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PUBLIC HEALTH OF THE ISLAND

Steady Progress Made in 1937

FUTURE HEALTH WORK DEPENDS ON SCHOOL WORK

ON school health work depends the future of the public health work of the country, says the Director of Medical and Sanitary Services in his Administration Report for 1937.

Following are further extracts from the Report:—

Public health work continues to make steady progress. The Malaria Control and Health Scheme which was launched during the latter part of 1936 was extended during 1937 to include the whole of the North-Western Province, Matale and Kandy Districts of the Central Province, Province of Sabaragamuwa with the exception of Kolonna and Kukul korales, Mannar and Mullaitivu Districts and the Tenmaradohi and Pachchilapallai-Karachi divisions of the Northern Province, Matara and Hambantota Districts and Gangaboda pattu in the Galle District of the Southern Province, certain areas in the Batticaloa District of the Eastern Province, one chief headman's division of the Province of Uva, Hurulu, Kalagam palatas, and Tammankaduwa division of the North-Central Province, and three chief headmen's divisions in the Western Province.

General sanitation has received the same attention as in previous years. The two important items under this head are: control of soil pollution and the provision of protected water supplies.

Control of Soil Pollution

In the control of soil pollution during the year 4,672 bucket latrines were constructed in urban areas as compared with 3,687 in 1936; 16,619 deep pit latrines in rural areas as compared with 13,639 in 1936; 179 bored hole latrines as compared with 312 in 1936; 322 mound latrines as compared

with 263 in 1936 making a total of 21,792 as compared with 17,901, in 1936.

In order to hasten the construction of latrines a five-year programme has been formulated for areas under Sanitary Assistants (Inspectors) and every effort is being made to completely sanitise villages. There still continues to be a good deal of indifference on the part of villagers to construct latrines.

Water Supplies

In regard to the provision of protected water supplies during the year 281 new public wells and 4,215 new private wells were constructed, 2,794 wells were improved.

The annual grant for the construction of wells in rural areas is inadequate to meet the problem in a satisfactory manner. When Village Committees construct wells out of their own funds they prefer to build wells for bathing purposes than for drinking purposes. Till such time as an adequate number of protected wells are provided, the people are being educated to boil their drinking water.

Housing Schemes

Housing in urban areas is under control and small housing schemes have been carried out. In rural areas all that has been done has been in relation to peasant colonization schemes in connection with which dwellings are being constructed in accordance with two type plans supplied by the department; one for the married and the other for the unmarried settler.

In the construction of these dwellings settler is given a Government subsidy.

On estates regular inspection has been carried out on labourers' lines and Government requirements were met with in the case of 59,067 rooms as compared with 49,352 in 1936.

(Continued on Page 2)

A FRENCH VIEW OF THE MUNICH PEACE

Why France was not Able to Adopt a Stronger Attitude

By L. M.

(In the *Servant of India*)

I HAVE been spending the last weeks alone in Paris, my son being still on his holiday in the South of France. Being alone, I have perhaps been able to share more intensely and more genuinely the general atmosphere that prevailed in Paris during these last weeks. I must say that the people here have been extraordinarily brave, simple and calm. I have witnessed the departure of the "reservists," as well as the courage of those whom they have left behind. I have seen the voluntary enlistment of women as well as young and old people into various organisations engaged in useful work for passive defence here, for other things. I have seen people anxiously listening to Hitler's speeches which they could not understand (but the ferocious barking tone was eloquent enough!) and to other news on the wireless. I have scrambled with others in the streets for the latest special editions of the newspapers.

You can imagine my own anxiety as my son and two of my brothers and a good number of friends and close relatives of ours would have had to leave for the front if general mobilisation had taken place. And I think I am not boasting when I say that I felt the anguish of all other women as much as my own.

In spite of the brave determination of every one and absolute calmness in appearance, there was a great tension in the atmosphere.

It is therefore not surprising that the news that war had been avoided brought a reaction of tremendous relief. Smiles blossomed again on the anxious faces; people seemed to be born again to life and breathe here freely once more just as they were preparing to die; the force of these collective reactions is stupendous. Nothing

seemed to count for some time but this kind of animal joy of being alive, and the assurance that those we love most are not going to die, at least not just now.

I believe it is this kind of instinctive reaction alone, together of course with a very clever press campaign (it is proved now as never before that the press can manufacture public opinion in 48 hours), that can explain (I do not say justify) the tributes of admiration to Chamberlain and Daladier, which have been so conspicuous and seem to have left hardly any place to anything else, even sympathy and gratitude for the Czechoslovakian people.

But now people are beginning to cool down and they will start thinking again. And realise that this Munich agreement, which they have acclaimed as a victory, is really a most humiliating defeat for France especially, and a stupendous victory for Hitler in particular and Fascism in general. A victory which the French and English obligingly agreed to deliver themselves into Hitler's hand.

Failing to respect promises given to Czechoslovakia, agreeing to dispose of this poor country's fate without even inviting it to the debates, is an evident shame for countries who have constantly invoked the right of peoples to self-determination, and other great principles of international morality.

But even leaving aside this moral aspect of the question, it is evident that Czechoslovakia was the only bastion of peace, liberty, security and democracy in Central Europe, the only rampart against the German drive towards the East.

Apart from the tremendous prestige given by the Munich agreement to Hitler and Mussolini, especially inside their

(Continued on Page 7)

ANCIENT HINDU MARRIAGE

VII. Position of Wives (Contd.)

By S. R. Muttukumar

(Continued from our issue of 20-10-38)

It has already been stated that amongst the ancient Tamils the youths married only those maidens whom they loved, and whose love for them was equally well ascertained before their union; that equal love before and after marriage (இருவீனையொத்தல்) was held to be one of the essentials of a union; and that the four pillars on which their edifice of conjugal life rested were (1) அன்பு, love or the feeling of indispensability, (2) மடல், inappetency or blindness to each other's faults, (3) சாயல், tenderness and (4) இயல்பு, apparent candour.

The damsel of the ancient Tamilakam had the right to select her husband. She was mistress of the house (மனையான் or மனையாட்டி), and heir to, and owner of, all property. On this account the land of the Tamils was known in ancient literature as *Kumari-nadu*, "the land of the maiden", and among other nations as the "land of queens". The Tamilian wife was reckoned as the greatest treasure a man may possess in this fleeting world. Tiruvalluvar, therefore, says:-

"பெண்ணிற் பெருந்தக்க யாவன
கற்பென்னுந்
தினமையுன் டாகப் பெறின்" (1)

meaning:-

"What treasure on earth can
compare with the prize
That falls to the man who obtains
a good wife?
As stable and chaste as the
lofty blue skies,
She brighten his life".

C. E. Gover.

Auvaiyar also says:

"தாயோ டறுசுவைபோம் தந்தையோடு
கல்விபோம்
சேயோடு தான்பெற்ற செவ்வம்போம்
ஆயவாழ்
வற்றருடன்போ முடற்பிறப்பாற்
ரோவவியோம்
பொற்றுவியோ டெவையுமபோம்"

meaning: "With the loss of the mother, dainty meals disappear; with the loss of the father, education suffers; with the loss of children, wealth becomes useless; with the loss of relations, society falls; with the loss of brother's power declines; but with the loss of the wife, everything becomes naught".

It will thus be seen that an ancient Tamil wife enjoyed a more prominent position in the household than her Aryan sister.

