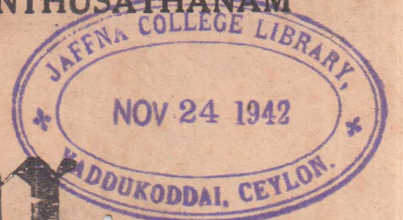


# THE Hindu Organ.



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A. V. Kulasingham, Advocate.

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## NEWS FROM FAR AND NEAR

### Plane Production By U. S.

The United States alone is now far ahead of the combined aeroplane production of the Axis Powers, according to a high Government source. Japan, Germany and Italy together produce only approximately 3,200 planes, compared with over 4,000 a month by the United States.

### Pannai Renters Discharged

On instructions from the Attorney General, the Jaffna Magistrate, Mr. Earle Wijeyawardene, discharged Messrs B. S. Thiruchelvam and E. J. Ponniah, renters of the Pannai ferry service, who were the third and fourth accused in the Pannai tragedy case.

### Magistrates and Mother Tongue

Resolutions were passed in the State Council to the effect that all magistrates should be able to read and write Sinhalese and Tamil and know the habits and customs of the people of the place; and that no acting magistrate, who has not a working knowledge of the vernaculars, should be confirmed in his appointment.

### Precautions to Scotch Malaria Epidemic

Over 250 subsidiary sites in addition to the existing permanent observation stations have been established in the beds of numerous streams and rivers in the Island for the purpose of maintaining vigilant observation to detect the malarial mosquito well in advance of a possible outbreak of malaria on an epidemic scale.

### Food Enquiry

Mr. K. Kanagaretnam, Acting Auditor-General, who was away in India on duty, has returned. It is understood that he was ordered to go to Tuticorin to investigate into questions of prices of foodstuffs and freight and the allegations made at planters' meetings that licences for export of pulses and other grains were being issued in India indiscriminately and also the allegation of trafficking in export licences. Mr. Kanagaretnam has made certain proposals to Government.

### Proposed Holiday on Deepavali Day

The Executive Committee of Home Affairs considered on Wednesday the proposal made in a motion moved in the State Council by the member for Point Pedro that the Hindu Dipavali Day should be declared a public holiday. It was proposed that one of the days now declared a public holiday should be taken out of the list of public holidays and Dipavali Day substituted therefor. The Executive Committee, has not yet arrived at a decision in the matter.

## THE PROFITEER A PARASITE & PICK-POCKET SCHOOLS SHOULD CREATE CONTEMPT FOR PROFITEERS

BY ROBERT LYND

I looked up the word 'profiteer' in a dictionary of quotations the other day to see what great men have thought on the subject of profiteering. The word 'profiteer' is perhaps, too modern—the Oxford Dictionary quotes only one mention of it before the twentieth century—to have entered into many famous sayings. I expected to find it at least mentioned. There was no mention of it at all. I consulted two other dictionaries of quotations and their compilers too seemed never to have heard of a profiteer. I turned to the older word profit hoping to find unjust profit condemned in series of acid sentences. But here again I was disappointed. A hasty reader might have concluded that profiteering was a vice peculiarly characteristic of our own time.

### In Peace Time

The truth probably is that profiteering has always flourished but that no one takes much notice of it, at least no one takes very effective steps, against it—except in wartime. The fact that a caulilower or a herring is sold in the shops at a price very little of which goes into the pockets of the vegetable grower or the fisherman causes occasional complaints in times of peace; but the complainants grow tired of complaining and nothing much is done. Peacetime ethics are tender, even to the greediest methods of money-making. To buy in the cheapest market and sell in the dearest was, according to sound Victorian economists, not only the right but the duty of man. This was called good business!

### Wartime Ethics

In the time of war, however, ethical values change. Men begin to realise that it is more important that people should be able to buy food and other necessities at reasonable prices than that a number of people should be allowed to make as much money as they can by charging abnormal prices they can get. The consumer is seen to be a man with rights that must be considered—rights that must be balanced against those of the producer and the middleman. The middleman's profit is therefore limited to what is regarded as a just profit. His income is now measured by his services to the community, not by his ability to over-charge the community. He becomes in fact first and foremost a public servant.

