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## LOCAL BODIES IN INDIA

### One of the Protection Walls Of British Power

#### NEED FOR A NEW ORIENTATION AND DRASTIC REFORM

By Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya,

(Member of the Working Committee, Indian National Congress)

THE British people have created seven zones around themselves which traverse the physical, the intellectual and finally, the moral (or immoral) drains of life. That is to say, in familiar Indian terms, they have erected seven *parikrams*, or seven protection walls, around the central citadel of power. That citadel is the one of commercial supremacy of the British, established through a couple of centuries of hard striving, and protected by political and military power in the centre. The British Empire is installed on high by merit raised to a bad eminence, and surrounded by the army (Indian and British) as also by a corps of British Civil Servants, the Government officers in the various departments. The third zone or protection wall is the legislature; the fourth, the law courts; the fifth, colleges; the sixth, local bodies; and the seventh, the titled aristocracy. Now the last, apparently the least significant is really the most important; whereas what appears to be the most patent, is really the most latent of all these protections. Let us study these walls of protection, one by one, and try to undo the denationalization that has befallen the country, through foreign rule. For it is not merely political serfdom that we are suffering from, but social, economic and cultural serfdom as well.

#### The Title-Holder

Proceeding from the surface to the centre of this series of trenches erected by British Government to safeguard their authority, we find that the title-holders are a mere handful; and yet, the amount of awe and regard they inspire in the common people, the peculiar sanc-

tity with which they are endowed by the representatives of the Crown in India, not to speak of the privileges to which they are admitted, the precedence and priority of place assigned to them in Durbars and public meetings of official origin, and the promptness with which they get concession for water supply for their lands, licenses for their trades and bounties for their industries, all these go to show how the title-holder is a rich specimen of humanity in bondage, by no means to be neglected, albeit that he is eternally selling his country only for his own selfish ends. He is the *minion* of officials, the favourite of bureaucratic fortune, who has admission into halls of honour and places of power. The first thing that we should do is to do away with these titles. Mahatmaji has nicely dispelled the mystery and halo surrounding the title-holders. Gandhiji said that to this end we should surrender our titles, and in the eight Congress Provinces, "the titles are to be abjured," say the Congress Ministers. The charm and the magic of the titles, *Rao Sahab*, *Khan Sahab*, *Rao Bahadur*, *Khan Bahadur*, *Diwan Bahadur*, *C.I.E.*, *C.S.I.*, *Knight*, *K.C.I.E.*, *K.C.S.I.*, *Kaiser-i-Hind* gold and silver medals—all these must disappear. The title-holders are an artificial 'class' of British supporters, who have been eternally betraying the interests of the nation. They will have to go.

#### Local Boards

Then the Local Boards must be entirely overhauled. The system of election now in vogue is largely outlandish, leading to indescribable corruption. Universal adult franchise was regarded as the panacea to all evils. But the

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## INDIAN PAPER ON REFORMS FOR CEYLON

### Governor's Recommendations Somewhat Liberal

COMMENTING on the despatch on Ceylon reforms the *Madras Hindu*, says:—

Information about the correspondence which has passed between the Government of Ceylon and the Colonial Office on the question of constitutional reforms is very meagre. What has been received in India is a brief account of the despatch sent by the Governor and there is no indication whatever of the views, tentative or other, of Mr. Malcolm Macdonald. Considerable time will elapse before the changes proposed take a definite shape and are embodied in an Order-in-Council. The State Council of Ceylon will first have to express its views on the Governor's despatch and there will be a full-dress debate in Parliament on the whole subject in the course of which the Governor's views and the opinions of the Colonial Office thereon will be fully canvassed, the Order-in-Council giving effect to the final decision of His Majesty's Government coming last. In view, apparently, of the fact that the recommendations made by the Governor are somewhat liberal in character, attempts are already being made by a few members of the House of Commons, who are opposed to reform, to discredit him on the ground that he is new to his office and has not yet had time to gain intimate experience of the affairs of Ceylon. Such questionable tactics are bound to fail in view of the fact that there is wide-spread recognition of the inevitability of further changes in the constitution which has proved utterly unworkable.

On four points the proposals more or less fully meet the wishes of the public and the Board of Ministers of Ceylon. The three officers of State who are not responsible to the Legislature and who are in charge of the most important functions—finance, law and public service—are to go, the number of Ministers being in-

creased from seven to nine. The preposterous system of executive administration by committees is also to be abolished, because that has stood in the way of unity of aim on the part of those called upon to administer the affairs of the Colony. The Executive will be made up of a leader chosen because he enjoys the confidence of the majority of the members, and others selected by him. These will form a Cabinet who will initiate policy and carry on the Government. This is a most desirable and welcome change, as the present system under which the Ministers are chosen by the Executive Committee has resulted in division of responsibility. The increase in the number of territorial seats from 50 to 60, the re-adjustment of constituencies so as to afford greater facilities for minorities to secure larger representation, the retention of adult franchise not only for the permanent population but also for Indians who are domiciled in the country, are other features which are entirely commendable. The announcement which has reached India does not refer to communal representation demanded by certain minorities. We hope that this discredited system is not to be revived.

Where, however, there are bound to be differences of opinion is as regards the constitution of the Public Service Commission. What the public in Ceylon has demanded is an impartial, independent body unconnected with the public service and detached from all political associations. The proposal is that the Chief Secretary should be the Chairman of the Commission and there should be an equal number of officials and non-officials, the official members being the Legal Adviser and the Financial Expert besides the Chief Secretary. In the absence of more details, it is difficult to say how far the changes will satisfy the prin-

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## JAFFNA U. D. C.

### Proceedings of Last General Meeting

THE Minutes of proceedings of the General Meeting of the Jaffna Urban District Council held at the Office of the Council on Saturday the 10th day of December 1938 at 9 a. m. pursuant to notice dated the 6th day of December 1938.

Present:—Messrs. Sam. A. Sabapathy, Chairman; Mr. K. V. Sinnadurai, Vice-Chairman; R. A. M. Thuraiappa, Provincial Engineer, N. P.; Dr. V. Nadarajah, Medical Officer of Health; Messrs. S. M. Aboubucker, R. R. Nalliah, V. A. Dwaysappah, C. Ponnampalam, K. Aiyadurai, S. Patanjali and the Secretary. Mr. M. Jacob came in at 11.30 a. m.

1. The Minutes of Proceedings of the Meeting of the Council held on the 12th day of November 1938 copies of which had been previously furnished to each member of the Council were taken as read and confirmed.

2. No petitions were presented, but Mr. S. Patanjali produced a letter from the Manager Ganesha Motor Works and wanted to know why the work of repairing lorry No. H. 984 was given to Apputhurai when the quotations received from Ganesha Motor Works were cheaper.

The Medical Officer of Health who was in charge of the work explained that Apputhurai was entrusted with the work as he did better work and as he had later reduced his estimate.

3. It was decided to take up Mr. M. Jacob's motions later as he was unable to be present early.

4. Considered papers re Jaffna Water Supply Scheme and letters No. L.S. 6/6 of 9th and 21st November 1938 from the Acting Electrical Engineer, Lighting Schemes and Change Over.

It was decided that the Electricity Superintendent should prepare the estimates in consultation with the Provincial Engineer and Mr. V. A. Dwaysappah.

5. It was decided to transfer a sum of Rs. 385 from Head "D 4" to Head "D 7" to make final payments to the Contractor on account of the Office Building.

It was also decided to ask the Superintendent of Works to report on the Office Building.