Domestic Life

Moreover, the wife played an important part in the domestic life of the ancient Tamils who considered that there were two ways of reaching heaven, one by practising the virtues of a domestic life (இல்லறம்), and the other by practising the virtues of an ascetic life (சுறவறம்). Domestic virtues were reckoned as praiseworthy as ascetic virtues, if not more. The wife was indispensable in the performance of domestic duties, and hence her eminent position. This is best illustrated by the following folklore. Parvati, consort of Siva, once asked her Lord

if there was anyone in the three worlds, who obtained salvation by the mere practice of domestic virtues. The Lord is said to have replied that in the celestial world Vasistha, Agasthiya, Aayan, Payangan, and Sambo, and in the terrestrial world Tiruvalluvar, all of whom were ably assisted by their exemplary wives, were the only persons to gain Moksha by the practice of domestic virtues. The life history of Tiruvalluvar is thus an index of the honour paid to a wife. We are given an insight into this rare phenomenon by the stanza extemporized by the poet at the death-bed of his wife, Vasuki, who was esteemed by all as a divinity on earth. The poem is:-

"அடிசிறு கிரியானே அன்புடை யானே
படிசொற் றவருத பாவாய்--அடிவருடிப்
பின் னாக்கி முன்னெழுதம் பேதைமைய
போதியோ
வென்றுங்கு மென்க ணிரா"

meaning:-

"O thou loving one, O sweet'ner
of my food,
O wife who ne'er transgressed
my word,
Who did'st chafe my feet, rising
first and sleeping last,
O when will these eyes know
sleep again"

G. U. Pope.

The wife elicited this forlorn tribute from her husband not on account of her having asserted her equality, as is often done at present in certain countries, but on account of her true wifehood which, in other words, means divinity.

The high status maintained by a Tamilian wife is also attested by the following verse in Auvaiyar's *Nalvali*:-

"நீநிலவா கெற்றிபாழ் கெய்யிலவா
ஆண்டிபாழ்
ஆறிலவா ஆருக் கழகுபாழ்--மாறில்
உடற்பிறப் பிலவா வுடம்புபாழ் பாழே
மடற்கொடி யிலவா மனை"

meaning:-

"The forehead lacking sacred marks,
Food without ghee, the streamless land,
Life with no brother's love, and home
With no fond wife--vain are they all."

C. Sri Kanta.

A Husband's Love

And last but not least, the following dirge of despair sung by Makothai, the Chera king, at the cremation of his beloved wife shows in unmistakable terms the love he bore

SENIOR CAMBRIDGE CANDIDATES!

A CRITICAL AND EXPLANATORY STUDY of Methuen's ANTHOLOGY OF MODERN VERSE.

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[Mis. 167, 10-10 to 31-10-38] [M.]

and the respect he paid to his deceased wife:-

"யாங்குப் பெரிதாயினு நோயன்
வெனைத்தே
யுயிர்செருக் கல்லா மதுகைத் தன்
மையிற்
கள்ளி போகிய கனாரியம் பறத்தலை
வெள்ளிடைப் பொத்திய விளைவிற
மேத்
தொழுகுந் பள்ளிப் பாயல் சேர்த்தி
ஞாங்கர் மாய்த்தனை மடத்தை
யின்னும் வாழ்வ வெண்ணிதன்
பண்பே"(2)

meaning:- "My swelling sorrow knows no bounds. It has not strength enough to free me from this loathed life. I took her to the cremation ground where *Kalli* (spurge-*Euphorbia*) thrives. I laid her on the couch of rising flame. The innocent in soul hath died, and left me behind. What charm hath life henceforth for me?"

Dark Side of the Picture

As time passed, domestic life was not all poetry, especially after the introduction of the Brahmanical customs. The Tamilian wife lost much of her pristine glory. Even the *thali* which was once a badge of honour often came to mean a badge of servility. She was no more the sole mistress of the house, but came to be more or less the slave of her lord and master. We get a truer idea of domestic sorrows and troubles from the tales of *Katha Sarit Sagara* than from the poetry of Bhavabhuti or Kalidasa. Poverty, bereavement, the bickerings of relations, the cruelty of husbands, or the uncontrolled tempers of wives often disturbed the tranquility and peace at home and made life a burden. Auvaiyar, therefore, says:-

"பத்தாவக் கேற்ற பதிவிரதை
யுண்டானால்
எத்தாலுந் கூடி யிருக்கலாம்--சுற்
றேனும்
ஏழமாருக விருப்பானே யுமாயின்
கூறும் சச்சிபாசங் கொள்"

meaning:-

"If she should compel the true love of her lord,
Then sweetest of happiness rests on their life.
But if she repel, then your happiness is--
Get rid of your wife when you can"

C. G. Gover.

Not the least galling of all evils were the differences and disputes among members of joint families, or the heartless cruelty of the mothers-in-law and sisters-in-law towards a submissive wife. "If it was the mother-in-law who broke it", runs the Tamil proverb which throws much light on the young wife's fate, "the pot was earthen; if the daughter-in-law, it was golden". "O mother-in-law" is the pathetic appeal of another proverb, "be merciful; have you not also a daughter?" The gentle and virtuous Kirthi Sena, suffering from such domestic tyranny, exclaimed in sorrow: "This is why relations lament the birth of a daughter, exposed to the terrors of the mothers-in-law and sisters-in-law." (3)

Mrs. Sinclair Stevenson, therefore, writes: "Whereas the English mother often whispers to her daughter 'Remember that the first year of married life is not the happiest', thinking of the two strong wills that have to adjust themselves; the Hindu mother's whisper is: 'Do not be as sweet as sugar or they will overwhelm you with work, nor as sour as a nim."

(2) *Puranamuru*, 245.
(3) *Katha Sarit Sagara*, chap. 24.

Public Health of the Island

(Continued from page 1)

Communicable Diseases

In regard to the control of communicable diseases there have been during the year 29 cases of plague as compared with 57 in 1936. There have been no outbreaks of the disease outside Colombo but there have been two sporadic cases whose source of infection could not be determined. There have been no cases of cholera. There were two cases of smallpox in two new arrivals (one an American and the other European) from India. There were no secondary cases.

The incidence of typhoid and dysentery continues to keep at a high level and special attention is being paid to the control of these diseases.

There has also been an increase in the notified cases of diphtheria; there being 135 as compared with 103 in 1936.

Maternity and Child Welfare

Maternity and Child Welfare work continues to receive popular support. The work has been carried out at 207 centres as compared with 77 in 1936; at which 8,395 clinics have been held as compared with 4,543 clinics in 1936; with a total attendance of 39,841 expectant mothers as compared with 17,393 in 1936, 88,479 infants as compared with 29,563 in 1936, and 39,637 pre-school children as compared with 18,611 in 1936. These increased numbers are due to the large number of Field Medical Officers and associated staff who have been appointed. The infant mortality shows a reduction from 166 in 1936 to 158 in 1937 and the maternal mortality rates from 21.6 in 1936 to 19.9 in 1937. In limited areas where intensive work is being done with an adequate staff of Public Health Nurses and Midwives the reduction in mortality rates is very encouraging.

School Health Work

On school health work depends the future of the public health work of the country. A good deal of attention has been paid to the health of the school child and the work is being appreciated by all concerned with the result that work is receiving more co-operation. The staff engaged on the work consisted of 81 medical officers of whom 8 were whole time, and 9 school nurses. The number of schools in which health work has been done increased from 1,779 in 1936 to 3,106 in 1937; the number of children medically inspected increased from 52,629 in 1936 to 84,730 in 1937; the defects found were 124,540 as compared with 73,757 in 1936; and the defects corrected were 44,807 or 36 per cent. as compared with 21,979

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leaf, for they will spit you out", for she is thinking more of the child-wife's position in a household of strange and often nagging women" (4)

(To be Continued.)

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(1) *Kural* 54

(4) *The Rites of the Twice-born* p. 106.

DEBATE ON THE EDUCATION BILL

Deputy Speaker's Ruling

DILATORY MOTION DEFEATED

THE Deputy Speaker ruled that the Minister for Labour, Mr. I. X. Pereira and Dr. A. P. de Zoysa were prevented, according to Parliamentary procedure, from addressing the House a second time. Mr. Griffith's motion to delay the second reading being defeated, the debate on the Bill in which several members took part, supporting the underlying principle of the Bill was resumed. We give below the two most effective contributions to the discussion:

Mr. T. B. Jayah (Nominated) said that a religious atmosphere was very necessary in any scheme of Education. It was very surprising to hear the Member for Balapitva, who did not seem to realise the value of religious ideals.

