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NEWS FROM FAR AND NEAR

Messages from Enemy Territory

The Department of Information will distribute any personal messages broadcast from enemy occupied territory for friends and relatives in Ceylon.

Better Porters For Railway

A proposal to record the finger-prints of all "outside" porters and "substitute" porters at the main railway stations has been put forward in a scheme in which certain changes in the recruitment of this type of employee for the Railway have been recommended.

K. C. To Inquire Into Matara Death

It is understood that the Board of Ministers has recommended to His Excellency the Governor the appointment of Mr. N. Nadaraja, K. C., as Commissioner to investigate the circumstances leading to the death of Uyangoda-radage Hanniappu on March 17th, shortly after his arrest by the Matara police.

"Japan should Retain Sea Command"

"In the midst of the war of Greater East Asia, it is imperative for Japan to maintain control over the seas", declared the Japanese Prime Minister, General Tojo, in a speech on Sunday. Addressing members of the Japanese Naval association on the occasion of its silver jubilee, he said: "Japan is pushing a campaign to establish a new order in Greater East Asia, while fighting her enemies on the seven seas in co-operation with the other Axis powers."

Congress Leaders in Detention

The Bombay correspondent of the "Hindu" writes:—Letters received by the nearest relatives of the Congress Working Committee members show that all of them are doing well. It appears that all members are living together and they are taking regular exercise to keep themselves fit. They take regular walks in the compound of their residence. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru seems to be most active. The Congress leaders, it is learnt, play badminton daily under Pandit Nehru's coaching. They follow the old standard time as they are cut away from the world.

GANDHIJI'S CONDOLENCE MESSAGE

OMISSIONS BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS?

THE "Indian Social Reformer" writes:—

The *Evening News of India* published in its issue of the 10th September the following:

The following is the text of Mr. Gandhi's telegram to Sevagram Ashram regarding Mr. Mahadeo Desai's death in detention near Poona recently. "Mahadeo died suddenly. Gave no indication. Slept well last night. Had breakfast. Walked with me. Sushila (Dr. Nair who is also in detention) and jail doctors did all they could but God had willed otherwise. Sushila and I bathed body lying peacefully covered with flowers incense burning. Sushila and I reciting Geeta (Shri Bhagwate-geeta). Tell Durga (Mahadeo Desai's wife) Bala his son, Sushila his niece, *No sorrow allowed*. Cremation taking place front of me. Shall keep ashes. Advice Durga remain ashram but she may go to her people if she must. Hope Babla will be brave. Love Bapu."

The same message was published next day in other dailies. Mr. Desai died on the 15th August. Gandhiji's message was composed, as is evident from its contents, while the body was being cremated—that is, on the 16th August. It is not clear why it was thought necessary to publish the message a month later. Was the delay due to the Ashramites to whom it was addressed or to the authorities? What is the significance of the words in the message, "No sorrow permitted". Permitted by whom? Were they so in the text or have some words been omitted? The *Tribune* of Lahore publishes a detailed account from its Bombay correspondent of the conditions of Gandhiji's detention and the happenings prior to the cremation of Mr. Desai's body. Why is a Punjab paper able to glean fuller information in this matter than Bombay papers which are more immediately interested in it?

The above was written under the impression that the telegraphic message which it clearly was, was duly transmitted and delivered to the addressee at Sevagram. This was not done. The *Bharat Jyoti* pub-

lished on Sunday the text of a letter from the Government of India to the addressee as follows:

Sir Richard Tottenham, G.S.I., C.I.E. I.C.S., Additional Secretary to the Government of India.

To

Mr. Chimanlal,
Ashram Sevagram, Wardha,
Central Provinces,
NEW DELHI, the 4th
Sept. 1942.

Sir,

I am directed to enclose herewith a letter dictated by Mr. Gandhi for the widow of the late Mr. Mahadeo Desai and to express sincere regret for the delay in its delivery. The Government of Bombay had ordered the immediate delivery of the letter but owing to some misunderstanding of the instructions on the part of the officer in charge of Mr. Gandhiji's correspondence, the transmission of the letter was held up and that fact has only just come to notice. At the same time I am to express regret also for the fact that certain red pencil marks have been made on the letter.

The telegram written out in view of the funeral pyre on the 16th August was delivered to the addressee only on the 7th September, notwithstanding the order of the Government of Bombay, under whose authority and in whose territory Mr. Desai was detained, that it should be delivered immediately. The order of the Government of Bombay was deliberately disregarded, and the explanation is sent by a Secretary of the Government of India. The explanation is "some misunderstanding of the instructions on the part of the officer in charge of Mr. Gandhiji's correspondence." Who is this officer? Is he an officer of the Bombay Government or of the Government of India? What were the instructions which were misunderstood and by whom were they issued? The order of the Bombay Government seems to have been quite explicit. It is impossible to believe that any officer would disregard the order of the Bombay Government and withhold transmission of a letter of solace to a widow and

INDIA'S RICE PROMISE

SIR BARON GIVEN ASSURANCE

New Delhi, Sunday.

It is understood that the Commerce Department of the Government of India have assured Sir Baron Jayatilaka that whatever is possible will be done to help Ceylon in the matter of rice supplies.

