

THE Hindu Organ.

The Only Newspaper in Ceylon for the Hindus

Editor:
A. V. Kulasingham, Advocate.

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NEWS FROM FAR AND NEAR

Food Production

It is understood that the Board of Ministers has appointed a sub-Committee to consider the whole problem of emergency food production and other questions relating to the food supply of the Island arising out of the war in the Far East.

The sub-Committee consists of Sir Baron Jayatilaka, Minister of Home Affairs, Mr. D. S. Senanayake, Minister of Agriculture, Mr. G. C. S. Corea, Minister of Labour Industry and Commerce, Mr. C. W. W. Kannangara, Minister of Education and the Financial Secretary, Mr. H. J. Huxham.



Grow More Food Crops

"Make the land on which you live offer you many happy returns" stated the Governor in the course of a message sent to the Kalutara Scout Colony on its tenth anniversary celebrations on Sunday. The message further stated:—

"My special birthday message is that you plant the Colony with as much of food crops as you possibly can. Set the example necessary for these times, of being entirely self-supporting."



Profiteering in Foodstuffs

A special meeting of the Manipay Village Committee was held on Saturday the 13th inst. to consider the urgent necessity of requesting the Government to take immediate steps to check profiteering in foodstuffs by unscrupulous traders. The Committee passed a resolution urging the Government to take effective measures to check profiteering and to control prices and offered their services to the authorities if they need them to efficiently carry out the control in the villages.



Ceylon Indian Congress

THE Annual General Meeting of the Ceylon Indian Congress, Jaffna District Committee, will be held in the Jaffna Town Hall at 5 p.m. on Saturday, the 20th inst. Mr. T. N. S. Raghavan, M. A., I. C. S., Agent of the Government of India in Ceylon, has consented to be present at the meeting.

INDIAN CONGRESS AND THE DEFENCE OF INDIA

MADRAS EX-PREMIER FAVOURS NATIONAL COALITION GOVT.

Lucknow, Dec. 12.

OUR struggle cannot bear simultaneously the weight of two major issues—the issue of the removal of British control and the issue of non-participation in all wars, irrespective of equity or policies and alliances," said Mr. C. Rajagopalachari, ex-Premier of Madras, and a close associate of Mr. Gandhi, addressing the Lucknow University Convocation today.

He added: "Many are the ties that bind me to Mr. Gandhi and it is no pleasure to discover a difference and recognise it as leading to the parting of the ways, but with prayers and all humility, we must face such a recognition if it must come."

He was referring to the question of the defence of India and the issue of violence versus non-violence.

He said: "The defence of India, according to some of us, is a case to be treated as an exception to the application of non-violence."

He continued: "Surely we cannot hope for emancipation at the hands of Britain's enemies. We are held in bondage by Britain and we must limit our problem to operating the British mind."

"A compromise, therefore becomes necessary on the issue of non-participation in all wars."

"The ending of war as a means of attaining international justice should be tackled but not simultaneously with our national struggle which has come to the very point of solution and which only awaits one or two wise steps to reach complete success."

INDIA'S DEMAND

Defining India's demand, Mr. Rajagopalachari said:

"Our demand is that the governance of India should be fully transferred now, during this war and indeed more especially on account of this war to a provisionally formed National Coalition Government."

"Even from the point of view of mere efficiency the present unconstitutional and

wholly undemocratic arrangement at the centre and in most provinces is fatally weak and will crumble at the onslaught of real danger.

"Ignoring the just and reasonable demand of India, Britain cannot get the free and willing co-operation of India, either of the National Congress or the Muslim League. Absence of a political settlement between the Congress and the League cannot wipe out the glaring fact of the consensus of opinion on this vital point."

'DAILY HERALD'S' PLAN FOR INDIA

London, Dec. 13.

"A great opportunity offers itself in India—perhaps for the last time," writes the "Daily Herald" in a leader today. "If it is seized courageously the gain will be double: a new accession to our war strength and a new step to solving the Commonwealth's gravest problem."

"If neglected we shall pay a heavy penalty for our folly; we shall weaken ourselves in a critical spot at a critical moment."

"We shall create new internal troubles at a time when the Empire imperatively needs harmony and whole-hearted co-operation within its border. All India has been profoundly stirred by the Japanese attack and by the presence of a powerful and aggressive enemy within so few miles of its own frontiers."

"All India is aware of the issues at stake. Its sympathies are with the Allies. There are in India today, as never before, the will and desire to co-operate to the full with other peoples of the Commonwealth and their Allies in the efforts and sacrifices needed for victory."

"One thing only is wanted. India needs to feel that she is fighting and working, as we and the dominions are, as a free people for freedom."

CONFIDENCE REQUIRED

"But there is widespread among Indian leaders still sus-

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COLOMBO CENSUS TO BE TAKEN

MAYOR'S APPEAL FOR UNITY

THE Municipal authorities are making arrangements to carry out a proper census of the people in the city.

Dr. R. Saravanamuttu, Mayor of Colombo, announced this at the Ananda College Old Boys' Association lunch held on Sunday last.

Appealing for co-operation and unity he said that they should give serious thought to problems that they would have to face in the immediate future, whether this war last six months or six years. The times they were going through were strenuous and the war had been brought very much nearer to them by recent events.

