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Editor:
A. V. Kulasingham, Advocate.

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CIVIL SERVICE IS CIVIL SERVICE

Notes and Comments

IN every State the Civil Service supplies the machinery of administration. Governments change but the Civil Service remains. Even in Germany, whether it was the Weimer Republic or the Hitler regime that held sway, the actual administration has always been carried on by the Civil Service. In Ceylon, before the reforms were introduced, the Civil Service held undisputed sway over the destinies of the country. There were, and still are, the Governor and the Secretary of State. But these generally gave the man on the spot, who was more often than not, a Civil Servant, an absolutely free hand. With the reforms, however, the colour of the Civil Service has changed, but not its innate virtues—and vices. It is still efficient: that is to say, it is efficient within the narrow limits of its vision. It still refuses to be hurried. It still retains its attitude of loftiness towards many things including the public. It still cherishes the delusion of infallibility.

In England Today

IT is, therefore, refreshing to find that the British public is, under the strain of total warfare, beginning to have doubts about the virtues of the Civil Service. Mr. Thomas Lodge, who was himself a Civil Servant once, writing in the "Spectator", voices this feeling in somewhat unequivocal terms: "It would be idle", he says, "to ignore the fact that there is today a widespread feeling that in energy and grip the civil service administration of this generation lags far behind the administration of the last. I have seen, at close quarters and from the outside, various aspects of this administration, and I share to the full this feeling of misgiving. In some of these episodes I have been an interested party, and my opinion on the

CHANGE OF COLOUR MAKES NO DIFFERENCE

rightness or wrongness of decisions has no great value. My quarrel is not with individual decisions; it is with the negative attitude of mind in which the problems have been approached. It would not be too much to say that the instinctive impulse of the average civil servant, when faced with a practical but novel proposal, is to search for reasons not for acting but for not acting. I cannot but feel that this negative attitude of our administrators, political and professional, has contributed largely to bringing about the calamity which has overwhelmed us."

The Land of Liberty

ENGLAND has ever been the land of liberty to the political exiles of Europe. Joseph Mazzini, who, with Cavour, was the creator of Modern Italy, sought refuge in England and was a great lover of the English people. It is rarely, however, that princes and leaders of a country at war with England have sought refuge there from the long arm of the tyrant at home. We all know why Hess left Germany. When he landed in Scotland the public, in fact the whole world, was amazed. Sir Charles Oman, however, reminds us of an incident during the Napoleonic wars which bears a close parallel to the flight of Hess.

Lucien Bonaparte

"I have been seeing in many newspapers," he writes, "the statement that the extraordinary appearance of Rudolf Hess in Great Britain has no parallel in history. This is a mistake; in 1810, Lucien Bonaparte, the most talented of the brothers of Napoleon, reached England and remained there for four years, lodged first with Lord Powys near Ludlow, and then in a small house of his own. He had been the most helpful of all Napoleon's brothers in raising his brother to power, and had conducted with great cleverness the civil side

of the *coup d'Etat* of Brumaire, which ended the regime of the Directory: Napoleon himself had made a poor show on the occasion, Lucien a brilliant one.

How the Break Came

"HE broke with his brother when the Emperor started his dynastic megalomania, and wished to make kings and princes of all his house. He retired to Rome and lived there quietly under the protection of the Pope. But when Napoleon annexed Rome and imprisoned Pius VII (1809), Lucien fled by sea from Civita Vecchia, ostensibly to seek a refuge in the United States. As the Mediterranean was absolutely dominated by the British fleet he was naturally intercepted by a British frigate. He was treated with courtesy, and spent four years in England, employed in literary work. His brother was furiously incensed." In the case of Hess, Hitler was so furious that he had to invent one contradictory explanation after another to explain away his deputy's escape.

Rural Development

THE progress reports of the various rural centres throughout the island have just been published as a Sessional Paper. The movement is still in its infancy in Ceylon, but appears to be making considerable headway. A good deal depends, it need hardly be said, on the officers in charge of the movement. These must be men who have faith in their work. Professional lip-service to a cause does more harm than good. Recently, an officer of the Agricultural Department is said to have told a landowner of Jaffna that it was well and good for enthusiasts to pin their faith to mould-board ploughs, but the old wooden plough was the thing for Jaffna. This is rank treachery, of course. What is worse, it is not true. It is to be hoped that the Rural Development movement will not

suffer similarly at the hands of its own workers.

Precept and Practice

THE authorities have done well, therefore, to insist on their Rural Officers themselves setting the example for the villagers to follow. The four fundamental principles, we are told in the Sessional Paper, on which the work of the Rural Officers is based are: to set themselves, their cottages, their gardens, and their activities as models for the villagers to follow; to search for carefully, and select public-spirited villagers to co-operate with them and spread the gospel of proper village development both in and outside the village; to foster a healthy spirit of co-operation and mutual assistance in the village community and to create welfare societies to carry on the full programme of development in the village; and to call in and obtain the full assistance and co-operation of all Government Officers, private individuals and bodies whose work deals with different aspects of rural problems in the village. The whole work, it is emphasized, has to be done in a missionary spirit; and the movement maintained on a basis of self-help.

The Real Difficulty

THE real difficulty the movement has to contend against is the hostility and indifference of the villagers themselves. It is not conservatism. It savours more of stupid and thoughtless opposition towards all change. Mass education is the only remedy. With reference to one particular centre the report states: "The achievement of our chief object had not been an easy task. In the village we found a complete absence of the spirit of service and initiative for improvement, an unhealthy atmosphere surcharged with suspicion, indifference, conceit, lethargy, and mutual distrust when we originally started work in December 1939. The activities that were organised to improve this alarming situation during the six months that followed could have done but little to alter the conditions. We therefore resumed and intensified those activities till the time was opportune for systematic work."

