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THE NEED FOR AN EDUCATION COMMISSION

All Ceylon Teachers' Memorandum To Minister

A CALL FOR COURAGEOUS STATESMANSHIP

THE following is the full text of the memorandum submitted by the All Ceylon Union of Teachers to the Minister for Education:—

Scrap all educational systems every five years. This remark of a certain Director of Education somewhere was quoted last year by the Chief Justice. The advice was perhaps not literally meant, but we cannot stress too strongly the need for a periodic survey in the field of education. Such a survey or investigation, followed by a report containing recommendations, has become the accepted method of educational advance in all progressive countries. Taking but the case of India, we have the Sadler Commission, Hartog Committee, Zakir Husain (Wardha) Committee, Abbott and Wood Inquiry, besides a number of Central and Provincial Government Reports and Resolutions.

Such a survey is particularly necessary in Ceylon in view of changing social, political and economic conditions. It is necessary too on the eve of the establishment of the University of Ceylon; for, secondary and even elementary education must take cognizance of the coming University. But, it is most of all necessary because our education is an edifice that has grown up without plan; and yet there has been no survey at any time of the existing structure, the Commission of 1929 having been confined to a rather limited inquiry. Meanwhile, piecemeal changes are being effected in our education. So that when many other countries are having 'planned education', we are content to stumble forward in the dark.

The place of the Mother-tongue

A stock-taking now will re-

veal, we are convinced, that our educational system lacks aim; but, what is more, it will reveal in a glaring manner the tragic loss caused by the failure to make use of the mother-tongue for purposes of education. For, the mother-tongue is not only the natural medium by which the growing child thinks and feels and expresses its personality, but it enshrines the cultural heritage of the race. And we have robbed childhood of these two things as far as the most intelligent sections of the people are concerned. Is there then any wonder that there should be such appalling lack of originality in the descendants of two races which have in the past created a great literature and wonderful treasures of art?

The Further Problem of Languages

The restoration of the mother-tongue to its rightful place will, however, not solve the problem of languages in Ceylon, which is perhaps the biggest educational question that has to be decided. The Education Commission of 1929 examined but part of this problem and could not arrive at any definite decision. It has become an urgent necessity to have expert investigation on the whole question of languages in our educational system. Thus, it is being increasingly recognised that an adequate equipment for those entering the public and professional services of the country should include a working knowledge of both Sinhalese and Tamil, while the claims of national unity would also point to the universal teaching of the two national languages. At the same time a knowledge of English will be necessary to those who have to keep us in touch

(Continued on Page 7.)

THE INDO-ARYANS

I. Their Original Home According to Rev. Fr. Heras

A REVIEW

By S. R. Muttukumaru

IT WAS Max Muller who popularized the theory that an ancient "Aryan" race of men, superior to other races, spread from the original "Aryan home" somewhere in Europe or Asia, over India, Persia and Europe, displacing the previous occupants, all regarded as inferior, mentally, physically and culturally, and bequeathing to their descendants the various languages of the Indo-Germanic family. All attempts to harmonize this theory with existing facts have broken down hopelessly, and Max Muller himself was brought to admit that language is no test of race. Max Muller was later convinced by scientific friends of the enormity of his error, and he did his very best to make amends. Thus in 1888 he wrote: "Aryas are those who speak Aryan languages, whatever their colour, whatever their blood. In calling them Aryas we predicate nothing of them except that the grammar of their languages is Aryan." "I have declared again and again that if I say Aryas, I mean neither blood nor bones nor hair nor skull; I mean simply those who speak an Aryan language.....When I speak of them I commit myself to no anatomical characteristics. The blue-eyed and fair-haired Scandinavians may have been conquerors or conquered. They may have adopted the language of their darker lords or vice versa.....To me an ethnologist who speaks of Aryan race, Aryan blood, Aryan eyes and hair, is as great a sinner as a linguist who speaks of a dolicocephalic dictionary or a brachycephalic grammar" Nevertheless, this discarded theory of Max Muller lingers on even in Europe. Other scholars too have propounded their own theories about the original home of the Aryans, all of which appear to be equally unsatisfactory.

On this interesting subject the Rev. Fr. H. Heras has contributed two articles, one

entitled "The cradle of the Aryans" to the *New Review*, May 1937, and the other entitled "The Origin of the Round Proto-Indian Seals Discovered at Sumer" to the *B. E. and C. I. Annual* 1938. In these articles the Rev. Father makes mention of certain facts which throw a flood of light on the question of the original home of the Indo-Aryans. This contribution is a review of these two articles.

Supposed Original Home

The mythical island of Valan *Sapta-Sindhu* in the Punjab and Sind, "Arctic Home" of Tilak, Central Asia, Anotolia, valley of the Danube, region of the Caucasus, Eastern Germany, Denmark, Scandinavia, and even Finland have each been suggested as the original home of the Indo-Aryans. The Rev. Fr. Heras, in analysing the claims of these several places, states that as understood from literature "the country originally inhabited by the Aryans was generally flat; numerous rivulets and some rivers crossed it, frequently interrupting their path. There were bridges over the narrow rivers, but the broad ones had to be crossed by fords. Occasionally oar boats were also used to cross the rivers, as well as to travel along them".

"The land was fertile, having much pasture, and producing cereals and legumens in abundance. Water was abundant, owing partly to frequent rains, and partly to the melting of the snows. On account of the heavy fall of snow, winter was long and severe; but when the snows disappeared from the low lands, summer was extremely hot"

"There was abundance of cattle there: cows, oxen, steers, goats, sheep in general. Swift horses frequently ran through the vast plains, but camels were not to be seen. When the trees were in blossom dur-

(Continued on Page 2)

The Empire of India Life Assurance Co.

Record Business

THE business of the Empire of India Life Assurance Co. Ltd., Bombay, was reviewed by the Chairman, Mr. Rustam K. R. Cama, presiding over the 41st annual general meeting of the Company on Monday. In his speech, he stated that the new business again created a record and 12,078 policies had been issued for Rs. 1,87,28,518, the sum assured during the year ended February 28, 1938.

Moving adoption of the Report the Chairman said:—

New Business

New business again creates a record and 12,078 Policies have been issued for Rs. 1,87,28,518 Sum Assured. Large new business figures are not in themselves a criterion of prosperity and their significance may easily be overestimated but when they are accompanied, as in our case, by other progressive factors and a position of great financial strength they are representative of the confidence of the insuring public and of the vitality and progress of the Company.

When the value of a Life Assurance Policy is more fully realised it is hoped that this method of making greater provision for ones dependents will be more generally adopted.

"Premium Income exceeds Rs. 61,00,000 while claims by death and maturity amounting to Rs. 44,91,957 have arisen. Of this amount Rs. 13,88,032 relate to claims by death and the balance of Rs. 31,09,25 to claims by maturity and so are payable to policyholders who have lived to receive the proceeds in their lifetime.

Strong Financial Position

At the end of the year the Life Assurance Fund including the Reserve Funds amounted to the imposing figure of Rs. 4,82,30,477 while the Total Assets were Rs. 5,06,87,903. All investments are in gilt-edged securities of the highest class and all the Stock Exchange Securities are redeemable at par fixed dates. The investment policy has always been based on conservative lines and an examination of the Balance Sheet shows that the Company's Funds have been soundly invested.

