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THE BETRAYAL OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA

The Agony of a Nation

THE RETREAT OF THE DEMOCRACIES BEFORE FASCIST FURY

(By the Editor of "The Indian Social Reformer")

THE betrayal of Czechoslovakia is almost complete. In a statement announcing their decision to accept the Franco-British proposals "under the stress of a pressure from these two Powers unprecedented in history," the Czech Government, after remarking that the terms forced on them are such as are only imposed on a vanquished power, concludes, "We are not a vanquished people... Czechoslovakia sacrifices herself for peace as Christ sacrificed himself for humanity." By this one moving reference Czechoslovakia conveys the bitterest indictment of her friends of yesterday. But there is a difference: gifted with prescience, Christ knew His betrayal was at hand and he knew who was to betray Him. Czechoslovakia has found this out after the event. Whatever one may think of the chief actors in this sordid drama, no one can withhold admiration from the part played by the Czechs. In the face of unspeakable abuse from Henleinist and Nazi, they have kept their balance. Faced with the prospect of downright treachery from her old allies, Czechoslovak statesmen have shown themselves capable of calm judgment and the Czechs of remarkable restraint. We have repeatedly said that Czechoslovak leaders should not only not have asked for the incorporation of the Sudeten districts in their Republic but that they should have refused to take them. That was the one mistake made by the Republic and Czechoslovakia has amply paid for it. The President of the Republic, Dr. Benes, is a statesman of world renown. He must be aware that if he had pressed for the integrity of Czech territory, it would have been impossible for the French

and the British to withhold support from his country.

Founded After the War

The Czechoslovak State was founded after the War at a Peace Conference attended not only by the European powers but by the United States of America as well. The territories of the Republic were demarcated by the delegates after prolonged consideration. The Sudeten districts were placed under the Czech Republic in spite of protests from the Bohemian Germans. Now to detach them quietly and hand them to Germany is a shameful thing to do even when Czech consent has been obtained by political pressure. In the teeth of Czech opposition, that would have been well nigh impossible even for Mr. Chamberlain to achieve. Had the German Bohemian districts been refused to Czechoslovakia from the first, it would have been a different story. But the Czechs have been able on account of these possessions to maintain themselves on a higher standard of life than any Slav people have ever dreamt possible. In an anguished protest the Prague *Telegraph* remarked on the eve of Czech acceptance: "We must have our natural frontiers. We must have the mines. We want our forests. We cannot surrender these things for ephemeral guarantees regarding our neutrality by this or that power." The Czechs have used the windfall of the post-war period wisely and cautiously. The people of the Republic had come to expect a certain measure of prosperity. Now they are forced to give it all up at a threat from Herr Hitler. If the Czechs can adjust themselves to the new conditions, they can be happy in the thought that they owe their prosperity

PROF. MARRS AND UNIVERSITY SITE

His Speech in Jaffna Hindu College Misunderstood

PROFESSOR EXPLAINS HIS POSITION

Colombo, Monday.

ANY suggestions that Professor R. Marrs in his address at the Jaffna Hindu College prize-giving on Saturday, was attacking the accepted New Peradeniya site for Ceylon's University, is founded on a complete misunderstanding of what he actually said.

A "Times of Ceylon" reporter asked Professor Marrs this morning whether he had in fact attacked the scheme, work on which will begin on October 1st.

"Nothing was farther from my thoughts," said Professor Marrs. "The authorities know my opinion. I have never made any secret of it, but they also know that once the decision about the New Peradeniya site was made, I would work loyally with them, as would my staff."

Problem of Numbers

"Actually," he continued, "I was more concerned with the problem of numbers at University College. Intellectual birth-control has never interested me, but the fact remains that a great many people are admitted who are not really suited for a university education."

"I have drawn the attention of the authorities to this problem on many occasions. My reference to the new University site was made because it is generally ac-

cepted by those qualified to know that it is difficult to resist the metropolitan drift of modern universities.

cepted by those qualified to know that it is difficult to resist the metropolitan drift of modern universities.

"Such a problem has nothing whatever to do with criticism of the new University site as a site, but thinking in terms of University College, and its successes while reading for the London degree, I have sometimes wondered why the authorities of the external part of the London University, do not exercise such resources of practical imagination as they possess to work out a new function: that of creating a system of internal or constituent external colleges which, while controlling their own internal destinies on the spot, and adjusting their curriculum without loss of standard to local conditions, would read for the degrees of the great Federal Institutions, such degrees would be as much their own as those of the centre London University."

Conditions of Success

"The conditions of success for such a scheme would be:

That the syllabuses should be properly adapted to local conditions.

Local teachers should be associated with the examination.

There should be local autonomy in the control of the institutions, subject to the forms laid down by the Federal Charter, and

That there should be a liberal exchange of teachers and scholars or students."

"That is, of course, a pure fantasy, probably outside the realm of practical politics, but to my mind it would certainly be a means of co-operative study and research."

"There are some subjects which Ceylon could do better than, let us say, the School of Oriental Studies in London. For example, a special study of languages of the country."

"Actually in my speech at Jaffna I emphasised that a beautiful site had been chosen for the University in Kandy."

A Triumph for Herr Hitler

In the coercing of Czechoslovakia into accepting Mr. Chamberlain's scheme, the correspondents of news agencies have played a by no means negligible part. Either consciously or unconsciously they have worked to bring about a state of affairs in which Czechoslovakia would have had no alternative but to accept the terms offered to her. Here are the facts; Mr. Neville Chamberlain returned from his visit to

(Continued on Page 7)

ANCIENT HINDU MARRIAGE

VI. Nuptial Rites

By S. R. Muttukumar

(Continued from our issue
of 22-9-38)

IN my last article on *Betrothal and Marriage*, I mentioned that the nuptial rites of the ancient Thamillians and of the Vedic Aryans were very simple. Under Brahmanical influence in later times, these rites assumed an elaborate form. They varied in detail in different localities, but agreed in essential points. Asvaldyana says: "Various indeed are the customs of the different countries and the customs of the different villages.....What however is commonly accepted, that we shall state"(1)

Religious Element

First and foremost, marriage was regarded as a religious ceremony; so much so, the bride and bridegroom had to fast on the wedding day, while their friends and relations were feasting. The bridegroom fasted until he received food from his bride for the first time on that day, and the bride fasted until she ate what was left from the food served by her to the bridegroom.

It may also be noted that amongst certain Aryan Hindus, particularly the Nagara Brahmans, the bridegroom and the bride were looked upon as incarnations of Siva and Parvathi. Worshipping them was, therefore, considered to confer religious merit. For three nights at the very least they observed celibacy and abstained from salted food. During these three days, when they were supposed to represent the great Ascetic and His wife, they were not allowed to bathe or to remove from their bodies the white cloth they had donned when they began to play the part of the Deities. On the third day after marriage, they put off their white cloth and bathed, thus washing away their divinity. Even then they did not become ordinary mortals, for they were still looked upon as king and queen. In token of this, the bridegroom carried a sword. A Brahman held it only for an hour or so during the wedding ceremony, but other grooms kept it all the time(2)

Wedding Ceremony

The ceremonies connected with a Hindu wedding are too well known; yet some of them are so interesting that they will stand repetition. The most pleasing aspect of all the rites is the gift of the bride, which is made not only by the father, as is done in the western coun-

tries, but her mother associates herself with him in that gift. After all, the child is hers as much as his; and it is interesting to note that the Hindus recognized this fact long before other nations did.

Amongst the Aryan Hindus, the gift of the bride was followed by the all important rite of taking the seven steps. Until this is done, the bridegroom has no rights over the bride. In fact, if he should die before this ceremony is completed, the bride would not be looked upon as having been married, and, therefore, not being widowed could marry another man.