The Municipality would be sending enumerators to take a proper census of the city which would be helpful in case of an emergency. Householders would have to state definitely whether they would remain in the city; go away from it by themselves in case such a necessity arose; or whether they would need the help of the authorities in such an event.

Continuing, Dr. Saravanamuttu emphasised the need for voluntary workers, at least from seven to ten thousand, who would be prepared to do their duty in A. R. P. evacuation and other work if and when such a necessity arose.

Appealing for united effort and co-operation in the shaping of the destiny of this country, he said that the other day, speaking about Dominion Status for Ceylon, the highest authority in the land told him that there was absolutely no reason why Ceylon should not have Dominion Status after the war if all who live in this country got together and agreed on the basic principles on which their Constitution should be based.



NO NEED FOR PANIC

"There is absolutely no need whatever for panic or alarm. The military have taken every precaution for the safety of the Island in the event of an emergency," said Major-General R. D. Inskip, General Officer Commanding, Ceylon, in an interview. The authorities, he said, had considered the situation created by the entry of Japan into the war and Government's plans would be made known to the public through the Press and by other means of propaganda as soon as possible.



Hindu Organ.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1941

INDIA AND THE WAR

THAT JAPAN'S ENTRY INTO the war has been productive of good in two important directions is now evident: it has left no choice for the government and people of the United States in the matter of dealing with the spirit of international lawlessness that threatens to engulf the world, and it has brought about a new and correct appraisal by Indian leaders themselves of India's tremendous responsibilities in the present conflict. As long as the Dictators and their Allies refrained from laying violent hands on American interests and American sensibilities, Isolationism had something to feed on, though it was not much, but the manner, no less than the immediate consequences, of the Japanese attack on American bases and territory has thrown into bold relief the real issues involved in the present struggle. In the United States, therefore, isolationism is dead, and therein lies the future hope of civilisation. In India, the domestic issue of independence or dominion status has held the field all along to the exclusion of practically every other relevant consideration. This attitude of Indian leaders towards the war continued even in the face of the German advance towards the Caucasus and all the implications of that advance, but the violence of Japan's emergence as the champion of the interests of Greater East Asia, as the Japanese are pleased to call it, has brought home the truth that, if British imperialism is an obstacle to India's independence, the imperialism of Japan presents an obstacle far more menacing. Speaking at the annual Convocation of the University of Lucknow, Mr. Rajagopalachari, ex-Premier of Madras, stated bluntly the fundamental difficulty of the present situation when he said that Indians cannot hope for emancipation at the hands of Britain's enemies. He does not, however, agree that this difficulty can in any sense modify or weaken the demand of the Indian people that "the governance of India should be fully transferred now, during this war, and indeed, more especially on account of this war, to a provisionally formed national coalition Government." That

demand, he says, must be met if Britain is to get "the free and willing co-operation of India, the India either of the National Congress or of the Muslim League". This leaves the situation practically where it was, and the latest speech of the Viceroy contains no indication that the British Government proposes to do anything more than reiterate its past "guarantees, undertakings, pledges, intentions and attitude", so far as the demands of the Indian National Congress are concerned. The only change which the Viceroy was able to visualise was the formation of Provincial Ministries pledged to the conduct of the war with his own enlarged Executive Council in sole charge at the centre. While Mr. Rajagopalachari wants an immediate and outright transference of all authority to a provisional Coalition Government, the Viceroy was unable to promise anything more than the present Executive Council.

Unfortunately for both parties, the Japanese *blitzkrieg* is not likely to take into account the difficulties inherent in the political situation in India. The situation in the Far East is one that brooks no delay in the handling of it, for the simple reason that, whether India is free or dependent, Japan's aggression constitutes a grave menace to the Indian people in either case, and it is imperative that India should throw all her resources, moral as well as material, into the struggle, without delay. At the same time, even in Britain, people are beginning to feel that the dangers with which India is beset do not absolve the British Government from making an earnest attempt to meet India's legitimate aspirations. The present moment is opportune for such a gesture even if it does not involve, during the pendency of the war, the making of all the changes desired by the Indian leaders.

There are signs that the Viceroy's call for War Ministries in the Provinces has not fallen on deaf ears. In Bengal and Orissa Coalition Ministries have been formed. It remains to be seen whether the example of Orissa and Bengal will be followed by the other provinces where the Congress Ministries resigned. As for the Viceroy's Executive Council, the fact that prominent Indian leaders have entered this Council is a clear indication that an important section of Indian opinion is prepared to put the Viceroy's words to the test, but nevertheless, in the absence of whole-hearted co-operation by the Congress Party, the move indicated in the Viceroy's speech at the annual general meeting of the Associated Chambers of Commerce in Calcutta is not likely to produce outstanding results. It is at best an unsatisfactory compromise.

NOTES AND COMMENTS

Good News from America

ACCORDING to Colonel Knox, who has just returned from his inspection of Pearl Harbour, the American naval losses in the sudden Japanese attack were one old battleship, an old target ship, three destroyers, and a minelayer. Colonel Knox said that even the material damage caused by the attack was below his anticipations. On the whole, in spite of the spying and fifth column work the Japanese have been doing in Honolulu, the American Pacific Fleet has fared well, and it is encouraging to note that it is trying to establish contact with the Japanese Fleet. The hit-and-run tactics adopted by the Japanese Navy in regard to the Hawaii Islands show that Japan has still a wholesome respect for the American Fleet. Japan must have counted much on the results of the attack, but the actual results have proved disappointing, in spite of the treachery and suddenness of the attack.