Mr. Francis De Zoysa here remarked that they could not understand what religious atmosphere was referred to because they now had several religions.

Mr. Jayah said that was all the more reason for the necessity of imparting an education with a religious atmosphere and to understand its value, in any scheme of education.

"I do not think the members of the Executive Committee of Education would have framed that Ordinance if they had the slightest suspicion that it was going to do away with that religious atmosphere. I do not know why a good cause should be made to suffer by referring to arguments which have not been urged even by the strongest opponents of the Bill," he declared.

Mr. Jayah next referred to the great work done by the missionary bodies who had prepared the ground for the great strides of progress the country had made.

Leader's Education

"After all the Leader of the House was educated in a missionary school. Perhaps most of the members of the House were educated in missionary schools. Is it then right for us to say that we should be unmindful of the great work they have done for the progressive development of this country?" he asked.

"Perhaps this attempt to saddle the Board of Education with a responsibility that it never had was due to misconception of the situation.

I believe even the Minister of Education in his opening speech had something very uncomplimentary to say to the Board of Education as if it had stood in the way of educational reforms intended to raise this country."

Mr. Jayah said that the Board of Education was started in 1896 and it should be distinctly remembered that it was an advisory body. Long before the State Council was inaugurated, all power in regard to education was vested in the Director of Education, who was advised by the Board.

It could not, therefore, be said that the Board of Education was responsible for the entire educational policy of the country. In fact, if that was the case as soon as the new Council was inaugurated the Minister should have scrapped the Board of Education.

The very fact that he had been able to go on for seven years in the way

he had done showed that the Board of Education was not a bad thing.

Knew Spirit of Board

Mr. Jayah stated that he had been a member of the Board of Education for 12 years and he knew the spirit in which work had been done by that Board. They were always ready to co-operate with the Minister and his Committee.

Denominational schools had existed side by side with State-aided Schools, and the position was made clearer by the Ordinance of 1920, when in fact a greater impetus was given to the establishment of State Schools.

He did not know why State education should be entirely condemned. They knew the way in which the people in America had realised the benefits of State education.

State schools in Ceylon had only attracted the poorer classes and there was a certain amount of stigma attached to free education in this country. That was very undesirable. In America no distinction was made between the rich and the poor children.

"I wonder whether those who are advocating a greater supply of State schools in this country have that idea," said Mr. Jayah. "If that is so, I welcome a larger number of State schools. It is particularly in connexion with this aspect of the question that I welcome this ordinance," he said.

A Barrier

"To that extent I must say that the Board of Education has been a barrier in the way of those who want to see this country progress on those lines. I therefore say that the State Council and the Committee of Education should have the last say in defining the educational policy. But that does not mean that the Minister and the Executive Committee should ignore the views of those who are competent to express an opinion on this subject."

Mr. Jayah said that once the Minister had given the assurance that the Bill was not aimed at denominational schools as such, he did not think denominational bodies need have any fear.

He did not think it was contemplated to do away with denominational education. If that were so the, strongest opposition would come not from the Christian Missionaries but from the Buddhists, Hindus and Muslims.

No Fear Needed

But the denominational bodies had no cause to fear that the State

BRACEGIRDLE COMMISSION EXONERATES MR. BANKS

SIR. BARON ADVERSELY CRITICISED

MR. WEDDERBURN AND MR. WODEMAN TOO

THE Long-awaited report of the Bracegirdle Commission will, I understand, be in the hands of the Ministers on Monday. It will, in all probability, be issued for general publication on Wednesday.

HOWEVER, I have excellent reasons to believe that the Commission has:

COMPLETELY exonerated Mr. P. N. Banks, the Inspector-General of Police, and, further, has recommended that his services should be retained:

COMMENTED very adversely on the evidence given by Sir Baron Jayatilaka, the Home Minister, by whom the "charges" against Mr. Banks were first brought:

GIVEN a severe rap over the knuckles to both Mr. M. M. Wedderburn, the Chief Secretary, and to Mr. G. S. Wodeman, who so recently was acting as Governor, during the absence from the Island of Sir Andrew Caldecott.

Task It was Given

The Commission which sat to sift the charges made against Mr. Banks consisted of the Chief Justice, Sir Sidney Abrahams, the late Sir Stewart Schneider, (a retired judge of the Supreme Court), and Mr. Stanley Obeyesekere, (formerly Solicitor-General).

The Commission's terms of reference in brief were:

to inquire into the various steps which led to the deportation order, being made against Mr. M. A. Bracegirdle:

the circumstances in which Mr. Banks applied for the order, whether it was with or without the knowledge of Sir Baron Jayatilaka, and

the accuracy of the statements made in the State Council by Mr. Wedderburn to justify Mr. Banks' action.

The Commission began its sittings on December 13th last, and after adjournments for various reasons, ended its work on June 1st. Eleven witnesses were called, including (in addition to the principals), Mr. D. S. Senanayake, Mr. G. H. Ferguson, Mr. C. Baniwantudawe, and Mr. B. F. Perera, Secretary to Sir Baron Jayatilaka.

Throughout the sitting Mr. Banks maintained that he had acted as he should have acted and that he had told Sir Baron who at the time was preparing to go on leave to Europe of the fact that he wanted to secure a deportation order against Bracegirdle.

This was equally strenuously denied by the Home Minister, and their conflict of statements was, in fact, the real issue of the tangle

Council or the Executive Committee had any such intention.

"I have no doubt," concluded Mr. Jayah, "that as a result of the controversy that this Bill has stirred, as a result of the very acrimonious arguments by both sides and the debates that have taken place, once this Ordinance is passed through Committee and comes up for its third reading, it will be an Ordinance that will be welcomed not only by one section of the people but by all the sections of the people."

Sir Baron Jayatilaka (Minister of Home Affairs) said he had been

the Commission was set to unravel.

It will be realised that Sir Baron declared in so many words that unless Mr. Banks went he would refuse to work with him.

If he still retains this view, now that the Commission has found so strongly in favour of Mr. Banks, it can only mean one thing. Sir Baron's resignation as head of the Board of Ministers.

Divided Opinions

Opinion amongst M. S. C's. at the moment, I understand, is almost equally divided. There are those who urge that Sir Baron should go to the country on the issue. Another section of Sir Baron's supporters are canvassing for a vote of confidence in him when the House meets again on November 8th.

Two unofficial conferences have already taken place. A further one is scheduled for November 2nd. But there is yet a third body of members who declare that in any event the finding of the Commission is not binding on the Board of Ministers, or on the State Council.

They urge that Commissions of this nature are often appointed under the Public Services Regulations, and that their recommendations very often are not carried out.

I understand also, that Sir Andrew has not, as is the usual custom, sent in a copy of the Report of the Commission with the customary Despatch to the Secretary of State for the Colonies. It is not known, of course, whether, when he was on Home leave, the Governor discussed the findings with the officials in Whitehall.

The Ministers will meet the Governor on Monday, and if rumour is to be believed, there will be some very plain speaking on both sides.

I understand that not only the report of the Commission, but the entire evidence is to be made available to the public, a course recommended all along by "The Times of Ceylon."

Whatever the outcome, it is certain that Ceylon can anticipate a political crisis of the first magnitude.

"Times of Ceylon"

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Hindu Organ.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 31, 1938.

