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Farming As A Vocation

(By E. P. Rasiah ex-Secretary
of the N. D. A. P. C. Union Jaffna)

The giant social evils of the day are want, disease, ignorance and squalor. To combat these successfully, agriculture is an affective weapon. Sowing in this part of the country, without tanks and irrigation facilities, is more or less a gamble with weather-gods. Mr. W. H. Cummings, once Regional Director of United Nations F. A. O., thought that "The Far East was now a nett importer of agricultural produce, instead of the nett exporter that it was in pre-war times; and every indication was that this would continue to be the case". This means that the battle for food-production will have to be fought here for some considerable length of time, if we desire to maintain a fair standard of living.

Population

We are told that the world is getting over-populated. Some even fear that it had already passed the limit of human expansion or "optimum population" for the experts think that the population is increasing at the rate of 25 persons per minute. It is feared that by the end of this year the total of the world's inhabitants would reach the 3000 million limit. According to a former agricultural expert Sir John Boyd Orr, we have also about 3000 million acres of land under cultivation to clothe and feed this number.

It means that there is one acre of productive soil per person; but experts consider that 25 acres per person were needed to keep a reasonable standard of living. What then is the remedy?

People from thickly populated areas should migrate to thinly populated areas. During 1846-1936 nearly 55 millions had left their homes in Europe and settled down

in American countries clearing thick forests and waging a ceaseless war against the Red Indians; but the present world, is a safer place to migrate. About 42 millions Chinese had gone to Siam, Indo-China, Malaya and Burma and settled down there. About 27000 British families had found shelter in Australia.

Likewise, we must get out of this barren Peninsula and gravitate down South. Thereby we would ease the pressure of living space here and also be able to bring more virgin lands under cultivation.

Farming as a Vocation

"Farmer was the first man and he will be the last man" much time has passed, since Hyde Bailey, Dean of the agricultural college wrote this, but it reminds us even now more forcefully, the eternal relationship of man to the Earth and the ultimate dependence on it.

Out of the Earth we came and to the Earth we return and it is Earth itself that determines largely our health, our longevity, our vigour and even our character. In the broadest sense, any nation is as vigorous and powerful as its natural resources and among them, the most important is agriculture. We must therefore endeavour to turn our villager into a combination of an expert in farming, soil conservation, fertiliser preparation and seed selection and preservation so that he may tackle the Earth successfully for a living.

If the Middle-East war can summon the best brains of the world for the production of destructive inventions, certainly Peace — threatened with total extinction of humanity — can claim a prior

right on our inventive genius. To this day, man has thought only to extract from nature. He has not thought it fit to restore to the soil the things he had taken away from it. He has been busy only in cutting down trees with indiscreet haste. He has not replanted with equal zeal and speed. "This remorseless attitude of man is now being amply repaid by nature in the form of drought, dry belts of land, low fertility and dislocation of distribution of essentials. Therefore officers with special training and technical knowledge should test the soil and prescribe the correct manure suited to that soil and the type of vegetation that should be replanted wherever necessary.

The credit must go to the late R. C. S. Cooke, A. C. C. D and Mr. N. T. Sivagnanam, President for popularising the cultivation of onion, chillies etc. and for the introduction of irrigation water-pumps to help the farmer in dispensing with manual labour.

In a land where the acquisition of wealth is fast becoming an impossibility a farm is a grand place to be and farming a potent field in which to find not only security from 'want' but also the satisfaction in 'plain living and high thinking.' Let the educated unemployed, therefore take to farming as a vocation and help to build our economy and save us from starvation.

Pandit Thangammah Honoured

Saiva Pulavar Thangammah Appakkuddy spoke on 'Kandaraboothi' at Mathanai Kandaswamy Temple Kankavil on Wednesday, 19th instant.

Mr. Shanmukha R. Kumaresan welcoming the

THE SACRED SPORTS OF SIYA

MIRACLE OF THE SEA

V. SUBRAMANIAM
Saiva-Pulavar

While Sundaresvaran (the Lord) was instructing Sakthi in the meaning of the Vedas She paid little attention, at which, He declared as a punishment that She should take birth of the fisherman's tribe. The Sakthi humbling Herself, and seeking a mitigation of the punishment, the Lord promised that he Himself would come and take Her again for His Sakthi. She was found at the foot of a Pannaitree in the shape of a young infant, by the head of the tribe of a Paravara or fisherman, who having been long childless took the child to his wife, and both were attached to it and reared it with great care. Afterwards, when the child was grown up, the head of the tribe promised Her marriage to any one who should catch a very troublesome fish (Shark = கருமீன், which broke the people's boats and destroyed the fishermen.

