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NEWS FROM FAR AND NEAR

"Constitution for a Free Lanka"

THE introduction in the State Council of an Ordinance creating a "Constitution for a free Lanka" forms the subject of the principal resolution to be moved at the annual sessions of the Ceylon "National" Congress.

Another resolution suggests the organisation of an Island-wide boycott of the proposed Parliamentary Commission on Reforms. Acceptance of the Indo-Ceylon Agreement is recommended in yet another resolution.



Rice Position

With a view to ensuring that adequate reserves of rice are available throughout the Island, it is understood, the provisions of the new Rice Reserves Ordinance under which every dealer in rice, every proprietor of an estate employing a certain number of labourers and certain other classes of people are required to hold reserves of rice, are to be brought into operation as quickly as possible. With this end in view the Government proposes in the near future to send some rice from Colombo to be stored on Government account at various provincial towns. The Granaries in Colombo will continue to be open for normal dealings in rice.



Coin Situation in Colombo

The situation with regard to the coin shortage shows signs of improving. Considerably less difficulty is experienced in obtaining change for notes. Some of the eating houses, which remained closed on Monday and Tuesday, have resumed business. This improvement is attributed to Police activity in rounding up hoarders of coin coupled with the release of nearly one lakh of rupees worth of coins by the Treasury on Monday and Tuesday. On the latter day as much as Rs. 60,000 worth of coins were given out to banks, to the general public and to business houses.

The full effect of that release, however, is not expected to be felt until this week when the banks and business houses open after the Christmas holidays.

APPRECIATION OF VALUES OF LIFE

CERTAINTIES AS THE FOUNDATION OF CONDUCT

Aligarh, Dec. 22.

"THAT man is a value-knowing, value-creating individual, is the main thesis which I wish to present to you. That values are accidental in the sense that there cannot be shown to be any design or set purpose in nature to create or conserve them, must also be admitted. Further, we must also admit, that our sense of values may often be perverted, and what men may pursue may be disvalues, and what they may seek to destroy may be genuine values. But values are not accidental or subjective in the sense, that 'our thinking makes them so.' They are 'there' to be sought and apprehended, and discovered, and in some measure to be created by our own efforts. But we have no guarantee that the values we have found or created will not prove to be evanescent, and in fact may indeed be lost or destroyed through our own folly, or the malignity of others", observed Mr. G. C. Chatterji, presiding over the annual session of the Indian Philosophical Congress held at Aligarh on Sunday afternoon.

In the course of his address, the President said:—

Tagore marks a turning point in the history of Indian thought, for while his theoretical outlook still harks back to the Upanishads and the main current of idealistic thought in India, his joyous acceptance of life, and his exultant enjoyment of the beauty of nature and of art, is poles asunder from the asceticism and negativism which has been so characteristic of our philosophical tradition. It is because I believe that Indian philosophy needs to return once more to a fuller appreciation of the values of this life, values so passionately extolled by the poet himself, that I venerate him as the greatest figure in our intellectual renaissance.

PROBLEM OF PHILOSOPHY

That philosophy must face from time to time the practical problems of life, and seek to

supply those in search of guidance, not only doubts which will paralyse life, but certainties on which they can regulate their conduct is, I believe, in the best tradition of our own thought in India. For was it not to Krishna that Arjuna went on the battlefield of Kurukshetra to resolve the doubts which had beset his soul on the eve of action? The Bhagawad Gita, as I understand it, is an attempt not merely to supply a general philosophy, not even primarily a scheme of ethical life, but an attempt to solve the practical problems which present themselves to an average man at the time of a practical crisis in life. Surely it is the courage of Krishna which philosophy needs today, not the cowardice of those who would escape the intellectual responsibilities of their time behind the bars of technicalities or the shutters of traditionalism.

What then is the central problem which the urgencies of our time require us to face? To my mind the problem is to supply a meaning to life, to define the aim or purpose for which we live, and to indicate the manner in which that purpose is to be realised. If the lack of certitude in our modern temper has bred a mood of despair and a sense of the futility of all things human, what solution has philosophy to offer in this predicament?

The doctrine of absolute idealism to which the Gita is wedded, leads not to the doctrine of non-attachment but to that of ethical nihilism and not to a bold devotion to duty but to amoralism in what is called the phenomenal sphere of action. I do not deny the place of intuition either in knowledge or in experience. To me in a certain sense the whole of life is an intuition till such time as I bring my intellect to bear upon it and attempt to relate, interpret and analyse that experience. Every experience, every thing lived through is no doubt the raw material of knowledge, but it is not knowledge itself. This indeed is the fundamental postulate of Realism, but it also is the only

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CONTROL OF PRICES IN JAFFNA

GOVERNMENT AGENT'S EXPLANATION

Jaffna, 22nd.

THE meeting of the Committee of the Jaffna Public Welfare League was held at the residence of the President Mr. C. Ponnambalam last evening at 5 p.m.

Mr. C. Ponnambalam stated that he had been appointed a member of the Jaffna District advisory committee constituted by the Government Agent (the Government Agent) in regard to control of prices. He presented the case of the public at the meeting of the advisory committee held last Saturday. He thanked the Government Agent for having fixed the price of rice less than the price prevailing in Colombo whereas his predecessor, Mr. Naish, when price control was introduced at the beginning of war, fixed the prices in Jaffna higher than the prices prevailing in Colombo. But he told the Government Agent that there was great dissatisfaction that the prices were too high and should have been fixed at least according to the prices prevailing just before Japan's entry into the war. The Government Agent said that he fully sympathised with the public point of view but he was following the policy enunciated by the Minister, that the prices should be fixed according to the cost of replacement of the existing stocks by new stocks. The Government Agent also expressed the view that if prices were fixed according to the prices prevailing before the Japanese war and after new stocks arrived the prices were fixed according to the cost of new stocks, there will be sudden increase in prices and great discontent would be created thereby, and he had fixed the prices via media between the prices prevailing before the Japanese war and the cost of new stocks. The control prices of the different qualities of rice was considered in detail and a new order would be made revising the prices already fixed. The Government Agent agreed to the control of the prices of the other essential commodities of life and prices were fixed.