That is, of course, what he ought always to have been, but unfortunately he was brought up in a world that taught him that competition was the life of trade and that, being so, it justified all manner of strange practices. To compete with their neighbours the heads of certain large shops would in normal times announce cheap sales at which goods supposed to be damaged were sold at higher prices than when they were new. To compete with their neighbours, it is said, certain grocers would even mix sand with sugar. Inspectors had to be appointed under the Food and Drugs Act to prevent competitive adulteration of kinds, and the very weights in the scales had often to be inspected to make sure that the public was not being defrauded with short measures.

### In Britain & Germany

Many thousands of them have been fined for this petty profiteering already—profiteering which though petty, leads not only to fines but to some, fortunes. Nor is it only in traditionally easygoing England that profiteering flourishes. Even in iron ruled Berlin we are told 3,975 profiteers were fined during March of the present year for violating the price laws.

I should like to see regular ethical teaching in the schools by which children would be taught true ideas of justice as regards the money relations between man and man. In a good atmosphere children grow up to have a contempt for stealing and lying, and it would be a useful thing, it seems to me, to create an atmosphere in which they can grow up with a contempt for the profiteer. The new world that men desire can never be built till it is generally recognised that to make large profits without rendering any service to one's fellow is a despicable and empty way of passing one's brief time on earth. The profiteer, indeed is not an honest and responsible citizen performing the duties of a citizen, he is a parasite and often merely a pick-pocket. There will not be much room for parasites and pickpockets in the better world men hope for after the war.

## RICE QUOTA FOR CEYLON

### MADRAS GOVERNMENT FACED WITH DEFICIENCY

Madras, Nov. 12.

Commenting on Sir Baron Jayatilaka's announcement in the Ceylon State Council that arrangements have been made for purchase by the Madras Government of the quota of rice supply agreed to by them, Mr. R. Suriyanarayana Rao of the Servants of India Society writes to say that how, despite facts and figures indicating deficiency of rice supply, the Madras Government agreed to part with any quantity of rice, is beyond one's comprehension. If they wittingly agreed to deplete even their deficient supply, the public have a right to know how they propose to make up the further deficiency caused by the supply of the agreed quota to Ceylon. Nobody grudges to part with any surplus quantity available to other places especially to Ceylon. Let the quota of supply come, if at all, from a surplus area and not from a deficit province. This is one of the instances to show that neither the Government of India nor the Provincial Governments have a definite policy regarding food supplies based on any scientific data.

## CEYLON'S FOOD SUPPLIES

### REPLY TO QUESTION IN PARLIAMENT

London, Wednesday.

Food supply difficulties in Ceylon and the Seychelles are dealt with in written parliamentary answers by the Under-Secretary for the Colonies, Mr. MacMillan.

Regarding Ceylon he says: "I am aware that difficulties in connexion with the administration of the food question have been the subject of criticism but I am satisfied that in the circumstances prevailing control by the Minister of Agriculture in Ceylon is the most satisfactory arrangement."

'Rice is rationed to two-thirds of normal consumption. To meet the deficiency increased imports of wheat flour have been arranged.'

After detailing with local arrangements he continues: "The Ceylon Government have this year taken further steps to increase food production, including the opening of state farms, assistance to private cultivators, the lease of Crown land and the commandeering of uncultivated land. The planting of food crops is a condition of permission to plant new rubber trees."