THE EDUCATION BILL

JUDGING FROM THE DEBATE on the Education Bill, we have no doubt that the second reading will have an easy passage through the State Council, signifying its warm support to the underlying principle of the Bill. Fortunately for the cause of education in the country, the dilatory motion sponsored by MR. GRIFFITH, seeking to delay the second reading by six months, was rejected by the Council by a convincing majority. The speeches so far made in Council tend to show that opposition to the Bill has proceeded from the wrong assumption that it is calculated to affect adversely the interests of denominational institutions. The Minister's assurance, however, that the Bill will not affect the rights of existing denominational schools as such, should be adequate enough to allay any legitimate fears on this score. Even those members whose sense of fairness and impartiality in this matter cannot be questioned, for instance, MR. J. W. OLDFIELD, have openly expressed the view that there is nothing in the Draft Ordinance to warrant the clamour raised against it. SIR BARON JAYATILAKE and MR. JAYAH whose speeches are marked by sincerity and breadth of outlook wholeheartedly support the measure as an instrument for giving a new orientation to the education policy of the country. Both of them made it crystal clear that they are for denominational schools in which children may receive their education in a "religious atmosphere." What they mean by "religious atmosphere" is certainly the atmosphere most conducive to the religion of the pupil. SIR BARON, however, thoughtfully added that it was not good for a child "to be brought up and taught in an atmosphere antagonistic to its own faith." We dare say nobody can question his authority to speak on the subject, for no other Councillor has had greater experience and knowledge in regard to educational matters. We cannot therefore understand nor appreciate MR. MAHADEVA's criticism in regard to "the attitude of those stalwarts of his constituency who were the originators and founders of the Hindu Board of Education." For there is nothing in the Bill to justify the fear that it

is an inroad into the legitimate rights and duties of denominational bodies. But unfortunately for the country, there are anti-national agencies and forces which will not scruple to read into the Education Bill more than what meets the eye to serve their own ends. That is no reason for MR. MAHADEVA to take the Hindu "stalwarts" to task!

The provisions of the Bill that came in for well-merited criticism at the hands of several members are those that seek to vest in Local Government bodies powers which, to say the least, are premature. No thinking man will dare contest at this time of day that the principle of "the gradual delegation of the control of education to Local Government bodies" is sound. But such a delegation must be gradual and related to the realities of the situation. As was observed by certain members in the course of the debate, the authors of the Bill appear to have slavishly copied in this respect the English Act on which it is modelled. It is well-known that in England the contribution and the control of Local Government bodies in this matter have been of steady and gradual growth, keeping pace with their means and their ability to cope with such powers and responsibilities. But here in Ceylon Local Government bodies have yet a long way to go before they can be expected to exercise these powers in a purposeful and fruitful manner. Who does not know that they have not the means to provide even the ordinary amenities of civilised life for the people? Some of them are so economically backward and still others so inefficiently administered that many years must elapse before they can efficiently do the duties contemplated by the Bill. We fear that, in their pardonable anxiety to arrest the growing expenditure on education, the Executive Committee seem to have hit upon this device which, in the existing conditions, is bound to give a positive set-back to the cause of education. That such local authorities as have the will and the means to undertake the responsibility may be granted the privilege, is the utmost the Bill can safely concede. Even the Minister, in his statement at the Ananda College meeting, was constrained to observe that it might take 30 or 40 years before the provisions relating to local Government bodies could become operative in the country. We hope and trust our Councillors will so modify the Bill at the Committee Stage as to make it effectively serve the best interests of the country. Not even its most confirmed supporters will deny that the Bill needs drastic amendments.

Mr. Nathan's Letter

MR. V. S. NATHAN, Proctor, S. C. has sent us for publication a letter in which he calls in question the representative character and the dignity of the meeting which was held at the Jaffna Hindu College under the Presidentship of Srimat Swami Vipulananda. We would fain avoid commenting on the letter but for the fact that the "Catholic Guardian" thought it proper to give undue prominence to it in its issue of 28-10-38 by commenting editorially under the caption, "That Hindu Meeting". The meeting was convened on a requisition signed by a number of Hindu gentlemen of light and leading in Jaffna to consider the Draft Education Ordinance. The Resolutions adopted at the Meeting were passed *nem con*, while Mr. Nathan, Proctor, S. C. who "as a Hindu, was present at the conference" sat watching the proceedings without making so much as even a gesture expressive of his disapproval. There was no attempt on the part of the president to burke discussion on the subject, and it was within the constitutional rights of any "Hindu" who was present at the meeting to have expressed his views on the question. But Mr. Nathan sat mum all the while, signifying his assent to the Resolutions by his gullible silence. Mr. Nathan's heroic action in rushing to the press to "dissociate" himself from the meeting at which he had not the moral courage to express his conviction, is, to say the least, "despicable". No man in possession of faculties will contend that a Hindu meeting at which gentlemen of the type of Srimat Swami Vipulananda, Dr. S. Subramaniam J. P., Messrs. S. Kanagasabai, Crown Advocate, R. Sivagurunathan, Proctor and Ex-Chairman, J. U. D. C., A. Coomaraswamy, Principal, Jaffna Hindu College and several others were present, taking active part in its proceedings, is not representative of the Hindus of Jaffna. But Mr. Nathan seeks to challenge the representative character of the meeting! We do not grudge him this unique distinction. True it is that one or two speakers referred to matters which, in our opinion, were not relevant to the question under discussion. But that is almost inevitable in a conference composed of persons of varying temperaments and knowledge. We are painfully conscious, however, that there are in every community persons, educated otherwise, who will easily lend themselves as pliable instruments for casting aspersions on any just and popular cause. Thank God, such persons are now a rare phenomenon.

DOWRIES MOTION LOST

MOVER ON HOW DOWRIES ARE SPENT

"MARRIAGE MORE A MATTER OF DOWRY THAN LOVE"

Colombo, Friday

AMONG the private members' motions taken up in Council yesterday was the motion of Dr. A. P. de Zoysa (Colombo South) on the question of dowries.

The member for Colombo South Dr. A. P. de Zoysa moved:

"This Council is of opinion that it should be made illegal to give or receive dowries"

The Deputy Speaker said that he understood that no Minister was prepared to report on that motion.

Mr. H. R. Freeman (Anuradhapura) recalled a passage from the record of a Police Court case from Point Pedro in 1899 in which it was stated that there "Marriage was more a matter of dowry than of love." (Laughter).

A Social Evil

Dr. A. P. de Zoysa (Colombo South) in replying said that he thought the Legal Secretary might have reported, at least, on the legal aspects of the motion, but he had asked him (Dr. De Zoysa) for literature on the subject. (Laughter). Not only the members of that House but the public had tried to make fun out of that motion instead of giving serious thought to it. (Laughter). It was brought to remedy a social evil. He did not want to make the negotiation of dowries a criminal offence. That would be impracticable. His idea was that, if they declared that it was illegal, contracts based on the giving and receiving of dowries would not be recognised in law, and that would discourage parties from entering into illegal contracts. Some of the members might laugh because they had got big dowries, which they spent in the most irresponsible way on elections. They knew of the glorious way the father-in-law's money was spent. (Laughter).

The motion was then put to the House and resulted in nine members standing up for the motion, while an equal number rose against it.

The Deputy Speaker gave his casting vote against the motion and the motion was lost.

Woman Student Wins Arts Scholarship

Miss Phyllis T. Dickman, daughter of Mr. V. T. Dickman, Superintendent of Police, Police Training School, has been awarded the Arts Scholarship on the recent London degree results. She is the first woman to win a scholarship in open competition. She obtained a second class Upper Division in History honours.

USE OF THE KNIFE

A VERY SERIOUS BLEMISH
ON COUNTRY'S
REPUTATION

CHIEF JUSTICE'S OBSERVATIONS

"THE use of a knife for the most trivial reasons is a very serious blemish on the reputation of this country," observed the Chief Justice in the course of a judgment delivered last week.

A man named Ponniah Vallipuram appealed from a sentence of six months' rigorous imprisonment imposed on him by the Police Magistrate of Chavakachcheri, Mr. R. Ramachandran, for causing hurt to a woman.

