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NEWS FROM FAR AND NEAR

More Pay for Labourers

H. E. the Governor by Gazette Extraordinary published this week is enforcing increases in pay to several categories of workers in the Colombo Harbour, the increases being based on the rate paid on July 31st, 1941.



Currency Notes

The object of the new Currency Notes Ordinance published in the "Government Gazette" is to prohibit the importation into Ceylon of certain one-rupee and ten-rupee currency notes which have been lost, damaged or destroyed as a result of enemy action. Various clauses prohibit the importation of the notes and enable the Customs authorities to forfeit the notes if they are detected in the hands of an unauthorised person at the time of importation; invalidate the notes and provide that they shall not be legal tender in Ceylon; and require the finder or possessor of an invalidated note forthwith to surrender such note at a police station.



The Place of Woman

In a recent address to the girl students of Dacca University, Sir S. Radhakrishnan said that the real work of women was to prepare men for life and life-giving instincts and check the animal tendency in man, which was rampant now. He wanted equality of women with men so far as opportunities for self-expression were concerned. But he did not want women to imitate and duplicate men. Women should exert their influence to stop gambling on human life and human slaughter all over the world and help men to realise the Self.



A Yankee Joke

It is understood that the authorities of the Exhibition, which is shortly to be held in New York have requested Lord Halifax, the British Ambassador in America, to persuade the British authorities to make over Herr Hess to them. They intend to exhibit Herr Hess in a specially erected iron cage, to the visitors.

IS JAPAN CLIMBING DOWN?

POSITION YET REMAINS TENSE

Singapore, Monday. IT looks as though Japan is preparing to climb down—this is the general reaction here to the decision that Japan is to continue her talks with the United States.

It is pointed out that this decision follows closely on the announcement made by the Saigon radio that Japan has decided "temporarily to suspend" the despatch of fresh Japanese troops to Indo-China.

A feeling of guarded optimism that war in the Pacific will be averted is considered justified here. However, until Japan definitely alters her line, there can be no question of the full precautionary measures adopted by the A.B.C.D. Powers being in any way halted.

There has been no official indication of any easing in Japan's menacing attitude; therefore, the preparations of the A.B.C.D. Powers to be ready to meet any breach of the peace are being methodically implemented.

On the other hand, nothing

has been announced to show that Japan's menacing attitude is any nearer a breach of the peace.

The Saigon radio has given hints that the Japanese do not intend to continue their reinforcements in Indo-China and that they have given an assurance to the Governor-General, Admiral Decoux, that no attack against Thailand or the Burma Road will be launched from Indo-China bases.

Singapore Gets Ready

In Singapore yesterday, volunteers—and all Malaya's man-power is now controlled—began reporting for duty within an hour of the issue of the proclamation announcing their mobilisation. Young and old in civilian employment could be seen rushing through the streets during the lunch hour, and this afternoon army offices were temporarily closed to allow the re-organisation of their reduced staffs.

Today's reports from Indo-China and Thailand do not reveal any appreciable change in the situation in either of these areas.

APPEAL TO END INDIAN ENIGMA

London, Tuesday.

"India is wholly with us, India is fully recruited to our cause and is capable of such a material and moral contribution to the war which will do immense harm to Japan militarily and politically," declares the "Daily Herald" in an editorial article.

The newspaper adds: "India as she is today—resentful, divided and whole-hearted in her hatred of Nazism but half-hearted in support of Britain—is an enigma to us and an encouragement to our enemies. This tragic situation can be mended."

The "Daily Herald" refuses to believe that British statesmanship is incapable of satisfying Indian aspirations with

results lustrous to British honour and invaluable to the cause of all democracy.

"Mr. Gandhi," it says "has announced his intention to suspend 'symbolic civil disobedience' in India during the Christmas and New Year holidays. That is a gesture. It may be a meaningless gesture. Or perhaps it can be given powerful and permanent meaning by a new approach to negotiation from the British side. The Christmas truce offered by Mr. Gandhi might be made the occasion of a historic and honourable bargain. Certainly, it is for Britain, the ruling power, to make the next move."

The "Daily Herald" concludes: "The British people want free, frank and equal relationship with India."

REPUTATION OF EUROPEANS

EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION PROTEST

"MANY of us are not interested in politics. We are not, however, uninterested in our reputation either as individuals or as a nation, and usually we are prepared to fight tooth and nail against any attempt to discredit our probity," states the covering letter of a memorandum addressed by one section of the European Association to other members of the Association.

The signatories to the memorandum are opposed to the imposition of the Excess Profits Tax and condemn the support given to it by the European Association's representative in the State Council.