The actual ceremony was this. Seven small heaps of rice was made in a straight line from south to north of the sacrificial fire, and on each heap were placed seven coconuts, seven pice and seven dates. The bride accompanied by the bridegroom took seven actual steps from heap to heap; but at the present day she contents herself with sticking out her toes, whilst sitting, and touching each separate heap after the recitation of the appropriate mantras. Finally and gracefully the bridegroom said: "O friend, take the seventh step with me and become my friend in reality and follow me" (Rig. Veda, X. 85. 36).

In this connection, it is interesting to note that there is a story in the *Ramayana* to the effect that, when Rama formed an alliance with Sugriva, the Vanara King, they sealed the compact by stepping seven times round the fire.

Thali Ceremony

As amongst the North Indian Hindus the taking of the seven steps was the index of the consummation of marriage, so amongst the South Indian Hindus was the tying of the *thali*. The presence of a *thali* round the neck of a South Indian woman indicates that she is a married woman with a husband alive.

The origin of this *thali* appears to be this. It was the custom amongst the ancient Thamils to provide their children on the fifth day after birth with amulets originally known as *ayampadaithali* and later as *ayampadam* (Panchayutham)(3) *Aimpadaithali* means a necklace with a pendent having in relief the five weapons of Vishnu, viz: (1) *shankam* (conch), (2) *chakra* (discus), (3) *gada* (mace), (4) *katkam* (sword), and (5) *sharangkam* (bow). Vishnu, as the Preserver in the Hindu Trinity, was thus the first

(3) a. "அம்பாதித் துஞ்சு மைம்படைத் தாலிச் சூதலைச் செவ்வாய்க் குறு நடைப் புதல்வர்." *Manimekalai*, vii. 56-57.
b. "தாலி மைம்படை தவழ மார் பிடை." *Kampar, Nadu*, 58.

duty to be invoked on behalf of the child.

Aimpadaithali was also known as simple *thali* (4), and it was subsequently worn by the mothers too,(5) but to which were attached claws and teeth of tigers killed by their hunter-husbands. This kind of *thali* was known as *புலிப்பற்றுலி* (Pulippattali) and *வேண்பற்றுலி* (Venpattali). Reference to this *thali* is made in *Purananuru* (6) *Mahabharata* (7) *Tirukkovaigar* (8) and *Silappadikaram* (9).

It will thus be seen that the *thali* of an ancient Tamil woman was a badge of honour from her warrior-husband. It was in fact a token of his love and respect.

(To be continued.)

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- 4) a. "தாலி களைத்தன்று மிலனே பாலவிப்
டியினியு மின்றியின் நனனே"
Purananuru, 77: 7-8
b. "பொன்னுடைத் தாலி யென்
யு னென்றி
Ahananuru, 54:18.
(5) a. "புலிப்பற் கோத்த புலம்புமணித் தாலி
யொலிக்குழைச் செவ்வையுடை
மா ணன்குல்"
Ahananuru, vii:18-19.
b. "காணுள்ளிடஞ்சு சுடர்விசு கன்
மாணிக்க கருதாலி
பேணிகல்லார் கழுத்தணித்த"
Jivaka Chintamani, 2697.
(6) "புலிப்பற் றுலிப் புன்றலைச் சிறு
ஆர்
மாண்னன் மகளிர்க் கான்றே"
374: 9, 10.
(7) "வரையறையன் திருமடக்கை வண
முலைமேல்
மணிக்குன்றி வடமும் செக்கை
கிரைவிரையும் புலிப்பல்லால்
கிறத்திகழ்
மங்கலப் பூணும் சிலவ்,"
அச்சுகனன் தவிரைச் சருக்கர்
(8) "பேதைப் பருவம் பின்சென் றத
முன்றி
லெனப்பிரித்தால்
வண்தக் கலமரும் வல்லியொப்
பாண்முத்தன்
தில்லையன் னான்
ஏதிற் சூரத் து அயலாடுமுகன்
மேடுவெண்
கண்டனையே
போதிற்பொலியுச் தொழிற்புலிப்
பத்தூர்
பொற்றெருடியே 239
(9) "மறங்கொன் வயப்புலி வாய்
பிணத்த பெற்ற
மாலை வெண்பற் றுலிசிறை
பூட்டி."
xii. 27, 28.

(Continued.)

- prize Rs. 5 won by Velupillai Vaithiyanathan of Analathivu.
(d) Udaiyars' divisions of Allapitty and Velanai.
1st prize Rs. 8 Arumugam Ramalingam of Ma daitivu, 2nd prize Rs. 7 S. Sellathamby of Allapitty, 3rd prize Rs. 5 P. Nicholas of Allapitty.
(e) Udaiyars' Divisions of Karamban and Naranthanai. 1st prize Rs. 8 Santhiapillai Phillippu of Karamban, 2nd prize Rs. 7 M. Chelliah of Do, 3rd prize Rs. 5 M. Ponnambalam of Do.
2. Fodder Competition
(a) Udaiyars' divisions of Karamban and Velanai. 1st prize Rs. 8 won by B. Anthonipillai of Karamban, 2nd prize Rs. 7 won by K. Visuvalingam of Do, 3rd prize Rs. 5 won by V. Nagalingam of Kayts.
3. Conipost pit competitions
(a) Nainathivu
1st prize Rs. 8 V. S. Nagalingam of Nainathivu; 2nd prize Rs. 7 N. Chinniah of Nainathivu and 3rd prize Rs. 5 A. Eliyathamby of Nainathivu.
(b) Udiyar's division of Karamban
1st prize Rs. 8 Arumugam Kanagasabaratham of Karamban; 2nd prize Rs. 7 K. Sinnathamby of Karamban and 3rd prize Rs. 5 N. Sittamparapillai of Naranthanai.

Agricultural Competition in the North

Prize-Winners

The following are the prize-winners in the Agricultural competitions held in the Maniagars' Divisions of Jaffna, Valigamam West, and Islands during 1937-38.

Jaffna

1. Pure-Line-Paddy Competition.

1st Prize Rs. 17-50 won by M. Thamotharampillai of Chivatharu 2nd prize Rs. 12-50 won by S. Subramaniam of Chivatharu, 3rd prize Rs. 10 won by K. Mylvaganam of Chivatharu.

2. Fodder Competition.

1st prize Rs. 17-50 won by V. Pavitapillai, Rasanthottam; 2nd prize Rs. 12-50 won by Chellappah Sundaram of Nallure East, 3rd prize won by Murugan Aran, Athiaddy.

Valigamam West

1. Fodder Competition

1st prize Rs. 15 won by K. Subramaniam of Vaddukodai, 2nd prize Rs. 12-50 won by N. Samuganathan of Thelpuram, 3rd prize Rs. 10 won by K. Saravananmattu of Suthumalai.

2. Conipost pit-Competition.

1st Prize Rs. 15 won by S. Thambu of Mathagal, 2nd Prize Rs. 12-50 won by K. Saravananmattu of Suthumalai, 3rd Prize Rs. 10 won by S. Visuvalingam of Punnalai East.

3. Tuticorin Chilli Competitions

(a) In the Udaiyars' divisions of Pandatheruppu and Changanai. 1st prize Rs. 10 won by K. C. Thambirajah—Pandatheruppu, 2nd prize Rs. 8-50 won by J. Vythiampillai of Do, 3rd prize Rs. 6-50 won by K. Kandiah of Vadalaiddaippu.

(b) In the Udaiyars' divisions of Manipay and Vaddukodai. 1st prize Rs. 10 won by A. Sadasivam of Suthumalai, 2nd prize Rs. 8-50 won by Sinnathamby Kanapathypillai of Do, 3rd prize Rs. 6-50 won by S. Arumugam of Thannai.

4. Tomato (Marglobe) Competitions.

(a) In the Udaiyars' divisions of Pandatheruppu and Changanai.

1st prize Rs. 10 won by K. Suppiah of Pandatheruppu, 2nd prize Rs. 8-50 won by Mary Joseph of Chullalai, 3rd prize Rs. 6-50 won by A. Swampillai of Havalai.

