

THE MUTINY THAT SHOOK THE FABRIC OF BRITISH RULE

AND INSPIRED THE INDIAN FREEDOM STRUGGLE

May 11, 1857 — a day that is significant in Indian History and the History of British Rule — was remembered with due significance in India, hundred years later, on May 11, 1957. This event, according to Indian Leaders and Historians, merits remembrance not as an incident of historical importance but as the first occasion of Indian National aspiration that inspired the successful struggle for Indian Independence. The article by Shri M. Krishnamoorthy under the caption 'A Forgotten Mutiny' that appeared in the *Madras Hindu Sunday Edition* of May 12, and is reproduced below in full in these columns, describes the true view of the mutiny which produced the national spirit that later enabled India regain its Independence.

This year the centenary of the Great Indian Mutiny is being observed all over the country. Opinion regarding the Mutiny has been much divided. The British and the British inspired or approved text books have, with a few notable exceptions, tried to make out that the Mutiny was inspired by utterly wrong reasons and that the mutineers were a brutal lot. As against this, dispassionate historians, Indian as well as British, have pointed out that the brutality was by no means the prerogative of any one side and that the British were quite guilty of atrocious behaviour. Some historians have taken the view that the rebellion was the first national attempt on the part of Indians to throw off the British yoke. Others recognise that an Indian nation as such did not exist at that time and that not all, or even the majority of the people, rose against the alien rule. The Mutiny, it has been argued, was a last desperate attempt by the displaced Indian aristocracy to regain their privilege: the common people had not much interest in it. The policy of expansion practised under the inspiration of Dalhousie was one of the causes. The other causes listed in the school text books of some years back were also there. In any case, the Mutiny failed because there was no central direction and many parts of the country took no part in it. The British

were able to put the native Princes in their places, extend their first-class administrative system all over India and help, probably unwillingly, in building up a sense of unity in India and in introducing the benefits of a modern outlook on life into this land.

In running the administration, in education and public health, and in carrying on a democratic system of political agitation, we owe much to Britain. In other things, too, the British community in India have been examples to us. For instance the British showed us how a determined attack on the Government of the day could be carried out through the medium of the Press. It is interesting to note that even in the matter of a Mutiny the British had set us an example; this happened about fifty years earlier than the Great Indian Mutiny of 1857.

Madras was the centre of this disaffection. The officers of the East India Company's Army were full of grievances, a few genuine and many imagined. They recognised that the days of freebooting marauders were drawing to an end and that firm and effective civilian administration was being steadily extended wherever the British took over territory. All through the ages armies have resented in greatly varying degrees, civilian control of their actions. Though

the British had a tradition to this regard — except in the days of Cromwell's Commonwealth — the officers of the army of the Company resented the growing civilian control and influence. In days of war the military has its way; and as a compensation for the terrible risks it runs, it is granted many rights and prerogatives. In times of peace these rights have to be withdrawn and no civil administration can tolerate military control. In practical ways, this restriction is sometimes galling. In those days a hundred and fifty years ago, communications with Britain were long and uncertain processes. A tendency to get rich quick, irrespective of means, affected almost all the British in India. Central authority could not be swiftly enforced. Inevitable reforms were resented by the men on the spot.

By 1809 conditions in the Madras Army had become deplorable. There was a demand that the allowances paid to the officers should be equal to those paid to their counterparts in the Bengal Army. Then, as now, despite evidence to the contrary, it was assumed that life in Upper India was costlier. Officers belonging to the Company's cadre were sore that those who came from England with the King's Commission superseded them in seniority and were apt to walk away with the prize posts. And

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SOME ASPECTS OF THE POLITICAL SITUATION

1. The statement of the Prime Minister Mr. Bandaranaike relating to the language problem is a step forward, as I wrote earlier. Nevertheless, it is vitiated by the restricted conception and scope with which the Prime Minister has permitted himself to view national matters. We are aware of the old adage that we proceed at times from Error to Truth. It is best to view things in the light of this adage particularly as the Prime Minister has said that his proposals are not final and exhaustive.

2. Even as the statement of the Prime Minister has been a step forward, the opinion thereon

By
S. SIVASUBRAMANIAM

expressed by the Tamil Professors is a further step forward. The Tamil Professors rightly mentioned that the Prime Minister's statement leaves out matters which are of fundamental importance to Tamil-speaking people. It is trusted that the Professors would devote their talents, energy and influence unremittingly till the Tamil language is restored to a place of honour and opportunity for national service in the body politic of the country.

3. No satisfactory solution of the language problem, beneficial to the country and capable of promoting the country's best interests and highest aspirations could be arrived at except on the basis of the Concurrent and Reasonable use of the three languages viz. Sinhalese, English and Tamil.

4. The decision of the Cabinet to introduce Amendments to the Constitution including the incorporation of Fundamental Rights is also another step in the right direction. The incorporation of

fundamental rights in the Constitution of the country is a matter of primary importance. It is the duty of all shades of political opinion to see that declaration of Fundamental Rights for all citizens, including a chapter on minority rights, is embodied without delay. This endeavour could be made without prejudice to the rights of political parties and their respective programme. The matter of the incorporation of Fundamental Rights could coexist with other political demands put forward by political parties irrespective of community and creed.