This shark was Nandi, the Lord's vehicle. When the Lord had declared punishment the two Moorthies Subramanian and Vinayakan (Kanesa) declared. It is because of our Lord's Scriptures that this has happened; hence Subramaniam snatched the books from

speaker said, that Pandit Thangammah Appakkuddy had visited Malasia thrice and delivered religious talks and that her fame had spread far and wide, particularly in Malaysia and South India. Where she won the admiration of all.

An address of welcome was presented to her in the form of verse. Senthamil Selvi Thangammah Appakkuddy referred to the Anuboothi (spiritual experience) aspect of Aruvagirathar's work, Kandaraboothi.

the Lord's hand and Vinayakar took up those on the floor, and both together cast the books into the sea. The Lord angry at Nandi, the porter for admitting the children sentenced him to become a Shark in the ocean, and condemned Vinayakan to the penalty of dumbness; but denounced nothing against Subramaniam because of the gift he had previously received, that is, that the curse pronounced against him should always recoil on the pronouncer.

In consequence of the reward offered from the head of the fishermen's tribe, the Lord came in the guise of a fisherman, saying that He came from Madura. On the first throw of the net the Shark was caught and brought to land; and the head of the tribe publicly before the people assembled, gave his daughter to the fisherman in marriage. The Lord now re-assumed His form and received the homage of the headman saying, "I took pity on you, since you had been so long childless, and now after remaining a certain time on earth, you shall be received into my paradise." The Sakthi proved able to understand the sense of the Vedas; and the Lord besides instructed sixty thousand disciples. Afterwards, the the Lord and Sakthi mounted on the bullock Nandi restored to its own shape) were graciously pleased to return and grace at Madura.

அவ்வேலை அன்புடையார் அறுபது
திருப்பிரவருக்கும் அளித்துயாச
வெவ்வேலை கடப்பித்து
வீடாத பரானந்த வீடு நல்கி
மைவேலை அனைவளிற் அங்கயற
கண் நங்கையொடும் மதுரை
சார்ந்தான்
இவ்வேலை நிலம்புரக்க முடி
கவித்து பாண்டியன் என்று
இருந்த முர்த்தி.

THOUGHTS TO BE TREASURED

அவனே தானே ஆகிய அந்நெறி
ஏகனாகி இறை பணி நிறை,
மலம் மாயை தன்னொடு வல்வினை இன்றே.

Identify yourself with God in the same way that God identifies Himself with you and carry out his behests. Anavam, Maya and Kanmam will then disappear.



திருச்சிற்றம்பலம்
நமச்சிவாயவே ஞானமும் கலியையும்
நமச்சிவாயவே நானறி விக்கையும்
நமச்சிவாயவே நாதவின் நேத்துமே
நமச்சிவாயவே நன்னெறி காட்டுமே,
திருச்சிற்றம்பலம்

Hindu Organ

FRIDAY JUNE 28, 1974

HELPING HAND

Educational circles keep on expressing satisfaction at the promptitude with which the Authorities at the Centre and the Director of Education of the Northern Range are making arrangements for the Jaffna Campus of the University of Sri Lanka to become a reality. Working against time with all the resources that can be gathered, the Authorities in charge have made sufficient and significant progress in this arduous affair. July 15, 1974 will be a memorable day in the annals of the progress of the Island and the spectacular story of the North as a signpost indicating the first bud in the flower tree of higher education that was planted several decades ago by one of the most distinguished patriots of Mother Lanka. On that auspicious day Parameshwara College as such will move out to the adjoining area and the fore-running features of University learning will move in. Sir Ponnambalam Ramanathan in his mature mind, had planned for progress by establishing Parameshwara College in such a way as to be capable of extension and expansion to suit the educational needs of the people.

Rome was not built in a day. All know the idiomatic thought expressed in this adage of old. So it is with the Jaffna University. Thus the people have now been awakened to a sense of sacrifice and service. The duty of translating thoughts into action and transforming deeds to be expressive of national aspirations is almost a religious responsibility that requires the use of common sense. All those who are interested in the general good of the nation and the particular progress of the people of the North will, we are confident, rise to a man and make this event of the establishment of a seat for higher learning fully fruitful and lend their helping hand to the Authorities, specially to the energetic Director of Education of the Northern Range in his stupendous services.

Parents of the pupils of Parameshwara College who, of necessity, have to continue their studies in other colleges will certainly appreciate this change knowing as they do that the evacuation is to enable the boon of a Campus to be established in the premises of Parameshwara College. It is here that parents have a golden opportunity to make their contributions to the problem of enabling the speedy establishment of the Jaffna Campus.

