made up the deficit. People usually benefit by experience but unfortunately our Board of Ministers seem not to. Half a generation of Budget-making has led Sir Baron Jayatilak nowhere. His ten Budget speeches have been full of warnings, cajolery and promises in respect of the finances of this country. But unfortunately there has been no real enthusiasm for the need for a trenchment and restraint in the extravagant ways of the Government. The country is not at

all satisfied with the policy which has been and is being pursued by the Ministers in this matter. The Board of Ministers have missed opportunities of the past 10 years to cut down the salary bill of the State. Nor have the Ministers re-adjusted the country to the changing conditions; and finance is the instrument through which this re-adjustment must be imposed. The masses of the country are starving, unemployment faces them, on the question of essential commodities the country is not self-supporting. And yet the Ministers keep on imposing heavy taxes only to pay for their extravagant ways. Another glaring defect in our government is the lack of co-ordination between the various Ministers. Co-ordination is the essence of good government, but in the greed to acquire more powers and functions for themselves, the Ministers seem to collide with each other in the ordinary business of Government and thus increase expenditure with no corresponding benefit to the country. Somebody said that fools only learn from personal experience, but wise men learn from the experience of history. But our Ministers are such wise men who seem to learn only from their blundering experience of the last ten years and thus ignore the lessons of other countries and other ages. The way things are going does not augur well for Ceylon, unless more virile minds are entrusted with the finances of the country, else the fate of Newfoundland and New Zealand under the communist Lang stares at the face of this country.

Soaring Prices

One effect of the Far Eastern tension is that there has been an all round increase in the prices of necessities. It must be admitted by all, and the authorities must now know that there is profiteering by traders out of the exigencies of the international situation. There is a vital economic effect as a result of this. There is a vicious circle around profiteering. Increase of prices follows increase of wages, this again is followed by increase of prices followed by increase in wages and so on. This process may end in a tragedy. Increase in price due to the varying circumstances of the war is understandable but increases due to the greed of individuals should be stopped by the State. Profiteering is a social evil. It is essential that the State should keep a close watch on the situation and step in to check profiteering. Prices of even a cup of tea, not to say of other essential commodities, have

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Jaffna Urban Council

Mr. C. Ponnambalam will move at the next monthly meeting of the Jaffna Urban Council on the 8th inst. the following motions:—

(1) That this Council requests the Hon. the Minister of Health to take the necessary steps to prevent advanced cases of tuberculosis patients being admitted to the newly erected ward of the Jaffna Government Civil Hospital, as is being done now.

(2) That this Council requests the Hon. the Minister of Health to provide extensions to the Jaffna Government Civil Hospital to relieve the congestion and to meet the increased demand for admission.

THE ELEMENTS OF SAIVA SIDDHANTAM

SIDDHIYAR—AN INTRODUCTION

III. The Tri-Padarthas & 'Satkariya Vadam'

(By a Science Graduate)

(Continued from our issue of 28-7-41)

It may be granted that Maya and Karmam are insentient (jadam) and cannot produce any effect by themselves. But still, it may be asked, could not we choose our own Karmam and eat the fruits thereof? And why not we manipulate with Maya and produce our own bodies and internal and external organs and all this outside world and objects of enjoyment?—Very good. There can be no harm if we could do it. But the fact of it is, we have not the necessary power. It would be something like a patient suffering with a dire malady and lying in a state of coma or half-conscious condition attempting to prescribe and compound his own medicine and cure his disease without the help of anybody else. It is the physician that ministers to his wants and cures the helpless patient of his disease. And similarly it is in the case of the Divine Physician. It is God that moulds our bodies and organs and worlds and objects of enjoyment out of Maya, and it is owing to Him (and the help of His Arul) that we are able to do whatever we do and eat the fruits of past Karmam. And all this He does, not for any benefit of Himself but it all proceeds out of the abundance of His Arul (Grace) for no other end than that of making us whole and landing us in the peaceful haven known as Moksham or Veedu (liberation).

