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Public Wants Farms & More Farms

Notes and Comments

At a meeting of the State Council last week, Mr. D. S. Senanayake moved a resolution for the appointment of a Deputy Director to the Department of Agriculture. This was the signal for a good deal of uninformed and mischievous criticism. The Minister must have been bewildered by the medley of voices that sought to enlighten him on the choice of a right man for the post. One member invited attention to the Minister's own statement that the post should be filled by an Officer who possesses an Honours Degree in Natural Science, a sound knowledge of the science and practice of agriculture in the tropics and considerable administrative ability. Mr. Sri Pathmanathan protested against the idea of getting a man from outside to teach the people of Ceylon agriculture. No Englishman, he asserted, was fit to hold the post. They needed a Ceylonese who knew the methods of actual cultivation, the conditions of the soil and the climate etc. According to Mr. Pathmanathan, the University College turned out several men who would be suitable for the post. On these and other reflections Mr. C. A. Wille threw cold water by saying that there was a wealth of scientific talent in the department, but they saw very few results. The Council, however, obediently passed the motion by thirty votes to nine.

The Safer Course

In other words, the Council as a body did not quite realise what all the noise was about, but thought it the safer course to pass Mr. Senanayake's motion. We do not know what sort of a man Mr. Senanayake has in mind for the post of Deputy Director. It is, however satisfactory to be told that the authorities "were getting a person who was thoroughly

State Council Discusses Qualifications of Deputy Director of Agriculture

Uninformed and Mischievous Criticism

experienced and whose capacity they were aware of". This is undoubtedly too vague to satisfy Mr. Sri Pathmanathan who required qualifications with a pronounced local colouring. Besides, whatever the new man may be, he must not, under any circumstances be an outsider or an Englishman. We are unable to say, from Mr. Senanayake's speech, whether his selection would satisfy these somewhat exacting standards.

What the Public Wants

FOR one thing, the discussion has been immensely useful. It shows that the speakers in the Council Chamber are still ignorant of what the public wants, and of what is at present urgently needed to place agriculture on a sound footing. Academic qualifications are good so far as they go. But by themselves they are not sufficient. With regard to the insistence on local knowledge, it seems to us that the speakers did not correctly appreciate all the issues at stake. Tea and rubber already have their quota of scientific talent and experience. Coconut is very much in the same happy position. It is the other branches of agriculture that stand in urgent need of efficient direction. It would be interesting to know how an encyclopaedic knowledge of Natural Science would enable a Deputy Director of Agriculture to carry out the policy initiated by Mr. Senanayake. What the public wants is farms and more farms, and men to teach us how to run them. It is true that Natural Science and Chemistry and a lot of other things enter into the make-up of a modern farm, but only a working knowledge of these abstruse sciences is all that is needed. The paramount consideration must always be that an officer in the position of Deputy Director of

Agriculture must know how these farms are managed in other countries. It would be a fatal mistake to place undue emphasis on local knowledge and experience. If local knowledge and experience were sufficient, Ceylon would have become self-supporting in the matter of food long ago. If academic talent alone could have done wonders, Ceylon would be a land of smiling farms and orchards now.

The Real Need

EXPERT knowledge of farming is the real need of the hour. If the ideas aired at the discussion in the Council were accepted, the result would only be to continue the policy of tinkering and make-believe which has done much to bring the cause of agricultural development into disrepute. Persons like Mr. Pathmanathan evidently do not know that paddy is cultivated in countries like Australia and the United States far removed from the magic circle of local knowledge. Some years ago, a distinguished Civil Servant, Mr. Brayne, went to Australia and came back with a glowing account of what the go-ahead Australians were doing in the way of paddy cultivation. He told us about the fabulous yield per acre and the colossal scale on which paddy was being cultivated. In the United States the cultivation of paddy is an established industry. Who in Ceylon has studied the conditions under which it is being cultivated? There can be no substitute for first-hand, expert knowledge. It does not matter whether the expert is an African or an Englishman. If it is possible to have a Ceylonese expert, by all means let us have him. We are not, however, so sure as Mr. Sri Pathmanathan that the

University College has turned out experts in this line.

The Civil Service Again

THE view put forward in these columns that, though the colour of the Civil Service has changed, its outlook remains the same, received unexpected support at a recent meeting of the State Council. The discussion in the Council started with an innocent question by Dr. A. P. de Zoysa whether the Government was bound to recruit a number of Civil Servants every year, irrespective of whether there was work for them or not. This was brought down on the Civil Service an avalanche of criticism, Mr. Ratnayake, one of the speakers, characterising the Civil Service as "an incubus which stood in the way of progress! What was worse", Mr. Ratnayake said, "some Civil Servants suffered from a superiority complex with the result that the whole country suffered". It is quite possible that the Civil Service may plead guilty to these charges or it may avail itself of the right of all accused persons to plead not guilty and proceed to cross-examine the complainant on the latter's shortcomings. To an impartial outsider, the spectacle of the State Council calling the Civil Service names has all the appearance of the pot calling the kettle black, with this difference—intellectually the kettle is superior to the pot which has a penchant for twaddle of the most dangerous kind in dealing with questions of public importance.

Our Public Men

THE Mayor of Galle recently laid down ten commandments for public men. It is not proposed to comment on all the rules suggested by the Mayor for the conduct of himself and other public men. We can only express the hope that the code of self-denial and self-effacement will not prove so rigorous that some of our public men may find it necessary to follow the example of Maugham's Three Women of Antibes. The three ladies were confined to a lean but, according to their doctor, healthful diet, but all their good resolutions vanished at the sight of unlimited quantities of cream and cocktails.

Manager's Notice

The offices of the "Hindu Organ" and the Saivaprakasa Press will be closed on Thursday and Friday for the Nallur Kandaswamy Temple *Ther* and *Theertham* Festivals. There will be no issue of the "Hindu Organ" on Thursday.

MANAGER.

18-8-41.



Hindu Organ.