In an interview, Sir Baron said that both the Government of India and the governments of those provinces which he had visited had been very sympathetic and had promised to render all possible help to the Ceylon Government. He realised that India was not self-supporting as far as rice was concerned, and Ceylon was all the more grateful to India for coming to her aid at this time of extreme need.

Referring to Indians in Ceylon, Sir Baron said that the State Council had not passed any anti-Indian legislation nor was there any law forbidding the appointment of Indians to any Government post. So far as he was aware there was not a single Indian businessman in Ceylon who experienced any difficulty in pursuing his business.

He, however, admitted that there were differences of opinion in political matters, with special reference to the franchise. To settle those differences two conferences, one at Delhi and the other at Colombo, were held among representatives of Ceylon and the Government of India. At the latter conference the delegates of both Governments submitted a joint report, but before that report could be dealt with Japan entered the war and the two Governments mutually agreed that the report should be considered after the war. He was sure that the adoption of that report would finally settle all differences.

an orphan whose bereavement took place under circumstances which cannot but touch the heart of a human being with a spark of human feeling, not to speak with the fear of God, unless he had definite orders to do so from the highest authority in his department. The responsibility for this inhuman

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Hindu Organ.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1942.

POST-WAR PROBLEMS

MANY PROBLEMS, NEW AND acute, are bound to arise after the war. The nature of these problems will depend, among other things, on the final issue of the war. If the Allied Nations win, there is a chance that the ideals of democracy, freedom and justice may yet form the foundation for the reconstruction of the world, and that Governments and nations may be in a position to take up the threads of life so rudely broken by the spurious Nazi philosophy. If these nations are defeated, there will be no post-war problems to solve: the Fascists and Nazis and their friends in the East would have them solved for us. When, therefore, we talk of post-war problems, we do so on the assumption that the Democracies will win: otherwise, there will be no future and no problems.

But, victory alone would not suffice to ensure the solution of these problems. Victory is, no doubt, indispensable, for, without it a slave world would have little opportunity to think about its own ideals, but it must be a victory that would enable the best minds amongst the victors to assert themselves after the war and shape the new order that is to follow; it must be a victory that will deny, and deny for all time, any share in this great task to the forces of reaction. That these forces are at work today, even when victory is distant and democracy is struggling for its very existence, is a fact that can no longer be denied. It is also a fact that has to be faced with courage and resolution. The world must not repeat the mistake made by the American people when, after Germany was defeated in the last war, they refused to have anything to do with the peace that followed. It was this mistake that enabled M. Clemenceau and Mr. Lloyd George to have it their own way. The former proceeded to establish the security of France in his own fashion; Mr. Lloyd George promised British democracy, taken off its balance by a hard won victory, that he would get the Kaiser hanged. The men and women who are today sacrificing their all in order that the world may be free to live its own life owe it to themselves and to future generations to see that the fruits of victory do not go by default, and that they, who saved the world in war, save it also in the days of peace.

And no community in this world will have, after peace

is won, so many varied and difficult problems to solve as the British Commonwealth of Nations. It would be a great pity if the charlatan and the mischief-maker, the crowd of false and shallow prophets who infest every country, had any hand in the solution of these problems. Many parts of the British Empire have attained a degree of political adolescence that could do very well without the inter-dependence stressed in a recent speech by the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, but there are admittedly at the same time many common interests that are best advanced by loyal and friendly collaboration, which must, however, never be allowed to serve as a convenient cloak for exploitation of the worst type at the hands of men who are in every respect unfit to shape the lives of others.

NOTES & COMMENTS

Mr. Amery's Speech

MR. Amery's speech at Caxton Hall on the future of India must have fallen flat on those who were expected to hear and digest it. It is one of those specimens of British propaganda that do little credit to the British intellect and give a perverted view of the British outlook towards things. If Mr. Amery expected to convert suspicious Americans to his point of view, he is likely to find himself greatly mistaken. The Americans know the Amery type very well and the British Premier can never hope to convince the American people of the soundness of the present British policy towards India through the medium of Mr. Amery's speeches. The historical references in the speech to the origin and development of British rule in India are full of gross inaccuracies. Besides, the part played by Mr. Amery himself in trying to save India in spite of herself is not at all a desirable qualification in one who wishes to make out a case for keeping India within the British Commonwealth. If the price of India's remaining within the Commonwealth is none other than that the British public and Government should be at liberty to interpose politicians of the type of Mr. Amery between India and her future, we are afraid that the Indian public, regardless of political differences, will vote in favour of rejecting the glorious future pictured by Mr. Amery. The times are too dangerous to permit any Government or nation to trifle with the future of any other country, but this is what Mr. Amery is doing. His speech is a tiresome repetition of the ponderous letters that appear in the "Times" from time to time expressing the views of Colonels on half-pay leave on the future of the Indian people. If Britain is too busy

to understand the Indian situation, the least she can do in her own interests would be to abolish the India Office and Mr. Amery, and let the Indians manage their own affairs. She is only harming herself by allowing Mr. Amery to talk in the name of England. When Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru protested recently against Anglo-Saxon pretensions, he must have had Mr. Amery very much on his mind. We thought at the time that Pandit Nehru was unjust towards the Anglo-Saxons, but it is clear now why he was hard on them. It is due to the Amerys whose foolishness and incompetence have damaged British prestige more than the defeats of the present war. The world has still faith in the British people, but if this faith is to continue the Amerys must go. This was also the view taken by the Indian National Congress. The British people can no longer live on their past reputation or on the pronouncements of third-rate politicians who have done more harm than good.

