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✕

NO. 30

The First Tamil Encyclopaedist A. Mootootambipillai (18-4-1858—3-11-1917)

Lexicographer and Historian

V. MUTTUCUMARASWAMY B. A.)

The first Tamil encyclopaedia was compiled by A. Mootootambipillai sixty years ago. He called it the "Abhidhana-Kosam." This was printed at the Navalar Press, Jaffna—named after Arumuga Navalar, the Champion Reformer of the Hindus. It was so named because this press, was contiguous to the house in which Navalar lived. Moreover A. Mootootambipillai wanted to perpetuate the memory of Arumuga Navalar. He sought to walk in the footsteps of Navalar, which he successfully did.

ABIDHANA-CHINTAMANY, a similar work, was published in Madras in 1912. Some learned writers have made the mistake of quoting that Abhidha-Chintamany, was the first encyclopaedia in Tamil. In the Tamil Encyclopaedia, published in Madras, we find this misleading statement, under Abidhana Chintamany which should be corrected. It is not amazing that such a mistake had been made, for we do not have a representative from Ceylon, amongst those compilers of the Tamil Encyclopaedia. Unfortunately Abhidhana-Kosam, has gone out of print for the past twenty years or so.

Since there is no Tamil King to extend his patronage to such works as Abhidhana Kosam, we reckon that it is the duty of men of wealth, who have also a love for Tamil learning, to extend their patronage and help to reprint these. A. Mootootambipillai was a great Lexicographer.

His English-English-Tamil Dictionary, fortunately available even today, was published in 1908. It was dedicated to Dr. Ananda Coomaraswamy. It is really a very good compilation, and it would be

a national service if this is made up to date and reprinted in a popular edition.

It is not so well known that A. Mootootambipillai wrote a Tamil-Tamil Dictionary, on the lines of the Oxford Dictionary. This is still in manuscript form; and if this is published will serve a very good purpose.

Historian

A. Mootootambipillai was the first to produce a History of Ceylon in Tamil. This he did in 1883—sixty years ago. This was called "Ilankaich charithra Soosanam." This has been incorporated, now in the Ceylon and World History by A. V. Somasundaram, published by the Navalar Press, Jaffna. The men of letters during his time, considered A. Mootootambipillai as a beacon of knowledge.

A. Mootootambipillai published a Jaffna History in Tamil, in 1912—forty years ago. This was a pioneer work. For the first time, Jaffna History was written in lucid Tamil prose from ancient times down to British times. Vaipava Malai by Mailvagana pulavar, was only available in "Ola" format that time. Many accounts of the celebrities of the nineteenth century were included in this work. He also translated the "Kailasa Malai"—into English, which was first printed in the "Ceylon National Review" and later included in the edition brought out by Jambulingampillai of Mylapore.

In an article on "History & Historians of Ceylon" in the Malar published by the Progressive Writer's Association, I was bemused at the igno-

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Letters to the Editor.

ENGLISH

Sir,—While endorsing all that Mr. Wijaya Indra says in his letter to the Times (19-10-62) on the Prime Minister Nehru's observations concerning the importance of English in the modern world, may I point out that given the freedom and the option to the Tamils in Ceylon (like their fellow Tamils in India), they would legislate for the compulsory study of English along with Tamil—from the Kindergarten to the University—making provision at the same time, for a working knowledge of Sinhalese, the language of the majority in the Island.

What the SLFP, the ruling party for the time being in Ceylon fails to realise is that it is composed of an overwhelming majority with a couple of Muslims as ballast, and has shown a studied indifference to the aspirations of an important minority like the Tamils.

Some of the most valuable contributors to Tamil studies and to the language of the Tamils have been and are Westerners. The Tamils will be cut away from the great researches in philology, and in the history of the language and in Dravidian studies made by scholars in England, America, Continental Europe and Russia if they are denied the opportunities of gaining proficiency in English.

In this connection the words of Hamayan Kabir, the Indian Union Minister of Culture, reported in the Hindu (11-7-62) and copied in the local press may be recalled,

"Tamils had contact with pre-historic cultures like the Mycenaean civilisation about 8000 years ago, and had assimilated arts and culture from all over India and other parts of the world from remote ages."

