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The Only Newspaper in Ceylon for the Hindus

Editor:
A. V. Kulasingham, Advocate.

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NEWS FROM FAR AND NEAR

Malaya Prisoners

Allied prisoners taken in Malaya, reports the Japanese-controlled Saigon radio, are being transferred to camps in Formosa and Korea.

Proctors' Protest Against Inspection of Offices

At the first meeting, held at the District Court Colombo, the All-Ceylon Proctors' Council passed a resolution protesting against any provision being introduced into law for the inspection of offices of Proctor notaries.

Britain's War Finance

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, Sir Kingsley Wood, replying to the debate on war finance in the House of Commons, said that in the first three years of the war, we met forty-two per cent. of our total expenditure from revenue and for the current year the figure would be practically fifty per cent.

£10,000 For Rommel "Dead or Alive"

An offer of "Ten-thousand sterling, if you capture Rommel either dead or alive" has been telegraphed to an officer, who believed to be in pursuit of Rommel, somewhere along the North African coast. The money is to be paid to the battalion. The donor of this prize is Mr. Charles E. Lee, grandfather of the officer, Capt. Edgar Lee Gibbons of the Rifle Brigade.

No Holiday Concessions

For the first time no special arrangements are being made by the Railway to cope with the additional volume of traffic that is usual during the Christmas and New Year holidays. The Railway authorities propose to keep a watch on the traffic, and wherever necessary and possible, to strengthen the trains by attaching additional passenger bogeys to carry the maximum loads they could. If, however, the traffic is heavier passengers are to be requested to travel by later trains or on the following day.

Rome Likely to be Declared an open City

The Berne correspondent of the New York "Times" transmits reliable reports from Rome, that immediate steps are being considered for the withdrawal of military installations in and around the city, as a prelude to its being declared an open city. The correspondent's dispatch says that the initiative for the plan is believed to have come from the Vatican, which is stated to have said that there was no feasibility of establishing a demarcation line between Vatican property in Rome and state owned property.

DANGER TO INDIA HAS DECREASED

SIR A. WAVELL ON JAP. THREAT

Madras, Dec. 14.

HIS Excellency Sir Archibald Wavell, the Commander-in-Chief in India, granted three interviews to press representatives during the course of the manoeuvres carried out by the Southern Army last week. At the final interview, which lasted seventeen minutes, the Commander-in-Chief was accompanied by Air Chief Marshal Sir Richard Peirse, Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief in India.

His Excellency answered the following questions put to him:

Question: Do you think that if the Indian Army marches into Burma, the Burmans will co-operate with our troops?

Answer: Yes, we hope so. The threat to India is much less to-day than what it was seven or eight months ago. Now, we have got a different picture. If the Japanese undertake any attempt on India they will get a warm reception. What is being done in these manoeuvres is really to test the defence scheme for this part of the world and especially with the armoured troops who are now there to defend India it will be a different thing. The Japanese have had many reverses since the last Spring, so that the threat to India is nothing like it was some months ago.

Q: What was the object of the enemy in attacking Chittagong?

A: There have been two raids lately and the damage done so far has been extraordinarily small. The military damage done is practically negligible. The civilian casualties were also very few. You will remember that the Japanese put forward a story that a big convoy was attacked which was a myth.

Relations Between Troops and People

Q: Do you not think that better co-operation can be availed of between the troops and the people if Madras troops are stationed in Madras Province?

A: We cannot make a rule about the stationing of troops in places where they are enlisted. Troops will have to be distributed according to strategical considerations. A great deal depends upon Madras anti-aircraft artillery which is needed throughout India. The feeling and understanding between troops and people are very good.

Q: In view of the recent influx of the Madras in the Army, what are your impressions of their fighting qualities?

A: We hope they are going to be very good. We did not enlist a great many Madras for a long

time. We have recently had experience of a Madras battery of artillery in the Western Desert. They did very well indeed. I hope all the Madras will live up to that reputation.