Mr. C. Ponnambalam told the Government Agent that the people of Jaffna strongly

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Hindu Organ.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1941

THE WAR AND AFTER

THE BRITISH PRIME MINISTER, in his address to the American Senate—a unique event in itself—re-affirmed the determination of the English-speaking world to prosecute the war to a victorious end. If Britain and the United States could bring to bear their entire resources on the struggle, he said, it would be reasonable to hope that the end of 1942 would see the democracies in a definitely better position than they are in now and that the year 1943 would enable them to assume the initiative on an ample scale. Mr. Churchill has been on the whole sober and correct in his prophecies and he has always avoided the danger of encouraging a spirit of easy optimism to be falsified by subsequent events.

But Mr. Churchill also struck a deeper note. He assured the representatives of both branches of the American Congress that he had been in harmony all his life "with the tides which have flowed on both sides of the Atlantic against privilege and monopoly", and that he had striven confidently towards the Gettysburg ideal of "Government of the people, by the people and for the people". Evidently Mr. Churchill thought that some such assurance was necessary, not only in view of the alignment of the parties to the present struggle, but also as an indication that the time has definitely arrived for the traditional scepticism of the Americans towards the true measure of Britain's faith in what he called the "Gettysburg ideal" to merge in a concerted effort for the preservation of common ideals. These ideals have a profound significance, not only for the United States and Britain, but also for the whole world. The spirit that animated Lincoln's great speech on the anniversary of the battle of Gettysburg is the spirit that animates the great religions and philosophies of the world. It springs from the genius of a particular race or country but it nevertheless becomes the heritage of the world. The great American Republic has recognised this fundamental truth and has

sought to uphold it more than any other great nation in its dealings with the rest of the world. It has truly devoted its incomparable resources to the pursuit of happiness, without trying to effect a sorry compromise on the application of universal truths. This is why the Americans have always looked askance at all policies which would deny weaker peoples those vital rights that are the foundation of their own life, and have regarded British insistence on the doctrine of trusteeship and the eternal disability of beneficiaries as an insidious attempt to divide the world into two watertight compartments—one for those that are born free and the other for those who have dependence thrust on them. Mr. Churchill's own gloss on the Atlantic Charter has been so construed by those most affected by it, and it is distinctly unfortunate that he should have placed the American emphasis on human rights on the same level as the excuses that often sought, on the British side of the Atlantic, to water down the fundamental British belief in those same rights. There is, we repeat, a vital distinction between Lincoln's sublime insistence on the rights of man, and the philosophy of those who sought to invent convenient exceptions to the rule enunciated by Lincoln.

The consequences that are bound to flow from these attempts to qualify truth are evident from the emergence of Japan as a champion of the new order in Asia. What the Japanese are trying to create is not a new order but another watertight compartment for themselves and their dependents. The same object is at the bottom of the German challenge to British supremacy. Mr. Churchill said that these attempts must be crushed, and it need hardly be added that the whole world, with the exception of the culprits, wishes him success, for the simple reason that the collective conscience of the English-speaking world is the only thing now left for mankind to trust in the present welter of naked greed and chaos, but no victory can be lasting unless it rests on the foundation of a world order acceptable to the conscience of the human race. Even today what impresses mankind is the profound faith of the English-speaking peoples in human freedom and justice, and it is because this faith must be preserved for future generations against the vandalism of lesser nations Mr. Churchill's intrepid leadership has been acclaimed as the greatest asset of the democracies. There is, however, a far greater thing than even Mr. Churchill's leadership—a full and complete recognition of the truth that the force of high example is the most effective way of resisting aggression.

NOTES AND COMMENTS

Britain and India

BRITISH public opinion is certainly getting restive over Mr. Amery's handling of Indian affairs. In the face of a situation which, in the interests of India as well as Britain, demanded the highest qualities of statesmanship, Mr. Amery has been content to repeat formulas which have become irritating by reason of their staleness. The latest suggestion of the British press is that, if Mr. Amery is unable to do anything better, he had better be transferred to some other Ministry. It is hoped that the Prime Minister will not permit considerations of prestige to stand in the way of doing what is urgently needed to make India contribute her proper share towards her own defence. The details recently disclosed regarding the fighting in Malaya make it imperative that, while there is yet time, India must make her strength felt in the Far East. There is no reason why in Malaya, which is India's first line of defence, British troops must be fighting against numerically superior forces of the enemy, while in India there is an inexhaustible reservoir of man-power which a little wisdom can easily tap for her own defence.

"The People of Ceylon"

IT would be a mistake to suppose that the Ceylon "National" Congress is lacking in a sense of humour. The only explanation of the query recently addressed by the Congress President to His Excellency the Governor on behalf of "the people of Ceylon", whether the British Government intended to grant dominion status to Ceylon, is that Mr. E. A. P. Wijeyeratne could not have done it in any other way. Certain things have to be done in a certain way, and a weighty matter like the grant of dominion status has to be approached in the name of the "people of Ceylon". Even the tailors of Tooley Street, sifrewd politicians as they were, had to ventilate their grievances in the name of the people of England, so that there is precedent for the phraseology favoured by the Congress. The Governor's reply was that he had nothing to add to the reply already given by the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

The Boycott

THE Congress was not at all abashed by this rebuff. It sent a further communication, we are told, asking the Governor to acquaint the Secretary of State that "the only answer the people of Ceylon could give to this denial of their right to freedom was to have nothing to do with the suggested Commission or Conference". Having flung this defiance at the Secretary of State, the Congress proposes to deliberate today in the name of the "people of Ceylon". We are not surprised that the Congress stalwarts are unable to realise the humour of the situation. Even the Tooley Street tailors failed to appreciate their own capacity for humour. It was left to the "people of England" to give the humorists an idea of their own abilities. The position is the same in Ceylon. The people of Ceylon, including the minorities, see the joke better.