5. With regard to the programme of the Cabinet in this connection, it is definitely preferable that the terms of reference of the Committee be greatly enlarged. The present terms are restricted. There are several important points which have been left untouched by the terms of reference given to the present Committee, e. g. the powers of the Supreme Court, the Public Service, the Composition of the Cabinet, the distribution of political power among the communities, franchise rights to persons inhabiting Ceylon including Ceylonese of Indian origin.

6. Whether a Constituent Assembly would better serve the purpose of inaugurating a proper and suitable constitution with the inauguration of the Republic is also a matter which merits consideration.

7. As I mentioned at the very commencement of the language controversy some months ago, Satyagraha, Civil Disobedience and Non-co-operation are legitimate methods to which the Tamil-speaking people would be compelled to resort if their legitimate demands are not granted. (Satyagraha has been practised individually

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திருச்சிற்றம்பலம்

நமச்சிவாயவே ஞானமும் கல்வியும்
நமச்சிவாயவே நானறி விச்சையும்
நமச்சிவாயவே நானறி நேத்துமே
நமச்சிவாயவே நன்னெறி காட்டுமே.

திருச்சிற்றம்பலம்

Hindu Organ

FRIDAY, MAY 17, 1957

Treasure These Thoughts

God gives us trials and sufferings not because He is cruel. We must cherish the faith that He does so for our own good. When we pass through sufferings, we become more and more acceptable to Him.

THE THREAT TO RELIGION!

THE misgivings that have been created by the activities of the M. E. P. Government have reached such an alarming stage that not merely the politician but the common man as well cannot help exclaiming 'anything may happen in Lanka.' Time and again we had pointed out in these columns that the M. E. P. going several steps worse than the U. N. P. was making this country seethe with discontent. The latest ministerial statement on the position of denominational schools in the M. E. P. Administration has added to the growing discontent.

If certain Buddhist leaders want the Government to take over all denominational schools the only interpretation of the innermost intentions of these agitators must be that the state means 'the Buddhist state'. Otherwise these Buddhist patriots cannot suggest to the Government that the State should undertake the imparting of education according to the religious tradition of each student. Having sought legislative security for 'Sinhala only', the Buddhist extremists now suggest that the State should move on to the next obvious step of declaring the country 'Buddhist only'. The very fact that leading educationists and General Managers of denominational schools in unambiguous terms, have declared their disapproval of the suggestion of the State assuming the sole responsibility in educational affairs, clearly establishes

The Premier's Wesak Message

Physician Heal Thyself!

The Wesak message which Mr. Bandaranaike delivered on Wesak Day is unexceptionable and one the world sorely needs. In the international as well as the domestic sphere the root of the trouble is lack of proper understanding and tolerance, the attempt to exploit a situation to a particular party's advantage without striving to come to a mutual understanding without mental reservation. In some quarters there might be a disposition, especially among simple unsophisticated people to regard the utterance as eminently statesmanlike. But Mr. Bandaranaike we are afraid, was talking with his tongue in his cheek and wanted merely to put his restive racist associates in good humour, over whom he never had any real influence except as their opportunist camp follower. As everyone knows too well, the policy of the M. E. P. Government has been to exploit to the full the numerical superiority which the Sinhalese Buddhist enjoys so as to place the community in a position to dominate. And Mr. Bandaranaike is merely the mouth piece of the very greatest religious teachers and had no racial or sectarian bias and preached a message of universal tolerance and love.

The Premier's message is meant for the consumption of minorities who are

the claim of the people to their legitimate share in shaping the educational policy of this country in the traditional background of religious culture. How far the democratic mind of the M. E. P. is following the totalitarian method in practice can be gauged from the desire of the Party to entrench the Sinhalese language and the Buddhist religion permanently prejudicing the inherent rights of other languages and religions that have been accorded equality of status and recognition all along. Denominational schools are the only institutions that can preserve and protect the respective religious culture by the recognised method of imparting education to the child true to heritage.

For further observations we await more comments from the public on the Premier's announcement

smarting under the language policy and discrimination of the Sinhalese Buddhist. These do not need to strive for any understanding with the minorities for they are only exercising the in-their-opinion democratic right of decision by permanent communal majority. The M. E. P. Government has in its opinion gone to the utmost possible limit to conciliate the minorities. The four point scheme is the embodiment of that conces-

N. SANGARAPILLAI,
B. A. (Lond.)

sion. A minority language cannot claim recognition as an official language, but must be reduced to the position of a vernacular dialect. This attitude of Mr. Bandaranaike and his Cabinet has created universal bitterness and resentment among the minorities. No responsible leader has any good word to say for the four point scheme. The scheme is a deliberate attempt on the part of the Sinhalese leadership to flout the sentiments and just demands of the Tamils and to assign a humiliating position to the community in the body politic. What with the organisation of civil disobedience by the Federalist Party and the universal unrest and resentment prevailing among the minorities and the determination of the Government to crush resistance by force, the situation threatens very soon to assume a critical stage. In the political history of the world so many fait accomplis on which unimaginative arrogant imperialists placed their faith have been unsettled. Has Mr. Bandaranaike no other duty by the minorities except to stand by his prestige and unbending obstinacy? If his Government comes down from their Olympian heights and communal arrogance to make a gesture even at this late moment, communal harmony and co-operation can be restored and the political clouds will clear up. Will Mr. Bandaranaike take this opportunity to retrieve the situation by making this gesture instead of resting satisfied with mouthing in his high fown style slogans of tolerance and under-

standing which his party will not allow him to practise and staging religious tamashas solely intended to put the nation in good humour with his party? Such a gesture, every one knows, is the only practical expression of the Wesak message which he has preached.

