

THE Hindu Organ.

The Only Newspaper in Ceylon for the Hindus

Editor:
A. V. Kulasingham, Advocate.

PUBLISHED EVERY MONDAY AND THURSDAY

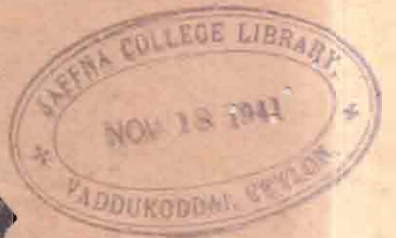
VOL. LIII.

'Phone 56.

JAFFNA, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 1941.

Price 5 Cts.

NO. 59.



TURNING JUNGLE LAND INTO FARMS

Big Projects

"WE are investigating and designing projects which, when constructed, will dwarf into comparative insignificance many of the great ancient irrigation works of Ceylon," said Mr. A. P. Weir, Acting Director of Irrigation addressing the irrigation learners at their Training School on Nov. 15.

"As soon as our heavy equipment arrives we will embark on a programme of pre-agricultural development which will convert vast stretches of jungle land into homesteads for peasants and colonists," he added.

"In order to develop the country with reasonable speed we are resorting to the use of machinery. We are using mechanical excavators whose daily output is each equivalent to a labour force of more than 100 men, and these machines are working day and night.

"We have gigantic scrapers which scoop up and carry and deposit as much earth as can be taken by a dozen bullock carts at four times the speed and only one man is required to operate these machines.

"We have also a few tractors fitted with special implements which will plough through forest like a herd of elephants and make their own paths

ACREAGE TO BE TRIPLED

along hillside slopes, but this is not enough. Development is not taking place fast enough.

"We have at present nineteen engineers recruited from Great Britain, Canada, U. S. A. Egypt, Australasia, and India to fill temporarily the gaps which exist in our technical staff. We are contemplating the employment of Italian prisoners of war who are experts in the use of our machinery to train our mechanics.

Trebling Acreage

"IT may surprise you to know that this Island contains 16½ million acres of land and on only 3½ million acres are crops of any description grown," remarked Mr. Weir. "Of this smaller extent just under one million acres are devoted to rice-growing—the staple food of the Island—and more than half of these paddy fields have to depend solely on rain water for their cultivation.

"In 1940 alone 550,000 tons of rice were imported to help to feed our population—no less than 19½ million bushels of rice, which is equivalent to 38½ million bushels of paddy. To make the Island self-supporting a further two million acres of paddy fields must be created,

or in other words, we must treble our existing acreages and provide sufficient storage to ensure that they can be successfully cultivated.

"At the present rate of expenditure which has almost doubled in the last decade, it would take eighty years to achieve this result, and it is apparent that if rapid and substantial progress is to be made towards achieving this ideal, this Department which I am at present administering must be greatly expanded.

"Last year alone, more than Rs. 65½ million were sent out of the country to pay for imported rice to feed the population. It requires little imagination to appreciate the benefits which would accrue to our cultivators if it had been possible to purchase this essential commodity from them rather than from India, Burma and Thailand."

Men with "Guts"

EXPLAINING what life in the Irrigation Department meant, Mr. Weir said: "Every officer entering this Department has the same chance, but few make the effort...and no puny effort will suffice! Thirteen of my assistants who join-

ed as irrigation learners are now holding important executive posts.

"One in fact has just been posted to be in charge of the most important and responsible construction job in this Department—the restoration of and development under the Parakrama Samudra (Topawewa) Scheme on which we will spend Rs. 2,000,000—at the age of 37, whilst another of the same age has been allotted the task of creating a new branch in connexion with colonization schemes, under my administration.

"None of these thirteen men had anything like the academic qualifications with which you are entering my service. The youngest is only 33, and the oldest 44, but each has been chosen because he has displayed those essential qualifications to advancement....common sense, the will to succeed, powers of organization, and above all 'guts'."

"The engineering problems which confront us today are more complex and their solutions more exacting than those which confronted this Department even a few years ago.

"In consequence we have built and equipped a research laboratory wherein small scale models can be constructed and the actual conditions which obtain in nature artificially simulated. This enables us to examine before actual construction the effects which many of our large works will have on the surrounding country and by accelerating the time-scale we can observe in a few hours the changes which in nature would take years to effect.

JAPAN GETTING READY FOR A CONFLICT

Tokyo, Friday.

THE indications still are that Japan, though possibly reluctant, is ready to go to the limit for her "immediate policies."

Two definite measures taken today are regarded as preparatory to the picking up of the verbal gauntlet thrown down by Britain and America.

The first is the Cabinet decision to treble the military budget of last Spring which was the largest in Japanese history. The new appropriations amounting to 3,800,000,000 yen (about £212,000,000) will be specially devoted to strengthening naval armaments. The second is the revision of the army conscription regulations to permit the calling-up of all

DEFINITE MEASURES BY CABINET

men exempted as physically unfit since 1931.

The latter measure, which comes into force tomorrow, includes all classes up to 31 years of age. It also provides for the return to active service, when needed, of non-commissioned officers up to 41 and officers of 51 on reserve lists.

This is a tantamount to a new drive for men for the army. All men examined by the military authorities and exempted on medical or other grounds since 1930 will now be liable for active service, according to a new Imperial ordinance expected to be gazetted tomorrow and to take

immediate effect. The new ordinance, which, it is understood, was approved in draft by the Cabinet this afternoon, will, it is learned, provide for the re-examination of all men who have been rejected for active military service since 1930. Those who are considered fit for active service will be called up.

The Cabinet is also reported to have approved a supplementary ordinance which will deprive Japanese men subject to military service living in China, Hongkong and Macao of the privilege hitherto enjoyed by them of deferring their service until their return

to Japan. Men still found unfit for active front-line service, it is understood, may be mobilised for home defence duty as hospital workers and "spotters" against enemy aircraft in case of war.

The nature of the special Diet session opening on Sunday is indicated by the fact that Japan is now preparing for a military outlay nearly thrice that deemed necessary last spring when the biggest war budget in her history was approved.

Well-informed Tokyo circles consider that the United States neutrality revision is certain to aggravate the situation both in the Atlantic and the Pacific, according to the Domei agency. It is deemed approval of Mr. Roosevelt's war policies.