Fully Capable

The Chief Justice stated: "The accused is a young man, but he is an adult and is fully capable of understanding the seriousness of any offence which he may commit. I am perfectly aware that the infliction of imprisonment for a first offence has been deprecated in this Court. But I have said on one occasion at least, and it may be more, that people who commit crimes of violence are not to expect to escape prison as a general rule unless there are mitigating circumstances.

"In this case the victim of the attack was a woman, and the accused selected her head as the place on which to inflict a stab with a clasp knife. The use of a knife for the most trivial reasons is a very serious blemish on the reputation of this country.

No Ground for Interference

"Magistrates are realising the seriousness of these offences, and when they do their best to put them down by the infliction of sentences which are not so severe as to be harsh, despite the fact that possibly this Court might have inflicted a lesser sentence, they deserve every support. I see no ground for interference, and I dismiss the appeal."

EARL STANHOPE SUCCEEDS COOPER

Combined Duties for Mr. Mac Donald

RUGBY, Oct. 27

It is officially announced that the King has been pleased to approve that Earl Stanhope be appointed First Lord of Admiralty in place of Mr. Alfred Duff-Cooper, who has resigned, and Earl De La Warr, to be President of the Board of Education in place of Earl Stanhope.

It is understood that Mr. Malcolm MacDonald will combine the duties of Colonial Secretary and Dominions Secretary till the vacancy at the Dominions Office is filled.

MOVE TO PROHIBIT INDIAN JAGGERY

To Give Impetus to Local Industry

The Chairman of the Tariffs Advisory Committee, it is understood, has addressed the Minister

DEBATE ON THE EDUCATION BILL

(Continued from Page 3.)

connected directly or indirectly with educational work in this country for 48 years and he was, therefore, in a position to speak from personal knowledge on the educational policy that was followed at that time. The Minister of Education had already told them that in the 'fifties and earlier the Government had associated itself with certain Christian bodies for the purpose of giving what was called a Christian education in all schools—both Government and assisted. In the 'sixties a very interesting controversy was conducted by the Archbishop of the Roman Catholic Church and by Dr. Boake, the then Principal of the Royal College. The latter had openly stated in the course of that controversy that the Royal College was trying to give a Christian education to its students. That was the spirit in which education was conducted in this country for almost 75 years or more under British rule. The feelings or the aspirations of the majority of the people were entirely ignored. They were treated with the utmost indifference. In the 'eighties a Buddhist educational movement sprung up and the utmost hostility was shown to that movement by the Education Department. Before the Buddhists commenced to open schools, it was the easiest thing possible to get any school registered for a grant, but as soon as the Buddhists began to open schools the Code rules were changed making it difficult for schools to be registered. He (the speaker) joined the Buddhist educational movement in 1890 when he became the head of the Dharmaraja College—then known as the Buddhist High School. Although that school had existed for a period of three years before his appointment, it was not registered till several months later—four years after it had been opened. That school was examined for grant in 1891 and they were all very happy that they were going to get a lump sum of money, which was badly needed at the time. But to their great disappointment the Director wrote to them informing them that the vote for grants having been exhausted, the grant earned by that school would not be paid. That was one example of the obstacles placed by the Government of the day in the way of Buddhist educational movement.

"Vexatious Efforts"

Then they passed a rule—known as the quarter-mile rule—under which no school established within a quarter of a mile of an existing school was eligible for registration. That resulted in a number of Buddhist schools, which had already been built, having to be pulled down and re-built beyond the quarter-mile limit. He could, he said, multiply

of Home Affairs on the desirability of prohibiting the importation of jaggery from India.

As an alternative, he suggests the imposition of a heavy import duty on the commodity.

It is contended that if Ceylon had to supply herself with all the jaggery it needs, the present volume of illicit sale of toddy will be greatly reduced, if not altogether wiped out.

Revenue Officers to Replace Headmen

First Batch of 18 to be Selected

WITH the object of launching the scheme of Divisional Revenue Officers to replace the present Chief Headmen System it is proposed to appoint eighteen probationers in the first instance, two being selected for each Province, on the results of a competitive examination.

For the purpose of recruitment of Probationers the Island will be regarded as comprising three administrative areas, viz., Low-country, Kandyan, and Tamil-speaking.

A competitive examination will shortly be held for the selection of candidates wishing to join the Divisional Revenue Officers' Service. The Examination will be in two parts (a) Written and (b) Personal Interview.

The written examination will be held at Batticaloa, Colombo, Galle, Jaffna, and Kandy.

The personal interview, which will be restricted to candidates attaining a certain standard in the written examination, will be held only in Colombo.

Subjects and Syllabus

The subjects for the examination will be as follows and marks will be assigned as indicated:—

Oral Examination

Personal Interview Marks 200

Written Examination

English 100; English Essay 100; General Knowledge 100; Sinhalese or Tamil (Elementary) 100; Any two of the following:—

Sinhalese (advanced) 100; Tamil (advanced) 100; Ceylon History 100; Ceylon Geography 100

The interview will be similar to that at present conducted at the Civil Service Entrance Examination.

instances of those vexatious efforts that were made by the department to hinder and hamper the Buddhist educational movement. It was a matter of surprise that that movement survived. The pioneers of that movement, most of whom were no more today, were determined to make it a success, and no one would deny that it had been a great success.

"We have fought hard to secure freedom of education for the Buddhists," continued Sir Baron, "and it is not likely that the Buddhists will agree to surrender the efforts of their great victory. We want our schools to be maintained as Buddhist schools and I do not think this Bill will interfere with us. At the present moment the denominational school is a necessity, but while recognising that necessity one must also recognise the fact that that necessity leads in the first place to increase the cost of education."

There were, he observed, more schools than were really necessary in certain villages with the result that the children of those villages were not given an opportunity of growing up together. The result was that there was no communal feeling. On the contrary, it gave rise to sectional feeling, which he considered the greatest hindrance to the progress of the country. But still they could not apply the drastic remedy suggested by the Member for Balapitiya, but he hoped the time would come when narrow sectarianism

INDIA WILL NEVER SURRENDER

Pandit Nehru on India's Strength

London, Oct. 24.

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru proposed the toast "Hindusthan" at the Deepavali Day dinner tonight, attended by 250 Indians of all communities, including Sardar Mohan Singh and Sir Abdul Qadir, Member of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. Pandit Nehru exhorted Indians to be united.

Alluding to Czechoslovakia, he said they had seen a strongly armed nation succumb before superior armaments. India lacked arms, but she had developed such strength during the last 18 years that she would never surrender to a superior force.

As at present arranged, Pandit Nehru leaves London on October 27.

would yield to the spirit of tolerance and a patriotic desire for unity and co-operation in all matters relating to the welfare of the motherland. (Applause). When that day arrived he hoped the children of the village would all assemble under the same roof and would be taught their secular subjects by teachers appointed by the Government, while on certain specified days teachers of religion would go to the schools and teach the children the religion of their faith. It was the duty of those who were really interested in the welfare of the country to speed up that day. It did no good for a child to be taught in an atmosphere antagonistic to his own faith. If that was accepted by all those, who were opposing the Bill, all the difficulties would be solved.

A Higher Loyalty

The Nominated Member (Mr. Jayah) had spoken very eloquently of the great work done by missionary bodies in this country and had mentioned the fact that many members of that House had been educated in Christian institutions.

"That is perfectly true," said Sir Baron, "and I am loyal to my College. But I have a higher loyalty—loyalty to my faith—and if interests conflict, then there is no question where I stand."

Had not Christian missionaries, who had studied Pali in some pinnava, under some Buddhist priests written volume after volume trying to prove that Buddhism was false?

