

# THE Hindu Organ.

THE ONLY NEWSPAPER IN CEYLON FOR THE HINDUS

PUBLISHED EVERY MONDAY AND THURSDAY

(Registered as a Newspaper)

Estd. Sept. 11, 1889

VOL. L.

Phone 56.

JAFFNA. THURSDAY, MAY 26, 1938.

Price 5 Cts.

NO. 13.

## SCIENCE AND PRACTICE OF AGRICULTURE IN INDIA

### Soils

(Extracts from the Presidential Address to the Agricultural Section of the Indian Science Congress, Hyderabad, 1937.)

THE work on soils has for its ultimate object the maintenance of the high productive capacity of soils which are rich, the restoration to normal those whose capacity has been reduced and to effect an appreciable increase in the yield of soils which are naturally poor. The attainment of these results is based on three fundamental factors in soil management. These are: (1) adequate pore space in the soil not only in the portion turned out by the plough but throughout the effective root zone and within and between the soil crumbs, (2) the existence in the soil of a large amount of plant food constituents not in available forms but in reserve and which, by proper soil management, are transformed into an available state, sufficiently rapidly to meet the requirements of crops, and (3) good tilth and ample crumb structure throughout the root zone which bad management breaks down and good management builds up and maintains.

The important and common characteristics of the majority of the soils are that they are old, have reached a stage of minimum cropping capacity, are subject to intense sunlight and extremes of temperatures, and are alkaline in reaction.

In the majority of cases the characteristics and reactions of soils are determined more by climatic factors than by geological origin. For example, the so-called black cotton soils, though of different geological origin, have several important soil characteristics in common. The soil profile does not appear to have the significance that it has elsewhere, probably due to age and to the fact that the majority are transported soils. In several cases, the surface horizons are missing, due probably to erosion through centuries. The profile study is, however, of considerable importance in the field study of the soil as a

whole. Such a study has been able to solve the puzzle in regard to the downward movement of water in stiff black cotton soils. It has been ascertained that minute cracks are responsible for the downward and lateral movements of water.

#### Soil—Cultivation

We were taught in the olden days that surface cultivation helps to decrease evaporation and on this basis the better growth of crop in cultivated fields was explained. Recent research has shown that surface cultivation does not help to conserve moisture, but it does not explain its effect on crop growth. Likewise, the object of deeper cultivation was stated to be better aeration of soils. Leather's work shows that gaseous exchange occurs in soils normally to a depth of one foot. The effects of cultivation must, therefore, be looked for elsewhere. One accepted advantage of cultivation is that it contributes to tilth and crumb structure in soils. The satisfactory formation of soil crumbs due to the aggregation of smaller particles by cultivation depends on the stability of these aggregates towards water. The more stable they are, the better they will be from the point of view of crumb formation. In the light of modern work on soil clay, crumb formation and its stability depends on the cationic composition of the clay. It is greater and better for calcium clay than for other clays. The water relationships that exist between clay and water and the salt content of the soil and clay exercise a direct or indirect influence according to conditions. The intermediate stages between complete calcium clay and sodium clay may have varying degrees of moisture requirements for the use of the plough. The usual studies relating to plastic flow and other

(Continued on page 7)

## THE INDO-ARYANS

### III. Their Migration to India According to Rev. Fr. Heras

A REVIEW

By S. R. Muttukumar

(Concluded from our last issue)

IN my last article I dealt with the old theory relating to the migration of the Aryans to India. Here I propose to give a summary of the opinion of the Rev. Fr. Heras on the subject, which is original as well as rational.

The Rev. Father says that "as soon as the first steatite seals of Mohenjo Daro were discovered several scholars pointed out a number of striking similarities between the cryptic characters of these seals and the well-known Sumerian characters. It is beyond doubt that the Sumerian script is the same as the script in the seals discovered in the Indus valley. But there is a difference between the seals discovered in Sumer and those discovered in the Indus valley. The former are round seals, while the latter are square ones". From this fact the Rev. Father concludes that the round seals of Sumer came from another part of India, and that the bulk of Indian merchants going to Mesopotamia did not hail from the Indus valley, but from this other country, though a few merchants from the Indus valley also seem to have found their way to Mesopotamia. He identifies the merchants from this other country with the Panis of old. This is supported in the main by Professor Hunter, author of *The Script of Harappah and Mohenjo Daro*, who writes: "If the spread of neolithic civilization was from East to West, as many think, and as tradition would appear to record it may eventually transpire that the Indus Valley (?) was the cradle of our civilization." He also opines that the ancient name of the people who passed on this civilization may have been Pani. (1)

I may here observe that the expression "Indus Valley Civilization" used by Sir John Marshall, Professor Hunter

and others is not quite correct. More correctly it should be the "Proto-Indian Civilization" as stated by Rev. Fr. Heras, for this civilization was not confined to the Indus valley, but extended all over South India and even Ceylon. I am inclined to believe that this civilization was the South Indian Dravidian civilization of antiquity, for the reason that the Rev. Fr. Heras remarks that the word *pani* itself seems to be the original of the modern words *panai* in Tamil and *pane* in Kannada that mean "pipal-tree" (அரசு), the totem of the Panis. I may add that the word *pani* is also the original of the Tamil word *பாணர்* (*Panar* - from *பண்*, "to sing"). The South Indian Panar were bards and minstrels.

That the southern Panar were also fishermen, sailors and merchants is made out from the ancient Sangam works. *Ainguramuru* has:

“அஞ்சி வேதி யசைகடைப்  
பாண்மகன்  
சின்மின் செரிந்து பண்ணெய்  
பெறாடம்”

Stanza 49.

This is supported by the published researches of G. Elliot Smith, W. H. Schoff, J. W. Jackson and others whose results are conveniently summed up for the general reader by Mr. Perry in his *Children of the Sun*.

Another reason for the above conjecture of mine is that the Rev. Fr. Heras writes elsewhere thus: "Berosus, the Babylonian priest of the first century B.C. has kept two names of the several chiefs who brought civilization and the art of writing to Sumer. One was called *Oannes*, an evident hellenized form of the name *Uvanna*, 'elder brother of the flower', a name very common even at present among the Tulus. The other name *Odakon* is in this very form a Tamilian name which means 'the master of the boat', from *oda*, 'boat' and *kon*,

(1) *New Review*. April 1936

(Continued on Page 7.)

## A SCHEME FOR ADULT EDUCATION

### Indian Congress to Consider it

Allahabad, May 11.

**PROF. DR P. K. MUKHERJEE**, in charge of rural department Shantiniketan Bengal, and Prof. Ajmal Khan who is now the Private Secretary of M. Abul Kalam Azad both have submitted the following Scheme for Adult Education to M. Abul Kalam Azad, copies of which have also been handed over to Mr. Subhas Chandra Bose and Mr. Jawaharlal Nehru.

It is reliably understood that the Congress Working Committee will discuss this all-important question:—

"By Adult Education we mean both spread of literacy among and imparting useful information (through means other than reading books) to people who have passed the school-going age. It has to be admitted that though spread of literacy is very desirable in our country, there are cases which do not admit of being brought under the discipline of regular class work. This is so not only because some of the adults are too busy with earning a livelihood, but also because some of them are too old to learn the alphabets at an advanced age or to derive any benefit out of it. The best way of educating this class of adults is to impart to them (through lectures and pictures, informations which would be useful to them.

