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END BUREAUCRACY IN EDUCATION

Need for Teacher-Centred Schools

THE CHALLENGE OF THE TIMES

By S. T. Ramana Iyengar

THE school system as it obtains in our country is a typically bureaucratic development born of imperialism in education. It is dominated by an elaborate machinery for creating, controlling and directing education. The complex organisation in vogue is at once evidence of the fact that little confidence is placed in teachers and their ability to direct their own activities.

The teacher in effect has been recruited from all ranks and from all grades and he has been ill-prepared for his task by the educational gods. As a result, the Department of Education has found it necessary to provide him with some direction in the official teachers' association in the Province. But the direction is not expert direction because the departmental officers are no way better than the teachers themselves in point of equipment for their work. Hence to compensate for this poor preparation of the teachers, we have had to evolve a kind of organised supervision by the Inspectorate, itself poorly prepared.

Conformity the only Test

The teacher, thus, occupies a very subordinate place in the school system and in education, and throughout all these years of the bureaucratic educational system, he has been thought fit only to follow directions given to him by his superior officers, who are there not by merit but by accident. He has been prevented from participation in the making of policies. He has no hand in the shaping of the school system or in educational practice even inside a class room or in fields of educational activity like curriculum-making, or diagnosis of methods or child study or experiments in educational bureaucracy and the

captains of education in schools have simply made teachers take what they thought fit and apply it or misapply it to the class room. Teachers have been considered virtuous if they did not exhibit a thorough social understanding and if they were dependent and timid in their approach to problems of the science and art of education. The result is that we have a teaching population who have been prepared to be docile and amenable to authorities. Good teaching has been thought in terms of conformity, and success as a teacher is measured by unquestioning loyalty to the educational employer who dictates his own oath of allegiance to the teacher.

Rise of Teachers' Union

But this concept has received a rude shock as a result of the unseen work of the South India Teachers' Union in our province, and as a result of the democratisation of our educational administration. Since the formation of S. I. T. U. and its constituent branches known as District Guilds, there has risen a body of teachers who have torn to pieces the concept of the teacher as an educational slave. Teachers in South India have been discussing their role and their duties and rights and insisting on their right to participate in discussions of curriculum construction, of educational administration, of direction and inspection, of policies and programmes, of tenure problems, etc., with and even without the consent of employers, who have fought in vain to prevent non-official teachers' associations from functioning in schools and in educational centres. Teachers' Associations and union-minded teachers have come to stay by sheer self-help. This factor is

FUTURE OF COCONUT INDUSTRY

MOST GLOOMY, SAYS MR. PIERIS

COMMITTEE URGES COMMISSION

THE future of the coconut industry is most gloomy, considering that the production of palm oil is one ton per acre compared with one-fifth or a quarter of a ton of coconut oil per acre and also considering that Sir Frank Stockdale's estimate of the production of palm oil in Malaya was a ton and three quarters per acre, said Mr. W. V. D. Pieris, Geneticist, Coconut Research Scheme, when he addressed a meeting of the Coconut Planters' Joint Committee on Saturday at the Coconut Research Scheme Office.

"This is especially so when we consider that the oil palm as a plantation crop is very much more recent than the coconut palm, but that in spite of its comparative youth the large owners and capitalist companies have made good use of the available scientific knowledge and stocked their estates with selected high-yielding strains of palm," he added.

The Committee unanimously decided to support the motion which Mr. C. E. P. de Silva introduced in the State Council urging the appointment of a Commission to inquire into the working of the Coconut Board.

responsible for the co-operation of the Press in problems of teachers' organisations, and for the changed attitude of educational authorities and employers and captains of education towards teachers and teachers' associations. The Inspector is no longer regarded even by the lowest-grade teacher as a god. Supervision and inspection have become sugar-coated and the administrator and Inspector know that benevolence and sympathy alone will pay and not Hitlerism in education. Moreover, democracy in education has undermined the Anglo-Indian educational system all for good. But for the frequent conflicts in-

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THE QUILON BANK

LIQUIDATOR APPOINTED IN JAFFNA

COLOMBO LIQUIDATOR'S CLAIM

Mr. C. Coomaraswamy, District Judge of Jaffna, made his order on Monday appointing Mr. J. Subramaniam Lewis as liquidator of the Travancore Bank, subject to his furnishing security in Rs. 20,000.

His powers at present are limited to the collection and realisation of the assets of the bank. He should deposit in the local Kacheheri without delay all moneys recovered and file a Kacheheri receipt.

No payment is to be made by the liquidator without the sanction of Court and he should carry out all such orders as might be issued from time to time.

The question of remuneration of the liquidator will be considered by the Court later. The cost incurred by the petitioners in these proceedings will be paid out of the assets of the bank.

Liquidation in regard to the Travancore National and Quilon Bank, Ltd., came before Mr. Coomaraswamy last week, for the confirmation of Mr. J. Lewis Subramaniam, Manager of the Co-operative Central Bank, as the Liquidator of the Jaffna branch of the Travancore National and Quilon Bank, Ltd.

Muhandiram S. K. Swaminathan of Manipay, Dr. G. S. Mather, of Jaffna, and the Northern Province Teachers' Provident Society, by its Treasurer Mr. J. W. Arulpiragasam, had petitioned the District Court of Jaffna, asking that the Jaffna Branch be wound up and a liquidator appointed.

Mr. V. Sivasubramaniam, instructed by Mr. T. Arumainayagam, appeared for petitioners.

Mr. A. S. Vanigesoorier, instructed by Mr. C. R. Tambiah, appeared for Mr. H. L. Pope, the liquidator in Colombo.

Mr. S. R. Kanagarayagam, inst-

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Over 3000 "Taverns" in Jaffna

Effect of Tree-Tax System

Amendment of Ordinance Urged

UNDER the old system, the largest number of toddy taverns in Jaffna was 108, but now under the tree tax system there are said to be over 3,000 taverns, because every shed where toddy is sold is a miniature tavern," said the Rev. S. Mather, at a conference on the tree tax system held at the Jaffna Central College hall.

The Rev. F. M. Weaver presided. The Assistant Commissioner of Excise (Mr. D. de Kretser) and Mr. N. S. Sanders, Superintendent of Excise, were present by invitation.

Mr. Mather said that it had been reported from many quarters that the tree tax system had increased drunkenness and crime. Formerly hours of sale were fixed, but now toddy was sold day or night. Further, as toddy tappers did very lucrative business, labour was not available for cultivation of the lands.

Mr. C. Arulampalam said that even women and children became drunk on toddy.

Mr. S. A. Rajaratnam, speaking for Pt. Pedro, said that there was a toddy booth in front of Hartley College boarding house and drinking went on till midnight.

Road of Booths

Mr. J. V. J. Arnold speaking for Atchchuvely, said that along one road there were eight booths within a distance of a mile and a half. Toddy was sold the whole night, and it was the chief cause for the increase of crime in Jaffna.

Mr. J. C. Charles, speaking for Nallur, said that there was a toddy booth in Kachcheri Road and hundreds of boys and girls who passed by saw drunken scenes and heard filthy language.

Mr. V. Muthucumaru said that the old system had been equally bad, if not worse. The objectionable features of the present system should be removed.

Messrs J. W. Arudpragasam, J. P. Ambalavanar and S. Appadurai also spoke.

