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NO. 42.

“SAVE THE GOOD NAME OF JAFFNA”

Speaker's Appeal at Hindu College Old Boys' Dinner

THE FIRST NATIONAL COLLEGE OF THE TAMILS

THE good name of Jaffna should be saved by them. There was once a peaceful land but now it was the most criminal. Thus observed the Hon. Sir W. Duraiswamy, Speaker of the State Council, in the course of his speech at the Jaffna Hindu College Old Boys' Dinner on Sunday.

This was the first dinner organised by the Old Boys and it is perhaps the first Hindu dinner—a vegetarian dinner—organised in Jaffna and the organisers should be congratulated on the great success it has proved to be. As Atikar Naganather observed, it was a surprise that such a dinner could ever be had so well and so nicely.

Covers were laid for 100.

Mr. A. Coomaraswami, the Principal, presided and had on his right Sir W. Duraiswamy and on the left Mr. C. Coomaraswamy, District Judge. The other guests included Dr. S. Subramaniam, Atikar A. Naganather, Mr. S. Natesan M. S. C. Mr. V. Veerasingham, Principal, Manipal Hindu College, and Dr. K. Kanagaratnam, Medical Officer of Schools.

The Only National Institution

After the loyal toasts Mr. C. Coomaraswamy in proposing the toast of the College referred to it as the only national institution for the Tamils. It occupied that day a pre-eminent position among the educational institutions in the Island. Referring to his (the speaker's) student-days at that College he said that to them (students) the greatest living man was the late Mr. Nevins Selvadurai.

Mr. A. Coomaraswamy, the Principal, in responding to the toast said:

I have great pleasure in responding to the Toast of the College proposed so enthusiastically

by our District Judge Mr. C. Coomaraswamy. The College has well-nigh completed its 50th year and we shall be celebrating its Golden Jubilee sometime in 1940.

Perhaps you might expect from the Principal some account of the present position of the College. Our College in point of strength stands second in the Peninsula, and the place is congested and crowded that we cannot accommodate any more unless we increase the number of our class rooms and the space in which the College premises now stand.

Most Outstanding Achievement

We are slowly expanding with the limited means at our command. The most outstanding achievement of the College since its inception is, in my opinion, the new playground so close to the College. We must not rest content with its present extent, as it is not quite sufficient for our purpose. Its present size should be trebled, and for it we want money.

We have also made certain alterations in the original structure of the building, and the College Physics Laboratory and Lecture room have been removed from the Chemistry Laboratory buildings and housed separately. This change is warmly welcomed both by the students and the Science masters. These alterations have necessitated the construction of a new staff room. On all these we have spent over Rs. 15,000, and the College is unable to meet its growing demand without more provision of class-rooms, and more up-to-date equipment.

The original founders of this institution hoped to provide for Hindu Education for Hindu children, and as their accreditation

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AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION

Potentialities of Northern and Eastern Provinces

R. I. Batalin, A. M. I. C. E.

Construction Engineer, Elchera Scheme, Irrigation Department.

CEYLON is faced with an agricultural problem which has two aspects. On the one hand there are the Central, Southern and Western Provinces apparently richly endowed by nature and densely populated, and on the other hand are the Northern and Eastern Provinces mostly covered with jungle. The net result is that the rich provinces are not able to support their population and Ceylon as a whole is dependent on imported rice. This insufficient production of cereals is not compensated by other crops. The limit of productive capacity of the former provinces is reached sooner than expected. The situation is complex for many reasons. Two of these are the unequal distribution of rains from year to year and the topographical features of the country, namely, its furrowed character. From the meteorological point of view average years are comparatively rare, and are followed by a sequence of dry and wet years. Failures of crop in dry years are a common complaint. The wet years are accompanied by floods which damage fields and waterlog the ground. Out-breaks of malaria often follow. Efforts of the cultivator are thus frequently frustrated. His morale is lowered and his energy is gradually reduced with the result that he is not prepared to apply the effort which would raise him from a life of scarcity to more prosperous conditions.

Numerous and Limited

The Island is covered with numerous irrigation schemes small in area and limited in scope. In many schemes an ancient built across a river diverts a part of the flow to lands immediately adjoining the river. These schemes do not provide reservoirs with sufficient water storage capacity which could assure a continuous supply of water to the fields. The districts where the cultivation is at present carried out, being subdivided into numerous nar-

row valleys, do not offer suitable sites for large reservoirs. Existing tanks are too small for the areas they serve and their storage capacity is just sufficient to equalize distribution of rain water through the cultivation season. In dry years they run short of water and the irrigation works are powerless to save the crop. Everyone one of the numerous valleys is a separate problem from an engineering point of view, and a continuous and painstaking display of energy and ingenuity is required in order to construct and maintain these schemes. Some of them are costly in relation to benefits brought to the communities concerned. With few exceptions the productivity of the land is limited to only one crop a year.

Potentialities of Northern and Eastern Provinces

And yet the moderately hot climate of Ceylon with an abundant rainfall suggests the possibility of cultivation all the year round. Therefore it is natural that the potentialities of the waste lands of the Northern and Eastern Provinces should attract attention. Mr. J. S. Kennedy in his presidential address to the Conference of the Engineering Association of Ceylon in August, 1937, mentioned the possibilities which these districts offer for large canalization schemes. Several conditions are essential for economical and social success of any scheme. The basic requirement should be a reservoir of sufficient storage capacity to assure the necessary continuous supply of water to fields independent of the vagaries of rain. Moreover the capacity must be large enough to permit cultivation during dry months, thus increasing the productivity of the land. The attraction of such a scheme for a cultivator will be obvious. His labour will be better rewarded and what is more

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"SAVE THE GOOD NAME OF JAFFNA"

(Continued from page 1)

ed trustees it behoves on us to take up the work entrusted by them. We should not refuse admission to Hindu children who come to us, and hence no stone should be left unturned to find the means for its full expansion and necessary equipment.

And I am certain with a Secretary like Mr. Advocate Sivasubramaniam, we have before us a period of heavy work and bright future. I should like to express my warm appreciation of the O. B. A. Dinner which has helped us to meet together to promote friendly relations and to show our love and devotion to the Alma Mater. I thank sincerely Mr. Coomaraswamy for proposing the toast of the College.

Toast of the Sister Colleges

Mr. V. Nagalingam in proposing the toast of the Sister Colleges said:—Fortunately for us in the field of education unlike in that of politics the relations between sister institutions even if they belong to different denominations, have been perfectly cordial and characterised by mutual goodwill and understanding. There is no majority nor minority demand to mar the concord and harmony that have been the distinguishing feature of our educational institutions. For they all feel that they are engaged in the same noble work animated by the same ideal and working for the same object. The object is nothing less than the moulding of the character of our youth and shaping their destinies in life. Would that the same spirit of goodwill and understanding characterised the relations between the sister communities that inhabit this fair Island! I feel sure that all our political problems can be solved to the satisfaction of the communities no less than that of the country if our politicians and public men seriously tackle them in an atmosphere of goodwill and sympathy and in a spirit of give and take.