"This memorandum is not mainly concerned with whether Excess Profits Duty should be imposed or not," declare its authors, "but chiefly with the manner in which the Association's representative voted in the State Council. It is a brief survey of the steps that were taken and which we have reason to believe resulted in a vote being cast which does not correctly reflect the views of the majority of the members of this Association."

The signatories to the memorandum are: Mr. W. W. Berry, Director of Messrs. Bosanquet & Skrine, Colombo; Mrs. Clement J. Black, wife of Mr. C. J. Black, retired General Manager of Messrs. Walker, Sons & Co. Ltd. Colombo; Mr. D. F. Ewen, of Messrs. Cumberbatch & Co. Colombo; Mr. R. R. Low, Director of Messrs. Hayley & Kenny, Colombo; Mr. N. O. C. Marsh, of Messrs. Mackinnon Mackenzie & Co, Colombo; Mr. R. H. Skrine, Director of Messrs. Bosanquet & Skrine, Colombo; and Mr. P. A. Saffrey, Accountant, of Messrs. Hayley & Kenny, Colombo.

"Reputation" of Europeans

"If you will be so good as to spare a few minutes to read through the attached papers," the authors of the memorandum state, in their communication dated November 20, "you will, we feel sure, realise that something has happened which has affected the reputation of all Europeans in Ceylon, including yours and ours."



Hindu Organ.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1941

THE EUROPEAN ATTITUDE

WE SYMPATHISE WITH THOSE members of the European Association who consider that the action of the European Members of the State Council in voting for the levy of an Excess Profits Duty from which agriculture and plumbago were exempted, was not representative of European opinion throughout the island and created an entirely wrong impression in the public mind regarding the European attitude towards questions of taxation. It is satisfactory to note that at least individual members of the European Association are not prepared to acquiesce in the position taken up by the European Members in the State Council. That the European vote in the State Council would normally be regarded as something more than the mere expression of individual opinion cannot be denied. This was exactly what the man in the street thought about the blessing given by the three European members to the Excess Duty Ordinance. At the division which followed the debate, Mr. Newnham, the representative of the Chamber of Commerce, voted for the reference back of the Bill with the object of removing its discriminatory provisions, while, the representatives of the other three Associations, including the European Association, voted in favour of exempting agriculture and plumbago which constitute the major part of those profit-earning industries that would and should be taxed as a matter of course. The inference was irresistible that the three Associations in question, with a predominant European membership, were behind their representatives, who conspired with the communal majority in the Council to shelter their own particular interests from taxation.

As we pointed out at the time, this was by no means the only occasion on which European members voted with the Ministerial party. Only a few days ago Messrs. Parfitt and Griffith voted with the Ministers and their friends against the motion for the reshuffle of the Executive Committees and the re-election of their Chairmen. Here again the unfortunate impression was created that the European community, which indulges now and then in guarded expressions of sympathy towards the grievances of the minorities, would not

hesitate to let the minorities down if it suited its mood or its interests. This is a very serious matter for the Europeans themselves. The Europeans know very well what the Ministers mean when they talk about getting rid of foreign interests. It is no doubt true that a good deal of all this Ministerial effervescence on the subject of foreigners was really intended for home consumption, but when it comes to a question of striking at the root of the evil, the representatives of foreign interests should think twice before giving their support to those politicians who indulge in this form of humour. When one sees the guardians of these foreign interests and their prospective destroyers pool their votes to defeat motions introduced by others, one can understand and appreciate the feelings of some of those Tamils who feel that there is little to choose between the two. One is as bad and as unreliable as the other, and a country or community which depends on either for its salvation is likely to find itself deceived.

But it was not always so with the European community. The Europeans very rarely compromised their reputation for justice and fair dealing. They have always stood for purity in administration and public life. Whatever grievances the advanced sections in our midst may have against the pastime of empire-building and the stress sometimes laid on the white man's burden, our people have learned many things from Europe, particularly England, and they are not likely to forget it. But a reputation like this, however well-founded it may be, has to be kept alive in the staggering conditions in our midst if it is not to be altogether forgotten or ignored. The recent doings of the European group in the Council have certainly tarnished the reputation of a great community, which has given us the lead in many things that matter. We are not therefore surprised at the signs of revolt among the rank and file of the European Association, and we feel confident that everything possible will be done to make the representation of European opinion inside the Council truly effective.

Let us put the matter still more plainly. The sole desire of the minorities is that the Europeans should vote on the merits of each question according to their own convictions. What the European members are doing is just the reverse. They have descended to the level of political intrigue with which all of us are fairly familiar in this country, and are trying to do in Rome as the Ministerial Romans are doing. What hope could there be in these circumstances for the reputation of the Europeans if the latter continued to give their representatives their present freedom of action?