## Hindu Organ.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 1942.

### THE PUBLIC SERVICE

IN THE LAST ISSUE OF THE "Hindu Organ" we mentioned some of the reasons for the shortcomings of the Police Force. We mentioned lack of understanding and the temperament needed for the work among the higher ranks as one of the reasons for the deterioration in the character of the Force. Our remarks apply with equal cogency not only to the Police Force but also to every branch of the Public Service in the island. It is obvious that the problem is one that has to be attacked at the earliest possible stage. If the efficiency and character of the Public Service is to be maintained at the highest possible level, it is necessary that the methods of appointment to this service should be subjected to the closest scrutiny and the public should see to it that appointments are made on the ground of merit and merit alone. The necessity for such watchfulness becomes imperative when one remembers the fact that the Donoughmore Constitution has given the various Executive Committees a big voice in the appointment of public servants. The public of Ceylon has had occasion during the last few years, to take note of the baneful influence of these committees on such appointments. We do not refer to the charges of corruption that have been made in connection with some of these appointments. These and other charges are now being investigated by a Commissioner who may be trusted to perform his duty. What we have in mind is something less lurid but equally bad: the breach of public duty involved in making appointments to the Public Service resting on nothing better than favouritism and the importunity of the various candidates. It is here that a radical change of outlook is necessary, and the members of the Executive Committees can set a worthy example in this respect.

That the attitude of the public itself towards this matter has been distinctly unhelpful is not to be denied. Both amongst the Sinhalese and the Tamils there prevails a spirit of clannishness that is sometimes permitted to intrude itself into the appointment of public servants. Each clan or family tries to pack the Government Service with its own members. The clansmen in the higher rungs of the official ladder take care to help those less fortunate, and it is inevi-

table that in the process of this mutual assistance the interests of the people themselves should suffer. When an appointment is questioned, the public divides itself into two sections. The victorious clan which happens to be also influential will have no difficulty in creating the impression that there were no improper reasons for the appointment, while the other section will maintain that dexterous wirepulling and not merit was the sole reason. There will be charges and counter-charges, at the end of which it will indeed be very difficult to say what had actually happened. In other words, there is no public opinion as such. When the interests of the family or the individual are affected, many of our people lose their sense of values and their capacity for unbiassed judgment.

It is easy to blame the public service but it is our considered opinion that the attitude of the public of this country towards these things is the ultimate cause of the inefficiency, corruption and all the other defects that come to light from time to time. The craze for Government employment is so great that the public too has become the victim of this craze as much as anybody else. One would think that, at least in the great majority of cases, those who have been sent to the Legislature to safeguard public interests would try to consider themselves judges and not partisans in the matter of these appointments. One would think that, as a rule, the higher officers in the Public Service would forget personal ties and considerations in a matter so closely affecting the public interest. But the plain truth seems to be that a judicial outlook and a stern regard for the efficiency and purity of the public service are not quite evident in some of the appointments that have been made.

And the result of all this is to be seen in the gradual loss of public confidence in the Government services. This is not a healthy sign and no number of Donoughmore Constitutions and charters granting Dominion Status will compensate this island for the loss in efficiency and character that is bound to follow. We cannot compensate ourselves in this respect by pointing to the larger number of Ceylonese who now man the Public Services. We admit gladly that as a policy Ceylonisation has come to stay but it is not a policy that should blind us to the dangers ahead. Nor should communalism have anything to do with the matter at all. It is the public interest that should count always and it should be the endeavour of all public spirited men in every part of the country to keep this point of view always before the public.

## WHY HITLER SHOULD BE BEATEN TO HIS KNEES

BY S. A. NATHAN

Philosophers tell us that Primal Energy throws up periodically diverse types of genius. The twists and turns in the long history of man on Earth have been the creations of genius both good and bad. The Evil Genius seems to be as necessary for the working out of the divine scheme of things as the Good. It is the Evil that draws out the best in the Good in the inevitable struggle of the two and the Evil is brought under heel and finally rooted out. And to the extent of the epic struggle and the ultimate victory which crowns it the Good acquires the halo of distinction by contradistinction. The Evil Geniuses of History who wrought on man barbarities and brutalities in satisfaction of their mania were sooner or later checked and stamped out. The Carthaginian Hannibal, the marauding chiefs of the Euro-Asiatic Steppes, the Huns of the northern plains of Europe and Napoleon of later times have all been outfought and the scarlet pages of History are an encouraging reminder to the afflicted world that the evil forces that stalk it should be resisted and fought out so that the integrating forces of human society may have their unfettered play.