Importance of Assurance

With the possibility of security values receding from their current high level the great advantage of Life Assurance over other methods of investment is that an assurance effected with a well-established and sound office secures at once a capital sum while the risk of depreciation that often attends other forms of investment is avoided. I therefore ask all those who are policyholders already whether they are sufficiently assured and those who contemplate effecting assurances if their proposed assurances are enough to secure the comfort and welfare of their dependents in future. The benefits of Life Assurance are many; not the least of these benefits being the peace of mind which comes from the knowledge that safe provision has been made.

"Since I addressed you last year the Insurance Act—1938 has been passed and the date on which

it will come into force is awaited. Several sections of this Act are far-reaching and drastic in character and experience will show whether they will secure the results desired. The Directors have decided to comply at once with the requirement as regards the closing date of the Company's year and in future to end our financial year on 31st December.

"You will have observed from the Report that since the close of the financial year the firm of Messrs. Allum, Bharucha and Co. by mutual agreement with the Company has tendered its resignation as Managers and the appointments of Mr. E. E. Allum as Manager, Mr. A. E. Allum as Assistant Manager and Mr. M. R. Bharucha as Secretary have been made on behalf of the Company by the Directors as on and from the 5th May 1938. I take this opportunity to record not only my own but the Directors' appreciation of the meritorious services rendered to the Company and the skill and care with which the business has been managed by Messrs Allum, Bharucha and Co.

"I am sure that you will share our regret that for reasons of health and advancing years Mr. E. F. Allum the Principal Founder of the Company and the Senior Member of the late firm of Allum Bharucha and Co. finds it impossible to continue to take an active part in the affairs of the Company, Mr. E. F. Allum's outstanding abilities and single-minded devotion to the Company for the past 41 years are well known to and I am sure are appreciated by all, and his inestimable services have greatly contributed to the welfare and prosperity of the Company with which he has been connected from its inception. His invariable courtesy has endeared him to all those with whom he came in contact.

"At the Annual Meeting of Policyholders held a week ago I was re-elected a Director on their behalf. I have now been a Director for 36 years and I appreciate this continuance of confidence.

"I now express to our Officers, our Staff and our Agents the appreciation and thanks of the Directors and myself and of the Shareholders for their work during the year. The excellent results have been obtained by the combined efforts of all.

Auction Sale

Case No. 75 T. C.

Arumugam Subramaniampillai of Analaitivu Deceased.
Theivanaipillai widow of Arumugam Subramaniampillai of Analaitivu Administratrix.

PROPERTIES

All that pieces of lands situated at Analaitivu No. 1. "Aladiyitpalam" in extent 15½ V. C. with houses, well and other plantations, No. 2. "Kaladdy" in extent 5½ Lms. V. C. of this an undivided one half share. No. 3. Kodiveliam and "Alanganveleyuan" in extent 34 Lms. V. C. out of this an undivided one half share. No. 4. Eechangkadu in extent 33 Lms. V. C. No. 5. "Thambynayanvelli Thookkadippulam" in extent 20 Lms. V. C.

In terms of Commission issued to me by the District Court of Jaffna in T. C. No. 75. I shall sell the above properties by public auction on Saturday 28th May 1938, at 8-30 a.m. at the respective spots.

S. MASILAMANY,
Commissioner.

Chulipuram,
16th May, 1938.
Mis. 45, 19 5-38.

THE INDO-ARYANS

(Continued from page 1)

ing the spring, bees buzzed with exemplary industry".

"Some portions of the plains were marshy, and in the neighbourhood of these lands there were mountains luxuriantly covered with trees that could stand the snow-fall, and that supplied timber for their houses, weapons and implements. Beds of copper were found in the mountainous region, and this metal was used to make arms and other implements."

Now, the Rev. Father rejects the mythical island of Velan, for in this island the Indo-Aryans would have known the sea. *Sapta-Sindhu* is also discarded, for there they would have known the elephant, the rhinoceros and the tiger. These animals are not mentioned in their literature. Tilak's "Arctic Home" is no more probable, for there the Indo-Aryans could not experience a hot climate. The theory of Central Asia is put aside, for the characteristic animal of these plains, viz: the camel, is not mentioned in their vocabulary. The country has not so many sources of water, nor are the pastures numerous and so good. Finally, bees are not known in these vast deserts.

Nor can Anatolia be accepted. The lion was known there in the 3rd millennium B. C. Such an animal could not have escaped the notice of the early Aryans, and yet there is no common name for the lion in the Indo-European languages.

The valley of the Danube cannot possibly be the original home of the Aryans, for copper is not found in this region. The valleys of the Caucasus have no vegetation whatever, and tigers, panthers and hyenas are very common there and would have been known to the early Aryans, if it was their original home. Heat is never felt in Eastern Germany, and the swift horse of the Aryans is totally unknown here. The Aryans could not have come from

Denmark or Scandinavia, for they would then have known the sea. Finally, Finland is also rejected, as it had no great pastures or cattle worth mentioning, and as it lies near the sea.

Real Original Home

What then is the real original home of the Indo-Aryans? The Rev. Fr. Heras says that "the only country whose conditions agree with the conditions of the Aryan homeland as described above is southern Russia, especially that portion which extends along the middle and upper course of the Volga. The whole southern part of Russia contains a black soil, called *chernosen* which is extremely fertile. South of the Volga are the steppes, with a peculiar race of small swift horses. Portions of the steppes are marshy, while others grow luxuriant trees forming islands of green foliage. There are rich pastures all over the land, and many sheep whose fleece is used for making caps and is known as *astrakan*. The northern portion is mountainous, and has various kinds of *coniferae*. This portion, especially north of the city of Oremberg on the Volga is the richest copper zone in the whole of Russia. Mines of copper are numerous there, while gold and silver are practically unknown".

In addition, the Rev. Father states that "Dr. O. Schrader, whose work on *Prehistoric Antiquities of the Aryan Peoples* has helped us a great deal, proposes a very interesting philological equation which proves that the banks of the Volga were the Aryan homeland. There is a common name for river in several Indo-European languages, Sk. *srava*, *giri*, *sravah*, 'mountain-stream'; Gr. *roe*; Li. *striove*. The root of these words seems to be *strew* or *shru*, 'flow'. Now it happens that Ptolemy calls the Volga river *ra*, a name which is still kept as *Rau* by the Finnic Mordwins as the name of the Volga. Both names *ra* and *Rau* are evidently a relic of the ancient Aryan name *sravah*, 'the stream'. The Volga, the largest river of their country, was called by the Aryans by this name."

(To be Continued.)

EMPIRE OF INDIA LIFE ASSURANCE CO., LTD.

Established 1897. Head Office: Bombay.

A few features of 41st Annual Report

| | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| Income | Rs. 84,62,000 |
| New Assurances | Rs. 1,87,28,000 |
| Assurances in force | Rs. 14,03,93,000 |
| Assets | Rs. 5,06,87,000 |

APPLICATIONS FOR AGENCY INVITED.

Branch Office: IMPERIAL BANK BUILDING, COLOMBO.