The Tamil world knows that the four points scheme for the reasonable use of Tamil is an insult to the self-respect of the community and the denial of their elementary rights to preserve their culture and political existence. What is worse, it is the thin end of the wedge which the Sinhalese Government is seeking to drive to suppress the Tamil language as a medium in all administrative and professional spheres in courts of law

THE LANGUAGE PROBLEM

There is no recorded evidence to show when Tamil first came to Sri Lanka. Circumstances are in favour of Tamil having been a spoken language in Ceylon before the advent of Prince Wijaya of the Sinha Bahu clan. Early Sangam literature too mentions Eelam (Ceylon) from where literary men came to the Tamil Sangam at Madurai. It will not be incorrect to assume that Tamil is not foreign to Sri Lanka and has been cultivated under

By

DR. S. RAMANATHAN

indigenous rulers both Sinhalese and Tamil. The foreigners too never attempted to suppress this language but encouraged its study. The British permitted Tamil to be used in all official correspondence and even allowed official records such as Registration of Births, Deaths and Marriages, notarial deeds etc to be kept in Tamil. Their stamps, currency notes and Govt. notices had their Tamil equivalents. In the field of politics it was the Britisher who instilled patriotism and loyalty to Sri Lanka into the hearts

and the legal profession and later on in medicine and business, Sinhalese will be made compulsory. The new-entrants in the Public Services are compelled to study Sinhalese if they are to be confirmed in their appointments. The next step would be to abolish examinations in Tamil for recruitment to the Public Services and to make Sinhalese compulsory at the University and to remove the Tamil stream there. When Sinhalese is the only medium for the administration and the professions it is but natural that the Tamil stream will languish by neglect. No Tamil in Ceylon can view with complacency the present political situation or take it for granted as an inevitable evil, but he must resist the attempt of the Sinhalese community to suppress their culture and political and economic existence and their identity as a separate race. Then the victory will ultimately crown their efforts.

Greetings

Our Greetings to Premier Nehru who arrives in Lanka today for the Buddha Jayanthi.

of all irrespective of race and religion, caste colour and creed to look to their land of birth with a sense of pride in its citizenship, thus helping to evolve a united Ceylonese nation. In this the English language and the educational system were very helpful in dispelling all fissiparous tendencies of communal bickerings. Indeed if not for the British and their English language there would have been no united Ceylon. The irony of the present situation is that within ten years of independence communal minded Sinhalese should have adopted an ultranational Sinhalese policy to the detriment of other minorities of whom the Ceylon Tamils form an important sector. During the elections the issue of Sinhalese only was made use of to catch the fancy of the ignorant masses and to rouse racial

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THE STATE AND SOCIAL SERVICES

(Continuation of Dr. R. L. Thiruchelvam's presidential address at the 12th Annual Sessions of the Ceylon Association For The Advancement of Science).

The total number of persons registered by all the Employment Exchanges in the Island during 1955 for employment was 83,883. The figure for the previous year was 77,339.

Ceylon's problem is more one of under-employment than of unemployment. There is chronic under-employment in the village and seasonal unemployment in the fishing areas. During planting and harvesting time, the villager is normally busy. Between these periods of peak activity, he has little to do.

The Department of Rural Development and Cottage Industries have come in here and have tried to tap some of this otherwise wasted energy. At present there are over 6,000 rural development men's societies and 2,000 parallel women's organisations in the rural areas.

These societies enlist the voluntary participation of the local villagers to undertake a wide variety of work which is urgently needed by the villages, such as construction of roads, school buildings, dispensaries and to learn cottage arts and crafts.

The object is to utilize the part-time energies of the under-employed primary producers, which would be otherwise wasted, for community upliftment and self-help services in the village.

Food Subsidy

Ceylon's dependence on food imports made it necessary for her to take special measures to ensure that the population is supplied with sufficient food of the kind needed to maintain health efficiency.

The State became the sole importer of the main food imports during the last War and even today continues to be the sole importers of Rice, Flour and Sugar. By means of an extensive rationing scheme it has made it reasonably certain that essential foods are fairly distributed.

With the help of subsidies and price fixing orders

it has been able to peg the prices of essential foods. Food subsidies have been described as a form of poor relief where charity is dispensed to the rich and the poor alike with an impartial hand.

The present annual food subsidy bill may cost up to Rs. 155 million. Special efforts have been made to increase the consumption of milk. This has been due partly to the growing realisation of the vital role played by milk on nutritionally vulnerable groups like infants, children, nursing and pregnant mothers.