The Fifth Column

TALKING of the fifth column, Colonel Knox's references to fifth column work in the Hawaii Islands are illuminating: "I think the most effective fifth column work of the entire war was done in Hawaii with the possible exception of Norway. That fifth column is being sought out and dealt with." It looks as if the Japanese are doing the same thing in the Philippines, where large Japanese settlements present a serious danger to the defence of the country. According to a recent communique, large numbers of these fifth columnists were shot down during air raids. Malaya too was for a long time the happy hunting ground of Japanese immigrants, and one need not be surprised if the Japanese adopted the same methods in that country. Even in Ceylon one cannot be too careful about the dangers of fifth-column activity. No Government mindful of its responsibility can afford to take anything for granted during these days. It has to guard itself against the sort of surprises that are being sprung on other countries.

The Food Supply

THE Ministry of Agriculture has lost no time in appealing to landowners to cultivate more food crops immediately. In view of the obvious danger of depending on supplies from outside, we have no doubt that landowners in Ceylon will be only too glad to respond to the appeal. The Government, however, will be able to obtain better results by co-ordinating and guiding private effort, and for this purpose the machinery of the Department of Agriculture is at its disposal. In irrigable areas the cultivation of pulses on fallow land after the kalapokam harvest is desirable. This will not interfere with the main paddy crop. Besides, pulses have, in addition to their food value, a high manurial value for the soil in which they are cultivated. They need far less water than other crops. We need hardly say that kurakkan and other cereals should be cultivated wherever possible, but the cultivation of such crops can be undertaken only on lands specially prepared for the purpose. As a matter of fact, if irrigation is available, a *sirupogam* paddy crop can be successfully cultivated with the same amount of preparation needed for kurakkan. In any case, where major tanks are concerned, the Department of Irrigation would be well advised to relax its rules in regard to the close season under these tanks. We have particularly in mind the Karachechi Irrigation Scheme which is handicapped by two close seasons. It would be better to give up the first close season in March, so that a continuous supply of water may be available till the tank is finally closed on August 15.

TOPICS OF THE DAY (BY T. KATHIRAVELLU)

Evacuation?

TO consider the position of Ceylonese in the Malay Peninsula and to urge the Ceylon Government to take urgent action to evacuate Ceylonese women and children and others not employed in essential services and provide safe passage for them to Ceylon, a public meeting was held at the Jaffna Central College Hall on Saturday. Though close relations of mine in Malaya far outnumber those in Jaffna I, for one, "boycotted" the meeting. My sympathies are with the organisers of the meeting who were doubtless inspired by reasonable motives. A precedent (one of many) may have been afforded by the evacuation of British women and children from Hong Kong, Bangkok, Iraq and Iran.

The Wider View

ADMITTEDLY the position of the Malayan Ceylonese is serious but it is only as serious as the position of the Malayan Indians, Chinese and other races temporarily or permanently inhabiting that "El Dorado." For the first time in the history of the present Malayan generation, war has been carried to their doorsteps. Plans for the evacuation of the civilian population were laid long ago by the Malayan Government and I have no doubt that the evacuation of women and children (of all races) to the suburbs, far from areas likely to be bombed, is by now complete. The evacuated in Malaya face the same risk as the inhabitants of Lanka, should the grim realities of war trouble this isle. We must not forget that Trincomalee and Colombo are vital targets. If the Ceylonese here wanted to recall their womenfolk and children, they should have done so months ago as everyone was perfectly aware that the Japanese were prancing about like devil dancers.

"Home" Fronts

EVEN if the Ceylon Government were to support the proposed evacuation and provide safe passage, which self-respecting family-minded woman would have consented to leave her father, husband or brother in Malaya and take "refuge" in a land, where the quietude is ominous? Only those without male relations (an inconsiderable minority) would welcome evacuation to Ceylon and to such all help should be speeded. This is the time when we expect our womenfolk in Malaya (our mothers, sisters and others) to stand steadfastly to their "home" fronts and minister to the comforts of their war-worried menfolk. What nobler task is there for women than this?

Not So Spineless!

CERTAIN aspects of Hindu philosophy (all very good at the proper age or period of our lives) have made us passive, non-violent war-haters, docile imitators of Mahatma Gandhi, for whom I do not propose to hold a brief in this article. We Ceylonese (and the Tamils in particular) have in the past been accused of being spineless even for use as cannon fodder during war! Happily this conception is dying out. Many Ceylonese are serving in Malaya's military and civil defence services and from my experience of the present generation I have no doubt that they will leave a worthy page in the annals of the Malayan War. In all frankness I tell you that I am irritated because I am not by the side of my brother (in the A. R. P. Services) or any other relation or friend in that dear war-torn land of my domicile. Paradoxically enough a good few people in Jaffna would prefer to sail to Malaya if the Ceylon Government could arrange for their "evacuation" and assure us of the continuity of our jobs! But this scheme, unfortunately, would embarrass the military authorities of Malaya, whose hands are already full. I propose to discuss the war in Malaya in a subsequent article.

