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ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE 1938-39

Sir Baron's Budget Speech

THE PROBLEM OF INCREASING COST OF ADMINISTRATION

THE following are extracts from the Budget speech of Sir Baron Jayatilaka, Leader of the House, in the State Council:—

Having in very broad outline referred to the financial position of the country I wish to spend a short time making a few observations on the estimates of Expenditure.

I shall begin with the Legislature. You will be glad, Sir, to note that we have provided you with a separate staff which will enable you to maintain the order and dignity of the House with greater facility.

I now pass on to the subject of Defence. If the members refer to pages 28-29 they will see that for the current year the amount provided is Rs. 2,447,774. We have provided next year a sum of Rs. 4,448,830.

Law and Justice

Turning to the subjects of Law and Justice, the House will note that early this year the number of Judges was increased from 7 to 9. As a result the number of appeals has been considerably reduced from 1,020 to 420. It has thus been possible in view of the reduction of work in the supreme Court to delete provision this year for the appointment of Commissioners, saving nearly Rs. 40,000.

Recently the House had passed the Ordinance for creating the Court of Criminal Appeal. Regulations are now being drawn up and it is expected the Court will begin to function from early next year. The Legal Secretary has also drawn up the details for creating a Judicial Service which I consider a step in the right direction. The experiment of appointing lawyers as Presidents of Village Tribunals is being cautiously carried out.

Already, I believe, 9 have been appointed.

Increase Of Crime

Sir Baron next referred to the increase of crime in the country. The number of cases reported in 1937 was 14,677 as against 11,679 in 1928, an increase of over 5,000 in 10 years. The number of murders in 1937 was 325 as against 316 in 1936 and 240 in 1928. Alarming as these figures are, the most disquieting feature was the increase in the number of juvenile offenders. The increase of crime among offenders between the ages of 16 and 22 was serious. During the past year there had been 15,000 admissions to prisons, of which 1,480, that is 1 in 10, were youths between the ages 16 and 24, and what was worse still, 3 out of every 4 such offenders were novices in crime, first offenders. The total number of 1936 admissions was 184 above the number of previous year. The Borstal Institute at Watupitiwala was nearing completion and he hoped it would be possible for it to be occupied by the end of this year.

Sir Baron proceeded to speak on the need for a Probation Service. In other countries, especially in England, he said, the Probation Service had done an enormous amount of good. In 1907 the probation service was first established in England and within the last 30 years it had succeeded in bringing down the annual admissions to prisons from 180,000 to 60,000. That was an enormous reduction. A scheme for a local Probation service was now being prepared and would shortly be placed before the House.

'Another matter to which I wish to refer,' said Sir Baron, 'is imprisonment for non-payment of fines. The Council has

(Continued on page 2)

JAFFNA ARTISTS PRAISED BUT THEIR LOT DEPLORED

Impressions of an Expert on Jaffna Industries

"THE workmanship is good, the technique is good, but there is no finish."

This is the impression of an expert who inspected the various industries in the North.

At the special request of Very Rev. Fr. T. M. F. Long O. M. I., Professor Zutt, the expert in metal work, ceramics and applied art, arrived in Jaffna on Saturday the 16th morning by the night mail. He was the guest of Very Rev. Fr. Long. In order to give the Professor a chance to see the various industries of the North, a very comprehensive programme was drawn up for him by Mr. C. Ragnathan, Assistant Registrar of Co-operative Societies, who accompanied the Professor to the various centres. In the different areas craftsmen were seen at work by the Professor. The Maniagars of Vadamaradchy, Valigamam North and East and Valigamam West and the craftsmen of these areas were also able to meet the Professor, show him the various types of work turned out and the conditions under which they worked. If Professor Zutt only knew a little Tamil, one felt sure that he would have given our local craftsmen some small share of the keenness and enthusiasm which his expert knowledge carries. Though the Professor had a very crowded programme, he was always ready to meet and discuss ways and means of improving local arts and crafts. In spite of a heavy programme on Monday and just one hour before his train, the professor was interviewed by one of the Secretaries of the Industrial Development Committee, Mr. Cosmas W. D. Alwines. The way in which the professor warmed up as he was led on to discuss the problems confronting local industries, his anxiety to improve the conditions of the craftsmen, his genuine sympathy for the poor potter who turned out pots for four cents after working for several hours on his handiwork, when a quarter of

that work well directed would give him fifty times that amount, all showed that in Professor Zutt at least, our craftsmen had touched a chord of sympathy and fellow-feeling.

Wanting in Finish

"What are your general impressions of the Industries of Jaffna?" was the first question. "The workmanship is good," replied the professor, "the technique is good, but there is no finish. The modern market insists on that finish and without that finish it will not be possible to find a good sale." "Which of the Industries of the North deserve special encouragement with a view to putting them on a world market?"

"Your silver work, basket-making and pottery." The word pottery seemed to stir the professor and he waxed eloquent. "Your poor potter," he said, "works for hours turning out a pot which costs four cents. What can he earn for a day? The pots coming from India are a serious rival to the local work. The pottery of a country must represent the life of a country. Why should there not be figures in relief of the people in Ceylon? Types of life and conditions can be easily made and hand painted. Tourists in Colombo look for such work, but they only get Chinese and Japanese work. Tanagra treatment can be easily started." The professor rushed up to his room and came back with a book depicting the work of the peasants of Roumania and Hungary. The beautiful designs, the delightful variety of work done by these peasants is a revelation. Photographs and conditions under which these peasants work show that these peasants are not specially favoured. The professor continued, "Why should your potter confine himself to models thousands of years old? Why should he not make vases, bowls and platters? He should be given new designs and asked

(Continued on Page 2)

JAFFNA ARTISTS PRAISED BUT THEIR LOT DEPLORED

(Continued from page 1)

to work on them. In firing the pottery, the oven is of the crude type in which 50 per cent of the pottery is broken. The type of kiln must be improved to check this colossal waste. The Government must start a school to teach pottery. There is talent in the villages. Those who are engaged in the work must be helped by scholarships to attend the school and learn the work. A museum of permanent exposition of models must be set up. Periodically the graduates of these pottery schools must be given refresher courses to keep them in touch with new designs and models."

How they Do it in Roumania

The professor made a dash to his room again and came back with a plaster plaque of the Madonna and Child. "Look at this work. It is beautiful. Your potter can make this in half an hour if he has a mould. He has simply to get to press the clay in, turn it out and then dry it in the sun and bake it. A plaster plaque based on a good model sells for seven or eight rupees. Your clay model can sell for half a dollar (1/50). Isn't that better than spending hours on a pot which sells for four cents? This will be an entirely new industry." The professor again displayed some beautiful models made on similar lines by the peasants of Roumania and Hungary.

Palmyrah Products

"What are your views with regard to palmyrah products, fibre, leaves etc.?"

"The leaves can be made into nice mats for drawing-rooms, bathrooms. Beautiful baskets can be made which will find a ready sale even at Holly-wood. Sachels of various sizes and patterns can be put on the markets. But the designs must be modern. There must be new designs and a better finish. There should not be too much colour used. The black bass fibre for brushes is excellent. Is there anything more stupid than sending this fibre 7000 miles away to be brought back as finished products?"

