

# THE Hindu Organ.

THE ONLY NEWSPAPER IN CEYLON FOR THE HINDUS

PUBLISHED EVERY MONDAY AND THURSDAY

(Registered as a Newspaper)

[P. M. G., No. H. B. - 50/300 of 13-7-38.]

Estd. Sept. 11, 1889

VOL. L.

Phone 56.

JAFFNA, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1, 1938.

Price 5 Cts.

NO. 65.

## THE CRIME PROBLEM IN JAFFNA

### Causes for the Phenomenal Increase

#### SOME REMEDIES SUGGESTED

By C. Arulambalam, Advocate

IT is a well-recognised fact that, for some years past, crime has been on the increase in this District beyond all bounds. Of late the increase of crime of all kinds has been so great that it may be termed phenomenal.

In the view of the writer this unfortunate state of things has been due not to any single cause but a combination of causes.

The community outlook which was characteristic of the people of Jaffna about the beginning of this century has disappeared and has been replaced by the individual outlook. Each man for himself is the prevailing note now among the generality of the people. Self-aggrandisement and the promotion of one's own interest by fair means or foul, irrespective of the interests of the community, has been the natural outcome of this outlook. This may be taken to be one of the ultimate causes of the crime wave which has overtaken Jaffna.

#### Drink Evil

The drink evil which is widely prevalent now has also been an important contributory cause. It is well-known that alcohol in any form, when consumed, causes in the consumer loss of self-control and stimulation into activity of the lower nature of man. When a person is under the influence of self-regarding ideas, the slightest loss of self-control makes him act regardless of consequences. In the case of several cases of serious crime against the person which were committed of late drink has been a prominent contributory cause.

Unemployment coupled with the adoption of a false standard of living, which impels many a person to live beyond his means, which method of living

prompts him to betake to getting money by illegal means to satisfy his self-created wants, has been also one of the chief causes of crime.

#### Punishment

Another cause in the increase of crime is the fact that punishment for crime has ceased to be deterrent. Time was when prison life was viewed with horror and fear owing to the severe conditions of prison life with its segregation, hard work and restrictions in diet which were characteristic of prison life in the past. Now-a-days the amenities of prison life have been made so pleasant that criminals have not only ceased to view prison life with fear but have a liking for it, owing to the good food they get at regular times, much liberty to move about, work not of any hard or repellent nature etc.

If punishment for crime is to be made deterrent prison life should be made so hard or repelling that criminals would get terrified at the very prospect of their being committed to jail. Much has been said of the reformatory aspect of prison life. Easy prison life can have a reformatory influence on only those criminals whose respect for the law has not been dulled. Along with the increase in the rigours of prison life, whipping with the cat-o'-nine-tails, in the case of adult criminals, should be made part of the punishment for crimes such as rape, robbery with violence, armed and gang burglary, infliction of knife injuries and similar serious offences.

#### Influence of the Cinema

It is also a fact that the cinema is playing an im-

(Continued on page 2)

## MAHATMA GANDHI'S PLAN OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

### An Aspect of the Wardha Scheme

By J. M. Kumarappa, M.A., S.T.B., Ph.D.,

(Professor of Social Economy in the Tata Graduate School of Social Work, Bombay.)

IN THE evolution of society, religion, as a cohesive force, has been a powerful aid to mass control and social solidarity; but as a severing factor, it has been a prolific source of group conflict and communal hatred. Whenever religious differences happen to coincide, however slightly, with lines of political or racial cleavage, the opposition developed becomes hopelessly implacable and often fearfully destructive. Hence, in the West, political evolution has tended toward progressive separation of the church and the state, thus making religion the concern of the individual rather than that of the state. However, during its dependency on the church as a means of fullest political service and control, the state fostered religious education in a variety of ways. But later, in the interest of religious neutrality, it gradually eschewed religious education from the curriculum of public schools, and left it to the tender mercies of religious organisations themselves.

#### Non-Interference Policy

Likewise, in India the plea of non-interference in religious affairs has been remarkably successful. In the interest of religious neutrality, our educational system has been so secularized as to completely exclude moral instruction from government schools. Unfortunately, these godless institutions have also served as models to those interested in establishing private schools. But that is not all. Strange as it may seem, even Christian Missions, which used to provide compulsory religious instruction, have sold their religion for 'thirty pieces of silver' and accepted a purely secular curriculum. How we, who are known to be 'incurably religious,' have been so far satisfied to receive a purely secular education is, indeed, hard to understand! Perhaps the fear of sectarian dissensions and conflicts has been at the bottom of it all.

Albeit, the secularized school has for a century or more been trying, however imperfectly, to develop the pupil's physique and to train his mind, neglecting entirely the cultivation of his spiritual resources.

And now the whole system of education is being severely criticized as it has fallen miserably in training character. "Put more explicitly," says the Calcutta University Commission's Report, "this criticism charges the school with failure to convey to a boy's mind a clear apprehension of an ideal of duty. Pressed further home, the charge amounts to more than this: it implies that the schools have no spiritual life which touches a boy's inner nature, no corporate unity which appeals to and can sustain his affectionate loyalty, no moral or intellectual flame which may kindle his emotions." And hence "it must be acknowledged," concludes the Report, "the work of the schools as a whole is bleak and barren." In addition to this, we are now told that an education which does not rest on a moral foundation is more dangerous than ignorance.

#### The Present System

Since a purely secular education is unsafe for the individual as well as the state, each step in the elimination of religious instruction from the curriculum has meant increased risks for society. And now after more than a hundred years of this godless education, we find our people in the grip of a frightful inertia, caused by political subjection, and partly by the domination of irreligion. Naturally, therefore, our ideals have sunk low; our character has become weak, and our will, feeble. Nevertheless, we must be thankful for the new national awakening which has made us conscious of our moral deterioration, and of the shortcomings of the present system of education. Our leaders now feel

(Continued on Page 7)



## HINDU OLD BOYS OF JAFFNA COLLEGE

### EXCLUSION FROM STAFF CONDEMNED

### SILVER JUBILEE MEETING OF COLOMBO OLD BOYS

THE express exclusion of Hindu Old Boys from appointment as teachers in Jaffna College and as Head-masters in its feeder schools, was condemned and the discontinuance of the practice was urged in a series of resolutions unanimously passed at the twenty-fifth annual general meeting the Jaffna College Old Boys' Association (Colombo Branch) held at the Central Y.M.C. A., Colombo, on Saturday last. Rev. Sydney K. Bunker, the Principal of the College, presided. Over 150 members were present at the meeting.

The Hon. Secretary of the Association read the minutes of the last Annual General Meeting and it was confirmed. Copies of the Silver Jubilee Souvenir were distributed to all members present. The Hon. Treasurer presented an audited report of the accounts of the Association and this was duly accepted.

#### Resolutions

The following motions were discussed and passed.

Mr. C. D. Singaratnam moved and Mr. P. R. Rajendra seconded.

"The Old Boys of Jaffna College, resident in Colombo, in general meeting assembled urge the Board of Directors of Jaffna College to appoint a Ceylonese Vice Principal without any further delay, in accordance with the policy already accepted."

Mr. S. Ramalingam, Teacher, Royal College, Colombo, moved and Advocate Mr. T. K. Curtis seconded.

"(a) We express our disapproval of, and dissatisfaction with, the express exclusion of the Hindu Old Boys from appointment as teachers in Jaffna College.