You will permit me gentlemen to narrow down the significance of "sister institutions" to apply to those institutions that belong to the same denomination as ours. They are all—the Hindu institutions of Jaffna—the daughters of the same parents. We owe it to ourselves to pay our humble tribute to the memory of those high-souled patriots who felt the call for and the need of an educational institution to minister to the needs of the community and spared no pains and no sacrifices to found the Jaffna Hindu College which will soon celebrate its Golden Jubilee. I make bold to say that the leading Hindu institutions in Jaffna are in a sense the products of the Jaffna Hindu College. For, their respective founders were all imbued with the same ideals and inspired by the same motive, that is to make it possible for the Hindu Youth of Jaffna to study in an atmosphere conducive to their religion. We are happy that either at the helm or on the staff of our leading sister institutions we have some of our distinguished old boys who take first Manipay Hindu whose principal Mr. Veera-

singan is one of our distinguished old boys and for sometime a teacher on the staff of this college. Mr. Veerasingan will permit me if I observe that as he grows older in age he seems to grow younger in spirit. There is no movement calculated to promote the well-being of our youth with which he has not identified himself. In fact he has successfully shaped the destinies of many an educated youth who has made a mark in life. Apart from being a distinguished educationalist he is also one of our leading public men who has played and is still playing and is bound to play a very large part in the public life of the country.

I come to another institution associated with the name of perhaps the greatest leader and philanthropist whose memory will remain green in the hearts of his countrymen. I refer to Parameshwara College. I am glad to find Mr. Natesan at the table as one of our guests this evening. Whatever may be one's opinion as to Mr. Natesan's political views or affiliations, there can be no two opinions as to his position as a Tamil scholar of whom we are all legitimately proud. There is another institution which has been named after the greatest queen in English history, I refer to Victoria College and I am happy to find Mr. Thambiappah at the table who has recently assumed the Principalship of the College. I have known him for long and intimately and I am sure that under his able and inspiring guidance the College will go from strength to strength. The last but not the least is the Vidyalayam bearing the name of that great Saint of Belore whose very life has inspired and enabled millions of men and women the world over. I am glad that in the Headmaster of that institution we have one of our distinguished old boys who though young is enthusiastic and patriotic enough to inspire his pupils with the ideal of service and sacrifice. It would be superfluous to commend this toast in a long speech. I therefore call upon you gentlemen to drink to the health, success and prosperity of our sister institutions.

Mr. V. Veerasingham replying to the toast said that the English Schools were supplying a real need and observed that their object should be the revival of Saivism through these schools. He also suggested a co-ordination of work among these schools which would lead to better efficiency and tend to make the realisation of the ideal easy. He said that the nationalism that was prevalent in the country first emanated from the Jaffna Hindu College.

Toast of the Old Boys

Mr. S. R. Kanaganayagam, Advocate, proposed the toast of the Old Boys. He suggested to the College authorities to approach more the cultivator and the trader for any help the College needed than look only to the professional and moneyed classes.

Mr. S. U. Somasegaram, Acting District Inspector of schools, replying said that being a bit of a traveller, he found Old Boys of the Jaffna Hindu College in every part of Ceylon and in almost every walk of life. He assured the College

THE TRAVANCORE SITUATION

Gandhiji's Appeal To Maharaja

Wardhaganj, Saturday.

Mr. Gandhi, in the course of a statement regarding the Travancore situation says: "I have been in close touch with the prime movers affected by the tragedy which is now being enacted in Travancore and I had hoped I should be able to avoid having to make any public statement. After a study of the available evidence and after interviews with representative men of Travancore, I have come to the conclusion that the Travancore Government is resorting to repressive methods far in excess of the requirements if there are any."

Mr. Gandhi appeals to the Maharajah and the Dewan to retract their steps and allow the State Congress to function so long as its activities remain peaceful.

authorities of their (Old Boys') unstinted help whenever the College was in need.

The Guests

Mr. V. Sivasubramaniam, Advocate, in proposing the toast of the guests said that the Speaker Sir Waitalingam was one who shed light wherever he went. No function in Ceylon was complete without him. They were fortunate in having as Manager of that Institution a person of his character and purity of mind. Sir Waitalingam's sultuous duties, as Speaker had not interfered with his position as manager. He was one of their own and it was something they should be proud of. Seated by his right was that young man of ninety Atikar Naganather. The secret of Atikar's youth was probably due to his consciousness of the fact that he had set a high standard of honesty as the shroff of a leading bank. Their other guest Mr. Natesan was a harmonious blend of the culture of the East and West. Referring to Mr. C. Coomaraswamy, the speaker said that he was the best and the truest type of what a Ceylonese gentleman should be.

Speaker's Appeal

Sir Waitalingam Duraisay replying thanked the old boys for the fine entertainment they had provided that afternoon. Sir Waitalingam endorsed the appeal of the principal for more funds towards the extension of the college. While appreciating the good work done by the old boys Sir Waitalingam said that he wanted them to do more useful service. There was serious work to be done in other directions too. How much they felt when they heard such statements as "crime is increasing in Jaffna" and "increase of Jaffna's death rate". Jaffna which was once upon a time a peaceful land was now the most criminal. The old boys and present boys of that college should see that the fair name of Jaffna was not brought down. They the old boys and present boys must see that the good name of Jaffna was maintained.

Mr. S. Natesan speaking next said that he was a supernumerary speaker. From that College had

TRAVANCORE BANK

Madras Judge Orders Winding Up Proceeding

Madras Monday.

Orders were passed today in the Madras High Court by Justice Venkatarman Rao on an application filed by three creditors on behalf of a large body of creditors of the Travancore National and Quilon Bank directing the winding up of the Bank, appointing the provisional liquidators of the bank as official liquidators and directing them to submit, within three weeks, a statement of the assets and liabilities of the bank so as to decide whether the scheme for a reconstruction of the bank is possible or not. The judgment ran into 50 typed pages and took over an hour to read through.

Teachers as Nation-Builders

"It is not training alone that makes a teacher", said Sir Baron Jayatilaka, the Minister of Home Affairs, who was the chief guest at the lunch at the Teachers' Refresher Course, now being conducted at the Government Training College, Colombo.

"Something more is required," he added, "and that is just now a very important matter."

"Those engaged in the task of teaching must always remember that they are engaged in the noblest task that can be undertaken by an individual—the task of nation building."

"Every teacher no matter where he is placed, should contribute to this great task of nation building."

"Things are in a transitional stage at the present time in Ceylon and if teachers do not realise and contribute their share in this great task, our effort will not be a very successful one."

Sir Baron earlier expressed the fear that the high calling of a teacher either consciously or unconsciously was being lowered and hoped somebody could point out that he was wrong.

He felt their duties were becoming more difficult.

emanated first that stream of light which like a rainbow split itself into various aspects which were represented by the sister Hindu Institutions.

Atikar Naganather speaking in Tamil expressed his surprise at the excellence of the dinner. He appealed to the Old Boys to help their alma mater. The College was in urgent need of funds for extensions to its buildings and the new playground. Even though he was 92 years old now, he was prepared to go about with them to collect funds for the College. The mother, he added, could look to none else but her children for help in times of need.

The students of the College who were present when speeches were made called for Three Cheers to the Old Boys which was lustily represented. The Principal declared the next day as a holiday.

It was 10-30 p. m. when the party broke up.

MEN AND MATTERS

**INDUSTRIALIZE THE COUNTRY
—GOVERNMENT APATHY**

**Betrayal of a Trust—Army or
Government?**

SIR BARON'S APOLOGIA

By Wayfarer

THE agony of the Budget debate is over. Having emptied all the windbags, the members said 'aye' to the Second Reading of the Budget. Last week the member for Hatton made a useful contribution to the discussions. He concentrated on fisheries, salt schemes and immigration. Mr. Natesa Iyer had some pertinent remarks to make on the Jaffna cigar industry. He rightly pointed out that the present bad state of the industry was due to the fact that the manufacturers had not improved their process of manufacture to suit the tastes of the modern smoker. This needs a lot of thought from our people. It is strange that in an age of modernism, the cigar manufacturers should resort to century-old methods of production and yet complain that they are losing markets.