Gold and Silver Work

"What are your views with regard to gold and silver work?"

"The work in silver is really fine. Your workmen have talent. They seem to take a delight in their work for work's sake. They are very happy when someone who understands their work watches them. I have met some very clever men. I saw a man working at a chalice. I gave him some designs and he was very happy to be helped. The standard is very good. The rose water sprinklers are fine models of craftsmanship. But for the modern market there should not be too much decoration. Heavy ornamentation makes an article too expensive. There is a market for silver bowls. Your workman takes three days to make a bowl. In Europe this can be made in one day. The instruments used are primitive.

The metal has to be hammered out into thin sheets. A machine can do it in one-tenth of the time. The gold filigree work is fine. What is needed is new design. This type of work is similar to that found in Venice."

"What do you think of our carpenters?" "With fine wood like ebony, satin, Mahogany very good work can be done. At present there is no finish. The carvers of wood are talented men. They have a good hand and eye. I met a man who was a first rate artist. What he wanted was just a little direction."

"Can Jaffna put up a good show at the Perahera Industries Fair?" "There is hardly any time to turn out special work, but with what you have a fairly good stall can be fitted up."

It was nearly time for the Professor to leave for the station. He felt he had to deliver a message to the craftsmen of the North. An expert craftsman himself, with the soul of an artist, the professor seemed to regard the workmen of the North as his fellow workers. He felt that something had to be done to help these poor people, a helping hand, though it came from a land thousands of miles away, was better than files of stereotyped correspondence, with matters receiving attention for decades. His eyes flashed as he spoke: "You have good workmen. You have wonderful material. What is needed is a leader. In Ceylon you have a wonderful example of what organisation and forethought can achieve. See what progress the tea industry has made during the last 60 years. Organisation is needed to place your industries on a solid footing and keep your workmen above the starvation level. But remember you cannot help these people unless you have the heart. You must feel for them. Look into their eyes and you see the light that kindles the soul of an artist. Once they know you can help them, they are interested. You can help if you do not bring to bear a capitalist mentality. You must understand their poverty. Imagine working for hours and for four cents....." There was a feeling of sorrow as the professor stressed on that fact. It seemed to haunt his imagination. With a hearty goodbye the Professor got into his car. I wonder how many in the North have met experts who were so human, experts who seemed to throb with feeling for the job they have in hand!!

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[Mis. 101, 21 & 25-7-38]

RURAL SCHEME— SHORT COURSE

20th-23rd August, 1938

Mr. C. T. Lorange, Divisional Inspector of Schools, N. D., has sent the following circular to Managers and Head Teachers of all Schools:

I have the honour to inform you that a four day course of training in Rural Scheme Work for Teachers in Vernacular and Rural Scheme Schools will be held at the Government Training School, Copay, from the 20th to the 23rd of August 1938. The devotional hours on Sunday will be kept free for the purpose.

Admission to the Course will be restricted to male teachers. It is important that all teachers should be in residence during the course. An inclusive fee of Rs. 4.00 shall be charged for registration, board and meals, which will be vegetarian to suit the convenience of all.

Mr. E. Gonsalves, Superintendent, Government Training Centre, Mirigama, and his staff will be in charge of the course. He will be assisted by all the Inspectors in this Division.

Please bring this course to the notice of all your teachers and encourage at least one teacher from each school to attend. Applications should reach me not later than 3rd August 1938. Priority shall be given to teachers who had sent their applications for the course proposed at the beginning of the year and abandoned owing to unavoidable circumstances provided they renew their applications before the due date.

NOTICE

Nallur Kandaswamy Temple Annual Festival

1st AUGUST, 1938 to 26th AUGUST 1938
Permission having been granted to move processions and conduct religious assemblies according to custom round the Nallur Kandaswamy Temple and along the adjoining sections of the Point Pedro and Old Store Roads during the period of the festival, notice is hereby given to the Public that traffic will be diverted from sections of the Point Pedro Road and Old Store Road adjoining the Temple, along Wyman Road, Navanthurai Road and Nallur Cross Road No. 1, during the time that such processions and religious assemblies are moving round the Temple.

P. R. KRISHNARATNE,
Asst. Supdt. of Police, N. P.

Police Office,
Jaffna, 22nd July, 1938.
[G. 12, 25 & 28-7-38.]

Order Nisi

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 621
In the Matter of the Estate of the late Kanaisapillai Gnanasambander of Vannarponnai East Jaffna Deceased.
Sivakamasunderamma widow of the late Vellauther Sinnadippillai Kanaisapillai of Vannarponnai East, Jaffna presently of Colombo
Vs. Petitioner,
L. Walramuttu Arumugam Rasiah

M. C. THANDAATHAPANY Pawn Broker, Koddady JAFFNA

Established 1922

FIXED DEPOSITS

RECEIVED AT

5% FOR ONE YEAR AND 4% FOR 6 MONTHS

Money lent on Jewels at 12%.

[Y. 103, 22-7-38 to 21-7-39.]

ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE 1938— 1939

(Continued from page 1)

already passed an Ordinance on this question and it has been sent to the Secretary of State for his approval. When that comes back and is promulgated I hope it will be possible to reduce the prison population to a very large extent. You will be surprised to hear that out of the 15,000 annual admissions no less than 67 per cent. are for non-payment of fines. If you have on the one hand a Probation Service and on the other the enforcement of the provisions of the law that have recently been passed, I have not the slightest doubt that in the course of the next few years we shall be able to reduce this enormous total of 15,000 to at least 9,000 and then we shall be able to close down five or six of the prisons of the Island, and save several lakhs of rupees now spent on their maintenance.

The Headman System

Referring next to the Headman System, Sir B. Ron said that they would find provision made in the budget for Rs. 32,400 for the appointment of 18 probationers under the new scheme—two probationers for each province. Provision was also made in a sum of Rs. 10,000 for the purpose of appointing village headmen with higher and better qualifications as recommended by the Executive Committee of Home Affairs. That Rs. 10,000 represented the difference between the present salaries and the salaries recommended by

(Continued on Page 7)

and wife

2. Balambikai of Colombo and
3. Kanaisapillai Somasunderam of do

This matter of the petition of the abovenamed Petitioner Sivakamasunderamma praying for Letters of Administration to the estate of the abovenamed deceased Kanaisapillai Gnanasambander coming on for disposal before C. Coomaraswamy Esquire, District Judge, on the 9th day of July 1938 in the presence of Mr. C. A. Niles Proctor on the part of the Petitioner and the affidavit of the Petitioner dated the 10th day of June 1938 having been read, it is declared that the Petitioner is the mother of the said intestate and is entitled to have Letters of Administration to the estate of the said intestate issued to her unless the Respondents or any other person shall, on or before the 25th day of July 1938 show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

Signed this 14th day of July 1938
Sgd. C. Coomarasamy
District Judge.
[O. 21 & 25-7-38]

EBB AND FLOW

THE SUPPLY BILL

Sir Baron's Fantasies

By S. A. N.

"Shuffle-Shoon and Amber-Locks
Sit together building blocks
Age and youth are reconciled
And with sympathetic glee
Build their castles fair to see."