JAFFNA AND THE REFORMS

Parliamentary Commission welcomed

THE decision of the Secretary of State for the Colonies to appoint a Parliamentary Commission on the reform of the Constitution was welcomed at the Annual General Meeting of the Jaffna Association held at the Jaffna Town Hall last Saturday afternoon.

Mr. S. Kanagasabai, Advocate, President of the Association, took the chair.

Mr. N. Chelvadurai, one of the Joint Secretaries, in presenting the Annual Report, said that that Association regretfully recorded the passing away of Dr. T. Isaac Thambiah who as President of the Association rendered to the Tamils of Ceylon services the value of which could not be estimated. Owing to failing health he had gone to Bandarawela from where he continued for some time to direct the destinies of the Association. "In his death Ceylon and particularly Jaffna loses one of its most brilliant sons whose vigorous intellect, intense patriotism and sterling independence contributed immeasurably to the true clarification of the position of the Tamils in the body politic of Ceylon. His death leaves a void difficult to fill."

The Report as well as the Treasurer's statements of Accounts were duly adopted.

CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS

The Chairman, rising amidst applause, said in the course of his address that that Association, with the co-operation of the leaders of the other communities, had agitated for several years past for securing reforms in the constitution of the country. As a result of their efforts the first instalment of reforms was granted to Ceylon in 1910. After dealing with the history of further reforms, the speaker said that in the working of the Donoughmore constitution, it became apparent that the Tamils had received a setback to their position and status in the country.

The Association submitted several memoranda and resolutions to the Secretary of State and finally at an All Ceylon Public Meeting of Tamils held in 1939 at the Town Hall Colombo over which he the speaker had the honour of presiding several important resolutions were passed, one of which emphatically demanded that a Joint Select Committee of both Houses of Parliament should be appointed to hear evidence, examine and report—if necessary with the aid of a Parliamentary Commission—on the constitution before any steps were taken by His Majesty's Government to effect any amendment thereof.

The Secretary of State, continued the speaker, had now decided that a Parliamentary Commission be appointed after the war on the reform of the constitution.

"We", said Mr. Kanagasabai "thankfully accept the decision of the Secretary of State and trust that the Constitution would be so amended as to be acceptable to all the communities in the island." (Applause).

A resolution from the Chair conveying the unswerving loyalty of the Tamils of Ceylon to His Majesty the King and wishing

HONGKONG UNDER JAPANESE ARTILLERY FIRE

SLIGHT BRITISH WITHDRAWAL IN KEDAH

London, Dec. 15.

THE siege of Hong Kong has begun. There is now no doubt that Kowloon on the Chinese mainland, separated from Hong Kong island by only two miles of water, is in Japanese hands. It is probable that Japanese artillery, which is exchanging heavy gunfire with the Hong Kong batteries, is stationed on the hills behind Kowloon. Shells are now plastering Hong Kong's main living sector.

Hong Kong island has been preparing for a siege ever since the war began and its heavy guns will be able to play havoc with any attempted invasion across the water.

Military quarters in London this morning stated that the British are withdrawing their troops from Kowloon to Hong Kong. The withdrawal is proceeding according to plan.

A Singapore communique today announces: "This morning reports from Hong Kong say that a heavy exchange of artillery fire has been in progress. There is no confirmation of the rumour that the island (Hong Kong) has capitulated."

ON MALAYA FRONT

Very heavy fighting is reported in the northern part of the Malay peninsula and there has been some slight withdrawal of our troops on the Kedah part of the front. Casualties may be severe on both sides, but no information is yet available.

The Japanese have pressed their attack in Kedah and gained ground despite the heavy losses they suffered, says a Singapore communique issued by combined headquarters. The communique continues:

"Severe fighting continues in south Kedah in difficult country and the situation is confused. There

victory to British arms was carried unanimously.

A vote of condolence on the death of Dr. Isaac Thambiah was passed in the usual manner.

Dr C Sivasithamparam proposed, and Mr. C. K. Tambe, Barrister-at-law, seconded the following resolution which was unanimously passed: "This Association welcomes the decision of the Secretary of State for the Colonies to appoint a Parliamentary Commission on the reform of the Constitution."

Mr. A. R. Subramaniam proposed and Mr. V. Veerasingham seconded the following resolution, which was also unanimously carried: "This Association is of opinion that the decision of the State Council to create a new Town in place of the present town of Anuradhapura is highly detrimental to the interests of the inhabitants, particularly of Tamils and Muslims who own between them 75 per cent of the lands and buildings within the present town area."

The election of office bearers was then proceeded with and resulted as follows:—

President: Mr. S. Kanagasabai (Re-elected)

Vice-Presidents: Mr. A. R. Subramaniam, Dr. C. Sivasithamparam, Messrs. A. V. Kulasingam, V. Veerasingham, R. Sivagurunather and C. Arulampalam.

The Joint Secretaries: Messrs.

were some activities in Kelantan yesterday. Penang was free from bombing today but Ipoh had a short warning. There is no further news from Hongkong."

STATE OF EMERGENCY IN CALIFORNIA

Governor Olsen has proclaimed a state of emergency throughout California as "enemy reconnaissance machines, if not actual bombers, have flown over our State within the past few days." Mr. Olsen added that he considered that a state of emergency was best in the interests of the population in view of war dangers.

Both Houses of the Japanese Diet held a brief meeting today, the first day of the extraordinary session—and made preparatory arrangements for the formal opening tomorrow morning by the Emperor.