The curious may ask, why! why all this misery? Why subject us to all these sufferings? Can the infliction of pain and misery be said to constitute Arul? Is it not on the other hand the very opposite of Arul?—No, it is not. Let us take some ordinary examples (of the world). What does the doctor do, for instance? He cures some diseases with medicines that are very sweet to take, others he cures with medicines so bitter that we sometimes even prefer the disease to the remedy, while there are still other diseases such as ulcers and boils which have to be operated on with knives and other instruments. The king punishes the thief and the robber, and the father beats the wayward child. All these are done not with any evil motive, the intention in every case being to better the patient and reform the miscreant. In the Siva Gnana Siddhi we read:

மண்ணுனை செவியாதி மருத்துவன் அருத்தியோடு
கண்ணைய அருத்தத் தீர்த்திதும் செவியோ எல்லாம்
கண்ணைய கட்டி பாலும் கலந்தான் கொடுத்தத் தீர்ப்பன்
அண்ணலும் இன்பத் தன்பம் அருத்தியே வினை அடிப்பன்.

ஆணையால் அவனை மண்ணை அருமறை முறை செய்வான்
ஆணையிற் தண்டம் செய்தும் அரும் சிறை இட்டும் வைப்பன்
ஆணையின் வழிசெய்வோருக்கு அரும்பதி செல்வம் எங்கி
ஆணையும் வைப்பன் எனும் ஆணையே ஆணையே காண்.

தந்தை தாய் பெற்ற தந்தம் புதல்வர்க்கு தம் சொலாந்நின்
வந்திடா விகல் உறக்கி வளாரினால் அருத்தத் திய
பந்தமும் இடுவர் எல்லாம் பார்த்திகுப் பரிசை ஆகும்
இந்த தீர் முறைமை அன்றோ இசைந் முனியும் என்றும்

Some diseases in the world the doctor cures by cutting and the performance of successful operations. Other diseases he cures by giving medicines sweetened with milk and sugar. Even so does the Divine Physician cure us of our Karmas by helping us to enjoy pleasure and pain.

By the exercise of his royal prerogative the earthly King punishes and imprisons law-breakers while the law-abiding he rewards with lands and riches and even clothes them with legal authority. Similar are the actions of the Heavenly King.

Parents chastise recalcitrant children and even tie them up. Just as all this is the outcome of love even so is the Lord's anger (and punishment of evil-doer).

Umapathiyar very beautifully and at the same time succinctly explains what the real purpose of Creation is what the Pancha Kriyas really are and how all this is the outcome of pure unadulterated Arul and Arul alone and nothing else:

ஒற்ற இவை அரண் தருளின் திருவிளையாட்டாக
இயம்புவர்க்கு அணுகக் இடக்கூடல் கின்றும் எடுத்தே
ஊற்றம். மிக அருள் புரிதல் ஏதுவாக
உரை செய்வர் ஒடுக்கம் இளைப்பு ஒழித்தல் மறைத
தோற்றம் மலபாகம் வரத் தாத்தல் போகம்
தயம்பித்தல் திரோதாயி சிறத்தல் ஆகும்
பேற்றல் அரும் அருள் அருளை அன்றி மற்றப்
புகன்றவையும் அருள் ஒழியப் புல ஒண்தே.

These (five-fold acts) the wise say are God's play, intended for the salvation of souls. Dissolution is for giving them rest, creation is for mellowing Anava Malam, preservation is for making them eat the fruits of their Karma, immersion or Tiro-tayi (literally, concealment) is for giving them a taste or enjoyment when eating such fruits and salvation is Arul (or

A HINDU COLLEGE FOR GIRLS

HOPES FOR THE SUCCESS OF LAKH RUPEE FUND

HINDU COLLEGE PRINCIPAL ON SOME EDUCATIONAL PROBLEMS

THE hope that before this year was on the one Lakh Rupee Fund, which had as one of its objectives a Hindu Girls' College in town, would be realised, was expressed by Mr. A. Comaraswamy, Principal of the Hindu College, in the interesting report he presented at the last prize-giving of the College, presided over by Dr. W. Ioor Jennings, Principal, University College.

The following are extracts from the Principal's report:—

The special interest you are taking in the welfare and promotion of the education of our country is greatly valued by those of us who were longing for a University for the island. The Peradeniya Scheme, we know, would take a rather long time for its completion and the early realisation of the University would consequently be delayed. The enthusiasm you have evinced for the provision of this great desideratum in the educational scheme of the island makes us feel confident that the Ceylon University project will soon become a reality. The weakness in our educational system and the disadvantages of external examinations are too patent and too often told for reiteration here. We are aware that it is the inconvenience, in respect of our education, caused by the international crisis that has made the need more imperative now than ever. Ceylon has awaited too long for a University, and we confidently hope that your endeavours to give University Status to the University College whose destiny is now in your hands, will soon bear fruit.

