

# 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, JUNE 9, 1938.

Price 5 Cts.

NO. 17.

## A NEW THREAT TO EUROPEAN PEACE

### Czechoslovakia And Germany

By G. F. Eliot  
(in *The New Republic*.)

"HE who holds Bohemia", Bismarck once said, "is master of Europe." It is a statement strategically accurate—almost, in view of present developments, tragically accurate. For Czechoslovakia stands to-day on the flank of the German "Drang nach Osten"; while Czechoslovakia lives, the oil of Rumania and the wheat of the Ukraine are but dreams for eager Nazis.

Let the reader look at a map of Europe—not a political, but a physical map. Note the great mountain barrier which divides Central Europe from the northern and western parts of the continent. The left flank of that barrier is the Alpine mass, beginning at the Gulf of Lions and sweeping round through Switzerland to the Danube; the right flank is formed by the Carpathians, covering the Danubian plain from the Black Sea to the Moravian Gate. The center, thrusting out to the northwest like the outwork of a fortification, is the Bohemian plateau, covered on the north by the Sudeten range, on the west and south by the Bohmerwald (facing the Danube) and which with its rear is defended by the Moravian hills.

#### Fortress of Bohemia

Through this mountain barrier into the Danubian plain, and so onward to the Black Sea, there are but two main passages; that of the Danube Valley between the Alps and the Bohmerwald, and the Moravian Gate between the Sudetens and the Carpathians. Both are flanked by the great "fortress of Bohemia." If Bohemia be held by a power actually or potentially hostile, no German advance to the eastward by either passage can ever be secure.

The German rape of Austria has brought her possession of the Danubian gateway; she is on the verge of the Central European plain. But no permanent advance, no enduring

German economic and political system can be established here until the flanking fortress has been reduced. A fortress is not of itself a barrier to advance along a route which it flanks; it is by acting as a base, as a pivot of manoeuvre for a field army, that it operates to close such routes. Otherwise it has no power beyond the very limited range of its guns. The Bohemian Plateau, acting as a fortress in a larger sense, forms in very truth the bastion of Central Europe against a German incursion to the south and east. The immediate German military problem of the "Drang nach Osten," then, is the reduction of the Bohemian fortress. Germany's acquisition of Austria brings her around three sides of this crucial position.

#### German Army

But it has been overlooked, in much of the gloomy prediction which has followed a general realization of this ominous fact, that the German army of 1938 is quite a different force from that of 1914. For sixteen years—from 1919 to 1935—there was no compulsory military service in Germany; there was no annual class of recruits returning home from the colours to form the great reservoir of trained reservists upon which a modern army depends. During this period, the German army consisted of 100,000 men, enlisted for twelve years' service; most of those men, the famous Reichswehr, are non-commissioned officers to-day. They form the backbone of the new German army, to which have been added the classes of recruits called up from 1935 onwards for two years' training. Each class includes about 325,000 young men. The 1935 class was dismissed to the reserve in October, 1937; they are the only fully trained reserves that Germany possesses at the mo-

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## Legal Interest

### Reduction of Rates

#### Committee Approves Draft Bill

Colombo, Tuesday.

THE Executive Committee of Labour, Industry and Commerce approved the draft of a Bill yesterday for reducing the legal rates of interest.

The interest on secured loans is proposed to be reduced to nine per cent from eighteen per cent.

It is proposed that interest on unsecured loans should be twelve per cent.

The interest on decrees of Court is to be reduced from nine per cent to six per cent.

## CEYLON HOUSE IN LONDON

### To be Moved to New Premises

Colombo June 7

Ceylon House in London is to be transferred from its present premises to the Trafalgar Square end of Cockspur Street.

This decision was reached yesterday by the Executive Committee of Labour, Industry and Commerce.

At present Ceylon House in London is situated in Aldwych, and it has been there since its opening in 1934.

(Continued.)

quite recently he applied for seventy-five Indian labourers to work the Elephant Pass Salterns.

"The Government of India, however, has for very good reasons not acceded to his request. Yet Mr. Bandaranaike speaks of the 'stranglehold.' If he had been quite candid about it, he would have spoken of the 'indispensable need' for the Indian labourer in Ceylon.

#### A Threat

"Before the formation of the Sinhala Maha Sabha, our friends would never have said that they were communally minded. In fact they were taking to task everybody else in the Island for being communal. At least in the future this will not happen.

"I only wish that politicians will not create communal tension in this country. It certainly is no crime to be communal but communal animosity is bound to have ugly repercussions which must be avoided."

## INDIANS IN CEYLON

### THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO CEYLON'S PROSPERITY

#### MALAYALI CLAIM

"THE Indian came to Ceylon to settle down in the past and in recent times the Indian labourer has come at the desire of the Government of this country. He has contributed more than anybody else to the prosperity of this Island" said Mr. P. R. Kurup, presiding at the annual general meeting of the Malayali Mahayana Sabha, Colombo.

He claimed that they were the largest political association in Ceylon. He said that they could well congratulate themselves because their membership exceeded 13,000.

It was well that an Indian labour group like theirs consolidated their ranks particularly at that juncture when one heard so much talk about depriving the Indian in Ceylon of his vote.

"I am surprised to hear of this demand even from responsible circles in this country.

#### Very Reactionary

"It is a very unjust and reactionary demand. I am sure no person in any part of the British Empire, who once enjoyed the 'franchise' was ever subsequently deprived of it.

"It is so unBritish that I am sure neither the Governor nor the Secretary of State for the Colonies will ever tolerate it.

"As Indians we have also made our representations to the proper authorities about our interests in any revision of the Constitution, and I am sure we can reasonably expect a larger measure of representation under the Constitution that is to be.

"Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike at a recent meeting of the Sinhala Maha Sabha spoke of the 'stranglehold' of the Indian in this country.

"The Indian came to Ceylon to settle down in the past and in recent times the Indian labourer has come at the desire of the Government of this country. He has contributed more than anybody else to the prosperity of this Island.

"Mr. Bandaranaike himself is convinced that Ceylon cannot get on without Indian labour, for

(Continued on previous column)

# GENTLEMEN, HIS EXCELLENCY

By Rev. Dr. T. Isaac Tambyah

MAN is a petitioning animal. Anybody may petition anybody for anything. Only there should not be injury caused thereby to third parties. There is one exception to this principle. The subject's right to petition his sovereign is untrammelled by third party risk considerations. Some years ago a man sent a petition to Governor McCallum. In it he alleged several of the sins and iniquities of a tyrannous headman. The document was referred to the Government Agent for report and he reported that the allegations were all false. The unfortunate petitioner was thereupon prosecuted under certain sections of the Ceylon Penal Code which provide against false information. He was convicted and sentenced to a term of imprisonment. His appeal from the conviction and sentence came up before Mr. Justice Middleton. I argued the appeal urging only one point. The petition had been addressed to the King's Representative in Ceylon and as such was privileged. The learned Judge as far as my recollection goes, was inclined to agree with my submission. On the suggestion, however, of the Solicitor General who appeared in support of the conviction, the case was referred to a Divisional Bench. Mr. Justice (later Sir Alexander) Wood Renton and Mr. Justice Middleton heard the appeal. During the progress of the hearing Mr. Justice Wood Renton more than once said "the Governor of this Colony is the most senior Public Servant." And no more. The Bench finally held that barring those administrators who are viceroys, a Governor is in no sense the King's Representative. Until a full bench upsets this ruling it is good law, and, like many good laws, it goes against popular sentiment. A Governor touring the Provinces, is accorded royal and almost divine honours. The temple umbrellas, as lately in Jaffna, are held over him. In set terms he is referred to as His Majesty the King's Representative. Oriental mentality being prone to superlatives is no doubt addicted to glorification in excelsis. That a Government Agent or a newly invested headman is often accorded similar honors does not puzzle the man in the street. He is prepared to extend the King's Representative principle to even a village vidhan. It is a weakness, this elasticity of the King's Representative principle. The legal mind unlike that of the man in the street, seizes upon this tolerant extension as an argument in favour of that Divisional Bench's startling of a grand delusion. The people know nothing, care nothing about the sublimities propounded by the Divisional Bench. The Governor is to them in the place of His Most Excellent Majesty the King. A full Bench itself, I fear, cannot carry to the masses conviction to the contrary.