A Simple Method

THE Rt. Hon. Sir Akbar Hydari suggested a simple method for finding out where India stands in the present conflict: "Sit down and make a list of all the main matters on which there is agreement between all sections of Indian thought. Then make another list of the points on which America, China, Britain and Russia are all agreed. You will find that the two lists very largely coincide."

MEN AND MATTERS

By
T. Kathiravellu

The Speaker's Philosophy

THE Hon Sir Waitilingam Duraiswamy, Speaker of the State Council, was in philosophic mood at the Parents' Day of the Hindu English School, Vaddukodai. He said that he had never wanted to be a leader though in his younger days he had felt the urge. He struck a happy philosophy when he took praise and blame as the same. Rather than dance to any tune, he preferred to be silent. We were a poor race, sometimes with meals, sometimes without. He had no liking to enter the State Council, but just as we usually spend money to get employed, one had to spend to enter Council. He urged the control of the passions, the control of anger. Listening to the Speaker gave me the feeling that the Tamil knight's thoughts were far away dwelling on karma, transmigration of souls.....

Patriotism

OUR supplies from India and other countries are liable to be cut off. We in Ceylon may be able to pull on with a meal a day for six months but after that all of us must starve. The government scheme urging landowners to cultivate all available land is appropriate and the government contemplates the appropriation of such land should landowners remain idle," says Mr. K. Kanakarathnam, Deputy Auditor-General. "In connection with the present war education should have a practical bias. There is the problem of youth, unemployment and the want of opportunities. We must learn to stand on our feet. Reforms are needed and it is our duty to solve unemployment and to promote the spirit of patriotism by being prepared to defend our country."

No Evacuation

DR. C. CHELLIAH of Johore feels distressed that Malaya is now a battlefield and claims that our position is a perilous one. There will be no more regular remittances from Malaya. We had no patriot and it was up to us to become true servants of Society. Dr. S. Kandiah, a Malayan pensioner, discourages the evacuation of Ceylonese women and children from Malaya to Lanka. He has full confidence in the Malayan Government. Mr. V. Veerasingam, the Northern Province Co-operative President, told me the other day that Malayan pensioners, normally jolly good folk, were getting spoilt by acquiring the Jaffna touch once they crossed Elephant Pass. I had to agree with him.

On Indians

MR. S. NATESAN, M. S. C., cross-examined me recently on the war situation in Malaya. He showed great interest in the condition of the Tamils and was impressed by the position of the Indians there. I emphasised that Indians and Ceylonese were vastly united in that cosmopolitan land. I questioned Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike on the Indo-Ceylon Crisis. The Minister was at Talawakelle when I met him and he

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MR. CHURCHILL AT WASHINGTON

Address to American Senate

Washington, Dec. 26.

MR. WINSTON CHURCHILL addressing the U. S. Senate today said that the experience was one of the most moving and thrilling of his life. Mr. Churchill declared: "Only a portion of your resources has been yet mobilised. Many disappointments and unpleasant surprises await us before the full marshalling of our powers can be accomplished."

Mr. Churchill described the purpose of his visit as to arrange the grouping of our military plans."

He said enemy forces in Libya numbered 150,000 of which one third were Germans. There was every reason to believe that General Auchinleck's aim to totally destroy that force would be fully accomplished.

Mr. Churchill said Japan's onslaught had presented Britain and America with grievous problems for which neither was fully prepared. He forecast a hard 1942, but said that in 1943 we would be in a position to take the initiative in ever greater proportion.

JAPAN MUST BE TAUGHT A LESSON

"The United States, united as never before, has drawn the sword for the freedom of the subjugated peoples of Europe, who lift their heads and await the hour of liberation. That hour will strike proclaiming the dawn to come.

"Faced with the resources of the combined democracies and in view of the situation in Russia, it becomes difficult to realise the action of Japan, who must be taught a lesson she will never forget.

"If we had kept together after the last war, this would not have befallen us. For the sake of our children and mankind, we must ensure that these catastrophes don't engulf us for the third time."

DELICATE SITUATION IN FAR EAST

London, Dec 26.

The next few days may prove fateful in Europe and the Far East; signs and portents indicate that Spanish politics is reaching boiling point; Hitler is expected to attempt to bottle up the British Navy in the Mediterranean by Spanish forces attacking Gibraltar and by long-range guns placed on opposite the Rock in Spanish Morocco and coastal islands.

In the Far East grave developments apropos Russia and Japan could reasonably be expected. Three days ago, it is reported, Japanese planes bombed and sank a Russian ship. This is denied by Japan. Since then Tokyo has revealed that three Soviet ships, with their crew, have been taken possession of by Japan. So far, no news of Soviet reaction to this development has been received, but a certain section of the British press is suggesting that Russia should declare war against Japan.

BRITISH PUBLIC OPINION ON INDIA

MR. AMERY MUST GO TO END DEADLOCK

London, Dec. 23.

ACCORDING to responsible political observers, opinion is gathering in Westminster that Mr. Amery must be replaced by a fresh mind.

Mr. Maurice Webb, Political Correspondent of the *Daily Herald*, writes:—"There are many responsible people who say that his (Mr. Amery's) transfer to another office is an essential preliminary to any attempt to end the deadlock...and it is whispered—with good reason I believe—that he would have long ago done something bold and big if he was given a free hand. But Ministers must stand on their own feet and their own record. The fact is that Mr. Amery has done nothing bold and big".

Continuing, Mr. Webb writes, "Even if Mr. Amery were now disposed to sally forth as a crusader who meant business, his long sojourn in his tent has seriously impaired his power to inspire the confidence which is necessary for a solution of the problem. So, support is growing for the proposition that a fresh mind is needed at the Indian Office

The name of Lord Snell is suggested here for Mr. Amery's successor. Alternately, Lord Snell is suggested as the next Viceroy of India.

"GUARDIAN'S" APPEAL FOR ACTION

London, Dec. 24.