(b) We express our disapproval of, and dissatisfaction with, the express exclusion of Hindu Old Boys from appointment as Head-masters in feeder schools of Jaffna College

(c) We unanimously request the immediate discontinuance of the disabilities complained of above.

(d) We are unanimously of opinion that the discontinuance of the practice will benefit the College both by creating a better esprit de corps and affording a wider range for selection of teachers."

This motion was unanimously passed.

The Principal then addressed the gathering. The Annual General Meeting was preceded by a group photograph at Gordon Gardens at 4-30 p.m. and followed by the Silver Jubilee Dinner at the Central Y. M. C. A., at 7-30 p.m.

#### Office-bearers

The following Office bearers were elected for the ensuing year.

President:— Rev. Sydney K. Bunker (Ex Officio)

Vice-Presidents:— Hon. Sir W. Duraiswamy, Mr. K. Bala-Singam, Dr. E. V. Ratnam, Mr. K. Kanagaratnam, Mr. G. C. Thambiah, Mr. P. Vythia-

## Food Contamination From Vessels

### Madras Health Ministry's Communique

THE Health Ministry of the Madras Government have issued the following press communique, giving information to the public regarding contamination of food through vessels used in Indian households:—

The Government consider that the following information regarding the contamination of foods through vessels will be of use to the public and they accordingly publish it for general information:—

Vessels for storing and cooking food form an important equipment in an Indian household. The vessels generally used are: (1) earthenware and soapstone, (2) porcelain and enamel, (3) glass and (4) metallic.

#### Earthenware and Soapstone Vessels

Vessels made of earthenware are not only the cheapest but most hygienic. Practically they are unaffected by exposure to air or to the process of cooking. They do not, unlike metals, enter into chemical combination with the food elements and deprive the food of its flavour. The only disadvantage is that these are easily breakable and require thorough and careful cleaning as the pores are not readily accessible. After use they should be thoroughly cleansed and exposed to air and sunlight for drying till they are again required for use.

#### Porcelain and Enamel Ware

Porcelain is not suitable for heating purposes. Regarding enamel wares, only the better and costlier variety should be used. The glaze or outer white or coloured coating of these vessels sometimes contains fluorides and oxide of antimony which are poisonous. Fluorides give rise to teeth troubles.

#### Glass Vessels

These are not suited to our conditions. They break easily leaving sharp edges which would be a source of danger especially to children. If these break, people should see that they are all collected carefully, especially the small particles, with a wet towel, and thrown into public dustbins or in a place far away from human habitation.

#### Metallic Vessels

As far as possible everyone should use only the minimum number of metallic vessels. Metals are all liable to corrosion, i.e., they are transformed on exposure to air and water into different chemical substances. These are more readily attacked by the

food or water with which they come in contact. Under the conditions of cooking, the metals themselves may rapidly go into solution in the food. The salts so dissolved might act injuriously on the health. However, if the metal surface is kept quite bright and polished it is less liable to be attacked by the food constituents. The South Indian method of giving a coating of mud or starch before they are placed on the hearth for cooking also the practice of cleaning first with a coating of tamarind and then scrubbing with ashes, are based on scientific principles and should be adhered to.

#### Lead Vessels

Of all the metallic vessels those that contain lead are the most insidiously poisonous in character and consequently to be eschewed altogether. In the southern districts of this Province, especially in Tanjore, Trichinopoly and Tinnevely, women vie with one another in getting as many of these lead vessels (famously known as 'Iyya chondu') as possible. These, though supposed to be made of tin, actually contain lead in varying quantities. Lead salts are poisonous and some of them formed in the process of cooking, especially soups (sambar, rasam and the like) in lead vessels impart a sweet taste. Lead salts are cumulative poisons. Their baneful effects are not produced at once. They are not thrown out of the system but begin to accumulate little by little and ultimately are locked in the tissues and when sufficient quantity has collected, cause anaemia, constipation, stomach pain and a host of other ailments.

#### Copper, Brass and Tin Vessels

These, if kept clean, serve well for storing and transporting water, but copper and brass are not to be recommended for cooking purposes. Milk, if boiled in copper vessels, loses its flavour and is deprived of part of its vitamin A. Brass vessels intended for cooking rice are generally given a tin coating. For reasons stated above, the tin should be quite free from lead. Further tinning of vessels is ordinarily delayed till the tin coating is peeled off. The corrosive action with such a pitted surface is considerably increased and more of the metal is likely to be dissolved by food juices. It is essential that tinning should be done at very frequent intervals to avoid this possibility. Besides tanners generally add lead or zinc or both in tinning for the sake of cheapness and easier workability. These are poisonous and consequently the tanners should not be allowed to use their own 'tin' for this purpose.

#### Aluminium Vessels

These can be used for boiling milk and water. Generally speaking aluminium is the least toxic of the metals commonly used. If used for cooking especially in presence of salt and tamarind, they are rapidly attacked and lose their lustre which cannot be restored.

#### (Continued.)

for serious offences (4) Unemployment should be eliminated coupled with a return to a simple life (5) The cinema should be regulated and films which suggest crime should be prohibited from exhibition (6) Anti-crime Societies should be formed everywhere (7) Headmen and the Police should be made to take a personal interest in the prevention and detection of crime and (8) The younger generation should be made to pay serious regard to religious and moral sanctions.

## The Crime Problem in Jaffna

(Continued from page 1)

portant part in inducing crime. Several of the films shown locally display gangster methods of committing crime. Those with criminal instincts or potentialities, when they view these films, are unconsciously stimulated to imitate those methods and such crimes as armed burglary, use of the motor car in going to and escaping from the scene of crime, use of masks for disguise, may be attributed in great part to the influence of the cinema.

#### The Heamen

The village headmen of this District do not do their duties in the right spirit, in the matter of the prevention and the detection of crime. The Superior Authorities (the Chief Headmen, the Government Agent and the Superintendent of Police) should make periodical and surprise visits to every part of the District, by day and by night, and call to account all headmen for the incidence of crime in their areas. They should be made to submit a list of all undesirable characters in their respective areas who should, if possible, be made to enter into securities either to keep the peace or for good behaviour according to their antecedents and character, which should be known to the village headmen, if they are in any way efficient. The headmen should, in conjunction with the police, keep an eye on those characters and watch their movements.

#### Anti-Crime Societies

In some parts of the District Anti-Crime Societies have been organised and their members are patrolling the areas where the Societies are located. This is a step in the right direction. Such Societies should be formed all over the District and headmen and the Police should be instructed, by the Superior Authorities, to co-operate with them both in the prevention and the detection of crime. The Government Agent, in particular, should take a personal interest in making the headmen and the Police take an active initiative in dealing with crime.

Reference was made above to the prevalence of self-regarding ideas among the generality of the people. This state of things coupled with the general prevalence of irreligiousness and absence of a fear of God are potent causes in the commission of crime. The younger generation should be taught, through the schools, the principles of Practical Religion and Morality, which should get impressed on their plastic minds by their teachers setting the example of a high moral and religious life. Teaching without example will not be of much effect.

To sum up. To prevent crime:

(1) The civic consciousness and the community spirit should be developed (2) The drink evil should be suppressed (3) Prison life should be made hard and whipping should be resorted to

(Continued on Previous Column)



## CAR WITH STONES, CLUBS AND SWORDS

### Volunteer Patrol Party's Midnight Seizure

### THREE SUSPECTS AND CAR PRODUCED IN COURT

### Unprecedented Crowds at Court and Police Station

UNPRECEDENTED crowds from all parts of Jaffna thronged the Police Court and the Police Station premises last Tuesday, when three men suspected of belonging to the gang of burglars, who were responsible for the large number of thefts in the peninsula, were arrested and produced in Court.