(b) In the Udaiyars' divisions of Manipay and Vaddukodai.

1st prize Rs. 10 won by S. Nadarajah of Punnalai East, 2nd prize Rs. 8-50 won by Kanthan Thayasy of Chulipuram, 3rd prize Rs. 6-50 won by A. Sinnathamby of Thelpuram.

Islands

1. Tuticorin Chilli Competitions.

(a) Karainagar.

1st prize Rs. 8 won by Visuvanathar Kumaravelu of Palukadu, 2nd prize Rs. 7 won by Kasinather Sinnathurai of Palukadu, 3rd prize Rs. 5 won by Supper Vettivelu of Kalapoomi.

(b) Nainativu.

1st prize Rs. 8 won by M. Vythilingam of Nainativu Centre, 2nd prize Rs. 7 won by T. Amirthalingam of Nainativu South, 3rd prize Rs. 5 won by K. Saravananmattu of Nainativu.

(c) Analathivu.

1st prize Rs. 8 won by Kathiravelu Iyampillai of Analathivu, 2nd prize Rs. 7 won by Nagalingam Thaninayagam of Analathivu, 3rd

(Continued on Previous Col.)

(1) Dutt's *Civilization in Ancient India*, I. 251.

(2) Mrs. Stevenson's *Rites of the Twice-born* p. 97.

NO HOPE FOR JAFFNA OR DUMBARA CIGARS IN INDIA

Ceylon's Tobacco Trade with Travancore

TRADE COMMISSIONER ON HIS WORK IN INDIA

OUR cigars, neither the Jaffna nor the Dumbara varieties, have any hope of success in India where excellent cheroots are manufactured and sold at rock-bottom prices. The import duty too of 112½ per cent *ad valorem* is sufficiently prohibitive.

Thus observes Mr. M. H. Kantawala, Ceylon Trade Commissioner for India in his Report. He further adds:

With regard to cigarettes, negotiations are still pending on the question of marketing the products of Messrs. Rothmans (Ceylon), Ltd. It appears that this firm is only able to sell their cigarettes in South India, i.e. roughly south of a line drawn from Madras through Bangalore to Mangalore and including these towns as their London office controls the ports of India. The firm has submitted very reasonable quotations for cases of 30,000 cigarettes and over and even if the Indian duty were to be added, their tins could with profit be marketed in India at under a rupee apiece. I am in communication with reliable firms on the question of their importation.

Samples of pipe tobacco (Planters' cut) manufactured by the Kandyan Tobacco Works together with quotations were obtained in pursuance of an inquiry. These have been submitted to the trade. Negotiations are still pending.

Chewing Tobacco for Travancore

By arrangement with the Central Government, Ceylon has been accorded the privilege of shipping a certain tonnage of her tobacco crops to the state of Travancore where it is preferred for chewing purposes. The quota is 5,745 candies of 600 Dutch lb. equivalent to 3,722,760 English lb. This quota is never reached in recent years. Our exports in 1936 were 2,663,164 lb. and in 1937 2,410,456 lb. only. The corresponding values were Rs. 583,696 and Rs. 708,892. There has been a noticeable increase in the price realized per lb, viz., 29 cents as against 22 cents in 1936.

Question of Dryage

The question however that affects our exports of chewing tobacco to Travancore to a considerable extent is one of dryage on which representations have been made from time to time to the Travancore Government. The State Customs duty on Ceylon tobacco is at present Rs. 135 on a candy (as against the British duty of Rs. 212 per lb.) and is levied on the weight of tobacco ascertained at the time of landing though the duty is actually paid on delivery from the bonded warehouse. It would appear that during the period the tobacco is held in bond which may be 5 or 6 months or even more there is a considerable

loss in weight due to dryage with the result that the real burden of the duty is thus artificially increased.

As representations previously made to the Travancore Government had met with little success, I was directed to interview the responsible authorities on the question. The matter was reported to be urgent and I therefore proceeded to Travancore in the last week of November.

Pleaded Satisfactorily

I had a very anxious and busy time there. The alleged dumping of copra, our duty on eggs, the franchise question, the alleged discriminatory treatment to Malayalees in Ceylon, &c., were brought in the forefront of any discussions. A full report has been submitted to the Ministry and I do not consider it advisable to record facts discovered on this tour in this Administration Report as they are of a semi-confidential nature. Suffice it to say that the question of loss of weight on account of dryage was pleaded so satisfactorily that the State authorities have admitted that under the present practice duty is being recovered on a portion of tobacco which is non-existent at the time of issue from the bonded warehouses due to evaporation of the moisture. Whether redress will be granted or not is a matter entirely within the discretion of the State. I wish however to record my gratitude to the Dewan Sahib Sir C. P. Ramaswamy Iyer for having given me a very patient hearing.

Difference in Duty

The other cognate questions, viz., the difference in duty of Rs. 15 between Ceylon and Coimbatore tobacco or the adoption of the English pound (38.8/9 tolas) instead of the Dutch pound (42 tolas) were also taken up but with little effect. The State is prepared to consider favourably representations made to it with regard to the extra transport charges involved by reason of the State having imposed import quotas for various ports under its control, as tobacco has to be transported from these ports to Quilon which happens to be the largest distributing centre.

I was in touch throughout with the importers of Ceylon tobacco and with the representative of the Malayalam Tobacco Co-operative Sale Society and had heard their grievances and am thankful to them for advice on various points.

The result of my representations to the Travancore Government is being awaited with considerable interest.

Information was desired by and supplied to various Indian exporters with regard to the import and consumption by Ceylon of beedies, cigars, tobacco, &c.

SIDE LIGHTS

AND

LIGHT SIDES

(By Squint Eye)

Czechoslovakia, so, has been sacrificed at the altar of International Peace.

Dealt piecemeal, all that they have now is Czecho-slave-yah!

Begum Aizaz Rasul, Deputy President of the United Provinces (India) Council recently proposed seriously that they should tax births in the Province as a means of checking the alarming increase in population.

There are economists who claim that it is unemployment that leads to population increase. Why not, then, find employment for idle parents?

Claiming special army privilege for Madras a Madras member in the Council of State at Delhi stated in support that Madras had won the battle of Plassey, captured Burma, and helped the British in quelling the Sepoy Mutiny.

For the first and the third they have been paying by crawling on their bellies, and for the second Burma is seeing to it alright now!

Did the Secretary of State for the Colonies think that the disenfranchisement of labourers in Estates for the Village Committees would make the Sinhalese take to labour or the Indians take to their homes?

The Belgian Cabinet sat for seven hours and listened to the radio of Herr Hitler's speech.

The New York Times commented on the speech that nobody who listened to that harsh, explosive voice received any assurance of peace.

The Belgians evidently found music in the gutturals of Hitler!

When the Army Recruitment Bill was discussed in the Indian Assembly recently, Sir Mahomed Yakub supporting the policy of classing certain sections of the people as martial, stated that the division of society into martial and non-martial classes was made many thousands of years back, and that division had rendered certain people more efficient for Army service.

Now, here is a good bit of support for the ancient Caste system which many moderns are ready to fall foul of.

A number of Jewish refugees including women and children from Germany and Austria passed through Bombay recently to China.

From the frying pan into the fire, so to say.

At a Muslim League mass demonstration in an Indian town the other day a banner had the words 'Islam stands for Liberty, Fraternity and Equality'.

What with Jinnah and Co's outbursts the League certainly stands for Fraternity.

The Australian Cricket Tourists

are tired of "Timeless Test Matches".

In fact they were Tasteless Time Matches.

In a daring burglary in the Delhi Fort Museum last month, according to a news-agency, four pieces of cloth and four ornaments belonging to Zinat Nissa Begum, wife of Emperor Bahadur Shah, last Mogul king, were removed.

The Police have reason to apprehend that the good Begum will turn up one of these days and claim her property.