Nature has blessed Ceylon to a great extent and it is a telling indictment against the Government and the people alike in not having tapped her resources and created new industries. We have nearly 1½ million acres of a ready for exploitation to the economic advantage of the country. Here is a scope for a first class fishing industry, and yet today the country is spending 14 millions every year on fish imports. It is high time that the Minister for Local Administration gave some thought to this question and made serious attempts to tap this gold mine. This reminds me of the new Department of Commerce and Industries. Nobody grudges such a department so long as it functions on sound lines. But it looks like a white elephant when the whole thing is manned by amateurs. Civil servants are after all human and however efficient they are, it is bad policy to allow them to take up all kinds of duties. Therefore I would commend to the Minister of Commerce the appointment of an Industrial Expert to be in charge of this department so that it may function to the economic advancement of the Island.

In his reply last week, Sir Baron Jayatilaka took the opportunity to defend his stewardship during the last seven years. On the eve of constitutional changes, and criticised on all sides, Sir Baron though it fit to defend his regime and claim credit for success in producing a balanced Budget. Is the State Council entitled to all the credit it claims in regard to the financial stability of the country? No doubt in 1931, when the State Council began to function, the exchequer was empty and there was a deficit of nearly twenty million rupees. And today there is a balanced Budget with a safe margin of reserve. If the country had survived any financial crisis, and maintained to

an extent its financial credit certainly the State Council cannot be said to have had a hand in this. Circumstances favoured the Ministers in their first year of budgetting. The death of Lord Inchcape gave them an appreciable sum to balance their budget. Later they resorted to increased taxation so much so the incidence of taxation today is one of the heaviest in the Empire. The credit of this semblance of financial tranquility must go to the taxpayer and the industries who have so far cheerfully borne these increasing burdens of taxation. The various Ministers and Committees lack a co-ordinate policy. They drift in different paths with amateurish, and ill-conceived schemes so much so that expenditure has increased with an corresponding benefit to the country. The University and the Hydro-Electric Scheme are yet things of the future. The country has not made any marked strides in matters of food production, development of industries and other utility services than it was some ten years ago. In the sphere of finance it is all ruddle. Establishment charges have increased and in the name of utility services, millions are spent without a quid pro quo.

The Board of Ministers fight shy to perform their legitimate functions. In the question of economy in public expenditure they have shirked responsibilities and instead of solving this question courageously, they have shifted the task to others. One of their first tasks in 1931 was the appointment of the Pereira Commission to report on the reduction of establishment charges. Once the Commission made its recommendations they tinkered with the report with a result the expenditure on Public Services is as heavy as it was in 1931. Matters reached a climax and unable to answer any more criticism for their inertia to check the rising establishment charges, Sir Baron as a sop to the suffering public has announced yet another Retrenchment Commission. It could safely be predicted that nothing tangible would come out of it and the same old order would prevail.

The question of economy and retrenchment reminds me of the betrayal of the trust imposed on our representatives last week. During the Committee discussions of the State Council estimates last week, the Member for Colombo South moved the reduction of the members' allowances by 50%. In a House of 60 members, only 28 were present and they were in a dilemma. Caught napping, they were forced to vote on a personal issue, and true to their reputations they defeated the efforts of Dr. A. P. de Zoysa to set an example to the

**Right Diet for
Humanity**

**Vegetarianism, Says
Dr. J. H Cousins**

Trivandrum, Sep. 3.

Dr. J. H Cousins delivered a lecture last evening, in the Maloor Vilasom Library, Atingal, on "Right Diet for Humanity". There were, he said, three ways of testing the rightness of anything, the physical test, the economic test and the spiritual test.

The physical test, Dr. Cousins said, concerned itself with obtaining the maximum of properly proportioned nourishment for the body, with the minimum admixture of harmful ingredients. The balance on both sides of this test was in favour of a diet that excluded flesh-foods. It was true that some vegetarians were unhealthy but this was due to insufficiency of required constituents and to the over-use of irritating and poisonous condiments which interfered with the proper assimilation of food.

The economic test of right diet, Dr. Cousins said, was more of a collective matter. It questioned the quantity and quality of production of foodstuffs, and the effect of this on the quantity and quality of human employment. When land was given over to pasturage for animals for slaughter, they deteriorated, the number of persons employed was reduced, and the conditions of the few remaining human attendants on animals approached the animal level, and still more so in those condemned to do the killing which meat-eaters would not do for themselves. On the other hand, increase tillage produced high ratio of food-value and increased employment in conditions that called out the powers of the body in labour, and the powers of the mind in anticipating and meeting the laws and processes of nature. The practice of vegetarianism, which met the economic test of right diet, was, therefore, a social duty.

The spiritual test of right diet, Dr. Cousins concluded, did not refer to any religious code though religions recognised pure diet as a means to pure life. The spiritual test looked for the highest satisfaction of the mind, and this could not include any valid reason for condemning vast multitudes of sentient animals to cruel premature death for unnecessary and unhealthy food-stuffs.

Public Services whose salaries they are trying to reduce. This action of theirs is sure to have its reaction when the Council makes up its mind to give effect to the recommendations of the Gonetilleka Commission. The country can expect no sympathy from the councillors. It is high time people took some intelligent interest in the affairs of the country and asserted themselves to get rid of these self-seekers. Rs. 500 is a big draw to all and sundry, hence all types of men aspire for legislative honours. God save us from these champions of the under dog and retrenchment.

The member for Point Pedro is definitely seeing the Secretary of States for the Colonies. Mr. Ponnambalam will take this opportunity to place his case before Mr. Mac-

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**EARLY DECISION ON
REFORMS**

**MR. SENANAYAKE'S
IMPRESSION**

ENGLISH PRESS MISLED

THE Secretary of State for the Colonies appeared to be very sympathetic, and I am certain that there will be a decision reached with regard to the reforms before the Governor returns to the Island," said Mr. D. S. Senanayake, Minister of Agriculture and Lands, who returned to the Island on Monday, in an interview with a press representative.

"One important feature I have noticed during my stay in London," said Mr. Senanayake. "is that

the Press in England has been very badly misinformed about what has been happening in Ceylon.

"The representatives here of English papers have made many incorrect statements calculated to have an adverse effect on the interests of Ceylon."

Mr. Senanayake recalled that local correspondents of the English papers had resorted to the same tactics during the great malaria epidemic in 1935.

The latest campaign of falsehoods had, however, he said, been combatted.

He had taken action in the matter and the National Congress Deputation and the Ceylon Labour Party representatives in London had done useful work in removing some of these wrong impressions created by the local correspondents of English papers.

Scope of Deputations

Mr. Senanayake said that as a matter of fact the two deputations now in London could be much more useful in other ways also. They had gone about their work in the right way.

They had already seen some Members of Parliament and were arranging to meet different Parliamentary groups in the course of the month.

**Conference on Tree-Tax
System**

Rev. James S. Mather, Honorary Secretary, Jaffna Central Temperance Union, writes to us to say:—

It is reported from many quarters that the Tree-tax system is proving detrimental to the welfare of Jaffna, that it has increased "taverns," crime etc.

A Conference on the subject will be held at Jaffna Central College Hall on Friday, 16th inst. at 5 p. m. under the auspices of the Jaffna Central Temperance Union. All interested are invited to attend, and come prepared to supply facts and figures relating to their own village, and to make useful contribution to the discussion of the subject.

Change of Name

I, Murugapper Kandamany alias Kandamany of Palugumam, Batticaloa do hereby inform the public that I shall be known for all purposes in future by the name Murugapper Krishnapillai and shall sign my name M. Krishnapillai,

M. KRISHNAPILLAI,

19-38.

[Mis 19, 5 & 8-9-38.]