THE INDUSTRIAL RALLY AND AFTER

Some Reflections

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER ON THE AMAZING SUCCESS OF THE RALLY

Mr. C. Arulambalam, Advocate, writes:—

THE All Ceylon Industrial Rally, which was held in Jaffna from May 7th to May 15th 1938, was a fairly well-organised one, considering the short notice afforded to exhibitors and participants.

It had as its objects the stimulation of local industry and the promotion of trade in articles locally manufactured. Several Government Departments such as the Department of Labour and Industry, the Agricultural Department, the Railway Department, the Education Department, the Marketing Department and the Medical Department, besides such organisations as the Coconut Board, the Tea Propaganda Board, and the Coconut Research Scheme also took part.

As regards local industries, the stalls under the charge and supervision of the Chief Headmen of the Jaffna and Valgamam North and East Divisions afforded a display of what the local producer was capable of turning out.

Outside Jaffna the Batticaloa stall was prominent for the display of a variety of articles of excellence produced in the Eastern Province.

The demonstrations of spinning, weaving, coir yarn and articles making, mat making, etc. were helpful in impressing, on the large number of those who visited the Rally, the processes connected with those industries.

The large variety of products of the palmyrah palm displayed in a special stall under the charge of the Jaffna Palmyrah Products Association impressed every one with the possibilities connected with the palmyrah industry. This is an opportune time for the inauguration of a Palmyrah Research Scheme on the same lines as the Coconut Research Scheme.

It will be well to take advantage of the interest created in industrial development by the recent Rally and take the necessary measures to develop the industrial possibilities of the land.

Industrial Survey

There should be an intensive industrial survey of the country so that accurate statistics may be compiled of existing industries, their present stage of development, the raw materials available for the institution of new industries etc.

The object should be to develop the cottage type of industries, with the state providing both technical assistance and training and also financial assistance by way of subsidies and advances to the cottage industrialist.

Industrial Rallies to be of real benefit should be organised periodically. At least a year's notice of a Rally should be given to the public.

It will be advisable to require all intending participants in the Rally to give notice of their intention to participate at least, say, nine months ahead of the coming Rally. The

object of the proposed notice is to enable the technical experts provided by the State to supervise the processes adopted by the producer in his production of agricultural and industrial articles. This will have the effect of stimulating the producer to turn out articles according to up-to-date processes.

For instance, if the Agricultural Department desires that better implements or better methods of manuring should be adopted by the agriculturist, a regular and periodical inspection of the cultivation measures carried out by the agriculturist will have greater effect in stimulating the adoption of better methods than if the Department were only to give prizes to the produce at an Exhibition without previous supervision of methods followed for the production. In deciding upon the prizes to be given to the produce marks should be assigned for the methods adopted in the production as well as for the quality of the article finally produced. For any specific article produced one or two persons only may get the prizes awarded but improved methods would have been adopted by several competitors, if this arrangement is made. This improvement will be permanent and an example to producers other than the competitors.

If industrial development is to be effected on proper lines public opinion also must be created and organised to encourage the local producer by preference being given to the locally-produced article over the imported one. It is said that in Assam there is an imperative custom requiring a bride to be dressed at the marriage ceremony in a wedding garment woven solely by herself in her own home. A custom of this nature will have a pronounced effect in propagating the weaving industry throughout the country, in the homes of the people.

Health Exhibition

Opportunity was taken of the Industrial Rally by the Jaffna Health Association to have a Health Week and Exhibition side by side with the Rally so that the large number of people attending the Rally might benefit by the activities of the Health Association. The Health Exhibition concentrated on exhibits under the two heads of Nutrition and Maternity and Child Welfare, a clear knowledge of both of which is vital to the welfare of the people.

It cannot be gainsaid that health education should be imparted to the younger generation more than to adults if it is to have lasting effect.

It will be a good idea for the Education Department, in collaboration with the Health Branch of the Medical Department, to supply, free, posters with catching headlines and pictures bearing on health topics to all schools, the posters to be in English for English Schools and Vernaculars for Vernacular Schools. This

Mango Show in Jaffna

Postponed to Next Year

W. Molegode, Agricultural Officer (Propaganda), Department of Agriculture writes:

Owing to unfavourable weather conditions this year's Mango Crop, specially in the Jaffna Peninsula, is likely to be much below normal. It is therefore considered advisable to postpone the proposed Mango show to next year.

The organisers feel, that, unless a very good show can be held at which the best mangoes of the Island can be exhibited, it is better to postpone the Show.

will help the school-going population to have health truths impressed day by day on their plastic minds. Reverting to the subject of industrial development, one of the local industries which has fallen on bad days is the cigar industry which has been, in the past, giving considerable employment.

At the recent Industrial Rally the cigarette industry appeared to be more in evidence than the local cigar industry. If the cigar industry is to be revived there must be complete collaboration between the cigar factory owners and the workers. The writer was a member of a sub-committee appointed by the Jaffna Association to report on the industry and the best methods of its development. The members of the sub-committee visited leading cigar factories and after recording evidence furnished a report in which such measures as licensing of factories, adoption of standardisation of manufacture and of trade marks and the packing of cigars in an attractive form were recommended for the rehabilitation of the cigar industry.

These measures can be adopted only if legislative provision is made for the state regulation of the industry.

AMAZING SUCCESS OF THE RALLY

Chief Executive Officer's Address

On the closing day of the Rally, Rev. Fr. T. M. Long, the Chief Executive Officer speaking at the Microphone, said:—

My dear Friends,

Many thoughts and feelings are flooding our minds and hearts this evening, but what is uppermost is surely a feeling of intense thankfulness to the good God who has so blessed our enterprise, to all our friends and helpers and to the general public for its patronage. We are coming to the end of what we all believe to be the inaugural ceremony of a movement destined to play a great part in the future of our country. I say inaugural ceremony deliberately because if our efforts stop at this rally our mutual faith, yours in us and ours in you will have been largely nugatory. Our real work begins with the closing of this Rally.

In a very real sense the amazing success of this venture, the co-operation it evoked in every section of

(Continued on Page 5)

THE BELIEF IN GOD

GANDHIJI'S EXPERIENCES

WHAT PROMPTS HIS ACTIONS

M. D. writes in last week's *Harijan*:—

A Professor of Islamia College came with a question that was troubling him and is troubling many of the present generation—belief in God. What was the basis of his belief, if Gandhiji had it, as he knew he had it? What was his experience? "It can never be a matter for argument," said Gandhiji. "If you would have me convince others by argument I am flouted. But I can tell you this that I am surer of His existence than of the fact that you and I are sitting in this room. Then I can also testify that I may live without air and water but not without Him. You may pluck out my eyes, but that cannot kill me. You may chop off my nose, but that will not kill me. But blast my belief in God, and I am dead. You may call this a superstition, but I confess it is a superstition that I hug, even as I used to hug the name of Rama in my childhood when there was any cause of danger or alarm. That was what an old nurse had taught me."

"But you think that superstition was necessary for you?"

"Yes, necessary to sustain me."

"That is all right. May I now ask if you had anything like a prophetic vision?"