Hindu Organ.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 1941

PRESERVATION OF ANURADHAPURA

THE DEBATE IN THE STATE Council on the second reading of the Ordinance for the prohibition or control of the erection of buildings and of the sale or disposal of land in and in the neighbourhood of Anuradhapura is one of those incidents which show that, once people begin to distrust and suspect one another, there is no limit to the extent to which opposition to the most harmless measure sponsored by members of the majority community may be carried. We have ourselves condemned in these columns the proposal to spend public money, at a time of great financial stringency and uncertainty, on the preliminary work connected with the preservation of the ancient city and the creation of a new city at some distance from the old. But, the discussion in the State Council proceeded on communal lines and so did the voting. There is a lesson to be learnt from all this. The voting in the Council is bound to be on communal lines, if any attempt is made to divide the House on communal grounds, be these true or false. Only one speaker, Mr. Freeman, confined himself to the merits of the question and tried to convince the House of what was going to happen if the Ministers tried to create cities without regard for natural and economic conditions. Mr. Freeman objected to the proposal to demolish the old town "and the pushing out of the people into a waterless and shade-less country beyond the city". "Are we to live in a vadia or concentration camp for some years when we are dug out?", asked Mr. Freeman. It must be remembered that conditions in Anuradhapura have greatly improved in recent times as a result of the anti-malarial measures taken by the Government. The town is fairly prosperous, and, when Mr. Senanayake's efforts towards agricultural expansion bear fruit, Anuradhapura will be the centre of a prosperous farming area. To aspire to greater things for Anuradhapura at a time like the present when the Government itself is getting short of cash is a piece of extravagance which cannot be justified even on religious and sentimental grounds.

When, however, we look at the division list, we find that

the 38 members who voted for the Ordinance were not impressed by Mr. Freeman's arguments. These members are the representatives of the majority of the tax-paying population of Ceylon. It is the money of their constituents that they propose to invest in the building of new cities in the heart of the jungle. As long as their constituents are satisfied with the proposed expenditure, we fail to see what useful purpose can be served by dividing the Council on an issue in regard to which the members who voted for the measure still apparently have the confidence of those whose interests they are bound to protect. If squander-mania of this type leads to the appointment of a receiver and the suspension of the Constitution, it is more their business than ours. The duty of our members is to give considered advice, and if this is not accepted, all that they can do is to keep quiet, without importing racial or communal arguments into the discussion.

We are unable to see from the report of the discussion appearing in the daily press what grounds there were for the contention that the proposal before the House was only an attempt to oust the Tamils from Anuradhapura. We have heard this charge made outside the State Council as well. But what are the facts? According to Mr. Senanayake most of the land in Anuradhapura was held by the Sinhalese. There is a large Tamil speaking population also, owning land in and outside the town. The Ministers cannot, by any stretch of imagination, oust the Tamils without ousting the Sinhalese. Besides, it is quite clear from some of the speeches that the proposal before the House did not have a political origin. Mr. D. Wanigasekara assured our representatives that this proposal did not originate from the Sinhala Maha Sabha; that it was for the first time put forward by well-known Buddhist leaders, and that there was no racial discrimination involved in it. Similar assurances were given by Mr. Senanayake and other leaders. Among the representatives of the minorities who took part in the debate, Mr. Jayah, though he is not an elected representative, was the only one to take a prudent course. He affirmed that the preservation of the Ancient City was not the concern of any one community: it was the common heritage of all the people of this country. Mr. Jayah, however, took up the position that, if he was assured that the interests of the people who were at present resident in the city would be safeguarded, he would support the Bill. And he did support the Bill.

Charges of racial or communal discrimination should not be made lightly. No community stands to gain by it. We cannot, in fairness to ourselves, proceed on mere suspicion. Those who lead the Tamils must take particular care to see that they avoid this evil, if their usefulness to their own community is not to be curtailed.

Notes & Comments

India and Ceylon

MAHATMA GANDHI'S appeal to our Ministers to refrain from wholesale legislation with reference to Indians during the period of the war will not, we hope, fall on deaf ears. As Mahatma Gandhi says, the war is a terrible tragedy, "the like of which is unknown to history". The supply of Indian labour can be easily adjusted to suit Ceylon's requirements by administrative action. If, however, the Ceylon Ministers are determined to place the recommendations of the Joint Delegation, after these are accepted by the respective Governments concerned, on the statute book, Mahatmaji recommends that the whole of the Indian population found in Ceylon on a given date should be registered and clothed with full rights of citizenship. This certainly avoids the intricacies which mar the Joint Report, but the fact has to be remembered that it is just this wholesale registration of Indians as being eligible for rights of citizenship that has been opposed all along by the Ministers in Ceylon. The latter have always insisted on fixing a definite period of residence as a necessary qualification for citizenship. The mischief done by the Joint Report is to give up this simple method of dealing with the situation and substitute for it all the complications of the English law of domicile, which, as Mahatma Gandhi says, "is the worst possible." We wonder whose brain wave it was that selected the English law of domicile to weight the scales against the Indian labourers.

A Wise Leader

IT is not that U. Saw, unlike Mr. D. S. Senanayake, was born with the silver spoon of successful politics in his mouth or that astrologers predicted that he would do great things for Burma. The truth is that U. Saw is a wise Burman who knows how to do his best for his country. Mr. Senanayake and his followers are now planning a boycott of the proposed Parliamentary Commission, but U. Saw is evidently an even-tempered, resourceful individual who does not believe in sulkiness all round as an effective political weapon. In a recent message to the press he says: "I will convey to my people the recent assurance of Mr. Amery that when discussions which we have undertaken to hold are concluded, we mean to go as far and as fast as we can on the road to Dominion status." This is good news. But he goes further and promises that he will not relax Burma's war effort. "I will march with Britain and her Allies," he added, "along the path that Providence has set for us." This is something which the British can and will appreciate at a moment like the present.

Suppose

SUPPOSE U. Saw's first political act in London was a predatory announcement about foreign interests. What would have happened? All that one can say is that even U. Saw with all his smiles would have turned sour at the reception. The right word at the right moment always helps. Or suppose that U. Saw followed the example of Mr. Bandaranaike and tried to discourage contributions to the War fund, or that in the Burma Legislature members tried to poke fun at the R. A. F. It is quite easy to see what would have happened. Neither Mr. Amery nor anybody else would have given him any promises, and U. Saw would have returned to Burma without interviewing the President of the United States. The politicians now in power in Ceylon had every opportunity of planting themselves firmly on the road to Dominion status, and interviewing Prime Ministers and Pre-

sidents. But, they did not take it. It is, however, never too late to mend. Let them follow the example of U. Saw and cultivate the spirit of sweet reasonableness.