### The Latest

Hitler is the latest, and by no means the last, Evil Genius to afflict the world. Various have been the interpretations of this evil Phenomenon. Some justify his place and power as a checkmate to certain exploiting forces under the cover of Moral Laws and Democracy; and he and his philosophy will cease to be as a matter of course when the Moral Laws that should govern man and his machinery for regulating the affairs of human society are rehabilitated in their natural and proper domain. Many subject races of people are inclined to draw comfort from this view. But they do not pause to think and consider Hitler in the light of his actions and pronouncements. They do not care to look into the theories of things that he has set out at length in his book "Mein Kampf." If Hitler had his uninterrupted way, he would brush aside and away many a right and privilege which subject races possess and enjoy even as they are constituted now. It is perhaps a mistake to look upon Hitler as an aspect of divine intervention in the affairs of man. But there is no denying that he is a genius of the primal type sent forth to help man by contrainess to reassess imperishable values.

### The Man

It is not easy enough to penetrate the curtain of mystery that is interposed between man on the stage and what is behind. A tolerably coherent picture of the man, the actor, can be created by what he does and says. In attempting such a picture, Wheeler-Bennett, the author of "Brest Litovsk: The Forgotten Peace", says "If Adolf Hitler is the putative child of the Treaty of Versailles, he is also the offspring of the Peace of Brest-Litovsk." This picture is but a surface reading of the man. It may be that the Treaty of Versailles was incontinently harsh on a fallen foe. Reputed thinkers and writers like John Meynard Heynes have been at pains to prove that the resuscitated war machine of Germany is a definite result of

the vindictive peace of Versailles; if the penal clauses of the Treaty had not been as exacting as they were, Germany would not have thirsted for vengeance, but would have gladly turned a new chapter of peaceful life and activity in the comity of European nations. Wheeler-Bennett has tried to prove that the prior Treaty of Brest-Litovsk by which the Germany of Kaiser William II, concluded peace with the Russia of the Czar on the volcano brink of a bloody revolution, which treaty, the Treaty of Versailles rendered inoperative, whetted the German ambition, and Hitler, the obscure Austrian painter, became by the merest accident its propagandist and pursuer. But the Treaty of Brest Litovsk which revealed a vista of Germanic development over the vast spaces of Russia and Siberia, was made long before Hitler was possible.

### What is the Truth

Is Hitler really a creature of the two treaties? The possibility of a Hitler should be looked for, into the texture of German life, and literature three quarters of a century at least anterior to the outbreak of the first world war. In the tragic cycle of German genius as elaborated in philosophy and literature which culminated in the "Superman" of Friedrich Nietzsche, one sees the raison d'être of teutomania for world hegemony. Even Hegel who was otherwise an innocuous philosopher pushed at last his idealism of "endless becoming" to the point of "apostrophising the Kaiser as the political soul of the world." The literary ideals of the Germans from Lessing to Hauptmann shows a gradual drifting to Nietzsche's "Superman." Out of this highly emotional thirsting and longing for a German "superman" to straddle the world as a Colossus, was born the German endeavour in 1914 to prostrate the inhabited, and the uninhabited world at the feet of the "Superman." General Smuts is right in holding the view that the present war is not world war No. 2, but a continuation of the outbreak of 1914. The intervening period of about 18 years was at best a time of armistice and the Allied nations were not well advised in granting an armistice to the Germans, or at any rate, they should have been chary enough to enforce in toto the Peace of Versailles at the point of the bayonet. The Kaiser William II made the exit and Hitler the founding staged the entry and has carried on the tradition of the "superman" ideal. He has developed out of the philosophical basis of Nietzsche the Nordic race theory which propounds that every German of the supposed Nordic stock is a potential "superman" fit to hold the rest of the world in fee.