Washington:

Many wives of Congressmen are taking secret lessons in public-speaking, it is learned here. They wish to be able to speak effectively if they are called upon to make speeches in their husbands' districts.

Lots of wives all the world over do their secret-speaking lessons in public.

An Insurance agent in India who was injured in a motor accident and continued to suffer pain for months, recently had another accident when a motor lorry overturned and he escaped unhurt. On the other hand his old pain disappeared with the incident.

Like cures like, does it not?

Concerning Shaves, it's always safe to depend on SCRUBBS, says an advertisement.

Concerning Shaves it's Scrubbs that we dread at the Barber's. An unhappy Name!

DESIST FROM WAR

America's Call to Europe

Washington, Monday.

A clarion call to the nations to desist from war has been made by Mr. Roosevelt.

Painting a terrible picture of the consequences of war, Mr. Roosevelt said that no nation could escape it on some measure.

He reminded the nations that the Kellogg-Briand Pact exists and that so do arbitration treaties. He says that the traditional policy of the United States is a keen furtherance of the settlement of international disputes by pacific means.

"There is no problem which can't be solved by reason," the President declares. "So long as negotiations continue, there remains the hope that reason will prevail and that the world will escape the madness of a new resort to war."

Mr. Roosevelt has decided to hold a special Cabinet meeting tomorrow to consider the European situation.

Reporters were given to understand that the purpose of tomorrow's Cabinet meeting is to consider further the possible effect of the European situation in the United States, but not to study the possibility of America's stepping into foreign trouble.

MANAGER'S NOTICE

The Offices of the "Hindu Organ" and the Saiva Prakasa Press will be closed on Monday, October 3, for Vijaya Dasami, and there will be no issue of the paper of that date.

MANAGER

Change of Name

I Ramalingam Kanthar of J/ Karanavai Vetharanishwara Vidalayam, Karaveddi, do hereby inform the Government and General Public that I shall be known as Ramalingam Ponniah and sign as below, from this day.

R. PONNIAH

26th September 1938.

[Mis. 155, 29-9-38 — 10-10-38]



Hindu Organ.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 1938.

DEMOCRACY VS. MILITARY DESPOTISM

THIS WEEK-END THE EUROPEAN situation has changed for the worse, threatening to end in a conflagration the consequences of which one cannot contemplate with equanimity. The Fuehrer's demand has been progressively increasing till it has reached its climax in the form of a Memorandum, which is best called an ultimatum expressive of the might and insolence of Nazi Germany. Keen students of foreign affairs have all along anticipated that events would come to such a pass, for they knew that every concession would but whet the Dictator's appetite for more. That is the grim fact of the situation today. The Sudeten problem was whipped up to a crisis by the intrigues of Nazi spit-fires, manifestly for the redress of the grievances of the minority but really to mask their creed of aggressive expansion. Consequently, the laudable moves made by MR. CHAMBERLAIN in this direction only served as a signal for more and more demands which could not have been reasonably made of a Sovereign State. All impartial observers would agree that even the Franco-British proposals far exceeded a reasonable satisfaction. The Czech Government, as is now well-known, were reluctantly compelled to accept them, in view of the grave consequences to the peace of Europe in the event of their refusal. Nobody can therefore lay any blame on them; for they were willing to make the maximum sacrifice for the appeasement of Europe. The truth is, however, that the peace-at-any-price policy adopted by the Western Democracies, at the instance of Mr.

CHAMBERLAIN, has miscarried. It has been our consistent view that the weak-kneed and vacillating foreign policy of the Democracies would only tend to aggravate the European situation by making them lie down to the armed might of the Fascist bloc. The examples of Abyssinia, Spain, China and Austria are living illustrations of this policy, which has but virtually played into the hands of the Dictators. We cannot but endorse in this respect the following considered opinion of MR. CHURCHILL: "There is still one good chance of preserving peace, namely a solemn warning should be presented to Germany in joint or simultaneous notes by Britain, France and Russia, that an invasion of Czechoslovakia will be taken as an act of war against these Powers".

No wonder that, in these circumstances, the situation is menacingly grave. The peace of Europe, nay of the world, is nearing the zero point, unless a miracle happens. The Czech Government have "absolutely and unconditionally" rejected the impossible terms of Hitler, for no Government worth the name could ever be expected to comply with them. The question of peace or war can be decided only by Hitler, and therefore even at this eleventh hour the world expects of him to show that he is more a statesman than a demagogue. If he rashly decides upon aggression on Czechoslovakia with a callous disregard of the grave consequences of such a step, he will go down to history as the leader who made the post-war Germany and did not hesitate to mar it, just to satisfy his dictatorial vanity. For one can almost be certain that he will then have to take up arms against France, Britain and Russia who will have, in addition to their armed forces and tried resources, the moral support of the world. We cannot persuade ourselves to believe that the lessons of history are so lost on him as to lead him to any precipitate action in the face of such mighty odds. There is yet a ray of hope amidst the engulfing gloom. PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT's appeal, in this connection, calling upon the European Powers to explore all possible ways of avoiding an armed conflict, which would affect the peace, happiness and prosperity of the world at large, is bound to carry great weight with the Dictator states. They should know that the American President has but expressed an admonition which is as solemn as it is timely. If the Fuehrer is foolhardy enough to ignore the warning, he will be but pitting his strength against the combined strength of the Democracies. There can be no doubt whatever that, in such a conflict, Democracy will triumph over Military Despotism. That has been the lesson of History.

Wanted a Commission on Tree-Tax

The request for a Commission to inquire into the working of the Tree-tax system in Jaffna, made at Tuesday's meeting of Temperance-workers is timely and deserves the favourable consideration of the authorities. It is needless to repeat what we have so often said in these columns on the unmixed evil the system has proved to be. The Home Minister to whom the request is addressed has himself told a Jaffna audience, not many months ago, of his willingness to consider the question if a country-wide demand is made for it. We are certain that the people have realised by now that the Tree Tax system is at the bottom of most of the ills that now afflict the country. We would therefore urge on the public to lend their whole-hearted support to the temperance workers and help the country out of the present despicable situation. We also strongly urge on the authorities to take prompt action in the matter.

Savings Certificates

The Post Office Savings Certificates Scheme, which was launched last week, continues to be very popular. The deposits made through this medium in the Post Offices scattered over the Island are daily increasing.

Total deposits up to Saturday amounted to Rs. 685,960, and deposits made on a single day had run into five figures.

(Continued.)

ting leaner every day.

The speaker moved the following resolution:

This meeting is of opinion that the tree tax system in Jaffna has increased drink, crime and poverty and appeals to the Hon. the Minister of Home affairs to appoint a commission to inquire into the state of affairs prevailing in Jaffna at present with a view to amend the Tree Tax ordinance.

The very Revd. P. M. Francis O.M.I. in seconding said that there was no more need to speak in Jaffna about the evils of drink because all the people were able to see for themselves. The original proposal regarding tree-tax system was later changed. If the change had not been effected, it would not have proved to be so objectionable as it now was. The speaker was strongly of opinion that the present Ordinance should be amended. Jaffna was getting poorer and there was much increase of crime.

Mr. K. Ayadurai, Proctor and Member of U. D. C., said that he was neither in favour of the old tavern system nor the present tree tax system. The speaker was for total prohibition (cheers). He appealed for total abstinence. He proposed to go from house to house in his ward and urge people not to drink any kind of liquor.

The resolution was put to the house and carried unanimously.

Mr. T. Somasundaram proposing a vote of thanks to the Chairman and the speakers said that in the District of Salem people were willing to sacrifice revenue in order to save the people from the evils of drink. In Ceylon too the Government should do the same because the gain made in the form of Revenue was too little when compared with the great loss that resulted from drink.