Hindu Organ.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 1938.

THE TEMPLE ENTRY BILL

THE TEMPLE ENTRY BILL which the Madras Government has recently promulgated may be said to mark an epoch in the history of Hinduism, for it is the first legislative attempt to remove an age-long injustice from which the Harijans have been suffering. It is a tragic fact that the Hindus whose religion, more than any other, inculcates the virtues of charity and ahimsa, have been the greatest perpetrators of class inequality and division. They have paid the penalty for it. The secession of millions of untouchables from the Hindu fold to Islam and Christianity, as a result of the denial to them by the caste-Hindus of the elementary conditions of self-respect, has taken away the political predominance of the Hindus in several parts of India. But we need not import into a purely social legislation, such as the Temple Entry Bill essentially is, any political consideration. The Bill is valuable in that it enables temple authorities to throw open the doors of Hindu temples to the Harijans if the opinion of a majority of caste-Hindus in a particular locality is in favour of their admission. So that hereafter the trustees of temples will not be deterred from admitting Harijans to temples from any legal objections, such as the prescriptive rights of caste-Hindus to the exclusive use of such temples.

In promulgating the Bill in its present form, Mr. RAJAGOPALACHARI has shown remarkable foresight and wisdom. Some time ago when Mr. M. C. RAJAH moved a Bill on similar lines, but applying to the whole of the province, the Premier appealed to him to withdraw the Bill and promised to bring a similar measure confining its application to Malabar. The Premier realises fully the need for caution in a matter of such delicacy, for in a land, where the vast majority of caste-Hindus firmly believe that untouchability has the sanction of religion, it is not good to out-

rage their religious susceptibility by a violent and thorough-going piece of legislation. So, he has rightly made the Bill permissive merely and confined its application to Malabar. While in other districts of the province caste orthodoxy is so strongly entrenched, there is very little chance of the Bill succeeding in giving relief to the Harijans at least for some time to come till the opinion of caste-Hindus has begun to feel the need for a changed outlook. But in Malabar the ground had been prepared for Temple Entry by the Maharajah's historic pronouncement and the Bill will have greater chance of success. The extreme caution of the Government is also marked by other features of the Bill. Mr. M. C. RAJAH'S Bill allowed the opening of the temples on the strength of a majority vote of the entire Hindu population of a district, Harijans as well as caste-Hindus. But according to the present Bill a majority vote of caste-Hindus is necessary for such a step. We do not think this provision halting or half-hearted, as some may be disposed to think, for where the general opinion among the caste-Hindus is really opposed to temple entry, it is too much of an outrage on their religious susceptibility to force such a step by the strength of Harijan vote, and it will only lead to violence and bitterness. The Bill also provides that where a referendum has failed, no vote is to be taken in that locality for two years. This provision is a necessary safeguard against a snap vote deciding the issue, although popular opinion is really against temple entry.

We hope that with a good deal of propaganda and tactful handling, the measure will achieve the end of the Congress Government and will prove an instrument for the removal of a great injustice to a section of the Hindu population which have been treated worse than serfs and that untouchability will in the lifetime of the present generation be a thing of the past. This serious blot in Hinduism should not be allowed to exist any longer.

"Save the Good Name of Jaffna"

The Speaker's appeal at the Jaffna Hindu College Old Boys' Dinner last Sunday to save the good name of Jaffna deserves the serious attention of all patriots. Sir Waitalingam was greatly pained at the fact that Jaffna, once a peaceful land, is becoming progressively criminal. He called upon his audience to do everything possible to restore to Jaffna her fair name. We have, times without number, drawn the attention of the public and the authorities to this alarming state of affairs in the country.

Hardly any serious action seems to have been taken either by the authorities or the public to stem this rising tide of crimes. Now that the cry has been taken up in the press and on the platform and that it has gone to the hearts of such leaders like the Speaker, we feel confident that some pressure will be brought to bear on the authorities to wage a regular campaign against this growing menace in this part of the country.

Crimes in this country take many forms, chief among which are burglaries and thefts, and violent crimes where deadly weapons are used. These forms of crime have become very common now. Hundreds of cases of burglary and theft of jewellery have occurred during the past two years, and so far the authorities have not appreciably succeeded in bringing to book the burglars who have deprived many families of their valuables. The burglars have proved too cunning and elusive for the Police. And the police have to own defeat, much to the discomfort and dismay of the public. It was only yesterday at Vannarponne that a child on its way to school was robbed of its bangle. Hardly a day passes without a burglary or theft being reported. Manipay parish takes pride of place in this profitable trade of the burglar and the thief. A Police Station at Chankanai has been set up to fight the rising crime wave in the parish. But there does not seem to be any diminution of crimes. It was but a few days ago that a Police patrol was severely attacked and their car badly damaged by a party of suspects at Anaicottai. A Police Constable sustained stab injuries. The increased use of knife and other deadly weapons is becoming a serious menace to the life of peace-loving citizens. Crimes of violence are the order of the day. The Supreme Court, which some years back used to hold sessions in Jaffna at the most for two or three weeks in the year, is now forced to sit thrice a year to try the unduly large number of cases that are now committed to it. Crime in the North has thus become an every day occurrence and criminality threatens to become a second nature of the people. This appalling state of affairs should certainly make our leaders and the authorities sit up and study the causes of crimes and concert measures to combat them.

The causes of crime, everybody will agree, are unemployment and drunkenness. The introduction of the Tree Tax System, as we have observed many a time before, has proved a fruitful evil to the country. No argument is needed to convince any one of it. We are glad to note, in this

connection, that a conference under the auspices of the Jaffna Central Temperance Union will be held next week to discuss this question. We have no doubt that the conference will unanimously vote against the Tree Tax System. The drink evil, we daresay, is the mother of all other evils including crimes. If the drink evil is successfully tackled, more than half the battle will have been won.

A "DRY BELT" ROUND PROHIBITION AREA

Government Considering Proposal

Madras, Sep. 5

It is understood that the Government have before them a proposal to establish a five-mile dry belt round the Prohibition districts of Salem, Chittoor and Cadapah. The idea of the Government appears to be to give effect to the scheme, if possible, from October next year.

Nirvikalpa Samadhi Demonstration

Bapatla, Sep. 3.

Mr. M. Ramayogi of Madras sat in *Nirvikalpa Samadhi* in the house of Mr. M. Kalidas, Advocate, for six days continuously and broke the *samadi* this morning.

On the morning of August 28, the Yogi entered into *samadi* in a room, the openings of which were completely closed. He denied himself water and food and did not seem to have answered the calls of nature. During the last three days between 5-15 and 5-30 in the evening the room was opened to public gaze and he was found sitting in the same posture as when he entered into *samadi*.

Bharati Day Celebration

Bharati Day will be celebrated at the Kala Nilayam, Jaffna, on Sunday at 6-30 p. m. Brahma Sri V. Ramaswamy Sarma will deliver a lecture on Subrahmanya Bharati.

JUNE MATRICULATION RESULTS

Manipay Hindu College

Out of the Matriculation class preparing for the examination in January 1938, the following 8 candidates were successful in the last June Examination:

S. Navaratnarajah, K. M. S. Swamintha Muthaly, N. Sapatnam, S. Paramalingam, S. Singharetnam, S. Sivacolumthu, V. Sanmugam and S. Poobalasingham.

Personal

Mr. G. G. Ponnambalam, the member for Pt. Pedro in the State Council, left for England yesterday by S. S. Demopo. He will be away from the island for three months. During his stay in London he will interview the Secretary of State on constitutional reforms.

UNDILUTED SINHALESE RULE

MINORITIES UNITED IN FEAR

"GUARDIAN" ON CEYLON REFORMS

London, Tuesday.