The case, however, for the man in the street and his sentiment finds support from an unexpected quarter. In the Donoughmore Commission's Report (1928) p 71 occurs this sentence.

"The first is to approximate his position to that of a Governor

who has no constitutional responsibility for the Government of the country where he represents the Sovereign..."

What is said after that sentence does not lessen the meaning of the words, he represents the Sovereign.

Clearer and above all possibilities of any ambiguous interpretation is the statement in Appendix V of the same Report (p175) quoting in full the Government Proclamation of Nov. 21 1818 in connection with the famous *Kandyan Convocation*. It is Sir Robert Brownrigg, Governor, who speaks:

"The exercise of power by the Representative of His Britannic Majesty...was marked with the greatest mildness..."

His Excellency the Governor now calls to the mind of every person...that the Sovereign Majesty of the King of Great Britain and Ireland exercised by His Representative the Governor of Ceylon...is the source alone from which all Power emanates...And it is further directed that when His Excellency the Governor as His Britannic Majesty's Representative travels, he shall be attended by all the Persons in Office belonging to each Province in manner as they attended the former Kings of Kandy.

It will be seen from the above that the long trend of popular sentiment as to the Governor being the King's Representative may be traced to the very beginnings of British rule in Ceylon. The language of the Proclamation is unequivocal. The Majesty of the Sovereign had been exercised, it reminds the world, by the Governor as the Sovereign's Representative. The Governor, it is provided, is to have the royal honors once customarily accorded to the Kings of Kandy, because all such honors had become accordable to His Britannic Majesty as successor of the Kings of Kandy and they are to be paid to his Representative the Governor.

In view of these facts I wonder if a full Bench of the Supreme Court will not, on occasion arising therefor, revise and reverse the Wood-Renton-Middleton ruling. If so, my poor client will come to be remembered as a martyr and his name given a place among those of the Red Letter saints of legal hagiology.

## House Burnt at Anaicottai

The house belonging to Mr. Sittampalam Cadiravale of Anaicottai, Manipay, caught fire on the first instant at about 2 O'clock in the night and completely burnt to ashes.

It appears, when the fire started people in the surroundings did not attempt to go and extinguish, some fearing it was the work of some criminals. But later when they found that the whole house was ablaze they ran up and tried their best to stop it, but it was too late. Fortunately all inmates in the house including four small children escaped without any injury. It is not known how the fire originated. The loss, it is estimated will be approximately Rs. 3090. (Cor.)

# A NEW THREAT TO EUROPEAN PEACE

Continued from Page 1.)

ment. The 1936 and 1937 classes are with the colours; the active German army of about 800,000 includes these two classes, the old Reichswehr and some 50,000 men of the former "Security Police." who were incorporated into the army at the time of the remilitarization of the Rhineland. To this may be added the one available class of reservists, an aggregate of 1,125,000 men. There are some hundreds of thousands of S. S. and S. A. men, who have received some training and could be employed as replacements; but they have not the training, or the arms, or the organisation to function as army units in the field against a well-organised and munitioned enemy.

The German army has certain other defects that are born of the Versailles period of disarmament. It is woefully short of junior officers, having not more than a third of the number it requires; it will take years to fill the gap. There is also a serious shortage of artillery, especially of medium and heavy guns. The army is organised in thirty-six divisions, plus three or four "armoured" divisions. There are not enough reservists to permit the creation of any reserve divisions at present.

About the actual strength of the German air force much secrecy has been maintained, probably that very fact has caused exaggerated reports to be spread abroad. For military purposes, all that are actually available are planes assigned to operating squadrons, fully manned and organised. It takes longer to train a military pilot than it takes to build a plane for him to fly. Sifting all available information, it seems probably that the immediately available planes number about 2,000; a high proportion of these are bombers.

So much for the potential as-

sailants of the Bastion of Europe; now let us look at the defenders.

## Danger Inside

First of all, the Sudeten-Deutsch and their Nazi organisation form an interior peril which must be taken into account. There can be little question that careful plans have been laid for operations by armed bands of these gentry against railways, bridges, tunnels, air-ports, munitions factories and other military objectives. But there can be little question, either, that precautions are well in hand to deal with such attempts. The extent of the peril cannot be judged without complete knowledge of these counter-plans. This much said, we may proceed to examine the armed forces of Czechoslovakia.

The Czechoslovak army has had no such training hiatus as has the German. From the passage of the first Defence Act in 1920, it has trained each year a full class of reservists. Its active strength is approximately 200,000; there are 1,600,000 trained reservists. The total trained manpower of Czechoslovakia is therefore superior to that of Germany. The army is organized in seventeen divisions (including one mountain division) and one cavalry division; sixteen additional reserve divisions would be formed on mobilization. The army is exceptionally well supplied with weapons and munitions; it has plenty of artillery of all calibres. An armoured division is in course of formation. Czechoslovak industry is able to meet the needs of the army while assured a continuous flow of raw materials; Czechoslovakia is by no means a self-sufficient state. The quality of the enlisted personnel is good, on the average, though racial heterogeneity is a doubtful factor here. Training is of the first quality, the officer corps is unsurpassed by any small army of Europe, and French military missions have helped organize an efficient staff and administrative services.

## Border Defences

The defences of the mountain-wall of Bohemia have been made very strong; reliance has been put on a system of mutually support-

(Continued on Page 7.)

## 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.

## EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S ACTION CONDEMNED

### Managership of Hindu Board

#### ATTEMPT TO JUSTIFY DEPARTMENT RESENTED

**STRONG** resentment was expressed at the annual general meeting of the Hindu Board of Education on Saturday against the manner in which the Department of Education has acted in causing the retirement of Mr. S. Rajaratnam from the Managership of the Board.

A resolution was also passed calling upon the Board to persist in its agitation to get justice done to Mr. Rajaratnam and the Hindu Board.

**AT** 3.30 p. m., the meeting of the Directors was held at Chernia Street Bilingual School with Dr. S. Subramaniam, the President, in the chair. The balance sheet and the Secretary's report were scrutinised by the Directors present before submitting the same to the Annual General Meeting. Mr. S. Natesan moved the deletion of the portion of the report which contained reference to the six grounds on which Mr. Rajaratnam was removed from the Managership and also the mention of thanks for the valuable services he had rendered for the Hindu cause. In moving the deletion he stated that the Memorial of the Directors to the Executive Committee of Education had admitted the guilt on the six charges and so he was unable to help Mr. Rajaratnam or the Board. He specially mentioned about the transfer of a teacher for non-payment of contribution to the Board and getting loans from two teachers.