Check Proposed

Mr. Kretser said that the tree tax system was in its infancy and still in an experimental stage. He had very little to say as he had been in Jaffna for only five months, but he thought that there was room for improvement.

"This Conference appeals to the Board of Ministers to amend the Tree Tax Ordinance.

(1) restricting the hours of sale of toddy from 8 a. m. to 6 p. m. daily

(2) prohibiting sale of toddy in sheds, which invariably became miniature taverns, to women and those under 21 and

(3) limiting hours for tapping of toddy from 7 a. m. to 5 p. m."

Mr. C. Arulampalam seconded and the resolution was passed unanimously.

ALUMNI DAY AT JAFFNA COLLEGE

The annual Alumni Day celebrations of Jaffna College were held on Saturday in the College premises at Vaddukoddai.

In the morning the Old Boys and the members of the College Tennis Club met at tennis. This was followed by a thanksgiving service conducted by the Rev. S. T. Aseervatham.

The next item was the English and Tamil Elocution contests for the students of the College, which was presided over by Mr. A. R. Subramaniam, retired District Judge.

At 12.30 about 80 Old Boys sat for lunch in the College dining room.

At 4 p.m. the new water service for the College was declared open by Mr. R. A. M. Thuraiappah, Provincial Engineer, an Old Boy of the College.

At 5 p.m. there was a football match between the Old Boys and the College team.

Tamil Singing Contest

At 6 p.m. a Tamil singing contest for the students of the College was held in Ottley Hall with Mudaliyar V. Ponnambalam, President of the Board of Directors of the Jaffna Co-operative Central Bank Ltd., as Judge.

This girls reached a high standard in their performances. A Silver Cup was presented to the winners among the girl contestants. Mrs. S. K. Bunker distributed the prizes.

Annual General Meeting

At the annual general meeting of the Jaffna College Alumni Association, held at Ottley Hall with the Rev. S. K. Bunker, Principal, in the chair, the election of office-bearers resulted as follows:—

President: The Rev. S. K. Bunker (ex-officio).

Vice-Presidents: Messrs. Tampoe Buell, J. V. Chelliah, A. R. Subramaniam and Mudaliyar S. Sellappah.

Hony. Secretary: Mr. A. W. Nadarajah (re-elected).

Hony. Treasurer: Mr. R. C. S. Cocke (re-elected).

Auditors: Messrs. A. C. Sundrampillai and L. P. Thuraiappah.

Committee: Messrs. E. V. Nathaniel, S. R. Kannaganayagam, J. F. Ponnambalam and Dr. S. W. C. Ratoesar.

WANTED

Arts graduate proficient in Latin, English, and History. Experienced men preferred. Apply to Principal, Skantha Varodaya College, Chunnakam.

DR. S. SUBRAMANIAM,
Manager.

[Mis 142 19-9-38 to 26-9-38]

ANCIENT HINDU MARRIAGE

V. Betrothal and Wedding

By S. R. Muttukumaru

(Continued from our issue of 15-9-38)

IN my article on the *Ancient Tamil Courtship* it was stated that amongst the ancient Thamilian Hindus the betrothal and the wedding of a couple were extremely simple. The boy and the girl were solely responsible for their engagement, and their union was ratified by the parents of the bride and bridegroom, and by their friends and relations, over a pot of sweet palm wine. The betrothal and the wedding amongst the Vedic Aryan Hindus were equally simple. When a young Rishi decided to marry, he presented a pair or two of kine to the parents of the damsel, which was considered as a marriage proposal; and the nuptial tie was made by the father of the girl without any more ado.

Aryan System

Later, however, the Aryan system of proposal and marriage became a little more elaborate. The bridegroom sent messengers to the house of the girl's father, reciting the following verse of the Rig Veda:

"Let the paths by which our friends go in quest of a maiden for marriage be easy and free of thorns. May Aryaman and Bhaga lead us well. O gods! may the husband and wife be well united". (1)

If the proposal pleased both the parties the promise of marriage was ratified, and in token of which both parties touched a full vessel into which flowers, fried grains, barley and gold had been put, and recited a formula. The bridegroom then performed a sacrifice. On the appointed day the bride was washed with scented water, and was made to sit by a fire. The family priest then performed another sacrifice. The bridegroom who had also been bathed and made to go through certain auspicious ceremonies, was escorted by young women who were not widows to the bride's house. Thus ended their wedding ceremony. (2)

Kshatriya System

When the Kshatriya rose to eminence and power, the system of betrothal and marriage amongst them often involved the idea of capture. A young Kshatriya might obtain a wife by carrying away the daughter of another Kshatriya, but before doing so the law required that he should have defeated her parents and kinsmen in open battle. In this manner did Krishna, the avatar of Vishnu, obtain Rukmini for

his wife.

A maiden was also often offered as a prize in boxing, wrestling, running and archery matches. In other words, she was obtained by the supreme prowess of the winner over all other competitors. The winners married their brides without portions (3). The maiden was, however, allowed the right of prohibiting any objectionable candidate from entering the lists, as in the case of Draupada who objected to Karnan, the son of Kunti by Sun, entering the list of competitors by crying out: "I do not choose the Suta" [The Sutas were the offsprings of illegal marriages between Brahmans and Kshatriyas]. Even after her hand was won, she was permitted to express her approbation by presenting the marriage garland to the winner.

In later times there was no competition in arms, and the damsel simply notified her choice in an assembly of Kshatriyas by throwing the marriage garland round the neck of the favourite suitor. The marriage union thus involved an expression of preference on the part of the bride, and became known as the Swayamvara or "Self-choice" of the maiden.

This graceful institution has for centuries been driven out of India. The form, however, or some trace of it, still lingers among the Rajput chieftains. The maiden perhaps has no real preference, but a coconut is sent in her name to a selected bridegroom, and this ceremony is considered as an equivalent to an offer of her hand. If the coconut is accepted, the marriage ceremony duly follows; but if it is rejected, the affront can only be avenged by blood.

It is interesting to note here that J. T. Wheeler writes: "A still more striking relic of this ancient institution is to be found in Burmah. The people of Burmah are Buddhists, and claim to be descendants of the Indian Kshatriyas. Every marriageable damsel places a lamp in her window during certain hours in the evening, whenever she is inclined to receive company; and the hours which custom devotes to such gatherings are universally known throughout Burmah as courting time. The damsel takes her seat on a mat, and holds a kind of levee; whilst the young men array themselves in their smartest attire, and pay visits to one or more lamp lit houses as they feel disposed. At such social gatherings mutual attachment generally springs up, and the marriage union is the legitimate result." (4)

Preliminaries of Marriage

Abbe Dubois says that there are four different ways of arranging the preliminaries of a marriage. "The first, the most honoured and

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(3) (a) Mearchus in Strabo, *India*, sec. 66.

(b) Arrian's *Indika*, Chap. xvii.

(4) *History of India*, iii. 25; note.

(1) Op. cit. x. 85. 23.

(2) *Civilization in Ancient India*, I. 260-1.

THE SAVINGS CERTIFICATES SCHEME

Phenomenal Success on Inauguration Day

GOVT. AGENT'S ADVICE TO JAFFNESE

THE Savings Certificates Scheme inaugurated on Monday has met with phenomenal success from all parts of Ceylon. The first day's investments by the public amount to about Rs. 380,000.