"I do not know what you call a vision and what you will call prophetic. But let me give you an experience in my life. When I announced my fast of 21 days in jail I had not reasoned about it. On retiring to bed the previous night I had no notion that I was going to announce the next morning a fast of 21 days. But in the middle of the night a Voice woke me up and said: 'Go through a fast.' 'How many?' I asked. '21 days,' was the answer. Now let me tell you that my mind was unprepared for it, disinclined for it. But the thing came to me as clearly as anything could be. Let me tell you one thing more and I have done. Whatever striking things I have done in life I have not done prompted by reason but prompted by instinct, I would say God. Take the Dandi Salt March of 1930. I had not the ghost of a suspicion how the breach of the Salt Law would work itself out. Pandit Motilalji and other friends were fretting and did not know what I would do; and I could tell them nothing, as I myself knew nothing about it. But like a flash it came, and as you know it was enough to shake the country from one end to the other. One last thing. Until the last day I knew nothing about announcing the 6th of April 1919 as a day of fasting and prayer. But I DREAMT about it—there was no Voice or Vision as in 1930—and I felt it was just the thing to do. In the morning I shared with C. R. and announced it to the country, you know with what a wonderfully spontaneous response."

TO LET

MOOTHATHAMBY WALAVU, Nallore South, Jaffna—within short distance from the Kachcheri, Schools, &c.

Commodious House with 56 lachums of garden full of coconut, mango trees, &c.

Apply to Muhandiram A. M. Selvaratnam, Port Commission Office, Colombo, or to Mr. M. Nadarajah, Navanturai Road, Nallore South, Jaffna.

[Mis. 46. 19-5-38.]

Order Nisi

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF
JAFFNA

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 8225

In the Matter of the estate of the late Rajadevi daughter of Sinnathamby Palanithurai of Tinnavelly

Decceased,
Elaiathamby Rajaretnam of Kokuvil

Petitioner.
Sinnathamby Palanithurai of do

Respondent.

This matter of the petition of Elaiathamby Rajaretnam praying for Letters of Administration to the estate of the abovenamed deceased Rajadevi coming on for disposal before C. Coomaraswamy Esquire, District Judge, on the 20th day of January 1937 in the presence of Mr. V. K. Gnanasundram Proctor on the part of the Petitioner and the affidavit of the Petitioner dated the 15th day of August 1934 having been read, it is declared that the Petitioner is the sole heir of the said intestate and is entitled to have Letters of Administration to the estate of the said intestate issued to him unless the Respondent or any other person shall, on or before the 19th day of February 1937 show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

Signed this 22nd day of January 1937

Sgd. C. COOMARASWAMY
District Judge

25-3-38

Extended for 3-6-38

Sgd. C. C.

D. J.

[O. 6. 19 & 23-5 38]



Hindu Organ.

THURSDAY, MAY 19, 1938.

THE LIQUIDATION OF ILLITERACY

A RECENT ISSUE OF THE Madras Hindu contains a scheme of adult education which the Bihar Ministry has brought into operation. The scheme should naturally be of great interest to us; for though Ceylon can point to a much higher percentage of literacy, and the Rural schools Ordinance is doing a good deal to stamp out illiteracy from the country, Ceylon is far behind India in political consciousness, and our masses, in spite of a higher literacy, are as ignorant in such essential matters as hygiene, sanitation and modern methods of agriculture. The provincial government in India labours under greater handicaps

than the Ceylon Government in the matter of carrying out schemes of mass education. Its funds are almost depleted by the services and the requirements of the Central Government, and the amount of illiteracy is appalling being over 90 per cent. To bring about even an appreciable improvement in literacy will involve the expenditure of colossal sums of money, which the government cannot afford, and the engagement of a vast army of devoted workers adequately equipped for the task and willing to undergo the necessary sacrifices. Working under such handicaps, the Bihar Government has evolved an eminently practical scheme. The objective is not, as here in Ceylon, the imparting of a merely literary education. Elementary principles of hygiene and sanitation, modern methods of agriculture, handicrafts, animal husbandry and citizenship will form an integral part of the education imparted.

We here give an outline of the scheme drawn up by DR. MAHMUD, the Minister of Education, Bihar. A Mass Literacy Committee has been formed consisting of a number of professors, officers of the Education Department and others to prepare the programme of work in connection with this campaign for the banishment of illiteracy. The Committee has drawn up a syllabus of work and published elementary text books in Hindi and Urdu. The campaign is in the first instance to be confined to Patna district where 70 centres are to be formed. After the full implications of the scheme have been studied in this district, it will be extended to others also. A preliminary census of illiterate adults in each centre will be taken so that teachers may be assigned in sufficient numbers at the rate of one for every 30 or 40 adults. All furniture and stationery will be supplied by the Government for the purpose of carrying on the work of education. The propaganda officers of the Agricultural, Co-operative and Public Health Departments will co-operate with those in charge of the adult education centre in giving practical demonstrations. The staff is to be mainly drawn from college students who will undergo a course of training in the art of instruction at the hands of qualified educationists. The limited funds at the hands of the Government preclude the possibility of engaging professional teachers and the Minister relies on voluntary enlistment of honorary servants. The response to his appeal has been very encouraging. The education proposed to be imparted is to consist of the reading and writing of a vernacular, simple rules of hygiene and public health, agriculture, animal husbandry and citizenship. There

are three noticeable features in this scheme. It is based essentially on the voluntary efforts of young men; it is not ambitious but simple and practical; and it is merely regarded as an experiment. The scheme was inaugurated on April 26 with public processions and meetings so as to enlist the full co-operation of the public in the campaign, and promises to be a success.

The success of democracy especially under adult franchise will mainly depend on the development of civic sense and political consciousness in the masses. If we are to avoid in future the invasion of a mob mentality into our legislature and public life, our masters, the electorate, ought to be educated to view public questions from a higher angle and to live a richer and fuller life. Instead of being satisfied with make-believes and advertisements, our leaders must take seriously in hand the task of adult education on the lines along which the provincial Ministries and leaders in India are working. We should concentrate less on reports and advertisements and more on solid achievement, if our country is to progress economically and politically.

The Need for Prompt Action

There seems to be no end of thefts and burglaries. The impunity with which these are committed gives of course added zeal and encouragement to the light-fingered gentry to ply their trade more extensively. Reports continue to come in from different parts of the country of a variety of methods by which peace-loving women are relieved of jewellery. A correspondent elsewhere speaks of the unabated atrocities of rowdies and thieves at Manipal and the adjoining villages. Rowdies and loafers by day, we should think, turn thieves by night. There are a number of such men who can be seen in street junctions with no particular calling in life and without any obvious means of livelihood, loitering in streets and lanes and intimidating the weak and unwary; it is these who, to our mind, are to be suspected to be at the bottom of the scourge that is rampant in the country. It is surprising how the Police have not been able to bring to book the culprits in the hundreds of cases that have occurred. The Police must exert themselves wholeheartedly to fight this danger to the security of the people. They should devise ways of shadowing suspects of whom we have a legion in this part of the country; the headmen and a few unofficial agents in each village should be utilised to report about and keep watch over

suspects. The Police should have a list of such characters in each village so as to check their nefarious activities. This is a suggestion which the Police may take it for what it is worth. But we strongly urge on them not to sleep over this very menacing state of affairs. The country has had enough of the burglars' pranks and the ineffective police action in this matter. We have drawn the attention of the Police to this matter more than once. It is time that some stringent steps were adopted by the Police, or that they confessed to a paucity of brains and resourcefulness in the Department to tackle this menacing problem.