Obviously, therefore, the work of educating the adults should be placed under two main departments:—

1. Spread of literacy.
2. Imparting useful informations.

The programme of the first department will consist of running Primary Schools and Night schools for adults, opening Post-primary Teaching Centres (as a safeguard against reversion to illiteracy), publication of booklets written on subjects which may have useful bearing on the life of the workers and peasants such as: agriculture, manuring, weaving, carpentry, village sanitation, position of the voter, etc, whereas (to those who are too old or too busy to learn to read and write) on useful subjects through lectures and lantern slides. The radio in this connection should be widely used as a very effective means of supplying useful informations to the illiterate masses.

The subjects on which they should receive instructions should be:—

1. Agriculture, irrigation and allied subjects.
2. Health, hygiene and physical culture.
3. Simple economics of every day life, viz. co-operation, marketing, Agrarian laws etc.
4. History of India.
5. Civics and Politics (such topics as have direct relation to them),
6. Outline of World History

and Geography (specially Commercial Geography).

7. Ethical principles and rules of Morality—as taught by the great world teachers.

It should be borne in mind that such activities to be really useful to the nation must be carried on in a systematic and sustained manner or else it will mean so much time, money and energy lost for nothing. In order to achieve this there should be a band of 'Paid Workers' who will be in charge of the organisation and supervision of this Scheme, and they will be whole time workers.

The philanthropic instinct of the people may also be exploited, but that is possible only when the whole programme has been given shape by a set of devoted whole-time workers. For instance, a gentleman in a neighbourhood may find time to give 2 hours in the evening for teaching, if a batch of 20 adults assembled at a fixed place daily at a fixed time, but he cannot take the responsibility (over and above his own daily drudgery) of collecting these 20 adults or once collected of finding ways and means of ensuring their presence every day.

In each province, therefore, there should be one Head Organizer and a Head Officer with the following sections:—

- (a) Compilation or Translation Department.
- (b) Printing and Publishing Department.
- (c) Training Institute for teachers, organisers and touring workers.

Under the Head Organizer there will be the District organisers who will be responsible for the organisation of their respective districts. The Central organisation will be an all-India body under the supervision of the Congress Working Committee but independent of politics.

Funds are an essential necessity. Apart from donations the following sources of income for this work may be suggested:—

1. To curtail Government grants to Libraries and Public Reading Rooms.
2. Sale of booklets written for imparting useful informations to the masses. These booklets should be sold in thousands if they are made very cheap (say, 2 to 4 pice) and in this the Government Press Department can help a lot.
3. All the best books of schools and colleges should be printed by the Adult Education Department, and their income should be utilised for its own programme.
4. Small fees may be taken by the Cinema Department of the organisation, and they may be sent on special invitations to certain villages on payment of fees.
5. Special exhibitions and shows may be arranged and fees levied.

## CASE AGAINST V. C. CHAIRMAN

### MISAPPROPRIATION CHARGE

### DISCHARGED AFTER 14 DAYS' TRIAL

AT the Jaffna District Court, Mr. M. Kanapathipillai, Chairman of the Village Committee of Puloly, was tried on charges of criminal misappropriation of Rs. 45.75 (being a continuous fine paid by Mr. A. K. Kandappu to accused as V. C. Chairman), and of Rs. 106 (being the proceeds of a sale of a margosa tree paid in by V. Vallipuram.)

The accused was at one time the Chairman of the All-Ceylon Village Committees Conference.

The accused was discharged after 14 days' trial.

Mr. A. K. Kandappu, store-keeper, Postal Department Colombo, said that his father-in-law and himself were charged in the Village Tribunal of Puloly in 1935 for encroachment on a land and were each fined Rs. 5, in addition to being ordered to pay a fine of Rs. 2 per day till the encroachment was removed.

The Government Agent had reduced the continuous fine to 25 cents per day.

On December 21st, he sent a money order for Rs. 45.75 in full settlement of the fine and asked the Chairman for an acknowledgment but did not get one.

Thereafter he wrote to his father-in-law Subramaniam, stating that the Chairman had not sent him a receipt for the money and requesting Subramaniam to get one.

### Correspondence

Referring to a visit paid by the Chairman to him on February 28th, 1936, Mr. Kandappu said that Mr. Kanapathipillai told him that witness's father-in-law had sent a petition to the Government Agent inquiring whether the fine money had been remitted.

Mr. Kanapathipillai wanted witness to go to Pt. Pedro and get the correspondence between witness and himself.

He told witness that his money had been wrongly collected and

that he would give back the money to witness.

He wanted witness to give him a receipt acknowledging the return of the money.

Under cross-examination, Mr. Kandappu stated that after July he knew that the Village Committee members were working against Mr. Kanapathipillai.

Mr. Kanapathipillai first said that he should get back all the documents and replace them by others.

Counsel: Are you the sort of person who is prepared to fabricate documents in order to assist a criminal?

Witness: How do I know he is a criminal? The accused said he was going to take out certain documents and put other documents in their place. As the accused was my relation, I was prepared to do that. I was prepared to do something for him, provided I was not caught.

So on February 28th were you prepared to suppress certain documents which were evidence against the accused by handing over the documents and helping him?

### A Petition

Mr. W. M. Walton, a teacher of Hartley College, said that he had been a member of the Puloly Village Committee ever since its inception except for a period of three years.

He had definite reasons to suspect that the moneys of the Village Committee were not entered in the book. Witness was the first signatory to the petition by the members to the Government Agent against the Chairman.

Mr. Dyson held an inquiry. He told the Government Agent that the books were not shown to him and asked him to ask the Chairman to show the books. Witness also asked the Government Agent to verify payments of certain moneys.

That was the payment of money realised by the sale of the margosa tree standing at the Kuthkivilam market and some other moneys.

Crown Counsel: What made you refer to those items?

Witness: The Government Agent said that the books were audited every year. I wanted to show him that the books were not in order.

While the Government Agent was looking at the cash book, Mr. Kanapathipillai said something to him in secret. The Government Agent told them that the Chair-

(Continued on Page 6)

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## SEPARATE CURRENCY FOR CEYLON

### A Scheme Under Contemplation

#### ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF A CHANGE

A Statement issued by the Financial Secretary says:

The question of changing the basis of Ceylon currency has been under consideration for the last two years.

At present Ceylon uses the Indian rupee, each Ceylon currency note being a promise to pay on demand one or more Indian silver rupees. To enable the Currency Commission to meet this promise a large number of Indian silver rupees (now 44,000,000) has to be kept in the Treasury. No interest is earned on this large sum.

Since 1918 most of the units of Empire which previously used the currencies of other units have created currencies of their own.

Ceylon is almost the only unit of any size which does not possess its own currency.

In the light of the above facts the question arises whether Ceylon should follow the example of other countries and set up a currency of her own. Such a currency should clearly not be an entirely independent one, which would be unsuitable to a small country; it must be linked to the currency of some other country by making Ceylon currency exchangeable with that other currency on some definite basis.

#### Reserve Bank

The Indian rupee is at present linked to sterling through the provisions of the Reserve Bank of India Act, which requires the Reserve Bank on demand, under certain conditions, to buy or sell sterling for rupees at rates closely approximating to 1s. 6d. sterling. Colonial currencies are linked similarly to sterling.

If a separate Ceylon rupee is to be created, there are two obvious alternatives: to link the Ceylon rupee either with the Indian rupee, or directly with sterling. In the former case the Ceylon currency authority would on demand, subject to a minimum sum and to payment of a trifling commission, give Indian rupees for Ceylon rupees and Ceylon rupees for Indian rupees. In the latter case, at present rates of exchange, the Ceylon currency authority would on demand, subject to the above conditions, give 1s. 6d. sterling for a Ceylon rupee and a Ceylon rupee for 1s. 6d. sterling.