INAUGURATING the Scheme in Jaffna, Mr. R. B. Naish, Government Agent, deplored the fact that nowadays too much money was being thrown away in Jaffna on luxurious and expensive cars, and invited the people to follow his example by participating in the Scheme.

The Jaffna Post Office put on a festive appearance on Monday when the Ceylon Savings Certificates Scheme was inaugurated.

Mr. R. B. Naish, Government Agent, accompanied by Mrs. Naish arrived at 9 a. m. and they were received by Mr. M. Ambalavanar, the chief Postmaster.

Mr. Naish inaugurated the scheme by buying a Fifty Rupee Savings Certificate.

Addressing the gathering Mr. Naish said that it seemed to be very clear that Jaffna was a poor country with poor resources. If that district was to advance, the people should take to the habit of saving.

There was nowadays too much money being thrown away in luxurious and expensive cars, in the buying of radio sets and in frequently attending the cinema.

All these were wasting assets. Many people lived beyond their means and the results of the future were quite obvious.

He would invite the representatives of the various communities in Jaffna to follow his (speaker's) example by participating in that scheme.

Light refreshments were served.

Minister's Advice

Inaugurating the Savings Certificates Scheme at Minuwangoda, Mr. D. S. Senanayake, Minister for Agriculture and Lands, said that a few weeks ago he was spending a holiday for reasons of health in Europe. He was extremely lucky to be present there for the purpose of inaugurating a very important scheme which he had no doubt would bring untold blessings and prosperity to Ceylon.

After the last war the people of the Island grumbled because there was no money. - There was no money because money was not being circulated. If the money people hoarded were circulated in the country it would be of great benefit to the people and the country. Last of all keeping their money idling, it would be a great thing if all of them invested it in Savings Certificates and derived interest on it.

When the Ceylon Government needed money for some big scheme or other they had to get large loans outside and every year large sums of money went out of the country by way of interest. Once Ceylonese invested their money on Savings Certificates, be assured them that all their money would circulate in this country and there would be no need for them to raise big loans in foreign countries.

Ceremony at Point Pedro

Point Pedro, Sept. 20th
In response to the invitations is-

ued by Mr. K. Sether, Postmaster, and his staff, a large number of the chief residents and Government officers of Point Pedro assembled at the Post Office quarters at 9 a. m. on Monday to celebrate the inauguration of the sale of the Ceylon Savings Certificates. The precincts were tastefully decorated and all present were treated to light refreshments. Mr. Sether garlanded Mr. R. Ramachandran, the Police Magistrate, who after explaining to those present the benefits of the scheme bought the first Certificate from the Postmaster amidst loud cheers and applause. Mr. W. M. Walton, Chairman, V. C. Puloly, also bought a certificate.

Mr. C. P. Thamootheram, Principal, Hartley College, also spoke and exhorted the members present to encourage thrift by purchasing these certificates. The Postmaster thanked all present for their presence. Mr. Sam T. Solomons, President, Point Pedro Maha Jana Sabha, called for three cheers.

Inaugural Ceremony At Kadugannawa

Monday.

Celebrations at the Kadugannawa Post Office in connection with the first sale of Savings Certificates were in full swing this morning. The office and premises were gaily decorated with flags and bunting. In response to invitations issued by the Postmaster and his staff prominent residents, planters, merchants and Government officers attended the function. Dr. H. A. Direckze, the Medical Officer of Health, arrived at 8.50 a. m. and was received by Mr. V. Chantharampillai, the Postmaster, and conducted to the special seat in the middle of the office. The Postmaster addressed the gathering on the savings movement in Ceylon and called upon Dr. Direckze to inaugurate the scheme by purchasing the first Saving Certificate. The Doctor filled in the application form and handed it over to the postmaster with cash. The latter perfected all entries and records and issued the Certificate. The sale synchronised with that of the G.P.O. The Doctor then delivered a message urging all present to form the saving habit. Mr. P. A. Siniwardane translated the speech into Sinhalese.

Three cheers for the success of the movement called for by Mr. A. N. Frank was heartily responded to by all present. Mr. Frank also thanked all those who attended and the Doctor for launching the scheme at Kadugannawa.

Light refreshments were served. Many who attended the ceremony purchased Savings Certificates.

Total sale up to 4 p. m. was Rs. 5200. (Cor)

MEN AND MATTERS

By Wayfarer

EUROPE is passing through a crisis. Its greatest danger for some years has not been Fascism or Bolshevism, but *drift, unawareness and the business-as-usual attitude* of the democracies. The present state of affairs has been the result of various acts of omission on the part of the western democracies. The policy of peace at any price has led Europe to a situation when war becomes inevitable. And quite rightly a section of the people lays the blame on Mr. Chamberlain and his Foreign Secretary Lord Halifax. The past year or so, witnessed a lamentable failure on the part of the democracies to grasp the essential nature and objective of the Nazi policy. Either through fear or muddled thinking, the world had the pitiable and heart-breaking spectacle of the democracies, often led by Britain, truckling to the Dictators. In the name of peace, the world witnessed the most humiliating concessions made to Fascist aggression in Abyssinia, Spain and Austria. And now will England in the name of peace see the extinction of an independent State in Central Europe? Writing on the present situation the Rt. Hon. H. A. L. Fisher says, "Tribal selfishness cannot make truce with humanity or objective standards of right and wrong. When are we going to realise that with the best will in the world it is utterly and scientifically impossible for the Satanism of that which is the Nazi creed and policy to make friends with that for which Democracy stands? When is it going to dawn upon those who are at the head of affairs that alliances and concessions on this basis, to say nothing of a Four Power Pact, are a mistaken and cowardly betrayal of Democracy?" He further says that between the creed of Germany and the beliefs of the civilized West there can be no compromise. And the danger lies in the *laissez faire* unaware, and falsely generous mentality of the British Prime Minister.

Batticaloa went to the polls last Saturday. The result is interesting in more than one way. The election has given the lie direct to the claim of the All Ceylon Tamil Conference that Batticaloa is solidly behind the fifty-fifty ratio of representation. Mr. Stephens is an ardent supporter of the fifty-fifty demand. He took a leading part in the Tamil Conference at Batticaloa, and was a delegate to the Conference at Jaffna. I believe, he fought his election on the fifty-fifty cry. The country has given its verdict and Mr. Stephens fared badly to poll only 766 votes in an electorate of about 20000 voters. How much noise these gas bags can make when claiming ludicrous demands in the name of a community?

Prospective candidates for the general elections in Jaffna are busy going about feeling the pulse of their respective areas. They are even busy consulting astrologers and palmists. I saw a prospective candidate for the Kankesanthurai seat, in the vicinity of the Sivan Temple, closetted in a lawyer's office consulting a palmist. I hear the seer has given him every encouragement and I anticipate a keen contest at Kankesanthurai. By the way I see the sage of Arialai pestered by these

AERO CLUB SIGNS AGREEMENT

Govt. to Pay Annual Subsidy

The agreement between the Aero Club of Ceylon and the Government was signed on Monday in the office of the Minister of Communications and Works.

The agreement comes into operation with the commencement of the new financial year and will continue to be in operation for four years, at the end of which it would be renewable.

Payments, according to the agreement will be made by Government to the club as follows:—

A capital grant of Rs. 13,500 for the purchase of a new plane for the Club.

An annual subsidy of Rs. 24,000.

After the agreement was signed a formal conference was held between the Minister and the Aero Club officials.