Our ruling party and its supporters should realise that the Tamils in Ceylon

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U. N. Day In Manipay

Ideal Of Human Brotherhood Stressed

In welcoming Mr. A. A. Gromov, Resident Representative of the United Nations, at the public meeting held in Manipay on Saturday in connection with the U. N. Day celebrations, Gate Mudaliyar C. Thiagarajah, President Jaffna District Community Centres Union, said that it was most appropriate that the Jaffna District Community Centres Union has this time organised the U. N. Day celebrations in this area because they believe in the oneness and universality of the human community. They feel that by such celebrations they would be able to forcibly emphasise upon the people that the ideal of human brotherhood and world unity are something worthwhile and most desirable. Continuing, he emphasised the importance of the United Nations in relation to countries like Ceylon. The United Nations work for universal peace and for a better world. How can, he said there be universal peace when there is tension and disorder within nations? The United Nations has to a large extent succeeded in strengthening good relations between nations, but it has not done very much yet to maintain good relations between the various races living within nations. This is a matter which deserves attention of United Nations. The United Nations should devise ways and means to solve the minority problems existing in many countries of the world. Ceylon is a member of the United Nations, and it is the moral duty of the Government and people of Ceylon to live up to the Charter and the Declaration of Fundamental Rights of the United Nations he said. The various covenants and the decision of the United Nations are the conscience of mankind today, and they in Ceylon should in their activities be guided by this conscience if they are to be called a progressive nation. It is hypocritical

to pay lip service to United Nations on local platforms and in the international forums if they do not put into practice the ideals of the United Nations in our own country he said. Ceylon is an ideal country to find out the efficacy of the United Nations objectives. Therefore, he said let us dedicate ourselves today to work for the ideal of a United Nation because he believed unity and peace within Ceylon is a fundamental pre-requisite if Ceylon is to play a decisive role in strengthening world peace. Continuing further he said there are various problems affecting this country which arise due to faulty relationships between various groups, be it racial, religious or economical. He would suggest that we could easily solve them if we base our solutions on the Declaration of Fundamental Rights and the various covenants of United Nations.

The Indian citizenship problem in Ceylon could be easily solved if we apply the covenants on stateless persons to the situation in Ceylon he stated. He appealed to the Governments of Ceylon and India to solve the Indian problem basing the solution on the United Nations. This he was sure would be the best way to get out of this problem. Once this problem is solved the people of Ceylon and India would live as good neighbours and loving brothers. If the people of the world are to live in amity and friendship for which the United Nations Organisation works for let there be good neighbourliness both among the people and between nations.

The United Nations he said must take the credit for averting a third world war so far and this itself is sufficient justification for its existence. Therefore, he said we need the

(Continued on page 3)



சென்னை, 2 நவம்பர் 1962
தமிழ்நாட்டின் மனநிலையை
நாளை நினைவுகூர
தமிழ்நாட்டின் மனநிலையை
நாளை நினைவுகூர

Hindu Organ

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1962

Treasure These Thoughts

Fear of God is the beginning of wisdom.

—SWAMI SIVANANDA

COMMUNIST CONSPIRACY

International affairs, particularly in the present precarious situation, require to be carefully studied and courageously faced by every nation that works for peace and harmony in the world. The trend of totalitarian ideology has been to create chaos and confusion in all nooks and corners with a view to paving the way for Communism to be ushered in. Aggression has been the *modus operandi* of the ideological forces that are sparing no pains to bring down humanity to the lowest level of degradation morally and spiritually. The Communist Chinese stand as the exponents of expansion by elbowing out others who are unwary or by bringing to bear the force of armed might. The impudent manner in which Red China has been laying claims to territory in the Himalayan border that has been traditionally Indian reveals the communist conspiracy to conquer the world. Here is a challenge that cannot be allowed to remain unchecked and unmet. These are the realities of international affairs.