TREE-TAX SYSTEM CONDEMNED

TEMPERANCE WORKERS APPEAL TO HOME MINISTER

JAFFNA DEMANDS COMMISSION

A RESOLUTION that the tree-tax system in Jaffna has increased drink, crime and poverty and that a Commission be appointed by the Minister of Home affairs to inquire into the present state of affairs in Jaffna with a view to amending the tree-tax Ordinance was passed unanimously at a mass meeting of temperance workers held on Tuesday evening at the Chernia Street Mission School Hall.

The meeting was under the Chairmanship of Dr. S. Subramaniam, retired Provincial Surgeon. The gathering included people from Pallai, Kankesanthurai and the islands.

The Revd. James S. Mather welcoming the Chairman and speakers said that Jaffna was every year growing in poverty. Lands which sold fifteen years ago in Jaffna Town for Rs. 1000 or Rs. 1250 per lacham realised to-day Rs. 300 and 250; that showed how the people had become poor and money had gone out.

Quoting from the history of Jaffna by Mudaliyar Rasanayagam the speaker pointed out that towards the end of the 18th century they exported from Jaffna paddy, cloth, jaggery, tobacco etc., especially Jaggery was sent to India in large quantities. But the Jaggery industry had almost entirely died out as people had taken to toddy drinking.

Condemned by Religion

The Chairman in his opening speech said that fifty years ago when he was a Medical Student it was generally believed everywhere that drink was good and gave strength. In the treatment of Pneumonia, rum was always added in the prescription. But it was now well known that drink did much harm to every organ and that it only gave a stimulus for a short time but in the end made the person weaker than he was before he took the drink. They should not think, the speaker said, that because toddy was taken by the people from olden days, it was good. Their religion condemned its use and that was sufficient reason for them to abstain from it (applause).

Pandit T. Ratnasingham said that alcoholic drinks had drowned more people than the sea. The speaker read out extracts from the Hindu sacred books and showed how toddy and other alcoholic drinks were forbidden and for what reasons.

Commission Asked for

Mr. S. Seevaretnam speaking next said that drink was a great foe. At present there was much crime in Jaffna. When taverns were closed there were only three cases for the Supreme Court and the Judge came once from Colombo. But now there was a murder almost every day. Even students were taking to drink. Those who were engaged in liquor traffic were growing fat in Jaffna while the others were getting

(Continued on Previous Column)

'ABSOLUTELY..... UNACCEPTABLE'

Czech Government on Germany's "Cruel Demands"

EUROPE ON THE EDGE OF ABYSS OF WAR

Mr. Roosevelt Suggests International Conference

DEVELOPMENTS in Europe during the past twenty-four hours have taken her closer yet to the edge of the abyss of war.

THE Czech Government has handed a Note to the British Foreign Office to the effect that Herr Hitler's latest demands, "in their present form, are absolutely and unconditionally unacceptable. Against these new cruel demands," it says, "the Czech Government feels bound to make the utmost resistance and, God helping us, we shall do so."

In well-informed circles in Berlin, it is felt that "peace hangs by a straw." A Renter message declares that unless a favourable message is received from Prague by 2 this afternoon (about 6 p.m. Ceylon time on Wednesday), there will be a general mobilisation in Germany.

The Admiralty has decided to mobilise the Fleet as a purely precautionary measure and instructions are being issued calling up all naval reservists. Yugoslavia and Hungary are reported to be mobilising. Scenes, similar to those enacted in Czechoslovakia, though not on so large a scale, are reported in those countries.

After Mr. Chamberlain's broadcast, the Cabinet met and is still in session. It is considering, among other things, the report that Sir Horace Wilson, Mr. Chamberlain's adviser, brought to London regarding his talks with Herr Hitler.

Mr. Chamberlain, in his broadcast speech, referring to Czechoslovakia, said: "However much one may sympathise with a small nation confronted with a big and powerful one, we cannot in all circumstances undertake to involve the whole British Empire in war simply on that account. If we are to fight it out, it must be on larger issues than that." The Premier then went on to say that if he was convinced that there was an attempt to dominate the world by force, the challenge must be taken up, "for life, without liberty, would not be worth living." He added that he found the attitude of Herr Hitler unreasonable.

Mr. Roosevelt's Second Appeal

Washington, Wednesday.

Mr. Roosevelt, addressing Herr Hitler, personally made a new appeal for peace, suggesting an international conference to settle the troubles of Europe.

The message acknowledges Herr Hitler's reply to Mr. Roosevelt's message of Monday and says:

"The question before the world today, Mr. Chancellor, is not the question of errors of judgment or injustices committed in the past. It is a question of the fate of the world today and tomorrow.

"The world asks of us, who at this moment are the heads of

nations, that supreme capacity to achieve the destinies of nations without forcing upon them, as the price, the mutilation and death of millions of citizens."

"Resort to force in the Great War failed to bring tranquility. That lesson the world should have learned. It is extremely important that negotiations should continue without interruption until a fair and constructive solution is reached.

"My conviction is deepened because responsible statesmen have officially stated that an agreement in principle has already been reached between the Government of the Reich and the Government of Czechoslovakia, although the precise time, method and detail of carrying out that agreement remain at issue.

"Whatever the existing differences may be and whatever their merits may be (upon them I do not need to undertake to pass judgment), my appeal was solely that negotiations should be continued until a peaceful settlement is found and thereby a resort to force should be avoided. The present negotiations still stand open. They can be continued if you give the word.

"Should the need for supplementing them become evident, nothing stands in the way of widening their scope into a conference of all the nations directly interested in the present controversy (such a meeting to be held immediately) in some neutral spot.

"Should you agree to a solution in this peaceful manner, I am convinced that hundreds of millions throughout the world would recognise your action as an outstanding historic service to all humanity.

"In my considered judgment and in the light of experience of this century, continued negotiations remain the only way by which this immediate problem can be disposed of upon any lasting basis.

"The United States Government has no political involvements in Europe and will assume no obligations in the conduct of the present negotiations. Yet, in our own right, we recognise our responsibilities as part of a world of neighbours.

"The conscience and the impelling desire of the people of my

Jaffna Mangoes for Bombay

Prospects of a Market

Mr. M. H. Kantawala, Ceylon Trade Commissioner for India, writes in his Report:—

Knowing that mangoes in Bombay have only one season and that these fruits are not available in winter, I approached the Marketing Commissioner asking him whether he could induce an exporter to forward a consignment of well selected and graded fruits (mature,—which would ripen on reaching destination). In the Bombay off-season a few mangoes arrive from Coimbatore and Chenapatam and command high prices, e.g., Rs. 15 for a basket of 3 dozen. At about this time there is a second crop of Jaffna mangoes in Ceylon. Although these mangoes retain a green skin on ripening and although the Bombay market requires fruits which have developed a bluish, I think that with a little judicious and proper propaganda it would not be difficult to introduce our Jaffna mangoes into Bombay. I indicated that from experiments conducted by the Indian Agricultural Department in connection with export of mangoes to Europe, it has been proved that stem-end rot can be avoided by picking fruits carefully by hand and by retaining a part of the fruit stalk; also that lateral rotting can be considerably lessened by rejecting all bruised and injured fruits or fruits which have already developed black spots or pock marks. I also suggested that as the journey to Bombay does not take more than 50 hours, it would not be necessary to forward the mangoes in a refrigeration chamber.

The reply of the Marketing Commissioner was: "No mangoes of good quality are available at present; unfortunately the Ceylon grower does not pluck his mangoes carefully and is irresponsible to advice on the subject....the Marketing Department is reluctantly posed to admit that the mangoes received are not fit for export. It is hoped that persistent propaganda and education may eventually improve the situation." The Marketing Commissioner has however informed a certain gentleman about this proposal and has also published my information in his bulletin. I hope some tangible results will accrue next winter.

country demand that the voice of their Government should be raised again and yet again to avert war"

Herr Hitler Replies to Mr. Roosevelt

Berlin, Tuesday.

Herr Hitler has replied to President Roosevelt's message stating that he appreciates the honourable intentions behind the statement and fully shares the President's opinion about the unforeseeable consequences of a European war. Herr Hitler adds: "For this reason I must decline responsibility in the event of further developments leading to the outbreak of hostilities contrary to all my efforts up to date."