Under the provisions of the Agreement which was signed this morning the Aero Club undertakes to conduct its affairs to the satisfaction of the Minister of Communications and Works to give its members full facilities for learning and practising the art of flying and to provide for the admission as members of the Club of British subjects of any race resident in Ceylon without discrimination provided that other conditions of entry for membership of the Club have been complied with.

would-be State Councillors every week-end asking for the Swami's blessings. Another who aspires to legislative honours is at Arialai every week-end and he says so far he has had every encouragement from the Swami and thinks that this is a sure sign of his victory.

The suggestion for a National Party under the leadership of Sir Baron Jayatilake, embracing all communities is receiving the attention of all lovers of the country. I hear Mr. Francis de Zoysa is very enthusiastic about it. The time is very opportune for an organisation like this. When forces are drifting in diverse directions, and communalism and narrow sectionalism are rampant in the country, it is the duty of leaders of the calibre of Mr. de Zoysa to give a lead to the country. But let me warn him against opportunists who would not fail to exploit an opportunity to their own advantage. And let him also take a lesson from the now defunct Liberal League whose President he was for many years.

Today's booths in Jaffna are a sad commentary on the Excise policy of the Government. For every one taxpayer in a locality, miniature taverns in the form of sheds have sprung up like mushrooms around a rotten tree. The result is more drunkenness, increase of crime and a disregard for law and order and a progressive deterioration or moral standards. It is time some action is taken to get rid of this pest in Jaffna. The appeal of Sir W. Duraiswami to save the fair name of Jaffna should reach in every lover of Jaffna. Will leaders of Jaffna come forward to organise public opinion and create a more healthy atmosphere? Reform of the standards of life and morals should precede any political agitation. Will Jaffna wake up?

NOTICE

Wanted an attendant to look after the inmates of King George V Jubilee Home for the Aged, Jaffna.

2. Salary not exceeding Rs. 15/- per mensem with meals and quarters. The salary will be fixed according to the suitability of the applicant.

3. Applications should reach the Secretary before 12 noon on Friday the 30th inst. Preference will be given to those who have had experience as a Hospital attendant.

C. CANAPATHIPILLAI,
Secretary.

Jaffna, 19-9-38.
[Mis. 147. 22-9-38.]

Oriental Government Security Life A. Co. Ltd.

Notice having been given of the loss of Policy numbered 181288 on the life of Thambiah Sivagurunathan a duplicate Policy will be issued unless objection is lodged with us within one month from this date.

EDWIN JONES,
Manager.

[Mis. 148. 22-9-38.]



Hindu Organ.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 1938.

PEACE AT ANY PRICE?

THE EUROPEAN SITUATION IS likely to wear a new phase as the result of the Anglo-French consultations on the terms of HERR HITLER, which terms MR. PEACE-AT-ANY-PRICE CHAMBERLAIN learned first-hand from him. The Anglo-French proposals were to have been submitted officially yesterday to Berlin and Prague. The nature of the solution proposed has either been correctly guessed by Reuter or semi-officially or unofficially revealed to them. According to Reuter's unconfirmed report which is possibly and probably correct, Britain and France recommend to the Government of Czechoslovakia the handing over to Germany of areas where seventyfive per cent and over of the people are Germans and autonomous government for other areas where a considerable section of the people is German. There is the further report by Reuter's agents at Paris and Prague that the French Government thinks of the proposals as constituting the best solution and the Czech Government is likely to fall in line with the recommendations. Yet another report from another quarter likely to know the drift of affairs states that the reaction of the Czechs to the proposals may be unfavourable and in that case, war is inevitable. The attitude of the Soviet to the Anglo-French proposals will be one of cold looking-on. The Soviet has been more pronounced-

ly anti-German than either the French or the British, and this failing-off must be a disappointment to them.

After weeks of declaration of Anglo-French "intention" to support the cause of the Czechs, the turn in the tide is both welcome and disappointing. It is welcome, for the proposed settlement postpones the danger of war. The peace of Europe that has been precariously balanced for weeks assumes a steadier pull, giving a breathing space to the British and the French to continue and perfect their defence works. All the talks of their preparedness so far may have been meant to discourage HERR HITLER. If they were really prepared, this truckling to German rattling stands unexplained. It is nothing short of surrender, for the Nazi Dictator's demands on behalf of the Sudetens are far too exacting; further he is far too meddling in the domestic affairs of a neighbouring country, judged by British standards of protection given to the British Indian Nationals in the British Commonwealth countries and outside them. The fear of the Anglo-French combination, with the sure prospect of the Soviet help, for the peace of Europe is groundless and therefore unjustifiable. If they exert pressure on Prague in favour of their proposals, the Czechs may and will have to yield, for the champions of their cause may threaten to step apart and look on. The Czechs cannot think of withstanding the German might without the active help of those who have long professed to be their well-wishers and benefactors. We may well imagine the soreness of their hearts at the predicament which gives them no choice but the bitter fruits of their friends' mediation. Well may the Czechs say, save us from our friends!

The unexpected twist in the drama of Central Europe is the consequence of HERR HITLER's speech at Nuremberg in which his reference to the Arabs of Palestine as having no protector or unlike the Sudetens, must have sent the British official heart pit-a-pat. And his further declaration, after the first interview with MR. CHAMBERLAIN while he was flying back to consult his colleagues and French representatives, that he would support the Sudeten claims with the full armed force of Germany, and the almost simultaneous speech of the other filibuster that Italy supported the Sudeten demands, disclosing through the corners of the speech that he was likely to throw his weight with Germany in the event of war, must have hustled the British Premier, his Cabinet and the French delegation to their proposals of compromise which Prague feared, seeing the aerial dash of MR. CHAMBERLAIN to HERR HITLER. What a tre-

mendous counter-rattling was indulged in by the English and the French! And what a tame surrender! MR. BRAILSFORD has been at much pains to prove that Britain and France had no other alternative than to fight; and any compromise would only postpone the reckoning with HERR HITLER, and then the problem might be far more formidable. Whatever may be said for and against the Anglo-French proposals, let us hope that MR. CHAMBERLAIN's step will lead to lasting peace. The Treaty of Versailles split up the old Austro-Hungarian Empire on the distribution of races. That base has shaken, providing a loophole for further shaking and shifting of that base. If settlements in Europe under that Treaty are to be revised, it will be no wonder, if at no distant date the Fuehrer asks for the return of old German Colonies in the hands of Britain. Tinkering with a sure source of trouble is not the best diplomacy.

Begin from the Top

A correspondent whose article is published elsewhere suggests to the Retrenchment Commission which is now inquiring into the possibilities of reducing the public expenditure, to begin retrenchment from the top. The correspondent who is a retired Government Servant should certainly be in a position to know the inner workings of government departments and suggest possible economies in the running of such departments. According to him the abolition of a post in the top rungs of the Service will save much more than the retrenching of a score of posts in the subordinate service. The long standing complaint against the Public Service is that it is top-heavy. For instance, one can find a Head of Department surrounded by Assistants, Deputies, Assistant Deputies and so on till their number takes one's breath away. All these sub-Heads in a Department, one should think, are certainly unnecessary; their number can very well be reduced and a large portion of the emoluments can thus be saved for utility works in the country. The correspondent is of the view that by retrenchment on the lines suggested, the expenditure on the public services can be reduced by twenty per cent. If a twenty per cent. reduction in the present unduly high cost of administration can be effected, it will be a great achievement for the Commission and will also mean so much good to the country. The findings of the Commission and the action the Council would take upon them should show how far the Board of Ministers are earnest in regard to this question. Let us wait and see.