The menace of marxism has become increasingly threatening. This is clearly seen in the view Soviet Russia has taken of the Sino-Indian clash and its open admission of its moral obligation to lend support to China. Professing to be the champion of the oppressed, Red Russia, rushes to far off Carribean to render revolutionary assistance to Cuba. But where, nearer home, almost next door, the Chinese are openly aggressive, the Soviet Power wants to pursue a diplomatic policy of allowing the breach to become broader so that the situa-

tion may worsen and become suitable for Communism to flourish. The world must by now realise the danger of a red belt from East Berlin to Peking gathering strength by co-ordination and consolidation to assume leadership of the Universe.

The warning is clear and grave. Every possible step must be taken by the non-Communist world to curb China and make this Marxist member feel the price of foolhardiness. In Lanka there seems to be studied indifference to the situation on the Sino-Indian Border. However, there are effervescent political parties exhausting their energies on slogan shouting demanding hands off Cuba and making it appear to the world that the little Isle of Lanka is loudest in its protest against the Cuban crisis. Our country claims cultural ties with India and bonds of age-long amity. Our Premiers, past and present, have all expressed their willingness to acknowledge the leadership of India in affairs affecting humanity and the world. And ridiculously enough, today Lanka is lagging behind in offering even moral encouragement to the courageous people who are valiantly combatting the Communist Chinese across the northern borders. This is really inexplicable. Are we to be passive on-lookers in this perilous situation where Communism has come out openly to crush democracy and all that is human dignity? Certainly the people of Lanka will not endorse such a suicidal step.

Letter To the Editor

(Continued from page 1)

would like to continue this great tradition in the XX C as well, when the world has so vastly advanced, and English has become the most potent vehicle for such assimilation.

Let Privena Universities and Cultural Universities in the South abound and flourish; but the hunger of the Tamils is for more English and better English. Are they to remain contented with a miserable quota in the only English medium University in Ceylon—an institution that is being fast converted into a Swabasha bear garden?

S. J. GUNASEGARAM.

Kopay
24-10-62.

Education of the Deaf and the Blind in Ceylon

The Golden Jubilee Celebrations of the Ceylon School for the Deaf and Blind will be celebrated in Jaffna on Saturday November 3, 1962, the venue being the Nuffield School for the Deaf and Blind, Kaitadi. Nuffield School is the third branch School opened in February 1956, the other two being the School for the Blind and the School for the Deaf at Ratmalana. When you go to Nuffield School on this day or if you had already been there before, you will realize for yourself that the Deaf and the Blind are always with us, and it is up to us to accept them as much as they have accepted the handicap, and to share with them the joy of living in a world of sound and light. You will also realize that the Deaf and the Blind are in no way incapable of taking their share in the cultural life of the nation and themselves contributing to it. Therefore you will agree that Education is a 'must' for them and that it is their birthright as much as it is for the normal children. The mistaken idea that a school of this type is just an asylum for the Deaf and the Blind is not new to Jaffna or Ceylon. It has been so, all over the world, especially in the West where organised education for the handicapped began. But in Jaffna it is made worse by having the School behind the State Home for the Aged which is essentially a home. Thus a large number of visitors had been disappointed when they went to Nuffield School during school holidays or on the weekends to see the educational work done there.

The Ceylon School for the Deaf and Blind was founded 50 years ago by Miss Mary F. Chapman, a missionary of the Zenana Mission of England who on her arrival in Ceylon in May 1910 was moved by the "appalling condition" of the Deaf in Ceylon and later in November 1912 having returned from England opened the School in Dehiwela by the sea shore in a little up-stair house. It began as a school for the Deaf with 2 deaf pupils but at the suggestion of Thomas Gracie of the Bible Society who helped Miss Chapman greatly, the blind too were included in the School. At first the number of

children was less than 5. Then in July 1914 the School was moved to Ratmalana where a 5 acre land was gifted by the Hon. Mr. A. J. R. de Soysa. Miss Chapman was herself a teacher of the deaf in South India when she visited Ceylon first, at the request of the Church of England Zenana Missionary Society to help her own sister, Miss Lena Chapman, Principal of Hillwood School, Kandy. But when she came to Ceylon she insisted that her sympathies were called on behalf of the thousands of deaf people and proposed to care for the deaf of Ceylon. In one of her letters she says "There is but one class of people in the world who cannot be reached by the ordinary methods of teaching and preaching; these are the Deaf and Dumb. The voice of the teacher cannot penetrate the silence that surrounds their lives, they stand in the listening crowd, with hungry, longing eyes and no crumb falls to their share. To them it is but a dumb show, they come and go, and we note them not, because their infirmity is not apparent."