An unqualified link with India would leave Ceylon in her present position, in which she is bound by the currency policy of India. There is an influential body of opinion in India which holds that 1s. 6d. is too high a value for the Indian rupee, and that its value should be reduced.

There is no reason to suppose that any such change is in prospect; but the fact remains that if India should devalue her rupee she would do so by reference to considerations affecting India and at a time to suit

herself, and that those considerations and that time might be by no means applicable or advantageous to Ceylon. Any change in Ceylon currency arrangements should, therefore, provide for the possibility of the Ceylon Government pursuing its own currency policy.

#### Flow of Trade

On the other hand the abandonment of a direct link with the Indian rupee might cause some slight disturbance of the flow of trade between India and Ceylon.

The advantages of a change of currency may be summarised as follows:—

#### Advantages:

- (1) Power to determine our own currency policy.
- (2) Increased revenue of about Rs. 400,000 per annum.

#### Disadvantages:—

Possible interference with flow of trade

To this some persons might add a possible instability of exchange value if a separate Ceylon rupee is created, but this fear may be shortly dismissed.

Countries much smaller and much less financially sound than Ceylon have set up their own currencies and have held them for years in complete stability at the pre-determined exchange value without the slightest difficulty. So long as the Ceylon Currency Balance Sheet is sound the currency authority will always be able to meet its obligations, and the exchange value of the currency must remain stable; while behind the currency reserves there stands the guarantee of the Ceylon Government.

#### Own Rupee

The whole question of a change in the currency system was submitted in 1937 to an expert Committee in London, which unanimously tendered the following advice:—

(1) Ceylon should create a separate currency of her own, on the basis of a Ceylon rupee.

(2) The Ceylon rupee should be linked with Indian legal tender rupee.

(3) There should be an optional link with sterling.

(4) In the unlikely event of devaluation of the Indian rupee, Ceylon should then decide whether to allow the Ceylon rupee to follow the Indian rupee or not. If not, the right to receive Ceylon rupees in exchange for Indian rupees should be withdrawn and the optional sterling link should become operative. But this means the value of the Ceylon rupee could be maintained intact if the Ceylon Government considered the course desirable.

The right to receive Indian rupees in exchange for Ceylon rupees should be unqualified in order that

## THE PALMYRAH PALM

### What the Coconut is to the South, Palmyrah Is to the North

By W.V.D. Pieris, M.A., Dip. Agric. (Cantab)  
B. Sc. (London)

(Geneticist, Coconut Research Scheme)

(Concluded from our last issue)

WHEN we come to the uses of the palmyra palm, we notice a remarkable resemblance between it and the coconut. The palmyra is to the people of Jaffna what the coconut palm is to the people of low-country and mid-country of Ceylon. Its uses are innumerable and it is referred to as the Kalpa-Vruksha, a name that is applied to the coconut palm also.

In the *Tala Vilasam*, an ancient Tamil poem on the virtues of the palmyra, a complete translation of which is given in Fergusson's book on the palmyra palm, 301 different uses are mentioned without the list being exhausted. Some of these are admittedly fantastic.

Besides these strange and rather doubtful uses, there are, on the other hand, many more which are noteworthy. These may be taken in order as follows:—

(a) The fruit can be eaten and drunk in its tender stages like the coconut. "The endosperm contains about 93 per cent of water; and in its solids glucose predominates, followed by cane sugar."

(b) Wind-fallen nuts are said to be cut up and fed to cattle. A possible use for wind-fallen coconuts may be noticed here.

(c) The kernel of the ripe fruit is edible when roasted or prepared in other ways, but it is not as useful or as palatable as the kernel of the coconut. Also an oil can be obtained from the pulp.

(d) The juice from the rind or husk contains a "semi-saccharine, farinaceous substance," the chemical nature of which is unknown, and is the source of the well-known *Punatoo*, the preparation and uses of which are described in many books and known perhaps to every man, woman and child in Jaffna. *Punatoo* is a very important article in the dietary of the Jaffna Tamils, but its food value is not placed very high.

(e) The shell is used for fuel and said to be of special value in smithies, and owing to its extreme hardness, the charcoal may possess some special characteristics. The shell may also be amenable to carving and useful for the manufacture

of the Ceylon rupee may be allowed to fall below the Indian rupee in value.

It should be emphasised that neither the expert Committee nor the Ceylon Government has any reason to suppose that devaluation of the Indian rupee is in the least degree probable; it is merely a possibility which no country using Indian currency can afford entirely to ignore.

The Board of Ministers on the advice of the Financial Secretary is inclined to favour the adoption of the scheme put forward by the experts, but before steps are taken to bring forward the necessary legislation the Board invites commercial and other interests to express their opinions.

of curios in the same way as the shell of the coconut.

(f) The germinating nuts give rise to the well known *Kellingos*, which are so widely eaten in Jaffna and which are the fleshy roots extruded during the germination of the nut. "The edible portion forms a third of the whole nut, four months after germination: 9—10 nuts produce about a pound of edible matter from the roots. The *Thavun* (Tamil), *Pelamade* (Sinhalese)—*haustorium*—amounts to 50 per cent of the germinated nut and consists of sugar and starchy matter and is also edible, so that from 9—10 nuts one gets about 2 pounds of edible matter. The edible portion of the root is not highly nitrogenous and consists to a great extent of starches. The nutritive ratio is broad—the food units amounts to 95."

It is said that in the Celebes it is customary to eat the tender shoots of the germinated nuts and also the young plants before the shell has burst.

J. W. Bennett states in *Ceylon and its Capabilities*, published in 1847: "The spring leaf, or *Kellingo* is a most excellent vegetable when boiled or fricassed; this the natives manufacture into a nutritious meal, or flour of delicious flavour, by cutting it off close, after the seeds have been sown a few months, then drying it in the sun, and afterwards pounding it in a rice mortar. The Dutch formerly considered Palmyra flour so very valuable as a convalescent diet, as well as for presents to their friends that they often exported it to the Cape of Good Hope and Holland; in both places it was much esteemed, and used for thickening and imparting its peculiar flavour to soups and made dishes."

It has been stated above that the palmyra palm begins to flower by about the 15th year or earlier if carefully nurtured. At this age, therefore, tapping the inflorescences for toddy can be commenced. Both male and female palms are amenable to tapping, which is carried out in the same manner as with coconut palms; and a palm may be tapped for five months in the year for a maximum period of three years. If tapping is extended beyond this period, it is said to result in a great lowering of the vitality of the palm, which may eventually lead to death.

Seven or eight spathes can be tapped at a time, in which respect the palmyra differs markedly from the coconut in which not more than two or three spathes are tappable simultaneously.

There are many opinions regarding the quality of the toddy, one of which is so eulogistic as to compare it with fresh, mild champagne and another, not quite so complimentary, which likens it to gingerbeer. The reader will be able to call to mind similar widely divergent comments on coconut toddy also. No doubt the flavour depends

(Continued on page 6)

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[Mis 52 26 to 2-6-38]

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[Mis 53 26-5-38]

**Hindu Organ.**

THURSDAY, MAY 26, 1938.

