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NEWS FROM FAR AND NEAR

Generalissimo Chiang Certain Japan will be Beaten

Confidence that Japan's offensive power has passed its peak was expressed by General Chiang Kai-shek when he opened the third session of the Peoples' Political Council at Chungking. Japan's utter defeat was inevitable, as well as a complete Allied victory over the Axis Powers, he said.

Land Kachcheri

The Government Agent, Jaffna, will hold a Land Kachcheri beginning at 10 a. m. on Saturday, December 12, 1942, at the Kilinochchi Circuit Bungalow to consider applications for lands and to select persons to receive permits for land allotments in the Iranamadu, Periyaparanthan, Paranthan and Murasumodai areas.

Concrete Ship Lannched

A Diesel-powered ship, 91½ feet long, weighing 78 tons—68 tons concrete and the rest steel—was launched in the Southern United States Port. Designed by Vladimir Yomrkevitch, the architect of the former crack French liner Normandie, the ship will serve as a model for a large number of cargo vessels.

Strength of U. S. Naval Forces

Revealing the strength of the American Navy services for the first time, the Secretary of the Navy, Colonel Frank Knox, at a Press conference said: 'The approximate total of officers and men is now 1,300,000. Of these, about 1,000,000 are in the Navy, 200,000 in the Marine Corps and 100,000 in the Coast Guards.'

Powerful Fleet in Indian Ocean

A powerful British fleet commanded by Admiral Sir James Somerville is now operating in the Indian Ocean and off the east coast of Africa, Reuter's naval correspondent learns. The capital units include the veteran battleship Warspite (30,600 tons) and the sister-battleships the Royal Sovereign and the Resolution (each 29,150 tons) and the modern aircraft-carrier Illustrious (23,000 tons). The names of the other warships in the fleet are not available, but such powerful units would be accompanied by cruisers, destroyers and fleet auxiliaries.

THE LAND REDEMPTION ORDINANCE

FINANCIALLY UNSOUND AND UNDEMOCRATIC

"THE proposed Land Redemption Ordinance is unsound in its financial implications, undemocratic in its purpose, unjust in its objective and highly detrimental to the best interests of agriculture. The application of its provisions is calculated to have the effect of undermining the authority of the civil courts and the arbitrary and discriminatory mode of its operation, implicit in its provisions will open the door to corruption and cause widespread discontent."

This is the view expressed by the Jaffna Association in a resolution passed by its Committee. A sub-committee of the Association has drawn up an explanatory statement embodying the reasons in support of the resolution.

Why Lands Changed Hands

The statement runs as follows:—

The lands proposed to be brought under the provisions of the Ordinance comprise a considerable area, and the money to be utilised for the purpose will be public money drawn both from current revenue and from loans to be raised on the security of the State. The total outlay to be spread over several years will come to a considerable amount reckoned in tens of million rupees. The proposal is that the lands after purchase should be settled on their former owners. It should not be forgotten that the former owners in most cases came to part with their lands because of their want of ability to manage them with business foresight or their uneconomical personal expenditure and extravagant living. It should also be remembered that most of the estates to be redeemed have passed their best days. The lands are subject to the law of diminishing returns. In the case of coconut, the second and third plantations yield progressively, poor and poorer results, the soil becoming exhausted. It will be unsound to spend public money

on what should be unremunerative business.

Banking Commission's Findings

When the former owners mortgaged their properties the economic conditions were better and the lands were at their best. When the depression came after the last war of 1914-18 there was a rapid decline in the income and the owners found it impossible even to pay the interest on their loan. The Banking Commissioners in their report (page 242) say as follows: "In several cases the value of their securities is less than the debt due in order to safeguard their interests and to prevent the piling up of debts they (the Chettiyars) have been reluctantly compelled to purchase mortgaged land in settlement of their claims. But they are ready to return them back to their original owners on being paid even a sum smaller than what they paid for the land. Most of the witnesses are emphatic that Chettiyars did not want to lock up their money in lands."

Problematic

Owing to war conditions the financial prospects of the Island are not bright and the economic depression almost certain to follow after the war, should in all probability affect the financial stability of the Island. Sources of income of individuals should, in the circumstances become narrow and owing to unemployment aggravated by the chronic state of poverty of the masses, the prospects of revenue will not be bright. It is problematic whether the money to be advanced by the State under the Ordinance will ever be realised in full. It is improbable that the former owners who are reinstated in their lands would be more prudent than they have been in the past. The lands in which they are reinstated will also be subject to the law of diminishing returns as pointed out earlier. All circumstances consid-

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WRITING ON WALL FOR GERMANY AND JAPAN

FIELD-MARSHAL SMUTS ADDRESSES PARLIAMENT

"Once the time has come to take the offensive, it would be folly to delay, over-prepare and perhaps miss the opportunity", declared the South African Prime Minister, Field-Marshal Smuts, when he addressed members of the British House of Lords and of the House of Commons on Wednesday "Nor are we likely to do so—of that I feel satisfied," he added.

"Whatever help the Allies can give to Russia should be given in the fullest measure and with the utmost speed. She is bearing more than her share of the common burden."

This war was really a continuation of the last one and the intervening armistice was a "period of feverish rest or unrest and dreams and delusions".

"For Japan, just as for Germany, the writing is on the wall. All that will remain of the spectacular Japanese success will be 'Japan for the Japanese.' For Japan has infallibly sealed her own doom."

"We have much to be thankful, but not least for the colossal mistakes of our enemies. Will a forth blunder be committed? Will Japan in spite of her peace treaty with Russia launch a treacherous attack against her also in Siberia? Time alone will show. In the long run, Japan will not be good enough as an associate even for Germany."