6. It was decided to sanction the employment of 4 new conservancy coolies from May 1938 and to transfer a sum of Rs. 1,575 from Head "E 3 (b)" to Head "E 3 (a)" to meet the wages of new conservancy coolies and hire of 7 boats.

7. It was decided to sanction a supplementary vote of Rs. 28.45 under Head "E 6".

8. Considered papers re liquidated damages due from Messrs Walker Sons & Co. Ltd., and Messrs Brown & Co. Ltd.

It was decided to make the final payment and return security deposit to Messrs Brown & Co. Ltd. without prejudice to the Council's right to recover liquidated damages.

It was also decided to authorise the Chairman to make the final payment and return security deposit to Messrs Walker Sons & Co. Ltd. without prejudice to the Council's right to recover liquidated damages.

if and when the Chief Engineer and Manager Department of Government Electrical Undertakings issue the final certificates and recommend return of security deposit.

It was further decided to consider Advocate Mr. W. D. Niles' legal opinion and advice regarding the Council's right successfully to sue Messrs Walker Sons & Co. Ltd. and Messrs Brown & Co. Ltd. at the next meeting and to pay Mr. Niles the additional fee of 2 guineas which he claimed.

9. It was decided to sanction the transfer of Lighter Selvadurai from the Works Department to the Electricity Department.

10. Considered the bids at the auction held by the Chairman at the respective market premises, viz: Small Bazaar, Maththirai Santhai, Chivatharu Market and Sengunthar Market.

It was decided to approve the sale of rents of Small Bazaar to M. Saverimuthu the highest bidder (for Rs. 2,610).

Muththirai Santhai to the highest bidder S. Sivasithamparan (for Rs. 190) and

Chivatharu Market to the highest bidder Ramu Cheilliah (for Rs. 125) on condition that the respective renters paid one-third  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the amount tendered by them before the date fixed by the Chairman and bound themselves by deeds attested by the Council's Notary Public hypothecating real property as security for the balance amount or paid half  $\frac{1}{2}$  the amount tendered by them on or before a date fixed by the Chairman and secured that sum by a bond and bound themselves to pay the rent in six monthly instalments, the first of such instalments to be paid on the fifteenth day of January 1939 and the others on the fifteenth day of the following five months.

It was also decided to accept the tender of S. Ponniah for Sengunthar Market for Rs. 1,920 and recover Rs. 10 i. e. the difference from N. Appachy the highest bidder who failed to deposit one-third of the amount tendered by him or in the event of S. Ponniah failing to deposit the amount tendered by him to make other arrangements for recovering rents from Sengunthar Market.

It was decided to accept the offer of Rs. 42 for Navanturai Market from the Sacristan of St. Nicholas' Church, Navanturai.

It was decided to add S. Sinnathurai's name as joint renter of Gala and Bus Stand for 1939.

It was decided to put up for sale the rent for Grand Bazaar Vegetable Market if T. N. Mathuraja did not conform to the conditions regarding deposit and security bond.

11. It was decided to authorise the Chairman to enter into an agreement with the Shell Company of Ceylon for the supply of Diesel oil for 1939.

12. Considered the draft budget for 1939.

The house went into committee and adjusted and settled the budget.

On resuming Mr. R. B. Nalliah moved that the budget for 1939 as amended in committee be adopted.

Mr. C. Ponnampalam seconded—Carried.

(a) It was decided to give yearly only two coats each to Binder-peon Rasali, Watcher Kuruvilla and Dis-

nfecting Orderly and Peon Perera but not to other peons.

(b) It was decided to give each revenue inspector only two uniforms a year and a helmet once in three years.

(c) It was decided to give midwife J. L. G. Fernando holiday railway ticket once a year to enable her to visit her parents at her native place (Nathandai).

(d) It was decided to spend Rs. 400 each for wards 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 only for lane improvements.

(e) It was decided to spend Rs. 250 for Thiddy-Maravakulam road in ward No. 2, Rs. 500 for Koyathoddam road in Ward No. 3, Rs. 800 for Attikadu road in ward No. 4, Rs. 1,200 for Pandarakkulam, Chetty Street and Rakka lanes in ward No. 5, Rs. 800 for Attiyady road in ward No. 6, Rs. 1,000 for Kadayitswamy and Kaladdi Anuman Kovil lanes in ward No. 7 and Rs. 700 for opening up a road from Konanthoddam to Kodaddy road in ward No. 8 (under Head "B 12").

(f) It was decided that the salary scales for widwives should be Rs.  $\frac{400-500}{10 \text{ or } 12}$  and that midwives Sebastianai, Fernando and Joseph should come under this scale (for the year 1939).

(g) It was decided to pay a salary of Rs. 480 per annum to assistant driver Soosapillai from January 1, 1939 placing him on the same scale as the other assistant drivers.

(h) It was decided to pay the Switchboard Operators cum Meter readers Rs. 300 each per annum from January 1, 1939.

(i) It was decided to pay Head Linesman Mendis a travelling allowance of Rs. 90 per annum.

(j) It was decided to authorize the Electricity Superintendent to try Lighting Foreman Coomaraswamy as Linesman for a period of 3 months and to report on his work at the expiration of the period.

(k) It was decided to appoint S. Rajendran, Messenger-Peon on a salary of Rs. 180 per annum with effect from January 1, 1939.

(l) All applications received from officers, inspectors, overseers, counter and peons regarding increments, change of designation etc were rejected.

3. Tabled Chairman's statement re delay in fitting and refitting street lights in connection with electric lighting scheme extensions.

14. Mr. M. Jacob wished to defer moving the resolutions that stood in his name.

It was decided to take them up in January 1939.

15. It was decided to hold the next general meeting of the Council on Friday the 12th day of January 1939 at 5 p. m.

### Wanted

"A Manager for the Jaffna Mutual Benefit Fund Ltd., Jaffna, on a salary of Rs. 100/- per month with cash security of Rs. 10,000/- or Cash Rs. 5,000/- and landed property for 10,000/-. Apply with testimonials and the application should reach this office before the 15th January 1939. The applicants should be over 40 years of age. For further particulars apply to the Secretary of the Fund."

(Mis. 237, 26 & 29-12-38.)

## VADDU. EAST ANTI-CRIME SOCIETY

A public meeting of the residents of Vaddukkoddai East, organised by Mr. Rajanayagam Chinniah, Maniagar, Valigamam West, Jaffna, was held at the Vaddukkoddai Hindu English School, on the 20th inst. at 5-30 p. m. with Pandit A. Thillai-nathar in the chair, to consider what steps should be taken to stop the prevalence of crime in Jaffna from spreading in this area.

An Anti Crime Society was formed and an executive committee consisting of the following members was duly elected.

President: Pandit A. Thillai-nathar

Vice Presidents: Messrs. A. Kandiah and O. Nagalingam.

Secretary: Mr. K. Vairavanathar. Asst. Secretary: Mr. K. Ponnampalam.

Treasurer: Mr. M. Kandagnany. Auditors: Messrs V. Kanapathipillai and A. Nagarathnam.

Committee Members: Messrs. A. Kandasamy, S. Sinnathurai, S. Rajanayagam, M. Sundaramoorthy, M. Arunasalam, T. Pajaratnam, M. Somasundaram, K. Kandasamy and A. Nallathambi.

It was also resolved to organise a volunteer corps in the village to safeguard the place by patrolling the different roads and lanes at night in co-operation with the police and the local headmen. (Cor.)