MONDAY, AUGUST 18, 1941

THE PUBLIC ON TRIAL

THE APPOINTMENT OF MR. L. M. D. de Silva, K. C., as sole Commissioner to inquire into charges of bribery and corruption made against the members of the present State Council places the public of Ceylon on its trial. The members against whom these charges have been made, and may be made at the inquiry by the Commissioner, are elected representatives of the public. It would, therefore, be incorrect for the people of this island to regard the proposed inquiry as something in which they are only interested as mere spectators. That it should have been found necessary to appoint a Commission to investigate the charges made from time to time against elected representatives of the people, charged with high responsibilities, and holding positions of trust and confidence in the public life of the country, cannot but be a matter of profound concern to all persons interested in the welfare of the island. The inquiry was, however, inevitable. Definite charges of bribery and corruption have been made. They have been made so openly and so often that His Excellency the Governor would have failed in his duty if he had ignored them.

It is for the Commissioner to find, on the evidence, whether these charges are true, and if so, to what extent. But, the public also have a duty to perform. Their active co-opera-

tion is necessary to enable the Commissioner to arrive at his findings. Their first-hand knowledge of the transactions in which members of the present State Council are said to have accepted bribes gives them an insight into the truth or falsity, as the case may be, of the charges that have been made. In the interests of justice and the good name of the people of this country, that knowledge must be made available to the Commissioner in the form of evidence.

We note with satisfaction that the Commissioner is vested with semi-judicial powers, that witnesses who give evidence are assured of effective and absolute protection, and that any attempt at sensationalism by the Press is forestalled by the provision that, where a request is made by a witness that his evidence should be heard in camera, the Commissioner must exclude the press and the public from the inquiry. The unauthorised publication in the press or otherwise of the name or evidence of a witness who gives evidence in camera is declared to be an offence. However repugnant some of these provisions may be to the principles of law and procedure to which we are accustomed in Courts of law, it must be admitted that some check on publicity is necessary in order to protect witnesses against intimidation and pressure by interested persons.

We trust that, owing to mistaken notions of patriotism, there will be no attempt to withhold from the Commissioner that measure of co-operation which we have indicated to be necessary in the interests of the country itself. The charges may be true or false, but they are serious enough to require investigation. It is the duty of all public bodies to insist on such investigation. This being the case, all direct and circumstantial evidence bearing on the charges must be placed before the Commissioner. If the findings of the Commissioner are such as will establish confidence in the purity of public life in this island, the accusations that have been made are not likely to be repeated and the reputation of the people for political rectitude will stand vindicated. If, however, the findings establish the guilt of the accused, they will provide an unanswerable case for the revision of the system of Government under which such things are possible.

PROGRESS OF CO-OPERATION IN THE NORTH

MINISTER'S TRIBUTE TO JAFFNA CO-OPERATORS

"I HAVE always had the completest faith in the Co-operative movement as the surest instrument we have of national development and national regeneration, and I am prepared to go to any length—and to travel any distance—not only in expressing my faith but in giving my support to the great cause", observed Mr. D. S. Senanayake, Minister for Agriculture and Lands, in declaring open the Twelfth Annual Jaffna District Co-operative Conference on Thursday at the Regal Theatre.

Mr. V. Veerasingham, President, Northern Division Co-operative Federation, welcomed the Minister and the delegates who numbered over 2000.

Minister's Speech

Mr. Senanayake in opening the Conference said "It gives me very great pleasure indeed to open your Conference this year and I am deeply grateful to the Northern Division Federation for having provided for me this opportunity of meeting you all to-day. As you perhaps know, this is the time of the year when the annual Budget and other affairs of Council generally keep a Minister a close prisoner in Colombo, but I have broken from prison and come to Jaffna, because I consider that affairs of Council must take second place after co-operative affairs. I am what you may term a convinced, confirmed and uncompromising co-operator. I have always had the completest faith in the co-operative movement as the surest instrument we have of national development and national regeneration, and I am prepared to go to any length—and to travel any distance—not only in expressing my faith but in giving my support to the great cause.

Creditable

"I should like to begin my remarks by offering my sincere congratulations to the Northern Division Federation for the very creditable record of work it has shown so far. The strength of a co-operative movement anywhere is judged by the strength of its self-governing spirit, and in Jaffna the self-governing spirit of your movement has found living embodiment and vigorous expression in your Federation. Your Federation is your chief representative institution and in this capacity it not only serves as the voice through which co-operation in Jaffna speaks but it takes a very active part in all matters affecting the prosperity of Jaffna. It looks after your tobacco industry, it has helped in the organisation of co-operative marketing, it lightens the task of Government in co-operative administration, and on more than one occasion it has addressed me on important subjects concerning the economic welfare of the entire Tamil community. Young as it is, it has achieved much, and I venture to predict that before long it will have fulfilled its appointed destiny as the Founder of a New Economic Order in Jaffna. Above all, it has been able to rally to the cause of co-operation some of the best public men in your midst, and the example it has set in this respect is worthy of being copied by

co-operation elsewhere in Ceylon.

A Notable Advance

"Your Assistant Registrar, I see, is going to give you this morning a short account of the progress made by your movement during the last year. I therefore do not propose to concern myself with facts and figures, but I wish to make a few comments in a general sort of way. I note that last year you have added 63 new societies and nearly 2,400 new members to your movement as compared with 40 societies and only 600 or so members in the previous year. This is a notable advance, and I regard it as a great testimonial both to the industry of the official staff and to the co-operative keenness and enlightenment of our fellow citizens of the North. The most striking feature of progress to my mind, however, is the great attention you have bestowed on no-credit activities during the year. The number of marketing and other special type societies you have organised this year is, I believe, more than the number appearing in the records of all previous years put together. This is a sign that the people of the Northern Division realise that their whole future is bound up with co-operative organisation, and I am thankful to them for the lead they are giving in this respect to the rest of the country. You have taken full advantage of the Agricultural Products (Regulation) Ordinance and have organised four onion and chili Sale Societies covering the entire peninsula. You have organised yet another tobacco sale society to deal with the tobacco you sell locally, you have extended your attempts at organising transport on a co-operative basis, you have several Better Living and Better Farming Societies, you have a co-operative Dairy and several weavers societies, and your strong swadeshi spirit has even led you to organise co-operative societies the poor among you who depend for their living on the products of the palmarah palm.