Herr Hitler's reply concludes: "The frightful state of the human beings concerned in this problem allows no delay in its solution."

CONTROLLING PRICE OF FOODSTUFFS

NEW POWER TO FOOD CONTROLLER

AMENDMENT TO BILL

Colombo, Tuesday.

A NEW clause conferring power on the Food Controller to fix a maximum price for food stuffs in times of emergency, is included in an amending Bill to the Food Control Ordinance which was considered by the Board of Ministers today.

The draft of the new Amending Ordinance was completed yesterday, with lightning rapidity by the law officers, in consultation with the Food Control Department.

A new regulation, which will enable a special import duty to be levied for the purpose of defraying whole or any part of the expenditure in connexion with Food Control, is also included in the amending Ordinance.

The Amending Bill will be published in a Gazette extraordinary tonight.

Along with the amending Ordinance, the Essential Commodities Bill will be published.

The draft of the Food Control Amending Ordinance contains provision which will enable a deputy or Assistant Food Controller, subject to the general direction and control of the Food Controller, to exercise the powers conferred on the Food Controller.

The existing Ordinance does not confer the power to fix prices during times of emergency.

If orders for the control of supplies are made at a time during which there is a shortage of such supplies, it is likely that prices will be raised, and therefore it is considered necessary that power should be taken to control prices in such emergencies.

A new clause to the existing Ordinance will enable orders to be made fixing the maximum price of any cattle, food, or article of food.

A section has also been inserted under which the Minister may in anticipation of the publication of an order assuming control of any granary, warehouse or store, authorise the Food Controller or his Deputy to take control of such granaries and warehouses.

This power is sought in order to prevent the removal of stocks during the period intervening between the making of the order, and its publication in the Gazette.

Another new section to Section 3A, will enable a special import duty to be levied for the purpose of defraying the whole or any part of the expenditure incurred in connexion with the operation of that section.

A resolution under the new section imposing an import duty on any cattle, food or article of food will only be effective during a period when an Order is in operation for the allocation and rationing of supplies of food.

Provision Made

The Essential Commodities Bill as explained on an earlier occasion, contains provision for the maintenance or preserving of stocks of commodities which will be essential for the vital needs of the people in the event of war or other emergency.

Work Before Retrenchment Commission—II

Cadre and Staffing

By K. Sivapragasam

(Retired Chief Clerk of the Galle Kachcheri)

THE reduction in the number of Government Agents and local Heads of Departments in the Provinces can very well be effected especially now when motor cars are used and new thoroughfares have been opened. It is now almost possible to have access to every nook and corner by motor car. The Island was divided into 9 Provinces many years ago when transport facilities were very difficult. Now the Island can be divided into 4 or 5 Provinces or even into 3 Provinces and one Government Agent and one local Head of Department appointed to each Province. It may be now difficult to make a re-distribution of territories on account of legal difficulties; but one Officer may now be appointed to 2 or 3 Provinces or 2 Provinces and one District or some such thing may be done. What is wanted is only to curtail the number of officers and to restrict unnecessary expenditure. This matter has been given effect to only to a very small extent. It cannot be denied that Heads of Departments who are highly paid do not work much but get much of their work done by their Assistants. Some Heads of Departments are given now many assistants i.e. Deputy Assistant, 2nd Assistant, and even 3rd Assistant and an Office Assistant. If the Heads of such Departments do their work without undue rest and leisure, surely at least one assistant can be withdrawn. It is expected that the Heads of Departments ought to do their normal work without leaving their legitimate work to their Assistants. It may be interesting for the readers to know that one Government Agent, N. P. Mr. L. W. C. Schrader was a very hard-working and conscientious officer. He used to open the tappal and make orders which no other Government Agent or Head of a Department did. This relieved the Office Assistant of much work and he was able to do his work carefully without undue rush. He used to work very late in the evenings and in the nights too. What a blessing it will be if all the Government Agents and the Heads of Departments work so conscientiously as Mr. Schrader and Mr. H. R. Freeman who was another hard-working and conscientious officer?

There is an army of staff officers in the Railway Department i.e. 1 General Manager, 2 Deputy General and 1 Assistant Managers, 1 Chief Accountant, 1 Deputy and 6 Assistant Accountants, 1 Engineer, Way and Works, 1 Deputy and 11 Engineers, 1 Mechanical Engineer, 1 Deputy and 2 Assistant Engineers, 1 Railway Storekeeper and 3 Assistant Storekeepers, 3 Divisional Trans-

Book Review

"THE SECRET OF THE PALM"

By Prof. K. S. Maniam, the Yuriado Printing Works, Singapore.—Price Rs. 7-50.

I have had the pleasure of reading through Professor K. S. Maniam's hand book entitled "The Secret of the Palm". I was greatly impressed with the simple and straightforward manner in which the author lays before the reader the secrets which had dazzled many. Another important feature of the book is the Index which enables anyone to find out what one wants exactly without going through the whole book. His new theory of the source of the various lines of the palm stands to reason. Great Palmists who are said to be authorities on the subject in Europe feel that Professor Maniam's contribution in this respect is unique and that his interpretation and the method he adopts are really scientific and reveal the secrets without giving room for any doubt whatsoever. His book is small and would be an asset to any library and useful to any student of this science. His interpretations are the result of years of research and study of both the Western and Eastern systems. The Professor reveals this vast subject in a nut-shell and simplifies things for the reader. I have great pleasure in recommending this book to the public. 'X'

portation Superintendents and 10 Assistants. How many in all? 46—a very large number! Besides the above there is a very large number of Inspectors, Foremen Platelayers, Foremen, Loco Works and Engine Drivers who are paid Sterling salaries ranging from £325 to £500. The covenanted Engine Drivers and Guards should go as early as possible. It appears that this is the most top heavy Department. When this Department has such a large number of Staff Officers and Sterling salaried officers, it is no wonder that this Department is going bankrupt. There are other Departments also which are top heavy and it is for the commission to find out.

It is found that there are some Departments which can be amalgamated with other Departments. It is not clear why there should be the Legal Draftsman's Department with the Legal Draftsman on a high salary. It may be amalgamated with the Attorney-General's Department when there is especially the Legal Secretary's Department. It appears that the Department of Salt and Mineralogy and the Department of Fisheries may be amalgamated into one. Some years ago these Departments were one but it appears that when a member of the Clerical Service was appointed Salt Adviser, it was separated into two. The Archaeological Department is a small one and can be amalgamated with the Colombo Museum which is also a small Department. The Forest Department may be abolished and the work done by the Government Agents with a staff consisting of a Forest Officer and a few clerks, and if this done there will be a great saving.

Now there is a tendency on the part of the State Council to create new Departments, and the Councilors will be well advised if they will allocate any new work to some existing Department.

(To be Continued.)

Inter-Collegiate Football in Jaffna

Season Opens on Friday

The inter-collegiate football matches in Jaffna commence on Friday, the 30th inst. The matches will be played on the Jaffna Schools Sports Association grounds.