His Excellency continued: We have got a number of Madras soldiers in the artillery and anti-aircraft artillery. I was in Bangalore a few months ago and found them to be very fine type of men.

Military Hospitals

The Commander-in-Chief then added: I think a considerable effort has to be made to improve the military hospitals for Indian troops as the standard is not quite as good as it should be. We are trying to improve the hospitals and get all the doctors we can. We are providing amenities to soldiers and a great deal has been done in that direction. It is a thing in which the civil population of India can do a great deal.

Q: Do you think that co-operation of the people of this country is necessary to resist a Japanese invasion successfully?

A: Co-operation of the people is necessary. The more co-operation we get the better.

The Libyan Battle

Explaining the lull in the Libyan battle at present, he said that El Aghaila is a strong position. There is no doubt that the enemy will be attacked. The lull is probably due to a period of preparation. He did not know what General Alexander's plans were, but he felt certain that the enemy would be pushed out soon. He added that Assam was not likely to be attacked now.

Q: If the Japanese attacked Ceylon, do you think the Southern Army could foil that attempt?

A: I think our air force will prevent it. The invasion threat is very much less now than what it was eight months ago, however, we cannot neglect preparations. We cannot relax any precautions. I think it is still possible that when they are hard pressed elsewhere, the Japanese might make a diversion by attacking in this part of the country. But we are very much better prepared now than we were several months ago.

Questioned about the enemy submarine activity around India, but it was not doing a great deal of damage.

General Wavell showed much concern and sympathy about the failure of crops owing to scarcity of rains in certain parts of the Madras Province.

HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE

ARRANGEMENTS FOR NEW EXAMINATION

The higher School Certificate Examination which it is proposed to hold next year and which is to take the place of the London Matriculation Examination will be held at the same time and on the same papers as the Ceylon University Entrance Examination.

The Vice-Chancellor of the University, Dr. Ivor Jennings, recently announced that the Senate and the Council of the University had agreed to hold such an examination.

The Board of Examiners provided for the Entrance and Scholarships Examinations is to be the Board of Examiners for the Higher School Certificate Examination, but additional subjects may be prescribed and assessors may be appointed by the Senate.

Conditions to Fulfil

For the purposes of the examination schools will be registered by the Registrar of the University with the consent of the Senate, but until schools are so registered they will have to be approved by the Director of Education to present pupils for the examination. A school may be registered or approved for all subjects or for some subjects only.

A pupil to be entered as a candidate for the examination will have to be certified by the principal or head-teacher that the candidate has satisfactorily completed at least a session's course of study in a senior class in his school after passing the Senior School Certificate Examination or an equivalent examination.

A candidate may present himself in any four or five subjects as the time-table permits and may be awarded a certificate if he satisfies the examiners in four such subjects.

A candidate for the Higher Certificate Examination who is also a candidate for the University Entrance Examination will not be required to pay a fee for the latter examination.

JAFFNA COUNCIL'S BUDGET

At a special meeting of the Jaffna Urban Council, held to consider the 1943 budget, (Mr. K. Aiyadurai, Chairman, presiding) it was stated that the estimated revenue was Rs. 283,000 (the decrease as compared with 1940 and 1941 is due to the lighting regulation) and the estimated expenditure Rs. 282,600, leaving a surplus of Rs. 400. No provision had been made for new work.

A Committee consisting of the chairman, the vice-chairman and Mr. C. Ponnambalam, was appointed to re-organise the office. Provision was made for opening reading rooms in each of the wards.

MANAGER'S NOTICE

The Offices of the "Hindu Organ" and the Saivaprakasa Press will be closed on Wednesday, the 23rd instant, for Ardra Darsan festival, and there will be no issue of the paper on Thursday, the 24th instant.

MANAGER.



Hindu Organ.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1942.