It was pointed out by Mr. Rajaratnam that as no teacher was ever transferred for non-payment of contribution and the Memorial did not have any such admissions, the statement of Mr. Natesan was unfounded.

Mr. Natesan urged, that this question having been finally settled by the Education Committee by not intervening with the decision of the Director, this portion of the report may serve to incur the wrath of the Director and the Committee members. It might mean greater harm to the Board hereafter. He further stated that Mr. Rajaratnam might be prosecuted for serious allegations he had made against Mr. Watson. These allegations must have moved the Director for the action he took against Mr. Rajaratnam.

Mr. Rajaratnam said that the wonder was that Mr. Watson was kept in Office even though he had not cleared his character.

The motion of Mr. Natesan was defeated only three voting for it.

The Annual General Meeting of the Hindu Board of Education started at 4 p. m. with the singing of Thevaram. There were about three hundred electors. There were also a few visitors. On the motion of Mr. Rajaratnam the acts of the Board and of the Executive Committee from the 1st of March till that date were ratified.

The Secretary's Report was read. Before approving the same, some of the members stated that they wanted to move amendments on the Secretary's report by way of certain resolutions which should form part of the report. Dr. Subramaniam, the President, ruled

that the resolutions could be discussed later if the house so desired, and the Secretary's report could be considered and adopted independently of the resolutions. The report was adopted on the motion of Mr. S. R. Kanaganayagam, Advocate, seconded by Mr. C. Ponnambalam, Advocate.

The Treasurer's Balance Sheet and the Auditor's report were adopted on the motion of Mr. S. Rajaratnam seconded by Pundit S. Ramasamy.

Mr. V. Kanapathipillai moved a vote of censure on Mr. Swaminathan for the harm he had done to the Board and called upon him to resign from the Directorate of the Board. It was seconded by Mr. N. Sethupathy. Mr. Adchalingam moved the deletion of some three words from the resolution. The mover accepted the amendment and the main resolution was passed unanimously.

Mr. P. Ragupathy, B. A. (Hons) London, moved a resolution of want of confidence on Mr. S. Natesan, M. S. C.

The President ruled the Resolution out of order.

Mr. A. Sivakolunthu seconded by Mr. V. Chelliah moved that a Committee of seven with power to add be formed to take all constitutional steps to get the letter of the Director re Mr. Rajaratnam withdrawn.

Mr. S. Natesan, said that since he was a member of the Executive Committee of Education he wanted to make a statement to the meeting on the subject of the above resolution. The speaker told the meeting that the Director of Education consulted the Minister and his Committee before he removed Mr. S. Rajaratnam from the Managership. On the representation of Mr. Swaminathan, the interdicted teacher, the Director deputed Mr. Watson to inquire. Mr. Natesan added that Mr. Watson asked Mr. Rajaratnam to state everything in his defence, and that Mr. Rajaratnam's failure to avail himself of the opportunity so kindly offered to him was not the fault of Mr. Watson. Subsequently the Director found Mr. Rajaratnam guilty on six grounds, and the Board in its Memorial to the Minister admitted the charges against Mr. Rajaratnam, and therefore, the Minister had no alternative but not to intervene with the decision of the Director. Mr. Natesan threatened that if the Board and the teachers persisted in continuing the agitation any longer, they would forego the sympathy of the Minister and the Director of

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## Ceylon Coconut Board Pavilion

### At All-Ceylon Industrial Rally, Jaffna

**M**R. M. M. Alexander, Officer-in-Charge writes:—

Within the space of 8 months, the Coconut Board had two Exhibitions in Jaffna. The first was in August last year. Though the Exhibition was repeated within such a short time, the variety of products and the attractive display of articles made a wide appeal to the thousands who flocked daily to the Stall. The Stall was formally opened by the Hon'ble Mr. G. C. S. Corea, Minister of Labour, Industry and Commerce on Saturday the 7th May after the opening of the Rally and Carnival. The Hon'ble Mr. Corea was received by Mr. J. R. Sri Chandrasekera, Secretary of the Board who garlanded him. The Officer-in-Charge, Mr. M. M. Alexander garlanded Mr. J. Tyagaraja, a member of the Board. Rev. Dr. T. Isaac Tambyah, the Chairman of the Reception Committee and Mr. Cosmas W. D. Alwines, one of the General Secretaries. A group photograph was taken.

The Stall continued to draw its quota of visitors. This was one of the most popular sections of the Exhibition. The attendance of visitors is estimated at 40,000. The numbers would have been larger, if the large number that came in had more standing room. The display of the multitudinous uses of the coconut palm was an education. The Jaffna crowd was keen about coconut products and the industrial possibilities of the palm came as a revelation to many. Those who visited the Exhibition last year and had a chance of seeing the Exhibition this year felt that there was a district improvement in the quality and display of the various articles. The Log Book entries record the impressions of many an important visitor to the Exhibition. "The Pavilion represents solid, good work for coconut—the kind of work that is associated with men whose heart is in the work." This remark by one of the most prominent citizens of Jaffna is a sort of resume of the opinions expressed in the Log Book.

This Exhibition has also been singularly fortunate in having been visited by several members of the Board. As mentioned above on the opening day there was Mr. J. Tyagarajah, a day or two later came Mr. Wace de Niese. He was followed by Mr. Neil Hewavitarane and Mr. Hebtulabhoj.

On Saturday the 14th instant from 8 a.m. to noon there was an educational tour of the Exhibition by the students of the English Schools. A very large number of students visited the Coconut Stall and were very much impressed by the large range of coconut products in view. To a school boy or school girl coconut and copra are practically the only two products of the palm. The delightful variety of brooms and brushes, buckles and buttons, door mats and rags, all served as practical education to the school children as to what initiative and originality have done to the coco-

## ORPHANAGES FOR HINDUS

### GOVERNMENT SUPPORT DEMANDED

#### BATTICALOA HINDUS PLEAD FOR JUSTICE

Batticaloa, Tuesday.

**H**INDUS of Batticaloa district, at a conference over which Srimath Swami Vipulanandaji presided, passed a resolution demanding that Government should help Hindu orphanages just as much as it helps Christian orphanages.

Swami Vipulanandaji said that Hindus should rouse up the religious consciousness of the people and inculcate in their minds a respect and veneration for their culture, civilisation and traditions.

The Hindus wanted only justice. They wanted to safeguard their religion and culture. They wanted all their children to be educated in Hindu schools.

As for orphanages the Catholic mission was running six orphanages in the district and getting nearly Rs. 45,000 as Government grant for nearly 600 orphans. It was well known that most of the orphans were Hindu children, and were all converted. If they remained with folded arms, very soon Hindu Society would cease to exist.

#### Will See Minister

A resolution was passed pressing on Government the need for a Tamil Training School for the Hindus.

The following deputation was elected to wait on the Minister of Education and make representations on this subject, as well as the subject of orphanages:—Srimath Swami Vipulanandaji, Dr. A. Valupillai, and Messrs. N. S. Rasiah, K. Kanagasabay and V. Nalliah.

A resolution was also passed protesting against the policy of the Department in not granting adequate financial assistance to Hindu orphanages, and calling on Government to inquire into the condition of the orphans in Batticaloa with a view to stopping proselytisation.

The conference also resolved to organise a Hindu Maha Sabha, with branches in Hindu villages, to foster the educational, social, religious and economic progress of the Hindus.

nut industry.