PUNDIT MAHALINGASIVAM MEMORIAL FUND

Friends, admirers and old students of the late Pundit V. Mahalingasivam of the Kopay Training School, whose untimely death is mourned by all lovers of Tamil Learning, are kindly requested to support his Memorial Fund. Those who have not already been approached by any authorised collector, are requested to send subscriptions direct to S. Adchalingam Esqr., Honorary Treasurer, Mahalingasivam Memorial Fund, Vannarponnai. These subscriptions will be acknowledged immediately, and also periodically published in the "Kelakesari." (Mis. 78. 31-7 to 14-8-41.)



Hindu Organ.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 14, 1941

INDIA AND CEYLON

A FRESH EFFORT IS GOING to be made to come to an understanding with the Government of India over the vexed question of Indian immigration and the status of Indians in the country. We understand that Mr. D. S. Senanayake, Mr. G. C. S. Corea, and Mr. H. J. Huxham will represent Ceylon at the Indo-Ceylon talks to be resumed in September when the Bajpai Delegation is expected to arrive. The exclusion of Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike from the Ceylon deputation augurs well for the success of the talks. Mr. Bandaranaike is one of those who have done their best to render an Indo-Ceylon settlement difficult, if not impossible.

It is needless to emphasise the cultural unity of India and Ceylon. To us in this island India is still the motherland. The dangers inherent in the situation in the Far East, coupled with the German drive towards the Caucasus, point their own moral: Ceylon is utterly dependent on India not only for her defence but also for her food supply. Indian man-power is indispensable for the development of our agriculture. In the dry zone local Sinhalese and Tamil labour has proved itself, for various reasons, extremely unsatisfactory. In considering this aspect of the matter, the Ministers will do well to face the facts before it is too late. It is easy enough to stop Indian immigration. But, once it is stopped, Mr. Senanayake will find that all his

efforts for the development of the island's agriculture will have to slow down for lack of sufficient and suitable man-power. Besides, what is going to happen to the tea and rubber estates? Are we so sure that the employment of indigenous labour is going to prove such an outstanding success that we must needs, with a stroke of the pen, deprive ourselves of a labour force at once industrious, reliable and amenable to discipline? Political prejudices should not blind the leaders of the country to the dangers ahead.

At the same time, few would be disposed to minimise the grave situation created in other spheres of employment by Indian competition. That adequate relief is necessary in this respect will be recognised by all who know the facts and figures relating to unemployment amongst Ceylonese. But this relief must be limited to the purpose for which it is urgently needed. To make the necessity for the relief of unemployment in certain limited spheres a pretext for the total stoppage of immigration would harm Ceylon much more than India. It may be a good plank in urban politics; for, the politicians of the cities and towns live in a fool's paradise of their own in which there is little room for the agriculturist and the pioneer and far less sympathy for the cause which Mr. Senanayake has at heart. But to those who are already committed deeply to the cause of agricultural progress, who are still labouring to evolve a new economy and manner of life not only for the peasants, but also for the educated classes, the policy of the Ministry in regard to Indian immigration seems inexplicable. In the old village areas there is no competition between Indian labour and Ceylonese labour. Where, then, is the competition which the Ministers seek to eliminate? Is it seriously suggested that in the malaria-ridden areas of the dry zone the employment of Indian labour will keep Ceylonese out of employment? We feel convinced that the Ministers have not paid due attention to this aspect of the matter.

It would be advisable in our own interests not to indulge in too many petty pin-pricks to Indian sentiment in regard to the question of the status of Indians in Ceylon. Indian leaders have become very sensitive to the status of Indians in other lands. The members of the new deputation will do well not to be misled by the terms of what is known as the Indo-Burma agreement. This agreement has been condemned by representative bodies in India as being detrimental to Indian interests. Some of the provisions of this agreement are characterised by a prominent Indian paper as "very drastic and extremely humiliating to

Indian nationals who by their labour and enterprise have made Burma what it is today. Such an agreement, one might say, is not likely to promote friendly relations between India and Burma. It will, on the contrary, tend to estrange one country from the other."

Even if the Government of Ceylon, as at present constituted, manages to keep Indians out of Ceylon for the time being, such a policy is not at all likely to meet with any degree of permanent success. It is bound to fail in much the same way as the Boers' attitude of narrow and parochial patriotism towards the British failed eventually. With vast tracts of country, however malarial and unsuited to the settlement of the older village communities of the island, still awaiting the pioneer's axe and plough, with an indigenous population clinging to its villages and content with the bare necessities of life, with an educated class still unable to tear itself away from the beaten track of genteel employment,—this island of ours will always offer a tempting field of opportunity and enterprise to the industrious masses of the neighbouring continent, who will not, in course of time, be able to resist the temptation to cross over and make themselves at home. High statesmanship is, therefore, necessary in approaching the problem before us, and it is our earnest hope that the Deputation will not fail to keep in mind the true interests of the Ceylonese themselves.

Maximum Price of Potatoes

The Controller of Prices has issued a notification, fixing the maximum prices above which Indian potatoes should not be sold within the Municipal limits of Colombo.

The wholesale price per cwt. is fixed at R. 11.50 and the retail price per pound at 12 cents.

Mr. B. Sanjiva Rao, M. A., a former Principal of the Jaffna Hindu College, in a letter addressed last week to an Old Boy of the College, writes:—

"... I hope the Hindu College and the Hindu Organ still continue to occupy the distinguished place they used to hold in public life. Please remember me to all of my old friends. If you have time do write and tell me how the old Jaffna Hindu College is getting on. It is pleasant to look back and to know that one has had a share in the growth of an Institution."