NOTES AND COMMENTS

Memories of Jaffna

MR. P. Sambandham, author of many Tamil plays, and formerly one of the leading actors of the Suguna Vilas Sabha of Madras, continues to contribute to the Sunday Edition of the "Hindu" of Madras his reminiscences of the S. V. S. on tour. Mr. Sambandham's acting took Ceylon by storm, and, as he says in these reminiscences, the Town Hall of Colombo was packed for every one of the five performances given by the Sabha. Mr. Sambandham still remembers the great reception given to his party in Jaffna, for, he says: "For the second Ceylon trip, we added Jaffna, as a place to give our performances. I was afraid that the Jaffna Tamils with their great love of pure Tamil might not appreciate 'Madras Tamil'. But, thank God, Jaffna people gave us a more enthusiastic reception than even those of Colombo."

Sir Ponnambalam Ramanathan

RAMANATHAN Day was celebrated last week at Parameshwara College. It is good to remember Sir Ponnambalam Ramanathan and the great qualities that distinguished him. As one of the Buddhist priests who spoke at the public meeting in the College Hall pointed out, Sir Ponnambalam lived not for this community or that but for all. He was as loved and respected by the Sinhalese people as he was by those of his own race. Though he was conservative in politics, he never allowed racial bias to colour his views. Two great institutions testify to his solicitude for his own people—Ramanathan College and Parameshwara College. It is not perhaps widely known that Sir Ponnambalam Ramanathan was one of the pioneers who took up land under the Karachi Irrigation Scheme. He opened up a large farm—about 500 acres—and his bungalow is one of the many private houses that have sprung up in Kilinochi Town. There are many amusing stories told of how he tackled his kanakkapulle on the farm. His life is at once an example and an inspiration.

Going Back to Office

THE politicians of Orissa are, we believe, the first to decide on the question of going back to office. While other parts of India are still wrangling over the subject, Orissa has formed a new Ministry pledged to aid India's war effort. Addressing a war meeting, His Excellency the Governor of Orissa welcomed the new Ministry, and said that, by restoring Parliamentary Government in Orissa, the new Ministers were helping "to deal yet another blow to our Axis enemies to whom all forms of free Parliamentary institutions are an anathema."

The Civil Servants

IN a recent issue of the London "Spectator", Mr. Harold Nicholson points out that the Civil Servant is not so wooden as people generally try to make him out to be. Given a Minister of the right type the Civil Servant as a rule manages to adjust himself to the new order, though, when left alone, he is indifferent to political and economic theories. Mr. Nicholson writes: "Having spent many years in the Civil Service, I have come to the conclusion that most experienced Civil Servants are indifferent to political and economic theories and that the only thing that they really object to is light or variable winds. The tenacity of any given Minister is therefore of the utmost importance."

Opinions expressed by writers in contributed articles do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor.

TOPICS OF THE DAY

By
T. Kathiravellu

Hats Off to Mr. Freeman

MR. H. R. FREEMAN is a man after my own heart. Hats off to him for his crudely-frank, well-meant satire in his "Hindu Organ" article of Nov. 27. The Sinhala Maha caucus may have foreseen the recent earthquake tremors (felt all over the world) and, fearing nature's wrath, decided to move Anuradhapura town outside the precincts of the sacred city! Besides, there is that famous champion of an "all-Sinhalese" Ceylon capital and town planning expert, Mr. Clifford Holliday, to aid the project of the Sinhala caucus. Though Mr. S. W. R. Dias Bandaranaike is prepared to sacrifice his life for the sake of his community—the Sinhalese—how can he die a happy death if the last Indian is not inclined to leave Ceylon's shores. The Indians, like our State Councillors who are strangely unanimous at all costs to stick to their seats, feel disinclined to move once they are comfortably settled in the island! When will Lanka's politicians—Ministers included—cut out the Hitlerian tribal instinct; speak in terms of the nation (vide Premier U. Saw of Burma); practise mutual toleration; avoid toddy, arrack etc, at elections and end by being true patriots? Let the wish be the deed!

The Resignation Farce

WHEN the Board of Ministers resigned en bloc, you could have knocked me down with a feather! What noble motives! What glorious sacrifices! There came Mr. Bandaranaike (we got acquainted on a Malayan background) with his anti-war speeches, which, normally, would not have been tolerated in other British countries. Though Mr. Bandaranaike debunked some of the allegations, the Governor seems to have forgo ten the Malayan way of dealing with irresponsible citizens and anti-war mongers. What happens in Malaya to any speaker who foments racial hatred? His Excellency may say that there have been no such mongers, that British Malaya is "backward" and that we are now in Ceylon? This beats me, it surely does!