What is Wanted

AS Mr. Rajagopalachariar said in a recent statement to the Press, no one in India now pays any attention to Mr. Amery's periodical apologies. Instead of trying to pin its faith to doubtful propaganda of the kind carried on by Mr. Amery and his tools, the British Parliament should boldly face the definite issues that have been raised in regard to the future of India and all Asiatic nations. In India, as stated by Mr. Rajagopalachariar, the position is quite clear. The British Parliament cannot with decency ignore the moral responsibility that has been often invoked in defence of British rule. That responsibility can never be discharged by persisting in the policy that has followed in the wake of the Congress revolt. Mr. Rajagopalachariar invites Parliament to direct the Viceroy to form a Cabinet consisting of men of position and influence throughout the country to undertake the Government of India during the war. The conduct of the military operations will be safeguarded as hitherto "by the supervening authority of the British Cabinet as agreed to without reservation by the Congress during the Cripps negotiations". If any person so invited refuses to serve in the Cabinet, his place will be filled by the rest in consultation with the Viceroy. Mr. Rajagopalachariar would reserve all other constitutional issues for arbitration by the United Nations during the post-war period. No one but Mr. Amery would say that there is anything impossible or difficult in this proposal, but Mr. Amery's propaganda is obviously intended to close the door to any such settlement. He says that the British Government cannot grant the demands of the Congress without provoking

civil war, but Mr. Rajagopalachariar's proposal is entirely different. Besides, what is it that the Viceroy's Government is now endeavouring to suppress after the Congress was proscribed? It is civil war of a sort. There is no use of trying to dope ourselves with phrases which actually mean nothing.

Mrs. Annie Besant

A well-deserved tribute was paid the other day at a meeting at Gokhale Hall, Madras, to the memory of the late Mrs. Annie Besant. Mr. Justice Chandrasekhara Iyer summed up Mrs. Besant's services by saying that India owed to her a large part of her cultural and spiritual renaissance. Mrs. Besant also played a great part in the agitation for Home Rule. In the "New India" she carried on a relentless campaign against the bureaucracy and vested interests that opposed Home Rule. One wonders, looking at recent events, whether India has fared better now. There is the same clash between Indian aspirations and the agents of British authority. The Amerys are still with us.

Plantain Leaves Versus Metal Plates

IN the "Social Welfare Annual", Sir T. Vijayaraghavachariar puts in an interesting plea for the plantain leaf as against the claims of the metal plate. No European can understand the preference of our people for the plantain leaf unless he forgets the town-bred habits which are sometimes mistaken for what is called "civilisation". Sir T. Vijayaraghavachariar says: "While individual and municipal economy would undoubtedly be served by a substitution of metal plates for leaves of trees, I entertain grave apprehensions if such a substitution would not result in an increase in the already fearful incidence of tuberculosis in our cities. Plates to be free from infection must be sterilised by immersion in boiled water. How many servants or for the matter of that their masters can be trusted to carry out this sterilisation faithfully?" We would add another argument in favour of the plantain leaf: the food tastes better than it does on the metal or any other plate.

Retirement of Mr. Banks

IN a recent speech, His Excellency the Governor denied the rumour that Mr. Banks' application to retire had any connection with the complaints against the Police Force. "The two things", said His Excellency, "had nothing whatever to do with each other." The denial is timely, as Mr. Banks' retirement coincided with the agitation against the Police, but is it possible to acquit Mr. Banks of, at least, a part of the responsibility for what is going on inside the Police Force? We cannot entirely ignore the possibility of a slackening in the authority of the superior Police Officers as one of the causes that have led to the present situation.

Ceylon and India

IT is suggested by a contemporary that Mr. D. S. Senanayake ought to represent Ceylon in India. We can only say there are good reasons why he should not do so.

DOMINION STATUS FOR CEYLON

Ministers' Memorial to Whitehall

"The Ministers are once again busy considering the question of reforms, and I understand, a communication will shortly go from them to the Secretary of State for the Colonies demanding a declaration regarding the future political status of Ceylon," writes the Political Correspondent of the "Times of Ceylon" in yesterday's "Times."

"They met in conference yesterday afternoon—Mr. D. S. Senanayake, Minister of Agriculture and Lands and Acting Leader of the State Council; Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike, Minister of Local Administration; Mr. G. C. S. Corea, Minister of Labour, Industry and Commerce; Mr. George E. de Silva, Minister of Health; Mr. C. W. W. Kannangara, Minister of Education; Col. J. L. Kotelawala, Minister of Communications and Works; and Mr. A. Mahadeva, Minister of Home Affairs, during the absence from the Island of Sir Baron Jayatilaka.

"The Conference which was held in the Board Room of the State Council lasted long, and the Ministers decided that they should make representations to the Secretary of State with regard to the future political status of Ceylon. Accordingly a communication is now being prepared for despatch to Whitehall.

"It reiterates the demand of the Ministers for Dominion Status for Ceylon and asks the Secretary of State for an early declaration on this question."

ANURADHAPURA'S NEW SITE

Anuradhapura, Tuesday.