12-8-41.

(Mis. 85 14-8-41.)

Personal

Mr. K. Eliahamby, of the Rubber Research Institute of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, has retired after fifteen years service in the Institute.

MINISTER OPENS LIFE-STOCK SHOW

COMPLIMENTS JAFFNA
ON ITS THOROUGHNESS

FUTURE OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

"WHATEVER Jaffna does is thorough". This compliment was paid to the Jaffna District Life-stock Breeders Association by the Hon. Mr. D. S. Senanayake, Minister for Agriculture and Lands, who opened yesterday morning the Life-Stock Show and Carnival organised by the Association, at Sangilithoppu, Nallur.

The Show is at once a revelation to the Jaffna public that good cattle can be bred in Jaffna, and an indication that the Jaffna farmer is becoming cattle-minded.

The large number of cattle, goats and sheep, and poultry of various breeds which are on show cannot but fail to impress a visitor with the vast possibilities of animal husbandry in Jaffna.

On arrival at the grounds Mr. Senanayake was garlanded by Mr. M. Prasad, the Government Agent. A large gathering was present at the opening ceremony.

An Annual Event

Mr. Prasad in extending a very cordial welcome to Mr. Senanayake said that he knew the Minister's duties were arduous and that they had been rendered all the more so by the present international situation. There were, the speaker believed, other attractions in Colombo and Mr. Senanayake had to cut off quite a part of the Budget debate to come over to Jaffna. In spite of all that, he had found time to be with them that day. They welcomed him not only as the Minister for Agriculture but as one who more than any single individual had done and was doing to promote agriculture and animal husbandry.

The Jaffna Life-Stock Breeders Association, continued Mr. Prasad, was started just a few months ago, and he was glad to inform Mr. Senanayake that most of the members were taking a keen interest in the Association. They decided not to confine their activities to the mere issuing of pamphlets and circulars, but at the very earliest opportunity to have a show where the people who would congregate for the famous Nallur Kandaswamy Temple would come round and see the Life-Stock Show. That show, he was certain, would be an annual event, and he hoped that with the funds they collected from the show they would be able to lay a substantial foundation for their Association, which, he was sure, would augur well for the animal husbandry in this district. Mr. Prasad then called upon the Minister to declare the Show open.

Best Farmers in Ceylon

Mr. Senanayake in declaring the Show open, thanked the Government Agent for the kind words of welcome. He assured the Government Agent and the members of the Association present there that there was no part of his duties which he considered more important than taking part in the actual agricultural husbandry of the country. He felt that he could not have done better than to have come to a place like Jaffna where one came across the best farmers in the island (applause).

The Government Agent had told them, continued Mr. Senanayake, that that Show would develop into something which would be very important; and they would succeed. He had not the slightest doubt that with their endeavours they would succeed to such an extent that their activities would be a sort of an example to the rest of the island. "Whatever Jaffna does" he observed "is thorough". He was glad that they were all gathered together there with the one intention of improving agriculture. He was glad to find that members of not only

(Continued on Page 5.)

MID-DAY MEALS TO URBAN PUPILS

CENTRAL GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSIBILITY

A NATIONAL SERVICE SAYS MEMORANDUM

THE need for provision for the supply of mid-day meals to School-children within the Urban area and the extent of the responsibility of the Central Government for same, are set forth in a memorandum forwarded to the authorities by Mr. K. Aiyadurai, member of the Jaffna Urban Council.

The Memorandum

The following is the text of the memorandum:-

No one will seriously dispute the fact that the public health of a Town depends on raising a healthy and vigorous manhood with an all-round sound education not necessarily through the medium of the English Language. Well-educated men and women vigorous in mind and body are a national asset and hence the education and health of the residents of any place should be one of the major and urgent problems for the state to solve.

As the country advanced and the cry for a larger share of the Government of the people by the people was incessantly raised so as to reach the authorities, the state created local bodies in the chief towns of each province legislated for the proper functioning of the same with limited powers divested itself of some of its functions and transferred them to local bodies without at the same time transferring to them a proportionate share of the revenue derivable from within the limits of the respective Urban areas sufficient to meet the requirements or exigencies of services by such bodies. And when the Government transferred some of its responsibilities in respect of any class of its services whether national, semi-national or local, it is the duty of the Government to nurture and protect its creature from being reduced to starvation for no fault of its own.

Local bodies being the creatures of the Central Government it is incumbent on the Government to maintain the more important works of Sanitation, Maintenance of Thoroughfares, Supply of Light, Parks, Play-grounds and other amenities for the welfare of the residents to be initiated and completed by the Local bodies and to take up the major works which may be called the public utility services such as Drainage, Flood-outlet Schemes, Sump Clearance, Water Supply, Health and Education of the children which are really the problems that should be tackled and solved by the Central Government and should not be allowed to fall on local bodies whose income is limited and stationary and is barely sufficient to meet the recurring expenditure and a few amenities of the Town.

A National Service

The supply of mid-day meals to poor school children is a form of national service the value of which cannot be under-estimated.

The Jaffna Association after making a special study of the question has sent a memorandum to the Jaffna Council and a few extracts from it are worth mentioning. "The health of the child is the foundation of national health. In England by the Education Act of 1870 the attendance at school of school-going children was made compulsory and when it was found that sickly and ill-nourished children could not benefit by the education imparted" the Parliament intervened and in 1906 decreed that all under-nourished children in schools must be fed" and it is a wholesome provision as the children of to-day are the full citizens of morrow.