The sales at this Exhibition as compared with the sales in August prove that in Jaffna there is a great demand for coconut products. Many a visitor expressed the wish that there should be a permanent Emporium of coconut products in Jaffna. I commend their suggestion to the Board. There is a good market in Jaffna for coconut products. It is possible to stimulate local talent into useful channels. The Jaffna artisan is capable. What he lacks is the opportunity to see what is being done in other parts of the Island. Given ideas he can copy and improve on them. There is a great scope in this direction in Jaffna.

Special thanks are due to Very Rev. Fr. T. M. F. Long, O. M. I., Chief Executive Officer and Mr. Cosmas W. D. Alwines, one of the General Secretaries of the Rally and Carnival, for the valuable assistance rendered to me and other four officers in attendance at the above Coconut Products Pavilion.

## Order Nisi

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF  
JAFFNA

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 554.

In the matter of the estate of the late K. Arumugam Chelliah of Pungudutive West, Jaffna Deceased.  
K. Arumugam Sanmugam of Pungudutive West, presently of Navatkuli Vs. Petitioner.

1. K. Achimuttu widow of Arumugam
2. K. Arumugam Ramalingam
3. K. Arumugam Suppiah
4. Pakkiam daughter of K. Arumugam
5. Ledchumy daughter of K. Arumugam all of Pungudutive West Respondents.

This matter of the petition of the abovenamed Petitioner praying that the abovenamed 1st respondent be appointed guardian-ad-litem over the minors the 4th and 5th respondents and praying for Letters of Administration to the estate of the abovenamed deceased coming on for disposal before C. Coomaraswamy Esquire, District Judge, Jaffna, on the 14th day of February 1938 in the presence of Mr. V. K. Subramaniam, Proctor for petitioner and the affidavit of the petitioner dated the 11th day of February 1938 having been read;—

It is ordered that the abovenamed 1st Respondent be appointed guardian-ad-litem over the said minors and it is ordered that the Petitioner as a brother and an heir of the deceased is entitled to have Letters of Administration to the estate of the said deceased issued to him accordingly unless the abovenamed respondents or any others shall on or before the 23rd day of March 1938 show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

The 14th day of February 1938.

Sgd. C. Coomaraswamy,  
District Judge.

This order nisi is extended for  
15-6-1938.

Sgd. C. C.  
D. J.

[O. 14. 9 and 13-6-38.]



**Hindu Organ.**

THURSDAY, JUNE 9, 1938.

### A REFORMED PUBLIC SERVICES COMMISSION

THERE IS ONE ASPECT OF constitutional reform which, though mentioned by all the deputations which waited on His Excellency the Governor, did not receive the emphasis its importance demands, as having contributed in no small measure to the communal bitterness that is now prevailing in the Island. If there is any one feature in the Donoughmore Constitution that has caused the most widespread discontent among the minorities and in fact among all sections that value fair-play and purity in public administration, it is the power that is vested in the various Executive Committees to influence the appointments to the public services. No one can contend that in the exercise of this power the State Council members but for

rare exceptions have risen above political and communal and at times even above personal considerations. On the other hand it may be safely said that a good many of them have made political capital of that as a sure means of ingratiating themselves into the hearts of the electorate. Many a young man of ability and character has found it to his cost that his racial complexion or the absence of backing by influential friends was a great handicap for preferment. Stories are current that certain Heads of Departments when faced with protests from unsuccessful candidates candidly ascribed their failure to the fact of their belonging to a particular community. Dame Rumour has it that a certain Minister deferred particular appointments in his department for the simple reason that suitable candidates of a particular community were not available. Vigorous canvassing by State Councillors and by other influential men, sometimes accompanied by tangible presents before appointments are conferred, has come to be regarded as an essential condition precedent to success. The three Officers of State who at present constitute the Public Services Commission, though scrupulously free from any taint of corruption, have not always shown the necessary vigilance in the selection of candidates but have too often relied on Heads of Department and men on the spot. There are cases where they have been misguided by designing persons bent on backing a particular candidate to the prejudice of others with superior qualifications. They have allowed their minds at times to be poisoned by malicious rumours invented by designing agents. The Legal Secretary especially has been blamed for not having exercised sufficient scrutiny in his judicial appointments. He has relied far too much on the advice tendered to him by his assistants and Crown Counsels. Besides as a matter of policy when one Officer of State has selected a particular candidate the others acquiesce in his decision without making any independent scrutiny into the relative merits of other candidates. Whatever vigilance the members of the Commission may have shown in safeguarding the interests and independence of the public services against the onslaughts of politicians, as a selection committee it is too much to say that their policy has been uniformly animated by a scrupulous regard for the efficiency of the services.

Now that more extensive powers are likely to be conferred upon our Legislature with increase in numbers, a reform of the Public Services Commission becomes all the more imperative. All parties are agreed that its composition

should be fully independent of and entirely free from political influence. A purely official and alien body like the present Commission by reflecting exclusively the views of the Civil Service will be out of harmony with the enlarged needs of the present day. It is also a fact that, in the present stage of political evolution in the country, it is not an easy task to find men who can fully rise above communal and sectional considerations or who can be expected to resist personal canvassing. At any rate the Ministries should, as in England, have nothing to do with the appointment and dismissal of public officers but should confine themselves only to a consideration of general policy. Nothing can be so subversive of the honour and efficiency of the public services as to subject them to interference by the Ministries or the members of the Legislature. As to the composition of the future Commission, we are of opinion the Governor should appoint four Ceylonese of proved capacity and integrity to sit on the Commission. These men must be well paid and should have no party affinities. Over them may be placed a European President who does not belong to the Civil Service or has service ambitions in Ceylon. Such a Commission is, we believe, the one that can safeguard the efficiency and interests of the public services without prejudice to the claims of young men of capacity and character.

### The Hindu Board

An intelligent perusal of the proceedings of the fourteenth annual general meeting of the Hindu Board of Education, published elsewhere in this issue, will elucidate our position in regard to the question of the removal of Mr. S. Rajaratnam from the general managership of the Board. Commenting on this subject in our issue of 28-4-1938 we observed that "it is our duty in the interest of the Hindu education movement to urge upon the Minister for Education and his Committee to hold a sifting inquiry into the matter and see that justice is done without fear or favour." Without going into the merits of the question we have every reason to deplore that no such inquiry has so far been held. However serious might have been the allegations against Mr. Rajaratnam in his capacity as Manager of the Board, he considered the matter from the point of view of a lawyer and would not take cognizance of the inquiry held by the officer deputed by the Department, for he honestly

felt that the officer acted *ultra vires* in admitting evidence on questions which were clearly beside the scope of his inquiry. That was why we thought it our duty to comment as we did that Mr. Rajaratnam should be afforded an opportunity to lead evidence so as to meet the serious charges made against him. We therefore maintain that Mr. Rajaratnam, and through him the Hindu Board, has been penalised without being given a chance to defend himself. Whatever may have been his failings as a man, not even his bitterest enemies will question the fact that he has contributed more than any other single person to the remarkable success and progress of the Hindu Board of Education. That accounts for the hold he still has on the imagination of those who are intimately interested in the Hindu Education movement and for the unquestioned confidence which he still enjoys at the hands of his colleagues on the Hindu Board. The Secretary's report makes pertinent reference to his services, "sacrificing his practice at the Bar, his time, health and wealth - all for the service and cause of Hindu Education." We cannot bring ourselves to believe that the Board composed of such men of standing as Dr. S. Subramaniam J. P., R. Sivagurunathan, Messrs S. R. Kanaganayam B. A. Advocate, C. Ponnambalam, Advocate, etc are so lost to a sense of fair-play and justice as to champion the cause of their late manager. The fact cannot be gainsaid that there are interested persons and parties who have been looking askance at the striking progress the Hindu Board has made during the past few years. The Hindu public feel strongly that this Departmental action is calculated to give a positive setback to the Hindu Education movement. It may be that the authorities attach undue importance to considerations of prestige and consistency, which are at best doubtful virtues. We would therefore reiterate our demand for a full and searching inquiry in the best interests of the Hindu education movement.