Sir Baron then proceeded to deal with the Board of Education of the 'nineties and criticised the manner in which that Board had been constituted. Although the Buddhist Theosophical Society had about 200 schools in its charge at that time, the Manager of Buddhist Schools (Mr. Buultjens), who had done yeoman service for the sake of Buddhist education, was not on that Board. He recalled the hostility shown by the Board of Education at that time to the inclusion of Sinhalese in the curriculum of English schools. Mr. Jayah's reference to the Board of Education made him (the speaker) feel that he was listening to a funeral oration. It reminded him of the Latin tag "De mortuis nil nisi bonum."

The executive powers with regard to education must, he submitted, remain with the Ministry. That would be admitted by everyone.

(Continued on page 6)

LETTER

THAT HINDU
CONFERENCE

Sir,—Permit me to write a few lines on the Hindu conference held on Sunday at the Jaffna Hindu College Hall, one of the objects of which according to the notice convening the conference was the consideration of the Draft Education Ordinance.

I as a Hindu was one of those who was present at the conference. There were present a 200 people to put a generous estimate most of whom were teachers in the schools under the management of the Hindu Board of Education. Of the 66 conveners 40 were lawyers and of those not more than 10 were present. The absentees included Messrs. R. R. Nalliah, E. Marugesapillai, K. Shanmugam, M. Vaitilingam among others.

It is significant to note that not one of the five of our representatives in the State Council were present and they are all Hindus. Another significant fact was that none of the absentees cared to send letters or telegrams regretting their inability to be present at the Conference.

Although the notice was skillfully worded to give the impression that the conference was to discuss the Draft Education Bill it became apparent within a few minutes of the commencement of the proceedings that the organisers had had the resolutions typed and ready to be put before the meeting. Even the names of the 32 gentlemen who were appointed to a Committee had been typed and entrusted to the proposer.

Most of the speakers were men connected with the Hindu Board of Education and the speeches were intended to inflame the gathering against the Christian Institutions. Not the least disgraceful feature of these utterances was the wild accusations against the very Rev. Fr. T. M. F. Long, O.M.I.

As a Hindu I wish to dissociate myself from those despicable methods.

Yours faithfully,
V. S. Nathan,
Proctor S.C.

"Mudaliya Valavu"
First Cross Street,
Jaffna, Oct. 24, 1938.

Debate on The
Education Bill

(Continued from page 5)

But he hoped that the Education Board in its new capacity would help to do a great deal of useful work in regard to educational matters in this country.

Referring to the Education Commission, Sir Baron said that he held the view even today that it would have been very much better if the Executive Committee of Education had agreed to appoint a Commission—quite apart from that Bill. There were a variety of problems not touched by that Bill at all, which required to be solved, and the advice of an independent Commission would certainly be most valuable. Even if that Bill was passed, the Executive Committee should agree to appoint a Commission. He expressed the hope that the Bill would have the unanimous support of members.

INTER-COLLEGIATE
FOOTBALL

There was a surfeit of goals this week end. On Friday St. Patrick's swamped Central five—nil. The St. Patrick's captain is unable to play, his place was taken by Sivaguru while the team was led by Ganathan.

Mr. E. M. Ponnudurai refereed Messrs. P. Tniagarajah and K. C. Thuraiatnam were linesmen.

The first match on Saturday was frequently interrupted by rain. The referee had to suspend the game about three times as he could not keep his eyes open in the down-pour. Manipay Hindu beat St. John's two—nil. They showed good combination.

Mr. W. G. Spencer refereed. Messrs. E. T. Thuraiarajah and V. Maniccam were linesmen.

The weather brightened for the Second match and Jaffna College trounced Hartley to the tune of ten—nil.

It was an entirely one sided game.

Rev. J. Cartman refereed. Messrs. B. R. Motha and J. P. Nagalingam were linesmen.

Auction Sale

Colombo D. C. 6979.

Mohamed Bahasu Mohamed Sultan of "Sultania Lodge", Moor Street, Jaffna Plaintiff

Vs.

1. Ariyanayagam Rajaswary and
2. Selladurai Sarasananda both of Manipay presently of the Railway Station, Trincomalee and
3. Annamuthatchi widow of Karthigesu Ariyanayagam of Manipay, Jaffna Defendants

PROPERTY REFERRED:

1. All that allotment of land called Mundampuliadi Walavu in extent 6 Lms. 16 $\frac{1}{2}$ Kulsies V. C. together with the buildings and plantations situated at Navaly in the parish of Manipay bounded on the East by the land No. 2 herein after referred to, on the North by lane, West by the property of Nannithamby Somasundaram and shareholders and South by the properties of Thangalatchmi wife of Swaminathan and Valliammai widow of Thambiah and registered under title E. 181/236.

2. An undivided $\frac{1}{2}$ share of all that allotment of land called Mundampuliadi Walavu in extent 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ Kulsies V. C. with buildings and plantations standing thereon situated at Navaly aforesaid bounded on the East and South by the property belonging to the third named defendant, North by lane and West by land No. 1 above referred to and registered under title E. $\frac{1}{2}$.

3. A divided extent of 10 Lms. V. C. being the Western portion of an allotment of land called Kiravathai and Andichy Vial in extent 18 Lms. situated at Manipay bounded on the East by the remaining portion of the same land, North by the properties of Vaithianathan Kanagasabai and Sinnathamby Suppiah, West by tank and South by the property of the heirs of Saravanamuttu Subramaniam and registered under title E. $\frac{1}{2}$.

In terms of the commission issued to me by the District Court of Colombo, I shall sell the above properties by public auction on Saturday 26th November 1938 at about 4 p.m. at the respective spots.

N. KANDIAH,
Commissioner.
Van West.

[Mis. 181. 31-10-38.]

WEDDING

NADARAJAH — RATNAGOPAL

A pretty wedding was solemnised according to Hindu rites on Thursday night, the parties being Mr. S. P. Nadarajah, managing partner of the Jaffna Apothecaries Company and son of the late Dr. Ponnusamy and Mrs. Ponnusamy of Jaffna and Miss. Rane Sivagandhi Ratnagopal daughter of Mr. W. F. Ratnagopal Superintendent of Works Jaffna Urban District Council and grand daughter of Mr. S. Kanagasapal Crown Advocate Jaffna and Mrs. Kanagasapal.

As the parties were from two of the leading families in the North, there was a very large gathering of the elite of Jaffna present at the wedding ceremony at "Ratnagiri", the Bride's residence. The streets leading from the bridegroom's residence to the bride's were gaily beflagged and illuminated with multi-coloured electric jets. Ratnagiri presented a fairy land appearance under the glow of the Noon Strip lights in red, white and blue.

The pandal where the wedding ceremonies took place was a unique structure of dravidian design resting on octagonal pillars. The roof was dome shaped and painted to represent the blue sky with tiny silvery electric jets as stars. The Manavarai (Bridal Dais), was built of yellow chrysanthemums specially got down from India.

The Dais for the officiating priest harmonised with the Manavarai being marked out with lines of multi-coloured garlands of roses and lamps of silver. Tall brass lamps (Kuttuvilakku) set their mellow lights along the corridor in the hall.

At 8.45 p.m. the bridegroom was conducted in procession from his residence. He was supported by Master Raja Mundri Ratnagopal as Bestman.

On arrival the bridegroom was received by the closest relatives of the bride and conducted to the Manavarai.

Sri La Sri Thambiah Kurukkal of the Kailayaswamy Devasthanam, Nallur, officiated assisted by the following priests Kailasanatha Iyer, Chemparanatha Kurukkal, Suntharajah Iyer, Ramachandrarayar, Kurusamy Kurukkal, Sanmuga Rudra Kurukkal, Naganatha Kurukkal, Sabapathy Kurukkal, Nadesan Kurukkal, Sithampara Sadasiva Kurukkal, and Navaneetha Kirushna Barathy.