"This is an important week in India", says *The Manchester Guardian*, in an editorial on Wednesday. "Not only is there an opportunity for a fresh attempt by all sides, Indian and British, to unite India but there is an obligation on them all to make it.

"Why should not the Viceroy—for if there is to be peace, the Viceroy must act—see the chief Indian leaders, especially Mr. Jinnah, and Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, appeal to them to set history and party cries aside and to come forward as men determined to find India's road to liberty at the same time telling them that their agreement on this road will mean that India's liberty is already fully won?"

"To be successful, this policy must have behind it not only the Indian leaders but also Mr. Churchill. Is that too much to hope of a man, who in many other things has shown the highest qualities of political insight? The moment has arrived to make a new effort and it must not be missed."

"YORKSHIRE POSTS" CALL TO INDIA

"The Yorkshire Post," in a leader headed "India's Need of Unity", says:

"To-day the Indian Congress is meeting to consider its policy at this moment of danger for India. The menacing approach of the Japanese forces now in Thailand and Malaya should give urgency to these Congress discussions. With

the fall of Penang, the gateway to the Indian Ocean stands open to the Japanese naval raiders, India has been thrust suddenly into the war zone and the authorities in her threatened north-eastern districts are now planning a dispersal of the population setting up rest and feeding centres and taking the other air raid precautions measures that have become a familiar part of our life here in Britain.

"In circumstances like these, we might expect to find all responsible political leaders in India setting constitutional problems aside for the time being and devoting the whole of their energies to the creation of a united front against the aggressor. Is the Congress Party capable of this essential act of statesmanship? There have been welcome signs in recent weeks that influential Congressmen are in favour of resuming office in the Provinces but the danger exists that the Working Committee will still seek to insist upon the formation of an all-Indian Executive at the Centre, responsible to the elected members of the Central Legislature. Such a step would, in effect, make the Executive responsible to the Congress and the Moslem League would plainly have none of it. Nor does it seem possible at the present stage to adopt the alternative suggestion that the Viceroy's Executive should be composed of party leaders; for the parties are unable to agree upon the distribution of seats on the Executive.

"The Viceroy has striven earnestly to bring these apparently irreconcilable elements together. It is to be hoped that the Japanese, who have done so much for national unity in China, will succeed where Lord Linlithgow has failed. Much is made of the need for a further initiative by the British Government to bring about this co-operation in India's defence. Is it entirely unthinkable that the next initiative should come from the Congress? Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the shrewd and cultured Congress leader who recognises the seriousness of the Axis threat to his country's future, recently reaffirmed India's claim to independence and has suggested that, in any planning of international groups after the war, her natural affiliations would be with China, Persia and Burma rather than with Britain. Even if it were acknowledged to be true, would it alter in the least the duty which rests upon Pandit Nehru and all other Indian leaders now?"

"If any such dream is to be realised of India's proud rise to full nationhood and her association with her neighbours in some Eastern Federation of free states, then the Axis menace must be resolutely met and India's political leaders, like India's valiant soldiers, must play their part in meeting it. Do Pandit Nehru and his fellow-Congressmen doubt this? If they do, then they should seek the advice of Marshal Chiang Kai shek in Chungking. Chinese realism, born of harrowing experience, will quickly help to clear their minds on the point."

HONG KONG FALLS

End of A Great Fight

London, Dec. 26.

Eighteen days after Japan entered the war and seven days after the Japanese forces succeeded in landing on the Island itself, Hong Kong has now finally been compelled to cease resistance.

This is made known in the following announcement yesterday from the Colonial Office: The Governor of Hong Kong regrets that he had been advised by military and naval commanders that no further effective resistance can be made and he is taking action in accordance with that advice.

The Japanese effected landings in strength at several points on the Island on December 18. To many it seemed that the end must be near, yet for seven days under relentless artillery fire not only from the mainland but from the heights on the Island the Garrison fought on, refusing three demands to surrender.

The water supply soon gave cause for anxiety. Important reservoirs fell into Japanese hands. Water mains were destroyed by bombardment. The Public Works Department struggled bravely to effect a remedy but the enemy destroyed the pipes again and again.

Two days before resistance ceased there remained but one day's supply.

The military casualties were heavy but under the inspiring leadership of Sir Mark Young the morale of all was admirable.

So ends a great fight against overwhelming odds. The courage and determination of the Royal Navy and the troops from Britain, Canada and India as well as the local volunteer units including many Chinese will long be remembered.

SITUATION IN THE PHILIPPINES

Washington, Dec. 26.

Manila has been proclaimed an open city today, but an U. S. Army spokesman stressed that this action to protect civilian lives and property will not affect the conduct of the war which "will continue as vigorously or more vigorously than at present." The spokesman said that the situation in general was better than heretofore as "our troops are becoming hardened to combat."

An U. S. Army communique says: "Action in the northern lines is confined to artillery duelling. On the south-eastern front from Antimonan to Mauban enemy pressure is increasing. The enemy air force is very active."

"The lessons of the December 7th attack have been taken to heart. We are now well up to strength in all our units and the men want only one thing, namely to get at the enemy," said the Admiral commanding the United States warships at a press reception aboard his flagship, at Pearl Harbour. The Admiral summed up his men's reaction as follows: "We know somebody's done us a dirty trick and we want to get back at them."

NORTHERN DIVISION THADCHIE COMPETITION

DISTRIBUTION OF PRIZES

By "Vetas"

Jaffna, 17th December 1941

"At the present time physical fitness is very important. I am glad that this excellent sport is being revived and I hope that by playing this game, children will be able to keep physically fit. One interesting feature is that English and Tamil schools took part. I hope that this competition will be an annual event," observed Lieut—Colonel. R. Patrick, Deputy Director of Education, after distributing the prizes at the Northern Division Schools Thadchie Competition Finals yesterday at the T. S. S. A. football grounds. The entire proceeds were in aid of war charities.