## INDIAN PAPER ON REFORMS FOR CEYLON

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principles governing the constitution of similar bodies in democratic countries. A very serious omission is the absence of any proposals as regards the Governor's powers. There have been numerous instances where the Governor has interfered with the decisions of the State Council and the Board of Ministers, and has thus brought the executive administration into contempt. This interference has been made on many occasions on very frivolous grounds and the Secretary of State has recently empowered the Governor to interfere in the interests of public order, public faith or other essentials of good government, which appears to be the modern paraphrase of the term "paramount importance." This is an extraordinary power which is bound in considerable circumstances to seriously reduce the power and responsibility of the Board of Ministers. We hope, however, we are not far wrong in attributing this frequent exercise of extraordinary powers by the Governor to the weakness and indecision displayed by the Board of Ministers. In the Indian constitution, the Congress Ministries have rendered interference by the Governor almost impossible, and this is because of the strength, solidarity and reputation of the great national organisation. We dare say that if a similar state of things should come to prevail in Ceylon and the Board of Ministers are backed by the State Council and public opinion, it is possible to establish a convention similar to that which obtains in India.



## OUR COLOMBO LETTER

PUBLICATION OF REFORMS  
DESPATCH SKILFULLY TIMED

## First Ministerial Comment

WHO INSPIRED RECENT QUESTIONS  
IN PARLIAMENT?

(From our own Correspondent)

THE Governor should no doubt be congratulated for having so skilfully timed the publication of the reforms despatch. Knowing well that it would have an instant appeal to the majority of Sinhalese politicians, he rightly guessed that the general satisfaction in the proposals would drown the uneasiness felt over the Bracegirdle Commission report. The Bracegirdle issue which threatened to assume the proportions of a big crisis has now receded, as the Governor must have anticipated, into the background, although it cannot be regarded as having been finally settled or dismissed.

The undertone of disappointment which underlines rather awkwardly Mr. Bandaranaike's speech at the Village Committees Conference was only artificial. It was perhaps calculated to give to the minorities that solace to which the "London Times" referred. It is difficult to see what comfort there can be in the thought that the most important of the Sinhalese demands, namely the limitation of the Governor's powers, was rejected. The ministers themselves knew that their request would not be satisfied; and when we are reminded of the fact that the Ministers had seen the Governor's despatch before it was sent to the Secretary of State we cannot fail to be amused by Mr. Bandaranaike's vivid description of his feelings of excitement on seeing the sealed envelope which he knew contained the reform proposals! But what is noteworthy is the fact that the first ministerial comment on the new proposals came from the ablest propagandist among the ministers. But he suffers from the defects of his qualities. When he grows expansive under the stimulating influence of his own words and the cheers of the dear rustic delegates he overstates his case and says just those things which are necessary to solve the jig-saw of their devious plans. One cannot of course say how far that speech went to create that atmosphere necessary for the easy passage of the reforms through the State Council.

Opposition to certain of the proposals such as the abolition of the Committee system may come from some quarters, perhaps from the minority group, if one may take Mr. Mahadeva's interview to the "Times" as representative, and the Samasamajists.

## Towards Cabinet Government

Two Party Conferences were held last week, one with much fanfare and publicity at Panadura, the other at a small school on the outskirts of Colombo. The "Times"

published an excellent photograph which gave an indication of the picnic atmosphere which seems to have prevailed at Panadura. It showed two of the Ministers in their white topees, smoking cigarettes and thoroughly enjoying the elephant ride—giving a comic touch to the picturesque procession.

At the L.S.S.P. Conference Dr. Colvin R. de Silva had some very hard things to say about Mr. Senanayake who had recently over the Banks affair, succeeded in upsetting the Samasamajist appellation. Mr. Philip Gunawardene took the opportunity some days back when the bill fixing the price of matches came up for consideration in the State Council, of giving expression to the contempt he had for this sinister figure which dominated the Board of Ministers. He pointed out that the Senanayake family had important interests in the match industry and characterised the new measure as a piece of class legislation for which justification had been sought on the flimsy pretext that it was necessary if the wages were to be kept at subsistence level. When the Speaker pulled him up and threatened to suspend him he promptly collected his papers to leave the Chamber when the Speaker penitently placated the enraged member and requested him to continue his speech. It is indeed surprising why facts, personal and unpalatable though they may be, should not be given free expression, when, as in this case, they are in the public interest. The return from England of Dr. S. A. Wickremesinghe, the former member for Morawaka, is bound to give a fillip to the Samasamajist movement.

At the meeting of the Parliamentary Committee of the Labour Party in London at which Mr. Ponnambalam presented his views, he also urged the claims of the Indian Minorities in Ceylon and cited the new Village Committee as a piece of the type of discriminatory legislation which is becoming common. He was, I understand, shown up in a rather bad light, when Dr. Wickremesinghe who was present pointed out that the Bill was wholeheartedly supported by Mr. Ponnambalam at the beginning and that if any serious opposition was put forward at all it was by his party. The position Mr. Ponnambalam will take up on the subject of the reform proposals is of course no matter for conjecture, but the new tactics he will adopt has already become a matter for the zettetic imagination. If, as is generally believed, the recent questions in Parliament which sought to

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SIDE LIGHTS  
AND  
LIGHT SIDES

(By Squint Eye)

HIS Excellency T. Shiratori, Japanese Ambassador in Italy, has left with the "Ceylon Observer" a Message for the peoples of Ceylon and India out of the unbounded love of Japan for them. Japan's ideals are spiritual, her crusade in China is a highly spiritual undertaking for the betterment of the millions of that country, and Japan would like to take a deeper interest in India and Ceylon, to their great satisfaction, so spoke this Ambassador of uplift.

These lines are prompted by the above:

With gas and fire from up above,  
By shot and shell in front and back,

We bring the message of spiritual love,

To the ignorant Celestial pack.

By hell-fire we give salvation,  
Listen, sons of Hindustan,  
Free, to every weak nation,  
This spiritual message of Japan.

Mr. Hughes, Minister for External Affairs, Australia, opening a campaign for seventy thousand militia recruits, said: "We live in a mad world in which it is necessary to prepare to deal with madmen".

Where madness pays so handsomely 'tis folly to be sane!

A momentous question: Is Sir Baron, really, going to resign, and if so, when?

Many modern men in India are never tired of asking women to come to the screen in this film age.

Indian women have been, for ages, behind the screen (purdah, Hindustani for screen), so why not in front of it, now? To me it seems some men might with advantage get behind the screen, at the same time.

All German and Austrian women working as domestic servants in Great Britain are "strongly urged" by Berlin to return to Germany by the next spring. This intimation will affect roughly twenty thousand women. It is stated that the reason for recall is that servant shortage has become acute especially in North Germany.

The reason for the shortage is that almost everybody there feels to be master of the world.

Charged with the theft of a gong, weighing about eight maunds and costing about Rs. 2,500 from a church in Lahore, seven persons (including two wrestlers) were sentenced by a Lahore magistrate to various terms of imprisonment, ranging from one year to three years.

The two wrestlers might have done it as weight-lifting exercise.

A Chinese General announces a new strategy in the war with Japan. "If the Japanese pushed westwards, the Chinese would

move eastwards," that is the plan, boiled down.

War would thus be next to simplicity itself. Both sides choose their own area and push ahead. Here is a tip to Mahatma Gandhi as a variant to his Non-violence.

This Chinese tactical innovation was anticipated by a negro who during the last Great War, after reading certain newspaper communiqués from various fronts, said: "Now I understands dis war game. De enemy comes into your counthry, you goes into his counthry. Den dere will be de peace."