Defence Phase Ended

'We have now reached the fourth year of this war and the defence phase has now ended. The stage is set for the last offensive phase. The final alignments, both of the Allies and of our enemies, have been developed and mobilised on a very large scale. Ours are still on the increase; those of the enemy are on the decline. Our manpower is still growing; that of the enemy is getting depleted, while he makes ever heavier drafts on his suffering vassal peoples. The spectre of want, hunger and starvation is beginning to stalk through the subject countries where the spirit of unrest is heaving up and rising.

"The explosive limits of endurance are nearing. We are

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Hindu Organ.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 26, 1942.

DOMINION STATUS

THE PEOPLE OF THIS COUNTRY are now in a position to understand and assess at its proper value the demand made by the Board of Ministers for a declaration that Ceylon will be granted full self-government after the war. It is interesting to note that one of the signatories to the memorandum submitted by the Board of Ministers is Mr. A. Mahadeva, who, till recently, acted as Minister for Home Affairs. In 1941 a similar demand had been made by the Ministers. Representations were made to the Secretary of State for the Colonies on behalf of the minority communities, and the only concession which Downing Street felt justified in granting to the Ministers was that the whole position would be examined after the war. The Secretary of State emphasised the fact that there was little unanimity in the demand for full self-government. Those who were anxious to safeguard the interests of the minorities against the encroachments of the political clique now in power, breathed freely again. We too in these columns expressed the opinion that the demand for self-government or dominion status should not be conceded until the grievances of the minorities were examined and redressed.

That these grievances are real will not be denied by any impartial student of the recent political history of Ceylon. As for the Ministers, all that we can say is that the worst has not been said about them and their ways. They have been by no means a credit to the land of their birth and its people. Their latest intrigue is to send Sir Baron Jayatillaka out of the island. This will no doubt enable them to conspire afresh and proceed once more to a fresh allocation of the seats of power.

When, therefore, it was announced that the Ministerial clique wanted a declaration promising dominion status after the war, we were inclined to think that what the Ministers were after was a species of dominion status for themselves with liberty to continue in their present career of place-seeking and intrigue. We were not prepared to believe that their passion for freedom had become so overwhelming that the Ministers must needs pester the Secretary of State in the midst of a terrible world war about declarations con-

taining a promise of self-government.

This much, however, must be said in favour of the Ministerial demand: the course of the war and the attitude of Tory extremists in England towards the claims of the colonies and dependencies call for the immediate revision of the attitude of all colonial peoples towards the question of self-government. It is obvious that, in the face of the dangers that threaten them on all sides, the various races and communities inhabiting the colonies cannot be indifferent to the clamant need for closing their ranks and thereby preventing the Mandarins in London from inventing excuses about lack of unity and so forth. The tragedy of Modern India is before us. Last week in these columns we said that the greatest weakness of the Indian people at the present moment is lack of unity, and it is this that has encouraged the enemies of Indian freedom. Let it not be said of Ceylon that, at a time when the history of the world is being re-written, her people were so obsessed with old grievances that they refused to consider for a moment the implications of the present and the future.

What are these implications? They are, first and foremost, that the colonies and dependencies of the British Commonwealth no longer deem it safe or wise to permit Ministers of the Crown in England, their associates and tools, to stand between themselves and the Crown, for the simple reason that these Ministers are not responsible to the peoples of these colonies and dependencies. They are Ministers appointed by the British Prime Minister and responsible to him and to him alone. The present arrangement is bound to do irreparable harm to the interests of colonial peoples when these interests come into conflict with the political or economic interests of powerful sections of the British public. In other words, what is needed is self-government with a Prime Minister responsible to the representative of the Crown. We agree that such a change cannot be introduced during the war. This is what the Ministers too seem to think. In the meantime, the initiative would rest with the Ministers. It is possible for them, even now, to try and form a really national government which would be able to command the confidence of the people. Let them get rid of the place-seekers and careerists and the half-educated village bosses who have somehow got into the State Council, thanks to the folly of the Donoughmore Commission.

These implications of the present situation cannot be ignored by anyone who loves his country; they cannot be resisted on the ground that minorities have their grievances. After all, the grievances

of the minorities concern only the people of Ceylon, and if the latter unite in the demand for full self-government after the war they will, by so doing, deprive reactionary British politicians of a handy weapon—a weapon the bare existence of which is not only a disgrace to the people of Ceylon and India but is also a source of positive danger to their welfare and happiness. We can very well understand Mr. Rajagopalachariar's offer to allow Mr. Jinnah to form the Indian National Government. Mr. Jinnah is at least an ex-Congressman and an Indian, living in India and for India, and he would at least understand India better than all the members of the present British Cabinet put together, even when the latter are reinforced by the Archbishop of Canterbury. The Ceylonese Board of Ministers are no doubt persons some of whom would not have been selected by any community mindful of its responsibilities for the onerous task of leadership, but the fact nevertheless remains that they are all we have to show for over a century of education and British rule. There is a chance that the country may, in any future contest, exercise greater prudence and discrimination in the election of its representatives, once communal passions and prejudices are allowed to subside. Besides, it needs no argument to show that, with all its failings, the Board of Ministers are far more representative of Ceylon than the Secretary of State for the Colonies and his political advisers; the Ministers are at least Ceylonese who know their people and understand them much better than Mr. Amery's counterpart in the Colonial Office, and some of whom are striving according to their own lights to improve the condition of their own people.

These are the plain facts of the present position. We recognise however that the Ministers' demand, thanks to the attitude of the Ministers themselves, may be viewed with a good deal of suspicion and distrust by members of the minority communities. It is up to the Ministers to make a gesture of goodwill and friendship and remove the grounds of this suspicion and distrust. It is in their power to do this and the sooner they do it the better it will be for Ceylon as a whole, for, we repeat, the events of the last few months have transformed the situation in India and Ceylon. The greatest need of the moment is unity.