"This is the first time in Ceylon that such a competition has been organised. All Jaffnese know the game; some of the older generation who are present here have played it and would have enjoyed the games today," said Mr. A. J. R. Vethavanam, Divisional Inspector of Schools, N. D. With the help of Jaffna College we have codified the rules. Before this every loud-voiced man on the spot had a big say in the game and sometimes the game could not be finished owing to difficult judging. A set of rules was printed in Tamil and copies of these are available at the Union Press, Tellipallai.

"Capt. M. S. Samarasinghe has assured me that this game will soon find a place in the South. There is every likelihood of more schools participating next year. This game is inexpensive as there is nothing to buy. Other games that exist in schools cost a great deal more and only few boys are benefited. Thadchie only requires a small bit of ground and I have noticed that the revival of the game has spread to adults. I am grateful to Mr. S. P. Satcunam, District Inspector of Schools, who moved in this matter and I thank the other Inspectors who organised the Circuit competitions and the officials today.

"I am sorry to say that Mannar and Mullaitivu were unable to participate as they were not able to finish their finals owing to heavy rain. I thank Dr. S. Subramaniam, Mr. C. S. A. Namasivayam Chettiar, Very Rev. Fr. J. Emilianuspillai and Mr. K. Sri Sundaramoorthy for their shields, certificates and badges. I thank the Editors and proprietors of the local newspapers for their free publicity and advertisement in connection with the game."

RESULTS

All-Division Champions

Seniors: Kaddaively Methodist Tamil School (Shield holders);
Juniors: Uduvil South Private Tamil School (Shield holders);

Circuit Champions

(awarded Certificates)

(1) Jaffna: Seniors: Colombo-gam Practising School;

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR LOND. MATRICULATION RESULTS, 1941

Sir,—I have analyzed the results of the London Matriculation Examination held in 1941 as notified in the "Ceylon Observer" of the 12th, 13th and 15th December 1941.

55 colleges and schools have obtained passes of 349 pupils as follows:—

Colombo and Mt. Lavinia

Royal	10
St. Joseph's	25
" Nov. trate	3
Ananda	10
St. Thomas	17
St. Peter's	7
St. Lawrence (Wel.)	4
Zabira	4
Nalanda	4
St. Mary's (Neg.)	4
" (Chilaw)	5
St. Benedicts	15
Prince of Wales (Mora)	4
Sivali	3
St. John's (Pana)	4
St. Anne's (K'gala)	4

Galle

Dharmasoka	7
Mahinda	5

Kandy

St. Antony's	6
Trinity	3
Uva Col.	4

Jaffna and Vaddukoddi

St. Patrick's	15
Jaffna Hindu	18
St. John's	11
Jaffna Col.	9
Victoria Col.	7
St. Henry's (Ilavai)	5
Holy Family Convent	3
Private Study	94
Colleges and Schools which had passes of 1 and 2	39

Total 349

It will be found that next to the St. John's College Colombo, Jaffna Hindu College has the largest number of passes. Next comes St. Thomas College, Colombo and next come St. Benedict's and St. Patrick's, Jaffna. The Jaffna Hindu College is to be congratulated.

Out of the 349 pupils who passed, 27 passed in the 1st Division—St Thomas College 4, Royal 3 Private Study 5 and others 15. It appears that only 2 girls passed in the 1st Division. They are Misses Saravanamuttu and Vanigasooria from the Uduvil Girls' School and the Holy Family Convent, Jaffna, and it is to their great credit.

According to nationality, the 349 passes are as follows:—Sinhalese 161, Tamils 143, Burghers 32 and Muslims 13. The Tamil pupils have to a very great extent outnumbered the Sinhalese and the Muslims according to population. The Tamils are a

Juniors: Madduvil Kamalasinghe Vidyasalai;

(2) North: Seniors: Uduvil South Private Tamil School;

Juniors: Uduvil South Private Tamil School;

(3) East: Seniors: Kaddaively Methodist Tamil School; Juniors Vigneshwara College;

(4) West: Seniors: Chankanai Sivapragasa Vidyasalai; Juniors: Jaffna Colleg;

(5) South: Seniors: Pooneryn Cheddiakurichy School; Juniors: Kachchai (A. M.) Tamil School

Captains of the champion teams of the five circuits were awarded Victory Badges.

poor race and if they be as rich as the Sinhalese and the Muslims, there will be much better results having a large preponderance of Tamils—the difference between the Sinhalese passes and the Tamil passes for 1941 being only 18.

Out of 27 pupils who passed in the 1st Division, 15 were Sinhalese, 10 Tamils, 1 Burgher and 1 Muslim.

As regards the nationality, the figures are approximate as it is difficult in the case of certain names to find out the nationality. They are only a very few.

Yours etc,
K. SIVAPRAGASAM.

TEACHERS AND NOTES OF LESSONS

Sir,—In the issue of the "Hindu Organ" published on the 22nd inst. Mr. T. Kathiravelu gives a piece of advice to "Spectator" in his notes on Topics of the Day. It is a matter of common knowledge that what "Spectator" contributed to the "Hindu Organ" some time back about the doings of certain Inspectors' notes of lessons etc, are absolutely true to facts and that he has made his observations evidently with a view to improving the existing state of affairs in regard to certain matters vitally affecting the interest of education in this country. Mr. T. K. writes that "teachers differ, experts differ, Inspectors differ etc. "Spectator" does not seem to have mentioned anything even by implication to suggest that all the individuals in the world are uniform in every aspect of their make-up. "Spectator" did not state that notes of lessons should never be written by teachers on any account. He only referred to the absurdity of the Inspector's insisting on the writing of notes of lessons for certain subjects even in the lowest classes in Tamil Schools by teachers who have had several years' experience in the teaching of these subjects and to the ridiculous nature of the notes written by some teachers and approved by certain Inspectors. Mr. T. K. seems to be of opinion that it is preferable to prepare notes of lessons for the whole week in advance before a Monday which presumably he takes as the first day of the week. He may perhaps think it more desirable for a teacher to prepare his notes for a month or even a term in advance. If a teacher is to carry out his suggestions, the whole purpose of preparing Notes of lessons will be defeated. If his theory is stretched a little further, a person's education and training for the teaching profession may be regarded as a short of preparation for his whole career as teacher and the writing of notes as an indication of his daily preparation of the lessons is superfluous and hence unnecessary. The writer says that only a prepared teacher gets results. This is a truism which "Spectator" never denied. On the other hand, he stated it was a waste of valuable time and energy to write notes of lessons in the way they are sometimes written by certain teachers merely to satisfy the Inspectors. Mr. T. K. says that the preparing of notes of lessons is not one of the many farces enacted in Ceylon. Notes of lessons written in the right way is certainly not a