WITH reference to the discussions on Ceylon's constitution, "The Manchester Guardian" says that it is now generally believed that a normal cabinet system, as is in force in the Indian Provinces, would stand a much better chance of success than the committee system.

But a greater share in the Government demanded by many Ceylonese, involving the curtailment of the Governor's powers, stands little or no chance of being granted.

Ceylon has as acute a minority problem as any country and the minorities are united in fear of undiluted Sinhalese rule.

MEN AND MATTERS

(Continued from page 3)

Donald. He tells me that he would advocate the fifty-fifty basis of representation with all the vigour he could command. Nobody would dare question his representative capacity, because he was one of the delegates appointed by the Jaffna Tamil Conference to present their case before Whitehall. But the question is how far he would succeed in influencing the Secretary of State. There is a very strong Tamil opinion in Ceylon opposed to this fifty-fifty fad of the member for Pt. Pedro and they genuinely feel that they would rather have no interview with Whitehall than urge in the name of an important community this mathematical formula without any regard to the well accepted doctrines of democratic government. Of course if Mr. G. G. Ponnambalain goes on his private capacity nobody would mind what he says.

Jaffna is politically dull these days. I hope the Jaffna Association will carry out its resolutions regarding the All-Parties Conference. From what I hear their efforts have so far been well received by the Sinhalese leaders. There is a genuine desire for mutual settlement of outstanding questions of dispute. After all do the masses show communal bias? I don't think so. The two communities live in harmony and even there seems to be a wave of inter-communal marriages. Not long ago a Tamil society lady married a Sinhalese young man. Last week I witnessed the reception accorded at the Jaffna Station, to a newly married couple. The bride was a Tamil and the bridegroom a Sinhalese. The couple were received by their parents and it was a pleasing sight to see Sinhalese and Tamils standing side by side blessing the new couple. After all isn't the communal differences, the mono-

STATE COUNCIL RESUMES

MR. FREEMAN ON BRACEGIRDLE REPORT

WHEN the State Council resumed on Wednesday morning Mr. H. R. Freeman (Anuradhapura) gave notice of a motion that the Bracegirdle Report should be published without further delay.

Consideration of the Budget estimates was then resumed in Committee, the Survey Department votes being first taken up.

poly of a few politically ambitious people?

The army and the government of nearly every country in the world are at loggerheads. Battling with the army Herr Hitler stirs Europe, struggling with the Red Army, Stalin had his foremost Marshal—Tukharachevsky—executed. Giving way before the army the Emperor of Japan let the Loukiaocha incident drag his country into war with China. At the close of the Abyssinian War Badoglio agreed to join the Fascist party only when the Duce offered him honorary membership.

An appreciation of the relations between the army and government in different countries enables us to understand better the current of international politics. In Germany, its history today is a conflict between the army and Hitler, the army having the upper hand. In Russia a cloak of secrecy and a cloud of interested propaganda hide the inside tale of Stalin's purge. The army under the watchword of Leninism—Stalinism became patriotic and self important. They became a menace to the Dictator and he struck. Tukharachevsky and hundred others were lined up before the execution squads. Stalin was threatened by the army. He hit back ruthlessly. When the Abyssinian campaign was first being lost by a Fascist leader in De Bono it was an Army chief in Badoglio who was sent to win the war. He did it in six months and on his return to Italy he expected the city to be decked with flags and bunting. No, Mussolini could ill afford a rival. In Japan the emperor is helpless in the face of his army's politics and hence the Chinese campaign. Army or Government? a question England answered for herself in the reign of Charles has still to be decided in many countries.

The Indo-Ceylon Trade talks will probably take place by the end of the year. Arrangements are being made to fix an early date. Our Minister of Labour, Industry and Commerce will lead Ceylon's Delegation. Mr. Rock will in all probability accompany Mr. Corea. Already the Ceylon Indian Mercantile Chamber has submitted a memorandum placing their demands before the Indian Raj. Mr. H. M. Desai their energetic Secretary is already in India doing spade work. I am told a deputation of the Indians in Ceylon will go to Simla before the Ceylon Delegation leaves the Island. I understand the question of discrimination will loom large in the trade discussions. Mr. Corea's task is unenviable. The atmosphere is a bit anti-Ceylon in India at present, thanks to the vituperations of some our misguided demagogues. Something ought to be done to create mutual understanding and goodwill.

Education And Life

An Interesting Lecture

UNDER the auspices of the Jaffna Diocesan Union Rev. Fr. T. N. Sequeira, the Editor of the New Review, Calcutta, delivered a very interesting lecture on Education and Life on Sunday the 4th instant at 5 p.m. at the Jaffna Catholic Club. Chevalier P. Moses occupied the chair and briefly introduced the lecturer. Fr. Sequeira said that in Ceylon at present the much discussed subject was the new Education Ordinance. The Education Ordinance was mainly concerned with the problem of who is to manage and possess the schools. That question was discussed and settled in India fifty years ago. The problem that was facing India today would be Ceylon's fifty years hence when the number of the unemployed would be comparatively speaking is large. Education has for its aim the training of men for life not preparing them for a living. In India there were at the present day a large number of graduates who could not find employment. The purpose of Education was to develop the latent faculties of a child, physical, moral and intellectual. Unfortunately the system of education of the past was based on models that suited other countries. The child learnt a number of things that were entirely outside its environment. It learnt about English birds, and flowers and seasons and scenery that it failed to look round and observe its own environment. Most Indians were able to quote stanzas describing some foreign scenery but failed to see the difference between a crane and a crow. The Indian graduate thus turned out to be a sort of dreamy creature and lacked initiative. That was the reason why there were very few people who were inventors or discoverers. In Ceylon too they had the same system of Education. They were modelling their Education on foreign universities. Education should be imparted in terms of what was their own. He did not want to be misunderstood. That did not mean that they should not learn about other countries, about life in other lands and the manners and customs of other people.

The Congress Scheme

How were they to educate their children? Congress was trying to introduce a scheme by which the child had to study along with some of its school subjects one of the handicrafts. That scheme prepared the child for a living but did not prepare a child for life. But that scheme directed education through environment. It was possible to modify that scheme and not make it too utilitarian. The relation of the child to its environment could be brought more and more into the foreground by making the child think of its environment when school tasks like essays were set. Children in India and Ceylon were fond of taking information ready-made from books and never observed. The problem in India was over-production of one particular article. The graduates turned out were all of one mould and were almost all alike. The ideal would be to educate each child separately according to its faculties but that would be impracticable. But in a class one

could easily group them. The problem was approached in India but not solved. A commission that came out in 1936 suggested that till the 1st form the literary training should be the same. Then there should be a bifurcation till the high school state was reached. The bifurcation was to give some children a greater chance of developing manual skill. Often a child who was not interested in Mathematics or Latin and was considered a dunce had a chance of showing its skill in some manual occupation. Then at the High School Stage the bifurcation was continued by giving children the chance of specialising on the technical side. One great difficulty of this bifurcation was finance. But this could be solved to some extent by having the two courses in the same school. The centuries-old prejudice to manual labour, the shame of soiling ones hand was difficult to root out in India (Voices, "Same in Ceylon"). In America and Europe things were different. Students during their holidays took to all sorts of jobs to earn money to pay for their studies. For a student to do that in India would be considered a shame. The modern time demanded every kind of workman and a variety of education was needed.

Very Rev. Fr. T. M. F. Long O. M. I. said that the suggestion of bifurcation in the school course would not be practicable till the parents were educated. The schools confined themselves to a purely literary type of education because the parents insisted on such an education.