INCIDENCE OF COMMODITY TAXATION

Islandwide Inquiry

Colombo, Sept. 20.

An islandwide enquiry into the incidence of commodity taxation is to be launched by the Ministry of Labour, Industry and Commerce.

Its purpose is to determine what of a villager's income is taken away as taxation on various commodities, and a reduction of Customs duties on the most essential purchases may be proposed.

The enquiry is to be conducted by officers engaged in the economic survey of the Island.

The Executive Committee of Labour, Industry and Commerce, decided yesterday to take in more officers for the survey, if the additional work interferes with the work of the economic survey.

This is the first time that such an inquiry has been undertaken in Ceylon.

It will deal with every foreign material used by villagers, irrespective of their quantity and importance.

The rate of progress will depend on the co-operation extended by the villagers.

The economic survey of various parts of the island has revealed that expenditure on foodstuffs is the dominating factor in the villager's budget.

Working Class

A survey of this nature was undertaken by the Department of Commerce and Industries recently to determine how the working class in Colombo spent money.

The survey has now been completed and a report will be submitted to the Minister of Labour, Industry and Commerce shortly. The survey was only confined to 250 families living in Grandpass, Mutwal, Slave Island, Colpetty, Maligawatte, Kochchikade and Wolvendaal.

The Committee has also approved the draft of a bill to facilitate the raising of loans on crops.

NO POSTAL DELIVERIES ON SUNDAYS

Scheme to Start from October

Sunday postal and letter deliveries will cease from October 1. This decision, which has been adopted by the Executive Committee of Communications and Works, has been made partly as a retrenchment measure and partly to be in conformity with other parts of the world.

SITUATION GRAVE AGAIN IN CENTRAL EUROPE

Hungary and Poland to Demand Freedom for Minorities

RUSSIA MASSING TROOPS

Czech Attitude Hardening Against Proposals

THE Czechoslovak situation not only continues to be grave, but further dangerous elements have been injected into an already complicated and critical situation.

Berlin is encouraging other countries with minorities there, especially Hungary and Poland, to demand satisfaction for their compatriots in Czechoslovakia. Reuter says that the German Foreign Office organ, "Diplomatische Korrespondenz" states that, apart from obtaining satisfaction for the German element in Czechoslovakia, a solution must be found satisfactory to all other national groups there.

In the meantime, the British and French Ministers at Prague have been instructed by their respective Governments to advise the Czech Government to accept the Anglo-French proposals as they stand. Reuter learns that these urge the cession to Germany of all Sudeten territories in which Germans are in a majority of 75 per cent. and measures for the autonomy of those districts where the percentage of Germans is less.

Czechoslovakia has accepted these in principle, but has also sent a Note to London, making reservations. The nature of these are not officially disclosed, and speculation varies. One version is that the Czech Government states that it cannot subscribe to the Franco-British propositions which were made without Prague's consent. Prague asks that the conflict between Germany and Czechoslovakia should be submitted to arbitration in accordance with the 1926 Treaty.

Resumption of the Hitler-Chamberlain talks has been fixed for Galesberg, on the Rhine on Thursday at 3 p.m. (Times.)

Czech Attitude Hardens

Prague, Wednesday.

There are indications that the attitude of Czechoslovakia towards the Anglo-French proposals is stiffening.

The Prague Government's reply to these—namely acceptance of the terms in principle, but with a number of important reservations—is, however, not a final reply to the proposals.

Evidence of the strength of Czech public feeling against the proposals is one reason for the change in the Government's attitude. The Ministers have also been influenced by reports from London of growing opposition in

Britain to Mr. Chamberlain's policy.

Russians said to be Massing London, Tuesday.

The Prague correspondent of the "News-Chronicle" reports that the Russian Minister in Prague (M. Alexandrovsky) informed the foreign Minister (Dr. Krofta) that Russia could not guarantee help to Czechoslovakia if further concessions were made to the Sudeten Germans.

The Czech military authorities have been informed that 3000,000 Russian troops are massed on the western frontiers ready for instant action.

GRADUATES FOR THE RAILWAY

Probationers' Posts in Higher Grades

The Executive Committee of Communications and Works proposes to revise the regulations governing the recruitment of probationary officers to the higher grades of the Railway Service.

It is proposed to throw open new posts in these grades to Ceylonese graduates not already in the service.

The grades affected are:—

- (1) Probationary Assistant Divisional Transportation Superintendents;
- (2) Probationary Assistant Railway Storekeepers; and
- (3) Probationary Assistant Railway Accountants.

If the scheme is finally adopted, applications will be invited for these posts from Ceylonese graduates both here and in England.

Civil Service Changes

The following transfers have been made in the Civil Service consequent on the grant of leave out of the Island to Mr. S. D. Cumaraswamy, Additional Assistant Government Agent, Matara:—

Mr. M. Rajendra, Secretary to the Minister for Health, to be Additional Assistant Government Agent, Matara

Mr. A. M. A. Azeez to be Secretary to the Minister of Health and Administrative Secretary to the Director of Medical and Sanitary Services.

Mr. V. S. M. de Mel to be Assistant Secretary to the Minister for Health and to be attached to the Office of the Director of Medical and Sanitary Services.

Second Reading of Village Bill

Loans for Northern Causeways Passed

Colombo, Wednesday.

WHEN the State Council resumed this morning, the second reading of the Village Communities Amending Bill was taken up.

As stated before, this Bill seeks to remove the discriminatory legislation against Indian labourers, by the insertion of a new clause which excludes every labourer, residing on estates, from the right to exercise the vote at Village Committee elections.

Before the Bill was taken up, Council sanctioned two loan resolutions—Rs. 1,045,000 for the Jaffna-Pooneryn and Velanai-Pungudutivu causeways, and Rs. 49,000 for a new building for the Matara Post Office. Both resolutions were introduced by Major J. L. Kotelawala, Minister of Communications and Works.

GOVERNOR AT WHITEHALL

Announcement Likely On His Return

London, Tuesday.

Sir Andrew Caldecott leaves for Ceylon on October 8th.

It is understood that he is engaged in discussions at Whitehall in connexion with the Ceylon constitution on the basis of the despatch drafted before he left Ceylon.

While official confirmation is lacking it is believed that he will make an announcement on the subject after his return to Ceylon.

Budget Ready for Third Reading

The consideration of the Budget Estimates in Committee was concluded on Tuesday, and the Third Reading of the Appropriation Bill awaits the report of the Leader of the House on the amendments passed in Committee.

A Public Lantern Lecture

Under the Auspices of the Readers' Union, Jaffna, Mr. S. Sanmuganathan, F. R. I., B. A., will deliver a lantern lecture on "Archaeology" of the Tamils country in India, in the Jaffna Central College Hall on Friday, the 23rd inst at 6.30 p.m.

Rev. Father S. G. Anapogasar, O. M. I., will preside.

ELECTION LAW AND PROCEDURE

RECOMMENDATIONS OF COMMITTEE

NO COMPULSORY VOTING

THE holding of the General Elections in the month of January, and the appointment of a Special Committee for considering the question of the situation of the polling stations, are among the main recommendations made by the Committee appointed to report on Election Law and Procedure.

The Report of this Committee was issued as a Sessional Paper on Tuesday.