NOTES & COMMENTS

Toleration in Views

SOME time ago at a certain meeting there was a great commotion over whether the "Siva Gnana Bhotham" was

borrowed from Sanskrit or was originally written in Tamil. There were two factions each of which had staunch adherents. In the end each side was convinced that its views were correct. We wish to stress that it will be good to be more tolerant towards each other. As a work of art, "Sivagnana Botham" stands peerless in Tamil literature; no Saivite ever questions the genuineness of its contents. Under these circumstances we see no reason why Saivites should be quarrelling among themselves over a question with which historians and philologists are more concerned. The Mohenjo Daro inscriptions tend to show that Tamil is as old a language as any other including Sanskrit, and that Siva was worshipped by the Tamils even before Aryans set foot on Indian soil. It will be impossible on the evidence before us to state conclusively beyond doubt that "Siva Gnana Bhotham" was written originally in Sanskrit or in Tamil. History tells us that men of different faiths have with the progress of civilisation learned to be more tolerant towards each other. In the middle ages wars were fought for the sake of Religion. Men were burnt alive as heretics for holding particular beliefs. We have come to an age when people are more tolerant towards each other in matters of religion and we think the same attitude must prevail among those who belong to the same fold. Great men have always pleaded for independence of thought, which is the birthright of everybody.

The Desert Battle

THE Eighth Army has once more attacked the Germans. According to reports, the army would appear to have launched an all-out drive against the enemy. With the Germans straining every nerve to complete the occupation of Stalingrad, the British Army in Egypt could not very well continue to be on the defensive. Both sides have been heavily reinforced and the next few days will probably witness some of the bitterest fighting of the war. In regard to air power, the British and American air forces have little to fear from the enemy. The British artillery has given an exceedingly good account of itself in the fight against the German tanks. It would appear in fact that the success of the British guns against German tanks was so outstanding that experts predict the supersession of the tank by the heavy gun. In any event, the British offensive in Egypt has come none too soon. We have no doubt that it will be pressed hard and a determined attempt made to drive the enemy out of Egypt.

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT FOR INDIA

"C. R." Outlines an Acceptable Scheme

New Delhi, Oct. 21.

Mr. Rajagopalachari in the course of a talk to Pressmen indicated that if he could get a plane and a passport there was neither disinclination nor work which would stand in the way of his leaving for England. He felt that the British people had been misled in connection with the Indian problem and he could make them see the truth.

He stressed the importance of a National Government for India and the guarantee of Burma's future status before any offensive is taken.

Scheme Outlined

Mr. Rajagopalachari, replying to the Duke of Devonshire's charge that no specific proposals for a settlement of the Indian question had so far been advanced outlined the scheme for a provisional Government which he claimed both the Congress and the Muslim League would accept.

He suggested that the Viceroy should act as the Crown would in a crisis in England. The Viceroy should select those who are very popular and very responsible and ask them to run the Government.

The Viceroy could visualise what kind of legislature would come into being if elections were held now and he could, if he liked, select men for the Government who could face a proper legislature. Such a Government should be formed straightaway. Then arrangements should be made to hold the elections direct to the Provinces and indirect to the Centre from Provincial Legislatures as provided for a Federation.

What Indians Want
"I press so much for elections because use has been made of the position to tell the world that we desire to have a National Government responsible to nobody. We do not desire any such thing."

"We want a National Government, of which I am speaking, that should be responsible to this legislature that I am suggesting should be brought into existence immediately."

There was nothing to prevent the Government selecting five important Congressmen who the Viceroy felt would top the list in the elections anywhere at any time and command the respect and loyalty of the people throughout the country.

"It would include people in prison. Let there be no mistake."

Mr. Rajagopalachari suggested that the Viceroy should ask Mr. Jinnah to join this Government with as many men as he (Mr. Jinnah) liked of his choice. That was to meet Mr. Jinnah's fear that the issue might be prejudiced by the formation of such a Government. It was in accordance with Gandhi's express offer that he was prepared to have the entire Government being given to Mr. Jinnah on the real transfer of power from the British.

These men from the Congress and the Muslim League should then add to themselves roughly three persons roughly to represent any important factors left out or anyone who, the Government

OUR SYSTEM OF EDUCATION IN THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD WAR

BY S. A. NATHAN

VII

"But time has convinced us that we cannot keep a breed of reasoners like a flock of sheep. For they so far from following as we lead. Make that a cause why they will not proceed."

We are indebted to Press sleuths for certain bits of conclusions and recommendations of the Special Committee on Education whose report is awaited with varying degrees of hope and despair by various interested bodies and individuals whose conflicting stand-points on the subject can never be harmonised as long as the permanent inhabitants of the country do not possess the authority to lay down the law and to demand and enforce conformity to it.

The Special Committee began its labours under the serious handicap of not enjoying the public confidence, for many were the protests uttered against the Executive Committee on Education transforming itself into a tribunal to examine, and report on, the Educational System. It was thought and felt in various quarters that the members of the Executive Committee had not the requisite detachment, and some of them, the ability and knowledge, to study and examine a problem of such importance and submit proposals of reform on which depended the work of undoing the past mischief and evil and of preparing the ground to rear a healthy mind that would transcend the barriers of religion, and race and of other narrow loyalties to shape the bedrock of nationhood. All protests demanded a Commission of Experts from outside the country who alone could view the problem unbiassed by petty currents of local politics. The protests went unheeded and it may be assumed that the Special Committee will have profited by them, in that any preconceptions of the members of the Committee may have been disabused and they faced the problem squarely with all the honesty of purpose and detachment worthy of the cause. Until the report is forthcoming, all judgment must be suspended on the behaviour and labour of the Committee.