Hindu Temples

MR. S. Dharmaretnam, Member for Batticaloa, has given notice of the following motion in the State Council: "That in view of the fact that Hindu temples are subject to ceaseless litigation and that there is rampant maladministration of the Hindu temporalities, this Council resolves that early steps be taken for codifying the customs relating to the management of Hindu temples." The main defect in the Trusts Ordinance is that it leaves the task of framing schemes of management for Hindu temples to Courts of law which have to be set in motion by the worshippers themselves. This is in itself a costly and slow proceeding. There is no reason why the Legislature should not lay down specifically and in detail the principles that should govern the management of all Hindu Temples and their temporalities and create the necessary machinery to see that the law is obeyed. The language of the motion gives it a somewhat restricted scope. It is not enough to codify the customs. We must also see that the administrative machinery is provided to ensure that the management of temples conforms to the law. We trust that Hindu members of the State Council will avail themselves of the opportunity afforded by Mr. Dharmaretnam's motion to help the cause of their own temples. The present position is extremely unsatisfactory.

The Psychological Movement

IN an article published in the last issue of the "Hindu Organ" Mr. C. Arulambalam suggests that the present is the psychological moment for the reconstitution of the different Executive Committees and the Board of Ministers. "A composite Board of Ministers on which every community is represented", says Mr. Arulambalam, "will have the confidence of every section of the people who will look upon it as constituting a National Government. Then the ground will be set for the formulation of an agreed Constitution which the Imperial Government will be bound to accept as voicing the political aspirations of a United Ceylon." In reconstituting the Executive Committees Mr. Senanayake will do well to discard the mathematical formula devised by Mr. Suntheralingam. The formation of a Ministry representative of all sections of the people presents no inherent difficulty, unless the real difficulty is, as some persons suspect, that some of the present Ministers cannot be persuaded to leave their posts unless indeed the posts incontinently leave them.

When Ministers Disagree

"WHEN Ministers disagree," writes "Tatlar" in the "Times of Ceylon," "the public are puzzled. Mr. Bandaranaike wants to engage Mr. Senanayake in public debate on the Indo-Ceylon agreement, but as the saying goes Mr. Senanayake is backward in coming forward. He is probably reserving all his ammunition for the debate in the State Council. Why can't Mr. Bandaranaike be homogeneous on this great national issue? What will the Secretary of State for the Colonies, whom the Board of Ministers were elected to impress by their homogeneity, think if on so important a question they don't present a united front?" The reply is that Mr. Bandaranaike is busy building up a homogenous, united front of his own, and that such a small thing as the Secretary of State for the Colonies is entirely outside his calculations.

REASONS FOR A ROYAL COMMISSION

The Donoughmore Commission

THIS brings me, Sir, to the Donoughmore Commissioners themselves. I think it has been witnessed on the Floor of this House that several members treat the findings of the Donoughmore Commission as their gospel with regard to certain questions. Notably with regard to the question of adult franchise and the question of the abolition of communal representation, hon. members are never tired of saying that there is a categorical finding of the Donoughmore Commissioners and the question cannot be reopened. I venture to disagree with that. The whole question of Constitutional reforms was reviewed and gone into by the Donoughmore Commissioners, and if they came to a question of finding on facts on one point as on another, when the main questions are under review, I think other questions which some hon. Members may consider as equally important must be reviewed, notably the question of representation.

Hon. Members will appreciate the fact that the Donoughmore Commissioners have said, in recommending the Committee System, that it was a safeguard for the minorities. Racial or balanced representation which obtained under the last constitution was removed because they felt that by a system of Government by Executive Committees the minorities would have a very strong voice in the government of the country. The history of the country during the last 7 or 8 years during which time the Donoughmore Constitution has been worked, will show that those anticipations of the Donoughmore Commissioners have been completely nullified. I am stating my case very shortly.

The Ministers' Demands

Now, Sir, the demand of the Board of Ministers, particularly of the representatives of the major community in this country, is for the abolition of the Committee System. I cannot understand why hon. Members feel that the ipse dixit of the Commissioners with re-

Cast-Iron Majority in Council

The following is a continuation of Mr. G. G. Ponnambalam's speech in the State Council on his motion for the appointment of a Parliamentary Commission:—

gurd to representation must remain an established fact for now and hereafter, whilst their other findings have got to be the subject of review. I do not think one need labour the point. One has only to state a case, if there is a case, to review their findings on one aspect of the Constitution when there will certainly be a case for reviewing their findings on the other aspects. It would not do for hon. Members to say that into this or that aspect of the Constitution the Commissioners have gone very fully.

It is not for me to reflect on the Donoughmore Commissioners, on their findings on the question of representation. But I do say that an absence of a strong personnel with a knowledge of Eastern affairs has

By

G. G. Ponnambalam

brought about this parlous condition in representation.

We are fortunate that under the British National Government there are people like Lord Halifax who was at one time Viceroy of India, Sir Samuel Hoare who was Secretary of State for India for some time, Sir John Simon who has toured India for over two years as a Member of the Statutory Commission, and Mr. Chamberlain who has been in close and intimate contact with Indian affairs, to realise that this question, even in a small country like Ceylon, cannot be solved except by a commission with intimate experience, administrative and otherwise, of affairs of the Eastern Empire.

It would not do, Sir, for us to imagine that those in Whitehall can possibly envisage or appreciate the number of problems that con-

front a country composed as Ceylon is. We must not forget—and I shall not tire of reiterating this point—that an instrument of democracy fit for homogeneous population cannot possibly be expected to function in a country divided as we are in Ceylon on bases of race, religion, language and caste.

The Actual Fact

Some hon. members may be rather impatient that we should ask for a Royal Commission when the whole question of Reforms has been debated, and debated at some length on the Floor of this House. Now what is the actual fact? Was there a single matter upon which our gravest apprehensions have not materialised? Every single result, every single division was a forgone conclusion. In this connexion, Mr. Deputy Speaker, will you permit me to read a few lines from an editorial from the Sinhalese edited and Sinhalese owned newspaper, namely, the "Daily News" on the subject of the debates on the various motions of the Legal Secretary and the amendments moved thereon. After commenting on the division in the House on the question of the seizure of Members' allowances, the leader-writer goes on to say:

"It is not for these decisions of the Council that the Secretary of State for Colonies is waiting with feverish anxiety. We have no doubt whatever that the Secretary of State will treat most of these proceedings with the contempt which they have earned....."