Over Rs. 5 million is spent annually maintaining the net-work of milk-feeding centres intended for pre-school children all over the Island. The free mid-day meal which was re-introduced in recent months will cost the Government about Rs. 12 million per year.

The total amount spent on subsidised food at present will be about Rs. 172 million (subject to international market prices). This represents an expenditure of about 3.2 per cent of the national income.

Easing The Housing Problem

Practically every country in the world has a housing problem. The growing increase in population, the rapid urbanisation in recent times, the low rate of building construction due to difficulties with regard to labour and building materials and the high cost of construction have all helped in creating an acute shortage of houses.

Slum conditions are, therefore, being created daily by the subdivision of houses originally intended for one family. This overcrowding has resulted in the spread of disease and squalor. Tuberculosis particularly thrives under these conditions.

The gravity of the situation was realised by Government and a separate Department of Housing was started. The State has also started subsidised housing scheme for the

middle and the working classes.

The Government and the public have come increasingly to accept and agree that bad housing is associated with juvenile delinquency and other forms of social maladjustment and is therefore a major problem urgently demanding solution.

Although the development of the State Social Assistance Services in Ceylon is of recent date, we have to go back some distance in time to discover their origins. For centuries men more fortunate than their fellows have been prepared to contribute alms to the needy and this has been supported and maintained by the precepts of all the religions in the Island.

The joint and undivided family system common to all countries acted as a form of social insurance guaranteeing a subsistence level to all including orphans, the disabled, the infirm, the widow and the temporarily unemployed.

Under this system, the earnings of every member go in a common pool, on which drafts to meet the needs of all are regulated by the family head—everyone earning according to his capacity and receiving according to his need.

The impact of Western technology and the development and expansion of urban areas have been disrupting the hold of the joint family system and gradually State intervention to help the needy became necessary.

With the various assistance schemes undertaken by Government through the Department of Social Services and the grants given to Voluntary Agencies for institutional care as well as for outdoor relief, the amount spent by Government on the various social assistance schemes varies from about Rs. 18 million to nearly Rs. 40 million when drought conditions prevail on an island-wide basis causing distress among large areas of the Island,

Letter to the Editor.

Adjusting National Problems

Sir,

The return from India to Ceylon of Sir Edwin Wijeyeratne who has relinquished his post as High Commissioner at New Delhi synchronizes with important developments in our country. The move to declare Ceylon a Republic, the impasse created by the language controversy and the rights of Ceylonese of Indian descent in Ceylon are some vital matters affecting the country just now. It is gratifying to know that Sir Edwin does not propose to remain inactive, but would continue his effort to serve the country as he had done in the past for a long period of time commencing from the memorable year 1915. Persons like Sir Edwin and another retired High Commissioner—Mr. T. B. Jayah—both with long and intimate experience of the national movement in Ceylon now supplemented by knowledge and experience of Foreign and International affairs, could make a distinctive contribution towards the

gradual adjustment of some of our problems. There could be no doubt that the sage counsel of the present Governor General Sir Oliver Goonetilleke, who has had similar experience and knowledge and who has piloted Ceylon to its present position through many a difficulty, would also be made available if sought under exceptional circumstances in solving certain pressing problems that threaten to undermine the very foundations of our National Independence, Unity and Stability. There also could be no doubt that the leaders of the Government Party and the Opposition and the country as a whole would like to pay due regard to the advice of these experienced leaders, who had worked with elders like Sir Ponnambalam Ramanathan, Sir James Peires, Sir Ponnambalam Arunachalam and Mr. F. R. Senanayake. It is imperative that early and active steps be taken to avail the country of the benefit of such advice.

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Though the State has in recent times actively entered the field of Social Services, Voluntary Agencies continue to play an important role in providing for the welfare of the less fortunate in the community. It has been rightly said that the existence of voluntary agencies is an index to the country's social consciousness.

Effect of Increasing Population

Another important factor is that in Ceylon as in all Eastern countries, the pressure of population on the land is becoming acute.

The combined effect of a low death rate, 10.4 per 1,000 in 1954 which compares very favourably with the rates obtaining in Western countries and the high birth rate of 36.2 per 1,000 in 1954 has brought about a population increase at an alarmingly high annual rate of between 2.5 to 3 per cent. and which if allowed to continue unchecked will provide the Island with 10 million in 1960 and about 14 million in 1970.

This phenomenal rate of population increase is primarily due to the steady

decline in the death-rate over the last few decades as a result of better nutrition, better sanitation and housing, a rising standard of living and the recent advances in medical science.

However, from 1921 onwards up to a few years back, the birth-rate has remained at the high level of about 40 per 1,000. The lowering of the death rate however desirable in itself has to be reckoned with as a factor which will add further to our population by prolongation of the expectation of life and the increased number of women who will produce the next generation.

Marriage is also universal among our women and the most popular time for marriage is while they are in the most fertile age groups. Thus our conditions are favourable for the maintenance of a high birth rate. The crude birth rate, however, does not tell us about the long term reproduction trend of the population.

The rapid growth of population has been accompanied neither by a corresponding increase in

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THE STATE AND SOCIAL SERVICES

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industrialisation nor by a sufficient extension of the land under cultivation. In recent years Government has conducted a vigorous food production drive.