Japanese raiders swept over the Manila area about noon today, dropping bombs which, according to a Manila communique, fell in the vicinity of Nichol's Field.

JAPANESE PRESSURE IN BURMA

Rangoon, Dec. 15.

Army headquarters, Burma, announced today: "Owing to pressure by Japanese forces, our small garrison has withdrawn from Victoria Point, according to plan after carrying out necessary demolitions." Victoria Point is the southernmost tip of Burma.

U. S. LOSSES IN PEARL HARBOUR

Washington, Dec. 15.

Col. Knox, Navy Secretary, states that one battleship and five other warships were lost in Pearl Harbour.

VICEROY APPEALS TO INDIA

"Forget Domestic Differences"

Calcutta, Dec. 15.

AN ardent appeal to the people of India to forget their domestic differences and work together for a common object 'at a crucial moment in the history of mankind' was made by the Viceroy today addressing the annual general meeting of the Associated Chambers of Commerce.

The Viceroy said: "We stand today at a crucial moment in the history of mankind. Throughout the world mighty forces are engaged in a titanic struggle, the outcome of which will affect the destinies of the human race for centuries."

"In the Far East, the clouds we have watched gathering for so long have burst in a storm that brings the menace of war even more closely to this land. India is no more a spectator of these tremendous events. They affect her vitally and she is playing an outstanding part in them. Let us in such circumstances forget our domestic differences and work together as a whole for that common object, the attainment of which is vitally necessary to India and is so anxiously desired by all her people."

Referring to his pronouncement of August 8, 1940 the Viceroy said that his appeal did not secure the response for which he had hoped and that although he was prevented from going ahead on the lines proposed by him he would repeat that the guarantees, undertakings, pledges, intentions and attitude of His Majesty's Government as explained in his statement, towards the future constitutional development of India, and the machinery whereby it was to be brought about, were as valid today as when they were first spoken.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

The Viceroy referred to the creation of additional departments to his Executive Council and said that it was a step the significance of which was far greater than he sometimes thought was realised. The Council in its present form was a body of great authority and great distinction. It was a strong, effective and distinguished body and India might well be content in the hope that they might yet see the day when in the provinces, which were still without ministerial Government, they would see in power Governments set on winning the war and ready to use the immense power and opportunities at their disposal. "NOTHING LEFT UNDONE"

"We have left nothing undone to bring the parties together and try to provide the materials for an amicable settlement and agreement between them, to try and smooth India's path to the realisation of her goal at a critical point, which is making so immense a contribution to the war, which stands for so much in the history of the world; to go forward as one in support of the ideals in which we know that she believes and for which there is such over-whelming and general support today and may reflect itself in that agreement in the internal political field, which it has always been our hope and desire to see achieved."

WAR IN FAR EAST

Referring to the war the Viceroy said: "Today the minds of all of us

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N. Chelvadurai & V. S. Karthigesu
Organising Secretary: Mr. P. Chinnadurai.

Treasurer: Mr. V. Manickvasagar (Re elected)

Managing Committee: Mudaliyar S. Kandiah, Rev James. S. Mather, Messrs C. K. Swaminathan, A. Coomaraswamy, J. T. Solomons, Alfred Swampillai, S. R. Kanaganayagam, J. C. Amarasingham, V. K. Gnanasunderam, T. Arumanayagam, C. Balasingam, A. Sambandhan, A. S. Patanjali, C. Vanniasingham, A. W. Nadarajah, C. K. Tambe, R. Sinnadurai, R. Subraminiam, K. Aiyadurai, S. Kanagasabapathy, S. Soorasangan, V. S. Nathan, D. S. Sanders, R. C. Proctor, S. Swaminathan, C. W. D. Alwines, Dr. V. S. Ramanathan, M. R. Karalasingam, S. R. Ariyanayagam and Muhandiram M. Krishnar.

With the permission of the house Mr. C. W. D. Alwines moved:—This Association urges the Government to take steps to check profiteering in foodstuffs and essential commodities by making it a penal offence either to sell such commodities at exorbitant rates or to hoard them.

The Association further appeals to the Urban Council and the Village Committees and Sanitary Boards to help the Government by enforcing the regulations that may be formulated.

Mr. M. R. Karalasingam seconded, carried unanimously.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

A LAKE FOR JAFFNA

Sir,—Of the many and varied schemes with beneficial results today to the Island as a whole that originated from Mr. K. Balasingham long before the present State Council was established, the above subject remains without realisation, but from recent press reports there seems every prospect of interest in the same being revived by the Hon'ble the Minister of Agriculture and Lands, in some form or another with the view of converting the existing natural salt water lagoon in the Jaffna Peninsula into artificial fresh water lake or reservoir, thereby adding to our irrigation facilities and encouraging agriculture, chiefly paddy cultivation in the dry north.

When Mr. Balasingham promulgated the idea there appeared an Editorial criticism of the scheme in the "Ceylon Daily News" followed by a lengthy letter from the pen of a "cultivator" from Badulla.

And now from recent correspondence the subject is again being renewed with divided opinion and reasonably so. The visible or likely impediments are not insurmountable, but the all important question of "Health Conditions" should receive prior consideration, as these natural lagoons serve the peninsula as that of lungs to living beings providing fresh and dry air throughout.