"We should not quarrel like men for petty things," declared Khwaja B. N. Sahiba, in her presidential address to the Delhi Women's Conference.

In their eagerness to copy men's ways women seem to have lost their own methods of quarrelling.

Underneath two pictures, one depicting a crowd of veiled women and the other a bevy of bathing belles, in Turkey, an Illustrated paper recently stated that Kemal Ataturk opened the purdah in Turkey and unveiled the women and made it possible for them to have free intercourse with women.

Lucky Kemal didn't live to see himself thus libelled.

In India they have a National Planning Committee tackling the country's problems with a determination.

In Ceylon, haven't we a Sectional Scheming Conclave doing the work?

In Trieste the other day, several thousand students demonstrated shouting "Tunis—Corsica—Nice."

I should like to echo "Nice—Tunis—Corsica."

A gathering of film producers in India recently discussed several aspects of the film industry and the role that it would play in the scheme of industrialisation.

What would be played is the film roll.

Muslim students of the Dacca Medical School the other day protested against the singing by Hindu students of "Bande Mataram" and insisted on the song being withdrawn as soon as it had been sung. The Superintendent also demanded the withdrawal.

It is not stated whether the withdrawal was by singing it from end to beginning, say, Maratam Ednab.

Speaking of students, some Madanapalle High School boys are reported to have gone on strike as a protest against the refusal of their demand that all students should be sent up for the public examination.

The next move in studentdom will be a demand that everyone

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## Hindu Organ.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1938

### ONE YEAR OF PROHIBITION

LAST WEEK'S "HINDU" CONTAINS a summary of a careful survey of the results of one year of prohibition in the Salem District conducted by Mr. P. J. THOMAS, Professor of Economics in the Madras University, with the assistance of five other competent persons. The results of the survey should convince any pessimist of the benefits of prohibition and the possibility of its success. Before Prohibition, so runs the report, about 20 per cent of the population habitually resorted to drink and, among certain sections of the working classes, Rs. 88 per head, representing from 40 to 60 per cent of the total earnings, went to drink. Some ten or twelve thousand labourers in Salem town footed the bulk of the drink bill which amounts to Rs. 7.4 lakhs. Most of their earnings having gone to drink, the families had to depend on the scanty earnings of the women and children. Now the money saved from drink is spent on better food, better clothing and amusements. "After prohibition there have been significant changes, especially among factory labourers. Great increase has taken place in the consumption of vegetables, ghee, milk and curds. The most striking increase, however, is in regard to tea and coffee, the increase being 316 per cent." Working class families are better and more neatly clad. Fewer children go in rags. They now purchase more domestic utensils and make frequent visits to the cinemas. The number of theatres and their daily collections also have shown an increase. Another notable feature is the decrease in indebtedness. Many have repaid their old debts, others who have not done so, do not contract new ones. Some have invested their earnings in cattle or land. The increase of spending power has given a fillip to industry and trade. Grocers report an improved sale and new brass shops have been opened to meet the growing demand.

Though the psychological and physiological reactions of abstinence on certain classes of people were at the beginning unfavourable, so that their output of labour began to be reduced, yet these effects were not persistent except in the case of a few old people who could not adjust themselves to new conditions of existence. Factory labourers as a rule are

more regular in their attendance, their output has increased and consequently their earning capacity also. "Work is now going on in a more orderly fashion, accidents are fewer, and efficiency has increased, with the result that labour costs have come down, supervision charges have diminished, and the output of one mill in particular has increased by 100 per cent. The social and moral effects of prohibition have been remarkable, and in particular the position of women and children among the working classes has substantially improved. There has not been any serious unemployment among those formerly engaged in the liquor trade, but dependence on agriculture has grown. The problem may not be so simple when prohibition is introduced into adjacent districts."

Those who have watched the working of prohibition on the spot all join in giving a glowing testimony to the benefits of prohibition and the general success of the movement. The success of the movement speaks volumes for the earnestness, foresight and organising capacity of the Congress Ministry. If similar attempts had failed elsewhere, it is because those entrusted with the duty of enforcing prohibition lacked the courage of conviction and concentration of purpose essential for success and were labouring under a divided allegiance. They could not reconcile themselves to the loss of revenue, their endeavours were consequently half-hearted and lacked drive. They also relied far too much on detection and punishment, rather than on propaganda and the enlisting of popular support. When will our Board of Ministers take a leaf from the great experiment in Salem District and introduce prohibition in some selected area?

### Provincial Road Committee, 1939

The following have been appointed to be members of the Provincial Road Committee, Northern Province, for the year 1939:

Messrs S. Natesan, M. S. C., J. V. Chelliah, J. P., S. M. Aboubucker, K. Somasundaram, J. P., and Mudaliyar C. Canapathipillai.

### Village Communities Ordinance

#### To Take Effect in January

The new Village Communities Ordinance, having received the Royal Assent, will come into operation from the beginning of the New Year, according to a proclamation by H. E. the Governor of Ceylon in the latest Gazette.

# The Reform Proposals

By S. A. Nathan

IT is beyond dispute that His Excellency Sir Andrew Caldecott is a man of a lively sense of duty and responsibility, of sympathetic understanding and of idealism to promote and secure the political unity of races that have found a home in Ceylon and to place thereby the united country on the road to the real responsible government within the British Commonwealth of Nations. This correct and convincing attitude of Sir Andrew is transparent right through his despatch to the Secretary of State for the Colonies. His frank speech and comment should disarm the disgruntled here and silence the die-hards in England. We wish to draw pointed attention to two of his straight statements in the light of which the scheme he has submitted in outline takes shape and colour. "The main-spring of my recommendations," he writes towards the close of the Despatch, "lies in the first of my instructions under the Royal Sign Manual that I shall have regard to His Majesty's desire to promote the devolution upon the inhabitants of Ceylon of responsibility for the management of the internal affairs of the Island." This is not formal frankness to score a point. But it is a solemn recognition by a ruler of ability and perspicacity, of the ultimate of the British rule in Ceylon. Sir Andrew need not have made this reference to the Royal Instructions if he was merely formal but not frank.

#### No Concession to Communalism

The other is in respect of his refusal to placate Communalism. "My reason for opposition to the fifty-fifty demand or to any modification of it is," he declares "that any concession to the principle of Communal representation would perpetuate sectionalism which I believe to be anathema to thinking people of Ceylon of all races and preclude the emergence of true political parties on true political issues." The two statements remove all possibility of misunderstanding of His Excellency's set purpose. If his heart was not in the evolution of real responsible government, he would most assiduously encourage communal demands and render for several years to come the political unity of races impossible. If Sir Andrew was not speaking out of his honest feeling for the right destiny of Ceylon within measurable time he would join hands with the European minority and that groups of "angels" drawn from various racial factions who periodically meet in the Public Hall of Colombo to deliver their opinions, to whittle down the franchise already given and to impose other handicaps on the growth of responsible parliamentary government. The Europeans and those others who have thought that the restriction of franchise in some form or other was necessary do not see the impropriety of withdrawing what has been given and do not appreciate the value and truth of the principle that one learns best to do a thing by doing it. The abuses of popular franchise will cease to be so glaring in a few years' time. Human nature being what it is, even the best of democracies will not be altogether free from some abuse

or other of popular vote.