A motor car which was suspected of being used by the burglars and which was disabled by stoning and seized at midnight on Tuesday at Nallur was also produced in Court. In this car were found four clubs, stones, a sword and a piece of iron.

THE crowd jeered and hooted at the three men and raised cries of appeal to all and sundry to assist the public in the suppression of burglaries and other crimes.

#### The Midnight Catch

It appears that at midnight on Tuesday a car proceeding towards Nallur was signalled by the Police to stop. It dodged the police and dashed past them. Again at the Arasady junction at Nallur another badge of policemen made an unsuccessful attempt to stop it. Having successfully evaded the police, the car sped on along the Pt. Pedro road. An alarm was raised to stop the car. Young men of Nallur who have organised a patrol party since last week, and keeping watch at certain points in the Nallur streets rushed up and brought the car to a halt, disabling it by pelting stones from all directions. Except the driver, all the other occupants escaped. The driver and the car were then handed over to the police. The car was badly damaged.

The Police then searched the houses of several suspects and arrested a man named Elathamby Muniaiah, said to be the owner of the car, and Karaly Muttiah, who has appealed from a two years' conviction by the District Judge last Friday for burglary and theft of an attyal at Nayanmakaddu Hospital.

#### Produced in Court

Sub-Inspector John Attygalle produced the men in Court before Mr. Julius F. Philips, Acting Police Magistrate, and moved for their remand and confiscation of the car.

The accused were unrepresented.

Sub-Inspector John Attygalle giving evidence stated that car L 742 driven by Kandiah Murugesu was going in the direction of Nallur when P. C. 394 Arumugam signalled the

car to halt. The driver dodging the police and others quickly went in the direction of Arasadi. Some people of Nallur tried to stop the car. The driver dodged and proceeded. Another party came in front and threw stones damaging the car. The driver was forced to halt. The driver and car were produced at the Police Station by P. C. Arumugam. Inside the car there were four clubs, 5 stones, a sword in a wooden case and a piece of iron. At 3 o'clock in the morning he went to search the house of Karaly Muttiah. He was not in the house. His father did not know where he had gone to. Witness searched the house of his companions, Antonipillai and Ariacutty. They were not in their houses. After that he searched the house of Muniaiah, owner of car L 742. His house doors were closed. Witness knocked at the door. From inside Muniaiah asked whether it was Karaly. Witness knew it was Muniaiah's voice. He said it was witness Attygalle. The door was then opened. He searched the house and found nothing. Inside there were two little children and a woman sleeping. There were no other males. The car L 742 had been seen on various occasions late at night. Witness took Muniaiah into custody. Karaly's house was guarded by Police. He was arrested that morning at a lawyer's verandah. Witness said that he was making inquiries and wanted the accused to be remanded.

#### Accused Remanded

Witness produced car L 742 which had no tail light. The bulb was totally removed. The number plate had been raised parallel to the ground so that people might not identify the number.

The Magistrate remanded the accused till the 9th.

## Habituals and a Proctor

### An Incident Mentioned in Theft Case

How a proctor travelling in a car was stopped at Kallundai between 6 and 7 p. m. on the 28th ultimo by some habituals and was left off without any untoward incident as the proctor was known to two of the habituals, was stated by the Acting Police Magistrate, Mr. Julius F. Philips, on Tuesday, when sub-Inspector Sriwardene produced two men on a charge of theft at Kallundai of a purse containing Rs. 140 belonging to a man of Thavady.

The inspector produced Sinnathamby Sockalingam and Ramanathy Subramaniam of Saravani in court, on the charge of theft of the purse at Kallundai where, the Sub-Inspector said, the cars of an old man were cut and car-studs and cash robbed.

Thereupon the Magistrate referred to the proctor's incident which too happened at the same spot.

The accused pleaded not guilty. The Magistrate remanded the accused till today.

## Anti-Crime Society for Tirunelveli

A public meeting of the residents of Tirunelveli organised by the Jaffna Maniagar was held at the Hindu School in Tirunelveli West on the 20th instant at 4 p. m. to consider what steps should be taken to prevent the increase of crime in the area.

Mr. S. Kanagasapai, Crown Advocate presided. He explained the objects of the meeting and spoke on the necessity for the formation of an Anti-crime Society.

Mudr. Kanapathipillai, Messrs. V. Somasundaram, Pandit Kanapathipillai and S. Ponnampalam-pillai addressed the large gathering in Tamil.

An Anti crime Society was then duly formed and an Executive Committee consisting of 18 members with Mr. S. Kanagasapai as Patron, Mr. T. Kanapathipillai as President and Mr. V. Subrahmaniam as Secretary were duly elected.

(Continued.)

not known to the Ceylon public till the recent pilgrimage to Buddha Gaya.

He paid a tribute to the late Sri Devamitta Dhammapala, who had launched the movement to acquire Buddha Gaya for the Buddhists.

The Kataragama Temple, he said, was a very ancient temple and existed long before the Hindus came to Ceylon. That was proved by the inscriptions of the period found on various monuments there.

Kataragama temple had been built by a Buddhist King and had always been in the hands of the Buddhists and they were not prepared to make it the medium of a bargain.

## BUDDHA GAYA AND KATARAGAMA

### BUDDHISTS OPPOSE HINDU CLAIM

### "KATARAGAMA BUILT BY BUDDHIST KING"

Colombo, Tuesday.

THAT the Buddhists were not prepared to make the Kataragama Temple the medium of a bargain for the restoration of Buddha Gaya was stressed by speakers at a public meeting held last evening at Ananda College, under the auspices of the Sri Sugatha Samayanurakshaka.

It was also stated that the Kataragama Temple had been built by a Buddhist King, long before any Hindus came to Ceylon.

#### Object of Meeting

Mr. H. L. Caldera explained the object of the meeting.

He said that that meeting had been organised to clear a misconception that had been circulated to the effect that the recent deputation to Babu Rajendra Prasad had agreed to give over the control of Kataragama to the Hindus, in return for Buddha Gaya. That, he said, was not true and no such promise had ever been made.

Dr. G. P. Malalasekera said that he was sorry to observe that the Buddhists had not done anything really worth towards the restoration of Buddha Gaya to the Buddhists. If they were to achieve their object they should work unitedly.

It was difficult, he said, to alter a state of things that had existed for hundreds of years without persistent and united effort.

If they worked with that one idea in view, and sought the co-operation of all the leading persons in India, they were sure to succeed in their endeavours.

All Buddhists should concentrate and work with untiring energy to arrive at a peaceful settlement of the Buddha Gaya question.

#### Weighty Question

The question of the restoration of Buddha Gaya was a very weighty one and all of them should therefore set about that task thoughtfully and wisely. Whatever the result they should persist in their endeavours and not slacken their efforts.

Dr. E. W. Adikaram maintained that Kataragama had been a Buddhist Vihara even before the Christian era and was never a place built for worship by the Hindus.

He said that he saw no reason why the Buddhists should ever consent to give Kataragama over to the Hindus in order to achieve the restoration of Buddha Gaya.

Mr. Julius de Lanerolle said that all Buddhists should unite in their efforts to gain the restoration of Buddha Gaya. The claim made by the Hindus that it was a place of Hindu worship was not founded on facts.