Order Out of Chaos

The little unauthorised bits of information served by Press hounds make possible certain comments. The Special Committee in surveying the field of Education as constituted now, will have noticed the multiplicity of educational agencies each paying homage and fealty to a differing ideal and philosophy of life. They have been, and are, so conflicting in their purpose and pursuit that they would require the iron hand of a dictator to coordinate and stabilise them to the common, higher ideal of nationhood of democratic specification which the Special Committee has set its heart upon. What methods and means the Committee recommends to resolve the petty, conflicting loyalties

might feel, was sufficiently important and might be accepted as a centring factor for the team. This Government would be the ideal one to face the legislature and serve the country at the present juncture.

that have starved the growth of democracy in Ceylon; that have defied the noble sacrifices of the great men of India, who have laboured so long and arduously to weld them into a single current of national life, that have thwarted the very Time Spirit from its logical course, it will be interesting to know.

The Interests of Democracy

The Special Committee must be irrepressibly optimistic if it thinks that a pious expression of its wish for a democratic state in Ceylon would forthrightly curb the exploiting educational agencies to subserve the interests of democracy. Certain non-Ceylon educational establishments have long queered the pitch that it is not easy for any national ideal of education to get a-going and a devoted following. For over a century the propagandist bodies from beyond the seas (perhaps well meaning in their efforts, for they believe that the industrial civilisation of the West is the best that man has devised, though a good many of them were at its demoralised form today) have done their best covertly and overtly to wean the people of the country from the age-long native life by pouring a flood of ridicule and vilification on their religion, their customs, habits and manners. Not all the mud thrown has missed the target. They have succeeded in gaining footholds and their success is largely due to the large sums of money used as bait. Not a few have been converted and perverted who are far more deadly in their attacks on the ways of life from which they have been enticed. These perverted converts and their noosers will never fit into a scheme of education that aims at a democratic state. They usually employ the clap-net that democracy is foreign to Indian ideals. They conveniently forget or ignore that the Hindu Dharma is the highest and widest expression, according to reputed European students of ancient Indian Polity, of democracy which in its essence is based upon the love of, and regard for, life in all its forms and expressions. The unvarnished Christ ideal that has not been mis-shapen by the institutionality of the Church which is an up-holder of economic and political imperialism and as such, has been an aider and abettor of enslavement of Asiatic and African peoples—the simple Christ ideal is nothing new to the Hindus and is not antagonistic to the Hindu ideal. And the truth is exemplified in the striking observation of an Anglican Bishop of Madras, that the greatest living Christian is a Hindu Ghandiji!!!

The Church and Democracy

Is the Christian Church a democratic body? Is the Church a tolerator of the freedom of thought? Has the Church been a promoter of liberal education? History gives the answer. Even the Protestant Church has not always been true to its creed. The Protestant Missions in foreign fields have exercised exclusive rights in favour of the White Missionary, which is redolent of imperialism in the Kingdom of the Spirit. As to the so-called Original Church and its creed of Papacy and the part it plays in winning and holding allegiance, all

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TOPICS OF THE DAY

By
T. Kathira Vellu

Pot—Pourri

After a long holiday I do not know where to begin. I could compare the Missionaries in Ceylon (with their good banking accounts) and the impoverished Brahmin priest. To escape from the war, we could suggest repairing the Great Wall of China or argue about the Mikado's wives or the palatial mansions of government servants. Politically, we might recommend that our M. S. Cs, and the seven Ministers be entitled to receive statutory fees as *santosams*, apart from sponsoring substantial war allowances for them. When once the fees become legalised, the Bribery Commission could close shop! Continuing in the same strain, the odour of Jaffna drains would compel us to recognise the bus driver's claims on the use of roads.

Communal Philosophy

The Tamils are being urged on all sides to drop out communalism. I would be Kadirvela and Vaddukoddai, Battugode, for Ceylonese-thinking today inevitably means Sinhalese thinking. Anywhere that Mr. Corea (of National Congress fame) goes, the sheep are sure to go.... When the Tamils asked for a subsidy to promote Tamil Literature, the request was refused but Sir Baron Jayatilaka got one for his Sinhalese Dictionary. Even so, there are non-communal philosophers among the Tamils. I am content to be a philosopher!

Kataragama

A Hindu manages the Buddha Gaya temple. Gaya was sacred to the Hindus long before Siddhartha Gautama was born. The Kataragama temple of Lanka is under Buddhist management. Should you write to the 'Hindu Organ' about it? Certainly not... Non-communal thinking.

RPA—UDC Reforms

'Jaffna after twelve years' experience of administration by an Urban District Council merits the same adverse comment which it has received in detail from 1931 onwards. Year after year the same failures are publicly pointed out and though the Auditor-General and the President are constantly bringing to the notice of the Chairman the delinquencies of the Council and its officers and explaining how they should be put right..."—H. E. Newnham, then president of the Local Government Board, in his 1934 annual report. Perhaps the Ratepayers' Association, which some say is defunct while others allege, is boisterously active, could interest itself in this matter and effect reforms (if needed) through its representative Councillors.

Clean Politics

When the redoubtable Professor Suntheralingam became President of the Jaffna Youth Congress many expected him to enter election politics and contest some Council seat if an opportunity arose. I am sorry to disillusion you. He has publicly said that he did not enter active politics as he refused to buy voters with bribes or witness the unedifying spectacle of an electorate made drunken at his cost.

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JAFFNA SOCIETY HOLDS FIRST PLACE

PROGRESS OF CO-OPERATION IN CEYLON

That the oldest marketing organisation, the Jaffna Malayalam Tobacco Sale Society, continues to hold the first place among the co-operative sale societies of the Island, is the opinion of the Registrar of Co-operative Societies stated in his latest Administration report.