#### Chances for Men of Capacity

Having very briefly dismissed the case for the restrictions of franchise the Governor's Despatch proceeds to set up a Council of sixty elected members on the territorial basis and eight nominated ones, two of which will be in reserve to be utilised when the Governor thinks that certain specific interests are not protected otherwise. Normally under the Scheme we should have to expect a Council of sixty six members. Of the six nominated seats, four shall be for Europeans; two for Burghers. The Executive Government will be entrusted to a Cabinet of nine Ministers, the Chief of which, Sir Andrew favours, shall be chosen by the Governor himself and others in consultation between the two. While there is the possibility of minorities securing portfolios, even that of the Chief Minister, if minority members are men of capacity fashioning their policies on principle and policy. His Excellency's concern for emergence of parties is so keen as to give no false hope to the minorities that they may expect ministerships on the basis of communal ambition. It is trite to say that no Cabinet Government is ever possible on communal basis.

#### A Sop

We are afraid that Sir Andrew is guilty of a lapse when he contemplates deputy ministerships for the minority members. If minority representatives can honestly be deputies, they can as well be chiefs. Perhaps His Excellency is right, for the conclusion may be forced upon him by minority members under the present Constitution scrambling for acting ministerships that all minority squealing is for post and pelf not for principle and policy. Therefore minority members may only be too ready to stop complaining if some lucrative position was offered and to cooperate, though it may be pretence, with the majority. And that His Excellency is also satisfied that the majority members are not all for government by policy and that they might exploit the powers for communal ends, is seen in his categorical dismissal of the proposal to curtail the Governor's powers and in his setting up of an Inner Cabinet of the Chief Secretary the Legal Adviser and the Financial Adviser. But for the check of his Inner Cabinet whose advice and approval will be indispensable for any Ministerial measure, Sir Andrew would have advocated a higher Second Chamber. In the face of very wide powers in the hands of the Governor and of the retention of the services of the Legal and the Financial Secretaries, though outside the Cabinet, it may be said that it is distortion of language to style the Executive as Cabinet Government. But it must be remembered that the majority representatives are not altogether exempt from blame for minority complaints, though they have assured His Excellency that they do not relish a pan-Sinhalese Ministry and the present one was their answer to the minority onslaughts.

#### Party Government

In a subject country many currents and cross-currents of personal

Continued on Page 5)



## TRIPLE MURDER & BURGLARY INQUIRY AT MALLAKAM

### Karaly Muttiah and Two Others Stand Charged

## HUGE CROWDS WATCH UNRAVELLING THE ILLAVALAI TRAGEDY

THE most sensational case of recent times—the triple murder-cum-burglary case from Illavalai—attracted an unusually large crowd this morning to the Mallakam Police Court, when the Jaffna Police, after protracted enquiries, produced for the first time today three men before the Mallakam Magistrate in connection with the dastardly murder and burglary and preferred against them the triple charge of murder, robbery and housebreaking.

Five men, namely, Karaly Muttiah, Chelliah, Antonipillai, Rasacutty and Kurunathy were produced before the Magistrate, Mr. Jansz.

Mr. P. R. Krishnaratne, the Assistant Superintendent of Police said that he was charging only the first three accused. The Magistrate thereupon discharged the last two accused.

The Assistant Superintendent of Police assisted by Inspector John Attygalle conducted the prosecution.

Mr. M. A. Masilamany instructed by Mr. Victor Paul appeared for the 1st and 2nd accused.

Mr. S. D. Tampoe, Advocate, watched the interest of the deceased.

Sebastiampillai Rasacutty who was discharged by the Magistrate a few minutes earlier, was the first to give evidence for the prosecution. He said that he was 22 years old. He was a carter of Karayur. He was a suspect and remanded in this case. When he was in Fiscal custody he told the Fiscal Marshal that he wanted to make a voluntary statement to the Police Magistrate.

He was taken before the Magistrate and made a voluntary statement to the Magistrate. (The A. S. P. here read the statement). The witness said that he made the statement to the following effect. "I live at Thevarirkulam. Second accused Chelliah sleeps in my house. One month ago I saw these three (pointing to the accused). They left their houses at 8 p.m. that night. I saw them again after 2 a.m. Chelliah came to my house alone. I asked him where he went last night. He told me that he returned from the picture. He slept that night in my house which is 38 yards away from Karaly Muttiah's house. I know the first accused very well. His wife is from Illavalai. I have been to her house. I know the deceased Sinnathamby's house. I have been to that house. Sinnathamby's house is within a call distance from the house of Karaly Muttiah's wife. It is only a fifteen minutes' walk I went to deceased Sinnathamby's house with Muttiah and Pavili two months prior to the incident. I had gone to Sinnathamby's house three times.

I started from my house, Muttiah from his own and Pavili was at the Jaffna Railway Station. We all met at the Station at 7 p.m. and went by train and got down at Tellippalai. We walked from Tellippalai to the deceased's house. Myself and Pavili stopped in the lane (where there is a drain) further away from the gate of the deceased. Muttiah climbed over the fence and went in. This was at about 11 p.m. Muttiah returned and said that people were awake and light was burning. We all walked up to

Tellippalai, came over to Jaffna, taking the 4 a.m. train. We went away home. This is the second trip. One week prior to this was the first trip. In the first trip myself and Muttiah went. We both started from Muttiah's house, went to the Navanturai siding and took motor-rail at 8 p.m. and got down at Tellippalai. We walked to Illavalai. We reached Illavalai at 12 midnight. We did not carry any weapons. I stood at the gate. Muttiah went through the gate. From there we can see the verandah and the house. Muttiah went inside the house. He came back and told me that he took only Rs. 25 from the drawer of the strong box (*Pattayam*). Muttiah told me that the deceased was sleeping inside the room and no one on the verandah. We returned to Tellippalai walking and took the 4 a.m. train and got down at Jaffna. He gave me Rs. 12 as my share. We went away home.

In the second trip it was Muttiah who called Pavili. I did not tell Pavili anything about the first trip. One week after, was the third trip Muttiah, Pavili and myself started. We all met at the Railway Station at 8 p.m. and started on cycles belonging to one Kumaru. We went on two hired cycles. I paddled one cycle. Muttiah rode the other cycle & Pavili was on the pillion. From the Railway station we went along Tharakulam road, Sirampady road, Jaffna—Kankasanturai road and turned at Tellippalai junction and proceeded to Illavalai. We took no weapons. On the way to Illavalai, near a temple we left our cycles. That temple was 1½ miles away from the deceased's house. We went up to the house. There were two people out shooting bats. So we could not go near. We ran back to the place where we kept the cycles. We all came back to Jaffna. We did not waylay anyone on our way. The second accused is related to me as cousin's son. The 1st and the 3rd accused are not related to each other.

Aluru Kurunathy who was also discharged by the Magistrate, giving evidence next said:—I am a richshaw-puller of Jaffna, presently of Mylitty. "I was a suspect and was in remand. I was taken from Mallakam on the 28th by Fiscal guards to Jaffna. On my way to Jaffna I spoke to guard Kumaraswamy. He asked me to tell the truth if I had seen anything. I told him that Muttiah gave me a tin containing money which I am prepared to hand over. After I got down at Jaffna I was taken before Mr. Patrick, Fiscal-Marshal. He questioned. I told him that I have the money given by Muttiah which I am prepared to hand over. From there I was taken to the Port. There A.S.P., Mr. G. Muttukumar questioned me and I told him the same. I told him that I am keeping the money buried at Mylitty in my com-

## The Reform Proposals

(Continued from page 4)

and communal interests come into play. The wish of a Governor, however, plain spoken and sympathetic, will not usher in ideal politics on party lines. Sir Andrew may be an incurable optimist. Even he may realise that in a subject country politics can at best be the Government versus the people. In India there are only two parties, the Congress and the paramount Power. The Muslims form a communal body and the Liberals is composed of extinct national forces who, because of advanced age, play for safety by means of moderate and cautious language. We know that even in England party politics is growing faint. The National Government is proof of it. In the face of common danger from European Dictators party government has collapsed. In subject countries the position is somewhat analogous. The most a subject people can do is to unite to wrest as much power as possible from the Paramount power. There is nothing in the way of foreign relations, defence and trade to divide them into parties. Sir Andrew's hope of party government in the broad sense of the term may not be realised; yet the various communal groups may join on a national basis for a far larger measure of responsible government for the real purpose of promoting the prosperity of every racial group.