A LONG WAR

NEITHER THE SITUATION IN North Africa nor that in the Far East justifies the highly optimistic predictions by some publicists about the duration of the war. The Allied landings in North Africa were no doubt a vital step in the direction of defeating the Italians and Germans. As Mr. Churchill said, North Africa was a springboard, and it is from here that the victorious Allied armies, after driving the enemy out of Tunis and Bizerta, will proceed to attack Italy herself. With the close of the campaign in North Africa we may expect the air war on the Axis Powers to be intensified. Already German and Italian cities are being pounded from the air, but this is nothing to what is going to happen by the time the military and naval requirements of the Allies in respect of aircraft are satisfied and Allied production of aircraft, which now greatly exceeds that of the Axis, is utilised in greater proportion than is the case at present for bombing purposes. It is the air factor—a factor which, the Germans thought, gave them an immense, initial advantage over the Allies—that is more likely than anything else to hasten the fall of the enemy.

The struggle, however, is bound to be long, unless Italy is knocked out of the fight in the early part of 1942. This will enable the Allies to concentrate their air force in Europe on Germany and Germany alone. This is where one sees an important difference between the last war and this. Then, though the Germans were defeated in battle, their country had not been invaded, and the Germans got off pretty easily, after all their frightfulness in the occupied lands, by agreeing to pay reparations. It will not be so during the present war. German cities and centres of production will suffer as they had never suffered before and the German people themselves will be made to know what war really is before they lay down their arms.

NOTES & COMMENTS

Ceylon's Air Raid Heroes

MANY tales of heroism were told at the time after the air raid on Colombo and Trincomalee. The heroism and devotion to duty on the part of those who remained at their posts was a refreshing contrast to the unsatisfactory conduct of other Government employees as well as private citizens. We are glad to note that some of those who did their duty without flinching are to be honoured with the approval of His Majesty the King. The chosen few are officers of the Harbour Engineer's Department of the Colombo Port Commission. We congratulate them on the well deserved recognition of their courage and devotion to duty, and trust that, by the time this little island of ours has got clear of the dangers with which she is now surrounded, many more of Ceylon's men—and also women—of the true metal will receive their reward at the hands of Royalty.

Carpet Knights

IN England there is a well-grounded prejudice against the carpet knights of modern times. With the expansion of commerce, banking and industry, carpet knights are a necessary evil, but in Ceylon honours have been conferred in the past for reasons which may not always commend themselves to the student of chivalry. Let it also be remembered that the Easterner's estimate of these honours does not differ radically from that of the Englishman. It is but human nature to honour solid achievement founded on the primitive virtues which still hold good. A few more of such honours as those just conferred by His Majesty the King and a little less of the orthodox list that puzzles one in times of peace will serve as an encouragement to the manhood and womanhood of the island.

The Problems of Labour

THE labour movement in Ceylon is very young and some of its ebullitions are certainly quite youthful. But, according to the report of the Controller of Labour for 1941, Trade Unionism has come to stay. This means that trade union leaders have their responsibilities. Unless the right men are selected by the Trade Union to represent their grievances, there is grave danger that the movement may not develop on sound lines. This is the warning uttered by the Controller in his report. While Trade Unions have on the whole displayed a sense of responsibility in dealing with labour disputes, the Controller points out that there have been cases in which "some repre-

sentatives were not equal to the task they had to discharge." The public of this island has had ample experience of Labour leaders—an experience which is now confirmed by the report of the Controller of Labour. After all, labour too has its obligations, and it will never pay to ignore this vital aspect of the matter.

Indo-Ceylon Relations

AT a public reception to Sir Baron Jayatilaka in Madras, Mr. T. R. Venkatarama Sastri gave a neat reply to Mr. D. S. Senanayake which, we hope, the latter will not fail to take to heart. Mr. Senanayake suggested a few weeks ago that Ceylon was not anti-Indian but was only anxious to protect the interests of her people. If Mr. Senanayake had stopped there, he would have been quite safe. But he went on to speak of the 400 million Indians who would swamp Ceylon if there were no restrictions. Mr. Venkatarama Sastri explained that what Indians wanted was, not that Ceylon should accommodate the 400 million people of India, but that Indians who had settled in Ceylon should receive just treatment.