The following are further extracts from the Report:

Marketing and Production

At the end of 1939-40 there were 18 societies for marketing and production. In 1940-41 the number rose to 36. On April 30, 1942, there were 71 societies (N. D. 31, C. D. 10, W. D. 24, S. D. 6). This is remarkable development. It is also a very hopeful sign, for co-operative marketing, although it is about the most difficult form of co-operation to organise (the fierce opposition of vested interests, the prior indebtedness of the producer to the private trader, the difficulty of educating and ensuring loyalty are some of the many obstacles) is the very key to the solution of the numerous economic problems of the producer. Some of the societies have yet to prove their worth. Several of them had scarcely commenced business at the close of the year.

The Goat Farming societies had not started work by the end of the year. Five of them are in Batticaloa District. The Palmyrah Products societies too are recent registrations, but they sold goods to the value of Rs. 2,436. They are all in Jaffna and are mostly composed of very poor people. The Visvakarma Industrial Society (carpenters), also in Jaffna, continued to be mismanaged.

The textile societies have been organised mainly in connection with the weaving centres run by the Department of Commerce and Industries. They, as well as most other industrial societies, derive their finance from the Vote for State Aid to Industries controlled by that Department. They have been able to profit by the better market for textile products created by the war, but they have experienced great difficulty in obtaining yarn. The textile and other industrial societies in Jaffna have formed themselves into a Union which conducts a Sales room. The enterprise has received an initial subsidy from the Department of Commerce and Industries.

Sale Societies

Of the 11 Agricultural Produce Sale Societies, 6 are in the Northern Province. Five of the Northern Province societies deal almost exclusively in onions and chillies. They were formed, after much propaganda and in the teeth of great opposition, to enable the producer to derive the maximum benefit from the working of the Agricultural Products (Regulation Ordinance). The action of the Minister in making them the sole agents of the Marketing Department under the A. P. R. Ordinance contributed immeasurably to their development and success and they now control practically the

entire output of onions and chillies in the Northern Province (the regulation of the two products has led to a phenomenal increase in cultivation). They have also formed themselves into a Union which does excellent work. Their combined sales for 1941-42 amounted to Rs. 275,398 and their combined nett profits to Rs. 12,675.

The Minneriya Agricultural Produce Sale Society sold in 1941-42, 20,518 bushels of paddy valued at Rs. 46,166 as against 7,070 bushels valued at Rs. 10,862 in the previous year. The Nachchaduwa Society sold 1518 bushels and the Kagama Society 3576 bushels. These two societies can do better. The Dumbura Agricultural Produce Sale Society is as good as dead. It started under bad auspices and could not be improved.

The number of co-operative dairies has increased to 8. Two of them are in the Northern Division—one in Jaffna town, the other at Kuchchaveli in Triacommalee District (organised by the Rural Service Centre established there by the Department of Commerce and Industries). The other six are in the Western Province, close to Colombo. They have formed themselves into a Union, which also runs a Milk Bar in the Old Town Hall, Colombo. Among the customers of the 8 dairies are 11 Government hospitals. The total value of milk products sold by the societies during 1941-42 was Rs. 67,500.

Holds First Place

The three Tobacco Sale Societies are in the Northern Division. One was registered in 1941-42 to help growers for the South Ceylon Market, but it has not received the support it was originally promised (a temporary improvement in prices has made members insensible to the benefits of co-operation for the moment). The Chunnakam Tobacco Sale Society (also for a variety of local tobacco) has done considerably better.

The oldest marketing organisation, the Jaffna Malayalam Tobacco Sale Society, continues to hold the first place among the co-operative sale societies of the Island. Its membership rose in 1941-42 to 1870 from 1506 in the previous year, and in both years it received the very greater part of the Malayalam tobacco crop of the Peninsula. It is in a very strong position now. The 1940 crop is now selling in Travancore. The 1939 crop accounts were closed last year and members received a further 26 per cent. on the advances originally drawn by them for their produce. In 1940-41 the society borrowed Rs. 435,000 from the Local Loans and Development Fund and in 1941-42 Rs. 500,000. The construction of the Model Processing House which Government is providing for the society (on payment of a rental) was begun last year.

It will be seen that one factor that has contributed much to the present development of co-operative marketing has been the increasing support given it by Government. Government support is very necessary and must be freely given, especially in the initial

stages. The results have also been very satisfactory, and greater opportunity of progress has been created, wherever the co-operative method has been utilised in Government schemes of economic development. A further point of interest is that a greater co-operative conviction has been observed to take place wherever it has been possible to establish a successful marketing organisation. In such cases the people have been found to take to new lines of co-operative development of their own accord without much persuasion from outside.

Consumers' Societies

The number of co-operative stores rose in 1940-41 to 29 from 26 in the previous year. On April 30, 1942, there were 38 stores (N. D. 3 C. D. 23, W. D. 3, S. D. 9). Their membership was 17,674 and their combined sales for the year exceeded a million and a third rupees. Of their number 29 are estate stores. The difficulties of the people in obtaining foodstuffs in the present situation has led to a demand for co-operative stores in the villages and towns too. Three stores in the Northern Division and two others are the result of this new demand. At the same time most stores experienced the greatest difficulty in obtaining supplies at the controlled prices or any supplies at all. They made representations to the authorities concerned and have since decided to organise a Wholesale Society as one means of solving their common problems.

There are now 13 Better Living societies as against 5 in 1939-40. Most of them have done satisfactory work. The co-operation of the Department of Medical and Sanitary Services has been obtained in conducting Better Living societies.

There are 5 Better Farming societies. They have done satisfactory work on the whole. Two of them have also been designed to undertake the joint cultivation of leased land, but for reasons which have not been entirely within their control, they have been able to fulfil this function yet. Both Better Farming and Better Living are activities which have to be conducted with the close co-operation of other Departments, and a more effective system of collaboration than has hitherto been possible has yet to be devised.