Assurance of Help

"In connection with these developments of yours I wish to state that so long as you show willingness to help yourselves and to stand by your societies Government will always be prepared to help you in your endeavours. I refer especially to the onion and chili sale societies. I am aware of the subversive propaganda carried on against these societies by those who have been affected by their organisation, but I can assure the public of Jaffna that no amount of mischievous representation will deflect me from the policy which I have considered the proper one to take in the true interests of the Jaffna farmer....."

Referring to the Jaffna Co-operative Central Bank Mr. Senanayake said that they were fortunate indeed in having their financial interest looked after by an institution of such acknowledged soundness. "Its reserves are large, it is making extensive profits, and when the building it proposes to erect for its accommodation rises against the Jaffna sky, it will not only be a beacon and landmark in your midst,

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INDO-CEYLON TALKS

An Appeal

(By C. N. Menon, M. A.,
Ph. D., D. Litt)

SINCE the outbreak of the war I have scrupulously abstained from all public propaganda regarding Indians in Ceylon because I feel that the mere statement of facts is likely to embitter people in India. If I did privately explain the position to Gandhiji and Pandit Nehru on the eve of the latter's visit to Ceylon, and to Sir G. S. Bajpai and Sir A. Ramasamy Mudaliar on the eve of the Indo Ceylon exploratory talks it was to point out the need of a policy of give and take. I issued an appeal to Indians to accept any compromise even if some of the legitimate interests of Indians should suffer thereby. On the eve of the negotiations to be held in Ceylon I make a similar appeal to the Ceylonese.

Two years ago the Hon. Mr. S. W. B. D. Bandaranaike made a public statement in his capacity as Minister that he was not perturbed by the prospect of retaliation by India, and in the State Council, when the repatriation of Indians was being discussed the Ministers made the public understand that Ceylon held the whip hand. This confidence perhaps made them choose as Ceylon's spokesman, persons some of whom had made themselves conspicuous in the Anti-Indian Campaign. The break-down of the negotiations looked like their success. But now it appears that Ceylon is renewing the talks. Evidently it is slowly being realised that the attitude of the past was dictated more by political prejudice than by a proper study of the economic relations between Indians and Ceylonese. This was just what Pandit Nehru remarked when he summed up his impressions of his visit in July 1939. I, therefore, appeal to the Government of Ceylon to make some friendly gesture now, so as to prepare the way for an agreement.

It is a sound principle of Economics that the revenue of a country should be spent on the persons whose labour creates that revenue. Just look at what happens in Ceylon.

According to the budget estimates for 1941-42, out of the total revenue of Rs. 127,682,000, 55 Millions or 44% comes from customs, 28 Millions or over 10% from Income-Tax, 5½ millions from Port, Harbour and Warehouse charges, 10½ Millions from Excise and Salt, 6½ Millions from Post and telecommunication.

As regards export duties, tea contributes a large percentage and all that tea is produced by Indian labour.

A good part of the remainder comes from rubber, half of which is produced by Indian labour.

Coming to Import duties, it is worth remarking that the duties on articles consumed by Indians as well as on imports from India have been enhanced in recent years. It is needless to add that to a great extent the Port, Harbour, Railway and such other revenues are also derived from

the same source as customs. Again, it should be remembered that Colombo is serving as the sea-port of South India which thus contributes a good share of the income of the Harbour. So far as Income-Tax is concerned, it will be as well to recall a statement by the Leader of the State Council during one of the Budget debates that it is paid by less than 20,000 persons. The number has not increased much since. Most of these persons are employers of Indian labour or representatives of Indian capital. To sum up, more than a proportionate share of the Revenue is derived directly or indirectly from the Indians. Much may be made of the Ceylonese peasant cultivator, but let it not be forgotten that he pays little or no land revenue, which is a negligible factor of the country's revenue. By contrast, the Indian eats imported rice, imported curry-stuffs and uses other imported articles all of which are subject to duty and hence he pays a considerable indirect tax.

The lion's share of the Revenue is spent on services, and numerous ordinances have been passed from time to time preventing even the Ceylon-born children of Indian settlers from getting Government employment. Objection is raised to their getting even subordinate posts on Estates which their parents' labour enriches. The Indians must work in order to enable Ceylon to capture the world's market, but he cannot be employed in the Harbour which derives its revenue mainly from tea. This is unfair. Large sums of money are spent on the Health Department but what a small share goes to the Estate areas where the Indians work! The Estates really pay for the service to their labourers under the Medical Wants Ordinance. Or compare the amounts spent on primary Education for Ceylonese outside Estate areas and for the Indian children on Estates. Very little of the benefits do the Indians get out of the social services, colonisation schemes etc., on which huge sums are spent. The Indian labourer creates the wealth which is to maintain services earmarked for Ceylonese and even the services of these Ceylonese officers are not meant for these workers.

It is said that India enjoys a favourable balance of Trade with Ceylon, but the real question is, how far the products of Indian labour enable Ceylon to retain her Trade balance. Out of the 304 million rupees worth of goods exported by Ceylon in 1939 tea formed 188 million rupees worth and rubber 67 million rupees worth. Now the whole of this tea and about half of the rubber, about £22 million rupees worth or roughly 73 per cent of the exports was made by Indian labour. Even making allowance for the wages, the major part of which is spent in the Island itself, we find that out of profits Ceylonese import not only necessities of life like rice and cloth, but also luxuries like motor-cars. Further it must be remembered, that India exports rice and cloth which her own people need very badly, and she imports coconuts which she does not need from Ceylon. Even granting that the produce from within India are not enough, she can get coconuts cheaply from F. M. S. But she has impos-

JAFFNA U. C. AND SHOP ACT

SHOP EMPLOYEES RESENT DECISION

APPEAL TO MINISTER

"The non-enforcement of the (Shop) Act affects thousands of shop employees in Jaffna who work on an average sixteen hours a day without any holidays under the most insanitary, soul-sapping and body-killing conditions."