Again the enthusiastic and sympathetic School Medical Officer of Schools in Jaffna who spares no pains in examining the health of the school children and who having studied the conditions bitterly complains of the mal-nutrition from which about 80 per cent of the school-going children in Urban area suffer from and has disclosed a most lamentable situation in most homes of the Urban area. He says "majority of ill-nourished children come from very poor homes and the country is becoming poorer every day. Till the end of December 1939 thirteen schools have been having mid-day meals for the children. From January 1940 this has been stopped and the poor children are suffering from hunger and some children go to school in the morning without a meal and some do not go for want of a meal. As to what their physical state and health will be, as to the amount of knowledge they could take in when their stomachs are empty, as to how useful they will be as citizens *can better be imagined than described*. It is absolutely heart ending to listen to the tales of children who do not have even one square meal a day".

Discrimination

The Jaffna "Hindu Organ" which has taken up the cause in its editorial of 17th July 1941 observes: "At present the Central Government meets half the cost of feeding school children in urban areas. All Urban Councils have not agreed to share in the responsibility and so there are urban areas where mid-day meals are not supplied at all to school-children. This is a grossly unjust policy which the Central Government have pursued so long. There are children in urban areas who are worse off than those in rural parts. It is in towns more than in rural areas that the pinch of poverty is felt more keenly. For urban population are a medley lot with hardly any means to fall back upon and this is more so in the case of the indigent who migrate to towns in search of employment and get settled there in hovels rented or lent. The children of such families are not a negligible number and those who are under compulsion to attend schools need equal sympathy and treatment at the hands of the authorities. Not all the children attending urban schools as quite a good number in rural schools will be willing to take the free meal, some owing to sentimental reasons, others because they could get better meals at homes most of which are in the vicinity of the school. This discrimination between rural and urban schools

The Call To Youth

Indian Leader's Appeal

A fervent appeal to the educated youth of the country to enlist in the armed forces was made by Sir Jagdish Prasad in an address to the students of Wadia College at Poona.

For long and weary years, Sir Jagdish said, Indian public men had rightly but vainly demanded that the Indian Army should not be an army of Indian soldiers and British officers but an army of Indians led by Indians. The process of Indianisation had been painfully slow in the past. It had produced the most deplorable results. "We are profoundly ignorant of the military problems of our country because we had no inside knowledge of them. If Indians attempt to offer suggestions they are sneered at as arm-chair politicians. The exclusion of Indians from the higher ranks of the army has also been responsible to a considerable extent for the prevalence of racial feeling in this country. The officers in the British Army hardly meet any Indians except those of the serving class. The officers in the Indian Army deal largely with illiterate men drawn from the peasantry. There was no contact with educated Indians. The result was contempt among British military officers for the educated Indian who, they thought, could talk glibly but failed miserably in a crisis where coolness, decision and the gift of leadership were needed. The antagonism and suspicion of educated India towards the army from which they were so unfairly excluded were intensified. The army came to be looked upon as an instrument of foreign domination maintained at an extravagant cost.

"I put it to you in all earnestness that now you have an opportunity, which may not occur again, of mending this state of affairs; of proving in the furnace of war that the educated Indian, if given a fair-chance, will confound his critics and will earn no less distinction in the army than in those fields of civil employment—alas, even now limited—into which he has been allowed only a gradual entry. And if you can prove your worth in war, as I am confident that you will, we cannot have any longer the argument thrown at our face that the capacity of Indians to lead their countrymen in war has yet to be tested. I am sure that the full participation of educated Indians in the officer ranks of the Indian army will hasten the day of its Indianisation. It is needless for me to emphasise that all talk of in-

should not have been tolerated as it has deprived the urban children of a concession that has been extended to rural areas."

Whose Duty?

The question then arises: Whose duty is it to bring up a race of healthy and educated citizens who will be of help and not a handi-cap to the well-being of the State? It is, no doubt, the paramount duty of the State to bring up such a race and the State which held its extended arms protecting all the school-children both of rural

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dependence or even of equal partnership in the British commonwealth of nations must remain largely unreal unless very great advances are made in the officering and superior directorate of the army. I understand that in the regular army the highest rank to which an Indian has so far risen is that of a Major, and their number can be counted on the fingers of one's hand. A false step by educated India at this stage will do immense harm to the Indianisation of the army. It is also of the utmost importance that the best men should go into the army and not merely those who fail to secure employment elsewhere. This war requires a high standard of intelligence. It is essential that Indians who go in should be the cream of the Universities and colleges."

Apart from other considerations of larger policy, Sir Jagdish wanted young Indians to go into the Army for other reasons. There was a certain slovenliness in the young men doing things in a leisurely inefficient way, without sufficient attention to details and with a certain lack of precision and self-disciplined devotion to the work in hand. A few thousand young Indians who had been through the ordeal of the greatest war in history would act as a very useful tonic.

"High Patriotic Act"

Concluding Sir Jagdish observed "I admit that there has been much in the Indian Government in the past that has deeply hurt our self-respect, that there has been unwarranted distrust of our capacity and of our integrity, and that this distrust is not yet dead. There is also ground for much dissatisfaction with the share of Indians in the control of defence policy. There are matters which are engaging the attention of public men in India. I hope that a satisfactory solution will soon be found, for the continuance of the present state of things will undoubtedly damp the ardour of our youths to serve their country in this great crisis. It will have to be conceded, however, that progress has been achieved in certain fields after many struggles and much suffering. It may be that at the end of a victorious war we shall have many disappointments, but there is some hope that India may advance nearer her goal. If the Nazis were to win, all that has been achieved so far with so much toil will have been destroyed, and the future of our country will be one of enslavement of the body and mind, may be for centuries to come. There can be no question to my mind that you will be performing a high patriotic act in defending your country from invasion and in saving it from the horrors of military defeat. It should be your inestimable privilege to have taken part in a war which will decide the fate of India for decades to come, and to have so distinguished yourself that your country will be proud of your deeds and will cherish your memory in grateful remembrance.