The religious ceremony began with the bridegroom going through the purification rites. Then the Bride arrived supported by her Matron of Honour Mrs. Maheswari Nadarajah who was assisted by Mesdames Kamalam Thambiah, Thervemaney Vivekanandarajah, Ponnusamy Kanagasapal and Dr. Naomi Thiagarajah.

The Koorai ceremony being over, the Bride wearing the Koorai was conducted to her seat and the sacred fire kindled. The bridegroom then tied the Thali. The bride and bridegroom went round the sacrificial fire thrice. This was followed by the Arunthathi ceremony and that of the picking up of the golden ring thrown into a trough of water. The nearest relation of the bride and bridegroom then approached them and gave them their blessing in oriental manner.

The guests were received at the entrance by Sir Waitalingam and Lady Duraisamy and Mr. and Mrs. S. Kanagasabai.

A little after mid-night the bride and bridegroom were taken in a procession in a decorated car with oriental music to the bridegroom's residence. On the esplanade opposite Sir Waitalingam's residence there was a fine display of fire works.

A largely attended reception was held by Mrs. Ponnusamy the bridegroom's mother at her residence last evening between 5 and 8 p.m.

The bride and bridegroom were the recipients of several valuable presents and congratulatory telegrams.

A SHORT STORY

(Continued from page 7)

her as she heard her son laugh or see him at play. "My husband has seen and heard it too. He is happy. He is guiding his own children. He is ever with me".

"I want you to think and act for yourself—" Sir Manmathnath was telling Nita, as she held in her hands a letter: it was an offer to Tutu to play in a great film to be produced by one of the most respected studio of the country.

"It is a great offer. It opens up to Tutu a vast field for her undoubted talents. My daughter, her father, who guides her voice, will guide her actions too. There is nothing derogatory in acting, as you have now found that there is nothing derogatory in singing before the microphone. But I do not want to stampede you. Think—ask the souls with whom you are in communion. Forget the Rs. 15,000 that Tutu will bring to you. Only think of the career that she will open in the town for your other children. They can join the College. I am going—I shall call again tomorrow. May the invisible direct you rightly."

And Nita that day sat long and deeply intent in her puja room.

"Mother is still praying—she is talking to father—" Tutu was telling her sisters and brothers who wondered at the long absence of their mother in the puja room.

"Father there—?" and Sekhar shot out to the garden and came with flowers.

"Mother—give these flowers to father—I have brought them for him."

Nita rose and received them. on her face was a new light.

"Your father would be happy to receive your flowers. Sekhar: your yourself give him."

And the child threw them at the feet of the picture.

"Tutu, be prepared to go to town with Sir Manmathan tomorrow". Nita spoke to her daughter.

"Are you sure? Is it not a great sacrifice?" Sir Manmathnath was asking Nita, but she was resolute.

"I may be mad—but I am positive. I shall not receive any money for Tutu's acting—unless the company gives it, of their own accord, feeling that Tutu's participation has brought them money." "So let it be then—" and Sir Manmath, accompanied by Tutu, went to the town.

Three months hence—the film in which Tutu had taken part, had shot into prominence. It was the most successful film of the company.

"A great star has risen in the firmament of the film world—" the country said through its newspaper and the theatre critics.

"It is your father's gift to us all—" Nita was saying, "Tutu, how your father loves you."

"My father and mother are you—it is all yours—" and Tutu touched her mother's feet.

Dhur-Dhur. It was a real motor car that Sekhar was driving now: not a toy. A car was Tutu's gift to her brother out of the lakh of rupees she had earned!

A SHORT STORY

TUTU
TURNS
A STAR

BY DEWAKI

OUR conversation was suddenly interrupted by a wild scream of laughter from the little urchins playing outside the house. And Nita turned back to hide a tear that had suddenly risen up in her eyes. I stopped my talk; there was something sacred in that tear, in that movement, in that intense strain that had crept in between us.

Two minutes of oppressive silence—and then Nita had roused herself, as the youngsters dispersed and young Sekhar rushed up to his mother.

"I have again beaten all the—" And the boy stopped as he saw his mother's face. That boy too understood.

"Father must make you happy, is it not? Why then are you sad?" The child heard that its mother was thinking of its father.

Nita took the child into her arms. "Father always makes me happy. And my dear child, the tear from joy is the same as the tear from sorrow—both are tears."

"The fact is, I cannot hear Sekhar's voice or see his movements without seeing his father live again in him. Had he been alive today, these children would have been on the lap of luxury and plenty. Now they have to struggle along. I know the thought is foolish. God does everything for the good. And yet—I cannot help being foolish."

Nita was explaining to me her strange tear. And I understood. In the prime of life, her husband had been cut off from the world. She was today both the father and mother for her children—and the youngest had created the scene we had passed through.

II

The guest stopped suddenly as he conveyed his ball of rice half way to his mouth. He asked the party to be silent. He was listening.

"Whence comes that voice?" he asked, as a strain of music that fell on the dinner table through the open window, ceased.

"It is Nita's daughter—Tutu has a fine voice. She is an angel girl. We all love her."

And the story went round: a happy family, a father proud of his children and his wife, spending his large earning to keep them as flowers in a garden, all smiles and laughter and plenty and sweetness—sudden illness, sudden death, and the flowers fading in the scorching heat of sorrow and insecurity.

"But Nita is a wonder. We never knew that she had such loveliness of heart. She draws on her own great mind for patience and hope. It seems if her dear husband sends forth his own love from beyond to keep the family knit in the bonds of love."

"Why not? Why do you doubt it? Spirit force is. And in that voice of the daughter I can clearly note the touch of the spirit divine. Tutu, as you call the singer, is not human—she has the undoubted message from her Maker or something noble, something high."

"Would her father have permitted it, had he been alive?"—Nita asked herself aloud after she had hearkened Sir Manmathanath, the guest of her neighbour, who had heard Tutu's song and who had got himself intro-

duced to Nita and was suggesting to her that Tutu should broadcast her songs from the Radio station.

"There is nothing wrong about it—you do not know the treasure that you possess in Tutu. I am as old as your father. Nita and I would never suggest anything that is not honourable and proper. But do not be in a hurry—there, let us retire to your *puja* room: let us hold communion with the soul of Ramakrishna Pramahansa whose likeness I see there—and you, my daughter, you may also ask your twin soul watching and guiding you from above."

The old man's voice was kind. Sir Manmatha was a great soul, held in respect by all. And his simple trust in God appealed to Nita. For she too did the same—in moments of doubt she went to her *puja* room and tried to get inspiration from the unknown.

"Let Tutu sing even as you suggest; and may God and her father encourage the girl."

III

The next day, and the town had only one topic of conversation: Tutu's performance at the radio. People gaped in wonder as they heard that the song was from a girl of fifteen.

No one was more happy than Nita, who had also heard the voice of her daughter as it crept into her heart from the machine. Yes, some strange force was in the voice, not for the mother alone but for every one who heard it. A soul was speaking from the machine. And a soul always appealed.

"You have a treasure in Tutu—know it! And know this, that the talents that God gives must be preserved and improved. God guides you—as also Ramakrishna Devji and your husband. But if an old man can be of any use to you with his little influence, do not hesitate to write to me."

And Nita touched the old man's feet. Tutu went to see him off at the station.

Yes, from a sheer accident had come into the house a new light, a new hope, a new awakening. A musician who others liked to hear had burst into existence.

"Song by Tutu?"—and the radio fans kept the evenings and nights free; it was worth it was worth it, they said.

"Some strange power comes through the voice"—they whispered after the song.

Only Nita felt she knew. Tutu's father she said to herself stood by his daughter as she sang. Yes, Tutu was his dearest. Could he keep off when the air was filled with her voice? If mere man could hear with the aid of machinery, what about the soul?

"Your father is much nearer you than you realise—love him and live for him", Nita would often tell her children.

And Nita drove this feeling into the young minds. The children felt that their father was always by them. They did not fear; they did not feel lonely. "Our father takes care of us!"