An Overnight Sensation

ONCE upon a time four Municipal Councillors of the historic fort of Malacca created an overnight sensation—they resigned! A news-hawk bent on a scoop, I snooped for more information. One ex-Councillor told me that he was unaware that he had resigned (it had been an unreal nightmare); another suddenly possessed sealed lips while the bureaucratic Commissioner of the Municipality was not even aware that four stalwart City Fathers had resigned. What happened? All four skipped back to office! Can you honestly blame Lanka's seven Ministers (the homogeneous breed) for doing likewise? If City Fathers can get away with it, why not our responsible Ministers of State?

What a Man!

BUT MR. BANDARANAIKE felt convinced that he should not resign even when the Governor so obligingly wielded the "big stick" and showed him the way to do so. In glaring contrast to this is the walk-out (permanent variety) from the S. S. Legislative Council, staged by the Hon. Mr. Lim Cheng Ean (if I remember rightly) as a protest against hidebound red-tapism, against which our Mr. Freeman has so often bristled. The Councillor earned our

Continued on page 5

AN APPEAL TO CEYLONESE POLITICIANS

By
A. Thiagarajah, M.A.

Question of Proportional Representation

The Present Situation

THE present political situation in Ceylon is rather disconcerting. We are making a mountain of a molehill about our constitutional affairs. The purpose of a constitution is to facilitate economic and social progress. If then we prefer to be assailing one another in this trivial, but none the less necessary, matter, we shall not see the light of day of our furtherance. Besides, the mass of people of our country are anxiously looking forward for their day of resurrection and are perturbed to find their leaders wasting time over a thing that least concerns them.

What is Communalism?

An article under the caption "Communal Representation" by J. R. Jayawardane appeared in the columns of the "Kesari." The author ingenuously blamed the communalists, but the article was noted more for its semblance of realities than for its substance. He characterised the demand of the minorities as being communal. I am afraid he has not drawn the line between minority rights and communal vociferation. Statesmanship does not lie in trying to explain away a point of view,—which is in the power of almost anyone—but in satisfying every section of a nation from a rational standpoint. Demanding a proportional share in the administration of a

Constitution and for the incorporation of minority rights in it cannot by any stretch of language be called communalism. I shall note here for his benefit that the question of communalism, which, he points out, is to the fore in India, has been the result of creating separate electorates, the logical result of which was the demand for a Pakistan. But such separate electorates never existed in Ceylon,—and I hope it will never be—except in the case of a few nominated members to give weightage. On the other hand it is not a sin for the minorities to claim a first share in turning the wheel of progress. Joint electorates, a proportional representation in the Council, a composite Cabinet, and an incorporation of the rights of minorities in a constitution that can have the approval of a Court of Universal Justice are all that are requested of the majority community. That would be the signal for the streamline express to steam off from the platform.

Balanced Representation

Nor do I wish my readers to mistake me for a balanced representationist. I am, if anything, far from it. I am convinced that balanced representation has no practical value in the present political context, for, I believe, and hope, that after securing proportion-

al representation for the various elements that compose our nationality, the lines of party politics will proceed on economic issues. Economic progress alone is the vital consideration of the State on which everything else revolves.

An Appeal

I therefore make an appeal to all those who have the interest of Ceylon in their heart and the power to do some good to take stock of the situation and pool all their resources and put their heads together and evolve a constitution that is acceptable to one and all. I shall not need to remind them that Imperialism is the avowed enemy of all of us and revels in ruling us by placating one against the other. United we stand, divided we fall. Let us be unanimous before the war spends itself out and we are asked to face a Royal Commission. Let our opinion prevail. If we decide to boycott it let us be prepared to do so. If we have no power to do so let us boycott a constitution which will not record the unanimous voice of this country. For all that the prerequisite is the feeling of security among all sections, including our Indian friends who identify themselves with us. I appeal to my Jaffnese brethren that they should studiously avoid sowing the

seed of communal hatred in trying to over-reach ourselves, for one cannot know the repercussions that will render our country a perpetual mire from which there will be no escape. Equally should the Sinhalese realise that a contented minority is the key to progress, for there is nothing to be gained by being super-clever in the game of politics.

Minorities' Fear

There is still another important point for consideration. The minorities will have the natural fear that the majority will over-ride them in matters of legislation which might prove detrimental to them. But there are two ways of constitutional safeguards. In matters relating to the welfare of the minorities the majority should abstain from voting and in matters relating to general interest the constitution must provide that the vote for carrying through a measure shall have the sanction of a percentage that will include part of the minorities besides the majority community, so that legislation will not be effected by any single community to the detriment of others. This is not unusual, for many cases from elsewhere could be cited. I hope politicians will realise the view point mentioned here. Let no group try to desire more than its share nor yield its minimum rights. அறஞ்செய் விருந்தி. ஏற்பத இச்சி. Let these time-honoured sayings make us bolder even in the field of politics. I wish all the best luck for the politicians of Ceylon in the consummation of an ideal that will carry us from victory to victory.