SIR Baron Jayatilaka elaborated last Tuesday the annual Supply Bill and Estimate of Revenue. The State Councillors have scampered off for the August festivities and are expected to munch, and ruminate, the contents of the Bill amidst holiday relaxations till 9 August when they will troop back to the arena of "high service" to deliver the profundities of their study of, and inquiry into, the Bill. The statement of Sir Baron, in submitting the Bill to the house, may be characterised as

patchy, sketchy and puzzling. He opened on the position of the current year intimating that the anticipated deficit of nearly eight and three-quarters million rupees has happily shrunk to about a million, for the estimated revenue has been exceeded by receipts. There is yet over two months of time for the exit of the current year and the difference between the revised estimate of revenue and expenditure may yet be further narrowed down. Even if further hopes are not realised, the deficit of a million rupees is a flea bite as against reserves and surpluses in the Treasury Vault amounting to in all about Rs. 29 million of which something like Rs. 6½ million is made up of the surplus from the Post Office Savings Bank and that from the Currency Account. Before we advert to

the jugglery of Sir Baron

for the next financial year, it is pertinent to ask why the Postal Department should not increase the rate of interest on deposits in its Savings Bank since the working of the Bank yields plenty of deposits. It is time that the clients of the Postal Savings Bank agitated for a little higher rate of interest. Why should profits from the operation of the deposits in the Bank go to meet the indiscretions of the Board of Ministers? The current rate of Rs. 2-40 per annum on every hundred rupees is far too low and it may be raised to three percent and even more. The Budget for 1938-1939 reveals an estimated revenue of about Rs. 117½ million and an estimated expenditure of about Rs. 123½ million exclusive of about Rs. 5½ million under the Loan Scheme. Thus

a deficit

of about Rs. 6 million is budgeted for which Sir Baron assured the Council would be wiped off, on the showing of the Financial Secretary, by the normal savings. At the worst they hope that the deficit at the close of the next financial year will be a little over half a million rupees. And in the next breath, Sir Baron cast his anxious glances on the reserves in the Treasury and told the House that at the end of the next financial year there would be a surplus of Rs. 25 million. Sir Baron's position is somewhat

awkward. Though he presents the Budget the real responsibility does not rest on his shoulders. He plays the part of the battering-ram for the Financial Secretary who sits behind the screen,

the real Nabob

of the country's finances regulating the marionette play of Sir Baron. Is it sound finance, demands Prof. Cole, to budget for higher expenditure than the revenue would warrant and bank for the deficit on the reserves and surplus of past years? After all, the reserves and surpluses amounting to only about Rs. 22½ million is nothing of an unshakable stand-by when the credit of the country is mortgaged for Rs. 200 million loan, capital and interest. The complacent view of Sir Baron that the country's debt is nothing high, is indefensible in the light of his own opinion that the expenditure is growing year after year, necessitating the appointment of a Commission to examine possible reductions of expenditure. When the expenditure exceeds revenue year after year any debt, however small, cannot be looked upon as a trifle and the Minister's view is no measure of his sense of responsibility. Further Sir Baron has made that statement when he was in possession of the Financial Secretary's

pious opinion

that the year 1938-1939 will be a peak year and the succeeding years will register serious falls in revenue. If the Financial Secretary will prove to be a true prophet, the future of Ceylon will be on the razor edge of danger. If and when the prophecy is fulfilled, the collapse of existing organisation will be tremendously disastrous. The responsibility for such a fate, in the not distant future, will be apportioned between the Board of Ministers who have been caught by a mania to sink money in many a wild-cat scheme and the British Official Block who are ultimately responsible for the good government of the country, but who are really answerable for the high crushing Establishment charges which have impoverished, and will continue to impoverish the country unless

a complete overhaul

and reorganisation of the cadre of the Public Services and of the salary scales is undertaken forthwith to suit the means and the needs of the country. Nowhere else in the world are services fed and pampered as they are in Ceylon. This fact has been patent enough during several years. The Ministers and the High Government knew it. They dared not to tamper with the salary scales, for the public servants became very vociferous asking yet for more. The European Civil Servant set the model and all other government servants down to the pettiest clerk buckled on to it. The tyranny of public servants has threatened everybody else into submission to their demands for high salaries and other privileges. The only justification for the rising vote of the Department of Education is

Teachers' Pensions

Governor Sanctions Amendments

Certain amendments to the School Teachers' Pension Ordinance are published in last Friday's "Gazette". They have been sanctioned by H. E. the Governor.

One of the amendments is to Rule 10 of the Pensions' Ordinance, according to which, in the case of a teacher who dies after 60 months of recorded service, without having drawn any pension, a pension equal to the total amount paid by such teacher during the months of recorded service may be paid to his nominee or legal representative.

The words "who has completed 60 months of recorded service" are now deleted from this rule.

that it is the most important basic service and expenditure on Departments which are not half so important is comparatively higher. It is one's honest opinion that, independent of any comparison, teachers are paid high and the present salary scales will land the country in

a serious plight.

A few years back the Council saw the danger of rising cost of administration, and the Percera Commission was set up to report on ways and means of reduction. The report was put by and no action was taken. It is sheer waste of some more good money to appoint another Commission for the very purpose while the chances are that the report when produced will go the way of the old. Nothing short of a searching inquiry with the deliberate intention of carrying out its recommendations, will introduce the change so urgent in the organisation and emoluments of the services. It is worse than stark blindness for Sir Baron egged on by the Financial Secretary to double the military expenditure while it is the lock-out of the Imperial Government to secure the safety of the Colony. The votes on the State Council, the Judiciary, the Trade Representation, Civil Aviation and many others are far more than circumstances would permit.

Europeans in Ceylon

are not tired of complaining that expenditure on Education should be controlled, but they never raise a protest against P.W.D. waste and exorbitantly high salary scales of imported officers. It is hardly any consolation to the people to be told that no fresh or additional tax is foisted on them; nor will it raise any high hopes in their breasts to be told that a Retrenchment Commission will soon dispel the gloom that overhangs them. The growing unemployment among the educated youth, the largely increasing admissions to the University College, the absence of even a big manufacturing industry.

the blind-alley educational System

that leaves the youth stranded on the eminence of an impractical education which is often fertile soil for crime and other problems require a statesmanship which is at once unpretentious and lofty to solve them. While England and her Dominions are paying the fullest attention to

PROPOSED EDUCATION ORDINANCE

REQUEST TO POSTPONE CONSIDERATION

NORTHERN PROVINCE TEACHERS' VIEWS

A RESOLUTION urging the Minister of Education not to proceed with the proposed Education Ordinance until after an Education Commission had made its recommendations was carried at a special general meeting of the Northern Province Teachers' Association held on Saturday at the Jaffna Hindu College hall to consider the proposed Education Ordinance.

Mr. V. Veerasingam, the president, said the proposed Ordinance could not claim any superiority over the present Ordinance in point of capacity to give a new spirit, a wider outlook and a practical turn. The draft Ordinance put the Director of Education under the direction and control of the Executive Committee. To hold the chief Executive officer responsible to the Committee and not to the Minister was sure to give room to all those abuses of power regarding which complaints had been levelled against the committee system.