Thus pleads the Secretary of the Jaffna Shop Employees' Union, in a communication addressed to the Minister for Labour, Industry and Commerce, resenting the decision of the Jaffna Urban Council to recommend to the Minister not to enforce the Shop Act in Jaffna.

The letter further states that these local bodies should not be given the right to prevent the enforcement of social legislations like Shop Act, which at all time should be the chief function of the Central Government.

Employees' Grievances

The Secretary, in his letter to the Minister, states:

The Jaffna Urban Council at its monthly meeting held on the 8th instant has decided to recommend to you not to enforce the Shop Act in Jaffna.

The indecent haste with which the members decided the question forces one to believe that the Council acted in a prejudiced way and did not give the matter the consideration it deserved.

The Union would further point out to you that their decision was solely actuated by financial considerations. This we humbly submit is a selfish attitude adopted by individual members of the Council who for all practical intents and purposes are advocates of capitalistic concepts—foreign and indigenous.

ed prohibitive taxes on other coconuts and given Ceylon preference. A recent official survey has revealed that tens of thousands of acres of coconut-bearing land in India, on which depended tens of thousands of small proprietors have deteriorated owing to the competition of Ceylon coconut. Ceylon does not seem to realise the sacrifice India undergoes for the sake of her goodwill. She is the chief purchaser not only of Ceylon coconut, but also buys 100 per cent of the tobacco, 78 per cent of the skins, 82 per cent of the arecanuts, besides chank, pearl, precious stones and many other products. All these things she can either obtain at home or do without.

It was more to hurt India than to safeguard local industries that Ceylon prohibited the import of vegetable ghee, eggs, goats etc. from India and tried to negotiate with Australia and South Africa. If mutual retaliation starts Ceylon will be the greater loser and the present war has demonstrated the increasing dependence of Ceylon on India.

Some politicians in Ceylon imagine that Ceylon can provide all the labour for the industries which are responsible for her prosperity. Can they persuade 800,000 Sinhalese labourers to live a sort of barrack life, away from their villages, in the biting cold and drizzle of the upcountry areas and the malarial areas of

(Continued on Page 5.)

My Union would appeal to you that this decision of the Urban Council should not deter you from viewing favourably our demand for the enforcement of the Shop Act at an early date in Jaffna.

The opposition of the Mayor of Galle to the enforcement of the Closing Orders did not prevent you from enforcing them in Galle.

My Union would again reiterate the appalling conditions under which we work and the urgent need for relief.

Cruel Discrimination

We are denied the elementary human rights of leisure, holidays and fixed hours of work.

My Union would therefore urge on you to afford us the benefits of protection to the weak by the law of the land. On the other hand to deny us these rights would in my Union's opinion be an act of cruel discrimination against a class of long suffering workers.

Granting that Local bodies may be consulted on these questions, my Union would urge on you that these Local Bodies should not be given the right to prevent the enforcement of social legislations like the Shop Act, which at all time should be the chief function of the Central Government.

My Union would also draw your kind attention to the fact that the enforcement of the Shop Act in Jaffna is long overdue. The non-enforcement of this Act affects thousands of shop employees in Jaffna who work on an average sixteen hours a day without any holidays under the most insanitary, soul sapping and body killing conditions.

The state would have by now gained the necessary experience in the working of this Ordinance and should, in all fairness to the governed, enforce this Law all over the Island.

The need to regulate the conditions of the employment of shop assistants did not exist only in Colombo, Kandy and Galle. There exists also the need for such regulation of the conditions of employment in other parts of the country and particularly so in Jaffna, Ceylon's second largest town.

Bold Policy Needed

The Central Government should adopt without any hesitation and without any further delay a bold policy in the application of this law in all business centres where numbers of the workers are cruelly compelled to toil and moil for a bare pittance at the greatest risk of ruining their body health and mental peace of not only themselves but of their wives and children as well.

The enforcement of this law in selected and apparently privileged areas would, we fearlessly assert, in addition to creating a deep sense of frustration in the grievously wounded minds of thousands of shop assistants in Jaffna, lay the Central Government open to the plausible charge of very unfair discriminating treatment of a section of the society simply because an Urban Council under the thumb of certain interested parties who have their axes to grind have very wrongly decided to flout popular opinion in Jaffna.

Wherefore, the Jaffna Shop Employees' Union once again earnestly appeals to you to enforce immediately the Shop Act in Jaffna. Praying for a prompt and favourable reply intimating to us that you are creating the necessary machinery to enforce this long overdue legislation in Jaffna and redress the grievances of a class of society whose tribal badge is suffering.

THE ELEMENTS OF SAIVA SIDDHANTAM

SIDDHIYAR—AN INTRODUCTION

(By a Science Graduate)