Inter Candidates in Colleges

I may be permitted to make a passing reference to the arrangement you have made with the University of London for marking the examination scripts of the Intermediate students in the University College. I am sure that these students are grateful to you for this kind concern of yours in

their welfare; but the students who enter for this examination from the secondary schools of Ceylon are under a disadvantage. They enter for the examination from these schools either for reason of limited accommodation, or of high cost of education, in the University College. We hope that you may find it possible to extend your kind concern to these latter candidates as well.

Second Language Problem

At a time when the educational system of Ceylon is being reviewed for reorganisation, it will not be out of place to make a few observations. There is a general consensus of opinion that the primary education of the child should be in his mother tongue. But there is no agreement as to when the study of a second language, here English, should be introduced. On this question, Mr. H. S. Perera's conclusions based on the statistics taken from the 5th Standard test are interesting. Though he says that the conclusions cannot be definite and should be submitted to further investigations, he seems to take the view that the introduction of a second language in Standard 3, at the age of 8 does not retard the mental development of the child, for he finds from the test that the child taught through the medium of English has shown a higher intelligence score than the child taught through the medium of his mother tongue. The reason for this result is due to various causes which, I submit, has not been taken into account. Contrary to Mr. Perera's findings, there is the generally accepted view of educational psychologists abroad based on research, that the introduction of a 2nd language before the age of 11+ retards the child's mental growth and development. If the question is to be decided on the authority of special research I may be pardoned for accepting

(Continued on Page 5)

Grace) itself. Though thus distinguished they (the Pancha Kriyas) are all Arul (Grace) only and nothing else.

Now, what is all the misery and suffering we see in the world due to? We see it as a matter of fact that we are subject to a great many privations and hardships. The misery of birth, the misery of youth, the misery of middle life, the misery of old age, the misery of death and the misery of the life beyond,—what are all these due to? We see that we are constantly whirling, round and round as it were, in the ocean of Samsara. Why should this be so? Is not purity, is not Chaitanyam, Gnanam pure and unalloyed, is not Anandam (supreme happiness) the essential characteristic of the Atman? And, why should this perfect and pure being be subject to all this pain and misery?—Well. We see all these effects and, as explained above, there can be no effect without a cause. So that, there must be some cause, some defect, some imperfection, some pollution, some veil, some impurity or some such thing, which stands at the root of all this trouble. This something it is that is known to the Siddhanti under the name of 'Anava malam'. This Anavam is not a mere illusion but a real fact, really existing, and is taken as such by the Siddhanti. Conjunction with this Anavam, i. e. being under its power or influence, is called 'Bandham' or bondage and getting free from it is 'Veedu' or liberation. All our efforts and all our struggles, all evolution in fact are directed towards this one end, namely, the breaking off of these shackles, these bonds of anavam.

—(To be continued)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Pannaithurai Motor Ferry Service

The Grievances of Renters

Sir,—With reference to the report of the public meeting held on the 25th ultimo and your editorial of the 28th idem on the above subject, we enclose herein for your information copy of a letter addressed by us to the Honourable the Minister for Communications and Works on the 24th June, 1941. We trust that this letter will reveal the actual state of affairs, which may not have yet come to the knowledge of the public.

We shall be glad if you could kindly publish this letter in the next issue of your paper.

Thanking you,
Yours faithfully,

THIRUCHELVAM & PONNIAH
Jaffna, 1-8-41.

Copy of Letter referred to

Hospital Road,
Jaffna, 24th June, 1941.

To the Honourable
The Minister of Communications
and Works,
Secretariat Building,
Colombo.

THE PANNAI MOTOR FERRY SERVICE

Sir—We have the honour to state that we have been informed by some men that petitions have been sent to you, on the above subject, most of them designed to create the impression that we have been grossly negligent in fulfilling the conditions of this contract and that we are solely bent on exploiting what is supposed to be a gold mine. We therefore beg you to be so good as to listen to the other side of the story, as there is another side to this story.

As soon as the contract was assigned to us we placed an order with Messrs. Walkers for a special steel boat, with Messrs. Browns for a diesel engine and with other firms for the driving gear. Owing to the war conditions, difficulty was experienced in getting these from England. Part of the equipment was a rope $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles long and 3 ins in diameter, for which the other was placed with the Government Rope factory. Even they delayed, declaring that the machinery first required overhauling and supplied the rope only in November last. Finally we procured the boat and its complete outfit in the early part of last January at a cost exceeding Rs 10,000. This boat cannot still be used for reasons which will be apparent later.