The Jaffna Islands Motor Boat Service Society with its two motor launches had a gross income of Rs. 17,260 in 1941-42. Its membership increased from 476 to 550 and its usefulness continues to be appreciated. It has made a mistake, however, in not raising its fares at a time when the cost of transport has increased so much.

The Tholpalam Moolai Co-operative Union Hospital settled its internal troubles to some extent last year. Its membership increased to 354 and it afforded medical facilities to 52 inpatients and 4,313 outpatients (counting prescriptions not persons). It is remarkable, however, that most of those treated have been non-members.

WANTED

New or second hand Winslow's Tamil dictionary.

Apply: X,

C/o Hindu Organ,
Jaffna.

[Mis. 138-12, 15, 22 & 26-10-42]

OUR SYSTEM OF EDUCATION

Continued from page 3.

its activities are a negation of democracy, liberal education and freedom of thought. The means and methods which the Mother Church employs to preserve and perpetuate its hold and to rend those who dare run counter to it, are better understood and appreciated by a study of Erasmus, once a Church father in the inner Council of the Catholic Hierarchy. We have no quarrel with any body who peacefully employs propaganda for a set purpose. But we cannot be blind to insidious activities, however peaceful, for they frustrate the supreme end and aim of a national democratic state. What is amazing is that the Government of the land has allowed unmolested propagandists who have abused and slandered the past of the people for whose good they have claimed to labour. It is only very recently that the Government took note of such evil and the violence of the propaganda abated, but the insidiousness of the work is there.

Reform & Revival

As a counter-blast, the Buddhists and the Hindus—they are after all one—started some work of reform and revival. The Buddhist reaction has been carried to certain lengths, which has become intolerant of all others. It assumed a political pose and the accidents of constitutional reforms have placed it on the seat of power and it has behaved itself in a manner not associated with the Enlightened One. If the immediate past is any guide, the democracy dreamed of by the Special Committee might easily be a Sinhalese autocracy. They, being the major race, might enforce their opinion and disregard all others. The disregarded groups, the minorities, will naturally rebel as they have done these last ten years. This position will be maintained uninterrupted if the Special Committee's pronouncement that there may be as many kinds of education as there are opinions, because of the absence of a settled creed of education. Does freedom of opinion connote that certain secular uniformity is antagonistic to it? John Stuart Mill does not think so. Nor any other reputed writer on Constitution.

The Problem

Now the problem is how does the Special Committee propose to weld the heterogeneous elements into a national democratic entity? Let us wait for their proposals. History has no pointed lesson to offer. In any democratic state, East or West, the experiment of fusion is a success, for the people concerned are of one race, the differences being very minor. But the position here is different. There is the paramount power and there are the subject racial and social groups. History offers many lessons on this point: unite to wrest political power and secure national freedom. Then in its wake the other problems that divide and separate will solve themselves. Until then, to prepare the ground for political unity through education the Government of the country should take charge of all education, relieving the private agencies of their opportunities of adding fuel to the fire. If the Government will not take charge of education and will recognise the rights of vested interests to carry on as they have so long done to the detriment of the abiding values of racial culture and heritage, then the democracy of the Special Committee shall long remain a dream.

WRITING ON WALL FOR GERMANY AND JAPAN

Continued from page 1

approaching a point when both on the war fronts and home fronts in the enemy countries, the situation is ripening for far-reaching developments.

"So far time has been in our favour and has, on the whole, been kind to us. In spite of heavy setbacks and many disappointments, we have had the necessary time to prepare and parry deadly blows and to assemble and consolidate the forces and resources on which we rely for an Allied victory."

This at bottom was a war of spirit. "Hitler has tried to kill this spirit and to substitute for it some 'ersatz' thing, something which is really its negation. Installed into the German mind is a new racial fanaticism."

A New Crusade

"This war was a new crusade", a new fight to the death for man's rights and liberties, for the personal ideals of man's ethical and spiritual life. To Nazi fanaticism, we oppose this crusading spirit which will not sheathe the sword till Nazi-dom and all its works have been purged from this fair world,

"What is the sort of world which we envisage as our objective after the war? What sort of social and international order are we aiming at? These are very important questions deserving of our most careful attention if we mean not only to win the war but also the peace. A great deal of thought is, no doubt, already being given to these matters, and one may hope that we shall approach the peace much better informed and equipped than we were last time. Certain points of great importance have already emerged. Thus, we have accepted the name of 'United Nations'. This is a new conception much in advance of the old concept of the League of Nations. We do not want a mere League, but something more definite and organic even if, to begin with, more limited and less ambitious than the League. 'United Nations' is itself a fruitful conception and on the basis of that conception, practical machinery for the functioning of an international order could be ordered."

Real Magna Charta

"Then, again, we have the Atlantic Charter in which certain large principles of international policy in the social and economic sphere have been accepted. That, too, marks a great step forward which only requires more a careful definition and elaboration to become a real Magna Charta of the Nations."

"Again, we have agreed on certain large principles of social policy involving social security for the citizen in matters which have lain at the roots of much social unrest and suffering in the past. Certain patent social and economic evils could be tackled on modest and practical lines and on an international scale almost at once. Then, again we have accepted the principle of international help underlying the mutual aid agreement. A helping hand in international life is thus already a matter of practical politics and should be suitably

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THE JAFFNA POLICE

Sir,—Since of late several allegations and accusations had been made against the officers and members of the Police in Jaffna. Representations were made by the Public and by the aggrieved parties to His Excellency The Governor and the Honourable the Minister for Home Affairs and the Inspector-General of Police Being not satisfied with these representations, the Public were compelled to take legal steps against the Police Officers concerned. Several cases were filed against the members of the Police Force and counter cases had been filed by the Police against some persons accused by the Police. The learned Magistrates of all the Courts in the Northern Province after full hearing had dismissed cert in cases filed by the Police as "not proved" or not satisfied with the evidence led by the Police. In a certain case a Sub-Inspector of Police had been fined and reported for other acts to the Head of the Department. In other cases the learned Magistrates had clearly stated in open Court that the Public of Jaffna had lost all confidence in the Police of Jaffna. It was resolved in several Public Meetings held at Nallur, Chundicully, Jaffna, Kayts, etc. that immediate steps should be taken by His Excellency the Governor and by the Minister for Home Affairs to appoint an Independent Commission to inquire into the various complaints against the Police and to redress the grievances of the Public of Jaffna against the Police. In the Daily Papers accounts of the atrocities of Police in Jaffna were published almost every day.