It was advisable to postpone the passing of the Ordinance till the question of the reforms took definite shape and till a Commission of Education reported as suggested by the Northern Province Teachers' Association more than once. The Board of Education, as at present constituted, would be shorn of power to make rules governing education and would become an advisory body.

On the motion of Mr. K. Nasiah seconded by Mr. S. Ambikaipakan, four resolutions were passed after discussion for over one hour. The resolutions recommended the All Ceylon Union of teachers to urge on the Minister of Education not to proceed with the proposed Ordinance until after an Education Commission has made its recommendations.

The meeting also resolved that it is undesirable that the Executive Committee be vested with the powers sought to be vested in it by the Ordinance.

the healthy and useful growth of the youth, our rulers and Ministers do nothing beyond soapy words. "There are times

When Fancy plays her gambols,
in despite
Even of our watchful sense when
in sooth
Substance seems shadow, shadow
substance seems."

Sir Baron's budget speech is what the late Mr. Gokhale would have called unimaginative. There is nothing inspiring and nothing stimulating. It is at best the gramophone voice of the master, the Financial Secretary. The old and the young in the legislature are engaged in the grand pursuit of chasing the shadow, and of building "castles fair to see".

Manager's Notice

The "Hindu Organ" Office will be closed tomorrow for the Adi Amavasai Teertham.

MANAGER.
"Hindu Organ"

25-7-38.



Hindu Organ.

MONDAY, JULY 25, 1938.

THE TRAGEDY OF SALARIES

THE SUPPLY BILL AND THE Estimate of Revenue for 1938-39 are before the country. SIR BARON JAYATILAKA drew, in presenting the estimates, pointed attention to the dire necessity of adopting ways and means to control and regulate the soaring items of current and recurrent expenditure; and announced the appointment of a Commission composed of the Auditor-General and the Deputy Financial Secretary to examine and recommend measures to reduce the cost of administration without endangering efficiency; and has therefore warned the House and the public that votes under personal emoluments were provisional pending the findings of the Commission. We would have rather wished the Minister to further warn the House and the public that some at least of the several items of expenditure on "utility" services were also provisional pending their examination by the Commission. The already bad financial situation of the country would develop worse, according to the reading of the signs by the Financial Secretary, in one or two years. The calamitous position to which the country is fast drifting has been induced by several acts of omission and commission by those who controlled the affairs of the country during the last twenty years. We wish to refer today to one, and that perhaps the most glaringly wasteful, act of commission, namely the unconscionable raising of salary scales.

It cannot be seriously refuted that the perilous financial position of the country has been mainly due to the heavy drain in salaries and connected perquisites. The salary and charge on the revenue in 1921 was somewhere in the neigh-

bourhood of Rs. 22 million. This was out of a potential revenue of about Rs. 110 million. One may almost say that it was not unfair to earmark one-fifth of the revenue for over-head charges, although a comparison with those of other countries of similar proportions would condemn the ratio as excessive. But the public servants have been far more calculating than their employers or events after 1921 would exonerate them. On the false assumption that the post-war years would bring increasing prosperity to the island's resources they set up a clamour for higher salaries and privileges in the shape of rent allowances, travel warrants and overtime considerations. The Civil Service was foremost in its demands and the Secretary of State is never found remiss when the Civil Service claims are considered. To justify the gift of the Civil Service demands, the other services too are taken under the protecting wing.

The Woodrenton-Fernando Scheme was the fruit of the agitation, and it raised salaries and granted various privileges, and the operation of the scheme raised the salary bill in three years by over Rs. 18 million. The anticipated prosperity of the post-war period proved to be a tantalising vision and the early years of the present decade revealed the enormity of the Woodrenton Scheme. It was felt imperative to revise the bill if only to avert a certain drift to the rocks. The ill-fated Perera Commission was put on the business of examining the bill. The report could have achieved much in clearing the cob-webs had the Government acted on all its recommendations. Beyond adopting certain minor steps relating to new entrants, the old scheme has been allowed to operate down to this day. The Salary Scales cost the revenue today over Rs. 50 million, while the revenue stands at Rs. 117½ million. Where else the personal emoluments cost over half the revenue? Where else in a country of similar size do they have about three quarters of a lakh of Government Servants? The tragedy of intolerable and unbearable salaries threatens to swamp all else.

It was a vain expectation of the people that the so-called responsible government of the Donoughmore Constitution would help to reduce charges of administration. The Members and Ministers voted to themselves salaries which the revenue could ill bear. They missed the opportunity of setting an example to the public servants. The evil has grown on to such dimensions that unless a root and branch overhaul is carried out certain bankruptcy looms ahead, despite the complacency of SIR

BARON over the reserve and surplus balance of Rs. 25 million. Now what guarantee is there that the retrenchment Commission's labours would be acted on? And would the Commission produce a scheme within reasonable time so that the provisions of the budget might be modified? What is more urgent than a Commission is a chastened attitude on the part of public servants from the Governor downwards to personal emoluments. And Ministers and members of the State Council could create that attitude by their own self-denial. That way alone lies the salvation of the country.

Prohibition In India

The success of the Prohibition scheme launched by the Congress Government in Salem has encouraged other Congress Ministries to try the experiment in selected areas. That Prohibition in Salem has more than justified the public expectations, is proved by the Report of the Collector of Salem, in which he pays a well deserved tribute to the enthusiasm of officers and unofficial leaders which has contributed not a little to the success of the movement. Only last week the Prohibition movement was inaugurated in Ahmedabad at the instance of the Bombay Minister, Dr. M. D. Gilder, and under the inspiration of Sardar Patel. The Sardar, addressing a mammoth meeting, is reported to have exhorted the people as follows: "The Congress has taken the first and the right step towards the establishment of Swaraj. After 150 years of British rule, India has been given some concessions to administer certain of her affairs. Prohibition is the chief factor in India's fight for independence and by launching the same, India is nearing 'Swaraj'. No wonder that, under the inspiring leadership of Mahatma Gandhi, the Prohibition movement is proceeding apace in India and that she is bound to give a lead in this matter to the world. Gandhiji once wrote:— 'I believe that the habit of drink is one of the greatest curses that has descended upon mankind. I would rather see India bankrupt than coquet with Satan to square her account'. What a pity that in our Island there is a criminal apathy on the part of the Government and the public alike towards this vital problem! Who will deny that drink and crime often go together? The crime roll of this Island has been steadily increasing year after year. There can be no doubt that Prohibition is the most effective way of tackling this menacing problem. Would that our leaders and politicians emulated in this respect the inspiring example of Indian Congress leaders!

REST AND REFRESHMENTS TO KATARAGAMA PILGRIMS

Puttalam Hindus Decide to Make Provision

Puttalam, 1st July, 1938. The Hindus of Puttalam held a public meeting yesterday under the Chairmanship of Mr. S. Anubalavanar, Assistant Superintendent of Surveys, to consider what steps should be taken to relieve the sufferings of the large exodus of Pilgrims from Jaffna to Katargama who travel through Puttalam and it was unanimously decided to provide rest and refreshments to these pilgrims at a spot near the Puttalam Post Office. A committee of 13 members was appointed to take the necessary steps to provide all facilities to these pilgrims.