Sir, this is the editorial of the leading Sinhalese newspaper in the Island, and it cannot possibly be said that is biased in favour of the minorities.

The hon. Member for Kandy grudges the fact that I am in agreement with the Editor of the "Daily News" once in a way. I do not know what he will have to say to another editorial in the "Times of Ceylon". The Editors of these two newspapers which politically represent two completely divergent schools of thought are in absolute agreement on the fact that the divisions and decisions of this House on the Reforms questions were foregone conclusions.

This is what the Editor of the "Times of Ceylon" has to say on the subject:

"With a few exceptions these majorities consist of Sinhalese the well favoured community in the present and proposed constitution. Being in a position of advantage by reason of their predominance in the Council, they are naturally in favour of undisturbed possession of power....."

The Editor goes on to say further down:-

"Therefore on some pretext or other, the amendments have been thrown out....."

That is, the amendments moved by members of the minority communities. The writer concludes the editorial as follows:-

"The Government of India faced with a similar problem adopted a solution which has been found to work satisfactorily. After giving the squabbling communities a chance of putting forward an agreed plan the Prime Minister was compelled to frame the communal award. Applying the same principle to the similar problem in Ceylon we have urged the appointment of a Royal Commission which would bring within its purview not merely the question of representation, but all other relevant questions. This proposal has received the support of all intelligent persons. The rapidly deteriorating financial position of the Government is another powerful consideration in favour of the appointment of a Royal Commission. Unless a fair and searching investigation of the whole situation in Ceylon is launched, the future of this Island is fraught with peril."

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

BALANCED REPRESENTATION

Sir,—Your correspondent who writes on balanced representation in your issue of Nov. 6 is either too obtuse to grasp the argument repeated ad nauseam against it, or—which seems more probable—wilfully perverse. We cannot think of a political demand which the Tamils can make as Tamils which they cannot make as Ceylonese. It is absurd to pretend to be concerned about the future of the Island unless one first feels that he is a Ceylonese. Your correspondent is aware of this and he seeks to establish the principle of Ceylon for the Ceylonese. The political future before Ceylon will be the future of the Ceylonese not merely of Sinhalese or Tamils. The words Tamils or Sinhalese may be convenient to us to make certain

cultural and linguistic distinctions. On the political level they merely stand for a bundle of prejudices and abject fear. Communal consciousness implies disintegration. By no stretch of imagination can it be made to lead to racial unity. Your correspondent calls balanced representation 'an article of faith'. It is absurd to talk of it in glorious terms. If your correspondent examines his own heart he cannot but admit that it is nothing more or less the product of his mistrust and fear. Fear and mistrust never resolved differences. There can be no unity in any community where these monsters reign supreme. To talk about self-government in an atmosphere of suspicion and fear will be merely to dream away in

URBAN COUNCIL FOR POINT PEDRO

PROTEST MEETING

Pursuant to a notice issued by representative residents of the Sanitary Board of Point Pedro a public meeting of the inhabitants of the Sanitary Board area was held on the 10th inst. at the Paloly Pasupatheeswaran Temple Courtyard. Mr. V. Arunachalam, B. A. Principal, Paloly Boys English

all innocence like your correspondent.
Yours etc.,
Jaffna, "Clear Thinking"
11-11-41.

[If "Clear Thinking" will in future letters omit some of his picturesque adjectives and discuss the question solely on its merits, he will be doing a great service to our readers—Ed. H. O.]

School, was voted to the chair and Mr. K. Udayamoorthy, Retired Postmaster, was elected Secretary.

It was unanimously resolved that as 90 percent of the Tax payers are still poverty stricken and cannot afford to pay for the luxury of an Urban Council; This meeting should emphatically protest against the conversion of the Sanitary Board area of Point Pedro into an Urban Council and appeal to the Ministry of Local Administration to satisfy itself about the hardship that will ensue by visiting and/or holding a referendum before advising His Excellency the Governor to issue proclamation. It was also resolved to forward copies of the resolution to the Member for Point Pedro for suitable action and to His Excellency the Governor and to the Councillors and to appoint a deputation consisting of Messrs. V. Arunachalam, R.W.M. Walter, Sam. T. Solomons, T. V. Kandiah, and K. Udayamoorthy to interview the Executive Committee of Local Administration.

(Pt. Pedro Cor.)

THE INDO-CEYLON AGREEMENT

ABSENCE OF RACIAL ANIMUS

THE "Indian Social Reformer" writes:—

The Indo-Burma Agreement was criticised even more for the composition and methods of the Indian delegation than for its contents. It was urged that the Indian delegation to Ceylon on a like errand should have non-officials associated with the official Leader. Government recognised the force of this suggestion and nominated Mr. T. R. Venkatarama Sastry and, Sir Mirza Ismail—two better men could not have been selected—to the delegation, with the Hon. Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai, the Member in charge of the portfolio of Indians Overseas, now a separate Department in charge of Mr. M. S. Aney, as leader. After nearly three weeks negotiation with the Ceylon delegation during which it almost broke down owing to acute differences, the terms of a settlement were agreed to and they have been published. As the Delegation was intended to do only exploratory work, these terms are now under consideration by the two Governments. Strange as it may seem, Ceylon Indian criticisms of this agreement are even stronger than those of the Indo-Burma Agreement. The Indo-Ceylon agreement is even denounced by some Ceylon Indians as being worse than the Indo-Burma Agreement. If that be true, the addition of non-official Indians to the delegation has not had the effect expected of it. This, however, is hardly likely and for our part we are inclined to think that the critics have not taken into account or are ignoring some essential factors which were present to the minds of the Indian delegation and influenced their judgment. One of these might well have been the absence of the racial animus which dictated the interpolation of the odious marriage and "cohabitation" clause in the Indo-Burma Agreement. The agitation against that Agreement has been almost entirely conducted with reference to its effects on business and this clause if not entirely ignored has been accorded a minor and perfunctory place in the representations against it. The absence of such a clause in the Indo-Ceylon Agreement, shows that there is no racial animus in the approach to the problem of Indian immigration on the part of Government and the people of Ceylon. On the contrary, there seems to be a sincere desire to encourage assimilation and to promote the evolution of a single Ceylonese nationality. While the Burma Agreement made marriages between Indians and Burmese null and void unless contracted with the approval of a Cabinet Minister, and made the Indian liable to be deprived of his permit if he "cohabited" with a Burmese woman, the Ceylon Agreement accords the domicile of birth to children born of parents both or either of whom was born in Ceylon. This, in our opinion, is a distinction between the attitude of the Burma and Ceylon Governments which radically differentiates the background of the relations between India and

her two neighbours. Racially and culturally as well as geographically, Ceylon stands closer to India than Burma which, as we have repeatedly observed, has just cause for disturbing Indians owing to the part the latter have played in depriving her of her independence.