DECEMBER—A SACRED MONTH

A SAINT'S MESSAGE TO HUMANITY

BY A. ARULAMBALAM

This is a month sacred and full of jubilation to Hindus and Christians alike all over the world. The ten days in the Tamil month of December which end on Thiruvathirai day are celebrated by Hindus with great devotion and piety. At Chidambaram the occasion is of special importance and thousands of Hindus through the holy shrine to offer prayers to Nadarajah. This period of the year is also considered to be the time of dawn for the Devas and hence the month is all the more sacred and joyous to everyone.

A Glorious Picture

Saint Manikavasagar has in his Thiruvagam given a most colourful and glorious picture of this period of the year. His enchanting songs are sung by young and old alike during this month and one often hears their sweet melody from one's bed through the chilly morning of the day yet unborn. According to the celestial poet the day starts long before sunrise with the singing of sweet and sacred songs called the "Thiruppalli Elichchi" in praise of the Lord.

போற்றியென் வாழ்முத
லாகிய பொருளை
புலர்ந்தது பூங்கழற்
கிணைதுணை மலர்கொண்
டேற்றின் நிருமுகத்
தெமக்கருண் மலரு
மெழினகை கொண்டு
கின்றிருவடி தொழுகோற்
சேற்றிதழ்க் கமலங்கண்
மலருந்தண் வயல்கூழ்
திருப்பெருந் துறையுறை
சிவபெரு டானே
யேற்றுயர் கொடியுடையா
பெணையுடையா
யெம்பெருமான் பள்ளி
யெழுந்தரு ளாயே",

Here and in the continuing verses the pious devotee sings the praises of the Lord and gently wakes Him—who is ever awake—in the small hours before dawn. Iswara—the lover of music—responds to this call and showers blessings on His humble devotee.

A Human Touch

A yet more gentle and human touch is given to the occasion when the divine poet describes in inimitable verse how young maids arise in the early dawn and awake their sisters yet asleep and snoring in their cosy beds and bid them arise and proceed to the beautiful tanks for their morning bath from whence they make their way to the temple.

"ஒண்ணித் திலநகையா
யின்னம் புலர்ந்தின்ரு
வண்ணக் கிளிமெழியார்
எல்லாரும் வந்தாரோ
எண்ணிக்கொ ள்ளவா
சொல்லுகோ மவ்வளவுங்
கண்ணைத் துயின்றவமே
காலத்தைப் போக்காதே
விண்ணுக் கொருமருந்தை
வேத விழுப்பொருளைக்
கண்ணுக் கிளியானைப்
பாடிக்கசிந்துள்ள
முன்னெக்கு நின்றிருக
யாமாட்டோ நீயேவந்
தெண்ணிக் குறையிற்
துயிலேலோ ரெம்பாவாய்".

In this charming verse the master poet gives a beautiful portrait of a dialogue between young girls. The first maid playfully accosts another who is still in bed and expresses surprise at her failure to arise early. (Obviously they had planned the previous day to get up early and go to the temple together.) The latter lazily retorts by saying "have you all come?" In reply, the first speaker says that she—the one in bed—may very well get up and find out for herself whether the whole team had turned up or not, and not waste any more of their precious time in the morning—the time which should be spent in prayer at the shrine. In this and the connected verses of exceptional charm the true poet and saint portrays the customs and manners of Hindu women who lived fifteen centuries ago.