SOME SIDELIGHTS ON EDUCATION

INCIDENTAL VISITS BY INSPECTORS

By
Spectator

A Necessity

IT is a well known fact that incidental visits to schools by Inspectors are an absolute necessity, if schools are to do really efficient work. The absence of these visits for long periods in the past has been the chief cause of the growing deterioration evident in not a few schools in the Island. In the case of many schools, only one visit used to be paid by Inspectors during the year, and that too, on the day of the annual inspection, when they went to collect the annual Returns. Every aspect of school work will naturally be seen at its best on this particular day, as the recommendation of increments to teachers' salaries depends chiefly on the report of the Inspectors based on what they are able to see on that day. Due notice of the annual inspection is given to the school authorities, and they see to it that everything is in perfect order on that day, so that they may have a good report from the Inspectors. Notes of teaching which teachers are expected to prepare daily will be up-to-date, the class rooms and surroundings will be neat and tidy, and even the school garden will be in a presentable state on the day of

the annual inspection. After seeing all this, the Inspectors go away fully satisfied and write a good report. If what is seen on the day of the annual inspection in a school, can be seen on the day of the incidental visit also, then of course, one has reason to conclude that all is well with the school.

A Happy Sign

It is a happy sign that the present Divisional Inspector of Schools of the Northern Division is trying to do everything in his power to improve the state of the schools in his Division. Whenever he happens to pay an incidental visit to any school, he gives friendly advice to the teachers, does some model teaching himself, and in the report he writes, he mentions all the good aspects of the school work he has seen and gives valuable suggestions as to what may be done in the school for its improvement. The Divisional Inspectors who were in this Division in the past had scarcely any time to get out of their office, and hence, had no chance of knowing what was going on in the various schools. Their assistants who paid incidental visits, whenever they had time, made superficial observations as they were sure that the real state of affairs could not be gauged by the

Divisional Inspectors who were tied down to the office.

Prejudiced Officers

Some assistant Inspectors, with a view to pleasing their superior, pay incidental visits to schools with a prejudiced mind, and write curious reports embodying their observations, some of which run counter to what they themselves had observed and reported during their earlier visits. It is reported that an Inspector who had reported the school buildings and furniture of a certain school to be satisfactory during two of his annual visits to the school had something unfavourable to say about these during his incidental visit the third time. It is difficult even to imagine how the building and furniture reported to be satisfactory once can again be regarded as unsatisfactory by the same Inspector. The importance attached to the notes of teaching to be prepared daily by the teachers is highly amusing. What is there to prepare for a teacher of twenty years' experience in a subject like Number for the Second or the Third standard in a Tamil School? It is an open secret that teachers write notes of lessons merely to satisfy the Inspectors and that they are not in the least benefited by writing a few lines under each subject. Still the Inspectors come down on some teachers, if they fail to write their notes even for a single day, and threaten them that they will cause their increments to be stopped. If an intelligent person looks into the notes of lessons written by some teachers and approved by the Inspectors, he cannot help laughing at the ridiculous nature of the notes which are not likely to help them in any way. The

CHANGES IN JAFFNA HOSPITAL

Dr S. Vivekanandarajah, House Physician, Jaffna Hospital, has been transferred as D. M. O., Cottage Hospital, Akkarapattu, and Dr. J. R. Richards has succeeded him. Dr S. A. Vettivelu, D. M. A. Trincomalee, has been transferred to the Jaffna Hospital as House Surgeon, and a Venereal Diseases Clinic has been opened at the Hospital under his charge.

D. R. O.'s IN THE NORTH

Pt Pedro, Thursday.

The batch of 16 D. R. O's who are undergoing training in Agriculture are at present in the North studying methods adopted by the Jaffna man in cultivating the soil. They were at the Thinnevely Farm school yesterday and went to Point Pedro with Mr. Kanagaratnam, Agriculture Officer, to study the special methods adopted in growing onions at Thickenam and Vannanthurai which produce the largest quantity of onions. They left Point Pedro to Neervey to see the plantain cultivations there.

The D. R. O's are headed by Mr. T. Murugasapillai. (Cor.)

writing of notes of lessons for certain subjects, especially in the lower classes, is an absolute waste of time and energy and the sooner it is done away with, the better it would be for all concerned. This meaningless farce enacted in many schools merely to satisfy the Inspectors is being regarded as an absolute necessity even for recommending the increments of teachers!