• Preliminaries such as survey, layout and estimates, in connexion with the shifting of Anuradhapura town to a new site, have been completed by Mr. H. C. Holliday, the Town Planning expert, assisted by Mr. Oliver Weerasinghe, the Government Town Planner.

Members of the Executive Committee of Local Administration and Dr. Paul E. Pieris, Mr. E. W. Kannangara (Commissioner of Local Government), Mr. C. L. Wickramasinghe (Land Commissioner) and Mr. C. W. W. Kannangara (Minister for Education) visited Anuradhapura and they discussed the proposed move in detail.

The new site of the town is to the south-east of the existing urban area and is 2,000 acres in extent, bounded on the west by the Malwatuoya and on the east by the Nawrawewa.

A deputation headed by Mr. H. R. Freeman, M.S.C., for Anuradhapura, expressed dissatisfaction regarding the proposed site, but when the matter was explained to them by Mudaliyar Polkotuwa, they agreed that the site selected was the best available.

The Government Agent (Mr. Richard Aluwihare), the Land Commissioner and Mr. R. L. Brohier were delegated to deal with peasant settlers on the proposed site. According to the town-moving scheme the historically sacred area is to be preserved as a purely religious centre where Buddhist pilgrims can perform their ceremonies conveniently and in quiet.

AMERICA'S ANXIETY ABOUT INDIA

SEVERE CENSORSHIP OF NEWS FROM INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 30.

Ernest Lindley, one of America's leading journalists with a reputation for being the unofficial spokesman of the White House, expresses America's anxiety about India in the course of an article in a recent issue of *The Washington Post*.

He observes, "Little news is coming from India by normal channels. But the paucity of published matter does not mean that the Indian situation had markedly improved; it signifies rather severe censorship. Actually information reaching Washington from entirely reliable sources is causing anxiety."

"There is no sign of any further efforts to compose the internal political difficulty. The British now appear to be relying entirely on repression and British authorities in India express full confidence in their ability to smash Mr. Gandhi's campaign of civil disobedience. This campaign, according to informed sources, has not yet really begun, but it is supposed to be springing soon in the leading cities of India. Spokesmen for the All-India Congress group boast that they will paralyse British authority within two months. Their ability to make good this boast is seriously doubted by independent observers. But as things are going now, relations between the Congress Party group and the British authorities are becoming even more embittered.

"The problem is a delicate one for the American Government. After the rejection of the Cripps proposal American opinion, official and private alike, swung against the Congress Party. It swung even more sharply with the revelation that Mr. Gandhi was against armed resistance to the Japanese and proposed to negotiate with them—although this was probably not Quislingism as it is understood in the West but rather an expression of a religious and fanatic faith in the ability of non-violent resistance to deprive the armed invader of the fruits of conquest.

"The attitude of the Congress Party leaders has continued to be thoroughly exasperating and dangerous to the security of the United Nations as a whole as well as India itself. But it has not altered the American policy of favouring self-government for all peoples who are able to exercise it—a policy to which Britain also is committed by the Atlantic Charter and the declaration of the United Nations no matter what exceptions or mental reservation one may have noted in individual British statesmen.

Room for Negotiation

"If repression were now the only recourse there would be no disposition to question the present British policy, regrettable as the necessity for it would be. But informed observers report that there is still a chance of composing the Indian political difficulties by negotiation. They

doubt if negotiations could be carried through by the British and Congress Party leaders alone because distrust of each for the other is now too deep. Friendly intercession probably would be necessary by the United States and China.

"It is believed that a number of most influential Congress Party members would now accept less than their previous demands. Reaction against them in the American press came as an unpleasant surprise. There was danger that the effect would be to turn the Congress Party leaders quite as bitterly against the United States as against Britain and in the hands of persistent propagandists to create an impression that the white peoples of the United Nations were joining hands in a policy of repression. This danger was alleviated by the President's announcement that American troops in India were there only to fight the Axis and instructions had been given to them to hold aloof from internal affairs. But the danger has not entirely removed and perhaps can be eradicated only if another effort is made to settle the Indian internal political difficulties by negotiation.

Probable Purpose of Repression

"Various unofficial proposals have been made for the establishment of a Provisional Indian Government giving equal representation on the Viceroy's Council to the Congress Party and the Muslim League with representation also for Indian Princes and dissenting sects and independent groups. Competent persons who have been exploring the problem believe that the possibility of agreement is greater than British authorities in India admit or perhaps realise. In fact there are disquieting signs that some of the latter intend to use the present opportunity to break the power of the Congress Party in the hope of retaining India on a colonial or semi-colonial basis. This certainly is not the view of the forward-looking Englishmen and is in direct conflict with the solemnly avowed post-war programme and policy of the British Government as expressed in the Cripps proposal.

"The present situation in India is of course causing as much anxiety in Chungking as in Washington. Supplies for China go by air from India. Re-opening of a major supply line to China will require the reconquest of Burma with forces based on India.

"Chungking is understood to favour strongly another attempt to negotiate a settlement in India. Like Washington it is restrained by a desire to avoid embarrassment to Great Britain. But the Indian situation is purely a British affair only in a legalistic sense. Actually it is of prime importance to China and the United States and the United Nations as a whole. If as competent and well-informed non-

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BRITAIN AND HER COLONIES

Plans For Expansion

Wolverhampton, Oct. 4.