The Committee has rejected the suggestion to introduce compulsory voting, but considers that no restriction be placed on the use of flags during an election campaign.

The Indian Franchise

On the question of the Indian franchise, the Committee recommends that Article 7 of the Order-in-Council be amended so as to apply only to those who have a domicile of origin. It would then read as follows:—

"Any person not otherwise disqualified shall be qualified to have his name entered in the register of voters if he has a Ceylon domicile of origin, or if he is qualified in accordance with Article 8 or Article 9"

This would remove the legal defect.

The practical difficulty which now exists of inquiring into the domicile of Indian voters would be automatically removed by this amendment, for they will not be registered unless they make a declaration of permanent settlement, the responsibility for the correctness of which is on them and not on the Registering Officer.

Full Effect to Provisions

The Committee further adds: "As far as we are aware no steps are being taken now to enforce the provisions of the latter part of Article 9 with regard to the loss of certain rights, privileges, and exemptions. This was deliberately inserted on the recommendation of Sir Herbert Stanley in order to give effect to the intentions of the Donoughmore Commissioners that the vote must be given only to those who have an abiding interest in the Island. Indian estate labourers who claim a vote on the ground of having such an abiding interest must be prepared to lose the rights, privileges, and exemption which they enjoy. We would, therefore, emphasize the need for giving full effect to these provisions in the future.

We also feel that Registering Officers should exercise greater care in accepting evidence of the five years' residence required.

"A majority of us are of opinion that Article 9 should remain unaltered and that steps should be taken as suggested above to ensure the strict observance of the provisions regarding the loss of certain rights, privileges, etc., and the five years' residence."

Messrs. Aluwthare, Geo. E. de Silva, Gunewardena, Jayah and Mahadaya have added riders.

WORK BEFORE RETRENCHMENT COMMISSION

Begin from the Top

By K. Sivapragasam
(Retired Chief Clerk of the
Galle Kachcheri)

The Governor has appointed a Commission comprising of Mr. O. E. Goonetilleke, Auditor-General, and Mr. O. E. Jones of the Ceylon Civil Service with Mr. K. Vaithianathan as Secretary to investigate and report on the possibility of reducing public expenditure by changes in the organization, operative methods, staffing, cadre and salary standards of public servants.

The Financial Secretary has issued a circular to all Heads of Departments stating that it is considered probable that considerable economies could be effected in the various Departments and enlisting generous and whole-hearted co-operation in the work of the Commission. He expects public servants to contribute to the Commission's success, stating that reduction of expenditure is possible by 10 per cent. and hopes that the Heads of Departments will be able to guide the Commission on the most profitable lines of enquiry.

It is generally felt that the appointment of Commissions in the past proved useless and State Councillors also have expressed so. Unless the recommendations of Commissions are given effect to by the Government, there is absolutely no use in appointing Commissions. However it is hoped that the recommendations of this Commission will be given effect to *in toto*.

Mr. Goonetilleke is the Auditor-General and knows where he should lay his fingers in effecting retrenchment. Retrenchment does not lie in abolishing a few posts in the subordinate service and allowing the Departments to remain top-heavy. It must be quite possible that there should be a reduction of expenditure by 20 per cent. in the personal emoluments alone if all the Heads of Departments and responsible public servants feel it their duty that the country should be saved from a serious calamity and if also they feel for the upliftment of the masses.

Mr. Goonetilleke should first make retrenchment in his own Department and make it known to the other Departments. Then only the other Heads of Departments will contribute to his success.

It is proposed to deal with the following:—

- (1) Personal Emoluments (a) Salaries including cadre and (b) Allowances.
- (2) Other Charges (a) Travelling Expenses (b) Stationary and Printed forms.
- (3) Big schemes.

Salaries

It should be admitted that the Heads of Departments and Staff Officers in Ceylon are paid too much. The salary scale of 8 members of Class i Grade i of the Civil Service and 5 Heads of Departments (Attorney-General, Auditor-General, Director of Medical and Sanitary Services, Director of Education and the Director of

Public Works) is £1600—50—1750. The Scale of 13 Members of Class i Grade ii of the Civil Service and 3 Heads of Departments (Inspector-General of Police, Surveyor-General and Director of Irrigation) is £1400—50—1550. Some of the Judges of the Supreme Court are paid £1750 and others Rs. 22500. The District Judges of Colombo and Kandy are paid from £1040 to £1550. Why should these officers and others who are similarly paid be paid these enormous sums? The maximum salary payable to these should be Rs. 1500 per mensem. The non-Ceylonese among these Officers may be paid an oversea allowance of Rs. 300. A similar scale may be made applicable to the other lower classes of officers. The Principal of the University College is paid £1500—2000. This may be an exception as it is rather difficult to obtain stand-out men for posts like those of the Principals of the University College or Royal College

The Chief Secretary, the Financial Secretary, and the Legal Secretary are also in receipt of big salaries provided by Special Law. Their salaries should if possible be reduced by amending the Order-in-Council.

In this connection it may not be out of place to mention that it is a disgrace on the part of the State Council to have not consented for a reduction of the allowances to the Councillors. Great credit should be given to the proposer and those 8 Councillors who voted for the motion to cut the allowances. If the Council had only passed the motion, it can boldly fight for the reduction of the salaries of officers.

Heads of departments and their assistants will be influenced by the views of their Chief and Principal Clerks that no reduction of staff is possible, adducing so many reasons which may appear to be valid but would not hold good on a careful examination. Mr. Thiruvilangam, the Investigating Officer, who has experience of the work can very well be relied upon. If his services are sought, he will direct the commissioners in the proper manner.

As already stated the reduction of salaries and staff should begin at the top. A reduction of one post in the higher rank will be equal to a reduction of 25 clerks in the subordinate service or 50 minor employees such as messengers, watchers, and labourers. It is therefore easier to abolish a high post rather than to attempt to abolish a large number of subordinate posts. This suggestion must be appreciated by the Commissioners.

If it is not possible to have new scales of salaries, it is better to have an all-round percentage of reduction of salaries. As the staff officers are paid too much, there should be a larger percentage of reduction in the higher ranks. The percentage of reduction according to the salaries of officers is suggested below:—

Officers drawing more than Rs.	Percentage
1200	25%
9000	20%
6000	15%
3000	10%
1500	5%

It will be hard on those who are drawing Rs. 1500 and less to have a reduction in their salaries.

If the above reductions are made, there will be anomalies which the Financial Secretary will be able to adjust.

(To be Continued.)

Motor Bill Amendments

Committee's Report

SEVERAL controversial proposals in the draft Consolidated Motor Bill have been amended by Standing Committee "A" of the State Council, whose report was issued on Tuesday. Major J. W. Oldfield, however, points out in a lengthy rider that there are yet many recommendations "rejected after scanty consideration—submitted by persons well qualified to advise us, which would have improved this legislation and brought it more into line with modern enactments elsewhere." He does not agree with several decisions.

The Committee recommends that a meeting of the Motor Traffic Board should be summoned by the Commissioner whenever three members of the Board request him, in writing, to do so.

The provision for requiring anti-glare devices to be fitted to all cars is considered unnecessary by the Committee, but Major Oldfield thinks that it should not be deleted.

The omission of the provisions which prohibit the use of a wireless set while a motor car is within an urban area or in motion in a highway is considered necessary for all practical purposes and the Committee thinks it unnecessarily harsh to prohibit the use of an omnibus or a hiring car merely because it is fitted with a wireless set.