In August last we advertised in the papers for motor boats of horsepower minimum 20 and draught not exceeding 2 ft. Two boats were offered, one at Kalmunai beyond Batticaloa and the other in Colombo. We went all the way to inspect both. The one at Kalmunai was 80 ft. long and could not be transported. The other in Colombo called Mizpah was purchased by us and entrusted to Walkers for complete overhaul and repairs. The story of its transport to Jaffna is worth telling. As transport by rail was safest and cheapest, we applied to the C. G. R. and as the boat was 40 ft. long the railway authorities stipulated that

three waggons should be engaged, a central waggon and two trailers, that the cost would be Rs. 320, that loading transport and unloading should be all at our risk, that we should be responsible for all damages to cranes, rolling stock etc. We accepted all the conditions. On two different occasions we engaged a force of coolies to assist the railway staff and attempted to load, but each time failed. Then the Railway authorities declared that the boat could not be transported by rail. This may be ascertained by reference to C. G. R. which is a Department under you. Finally we had the boat transported by sea at very great risk and considerable expense. On its first trial here, it repeatedly bumped against the rocky bed in the channel; hence its use had to be abandoned. The total expenditure incurred on the Mizpah exceeds Rs. 4000. As it proved a mishap we propose to change its name to Mishap.

To meet the urgency of the situation we procured in September last a boat fitted with an outboard engine. As soon as this was put in commission we set about searching for a better and larger motor boat which was eventually purchased and put into commission last January.

When we tendered for this service we believed that as at Kayst the Government would maintain the depth of the channel at the minimum navigable depth of 3 feet. From the outset we asked the G. A. N. P. to dredge the channel. Although with some delay, the P. W. D. started work in January, they only removed the silt here and there but they did not blast up the rocks more dangerous than the mud. The depth of the rocky bed is from 1 ft. 8 ins to 2 ft 6 ins. in low tide. Even in this shallow bed there are rocks which are jutting out to a height of 6 to 8 inches, thus allowing a safe depth of 1 ft. 6 ins. at certain places in low tide.

Owing to the loose mud entering the water circulation system we have had several breakdowns due to the seizure of pistons or the cracking of the cylinder heads. To remedy this defect we have provided one of the launches with radiator cooling. The propellers and the driving gear and the keel of the boats have several times been damaged by striking against the rocks and each time we brought it to the notice of the G. A. Vide our letters to the G. A. and ask for his personal observation on the condition of the channel. The steel boat specially constructed for this service cannot be used because it cannot be repaired in Jaffna and transport to Colombo will be attended with the gravest risks.

Apart from the boats now in use, we have the boat Mizpah and the steel boat to be put into service as soon as the channel is deepened. But unless and until the Government maintains a minimum depth of 2½ ft. of navigable water in the channel an efficient motor boat service cannot be introduced. In the Kayts service which we have run for nearly four years we have made hardly any complaint and hardly any complaint has been made against us because the Government guarantees a minimum depth of 3 feet.

It is now well nigh nine months since we started Pannai service and during these nine months our running expenses have been our takings, in addition we have earned the displeasure of some people and the suspicion of the Government that we are out for profiteering. If Gov-

ernment is disposed to accept this run we are prepared to relinquish this contract if the Government pays compensation for the capital invested at least on the two biggest of the four motor boats which we procured specially for this service.

We are, Sir,
Your Obedient Servants,
Sgd. THIRUCHELVAM &
PONNIAH.

The Transport Problem

Sir,—Sometime last year I wrote to the Ceylon "Daily News" as follows:—

"The Hammond Commission reported that 'the first and most important thing is that the Council of State should realise as other legislative bodies have been forced by circumstances to realise, that by its constitution both itself and its Executive Committee are constitutionally ill-adapted to control a Railway directly. The final question of policy must of course remain in its hands, but it will do its duty to the people of the country better if it delegates the remaining powers to another body specially appointed for that purpose and no other.'"

In the same way as the standing Port Commission, there is urgent need for a Road and Rail Transport Commission to evaluate both means of transport as a national asset of considerable potential value. In England there is such a central Committee guiding the destinies of both means of transport. I read yesterday that in order to economise petrol as a war measure, the central conference in England is allocating traffic in such a way that long hauls will be undertaken by Railway and short hauls by road vehicles.

The Hon'ble the Minister for Communications and Works stated yesterday in the Council that he was having in mind the question of closing the K. V. line. There is, of course, no alternative to closing the lines which do not pay but what the people of the country want to know is whether the Railway in this country has ever been managed in terms of the stern standards of business.