### DYSON TOTEM POLE

#### The Cub-Pack Competition

An item of the King's Birthday Celebrations was the Cub-pack competition. Jaffna Hindu College secured the first place after a keen contest in which St. John's College, Jaffna Central College and Jaffna College competed.

Mr. Dyson congratulated the winners and presented the Totem Pole.

The following acted as judges: Messrs. Setunga, T. Muttuswamy-pillai, S. U. Somasekaram, Mrs. C. Coomaraswamy and Mrs. de Kester.

## FURTHER AIR RAIDS ON CANTON

### Three Attacks

#### "FIGHT FOR COUNTRY'S LASTING FREEDOM" SAYS CHINESE GENERAL

Canton, Tuesday.

**T**HERE were three Air Raids on Canton today.

Slight damage, says Reuter, was caused by the first, but the second put the waterworks and power station out of action. Shameen (the foreign quarter of Canton) is without current.

The third raid began at 8.30 p. m. (local time), and continued until midnight. Bombs were dropped on the water-works, the power-house and the railway. Chinese anti-aircraft guns were silent.

Three British employees of a firm of contractors who are constructing the water-works narrowly escaped death in the second raid. The damage to the water-works is estimated at several hundred thousand Chinese dollars.

Marshal Chiang Kai-shek has telegraphed to the authorities of Kwangtung Province (the capital of which is Canton) promising to strengthen Canton's air defences.

He adds: "To avenge the killing and the wounding of thousands of Cantonese civilians by Japanese aeroplanes, fight for the country's lasting freedom in the spirit that made Canton the birthplace of the Chinese revolution. Today's sacrifices will pave the way for tomorrow's victory."

### Order Nisi

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 61/PT. In the matter of the Estate and effects of the late Murugapillai Nakalingam Thambiraja of Puloly West

Deceased.

V. Kanagasabai Sivaprakasampillai of Alval North Petitioner.

1. Paruvathavartbinippillai widow of Sathasivam of Puloly West

Minor. 2. Thambiraja SiriSkandaraja of Do. Respondents.

This matter of the petition of the abovenamed Petitioner praying that the 1st Respondent be appointed Guardian-ad-Litem over the 2nd Respondent and that Letters of Administration be ordered to issue to the Petitioner coming on for disposal before C. E. A. Samarakkody Esquire, Additional District Judge on the 26th day of May 1938 in the presence of Messrs Kandaiya and Mailvaganam Proctors on the part of the Petitioner and the affidavit of the Petitioner dated the 26th day of May 1938 having been read.

It is declared that the 1st respondent be and he is hereby appointed Guardian-ad-Litem over the 2nd Respondent and that the Petitioner be declared entitled to have Letters of Administration to the estate of the said intestate issued to him unless the respondents or any other person shall appear before this Court on or before the 17th day of June 1938 to show cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

This 28th day of May 1938.

Sgd. C. E. A. Samarakkody, Additional District Judge.

[O. 12. 9 and 13-6-38.]

### THE PRIVILEGES BILL

#### Sir Baron Participates in Discussion

Colombo, Wednesday

The draft of the Privileges Bill was considered by the Committee on Standing Orders of the State Council this morning.

Sir Baron Jayatilaka was present, representing the Board of Ministers, who would have to agree to the Bill before it is brought before the Council.

Mr J. C. Howard, Legal Secretary, and Mr Mervyn de Fonseka, Legal Draftsman, were also present.

It is understood that there was much opposition to several provisions in the draft Bill on the part of more than one member.

That Bill (even if it is brought forward) will be much milder one than the draft.

#### South Indian Lecturers Coming to Jaffna

Messrs N. Sivagurunathapillai and S. Muttukumaraswami Pillai of the South Indian Saiva Siddhanta Samajam are coming to Jaffna on Sunday morning at the special invitation of the Saiva Paripalana Sabhai, Jaffna, to deliver a series of lectures on Saiva Siddhanta and literary subjects. They will be staying at the Kala Nilayam.

### Order Nisi

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 519. In the matter of the Estate of the late Annammah widow of Murugesu Sinnathambay of Vaddukkoddai West. Deceased.

Murugesu Sinnathambay Rajaratnam of Vaddukkoddai West. Petitioner.

died 1. Sabapathypillai Kumarakuru and

2. wife Rasammah both of do. Respondents.

This matter of the petition of the abovenamed petitioner coming on for disposal before C. Coomaraswamy Esquire, District Judge, Jaffna on the 21st day of February 1938 in the presence of Messrs Aiyadurai and Thambirajah proctors on the part of the petitioner and the petition and affidavit of the petitioner having been read:—

It is ordered that Letters of Administration to the Estate of the abovenamed deceased be granted to the petitioner unless the Respondents or any other person shall appear before this Court on the 23rd day of March 1938 and show cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

Jaffna, The day of March 1938.

Sgd. C. Coomaraswamy, District Judge.

Time to show cause is extended to 15th June 1938.

Intld. C. C. D. J.

[O. 11. 9 & 13.]

### British Ships Attacked

#### Bombed in Spanish Waters

**B**RITISH vessels in Spanish waters seem to have been specially selected as targets of General Franco's aircraft. The latest cases, says Reuter, have resulted in a number of casualties among the crews of British ships.

The following are some of the vessels on which nationalist aircraft appear to have been concentrated:

ENGLISH TANKER ST. WINIFRED MARYAD THURSTON THORPEHAVEN PENTHAMES

Six machines participated in yesterday morning's raid on Alicante. They made for four British ships moored alongside the quay far from other possible objectives. Two of the bombs exploded on the quay alongside the Thurston, which is settling down. Government aeroplanes chased away the raiders.

Since the hostilities started in Spain 58 British ships have been bombed or attacked by submarines and six have been sunk. Fourteen British sailors have been killed and nearly 50 injured.

#### Tankers Blazing Furiously

Alicante, Tuesday. The bombed English Tanker is blazing furiously. The Maryad which was bombed on Saturday is still burning.

The Thorpehaven and St. Winifred are so badly damaged that they are unworthy. The Thurston is in dry-dock at Valencia. Three other ships besides her were sprayed with shrapnel.

The Vice-Consul had a narrow escape. The Belgian Consulate was set on fire, but the outbreak was quelled. A church was also bombed and destroyed.

A Dutch collier was bombed and damaged during an air raid on Barcelona yesterday night. The First Officer was seriously injured and a British non-intervention control officer slightly hurt.

Twenty were killed in an air raid today on Segorbe, on the road to Teruel, in the line of the Nationalist advance, following an air raid yesterday when 12 were killed and 29 injured.

### MOTION TO REDUCE M.S.C.'s SALARIES

#### Motion in State Council

Colombo, Wednesday.