The Saint's Biography

Saint Manikavasagar's devotional songs are so full of piety, rhythm and music that they completely captivate the human heart and raise man to lofty heights. It is for this reason that his hymns in praise of the Lord are sung so very widely by one and all. The saint has made such an indelible impress upon Hindu society that it has now become a tradition to read his biography—"The Thiruvathavooradigal Puranam"—written in beautiful and elegant verse by another great and saintly poet—Kadavul Maha-Munivar—during these ten days. In this book the life of the saint is beautifully depicted and in it one can get a clear insight into the Hindu philosophy of life, and come to know in some measure the ways of the creator, which are all but mysterious to us ordinary mortals.

The Saint's Message

In this book and in the Thiruvagam we read the message of the saint to humanity. We read the life of a man of culture—a great minister of state—who gave up all worldly possessions and desires and became the first and chosen disciple of God. In short Manikavasagar's message to mankind, we may say, is to do one's duty with a kind heart and with unswerving faith and trust in God. If the world requires anything today it is this Trust which is sure to give peace and happiness to humanity. Praise be to Saint Manikavasagar.

THE DEADLOCK IN INDIA

MR. PHILIPPS TO COLLECT "OBJECTIVE DATA"

New York, Dec. 15.

Asked if the new United States Ambassador to India, Mr. Philipps, would see him before leaving for India President Roosevelt said he and Mr. Philipps were old friends, each of whom knew why Philipps was going to India.

He added he had already explained for publication the reason for the appointment and Mr. Philipps was unlikely to visit the United States before taking up his post.

Newspapers welcome as a wise choice, Mr. Philipps' appointment as President Roosevelt's Personal Envoy to India and note the President's statement that Mr. Philipps does not carry in his pocket a formula for the solution of India's difficulties. They express the feeling that Mr. Philipps' presence might well be a help towards easing the situation.

The possibility of America offering at some future date to mediate in India is made to-day by the *Washington Post*. "Our chief need from India at the present moment is objective information which Mr. Philipps will furnish," says the newspaper. "Some day, of course, the Administration may use Mr. Philipps' observations as equipment for proffering a mediation role in India. But the day is not necessarily brought nearer by the naming of Mr. Philipps."

RUSSO — TURKISH FRIENDSHIP

DECLARATION TO BE MADE

Ankara, Dec 13.

A Russo-Turkish declaration of mutual friendship, which may include a clause stating Russia's willingness to assist Turkey if the latter is attacked, is expected to be officially announced this week. The United States will associate itself with this declaration by promising its good offices in the event of any misunderstanding between the two countries in future and also by confirming that the United States will respect Turkey's territorial integrity and help her if she is attacked.

The tone of the Russian and the Turkish press towards each other is also likely to be covered by the declaration. There is already noticeable improvement in Russo-Turkish relations even though the Von Papen bomb trial, with its charges against two Russians, is still dragging on.

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE, JAFFNA

Next Term begins on the 6th of January, 1943.

Admission of new boys on the 4th and 5th of January, 1943.

Thompson Scholarship: Consisting of free tuition, tenable for two years, for entry into Form I. Candidates must be under 12 years of age.

Crossette Scholarship: Consisting of free tuition tenable for two years for entry into Form V. Candidates must be under 15 years of age.

The Examination for the above Scholarships will be held at the College at 9-30 a.m. on Monday the 4th of January, 1943. Applications for admission should reach the Principal on or before the 31st of December, 1942.

Further particulars from the Principal.

(Mis. 169. 21-12-42.)

THE PLIGHT OF OUR AGRICULTURE

IV

The public has been made sufficiently aware through suffering that things had gone awry with the schemes of the Agricultural Ministry to resuscitate our agriculture. The knowledge that at a remote time (i.e. before the mercantile civilisation of the West had made inroads) this country exported paddy to foreign countries only serves to add poignancy to feelings of shame. Western scholars who had studied the people of this country had testified to the presence of a vast civic culture rooted in ancient habits and customs of the people. Those ancient habits and customs so characteristic of our ancient civilisation still form the basis of agricultural life in the Tamil and Kandyian provinces.