PARENTS'-TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

Saraswathy Vidyasalai
(Tellippallai)

A meeting of the above association was held on 13-5-38 at 6 p.m. at the Tellippallai Mahajana School Thuraiappa Hall with Mr. K. Chinnappah as President.

The President rising amidst applause explained at length the purpose of the meeting after which Messrs S. Nadarajah (F. M. S. Pensioner) N. Sinnathamby, S. Murugesu and S. Ayadurai spoke in glowing terms on the utility of the above institution for the village and the necessity for noon meals to be supplied by the Government.

Then followed the election of office-bearers as follows:—President, Mr. K. Nagalingam, (Headmaster Saraswathy Vidyasalai). Secretary, Mr. S. Nadarajah (F. M. S. Pensioner) Committee Members: Messrs P. Ratna Iyer, S. Murugesu, K. Prisoody, N. Nagalingam, R. Subramaniam, V. Nagalingam and A. Sithamparapillai.

The Headmaster of Saraswathy Vidyasalai, Mr. K. Nagalingam, in proposing a vote of thanks to the Chair, paid eloquent tributes to the Founder of the school which, he said, had contributed a great deal to the cause of Saiva education in the village.

NAYANMARKADDU HOSPITAL

Centenary Celebration

It is proposed to celebrate the Centenary of the establishment of the Nayanmarkaddu Ayurvedic Hospital and Dispensary in June next. A preliminary meeting of representative gentlemen interested in the Hospital will be held on Saturday May 21st at 4-30 p.m. at the Hospital to discuss and to decide upon the way of celebrating the Centenary in a fitting manner.

THE HARBOUR AT TONDAIMAN-AR

Memorandum on Its Advantages

A MEMORANDUM on the advantages of constructing a harbour at Tondaiman-Ar has been forwarded to the Minister for Communications and Works. The memorandum is influentially backed by representative gentlemen and business firms and has been favourably commented upon by the press in Jaffna.

The following is the text of the memorandum:

Tondaiman-Ar is situated on the north coast of the Jaffna Peninsula. Large steamers can anchor within 300 yards of the coast. This open roadstead provides safe anchorage during the South-West monsoon. Although there is no Customs, export of salt, road metal etc. takes place from here under the supervision of a Customs Officer.

The place derives its name from the lagoon Tondaiman-Ar. This lagoon is connected with the ocean by a narrow estuary. The portion of Tondaiman-Ar lagoon between the bridge and the open sea was used as a harbour not very long ago by medium and small sized sailing vessels engaged in India and Ceylon coasting trade during the North-East monsoon, and especially in May when cyclonic weather is experienced in Jaffna and the Bay of Bengal. Large vessels proceed to Kayts during this season for shelter. The entrance to the Kayts harbour is a long canal about 6 feet deep during low tide; vessels have to discharge their cargo before they enter the Harbour. The mouth of Tondaiman-Ar lagoon has gradually silted up and only small vessels can now enter the lagoon.

Tondaiman-Ar has a central situation in the Jaffna Peninsula. It is midway between Point-Pedro and Kankasanturai. The Tondaiman-Ar lagoon is connected with the Jaffna lagoon and if deepened wherever necessary, a canal for cheap transport of cargo by boat to Jaffna, can be easily made. While the central situation of Tondaiman-Ar makes it a suitable place for a harbour to serve the whole peninsula, nature has also provided great facilities for constructing a harbour here. The portion of Tondaiman-Ar lagoon from the mouth to existing bridge—a distance of $\frac{1}{2}$ mile—can be deepened at a small cost and the estuary will have all the advantages of a river port with steep banks. The mouth of the lagoon is easily protected by a very short breakwater—say 300 ft. long. Provision can be easily made for berthing ships along the banks of the lagoon so that cargo can be discharged directly into Warehouses. The absence of bonded warehouses in Jaffna for rice, paddy, sugar, cement and textiles is a great handicap to trade. Warehouses if constructed can be made to yield considerable revenue to

The Late Mr. Nevins Selvadurai

Hindu College Mourns Death

The Jaffna Hindu College which re-opened yesterday, after the New Year Holidays, honoured the memory of the late Mr. Nevins Selvadurai, its Principal for more than 30 years, by closing for the day after the morning assembly.

After the morning prayer, Mr. A. Kumaraswamy, the Principal addressed the students, paying glowing tributes to the memory of the late Mr. Selvadurai whose record of service in the College was unparalleled and inestimable.

The Principal declared the College closed for the day as a mark of respect to the memory of their late Principal.

Sympathy of Old Boys in Malaya

The Old Boys of the Hindu College in Malaya sent the following message of condolence to the bereaved family:—

"Old boys Jaffna Hindu College deeply regret the death of their Principal, leader and statesman and convey heartfelt sympathies in your bereavement."

Food Control Advisers

The following are the members of the Food Control Advisory Committee, which has been appointed to assist the Food Controller, Mr. J. C. W. Rock.

Mr. Rock will be Chairman of the Committee and the other members are, Sir John Tarbat, Messrs. J. Tyagaraja, R. C. Scott, C. H. Bois, J. M. Robertson, C. H. Z. Fernando, and the Director of Agriculture, the Marketing Commissioner, the Controller of Labour, the General Manager of Railways, the Principal Collector of Customs, the Chief Medical Officer of Health, Colombo Municipality, the Deputy Financial Secretary, and one of the Crown Counsel.

Mr. E. H. Tennison, the Deputy Food Controller, is Secretary to the Committee.

Government and give a stimulus to sea-borne trade,

If any of the ports of Jaffna is to be opened for Indo-Ceylon passenger traffic it is desirable that that port should be on the Northern coast. Tondaiman-Ar and Kankasanturai are the nearest ports to India. They are about 30 miles distant from Pt. Calmeyer. The opening of a port on the North coast of Jaffna for passenger traffic with India will increase our railway revenue both from goods and passengers. There is crown land at Tondaiman-Ar for Customs buildings, warehouses and Quarantine camps. There is also an abundant supply of good water for supplying to ships and for a Quarantine camp. If there is direct sea route between India and Jaffna there is every probability of increasing our exports of coconut and other products to the East coast of India.

The Industrial Rally And After

(Continued from page 3)

the population—this, mind you in spite of a good deal of apparently well-grounded scepticism from within and without the Tamil community—the tremendous amount of organisation and work called for and magnificently supplied by voluntary effort, came as no surprise to the Chief Executive Officer. He felt that a stay of close on twenty years in your midst justified the act of faith he made in you in embarking on this venture and he felt no hesitation in implementing that faith to the tune of 10,000 rupees. The lesson is obvious and infinitely heartening, we have jointly nailed to the mast the hoary calumny that the Tamil is too essentially an individualist to co-operate with fellow-Tamils in any cause. If you carry that lesson away firmly embedded in your convictions, you will have reason to bless the Rally that brought that lesson home to you. A second lesson is the conviction that the economic development of the country and its correlative the increasing well-being of our fellow-countrymen are obligations incumbent on us all and to be met as far as we can by unofficial, voluntary and far-reaching co-operation.