It was confidently anticipated that with the introduction of the new Motor Ordinance, the Railway will be relieved to a very great degree from the devastatingly unfair competition of road transport but race for tonnage and passenger traffic continues unabated. The promise in the ordinance is that the Railway will be given an opportunity of meeting its rivals on level terms. When the Motor Ordinance finally reached the statute book, the General Manager of Railways has been precluded from presenting the Railway case, the adequacy of existing rail transport facilities, etc. to the Commissioner of Motor Transport when considering applications for licenses for omnibuses and lorries, as in other Colonial Railways. Where then is the co-ordination and control of both means of Transport?

If the Railway is ever to be a profit earning undertaking and its future be made the concern of the public, promise of a divorce from political control in the changes foreshadowed by the new constitution should be brought into play now. The only effective way of doing it without any drastic changes and loss of prestige is to have a Central Road and Rail Committee".

There is a proposal now to get a

The Type of University Ceylon Needs

(Continued from page 1)

concern already in Colombo, in the shape of the University College. If you are proposing to have the same courses, and the same teachers with a few additions here and there, your problem is very simple. Consequent upon the breaking away from London, you will have to pass a bill and bring into existence the Senate, the Syndicate, the Academic Council, Boards of Studies, Boards of Examiners etc. to administer the affairs of the new university with or without the patronising supervision of the State Council. You can get the bill passed in the shortest possible time and create the new university almost overnight. Why should you delay the matter? Later on you may add new courses, organise a research department and progressively shape the university in accordance with your requirements. Before you begin drafting the bill, there are a few things you should consider and decide. Your opinion will give your legislators the vital points they should bear in mind for legislating upon an important measure which will affect not only the present but the future of Ceylon. The scope of the curriculum of studies suitable for an "Awakened Lanka" should be known now, at the very outset. Such knowledge will help you to formulate the ideal which should be kept constantly in view. As one of you, as one who laboured in your midst for over quarter of a century, I shall, through the courtesy of the "Hindu Organ" endeavour to place before you a few thoughts bearing upon this important question.

Transport expert from abroad. Efforts were made by the Government to obtain a first class man as G. M. R. offering a much larger salary than is given to the Chief Secretary but the attempt proved futile, because the people of Ceylon would not let him work or in other words the Railway is controlled even in its day to day activities by a body which knows nothing of transport business.

In view of the present world conditions and the unhappy plight of both the transport industries in this country, I venture to suggest that:—

(a) The Motor Tribunal of Appeal and the Motor Traffic Advisory Board should be forthwith abolished and instead a Transport Board be created as in Malaya.

(b) In view of the fact that no motor vehicles can enter this country unless for essential purposes, the whole road transport conditions should be reviewed by the new Transport Board which may be presided over by the Commissioner of Motor Transport. The object being to eliminate:—(1) Wasteful competition (2) Reduce the unnecessarily large number of road vehicles in each route at present.

(c) Road transport vehicles should not be allowed to ply more than a distance of 50 miles in rail-borne areas unless on exceptional grounds.

(d) The Motor Ordinance should be so amended as to give the railway

(Continued on page 5)

A Hindu College For Girls

(Continued from page 3)

the findings of Frank Smith and Robert Sayer who individually arrived at the conclusion that the introduction of a 2nd language before the age of eleven did positive harm to the mental growth of the child. On the other hand the findings of Mr. Perera can easily be explained away. Quality of students seeking English Education and the general equipment in English Schools are decidedly superior. A proof of the obvious by research, I feel, is unnecessary. Nevertheless on his own findings one can see that at about the age of 13 a greater percentage of pupils in the vernacular schools complete the 5th Standard than in the English Schools.

In English Schools boys 51%, Girls 64% passed the 5th Std.; in Sinhalese Schools, boys 79% girls 80%; in Tamil Schools, boys 87% girls 93%.

Remembering the admittedly inferior quality of pupils and inferior equipment of the Vernacular Schools, the argument in favour of education in the mother tongue becomes all the more strong and convincing. It is but fair to mention that the average score of the English School pupil is found to be higher than that of Vernacular School pupil. This should certainly be an argument in favour of instruction in English if the groups to which the test was administered were comparable. The vernacular group being inferior, cannot have served as a control group. We are therefore unable to recommend the introduction of a 2nd language at so early a stage as standard 3.