The Educational Activities of Arumuga Navalar

Author:
Dr. S. Thanajayarajasingham
Publishers:
Arumuga Navalar Sabai, 1974

In the nineteenth century when the religious and cultural values of the Buddhists and the Hindus were challenged by the English Educational system with a predilection to Christianity, the Buddhist and Hindu systems of education faced untold hardship. To arrest the decline and to promote the uplift of these national systems aggravated by the full support of the Colonial British Government, administrative as well as financial, Anagarika Dharmapala in the South and Arumuga Navalar in the North endeavoured to bring about a cultural and educational renaissance.

In Dr. S. Thanajayarajasingham's book "The Educational Activities of Arumuga Navalar" Navalar's educational contribution to the preservation of Hindu Culture and to the educational progress of the Tamils takes pride of place. The attempts of Navalar to foster the values of the traditional system against heavy odds have been assessed lucidly. How Navalar tried to develop an ethos of his institutions even when he adapted the principles and practices of the English Educational system that obtained in his time, pertaining to the curriculum, teaching methods, selection and writing of textbooks, school administration, school community relations and educational finance, has been amply discussed quoting original sources.

Navalar was aware of the Theological institutions that prevailed in his time for imparting religious education and training to the prospective Christian posters. To provide a similar Hindu Theological education and training for the Hindu aspirants how Navalar made an unsuccessful bid to establish a Hindu College of Theology called "Veethaagama Paadasalai" as Chidambaram, the most holy centre of the Hindus, has been brought to light in its proper perspective.

Religious discourses and expeditions of the Puranas, the Hindu Scriptures at Hindu temples were and, still, are the major traditional techniques of non-formal adult education. Navalar's attempt to

reshape the traditional Hindu cultural educational system through these techniques as a part of life-long education has been ably dealt with in this book.

The book under review bears ample testimony to Dr. S. Thanajayarajasingham's acumen and

interest in educational research. It is fervently hoped that this book will stimulate interested educationists to undertake a comparative study of the Sinhalese Buddhist Educational revival and its Hindu counterpart.

V. K. Sivaprakasam, M. A

Criminal Activities must be Checked Forthwith

Almost every day there is published in the newspapers an account of hideous crimes and dastardly activities in which precious lives are lost in gruesome circumstances and valuable articles are robbed by a trained band of rowdies.

The modus operandi of these looters and murderers is almost the same as that the pictures of Theatres have as the main attraction for cinema fans. A railway hold up or a bank robbery that is exhibited on the silver screen portrays the full technique of cruel murders in the pro-

cess of gang robberies. In our country.

Entertainments Establishments take great pleasure and extreme pride in screening such plays every day fully conscious of the fact that young minds ultimately get corrupted by these films. The Police and the people are unable to tackle the problem of crime merely because criminology, is being imparted to the youth through Theatres. The better way to eliminate the incidence of crime is to ban the exhibition of pictures that directly or indirectly induce criminal tendencies.

AWAIT HIS GRACE TO FIND THE TRUTH

(Extract from "An Analysis of the Thirumanthiram" by a Science Graduate)

உரையற்ற தொன்றை
உரைசெய்யும் முடர்காள்
கரையற்ற தொன்றைக்
கரைகாண லாகுமோ,
தீரையற்ற நீர்போல் சிந்தை
தெளிவார்க்குப்
புரையற்ற றிருத்தனை
புரிசைட யோனே.

Oh! ye fools that attempt to describe the indescribable (peerless Lord) is it possible to find out the limits of something that is limitless? To clear-minded devotees resembling pure waveless (motionless) water in a tank does the Lord possessed of plaited locks manifest Himself (in all His immense Glory that admits of) no comparison.

Cf. Tirupasuram, the holy hymns of the Devaram that braved the rushing river current, sung by the great Child Saint

Sampanandar in the course of his encounter with the Jain heretics on the bank of the Vaikai river, where the same question is raised and answered in beautiful language:

ஆட்பா லவர்க்கருளும் வண்ண
மும் ஆதி மான்டபும்
கேட்பான்புகில், அளவு இலகை,
கிளக்கவேண்டா,
கோட்பாலனவும்கிளையும் குறு
காமை எந்தை
தாட்பால் வணங்கித் தலைநீன்று
அவை கேட்க தக்கார்.

Deserving souls how they are blest
And Glor' of God eternal great
Beggaring words they are for sooth,
To end all ill and sins destroy,
The wise and fit to God should pray,
Await His Grace and find the truth.

எனமுதல் கழக நெய் மலையாடு என்னை
கோடுமுதல் நெய் குறையின தரிசல் கழக
என்முதல் நெய் கோடுமுதல் நெய் மலையாடு
கிளக்கவேண்டா வரை சிந்தை தலைநீன்று
அவை கேட்க தக்கார்.

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