**THE PUBLIC HEALTH OF JAFFNA**

SPEAKING AT THE HEALTH Week and Exhibition in Jaffna a few weeks ago DR. W. S. J. PIERIS has drawn pointed attention to the appalling maternity and infant mortality figures for Jaffna, which he characterised as disgraceful. The figures for maternity mortality for 1937 are 25 per cent higher and those for the decade 1927-1936 are 40% higher than the corresponding figures for all Ceylon. In infant mortality Jaffna figures are 62½ per cent higher than those for all Ceylon. Year after year the vital statistics have the same sorry tale to tell, and yet practically nothing has been done to arrest or even appreciably reduce the incidence of mortality. The Jaffna Tamils still labouring under the delusion that he is living in the healthiest region on earth and should not move beyond the Elephant Pass. While a good many deaths of mothers in child-bed and of infants during the first year may be ascribed to want of proper medical attention and neglect owing partly to the lack of facilities for medical attendance and partly to the ignorance and conservatism of the people which stands in the way of their utilising the

facilities already open to them, the main cause we believe is the low stamina of the people as a whole. Owing to various causes the vitality of the people has become so low, and consequently their power of resistance to disease is also low. A good many children are born who have no chance of survival, because their parents are physically weak; and during the rainy season or as a result of faulty feeding they die of pneumonia or of diarrhoea within a year or two after birth. If nothing is done to arrest this, the prospect for the Jaffna Tamil will be gloomy indeed. The future of the race rests with the mothers and the infants, and no race which so callously allows its mothers and infants to die, as the Jaffna Tamils do, can avert decay and eventual extinction.

Several causes have contributed to the physical degeneration of the Jaffna people. Time was before the second half of the nineteenth century when the Jaffna Tamils were a sturdy virile race with a high expectation of life. Their habits were sober, their life hardy and their wants few. Their staple food was not polished rice, but consisted of a large proportion of vegetables. But gradually the habits of the people underwent a steady change for the worse. Life is now much softer. For the rich as well as the poor polished rice has become the staple food with a minimum of vegetables and proteins. Owing to the scarcity of cattle fodder, animal husbandry has come to be sadly neglected. Thousands of expectant and nursing mothers and infants seldom, if ever, take milk or milk foods. The well-to-do classes lead a sedentary life without any games or physical exercise. Life itself has become one of greater competition and stress.

The provision of increased medical facilities may go some way towards relieving the distress, but the evil must be attacked at the root. The importance of proper nutrition, sanitation, animal husbandry and proper maternal and infant care must be brought home to the people. The Medical, Agricultural and Education departments must cooperate and give practical demonstrations of modern methods. Nothing can compensate the deterioration of physical stamina that has been proceeding in Jaffna. The most crying need of the hour is a physical fitness drive. The schools will be the best places to inaugurate such a drive. Such a campaign will produce a more enduring benefit than communal safeguards and other political privileges. It is high time that our leaders bestirred themselves and did something to give the next generation a better chance of existence.

**A Wise Decision**

The Kurunegala Urban District Council has passed a resolution in favour of replying in Sinhalese or Tamil to communications addressed to it in either of those languages; in case the reply is sent in English a precis in Sinhalese or Tamil will be appended to it. This is a wise decision and we hope the Council will give effect to it. Local government to be really what its name implies should aim at getting nearer and nearer to the rate-payers and making itself easily approachable to the people. As things are the language difficulty is a great handicap with the non-English-knowing people in their transactions with local bodies. Even in the matter of getting some minor things attended to, a rate-payer of the class we refer to has to seek the assistance of an English-knowing neighbour to communicate with the local Council. If a rate-payer has the hardihood to write to the Council in Tamil, his communication runs the risk of finding itself in the notorious W. P. B. We do not blame the Councils but the system that makes this state of affairs possible. It has not been the practice for local Councils to carry on correspondence, wherever necessary, in any of the languages of the country. It involves no doubt some difficulty at the start. But some method may be adopted whereby with minimum inconvenience a local body could act in terms of the Kurunegala decision. The Jaffna Council can do so without much difficulty. Almost the entirety of its rate-payers are Tamil-speaking people and likewise its officers; it can therefore send its replies to communications in Tamil in the same language. It will prove a great boon to the rate-payers if the Council decides to follow such a course. That would make the people take a direct and active interest in the affairs of the town. We would strongly urge on our Town Council to adopt this wholesome practice.

**Magistrate From Pt. Pedro Bar**

Mr. P. Sri Skanda Rajah, Advocate, who commanded a lucrative practice has been appointed Police Magistrate of Dandagamuwa. This is the first appointment from the Point Pedro Bar. He belongs to an influential and respectable family at Tondaiman-Ar. (Cor.)

**MATRIMONIAL**

PARARAJASINGHAM—  
ARUMUGAM

The marriage took place yesterday morning of Mr. K. Pararajasingham, Assistant to Mr. M. Kathiravetpillai, Ayurvedic Physician, Vannarponne, with Miss. Nallammah, daughter of Mr. Arumugam of Suthumalai. There was a large gathering of friends and relatives present at the ceremony at the bride's residence and at the reception at the bride-groom's residence at Nallur.

**Medical Literature In Tamil****Need for Re-writing in Simple Language**

Shiyali, May 22.

THE second Provincial Hereditary Siddhavydya Conference and the 5th special session of the Siddhamaruthuva Conference were held on May 21 and 22 in the local S. M. Hindu High School premises under the presidentship of Dr. P. Varadarajulu Naidu.

The conference began on May 21 with the opening of the Medicine Exhibition by the President.

In welcoming the delegates to the conference, Pandit S. V. Ganasimbandham, Chairman of the Reception Committee, pointed out how the Siddha system had worked well in every age and climate and led that the Madras Government should follow the examples of Bihar and U. P. Governments in the matter of increasing their patronage to the Siddha system by founding Siddha dispensaries and financing them.

Dr. Varadarajulu Naidu, in his presidential address, urged that the large quantity of medical literature in Tamil, unknown to either European or Indian scholars, should be rewritten in simple language, both in Tamil and English, for the benefit of the public. He also pleaded for the compilation of a separate pharmacopoeia and the founding of a separate department by the Government School of Indian Medicine to carry on research in Indian plants and drugs.

After some other doctors had addressed the gathering, the conference adjourned for the day.

Resuming on the 22nd, the conference passed a few resolutions. The conference urged the Government to patronise Siddha physicians, by employing them in hospitals and dispensaries and prayed for the reduction of licence fees. The Government was also requested to fix the age limit for registration at 24 instead of at 28 as now.

Mr. S. V. Ganasimbandham proposed a hearty vote of thanks.

**CHILDREN KILLED BY THOUSANDS****Result of Air Raids In Spain**

London.

Professor J. B. S. Haldane estimates that 10,000 children have been killed in the Government areas of Spain as a result of air raids and that a larger number have been so wounded that they will be permanently affected. He says that there is no proper milk supply and during a stay of some months in Spain he saw only one glass of milk and that was in a hospital.

**A Public Lecture**

Under the auspices of the Kala Nilayam, Jaffna, Mr. R. Krishnamurti, Editor, "Ananda Vikatan," will deliver a lecture on Tamil Culture, in the Vaideshwara Vidyalaya hall on Sunday, the 29th inst. at 6 p.m.

## JAPANESE CLAIM CAPTURE OF HSUCHOW

### Chinese Claim Successes

## GERMANY'S DESIRE TO BE NEUTRAL IN FAR EAST

Tokyo, May 24.

THE Japanese Official Agency claims that Lanfing, 150 miles west of Hsuehchow, on the Lunghai railway, was captured with 80,000 Chinese fleeing north-east and westwards. It is claimed that this is the prelude to an attack on Chengchow, the junction of the Lunghai with the Peking-Hankow line, whence an attack would sever the route to Hankow.