The Northern Assizes

Kandiah Ramupillai, a Malayali residing at Hospital Road, who preferred to be tried by a Tamil-Speaking jury, at the Northern Assizes, was acquitted after trial on Saturday, on a charge of unnatural offence.

Farewell to Rev. & Mrs. Cash

The Old Boys, the Staff and students of the Jaffna Central College will entertain the Rev. Percy T. Cash, the Principal and Mrs. Cash at a Garden Party and Farewell on Monday, 1st August 1938 in the College premises at 5 p.m.

Labour Leader ill on Way to England

Mr. A. E. Goonesinghe, who was on his way to England had been taken ill on board and had to disembark at Bombay.

The Nayanmakaddu Ayurvedic Hospital's Centenary

The Centenary of the Nayanmakaddu Ayurvedic Hospital will be celebrated on Friday, July 23rd 1938, at the Hospital premises. The programme will be as follows:—

- 5 p.m.—6 p.m. Garden party
- 6 p.m.—5 15 p.m. Laying of the Foundation stone of the Centenary Memorial Warf by the Hon. the Minister for Health.
- 6-15 p.m.—7-30 p.m. Public meeting to be presided over by the Hon. Mr. W. A. de Silva, Minister for Health.

Personal

Mr. A. Chellappah, Manager of Schools, Hindu Board of Education, has been appointed member of the Board of Education in place of Mr. S. Rajaratnam.

FOOD CONTROL IN EMERGENCY

FIXING OF PRICES

FULL AUTHORITY FOR CONTROLLER

THE Food Control Advisory Committee has decided to recommend that the Food Controller and the Deputy Controllers in their respective areas should be given complete authority to fix the prices of commodities in times of crisis.

The Committee is emphatically of opinion that any other method would be unworkable.

The Committee is also unanimously of the opinion that the Food Controller should be given the power to close the Chalmers Granaries and Manning Markets whenever he considers that the situation warrants such a course.

The Committee takes the view that if the Chalmers Granaries and the Manning Markets are not immediately closed at the beginning of an emergency, all hope of control of whatever rice happens to be in the Granaries would be lost, weakening of confidence would ensue and panic would follow.

The Committee is at present considering the draft regulations to be framed under the Food Control Ordinance.

Among other matters, the Committee has recommended that ration cards should be issued to individuals rather than to householders. It was suggested that one person should be allowed to collect all the rations due on cards from one particular house.

It is also suggested that provision should be made in the regulations to enable a person who leaves his district temporarily to obtain rice in his new district.

It would also be incumbent on a person who desired to take up residence elsewhere to inform the Food Control authorities of that area immediately on arrival and obtain either a transfer of his or her card or a special card which might be presented for the purpose.

Railway Concession to Kataragam Pilgrims

Cheap return tickets on the railway are being issued at single fare for double journey, for the Kataragam festival from today till 10th August, available for return till 16th August.

The rates from Jaffna Station to Matara are: 1st class Rs. 23-35; 2nd class Rs. 15-39 and 3rd class 7-42.

The rates from Jaffna Station to Haputale are: 1st class Rs. 23-95; 2nd class 15-95 and 3rd class 7-20.

International Peace Campaign

Conference in Paris

Paris, Saturday.

EIGHT hundred and fifty delegates from 30 countries are attending the two-day International Peace Campaign Conference here to discuss "action on the bombardment of open towns and the restoration of peace."

The British delegation includes ten members of the House of Commons, representatives of the churches and trade unions. There are strong delegations from Sweden and Czechoslovakia. India is represented by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru.

BAR "AT HOME" TO NEW J. P.

The Jaffna Bar was "At Home" to Mr. K. Somasundaram at the Town Hall on Wednesday. Mr. Somasundaram arrived at the hall to the accompaniment of Oriental music and was received at the entrance by Atikar A. Naganathan and Messrs. S. Kanagasabai, T. Sivakolanthu and E. Murugesanpillai and the Secretary, Mr. T. Muttusamypillai, who garlanded both Mr. Somasundaram and Mr. Kanagasabai, who presided over the function. They were also garlanded by Mr. K. Ambalavanar of Mandaitivoe. There was a very large gathering of lawyers and other distinguished representatives from all parts of the Peninsula.

The Chairman, Mr. S. Kanagasabai said that they were gathered there that evening to congratulate Mr. Somasundaram on the distinction he had achieved. His lawyer friends had organised that function to afford an opportunity for all lawyers from outstations as well to meet together and offer their congratulations to Mr. Somasundaram. Mr. Somasundaram had 25 years' practice at the Bar and had very lucrative practice. He did his work so well that he commanded great influence among his clients. He was a very successful practitioner.

Friend of all

He was also a very good friend of all. He did not confine his activities to his profession only but was engaged in public work. He was member of the Jaffna Local Board and its successor, the Jaffna Urban District Council, for many years and was the Council's Vice-Chairman for a time, and also acting Chairman. As such he rendered invaluable services in the administration of the affairs of the Council.

He was moreover a person with a lovable personality, pleasing manners, a good friend and a dependable adviser. He had identified himself with every public movement to further the interests of the people.

Mr. W. D. Niles, Advocate, retired District Judge, said he knew Mr. Somasundaram personally for many years. He saw him first in 1903 when he was a young man and looked like "Manmathan." Mr.

INDIA'S RIGHT TO DECIDE HER FUTURE

Mr. Nehru's Farewell Message

London, July 22.

Mr. Nehru, interviewed by *Reuter* before his departure, stated that he was most grateful both to his English and Indian friends for the great cordiality of their welcome. He met with friendship and courtesy everywhere.

"I wish the problem of India may be considered in this spirit and the roots of conflict and hostility between England and India may be removed. A brave outlook and courageous steps are necessary for this result to be achieved. Anything short of that will fail in its purpose. The time has come when this question should be finally solved on the only lines it can be solved, namely independence for India and the Indian people deciding for themselves what their future destiny should be. If that is done, friendship follows and mutual co-operation is begun. Without it we continue to plough the sands of the desert."

Paris, July 22.

Mr. Nehru, who is expected to stay here for three or four days, arrived this morning for the week-end international conference on the bombing of open towns.

Mr. Nehru is seeing a number of friends in the morning and is expected to see the Chinese and Soviet Ambassadors in the afternoon.

Somasundaram impressed him very much as a rising citizen.

Mr. Somasundaram was a man with a very sensitive and sympathetic heart. He thought of making provision for the old and destitute. He was mainly responsible in founding the Home for the Aged which was situated on the road to Vaddukkottai. There were few homes like that in the South, and there was one carried on by the Catholic Mission on Beach Road.

Judge's Tribute

Mr. C. Coomaraswamy, District Judge, Jaffna, said he would join with them all in congratulating Mr. Somasundaram on his being honoured as a Justice of the Peace. It was a tardy expression of the appreciation of Mr. Somasundaram's public service, but was yet welcome as a recognition of the good work done by him. Mr. Somasundaram was a prominent figure in the public life of Jaffna. He had done good work as member in the Jaffna Local Board and then as member in the Urban District Council.

In recognition of his work the Council had named a road after his name. That road was used by thousands of people during the Nallur Kandaswamy Temple festival, and Mr. Somasundaram's association with that temple was also well-known to all of them. Mr. Somasundaram was an optimist, full of hope and tact to get things done.