IV. 'Adwaitam' and God's Omnipresence

பொய்கண்டார் காண்பு புனிதமெனும் அத்தவிர
மெய்கண்ட காநன் அடிமேவும் காண் எந்நானோ

The Saiva Siddhanta Philosophy is often spoken of as the 'Adwaita' Philosophy and the Master who gave the Siva-Gnana Botham to the Tamil world, as Adwaita-Meikandan, he who saw the truth of Adwaitam (or non-duality). It is also referred to as Sutta-Adwaitam (or pure Adwaitam) to distinguish it from other schools which also claim to teach Adwaitam. This is a very important term to understand and a knowledge of the system is impossible without a clear grasp of the true import of this term. It denotes the particular relationship which exists between God and soul. This relationship is such that while there is a difference in substance, there is at the same time perceived a sort of complete identity. It is a sort of inseparateness and various are the analogies by which it is sought to explain it. In Siva Gnana Siddhi we read: இத்தவிரதின் ஈரி பாலில் செய் பழத்தின் ஓரதம் என்னின்கண் எண்ணெயும் போல் எங்கும் உண் இறைவன். (As fire in wood, as ghee in milk, as juice in fruit and as oil in gingelly, God is immanent in everything.) In Devaram we have: வீற்றெந் தீயினன் பாலிற் படுசெய்போல மறைய நின்றான். (He stands concealed like fire in fuel and ghee in milk.) It may be likened to the relation that exists between mind and body, or life and body, or mind and the sense of sight, or the light of the sun and the light of the eye or the flower and its fragrance or the vowel 'a' and the consonants. பண் இசை, வெம்பரிதி மதி, திலதயிலம், தீ இரும்பு, பாணிஉப்பு, விண்அளிவம், உடலஉயிர், நீர் கிழல், உச்சிப்பளிக்கு, பசுவின்சக்குப், பால்நீர், கண் இரவி, உணர்வு ஒளிபோல் பிரிய அரிய அத்தவிரதம், says Siva Gnana Muniver. Adwaitam is inseparability similar to the relationship between music and tune, sun and moon, gingelly and oil, fire and iron, water and salt, air and space, life and body, water and shadow, sun and crystal, sunlight and lamp-light, water and milk, sunlight and eyesight, feeling and knowledge. But it is not a relation similar to that between gold and jewels made out of it, these latter being identical with gold in substance though different in outward appearance; nor is it something similar to the relation between light and darkness which are mutually exclusive of each other. Perhaps, the particular relationship herein intended can be better imagined than described. God is all but all is not God. He is therefore all and not all (எல்லாமாய் அல்லாமாய்). He is immanent in everything. He soaks everything through and through, but still He is above everything. உலகெல்லாமாகி வேறாய் உடனாமாய், says Siva Gnana Siddhi.

Adwaitam, the Siddhanti holds, is not Ekam (ஏகம்) or monism. We read in SivaGnana Botham: அத்தவிரத மென்ற சொல்லானே எகமென்றில் ஏகமென்ற கூட்டுவது தன்மையில் அத்தவிரதமென்ற சொல்லே அன்னிய நாத்தியை உணர்த்தும்; and Siva Gnana Muniver explains this passage as follows: அத்தவிரதமென்ற சொல்லின் காரம் இன்மை அன்மை பற்றலை என்ற முப்பொருளுணர்ந்த மன்றே, அவற்றுள் இன்மைப் பொருள்பற்றி அத்தவிரதமென்ற மொழிமுத்தையானே ஒரு பொருளென்றல் பொருத்தமுடைத் தெனின்—தரனே தன்னை ஒன்றெனக் கருதல் வேண்டாமையின் அவ்வாறு—ருதும் பொருள் வேறுண்டென்பது பெறப்படுதலானும், எண்ணப்பெயர் மெல் வந்த காரம் அன்மைப்பொருள் மாத்திரையே உணர்த்திப் பொருளையில் கின்பதன்றி வினைச் சொற்களின்மேல் வந்த காரம்போல் இன்மை மறதலைப் பொருள்களை உணர்த்தல் வழக்கின் கண் இன்மையில் அத்தவிரதமென்ற மொழிதானே பிரிதுகாரணம் வேண்டாது வேறின்மையை உணர்த்தி கிற்கும் ஆகலாலும், இன்மைய் வான்மாக்கள் பலவும் முதல்வந்தானேயாய் கிற்குமென மேற்கொண்டது என்க. The word Adwaitam cannot mean Ekam or oneness as, without a second, no one can think of himself as one, and as the very thought implies two things. The word simply denies the separate existence and separability of the two. In this sense it is said that the souls exist as one with the Lord. The prefix 'a' has more than one meaning. In such words as Appirakasam (அப்பிரகாசம்) or Amalam (அமலம்) it has the இன்மை or இல்லை (negative) meaning and denotes the absence of Pirakasam and Malam. In such words as Aneethi (அநீதி) or Adharmam (அதர்மம்) it is used in what is called the மறதலை (antonymous) sense and means the opposite of Neethi and Dharmam. In the word Appirananam (அப்பிராணம்) it does not negative the existence of the Piramanam, nor does it mean Kshatriyan or Vysian, &c., who are non-brahmans, but means a man devoid of the attributes of a brahmin though he is a brahmin by birth.

Ekanmavadam or Kevala-adwaitam as it is called to distinguish it from other schools of adwaitam takes the first meaning of இன்மை or அபாவம் or இல்லை (negative) sense and denies the existence of Pasu and Pasam and says there is only one entity Brahm. Visishdat-waitam (Ramanuja's school) also adopts the negative interpretation but adds that, while God is all-pervasive, soul and Passam are included in God or in other words they form part and parcel thereof. Madhwa's school (Dwaitam) has recourse to the மறதலை (or antonymous) interpretation and argues that, just as when one speaks of Adharmam he implies the existence of its opposite Dharmam at the same time, the word Adwaitam connotes the existence of the One (Brahm) which is other than and quite separate from the second (soul),

—(To be continued)

Current Commentary

Ceylon Reforms

(By Politicus)

IN spite of the pre-occupation of a life and death struggle, English men seem to be interested in the question of constitutional reforms for Ceylon. A recent question in the House of Commons and the reply indicate that this question of reforms is not altogether shelved by Whitehall. But Ceylon and its public seem to have forgotten all about it. The State Council seem not to worry, nor are our State Councillors anxious to press the claims of Ceylon for constitutional reforms. With the extension of the life of the Council members are indifferent to any vital question that affects the country. Even the public seem to adopt a complacent attitude to this vital question. There seems to be too much of a self-centred view of things on the part of the different sections of the people. There is nothing to prevent all communities of the country joining together and discussing the essentials of an agreed scheme of reforms, later to be demanded from Britain after the war, but an essential pre-requisite to this agreed scheme is communal harmony which is wanting. Unfortunately the communities in Ceylon tend to go farther and farther away from each other. For this tendency the leaders are a good deal to blame. And political leaders centre their actions around their own self. The need for self-sacrifice and broad vision is great today. The world faces a crisis, so is Ceylon in its small way. It is the duty of the leaders to prepare the country to face this crisis. But they seem to wrangle in sectional politics. The need of the hour is the closing of ranks, a true appreciation of the future and the present and work for the good of the country.