Hindu Girls' School

Owing to the want of a Hindu Girls' School in the town there are girls now in some of the forms here. The girls are certainly an asset to the school in so far as they have a disciplinary and refining influence on the boys; nevertheless it is being increasingly felt that a school where the majority of students are boys fails to give the required scope for the freer and fuller growth of the girls. Therefore the Old Boys have launched the One Rupee Lakhs Fund to collect the necessary amount of money to provide the town with a Hindu Girls' School. With the sustained effort of the O. B. A., Colombo, with its able and enthusiastic Secretary, Mr. T. Sivaprakasapillai, Assistant Harbour Engineer, combined with that of the O. B. A. Jaffna with its new and young Secretary, Mr. C. Vanniasingham, Advocate, it is hoped that the required sum will be realised before the year is out, to provide the town with a good Boarding School for girls. In this connection it is our pleasant duty to thank Mrs. R. Sivagunathan, wife of the Vice-President of the Board of Directors, for her very generous donation of a piece of land, about an acre and a half in extent, to form the nucleus of the School contemplated.

Speaking about Students' activities the Principal says:—

I may make mention of the Jaffna Students' Social Service League formed last year for which the students of this College were mainly responsible. They learn Sinhalese, weaving, soap-making, paper making, ink-making, gar-

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

(Continued from page 4)

an opportunity to prevent its case to the new Transport Board.

The proposals outlined above would not disturb the establishment charges but on the other hand:

(1) 50 per cent of the road vehicles will be rendered redundant.

(2) The railway will get out of the devastatingly unfair competition.

(3) Large amount of petrol will be saved. This subject is vital because of the freezing of credits, we must any day expect a Japanese blockade (economic.)

(4) Large amount of money saved in motor insurance which find its way out of the country.

The question will arise as to what should be done with the redundant motor vehicles and its owners. My answer is that:—

(a) All owners in each route should be summoned and informed that only so many buses would be allowed on a particular route and the owners should be allowed to decide amongst themselves how the elimination is to be effected and how the time table is to be shared etc. In default of agreement within a given period, the Board would itself decide and its decision will be final.

(b) Remedy for the redundant vehicles is obvious. The vehicles will be owned by the group of concerns and in view of a very restricted import of parts and vehicles, they can be used as and when necessary.

Pearnestly appeal to the Board of Ministers to give the above proposals their anxious consideration. I have closely watched the activities of the Malayan Transport expert and also took part in a humbler position to put the Malayan Railway in order and with a fair knowledge of Road and Rail conditions in this country, I dare say that the Transport problem would be very nearly solved, if the above proposals are put into practice. I am prepared to face any competent body or the Board of Ministers and satisfy them. There are, of course, certain sections of the Railway which serve only Imperial needs and the Imperial Government must subsidise.

Tholpalam, Yours etc.
July 23, 1941. S. VYDIALINGAM.

dening etc. That the League is earnest and serious of their business is testified by the fact that it has opened a Paper Factory in Jaffna which was formally declared open lately by the Minister of Education. Its first anniversary was celebrated in the premises of this college; men and women who are engaged in Rural Reconstruction work in the South came and lived with them and had a conference for two days with a very interesting and useful programme. They also had a debate with the Ananda College debating team led by Mr. A. B. Perera M. Sc., and the Jaffna Social Service League was represented by two of our students led by Mr. M. Balasundaram, Advocate.

My duty, in conclusion, is to mention that nearly all the expenditure incurred in the purchase of the Prize books has been met from the endowment so generously bequeathed for that purpose by the late Mr. S. T. M. Pasupathy Chettiar, one of the original founders of this Institution.

Current Commentary

(Continued from page 2)

gone up beyond circumstances would demand. Rice, sugar, coffee, textiles have gone up in prices and yet one wonders at the equanimity of the Minister of Labour, Industry and Commerce when he sits mum though armed with powers to check the soaring prices, over this new situation. Another evil tendency in the market has been the artificial inflation of prices by the hoarding of stocks of certain commodities by large dealers. The price situation demands quick action by the authorities. It is time they acted.

Indo-Ceylon Talks

Talks between India and Ceylon will be resumed in the early part of September. Readers will remember that the previous talks between the two countries failed because of the impossible attitude taken by the two delegations. Now with the Indo Burman Agreement as a precedent, it is hoped that it would be possible to reach an agreement. The causes for the strained feelings between Ceylon and India are more economic than anything else. Ceylon is economically far behind India and the recurrent adverse balance against Ceylon in regard to the Indo-Ceylon trade, is an important factor in the large number of immigrants that come to Ceylon from India. The presence of capitalists and business people from India is also due to this fact. To narrow the gap between imports and exports, India must and should take in every exportable surplus from Ceylon. This will to a great extent narrow the margin and facilitate to solve many intriguing points in regard to Indo-Ceylon trade. Due to this economic phenomenon of Indians holding a strangle-hold

over the trade in Ceylon—with its consequent economic evils—there has been naturally some ill-feeling towards the nationals of the neighbouring sub-continent. Therefore a solution to this economic problem will facilitate greatly the solution of other questions like political status of Indians in Ceylon.