Mr. Somasundaram in his reply thanked the members of the Bar for having given him the opportunity to

Leopard at Large

Shot Dead After Bitter Struggle

Pt. Pedro, Wednesday.

ON information received from the Udaiyar of Puloty that a huge leopard had strayed from the jungle which is over 30 miles from Thumpaly and mangled two boys who went to the Seashore, Mr. S. C. Rasaratnam, Teacher Hartly College, Point Pedro motored to the spot at about 4-30 p. m. yesterday along with the Udaiyar, Police Sergeant and P. C. Muttiah.

After a prolonged struggle and chase in which Mr. Rajaratnam and three others were injured it was at about 9-30 p. m. that the brute was located. Mr. S. Vinasitambay and Police constable Muttiah fired two shots. As the animal jumped to their side Mr. Rasaratnam fired the fatal shot and dispatched the animal. A huge crowd saw the carcass which was shown round the whole town. The people are very grateful to Mr. Rasaratnam for his very prompt and gallant action in saving the lives of the seventeen people inside the house and for killing a brute who would have proved a great menace to the town if allowed to roam freely. The Principal of Hartley College at assembly time today paid a glowing tribute to Mr. Rasaratnam for his gallant action in shooting the brute at great risk to his life. Mr. Rasaratnam had also shot a large number of dangerous rogue elephants and leopards.

It is learnt that the condition of the two boys and of one Thamootheram is serious. (Cor.)

Alleged Murder at Thaddateru

Appadurai, a goldsmith who received serious knife injuries in a fight with Singaram and some others succumbed to his injuries yesterday. The alleged assailants have not yet been arrested.

meet his friends that evening. He did not consider that the honour was conferred on him, but that it was an honour conferred on them. As regards the Home for the Aged he said that good work done by Mudaliyar G. Subramaniam and R. R. Nalliah and their District Judge, Mr. C. Coomaraswamy who fostered the Home and cared for it as a mother. The Home came to be a success on account of men like Dr. S. Thuraiappah, Muhandiram P. Rajagopal and Mr. Kathiravelu.

He (the speaker) thanked all those present that evening for their presence in large numbers and for their felicitations to him.

Mr. R. Sivagurunathan called for three cheers for Mr. Somasundaram, which were lustily responded to by all those present and the gathering then dispersed after a very pleasant and enjoyable evening.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THE EX-MANAGER OF THE HINDU BOARD SCHOOLS

Sir,—The writer of the letter in your issue of 4th inst. over the signature of Mr. N. Selvadurai has done no service even to Mr. S. Rajaratnam by his bitter invectives against me. I am not on my defence concerning my conduct either as a schoolmaster or as a Manager of Schools. I therefore propose to treat the attack on me with the contempt which it deserves as it is well-known that a person abuses his opponent only when he has no case to defend.

2. Mr. Rajaratnam, with all the resourcefulness of a clever lawyer, is attempting to create the impression that gross injustice has been done to him. His assertions that the Director's decision against him was based on a garbled report made by a biased officer on the strength of very unreliable evidence on a number of irrelevant matters is a gross misrepresentation of facts. When it was found that the interdiction of the Principal of the Saiva Training School from duty was really not due to his insubordination to a legitimate order, it became necessary to go into all the reasons which formed the motives for the drastic action taken against him without the approval of the Committee of the Board and without the prior sanction of the Director of Education. Thus the discontinuance of the principal from service was closely bound up with the general conduct of the manager in his administration of the schools. Mr. Rajaratnam himself was a party to the proceedings throughout the inquiry and objected to the evidence of only two witnesses on the ground of irrelevancy when it was found that unimpeachable documentary evidence would be produced by them against him. Thus there is no truth in the statement that he was condemned on the strength of evidence not proved in any sense of the term.

3. I am not concerned with personalities and I hold no brief for the Director of Education; but the interests of the Hindu Board require that the issues should be made clear to the public so that suitable action may be taken to rectify a state of affairs which ought not to be tolerated any longer.

4. The first charge against Mr. Rajaratnam was the dismissal of the Principal, Mr. Swaminathan, without sufficient cause. The evidence on this point is complete. There was a difference of opinion between the Principal and the Manager with regard to the admission of three students nominated by the Manager without any consideration for their fitness and it was agreed to refer the matter to the Director of Education and abide by his decision. Mr. Rajaratnam contended that the Director had given a ruling in his favour. If he had obtained such a ruling, why did he not produce it at the inquiry, which proceeded because the Director had definitely informed the officer who conducted the inquiry that he had given no such ruling? Was not the Manager found guilty of having made admissions to the Training School without conforming to educational principles? Was not the dismissal of the Principal while the matter of interdiction was under investigation by the Director a high-handed act? Could any Director of Edu-

cation tolerate such an open act of defiance?

5. Another charge brought against Mr. Rajaratnam was the use of undue influence and pressure in collecting money from the teachers of the Board. There was clear evidence to show that such payments were really forced payments. No payment can be said to be voluntary when an employer with enormous powers asks his employees and gets from them regular payments of money. This view is confirmed by the circulars issued by the manager, which were really orders for payments, and by the evidence of a teacher who was cross-examined by Mr. Rajaratnam. The vice-principal of the training school also, in his evidence expressed the opinion that about 80% of the teachers paid their contributions unwillingly. One can understand the teachers of a school voluntarily undertaking to effect improvements to the schools in which they serve. No objection can even be made to the teachers occasionally contributing towards the funds of the Board along with members of the public, when there is an emergency call for such funds. But the collection of a certain percent of salary year after year is really equivalent to an unauthorized levy, and it defeats the very object for which the direct payment of salaries was introduced. What is the moral justification for such collections when the teachers' salaries are paid by the Government and an additional grant is given to the Manager for maintenance and equipment? Does any other educational society, Hindu or Christian, make such collections? Would not such a practice, if allowed to continue, lead to serious abuses? Is not the payment of a salary to the Manager or to any other director of the Board out of these collections a breach of section 32 (VI) of the Code, which says "The Manager or proprietor of any school shall not receive any personal benefit or emolument therefrom"?

The third charge is a breach of Clause 18 (V) of the Code, which says "the scale of salaries adopted by the school must not be less than that prescribed by the Code." The English teachers were engaged by Mr. Rajaratnam on the scale salary minus the Manager's contribution. To hide this breach of the rule, the teachers are said to contribute voluntarily, but even this explanation was contradicted by the evidence given. There is no justification for an unauthorized pact, and the Manager who is responsible for this arrangement commits an illegal act—can this practice obtaining under the Hindu Board be tolerated? If it is not necessary for the manager of the Hindu Board schools to adhere to the salary scale, why should not other managers of schools be allowed openly to resort to the same device to get out of their financial difficulties? The attempt to circumvent the Code by making the collections through another officer of the Board is equally objectionable. The fourth charge was that there existed 'undesirable financial dealings between Mr. Rajaratnam and the teachers.' This charge is proved by the evidence given by the Principal and vice-principal of the training school and admitted by Mr.