Chevalier S. Arulanandam suggested a school 30 or 40 miles away from town where the day's work should consist of two hours academic studies and the rest to manual labour in the field.

Mr. S. A. Allagretnam remarked that as long parents insisted on the present type of education, the best way to force their hands was to continue the present type till growing numbers of the unemployed would force parents to alter their point of view.

Mr. Cosmas W. D. Alwines proposed a vote of thanks to the lecturer. He said that educational reform in the Island was being tackled piecemeal. The Education Ordinance was being sponsored with the night mare of the increasing Education Vote.

While everybody spoke of the increasing cost of Education there was one very significant fact in the Education vote. The latest figures showed that while the Grants to Assisted Schools amounted to about 9 million rupees, the item Personal Expenditures amounted to 6 million rupees. Even in the conservative North there was a change coming on slowly. Certain schools took up weaving as part of their curriculum though weaving was at one time the occupation of a caste. Weaving in Schools seemed to have made progress as the latest report of the Director showed that the schools had made 37,000 yards of cloth which were sold for Rs. 10,000 resulting in a profit of Rs. 4000. The Industrial Rally had stimulated thought and the Tamils in Malaya were suggesting the starting of a large Co-operative Farm to tackle the question of unemployment. They were deeply thankful to Fr. Sequeira for his very interesting lecture and Mr. Alwines asked his hearers to carry the vote with acclamation.

A Suggestion to the Educational Authorities and the Public

Sir,—The present aimless education costs the Government heavily and ruins the parents and drives the students to be vagabonds. All types of schools have sprung up without mission. All have started schools with various intentions, and many for profit. No definite system of schools or courses of study are determined yet to lead all concerned in the correct path. I therefore venture to place before the Government and the public the following scheme:—

1. Elementary Education

The elementary education shall be wholly financed and controlled by the state. All elementary schools shall be state schools. None shall be under denominational control. Facilities for the teaching of religion by the denominational bodies in these state schools shall be extended.

The elementary education shall be from the 1st to 7th std. in Sinhalese or Tamil with English as a second language from the 4th to the 7th std.

All children, rich or poor, shall enter this elementary school. It must be compulsory.

Every boy or girl who passes the 7th std. in the elementary school shall be given a six months' training at a technical, industrial, commercial or agricultural school at the expense of the state. The boy or girl who does not undertake this training must undertake secondary education.

These shall be state technical industrial, commercial or agricultural schools in each provincial town.

All teachers in the elementary and Government schools shall be pensionable government servants.

2. Secondary Education

There shall be a Government secondary school in each provincial town, more if liberally in each district town where fees shall be charged.

There shall not be separate schools for vernacular and English secondary or higher education. English and Sinhalese or Tamil shall be compulsory subjects.

All secondary schools founded by private individuals or bodies shall not be eligible for grant nor the teachers employed in such schools be eligible for pension. The Department of Education shall not fix the salaries of the teachers of these private schools nor shall inspect such schools except on their application.

No boy or girl who did not pass the 7th standard in the elementary school shall be admitted into any government or private secondary school. Admission to the government secondary school shall be by competitive examination only.

3. University Education

The state shall not contribute towards the university education except in the form of free land, buildings, apparatus and a capital fund the interest earned on same shall only be used. The university organisation shall be private. Private endowments shall assist this undertaking.

Government shall not undertake to pay the salaries of the professors.

The university shall prescribe its own fees and charges.

4. Training Schools for Teachers

Training schools shall be established by private bodies. Teachers seeking professional training must pay for their training. The state shall not assist in any form. Diplomas shall be granted by such bodies.

5. Scholarships

There shall be ten scholarships annually provided for each district town or provincial town for poor boys for secondary and university education from the elementary schools. Scholarships shall be granted on the results of a competitive examination. The scholarships assigned to a district own shall be competed among boys from the whole district area.

Five scholarships shall be provided only for poor boys from the university for higher technical or scientific training. No other scholarships shall be provided.

6. School Examinations

The Department of Education shall hold only one examination for the 7th std. in the elementary schools, one final examination in the secondary schools and issue certificates of pass. Private secondary schools shall be eligible to present students for this examination. Too many examinations are unnecessary. The schools shall conduct annual examinations themselves and promote to higher classes.

7. Inspections

The inspectors of the Department of Education shall make surprise inspection of all elementary schools and all secondary government schools. Private secondary schools may be inspected free of charge if such private schools make application for such free inspection by the Department.

8. Higher Technical Institute

This shall be a government institute. Only graduates shall be admitted to this institute for higher training. Full fees, boarding and lodging charges shall be recovered from the students.

9. General

This scheme provides state schools for elementary education, Government and private schools for secondary education and assisted body for university education. Only three types of schools in place of primary, secondary, bilingual, junior secondary, senior secondary, collegiate etc both in English or vernacular now exist in chaos. Inspections and examinations are limited with purpose. English primary schools are no more wanted. One school will impart higher education both in English and vernacular. Elementary schools are no more the plaything of the various contending denominations. Secondary education in English or vernacular is to be paid for by students and the state is not to pay grant for private schools. University education is allowed to poor and rich boys on payment of full fees and charges; poor boys to get into university by scholarships. Government can thus save a large sum and should be able to give an effective

elementary and vocational training and to control the secondary and university education. A number of making reasonable facilities for those needing such education without causing waste. Parents will be in a better situation to choose the type of school and vocation. Students will no more be aimless. The state directs the education with some specific object and purpose. The vernacular does not suffer nor the English suffer. The careerism which is held out by the present aimless education now directed has impoverished the Government and the parents. Simultaneous proficiency both in vernacular and English is assured. Pensionable teachers are restricted. Liberty is given for private effort.

The Department of Education shall conduct one examination annually for the recruitment of officers for all services under government. Separate examination for various services is costly to government and to the students. Free railway warrants must be issued to all outstation students who sit for the examination. The age limit for this examination shall be the age at which a boy shall be able to pass through the elementary and secondary school normally. None except those who have passed the final examination in the secondary school or equivalent examination shall be allowed to sit for the examination.

Yours truly,
Jaffna, 1-9-38. "C."

London Matriculation Passes Analysed

Sir,—As regards the last London Matriculation Examination results, I give below for the perusal of the readers of your paper the following information:—

299 candidates passed out, of whom about 280 were males and 19 females. Out of the 8 passes in the first division, 3 were from Jaffna (Jaffna College 1, Victoria College 1 and St. Henry's College, Illayalai 1), 3 from Colombo (St. Joseph's College 1, St. Thomas College 1 and University Tutorial College 1), 1 from Galle (Mahinda College) and 1 from Kandy (St. Thomas College).

The number of passes according to the centres are:—

Colombo including Mount Lavinia 156; Jaffna including Illayalai and Vaddukoddai 10; Kandy 27; Galle 12

The number of passes according to the Colleges are:—

Colombo

St. Joseph's College 34; St. Thomas College 12; St. Benedict's College 10; Ananda College 7; Nalanda Vidyalaya 6; Marie Stella College 5; Zahira College 4; Royal College 3; St. Peter's College 3; St. John's College Panadura 3; St. Aloysius College (Galle?) 2; Sirali Vidyalaya 2; Dharmasoka College (Galle?) 2; Methodist College 2; St. Sebastian's College 2; De Marhessod College 1; Trinity College (Kandy) 1; St. Lawrence College 1; Chithampara Vidyalaya (Jaffna?) 1; St. Michael's College (Batticaloa?) 1; Wesley College 1, Good Shepherd Convent 1; Holy Family Convent 1; Convent of the Child Jesus 1; Visaka Vidyalaya 1; Ladies College 1; Anantha Sashalya, Kotte 1; University Tutorial College, London 1; and Private Students 46.—Total 156.