#### Hindu Claim

Referring to a booklet entitled "A Hindu Point of View on the Buddha Gaya Temple" he said that the contents of that booklet were false and it was a pity that no one had so far taken steps to contradict the allegations made in it.

The publication of that book was (Continued on Previous Column)



**Auction Sale**

IN THE DISTRICT COURT  
OF JAFFNA  
No. 5825

Sellamuthu widow of Arumugam,  
Karativu. Plaintiff.

Vs.

1. Nagalingam Chettiar Muthuvolu Chettiar of Van. East
2. Kanthappar Subramaniam
3. Kanthappar Sinnathamby
4. Kamalampah daughter of Muthuvolu Chettiar
5. Kanthappar Saravanamuthu.

Defendants.

Under and by virtue of the Commission issued to me in this case I shall sell by public auction the under-mentioned mortgaged property for the recovery of the amount stated therein on Saturday the 17th day of December 1938 commencing at 3 p.m. at the spot.

**PROPERTY REFERRED TO**

All that divided extent of 7 Lms. V. C. and 6 kulies and cultivated and spontaneous plants, well, house, and portico on the North of all that piece of land situated at Vannarponnai East called Punnanthurai Parayarian kadu and Neochchipullam in extent 9 Lms. V. C. and 3 kulies and the said extent of 7 Lms. V. C. and 6 kulies is bounded on the East by the property of the heirs of the late Gannamamah wife of Muthucumaru, North by the property of Kana-pathiar Ponnampalam and shareholders, West by Road and South by the property of the defendant being the remaining portion of the entire land.

V. A. Durayappah,

Jaffna, 20-11-38. Commissioner.  
[Mis 215 1-11-38]

**The Ceylon (State Council Elections) order in Council, 1931**

No. 30—Kayts Electoral District  
No. 31—Kankasanturai

Electoral District  
No. 32—Jaffna Electoral District  
No. 33—Point Pedro Electoral District

NOTICE is hereby given that the revised registers of voters relating to the above-named electoral districts have been certified, and that such registers are open for inspection during office hours at the Jaffna Kachcheri.

T. B. Naish

Registering Officer for Electoral Districts No. 30-Kayts, No. 31-Kankasanturai, No. 32-Jaffna, and No. 33-Point Pedro.

The Kachcheri,  
Jaffna, November 22, 1938  
[Mis. 212. 1-12-38]

**Order Nisi**

IN THE DISTRICT COURT  
OF JAFFNA

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 643.  
In the matter of the intestate estate of the late Sinnappu Sivakkolunthu of Evenai Deceased.  
Thiruppillai widow of Sivakkolunthu of Evenai.

Vs.

Petitioner.

1. Veluppillai Thuraiyah and wife
2. Pakkiam
3. Sivakkolunthu Rajanayagam and
4. Thiraviyam daughter of Sivakkolunthu of Evenai Respondents.

This matter of the petition of the abovenamed petitioner coming on for disposal before C. Coomaraswamy Magistrate District Judge Jaffna on the 31st day of August 1938 in the presence of Messrs Aiyadurai and Thambirajah Proctors on the part of the petitioner and the affidavit and petition of the petitioner having been read:

It is ordered that the abovenamed petitioner be declared entitled to have Letters of Administration to the Estate of her late husband unless the Respondents abovenamed or any other person shall appear before this court on the 23rd day of November 1938 and show cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

This 19th day of October 1938.

Sgd. C. Coomaraswamy  
District Judge.

November 23, 1938.

Time to show cause is extended for December 5, 1938. (Intld) C. C. D. J.

[O. 67. 1 & 5-12-38.]

**Hindu Organ.**

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1, 1938.

**A JEWISH HOME**

REUTER ANNOUNCES THAT A strong Committee has been formed in U.S.A. to combat anti-Semitism. It is truly a great humanitarian move which has absolutely no political background. Perhaps no race in the world possesses such a high proportion of men of exceptional ability as the Jewish race and its contribution to European and world civilisation during the past 2000 years is not second to that of the Greek or of any other race. In art, philosophy, music and science its achievements are of the first order. Even today after nearly 2000 years of persecution the race has shown an intellectual vigour and adaptability to modern conditions which are the wonder of the world, no less than its steadfast loyalty and devotion to its faith. Today some of the greatest international figures in finance, science, psychology and medicine are Jews. It is no exaggeration to say any other race except the Semitic would have succumbed to the temptation to fusion with the races among whom their lots were cast for centuries. It is perhaps the unique manner in which the Jews have resisted this temptation which, while preserving their individuality, has exposed them to the bitterest persecution and discrimination by Christian Europe. Repression produced its inevitable reactions on the Jewish people. Excluded from the natural, healthy ways of exercising their gifts, the Jews turned inward and had to rely on their own industry and social solidarity for their safety. Social ostracism bred mutual hatred and suspicion and might have developed some anti-social tendencies. But where the Jews received fair treatment and trust, as in England and U. S. A., they have proved themselves to be loyal and devoted citizens and have made very valuable contributions to the culture and material prosperity of the country.

It is intolerable that certain countries in the world should turn them out in their thousands and that no country in the world should be willing to receive them. The persecutions to which HITLER is submitting them are simply inhuman and heart-rending. That thousands should be uprooted from the land in which their ancestors had been living for centuries and turned adrift upon the world without the right to

take away their belongings and without a penny is revolting to all sense of humanity. Anti-Semitism has caught many parts of Europe. Today we find Jew-baiting not merely in Germany but also in Italy, Czechoslovakia, Rumania and Spain. The shooting of a German diplomat in Paris by a Polish Jew has been made the occasion for an intensified Jewish pogrom in Germany. This mob frenzy in Germany encouraged and sanctioned by the State is against all dictates of justice and places the German nation outside the pale of civilisation as the direct descendants of the Huns of old. It is refreshing to note that in this crisis Britain has shown a humanity and freedom from race prejudice which are commendable. The British ambassador at Vienna has instructions to issue visas and render all possible assistance to refugees. About a thousand Jews are now entering Palestine every month. There are already over 500,000 Jewish exiles in Britain who have invaded the industry and the professions.

The Palestine Home cannot be a solution to the problem of the refugees. There are already 400,000 Jews in Palestine and further immigration will be unfair to the Arabs and will be vehemently resisted by them. A supplementary home must be found somewhere. There are parts of the British Empire like Africa, Canada, Australia which can absorb all the refugees without injury to the permanent population. Naturally one race will not like that its land should be the home of an alien race. The Zionist movement has only sentiment in its justification. Any attempt to convert Palestine into a permanent Jewish Home by further encouragement of immigration will lead to interminable trouble for the British Government and the Jews themselves. The U. S. A. with its boundless resources can also do much to help the refugees. It will be a most humanitarian move if a satisfactory solution can be found to this problem by Britain or U. S. A., the two democracies where anti-Semitism does not exist. Any country which gives them reception will in the long run stand more to gain by the contributions which they can make to its material prosperity than lose by their consumption of its resources.

**Ceylon Diploma in Education**

At a meeting of the Board of Education the Board recommended that, in addition to passing a written and a practical examination, candidates should be required to write a Thesis on a subject based on the more important features of the present education system of Ceylon.

**Italy and Germany Help Franco****Statement in The Commons**

London, Monday.

Germany and Italy continue to help General Franco.