Whatever methods are adopted to check the increase in population the results will not be apparent for another two or three decades. The immediate need will therefore be the stepping up of production especially that of food with a population or family limitation plan as a long term policy.

The expenditure on Social Services in the country at present represents about 37 per cent of the year's expenditure or an annual investment of well over 40 per cent of the revenue.

What kind of dividend in terms of human happiness and socioeconomic well-being does this huge outlay produce? An outlay of about 10 per cent. of the current National Income (Rs. 5,104 millions in 1955).

Universal elementary education has greatly reduced illiteracy in the country. Post primary education has produced the technicians, clerical workers and the public servants upon

whom the operation of a complex community life depends.

The higher educational institutions have made it possible for young men and women of promise from all ranks of society to be trained for the higher executive posts and professional careers.

The work of the Health Services and subsidised consumption is reflected in the steadily increasing span of life expectancy and in the reduction of mortality rates and in the disappearance of diseases which were formerly dreaded scourges.

The contribution of the Social Assistance Schemes have been to eliminate the desperate poverty and abolish the fear of destitution which in former times accompanied illness, orphanhood, widowhood and old age. It could be said that a minimum standard of living has in effect been established in Ceylon, below which no citizen can be allowed to fall.

In a country where a fight is taking place to raise the standard of living of its entire people and when voluntary and individual effort is inadequate to meet this need, the State has to step and

muster, whatever forces and resources it has to ensure that no individual falls below a given minimum.

In societies in process of rapid social and economic change, traditional systems become increasingly inadequate and eventually the State tends to intervene first to relieve the more extreme forms of destitution, and then to develop general systems of social security and services and thereby raise the standard of living.

ORDER NISI

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 295

In the matter of the estate of the late Naganather Subramaniam of Velanai west. Deceased.

Subramaniam Veerasingham of Vannarponnai east

Petitioner.

Vs

1. Subramaniam Sivagnanam of Velanai west.
2. Subramaniam Duraisamy of do, 3. Sivakolunthu widow of Subramaniam of do.

Respondents.

This matter coming on for disposal before P. Sri SkandaRajah Esquire, District Judge, Jaffna on the 20th day of March 1957 in the presence of Mr. C. C. Somasegram proctor on the part of the petitioner and on reading the affidavit and petition of the petitioner.

It is ordered that the petitioner be declared entitled to have Letters of Administration to the estate of the abovenamed deceased as one of the heirs of the said deceased and that such Letters of administration be issued to the petitioner accordingly, unless the abovenamed respondents or any others interest appear before this court on or before the 6th day of May 1957 and show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this court to the contrary.

This 20th day of March 1957.

Sgd. P. Sri SkandaRajah
District Judge.

6-5-57
Order Nisi extended for 3rd June 1957.

Sgd T. Muthusamipillai
Acting District Judge
(O 13. 10 & 17)

ORDER NISI

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 300 T.

In the matter of the intestate Estate of the late Ponnampalam Parajahsingam of Anaikkodai who died at Singapore, Straits Settlements Deceased

1. Sinnathamby Canagasabai and wife
2. Puvaneswary both of Anaikkodai

Vs. Petitioners

Vairavanathar Ellen Sinna-ppillai of do
Respondent

This matter coming on for disposal before N. Sivagnanasundaram Esquire District Judge, Jaffna on the 11th day of April 1957 in the presence of Mr. S. Rajendran Proctor for the Petitioner and the affidavit of the Petitioner having been read:

It is ordered that Letters of Administration to the estate of the abovenamed deceased be granted to the Petitioners as brother-in-law and sister and sole heir unless the abovenamed Respondent or any other person appear before this Court on the 27th day of May 1957 and show cause if any to the contrary.

The 11th day of April 1957

Sgd. T. Muttusamypillai
District Judge

Drawn by
S. Rajendran
Proctor for Petitioners
(O 12 10 & 17)

ORDER NISI

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 301

Loorthammah widow of Antonipillai Volichore Martyn of Hospital Road, Jaffna
Petitioner.

Vs.

1. Mary Ann Jessie daughter of A. V. Martyn
2. Stanislaus son of A. V. Martyn
3. Annet daughter of A. V. Martyn and
4. Joseph Manuelpillai all of Hospital Road, Jaffna
Respondents.

In the matter of the estate of the late Antonipillai Velichore Martyn of Swatz Lane, Chundikuli Deceased.

This matter coming on for disposal before N. Sivagnanasundaram Esquire District Judge, Jaffna on the 12th day of April 1957 in the presence of Mr. T. Arianayakam Proctor on the part of the petitioner and the affidavit of the abovenamed petitioner dated 11th April 1957 having been read

It is further declared that the said 4th Respondent, be appointed Guardian ad Litem over the minors 1st 2nd and 3rd Respondents and that the said petitioner be declared entitled to have Letters of Administration to the estate of the deceased his wife and that Letters of Administration be issued to her accordingly unless the respondent or others interested shall on or before the 20th day of May 1957 show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this court to the contrary. It is further ordered, that the said petitioner do produce the minors on the said day.