Jaffna

St. Patrick's College 15; Hindu College 11; Jaffna College 10; St.

John's College 10; Convent College 4; Mahipay Hindu College 4; Victoria College 3; Skandhavanolaya College 3; Parameswara College 2; Holy Family Convent 2; St. Joseph's College (Colombo?) 1; St. Henry's College 1; Chithampara Vidyalaya 1; Vigneswara College 1; Chundikuly Girl's School 1 and Private students 33.—Total 104.

Galle

Mohinda College 5; Dharmasoka College 3; Sacred Herst Convent 1; St. Thomas College, Matara 1 and Private students 2.—Total 12.

Kandy

Trinity College 7; St. Thomas College (Colombo?) 4; Dharmarajah College 3; St. Antony's College 2; St. Thomas Girl's School 2; Kingswood College 1; Uva College Badulla 1 and Private students 7.—Total 27.

The numbers of passes according to nationality are:—

Sinhalese 14; Tamils 180; Muslims 12; Burghers 12 and Others 2.—Total 299.

The above figures are only approximate as it is very difficult to find out from certain names what nationality one belongs to. For instance one who bears name Paul or Thomas may be a Burgher, Sinhalese or Tamil.

It will be observed that the leading Catholic Colleges in Colombo and Jaffna come 1st and 2nd in the number of passes. Then come in order the Jaffna Hindu College, the Jaffna College, St. John's College, Jaffna, and the St. Benedict's College. The number of passes among the Tamils is proportionately much more than the number of passes among the other nationalities.

Yours etc.

K. Sivapragasam.

Sivaprakasam Road,
Jaffna, 6th Sept. 1938.

Order Nisi

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF
JAFFNA

Trust Case No. 57

In the matter of the application of Sinnathamby Perampala Thampiran of Tholpuram to appoint himself as sole trustee over the Chidambaram Ambalavanaswamy Mana Mudaliar Mada Tharman Trust.

Sinnathamby Perampala Thampiran of Tholpuram.

Applicant,

This matter of the application of the abovesaid applicant, coming on for disposal before C. Coomaraswamy Esquire, District Judge, Jaffna, on the 6th day of September 1938, in the presence of Mr. S. Coomarasurier Proctor on the part of the applicant, and the affidavit of the applicant dated 23rd August 1938 having been read: it is ordered that the applicant abovesaid be appointed as sole trustee over the Chidambaram Ambalavanaswamy Mana Mudaliar Mada Tharman Trust and that a vesting order be granted to him in terms of Section 113 of the Trust Ordinance No. 9 of 1917 vesting on him all the properties movable and immovable belonging to the said trust and described in the affidavit filed of record and that a scheme for the proper management of the said trust be framed by Court, unless any persons interested in the said Trust shall, on or before the 23rd day of September 1938 show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this court to the contrary.

This 7th day of September 1938

Sgd. C. Coomaraswamy
District Judge

Drawn by,

Sgd. S. Coomarasurier
Proctor for applicant.
[O 39. 8-9-38]

AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION

(Continued from page 1)

portant for him it will be rewarded regularly.

The scheme should embrace a sufficiently large tract of land to warrant the construction of the reservoir. The topography of the district should be such as to allow a more or less regular lay-out of canals with a minimum number of structures thereon.

Selection of Crops

A selection of crops should be guided not only by the properties of soil but also by suitable weather conditions. To ensure the economical success of a large irrigation scheme the possibility of cultivation of industrial crops such as cotton, hemp or others of high market value should be considered. The production of rice and other cereals will play a necessary part in the scheme but may be of secondary consideration from an economical point of view.

Several large schemes are possible in the eastern part of the Island. As an example, one of them, which is not necessarily the best, is the Amban-ganga Scheme. The Amban-ganga south of Minneriya Tank flows through a large valley and leaves it through a narrow gorge in a chain of hills. This gorge offers an admirable site for a dam of short length behind which could be formed a reservoir approximately 13 miles long with an average width of 3 miles. The reservoir would command a territory of about 600,000 acres north of Minneriya Tank. Out of this area 75 per cent or 450,000 acres could probably be canalized. But the extent to be brought under active cultivation could be decided upon only after due consideration has been given to the water duty of selected crops, the storage capacity of the reservoir and run off data of the catchment area of the Amban-ganga. Conservative estimates of a preliminary nature indicate that at least 200,000 acres could be irrigated perennially. This area is one of the flattest districts in the Island and therefore essentially suitable for a planned canal system.

Although study of the requisites for a successful irrigation scheme may by itself indicate that such schemes will be more profitable than those in existence, it will be of practical interest to know how similar schemes work in other countries.

Indian Irrigation Schemes

In one of recent issues of "The Engineer" was published a review of numerous large irrigation schemes carried out in India. All the schemes except those which are not yet fully developed bring 3½ per cent. interest on the capital spent. Indirect benefits of these schemes are beyond dispute and may be fully appreciated only on consideration of the part they play in the economical and social structure of the country. In addition it is gratifying to know that such schemes "pay" directly.

The transformation of the basin system of Egypt into the perennial brought prosperity to that country. The basin system of irrigation depends exclusively on floods of the river Nile caused by tropical rains in upper reaches of the Blue and White Nile in Central Africa. The canals which took off the

river could only divert the flow at high levels, i.e. during the flood season of 3 to 5 months' duration. The water was thus brought to the fields, subdivided into basins by means of earth banks. Barrages, the first of which was constructed in the middle of the 19th century, built across the Nile raised water levels in the river and extended the irrigation period. These barrages (an Egyptian barrage is a structure similar in conception to the Ceylon aicut but of much larger size) also enabled some areas to be brought under continuous (perennial) irrigation, but the extent of these areas was limited by the minimum discharge of the Nile. Under the basin system, the principal crops of the country were rice and wheat and Egypt was famous as one of the granaries of the world. The construction of the Assuan Dam in 1902 across the Nile gave a great impetus to the development of the perennial system of irrigation. Since then the Assuan Dam has been heightened twice, thus increasing the storage capacity of the reservoir formed by the dam. Development is not yet completed and Egypt, as need arises, is building new barrages and new reservoirs, the former bringing new districts under the system, the latter assuring its regular functioning beyond the flood season.

Under the perennial system of irrigation, cotton with its 6 month season has become the principal crop and Egypt now imports rice and wheat, but the cotton with its high market value amply compensates for the reduced production of cereals and thereby has added to the general prosperity of the country.

The Sudan System

A good example of the development of agriculture under the perennial system of irrigation is shown by the Gezira Canalization Scheme of the Sudan. This scheme brought under cotton a part of the plain called Gezira situated in the triangle formed by the White and Blue Nile rivers. The area suitable for irrigation lies north of latitude 14°N and comprises 3,000,000 acres but it is probable that only 2,000,000 acres can be profitably brought under cultivation. The climate of the plain is hot and dry. The rainy season is confined to the period from July to September, and the country is practically rainless from October to June. The average rainfall is about 15 inches in the south and 6 inches in the north of the area. The average maximum temperature is 100°F, but during the hottest months shade temperature may reach 119°F. The indigenous population lived a precarious life subsisting on a rain crop of millet which was very uncertain owing to the extremely variable rainfalls. The general aspect of the district was dry and desolate.