"Here is a great opportunity for young India not only to revive the ancient military traditions of their country, but to advance it a stage further in the path of freedom and self-government. After all it may not prove an idle dream that not in my lifetime, but in yours you may have the patriotic satisfaction of listening to some Indian Field Marshal in this very hall. That indeed will be a glorious day in our history."

Rabindranath Tagore

An Appreciation

IT would be difficult for a younger generation to imagine the excitement and the passionate enthusiasm that thrilled India from end to end when the splendour of Rabindranath's achievement first lit up the horizon thirty years ago, writes the "Hindu". Even for those of his countrymen who were then swept off their feet, the magic has somewhat dimmed, as was inevitable with the reaction that time brings in its wake. But it is in the West that the poet's reputation has for some years been at the very trough. For this, there have been many reasons, not all literary. To the self-satisfied, rather comatose Europe that was pleasantly deluding itself on the eve of the Great War that the millennium was near at hand, there was a new voice from the East reawakening ancient memories, bringing strange dreams, heavy with the nostalgia of the soul. It enjoyed a vicarious experience in saying with the poet, "I knew not then that it was so near, that it was mine and that this perfect sweetness had blossomed in the depth of my heart." It seemed to recover a long-dry fount of inspiration in the Biblical cadence and blinding vividness of this picture of the wristlet of the Beloved "Jacked with stars": "It quivers with the one last response of life in ecstasy of pain at the final stroke of death; it shines like the pure flame of being burning up earthly sense with one fierce flash." And it relished, like the exotic savour of an alien dish, "the joy that sits still with its tears on the open red lotus of pain, and the joy that throws everything it has upon the dust, and knows not a word." Behind the garb, rich and strange, of this Eastern singer it sensed a sympathetic heart and could joyously echo its cry, "Deliverance is not for me in renunciation, I feel the embrace of freedom in a thousand bonds of delight." But he had other moods and other cadences which grated on the ear of Europe or filled it with uneasiness. Imagine the go-ahead West halting as a discovery, "Vain is this seeking! Unbroken perfection is over all!" or lingering where "the ripples are rampant in the river", because "there at the fording in the little boat the unknown man plays upon his lute." No wonder that when the first outbursts of praise had subsided a little the critics came out of their closets talking superiorly of "the mystical bag of bones and tricks", by which they thought to dispose of such a statement as this; "In this playhouse of infinite forms I have had my play and here I have caught sight of him that was formless." Other influences too helped to swell the tide of detraction—the cult of ugliness that the new Realism consciously preached, the weariness and the disillusionment that was the abiding legacy of the war, and also—it must be said—the growing realisation that this poet of India was not likely to subside into the role of the darling of the drawing rooms of Mayfair, that he felt too deeply for the decencies than aggressive civilisation had outraged to be a comfortable stable-companion for the inheritors of that

civilisation. And so his vogue has been on the wane in Europe, though rare, liberated spirits like a Romain Rolland or an Einstein have greeted him like kings at the gate.

His popularity in India was due to other causes; which warrants us in thinking that in the years to come it may be even greater than it was once. True, it was in its origin to some extent adventitious, not to say artificial. For the vast bulk of his countrymen had to discover him through English translation—no doubt made by himself and showing that he was as much a master of this 'other harmony' as of his own Bengalee, but still translations. And it may have been that the crowd was more delighted by the award of the Nobel Prize than by the discovery of this rich feast of song. But, when every allowance has been made for these factors, it must be said that India took him to her bosom because she found in him after centuries her own voice. A hasty rep-urial of the *Gitanjali*, from which we have already quoted, and of *The Crescent Moon*, *The Gardener* and the rest will amply prove this. It is the beauty of the incidental imagery—he is perhaps our greatest simile-maker after Kalidasa—the matching of music to meaning, the pervading consciousness of universal analogies, the naturalness with which a purely personal emotion shades off into wider horizons, leaving distant echoes in the brooding mind—it is in these he excels and thus preclaims himself in the authentic succession of India's poets. In what other poet of modern times do we find such exquisite understanding of the child-mind as in these lines from 'The Land of the Exile': "When the clouds rumble and it thunders, I love to be afraid in my heart and cling to you;" or such a tender expression of mother-love as is to be found in this simile: "The river runs swift with a song, breaking through all barriers. But the mountain stays and remembers, and follows her with his love?" The quiet and smiling beauty of the Bengal countryside—so much like our own Tamil land—is the background against which is patterned the unthought grace of the eternal feminine in such a piece as 'The Champa Flower' in *The Crescent Moon*; while it forms the very stuff of the day-dreams that lie like gossamer on the wind in songs 73 to 78 in *The Gardener* sequence. It is not vague mysticism, but a vital experience that illumines like a flame the poem begins, "I run as a musk deer runs in the shadow of the forest mad with his own perfume"; while only a civilisation coeval with that of China, which gave her the cult of the Rogue to which Lin Yu Tang pays profound tribute, could have inspired the song, "O Mad, superbly drunk". And even Chinese poetry can rarely parallel the subtle delicacy of this sigh from the heart, or the beauty that eludes the grasp, "Ah, where is it? Who can strain the blue from the sky?" or this elegy on the transience of things, "The hours trip rapidly away, hiding their dreams in their skirts."