### SIR BARON'S DELHI POST

### COUNCIL APPROVES VOTE

By 30 votes to 14 the State Council approved on Friday the supplementary estimate of Rs. 52,294 (moved by Mr. R. H. Drayton, Chief Secretary) which is the expenditure for 10 months for the proposed "Ceylon Representative in India" organisation at New Delhi.

Mr. T. B. Jayah's amendment to refer the supplementary estimate back was lost by a majority of 14 votes: Ayes 15, Noes 29.



## THE PLIGHT OF OUR AGRICULTURE

By  
R. C. Proctor.

The Island is in a deplorable state in regard to its food supply. The cost of making arrangements to get overseas supply is heavy. Incompetence and ignorance mark the course of conduct of business for and on behalf of the people. The losses are heavy and the people have got to foot the bill; but they are poor and their physical condition is likely to deteriorate owing to inadequacy of food and malnutrition.

A two thirds of our Island area is in jungle and the jungle bears evidence of high cultivation in former times. Tanks, terraced paddy fields, traces of tofts and crofts, roads and abandoned villages come to sight when an extent of jungle is cleared. We have also about a two-thirds of the population (about 6 million) returned as agriculturists. The chief industry of the Island has been agriculture from ancient times and the peasantry who form the majority of our population are no mean exponents of the art of agriculture.

### Not Impossible

"There is not one nation in the world," said Kropotkin, "which being dressed with the present powers of agriculture, could not grow on its cultivable area all the food and most of the raw materials derived from agriculture which are required for its population, even if the requirements of that population were to rapidly increase." The above proposition will be accepted in the East as demonstrably true. Since its establishment about 30 years ago, the Department of Agriculture has been at work on its avowed object of advancing scientific agriculture.

On these conditions, the prosperity of the Island should be quite assured, especially on the side of food production. But is it really so? The present state of things gives an effective denial.

Sir Herbert Stanley (Governor 1928-31) who piloted the Donoughmore Constitution safely through the Legislative Council was definitely of the opinion that if the new constitution was to prove a blessing to the Island (1) a university should speedily be established and (2) the indigenous agriculture should be placed on a better footing. At an all-Ceylon Agricultural meeting held at Peradeniya he (Sir Herbert) appointed a commission, known as Paddy Commission constituted of representative men from the several provinces who were known to be men of high reputation and learning and intimately associated with paddy cultivation and village life. The Commission had begun its work subdividing itself into 3 committees A, B and C (i.e. A dealing with Irrigation and Drainage, Communication and transport, (B) with tenancy credit, and marketing and (C) with rural education), when Mr. D. S. Senanayake, returned in the recent elections to the new State Council, accepted office as Minister for Agriculture and Lands and advised the new Governor Sir Graeme Thompson, the successor of Sir Herbert to dissolve the Commission. The Commission was accordingly dissolved. In the light of the present-day facts, the action of the Minister must be condemned as a mistake.

### The Cost

In the last 11 years, a hundred and ten million rupees, besides, I

## STRICTER DISCIPLINE FOR PUBLIC SERVANTS

### SEQUEL TO INCREASED INEFFICIENCY

The Secretary of State has drawn the attention of the Governor to the abnormal number of retirements in Ceylon for general inefficiency, and consequently His Excellency has caused early steps to be taken to ensure that the standard of discipline in the Public Service should be raised and maintained at a higher level than hitherto.