It is quite clear from all these reports etc that there is something wrong materially with the Police Force in Jaffna. It is absolutely necessary for all concerned to find out the root cause. Petitions are sent to the Assistant Superintendent of Police of Jaffna for report. What has happened to these petitions? In some cases signatures are obtained from the petitioners withdrawing the charges and the petitions are returned. In other cases a report is made that the petitioner had failed to substantiate the allegations in the petition. Invariably members of the Police Force go to the party

extended after the war. This, too, is a far-reaching innovation pointing the way to fruitful developments in the future. All these are already indications of considerable advances to a better world and a richer life for mankind.

"To these we may add much of the social and economic work of the League of Nations which remains of permanent value. Much of the League organisation could thus continue to function for the future well-being of mankind. There is no reason why we should not hopefully and sincerely attempt to carry out for the world the task which now confronts us as never before in the history of our race. We are passing beyond ordinary politics and political shibboleths. It is no longer a case of socialism or communism or any of other 'isms' of the market-place, but of achieving common justice and fair play for all."

and threaten them and prevent all his witnesses from attending inquiry. This is how things are done in Jaffna. The Deputy Inspector-General of Police who was here on inquiry would have learnt this by now. Thus members of the Police Force were able to shape things in their own way as there was no proper supervision and as the Police were quite confident that their acts would be supported by their Head and as these members of the Police Force were able to satisfy their superiors in their own line of actions and omissions.

Under these circumstances it is absolutely necessary that all officers in charge of Police Stations and all the constables or Sergeants or Inspectors against whom the Public had made certain allegations—whether proved or not—should be transferred without any further delay. It is impossible to get evidence to support the charges made against the Police as long as they are allowed to remain in Jaffna.

The Public of Jaffna appeal to you—Editor—if you will kindly expose all matters concerning the Police actions in Jaffna and make the authorities concerned to deal with the members of the Police Force of Jaffna as early as possible and grant relief to the Public.

Yours Sincerely,
Jaffna, S. KANDIAH.
20th Oct. 1942.

WOMEN ATHLETES

Sir,—It is reported that 25 women and girls took part on the 9th and 10th instant when the A. A. A. staged their annual championship meet. Of the 25 women and girls, 6 were Europeans and 19 Ceylonese—Burghers and Sinhalese. It is very strange that Tamil girls did not compete especially when they are vying with the Burghers and Sinhalese in adopting the European methods of civilisation. The Archbishop of Colombo, Dr. J. M. Masson (a European) told the girls of St. Bridget's Convent at the prize-giving on the 11th December 1941 (please see the "Ceylon Observer" of 12-12-41) that he did not like to see girls' schools turn out athletes. He also stated that he did not like our girls to turn out to be "boyish girls" and asked the girls to keep the feminine charm of womanhood, remembering always that in the Catholic Church "what they prize is purity, decency and simplicity." He reminded them of the true ideal of Catholic Education for girls, which he said was to fit them for their place in the home as good wives and mothers. It is no known if the Catholic girls have listened to the Archbishop's advice. I think not.

It would have been better if the Archbishop had not restricted his advice to the Catholic girls only. His advice is applicable to all the Ceylonese girls. Whatever it may be, the Tamil girls should take a lesson from the Archbishop always remembering that, according to the oriental ideals, "what we prize is purity, decency and simplicity."

Yours etc,
Jaffna, K. SIVAPRAGASAM,
19th Oct. 1942.

UNEMPLOYED TEACHERS

PROPOSED MEASURE OF RELIEF

It is understood that a proposal that teachers at present engaged in assisted schools who have reached the age of fifty-five should be compulsorily retired will shortly be placed before the Executive Committee of Education for consideration.

The proposal has been made by a number of educationalists as a solution to the problem of unemployment among trained teachers.

TOPICS OF THE DAY

Continued from page 3

Bottles, libel and dirt sum up our election campaigns.

Tabloid News

Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike no longer entertains us with tight-rope dancing. Neither does he any longer sugar-coat his pills. Nor does Mr. Geo E. de Silva continue to be a time-server.

In 1935 the Board of Education recommended the direct payment of salaries to teachers of English assisted schools. *Why was the experiment a failure?*

The Tamil Medical Council of Ceylon once wanted a College of Indigenous Medicine at Jaffna. *Man proposes, God disposes.*

Sins of omission by ratepayers were noticed during the recent struggle which deprived Mr. Sivagurunathan of his Jaffna U. D. C. Chairmanship. Electoral associations should grow out of ratepayers' associations, which are the creations of cliques and coteries. Notice the frequent rows we had at the pre-Iyadurai U. D. C. meetings. Meanwhile the Chilaw dispute marches on. We should have a U. D. C. Privileges Bill on the lines of the State Council's precedent! *Are public men nowadays not liable to public criticism?*

ORDER NISI

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 33

In the matter of the estate and effects of Annamah daughter of Chellappah of Navaly Deceased. Chellappah Senathirajah of Navaly North presently of Brown & Co., Hatton Petitioner.