Tagore's genius is essentially lyrical. His songs, as W. B. Yeats said, are on the lips of every peasant of Bengal. His temperamental express itself best in short poems and in those short stories—the verdict of time may well be

that he is among the greatest masters of all time of this difficult genre—like *Hungry Stones*, *The River Stairs*, *The Babus of Nayanjore*, *The Kabuliwala* and *My Lord The Baby*, which depict a poetic mood or an attitude towards experience. Of his dramas, again, it is those in which the lyrical element predominates, like *The Post Office* and *Chitrangada* (translated as *Chitra*) that are the most successful. Though he has done distinguished work as a novelist and his amazing fecundity has found a vehicle in practically every art-form (including even painting which in its modernism leaves the Cubists and the Impressionists limping far behind), his output in these spheres suffers partly from an insufficient command of architectonics, partly from the very abundance of his creative activity.

Tagore, the poet, was the world's possession; Tagore the philosopher and man of action, was a symbol and a promise of what India could do, when she had realised herself, to lead the world to a new way of love and hope and charity. Along with Gandhiji he shares the honour of having taught the India of today to stand erect and look the world in the face. His life-work in a sense may be said to lie at Santalicketan which stands, in his own words, for the ideal that 'Truth not only must inform but inspire. If the inspiration dies out and the information only accumulates then truth loses its infinity'. And because it was a living conviction with him that Truth is one though it has many faces, he laboured all through his long life to build a golden bridge between the East and the West. When in the ages to come the bridge is built, men under every sky will remember with gratitude the men who proclaimed that "the ultimate truth in man is not in his intellect or in his possessions; it is in his illumination of mind, in his extension of sympathy across all barriers of caste and colour; in his recognition of the world, not merely as a store-house of power, but as a habitation of man's spirit, with its eternal music of beauty and its inner light of the divine presence."

(Continued)

deaf ear to the legitimate and genuine demands of the rate-payers which apply practically to all the rate-payers of all local bodies.

The only difficulty is the question of finance and how can that be met. The State can with full justification and without violating imperial or local interests allocate to local bodies certain incomes that are collectible within the area of such local bodies. They may be the rents and licence fees of arack and toddy taverns and liquor sales in the urban area or stamp duties derivable from notarial transactions in respect of lands that are situate within the areas of local bodies or any tax other than the assessment rate recoverable from the residents of the urban areas.

It is not for me to suggest which particular income should be diverted into the local fund by the Central Government. All that the local bodies want is that each body should be treated on its own merits and the State should devise ways to make the local bodies financially sound to enable them to rise to their full height of National Service and contentment on which alone the stability of any State rests.

Mid-day Meals to Urban Pupils

(Continued from page 3)

and urban areas has by a sudden stroke of the pen folded its arms half-way as from 1st January 1940 when it reached the urban limits. This sudden collapse of the arm is impolitic, ill-advised and uncharitable.

The Government has pertinently rested its action on the fact that certain local bodies are so overflowing in surplus revenue that they can without inconvenience meet half way the cost of feeding school-children. I do not think that there is any local body which can boast of such a large surplus revenue after meeting the most urgent and crying needs of the respective towns to utilise its funds for the purpose of feeding school children. Even if there is surplus is it proper that the local bodies should spend the money for this purpose. I doubt whether there is any provision in the Urban Council Ordinance to meet such an expenditure.

Central Govt's Responsibility

In this connection, it is not out of place to examine the extent of the responsibility of the Central Government for some of the major problems of any town. In all Urban or Municipal areas the major problem of water supply, Drainage, Flood Outlet and Flood Protection Schemes, Town Planning and Housing Schemes and Street Clearance which are public utility services and relief on occasions of unexpected or unforeseen floods, spread of contagious diseases and epidemics and poor relief should be tackled and solved by the Central Government as these problems are beyond the scope and finances of the local bodies.

The local bodies as I observed before are creatures of the state nurtured, looked after, guided and warned at times by the State without the latter trying to understand the difficulties, limitations and financial conditions of each Council and lending a sympathetic ear to the appeals of such bodies for financial and other assistance. In fact for the State to exercise a right to control without the corresponding responsibility to see to its wants and welfare is a situation that cannot conduce to the contentment of the rate-payer as regards the duty of the Central Government to the local bodies and the rate-payer.

The central controlling body, the Executive Committee of Local Administration, is in possession of the full facts of the financial position of each Council and its urgent needs and it is for the Committee to devise ways and means to augment its revenue to meet the problems of the city which are really the problems of the state.

The Only Difficulty

The Negombo Rate-payers' Association has addressed a letter dated 7th June 1940 to the Minister for Local Administration appealing for better financial provisions and more of independence to local bodies. The appeal is sound, forceful and comprehensive in its demands that there will be none among the members of the Executive Committee of Local Administration who will turn a

(Continued on previous column)

REVIVAL OF SUPPRESSED POST

BRIBERY RUMOURS

U. C. VOTES AGAINST SHOPS ACT

RUMOURS of alleged bribery and undue influence in connection with a recommendation for the revival of a suppressed post in the Electricity Department were mentioned by Mr. C. Ponnambalam at the last general meeting of the Jaffna Urban Council.

Mr. V. S. Ramanathan moved and Mr. S. Arulanatham seconded: "for the satisfactory and efficient working of the Jaffna Electricity Department this Council resolves to revive the suppressed post of Overseer of the Electricity Department."

Mr. Ponnambalam in opposing the resolution said that there was no need to revive the post. The speaker alleged that the appointment was to be created for a particular individual who after being appointed as Overseer would after a few months apply to be appointed as Assistant Electrical Superintendent. "There is a rumour" continued Mr. Ponnambalam "throughout the length and breadth of this Town that the officers of the Government Electrical Department have been bribed and influenced to make this recommendation and that money is being thrown about to secure this post, and that members of this Council or their friends have also been bribed" He (Mr. Ponnambalam) could speak with a certain amount of personal knowledge. He appealed to the members to act carefully as their reputation was at stake. It was not in the interest of the poor ratepayers that the establishment charges should be unnecessarily increased.