Chinese troops from Inner Mongolia are sweeping down on Peiping, according to a delayed military despatch from Hankow.

The Chinese claim to have re-captured Bohangping, 25 miles to the north-west, also large portions of Suiyuan and about half of Shaansi.

Chinese military experts estimate that Japan has 2,000,000 soldiers in China and 300,000 in Manchuria.

### Germany to be Strictly Neutral

The German Ambassador in Hankow confirms that the German advisers to the Chinese army have been ordered to leave because Germany is anxious to remain strictly neutral in the Far East dispute.

The advisers total 40, all of whom, except four, who for political reasons do not wish to return to Germany, are leaving within a fortnight.

The Red Cross mission, comprising four doctors, which arrived from Germany two months ago, is also leaving within a few days.

### Farewell to Dr. K. Ponniiah D. M. O., Jaffna

The Saiva Tamil School premises at Mallakam presented a gay scene on the evening of the 21st inst. when in response to invitations issued by the residents of Mallakam, a large gathering was present to bid farewell to Dr. K. Ponniiah, D. M. O. Jaffna who has been transferred to Kurunegala. Dr. and Mrs. K. Ponniiah were met about a quarter of a mile away from the school and were taken in procession to the school premises where after a group photograph was taken and refreshments were served the function which was presided over by Mr. M. S. Subramanian Proctor, began with the singing by Mas. Coomaraswamy, Misses Mahesvari, Seethadevi and Pathmavathy of farewell songs composed by Mr. R. N. Sivapragasam. Then the chairman in a very eloquent speech addressed the gathering eulogising the qualities and appreciating the services of the guest of the evening. Then speeches were made by Messrs. R. N. Sivapragasam, A. Saravanamuttu and T. N. Appadurai. Dr. Ponniiah feelingly replied.

### Reducing Rly Expenditure

#### A New Scheme under Contemplation

Colombo, Wednesday.

INSTEAD of closing down certain non-paying sections of the Railway as recommended by the Transport Commission, a new measure is under contemplation for reducing the working expenditure of stations, by the appointment of officers in class III of the Railway Clerical Service to do a large proportion of the work that is at present being done by officers in Class II of the service.

This scheme is to be introduced gradually into all sections of the railway so that the efficient working of the stations may not be impaired. For the present about fifty such places are to be filled by Class III hands and the more efficient among them are to be selected for this purpose. The Class II hands who will be thus relieved are to be allotted work in other spheres of the railway.

In this connection, it may be mentioned that this is one of many efforts that are being made in accordance with the policy of not closing down the unremunerative sections of the railway until all possible attempts to make them pay have been tried.

### Rev. Dr. T. Isaac Tambyah

#### A Tribute

THE WHIP, writing in the "Times of Ceylon" of 24-5-38, pays the following handsome and well-merited tribute to the Rev. Dr. Isaac Tambyah, President of The Jaffna Association:—

Dr. Isaac Tambyah continues to lead an active life in Jaffna. No public movement is complete without him.

In spite of periods of illness he retains the vigour of his youth—of those days when in the height of his glory in Colombo as an Advocate the Minister of Labour, Mr. Corea, was his clerk.

At the Jaffna Carnival Mr. Corea paid a touching tribute to Dr. Tambyah recalling the gems of wisdom he had assimilated. Not only did the reference gladden Dr. Tambyah's heart but it kindled inspiration in the hearts of the other listeners.

In the present political imbroglio his advice is constantly sought and readily given.

### Transferred

Mr. P. M. Norris, Provincial Engineer, Jaffna, has been transferred to Badulla in succession to Mr. W. G. Scott, Provincial Engineer, Uva.

## Challenge of the Electrical Dept.

### Jaffna Council Disputes Claim

The Jaffna Urban District Council at its monthly meeting on Saturday refused to sanction a travelling claim of Rs. 135 by the Department of Electrical Undertakings in respect of expenses incurred Mr. F. A. Fernando, Assistant Electrical Engineer.

The Council had refused to sanction the payment of the Rs. 135 at an earlier meeting held in September last year. The President of the Local Government Board wrote to the Council on April 28 this year, requesting it to sanction the payment of the sum in question.

Among the items that came up for consideration at Saturday's meeting of the Council was one "to consider letter No. N. of May 11, 1938, from the Chief Accountant and letter No. M. of May 11, 1938, from the President, Local Government Board and connected papers regarding travelling claim of the Assistant Electrical Engineer.

#### Nothing to do with Railway

Mr. S. Patanjali: With reference to the letter from the Chief Accountant, C. G. R., all that I have to say is that we have nothing to do with the railway and the railway with us. The Chairman should write accordingly.

The Chairman: I thought of not replying as we have nothing to do with him.

The Chairman then read the following letters from the President of the Local Government Board:

"It is not reasonable to expect the Department of Electrical Undertakings, which is a Commercial Department, to undertake the preparation of estimates for further extensions in respect of 1938-39, unless Council first makes settlement of the charges so long due to the Department.

"I earnestly trust that your Council will see its way to sanctioning the payment of the same item in question in order to avoid delay in the preparation of estimates for the electricity extensions scheme and in the completion of this extension."

Mr. Patanjali opposed the sanctioning of the payment.

#### Ruling Sought

After earnestly appealing to the members to stand by the resolution already passed by the Council, and by refusing to sanction the payment of the travelling claim, to take up the challenge of the Department with regard to the future work, Mr. Patanjali moved:

"This Council resolves to appeal to the Minister of Local Administration and Local Government Board ruling, firstly whether the amount in dispute is legitimately payable and secondly whether the Department can refuse to undertake the further work on the ground of our failure to pay the travelling expenses"

Mr. S. M. Aboobucker seconded.

In the course of further discussion the Chairman stated that it looked as if the Department was withholding the approved plan for the scheme of extensions till that amount was paid.

Mr. Patanjali: In that case we should file an action in the Police Court.

Chairman: Do you want to

## MATCH MANUFACTURE IN CEYLON

### MANUFACTURERS CONFER WITH REGISTRAR-GENERAL

#### ONE CENT PER BOX MINIMUM PRICE

Colombo, Wednesday.

THE fourth Conference of Match Manufacturers convened by the Registrar-General is being held at the Registrar-General's Office this afternoon under the direction of Mr. J. C. W. Rock, assisted by Mr. D. H. Balfour, Assistant Director of Commerce and Industries, and Mr. E. C. S. Paul, Assistant Director of Commercial Intelligence.

It is learnt that the object of the conference is to reconsider the terms of the allocation of the quotas agreed on at the last conference.

A draft set of regulations, framed by the Registrar General had been considered by the match manufacturing concerns, but was not quite acceptable to their representatives.

Today's conference is expected to settle those issues definitely so that legislation might be passed at as early a date as possible.

The question of a minimum price has been more or less fixed at one cent per box.

The Ordinance was framed in September last year. The Governor declined to give his consent to what was described as a vicious trade principle i.e. the restriction of output by quotas.

The Bill was ultimately passed by the Secretary of State with effect from March this year.

But the Ordinance cannot be put into operation till the allocation of quotas are finally settled.

It is understood that there are thirteen match manufacturing concerns that claim licences.

## DEEPENING TONDAIMAN-AR HARBOUR

### Rs. 10,000 asked for by Harbour Committee

That a vote of Rs. 10,000 for deepening the mouth of the Tondaiman-Ar harbour be included in this year's budget is the request made by the Tondaiman-Ar Committee in a communication addressed to the Minister for Communications and Works.