Rajaratnam himself. Loans and donations are really cases of blackmail. Is not this evidence alone sufficient to condemn any manager of schools? The defence offered by Mr. Rajaratnam only aggravates his offence. In the first place he states that the present Minister allowed him to collect money from his teachers for his State Council election expenses in 1934. If there was such a permission given, will he publish it now? Secondly he says that he got the loans for election expenses. Can this statement be regarded as correct as the loan of Rs. 1200 from Mr. Swaminathan was obtained long before the election?

It is therefore clear that all the attempts made by his friends to exonerate the ex-manager have failed as the evidence in support of all the charges were proved or admitted by him. No educationist has defended the conduct of Mr. Rajaratnam, on the other hand most of the leading Hindu educationists including principals and headmasters of schools have submitted a statement to the Director of Education approving his decision against Mr. Rajaratnam.

Yours etc.

C. K. SWAMINATHAN

Eluthumaddurai

11-7-38

Present Abuses in Village Administration

Sir,—By village administration I mean the present system of administration followed by almost all village committees in the northern province.

The system as it obtains at present in Jaffna leads to a lot of abuses and irregularities. As far as I have seen, heard and known activities in village administration become visible once in 3 years only whenever a new committee is elected. Any one, whatever his qualification, with an ambition to secure a seat in the village committee starts a propaganda campaign in his favour with some hirelings to aid him and a campaign of vilification against his opponent or opponents.

This leads to factions and internal feuds in tiny villages.

One of the most important functions of the village committee is to take possession of all public lanes, water courses, tanks etc. and maintain them in good order and condition. To do this efficiently there must be a map in every village committee office showing these lanes etc. under their proper names.

In addition, every member of the committee should be in possession of a certified copy of this map.

In my experience the only apparent activity of many of the village committees is to convert existing lanes, which evidently served as water courses during rainy seasons, into metalled roads so that some swell member of the committee may land high and dry at his door step. I have known instances where certain ward members of certain committees have drawn money from village committee funds 3 times under 3 different lane names for indifferently improving a certain section of a certain lane once. I suspect that

this system of swindling is prevalent in almost all village areas in Jaffna. There would be no room for this kind of abuse to creep in if up-to-date maps are kept, indicating year by year the improvements effected in each lane etc.

There are instances where public lanes and water courses have been obstructed by private individuals with the result that access to terminal paddy fields for agricultural purposes is denied and during rainy season dwelling areas become constantly flooded thus affecting the health of the inhabitants in general.

I know for instance where such obstruction has been made and the offender would not obey the orders of the village committee chairman and the Government Agent to remove the obstruction.

I wonder whether the Village Committee has not the power to take charge of property vested in it and remove any nuisance committed thereon by private individuals.

Every Village Committee must on its own initiative have all public lanes surveyed and all encroachments thereon removed. There are thousands of such encroachments all over Jaffna.

Yours etc.,

V. SWAMINATHAN.

Kalvala,
20-7-38.

Art Exhibition

Sir,—During the Education Week held in Jaffna, March 1938, Mr. S. R. Kanagasabai, Asst. Inspector of Art, organised an Exhibition of Arts and Crafts at Parameshwara College. exquisite specimens of painting, paper-cutting, basket-work, and pottery, were among the entries, and the exhibition rooms were transformed into an artistic fairyland. The exhibition was open for six days, and it was well attended by members of the public no less than by art students. It is difficult to exaggerate the educational value of such an exhibition.

Now, rumour has it that the Jaffna Art Teachers' Society propose to have a competitive Art Exhibition in November in Jaffna immediately after the Ceylon Society of Art Exhibition in Colombo. Allow me sir, to make the suggestion, through the columns of your valuable journal, that the exhibition be held in three sections: first, the competitive section for those who wish to compete; second, the non-competitive section for those who wish to exhibit, but do not compete; and the third section to consist of paintings, etc., by recognised Artists from South Ceylon. I am sure artists like Mudir. A. C. G. S. Amerasegara, Mr. J. D. A. Perera will not grudge lending their 'pieces' so that those less gifted than themselves may draw inspiration.

Rumour further has it that Mr. G. G. Ponnambalam, M. S. C. has offered a Cup to the best artist from the North. Need one say what an encouragement to art such an offer is?

Yours etc.

A LOVER OF ART.

ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE 1938-39

(Continued from page 2)

the Committee. That would enable them to appoint at least 70 village headmen in the course of the year. As regards the intermediate class of headmen until they found a better type of village headmen it would be very difficult especially in the remoter districts to remove at once the intermediate classes like vidane arachchies, ulayars, and korals.

Continuing, Sir Baron said that it was proposed to take further steps in regard to that matter by instructing Government Agents in future not to fill any vacancy of chief headman permanently until the probationers went through a course of six months' training. Moreover, it was proposed to retire all Chief Headmen when they reach the age of 55. That would enable them to substitute the probationers in the course of a few years throughout the country.

Agricultural Activities

Turning to the Agricultural Department's activities, Sir Baron said that the Marketing Department was fulfilling a very useful function. He was agreeably surprised to find that the Anuradhapura rice mill now supplied the Colombo markets with 15 tons of rice a week whereas some time back it was only half a ton a week. It was obvious that that Department was fulfilling a real need. It was interesting to note that during the year 200 new co-operative societies had been registered, the total number now being 1,299 with a total membership of 25,256. The total of the balance sheet of these societies amounted to Rs. 4,595,803. It was sufficient evidence that the people of this country were becoming gradually co-operative minded.

Public Health

Passing on next to the question of Public Health, Sir Baron said that many measures for the preservation and improvement of Public Health were closely related to the activities of local governing bodies. Sanitary measures in their localities and preventive measures as well as the provision of such institutions as maternity and child welfare centres ought to be undertaken to a large extent by local authorities. They would find increased provision for Public Health in the budget. The question of water supply was also a very important one especially in certain remote districts. They would find that the vote for Village Committees for the construction and repair of village wells had been increased from Rs. 45,000 to Rs. 60,000, and grants to Village Committees for village works had been increased from Rs. 200,000 to Rs. 250,000. Grants to local bodies for maternity and child welfare work had been increased from Rs. 30,000 to Rs. 100,000. Grants to local bodies for slum clearance and housing schemes had been raised from Rs. 75,000 to Rs. 100,000.

When they looked at all that from the Public Health point of view, said Sir Baron, they would realise the importance of developing their self-governing institutions from Village Committees upwards. The Village Commit-

tees Ordinance was still before the Secretary of State and when it was promulgated he had no doubt it would help to develop their functions and secure monies for those purposes. The Minister of Local Administration was also preparing another local Government Ordinance and a small towns Ordinance both of which would help considerably in developing local institutions. Apart from that, the question of Public Health in general was in charge of the Ministry of Health and from the preventive point of view they would find provision made for a large number of field officers—55 in number—with a number of other minor employees. When they came to the curative side they would find provision made in the budget for seven cottage hospitals. Under the scheme for providing cottage hospitals introduced in 1936 about 20 had already been completed. Provision was also made for 123 new dispensaries and additions and improvements to a very large number of existing hospitals.

Commerce And Industry

Turning to the subject of Commerce and Industries, Sir Baron said that an important event during the year was the establishment of a separate Department of Commerce and Industries, and local traders had already taken full advantage of the facilities afforded by that Department.