His Excellency the Governor has through the Chief Secretary, instructed the heads of departments to pay particular attention to lack of punctuality in attendance, absence without leave, discourtesy to the public and contumacy to superior officers.

believe, the recurrent expenditure, have been spent on the "advancement of agriculture." The results, in all conscience, are poor. From the reports of economic survey issued from time to time, the average income *per capita* per mensem of the rural population may be safely inferred not to exceed Rs. 7. Should not expenditure on their behalf be aimed to accommodate their capacity, i.e., their capacity for work and capacity to pay? Should not the poor villagers, whose memory is vivid as to their having lived on their lands through the ages, be given credit for possession of some knowledge of their own wants, some sense for appreciation of realities? The Minister's call was for *obedience*, not for *co-operation*. We lost several excellent officers, who really understood the needs of the rural population and who would have rendered yeoman service in this cause had they remained in the Service, owing to our Hon'ble Minister's pugnacity and "drive". South India was estranged in the Minister's efforts to have the price of local eggs and ghee enhanced. That there was misconception on his part in some matters is evident from this one fact among others—that no pious Buddhist would aim to rear poultry for slaughter and no Buddhist servant would boil an egg. It is futile to build theories on foreign premises. Education, circumspection, long experience and personal contact with people are pre-requisites for any attempt on the part of any person before he thinks of integrating manerisms and customs and methods of foreign countries into those of our own. The Hon'ble Minister was out for "drives", e.g., the milk drive, the paddy drive, egg drive, fruit-canning drive, colonial drive, paddy milling drive, cattle breeding drive &c, but the "drives" proved more or less break downs. If he had in the past 10 years acted in the attitude which the words "persuade" "influence" "guide", "urge" or "direct", he might have been more successful in reaching his objectives. It is no use crying over spilt milk. Let us call for a halt and for an accounting. Eleven years experimentation is long enough and 110 million rupees a large enough expenditure to found a judgment as to whether the Minister's labours have been fruitful or otherwise and whether his "policy"—if his labours could be comprehended by that word—is acceptable or no. It is no use thinking in terms of "responsibility," "mandate" through votes on the Donoughmore Constitution. The urgency of the situation demands a drastic remedy.

## MEDIATION BY UNITED NATIONS

### PEARL BUCK ON INDIAN PROBLEM

Pearl Buck, the world-famous author and Nobel Prize Winner, in the course of a statement on the arrest of Mahatma Gandhi and the political situation in India, expresses deep concern at the turn of events in India and pleads for immediate mediation by the United Nations to bring about some solution. She says:

"I make the following statement because of my deep concern about the inevitable danger to the Allied cause, of British action to-day in India. The refusal of the Viceroy to confer with Mr. Gandhi and the arrest of Congress leaders reveal a spirit contrary to the principle of democracy.

"It is not too late for mediation by China, Russia and U. S. A. Both England and India say they are agreed on freedom. The disagreement apparently is on time and administration during the war. Surely these two points can be mediated for the sake of the Allied cause. Those who know the truth about India are certain that force affords no safeguard for India and no solution for the Allied United Nations.

"If we are to continue to deliver supplies to China, which is our best base against Japan and if we are to avoid the loss of thousands of American lives through needless prolongation of the war our Government should propose at once that United Nations mediate."

## LAVAL GRANTED FULL POWERS

### VIRTUAL ABDICATION OF PETAIN

London, Nov. 18.

M. Laval has been appointed presumptive successor to Marshal Petain, according to an official announcement from Vichy tonight.

Marshal Petain has granted full powers to M. Laval.

Ruter's Diplomatic Correspondent writes:—

The decisions announced from Vichy tonight appear to place the official seal on Petain's virtual abdication in favour of Laval.

The full powers granted to Laval will be wielded by Germany. If the Germans harbour suspicions of Petain they have found a way of ridding themselves of him.

Today's decree, announced with much pomp and circumstance, if it means anything, doubtless heralds new exactions by Germany which might include the surrender of the French Fleet.

## AMENDMENT TO LUNACY ORDINANCE

The draft of a bill to amend the Lunacy Ordinance has been prepared and will shortly be brought before the State Council.

The object of the proposed amendment is to secure provision for persons brought before the District Court of Colombo for adjudication whether they are of sound mind or not, to be sent back to their homes at state expense if they are found to be of sound mind but too poor to bear the expense themselves, even though they are not paupers. The present ordinance confines to paupers only any financial assistance or state facilities for persons found fit to return home.