The following are the fixtures:—

Sep. 30.	4-30 p.m.	Jaffna Hindu College Vs. St. John's College.
Oct. 1	3-30 p.m.	Hartley College Vs. Jaffna Central College.
" "	4-30 p.m.	Jaffna College Vs. St. Patrick's College.
" 7,	4-30 p.m.	Skandavarodaya College Vs. Hartley College.
" 8,	4-20 p.m.	St. Henry's Vs. Manipay
" 14,	4-30 p.m.	Manipay Vs. St. Patrick's
" 15,	3-30 p.m.	Jaffna Vs. Jaffna Hindu
" "	4-30 p.m.	Jaffna Central Vs. St. Henry's
" 21,	4-30 p.m.	Jaffna Central Vs. Jaffna Hindu
" 22,	3-30 p.m.	Skandavarodaya Vs. St. Henry's
" "	4-30 p.m.	Hartley Vs. St. John's
" 28,	4-30 p.m.	St. Patrick's Vs. Jaffna Central
" 29,	3-30 p.m.	Manipay Vs. St. John's
" "	4-30 p.m.	Hartley Vs. Jaffna
Nov. 4,	4-30 p.m.	Skandavarodaya Vs. St. John's
" 5,	3-30 p.m.	Jaffna Vs. Manipay
" "	4-30 p.m.	St. Henry's Vs. Jaffna Hindu
" 11,	4-30 p.m.	Jaffna Central Vs. St. John's
" 12,	3-30 p.m.	Jaffna Hindu Vs. Skandavarodaya
" "	4-30 p.m.	Hartley Vs. St. Patrick's
" 18,	4-30 p.m.	Manipay Vs. Skandavarodaya
" 19,	3-30 p.m.	St. Henry's Vs. Jaffna
" "	4-30 p.m.	Jaffna Hindu Vs. St. Patrick's.

Auction Sale

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA
Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 451.
In the matter of the estate of the late Ambalavanar Ponnambalam of Vannarponnai West —Deceased.
Mathavar Chinnappoo of Tholpuram Administrator.

In pursuance of the commission issued to me by the District Court of Jaffna, in the above case, I shall sell the below mentioned property by Public Auction on Saturday the 8th October 1938 commencing at 4 p.m. at the spot.

PROPERTY REFERRED TO:

A piece of land situated at Vannarponnai West in the Parish of Vannarponnai in the division and District of Jaffna Northern Province called Palluvilithoddam in extent 7 Lms. V. C. and 1½ kulies with stone built house, kitchen, portico, well and cultivated and spontaneous plantations and bounded on the East by the property of Ambalavanar Ponnambalam, North by the properties of Suntharam wife of Sinnappoo and the property belonging to Ponnalai Varatharasaperumal Kovil, West by the property of Sellappah Ponnudurai and Shareholders and South by Road.

S. MUTTUKUMARASWAMY,
Commissioner of Sales.

"Siva Villa,"

Manipay.

29-8-38.

Mis. 125 5 & 29-9-38.]

Order Nisi

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA

Case No. 645 T

In the matter of the Estate of the late Alice Muthamma Kandaya of Van-East.

Anton John Kanthiyah Selvaratnam Vannarponnai East, Petitioner.

S. R. Stephen of do.

Respondent.

This matter of the petition of the abovenamed petitioner praying that Letters of Administration to the Estate of the abovenamed deceased coming on for disposal before C. Coomaraswamy, Esquire, District Judge, Jaffna in the presence of Mr. C. T. Kumaraswamy, Proctor it is ordered that Letters of Administration to the Estate of the abovenamed deceased be issued to Petitioner as her sole heir unless the Respondent shall show sufficient cause to the contrary on the 26th day of October 1938.

This 19th September 1938.

Sd. C. COOMARASWAMY,
District Judge.

[O. 47. 29-5-38 & 6-10-38]

NEWS!

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THE BETRAYAL OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA

(Continued from page 1)

Herr Hitler on Friday, September 16. It was, he said, sooner than he had expected. The actual talks with Herr Hitler lasted three hours. Immediately the French Prime Minister and the Foreign Minister were called over to London and, over the week-end, conferences were held between the French and British Ministers. On Monday the French Ministers went back and held a Cabinet meeting. The proposals were sent to Prague for Czech approval. The French Cabinet was divided on the issue, as many as four Ministers standing out. It was decided to defer final judgment till Prague had replied. This fact was kept back. On the contrary it was published to the world that the French Ministers were united in their approval of the peace terms 'as the only possible solution' in the conditions then prevailing. Then again, Prague was considering the proposals behind closed doors still under the impression that there was no alternative to surrender. A message flashed through from Prague that the Czech Government had accepted the terms and had asked for full particulars in order to give a detailed reply. This news was contradicted after twelve hours by another reporting that the decision was delayed, and finally by the report that Czechoslovakia had replied stating her objections. From Britain came the news that the Republic had drawn British and French attention to the grave implications of surrendering the districts. From France it was reported that the Czech State had asked for details to study the full implications of the concessions and had offered to have her case settled by arbitration at the Hague. Czechoslovakia was next advised to accept the terms immediately and without reservation by the British and French Ambassadors. The French and British representatives at Prague seem to have spent the whole of Wednesday on the doorstep of the Czech Cabinet applying gentle suasion on Dr. Benes. Reuters kept cabling to the rest of the world that Czechoslovakia had accepted the terms at intervals of from six to twelve hours. The reasons are not far too seek. It is difficult in the democratic countries to keep up the semblance of solidarity necessary for coercing Czechoslovakia. Reports from Britain indicate that divisions cutting across political alignments are making themselves increasingly felt each day. Broadcasting on Wednesday night from London Mr. Wickham Steed in a moving speech pointed out the futility of the policy of placating Herr Hitler. He wondered whether Mr. Chamberlain's feeling of urgency in the matter arose from a time limit set by the German Chancellor. It was probably with a view to prevent Russia from entering into the discussions. Russia had, however, in spite of Herr Hitler and Mr. Chamberlain, expressed her readiness to stand by her commitments both to Czechoslovakia and to France. Apart from the immediate betrayal of Czechoslovakia, the policy initiated by Mr. Chamberlain and adopted on his persuasion by

France, leads Great Britain and France into an anti-Communist front behind Germany and Italy. If France recommends the breaking off of relations with Russia to Czechoslovakia, how can she herself maintain the alliance? This is a great triumph for Herr Hitler, almost as great as his success in frightening Mr. Chamberlain into deserting Czechoslovakia.

About the proposals themselves, although there has been no official announcement, simultaneous press publication in three national capitals - Paris, London and Prague - and the trend of events have removed all uncertainty. The proposals, as reported, are: The handing over of districts with a German, not pro-secession, majority to Germany and autonomy on the Runciman plan for districts with a mixed population; the renunciation by Czechoslovakia of all alliances; and in return the guaranteeing of Czech neutrality by a number of powers including Britain and France but excluding Russia. The powers, it is said, are to guarantee the frontiers of 'what remains of Czechoslovakia'. An early report stated that this guarantee was put in on French insistence. This can only be an attempt to save French face at the expense of Britain. For if that was the French modification what was Britain's? We shall not know all that took place at Berchtesgaden but surely we are entitled to ask if Mr. Neville Chamberlain brought away the German demands for Czech districts and for the isolation of Czechoslovakia by the severance of alliances, where he induced Herr Hitler to abate his claim or whether he has persuaded the German leader to postpone other claims for later fulfilment. Mr. Chamberlain wanted his reply before his second conference with Herr Hitler which began on Thursday with a three-hour talk. The disgusting pressure on Czechoslovakia to swallow these terms, laid in connection with this second visit, can only convey the impression that Mr. Chamberlain would be well pleased if he can get Herr Hitler to accept them. Already the German press, flushed with Herr Hitler's greatest victory, declares the Chamberlain terms obsolete after the presentation to, and the acceptance by Germany of Hungarian and Polish claims. Has Mr. Chamberlain the liberty to stand by his own peace scheme, bad as it is, or will he return from Bad Godesberg with new plans for Czechoslovakia? The alternative that the British Prime Minister is mere messenger boy to Herr Hitler is difficult to believe.