What faith in the children! what

A FRENCH VIEW
OF THE MUNICH
PEACE

(Continued from page 1)

respective countries, the tangible advantages of this transaction for Germany are so enormous that it is difficult to believe that they have been so readily granted. And we do not know yet what secret assurances have been given to Italy.

These advantages are strategic, as well as military and economic. Hitler can now easily establish his domination (veiled or evident) upon the Danube and the railways that skirt it. His present position will make it easy for him also to lay his hand before long upon the Hungarian wheat and the Rumanian oil. The important war and other industries which the Czechs have had to surrender into the hands of his ally Poland or into own, complete the gift, and, in fact give to Germany exactly what she was lacking to be able to challenge democratic countries successfully, to tower above east and west and provide an army on both fronts with food and armaments. A large part of the Czech line of defence which had been built at the cost of enormous expense and taxation, has also been surrendered to the Germans: the Munich agreement has compelled the Czechs to destroy nothing in the countries they had to abandon. These fortifications will come intact into German hands, and they have been built upon the model of the Maginot Line in France. The Germans will find there all the secrets of the French fortified line.

From the military point of view, the Czech army was the only one that counted in Central Europe beside the German army. All the men of the Germanised regions will go to the German army and those of other regions claimed by the allies of Germany will also quit the Czechoslovakian army. This asset also is important.

Rumania had given her assent to allow the junction of the Russian and Czech armies through her territory. This will now become impossible under the German military hegemony. And most probably all the small, more or less wavering, peoples and countries of Central and Eastern Europe, after

a sense of security and power!

IV

Fresh source of income! More money to spend for the happiness of the children! Tutu was now an earning member. But to Nita, Tutu was important, not because she earned but because she was the living link between her husband and she; for Nita was sure that Tutu derived her power from her father.

A widow? Not Nita—she was a wife, and a happy wife: she felt the presence of her lord and husband always. She was thrilled as she sat down to pray—she was ecstatic as she walked amidst the flowers in her well preserved garden. Every part of her house was clean—for was not her husband with her?

And no more tears started from

(Continued on page 6)

seeing Czechoslovakia's fate, will consider that the safest course is to seek protection under the German flag. It is interesting to remember that the Czechs had often received proposals from the Germans but had not accepted them, Czechoslovakia had wished to remain the principal element and real backbone of the "Petite Entente." Culturally even, as a link between the eastern countries of Europe and the western democracies, it was a serious obstacle to German penetration. Now all this will be changed.

All the economic balance also will be greatly modified. Czechoslovakia was in Central Europe the great industrial rival of Germany. I am told that 80 per cent of Czech industries are located in the Sudeten regions.

And on the top of it all, we hear now that before leaving Germany, your exquisite Mr. Chamberlain has taken the precaution to sign a separate agreement with Hitler by which Germany and England have declared that their two Governments will never fight in opposite camps. As M. Gabriel Peri says in this morning's "Humanite," this amounts in diplomatic language to a pact of non-aggression. It is well known that Hitler's tactics consist in securing for Germany a number of neutral friendships with a view to ultimately isolating France and, of course, Russia. France and England had concluded a series of mutual agreements after the denunciation of the Locarno Pact. On the 29th April, these agreements became a sort of military alliance. They postulated a mutual collaboration in case of danger; and, therefore, that Germany and England might fight each other if France was the victim of aggression. This assurance seems to have been destroyed by the Munich declaration. If only Mr. Chamberlain had said that previous agreements were still valid! But he has refrained from giving us this satisfaction.

In brief, war has been avoided today, but peace has not been founded for tomorrow, and the future is dark, especially for France.

Of course, we are also paying for our errors. But outsiders too often forget that the geographical situation of France is such that in our times she can hardly act alone with any efficiency. If only England had agreed to take a firm stand with us in the face of Germans, when the Rhineland was invaded, when Austria was invaded or on other occasions, the present situation could have been avoided.

And from the revealing speech of Monsieur Duff Cooper in the Commons yesterday (I will not quote as you have certainly read it.) it is evident that this was also the case a few days ago. France and England had practically the whole world behind them. If they had been sufficiently united and firm, they could have frightened Hitler who was bluffing considerably, and they would have not only avoided war, but established durable peace on a firmer basis. Now with the moral prestige and all the other gifts bestowed upon Hitler, things will be quite different in future. Indeed, one wonders whether there will ever be again any kind of international life except under the gruesome aspects of force and fear.

Public Health of the Island

(Continued from page 2)

or 30 per cent. in 1936. In the correction of dental defects the Mobile Dental Clinic inaugurated in June did very useful work and was much appreciated by the people. School health education has continued to receive more and more interest and the work in training schools was undertaken by School Medical Officers and Medical Officers of Health. The Education Department was responsible for the giving of a mid-day meal to a selected number of schools.

The Hookworm Campaign was carried out with more intensity and 2,163,373 treatments were given as compared with 1,855,572 in 1936 and 1,401,962 in 1935.

The Leprosy Survey, which had completed and organized its work in the Eastern, Western, Sabaragamuwa, and Southern Provinces, extended its work to the North-Western Province, and continued follow-up work in the former provinces.

An Island Survey of filariasis was undertaken and is in progress. Control work in a demonstration area in Dewamedhi hatpattu in the North-Western Province is being undertaken, and action is being taken for the removal of the pistia plant throughout the Island.

Health work under Urban District Councils is being carried out satisfactorily. One Council continues to have its own Medical Officer of Health who is a private practitioner and another Council nominally has the departmental Medical Officer of Health in an executive capacity without getting him to function as such.

Health Unit work which was inaugurated in 11 areas is now the type of work that is being carried out in the major part of the Island and continues to be satisfactory in every respect.

Order Nisi

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 607.

In the matter of the estate of the late Saravanamuttu Thamby Kandiah of Thavady

Deceased. Thaya Nayagam widow of Saravana-

muttu Thamby Kandiah of Thavady

Vs. Petitioner.

1. Saravanamuttu Thamby Kandiah Sachchithanatham
2. Saravanamuttu Thamby Kandiah Sothiratham
3. Saravanamuttu Thamby Kandiah Parthasarathy
4. Saravanamuttu Thamby Kandiah Sornaratnam all of Thavady 2, 3 and 4 are minors appearing by their Guardian-ad-litem the abovenamed 1st Respondent

Respondents.

This matter coming on for disposal before C. Coomaraswamy Esquire, District Judge, Jaffna, on the 29th day of July 1938 in the presence of Mr. P. K. Somasundaram, Proctor, for Petitioner and the affidavit of the Petitioner dated the 6th day of June 1938 having been read.

It is ordered that Letters of Administration to the estate of the abovenamed Deceased be granted to the Petitioner unless the Respondents or any other persons shall appear before this court on the 4th day of November 1938 and shew sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this court to the contrary.

This 5th day of August 1938

Sgd. C. E. A. Samarakkody
District Judge

[O. 57. 27 & 31-10-38]

Auction Sale

D. C. J. 12572.

Meerancandu Mohamed Lebbe of Vannarponnai West

Plaintiff.

Vs.

Sultan Abdulcader Sultan Mohideen of Vannarponnai West

Defendant.

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 10th December 1938 commencing at 4 p.m. at the spot.

PROPERTY REFERRED TO:

Land situated at Vannarponnai West called Marukkalanaiyarollai and other parcels in extent 5 Lms. V. C. with palmyrahs and cultivated plants and the said extent of 5 Lms. V. C. is bounded on the East by the property belonging to St. Sebastian's Temple, North by the property of Meera Sahib Mohamed Sultan Meera Mohideen, West by Road and South by Lane.

S. MUTTUKUMARASWAMY,
Commissioner of Sales.

"Siva Villa"

Maripay.

27-10-38.

[Mis 179 31-10-38]

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