Basis of Agricultural Life

No reformer with any sense of responsibility would undertake to subvert old customs and laws unless he is convinced that they had become effete or purposeless owing to changed conditions of life. Uninstructed, uninformed reform should lead to chaos. The town bred man has little time and less opportunity to associate with village folks or become acquainted with the economies of paddy cultivation. His education is lop-sided. His notion of the structure of his own society is as hazy as that he gathered from books and newspapers of the British Society. The late Sir Hugh Clifford, a former Governor, whose experience of the East was long and wide reported to the then Secretary of State that the British Civil Servant was better equipped, and therefore in a better position to represent the Sinhalese villager in Council than an English-educated Sinhalese. Even today, about 25 years after Sir Hugh's despatch was written, few would venture to deny the truth of the statement. The fond aspiration of parents to give their children an education of "better English and more English" has emptied countryside talents on the towns and led to the supersession of government service as "the chief industry of Ceylon" ousting agriculture and to unemployment. The Land Ordinances of recent years have borne the effect of degrading the position of the peasant to one lower than that of the cooly. He is not the former landlord who combined in himself both capital and labour, commanded credit, received the homage of respect from village artisans and workmen, dispensed hospitality, provided work for the workless, maintained services of the temple and institutions of education, supported art and public services.

Errors of Judgment

The Hon'ble the Minister for Agriculture has planted agricultural colonies and if those planted in the Chilaw and Puttalam districts could be taken as samples for the rest of the Island, then there is ground for serious doubts as to the future welfare of the Island. The new colonists are seen planted too near the coconut estates and villages. Occupying the ground of vantage, each individual holding an allotment of microscopical size of little economic value, the body of colonists are a source of danger to the neighbouring estate owners and menace to the public peace. Their influence on the villagers is positively bad. Rehabilitating village

as the unit of national life does not seem to enter into the calculations of the Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture. While one sympathises with his errors of judgment, what one is to think of the counter-attacks of his own colleagues against his attempts to regain lost grounds! The interests of agriculture aim to achieve a progressive rural existence but the Hon'ble the Minister for Local Government is hard at work to urbanise the countryside. Where on the roadside, he would find a few boutiques and a few tiled houses, that locality seems to be good enough for him to enjoy the privileges of an Urban Council. He would soon bring the proportion of towns to villages in Ceylon to approximate the proportion of the two civic conditions in England.

The Hon'ble Minister for Labour and Industries is aggressively active on the objective of industrialising the Island. It would be a pity if cottage industries which are really complementary to the peasant industry were neglected and labour drawn from the villages to the rising factory towns.

Some Suggestions

On consideration of the various circumstances which have led to the present plight of our agriculture, the conviction is irresistible that a reversal of policy is necessary. The following suggestions are offered for consideration.

(1) Agriculture being a national concern it should be placed above party politics. A committee constituted of country-bred men, themselves agriculturists by preference should be put in charge of indigenous agriculture and rural industries.

(2) Village agriculture is essentially a communal industry: its expansion must be sought through means of quickening social consciousness. Knowing that government agencies should be helpless in this matter, the work should be entrusted to popular associations which should act by precept and example infuse in the village agriculturists the spirit of co-operation and patriotic zeal. Rural leaderships should be built on social and ethical foundation.

(3) The recommendation by Sir Alexander Johnstone (Chief Justice 1809-11) for the expansion of Village Communities should be acted on. His plan was that sons of rural headmen and of influential elders should be granted facilities to occupy abandoned villages with families selected by them. Successful village builders should be honoured with ranks and gifts on public occasions.

(4) Village tanks which need repairs should be repaired at Government expense. Encroachments on old irrigation and drainage channels should be removed and these should be put in charge of headmen responsible to the Village Committee.

(5) In planning for construction of new village, the old proportion of 1 unit of paddy land 3 units of highland should be maintained, besides reserves for future expansion.