The Committee in its letter adds:—

"We do not say that Tondaiman-Ar was a port in the past, but that vessels used to come there to transport salt, timber and road metal etc. What we contend is that it can be easily converted into a safe anchorage and if the Government has no objection into a Customs Port as well"

appeal to the Local Government Board?

Mr. Patanjali: Yes; the Board is different from its President. The members are drawn from the public, and they will view this question from our angle of view. I am prepared to abide by the decision of the Minister and the Local Government Board.

The resolution of Mr. Patanjali was carried unanimously.

## JAFFNA CENTRAL LIBRARY

### Meeting to Form Readers' Union

A Meeting of the readers and sympathisers of the Jaffna Central Library will be held at the Library Hall at 5 p.m. on Wednesday 25th May, 1938 for the purpose of forming a Readers' Union with the following object in view:—

(1) To popularise reading habit in the country.

(2) To assist the authorities of the Jaffna Central Library in furthering the growth of the Library to the satisfaction of the readers.

(3) To provide for the benefit of the public and the readers of the Library, lectures, debates etc. from time to time.

(4) To encourage study circles and such other things that the union may decide from time to time.

## Nayanmakaddu Hospital Centenary

A preliminary meeting of representative gentlemen interested in the Nayanmakaddu Ayurvedic Hospital was held in the Hospital premises on Saturday May 21st 1938, at 4-30 p.m.

Among those present were—Muhandiram S. Kanapathypillai Kachcheri Madaliyar, S. Chellappah Shroff Jaffna Mutual Benefit Fund, A. Coomaraswamy, Principal Jaffna Hindu College, Gate Mudaliyar P. J. Rajah, P. Moses, J. P. C. Ponnambalam Advocate P. T. Sambandan, Superintendent Chiviataru Salt pans, Dr. A. Rajmayagam, L. I. M., Muhandiram N. Muttiah, S. F. X. Annasauyypillai Udaiyar, V. Thambiah, T. Kathiravelpillai, S. Thanboo, Rev. Sathianathai, S. Patanjali Puroctor, V. Duwampah, K. Thirugnanasambandar, Rev. S. Somasunderam, R. Ponnambalam, R. Somasunderam, Udaiyar, A. M. Broodi, K. M. Chellappah, S. Ponnusamy and S. Thambapillai.

Muhandiram S. Kanapathypillai was elected Chairman, Mr. C. Arulambalam acted as Secretary.

After the notice convening the meeting was read the Chairman explained the object of the meeting. The Secretary and Dr. V. S. Ramanathan explained at length the needs of the hospital.

It was resolved to hold the centenary celebration of the hospital in July next, the celebration to take the form of a Garden party followed by a public meeting, the Minister of Health to be requested to preside at the Public Meeting. It was also decided to collect a centenary fund for the hospital with a view if funds permitted to have a new ward to be named the centenary ward to be erected and added to the hospital.

The following committee was elected to carry out the necessary arrangements:—Messrs A. Coomaraswamy P. Moses, C. Ponnambalam, P. T. Sambandar, S. Thanboo, S. Patanjali, K. M. Chellappah, Rev. Somasunderam, K. Thirugnanasambandar, S. Chellappah and C. Arulambalam, Mr. Chellappah to be Treasurer and C. Arulambalam to be Secretary and convener of the Committee.

## SUDDEN DEATH OF M. S. C.

### Mr. S. O. Canagaretnam

Colombo, Monday.

Mr. S. O. Canagaretnam, M.S.C. Batticaloa South) in the State Council, died suddenly yesterday morning of heart failure at his residence in Kotabena, Colombo.

Mr. Canagaretnam attended last week's session of the Council and appeared to be in the best of health.

Yesterday morning, however, about six o'clock, he complained of not feeling well and requested his wife to summon a doctor. Although the doctor arrived within ten minutes, Mr. Canagaretnam was dead.

Mr. Canagaretnam was elected to the Council by a majority of over 1500 votes in a three-cornered contest at the last general election. He was widely known in the Eastern and Northern Provinces and was always interested in the welfare of his constituents.

He began his career as a public servant being the interpreter of the Batticaloa District Court and afterwards Deputy Fiscal at Jaffna. He returned to Batticaloa as Kachcheri Mudaliyar.

Mr. Canagaretnam's remains were taken to Batticaloa last night.

At the inquest held yesterday morning, the City Coroner returned a verdict of death due to heart disease.

## REPLIES IN SINHALESE AND TAMIL

### Kurunegala Council's Decision

The Kurunegala Urban District Council has passed a resolution in favour of replying in Sinhalese or Tamil to communications addressed to it in either of those languages. In case the reply is sent in English a précis in Sinhalese or Tamil will be appended to it.

### V. C. Chairman on Trial

(Continued from page 2)

man had told him that the amount for the margosa tree had not been credited to revenue.

The Government Agent asked for an explanation. The Chairman said he had received Rs. 36 but not the balance. It was not his practice to enter past payments.

The purchaser, he said, was his neighbour and he had not taken steps to recover the balance. The neighbour (Vallipuram) was sent for, and he said that he had paid Rs. 40 at the spot and three or four days later he had paid the balance. No receipt was given. The fact that he was allowed to fill the tree was proof of payment.

Mr. Nihal Gunaseker, Crown Counsel, present, Mr. E. F. N. Gratian with Mr. S. Natesan instructed by Mr. R. R. Nalliah defended.

## THE PALMYRA PALM

(Continued from page 3)

to a great extent on the tree (or variety?) and to an even greater extent on the degree of cleanliness with which the toddy is drawn. It is said that the toddy from the male palm is both sweeter and twice as plentiful as that from the female palm, and work done in Peradeniya by the Agricultural Chemist indicates a higher percentage of cane sugar in female toddy than in male toddy.

Fermented toddy, which may have an alcohol content ranging from 3 to nearly 7 per cent., yields on distilling a spirit similar to coconut arrack. Suggestions have been made, as with coconut arrack, that this might serve as a source of industrial alcohol.

The yield of toddy is said to be about 3 to 5 quarts a day in India and Ceylon and 1—3 gallons a day in Burma; while to get one gallon of coconut toddy daily five coconut palms have to be tapped on an average.

Sugar production from sweet toddy is widely practised where palmyra palms are found in plenty and in Jaffna it may be considered as a useful cottage industry.

Three-quarts of palmyra toddy are said to be able to yield one pound of jaggery. Therefore, taking 3 quarts as the daily yield per palm, in five months a palm may be expected to yield 450 quarts convertible into 150 pounds of jaggery. Corresponding figures for coconut sweet toddy have been given as 50 gallons per palm for an eight months' working, or 535 pounds of toddy yielding one-twelfth of that weight or 45 pounds of jaggery. (Child—Ceylon Trade Journal, Nov., 1936).

The superiority of the palmyra palm over the coconut palm as a source of crude sugar and jaggery is worthy of note.

A noteworthy by-product of the toddy industry is vinegar, the preparation of which is similar to that of coconut vinegar.

A variety of fibres is obtained from the palmyra palm. Thus, different kinds of fibres are obtained from the leaves, the leaf-stalks, the bases of the leaf-stalks, the stem and the pericarp of the fruit; but their commercial exploitation has been retarded in recent years.

"Fibre from the long stalks has been marketed in London under the name of Bassine, as a substitute for Bass. An export of this from Ceylon began about 1850. Cordage can be made from the finer fibre, and scrubbing brushes from the lower ends of the leaf-stalks." (7). It is stated that 20 stalks yield one pound of cleaned fibre and that one man can beat out 7—10 pounds of fibre a day.