A Three-Year Plan

This morning we held the first of our economic conferences to study ways and means to give practical effect to the desire nearest all our hearts at the moment. It would be premature to go into details now of our three-year plan but may I assure you that you will have no reason to regret the great act of faith you have made in the Executive Committee. For your magnificent response we shall carry throughout life a very warm and lively sense of gratitude and a determination of steel to satisfy you that your confidence was not misplaced.

I now come to what should be the pleasantest part of my task but what is actually the most overpowering. How am I to thank you all adequately?

How to thank Mr. Dyson, the G. A., for the gracious reception he gave us at the beginning and the unobtrusive way he got us the help of friends, official and unofficial. We should like particularly to thank the Kachcheri Mudaliyar and the Maniagar of Valigamam North and East. It is but a bald statement of fact to assert that our movement could have achieved very little were it not for their generous support and that of Mr. Ragunathan, Asst. Registrar of Co-operative Societies. These three men have shown the country that an Economic Survey of the most meti-

(Continued on page 6)

HELPING LOCAL MATCH INDUSTRY

Official Attitude

Only locally-made matches are supplied by the Government Stores to other Government Departments, stated the Minister for Labour, Industry and Commerce in reply to a question in the State Council

FATAL STABBING AT KOKKUVIL

Alleged Murderer in Hiding

KANTHIGESU Muttu of Kokkuvil was, it is alleged, stabbed to death by a young man Muttavelu Gnanasekaram of the same village, in a boutique adjoining the Subramanya Temple at Kokkuvil.

It is stated that Gnanasekaram and Markandu, another young man, were standing on the Kankasanturai Road and abusing some one. The deceased, it is said, having spoken some words of advice to them, went to the said boutique for a smoke. While he was on the road the two young men went up to him. Markandu is said to have struck the deceased with a club, while Gnanasekaram stabbed him with a knife. After the first stab on the chest the deceased is said to have implored Gnanasekaram not to stab him, and took shelter in the boutique. The assailant is said to have followed the deceased and further stabbed him more than once. The deceased died instantaneously. The two assailants bolted from the place and are still reported to be in hiding. The Police are in search of them.

MEDICAL OFFICER FETED

A farewell function to Dr. K. Ponniah D. M. O. Jaffna on the eve of his departure on transfer to Kurunegula was held at Sir Kanagasabai Vidyasalai, Pannalai, Tellippalai on Saturday 14-5-38 at 4 p.m. Prior to the function Dr. and Mrs. Ponniah were taken in procession in oriental fashion, and on their arrival at the school, a group photograph was taken.

Mr. S. Sangarapillay garlanded Mr. C. Coomaraswamy, C. C. S. District Judge, Jaffna who presided on the occasion and Dr. V. Subramaniam garlanded Dr. K. Ponniah. Miss Vyrakapillai presented a bouquet to Mrs. Ponniah.

A farewell song and address were read and presented by the Head Master of the above school, Pandit S. Kathiripillai, and by Mr. V. Sangarapillay.

Mr. M. Thambipillai District Inspector of Schools, Mr. T. C. Rajaratnam J. P. and Mr. S. Vanniasingam, Advocate, spoke eulogising the work done by Dr. Ponniah during the period of 4½ years as D. M. O. Jaffna. Dr. Ponniah suitably replied.

Mr. K. Sri Sundaramoorthy the host of the evening thanked the large and distinguished gathering from all parts of Jaffna. The function came to a close with the singing of Thavaram.

(Cor.)

THE JAFFNA HINDU COLLEGE

Playground Fund

The playground is being cleared and made ready for use when the College reopens on Wednesday, the 18th instant. Subscribers to this Fund will greatly oblige us if they will pay up their dues without delay.

S. ADCHALINGAM,
Hony. Treasurer,
Jaffna,
12-5-38.

THE INDUSTRIAL RALLY AND AFTER

Continued from Page 5.)

culous completeness can be carried out by Government without any extra expense and in less than three months. And for those of you who may not have adverted to the fact, we must draw special attention to the splendid Show put up at such a short notice by the Agricultural Department at a time of the year that seemed so utterly unsuited to such a demonstration.

To the Marketing Commissioner and his staff we are under a deep debt of gratitude for coming up all the way from Colombo, showing us how to develop new industries and revivifying old industries and helping to find us markets. It would have been a special pleasure to thank in person to-night the Director of Commercial Intelligence who was one of the first to see the potentialities of the movement we were starting and who supported us so stoutly throughout. It will be a matter of special gratification for him to know that already 25 coir machines have been ordered to open 25 new centres of industry. This by way of commencement!

To the Minister of Labour, Industry and Commerce a special tribute is due not merely for coming so graciously to open our Rally but especially coming personally to our help when the negotiations for free transport on the Railway seemed on the point of collapsing and for his promise of even financial aid in setting our local industries on their feet.

It is only right to record our thanks to the Railway Department for the kind sympathy, in fact enthusiasm, they showed in rendering every possible assistance to guarantee the success of this Rally. The Medical Department with its accustomed spontaneity placed all its experience and brains at our disposal, and I know that they realise that their efforts have not been in vain. To bridge-building visitors like Dr. C. J. de Silva and Peiris on the unofficial medical side no thanks can be adequate.

I can only ask you to demonstrate in practical fashion by your patronage the stall-holders who had vision and faith enough to book stalls. It is but rudimentary gratitude to patronise them in preference to others.

To the Education Department we are naturally indebted for their fine stalls and not least for the services and advice of Mr. Beling and Mr. Kanagasabai. We can only congratulate the Tea Propaganda Board in having such a competent and charming superintendent as Mr. T. de Mel, and the Tourist Bureau Agency in securing the services of Mr. Pinto who has put his wares before us in such attractive form.

The Coconut Board's three stalls and those of the Coconut Research drew a steady crowd throughout the Rally and were of particular interest showing us by what can be done in a particular industry how other industries might be developed.

Coming nearer home, I ask myself where I am to begin or stop. None of you will, I feel sure, quarrel with my beginning with Rev. Dr. Isaac Tambyah, an accredited Tamil leader and the link between Jaffna and the great Jaffna overseas. As President of our Reception Com-

mittee and Editor of our Guide and Health Week books his service carried that nice vote of distinction we all associate with his name. Many of you too will feel that after this Rally we are only now really beginning to know Mr. Ratnagopal: his amazing efficiency, his foresight, his adaptability will for ever be treasured memories. On his side I do not see any one who could have done the work he has done and he was superlatively fortunate in having as his co-adjutor Mr. Motha who for months like Atlas carried his huge burden and daily increased our admiration that "one small head could carry all he knew" of the general plan and every detail in its implementation. It would be pleasant to linger for a moment on their plans for the super-Rally they are already visualizing, but time presses. In spite of that fact, none of you will grudge a vote of thanks to S. P. Nadarajah Esq., of the Jaffna Apothecaries Co., and his family for sparing literally no effort to help us from the beginning.

On our Secretaries, I need not linger. You will have realised the immense amount of work covered by them. Mr. R. R. Nalliah prominent now as ever in any movement for the public good was one of the first off the mark, and he would be the first to admit that without Mr. Alwines, the permanent Secretary of virtually every movement in Jaffna, he would not have continued. Mr. Alwines ran a Health Week of amazing efficiency as a side show! Without such men and their unstinted loyal service we should have been wild visionaries.