JAPANESE AGGRESSION IN THE FAR EAST

By
V. K. Rudrasingam

How It Began

I

Anglo-Japanese Relations

RECENT events in the Far East force us to view with grave apprehension the trend of Anglo-Japanese relations. There is open enmity between the two countries, and war may break at any moment. The straining of Anglo-Japanese relations was not sudden, but gradual. It is a well-known fact that Japan was one of the closest Allies of Britain during the Great War and before it. The surrender of British extra-territorial rights in Japan and her rejection of the advances of the Three Powers—France, Russia and Germany—paved the way for the foundation of a friendship between the two countries. This newly formed friendship blossomed forth into an Alliance. An Alliance, neither defensive nor offensive, primarily intended to safeguard the interests of the contracting parties from encroachment by a third Power—namely Russia—was signed in November 1901. After the Russo-Japanese War in 1904, a second Alliance, both offensive and defensive, and far more extensive in form and scope, was signed in August 1905. The Second Alliance, like its predecessor, was directed against Russia. However, the Anglo-Russian Convention of 1907, followed by a similar rapprochement between Japan and Russia, checkmated Russia for a while in her designs in the Far East. But U. S.—Japanese relations, which hitherto had been friendly, had become strained so badly, that there was a possibility of war. Britain felt uneasy, because she was bound to come into the war on the Japanese side on account of her Treaty obligations. This was an idea which was very repugnant to the British and especially to the

self-governing Dominions of Australia, Canada and New Zealand. This resulted in a revision of the Treaty in July 1911, by which the defensive and offensive values of it were lost. Japan deplored very much the British action, because she had sacrificed Japanese interests. From this time onwards the harmonious cordiality which had hitherto existed between the two countries was definitely on the wane. However, Japan carried the part entrusted to her in the Great War to a successful issue without much disagreement. Immediately after the war there was a tendency in England owing to circumstances to abolish the Alliance. By the Treaty of Washington the Anglo-Japanese Alliance came to an end. An attempt to revive the Alliance failed. Matters came to a head over the Manchurian question in 1931. Japan was not amenable to any suggestion whatsoever and as a protest against the condemnation of her action by the League, she withdrew from it in the latter part of the same year. The breach was still further widened when Japan invaded China proper in 1937 and occupied Indo-China this year. This break in their relations has its own reasons. When material interests of two countries come into conflict hostility is inevitable. It is no surprise that the "friend of yesterday is the foe of today". The material interests of the two countries were political as well as economic and these two interests are causally connected.

Political Interests

The friendship which was formed between these two nations in 1901 unexpectedly found in the United States of America an obs-

tacle. Since there was a prospect of war between America and Japan, England discarded the Alliance at Washington. This showed that Britain was in no way prepared to go against her American cousin. In 1915 Japan presented China with the incredible "Twenty-one Demands", which if accepted would have turned China into "an almost exclusive fishing ground for Japanese financiers, industrialists and military men", and China was bullied into accepting four groups of the five into which the "Demands" were divided. But, in 1919 America compelled Nippon to "disgorge what it had swallowed of Shantung Province." Again in 1921 American naval supremacy plus the threat of still greater supremacy forced Japan and Britain to accept the Naval Limitation Treaty and the Nine-Power Treaty that pledged the signatories to respect unconditionally the territorial integrity and independence of China. The Manchurian question precipitated a crisis. Japan provoked an "incident" with Manchuria and attacked her in contravention of the Covenant of the League of Nations, the Nine-Power Treaty and the Kellogg Pact all of which pledged Japan to preserve the territorial integrity and independence of China. She had openly flouted the League. Under British leadership, the League was satisfied with a mild reproof. Even though Britain's policy with regard to China was to maintain its territorial integrity and independence and also her (Britain's) political and economic supremacy in that country, much of the wanton Japanese aggression was carried on with the connivance of the British Government. Britain was quite prepared to acquiesce in

a peaceful economic penetration by Japan, but, refused to recognise any monopoly of political influence. Britain sought to stabilise her political supremacy, first in order to maintain her economic interests in that country. When she found that her political influence in that country was threatened she was forced to come into conflict with Japan. Japanese contentions put forward were that some latitude should be allowed in the interpretation of the Peace Treaties, that England's action was based on selfish motives and her (Japan's) attack on Manchuria was one made in self-defence. These reasons are not at all substantial. The British action was justified when Japanese militarists decided to invade China proper in 1937, and further justified when Indo-China was occupied this year. Imperialistic Nippon was determined to subject China to everlasting colonial servitude, a determination which was quite contrary to British interests and to the Open-door Policy of the United States of America. The Manchurian affair was only the beginning of an era of Japanese and Axis aggressions. Britain as a protective measure established a naval base at Singapore. Britain's reason in establishing it was to check the Japanese expansion, to protect her trade routes in the event of war and to safeguard her self-governing Dominions in the East. Japan maintained that the establishment of the naval base was an insult and a menace to her and was directed against her. Matters reached a climax with the Japanese occupation of Indo-China. This latest Japanese act of aggression constitutes a direct threat to British supremacy in the Far East. It will be seen from these successive acts of aggression that the object of Japan is political aggrandisement at the expense of Britain.