Mr. A. F. de Zoysa, Member for Colombo South in the State Council, gave notice of the following motion in the State Council yesterday:—

In the opinion of this Council a Member of the State Council should be paid Rs. 250 as his monthly allowance and a Minister's salary should be Rs. 500.

(Continued.)

to produce all the copra needed to meet her requirements, any more to impose a high import duty would neither be right, justifiable, nor proper, state the memorialists.

In conclusion, they point out that special consideration should be given to the case of coconut oil millers as the fate of the growers and of the millers is in no small way intertwined.

### INCREASING COPRA DUTY

#### MILLERS OBJECT TO TRAVANCORE REQUEST

#### MEMORIAL TO GOVT. OF INDIA

**T**HAT the imposition of an import duty of Rs. 100 per ton on Ceylon copra imported into India would do great harm, not only to coconut oil millers in India but also to the coconut growers themselves, is emphasised in a well-reasoned memorial submitted to the Commerce Member, Government of India by a large firm of oil millers having interests both in India and in Ceylon.

The Company in question, which has various branches in India, purchases its copra requirements in Travancore, Malabar, the Malay Peninsula and Ceylon.

The memorial is the result of a request made to the Indian Government by certain interests in Travancore that the import duty on Ceylon copra in India should be raised to Rs. 100 per ton.

"The contention of the Travancore growers that Ceylon is dumping her copra is absolutely untenable", state the memorialists in pointing out that despite Ceylon copra entering India since 1931 there has never been a surplus of copra left on the Malabar Coast or in Travancore, which are the two main coconut-producing centres in India.

#### Supplying Indian Needs

That proves beyond any shadow of doubt, they contend, that India actually needs all the imported copra in addition to that produced in that country.

It is pointed out that India buys Ceylon copra only during that part of the year when the Indian market cannot supply the needs of the oil industry, as is indicated by the fact that the export of Ceylon copra during the period December to May is negligible.

The memorialists make a further point of the fact that during the period January to November oil millers even in Cochin and Travancore import Ceylon copra in order to meet their demands.

Copra and coconut oil, they point out, are only two of the various commodities in the oils and fats markets and that any attempt to raise the price of copra in India alone would create a deadlock in the Indian copra and coconut oil markets which is bound to affect adversely both the coconut growers and the oil millers.

#### At Half Capacity

"Although the consumption of coconut oil in India is ever on the increase, it is an admitted fact," state the memorialists, "that at present the coconut oil mills in India are working barely to half their capacity."

They contend that if the price of coconut oil is raised artificially to an unusually high figure, oil millers would have no alternative but to replace coconut oil by groundnut oil and other fats, which would mean the complete ruin of the coconut industry in India.

Until such time as India is able (Continued on Previous Column)

## A CEYLONESE FETED IN F. M. S.

### Mr. M. W. Navaratnam Asst. Auditor

WARM tributes were paid to Mr. M. W. Navaratnam, of Ceylon, at a complimentary dinner given to him in appreciation of his appointment as Assistant Auditor, Straits Settlements and F.M.S., and one of the highest positions open to an Asiatic.

Mr. John Hands presided over a gathering of more than 200. The venue was the Hotel Majestic, Kuala Lumpur.

After remarking that there were present members of every race domiciled in Malaya, Mr. Hands said: "During my 26 years of residence here I have been privileged to attend many such gatherings. The traditional freedom under the Union Jack can have no greater triumph than to find in these troublous times the British Administration in Malaya, a country peopled by Chinese and Indians, appointing a Ceylonese to keep an eye on their servants' spending of the public's money."

"You must not think that all a Government auditor does is query and use yards of red tape when inches will do. He is a highly trained magician who performs miracles with nebulous things, called votes and extracts information from departmental balance sheets which no one else can read."

"It is a difficult and responsible position, and anyone attaining it deserves our congratulation."

Mr. K. Kandiah and Mr. C. Martin were among the other speakers after which Mr. Navaratnam replied.

### 25 Years in the Department

Mr. M. W. Navaratnam, who now assumes the super-grade appointment of Assistant Auditor, F. M. S. and has served 25 years in the Audit Department, has also shown remarkable versatility outside his office. Among many honorary posts he has held are Hon. Secretary and Vice-President of the Selangor Ceylon Tamils Association, Hon. Secretary and Vice-President of the Selangor Association Football League, founder and Hon. Secretary of the Kuala Lumpur and District Cricket League, and Recording Secretary of the Methodist Episcopal Tamil Church.

Mr. Navaratnam is at present President of the Midlands Urban Co-operative Union Ltd., President of the Saraswathy Tamil School, Chairman of the Selangor Government Servants' Co-operative Thrift and Loan Society, Ltd., and Editor of the "Malayan Co-operator".

An address recording appreciation of his services in the sporting and social fields was presented to him at the dinner at the Hotel Majestic.

## Order Nisi

### IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 601.  
In the matter of the Estate of the late Tamotarampillai of Manipay  
Deceased.  
Tangamma widow of A. Tamotarampillai of Manipay  
Petitioner.  
Vs.

1. T. Nadaraja, 2. T. Balasundaram and 3. T. Gnanasundaram of do. 2nd and 3rd are minors by their Guardian-ad-litem 1st Respondent.

This matter of the Petition coming on for disposal before C. Coomaraswamy Esquire, District Judge, Jaffna on 18th May 1938,

## RETIREMENT OF A VETERAN TEACHER

A grand function took place in the Hindu English School, Tondaimanar, on the afternoon on Friday the 3rd instant, to give a fitting send off to Mr. R. Kandiah, who retires on account of ill health, after a long period of more than 15 years of meritorious service, as an assistant on the staff of the above school. The guest of the evening was taken in procession at 4 p.m. to the accompaniment of "Nathaswaram" music from the junction to the school. There was present a large gathering of 'Old Boys' well-wishers and parents of pupils, who were all accommodated in the School Hall which was decently decorated with flags and festoons.

Mr. M. Karthigasu, Headmaster Hindu English School, Kozuvil, presided on the occasion.

An address was presented to the guest on behalf of the staff, 'Old Boys' and the pupils of the school. Warm and glowing tributes, both in Tamil and English, were paid in appreciation of the commendable qualities of head and heart of the teacher. Many letters and telegrams received from 'old boys' and residents of Tondaimanar who are employed in Colombo and other places, were read out in the meeting.

A group photo of all pupils, staff, and the local manager Mr. V. Rajaratnam, along with the guest of the evening, was taken.

The gathering dispersed at about 8 p.m. after a hearty social and music. (Cor.)

## Auction Sale

D. C. J. 12549.

1. Thambiah Sivacolunthu and wife
2. Thilagavathipillai of Manipay Vs. Plaintiffs.

Muthu Mohamed Mohamed Kany of Vannarponnai West personally and as Legal Representative to the Estate of his brother Mattu Mohamed Seyduthamby of Vannarponnai West. Defendant.

In pursuance of the commission issued to me by the District Court, Jaffna, in the above case, I shall sell the below mentioned property by public auction on Saturday the 9th July 1938 commencing at 3 p.m. at the spot.

### PROPERTY REFERRED TO:

A piece of land called Punkaly in extent Two Lachchans V.C. and seventeen Kulis with well and plantations thereon situated at Vannarponnai West and bounded on the East by Lane, North by the property of Uthuma Lebbe Mohamed Sultan Abdulcader, West by the property of Mohideen Kandu Othuman Lebbe and on the South by Road,

S. Muttukumaraswamy,  
Commissioner of Sales.

"Siva Villa",  
Manipay.  
7-6-38.