No Lorry-Omnibuses

The power to stop a motor car on a highway and to inspect its condition, or to enter any place where a car is kept for a similar purpose, is considered essential, but where a car is stopped on a highway "it should not be detained for any unnecessary length of time".

Provision is recommended for the production of the car within twenty-four hours at any place convenient to the driver.

The discontinuance is recommended of the practice of allowing omnibuses to be used, at the option of the owner, either for carrying passengers or for carrying goods. Provision is recommended only for permitting omnibuses to carry the personal luggage of passengers.

Major Oldfield points out that the Committee's decision that there should be no distinction between private lorries and hiring lorries may lead to considerable interference with private enterprise.

"A situation may arise," he says, "where the General Manager of the Railway, or some transport contractor may successfully appeal against the granting of a licence to an estate proprietor, shopkeeper, or other trader, on the grounds that the applicant's transport requirements are insufficient to necessitate the purchase of a lorry."

He also points out that it is unreasonable to expect motor traders to import, and pay duty on vehicles which they cannot sell for at least three months.

"Not Centralised"

Major Oldfield also stresses the point that no real attempt has been made to consolidate licensing under one head, or to create a real Central Licensing Authority as recommended by the Hammond Commission. "The 67 licensing authorities throughout the Island," he says, "should be done away with at the earliest possible date, so long as they are in existence the chaotic

MUSSOLINI SUPPORTS SUDETEN DEMAND

PLEBISCITE THE SOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM

ITALY WILL STAND BY GERMANY

Trieste, Sunday.

Signor Mussolini wants plebiscite for all nationalities in Czechoslovakia which demand them. This is his solution of this vexed problem.

In a speech delivered within half-an-hour of his landing from the destroyer *Camicianera*, the Duce declared that it was necessary to act quickly.

"This question of acting quickly," he said, "must be felt by the British Prime Minister who has moved from London to Munich as a flying messenger of peace. We hope that, in these final hours a pacific solution will be reached. We hope that, if this is not possible, the eventual conflict will be limited and circumscribed but if this does not happen and ends in ranging forces of a universal character for or against Prague, let it be known that Italy's position has already been chosen."

Germany Greatly Pleased

The German reaction to Signor Mussolini's speech is one of utmost satisfaction. The speech is extremely helpful and clarifying, particularly his support of a plebiscite which is regarded as a clear indication where Italy's place would be in the event of a Czech refusal.

Signor Mussolini's speech is generally interpreted in Rome as an indication that Italy will side with Germany in the event of a general war though it is not clear at what point her benevolent neutrality might develop into armed intervention. Nevertheless, the Duce's desire for a peaceful solution is stressed. The speech is described as a sober contribution to an ultimate settlement.

conditions now prevalent will continue".

He disagrees with the requirements in the Bill whereby certificates of competence should be renewed annually.

The Committee has accepted the advice of the Automobile Association and raised the speed limit to 20 miles per hour for an omnibus within an urban area and 30 outside; 20 m. p. h. for a lorry on any highway; and 30 m. p. h. for a car within an urban area and 40 m. p. h. outside.

Insurance Code

The laying down of a complete code with regard to compulsory insurance of motor vehicles against third party risks, as part of the Bill, is recommended.

Major Oldfield concludes his rider with the observations that the Bill would have been considerably strengthened by the inclusion of certain recommendations submitted by the Automobile Association in connexion with lights, mechanical signalling devices, windscreen wipers, safety glass, mirrors and learners' permits.

He adds that it may be possible to deal with some of these matters, not all by reputation.

Batticaloa By-Election

Mr. A. S. Dharmaretnam Elected

Batticaloa, Monday.

THE Batticaloa by-election to the Batticaloa South seat in the State Council to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Mr S. O. Canagaretnam resulted as follows:—

Mr. A. S. Dharmaretnam 14,478 votes against 11,813 votes for Mr. M. A. L. Kariapper and 766 for Mr. G. C. Stephens.

The counting began at 8 a. m. today and concluded at 11.30.

The Presiding Officer (Mr. M. Prasad) congratulated the new member and wished him a long and useful career in the State Council.

Mr. Dharmaretnam was garlanded by his father-in-law, Mr. S. V. Devenayagampillai.

Mr. Dharmaretnam thanked the Presiding Officer and promised to serve the constituency to the best of his ability.

Mr. S. A. Selvanayagam, the chief election agent of Mr. Dharmaretnam also spoke.

The Police maintained good order at the Kachechi and the election arrangements were perfect throughout.

Polling was hindered by heavy rain which fell on Saturday afternoon.

This inconvenienced several voters who had waited till the eleventh hour while at Kallar a large number came too late for the poll.

In Kattankudi, a populous Muslim area, no woman voted, but Muslim women voted in Kalmunai and other areas.

Cases of impersonation were promptly detected.

Ballot boxes were brought to the Kachechi from the various centres up to midnight.

The most inaccessible polling stations are Panamai and Damana.

DOPE IN JAFFNA "PINATTU"

Valvettiturai Man Charged in Batticaloa

Batticaloa, Monday

That opium (2 lbs.) was introduced into Batticaloa, concealed in "pinattu" (a Jaffna preparation from the Palmyrah fruit) was told by Police Sergeant Peter at the Police Court on Thursday.

Vyramattu Thurairajah, of Valvettiturai, in Jaffna, was charged before Mr. P. Vythialingam with possessing 3 lbs. of opium.

The Sergeant stated that while on motor patrol duty at Valachenai, 20 miles North of Batticaloa, he received information that there was a parcel at the railway station with contraband in it.

With P. C. Ponnusamy he stopped the man, who was taking the parcel away. In the presence of the stationmaster and Thurairajah, examined the parcel and found a tin inside some "pinattu" containing 3 lbs. of opium in three packets. Thurairajah pleaded not guilty and the Magistrate allowed him bail in Bs. 500.

END BUREAUCRACY IN EDUCATION

(Continued from Page 1.)

herent in dyarchy in education, the evils in the school system could not have come to light. Corruption in the educational system of both democratic administrators and School Inspectors has been exposed and the teachers' associations in the Province have played no mean part in exposing them. The increase of the Inspectorate is an attempt to stifle democracy in education. The taking over of education from local bodies is only a corollary of it. The conflict between democracy and bureaucracy in education must be resolved by ending the abuses present in both and by transferring educational leadership to teachers' organisations, recognised statutorily. Any other gesture from the popular Government is likely to defeat all educational reform, whether imposed by the administrative mind or by democratic demand.

Disease-Spots in Education

In spite of the rise of organised teaching opinion, authoritarianism in education is attempting to find effective and subtle ways to make teachers conform to the good old concept of the teacher as an educational slave. Educational agencies thwart teachers' organisations from functioning and send away teachers if they are not conformists. Educational officers who are neither good teachers nor good administrators, but whose tenure is assured by Government, continue to keep the elementary from the secondary and collegiate grades of teachers. Heads of institutions, both of the dictator variety and the inefficient variety, kill teachers' associations by excessive kindness. The teachers' organisations themselves are yet ineffective to draw out the resources of the group as a whole, and as in every other field, there is a large amount of frustration on the part of teachers. The school system continues to be as "Satanic" as it was when Gandhiji started his attack on Government recognised educational institutions. In spite of the efficiency cult of Mr. Statham in elementary education, the elementary schools get only more of administrative and supervisory activity from the unwanted Inspectorate, especially of Divisional Inspectors, who continue to ignore and make light of teachers' and teachers organisations' wishes with reference to such supervision and administration.