It is not correct to say that "the actual fishing is carried out... from January to March" except in some parts of the lagoon.

Besides, these lagoons produce natural salt, practically every year when the dry season sets in, but with certain amount of effort in sections or parts, there need be no fear about manufacturing large quantity of salt, to say nothing of the existing Uppaar Saltern, where salt is manufactured for very many years.

Any benefits the proposal may have in store cannot be of a temporary nature and considering the amount of capital to be invested, a thorough and searching investigation should precede all action.

Yours faithfully,
S. R. SATHASEEVAN.

Kai hady,
3rd December, 1941.

PREPARATIONS FOR EMERGENCY

Negotiations are taking place between the Government and the Colombo Municipal Council with regard to preparations to ensure the safety of residents of the city in the event of an emergency that might necessitate evacuation, however remote the possibility might be.

The printing of about 75,000 forms for the purpose of enumeration of all residents, men, women, and children, according to their nationality, religion, sex and age, and the employment of at least about 500 enumerators, are considered immediately necessary.

COALITION MINISTRY FOR BENGAL

PREMIER'S APPEAL TO PROVINCE

Calcutta, Dec. 11.

Mr. A. K. Fazlul Huq, ex-Prime Minister and now leader of the newly-formed Progressive Coalition Party, has formed a cabinet in Bengal.

On receipt of an urgent communication from Government House at 10 a.m. to-day, Mr. Huq left to see His Excellency the Governor. Precisely at 10-50 a.m., Mr. Huq entered Government House accompanied by Dr. Shyama Prasad Mookerji, Working President of the All India Hindu Mahasabha and leader of the Nationalist Party in the Bengal Assembly.

On his coming out of Government House just an hour later, Mr. Huq stated that he had formed a new Cabinet with himself as Prime Minister and Dr. Shyama Prasad Mookerji and the Nawab Bahadur of Dacca, ex-Minister, as members. The names of other members to be included in the Cabinet will be announced tomorrow or the day after, he added.

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

The following communique has been issued from Govt. House.

"His Excellency the Governor has today invited Mr. A. K. Fazlul Huq to recommend to him the names of persons for appointment as Ministers, including one or more members of important minority communities, who in his judgment are in a position collectively to command the confidence of the Legislature. Mr. A. K. Fazlul Huq has accepted His Excellency the Governor's invitation and has recommended that the Council of Ministers should be constituted by the appointment of himself, Dr. Shyama Prasad Mookerjee and Nawab Khwaja Habibullah Bahadur of Dacca, pending the appointment of other Ministers. His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to accept these recommendations, and the Ministers designate will take the oaths of office and secrecy at Government House at 9.45 a.m. tomorrow, December 12.

MR. HUQ'S APPEAL

Mr. Huq issued the following message to his countrymen:

"In the supreme hour of national peril, I earnestly call upon all my countrymen, irrespective of caste, creed, or community, to rally round us and give us strength and courage to carry out our great mission for a better Bengal, for a more united Bengal and for a happier Bengal in the interest of the millions of inhabitants of this province. I hope my appeal will touch the heart of every Bengali".

MARRIAGE REGISTRATION

The registration of a society marriage took place on 14th December 1941 before Mr. J. R. Walters M. A. (Cantab) Government Agent, Uva, between Mr. N. M. Idaikkadar, B. A. (Wrangler Math Tripos Cantab) & B Sc (Hons. Lond) of the Ceylon Civil Service, and Miss Sivamangalam, the third daughter of Mr. & Mrs. K. Sinnappu of Lakshmi Villa, Kuala Lumpur, Malaya, at the residence of the bridegroom in No. 126 Bandarawela Rd., Badulla.

Mr. A. S. Vanigasooriyar, District Judge and Dr. T. P. Thamotheram were the attestants,

POLICE AND THE PUBLIC

The above was the subject of a lecture delivered by Mr. S. G. de Soysa, A. S. P., Jaffna, on Saturday last at a Public Meeting held at Manipay under the auspices of the Manipay Parish Social Service League. There was a mammoth gathering present including a large number of ladies. Mr. W. D. Niles, B.A., Advocate, presided.

Dr. K. Cathiravelu, Vice-President of the League, welcomed the speakers on behalf of the League.

At the close of the lecture, Mr. C. N. Devarajan proposed a resolution thanking the Government for the steps taken to control prices of foodstuffs and urging the authorities to make the control effective and to check profiteering by unscrupulous traders in villages. Mr. S. Rajendram, Proctor, S. C. seconded.

Mr. Soysa assured the public that there was no need to be alarmed that there would be a shortage of food and that Government was taking stern measures to check profiteering.

In proposing a vote of thanks, Mr. C. Thiagarajah, Secretary of the League, paid glowing tributes to the work of Mr. Soysa, in Jaffna, and stated that if there were eight more Soysas in Ceylon, what improved conditions would there be in the country, and hoped that Government would allow Mr. Soysa to remain in Jaffna for a long time for the benefit of the country.

NOTICE

The Executive Committee of the Saiva Paripalana Sabha has appointed Messrs. S. Pasupathy Chettiar, Hony Treasurer and A. Arulampalam, Proctor S. C., to tour Colombo, Kandy and other towns as from the 15th instant to enlist new subscribers to the "Hindu Organ" and the "Inthushathanam" and to collect arrears of subscription.