## PAPER MADE IN INDIA

### 90 Per Cent Commandeered By Govt

New Delhi.

The paper shortage is likely to become acute as the results of the Government commandeering 90 per cent of the total production of the country. The pre-war consumption averaged two lakhs of tons, 80 per cent of which represented the requirements of the public excluding the Government and the States.

Despite difficulties and the competition of imported paper, indigenous manufacture gradually rose to a lakh of tons a year but the war has created complications. Imports have reached negligible proportions while Government's demand has increased to an enormous extent. Of indigenous manufactured paper, five or six per cent is believed to be soiled and torn and therefore unsuitable for printing. With 90 per cent, absorbed by the Government, the margin of four or five thousand tons roughly is left for the public, as against the normal figure of 160 thousand tons which is equivalent to less than three per cent of the pre-war consumption. The situation is bound to affect newspapers, as well as all publications, whether books or periodicals, most seriously, unless the Government exercise restraint in regard to their own requirements and come to the rescue of the public by earmarking a substantial proportion of indigenous manufacture for sale in the market.—(Hindu Cor.)

## INTER-COLLEGIATE SOCCER CHAMPIONSHIPS

### JAFFNA HINDU WIN BOTH CHAMPIONSHIPS

A record crowd numbering over ten thousand was present at the Finals of the two Intercollegiate Championship Tournaments which were played last Saturday on the Schools Sports Association grounds.

The first match—The Junior Championship Final—was between the Jaffna Hindu (who were finalists last year too) and the Kokavil Hindu. In the first half both the teams played equally well and Jaffna Hindu managed to score a goal. On resumption of play after half-time Kokavil equalised with a brilliant long range shot. This roused Jaffna Hindu's spirit and their forwards thereafter gave a dazzling display, the like of which has seldom been seen even in the Senior matches. Within twenty minutes they scored five goals, thus winning their match by six goals to one. Thus Jaffna Hindu became the Junior Champions. Mr. V. Subramaniam, an ex-Varsity player, refereed excellently.

### The Senior Championship Final

The Jaffna Hindu, who last year became Senior Champions by beating St. John's by seven goals to one, met St. Patrick's in the Senior Final Championship match. The Champions playing a very clean and brilliant game beat St. Patrick's by three goals to nil, thus winning the Championship this year too.

Mr. E. Sabalingam, an ex Varsity Captain, did his duties very efficiently as referee.

Mr. P. Thiagarajah, the popular Secretary of the J. S. S. A., deserves to be congratulated on the efficient way in which he conducted the two Tournaments.

The following were the winners of the Senior Championship from 1934, when matches were first played in the J. S. S. A. (neutral) grounds:

1934	Jaffna College
1935	Jaffna College
1936	Championship not declared
1937	Jaffna Hindu & St. Patrick's
1938	St. Patrick's
1939	Jaffna College & St. Patrick's
1940	St. Patrick's
1941	Jaffna Hindu College
1942	Jaffna Hindu College,



## COPRA TALKS AT JAFFNA

### BUYING AGENCY TO BE OPENED

On the invitation of Mr. M. Prasad, Government Agent, a conference of coconut estate owners of Jaffna district was held at the Kachcheri. Mr. Prasad explained that he had convened the conference at the request of the Commissioner of Commodity Purchase to consider the desirability of opening a copra buying agency at Jaffna.

The first question discussed was the quantity of copra utilised by local millers. The consensus of opinion was that 60 per cent of locally produced copra was utilised by local millers.

As regards the local price of copra, Mr. C. R. Thambiah said that the price was Rs. 52. Mr. C. Ponnambalam replied that the biggest firms of copra buyers might have offered Mr. Thambiah special terms, but he had a letter from the same firm, offering only Rs. 42. Dr. S. Subramaniam remarked that the price was between Rs. 42 and Rs. 44. Mr. C. R. Thambiah said that the price had gone up to Rs. 52 last week.