The previous talks in Delhi between India and Ceylon failed because the two delegations were unable to agree on certain essential points. This time they are meeting in Colombo. Ceylonese expect as a matter of course that they shall be masters in their own land, but that does not mean that foreigners who have made Ceylon their genuine home should not receive equal treatment. Anybody who wants equal rights in Ceylon as the Ceylonese, should not look up to another Government or country for protection. The country expects those who take part in the Indo-Ceylon talks to arrive at an honourable settlement, so that Ceylon and India may continue as friendly neighbours to the advantage of both.

Rice Control

Mr. C. Nadarajah of Jaffna writes:—Jaffna does not require control of rice because there is a large quantity of rice in stock and the supply of rice from India and Burma is not likely to go down. There are sailing vessels to bring all her supplies at a very cheap freight. Tubcorin supplies Burma rice in large quantities.

DENTAL NOTICE

S. Imai, (Japanese Dentist)
Colombo,
will be at Jaffna at Tiruchelvam buildings, Main Street, Jaffna, from 7th to 16th August, 1941.
(Mis. 81. 4-8-41).

THE JAFFNA COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Notice is hereby given that the

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

of the Members of

The Jaffna College Alumni Association

will be held in the

OTTLEY HALL, JAFFNA COLLEGE, VADDUKODDAI
ON SATURDAY, 9th AUGUST 1941 AT 2-30 P. M.

PROGRAMME

Saturday 9th August 1941

| | |
|--|--|
| 7-00 a.m. Tennis: Old Boys vs. College | 2-30 p.m. Annual General Meeting |
| 9-00 a.m. Morning Tea | 4-30 p.m. Principals' Tea |
| 10-30 a.m. Thanks-giving Service | 5-15 p.m. Football Match: Old Boys vs. College |
| 12-30 p.m. College Lunch | 6-30 p.m. Concert: College Students |
| | 8-30 p.m. Annual Dinner* |

*For Subscribers only

ANNOUNCEMENTS

| | |
|---|----------|
| Annual Membership Subscription 1941 | Rs. 1 00 |
| Jaffna College Miscellany Subscription 1941 | Rs. 1 00 |
| Alumni Annual Dinner—Fee: Member, per head | Rs. 2 50 |
| „ Lady guest „ | Rs. 1 50 |
| „ Men guest „ | Rs. 2 50 |

Please remit the Membership Subscription and Dinner Fee before 6th August 1941 to the Hon'y Treasurer:—

E. J. JEYARAJAH,
Chundikul, Jaffna.

Members are notified

(1) that according to the rules of the Association, only those Members who had paid their Annual Subscription for the current year shall be eligible to stand for election and to exercise their vote in any manner at the Annual General Meeting.

(2) to stand for or vote for the election of a representative to the Board of Directors of Jaffna College members shall have paid the current year's and the previous year's subscription.

"Thyapathi," 1st Cross St.
Jaffna, July 25th 1941

J. F. PONNAMBALAM,
Hon'y. Secretary.

(Mis. 73. 28-7-41 & 4-8-41.)

Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic

Opened at Nallur

A Maternity and Child-welfare Clinic was opened at the Nallur Village Committee buildings on the 28th July 1941 at 10 a.m. Lady R. L. Ramanathan declared open the clinic. Mr. S. Natesan, M.S.C., spoke on the usefulness of the clinic and praised the chairman and the Committee on the very useful work they had done.

The Government Agent, Mr. M. Prasad, praised the record of social service work done by the committee. His position as Government Agent in relation to the Village Committees, he said, should not be misunderstood. He stood as a friend and adviser to the Village Committees, rather than the boss. He also said that he was ever prepared to help them as much as possible.

Mr. V. V. Karunanithi, the Chairman, V. C. Nallur, thanked all those present and made special reference to Lady R. L. Ramanathan, Mr. & Mrs. Natesan, Mr. & Mrs. Prasad, Dr. K. Kanagasabapathy & Dr. S. C. Thurai Rajah.