[Mis 64, 9 6-38]

in the presence of Mr. E. Murugesampillai, Proctor, on the part of the petitioner and the affidavit of the petitioner having been read:

It is ordered that the 1st Respondent be appointed Guardian-ad-litem over the minors 2nd and 3rd Respondents for representing and for watching their interests in these proceedings and the Petitioner be declared as the widow of the deceased declared entitled to administer his estate and Letters of Administration be issued to her unless the Respondents shall appear before this Court on 29th June 1938 and state objection to the contrary.

The 26th day of May 1938.

Sgd. C. Coomaraswamy,  
District Judge.

Drawn by Proctor for Petitioner.  
(O. 10. 9 & 13-6-38.)

## Education Department's Action Condemned

(Continued from page 3)

Education and would fail to obtain in the future any concession from them, besides no one could question the discretion of the Director of Education as the Ordinance gave him full power to do so.

Mr. S. Rajaratnam said that Mr. Natesan was wrong as the Director's letter informing Mr. Rajaratnam that an inquiry would be held clearly stated that the matter for inquiry was the justness or injustice of Mr. Swaminathan's interdiction. Had Mr. Natesan read the proceedings of the inquiry he would have known how the speaker protested against the waste of time by going into matters irrelevant to the only issue. As a lawyer of over 25 years standing, he never indulged in going into irrelevant matters. It looked that the people who sat in judgment over him were looking at the inquiry proceedings just as a blind man feeling only one part of the elephant described an elephant. Most probably, the garbled report of Mr. Watson was alone read.

Mr. Ragupathy referred to the strange procedure adopted by Mr. Watson, the yet more strange decision of the Director and the yet more startling non-intervention policy of the Committee of Education composed of a lawyer, Minister and lawyer and educationist members. The Department, the Ministry of Education and Mr. Natesan & Co seem to hold as a smoke-screen for their own guilt the supposed admission of guilt by Mr. Rajaratnam and this Board. The House passed the above resolution:

The 4th resolution giving a mandate to the Board of Directors to continue their efforts until they got the letter of 17-1-38 from the Director of Education re the retirement of Mr. Rajaratnam from the Managership withdrawn. Mr. V. Chittamparapillai proposed and Mr. K. Chittampalam seconded it and it was carried unanimously.

Mr. C. Saravanamuttu proposed and Mr. M. Vaitalingam seconded that in consideration of Mr. Rajaratnam's services and the services the electors expect of him in the future towards the establishment of more and more schools and especially an Orphanage for Girls and a Ladies College, that Mr. Rajaratnam be pleased to accept from Board a monthly allowance of Rs. 400. as from January 1938. The house accepted it unanimously.

### The Elections of Director

The Directors of Set C. retired. There were vacancies in sets A. and B.

Mr. P. Narayanapillai, I.S.O., Tholpuram, Mr. M. M. Kanagasingham, Proctor S. C. and Notary, Chavakachcheri, Mr. N. Nadarajah, B. A., Advocate, Colombo. Mr. C. Ponnampalam, Advocate, Jaffna, and Mr. C. Saravanamuttu, Retired, Registrar of Lands, Jaffna, were elected unanimously to fill the vacancies in addition to some of the Directors in set C who were re-elected.

And when finally Mr. Natesan's name was proposed for re-election as a Director of the Board, an amendment that Mr. N. Ponniah, Editor, Eelakesari, be elected was and Mr. proposed N. Ponniah, was elected.

After refreshments the Annual

General Meeting terminated with a singing of Thevaran.

### Election of Office-bearers

The Board of Directors met again immediately and the election of Office bearers resulted as follows:—

President: Dr. S. Subramaniam, J. P. Jaffna.

Vice-President: Mr. M. Krishnar, J. P. Moolai.

Secretary: Mr. C. Ponnambalam, Advocate, Jaffna.

Treasurer: Mr. A. K. Navaratnam, Proctor S. C., Tholpuram.

General Manager: Mr. A. Chellappa, Retired Government Accountant.

Other Committee Members, Messrs. S. Rajaratnam, Advocate, R. Sivagurunather, Proctor, S. C. and M. Vaitalingam, Secretary, N.C.T. T.A.

Honorary Auditors: Mr. A. Muttuthamby Chief Clerk, Jaffna Kachcheri and Mr. S. Adebalingam, Manager "Hindu Organ", Jaffna.

With the singing of Thevaran the meeting came to a close.

## NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that Mr. Saravanamuttu, son of Sinnadhyar of Madathuvasal Mathagal, Pandatteruppu but presently residing at Battu Pahat, Johore, has given notice to his wife, Madam S. Sinnapillay, daughter of Vyrnamuttu of Jathambai, Mathagal, Pandatteruppu, revoking the power of Attorney made in her favour by our client.

Notice is hereby further given that all acts or transactions by the said S. Sinnapillay will not be hereafter ratified by our client.

CHIA & Co.,  
Solicitors for the said  
S. Saravanamuttu  
Battu Pahat,  
Johore.

[Mis 65 9 6-38-8-7-38]

## Order Nisi

### IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA

(held at Point Pedro)

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 53/P.T.  
In the matter of the estate of the late  
Vally Kathirgama of Alvai South

Deceased.  
Annappillai widow of Kathirgama of Alvai South  
Petitioner.

Vs.

1. Kaththan Sadayan,
2. Chellammah daughter of Kathirgaman
3. Ratnam daughter of Kathirgaman
4. Kathirgaman Vallipuram
5. Kandan Ponnai all of Alvai South Respondents.

This matter coming on for disposal before Herbert S. Roberts Esquire Additional District Judge, Jaffna on the 9th day of April 1938, in the presence of Mr. M. Esurapadham, Proctor on the part of the petitioner and the petition and affidavit of the petitioner having been read:

It is ordered that the 5th Respondent be appointed Guardian-ad-litem over the minors the 3rd and 4th Respondents, that the petitioner be declared entitled to take out Letters of Administration and that the Letters of Administration be issued to her accordingly unless the Respondents or any other person shall appear before this Court on or before the 19th day of May 1938 and shew sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

The 9th day of April 1938.

Sgd. Herbert S. Roberts,  
Additional District Judge.

19-5-38.

Extended and Reissued for 16-6-38  
Infd. C. E. S.

A. D. J.

[O. 13. 9 & 13-6-38.]

# A NEW THREAT TO EUROPEAN PEACE

(Continued from page 2)

ing positions, connected by concrete pill-boxes and field fortifications, rather than any such solid and massive affair as the French Maginot Line, which would in any case be unsuited to the terrain. The principal avenues of approach from Germany—the Moravian Gateway, the Elbe Valley, the Glatz-Nachod approach from Breslau and the Cham-Taust approach from Nuremberg—are heavily defended. Toward Austria, the Moravian hills form a barrier where new defences are being constructed.

A great advantage of the defender of the Bohemian plateau against an encircling enemy such as Germany's is the ability to operate on interior lines. The mountains and the forts can be relied on to check the first enemy advances; the development of the situation will quickly make it apparent where the main blow is to fall; this can then be met by powerful reserve forces, moved to the threatened point from central positions by the excellent Bohemian network of roads and railways. To the east, however, in Slovakia and Carpatho-Russia, the road-and-rail net is nothing like so extensive; this might be a hindrance both to mobilization and defence in these areas. The Czechoslovak air force to-day is probably approaching a strength of 1,000 planes in operating squadrons; the ultimate objective is 2,000. The proportion of heavy bombers is not so large as in Germany; more emphasis has been laid on pursuit types.