A Moral Censor?

Some seem to take upon themselves the talk of censoring literature which people read. This can be excused anywhere except in a public institution. It is time that somebody cried halt to this kind of mentality which rears its head in public bodies like the Free Library and Reading Room at Jaffna. The other day a member of the Library Committee wanted to ban books by Huxley, Wells, Shaw and other writers of this type in the name of God and Morals. This attitude seems curious and dangerous, specially at a time when the Empire is fighting a deadly war just because man should lead his life in his own way, and man should read what he likes. I am afraid this goes very much beyond the functions of a city father and member of the Library Committee. The Library is a public organisation catering to the needs of all, and here any attempt to force one's notions of books and authors on the public is not likely to be tolerated. Registration of choice and thought may be possible in certain quarters, but it would be to the good of all if the Library were left alone.

Rural Uplift

There is a proposal to co-ordinate the work of a rural reconstruction societies and the Registrar of Co-operative Societies has been deputed to study this question. In the matter of rural uplift, it is important to view this question from the social rather than economic point of view. All must admit that the lot of the

peasantry is bad. And Ceylon is, and will always be, predominantly an agricultural country. In the prosperity of the peasantry, therefore, rests the prosperity of the country as a whole. The village is the key-stone in Ceylon's economic structure and something must be done towards the betterment of this economic structure. The earning capacity of the villager must be improved by state aid to agriculture. The standard of living of the villager should be raised and this can be brought about by the following—increased production, the exchange of goods to mutual advantage and the distribution of income in such a way as to reach the poorer strata of the population. It would be well for the state to take immediate measures to reduce indebtedness among villagers and also to provide cheaper credit to village agriculturists. It must also be remembered that no amount of official efforts will improve the lot of the rural masses unless unofficial co-operation is forthcoming. The talent of a village should be trained for real and sustained co-operation and the villagers ought to be educated in their rights & responsibilities as voters under the franchise. The educated unemployed should be attracted to the villages. There are thousands of educated unemployed in the country and to utilize this talent, the state should launch suitable colonization schemes. There is no dearth of lands. If a proper choice of locality for such colonies is made and if such schemes are worked out successfully the country would have achieved much and would have solved many of its problems. To solve the rural problem, the Co-operative Department, the Marketing Department, the Agricultural Department and the Education Department must evolve a common plan. Such a plan must have education in its broadest sense as its chief weapon.

The Shop Act for Jaffna

The Urban Council, when it decided not to recommend the enforcement of the closing orders in Jaffna, did not give any reasons for doing so. But it is safe to assume that the financial loss that would follow the enforcement of the closing orders must have been one of the chief reasons for their decision. This is a questionable attitude to take up in a matter that affects thousands in Jaffna. Here is a section of society who undergo very harsh treatment at the hands of their employers. The shop assistants have no holidays, no leisure; they work for long hours at a stretch under the most insanitary conditions, that too on a very small remuneration. This is specially true of Jaffna. Suffering seems to be their tribal badge. The state enacts a legislation to regulate the conditions of employment of these shop assistants. This is in force in some parts of the island, though proclaimed by the Governor for the whole Island. Their birthright has been conceded by this Act. Yet when these shop assistants in Jaffna demand the enforcement of these rights, some people seem to put obstacles in their way. The state should not discriminate against human beings and if it is enforcing a law like the Shop Act, it must do so all over the country.

This reminds me of the Wages Bill to which the Governor has very lately given his assent. This is a very necessary piece of legislation and the Minister of labour should immediately create the necessary machinery to enforce the Wages Law in every trade.

Recruits to The C. L. I.

A Call to the Youth

Vavuniya, Thursday.

At a meeting held on Wednesday at Rambai Kulam Mr. Sam. T. Solomons, President of the Point Pedro Maha Jana Sabha, addressed the young men of Vavuniya, calling upon them to join the C. L. I., and the C. R. A. There was need of recruits, he said and the young men could not do better than join up The C. L. I. and the C. R. A. were units though minor ones, no doubt, of the British Imperial Army, the Army of Empire on which the sun never sets; and anyone should be proud of being member of such an army.

Besides the usefulness of a Military Training in times of war, Mr. Solomons touched on the disciplinary value of such a training on the body and the mind. The speaker regretted that schools did not provide military training as part of education, and he was sorry to find certain schools opposed in principle to the giving of military education in schools. There was a time when Ceylon was independent of every other country for the articles of consumption but today Ceylon was dependent on India, Burma, Japan, and some European countries for practically everything including defence. Mr. Solomons said if he were the Dictator of Ceylon, he would re-organise the Education of the country; The morning hour 8-12 would be devoted to the academic subjects; and the afternoon hours devoted to military training and to the teaching of Industries. Incidentally, the speaker said that he had been sent by Point-Pedro Maha Jana Sabha to South India to study Cottage Industries. Ceylon could learn much from India, he concluded.

Mr. A. A. Puchi Banda, of the Irrigation Department, proposed, a vote of thanks to the lecturer for having come down from Point Pedro to make that inspiring call to join the C. L. I., and C. R. A. He was struck by the interest Mr. Solomons took in the people of his country and particularly in the poor of Point Pedro. He wished Mr. Solomons would come often to Vavuniya. Mr. Puchi Banda concluded by saying that he had just heard from the convener of the meeting that six young men had given in their names as recruits to the C. L. I.

The meeting came to a close with a Garden Party in honour of Mr. Solomons. (Cor)

CEYLON LIGHT INFANTRY

Recruits Wanted

Applicants must conform to the following: (a) Age: under 30 years. (b) Education: passed Seventh Standard, English. (c) Height: 5 ft. 4 ins. (d) Chest: 32 ins. normal (e) Unmarried.

Selected candidates must undergo a three week training in Colombo.

After his training an allowance of Rs. 40:00 for mensem. will be given.

Those intend joining, please see Mr. Sam. T. Solomons, President, Maha Jana Sabha, Point Pedro.

Progress of Co-operation in the North

(Continued from page 2)

but will be a monument to the soundness of Co-operative Finance in the Island (applause).