The 12th day of April 1957.

(Sgd) T. Muttusamipillai.
District Judge.
Jaffna.

Drawn by me,
(Sgd) T. Arianayakam.
Proctor for Petitioner.
(O. 11 10 & 17)

THE JAFFNA MUTUAL BENEFIT FUND Ltd.

(Established 1918)

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Manager

The Language Problem

(Continued from page 2)

passions by both the U. N. P. & the M. E. P. But it must be said to the credit of the L. S. S. P. that this Leftist party stood for both languages and lost its popularity among the Sinhalese masses. Their leaders too ran the risk of their lives owing to the frenzy of the Sinhalese mob.

The demand of the Tamils is that they should be allowed to use their language as hithertofore under the British regime as one of the official languages. This cannot be regarded as revolutionary by any standard of political wisdom.

Indeed if the U. N. P. and the M. E. P. would only realise that it was the English language that brought all the races in the island together and continued to use it as the official language with as much of Swabasha, Sinhalese or Tamil, whenever occasion demands it the evolution of a united Ceylon nation would have gone on uninterrupted and probably Sinhalese and Tamils would have studied each other's language and understood each other better instead of being arrayed as enemies for all time.

It would be an act of folly to allow such a deterioration to occur and it would be better if all our political leaders come to their senses and restore the good feelings of friendships and amity that prevailed before independence. If every citizen is allowed to live without let or hindrance and without discrimination of race or religion Sri Lanka is bound to progress rapidly towards peace and plenty.

WANTED

Wanted a publishing editor for the Saivaprasasa Press. Those learned in Hinduism and Tamil with a knowledge of English may apply to the Hony Secretary, Saivaparpalana Sabha. Salary according to qualifications.

வ. கார்த்திகேசு
for Saivaprasasa Press

OBITUARY

Mrs. Rasammah Rajaratnam

We regret to record the death which occurred on Tuesday, May 14, at Chavakacheri of Mrs. Rasammah Rajaratnam, mother of Mr. Rajah Ariyaratnam, Editor, *Elakesari*, and sister of Messrs. A. M. K. Cumaraswamy and M. Peethambaram.

Mrs. Rajaratnam served as a teacher for 25 years under the Hindu Board and after retirement in 1944 functioned as Matron in the Hindu Girls' Home at Tinnevely. She was a prominent social worker and maintained close contact with and deep interest in her former pupils. She was 74 years at death. Mr. Rajaratnam, her husband, predeceased her.

The funeral took place at Chavakacheri on Wednesday May 15, and was largely attended.

The Mutiny That Shook The Fabric Of British Rule

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then there was the vexed question of what was euphemistically known as the bazaar fund. The Army officers had taken to themselves the right to levy a tax (a kind of blackmail) on the bazaars in their cantonments; we know how *mamool* grows in India. When Army officers were provided, under new rules, with pensions the Government stopped the practice of levying a bazaar fund. Nobody likes to lose money, especially army officers who find that civilians jobs are beginning to pay better and harbour a resentment against the civilians for moving in after the

army had fought the wars of conquest and pacified the country. The Government had also decided about this time to do away with the tent contract system. Officers commanding infantry regiments has been paid Rs. 952 every month and those commanding cavalry regiments Rs. 658½ per mensem. It is typical of Governments that the figures should not have been say, Rs. 960 or Rs. 660! This allowance was meant to help the officers to maintain and supply tents and other camp equipment to their regiments. The system had outgrown its use and had to be scrapped. Some kind of compensatory increase in batta was allowed to the officers instead but they resented the loss of

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Value Of Conventions

Election of Speaker of Lok Sabha

Paying a high tribute to Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Iyengar on being elected Speaker of the Lok Sabha, Premier Nehru said:

"It is well known, that under the system of parliamentary Government, while the Constitution has necessarily great force and while we have bound ourselves by oath and otherwise to abide by the terms of the Constitution, the Constitution by itself is not enough. Conventions have to grow up, habits of behaviour have to grow up, a certain tolerance of each other has to grow up, a certain attempt to understand and to adapt oneself—in other words, a House, like this has in effect to be an exemplar to the nation at large. As we are representatives of the nation representing various parts of the country, various ideas, various parties, so also in our behaviour in this House we have to set an example of mutual forbearance and tolerance and an attempt to pull together, to the nation at large.

"This is a new Parliament assembling after the general elections and we have to face difficult problems because we have ventured out into the high seas of national endeavour and we have to meet many heavy waves and storms sometimes, but we have done so deliberately and we have to swim across to the other shore. This House inevitably is going to play a vital part in all this. It is out of this House that will come not only the laws but much else of vital significance which will give the lead to our people. It is necessary, therefore, that this House should undertake this burden and this onerous responsibility and joyful adventure with good heart and under good leadership.

Astrological

WEEKLY FORECASTS

'SRI PATHY'

FROM 19-5-57 TO 25-5-57

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

Some of your personal problems will be solved. Financial gains also promised. Success in agricultural pursuits and fame also indicated. But all is not well in the domestic side.