### Delimitation of Areas

The minority of Northern Tamils

pound. I went along with Mr. Patrick and A.S.P. Mr. Muttukumar in his car to Mylitty. I pointed out the place where the money was buried. A tin containing 111 silver rupee coins was produced in Court. I did not count the money. It was given to me on November 23rd at Jaffna. I remember that date because Muttiah had a case on 24th November. The money was given to me on the previous day. He gave it for safe-keeping. Second accused gave some more money on the 16th or 17th November at 9 a.m. i.e. Rs. 650, to be given to his father Natchendram, who lives at Kopay. He gave the money to me at my house at Thevarirkulam. They were all notes. I asked the 2nd accused Chelliah where he got this money. He told me, "Why do you ask it. Go and give it." On my way to Kopay I met his father at Mudamavadi and gave the money. Chelliah had more money which he gave to Antonipillai. He showed me Rs. 750 and 3 sovereigns which, he said, were to be given to Antonipillai. Mr. S. D. Tampoe remarked that a large amount of money was stolen. A part was traced and the rest had gone to some other channel which they are trying to trace.

Continuing witness said: On the 23rd Chelliah took me to Kopay and gave me Rs. 250 to be given to Muttiah who is to give it to a lawyer. I handed this money to Muttiah on the same day at 6-30. Karaly is related to me. He is my elder sister's son. Rasacutty is related to Chelliah. I have a house at Jaffna. It is my own house. The house at Mylitty is my wife's. I have no other money buried. The Magistrate told the defence counsel that the 2nd and the 3rd accused had voluntarily made statements to Court.

Mr. Sinnathamby Subramaniam was next called to give evidence.

Inquiry proceeding.

It is learnt that there are about 50 witnesses in this case.

## Sir Baron's Political Mission

### To Discuss Reforms with Jaffna Leaders

It is understood that Sir Baron Jayatilaka will be in Jaffna from 3rd to 5th January and will meet some of the leaders here and discuss the question of reforms with them.

It is learned that he has written to some gentlemen in Jaffna, expressing his desire to discuss the question of constitutional reforms with them with a view, obviously, to bridging the gulf that exists now between the majority and minority communities.

Sir Baron, it is understood, will stay at the Kankasanturai Rest House.

### Sama Samajists in Jaffna

Messrs. Colvin R. de Silva and D. P. R. Gunawardene, of Sama Samajist Party, are in Jaffna now and will be addressing public meetings on the Reforms Despatches and other vital questions at the following places:—

Tellippalai A. M. Bilingual School Hall, Thursday 29th inst at 7 p.m.

Esplanade, Jaffna, Friday 30th, 4 p.m.

Changanai Hindu Board Tamil School, Friday 30th, 7 p.m.

will in particular be interested in the reshaping of electoral areas for the fitting in of the ten additional elected seats. His Excellency has emphasised the claims of the Kandyan peasantry but made no reference to those of the Tamil areas that lie away from the centre of activity. There are several districts in the Jaffna Peninsula which have not received adequate attention of the government. It is up to His Excellency and the delimitation commission which he would set up, if his proposals were accepted, to see that Jaffna gets a fair share of it. It may be a reasonable proposition to say that each Maniagarship except Delft which may form part of an islands electorate may be constituted an electorate. The disquietude of the minorities under the Donoughmore Constitution is partly centred on the Public Service Regulation which stipulates a consideration of an appointment by the relative Executive Committee. They have had reason to fear that appointments to Public Services went to an extent by racial bias and family connection. Under the Governor's proposals Public Services will be placed under an independent commission beyond the polluting hand of the politician. There are other aspects of the Governor's proposals which are of great import. The size of the Cabinet, the need for deputy ministers and the emoluments of ministers, deputies and members are debatable in comparison with the Indian Congress Ministry. We hope to discuss in detail one after another of His Excellency's proposals as public opinion clarifies on them. The Governor's psychological study of the difficulties that confront Government is most characteristic of the man and his high purpose.



## The Jaffna Hindu College

### Annual Meeting of Directors

The Annual General Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Jaffna Hindu College for the year ended 31-12-37 was held on the 25th inst. in the Jaffna Hindu College hall.

The meeting commenced at 3 p.m. with the chanting of Thevaram.

The President Atigar A. Naganather occupied the Chair.

The minutes of the last Annual General Meeting held on 31-1-38 were read and confirmed.

The minutes of the Committee meetings held since then were taken as read, were approved and ratified.

The house accepted the resignation of Mr. A. Chellappah, J. P. Auditor, and ratified the appointment by the Committee in his place of Mr. S. P. Kandiah, F. I. S. A. as from 12-9-38.

The Secretary then read his report and the same was adopted on the proposal of Maniagar M. Somasundaram seconded by Mr. V. K. Gnanasundaram. The Managing Committee was authorised to go into the question of additional buildings to the Hindu College and to take early action thereon on the basis of the offer made to the Principal by the Secretary of the Old Boys' Association.

The Treasurer's balance sheet for the year ended 31-12-37 previously circulated among the members was then discussed along with the Auditor's report thereon dated 8-12-38.

Mr. V. K. Gnanasundaram moved and Muhandiam S. Candiah seconded that the Committee be requested to take early action to recover the amount due on the Insurance Policy taken out in the name of Mr. K. Aiyadurai in accordance with the resolutions on the subject passed by previous meetings of the Board—carried.

It was resolved to write off the amount of Rs. 278-53 due from Mr. V. T. Sathasivam as irrecoverable.

The Treasurer was requested to adopt the suggestions made by the Auditor to assess all the movable and immovable properties of the Board and to have them included in his future accounts.

The Balance sheet was then adopted on the proposal of Mr. V. K. Gnanasundaram seconded by Maniagar M. Somasundaram.

The budgets of the various institutions under the Board covering their respective current school years as scrutinised and approved by the Committee were then accepted and passed.

The loans on three promissory notes aggregating to a total sum of Rs. 4000/- carrying interest at 6% raised by the Managing Committee were approved and sanctioned.

On the proposal of Mr. S. Rajaratnam seconded by Mudaliyar V. Ponnampalam it was resolved to sanction the Managing Committee raising emergency loans not exceeding Rs. 5000/- whenever found necessary subject to the Committee's obtaining the approval of the Board at its next succeeding meeting.

Mr. C. Arulampalam proposed and Mr. V. K. Gnanasundaram seconded that the Committee and responsible officers of the Board should hereafter see that by-law No. 7 of the Board should be strictly adhered to—carried.

The proposal to modify by-law No. 22 was then discussed and rejected.

Members of Section C of the

## ACACIA ARABICA JUICE FOR ASTHMA

Dewan Bahadur Govindoss Chaturboojadoss writes to the Madras "Hindu".