That was the gist of a reply made in the House of Commons today by Mr. R. A. Butler, Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

Mr. Butler was asked if any Italian or German troops or war materials had arrived in Spain during recent weeks. He replied that such information as had been received would indicate that some assistance had been received from both these countries during the last two months.

The question of the granting of belligerent rights to General Franco was also aired. The Prime Minister replied that no new decision regarding the granting of belligerent rights to General Franco had been reached as a result of the Paris talks.

Mr. Butler then informed an M.P. who asked what conditions remained to be satisfied before the Non Intervention Committee's plan for the granting of belligerent rights could be put into force, that the plan must first be accepted by General Franco and then, "substantial progress", as defined by the Committee, must be made in the withdrawal of foreign nationals from both sides.

Mr. Butler also intimated that the Secretary of the Non-Intervention Committee had been unable, while at Burgos, to secure any modification of General Franco's refusal to accept the plan.

**THE JAFFNA COLLEGE OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION****Silver Jubilee Number**

We are glad to acknowledge receipt of the above publication. It contains an inspiring history of the educational activities at Vadukkoddai and an account of the Old Boys' Association in Colombo. The Jaffna College may well be proud of its achievements in the field of English education. The Botticotta Seminary was the first English educational institution in the East and the high standard which it maintained received the just commendation of Sir. Emerson Tennent. Jaffna College, its successor has followed in its footsteps and its contributions to education are not second to those of any other College. Under the late Mr. Bickell and Mr. Bunker, the present principal, it has been able to foster a liberal and free atmosphere which are vital to education. In the roll of its old boys we find many who have held and are holding distinguished positions in the public life, in the professions and in the public service. The Old Boys have taken a keen interest in the welfare of the College and are justly proud of it. We wish the College many years of efficient service in the cause of education.



## GENERAL STRIKE IN FRANCE

### Trial of Strength Between Premier and Trade Union

#### AUTHORITIES TAKE PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES

Paris, Wednesday.

FRANCE awake today to find itself in the throes of a general strike of national proportions organised by the Confederation Generale de Travail, the French equivalent of the Trades Union Congress.

The authorities have taken precautions to guard the principal buildings in the capital and in North France, where troops are patrolling the townhalls, the stations and the post offices. Only two newspapers have, so far, appeared here, "Le Matin" and "Le Journal," both consisting of four pages only.

The general strike—the great trial of strength between M. Daladier, the Premier, and the Trades Union—began at midnight.

#### Suicide by Poisoning

A case of sudden death, suspected to be suicide by poisoning, occurred at Nachchimar Kovilady, Vannarponn East, last night. A young goldsmith aged 23, reputed to be a good workman, by name Chelliah Seeni alias Velautham, it is stated, was seen in a perturbed state of mind yesterday. In the afternoon he is said to have bought plantains and camphor and, having offered prayers at the Nachchimar kovil, swallowed the plantains. He went home and is reported to have told his sister that he had taken some poison and that he was going to die. He had also asked her not to allow anyone to weep. He then fell unconscious and was taken to a doctor who declared life extinct.

#### Obituary

MR. A. CHELLAPPAPILLAI.

We regret to record the death which took place last Wednesday at his residence at Vannarponnai East of Mr. A. Chellappapillai, retired Sub-collector of Customs. He was 76 years old. He was for long a member of the Saiva Paripalana Sabha and had helped Hindu institutions like the Jaffna Hindu College.

The funeral took place on the following day and was largely attended.

He leaves behind a son, two daughters and son-in-law, Mr. T. Muthusamipillai, Advocate, a host of relatives and friends with whom much sympathy will be felt.

MR. V. NANITHAMBY.

The death occurred at Karukampalai on the 26th ultimo of Mr. V. Nanithamby, father-in-law of Mr. M. Ponnampalam, Pensioner, T.M.S. The funeral took place on the following day and was largely attended. (Cor.)

### Bracegirdle Debate

#### Legal Secretary Explains Governor's Position

Colombo, Nov. 30.

**S**PEAKING in the course of the Bracegirdle debate yesterday, the Legal Secretary informed the State Council that, even if it rejected the Report of the Commission a hundred times or passed motions asking for the removal of the Inspector-General of Police, it would make no difference—the Governor would not accede to such a request. This was the first official intimation given in the House as to the position taken up by the Governor's Government.

The Minister of Agriculture, who continued his speech yesterday, submitted that the question of the removal of the Inspector-General had yet to be decided by a Committee of Inquiry which, it was understood, was in abeyance till the Commission had finished its work. His contention was that it was not the business of the commission to decide on that particular issue.

### CHARGED WITH INTENT TO COMMIT THEFT

#### The "Reputed Thief" Arrested at Nallur

Kandan Manniccan of Achuveli who was caught on the night of the 27th ultimo by the residents of Nallur, was charged on Tuesday before the Additional Police Magistrate, with, being a reputed thief, having loitered or lurked at a public place, at Nallur, Pt. Pedro Road, with intent to commit theft.

The accused was not present in court.

The statements of Arumugam Sinnathamby, boutique-keeper Arumugam Selladurai, Pawnbroker both of Arasadi and Sergeant V. D. Chelliah were recorded.

The accused who is in hospital, was ordered to be placed under Fiscal custody till the 6th instant.

### Vidan Relieved of Purse at Grand Bazaar

It is reported that the Police Vidhan of Karainagar was relieved of his purse containing Rs. 100, at the Grand Bazaar on Tuesday, on his way back from the Kachcheri, by some pick-pocket.

### Proctor's Unfulfilled Mission

#### Attempt to Bail out "Habituals"

It is reported that a Point Pedro proctor who was brought to Jaffna yesterday to bail out the three suspected burglars who were arrested and remanded on Tuesday, had to return home, his mission unfulfilled, public feeling in the Courts and in town dissuading him from his mission. It is said that very uncharitable words were used against the proctor who had come all the way from Pt. Pedro, by some people who were present at the court then.

The Proctor, it is said, felt himself in a very awkward situation, and even sought police assistance for his safe return to Pt. Pedro which he reached, it is reported, by a circuitous route.

(Continued.)

highest traditions of a noble profession. Even after 42 years in a tropical climate she was not broken down in health nor had her enthusiasm flagged. That was due to Scot grit and her dedicated will.

#### Muslim Gratitude

Mr. A. R. Supramaniam, retired District Judge, Trincomali, spoke next. J. V. Chelliah, retired vice-Principal, Jaffna College, said that one of the greatest contributions which Dr. Curr had made to the life of Jaffna was the establishment of an up-to-date Nurses' Training Home.

Kathi S. M. Aboobucker, member of the Urban District Council, said that Dr. Curr in the early days of her career as a medical Missionary in Jaffna had handled with such success a very difficult maternity case at Moor Street, Jaffna, that she was able to draw to her institution the Muslim women.

Sir Waitialingam Duraiswamy said that Dr. Curr had set an example as a mother of mothers. In "Curr Amma" the people of Jaffna emphasised that ideal. One of the reasons for the success of that hospital was that it was run by women and women alone. He hoped that that policy would not be changed in the future.

Addressing Dr. Curr he said: "You, Dr. Curr, have served us most devotedly, and most affectionately. You leave behind a name that will never die. We bid you a very pleasant and happy time in your dear home. May God bless you more and more."

#### Dr. Curr's Thanks

Dr. Curr, who appeared much moved, thanked everyone for the farewell demonstration and the hospital staff for their co-operation.