The interdependence of Britain and her colonies was stressed by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, Mr. Harold MacMillan, in a speech at Wolverhampton today.

He said: "For the material purposes of war and peace we need the colonies. We need their mineral and agricultural resources in war and their opportunities for our trade in peace, but just as much do they need us. In war, they need our power to lead and organise common defence against Axis tyranny. In peace they need our help to develop their own resources by the free use of ours.

"The colonies have drawn upon our capital, our skill, and our experience in the past. They must be even more prodigally expanded in the future. It is our task to continue the great pioneer work which individuals began."

He added: "It is a high mission we dare not abandon."

GANDHIJI'S MESSAGE TO MR. ROOSEVELT

LETTER CONVEYED BY MR. LOUIS FISCHER

Washington, Sept. 29.

It was disclosed by the American author Louis Fischer, who recently returned to the United States, that he had delivered to President Roosevelt a personal message from Mahatma Gandhi requesting President Roosevelt to act as an intermediary to break the British-India deadlock on India's demand for future independence.

Emphasising the importance of a settlement of the Indian problem to the United Nations, both now and after the war. Mr. Louis Fischer declared that he had brought from India a letter Mahatma Gandhi wrote to President Roosevelt, asking for the President's "personal intervention" to act as an intermediary for the renewal of British-Indian negotiations. That was previous to the start of the civil disobedience campaign.

Mr. Fischer added: "Mr. Gandhi told me that the United Nations' forces must retain India as a Military base for operations against the Axis."

Story of Visit

New York, Sept. 29.

Millions throughout North and South America will read Louis Fischer's story regarding his visit to Mr. Gandhi, who, according to the author, is the representative on a higher level of the vast majority of the nation. "Gandhi is the father and the brother of India's millions of peasants and working men who want to gain dignity and prosperity through national effort. He is a chip of their own block."

Fischer's story is published in the magazine *Graphic Survey* and will be reprinted in *Reader's Digest*, both in the English and Spanish editions, of which the latter has by far the largest circulation of all magazines in Latin America, while the English edition reaches the remotest corners of North America as well as many readers in Britain and other parts of the British Empire.

(Hindu Special Cor.)

NAZIS THROWN OUT OF MANY POSITIONS

RUSSIAN OFFENSIVES MAKE PROGRESS

Stockholm, Monday.

Marshal Timoshenko's troops, though forced to withdraw in some parts of Stalingrad, are counter-attacking furiously in almost every street of the hotly-contested industrial suburbs. The Germans have been thrown out of several previously-captured positions, while at other points they have been prevented from consolidating their gains.

The Russians have for the third day in succession held their own inside the city. The advantage rests with the defenders for the time being.

Berlin today refers to the capture of "several quarters" of Stalingrad, but details of these alleged successes are very scanty in the German communique.

The truth probably is that they have managed to capture several blocks of the industrial suburbs. This is inevitable when street-fighting is spread over such a large area.

The Russian offensives north and south of the city appear to be progressing more slowly though the one in the south now seems to be gaining momentum. In the north, Russian tank formations are meeting very hard resistance. Their progress is sometimes no more than ten yards an hour. The German defences are exceptionally strong in this sector. Recently-reinforced fresh troops are brought by air and thrown straight into battle.

Marshal Timoshenko's attack against the German right flank southwest of the city has also been reinforced and the front has now been broadened. In the last 48 hours, the Russians have gained some ground and have inflicted about 2,000 casualties on the enemy.

News from the Caucasus front comes mainly from German sources which claim that two townships have been captured southwest of Mozdok. These are said to be Elkhotovo and Verkhniy Kurp, about 35 miles from the important town of Ordzhonikidze, named after one of the best-known Soviet leaders. Axis reports say that advanced German formations are only 25 miles from this town which is a large industrial centre comprising steel mills and oil refineries. They admit that the defences around Ordzhonikidze are being strengthened and its garrison heavily reinforced.

If the Germans ever reach this city, the pride of the North Caucasus, they can expect another Stalingrad for fierce resistance. The road to this centre is through the narrow Terek valley, caged in between two chains of mountains, and the flow of German troops will provide an easy mark to the Soviet Alpine troops. On Berlin's own showing the German troops have taken eleven days to advance about 30 miles an average of less than three miles a day. The diversion of their forces southwards towards Ordz-

honikidze indicates that the Germans have, for the moment, been baulked in their drive on the Grozny oilfields.

Although Ordzhonikidze is strategically important, being the starting point of the Georgian military highway through the Alps to Tiflis, the mountain pass is already snowed up and will become impracticable in a few more weeks. It does not seem likely that the Germans will seriously attempt to storm high mountain passes in the winter. Probably their advance in this direction is meant to protect their right flank from attacks coming from the mountains while maintaining heavy pressure towards the Grozny oilfields.

Berlin reports claim that the capture of Elkhotovo was made after heavy street fighting. Verkhniy Kurp is stated to have been taken after 12 hours of street fighting. At the same time, German reports from the Caucasus speak of constant Russian counter-attacks and describe the fighting as "inhumanly hard." One report says the German troops are "holding their positions," which would indicate that they are on the defensive in this area.