Mr. K. Aiyadurai supported Mr. Ponnambalam and said that there was no hurry to create that post. The consideration of that matter could be deferred till the budget came up.

Mr. Aboobucker said that the speech of Mr. Ponnambalam was pregnant with charges of bribery against members and heads of departments. Mr. Ponnambalam had said that members had been bribed.

Mr. Ponnambalam intervened and said that he had made no such charges against any member of that House. He had merely referred to wide spread rumours in the Town. Several ratepayers had seen him (the speaker) and spoken to him of the rumours that were current.

Mr. Aboobucker continuing said that he for one had no candidate in view. The speaker said that Mr. Ponnambalam's reference to the so-called rumours was the trick of the trade intended to prevent them from viewing the question fairly and squarely.

The motion on being put to the House was passed, Messrs. Ponnambalam and Aiyadurai voting against.

The Council considered papers regarding the enforcement of Shops Regulations in the administrative area of the Council.

The Chairman addressing Mr. Pathirana inquired from him whether he would move his resolution regarding the enforcing of the closing orders of the Shops Act.

Mr. Pathirana said that he had brought up that motion some months ago for the sake of the poor employees who were suffering hardships. He left the matter entirely in the hands of the Council.

Mr. Aboobucker moved that the closing orders be not enforced within the Urban Area.

Mr. Ponnambalam in seconding said that the Minister may introduce it but they would not be a party to it.

The resolution was carried, Mr. Pathirana declining to vote. (H. Cor.)

Mobilizing a Democracy

Leadership and its Tools

WHEN a great democracy such as the United States prepares for war, writes Mr. Floyd E. Armstrong of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in the American journal, *Mechanical Engineering* problems and difficulties not immediately apparent confront the leadership of the nation. Underlying circumstances, largely absent in the dictatorships, present obstacles that slow down and retard the effort. The economy is geared to peacetime demands. The productive activities of the people are centered on the creation of the necessities and luxuries that satisfy peacetime wants. Specialised capital investment is directed towards such outlets and specialised labour is engaged with management in carrying out a "business-as-usual" psychology. They are not easily converted into a war machine. But in mobilizing for war, that conversion must be made, because for a nation to carry on a successful war to day there can be no business except making war. The realisation that mobilizing for modern war means utilising everyone and everything for the common effort and that the outcome of long war will almost certainly destroy all existing economic relationships is certain to give pause to all who are fairly comfortably placed in the present economy. The fundamental patriotism of the propertied classes, for example, is put to a severe test when they contemplate the likelihood that, however the issue of battle may be resolved, for them the collapse of their structures of economic security and power is well-nigh inevitable. For promising youth and hopeful young manhood a similar test of patriotic purpose is presented. Their education is threatened and the realisation of their hopes in love and business retarded or postponed if not entirely thwarted. For organised labour there is the ever-present fear that wartime demands and the pressure of a public opinion intent only on satisfying the call of the armed forces will set back their struggle for a more favoured position in the economy or even rob them of some of their hard-won gains. Small wonder that, when war threatens, there should arise an appeasement policy, with hopes for "peace in our time," or that youth movements against war should emerge. Yet these influences must be countered and suppressed if mobilization shall proceed for they are a part of that democracy that must be brought into a oneness of purpose if the effort is to succeed. No Fascist Duce can command. No Nazi Fuehrer can summon and dispatch. Democracy cannot be ordered. It must rise in its own might and move of its own volition. And democracy—just because it is democracy—is a sprawling mass of inconsistencies and opposing wills. The problem of national leadership—when that leadership decides on war—is therefore to reduce such inconsistencies and conflicting views to a harmonious and united effort.

Propaganda and Censorship
To accomplish the task of moulding public opinion to the ends desired, the arts of propaganda and the machinery of censorship are the most useful tools. "Propaganda

acts positively; by directing a stream of selected information and suggestion into the public consciousness, it aims to create attitudes favourable to loyalty and sacrifice. Censorship acts negatively; its aim is twofold: (1) To keep out of the public press, the motion pictures, the radio, and even oral communications, information and opinions which might weaken popular enthusiasm for the war; and (2) to keep from the enemy information of value to him." Censorship is rather generally accepted and approved by the citizenship but the word propaganda has come to have a sinister and unsavory meaning. Many persons refuse to think of the process as other than socially objectionable. Yet it is almost axiomatic that a war fought by an industrialised nation in an industrial era must have the full and complete support of the people if it is to be crowned with military success. Victory may depend not so much on the skill of the generals or the fighting quality of the troops as on the effective organisation of the economy behind the lines. It has been estimated that to maintain one American soldier in the trenches—to feed and clothe him and maintain him with all required materials—will demand the services of from six to ten workers on the home front. Apathetic and indifferent home front would certainly spell defeat. Propaganda for the common cause becomes then not only permissible but absolutely essential in a nation operating through the democratic process. In the last World War, an America rather indifferent at the beginning to the cause of France and England soon came to be as enthusiastic and unanimous in its approval of the righteousness of the Allied cause as the most patriotic citizen of those nations. We were in, and our Committee on Public Information (a much less objectionable name than, let us say) the Department of Propaganda proceeded to sell the Allied cause to the American people. The efforts of that committee in an intense and unceasing emotional and intellectual bombardment of the public mind would not suffer by comparison with those of any other nation. They were outclassed, if at all, only by the subtle and convincing work of the English. And, again, it should be realised that to mobilize a democracy to successful war effort, the work done by such a group is an absolutely necessary complement to the work of the army and the fleet. We may be sure that the War Department plans for mobilizing our nation if war should come do not omit this important item.