THE STUDY CIRCLE, KAITHADY

The above Study Circle was opened by Mr. A. J. R. Vethavanam, Divisional Inspector of Schools, Northern Division at 5.15 p. m. on Thursday the 18th December 1941, at "Seevawasa", in the presence of members and visitors.

The President of the Circle in welcoming Mr. Vethavanam and introducing him, explained the object and nature of activities under contemplation and invited Mr. Vethavanam to address.

Mr. Vethavanam spoke of the usefulness of a united body of this nature and exhorted the members and others to eliminate illiteracy in the area by persuading parents to continue school-going children uninterruptedly up to a reasonably high standard, organise adult education individually and or collectively in addition to studying questions concerning public utility and character building and in declaring the Circle open, wished all success and usefulness. Master K. Panchadcharam proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Vethavanam and the visitors, seconded by Master Sam. Sathaseevan. A Social followed.

(Cor.)

HINDU ENGLISH SENIOR SECONDARY MIXED SCHOOL, VADDUKODDI

An examination for pupils seeking admission to the above school in the Senior School Certificate Class will be held in the school hall, on Monday, the 19th January, 1942, commencing at 10 a. m. Only pupils who have either sat for the J. S. C. examination or been admitted in the Pre-Matric or S. S. C. forms in other schools or colleges will be eligible for admission. Further information may be had from the undersigned.

M. SABARATNASINGHE,
Headmaster.

Vaddu, H. E. S.,
27th December, 1941.

(Mis. 163, 29-12-41 & 1-1-42)

farce but what "Spectator" meant was the few lines written under each subject in such a way as not to benefit the teachers in any way. There are no doubt many other urgent educational matters on which useful notes may have been written by "Spectator" or by some others qualified to do so. But it cannot be denied that "Spectator" has done a distinct service to the cause of education. No attempt on the part of Mr. T. K. to tell little what "Spectator" has stated can serve any useful purpose. He could have made his own observations in the field of education, if he had anything to make instead of endeavouring at great pains to nullify the effect of what "Spectator" had mentioned with a sincere motive. Is it too much to hope that Mr. T. K. will hereafter make observations on matters in which he is well versed and truly interested and which need criticism and improvement without treading on unsafe grounds?

Yours etc,
A TEACHER.

MR. FRANCIS DE ZOYSA'S SPEECH

(BY K. SIVAPRAGASAM)

IN my article of the 13th November 1941 which appeared in the "Hindu Organ" of the 20th November, I dealt with the views expressed by Mr. Francis de Zoysa regarding the young men of the rising generation at the central Y. M. C. A. Now I propose to deal with the young woman.

Mr. de Zoysa stated that the gentlemen of the rising generation were a little too independent and it was particularly bad in the case of young women. If young men are a little too independent, they may perhaps be not blamed very much (I do not say they should not be blamed) as they are men; but if young women are independent, they cannot at all be excused as they are the weaker sex and as they should not have the same freedom as young men may have. Japan is one of the greatest and most enlightened empires in the world and the greatest in the East. What is being done there? The ancient law is still followed there in teaching the infant girls that it is better that women should not be educated, because their lot throughout life must be of implicit obedience. There are three obediences—obedience to the father when yet unmarried, to the husband when married, and to a son when widowed. These three obediences have been advocated by our ancestors also. I should lay stress on the first two obediences. If these two obediences are followed by the young women, no harm will practically be done as independence will vanish. Independence begets disobedience.

He also stated that the two greatest qualities the Tamil and Sinhalese women had in the olden days were modesty and chastity but they have absolutely no modesty at present. Modesty is purity of thought and conduct. Have the present young girls and women the required purity either in thought and conduct? Certainly not. There may be a very few exceptions. There are innumerable ways where their modesty can be questioned. English high education and English civilisation is the cause of their having become immodest. But even if the young women are given high education, they will not become immodest if high education be imparted on proper lines. One such improper line is that in Girls' Colleges men are employed in teaching grown-up girls, which is detrimental to the modesty of the girls. It is therefore very imperative that all the teachers in girls' colleges should be females.

Young women will become immodest if

(1) they dance in public and it will be very deplorable if they do so partnering the men,

(2) they take part in sports in public, especially in games such as high jump and broad jump;

(3) they take part in dramas especially where the plot is the

usual love affair is concerned. It will be very much worse if men (whether young or old) take part as mates, while girls take part as females.

(4) they take part in unnecessary conversation with young men while they are alone.

(5) they go out alone or go with young men alone for social functions too. In this connection it will be interesting for the young women to know that a very cultured Tamil gentleman who held a very high appointment under Government never allowed his grown up unmarried daughters to go out to any function or anywhere alone. They used to go with their parents.

(6) they wear flimoy dress or wear high skirts or low blouses. It is better if they wear national costume.

(7) they read scurrilous novels, which is their main pastime. In Japan foreign love stories are banned.

There are other smaller matters where young women are not modest and I do not want to relate them. If young women lose their modesty their inherent quality—they become masculine and lose their womanly qualities which is a serious matter.