SUTHUMALAI WELFARE LEAGUE

A largely attended public meeting was held at Suthumalai on Saturday the 3rd October 1942 under the auspices of the Suthumalai Welfare League. Mr. M. Prasad, C. C. S Government Agent, Northern Province, presided.

Mr. A. Chelliah, President of the League, garlanded Mr. Prasad and the other speakers.

Mr. M. Perampalam, Member V. C., in welcoming the Government Agent, and the other speakers detailed the work done by the League in the short space of time since it was organized, and paid a high compliment to the zeal and energy displayed by Mr. Chelliah in the promotion of the objects of the League.

Mr. Prasad expressed his high appreciation of the good work done by the League, and assured them every assistance in his power to further the interests of the inhabitants of Suthumalai. He also assured the League that he would do what he can to get Government to give facilities to farmers by the loan of implements.

Mr. A. J. R. Veithavanam, A. R. P. Controller, Mr. A. Cumaraswamy Principal, Jaffna Hindu College, Mr. C. Thiagarajah, Chairman, Village Committee, and Mr. C. Perumalpillai, Proctor, S. C. were among the speakers. The speakers referred in glowing terms to the useful work that is being done by the League, and said that much of the success of the association was due to the energetic President, Mr. Chelliah who was the live wire of the League.

With a vote of thanks proposed by Mr. A. Chelliah, President, the meeting terminated. (Cor.)

NEW INSPECTOR- GENERAL

COL. HALLAND APPOINTED

Col. G. H. R. Halland has been appointed Inspector-General of Police, Ceylon, in succession to Mr. P. N. Banks, who has sent in his papers for retirement.

An official communique issued on Monday stated that "a telegram has been received from the Secretary of State for the Colonies to the effect that General G. H. R. Halland, C.I.E., O.B.E., now one of His Majesty's Inspectors of Constabulary has been placed temporarily at the disposal of the Ceylon Government for duties in the post of Inspector-General of Police."

The March Resolution recently approved by the State Council for recruiting the services of Col. Holland laid down that he should be engaged for a period of three years.

Col. Halland's Career

The post which Col. Halland filled till recently was that of Inspector of Constabulary for England and Wales to which he was appointed in 1938. Between 1931 and 1934 he was Chief Constable of Lincolnshire. From 1934 to 1938, he was Deputy Assistant Commissioner in charge of the Metropolitan Police College at Hendon.

Col. Halland joined the Indian Police in 1908 and was posted to the Punjab. He was on police duty with King George V, at the Delhi Durbar in 1911.

He served in the last war from 1914 to 1918 in the Army in India Reserve of Officers. He held the rank of Major and General Staff Officer, Second Grade, Army Headquarters, India, and was mentioned in despatches.

He was the Principal of the Punjab Police Training School, Poitaur, from 1921 to 1926.

He was on police duty with the Duke of Connaught at Delhi in 1921 and with the Prince of Wales at Delhi in 1922.

He was Lt. Col. Army in India Reserve of Officers in 1927.

In the same year he was attach-

Letter to the Editor

URBAN COUNCIL POLITICS

Sir,—Mr. C. Ponnambalam's letter (which appears in your issue of the 1st instant) is an eye-opener. On the facts stated by him, your verdict: "the Jaffna Urban Council has brought discredit on itself and the public" should receive the endorsement of all honest-minded men.

If public life should run on the conception of "politics" and "parties" as adumbrated by Mr. Ponnambalam, then there should be very little of residual honesty or decency left in the country.

It is time that some remedial measures were adopted. Even in England cleavage of "parties" in local politics is deprecated. Any bargaining for offices in Urban Councils should be made punishable in law. So also *Kusu Kusu Kuddams* of the kind referred to by Mr. Ponnambalam. A larger use of the Vernacular languages in Council should tend to create wider popular interest in Council's work and popular interest may result in ousting under-hand tactics and low manoeuvres.

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman should be men from outside the body of elected members. The elected members will have the privilege of electing them.

Educated busy professional men are not likely to seek seats as members in the local institutions, because gains or perquisites are little—the lower middle-class and middle class people should be encouraged to enter the Council. More self-denying and patriotic people are to be found among them than among our English educated and professional men.

Yours truly,
R. C. P.

ed to the General Staff, Headquarters of the Shanghai Defence Force and subsequently to the North China Command.

In 1930, he was Senior Superintendent of Police, Delhi. In the same year he was appointed honorary A. D. C. to the Viceroy with the honorary rank of Colonel.

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J A F F N A.

(Mis, 129, 8-10-42)

COMPLAINTS ABOUT HEADMEN

INVESTIGATION OF COMPLAINTS

It is understood that the Executive Committee of Home Affairs has appointed a sub-Committee to submit proposals for the adoption of better methods than now exist for the investigation of complaints against headmen and the lower grades of the Police Force.

The sub-Committee consists of Mr. A. Mahadeva, acting Minister of Home Affairs, Mr. H. F. Parfitt, Mr. E. W. Abeygoonesekere and Mr. D. Wanigasekera.

The Executive Committee considered the question again at its last meeting and expressed the opinion that methods of inquiry into complaints, which would inspire greater confidence in the public, should be brought into operation as early as possible.

The Committee also considered a request made by certain public associations in Jaffna for the appointment of a Commission of Inquiry into certain allegations made recently against the Police including officers of higher rank.