(6) Rural schools should have for teachers men and women educated and trained in rural areas.

SELF-GOVT FOR EVERY NATION

MEMORANDUM TO MR. ROOSEVELT

Washington, Dec 11.

Seventy-five prominent men and women, including authors, economists, trade unionists and Church leaders, submitted to day to President Roosevelt and to Congress a programme for the United Nations for the adoption of those fundamental economic principles which are necessary to insure a just and lasting peace."

The programme declares in part:

"The American people recognise the need for the preservation of individual rights, of human dignity and freedom, for the flowering of culture and things of the spirit as the ultimate objects to strive for. We are convinced that such aims can only be attained if based on a sound workable economic policy which ties nations together and makes possible an interchange of vital national resources, goods, food, services and ideas and insures the full employment of labour and capital.

"The Atlantic Charter applies to all peoples everywhere.....It commits the United States to uniting with other nations after the war, securing for all improved labour standards, economic adjustment and social security and furthering the access, on equal terms, to the trade and raw materials of the world. The 'economic agreements' of the United States with other Allied nations under the terms of the national Lend-Lease Act point the way to a joint post-war 'programme for the United Nations' economic effort in peace time. We recommend early consideration and approval by the people of the United States of an International Economic Union of all nations.

"We believe there should be no difference between the East and the West, the Atlantic and the Pacific and that all peoples should be permitted and encouraged to govern themselves at the earliest possible time. We are opposed to imperialistic control on the part of anyone, either victor or vanquished. We are in favour of the surrender of so much sovereignty as will be necessary to create a world society which will be equitable and just and keep open the way to a lasting peace".

CHAVAKACHCHERI HINDU COLLEGE

Scholarship and Admission Examinations

SATURDAY, JANUARY 9, 1943

Sadasivam Scholarships:

1. Open to students under 13 years of age who have passed the Std. 5. Examination English. Subjects: English, Number and General Intelligence.

2. Open to students under 16 who have passed the J.S.C. English Examination. Subjects: English, Mathematics, General Knowledge.

Chelliah Scholarships:

Open to Children under 10 years of age who have passed the 3rd Std. in Tamil. Subjects: Number, Writing, General Intelligence.

All applications to the above Examinations should reach the Principal not later than January 1, 1943.

The School re-opens on January 4, 1943.

Prospectus can be had from the Principal on application.

THE PRINCIPAL,
Chavakachcheri Hindu College,
Chavakachcheri.

(Mis. 120. 21 & 23-12-42.)

THE IDEA OF WORLD CITIZENSHIP

BY SHIVA KUMAR SHASTRI, M.A., M.Sc. (LOND), BAR-AT-LAW

(Continued from our last issue)

What is World Citizenship

World citizenship as a constitutional and an administrative reality presumes the existence of a world State. But before that objective is attained is it possible for an individual to style himself as a world citizen?

The answer is emphatically in the affirmative. An individual becomes a world citizen as soon as he attains freedom from the thralldom of irrationality and of the myths of social and collective life. Our ancient Rishis have been world citizens in that sense. So was Socrates.

Those who have the interests of world citizenship at heart will start the mightiest of revolutions in their own person. They will consider the following duties as sacred:

(1) They will seek to pierce the veil of ignorance by contemplation, meditation, and discussion until they have attained to a knowledge of what is good and what is bad, what is virtue and what is evil.

(2) For the purposes of discussion they will accept nothing that does not bear the test of reason.

(3) They will hate nothing except that which generates hatred, not for a particular thing but the quality itself.

(4) They will develop the mind and body to their highest potential.

(5) In social relations they will be governed by non-violence; but they cannot be its true devotees until they have completely mastered the fear of death, for otherwise non-violence will be a cloak for cowardice.