TAURUS *Kartikai 2, 3, 4, Rohini, Mirugasirisha 1, 2 [Idapa Rasi]*

Work will be heavier than usual. Quarrels with friends and relatives also shown. Domestic upsets also likely. But you will be able to triumph over your enemies.

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

You will lose your temper in a hurry this week. Sunday Monday and Tuesday morning must be spent with care. Friends will not be very helpful. Don't rely on their business much. In spite of opposition you will have your own way.

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

The first two days will be favourable for new undertakings. Tuesday afternoon Wednesday and Thursday must be spent with care. Rest of the week will turn favourable again. But health upsets likely.

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

Favours from superiors promised first half of the week. Fame and financial gains also shown. Thursday evening Friday and Saturday will cause you some annoyances. There will be no mental peace.

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

You will be able to steer clear of opposition this week. Financial conditions should improve. Gains through agricultural pursuits also promised. Do not make any hasty decisions in important affairs now.

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

Health must be given particular care for some time. Eye troubles likely. Paternal relatives may cause you some troubles. But financially a good week.

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

Domestic upsets likely this week. Troubles in the office also shown. Your personal affairs will be in a muddle. Be careful in all your dealings.

SAGITTARIUS *Moolam, Pooradam, Uttiradam 1, [Than Rasi]*

Friends of the opposite sex may land you into some difficulties this week. You will not be able to get your things done smoothly. Financially a good week.

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

In spite of oppositions you will be able to have your own way in your affairs. But your mind will not be at rest. Scandals and troubles through children shown. Beware of secret enemies.

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

A good week. You will find much improvements in your personal affairs. You will be able to negotiate some ventures with success. Financial gains also promised.

PISCES *Pooraddati 4, Uttiraddati, Revati, [Meena Rasi]*

Your freedom will be curtailed. You will have to fight against many odds to negotiate your affairs. Minor accidents also shown.

GOVT. VACANCIES

JAFFNA KACHOCHERI

N1947-Post of Village Cultivation Officer Learner. Closing date for applications 26-5-57. For full particulars see Govt. Gazette, 17-5-57 (G. 79, 17)

The Mutiny That Shook The Fabric Of British Rule

(Continued from page 5)

this considerable monthly payment.

The disaffection in the Madras Army was something which affected all the officers from the Commander-in-Chief downwards. General Macdowell the C-in-C. around this time was in full sympathy with the discontented officers and himself nursed a particular grievance against the Government because the C-in-C. had been deprived of a seat in the Governor's Council which, so long, had belonged to that office. As a matter of fact, this decision to exclude the C-in-C. was reversed by the authorities in London quite soon; but, by then the General had left India and done much to decrease the sense of discipline in the Madras Army. Sedition had spread far. The civilian British population, too, took violent sides in all sorts of controversies and a section of it was unscrupulous in taking measures to embarrass the Governor and his Council in Fort St. George. The Nawab of Arcot's debts were being investigated by a Commission from Bengal and some Europeans in Madras resented this, because they had their fingers in this huge and utterly stinking pie. Even in the judiciary the British quarrelled among themselves: this was something disgraceful. When Sir George Barlow took charge as Governor of Madras towards the end of 1807, conditions among the British in Madras were very bad indeed. Personally, he was disliked, too, for he had to implement a policy of retrenchment and penny-pinching as a result of instructions from Leadenhall Street, where there had been a revulsion against the spacious policies of Lord Wellesley. He was a firm administrator with a patient character and he bore the baiting by the Madras Army for quite a considerable time. There is no space in this article to go into the details of this struggle between the Army Officers and Governor-in-Council. A spirit of mutiny was abroad. Seditious manifestoes, secret communications between units of the Army, arrogant representations to higher authorities, even downright disobedience to lawful orders became com-

mon. In spite of his desire not to provoke an outbreak of violence, there came a stage at which there was nothing for Sir George to do but take up the challenge so insultingly repeated. The Army in Madras retaliated by embarking on an open mutiny. Few of us know about this, because the histories of India, prepared for so long under British auspices, have tended to ignore this mutiny which shook the fabric of British rule in India. Sir Alexander Cadogan's book, *The White Mutiny* will supply the absorbing details of this forerunner of the Great Indian Mutiny.

It was at Masulipatam that the first actual outbreak of violence occurred. On 25th, June, 1809 Colonel Innes, in command, was placed under arrest by other officers under the leadership of Major Storey. When the news reached Madras, the Governor sent down Col. Malcolm to investigate; but the investigator himself turned out in almost complete sympathy with the mutineers and he advised the Governor to give in to all the demands which had been made by the Army Officers and to begin by granting a general amnesty. By the time Malcolm returned to Madras, the Hyderabad Subsidiary Force, too was in a mutiny. They went so far as to present the Madras Government with a series of demands in the form of an ultimatum. From Travancore similar demands were put forward. Though his military advisers were prepared to surrender, the Governor was made of sterner stuff. He went for troops from other provinces and from Ceylon. He had a Test oath circulated among all European officers in the Company's Army, in which they were asked to swear loyalty to the Governor-in-Council. Those who refused to sign the pledge were to be separated from their troops. It is interesting to note that a direct appeal was made to the sepoys not to involve themselves in a fight which could be of no benefit at all to them. About a tenth of nearly one thousand five hundred officers signed the Text. The others were removed and replaced by officers of the King's Commission. The situation in Secunderabad, which was explosive, was adroitly handled by Col Close who