In view of the fact that these allegations were the subject of inquiry by a senior police officer the Executive Committee decided that his report should be awaited before the case for a Commission is considered.

WANTED

Applications for the post of Staff Officers in the A. R. P. Services, Trincomalee, will be received by the A. R. P. Controller, Trincomalee, till Saturday noon 17th October, 1942.

Applicants must be under 35 years of age, satisfy a medical test and must be prepared to serve for the duration of the war.

Only those with educational qualifications of Matric standard and above need apply.

Salary Rs. 15/- per month with mess allowance.

Four appointments may be made
A. R. P. Controller,
Trincomalee,

1st October 1942
(Mis. 127, 8-10-42.)

ALLEGED MUTINY BY GERMAN TROOPS

Stockholm, Monday.
Between 3,000 and 4,000 German soldiers have been imprisoned for mutiny at Atla, in Eastern Finmark, Northern Norway according to Press reports published here. At a recent courtmartial at Harstad, it is added 17 German officers were cashiered and 43 soldiers sentenced to death for mutiny. Many German soldiers have allowed Russian prisoners to escape and some of them are said to have fled to Russia. It was recently reported that in the Folkviken district, more than 1,000 German soldiers were sent to concentration camps in Northern Norway because of "their lack of will to fight."

ORDER NISI

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA
(held at Point Pedro)
Testamentary Jurisdiction
No. 184/P

In the matter of the estate of the late Ramanather Alvappillai of Thumpalai Deceased
Ponnamma widow of Ramanather Alvappillai of Puloly West, Point Pedro. Petitioner.

Vs.
Paikkialetchumy daughter of Alvappillai of Puloly West, Point Pedro Respondent.

This matter of the Petition of the abovenamed Petitioner praying for Letters of Administration to the estate of the abovenamed deceased Ramanather Alvappillai coming on for disposal before L. W. De Silva Esquire Additional District Judge, on the 24th day of September 1942 in the presence of Messrs. Kandaiya and Mailvaganam Proctors on the part of the Petitioner and affidavit of the Petitioner dated the 23rd day of September 1942 having been read, it is declared that the Petitioner is the widow of the said Intestate and is entitled to have Letters of Administration to the estate of the said Intestate issued to her unless the Respondent or any other person shall on or before the 22nd day of October 1942 show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

Signed this 24th day of September 1942
(Sgd.) L. W. De Silva
Addl. District Judge
(O. 61, 5 & 8-10-42)

ORDER NISI

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA
Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 3.

In the matter of the intestate estate of the late Suppiah Nagalingam of Uduvil Deceased.

Sivapakkiam widow of Suppiah Nagalingam of Sandiruppay

Vs. Petitioner.

Minor. 1. Nagalingam Whimaladevi of do
2. Muthalithamby Chinniah of do Respondents.

This matter of the petition of the abovenamed petitioner praying that the 2nd Respondent be appointed Guardian-ad-litem of the 1st Respondent a minor and that the petitioner be appointed administratrix of the estate of the abovenamed deceased coming on for disposal before G. C. Thambiah Esquire District Judge on the 8th July 1942 in the presence of Mr. V. K. Guanasundaram Proctor on the part of the petitioner and the affidavit of the petitioner dated 7th July 1942 having been read.

It is hereby ordered that the 2nd Respondent be and he is hereby appointed Guardian-ad-litem over the minor 1st Respondent abovenamed, for the purpose of the Testamentary proceedings in this action and that the petitioner be and she is hereby appointed administratrix of the estate of her husband the abovenamed deceased and Letters of Administration be granted to the petitioner, unless the Respondents or any other person do show cause to the contrary on or before the 10th August 1942.

This 8th day of July 1942
Sgd G. C. Thambiah
District Judge
25-9-42
Order Nisi extended for 23-10-42
Intd. G. C. Thambiah
D. J.
(O. 62, 8 & 12-10-42)

WANTED

Wanted House property in Jaffna Town. Coconut estate 30 to 50 acres in Jaffna Peninsula or Batticaloa District.

APPLY: Advertiser
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(Mis. 128, 8, & 12-10-42)

AIR CHIEF MARSHAL IN CEYLON

IMPRESSED WITH ISLAND'S READINESS

Royal Air Force establishments in Ceylon welcomed two distinguished visitors this week and staged a demonstration which gave an indication of the ever growing air strength of Ceylon.

The two visitors were Air Chief Marshal Sir Richard Peirse, Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Air Forces in India, who paid a flying visit to Ceylon to meet the air and ground crews of the Royal Air Force, the Royal Canadian Air Force and the Royal Netherlands Air Force. He was accompanied by His Highness the Nawab of Bhopal.

The party made the journey to the Island by air. On their arrival at the Airport they were welcomed by Air Vice Marshal J. H. D'Albiac, A. O. C., Air Forces Ceylon and Staff Officers.

A comprehensive programme had been arranged for the distinguished visitors and by road and air they paid visits to a number of aerodromes and flying boat stations.

They saw the bombers, fighters and flying boats stationed in Ceylon and inspected parades of airmen and ground crews. But it was not all formal inspection. Air Chief Marshal Sir Richard Peirse likes to get amongst pilots, crews and grounds staff and talk to them individually and find out for himself how they are faring. On this occasion, too, he took the opportunity to chat with the men and ask them many questions.