The stem or tar fibre is worthy of special mention as it is said to be "prepared in some special way by fishermen so that it becomes pliable and can be plaited into fish-traps. It is neither spun nor twisted, a single thread of filrov scular bundle being used. The method of preparation adopted by fishermen has not yet been made public."

Whatever the reliability of the information might be which was supplied to Ferguson when he was compiling his book on the palmyra palm that the use of palmyra leaves

## CONGRESS GOVT. IN MADRAS

### Lecture in Jaffna by Indian Journalist

Mr. R. Krishnamurti, Editor, "Ananda Vikatan," will deliver a lecture on "Congress Government in Madras," in the Jaffna Town Hall on Friday the 27th inst at 5 p.m.

The lecture is under the auspices of the Youth Congress, Jaffna.

### "At Home" to Indian Visitors

The North Ceylon Indian Association, Jaffna will, as "At Home" to Messrs. Krishnamurthy ('Kalki') and Mahalingam ('Mali') of 'Ananda Vikatan' and to Subramania Bhagavathar of 'Musiri' at 4 p.m. on Saturday the 28th inst. at the Lawa Ayurvedic Medical College, Jaffna.

as writing materials dated back to more than 4,000 years, it is now generally held that this use was, at any rate, known in India long before the 7th century A. D., during which the great Chinese traveller Hsien Tsiang visited that country. Apart from their historical interest, however, palm leaves, including those of the palmyra, cannot be considered as of importance to present-day literati, unless indeed some devastating war precipitated the world once more into the primitive discomferts of barbarism,—a possibility that may not be so remote as one should like to imagine.

There are many other uses to which palmyra leaves have been put from time immemorial. They are made into the characteristic fans that are so generally observed in the hands of Buddhist priests. They are used for thatching, where coconut branches are not available, made into mats, bags, and baskets and fine strips of the leaves, especially those that are young and unexpanded, can be plaited to make very fine hats. They are also used as a manure in rice-fields; and quite recently it has been found that a very satisfactory paper can be made from them.

From the pith of the trunk, which is a store-house for starch, a sago can be made at a certain stage of growth and, as mentioned earlier, the wood of the seasoned palm, which in addition to its other uses, is resistant to the action of seawater, is of considerable value and is the only wood available in certain parts of India. Like the well-seasoned wood of the coconut palm, the wood of the male palmyra is very hard, capable of being turned into furniture and amenable to carving.

There are many other uses too numerous to mention, but this essay cannot be brought to a close without a reference to that most gentle of all animals, the Palmyra Elephant, who has now made so many ambassadorial journeys to England on behalf of Ceylon. He may well be recognized as the symbol of Jaffna, re-awakened to the value of her Heavenly Palm, and it is not likely that upon his broad and friendly back may yet repose the future welfare of our industrious brethren of the North.

**MARKET FOR JAFFNA CAMBOYS**

**Marketing Commissioner's Interest**

Colombo, Tuesday.

A keen interest in Jaffna camboys has been taken by the Marketing Commissioner, who hopes to put another dying industry again on its former level.

The fashion for using these camboys as an article of clothing is waning and the weavers are in a bad plight.

A full window has been set apart for the display of these camboys at Ceylon Products, Chatham Street, Fort.

Mr. H. Bassett, the Marketing Commissioner, told "The Times of Ceylon" today that he was in touch with the makers of Jaffna camboys.

There was a good sale at Ceylon Products, those beautiful

camboys and local residents, who now wear them as cushion covers, bedspreads and curtains.

"The weaving," said Mr. Bassett, "is excellent and the colourful patterns are as attractive as any material produced anywhere else."

"However, if the public can be made to use these materials once again, the weavers can become a prosperous community instead of being representatives of one of Ceylon's distressed areas."

**Order Nisi**

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA

(held at Point Pedro)

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 59/PT In the matter of the estate of the late Thampalath Kanapathippillai of Thampalath Deceased.

Sinnappillai widow of Kanapathippillai of Thampalath

Vs. Petitioner.

- 1. Packiam daughter of Kanapathippillai of Thampalath
- 2. Kanapathippillai Vinayagam-pillai of do
- 3. Kathirattai widow of Kandiah of do

Respondents

This matter coming on for disposal before C. E. A. Samarakody Esquire Additional District Judge of Jaffna on the 9th day of May 1938 in the presence of Mr. K. Muttukumaru Proctor on the part of the Petitioner and the Petition and affidavit of the Petitioner having been read.

It is hereby ordered that the above-named 3rd Respondent be and she is hereby appointed guardian-ad-litem over the minors the above-named 1st and 2nd Respondents to represent them in the Testamentary proceedings to be instituted by the Petitioner and that the Petitioner be and she is hereby declared entitled to take out Letters of Administration to the above estate as the widow of the deceased, and that letters of administration be issued to her accordingly unless the respondents above-named appear and show cause to the contrary on or before the 3rd day of June 1938.

The 14th day of May 1938.

Sd. C. E. A. Samarakody, Additional District Judge.

[O. A. 26 & 30-5-38]

**Land for Sale**

A Land, which is 6½ lachams in extent with shop buildings opposite the Jubilee Hospital, is for sale. Price Rs. 4000/- or the nearest offer. Please write to

J. T. SOLOMONS, Chandikul, Jaffna.

[Misc. 7, 23 & 24-2-38.]

**THE INDO-ARYANS**

(Continued from page 1)

'lord' 'master', 'king'. (2) This tradition so faithfully recorded by the Babylonian historian establishes the fact that the South Indian Panar of old proceeded to Mesopotamia, Sumer and Babylon through the Persian Gulf.

Whoever these Panis might be, the fact remains that they played a very important part in the migration of the Aryans to India. We have already noticed that in pre-historic times these Panis not only carried on a continuous intercourse with Mesopotamia, but evidently had their own settlement there. It then happened that the Aryans had to evacuate their original home by the banks of the Indus, and in their migration eastward

in Mesopotamia. The existence of the Mittani in Babylonia and the similarity of their gods Mita-ra-sh, Uru-anna, In-dar and Na-sa-at-ti-ia-an-na with the Indo-Aryan gods Mitra, Varuna, Indra and the Nasatiyas (3) make it now quite certain that in the course of their migration the Aryan nation stopped for a long time at Mesopotamia.

It is interesting to note here that Rawlinson also mentions a somewhat similar fact, though his conclusion is slightly coloured and of a reverse order. He writes: "Trade between the Indus valley and the Euphrates is, no doubt, very ancient. The earliest trace of this intercourse is probably to be found in the cuneiform inscriptions of the Hittite kings of Mitanni in Cappadocia, belonging to the fourteenth or fifteenth century B. C. These kings bore Aryan names, and worshipped the Vedic gods Indra, Mitra, Varuna, and the Aswins, whom they call by their Vedic title *Masatya*. They were evidently closely connected, though we cannot yet precisely determine how, with the Aryans of the Vedic age, who were at that time dwelling in the Punjab. These names were discovered by Prof. Hugo Winchler on a cuneiform tablet at the Hittite capital Boghazkoi in 1907" (4)

The R. v. Fr. Heras continues thus: "Here (Mesopotamia) they were subjected to much sufferings and hardships under the slavery of their Semetic overlords, and they, therefore, decided to escape to new lands. They had seen the wonderful natural goods or manufactured products brought by the Panis, and they had come to know that these merchants came from Suryastra or Surastra,

'the country of the Sun.' The idea of going to Surastra naturally arose in their heads. It was a colossal adventure. The Aryas coming from the banks of the Volga had never seen the sea, few amongst them had reached the shores of Sumer in south Mesopotamia. They had, therefore, no sea-faring inclination. The leader of the Aryas, the Asura Indar-called afterwards in the Vedic hymns Indra, did not dare to take the whole nation to this new land at once. First he wanted to make a trial. He took two families with him, the families of the Yadus and Turvasas; and embarking in one of the ships of the Panis, they set sail from lower Mesopotamia and after a number of days landed on the shores of Surastra (modern Kathiawar).