Govt Behind the Industry

"My remarks would of course be incomplete if I did not refer to the work of the Jaffna-Malayalam Tobacco Sale Society. In fact the Jaffna-Malayalam Tobacco Sale Society is the hub of your economic universe and I am very glad to see the progress made by the society. When I addressed the society three years ago, its membership was some 600 or so. To-day, it has nearly 2000 members and practically every Malayalam Tobacco farmer of any consequence is in its membership. Last year it took in nearly 70% of the year's crop and this year the Local Loans and Development Fund have been asked to lend it six lacs for its business. These are matters for satisfaction, but I am also not unaware of the developments that have been going on in both Jaffna and Travancore in regard to the Malayalam tobacco industry. Recently, the Excise Commissioner of Travancore himself has been to Ceylon to survey conditions of the industry, and his visit is proof of the importance that the Jaffna tobacco trade has for Travancore. I have no doubt that he has been able to see for himself the commanding position the society occupies in the industry, and I trust in the consequence of his researches he will be satisfactory to both Travancore and Ceylon.

In the meantime I can assure you that Government is just as behind the industry as ever. But I must ask you always to keep in mind that whatever support government is prepared to give the industry will always be given only through the society. It has given the society a guarantee against loss; it has given it an expensive processing house and godowns and it has secured for it much larger finance than any other financier would be able to give the whole industry taken together. All this support Government will continue to give the industry, but on the distinct understanding that the industry supports the society." (applause)

".....You must remember that Ceylon has given full swaraj to the co-operative movement before Ceylon herself has been able to attain Swaraj. You know that under the co-operative law co-operation itself is the final arbitrator in all its disputes and that not even the Supreme Court of the country can intervene in co-operative matters. You must be proud of this privilege and you must learn not to air your differences in public and mislead the public into the belief that all is not well with the co-operative movement in Ceylon.

"Gentlemen, I must ask you to forgive me for keeping you so long. You have done very good work last year and in the past and may you continue to maintain the record with the same diligence in future" (applause) (H. O. Cor.)

Notice to Correspondent

A LOOKER ON: We have considered your letter and regret we cannot publish it. [Ed]

Rural Reconstruction Society Vacation Course Cancelled

The vacation course arranged by the North Ceylon Rural Reconstruction Society to be held at the Parameshvara College from the 25th to the 30th instant has been cancelled owing to the inability of Rev. R. K. Keithan, who was to have presided and guided the course, not being permitted to land in Ceylon.

Indo - Ceylon Talks

(Continued from page 3)

the Mid and Low-Country? The tea and rubber industries need that. A number of labour depots were established in 1937, the Planters gave special facilities and higher wages but how many Sinhalese took advantage of these? Anyone with a knowledge of economics will admit that Ceylon has not passed the intermediate stage mentioned by Marx, during which it is profitable for a country to attract foreign labour and foreign capital. The grandiose colonisation schemes attempted have not yet shown any marked degree of success. Laws were there against Chettiar money-lenders. But not only were the proposals given up but Ministers of State invited and welcomed Indian Banks to open branches. It is moonshine to suggest that the great industries on which the prosperity of the Island depends, can do without Indian labour. Further it will be suicidal for Ceylon to forget that the market also lies outside its territory. If the Indian labourers return to their country and expand the Indian tea and rubber industries, Ceylon's economic structure will tumble like a house of cards.

For decades Ceylonese have been like the sleeping partners in a flourishing concern or like the owners of beehives. For decades Ceylonese maintained their high standard of living by taking part of the difference between the wages paid to Indians and the prices fetched by their work, but the slump reduced this difference. Then began under-payments and dismissals. Of the 123,000 thrown out of work in the period 100,000 returned to India. It is the duty of the State to support workers during off-seasons, illness and old age; but Ceylon shirks this duty and wants the right to use Indians when there is work and send them back when there is none. Nowhere else in the world has there been such systematic exploitation of one nation by another.

I have dealt with the three major aspects of the economic exploitation of the Indians by the Ceylonese. The general belief that India exploits Ceylon is based on ignorance of economics. A break-down of the coming talks will be enlightening to Ceylon herself. I, therefore, appeal to the Ceylon Ministers to make a friendly gesture. They can, for example, offer to reinstate those who have been discontinued from service recently, or exempt from the ban Indian candidates for employment, who have been in Ceylon for a certain number of years. Such a gesture will cost little and will have a soothing effect as indicative of goodwill and justice.

Let me point out one thing more. The campaign against Indians and the anti-Indian measures in South Africa were instigated by pro-Nazis and inspired by race prejudice. By dwelling upon the South African parallel, Ceylon will unconsciously confess that the motive in her case too is not economic but political and not political so much as racial. I hope that point will be borne in mind during the forthcoming talks so that the traditional goodwill and friendship between India and Ceylon may be preserved.

Jaffna College Alumni Association

Alumni Day 1941

That the Board of Directors of the College had as a result of representations made to them by the Association given the Old Boys the right to send in a Representative to the Board, was the announcement made by the Hon'y Secretary at the Annual General meeting of the Jaffna College Alumni Association held in the Ottley Hall at Vaddukoddai.

The Alumni Day was celebrated on Saturday, 9th August, 1941 and there was a full day programme. Old Boys were seen very early in the morning on the College Tennis Court and the play commenced earlier than timed. A number of games were played and the teams had morning tea at 9 a.m.

At 10.30 a.m. there was a Thanks-giving Service conducted by Mr. K. S. Jayasingham which was well attended. At 12.30 p.m. Lunch was served in the College Dining Hall. The attendance throughout the day was larger than last year.

At 2.30 p.m. the Annual Meeting was held in the Ottley Hall presided over by Mr. Tampoe Buell in the absence of Revd. S. K. Bunker, the President of the Association. After the minutes of the Special General Meeting and the Annual Meeting were read and confirmed Mr. J. F. Ponnambalam, presented the Secretary's report for the year

(Continued on Page 6)

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P. Nadarajah.