In discussing Indo-Ceylonese relations, the opinion of the solid and prosperous Tamil population of Jaffna must be given special weight. The Jaffna Tamils have been established long before the Sinhalese settled in Ceylon and form a strong link between India and Ceylon. To this community belongs the credit of producing the only Ceylonese of international reputation, Ananda Coomaraswamy. The Jaffna Tamils have observed silence in regard to the Indo-Ceylon dispute hitherto. Now their organ, the "Hindu Organ", has expressed what is no doubt the judgment of Jaffna Hindus on the terms of the present agreement. The point of view of the Jaffna Tamils is somewhat different from that of the Indians in Colombo. While the Jaffna people are indigenous, the latter largely look on India as their motherland. The "Hindu Organ" commenting on the Agreement, observes that the people of Ceylon without distinction of race desire to restrict immigration from India.

"The desire is perfectly natural and desirable," it continues. "In no country would the permanent population like to allow itself to be swamped by immigrants who are not permanent settlers. It is, therefore, satisfactory to note that the Indian delegates have accepted the principle of restriction in regard to immigration of Indians into Ceylon. The requirements of agriculture in backward areas are met, to a great extent, by the provisions in regard to re-entry into Ceylon of former Indian labourers."

The "Hindu Organ" expresses surprise that the Indian Delegation should have agreed to the recommendation about franchise. Indians resident in Ceylon prior to the date when the Immigration Ordinance comes into force, are entitled to registration as possessing a domicile of choice in Ceylon, "on production to the Registering officer of proof that the person to be registered has satisfied a Court that, after having had five years residence in Ceylon, he has acquired a domicile of choice in Ceylon according to the rules of English law regarding the acquisition of a domicile of choice." The "Hindu Organ" rightly remarks that the ignorant Indian labourers will find it almost impossible to take advantage of the permission given to satisfy a court as to their domicile of choice. The Jaffna journal does not notice this practical impossibility vitiates its belief that the requirements of agriculture in backward areas are met by the right given to former Indian labourers of re-entry into Ceylon. Since Indians themselves find it profitable to emigrate to Ceylon, admits the "Hindu Organ," some compromise was called for and this is what the two delegations have tried to achieve. Emigration is always from a country from a

JURISDICTION OF V. T's

Discussion in Council

AT the meeting of the State Council on Tuesday last, Mr. Drayton moved the second reading of "an Ordinance to amend and consolidate the law relating to the establishment, jurisdiction and powers of Village Tribunals and to make provision for matters connected therewith."

Mr. G. G. Ponnambalam (Point Pedro), while agreeing with the principle of the Bill suggested that the upper limit of the civil jurisdiction of Village Tribunals should not be over Rs. 50. That was necessary in view of the fact that today they had among the Presidents of the Village Tribunals men who had been promoted from Class III of the Clerical Service.

He also suggested that, so far as the criminal jurisdiction of Village Tribunals was concerned, they should not vest in those courts the power of imposing terms of imprisonment in the first instance. But, if the Legal Secretary would insist on that, then the complaining party should be given the right to be represented by Counsel in matters of appeal before a District Judge.

Mr. Geo E. de Silva, in opposing the Bill, said that, if the Legal Secretary had more experience of the country, he would have known that one of the contributory causes for the increase of crime in Ceylon was the existence of Village Tribunals. The people, if given the choice, would not like to go to the Village Tribunals owing to bribery and corruption and, therefore, it was dangerous to entrust greater powers to Village Tribunals. No Village Tribunal President should be kept in one place for more than three years. The provision in the Bill for appeals from Vil-

lower to one with a higher economic standard of life. This is no special feature of Indian emigration to Ceylon. On the other hand, if the requirements of agriculture and industries are adequately met by the local population, the opportunities of immigrants will be few and immigration will automatically cease. The operation of this natural process is interfered with when employers import outside labour because it is cheaper than the local supply, and not because there is not enough supply of labour in the country itself. In such circumstances it is the obvious duty of Government to intervene in the interests of its subjects. But if there is not enough labour in a country, as is the case in Ceylon, Government intervention is detrimental to the interests of the country which imports as much as to those of the country which exports labour. If Indian labour is wanted in Ceylon, it must be treated on the same terms as the indigenous population and not as a servile class. It is the duty of the Government and people to India to protect the interests of their people who seek an honest livelihood in Ceylon by the sweat of their brows.

lage Tribunals to go before District Judges was very welcome.

Indian Labourers

Mr. E. C. Villiers (Nominated) said that having lived in Ceylon for a great many years, particularly in the rural areas, he felt a great personal interest in Gansabawa Courts. He supported the Bill but wished to see certain modifications in it. His chief objection to the Bill was that it gave so much power to those Courts. It was a good thing for the poor man to get his litigation easily, speedily and economically where small sums were concerned, but, at the same time, the widening of the criminal sections went too far. In England there were the J. P.'s Courts, where small cases were dealt with speedily and economically but their jurisdiction did not go to the extent proposed for the Gansabawa Courts.

Mr. Villiers went on to plead for the exclusion from the ambit of the Gansabawa Courts of Indian immigrant labourers and those who did not claim domicile of origin. They had been told that they had no rights in the village. They were treated as outcasts and he did not think they would be hurt if they remained outside the scope of the Gansabawa Courts. If they were brought in, it would increase litigation and add to their quarrels. He also felt that it was wrong in any Court that an accused should not have the right of representation. There was also the language difficulty and in the proposed Bill an interpreter, if brought in had to be paid by the person who brought him.