Mr. de Zoysa again stated that bulk of the divorce cases were the result of love marriages. He being an eminent lawyer should be correct in his opinion. This must be true at least in the cases where a woman loves more than one man (perhaps half-a-dozen or more) and marries the person preferring him to the other person or persons. If she does not like him, she divorces him and tries to find out another person because she has known the various qualities of the other persons whom she loved and might expect a person who may have better qualities than her divorced husband or than the other person or persons she loved. If she has loved only one person and married him, she will probably be satisfied with him because she has not known the qualities of the other persons. It was the custom among the Tamils and, I think, the Sinhalese too in the past for elders to arrange marriages between young men and young women and such marriages very seldom broke off. He also stated that he did not wish to say anything about the chastity of the young woman of today. He did not say against. It is for the readers to guess what he meant. But what I should like to tell the young women of today is immodesty may bring on unchastity. I would therefore exhort them to be modest as much as possible making due allowance for the present change of conditions. In conclusion, let the young woman understand clearly that she must marry the first and the only man she loves and if she loves more than one man as is often the case she becomes unchaste at least in mind. Therefore it is better to leave the matter to her parents and other elders and if so she will be quite safe and have a happy life.

VADDUKODDAI H. E. SCHOOL

Parents' Day Speeches

BY "VETAS"

UNDER the distinguished patronage of the Hon. Sir Waitilangam Duraiswamy, Manager of the School, the annual Parents' Day Concert was held before a large audience at the Hindu English School, Vaddukoddi, recently. Of the thirty varied items on the programme, those which struck me as original or particularly well presented were a hilarious farce (Trial of Mussolini); the realistic acting in 'Savithri—Sathiavan'; the drunken scene from the 'Tempest'; the Kavady Dance by two tiny tots; Queen Elizabeth's speech; a solo Krishna dance; a violin solo and songs; and, last but not least, the vowel song which somehow reminded me of a catchy Chinese tune. I must admit that the programme was thoroughly enjoyable and of a high standard but there were two discordant notes. The pronunciation of English by some of the boys needed room for improvement but the girls' speeches were quite pleasing to the ear. The attempt to couple Tamil music with English tunes jarred on my nerves. This is a tendency in Ceylon, which all educationists should help to eradicate.

THE SPEECHES

In his presidential address, Sir W. Duraiswamy said that he had enjoyed every bit of the performance. He referred to the difficulties the management had to face and was happy to hear of the support of the neighbourhood. He said that he remained on the management because of the Hindu English School and was not sure if he would continue as manager when his term of office was over.

Dr. C. Chelliah of Johore spoke of the foreign impacts on Ceylon and stressed that the missionaries had their way till later times when nationalism was founded. Education was in our hands and it was no use just saying that missionary organisations were very well run. The unification of the multiple Hindu organisations was essential. There should be no institution catering for private personal aggrandisement. The incomplete school building was an index of our inefficiency. We seemed to have no patriot, talked big but when it came to action, nothing was done.

Mr. K. Kanagaratnam, Deputy Auditor-General, recalled his school days 41 years ago and paid a tribute to the founder, the late Mr. V. Sinnadurai. He suggested that the school be renamed the Sinnadurai Memorial School. The school seemed to be under an evil influence or a curse as the main building had not been completed.

The Headmaster, Mr. M. Sabaratnasinghe, spoke of the lack of accommodation and the increase in enrolment. The best that the West could give was required but institutions of the type of the school were necessary for the preservation of our historic culture and traditions. Mr. S. Annamalai, on behalf of the public, stressed that Hindu boys should study in Hindu schools.

MEN AND MATTERS

Continued from page 2

referred me to the official reports of the Delhi exploratory talks. Since then, I note the atmosphere has become more conciliatory after the Bajpai delegation's visit.

News in Brief

MR. S. RAJARATNAM of the Hindu Board of Education wants every Hindu child to be educated in a Hindu institution. For this he will strive to the utmost. Mr. S. Annamalai of Vaddukoddi says that there are about a million non-Christian children in Christian schools. Mr. S. Nagalingam of Sangarathai supports him. Mr. A. S. K. Selvadurai of Vaddukoddi, a brother-in-law of the Deputy Auditor-General, is treasurer of the Red Cross Fund for Malaya. About Rs. 500 was subscribed at an inaugural meeting and further contributions are welcome. Malaya has helped Lanka very often and it is up to us now to do our bit.

Mr. M. Sabaratnasinghe, the veteran headmaster, struck a philosophic note the other day when he said that Christians, Muslims and Hindus, all worship God but under different names. Hitler's talk of a new world order was utter presumption. Mr. S. P. Satcunam District Inspector of Schools, is a modest man. He originated the idea of an Inter-School Thadchie Competition but never mentioned this and Mr. A. J. R. Vethavanam had to do it for him. Thadchie catches on these days and is a welcome change to war worries. Mr. S. G. de Zoysa, A. S. P., Jaffna, is becoming quite popular and a great propagandist. The relations between the police and the public are now on the best footing. More men like Mr. de Zoysa are welcome.

HARTLEY COLLEGE

A studentship of the annual value of Rs. 100/- tenable for two years at this College is offered for competition by the O. B. A. (Colombo branch) to students who have attended any English School in Vadammaratchy during the whole of the year 1941. The selection examination will be held at Hartley College on Friday the 16th of January, and applications should reach the Principal on or before the 13th of January. Candidates should satisfy the following conditions.

1. They should be under 16 on the first day of January 1942.
2. They should seek admission to the Senior or Matriculation preparatory class.
3. They should have passed the J. S. C. examination held by the Department.
4. The income of their parents should not exceed Rs. 100/- a month.
5. Applicants should produce testimonials from the last school attended by them in proof of the above qualifications.

The Principal
Point Pedro Hartley College.
26th December 1941
(Mis. 162 29 12-41)

Mr. S. Nagalingam, a parent, supported the previous speaker.

A telegram was received from Mr. T. V. Saravanamuttu, Acting Commissioner of Excise, who was to be the speaker. Mr. Saravanamuttu was unable to leave Colombo on account of the pressure of official duties in connection with war work.