Experiments initiated in the second decade of this century proved that the black cotton soil (loess clay) is suitable for cotton cultivation. A concession of 1,000,000 acres for a limited period was granted by the Sudan Government to the Sudan Plantations Syndicate. The Government undertook to construct the dam across the Blue Nile, the reservoir, and the canalization scheme, and the company

to dig and maintain field channels and make arrangements for mechanical ploughing, supervision, ginning, and marketing of cotton. The company also supplies seeds and advances money to the tenants. The tenants receive 40 per cent., the company 25 per cent. and the Government 35 per cent. of the proceeds after the cost of ginning and marketing of the cotton have been deducted.

Before the Great War two experimental farms of 5,500 and 7,600 acres were established. In 1921 and 1923, two more farms were added with an aggregate cotton area of 17,000 acres. The farms were run by the company. Agricultural data collected and a method of cultivation worked out on these farms established principles on which the whole scheme was based. Their example inspired confidence in the people regarding the advantages of cotton cultivation and greatly contributed to the success of the first cultivation season of the whole scheme in 1925.

The works of the initial scheme comprising the construction of the dam and development of 300,000 acres were begun in 1920, and in certain respects were of a pioneer character. The district was 700 miles from Port Sudan by rail, communications with Egypt were unsuitable for heavy goods traffic, world prices for plant and materials were high and increasing, and all skilled labour had to be imported from Egypt or Europe. The contract was originally assigned on a percentage basis, but for various reasons was determined in 1922. A new contract was let to the lowest tenderer on a fixed rate basis in the same year. The works were completed within scheduled time and the first cultivation season opened in July 1925.

In 1927-32 works on further developments were carried out. These brought the cultivated area to about 750,000 acres.

The cost of works was:—

The Dam	£5,700,000
Canalization of 300,000 acres	£3,000,000
Extensions of 450,000 acres (the author estimates at £4 per acre)	£1,800,000
	£10,500,000
	(Rs. 140,000,000)

which works out at £14 (Rs. 190) per acre. It must be mentioned that the resources of the reservoir have not been used to the limit as it is capable of supplying with water 1,000,000 to 1,250,000 acres.

The essential part of the scheme was the construction of the Blue Nile Dam and Reservoir. The Dam is about 10,000 feet long and 130 feet high above the lowest point of the foundations, and contains 553,000 cubic yards of masonry. The main part of the Dam is provided with 192 openings of various sizes which are designed to pass a discharge of 530,000 cubic feet per second or 25 per cent. more than the highest known flood flow.

The reservoir formed by the Dam has a storage capacity of 485 million cubic metres (392,000 acre-feet) of water net, i.e. after an allowance for evaporation has been made. From July 20th to December, flood water is used for irrigation and the stored water only is used during the period from January to April 10th.

A regulator with 14 tunnels each 10 feet wide and 15½ feet high incorporated in the dam feeds the main channel of the

scheme. Seven sluices are in use at present, the remaining tunnels having been blocked up with reinforced concrete. The main canal runs for about 35.5 miles before it reaches the point where it can command the land by gravity. In this reach the main canal has a bed width of 132 feet and 12 feet water depth.

The present scheme of 750,000 acres comprises 162 miles of distributory canals and about 7,250 miles of field channels, the latter having been constructed by the concessionaires.

Numerous regulators of various types, bridges for roads, light and Government railway lines, buildings and other structures common to a large irrigation scheme were constructed. The aggregate masonry work in these structures amounted to about 135,000 cubic yards.

The main, branch and major distributory canals were set out along natural ridges. To facilitate watering and general agricultural supervision minor distributaries were usually set out in parallel alignment 4,650 feet apart with field outlets on one side only. Practical considerations of various kinds prevented adoption of night watering of fields. Therefore the minor distributaries were designed large enough to store all the water delivered by the major system of canals in the night time. These unusual requirements increased the initial cost of the minor system. Also the minor canals silted heavily and required frequent clearing and although the trapped silt was used for maintenance of banks and the construction of elevated roads experiments in night watering were initiated in order to reduce this heavy item of maintenance expenditure.

Field channels were dug by the company off the minor distributaries at 940 feet intervals and finally tenants' channels subdivided the whole area in 10-acre plots. Every tenant was allotted 3 plots of 10 acres situated on different fields channels. The administrative unit of the company is a block of 15,000 to 20,000 acres under the supervision of an inspector and two or three assistants.

The principal crop is long-staple cotton. During the first years of the scheme the cultivation was on a 3 to 1 annual rotation. One-third of the area was under cotton, one-third under other crops, and one-third remained fallow. The other crops are 50 per cent. maize, a staple food of the cultivator, and 50 per cent. "lubia" (*Dolichos lab-lab*), a leguminous bean suitable for cattle fodder. The order of rotation was cotton the first year, fallow the second, and maize and lubia the third.

The cotton season lasts from August to April 10th. It includes the winter months and is consequently longer than that in Egypt which begins in March. In terms of the agreement with Egypt the Gezira Scheme could abstract from the Nile only the flood water. The flood usually begins in July and lasts till the end of October. From January to the end of season the stored water only is used for irrigation. By the middle of April the reservoir is empty. Cotton requires 14-15 waterings of 450 cubic metres each or about 5-acre feet per acre in all. Later it was found possible to give the fields an extra watering and to

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Agriculture and Irrigation

(Continued from page 7)

have one more picking of cotton.

The maize and lobia require 2½ to 3 months for growth. These crops depend principally on the rains, but waterings from the canals are given to compensate for deficiencies and irregularities in rainfall.

During the first years of the cultivation, the cotton crops gave good results and the yield was 350 to 400 pounds per acre of ginned cotton. These results were not maintained and things went wrong in 1929 or 1930. One year the yield dropped to 180 pounds per acre. Several factors contributed to this failure. The cotton fields are given the first heavy watering before sowing in July-August and immediately thereafter should not be inundated. But natural inundation frequently occurs during the heavy rains in August and the natural drains were not capable of dealing with the situation. The cool weather in December, when the night temperature sometimes falls to between 56° and 50°F, is detrimental to the young cotton plants. As a result pests of black arm and leaf cut used to attack the crop. Finally the soil was gradually getting water-logged. The two years of rest after one cotton cultivation were not sufficient for the process of drying and aeration to go deep enough in the compact loess soil.

The measures carried out to combat these influences were as follows. Artificial drainage systems were constructed and efficiently removed the surplus water from the fields besides abating their water-logged conditions. A special variety of cotton was evolved by the company better able to resist the cool weather and attacks by pest. The 3 to 1 rotation was replaced

by one of 4 to 1, under which the fields remain fallow for two consecutive years thus improving the soil aeration. The measures were effective and the yield of cotton again rose to the average figure of 400 pounds per acre. As the change in rotation entailed a reduction of the effective area under cotton, the minor canal system was extended thus partially compensating for the loss.

The whole scheme was arranged and carried out satisfactorily and proved to be an economical success. The three parties to the agreement displayed a goodwill which contributed to the success of the enterprise and helped to successfully pass over the difficult years of the depression when the low yield coincided with the lowest market prices.

The G-zira Canalization Scheme is working under adverse conditions which diminish its economical success. These conditions are as follows:—

1. High cost of the dam and initial canal system.
2. Adverse climatic conditions.
3. Difficult soil.
4. Low percentage of land under crop each cultivation season.

The causes which contributed to the higher cost of the G-zira Canalization Scheme are of local character and either do not exist or are avoidable in Ceylon. It may be expected that the cost of large scheme in Ceylon will compare favourably with that of the Sudan even though jungle clearing will be an extra item in the former. Also advantages derived of such scheme will be greater in Ceylon where more favourable agricultural and climatic conditions permit a more intensive cultivation of land.

Therefore it may be assumed that schemes similar to that of the Amban-ganga under which local water resources will be efficiently used will prove profitable and bring great benefit to the Island as a whole.

(Tropical Agriculturist.)

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