had been sent from Poona. The uncertain officers, finding that they could not depend upon the sepoys and that the Madras Government were adamant and, no doubt, having second thoughts on the rash step they had taken, lost heart, signed the Test and, what is more, wrote advising their brethren in Jalna, Masulipatam, Gooty and Srirangapatnam to do likewise. This was the beginning of the end. From Jalna, Col. Doveton who seems to have played an equivocal role, was beginning to lead the troops south, when the news of the Secunderabad decision reached him. This move, too, collapsed when it was seen that other mutineers were not with them. In Masulipatam the officers controlled the treasury and there was rioting between the soldiers themselves. In other centres in the Andhra country the officers behaved in a similar manner, seizing the local treasuries; but soon the whole movement collapsed and the treasuries were restored. Through out the mutineers seem to have been unsure of themselves. An alien community fighting to establish hegemony over a foreign country tends to stick together, at the last resort. Only at Srirangapatnam was there bloodshed and loss of sepoy life. Col. Bell had ultimately to surrender the Fort and with that the British Mutiny came to an end. It is noteworthy that the Government of Madras were willing to use Mysore troops against the rebellious officers. The aftermath of the mutiny was comparatively mild. There were the inevitable courts-martial. Col. Bell was dismissed. Major Storey, too was cashiered. Col. Doveton was acquitted. Others were treated equally leniently and many of the officers were soon back in service. The courts-martial were obviously in sympathy with the mutineers and the Government, too, were glad that the whole movement, which might have damaged the fabric of British imperialism in India, had died down. When there was a great and rich country to exploit and administer the British felt that union was indeed strength. The whole episode has since been played down and has become almost forgotten. But the Indian Mutiny which came about fifty years later has not been forgotten. It was the first national Indian struggle, however partial, against foreign domination

Some Aspects Of The Political Situation

(Continued from page 1)

by Buddhist priests and Buddhist leaders in certain instances and Ministers and Government officers have tried to satisfy such persons) At the same time the method of negotiation and conference should also not be given up. These methods, viz. method of opposition and the method of conference and negotiation could go hand in hand. In the present state of affairs in Ceylon, it is abundantly clear and definitely wise that neither method should be given up by the Tamil-speaking people but that both courses should be adopted.

8. It is instructive to note that the Committee of the Democratic Workers' Congress has stated with goodwill and understanding no problem is incapable of solution and has requested the present Government for opportunity for Conference regarding their demands. We are aware that the demands of the Democratic Workers Congress and the Ceylon Democratic Congress are generally not acceptable both to the present Government and to the U. N. P. In spite of this great conflict of opinion, the Executive of the Democratic Workers Congress has felt that it would be useful for that organisation to meet the representatives of the Government. If an institution like the Democratic Workers Congress could follow this method, Ceylon Tamil Organisations & leaders could as well pursue the same method. In fact, the method of negotiation and conference which ought to command greater weight if I might say so with Ceylon Tamil Organisations and Ceylon Tamil leaders. They could do greater service if they do not bar the method of conference and negotiation. It was reported recently that the Federal Party leader Mr. Chelvanayagam made representations to the Government regarding the shooting incidents at Mannar. Earlier it was reported that Mr. Chelvanayagam and his colleagues met Government representatives in relation to the tobacco industry. Still earlier, it

was reported that some of our politicians met a Minister with a body of toddy tappers. If the method of conference and negotiation could be adopted in such matters, it stands to reason that the same method could be followed in respect of great national problems including the language problem without prejudice to the programme of any political party.

9. The Tamil-speaking people as a whole unreservedly hold the view that if their rights are not conceded there would be no alternative but to resort to Civil Disobedience, Satyagraha and non-co-operation. The point on which there could be difference of opinion is the point of time and the conditions under which these methods could be employed. There are good many Tamils who feel that the time is not yet opportune and ripe and many necessary conditions have not been fulfilled which would justify the launching of a campaign as is contemplated for action in coming August.

10. One of the essentials of Satyagraha is that at no stage should the avenue of negotiation be closed. If this principle is adhered to, Ceylon Tamil leaders would always maintain contact with Sinhalese leaders and political opponents in order to serve the community and country in the true spirit of Satyagraha. We are aware that Mahatma Gandhi conferred and tried negotiation with representatives of British Power even while getting ready for Satyagraha and Civil Disobedience.

11. Having had the privilege of knowing personally Mr. Chelvanayagam the leader of the Federal Party, for a long number of years, if I might be permitted to say so, it could be said that his usual peaceful disposition and determined character ought to stand him, normally speaking, in good stead at the present crisis in the history of the community and country.

வாசுமூர்த்தி வழாது பெய்க் மலிகனஞ் சர்க்கமனை
கேசகமுறை யாசு செய்க குறைவினா துயர்க்க வாழ்க
என்மறை யறங்க னோங்க நற்றவம் வேன்வி மல்க
மென்மைகொன் னைவ ரீதி வினங்கு வகை மெல்லாம்.

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