The Treasurers Mr. S. James and Fr. John have requested me to spare their blushes but justice must be done. They are not seekers after the lime-light but as one privileged to know how devotedly they have worked and what a world of worry they saved the Chief Executive Officer, I can only say "Gentlemen, I thank you,

Your pains are registered where every day

I turn the page to read them."

Will the devoted members of the Executive Committee and the various sub-Committees please accept *in globo* our very cordial thanks. Their names are legion but may I just in passing salute the names of Messrs. A. Vanniasinkam, P. Thambayah and F. A. Sandrasagra for the endurance tests they have nobly passed on the Carnival side. Mr. A. Gardiner generously supplied our cinema in every detail and was almost permanently on duty at the Colombo end of the phone with his advice. The teachers of St. Patrick's College like good wine need no hush, they have lived up to their noblest traditions, and that is no small praise.

And the ladies, God bless them! They have once and for all staked out their claim to a place in the sun, and have proved beyond all cavil that they have a very important contribution to make to our public and social life. We shall not soon forget the daily vigil of nine hours so nobly performed by ladies like Mrs. Coomaraswamy, Mrs. Nalliah, Mrs. Shaumugam, Mrs. Lorage, Mrs. C. Ponnampalam and Mrs. F. A. Sandrasagra to mention only a few. Time does not permit me to mention the many

LETTERS

Crime and Rowdyism at Manipay

Sir,—After a short interval of quiet and peace, crime and rowdyism have again become more frequent in Manipay and the neighbouring villages, and it is quite evident from the fact that during the past three weeks there were several cases of theft, arson, fighting, etc. About the beginning of this month a thief entered a wedding house in South Manipay and robbed a necklace and two bangles from a lady and her grand child who were sleeping in the verandah. She suddenly awoke and shouted "thief" when a male occupant of the house gave chase, but failed to catch him. The culprit was not yet brought to book. In another house a thief with a big glittering sword in his hand entered the room where an old lady was sleeping alone, and removed the safe key which was under her pillow. He tried to open the safe which was in the next room, but failing to do so, went away with the key. The lady saw him removing the key, but closed her eyes and kept quiet as if she fast asleep fearing that her life was in danger. A boutique belonging to N. Chelliah of Manipay which is situated next to the residence of the Naval Police Vidan, was broken into at night and goods and cash stolen. A nalava man's hut which is also in South Manipay was set on fire about a week ago by some one. It was completely burnt and damaged the contents.

Besides, burglars are wandering about the place at nights and throwing stones at houses already marked and flashing their torches, as a preliminary test to find out whether the inmates are fast asleep or watchful. This has been going on almost daily in different localities.

The action of some rowdies in dirtying some schools by committing

ladies who put in their nine hours daily at the Hoopla, Carnival, Chocolate, Curio and Bargain stalls. Jaffna extends a warm handshake of thanks to Colombo ladies like Mrs. Rajasingham and Mrs. J. N. C. Thiruchelvam who came up to help us, to Mrs. Sri Pathinathan, Mrs. G. G. Ponnampalam and Mrs. J. Tyagarajah who paid generously for the privilege of being hostesses at our Hospitality Centre.

Our reference to our helpers would be incomplete without a reference to the galvanic personality of the Batticaloa representative, Mr. Armstrong who placed what might have been considered the Cinderella of the provinces on the map with a smack. Lastly acknowledgment must be made to Mr. A. Gnana Prakasham, Manager of the Coconut Board, from whose fertile brain originated in the first instance the idea of doing something big and constructive for the country's industries. His guidance of our tottering steps in the beginning was invaluable.

I know that thousands of other names should have been mentioned but considerations of time preclude any such possibility. I should not however like to conclude without a very sincere tribute of thanks to every section of the Press and their local representatives.

nuisance on the floor needs serious attention by the police and the public as well.

For sometime after the police started petrolling the place, matters were a bit quiet and the people were able to live with peace of mind. Now it has become worse than before and the people are again alarmed, restless, and spending sleepless nights. What is the purpose of the police in patrolling the place, if they cannot put a stop to the present disgraceful state of affairs? In this connection it would be very necessary if the suspected characters are brought to book.

It is beyond the power of the Police Vidhans to control crime and rowdyism as they exist to day in the country. Some headmen who are keen on suppressing same become public enemies. For instance, the Udaiyar of Manipay is greatly interested in suppressing crime and rowdyism in the country, and by trying to do so, he is becoming a public enemy mostly with the rowdy elements. Such men deserve to be encouraged and safeguarded by the Government.

The time has come when all the well-to-do people of these villages should open their eyes to these facts and wake up their minds to do some service to their country by forming an Anti-Crime Society similar to the one formed at Nuvavil, in order to save these villages from being completely ruined. I believe the example set up by a backward village will act as a stimulus to our people.

Yours etc.,

K. S. Soundararajagam,
Manipay,
16th May, 1938.

Why all Foreign Letters from Ceylon by Air?

Sir,—I received today a Ceylon letter with twenty cents postage, and it is by air mail, and reached me on the eightieth (sic) day.

This is not a very important letter or a very urgent letter. It can be sent by mail steamer with much less cost. Why poor people should be compelled to pay for air mail service that will not benefit them in the least, but impoverish them? Let those who are benefited by it be made to pay for it.

Because all the world is air-minded does not mean we too should be air-minded at the cost of the poor. I would like to know, Sir, how does the present air mail service of Ceylon benefit the poor?

Twenty cents to our ministers is nothing, but to the poor two or three days' hearty meal.

In the said letter is enclosed another letter from a poor man of Jaffna to his son working here intimating that the cost of postage is high and that is why he has resorted to this economical procedure.

No sane man who thinks in terms of the poor will ever think of taxing the poor as the Minister for Communications has done.

In this country there is, I know, an air mail service yet I have never resorted to it although I can afford to pay for it. I know I need no air mail service. Why I should spend my hard earned money in a very costly postage when there is a cheaper postage that will benefit me a great deal?

Yours etc.,

M. K. Subramaniam,
District Hospital,
Lunat,
8-5-1938.

The Need for an Education Commission

(Continued from page 1)

with the outer world, in the fields of politics, commerce or culture. Nor can we neglect other foreign languages or a study of some of the classical languages. On the other hand, the premature introduction of foreign languages adds a real burden in the education of the pupil. It is therefore necessary to find out which of the modern and classical languages will serve our children best, and at what stage each should be introduced.

A couple of examples may be quoted to illustrate the prevailing confusion of ideas. One is the educational wastage involved in the Special Classes in English Schools, which repeat during two or three years practically the same range of course in English which the children have already covered during their previous three years in the Sinhalese or Tamil Schools. Another is the meaningless existence side by side of English Junior Secondary Schools and Bilingual Schools, with different types of teachers and curricula and different scales of school-fees, both apparently leading to the same goal of the Junior School Certificate.

Co-ordination of Schools

Connected with the co-ordination of languages is the co-ordination of schools to form a single unified system.

Schools are at present classified largely on a language basis. This principle has been seriously questioned. It is necessary to re-consider the principle of classification of our schools and to settle the place of various languages in each of them. We require a unified co-ordinated national school system, with a wide range of courses, elementary and secondary, academic and vocational, to fit in with the aptitude of pupils and their later needs.