It is hoped that our constituents and well-wishers will give them all possible help.

S. ADCHALINGAM
Hindu Organ Office Manager.
8-12-41.

CEYLON DRIVERS FOR SERVICE

"Keep smiling all the time, especially when conditions are bad" said Major-General R. D. Inskip, G. O. C., Troops, Ceylon, in a farewell address to the first batch of R. A. S. C. drivers, who are leaving Colombo shortly for service abroad.

"Always be cheerful under all conditions", he advised them. "One of the great characteristics of the soldiers of the Empire is their cheerfulness even under adversity and it was this great characteristic that pulled them through the last war. I've no doubt that it will pull them through this war as well."

VICEROY APPEALS TO INDIA

Continued from page 3

are full of the wanton and unprovoked aggression of the Japanese against the British Empire and the United States of America. The warning is clear to all of us. It is clear to all nations that this new and heavy addition to our responsibilities is one that we must bend every nerve to deal with and master. In handling that we shall have with us, I am certain as fully as in the earlier phases of the war, the goodwill, heartfelt sympathy and support of India as a whole."

Striking a personal note His Excellency said "for the best part of six years you have given me in full measure the powerful aid of your comfort and support. I trust you may find me deserving of these yet for another year in which I shall strive to the utmost of my powers to fulfil the great charge which His Majesty has once again been pleased to place in my hands."

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Next term begins on the 7th of January 1942.

Admission of New Boys on the 5th and 6th of January 1942.

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The examination for the above Scholarships will be held at College at 9 a.m. on Monday the 5th of January 1942. Applications for admission should reach the Principal on or before Wednesday 31st December 1941.

Further particulars from the Principal.

(Mis. 153, 18 & 22-12-41).

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THE ELEMENTS OF SAIVA SIDDHANTAM

SIDDHIYAR—AN INTRODUCTION

(By a Science Graduate)

VIII. The Siddhanta Shastras and Other Sacred Books

(Continued from our issue of 11-12-41)

The Saiva Siddhantam, as we have seen, is based on the Saiva Agamas as well as the Vedas. There is a large number of works subsidiary to these in the Sanscrit. The Vedas are four in number and include, of course, the Upanishads which are also known as Vedantas. Then there are the Puranas, whose number is given as 18; the Itihikasas, of which there are three; and the Smiritis, of which 18 are mentioned; besides a large number of other treatises on religion, philosophy, ethics, &c. The Sivagamas are numbered 28 and there are 207 Upagamas subsidiary to them. Many of these works are considered to be lost; at least for all intents and purposes at the present day they may be so considered, being not available. A good many of them, provided they are not moth-eaten or destroyed by white ants, may be found hidden amongst the hoardings of the more longstanding of our priesthood. A very large number of them may be found in the famous Athinams (or Mutts) at Tiruvavaduturai, Tarumapuram and other places. A few have appeared in print with Tamil renderings. Amongst these are Mrigendra Agamam and Poushkara Agamam, both Upagamas, and both most useful books which would amply repay perusal. On the latter of these, an excellent commentary is said to have been composed by Umapathiyar, but the one published is with a Tamil summary of a commentary by Gnanapragasar of Jaffna. The Kamigam, one of the principal Agamas, was also being published some time back in parts.

In the Tamil, corresponding to the Vedas, are the Devaram and Tiruvachagam, also called the Tamil Vedas, which are the sacred utterances of the four great Masters of Religion TiruGnanaSampanthar, Appar, Sundarar and ManickaVachagar. Into the lives and works of these great Masters, we cannot enter here, as they by themselves would form sufficient material for a series of articles like this. Suffice it to say here, such is the fervour and inspiration they instil in our hearts when sung that even persons of other schools and creeds view them with respect and reverence. But it is to the Saiva Siddhanti that they specially appeal. So great is his veneration for them that even if he were to question the Word of the Lord he will not dare to find fault with the words of these great Masters of Religion. A large number of Devarams is now lost. The original number of Pathigams is said to have been 102,000. Of these, what remain to us now are only 797.

With the Devaram and Tiruvachagam should be mentioned the other sacred books contained in the twelve Saiva-Tiru-Murais (சைவத் திருமுறைகள்) or canonised Sacred Books of the Saivas. The Devarams constitute the first seven of these books. The Tiruvachagam and Tiru-Kovaiyar of ManickaVachagar form the eighth book. The Tiru-Isaippa and Tiru-Pallandu of nine different saints (Tiru-Malikai-Devar and others) constitute the ninth book. The tenth book is the Tiru-Mantiram, the 3,000 stanzas of which Tirumoolar is said to have given out to the world in 3,000 years as a result of actual realization, being engaged in deep meditation and Yogam and uttering one stanza every time he woke up from his Samadhi which (waking-up) he did once in a year. The eleventh book consists of the Tiru-Mukap-Pasuram of Tiru-Alavai-Udayar and poems by Karaikkal Ammaiyyar, Aiyadigal Kaduvarkone, Seraman Perumal, Nakkirar, Kalladar, Kapilar, Paranaar, Ilam-Peruman-Adigal, Athira-Adigal, Pattinattu-Adigal and Nampi-Andar Nampi, the last mentioned of whom it was that compiled these eleven books in their present order. The Periya Puranam of Seklar was afterwards added to make up the twelfth book, and it is very useful to the student of Siddhanta philosophy as furnishing him with clear illustrations of the various truths he comes across in the persons of the great devotees and saints whose lives it depicts in clear and beautiful language. These poems are all very fascinating and are calculated to inspire feelings of love and veneration in the heart of the loving devotee, besides presenting pearls of Truth to the enquiring student.