"I do not need to tell you how much I love dear Old Jaffna and all its people, especially the sweet little children," she added. "Although I talk of going home to 'Bonnie Scotland'—and I do love my dear native land—yet I feel it is more like leaving home after spending so many years in Jaffna."

Referring to the increase of crime in Jaffna, she said:

"Try to make the lives of people more pure and the homes more healthy. Get the boys and girls in the schools to play the game and to love God and their neighbours. Then I think there would be less crime and more service to others and Ceylon would become more beautiful in having purer lives and would indeed be a real 'Garden of Eden.'"

Mr. Tampoe Buell, honorary Presidency Magistrate, Bombay, proposed a vote of thanks to the chair and appealed to Sir Waitialingam to bring about a happier relationship between the Sinhalese and Tamils and the other minority communities in Ceylon.

### "MOTHER OF MOTHERS"

#### JAFFNA BIDS FAREWELL TO DR. CURR

#### GLOWING TRIBUTES TO HER SERVICES

**G**LOWING tributes were paid to Dr. Isabel H. Curr, the "mother of mothers" as Sir Waitialingam Duraiswamy described her, at a public farewell function, on the eve of her retirement after 40 years of service in the Peninsula. The farewell function was held at the Town Hall, Jaffna, on Wednesday at 4.45 p.m. There was a large gathering representative of all sections of the population, including prominent officials. Sir Waitialingam Duraiswamy presided.

Mr. T. C. Rajaratnam garlanded the Chairman. Miss Pearl Jeagasothy Solomon presented a bouquet to Dr. Curr.

Mr. R. R. Nalliah, read an address which was inscribed on palmyrah ola, flanked with views typical of Inuvil Hospital and Jaffna and enclosed in a cylindrical casket of Silver resting on an ebony plinth supported by two elephants.

Mrs Lewis Subramaniam made a presentation, on behalf of the public, of a silver tea set of Kandyan workmanship.

Mudaliyar V. Ponnampalam, President of the Jaffna Central Co-operative Bank, presenting a purse subscribed to by the Jaffnese residents in Ceylon and Malaya said:—

"In presenting this purse to you in token of the great affection and regard the Jaffna public of Ceylon and Malaya have towards you, I wish to express the everlasting gratitude of the whole Jaffnese as a community wherever they may reside for all the good services rendered by you as a sympathetic Doctor and a good friend."

Miss Thavamany Chelliah recited verses composed for the occasion by Mr. S. D. Tampoe. The Misses R. Sundarampillai and E. Elias sang songs also composed for the occasion.

#### Her Life-Work

Mr. S. Kanagasakhi, said that he remembered Dr. Curr arriving in Jaffna in 1897 when he was a student at Jaffna College. Jaffna had been fortunate in that, through the beneficence of a Scotchman Mr. McLeod, a hospital for women and children was established. It had been equally fortunate that a Scotchwoman in the person of Dr. Curr should have been sent out to be in charge of the hospital.

The marvellous growth of that institution was a splendid monument to the untiring zeal and energy of their distinguished doctor. They were assembled there to thank Dr. Curr for her life-work of forty years, and more in the service of humanity.

The Rev. E. M. Weaver, Chairman of the North Ceylon Wesleyan Methodist Mission, said that he was in Ceylon before Dr. Curr arrived and was in a position to testify to the very good work she had done at the hospital. It was no exaggeration to say that Dr. Curr had served three generations of Jaffnese.

Dr. Curr had maintained the (Continued in previous Col.)



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

BIBLIOGRAPHY OF  
TAMIL BOOKS

Mudlr.

## Rasanayagam's Work

Sir,—The council of management of the Madras Library Association should be congratulated on its pioneer effort to publish a Bibliography of Tamil books, which has been a long felt want. This Association which has secured the services of Mr. Ranganathan is bound to do some service to the Tamil land. We are grateful to the Kumara Rajah of Chettinad for donating Rs. 2000 to be utilised in completing the above mentioned work.

In this connection, I wish to throw a few suggestions, which if found useful may be considered by the Council of Management.

Mudlr. C. Rasanayagam (late of the U. C. S. and author of "Ancient Jaffna" in English and "Yalpana Charitham"—2 parts in Tamil), who is recognised as an authority on Local History and who comes from Jaffna has thought of this long felt want some years back and has undertaken the same task quite independently and without any assistance or encouragement from any Association.

He has spent his own money and time in visiting the public libraries and private libraries in different parts of Ceylon and South India.

He has been working at it for the last few years and owing to his untiring efforts he has been able to collect the names of about 30,000 books.

Some of the names found in his collections were extracted from reviews published in the local papers, that were in existence during the last century.

The scheme to register the books published in Ceylon came into force in 1885 and all the names of books found in the registers, which were published quarterly from 1815—1935 have been extracted by him. As the Mudlr. is a member of the Historical Manuscripts Commission appointed by His Excellency the Governor, he has had ample opportunity of coming across many manuscripts and the information gained from them has also been utilised in the compilation of his Bibliography.

He made mention of the fact that the late Mr. Neville was also interested in this particular branch and he too collected the names of all the books in Sinhalese and Tamil published in Ceylon. I understand that the manuscript copy, which runs to nearly 1000 pages is to be found at the British Museum. This copy may also be of some use to the Association.

Whenever I went to see the Mudlr, I saw him busy with his work without even clerical assistance. The learned Mudlr. has classified the names of books in alphabetical order and under different subjects. The work is practically ready for the press. I understand that some of the local printing firms are negotiating with him to print it in parts.

As the Madras Library Association has undertaken to do the same on a larger scale, it will be better if the Association secures the work already done by the Mudlr. The Association may not be in a position to collect the names of most of the Tamil books published in Ceylon, as the Mudlr. has done. At the same time it will be a case of going through the same field once again for no useful purpose. This is one

of my chief reasons for requesting the Association to consult the learned Mudlr. and get his advice as well. There is no idea in duplicating the work and my humble opinion is that the enormous work so far completed by the Mudlr. should be co-ordinated with the work the Association has undertaken to do. I am sure the result will be beneficial to both the parties as well as to the Tamil Land.

Wellawatta Tamil Student,  
Ceylon, 22nd November, 1938.

## Crime in Jaffna

Sir,—In spite of the great personal interest the Government Agent and the Superintendent of Police, N. P. are both taking for the suppression of crime in the district, it is increasing, and it is largely due to want of public co-operation in the country. Most of the rich men there are so selfish that they don't care to take any interest in the welfare of the country. They are only careful to accumulate wealth to be given as dowry to their daughters and to spend for obtaining titles.

The worst criminals in the whole of Jaffna are living in the village of Anaicottai. It is from there they move about in motor cars, well armed to different parts of the peninsula for the night hunting of helpless citizens. It must be these men who have paved the way for others to follow this as a paying profession. Distance is not a bar to them since the advent of the motor car. They seem to have agents all over Jaffna to give information of houses that could be easily burgled. It is feared that in course of time they might join together and form an organisation similar to the American Chicago Burglars' organisation. It would be advisable if the authorities would adopt more successful methods of tackling this problem before they become well organised and overpowered.

It is the opinion of many that the increase of crime in Jaffna is partly due to the encouragement given to the criminals by some lawyers, chiefly proctors. Some of them appear to be very friendly with the criminals. Rumour has it that some proctors have men ready to bail out their criminal clients when they don't find any others to do so.