Letter to the Editor

WHERE WERE THEY?

Sir,—The division list on the motion of Mr. Samarakkody is revealing. The absence of Messrs G. G. Ponnambalam, (champion of the Minorities), A. Mahadeva and R. Sri Pathmanathan is very intriguing. By their failure to register their votes for the motion, they have betrayed the cause of the Tamils and other Minorities in the Island. It was in their power to turn defeat into victory. The passing of the motion would have resulted in a re-election of the Board of Ministers and the committees. In a new Board at least two minority members would have found places. This of course would not suit the political game of a certain type of politician who would then have no platform to shout at the all-Sinhalese Board of Ministers. Perhaps in their anxiety to retain a platform they must have persuaded themselves to keep away when the division bell was rung.

One can understand the action of the European bloc in the Council when they voted against the

motion. Their's is to preserve the *status quo* in the Island so that the policy of divide and rule may succeed. Now and then they may do lip service to the cause of the minorities; the European Association may pat Mr. Ponnambalam on the back and bless his pilgrimages to Whitehall, but when it comes to an actual show down, they would back the Majority community. This should be a bitter lesson to our friends in Jaffna who still hope for small mercies from the European community in the island.

The voting on this motion was not on communal lines. There are among the Sinhalese persons who are too eager to remedy the grave mistake committed by their elder politicians by the election of an all-Sinhalese Board of Ministers. Is it beyond the capacity of the best elements among all sections of the country to form a united front for the greatest good of this Island?

Jaffna
30.11.41

Your's truly
Ceylon Tamil

Notice to Correspondents

S. P. S: NOT SUITABLE.

—Ed. H. O.

ORDER NISI

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF
JAFFNA

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 1087
In the matter of the estate of the late Manicar Sathasivam of Uduvil Deceased.
Navamany widow of Manicar Sathasivam of Uduvil
Vs. Petitioner.
1. Sathasivam Theivanthiran of Uduvil
2. Sathasivam Arichanthiran of do
3. Lankathevy daughter of Sathasivam of do
4. Manicar Sangarappilly of do Respondents.

This matter of the petition of the abovenamed petitioner coming on for disposal before C. Coomaraswamy Esquire District Judge Jaffna on the 6th day of November 1941 in the presence of Mr. S. V. Chinniah Proctor on the part of the petitioner and the affidavit of the petitioner having been read.

It is ordered that the abovenamed 4th Respondent be appointed Guardian-at-Litem over the minors the abovenamed 1, 2 & 3rd Respondents for the purpose of representing the said minors and acting on their behalf in these Testamentary proceedings and that the petitioner as the widow of the said deceased be declared entitled to have Letters of Administration to the estate of the deceased issued to her unless the Respondents or any other person shall on or before the 12th day of December 1941 appear before this court and show sufficient cause to the satisfac-

ORDER NISI

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF
JAFFNA

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 1089
In the matter of the intestate estate of the late Veluppillai Kanagar of Alaveddi Deceased.
Kanagar Muthiah of Alaveddi North Vs. Petitioner.

1. Kanagar Thaiyaleeswari of Alaveddi North minor by her Guardian-ad-litem.
2. Ponnambalam Thambippillai of Alaveddi North Respondents.

This matter coming on for disposal before C. Coomaraswamy Esquire, District Judge, Jaffna on the 10th day of November 1941 in the presence of Mr. S. Canagasabai Proctor on the part of the petitioner and the petition and affidavit of the petitioner having been read it is ordered that the petitioner be granted letters of administration of the abovenamed deceased and that the second-named respondent be appointed guardian-ad-litem of the first-named respondent minor unless the respondents or any other person shall on or before the 17th day of December 1941 show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

This 10th day of November 1941
Sgd. C. Coomaraswamy,
District Judge.

(O. 53. 4 & 8.12.41)

tion of this court to the contrary.

This day of November 1941
Sgd. C. Coomaraswamy
District Judge

(O. 52. 1 & 4.12.41)

TOPICS OF THE DAY

Continued from page 2

undying gratitude and established a precedent in Malayan practical politics.

New Ministers?

SIR Don Baron Jayatillake, Mr. Siripala Samarakoddy and the agricultural-minded Mr. C. Arulambalam, all want a change. Sir Baron claims that the State Council had become stale (a trifle "fishy" if one reflects on the Bribery Commission); Mr. Samarakoddy suggests that the executive committees of state be re-constituted and Mr. Arulambalam applauds the suggestion. A gesture from the Sinhalese leaders is called for, as our Editor remarks. This gesture in embryo can only become feasible if Mr. D. S. Senanayake and his clique disassociate themselves from the rabid communalism of Mr. Bandaranaike and his pal, Mr. C. W. W. Kannangara. Birds of a feather flock together, Mr. Senanayake, and we Tamils like to see first which way the wind blows. In communal parlance, we are a "cautious race." Trust begets trust!