POST AND TELEGRAPH BENEFIT ASSOCIATION

SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Major J. P. Appleby, Postmaster-General and Patron of the Association presided at the meeting held on Wednesday the 17th December 1941 at 4-45 p. m. in the Central Y. M. C. A., Colombo.

In spite of a long agenda, the entire proceedings were over in the record time of 33 minutes. This was possible as a result of the spontaneous response to an appeal made by the Patron and the President that the house should not allow itself to be overtaken by the black out.

The Patron congratulated the management on the good working and the 3½% dividend declared. He regretted the reduction of membership but hoped that with the recruitment of additional staff this would be made up. In concluding his remarks, he drew attention to one of the resolutions in the agenda regarding the grant of house property loans and stated that pitfalls have to be avoided, as there is occasionally trouble and anxiety in the administration of buildings which may have to be taken over by the Association.

The minutes of the sixteenth Annual General Meeting were then confirmed and the seventeenth Annual Report and Accounts adopted. The dividend declared was 3½ per cent.

The following bonuses were fixed for the office-bearers for the ensuing year.—

Secretary Rs. 300/- Treasurer Rs. 600/-, and Auditor Rs. 180/-

The following office bearers and committee were elected:—Mr. Wilfred A. Cabraal, President; Mr. K. Perambalam, Secretary; Mr. T. J. Sandrasegara, Treasurer; and Messrs J. D. Abeynayake, J. S. S. Arayanayagam, V. M. P. Amerasinghe, C. Godage, P. Kanagaratnam, S. W. Leanage, K. L. D. Sahabandu, R. C. Thevendiram, T. Thiagarajah, G. Veeravagu and V. C. de S. Wijeratne.

The resolutions adopted by the requisite majority of members were in essence thus:—

(1) *Partial Withdrawal of Excess Contributions.* Members who have voluntarily contributed at rates higher than the minimum rate of Rs 2 per month would be allowed to withdraw the excess, not less than Rs. 500 at a time, at intervals of not less than 5 years. (This would assist members to utilise part of their savings for profitable purposes).

(2) *Loan Repayments* would be allowed in any number of instalments up to 40 instead of 20 as at present. (This would be of special assistance to those who have occasion to avail themselves of large loans.)

(3) *Interest on Loans* would be deducted along with each month's instalment instead of with the first two monthly instalments.

(4) *Temporary Raising of Age Limit for Admission.* This temporary concession enables officers not over 45 years of age to enrol themselves as members. (The usual age limit is 30) The concession is for 3 months only. (Officers of the Post and Telegraph Department who wish to join should apply to the Secretary Post and Telegraph Benefit Association immediately. (Cor)

APPRECIATION OF VALUES OF LIFE

Continued from page 1

postulate on which we can rely if we are to escape from the bonds of absolute scepticism. And so to my mind any mystic experience if it exists cannot constitute knowledge of any Absolute Reality or of our unity and essential oneness with it. **The Gospel of Non-Violence**

There is another version of the teaching of the Gita which has become popular in India, through the influence of Mahatma Gandhi. I refer to the creed of non-violence. Leaving aside the metaphysical aspect of the question, non violence appears to me to be too negative a creed to provide any guidance for actual life. Non-violence strictly interpreted means "no action" for whatever we do is bound in some measure to do violence to others. But by non-violence Mahatma Gandhi appears to mean something much more positive, and in fact speaks of it as "love in the broadest sense". But if he does really mean *love* why call it non-violence, for the two things have never before been identified with each other. Such a "violence" to language is not permissible even to a Mahatma. But the fact is that whatever he may say, Gandhiji does not really mean love, because love is the most "violent" of all human emotions, and there is no compulsive power such as that of love. But perhaps by non violence Gandhiji does not mean an ideal of life, but only a method by means of which an ethical ideal, whatever its content, can be best attained. This is a question of instrumental good, and its efficacy will depend not only on what ends we seek to pursue, but also under what circumstantial conditions they have to be attained.

That our judgments are often so variable is due in no small measure to our confusing means with ends, and questions of instrumental value with those of intrinsic value. The question is greatly complicated by the fact that means may also have intrinsic values, and that a whole of experience may have a value greater than the value of the sum of its parts. But these are problems of a technical nature which cannot be discussed here.

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

CONTROL OF PRICES IN JAFFNA

Continued from page 1

objected to the prices being fixed according to cut measures as they considered the cutting of a measure as a bad omen. The Government Agent said that the Attorney General had ruled that the prices should be fixed on the basis of cut measures otherwise it would create legal difficulties. The control of price of paddy also was considered but the Committee thought that the price of paddy depended on the price of rice and it was not necessary at present to control the price of paddy. The price of paddy was not controlled in any part of Ceylon and there was special difficulty in fixing the price of paddy.

Mr. Ponnambalam in concluding said that the Government Agent had been criticised unnecessarily and the Government Agent was endeavouring his best to meet the demands of the public. They should not forget the fact that the Government Agent should consider the question in all its aspects and not from the point of view of the public only.

The committee decided to send a letter to the Government agent appreciating the services rendered by the Government Agent to the public of Jaffna in connection with this matter and requesting him to reduce the prices.

The Committee passed a resolution appreciating the prompt measures taken by the Assistant Superintendent of Police to avoid rioting and looting etc. and to check profiteering. A vigilance committee was appointed to detect offences under the control of prices ordinance and to inform the police immediately.

The Committee decided that it was not necessary at present for the Urban Council to run any rice depots.

The Committee thought that they should inaugurate a drive for food production and appointed a sub-committee to report what practical steps should be taken.

The committee next considered the closing orders in relation to the enforcement of the Shop Act in Jaffna and decided that instead of Saturdays shops should be closed for half a day on Fridays. The committee also decided that the shops should be opened from 10-30 a.m. to 7-30 p.m. instead of 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. as suggested in the closing orders. For sale of meat, fish and etc., the Committee decided that the places of business should be opened from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. instead of 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. The Chairman was authorised to submit a memorandum to the Minister for Labour Industry and Commerce suggesting the above amendments.

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(M)