Many in Jaffna experienced some relief when they heard that some of the dangerous criminals were sentenced to undergo a term of imprisonment. But they were greatly alarmed when they heard the news that they have appealed and are let free to go into the country to commit more thefts and make money enough to spend for their appeals, etc. In the case of criminals having appealed against their sentence, they should be kept in remand until their appeals are finally decided. By not doing so now, the Courts are giving them a chance to take vengeance upon those who gave evidence against them and to snatch Thaly Kodies from innocent women to meet their future expenses. After committing atrocious acts, the criminals are allowed bail which is most disheartening to the public. If the criminal procedure code does not permit the magistrates to stop these things, the councillors should take immediate steps to amend the same giving more power to magistrates to refuse bail to dangerous criminals and to

keep them until the case is finally decided.

Most of the criminals after committing serious crimes, escape without any punishment from courts for want of evidence to prove their offence. Even eye witnesses are afraid to give evidence against the dangerous criminals. How are they to be punished? Is the government justified allowing them in free to commit atrocities as they like? In view of these circumstances it would be advisable if the magistrates are empowered to convict suspected characters and reconvicted criminals from the circumstantial evidence only and to send them for long terms of imprisonment or even exile them so that peace and safety may prevail in the country. If this is done crime will go down by itself.

Anti crime societies are formed in many parts of Jaffna. Why one was not yet formed in Manipay Parish, where crime is heavier than in other places. This shows how the rich men of the place are interested in the welfare of the country. The Maniagar should take a personal interest in the matter and induce the rich men there to form one. This will not only reduce crime but will also earn a great name for him.

Yours etc,  
Maradana A CITIZEN.

Vadamaradchy  
Teachers' Association

(Continued from page 7)

ly held and the members showed a keen interest in the pursuit of their professional study. Messrs C. T. Lorange, A. Kumaraswamy, S. U. Somasegarum, V. K. Nathan, S. Sivapathasundaram, R. vds. P. T. Cash, Fr. Joseph and Miss Everatt served the thanks of the association for assisting in the work.

The library continues to grow and there is a fund available for improving it.

A large number of the members attended the Teacher's refresher courses in Colombo and in Jaffna. It was encouraging to find teachers so keen about their work.

The visual Educational film was a new venture. There is no doubt that teachers and children who attended the shows were greatly benefited and that they appreciated the shows. Among the pictures shown were Japan during four seasons, Pusan Books, Round Colombo and India Travel, Mining of coal, Robinson Crusoe, Beet and Sugar cane, Happy ranch boys, Time on my hands, Cairo and the Pyramids, the Explosion of the Hindenburg, Messrs Siedles Cineradio Ltd. provided the pictures and it was the first time a thing like this was shown at Point Pedro.

The President, Mr. C. P. Thamocharam, the Treasurer Mr. P. Edward and the Secretary Mr. S. T. Samuel were re-elected to office for another term of one year. Miss K. Mathiparanam was elected Vice-president of the Association.

The principal and staff of the school entertained the members of the association at a garden party at 4.30 p.m. This was followed by a lecture on "The contribution of voluntary bodies to the English national system of Education" by the Rev. Fr. L. A. Singarayer O. M. I. B. A., Dip. Ed. of the Colombogam Training Institute. With a vote of thanks to the lecturer of the evening and a few remarks from the chair the proceedings of the day came to a close.

(Cor.)

"Ramanathan Day"  
at KalmunaiA Separate Statue  
Suggested

The celebration of the eighth anniversary of the "Ramanathan Day" took place at the Methodist Mission English School Hall, Kalmunai, on 25th November, 1938. The hall, which was decorated for the occasion, was crowded with a large and representative gathering of the residents of the District and Dr. A. M. D. Richards, D. M. O., Kalmunai, presided. The proceedings began with music. The Chairman, in his opening address, dwelt briefly on the life of Sir Ponnambalam Ramanathan and the great services rendered by him to the Ceylonese. A photograph of Sir Pon. Ramanathan hung in the hall was then garlanded by the Chairman, and the gathering prayed in silence for two minutes, standing in memory of the departed veteran. Thereafter speeches were delivered in Sinhalese, English and Tamil by Reverend D. Dharmaratna Thero, Mudaliyar M. S. Kariappan, J. P., Mr. G. G. Eddy Peter and Pandit E. Periyathambipillai.

Rev. D. Dharmaratna Thero, speaking in Sinhalese, said that the Sinhalese people owed a great debt of gratitude to Sir P. Ramanathan especially for the services rendered to them by him during the riots of 1915. He added that during Sir Ponnambalam's time, under his leadership things were going on quite harmoniously in the then Legislative Council unlike now. Mudlr. Kariappan, in the course of a very eloquent speech in English, which was ably interpreted in Tamil by Mr. M. Peethamparan, gave a detailed and instructive account of the character, life and services of Sir P. Ramanathan and deplored the fact that the statue of Sir Ponnambalam, which was made long ago, was still lying unereected in some unknown corner somewhere, but, he said, they would not care whether that statue was erected or not to commemorate the great deeds of that great man, so long as he had himself erected lasting statues in the hearts of all the people of Ceylon. Mr. G. G. Eddy Peter speaking in Sinhalese, said that not only the Sinhalese but also all the other communities of Ceylon for whose common good Sir Pon. Ramanathan worked alike should ever be grateful to him.

Pandit E. Periyathambipillai, the last speaker, speaking in Tamil said that things did not end in merely speaking of what Sir Pon. Ramanathan had done for them all but they should follow it up with action—in following in the footsteps of their departed hero. He added that, instead of worrying their heads over the statue that had already been made but not yet erected, they should consider seriously the question of getting a separate statue made and erected without further loss of time.

The Chairman then offered remarks and the proceedings came to a close with a vote of thanks to the Chairman, the lecturers and the audience, proposed by Mr. K. T. Rajah who expressed the hope that in future years, too, the Ramanathan Day would be celebrated with greater earnestness and on a still better scale befitting the great occasion.

(Cor.)



## Mahatma Gandhi's Plan of Religious Education

(Continued from page 1)

that something must be done to save the people from a moral collapse, that some solution must be found, and ways and means must be devised for building character in the future citizens of India. And the most difficult task of tackling this problem has fallen to the lot of Mahatma Gandhi, who has undertaken wholeheartedly to thoroughly overhaul this system of education.

### Lessons of History

We are not alone in seeking to evolve a system of national education for the realization of the best in our culture and civilization; for, history reveals that nations have organised and reorganized their education as a means for the attainment of the things they valued most. As power, learning, piety, skill, wealth and the like, became in turn the object of desire, so the means of securing them became the object of study. To illustrate, Athens valuing beauty, symmetry and harmony—both physical and intellectual,—sought through her great teachers to cultivate a love of the true, the beautiful and the good. Ancient Rome, exalting law, authority and conquest, instructed her youth in oratory and military science. Even so Modern Russia is using the school as an agency to raise up a new generation of citizens to uphold the Soviet ideology and support the new state. Similarly, if we seek to preserve the spiritual elements in our civilisation and provide our youth with the necessary moral stamina to bear the burdens and responsibilities of a free India, we should make these the objectives of our education.