Thus began a noble service in Ceylon at a time when Social Services were not heard of. The School went on growing fast and it was mainly run by the funds and donations raised in Ceylon and abroad. There were philanthropists who gave the cost of even big buildings. In 1933 under the direction of the mission, a Board of Governors was set up to manage the School. Later the School was divided into two separate Schools for the Deaf and Blind on the same land. They now have about 200 children each. Some years ago Lord Nuffield of England made a generous gift towards the School and this was released by the Board of Trustees to open a new School for the Tamil deaf and blind children in the North at Kaitadi in 1956 and they named the School after the donor.

In addition to these Schools, the Board was running a Sheltered Workshop for the Adult deaf and blind in Seeduwa which was recently handed over to the Government. Besides these Schools there are now the St. Joseph's School for the Deaf and Blind at Ragama with about 120 children

run by the Roman Catholic Church and the Yasodhara School for the Deaf and Blind at Balangoda with about 15 children. At the time the Government took over the Schools, these 5 Schools for the deaf and blind were not taken over but were left to continue as assisted Schools as before. The funds to run the 3 Schools of the Ceylon School are raised from the public with the Government paying the approved teachers' Salaries and the Social Services Department giving a block-grant towards the poor children's food. Year in and year out the Schools depend very much on the generous gifts of the members of the public to maintain the schools and the hostels where almost all children are resident, to provide the services, to pay the unapproved teachers, the matrons, housemasters and the minor employees and to put up, the buildings to house the children, the Work Shop and the class rooms and to purchase the hearing aids, speech trainers, Braille writers, Braille boards and a number of special equipment at a very high cost. It costs them Rs. 50/- to maintain one child for a month (Rs. 600/- per year) just to give him the minimum requirements he very badly needs.

Nuffield School has 85 Children now. It will not be possible to admit any more children to this School out of the number of applications for admission, unless the Jaffna public helps in raising the necessary funds to maintain and to put up the additional buildings which are very urgently needed to house even the existing children and staff.

A Jubilee Souvenir has been brought out very well and it will be sold at Rs. 3/- This will have a detailed history of the schools and the many Sides of Education of the Deaf and Blind. Besides; there are two color films of 16 mm available with the Principal of Nuffield School, which could be borrowed by and who would wish to show others how education is provided for the Deaf children at Clarke School for the Deaf in U. S. A. and how they are found employed at various industries, and educated at High Schools and Colleges with normal children.

It is perhaps necessary to say that the Deaf are dumb no longer. Ignorance and prejudice for ages together had prevent-

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U. N. DAY AT MANIPAY

(Continued from Page 1)

United Nation at least for our own safety and for the continuance of the human race, because if a third world war begins it is sure to annihilate human civilisation. United Nations is the only hope to create a civilised international community, he concluded.

Mr. C. Thanabalasingam, A. D. J. Jaffna presided. In paying a tribute to the great services rendered to the country by Gate Mudaliyar Thiagarajah, President of the Jaffna District Community Centres Union, he said that during the last 20 years of his residence in Jaffna, the Gate Mudaliyar had served not only the people of Manipay but the entire Tamil community and had kept the Tamil flag flying in spite of the repeated and disgraceful failures of the politicians. Referring to the United Nations Day, he said, United Nations embodies man's best hopes for peace and amity in the world and for happiness and prosperity to all individuals as well as nations. It was to end war for all times and to prevent the suffering of the common man that United Nations came into being. During the last 17 years the United Nations have done phenomenal work towards the desired end. No doubt there were some failures but the achievements far exceeded the failures.