Referring to the Trade Representative in India, he said that Mr. Kantawala had done much to improve trade connections between India and Ceylon especially in bringing Indian importers in touch with Ceylon exporters. He had also been successful in getting the tariff valuations on betel nuts and coconut products reduced.

Dwelling further on the trade relations between India and Ceylon, Sir Baron said that a recent despatch from the Government of India deferred the proposed conference till October when it was expected that negotiations with the United Kingdom would be completed.

The Education Bill

Turning to Education, Sir Baron said that it was proposed to increase the number of teachers in Sinhalese and Tamil schools by some 3,300 odd and naturally the Education Bill was increasing. It was also proposed to raise the standard of teaching at the Technical College for which the Committee of Education proposed to obtain the services of three engineer-professors at a cost of Rs. 45,000.

Referring to the University College, Sir Baron said that the increase in the number of admissions was astonishing. This year the admissions totalled some 700. If that ratio was maintained they would have some very important results. In the first place the staff and accommodation would have to be vastly increased. More than that, it might have a very disturbing effect on the proposed new University. The estimates for the new university provided accommodation, both residential and teaching, for only 500, whereas the numbers had already gone up to nearly 800. In a couple of

years, if there was no restriction, it would reach 1000. To duplicate estimates of the new universities would involve very serious complications. It was his personal opinion that the time had come when an effort must be made to restrict admissions to the University College.

As regards the question of the site for the new University he regretted to note that it had not been finally settled, but judging from what appeared in the papers it was nearing settlement and he hoped that it would reach that very desirable end shortly.

The Railway

Speaking of the Railway, Sir Baron said that although personal emoluments had been reduced by nearly half a million rupees and allowances by Rs. 130,000 the loss on the Railway was nearly Rs. 4,00,000. He expected that there would be an appreciable improvement when the Motor Car Ordinance was passed. That Ordinance was not framed for the purpose of bolstering up the Railway. There was ample room for both the Railway and Road Transport services, and he sincerely hoped that the new Ordinance would put an end to the unhealthy cut-throat competition which was ruining not the Railway so much as Motor Transport itself.

Financial Secretary's Warning

Sir Baron Jayatilaka next referred to the observation of the Financial Secretary that next year was going to be a peak year of revenue for Ceylon and that thereafter there would probably be decreases in revenue. The Financial Secretary maintained that expenditure was increasing at a ratio which was not justified by the Island's basic financial resources and that it would be difficult to meet even existing commitments in the years immediately following 1938-39. That was a warning which they could not afford to ignore. He had further stated that in those circumstances he considered it essential that a halt should be called to the policy of progress which had been adopted by the present State Council.

New Taxation Unbearable

Sir Baron said that he wished the House to consider that matter very seriously. That advice of the Financial Secretary meant that they should give up all that had been initiated during the last seven years for the improvement of the lot of the people of this country. The Financial Secretary was perfectly justified from a financial point of view in giving that advice if he considered that there was danger to the financial stability of the country. But they had to consider whether they could accept that advice in the form in which it had been tendered. Were they prepared to curtail all activities which were meant for the benefit of the people of this country? If they were not prepared to do that—he was not sure whether there was any member who was prepared to do that—then they had to consider by what other means they could meet the situation they were told they would have to face.

One thing they could not do was to add to the burden of taxation.

If there was going to be a depression two years hence it would no doubt be due to a fall in the prices of the major products of this country. A perusal of the figures would

reveal that income tax was paid by less than 20,000 people out of this country's population of 5½ millions. The majority of that small group earned their income directly or indirectly from the major industries. If a depression made its appearance it would indicate that that small group had failed, and surely that would not be the time to increase the burden of direct taxation which now fell upon that small group of people.

If then they were bent upon increasing taxation they would have to increase the taxes on the necessities of life—the necessities of life consumed by five million people in this country. The majority of that five million depended upon the major industries for their livelihood, and if their means of earning became smaller it was inconceivable how they could increase the taxes of those people. Looking at the matter from all points of view, therefore further taxation had to be ruled out at least for the present.

Establishment Charges

The Financial Secretary had naturally referred to the annual increase in the establishment charges. That was a matter beyond their control. Even if there was no advance and if they did not start any new activities, the cost of establishments would go on increasing. That was a problem which they had to tackle seriously once and for all.

"Colonial administration has a proud record of efficiency based upon justice and law," continued Sir Baron, "but it has also one feature which is becoming more and more apparent in countries which have not risen to the position of self governing dominions. That feature is that the cost of administration is extraordinarily high as compared with the standard of living and the taxable capacity of the people in those countries. This phenomenon had been noticed in other parts of the British Empire."

Appointment of Commission

"This question has engaged the attention of the Board of Ministers," observed Sir Baron, "and they have after consideration asked His Excellency the Governor to appoint a Commission immediately to investigate this problem. His Excellency has consented to appoint such a Commission with very wide terms of reference. The personnel of the Commission has also been settled. I have been authorised to announce to this Council the terms of reference as well as the composition of the Commission."

"The terms of reference are to investigate and report on the possibility of reducing public expenditure by changes in the organisation, operative methods, staffing, cadre and salary standards of public departments (appliance). And His Excellency has decided to appoint Mr. O. E. Goonetilleke, the Auditor General, as Chairman, and Mr. C. E. Jones, the acting Deputy Financial Secretary, as the other member of the Commission."

His Excellency has further asked me to inform the House that the formal appointment of the Commission will take place immediately so that the Commission may start work on August 1.

"Now that this commission has been appointed it appears necessary to indicate that certain increases of staff and improvements of salary scales which appear in the 1938-39 estimates, must be regarded as provisional, and the question of making them effective will be deferred until after the Retrenchment Commission has made its report on the departments affected. It is in view of the appointment of this Commission that the Board of Ministers asked the Chief Secretary to defer his motion relating to the salary-scale for Class III clerks."

Order NisiIN THE DISTRICT COURT
OF JAFFNA

held at Point Pedro

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 72/PT

In the matter of the Estate of the
late Thamotheeram Muttukumaru
of Puloly West Deceased.Kanchanamalaiamma widow of Muttu-
kumaru of Puloly West

Vs. Petitioner.

1. Muttukumaru Nadarajah
2. Muttukumaru Sivarajah
3. Mankayathkarasi daughter of Muttukumaru
4. Muttukumaru Thangarajah
5. Somasundarampillai Arunasalam all of do Respondents.

This matter coming on for disposal
before C. E. A. Samarakkody Esquire
Additional District Judge on the 9thday of July 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 5th
Respondent be and is hereby ap-
pointed Guardian-ad litem over the
minors the 1st, 2nd 3rd and 4th Res-
pondents to represent them in these
Testamentary proceedings and that
the Petitioner be declared entitled to
take out Letters of Administration to
the above Estate as the widow of the
deceased and that Letters of Adminis-
tration be issued to her accordingly
unless the Respondents abovenamed
appear and shew cause to the con-
trary on or before the 29th day of
July 1938.

The 12th day of July 1938.

Sgd. C. E. A. Samarakkody,

Additional District Judge.

[O. 23. 21 & 23-7-38.]

**THE CONTINENTAL TRADING
AGENCY**POST BOX JUNCTION
GRAND BAZAAR, JAFFNA

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