Secondary Schools and Colleges

Our secondary schools perhaps are managed more honestly but they tend to block progress by the educational inertia present in them. To make group effort of by educational diehards is not possible and effective.

some secondary schools applying for exemption from the use of the vernacular as the medium of instruction! The curricular work of schools continues to lack in co-ordination and co-operation, thanks to the failure of our educational captains. The physical and financial aspects of school work present a baffling problem. Our colleges have become glorified high schools and those who profess teaching there are simply coaching for an examination which frequently provides them with the perquisites of college service; and the teachers in colleges who are simply a class by themselves under the patronage of that University body called the Syndicate, have miserably failed in their contribution to the growth of teaching as a technique or in the growth of professional solidarity.

An Unbridged Gap

The school system has so far failed and our schools are following out-of-date educational practices, which are at least half a century behind Gandhiji's forward-looking theory of craft-centred education. Every one knows the defects in our system but none except Gandhiji has come forward to relate our system to our needs, and to relate school practice to the needs of the child in India. The lag between educational theory and practice and between the educational administration and the teaching service are a sad commentary on the school system allowed to exist. The disease spots in education, notwithstanding the administrative efforts made, are likely to render thousands of splendid personalities in the teaching profession absolutely ineffective. All the wastage of educational effort and funds is due to ineffective leadership in education which has exhibited lack of dynamic power to lift the level of professional and personal competence of the teaching service in the country.

Challenge of the Times

In the changing order of our national economy, the school system cannot continue to ignore the challenge of the times. Our management, leadership, organisation, teaching and tools of education require nothing short of a revolution, in view of the failures of the past. No minor adjustments of educational rules or Government orders or educational reform will suffice. The authoritarian organisation of the school system, the bureaucratic moulding of the Indian child to a set pattern, the destructive character of imperialism in education, and the teacher-slave have got to go. A new philosophy of teacher-centred education, with the teacher as a full-fledged practitioner in educational science and as the most important single factor in the child's school life has to be evolved and for this the popular Government in the Province has to raise the teacher by giving him statutory freedom, a thorough preparation and expert assistance under a Teachers' Registry and to make group effort of possible and effective.

Ancient Hindu Marriage

(Continued from page 2)

respected of all, is for the father of the bride not only to refuse the sum of money to which he is entitled from the young man's parents, but to undertake to bear all the expenses of the ceremony, to purchase all the jewels and other ornaments which it is customary to give a girl on this occasion, and also to make handsome presents to the son-in-law and his parents. But this can only be done by the rich and people of high position". (5)

The second way is for the parents of both the contracting parties to agree to share all the expenses. The third method is that usually adopted by people of all castes who are not rich. The parents of the girl insist not only on the youth's parents bearing all the expenses of the wedding and of the jewels, but they also exact payment of a sum of money in return for their daughter, the amount of which is laid down by caste custom." (6)

"The fourth method, to which none but the very poorest have recourse, is very mortifying to the girl's parents, for they go themselves and hand her over to them to do what they will with her, to marry her when and how they like, to spend as little or as much as they choose on the wedding, and begging them at the same time to pay them something for their daughter." (7)

Breach of Promise

After all possible enquiries had been satisfied, the proposal of marriage was made by the bridegroom's father. The acceptance of the proposal and the subsequent promise to give the girl in marriage was known as *Vagdana*, "gift by word of mouth", which was conditional on the boy and the girl having no physical defects; otherwise the exchange of promise was looked upon as binding. As a rule, an engagement was seldom or never broken. Manu, therefore, says: "neither ancients nor moderns, who were good men, have ever given a damsel in marriage, after she had been promised to another man". (8)

If, however, a bridegroom wished to break off the match for any cogent reasons, strange was the procedure adopted. No compensation was exacted from him. He only lost the dresses presented by him to the bride. If it was the bride's father, he too was not liable; but the parents of the new bridegroom to whom the girl was subsequently betrothed were the parties to pay a fine. If the girl's father was prudent, he would consult his caste people, and if his motives were approved by them, he was not subject to any penalty. The reason why the parents of the new suitor had to suffer was that, when a betrothal was set aside, the dresses already given were not returned; and, as the new lover was thus saved the expenses of presenting a new trousseau, it was he who had to pay the fine, if any, arising out of the breach of promise. (9)

These interesting customs are now almost things of the past.

(5) *Hindu Manners* etc. p. 214.

(6) *Ibid.*

(7) *Ibid.*, p. 215.

(8) *Dharma Shastra*, ix. 99

(9) Mrs. Stevenson's *Rites of the Twice-born*, pp. 48, 49.

(To be continued.)

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THE QUILON BANK

(Continued from page 1)

ructed by Messrs Julius and Creasy appeared for Messrs Fraser and Ross, liquidators, appointed by the Madras High Court.

Expedition

Mr. Vanigesooriar submitted that so far as the Ceylon branches were concerned, the Colombo Branch was the principal institution and any order made with regard to it, if followed, with regard to the other branches would conduce to expediting liquidation.

Mr. Vanigesooriar submitted certain questions to be categorically answered by the Court and called Mr. A. G. George, ex-Agent of the Jaffna Branch, to give evidence that the Colombo Branch was the principal institution so far as Ceylon was concerned.

He said that if one liquidator was appointed for Ceylon it should be more convenient to carry on the banking business.

The Quilon Bank was first opened in Jaffna. The Quilon Bank went into voluntary liquidation and amalgamated with the Travancore National Bank. Liquidation proceedings were still pending.

Messrs. Sastri and Shaw were the liquidators of the Quilon Bank and he was their Attorney. The Quilon Bank itself was a creditor of the Travancore National Bank for nearly a lakh of rupees.

The Judge reserved order till Monday.

Order Nisi

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF
JAFFNA

Testy No. 638

In the matter of the estate of the late Saravanamuttu Nagalingam of Araly North

Deceased.

Ratnam widow of Nagalingam of do now of Galle

Vs. Petitioner.

1. Nagalingam Mahesa of do now of No. 65 Lighthouse Street in Galle.
2. Nagalingam Mahadeva of do now of Mercantile Bank Colombo
3. Nagalingam Mahendra and
4. Makeswary daughter of Nagalingam of Araly north now of No. 65 Lighthouse Street in Galle and
5. Sabapathipillai Balasubramaniam of Vannarponnai East.

Respondents.

This matter coming on for disposal before C. Coomaraswamy Esquire District Judge Jaffna on the 18th day of August 1938 in the presence of Mr. S. Patanjali Proctor on the part of the petitioner and the affidavit of the petitioner dated the 3rd day of August 1938 having been read: It is ordered that the abovenamed 5th respondent be appointed *guardia-ad-litem* over the minors the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th respondents for the purpose of protecting their interest and of representing them in this case and that the petitioner be declared entitled to have Letters of administration to the estate of the said intestate as his lawful widow unless the respondents or any other person or persons interested shall appear before this Court on the 26th day of September 1938 and state objection or show cause to the contrary.

Sgd. C. Coomaraswamy
District Judge

This 29th day of August 1938

[O. 43. 19 & 22-9-38]

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[T]

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