The failures were practically in the political sphere but the services done to humanity by the United Nations through its specialised agencies worth some thing that man can be proud of and something unheard of in ancient times. He said we should urge the United Nations to act quickly towards bringing to an end the threat of a third world war. Let the United Nations not be worried about the fruits thereof. They should not consider the fruits of action as their motive nor should they avoid action, he stated.

Mr. A.A. Gromov delivered his address detailing the aims and achievements of the United Nations and appealed for the co-operation and support of all peoples to the world organisation in their efforts to avoid war and to strengthen world peace.

Mr. Lyman S. Kalatungam said that the unity that existed in Ceylon before independence was lost now and it was time that the U N. devised ways and means to solve the minority problems

existing in many countries.

Mudaliyar V. Mahesan, Mr. D. W. Selvaratnam, D. R. O., Mubandiram E. P. Rasiah and Mr. T. Thuraisingam also spoke. A message from Mr. V. P. Vittachi, Government Agent, who regretted his inability to attend was read by Mr. Selvaratnam, D. R. O.

Derivation of 'Tirukonamalai'

(Continued from last issue)

The Mahavamsa knows little of the great trading activity that centred round Mantote in Manar, and of Kalai (Galle) later on in the South. The Mahavamsa is ignorant of the activity in the centres of pearl fishery in the Gulf of Mannar in the West and of Tanglegam Bay in the East, fisheries which were mainly controlled by the Pandians and the Cheras (seras) in early times and which often became the bone of contention between the Pandians and the Cholas of later times, and caused much stir among the kings of Ceylon who were friends or relations of one or the other of these two powerful States.

NOTES. 1 Mahavamsa Ch. XXXVII, VV 40-41

2 B. C. Law, "On the Chronicles of Ceylon", p. 50, p. 52

(a) "Did the author of the Mahavamsa purposely change the name (Panduvasa) to Paundrasudeva king of Vanga and Kalinga mentioned in the Mahabharata in connection with the military campaign of Bhima?" P. 50
(b) Panduvasa—"It may well be a Pali or Prakrit equivalent of Pandiyavasa, meaning one from the Pandyan country i. e. a Pandya by his nationality" p. 52

3 Warmington: "Commerce between the Roman Empire and India" p. 120
'The Tamils control the North of Ceylon during the first two centuries', (A. D.)

4 Warmington, *ibid* pp. 167-171

U. N's 110th MEMBER

Uganda became the 110th member of the United Nations on October 26 when the General Assembly accepted its application for membership sponsored by 17 Commonwealth and other States.

The First Tamil...

(Continued from page 1)

rant statements made by Mr. Sivathamby in connection with the Jaffna History by A. Mootootambipillai. The writer of that article has not given Mootootambipillai the due place he deserves as a Historian. The man who lays the foundation, should be given the due respect he deserves. Rev. Fr. S. Gnanapiragasar's work on Jaffna—"Yalpana Vaipava Vimarsanam" 1922, and Mudaliyar C. Rasanayakam's "Ancient Jaffna" and the "Yalpana Charithiram" and "Tamils & Ceylon" by C. S. Navaratnam, are the superstructures of the history of the Tamils in Ceylon. It must be remembered that A. Mootootambipillai compiled his History of Jaffna from materials available in his day. Since then there has been tremendous discoveries as that of Dr. Paul Peiris of Kanterodai.

Is it not the duty of the Tamils, to remember the singular services of A. Mootootambipillai, as the man who has contributed such a great deal to the Tamil world of letters. Perhaps it is the bounden duty of the Sangams that foster the progress of Tamil to celebrate A. Mootootambipillai's centenary, in a fitting manner. Let us remember him today, for although he breathed his last forty-five years ago, his fame still lives in prosperity.

Education of.....