Mr. Chamberlain is in an unenviable position but he has brought his troubles on himself. A sensational journalist has likened Mr. Chamberlain's subservience to the German leader to Dr. Schuschnigg's acceptance of Herr Hitler's demands. The resemblance ends with the method employed by the German Chancellor in managing both. Great Britain is, even in the estimation of her present leaders, not as helpless as post-war Austria. The figure of Dr. Schuschnigg is a tragic one evoking sympathy from every quarter. Schuschnigg strove

hard to preserve his country's independence. When he failed, he gave in to prevent the wholesale massacre of his people in the hope that as people of the same nation the Austrians could live with Germans peacefully. That was a sacrifice even if one thinks it was misguided. What is one to say of Mr. Neville Chamberlain? Mr. Chamberlain, if he made a stand for Czechoslovakia, did so by very devious methods—methods, in fact, which looked very much like a move in the opposite direction. From the first step, the mission of Lord Runciman, to the last negotiations, the policy adopted towards Czechoslovakia seems to be of one diabolical piece. Nothing was publicly said either by British leaders in Prague or by responsible ministers in Britain to check or, if that were impossible, to denounce the disloyal and even offensive speeches of the Sudeten Germans. There has been no British insistence on loyalty to the Czech State before commencing negotiations with the Sudetens. There has rather been every encouragement offered to disaffection. Finally there has been no desire to reach a settlement by any concession which would reduce British-managed territory. Mr. Chamberlain in seeking for the spirit of sacrifice among the Czechs, had forgotten the ample opportunities he himself had of showing this same spirit by a mere transference of mandates.

We fully recognize that there is need for revising the provisions of the Peace Treaties. And doing so, we are unable to find fault with Herr Hitler for the claims he has so successfully urged. On the contrary he has won German admiration for having raised his people from the depths of despair to a position in which leaders of other nations submit to his demands. There has been far too much said about the methods employed by the German Leader. Their chief commendation is their success. For years the great German democratic leaders pleaded and reasoned for fair play. Their moderate demands were thrown aside. Today France and Britain are conceding to German might what they refused to German reason and what is more they are prepared to argue Germany's case for her before the world. Can we blame the German people for preferring Herr Hitler to the others? We would ask the Indian press which sometimes works off a good impulse with strong words, to consider the Indian political situation which has points of analogy with the German one, before they condemn the German people outright. What we deplore is the craven policy pursued by France and Britain, with its disgraceful culmination in the Berchtesgaden peace. The German people have every right to the kind of Government they want. That does not mean, however, that they have the right to force their preferences on other nations. There have been far too many encroachments on individual liberty for us to watch with equanimity the retreat of the democracies before the sound and fury of Fascist leaders. This perpetual cringing before the threat of force encourages the very spirit it seeks to appease. For all the horrors of war, even a world war would be preferable to living under the perpetual threat of one. Even defeat would be better than the present terror which has paralysed the democracies of Europe. Re-

publican Spain has shown that the Fascist forces are not as formidable as they are made out to be. For Republican Spain has kept up a stiff resistance all these long months.

British opinion has not adequately appreciated the reactions on the Indian mind. We have not seen any world crisis, not even the Italian aggression on Ethiopia followed so closely by Indians in all walks of life. The attraction of the British Empire to many Indian minds has not been love of foreign rule but the ideals of liberty enshrined in British history and literature. That attraction is dimmed by the chicanery that has taken the place of the older idealism. We are not interested in manoeuvres for maintaining the territories of the Empire at any sacrifice of prestige and honour. We have no desire to form a unit in a Commonwealth which barter freedom for an illusory peace. India has not unfortunately the power to make her contribution to a lasting peace but Czechoslovakia has our moral support in the fullest measure in the critical, well-nigh friendless, days before her. It is exceedingly fortunate that Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru was in Prague recently to assure the Czechs personally of this.

By an ironical coincidence, the advice pressed upon Czechoslovakia by the English and French Governments who have been increasing their armaments at a tremendous pace, is identical with the advice offered by Gandhiji to Czechoslovakia, along with Abyssinia and China, to submit to the aggressor in the true spirit of Non-violence. (Indian Social Reformer)

Order Nisi

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 617. In the matter of the estate of the late Subramaniam Eliathamby of Kokkuvil late of Johore Bahru -Deceased. Pavalam widow of Subramaniam Eliathamby of Kokkuvil East

Vs. Petitioner.

1. Alagamma daughter of Eliathamby of do
2. Eliathamby Balasubramaniam of do
3. Pakkiavathy daughter of Eliathamby of do
4. Padmayathy daughter of Eliathamby of do
5. Eliathamby Velauthapillai of do
6. Sanmugam Sabapathy of Mee-salai Respondents.

This matter of the petition of the abovenamed petitioner praying that the abovenamed 6th Respondent be appointed Guardian-ad-litem over the minors the abovenamed 1st to 5th Respondents and that Letters of Administration to the estate of the abovenamed deceased be issued to the petitioner, coming on for disposal before C. Coomaraswamy Esquire, District Judge, Jaffna on the 1st day of July 1938 in the presence of Mr. C.C. Somasegaram, Proctor, on the part of the petitioner and on reading the affidavit and petition of the petitioner.

It is ordered that the abovenamed 6th Respondent be appointed Guardian-ad-litem over the minors the abovenamed 1st to 5th Respondents and that Letters of Administration to the estate of the abovenamed deceased be issued to the petitioner as the lawful widow of the abovenamed deceased, unless the Respondents abovenamed appear before this Court on the 17th day of August 1938 and show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

This 9th day of July 1938.

Sgd. C. Coomaraswamy,

District Judge,

Extended for 10-10-38.

Initd. C. C.

D. J.

[O. 45. 26 & 29-2-38.]

Order Nisi

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF
JAFFNA

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 565.

In the matter of the estate of the late
Veeragathiar Nagalingam of Nallore
Deceased.

1. Vallipuram Ramapillai and wife
2. Manikkam of Nallore

Vs. Petitioners.

1. Ponnammah widow of Veeragathiyar Nagalingam of Manipalay
2. Mailvaganam Thampu and wife
3. Ponnamma of Alagam Estate, Gampola

Respondents.

This matter of the petition of the abovenamed petitioner praying that Letters of Administration to the estate of the abovenamed deceased be issued to the petitioner coming on for disposal before C. Coomaraswamy Esquire, District Judge, Jaffna on the 28th day of February, 1938 in the presence of Mr. C. C. Somasegaram, Proctor, on the part of the petitioner and on reading the affidavit and petition of the petitioner: It is ordered that Letters of Administration to the estate of the abovenamed deceased be issued to the petitioners as the 2nd petitioner is one of the heirs of the said deceased, unless the abovenamed respondents appear before this court on the 25th day of March 1938 and show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

This 2nd day of March 1938.

Sgd. C. Coomaraswamy,
District Judge.

Order Nisi Extended for 10-10-38.

Initd. C. Coomaraswamy,
District Judge.

[O. 44. 26 & 29-9-38.]

Order Nisi

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF
JAFFNA

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 56.

In the matter of the estate of the late
Sinnathamby Kathiravelu of Araly
late of Dindings of the Federated
Malay States Deceased.

Muttammah widow of Sinnathamby
Kathiravelu of Araly North
Vs. Petitioner.

1. Kathiravelu Ethirnayagam of do
2. Sinnathamby Thamotharampillai of do

Respondents.

This matter of the petition of the abovenamed petitioner praying that the abovenamed 2nd respondent be appointed Guardian-ad-Litem over the minor 1st respondent and that Letters of Administration to the estate of the abovenamed deceased be granted to petitioner, coming on for disposal before C. Coomaraswamy, Esquire, District Judge, Jaffna on the 7th day of March 1938 in the presence of Mr. C. C. Somasegaram, Proctor on the part of the petitioner and on reading the affidavit and petition of the petitioner.

It is ordered that the abovenamed 2nd respondent be appointed Guardian-ad-Litem over the minor the abovenamed 1st respondent and that Letters of Administration to the estate of the abovenamed deceased be issued to the petitioner as the widow of the abovenamed deceased, unless the abovenamed respondents appear before this Court on the 19th day of May 1938 and show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

This 12th day of April 1938.

Sgd. C. Coomaraswamy,
District Judge.

Order Nisi Extended for 10-10-38.

Initd. C. Coomaraswamy,
District Judge.

[O. 46. 26 & 29-9-38.]

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