### Out-Numbered

The Czechs could, then, put up a very strong initial resistance. But when all is said and done, a nation of 15,000,000 population cannot, however efficient its armament, resist for long the powerful thrust of a nation of five times that population, with corresponding resources. The Czechs will most certainly fight if invaded by Germany; they will most certainly be overwhelmed in the end, unless some other Power comes to their aid.

Both France and Russia have pledged themselves to aid Czechoslovakia if Germany moves. Geographical considerations seem to prevent Russian aid being immediately effective: save by air, and even then the distances are great. Moreover, there is considerable doubt as to whether Russia's internal conditions would actually permit her to act offensively outside her own borders; and she must keep a wary eye on the Far East. There remains France.

### Will France Help?

The French army is the best in Europe. The French air force, though short of modern planes, is in tactical organisation and training superior to the German. What could France do to help Czechoslovakia? She could exert immediate pressure on the German western frontier.

Could Germany resist this pressure until she had disposed of

### Czechoslovakia?

The defences of Germany in the west are based on two fortified areas, one in the Saar region and one, watching the crossings of the Rhine, in the Schwartzwald. These defence areas are really a series of fortified villages, manned by reservists resident therein; they are connected by field fortifications, but there are several gaps. There are isolated fortresses at several strategic points. This system is apparently intended, as Hanson Baldwin points out in "The Caissons Roll," "to allow the French to enter Germany and there to destroy the invading armies in the narrow, all but impassible corridors formed by the fortifications." This is all very well, provided that there are sufficient field troops to do the destroying; as above noted, a fortification in itself is of no use save as it acts as a base for a field army, or save within the range of its artillery. But one is here to suppose a German army of 1,125,000 men disposing of sufficient forces to overwhelm the Czechs on the one hand, and to hold off a powerful French thrust with the other. Whatever the initial successes of the force attacking the Czechs, certainly that effort will—like all modern offensives—absorb more and more reserve forces as it proceeds; and all the while the French pressure will be growing. It seems highly doubtful whether the present German army could successfully accomplish both missions.

### The Little Entente

Moreover, Czechoslovakia is a member of the Little Entente, of which the other two members are Rumania and Jugoslavia. Rumania is probably out of the military picture for the moment, at least as an active force in the Danubian Basin. But Jugoslavia with a powerful and well-trained army, cannot be overjoyed at having so dangerous a neighbour as Nazi Germany substituted for Austria on her northern marches. No more can Italy. What the inner reactions of Il Duce on the ominous sight of German troops on the Brenner Pass may have been, we are not informed. But they cannot have

been wholly untinged with suspicion and foreboding. A satisfactory agreement with Great Britain might effect a great alteration in his point of view.

### And Britain

#### And Britain herself?

The news has come of Mr. Chamberlain's refusal to guarantee British support of Czechoslovakia against German invasion. As a diplomatic gesture, this may have its points; if translated into actual policy in face of a German offensive it would be extremely shortsighted from the military viewpoint. For if the Bastion of Europe is overrun by Germany, there is no barrier that will stay the "Drang nach Osten" short of the Black Sea. Once Czechoslovakia has succumbed, the German outposts will stand at the mouths of the Danube and the Dniester just as certainly as the sun will rise in the heavens to-morrow morning. And this means not only a vastly more powerful Germany, a Germany possessed of reserves of foodstuffs and minerals and above all of that essential of modern warfare, petroleum; it also means a German fleet in the Black Sea; it means German pressure on Turkey and eventually on Iraq and Persia; it means German accomplishment of the final objective of the "Drang nach Osten" policy, the acquisition of the short-line to the Indian Ocean via Mosul and Bagdad to Basra; it means, in fine, the end of British dominance in the Near East and within a measurable period of time, in the Indian Ocean. It means therefore nothing less than the destruction of the British Empire; or its preservation at the price of a long, bloody war.

### Big Issues

It is to be feared that the British Cabinet, as on certain occasions during the World War, is disregarding the opinions of its military advisers. One can but hope that the results will not be so disastrous as, for example, the failure at Gallipoli.

In any case it is clear that tremendous issues depend on the Bastion of Europe remaining inviolate. Neither France, nor Britain, nor Italy, nor Russia, nor any of the Balkan Powers can be indifferent to its fall—a fact in which lies the Czechoslovaks' brightest hope. Their bastion is strong, and will be gallantly de-

fended; but their ultimate fate is in the hands of others. They hold something more than the Bastion of Freedom, of everything that goes to make up what the free peoples of this earth call civilization. If that bastion falls, we are face to face with the re-making of the map of the world.

## Order Nisi

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 578

In the matter of the estate of the late Thangaratnam widow of Ramalingam Thambapillai of Uduvill

Deceased

Thambapillai Arunasalam of Uduvill

Petitioner

Vs.

1. Thambapillai Veerasingham
2. Thambapillai Thanganathan
3. Kanagaledchumy daughter of Thambapillai
4. Sivagnanapillai widow of Arunasalam all of Uduvill

Respondents

This matter of the petition of the petitioner praying that the 4th Respondent be appointed guardian-ad-litem over the minors 1st, 2nd and 3rd respondents and that Letters of Administration to the estate of the abovenamed deceased be issued to the petitioner coming on for disposal before C. Coomaraswamy Esquire District Judge, Jaffna on the 24th day of March 1938 in the presence of Mr. T. S. Kanagaretnam, Proctor for petitioner and the affidavit of the petitioner dated the 18th day of March 1938 having been read.

It is ordered that the abovenamed 4th respondent be appointed guardian-ad-litem over the minors the 1st, 2nd and 3rd respondents for the purpose of representing them and acting on their behalf in this action and that Letters of Administration to the estate of the abovenamed deceased be issued to the petitioner as one of the heir unless the respondents shall on or before the 18th day of May 1938 appear before this Court and show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

The 12th day of April 1938

Sgd. C. Coomaraswamy,  
District Judge,

Order Nisi extended for  
24th June 1938.

Sgd. C. E. A. Samarakody  
Addl. District Judge.

[O. 9. 6 & 9-6-38]

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[O. 60. 6-6-38 to 5-9-38.]

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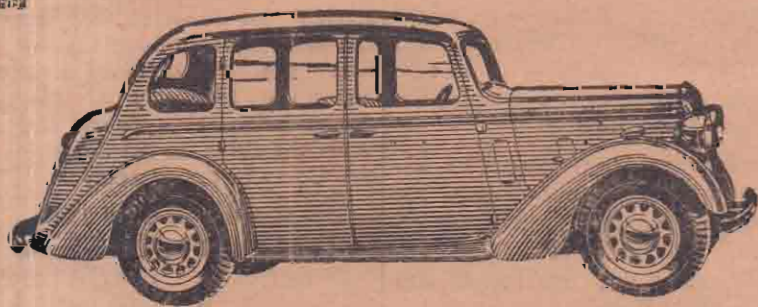
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Printed and published by S. ADCHALINGAM, residing at Vannarponnai East, Jaffna, for and on behalf of the Proprietors, the Saiva Paripalana Sabai, Jaffna, at their Press, the Saiva Prakasa Press, Vannarponnai Jaffna, on THURSDAY, JUNE 9, 1938.