He was particularly interested as to how they were settling down in their new surroundings and regarding their mail from home, and was very pleased to hear that all ranks appreciated the airgraph service which brought them now speedy news from home. He also inspected cookhouses and other establishments and displayed the keenest interest in the arrangements made for the welfare of the men.

At one base he inspected a very impressive parade of airmen and this was followed by a march past at which His Highness the Nawab of Bhopal and the Air Chief Marshal took the salute.

Leaving this particular station by Catalina the party proceeded to another aerodrome, where the visitors met and talked with the crews of the boats that keep constant vigil over the air and sea approaches to the Island.

The Air Chief Marshal was delighted with all he had seen in Ceylon and impressed with the state of readiness of the Island's air defences. He complimented all ranks on their obvious keenness and enthusiasm and on the excellent work they had done and were continuing to do.

The last item on the programmes for the visitors was a fly past in massed formation of bombers and fighters. It was another magnificent air spectacle which gave all Colombo a thrill as Squadrons of aircraft roared low over the roof tops of the city and its suburbs.

Soon afterwards the visitors returned to India by air.

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AMERICA'S ANXIETY ABOUT INDIA

Continued from page 3

British and non-Indian observers believe there is still a chance for a negotiated settlement it would seem the merest commonsense to make the attempt.

U. S. Pressman's Revelations

Mr. Raymond Capper, the famous American columnist, writing on "the danger of India" in the *Washington Daily News*, observes: "India has dropped out from the news. But it is an artificial silence. Lack of news from India has been caused by tight censorship. Washington's silence arises from self-imposed censorship.

"War in the East is being placed in serious jeopardy by the conditions in India. War production there is seriously crippled by strikes. Steel works, tin-plate mills, cotton mills and other establishments have been affected. Rail road traffic was interrupted on one main line forcing the attempt to move vital strategic materials for India by airplane. One important industrial centre was cut off from all communication by rail road, telephone and telegraph for four days. Some of this have been overcome.

"On the other hand, the real non-co-operation movement has not been started. Most of the disorders thus far have been sporadic outbursts. Gandhiji's systematic plan for paralysing the country through shutting down about 50 centres by strikes has not been attempted. Orders for that are expected at any time. In other words the real test between Gandhiji's force and the Government is evidently still to come.

"The Washington is watching this situation with much anxiety. It is the subject of discussion in high quarters. Aside from all other questions, the matter keeping up the war effort in India where American troops are now stationed causes most concern. Thus far, Washington's efforts to persuade the British Government to undertake new negotiations with the Congress Party have been unfruitful.

"Censorship has prevented the American public from seeing how the trouble in India is interfering with production. The general disposition has been to follow the Government's lead and hope the British would soon attempt to improve the situation. It is still a question how long this will last. There is a strong undercurrent of impatience that London has neglected vital strategic areas in which American troops are now being prepared to fight.

Situation in Egypt

"Relations with the Egyptian Government have not been good and there is no assurance that when the crisis comes with Rommel's full drive, our side will have any more help from the native population that it had in Malaya and Burma. The American forces will be fighting the invader under the handicap of a hostile population.

GANDHIJI'S CONDOLENCE MESSAGE

Continued from page 1

act rests therefore on that authority and can not be shoved on to a subordinate official. No amount of regret can atone for it. It reveals the spirit in which the policy of segregating the Congress leaders and particularly Gandhiji and his closest associates was first conceived and applied until it was modified under pressure of public opinion and perhaps the resignation of Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar.

As we suspected certain words were omitted in the Associated Press message from the body of Gandhiji's message. The *Bharat Jyoti* gives the text of it as follows:

Mahadev died suddenly gave no indication. Slept well last night. Had breakfast. Walked with me. Sushila and I bathed. Sushila and I bathed body. Lying peacefully. Covered with flowers incense burning. Sushila and I reciting Gita. Mahadev had died Yogi's and patriot's death. Tell Durga, Babla and Sushila no sorrow allowed. Only joy over such noble death. Cremation taking place front of me. Shall keep Ashes. Advise Durga remain Ashram, but she may go to her people if she must. Hope Babla will be brave and prepare himself fill Mahadev's place worthily. Love. Bapu.

"The British Press is critical of its own Government's India policy. Press comment in England indicates a wide-spread belief there that the British Government should make further overtures towards reaching an agreement with Indian nationalists. The *London Times* said recently that a constructive policy on India was as much a Government responsibility as preservation of order. The *Times* says that the Indian demand for a more active participation in the conduct of affairs is reasonable. The *Manchester Guardian* says, "There can be no satisfaction in the policy of simple repression in India." The *News Chronicle* says that the British must take the initiative in trying for a settlement. Those are responsible and moderate newspapers.

"We Cannot Fight both Japs and Indians"

"One hesitated to write about this kind of matter which is so intimately an affair of a friendly nation. Yet I think it is worthwhile reporting that a number of officials here and some outside the Government are deeply disturbed by London's delay in acting to reopen negotiations.

"The trouble with a situation of this kind is that it rocks along and nothing is done until it is too late and then as in Burma, the embittered native population turns on its defenders and helps to drive them out. We cannot fight both the Japs and the Indians in India. But that is what we will be doing unless conditions are improved before the Japs strike."

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