I desire through the hospitality of your columns to convey to those who suffer from Asthma, my experience in a particular direction. I am suffering from it for 20 years. I was advised by a friend to try *acacia arabica* juice, and it has given me considerable relief. The course as follows:

Procure five to six tolas of fresh *acacia* bark (called "Karuvellam Pattai" in Tamil, "Nallithunma Patta" in Telugu and "Babul" in Hindi), crush it well with about five ounces of water in an iron mortar and extract the juice. Filter the juice by an ordinary cloth so that there may be some sediment in the liquid, and then drink it three or four times a day, one ounce each time. The juice should not be heated. I have followed this course with success. The hoarseness of the voice, the sourness of the throat and the tickling sensation which the patient experiences while breathing—all these minor ailments disappeared after I drank the juice three or four times for about four days. I had sound sleep during nights. I think the juice, if taken regularly, is capable of giving fairly permanent relief. I may, however, caution the patient against taking sour things like lime, tamarind, buttermilk and curds. I am sure the above course will benefit very many.

Board of Directors and the Office bearers and Committee members then retired. On the proposal of Mr. S. Rajaretnam seconded by Muhandiram S. Candiah the retiring members of Section C were re-elected.

### Office-bearers

The election of Office-bearers was then taken up and resulted as follows:

President: Atigar A. Naganather.  
Vice-President: Dr. S. Subramaniam.

General Manager of Schools: Hon'ble Sir W. Duraiswamy  
Secretary: Mr. R. Siva Guru Nather.

Asst. Secretary: Mudaliyar V. Ponnampalam.

Treasurer: Mr. S. Adchalingam.  
Auditor: Mr. S. P. Kandiah, F. I. S. A.

Visitors: Muhandiram S. Candiah and Mr. C. Arulampalam.

Members of the Managing Committee: besides the Office-bearers Messrs. S. Rajaretnam, R. R. Nalajah, J. P. M. B. E., and P. K. Somasundaram.

The question of Chandrothaya Vidyasalai was then taken up for discussion. The Secretary read to the House a letter dated 24-12-38 addressed to him by Mr. K. Kumaravelu on behalf of the Sub-Committee appointed at the Urumpirai public meeting.

Mudaliyar Ponnampalam explained the situation. The House decided that the school should be shifted elsewhere and requested the Committee to arrange for a further extension of the lease till final action is taken in the matter.

The house authorised the Committee to advance the Principal, J. H. C. a sum not exceeding Rs. 2500 for the purchase of science materials to be included in the budget for 1939.

With a vote of thanks to the Chair and with the chanting of Thevaram the meeting came to a close.

## Jaffna College Scholarship Examination

The examination will be held in the College on the 20th and 21st of January 1939 for Inters and Vth Form Students and for the Vth standard on the 16th of January 1939. Applicants who sat for the January 1939 Matriculation Examination may substitute a strong recommendation from the Principal of his College. Applications for above examinations close on January 10th 1939. Applicants shall specify in their applications their optional subjects and produce London Matric, J. S. C. and I Yr. Pass or promotion certificates as the case may be with credentials of their rank in class and conduct from the heads of the institutions they come from. An examination fee of (Rs. 1-00 for those who seek admission to classes in the Upper School and Fifty cents for the Lower School is charged which will cover Boarding and Stationery during the days of Examination. For other particulars application may be made to the Principal Rev. S. K. Bunker.

3 scholarships to Intermediate class of free tuition from January 1939 to June 1940 (6 months in Post Matric and 1 year in the Intermediate).

Syllabus: London Matric.  
Subjects: a. Compulsory (1) English, (2) General Knowledge.

b. Optional. (1) Latin, (2) Tamil, (3) History, (4) Logic, (5) Chemistry, (6) Physics, (7) Mathematics.

Candidates must reach a scholarship standard and have to take (a) in full and 3 subjects of (b).

4 scholarships to Form V (to students of affiliated schools only) of free tuition for two years.

Syllabus: J. S. C.  
Subjects: a. Compulsory (1) English, (2) Mathematics, (3) Gen. Knowledge.

b. Optional (1) History, (2) Tamil, (3) Latin, (4) Gen. Science, (5) Geography, (6) Bible.

Candidates must reach a scholarship standard and have to take (a) in full and 3 subjects of (b) and shall have not completed 17 years on the 1st of January 1939.

3 scholarships to St. 5—One of which is for the students of the college—of free tuition for two years.

Syllabus: Second Year.  
Subjects: English, Arithmetic, Oral Examination.

Candidates must reach a scholarship standard and shall have not completed 12 years on the 1st of January 1939.  
(Mis. 239, 29-12-38.)

## Our Colombo Letter

(Continued from Page 3.)

throw doubt on the competency of the Governor, after so short a period in this country to solve the long-standing grievances of the various communal groups and the desirability of giving full regard for the opinions of past Governors—the reference being evidently to Sir Stubbs—have been prompted by him, then one can be fairly certain as the line he would take. As his leave expires by the end of January he would give, I believe, the fullest instructions to his new friends Lord Rankeillour and Sir Sandeman and entrust his brief to their care. Meanwhile it is likely that his memorandum will also be published and one can expect pyrotechnics of the most exciting sort in the State Council in the coming months.

## Side Lights and Light Sides

(Continued from page 3)

sitting for an examination should be passed.

And, speaking of strikes, a Medical man in an Indian Town sent a memorial to the Minister that unless his transfer to a certain place was cancelled he would start Satyagraha.

You may ask why I draw so much upon India. Isn't it a great country full of strikes and satyagraha and saints and sinners?

During the period 1925 to 1936, 962 European males took non-European wives and 250 European females took non-European husbands. Seven hundred and fifty-three European husbands married Cape coloured brides and 179 European brides took Cape coloured husbands. There were 5,534 mixed marriages.

(South African Census)

No wonder they were rather mimed.

A Bombay palmist ran amok the other day and stabbed ten persons, because he had quarrelled with a client of his.

Those who go to India and try to have their palms read must be armed with a weapon and not kick up a row.

In spite of what was happening there now, all Christians in China and Japan were penitent before God and looked forward with radiant hope for victory for Christ, said a Professor from Japan attending the world Missionary Conference in Madras.

On which side is Christ?

## ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE JAFFNA

THE following scholarships are offered for open competition in January, 1939:—

1. *Thompson Scholarship*:—Consisting of free tuition, tenable for two years for entry into Form I or II. Candidates must be under 12 years of age.

2. *College Open Scholarships*:—Five Scholarships are offered to boys from Vernacular Schools who cannot normally afford a Secondary School education. The Scholarships consist of free tuition and are tenable throughout the School course up to the London Matriculation Examination. Candidates must have been born after 31st December, 1929, and must have passed the Vernacular Third Standard in all subjects.

The examinations for the above Scholarships will be held at College at 10.30 a.m. on Wednesday 11th January, 1939. Applications for admission should reach the Principal on or before Monday, the 9th January. Further particulars from the Principal.  
(Mis. 240, 29-12-38 & 2-1-39.)



# LOCAL BODIES IN INDIA

(Continued from page 1)

wider the franchise, the more will be the danger of groups controlling the results of the election, because such groups may not be formed on the basis of any principle but will be merely brought into existence for communal, caste or sectarian considerations or for rank rowdism. A way must be found out of the quandary. Elections there have to be, for the popular will must find expression through adult franchise; but whether the methods in vogue will suffice, or some adaptation of the principles underlying the elections in ancient days (and still in current practice in some parts of India, to wit, *jirgas*) will have to be introduced, is a question now to be settled to tackle the problem of corruption which has struck deep root in our Local Bodies. As, noticeably, corruption is more on the increase with the development of popular institution and the extension of franchise, this matter has to be investigated thoroughly and systematically uprooted. Party life and party government have introduced into the Local Board politics the undesirable 'Tammanny Hall' methods which must be checked betimes. We also discover the same corruption in regard to administration and establishment of Provincial Autonomy. There is another form of tyranny which has to be suppressed, the tyranny by Congress organizations in some places and by Congressmen in others. The abolition of nominations in the Local Boards has served to take away the official block, but, the process of purification must yet be undertaken on a wide scale so as to purge the Local Boards of the besmirching elements therein.