Corresponding to the Saiva Agamas are the fourteen Siddhanta Shastras. Of these the Siva Gnana Bodham is the most important. It consists of twelve Sutras, and the original is in the Sanscrit. It is to be found in the Pasa Vimosana Padalam of the Raurava Agamam. This, the Divine Seer, Meykanda Devar of Tiru-Vennai-Nallur, gave to the Tamil world with his own commentary, dividing every Sutram into separate theses or propositions (Atikaranas) and adding illustrations in verses of Venba metre. On this work of the Divine Seer, the famous Siva Gnana Muniver of Tiruvavaduturai Athinam wrote two commentaries, one of which is short and the other, known as the Dravida Maha Bhashiyam, is a voluminous and most valuable work and was till recently kept unpublished in the Athinam. Next in importance and authority to the Siva Gnana Bodham is the Siva Gnana Siddhi, composed by Arulnandi Devar of Tirutturaiyur, the foremost of the disciples of the great Meykanda Devar. This work which we have taken up for study we shall dilate on at some length shortly. Arulnandi Devar also composed another treatise called Irupah-Irupahtu, which consists of 20 verses in two different metres and in which the author addresses certain very abstruse questions on our philosophy and religion to his master in such a style that the answers are quite apparent. Manavasakam Kadanthar of Tiruvathikai, a co-disciple of Arulnandi Devar, composed Unmaivilakkam, in which the various tatwas are very vividly explained. Arulnandi Devar had a disciple by the name of Marai Gnana Sampanthar of Tirukkadantai whose disciple Umapathi Devar of Kottavan Kudi became the author,

INDIAN CONGRESS AND THE DEFENCE OF INDIA

Continued from page 1

picion of the intentions of the British Government still the bitterness over past blunders. Yet all this could be swept aside.

"One bold gesture from the British Government, one gesture of confidence and friendship, or of assurance for the future would meet with a swift, loyal response. The Japanese are at the gates. The rallying and uniting of India in the cause is the most urgent of Commonwealth needs.

"Today the Bombay Correspondent of the 'Daily Herald' outlines a plan which he believes would command the approval of all parties and all schools in India. It is that the Viceroy should offer to form a National Cabinet entirely Indian, including men of all Parties and Faiths, thus representative of the two essentials—freedom and unity."

"It is a suggestion that calls for immediate, serious and sympathetic consideration", says the paper. "If the principle it embodies can be accepted well and good. If not, let some adequate alternative be produced without delay.

"Never in the history of the Commonwealth was delay a more reckless luxury."

MR. BRAILSFORD'S
PLEA

London, Dec. 10.

There have been many signs that

American opinion is anxious that India should join the ranks of the A. B. C. D. powers on terms of equality. American newspapers have called for a change of outlook in Delhi. I understand also that Mr. John Winant the American Ambassador here, talked last week with Mr. Krishna Menon, Secretary of the India League.

That the present situation in Burma and India constitutes a wide breach in Britain's political defences was stressed yesterday by Mr. H. N. Brailsford, who recently visited the United States. In the course of an article in *Reynolds News* (from which 'The Hindu' has already published extracts), he says:

"The special value of the promises in the (Atlantic) Charter was that they were countersigned by America. Mr. Roosevelt has the right to insist that we shall keep our word to the Czechs, Poles and other Europeans. But Mr. Churchill has in effect warned him by his public declaration that India is no concern of his. Such an attitude was customary in the Nineteenth Century but is out of date today. How we treat Indians is as much America's concern as Hitler's treatment of Jews is ours. Happily, we are treating them better; there are jail deliveries; with many other political Nehru is free; that is good while it lasts but unless we meet the just demands of his nation, our jails will be crowded again.

"We have done nothing until now to restore self-government in the Provinces, set up a *de facto* National Government at Delhi and promise self-government immediately after the war, with America and Russia as our witnesses."

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amongst much else, of the eight works Sivaprakasam, Tiruvarudpayan, Vinavenba, Pottipahrodai, Kodikkavi, Nenchuvuduthobthu, Unmaineri Vilakkam and Sankatpa Nirakaranam, the first mentioned of which (Sivaprakasam) is the most important. This treatise follows practically the same plan of work as its predecessors, the Siva Gnana Bodham and Siva Gnana Siddhi, and may very well be put down as a supplement to the study of those two works. The two remaining works Tiru-Unthiyar and Tiru-Kalittu-Padiyar stand rather apart. They are both anterior in date to the Tamil Siva Gnana Bodham. Tiru-Unthiyar is by Uyyavantha Devar of Tiruvialur who is said to have come from the north. The author of Tiru-Kalittu Padiyar is Uyyavantha Devar of Tirukadavur, the disciple of the author of the preceding work (or, the disciple of Aludaya Devar who was the disciple of the author of Tiru-Unthiyar, as some say). The relation of Tiru-Kalittu-Padiyar to Tiru-Unthiyar is similar to that of Siddhiyar to Siva Gnana Bodham.

(To be continued)

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