Mr. G. A. Wille (Nominated) said that the raising of the jurisdiction of those Courts had not come a day too early. The proceedings in a Village Tribunal were to a great extent informal. He trusted that the provision with regard to the class of persons exempted from a Village Tribunal in the old Bill would be restored in the present Bill.

"Extra-Territorial Rights"

Mr. B. H. Aluwihare said that they should have really no distinctions of persons under the jurisdiction of a Court in relation to his colour. They should either have people domiciled in Ceylon under the jurisdiction of the Village Tribunals or all people resident in Ceylon and sought to earn a living, he did not see why they should have extra-territorial rights. If they wanted to exclude people let them be logical and let all non-Ceylonese not domiciled in Ceylon be excluded. They should also insist on Village Tribunal Presidents being able to take the evidence down in the mother tongue.

Mr. Francis de Zoysa (Balapitiya) endorsed the remarks of the member for Point Pedro and asked the Legal Secretary to consider them.

Dr. A. P. de Zoysa opposed the Bill and said that the objects of the Bill would be defeated by it. He thought the Village Tribunals should be Arbitration Courts. People in Ceylon were highly emotional. One moment they would fight and the next they would be friends. If they were Arbitration Courts those quarrels would be settled.

Mr. R. S. S. Gunawardene (Gampola), in supporting the Bill,

Continued on page 5

PRESERVATION OF ANCIENT ANURADHAPURA

DEBATE ON COMMUNAL LINES

AT the meeting of the State Council on Thursday last, Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike (Minister for Local Administration) moved the second reading of the Ordinance for the prohibition or control of the erection and alteration of buildings and of the sale or disposition of land in and in the neighbourhood of Anuradhapura.

Mr. H. R. Freeman (Anuradhapura) opposing the Bill, said that this was totally unnecessary legislation which would act harshly on the townspeople of Anuradhapura. They needed protection from political adventurers. All that was needed was to select spots where there were objects of interest and, if they were private land, to acquire and pay for them straightaway. Where the ruins were on Government land the Government could do what it pleased without legislation.

In one of his speeches the Minister of Local Administration had said early this year that the "successful fruition of this scheme will be seen within two years." But he did not condescend to show any site plan of the proposed new town and there was no indication of what it was to be. Nobody at Anuradhapura, in his sound senses, believed that the scheme could go through in the life-time of even the middle-aged people. So that for a generation the people there would be condemned to live on the permits mentioned in Clause 3 of this 'crazy Bill'. The worst of all was the demolition of the town and the pushing out of the people into a waterless and shadeless country beyond the city.

"Concentration Camp"

As to administration, the three questions that would arise were (1) the demolition of the existing town, (2) the building of a new town, and (3) what was to be done with the population in the interval.

"Are we to live in a vadia or concentration camp for some years when we are dug out?" he asked. Not a word had been said by the Minister on that main point.

Commenting on some of the provisions to which he objected, Mr. Freeman said that the stupidity of clause 10 which provided three months' gaol as a penalty was monumental. Why not make the penalty death by impalement or by elephant torture as in the old Kandyan days?

This Bill, he said, was the outcome of the Minister's contemptuous speeches at political meetings at Anuradhapura in the last two years against everybody at Anuradhapura except the members of his own political caucus.

Mr. G. A. Wille (Nominated) said that he noted that private partition by deed was restricted under this Bill. The reason was that there was some scheme by which land in the town might be exchanged for land outside. But the Bill itself did not speak of any exchange of land.

"No Precedent"

Mr. G. G. Ponnambalam (Point Pedro) said that some of the provisions in the Bill had no kind of precedent that he could think of. He could understand a certain amount of sympathy for the preservation of the ancient monuments. It was not unknown for a modern city to rise up and exist amidst the ruins of an ancient

civilisation, with adequate protection for the ancient monuments. Rome and Delhi were examples.

But what was sought to be done by this Bill was, he said, a species of unabashed expropriation the like of which had not been known. The town of Anuradhapura was occupied in the main by members of the minority communities. Land there was mainly owned by them.

Mr. Simon Abeywickrama (Udugama): It is an anomaly.

Mr. Ponnambalam: It is an anomaly according to the ethics of the Sinhalese Maha Sabha as voiced by its latest prophet! That is an indication of things to come.

If the object was to create a Sinhalese preserve in Anuradhapura it should be said so, he added.

Mr. B. H. Aluwihare (Matale) said that he thought that this Bill was merely to prevent further expansion of the town. He was shocked to hear from the Member for Point Pedro that there was provision for expropriation of land.

The point that rather worried him (Mr. Aluwihare) was what was going to be the future scheme of development. Were they going to have two towns within a few miles of each other? "Time of Elara"

Mr. D. S. Senanayake (Minister of Agriculture and Lands) said that when the Member for Pt. Pedro saw some ulterior object in this measure and when he claimed that the greater portion of Anuradhapura belonged to Tamils, probably he was thinking of the time of Elara. There was no doubt that in that town itself there was no feeling that had been created—and which, he hoped, would never be created—between the Tamils and Sinhalese. They got on very well together. He believed that most of the land there was occupied by Sinhalese. There were certainly provisions in that Bill which needed drastic alteration. But whether Sinhalese or Tamil, everybody should feel that it was desirable to remove the town of Anuradhapura from its present site. One of the earliest things he had done as Minister of Agriculture was to decide that, when the leases there expired, they should not be renewed. He did not think that, because the Sinhala Maha Sabha was active or because there were others who were desirous of creating communal strife, a desirable object should not be achieved.

"Common Heritage"

Mr. George E. de Silva (Kandy) said that, if necessary, they should set apart a certain sum of money for the purpose of acquiring land.

Mr. A. E. Goonesinha (Colombo Central), in supporting the principle of the Bill, said that Anuradhapura was a city sacred to all Sinhalese, Buddhist or Christian, as well as to the Tamils. The Bill, in his opinion, did not go far enough. There should be provision in the Bill to compel anyone, who owned land in the Sacred City, to give up that land

and accept land elsewhere, where such a step was necessary.

Mr. D. Wanigasekera (Weligama) said that the proposal before the House did not originate from the Sinhala Maha Sabha. Some years ago well-known Buddhist leaders had sponsored that proposal. It was not an attempt to oust the Tamils from the City of Anuradhapura. It was only an attempt on the part of the Minister to see that fresh buildings did not come up in the Holy City. There was no racial discrimination involved in it.