Mr. C. Ponnambalam: Was it due to this conference?

Mr. W. M. Coomaraswamy said that during this season there was always a temporary price increase.

The storage accommodation was discussed, and although the largest number of estates is in Pallai district, it was felt that there was no storage accommodation there, and that the stores should be in Jaffna.

Mr. Coomaraswamy said copra to India should be sent from Jaffna through the northern ports.

Mr. Prasad said that he would place their views before the Commissioner.

## VIVEKANANDA SOCIETY COLOMBO

Swami Siddhatmananda, Vice-President, Ramakrishna Mission, delivered a lecture on 'The Philosophy of the Upanishads' at the Saiva Mangaiyar Kalagam Hall, Wellawatte, under the auspices of the Vivekananda Society on the 15th inst. at 6 p. m. Swamiji traced the relationship between the Vedas and the Upanishads and said that the latter was the essence of the former. He mentioned that there are altogether 108 Upanishads of which 11 are considered very important. Further he gave illuminating illustrations from the Taithiriya and Kathopa Upanishads. A vote of thanks was proposed to the chair by Mr. Arul Tyagarajah, the Hon'y Sub-Urban Secretary of the Society.

## PADDY LANDS UNDER KARACHCHI SCHEME FOR SALE

1. 15 acres paddy fields completely under cultivation and enclosed with barbed-wire fence on the 5th channel—Kilinochi. Conditions and facilities up to date.

2. 400 lachchams fertile old paddy fields at Kunchu-Paranthan in close proximity to Government Vernacular School.

Apply through:—

A. NAGENDRA,  
Proctor,  
Mallakam,  
Chunnakam.

(Mis. 151. 23 & 26-11-42)

## CENTRAL PROBLEM IN EDUCATION

"The interest of education today is centred on the book rather than the child," observed Mr. S. J. Gunasegeram, M. A. Inspector of Schools, in his public address on "The Central Problem in Education." The meeting was held under the auspices of the Valikamam East Teachers' Association at the Urumpirai Hindu College recently.

"Education is not confined only to civilised communities for every society has its own system of education. Primitive people are only in a state of retarded development. Primitive education has its own merits. It is directed to everyday experience. It is not academish, intellectual or bookish. Mahatma Gandhi has realised this in his Wardha Scheme of Education. The chief merit is that this scheme relates education to life.

"The chief defect today in education is formalism for education should meet the demands of living. The two terms, education and schooling, seem apart and are not synonymous. We absorb the child overmuch in adult activities. The practical side of education is not paid enough attention."

The speaker traced the history of education in Europe and said that until a few hundred years ago thought on education was centred more on the materials of education rather than method. Rousseau was opposed to the absolutism of the church and the state and the theory of original sin. He gave the start to democratic education and wished to develop the individual personality of the child.

However, Rousseau was not a psychologist or a teacher. The psychologist considers the child a possessing certain original capacities but Rousseau recognised stages in the growth of the child. Pestalozzi experimented with children and accepted Rousseau's view. He introduced object teaching from the concrete to the abstract and condemned harsh, violent methods of teaching.

Troebel, a great teacher and a psychologist, was the founder of the kindergarten system. He felt that the main business of the school was to train the child to lead a group life and engage in collective living.

"Education should be freed from the academic influence of successive generations of scholars in the past and cease to be subject-centred. Schools should be pupil-centred. We need creativity rather than memorisation, activity rather than passivity, concluded the speaker.

Messrs. T. Kathir Vellu and A. Sitaraman offered remarks on the vexed question of discipline and the need for the introduction of the mother tongue as the medium of instruction. Mr. S. Srinivasan and a parent asked a few questions of the lecturer.

The President, Mr. J. S. Thiru-Rajasingham, in his summing-up referred to the student as "an immaterial noun, hopeless case, governed by the teacher, in a position with the inspector."

(Cor.)

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