Consult, DR. K. T. MANGALAM R.I.M.P., (Madras), M.S.V.S. Member

Chundikuli, Jaffna.

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

POET RABINDRANATH TAGORE

Condolence Meeting at Batticaloa

An extraordinary general meeting of the Teachers and Students of Shivananda Vidyalaya, Batticaloa, was held in the Vidyalaya Hall on Monday the 11th August, 1941 at 4 p.m. to mourn the loss the country has sustained by the passing away of Dr. Rabindranath Tagore. The Principal, Mr. S. Ambalavaner, B. Sc. presided; Messrs V. Nalliah, B. A., and K. Karapathillai, F. R. G. S. spoke on the life, work and the greatness of the great Poet. At the end a condolence resolution was passed, all standing, and a copy of the resolution was telegraphically communicated to the Poet's son, Sjt. Ratndranath Tagore, at Shaantiniketan. (Cor)

Jaffna College Alumni Association

(Continued from page 5)

1940-41 from which the following are extracts:—

"A number of you have taken an active part and most of you have no doubt watched with interest the four-year struggle we have had with a Board of Directors of our Alma Mater (which is composed to a large extent of Alumni); watched the fortunes of war change from time to time. Once again it is heartening to think especially during this world crisis that right must triumph whatever the obstacles and from whatsoever quarters they come. You have just heard the minutes of the Special General Meeting reporting which to the Miscellany I wrote of the "dogged determination" of Old Boys "to see their wrongs righted and their grievances remedied". That determination has told on the directorate.....They have given us one place on the Board when we asked for two and that on certain terms... Yes we have secured one place but shall we rest content? Is one representative adequate for the Alumni and for such active and interested Association with a powerful Branch in Colombo, an Association which is as premier an Institution as the Alma Mater itself. No our voice will be heard. We fight and fight till victory is gained. Our cause is just and the end is certain."

Referring to the Colombo Branch he said "I have been endeavouring to promote a closer relationship between the Parent and Branch Association and have been keeping in touch with the Colombo Branch, sent them the draft rules for election of a representative and the suggestion of having a Life-membership. We have also been backing our Branch in Colombo in its endeavour especially with regard to the Vaddukoddai Post Office. Such mutual understanding and cooperation is very necessary and I trust that the future office-bearers both here and in Colombo will always bear this in mind. There was a time when we used to elect one or two of our Vice-Presidents from among the Old Boys in Colombo. This has been dropped during recent years. As I was writing this report, it struck me that it may be a good policy to form some scheme for so unifying our efforts and activities. We may if necessary increase the number of Vice-Presidents. It is only proper that the Branch Associations should find a place in the Parent Association. I shall leave this suggestion to you for thought and action."

The Report as well as the Treasurer's Balance Sheet were adopted.

A sincere vote of condolence was passed, the members standing, in respectful memory of those Old Boys who had died during the year under review.

The constitution was amended making the Annual Membership fee Rs. 2/- and providing for a Life-Membership on payment of Rs. 20/- payable in four instalments within a period of two years from the first payment.

The rules for the election of a Representative to the Board of Directors drafted by the Sub-Committee and passed by the Executive Committee were then placed before the House and adopted.

The question of the Bicknell Memorial was discussed at length and it was decided that a Pavilion should be erected in the Bicknell

EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN

Penal Section Added to Ordinance

The draft of an Ordinance to amend the Employment of Women (Revised Convention) Ordinance No. 16 of 1940 was gazetted on Saturday.

The Ordinance is amended by the addition of the following new subsection:—

"Any person who employs a woman in contravention of the provisions of sub-section (1) shall be guilty of an offence and shall, on conviction after summary trial before a Magistrate, be liable to a fine not exceeding three hundred rupees."

Objects and Reasons

The object of this Bill is to insert in the Employment of Women (Revised Convention) Ordinance, No. 16 of 1940, provision to the effect that a person who employs a woman in contravention of the provisions of section 2 of that Ordinance is guilty of an offence punishable with a fine not exceeding three hundred rupees. It is considered desirable that a specific penal section should be inserted in the Ordinance and that the amount of the fine should be equated to that prescribed for the corresponding offence in the Hours of Employment (Conventions) Act, 1936, of the Imperial Parliament.

Field, if funds permit installing a clock and for that purpose to carry on the collection of funds.

Office-bearers

The election of Office-bearers was then proceeded with and resulted as follows:—

President: Revd. Sydney K. Bunker, (re-elected.)

Vice-Presidents: Dr. J. M. Somasundram, Mr. V. Nagalingam, Dr. J. T. Amarasingham, Mr. S. H. Perinpanayagam.

Hony. Secretary: Mr. J. F. Ponnambalam, (re-elected.)

Hony. Treasurer: Mr. E. J. Jeyarajah, (re-elected.)

Executive Committee: Messrs. A. M. Brodie, V. C. Kathiravelu, M. Kathiravelu, R. C. S. Cooke, K. S. Jeyasingham, J. S. Lewis, A. W. Nadarajah, Mudr. V. Ponnampalam, K. A. Selliah, A. R. Subramaniam, C. Subramaniam, A. C. Sundrampillai, C. K. Tambe, and T. Vinayamoorthy.

Then the members walked across to the Principal's bungalow where the Acting Principal, Mr. K. A. Selliah entertained them to a grand tea. This was followed by a Football Match and a Concert by the college students presided over by Mr. S. R. Kanaganayagam.

The Alumni Dinner was served in the administrative block and over 125 sat. The service was prompt and the menu good. Mr. T. Buell presided and the Very Revd Father Emilianus Pillai, Vicar General, proposed the toast of the College to which the Acting Principal responded. Mr. P. C. Gausson proposed the "Ceylon" toast responded to by Dr. A. E. Doraiswamy while Mr. Vethaparanam toasted the "Sister Colleges" to which Dr. Miss. E. M. Thilliampalam responded. Mr. Advocate C. K. Tambe proposed the toast of "Our Guests" and Mr. Manickavasagar responded. The singing of the College song brought the celebration of the day to a close. (Cor)

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