### Religion vs. Ritualism

In any school, founded on spiritual principles, "children", to quote Madame Blavatsky, "should be taught, above all, self-reliance, love for all men, altruism, mutual charity, and more than anything else, to think and reason for themselves". And this is exactly the aim of the Wardha scheme which is based on the spiritual principles of *Ahimsa*, Non-violence and *Satya*, Truth. But a casual reading of the scheme does not give one an idea that any sort of religious or moral instruction has been made a part of the curriculum of the new school. It is no wonder, therefore, if Gandhi is asked time and again why he has not stressed religious education. In answer to such queries, he says that religious instruction is not emphasised because his aim is to train the pupil in practical religion. Many have not yet understood the significance of the nature of instruction involved in the Wardha scheme on account of the all too common tendency to separate religion and morality. To such, religion means only ritualism whereas to Gandhi, religion and morality are inseparably connected. Viewed thus, religious education builds character. And as such it seeks not merely to inform the intellect by means of moral

standards and ideals but to train the will to choose aright.

### Creating Free Men

The fundamental objective then of moral education is, as Madame Blavatsky states, "to create free men and women, free intellectually, free morally, unprejudiced in all respects, and above all things, *unselfish*. In other words, it is the function of religious education to make the social application of religion effective. Social stability, altruistic service and moral temperance must begin with the character training of children. In this new type of religious education, we have to break away from obstructing traditions and try, as Prof. John Dewey says, to teach "that type of religion which will be the fine flower of the modern spirit's achievement". To this end, religious education in the Wardha plan has been made a non-sectarian programme of social education. And in order to enlarge the pupil's outlook, widen his sympathies and promote respect for all religions, a well-considered scheme of social studies is provided from the first grade right up to the seventh. Such training, it is believed, will help the pupil to accept gradually certain basic principles of social evolution, and to understand that the religious life,—beliefs, rituals, institutions and the like,—must perpetually change as knowledge advances men's group relationship widens.

### The Wardha Plan

However, it must be pointed out, in justice to the Wardha scheme, that its social education process does not include religious teaching, much less religious propaganda, but it does include a dispassionate study of the social values of all religions, and the cultivation of respect for them all as the finest achievements of human effort. The programme of social studies would therefore lay stress on the religious ideals of love, truth and justice, of co-operative endeavour, national solidarity and the equality and brotherhood of man. It would also emphasize the superiority of non-violence in all its phases, and its concomitant virtues over violence, fraud and deceit. Furthermore, it would seek to cultivate the personal and social virtues which make a man a reliable associate and trusted neighbour, and develop mutual respect for the world religions. Such an education, it is maintained, would bring into being a new age from which class and communal hatred is eliminated and exploitation is eschewed.

The whole plan of religious education in the Wardha scheme is based on sound educational principles, and is viewed as an important phase of the problem of social education. Apart from participation in social life, the principles and precepts of ethics have no significance. Formal education in morals is good, as far as it goes, but it does not go far enough. It often gives one only an intellectual appreciation of the principles of conduct, and that is why mere knowledge of what is right does not make a person do the right. Such instruction therefore must be supple-

mented by opportunities for practice. Hence the social life of the school must be natural and as nearly as possible a reproduction of the healthiest social life of the community.

### Learning to do Right

But the present system does not provide scope for such training. In fact, the child finds its school life too forced and artificial. It is not anything real, and he knows it. Since the material with which the school deals is so remote from his natural interests, he fails to see its connection with the hard facts of every day living. Naturally, therefore, he does not take his school life seriously as he does his life outside the school. The whole environment of the school appears to him as merely academic. The Wardha scheme, on the other hand, tries to enrich the curriculum and vitalise the school activities by an infusion of the warm currents of the child's every day interests and experiences outside the school, thus correlating the school with the activities of the community around, and providing opportunities inside and outside the school for 'learning by doing' what is right.

But moral training, some may say, is not the concern of the school; it is the business of the home. There is, of course, no question about the value of home training, provided the home is an ideal one and the parents are not only alive to their obligations but also able to discharge such duties. Unfortunately, owing to centuries of social and cultural decay, the home also has become unfit to assume this important function. Truth to tell, parents themselves are now in need of such training. How then can we shift the entire responsibility for character training to the home? Further, such objections, it must be pointed out, arise from too narrow a conception of the school. But the school viewed as a social institution, has a larger function than that of merely imparting a little formal knowledge. As envisaged in the Wardha scheme, the school is a medium of social conservation and regeneration. To impart definite and adequate instruction in right living, to provide inspiration and the necessary stimulus to choose the right, and to perfect the will by giving opportunities for the execution of right desires,—these are pre-eminently the functions of such a school.

### Non-Sectarian Religion

Thus Mahatma Gandhi, who began his attack on education some twenty years ago in a destructive way, is now completing it in all constructive seriousness. In this field, as in many others, his far-sighted leadership has helped to formulate a system of education which is an embodiment of his own spirit. "My Hinduism," says he, "is not sectarian. It includes all that I know to be best in Islam, Christianity, Judaism and Zoroastrianism. I approach politics in a religious spirit. Truth is my religion and *Ahimsa* is the only way of its realization. And it is this religious ideal of citizenship that underlies the Wardha plan of religious education, and is responsible for its many points of originality. Being vitally connected with our culture and civilization, the Wardha scheme is most suited to draw out the best in the child and to

## Vadamarachy Teachers' Association

### Annual Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Vadamarachy Teachers' Association took place at Point Pedro on Saturday 26th inst.

Proceedings began at 10 a.m. with a discussion on "the most up to date method of Teaching English to beginners" led by Mr. S. Veerasingam assisted by Mr. S. U. Somasegaram, Acting District Inspector of Schools.

Lunch followed at 12-30 p.m. where all the members present sat together. The occasion was availed of to bid farewell to Miss E. Everatt the retiring president of the study circle, who is going on furlough.

### Business Meeting

The business meeting took place at 3-15 p.m. at the Girls' Bilingual School with the president in the chair. The Secretary of the study circle and the Treasurer read their reports. After the adoption of the minutes of the previous meeting the President delivered his address and in his message he emphasised the need for the members of the Association to continue to co-operate with one another to make themselves into a strong body. He was able to see a great cordiality of relationship among the members and that is as it should be among members of the same professional body.

### Secretary's Report

The following is a summary of the report of the secretary.

Three general meetings and seven committee meetings have been held during the year. There was a series of Volley Ball matches during the year in two sections. Chithambara Vidyalayam, Valvettiturai, became champions in the Senior competition and Sacred Heart English School, champions in the Junior for another year in succession. The inter school concert held in July was a financial success. Hartley College was declared first and the Girls' Bilingual Schools, Pt. Pedro, and Udapiddy were bracketed second.

In March all the Vadamarachy schools celebrated the Education Week. There was an inter-school mass drill parade at which the Director of Education was present and distributed the prizes. He complimented the squads on their smart turn out and performance under the command of Mr. S. A. Rasaratnam. Facilities were provided for the pupils and teachers of each school to visit one another during the week.

The inter-school declamation contest was an inspiring occasion for budding orators. Hartley College, Vigneshwara College, Udapiddy boys and G. B. S. Udapiddy carried off prizes.

The study circle was a new activity of the association during the year. Meetings were regular.

(Continued on Page 6)

create in him a love of God and man. This system may therefore be rightly summed up in the phrase, "From the hand and the senses to the heart and the brain, and from the school and the home to society and God".



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Y. 65. 1-3-38-31-3-39. (T)

Printed and published by S. ADCHALINGAM, residing at Vannarponnai,  
 East, Jaffna, for and on behalf of the Proprietors, the Saiva Paripalana  
 Sabai, Jaffna, at their Press, the Saiva Prakasa Press, Vannarponnai,  
 Jaffna, on THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1, 1938.