(Continued from page 2)

ed the attempts to make the deaf child to speak. But the oral method of educating the deaf child to speak and to use the language of his Society for his communication has been universally acclaimed by all educators of the deal now. These Schools have been trying to do, according to His Lordship the Bishop of Colombo, just what any other good School is trying to do though the difficulty of doing it is infinitely greater owing to the initial disability with which all the children must start. The deaf and the blind should find their rightful place in their Society and become useful citizens of country. They too should have the pride in contributing towards the life of the nation and being the heirs of its heritage and cherish their self respect.

Astrological

WEEKLY FORECASTS

SRIPATHY

FROM 4-11-62 TO 10-11-62

ARIES *Aswini, Barani, Kartikai 1st part [Medha Rasi]*

Domestic troubles will continue. There will be no mental peace. Work will be heavier. But you will be sufficiently compensated.

TAURUS *Kartika 2, 3, 4, Rohini, Mithuna 1, 2 [Idapa Rasi]*

New ventures will be successful. Ruin to enemies shown. But domestic conditions will not be satisfactory. Be careful in your dealings with your fathers relatives.

GEMINI *Mirugasirisha 3, 4, Thiruvathirai, Punarpusam 1, 2, 3 [Mithuna Rasi]*

Eye troubles likely. Your mind will not be at peace. Domestic conditions also will not be very satisfactory. Financially a good week. Spend the first two days with care.

CANCER *Punarpoosa 4, Poosa, Ayilya [Kataka Rasi]*

Domestic affairs and health will continue to be unsatisfactory. Work will be heavier than usual. Financially a fairly favourable week. Spend Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday morning with care.

LEO *Maha, Poora 1, Uttira, [Singha Rasi]*

Professional success will continue. Financial gains also indicated. But minor health upsets likely. Spend Thursday afternoon, Friday and Saturday with care.

VIRGO *Uttira 2, 3, 4, Atta Chittirai 1, 2 [Kanni Rasi]*

Brothers and sisters will be helpful. Gains through landed properties also indicated. But there will be no mental peace. Health will suffer.

NOTICE

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA

No. P/622

1 Rajasingam Subramaniam & wife

2 Sarathathevi both of Thirunelvely North Plaintiff.

Vs,

1 Rasiah Mahalingasivam and wife

2 Mahadevi both of do now of No. 36 International Buddhist Centre Road, Wellawatte, Colombo 6.

Defendants.

It is hereby notified that

LIBRA *Chittirai 3, 4, Swathi Visaka 1, 2, 3, [Thula Rasi]*

Health will continue to be troublesome. Troubles through mothers relatives likely. Financially a good week. Success in agricultural pursuits also indicated.

SCORPION *Visaka 4, Anursha, Kettai [Vrischika Rasi]*

Fathers health will suffer. Work will be heavy. Success in agricultural pursuits promised. Friends will help you out of difficulties.

SAGITTARIUS *Moolam, Pooradam, Uttiradam 1. [Thanu Rasi]*

You will be quick to pick up quarrels. Troubles in the office shown. Financially a fairly favourable week. Domestic conditions should improve.

CAPRICORNUS *Uttiradam 2, 3, 4. Thiruvonam, Avittam 1, 2. [Makara Rasi]*

Health and domestic affairs will continue to be unsatisfactory. But professional success and financial gains indicated. New ventures will have to be handled with care.

AQUARIUS *Avittam 3, 4, Satayam, Pooraddati 1, 2, 3 [Kumbha Rasi]*

You will be able to triumph over your enemies. Gains through landed properties promised. But troubles through fathers relatives or ill health to father likely.

PISCUS *Pooraddati 4, Uttiraddati, Revati. [Meena Rasi]*

Health will continue to be unsatisfactory. Work will be heavier than usual. Financially a good week.

action No. P/622 has been instituted in the District Court of Jaffna under the partition act No. 16 of 1951 for the partition/sale of the land called Poyiddy in extent 20 Lms. V. C. with House Building and situated at Uduvil in Jaffna District.

The defendants in the above said action are summoned to appear in Court on the 13th day of November 1962 at 10 O'clock of the forenoon.

By order of Court,

W. Dharmasena, for Chief Clerk.

This 12th day of July 1962.

(M. 168. 2)