Along with the provision of a more logical school system must be found some procedure for the selection of pupils for the different types of courses. This is important because, when pupils do not fit in, there is waste of effort and waste of money in such pupils going through the wrong courses. For example, many boys in the English Secondary Schools are misfits there, but there is neither provision to prevent their wasting time in such schools nor are there other suitable courses open to them. In the new system we contemplate there will be no round peg in a square hole. At the same time educational opportunities will be available to every boy or girl according to his or her capacity to profit therefrom. Some scheme of public scholarships must make it possible for even the poorest pupil, if intelli-

gent, to have the advantage of the best possible education.

The Examination System

The zig-zag ladder of our school system is partly due to the multiplicity of our school-leaving examinations conducted by various examining bodies, local and foreign, unrelated to one another. These many examinations tear the system of education into incoherent parts; besides, the examinations are themselves unsatisfactory. The foreign examinations were not designed for Ceylon; the local examinations have been badly designed. But it is these various examinations that determine the curricula of our schools and the system of teaching. Hence any reform of education must be proceeded with side by side with the reform of examinations. One special problem would be whether or not to combine the secondary school-leaving examination with university matriculation.

Speaking of examinations, we must refer to yet another multitude of competing competitive examinations, conducted probably by less expert examiners, which re-examine the products of the school-leaving and university examinations by perhaps poorer tests with a view to recruiting the staffs of the various subordinate public services of the country. This again is a matter for inquiry.

Vocational Education

When the existing school system is remodelled, some parts will be done away with, some corrected and many gaps will have to be filled. The main addition that will restore the balance to the whole structure will be vocational education. Perhaps a new type of secondary school combining academic and vocational courses will be found desirable of development. This leads us to the distressing fact that our education is so unrelated not only to the pupils' historical background but is quite unrelated to the present economic needs of the country. Our schools must account for the large and increasing number of educated unemployed who are becoming a burden not only to themselves but to the country as well.

For, education cannot be a detached thing. Education can be a reality only so far as what is taught in school has a significance in the later life of the individual. Education has manifold aims; but what matters most is the training of the pupil at school for the work that awaits him in life. Education then must be organised in terms of work and work must be planned in terms of the education imparted. This co-ordination of school with work the State alone can accomplish, and the State must do it.

Other Aspects of National Education

Though we have talked much about the matter, we have hardly begun as yet the serious study of our own Literature or Music, History or Geography or Economics. Though we have accepted national physical fitness as a creed, physical training is yet in its raw stage. And though the majority of boys leave school so early, no provision has yet been

made for any kind of post-school continuation classes or adult education. The impetus of a new order is urgently required to stimulate progress along these lines.

Training of Teachers

No educational system can be considered complete unless satisfactory provision is made for the training of teachers. The adequacy of the training now provided in the English, Sinhalese and Tamil Training institutions must be investigated and immediate provision made for the post-graduate training of English Secondary School teachers.

Economy in Expenditure

Are the sums of money spent now on education effective expenditure? This must be one of the tasks of the Commission to investigate. We may here call attention to one example of tremendous wastage. The vast majority of the nation's children are attending the Sinhalese and Tamil Schools. Though the political and social changes of our time call for improvement in this sphere, the education imparted in them is still of a poor kind. Often it stops with a little progress in the three R's. It may be called literacy, but it can hardly be described as education. Even the training at literacy is of such short duration as far as the majority of pupils are concerned that we may wonder whether permanent literacy always results. Therefore, unless there is free and compulsory education to at least the elementary school leaving stage the expenditure is tragic wastage. It is like watering a plant when it is young but neglecting it during the fructifying period, with the result that there is no return whatever for the care bestowed on it early. On the other hand, if education is continued up to some profitable stage, it will be the means not only of profiting the individual, but discovering for the state latent talent in its members.

Some check must also be found for the over-lapping and needless multiplication of schools and the consequent waste of public and private money as well as the unwholesome effects of school rivalry. A policy must also be laid down for the co-ordination of government and private effort in the cause of education.

Educational Administration

The composition and functions of all bodies connected with education, such as the Board of Education, the Examinations Board, the Text-book Committee and the local Education Committees must be re-defined. The scope of the activities of the Executive Committee on Education too should be specified. If it is found desirable to scrap any of these bodies or set up new ones, the powers and relationship should be clearly marked. Consideration should be given to the requests of teachers for the establishment of a joint-Committee on the lines of the Burnham

Committee and of an Arbitration Board. The functions of the Inspectorate and its method of recruitment may usefully be considered. The Code, which has grown up by means of circulars, might be examined afresh, regard being had to the frequent complaint by schools of too much interference by the Department of Education. In other words, the degree of State Control has to be carefully defined. A special subject of reference to the Commission will be the part of Local Government bodies in the development of State-aided education.

The teaching profession would welcome an inquiry into their hours and conditions of work and other matters pertaining to their welfare.

We strongly urge that the proposed Education Ordinance must wait till a Commission has reported on the subject.

The four-fold task of the Education Commission

To sum up, the scope of the proposed inquiry should be as wide as possible. The main task of the Commission will be the many problems connected with Education in all its aspects.

The second task of the Commission should be to make recommendations relating to Educational Administration.

The third task of the Commission will be in relation to Educational Finance.

The fourth task of the proposed Commission should be to consider the many questions internally affecting Schools and Teachers.

A call for statesmanship

We suggest that education is a most valuable ally in the hands of statesmen for the uplift of the country. If ignorance must disappear, if intemperance must be subdued, if poverty must be wiped out, if Ceylon must be free from the taunt of being a criminal country; if, on the other hand, Ceylon must increase in prosperity, if the people must live in peace and unity, if national life must be full and rich, if we must become a progressive race in the fields of science and industry, art and literature, then, to make this New Ceylon, we must re-make our Education. We must re-make it so completely that the task is only for the most courageous statesmanship.

But, while we agree that it is the function of the people as represented by their Government to lay down policies, it is at the same time the duty of the statesmen to obtain the advice of educational experts before they decide their policies, just as in the matter of consultation with medical experts. And the success of the Commission depends on the choice of personnel, particularly on the selection as Chairman of an eminent educationist from abroad. We are certain that a Report, prepared after a full and careful survey, will valuably serve educators and legislators for many years to come. For, we look forward to many reforms in the system of education, which will make it a powerful instrument of national progress.

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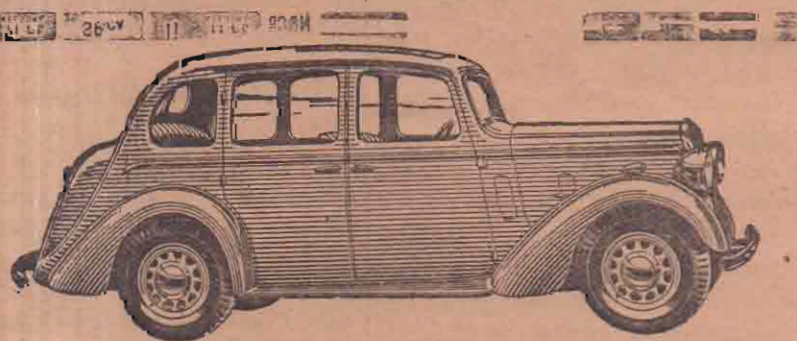
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