Minister Opens Life-Stock Show

(Continued from page 2)

his department but even of the Medical Department were co-operating with the public to make that a success.

Improve the Breed

The one thing he liked to say before declaring the show open was that they must somehow or other improve the breed of cattle in Jaffna. They had good farmers who were undoubtedly handicapped for want of an improved breed of cattle. Every year they imported a large number of cattle from India. It was not to their advantage to continue to import cattle in the way they were doing at present. The Government had realised it some time ago and started a farm at Kilinochchi to supply their needs. It would take some time to supply their needs. In the meantime, he hoped, by their endeavour and the co-operation they got from the farmers

LETTER TO THE EDITOR.

An Appeal

Sir,—Perhaps your readers are aware that for the past few years Jaffna College has been making a special effort to collect and preserve in the College Library old and out-of-print books written by Jaffna men and old Christian Missionaries of Jaffna. We have already collected a few books with the help of friends and yet our collection is incomplete. To mention a few, works of men like William Nevins, Arnold Sathasivampillai, Carrol Visuvanathan, Wyman Kathiravate Pillai, C. W. Thamotheram Pillai, Evarts Kanagasabai Pillai, Dr. Green, Rev. Knight and of other talented Jaffna men are fast disappearing and are becoming more and more difficult to get hold of even for reference.

In all the progressive countries of the West, National Libraries are instituted with copyright privilege where all the literature of the country are collected and preserved. No book or pamphlet however unimportant will be missed or lost. We don't have such a Library in Jaffna and our valuable literature is not collected and preserved anywhere and made easily available for consultation when needed.

As an educational institution with the advantage of a properly organised Library, it is but fitting that Jaffna College should take necessary steps to collect and preserve the literary treasures of our land for posterity. Hence, we wish to appeal to friends, well wishers of the College and the public who are in sympathy with this move to help us by sending any rare books they may have or to put us in touch with persons who possess such books. It is well known that most of our rare books have been eaten by white ants or have been carried away by book lovers to other countries. What is left is scattered all over the country with private individuals and these books also may be lost soon if not collected and preserved somewhere. We do sincerely hope that our efforts to collect these books will not prove fruitless.

We should like to make it clear that our object in collecting these books is neither to enlarge our Library nor merely to collect and lock them up safely in glass cases as curios. But on the other hand we want to exhibit these books and make them easily available to people who want to use these books within the Library during College hours. These books are meant to aid research and scholarship.

Jaffna College, Yours etc.
Vaddukodai. K SELLAIYAH,
9-8-41. Librarian.

here, they would be able to improve their cattle, and he was sure there would come a time when all the cattle they needed would be bred in the district itself.

There was one thing they got to remember—animal husbandry and agriculture should go hand in hand. It was not possible for every agriculturist to be a breeder of cattle. Once the cattle were bred, they should all take particular care that the cattle were looked after well. It was necessary for them to realise that the cattle which were needed for their purposes have got to be looked after well. He had no doubt that they would look after their cattle as well as they were looking after their lands. In the South, Mr. Senanayake said, farmers merely took work from their cattle and did not look after them well. He said he had pleasure in declaring the Show open. (H. Cor.)

Health and Malaria Week at Vaddukodai

The All-Ceylon Health and Malaria Week commenced with the opening of a "Health Exhibition" organized at the hall of Subramania Vidyasalai, by the Sanitary Assistant, Vaddukodai and the Headmaster of the same school. The exhibition was open daily from 8 a. m. to 4-30 p. m., and a large number of people and students of various schools attended.

In the course of the Week lectures on health and sanitation were delivered by doctors and other competent persons. On the last day of the Week a health Concert was held in which many schools of the parish took part.

The Sanitary Assistant with the teachers and students visited houses in the village and gave practical instructions about health and sanitation. (Cor.)

Order Nisi.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT
OF JAFFNA

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 975

In the matter of the intestate estate of Vallipuram Veerasingam of Urumpiray in Jaffna

Deceased.
Basammah widow of Veerasingam of Urumpiray presently of Chundikkuly Petitioner.

Vs.

1. Maheswary daughter of Veerasingam of Urumpiray presently of Chundikkuly.
2. Veerasingam Sathianathan of Do
3. Veerasingam Paramanathan of Do.
4. Puleswary daughter of Veerasingam of Do
5. Yoheswary daughter of Veerasingam of Do.
6. Veerasingam Sivanathan of Do.
7. Sinnathamby Chelliah of Urumpiray.

Respondents
This matter coming on for disposal before C. Coomaraswamy Esquire, District Judge Jaffna on the 8th day of January 1941 in the presence of Mr. A. Subramaniam Proctor on the part of the petitioner and the affidavit

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[Q. 82 7-8-6-11-41]

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

3-8-41.

(Mis. 80. 4-8-14-8-41.)

of the petitioner dated the 8th day of January 1941 having been read.

It is ordered that the abovenamed 7th respondent be appointed Guardian ad Litem over the minors the abovenamed 1st to 6th respondents to represent them and to act on their behalf in the proceeding of this Testamentary Case and that Letters of Administration to the estate of the abovenamed deceased be issued to the petitioner unless the respondents shall appear before this Court on the 26th day of March, 1941 and show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

This 8th day of February 1941.

(Sgd.) C. Coomaraswamy,

District Judge.

Septme extended for the 10th day of

ember 1941.

Id. C. C. D. J.

(O. 27. 11 & 14-8-41.)

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