An Apology

I have many weaknesses, one of which is to drag poor Malaya into the disgruntled politics of Lanka. But, as educationists will agree, we teach through comparison and contrast. Malaya bristles with examples and affords pleasant studies in comparison and contrast. When Messrs Bandaranaike and G. G. Ponnambalam visited Singapore, the Tamils (we are stronger in numbers there!) and the Sinhalese welcomed these two stalwart representatives of Ceylon. The welcome was right royal and we put up, as always, a "united Ceylonese" front. The then snobish "Singapore Free Press" featured Mr. Bandaranaike's lecture on "Apples of Gold" (a title suggestive of religion) under a misleading morning headline, "Ceylon Minister Preaches Communism." Of all the unwarranted things said of Mr. Bandaranaike this was the unkindest cut of all! Mr. Bandaranaike demanded an apology, the Ceylonese leaders supported his demand and we found an apology the same afternoon in the influential European-owned "Straits Times."

As Ceylon's Representatives

WE folks in Malaya expected a great deal from Mr. G. G. Ponnambalam but he had come as Ceylon's representative to the opening of the Naval fortress and was, incidentally, Singapore's guest. He preached the gospel of British imperialism (unlike Mr. Bandaranaike) and uttered a few platitudes. But let this be added, as in the Anuradhapura debate, he could not have done otherwise. But way back in Malaya, chiefly because of his suave diplomacy, he had found a corner in our hearts!

OBITUARY

MR. A. KANAPATHYPILLAI

We regret to announce the death of Mr. Kanapathypillai, Head Overseer, P. W. D. Seruban on the 4th November 1941 at Seruban. The late Mr. Kanapathypillai was in Malayan service for 16 years and was Head Overseer, Seruban, for eleven years. He was a popular figure in the district and identified with many movements for the welfare of the Tamils in F. M. S.

The funeral was largely attended. Our heartfelt condolences to his wife, children and his brother, Mr. A. Chittampalam, Station Master Kuala Lumpur.

CEYLONESE ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

(From a Correspondent)

The Ceylonese Association of India was inaugurated at a meeting of the Ceylonese residents of Bombay at the Ceylon House, Hornby Road, on 23rd November. Mr. A. B. A. Mediwake, the Secretary to the Ceylon Trade Commissioner for India, presided. He explained that an association was necessary for the development of Ceylonese solidarity in India. It was, however, not going to be a political party of the Ceylonese. He outlined the aims and objects of the association as the promotion of the interests of Ceylonese residents in India, the provision of social facilities for Ceylonese in India and the development of friendly relations between India and Ceylon.

A discussion followed regarding the aims and objects and the name of the association. Some of the speakers urged the need for supplementing the aid Ceylon House gives to visitors from Ceylon to Bombay. Mr. T. Mylvaganam proposed and Mr. N. Ramaswamy seconded that an association be formed with the suggested aims and objects. Mr. V. S. C. Singham proposed that the name of the association be 'The Ceylonese Association of India' which was adopted.

Mr. Singham who was elected President, deplored the fact that the Ceylonese point of view was not properly represented in India. He thanked the Ceylon House for the assistance rendered to the organization of the association.

The following office-bearers were elected:

President:—Mr. V. S. C. Singham
Vice-President:—Mr. David Pieris

Joint Secretaries:—Messrs T. Mylvaganam and I. Kuruppu

Committee:—Mrs. A. Channugam, Mrs. David Pieris, Messrs H. Vangalauber, D. S. Devandra, Jindrsa, Soyza and Kumaraswamy.

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[Q. 115. 23-10-41-22-1-42.]

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ORDER NISI
IN THE DISTRICT COURT
OF JAFFNA

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 1029
In the matter of the estate of the late Muthupillai wife of Vaithilingam Ponnampalam of Chulipuram
Vaithilingam Ponnampalam of Chulipuram
Petitioner.

Vs.

Arumugam Saravanamuthu of do
Respondent.
This matter coming on for disposal before C. Coomaraswamy Esqr District Judge Jaffna on the 28th day of May 1941 in the presence of Mr. R. Candiah Proctor on the part of

the petitioner and on reading the affidavit and petition of the petitioner:-

It is ordered that Letters of Administration be granted to the Petitioner to the estate of the late Muthupillai wife of the petitioner unless the respondents shall appear before this Court on the 2nd day of July 1941 and show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this court to the contrary.

This 20th day of June 1941.

Sgd. C. Coomaraswamy,
District Judge.

Extended for 10-12-41

It'd. C. C.

D. J.

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