He further said that he had worked as chairman with three Government Agents and that he found that Mr. M. Prasad had been very helpful to him whenever any matter of public welfare was brought to his notice. He thanked the Government Agent and the Medical Officer of Health for their help and co-operation in organising the Clinic, and also thanked Dr. K. Kanagasabapathy for having kindly consented to assist in running the clinic. (cor.)

Order Nisi

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA

(Held at Point Pedro)

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 157 P.T.

In the matter of the intestate Estate of the late Kathirithamby Kandiah of Karanavai South in Karaveddy Deceased.

Sellachchippillai widow of Kathirithamby Kandiah of Karanavai South Vs. Petitioner.

1. Kandiah Rajasundaram of Karanavai South presently of Way and Work's Engineers Office, Anuradhapura
2. Kandiah Sivagnanam of Gogama Group, Estate Dehiowita
3. and wife Theivanayaki of Do
4. K. Sivasubramaniam alias Balasundaram of Karanavai South
5. Seethalaxmi daughter of K. Kandiah of Do
6. Somasundaram Sivagnarasundaram of Do Respondents.

This matter coming on for disposal before Simon Rodrigo, Esquire Additional District Judge Jaffna on the 1st day of July 1941 in the presence of Mr. E. Shivapathasundaram Proctor on the part of the petitioner and the petition and affidavit of the petitioner having been read.

It is ordered that the 6th Respondent be appointed Guardian-ad-litem over the minor the 5th Respondent that the petitioner as widow of the deceased be declared entitled to take out Letters of Administration and that letters of Administration be issued to the petitioner accordingly unless the respondents or any other person shall appear before this court on or before the 18th day of July 1941 and shew sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this court to the contrary.

The 4th day of July 1941.

Sgd. S. RODRIGO,

Addl. District Judge.

18.7.41 Time to shew cause extended till August 8, 1941.

Intld. S. R. A. D. J.

(O. 25. 31.7 & 4.8.41)

Malaria Week at Point Pedro

Point Pedro, Friday

The Malaria Week and the Health Exhibition in Point Pedro Area was opened by Mr. M. Prasad, Government Agent N. P. Jaffna at 5.30 p. m. on Wednesday, the 30th July, 1941. A Health Procession of Schools of the area took place in the afternoon and it ended at the Exhibition grounds. Mr. Prasad was garlanded on arrival by Mr. P. Nadesan, Organising Secretary, and was taken with Koladdam specially arranged for the occasion. Shortly after the opening of the exhibition a public meeting was held presided over by Mr. A. J. R. Vethavanam, Divisional Inspector of Schools, Jaffna.

Mr. Vethavanam paid high tributes to the Medical Officer of Health, Jaffna, for having arranged health exhibitions of this sort all over the Jaffna District and congratulated the public of Point Pedro for having co-operated with the Health Authorities to get up this excellent exhibition. He urged on the teachers that they should take particular attention in imparting health instruction to the School Children.

Mr. Prasad speaking next thanked the Malaria Week Celebrations Committee for the honour done to him by asking him to open the exhibition. What struck him most about the exhibition was that the posters and models were locally made by the Schools and that was proof of the great interest the schools took in Health matters. He made special mention of the excellent work done by Mr. Nadesan, Sanitary Assistant, Pt. Pedro, and appealed to the people to make the best use of his enthusiasm during his stay at Pt. Pedro. He further said that this health exhibition was an indication of the constructive health work done in the area. He assured that he would give all help and co-operation in matters pertaining to health and sanitation.

Mr. P. Nadesan proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Vethavanam and to Mr. Prasad.

The exhibition continued for four days and Mr. F. Gunaratne, Medical Officer, Kankesanthurai will speak today on "Tuberculosis".

Oratorical contests on health subjects are going on during the week and it will come to a close with a Health Concert. (Cor.)

HEALTH CONCERT AT UDUVIL

Record Crowd Watch School Performances

Under the patronage of Dr. S. C. Thurai Rajah, M. O. H., Jaffna, a Health Concert was held, which marked the end of the Malaria and Health Week celebrations at Uduvil. A record crowd of nearly 2,500 people watched with keen interest the health performances of School children of the Uduvil Parish on Friday, the 1st August at 6.30 p. m. at the Uduvil Girls' School. An item entitled "Trial of the Mosquito" contributed by Ramanathan College was considered the best performance of the day. (Cor.)

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(Y. 21 B. 11-8-40—10-8-41.)

(M)

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