These five simple rules are clearly not a substitute for any code of conduct, religious or otherwise, but they are most useful in enabling us to give a correct and sensible interpretation to the religious or moral sanctions we obey. They will give us the courage to reject such sanctions as have become outmoded. They will persuade us to fear nothing that we do not understand. They will endow us with the capacity to decide rightly because we shall be thinking clearly. We shall never make the mistake, so dreadful and so common to mankind, of objectifying our own greed and lust into the fundamental truths of mankind. We will achieve the great feat of divorcing our honour from the interest (true or false) of our nation or tribe, or class or religion, and identify it with the much higher and nobler conception of God, that is to say, universal justice, eternal truth or, in short, Universation.

Universation

I use the term 'Universation' to imply a body of conceptions which no word hitherto used can singly indicate. It does not, in the first place, mean internationalism, as it does not start with the nation as its unit. It does not, secondly, mean the world in the sense of a collection of all the chaotic political forces discoverable therein. What it means is something quite different. It is a new way of looking at the familiar problems of morals, of society, and of politics. It is in a sense a more comprehensive philosophy of life suggested by the surrender of isolationism before the advancing tide of material and economic necessities, and requiring an

ever widening area for its fulfilment. Universation requires a new loyalty, as deep and cherished as any hitherto achieved. It transcends national and sectional interests. It makes possible for the first time a complete harmony between individual liberty and organized purposes. It will unite self-interest with the interest of society. It differs from the international way in a fundamental manner. The latter starts with the individual as a member of a nation, proud of his country, its culture and civilization, and willing to show his generosity by complimenting his neighbour from across the border or across the sea on the culture and civilization the latter derives from his country. Since everyone is proud of his own country these chivalrous exchanges are a roundabout method of saying: 'Your country may be good and all that, but really if you knew, mine is the best.'

The international way has, apparently, the germ of conflict from the very beginning. During wartime these chivalrous exchanges give place to mutual hatred and mutual contempt.

The reason is not far to seek. It is the mythical notion that our honour and our self-respect is the same thing as the interest of the 'nation'. The educational system of every country is devised to foster this irrational idea. The mind, drugged in youth by such sentimental nonsense cannot easily extricate itself in later life. It is then difficult to realize that no country has a monopoly of just, brave, cultured, or civilized men. One cannot thereby easily perceive that heroes and cowards are distributed evenly in the whole world by divine providence, and that it is far better for the good and just men in the world to unite for the purpose of raising the level of the rest of mankind than for them to become the instruments of fratricidal struggles instigated by the cunning in each country with the help of slogans like 'national honour' or 'national patriotism'.

The idea of Universation requires the immediate and ruthless destruction of this unholy alliance between national honour and vested interests. There must be a reformulation of the scope and purposes of the term 'honour'. It must be identified with justice without frontiers, truth without frontiers, nobility without frontiers, in short, honour without frontiers, honour, that is to say, unattached and universal. If a visible symbol is required for the canalization of this loyalty, Universation supplies the answer.

It is really not difficult to outgrow the nation or the concept of national loyalty and achieve the final fruition of Universation, from the point of evolution at any rate. For the nation has been itself a kind of Universation to the much smaller loyalties like the family, class or tribe, or the self-sufficient village or the free city, or racial divisions like the Celts, the Scots, or Welshmen. These distinctions in a manner still exist but the nation engulfs them all. Time has now arrived when the Universation should engulf all the nations.

In a Universation alone will men be really free. In a Univer-

sation alone will reason be unchained and superstition dead. Creedal allegiance will acquire its proper sphere as primarily a personal matter and will cease to hamper social progress. Truth will become itself, since men will be free to recognize it. God's justice will reign on earth as a living reality.

Such is Universation.

Such is the idea of world citizenship.

Let the just men of the world ponder and ask their conscience if they are truly fulfilling their purpose in life by pampering to the stupidities of their nation instead of asserting the majesty of reason and working for the inevitable emergence of Universation. (Prabuddha Bharata)

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