## Congress in Power

When once the Congress has decided to capture Provincial Legislatures and to form Provincial Ministries, the question naturally arises whether the Congress should not logically capture Local Bodies, for these are limbs of the Provincial Governments. These are the institutions which have been carefully kept in hand by the British Government in India all these years through the exercise of a close control over their composition as well as functions. The amendment of the Constitution of the Calcutta Corporation, it will be remembered, was one of the twelve great problems kept in view by Lord Curzon, problems which sought their culmination in the partition of Bengal on 15th October, 1905, and which ultimately ended in his own resignation before time. Although the Local Self-Government Act was passed as early as 1882, just three years before the birth of the Congress, as a sop to the rising national movement in India, yet, till this time last year, the nominated element and the official block were there as bulwarks of British Imperialism. It was these Local Bodies that voted addresses to Governors and Viceroys and gave demonstrations of loyalty to the Crown and its representatives. Every incoming Viceroy was welcomed by the Corporation of Bom-

bay; and likewise every outgoing Viceroy was bidden farewell. At one time, when public life was still in its embryonic stage, these Local Bodies were the organs of public life, the accredited mouth-piece of the people, voicing the public view on every new proposal, every intended change in the constitution, every Bill placed before the Legislature. That was why they were so carefully kept immune from all infection by the virus of nationalism.

But now, as the conditions have entirely changed, the Local Bodies are like the radical pulse that throbs in unison with the impulse of the central heart, which is Provincial Autonomy. If Provincial Self-Government has come to stay under the aegis of the Congress organization, it would be no more reasonably possible to let go the Congress hold on the Local Bodies, that it may be for the physician to ignore the pulse-beats tested by the watch for detection of sound or idiosyncratic symptoms in the cardiac cycle of the patient.

## The Electorate to Local Bodies

On the principle or policy of capturing the local bodies there were conflicting opinions till recently but to-day when eight provinces have come under the rule of Congress Ministers, no such divergence of view or attitude is possible. On the contrary, it is inevitable that Congress should not only take possession of these bodies but retain its control over them. In fact success or failure in the elections constitute the barometer that indicates the pressure of the Congress atmosphere. If we lose in bye-election, it means that the hold of the Congress on the affections of the people has weakened. This, however, must be taken as being only broadly true; for the considerations that sway popular decisions on a mass scale are many and varied. The same body of voters that were sworn in the name of the Congress at election to the Provincial Legislatures, may not accept a candidate chosen by the Congress at Municipal elections. Their view and vision become necessarily circumscribed, their attachments and affections are regulated by ties of consanguinity or bonds of caste and community. Sometimes they are apt to be prevailed upon by a powerful and lively sense of personal gain in relation to the Local Bodies. Nevertheless the fact remains that not to vote for a Congress nominee is to sit in judgment over Congress decisions, to seek to vary them by one's own passions, prejudices and predilections. It must be admitted that any such laxity would undoubtedly indicate a weakening of Congress discipline. It must, therefore, be our duty first to see that we run a candidate for every vacancy and succeed in every election, and also to see to it that the members so elected remain true to the Congress pledge, loyal to Congress ideals and that they observe Congress discipline.

## Disciplined Public Service

It is really here that we have

been disappointed. The personnel of our choice has not been satisfactory in a fair percentage of cases. The candidates chosen sign the Congress creed, but they fail to imbibe the Congress spirit. They allow their selfish ends to gain over public interests. They are perhaps connected with certain contracts in private capacity, and they do not like that the lowest tender should be accepted in these cases. The proceedings, therefore, raise a storm of objection, agitation and opposition. If the Chairman asserts his right or authority, it upsets the delicate balance of majorities and minorities in the strength of a Corporation and then put the Executive to a lot of trouble. The Executives' problem is whether to continue in service or resign in the circumstance of the altered balance which has weakened the majority. If he does not resign but continues to plod on with the wavering and uncertain majority, he runs the danger of being one day called upon to explain his conduct and be held responsible for all the latches, deviations and indisciplines which, though nothing much individually, assume monstrous proportions. The fact that such latches or trenches were the direct results of the numerous compromises of principle and policy naturally following in the wake of the weakening of the majority's position, does not, at a later stage, help him to clear the charges directed against him and arising from his indecision and hesitation when he should have, at the outset, severed his connection. All events must be judged with strict regard to the time, place and circumstance of their occurrence. It is easy to be wise after the event. Nor can we demand that earlier events should be judged by later experiences. When the majority was beginning to melt away, people opposite were not willing to declare their incipient hostility. They affected to be friends, and the loss of friendship is really a psychological process slow in onset and sure in course. There is no doubt that at some stage or other the leader finds himself in the hours of dilemma and usually, at any rate more often than not he was influenced by a longing and lingering desire for power which tries to obscure the uncomfortable from one's vision and obfuscate one's judgment.

(To be Continued.)

## NOTICE

Applications are hereby invited for the post of a temporary Supervising Engineer in the Public Works Department, Vavuniya.

2. All applications should reach the office of the District Engineer, Vavuniya, on or before the 7th January, 1939.

3. Applicants should state age, and should be of London Matriculation standard with knowledge of drawing and tracing etc. etc.

4. The salary attached to the post is Rs. 1/75 per diem.

W. B. Fernando,  
D. E. Vavuniya.

P.W.D. Vavuniya,  
December 23, 1938  
G. 39. 26 & 29-12-38.

## Order Nisi

### IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 46.  
In the matter of the estate of the late Sivakumarpillai wife of Kanapathypillai Thuraiappah of Vannarponnai West

Deceased.

Kanapathypillai Thuraiappah of Vannarponnai West

Vs. Petitioner.

- (1) Thuraiappah Thuraiappah
- (2) Thuraiappah Kanagarajah
- (3) Saraswathiamma daughter of Thuraiappah
- (4) Thuraiappah Sivasithamparam
- (5) Thuraiappah Sivasubramaniam
- (6) Nageswaryamma daughter of Thuraiappah
- (7) Vairavanathar Kurunathapillai all of Van West

Respondents.

This matter of the petition of above-named Petitioner praying for Letters of Administration to the estate of the above-named deceased coming on for disposal before C. Coomaraswamy Esquire, District Judge, on the 28th day of July 1936 in the presence of Mr. M. Somasuntharam Proctor on the part of the Petitioner and the affidavit of the Petitioner dated the 15th day of February 1935 having been read, it is declared that the Petitioner is the lawful husband of the said intestate and is entitled to have Letters of Administration to the estate of the said intestate issued to him unless the Respondents or any other person shall, on or before the 28th day of April 1937 show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

Signed this 18th day of March 1937.  
Sgd. C. Coomaraswamy,  
District Judge.

Extended to 28-11-38  
Sgd. C. Coomaraswamy,

D. J.

Extended to 16-1-39  
Sgd. C. Coomaraswamy,

D. J.

Drawn by  
M. Somasuntharam,  
Proctor for Petitioner.  
(O 75. 26 & 29 12-38)

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