1. Nallamuthu widow of Chellappah
2. Kandiah Appathurai and wife
3. Thainayake all of Navaly North Respondents.

This matter of the Petition of the abovenamed Petitioner praying for Letters of Administration to the estate of the abovenamed deceased coming on for disposal before G. C. Thambyah, Esquire, District Judge, Jaffna on the 4th day of September 1942 in the presence of Mr. A. Subramaniam, Proctor on the part of the Petitioner and the affidavit of the Petitioner dated the 4th day of September 1942 having been read. It is declared that the Petitioner is the sister of the said intestate and is entitled to have Letters of Administration to the estate of the said intestate issued to him unless the Respondents or any other person or persons shall appear in person on or before the 6th day of November 1942 and show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

Jaffna This 26th day of September 1942

Sgd. G. C. Thambyah
District Judge

(O. 65, 26 & 29-10-42)

THE LAND REDEMPTION ORDINANCE

Continued from page 1

ered the expenditure contemplated on the proposed Ordinance is unsupportable because of the serious hardship that it should entail on the distressed taxpayer.

If the object of the Ordinance is to apply the thin end of the wedge to bring about Land Nationalisation, such a policy is out of the question as no such policy has been sanctioned by the State Council as expressive of the will of the people.

Undemocratic

The proposed Ordinance is undemocratic in its scope and conception as its operation will negative the democratic principle in-as-much as the improvident rich are given preference to the industrious and hard-working poor. The principle is the provision in nature for the landless to secure chances of acquiring landed property of the negligent and inefficient landlords. Efforts in the past to tie up lands for perpetual possession of a few privileged families have invariably failed. The objective of the proposed Ordinance viz: to grant the bought lands to their former owners is akin to the practice followed in mediaeval times of the Islands' history creating monopolies in land in favour of Aristocratic families and temples. The result has been disastrous to the Island's prosperity, tillers abandoning the lands and jungle claiming.

The proposed Ordinance will be also unjust in its operation, as *bona fide* purchasers of lands under Court decrees who have spent considerable sum on the improvement and maintenance of their lands are to be evicted without compensation. It has to be remembered that they bought the lands trusting to the security of their possession under title guaranteed by the Court decrees. It is nothing but spoliation to deprive them of the land.

Intention Unsound

The acquisition of the lands is said to be for a "public purpose". Does it come within "public purpose" to buy lands with *public money* to reinstate improvident private owners in them? This is a complete travesty of the very idea of a "public purpose."

To say that the ordinance is intended for the benefit of the genuine agriculturists is unsound. If the lands had been in the possession of the hardworking agriculturist, paying personal attention to their lands instead of being in the hands of owners, many of whom were absentee proprietors leading a life of extravagance, there would have been no necessity for the Ordinance. Before the Last War of 1914-18 and even after the war, the coco nut industry was enjoying the benefit of a boom and mortgagees could very well have liquidated their debts if they were so inclined. To come to the help of such improvident owners is to waste public money for a non-public purpose.

Should be Voluntary

Debt conciliation should be a voluntary matter as pointed out

by the Banking Commissioners in their report (Sec. 572-583). The State may come to the help of owners of agricultural land sold for debt if both the creditors who bought the lands and debtors who were deprived of the lands voluntarily apply for State help; the former to be repaid the amounts advanced by them and the latter to be reinstated in their lands on an agreement with the State to repay the money advanced out of public funds in instalments spread over a number of years, the period of payment to be fixed not uniformly but according to the condition of the land and the soil and plantation thereon.

In conclusion, the provisions of the proposed Ordinance are revolutionary in character being subversive of accepted notions of equity, justice or good conscience. Even as a measure for rehabilitation of a body of fallen land owners, the Ordinance is not likely to give satisfaction to the intended beneficiaries, chiefly because of the unfree nature of the proposed tenure and of the irksome conditions sought to be imposed on life and labour, while the selection for conferment of the position of a State tenant is left to the caprice of some State official.

The sub-committee of the Jaffna Association which drafted the explanatory statement consisted of Messrs R. C. Proctor, retired Deputy Registrar, Supreme Court, C. K. Tambe, Barrister and C. Arulampalam, J. P., Advocate.

ORDER NISI

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 34.

In the matter of the estate and effects of Kanagammah wife of Sinnathamby Velautham of Urumpiray Deceased.

Sinnathamby Velautham of Urumpiray Vs. Petitioner.

1. Saraswathy daughter of Velautham
2. Velautham Nadarajah
3. Velautham Palasingham
4. Velautham Padmanathan
5. Velautham Palasubramaniam
6. Velluppillai Chelliah 1st to 5th Respondents are minors appearing by their proposed Guardian-ad-litem the 6th Respondent all of Urumpiray Respondents.

This matter of the Petition of Sinnathamby Velautham the abovenamed Petitioner praying for appointment of Guardian-ad-litem and for Letters of Administration to the estate of the abovenamed deceased coming on for disposal before G. C. Thambyah, Esquire, District Judge, Jaffna on the 10th day of September 1942 in the presence of Mr. A. Subramaniam, Proctor on the part of the Petitioner and the affidavit of the Petitioner dated the 13th day of July 1942 having been read. It is ordered that the abovenamed 6th Respondent be appointed as Guardian-ad-litem over the 1st to 5th minor Respondents for all the purpose of this action and that the abovenamed Petitioner be and he is hereby declared entitled as widower of the abovenamed deceased to have Letters of Administration to the above estate issued to him accordingly unless the Respondents or any other person or persons shall appear in person on or before the 6th day of November 1942 and show sufficient cause to the contrary.

Jaffna, this 26th day of September 1942

Sgd. G. C. Thambyah
District Judge

(O. 66. 26 & 29-10-42.)

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(Mis. 15. 27-4-42—26-4-43.)

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