Mr. T. B. Jayah (Nominated) said that he would support the Bill if he was assured that the interests of the people who were resident in that city at present would be safeguarded. He maintained that the Muslims owned a large part of the land in Anuradhapura. The Bill did not make provision for compensating owners of land in the present town. There was again the question of an old mosque in the present city. The removal of that mosque would not be tolerated by the Muslims. If any compulsion was to be used to cause its removal, the Muslims would resist any such attempt.

He quite sympathised with the Buddhists in the object they had in view, for he himself had seen that on some of the most sacred spots there had been put-up buildings which only from a commercial point of view might be considered good. The preservation of the Ancient City was not the concern of any one community. It was the common heritage of all the people of this country.

Motion Passed

Mr. Bandaranaike, in reply, deplored the fact that certain members had tried to import into that Bill questions which might justly be described as "utterly unjust he rings drawn across the trail." It was baseless to think that

any scheme for the preservation of Anuradhapura would result in the pulling down of mosques or churches. Any scheme for the preservation of the Holy City would be one that would preserve the monuments, the churches, or whatever else it might be, to whatever religious faith they might belong. The insinuation made by the Member for Point Pedro that that was a plot to harm one community was baseless.

Mr. Ponnambalam: It is not an insinuation; it is a fact.

Mr. Bandaranaike: It is not only not a fact but it is an insinuation which cannot be maintained.

Mr. Freeman: All the speeches made by the Ministers have been to that effect.

Mr. Bandaranaike, continuing, remarked that the Bill had been rather misunderstood. He maintained that the fullest compensation would be paid to anyone whose land it was necessary to acquire for any planning scheme, which was finally approved. That Ordinance, he explained, was merely intended to control the erection of new buildings pending the preparation of a scheme.

The motion was then put to the House and declared carried by 38 votes to 8, the Council dividing as follows:—

Ayes: Messrs. C. W. W. Kannagara, D. S. Senanayake, Bandaranaike, Corea, W. A. de Silva, J. L. Kotalawala, Abeygunasekera, Abeywickrama, Aluwihare, Amarasuriya, Babuwantudave, de Fonseka, G. E. de Silva, Joseph de Silva, A. P. de Zoysa, Francis de Zoysa, H. A. Goonasekera, Goonesinha, Griffith, D. D. Goonesekera, R. S. S. Gunewardena, Ilangatileke, Jayah, A. P. Jayasuriya, D. P. Jayasuriya, R. C. Kannagara, D. H. Kotalawala, Kuruppu, Natesa Iyer, Nugawala, Parfitt, Rajapakse, Ratnayake, Ratwatte, Razik, Dudley Senanayake, Tennekoon and Wanigasekera...38.

Noes: Messrs. Dharmaretnam, Freeman, Mahadeva, Natesan, Ponnambalam, Sri Pathmanathan, Tambimuttu and Wille.....8.

The second reading of the Bill was then passed and it was referred to the Committee of the whole House. The Council decided to take up the further consideration of the Bill on November 27.

JURISDICTION OF V. T'S

Continued from page 4

said that, if the Indian labourers were made to come to Village Tribunals, they would find it necessary to have interpreters. It was hardly fair that the litigant should be penalised by being asked to pay for the interpreter. Besides, there would be a large number of cases from the estate areas and, as a result, the work of the Village Tribunals would be upset. So far as they had not given the Indian labourer a vote in the Village Committees, they should not bring him into those Courts.

Mr. R. C. Kannagara (Morawaka) supported the Bill and said that he could understand the Indian labourer being excluded from the Village Tribunals but not the Burghers.

Mr. H. R. Freeman (Anuradhapura) said that he was not in favour of raising the jurisdiction of the Village Tribunals either criminal or civil.

At this stage, 7.25 p. m., the Council adjourned.

AUCTION SALE

D. C. J. 15545

Dead. Mudlr. V. Canagasabay of Manipay, Jebaratnam Canagasabay of Manipay Executor of the Last Will and Testament of the late Mudlr. V. Canagasabay of Manipay Plaintiff.

1. Suppiramaniam Thiricittampalam
2. Thiruchittampalam Balasubramaniam both of Van West.

PROPERTY

All that land called Varivalavu of 6 Lms and five and thirteen upon sixteen kullies V. C. situated at Vanarponnai West and the entirety being bounded on the East by water canal, North by lands belonging to the heirs of Sittampalam Kandapillai and Salam wife of Sadasivam, West by land belonging to Seethai Ammah wife of Sabapathy and on the South by Road together with a like share of the plantations and everything standing thereon.

In terms of the Commission issued to me by the District Court of Jaffna in Case No. 15545 I shall sell the above property by public auction on Monday the 15th December 1941 at about 4 p. m.

N. KANDIAH
Commissioner.

THE CENTRAL HINDU COLLEGE

OPENING CEREMONY

The Puja ceremony for the opening of a Central Hindu College took place in Kandy at No. 56, King Street, Kandy, on the 7th instant at 9-30 a. m. The ceremony was officiated by Brahma Sree Sabaratna Kurukkal, High Priest, Kathiresan Temple, Kandy. A fairly large gathering comprising Hindu estate proprietors, Chettiars, Indian and Jaffna traders and officers, was present. After the Puja Ceremony was over, Messrs. J. T. Raju and S. Selvanayagam were garlanded by the High Priest.

Amidst cheers Mr. Selvanayagam said that righteousness, truth, great endeavours, religion, enterprise, heroism, prosperity, the past and future dwell in the surpassing strength of our young countrymen. He paid a glowing tribute to Mr. J. T. Raju for trying to organise a new Hindu Educational institution for which Mr. Raju is ready to donate all his rare and select books, which no other library in Kandy has, and furniture, the whole worth about twenty five thousand rupees. It is one of the rarest of the rare qualities among the Tamil community in the Hill Capital to do such a noble act and concluded the speech by wishing Mr. Raju a long lease of life so that his beneficent services to the country's cause, particularly to the Hindus to which Mr. Raja owes his life's great success, may be available in an ever increasing manner.

Mr. T. Chelliah spoke on Mr. Raju's splendid philanthropy and his calm and noble activities in trying to organise this institution by which all the Hindus in the Central Province are greatly indebted to him and wished the institution success.