The Aryas into India across the ocean is mentioned several times in the Rig Veda. "Whither, O Hero, o'er the sea thou broughtest, in safety broughtest, Turvasa and Yadu," says a hymn dedicated to Indra (5). Another one says: "When over the flood thou broughtest them, O Hero, thou keepest Turvasa and Yadu safely." (6) A third passage even testifies to the fear they felt in their hearts before sailing: "So sapient Indra, Lord of might, brought Turvasa and Yadu, those who feared the flood (sea) in safety o'er." (7)

The Rev. Father further remarks that "the most common opinion among the scholars is that the place where the Aryans landed is the modern Kathiawar, the ancient Surastra, (8) and that, if they landed on the Surastra shores, they did so because they followed the route of their leader, the Panis. What harbour of Kathiawar was their objective we do not know for certain. Yet it seems probable that the landing place of the first Aryan expedition into India was the modern Veraval or its neighbourhood."

The Rev. Father concludes thus: "When the Yadus and Turvasas were definitely settled in the country in friendship with, and with the acquiescence of the Dravidian ruler, Indar, their valiant leader, returned to Assyria on a Panivessel and started to prepare the exodus of the whole Aryan nation. It was then that Vittra, probably an Assyrian monarch, was slain by the hero of the Aryas, and by his means also the whole of the country was flooded, a flood which saved the Aryans from the fury of the Assyrian army after the death of their monarch. Finally Indar could take away the Aryan nation to the country of the Sun by land. But they encountered numerous enemies on their way, they fought innumerable battles against them, they had to surmount innumerable perils. Indar himself perished per-

**Science and Practice of Agriculture in India**

(Continued from Page 1.)

characteristics of soil are not correlated with the moisture-levels at which the farmer would plough. This is probably because of the aggregation of particles under the intense heat of the sun and the effect of salt concentration due to evaporation.

There is evidence that frequent and deep cultivation is harmful to the soil and to the crop. This is in opposition to what we have been taught but it is agreement with the practice of the cultivator who, except at great intervals of time, does not ordinarily cultivate his soils deeply, nor is he willing to carry out too frequent cultivations of the surface soil. At Hagari in the dry farming tract of the Bellary district, cultivation of black soils to a depth of eight inches every year with a view to conserve moisture was distinctly harmful to crop while, when it was done once in five years, it was distinctly beneficial to both cotton and jowar. On the other hand, in the shallow soils of Bombay-Deccan deep cultivation appears to be beneficial. On the west coast of peninsular India, it is the general practice to plough light paddy soils with excellent results, but the same practice in the heavy delta soils has proved a failure. Recent experience in England also has raised doubts whether deep cultivation or intensive cultivation is really and always good. In an experiment in 1932 in England, neither potato or sugar beet responded to more intensive cultivation than was necessary to keep down weeds. Indeed, further cultivation beyond this minimum amount did more harm than good.

haps in the fray of a battle in Turkestan. The first effect of Indar's death was inaction in the Aryan nation. The second effect was the split up of the Aryan nation immediately caused by the deification of Indar. A section of the Aryans having finally found a new leader probably Divodasa, once more continued their march towards the country of the Sun. When they finally crossed its boundaries and settled in Saptasindhu first and then in Madhyadesa, they tried to effect a union with the Yadus and the Turvasas settled on the western coast. "May we see Tarvasa and Yadu", prays Devatithi in one of the Rig Veda hymns. (9) The union was finally effected."

Thus ends the version of Rev. Fr. Heras. This is indeed interesting as well as edifying. The theory of Aryan supremacy, physical, cultural and spiritual, so widely popularized by Max Muller, may therefore be given now a decent burial. R. I. P.

(5) Rig V. I. 21, 12.  
 (6) Rig. I. 174, 9.  
 (7) Rig. IV. 30, 17.  
 (8) Chanda, *Indo-Aryan Races*, Pt. I, pp. 24, 25 Bannerji *op. cit.* p. 25, quoted by Rev. Fr. Heras.  
 (9) Rig. viii. 4, 7.

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Y. 65. 1-3-38—31-3-39. (T)

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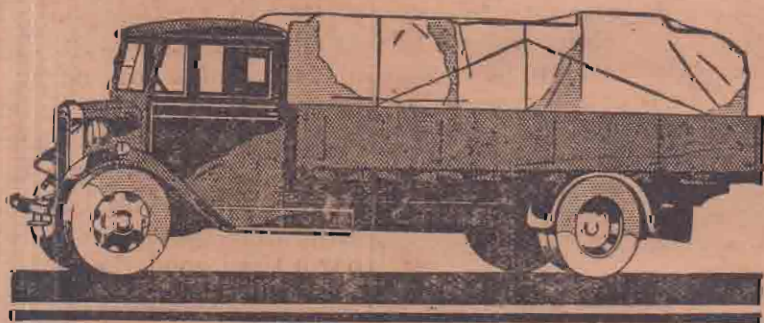
**S. P. JOSEPH,**

Manager, Jaffna Branch.

(Y. 54. 22-6-37 to 21-6-38.) [T]

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Y. 136. 19/8/37 to 18/8/38.)

**Order Nisi**IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF  
JAFFNA

(Held at Point Pedro)

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 39/PT.  
In the matter of the Estate of the  
late Thirugnanasambandakkurukkal  
Sevvanthinathakkurukkal of Kara-  
navai South. Deceased.

Thirugnanasambandakkurukkal Kai-  
layakkurukkal of Karanavai South  
Vs. Petitioner.

1. Sivapackiammah widow of  
Thirugnanasambandakkurukkal
2. Vetharaniakkurukkal Sadda-  
nathakkurukkal
3. and wife Sivakamiammah, all  
of Karanavai South

Respondents.

This matter coming on for disposal  
before Herbert S. Roberts Esquire,  
Additional District Judge, Jaffna, on

the 21st day of January 1938 in the  
presence of Mr. C. Thanabalasingham  
Proctor on the part of the Petitioner  
and the petition and affidavit of the  
petitioner having been read.

It is ordered that the Petitioner be  
and he is hereby declared entitled to  
take out letters of administration to  
the Estate of the late Thirugnana-  
sambandakkurukkal Sevvanthinathak-  
kurukkal as brother of the deceased  
and that letters of administration be  
issued to him accordingly unless the  
respondents or any other person shall  
on or before the 17th day of February  
1938 shew sufficient cause to the  
satisfaction of this Court to the  
contrary.

This 21st day of January 1938.

Sgl. Herbert S. Roberts,  
Addl. District Judge.

Extended for 27-5-38,

[O. 23 &amp; 26-5-38.]

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Y. 225. 21-11-37—20-11-38 ( 's)

**S. SELLAPPAN,**  
Manager.

Printed and published by S. ADCHALINGAM, residing at Vannarponnai  
East, Jaffna, for and on behalf of the Proprietors, the Saiva Paripalana  
Sabai, Jaffna, at their Press, the Saiva Prakasa Press, Vannarponnai  
Jaffna, on THURSDAY, MAY 26, 1938.