Mr. Raju thanked all who were present and said that all great institutions started from small beginnings and that all Hindus should co-operate to make the Central Hindu College a flourishing institution. He declared that for this purpose at least ten lakhs of rupees were necessary. In conclusion he said all Hindus should unite to establish an ideal institution worthy of the name and fame of Hindus for Hindu students. Several letters and telegrams of congratulation were received; and the gathering dispersed with a social entertainment. (Con.)

NOTICE

I Vaidhyanath Kandiah of Churnagay now of Kuala Lumpur in the Federated Malay States, do hereby give notice that I have already revoked and cancelled the power of attorney executed by me in favour of Vaidhyanath Visuvanathapillai some years ago, as I have executed another Power of Attorney in his favour in favour of my daughter, son-in-law and the said Vaidhyanath Visuvanathapillai today the 21st October 1941.

Dated at Seranban this 21st day of October 1941.

V. KANDIAH.

(Ms. 132 3-17-11-41.

Decree Nisi

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA

No. 16172

The Travancore National and Quilon Bank Ltd. (now in liquidation) by its liquidator J. Subramaniam Lewis of Jaffna

Vs. Plaintiff.

5. G. Rajagopal of Aiyankovilady Vannarponnai West and 6 others Defendants.

This action coming on for disposal before D. H. Leverage Esquire Additional District Judge, Jaffna on the 17th day of September 1941 being the day fixed for trial and the plaintiff appearing by Mr. T. Arumainayagam Proctor and the 1st, 3rd, 4th, 6th and 7th defendants appearing by Mr. K. V. Rasiyah Proctor and the 2nd defendant not appearing either in person or by Proctor although he was duly served with a copy of the summons together with copy of the plaint as appears by the affidavit of S. Ponnampalam Fiscal's Process Server dated the 2nd day of December 1940 and attached to the summons and the summons on the 5th defendant having been published in the paper and the 1st, 3rd, 4th, 6th and 7th defendants having consented to judgment and the case against the 2nd and 5th defendants being heard ex parte.

It is decreed that the defendants do pay to the plaintiff the sum of Rupees Four hundred and seventy nine (Rs. 479-00) and costs of this action unless sufficient cause be shown by the abovenamed 2nd and 5th defendants to the contrary on the 29th day of October 1941.

This 17th day of September 1941

Sgd. J. Quentine Fernando
District Judge

Date to show cause by the abovenamed 5th defendant is extended till 18-11-1941.
(O. 49. 13 & 17-11-41)

600 YEARS OLD

is the formula of "Nethraratna Thailaya" now prepared at a Rock Temple by a Buddhist priest according to an ancient prescription found in the old book of a great physician.

Nethraratna Thailaya

is a renowned curative medicinal oil.

The regular use of this oil effects a cure of the most common diseases of the eyes and head. It instantly relieves eye strain, tired eyes, eyes affected with watering, redness, irritation etc. It is speedily efficacious in cases of the inflammation, congestion, ulceration of the eyes or the eyelids.

It is particularly good for people with misty and clouded vision, long and short sight etc. For the hair this oil will preserve their eyes from eye troubles. It keeps the head and the brain cool. It also acts as a sedative to the overstrung nerves. It is very beneficial in cases of nasal catarrh and neuralgia in the head.

(N. B. This oil is guaranteed to aid the growth of the hair.)

Price Rs. 2-50.

Distributors:-

Emmaljee Amijee,
Grand Bazaar, Jaffna.

[Q. 115. 23-10-41-22-4-42.]

NOTICE

I Subramaniam Thuraiappah of Kondavil do hereby inform the public that an I. O. U. for Rs. 1000/- which I gave on trust to Sinnadhar Vallipuram of Inuvil in the month of May or June 1940 has been lost. The public is hereby warned against negotiating it. Any finder of the I. O. U. is kindly requested to give information to me, Kondavil, Jaffna S. THURAIAPPAN 7-11-41. Mutladdunadam (Ms 130. 10, 13 & 17-11-41)

THE THIRUNELVELY OTTUMAI

NITHI LTD.

BANKERS

INCORPORATED IN 1933.

Authorised Capital Rs. 500,000-00

25 Cts a Share Monthly for 80 Months

will entitle for Rs. 25 and Dividend

STORES AND BANKING ARE PROFITABLE

OBJECTS:— (1) To make Capital for Rich & Poor alike
(2) To provide Employment
(3) To revive possible industries

Encourage Everything National For there rests Our Salvation

Loans granted on easy terms.

Deposits received on high rates of interest

FIXED AND ENDOWMENT DEPOSITS

SAVING AND CURRENT DEPOSITS

Apply for Shares etc to:

V. SOMASUNDRAM,

Manager.

Y. 22 C. 1-11-40-31-10-41 (M)

SPECIAL-TEAK

REDUCED PRICES

TEAK!

TEAK!!

NEW SHIPMENT

JUST ARRIVED of excellent RANGOON TEAK LOGS, SCANTLINGS AND PLANKS in various sizes. A visit will convince you. Special reduced prizes.

"POUND MARK" Tiles. The King of Tiles. Kindly inquire from users of Pound Mark tiles before purchasing elsewhere. "QUALITY SPEAKS". The Tiles that have no rival in the Market.

Passages to Penang and Singapore. Deck and other passages can be had from us at Colombo COST. For dates of sailings and other particulars please apply to,

S. Veeragathipillai & Sons,

Telephone No. 93.

Jaffna.

(Y. 21 B. 11-8-40-10-8-41.)

(M)

WELLAWATTE SPINNING AND WEAVING MILLS' CLOTHS

ARE NOW A HOUSEHOLD WORD IN EVERY JAFFNA HOME

Once Tried — Always Liked
We Manufacture Cloths of Every Description

VATTEES
SHAWLS
SAREES
SARONGS
CAMBOYS
TOWELS
LONGCLOTHS
MULLS
BEDSHEETS

DRILLS
SUITINGS
TUSSORES
SHURTINGS
SHEETINGS
TICKINGS
TABLINGS
POPLINS
CASEMENTS

ETC.

ETC.

ETC.

CALL AT OUR
RETAIL DEPOT:
GRAND BAZAAR, JAFFNA.

WELLAWATTE SPINNING & WEAVING MILLS

(Incorporated in India)

The liability of members is limited.

Ms. 127. 14-11-40--