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MAHATMA GANDHI RELEASED ON COMMENCING FAST

Civil Disobedience Suspended For A Month

APPEAL TO RELEASE POLITICAL PRISONERS

HOW THE TWENTY-ONE DAYS' FAST WAS BEGUN

Mahatma Gandhi commenced his fast exactly at twelve noon on Monday, and was unconditionally released from Yeravada Jail at 9. P. M.

Gandhi was taken to the residence of Lady Vittaldas Thackersay, which is on the top of a hill overlooking the river.

Gandhi has announced the suspension of the Civil Disobedience movement for a month and appeals to the Government at the same time to release all Political prisoners and to withdraw the Ordinances.

THE ANTE-FAST CEREMONY IN JAIL.

Poona, May 8.

Leaning on the prison wall and seated on a small cushion surrounded by friends, admirers, relatives and pressmen, Mr. Gandhi commenced his twenty-one days' "unconditional and irrevocable" fast shortly after 12 noon after prayers. Mr. Gandhi was all smiles when pressmen and relatives entered the special yard and he greeted them with his usual smile and folded hands.

As soon as friends and relatives entered Mr. Gandhi directed them to be seated on blankets which had been specially spread on the verandah facing his tiny mango tree. He then briefly explained the ceremony to be performed. On his left sat Mr. Devadas Gandhi, his son, next to him Mr. Mahadev Desai, while on the right sat his would-be nurse Mrs. Naidu, Lady Thackersay and a host of other ladies. On some faces, just wiped-out tears were evident. The pressmen sat in front of him and on Mr. Gandhi's signifying that the ceremony should commence Mr. Mahadev Desai repeated Mr. Gandhi's favourite verse from Bhagavat Gita followed by his favourite song "Vaishnava Janathe etc." in which Mr. Gandhi and others joined. Mr. Gandhi repeated the verses in clear tone although all the while engaged in deep meditation. He then asked Mr. Devadas Gandhi to recite another of his favourite songs "Raghupathi Raghava Raja Ram" in which the whole audience joined.

Touching Scenes

This done, Mr. Gandhi requested visitors and friends except Pressmen to leave him. Then followed touching scenes. Ladies were the first to bid him goodbye and in doing so several of them burst into tears. Mr. Gandhi patted them on the back and asked them not to get frightened.

This finished the ceremony after which Mr. Gandhi turned to the waiting Pressmen and handed them a written statement. Asked if he had anything more to add to the written statement he said: "I would like the public to give me perfect rest during the 21 days. They will contribute materially to the prolongation of my

life by doing so. I want to enjoy perfect peace during these days in so far as it is possible for me to do so".

Asked if he would be remaining in jail, he said so far as he understood he would remain in jail. He added whether he was in jail or outside it, the above appeal was equally applicable.

Asked where he would go if released he said "I have no definite programme. I have been so built up that I do not act by supposition and my mind simply will not work."

GANDHIJI'S STATEMENT.

"HE will not Fail Me now"

Poona, May 8.

Gandhiji, in a statement, which he handed over to the Press after prayers to which Pressmen were admitted, says:

"Every day brings me fresh justification for the ordeal that God has sent me. The discoveries, I am making, would have paralysed me but for the fast. Whether I survive the fast or not, is a matter of little moment.

Without it, I would, in all probability, be useless for further service of Harijans, and for that matter, any other service."

"Those friends who have sent me urgent wires to dissuade me from the step will, I hope, appreciate the fact that for a person built as I am," continues the Mahatma, "such fasts are indispensable. This, I say, apart from my claim, by which I stand, that it was God's call. The senders of the wires will forgive me for not sending individual acknowledgments. The pressure upon my time has been so great that it has become physically impossible for me to cope with all the wires pouring in upon me. Now that the fast will begin within two hours of writing this, I invite all friends and well wishers to pray for strength to enable me to go through the ordeal without weakening. I confess I have no strength except what God may give me. That He has never failed me hitherto, gives me the confidence, that He will not fail me now."

LAW'S DELAYS IN CEYLON

TWO FACTORS IN CRIME PREVENTION

TIME AND PLACE.

"In a country like Ceylon, where crimes of violence are so numerous, it is very desirable that Sessions of the Supreme Court should be held, whenever possible, in the districts in which the crimes tried by the Court are committed," says the Inspector General of Police in his Administration Report for 1932.

The Report further states:

Sessions are ordinarily held only at Colombo, Kandy, Jaffna, Galle and Batticaloa and the witnesses often have to travel long distances to give evidence. Police Officers and other official witnesses are often away from their stations for considerable periods attending sessions in other districts and apart from this consideration there can be little doubt that the impression created by a trial is greatly enhanced if it is held in the district in which the offence was committed.

An Instance.

As an instance of the effect of the trial of cases in Assize towns outside the district in which the offences are committed the following example is quoted:—

A case of riot occurred at Lunugala in the Badulla District. It was tried in Kandy, in another Province and 130 miles from the scene of the offence, and the Superintendent, Uva, the Inspectors of Badulla and Haputale, a number of sergeants and constables and various Medical Officers, including the District Medical Officer and the House Surgeon of the Badulla Hospital, were summoned to give evidence. The trial lasted from May 23rd till June 21.

Effect of Prompt Disposal.

The prompt disposal of cases has an important bearing on the proper administration of justice. A good deal of the deterrent effect of punishment is lost if it is imposed along after the offence was committed, and it is far easier to arrive at the true facts of a case while the details are still fresh in the minds of the witnesses. The following cases are good examples of prompt disposal of cases:—

A murder was committed in the Matara District on September 5. The Murderer was committed for trial on September 20 and convicted on November 11.

Another case of murder occurred in the same district on September 27. The murderer was committed for trial on October 10 and convicted on November 9.

Swami Vipulananda

SEVERS HIS CONNECTION WITH ANNAMALAI UNIVERSITY.

We understand that Swami Vipulananda has severed his connection with the Annamalai University and proposes to come back to Ceylon to take charge of the Mission work.

Obiter Dicta—V

IDOLATRY.

WHITE-WORSHIP—MAN-SLAUGHTER—A TAMIL Christian Wedding—Disgraceful Slave-sight—A Castigation—Wrong from Brown and Right from White—The Case for Swaraj.

STEADY, there! This is not a religious discourse, and the reader need not develop any *odium theologium*. By idolatry I mean one of modern Jaffna's most besetting sins. To allay the gentle reader's uneasiness let me plunge at once into the subject and make myself less under suspicion by proceeding to illustrate my theme.

White-Worship

Murugesu of Achuveli had made arrangements for having his tea-shop opened, not quite all. Who was to open it? This awaited decision. It was an important matter. In the village there was V. Arumugam, B. A., I. S. O., O. B. E.; and who was fitter than he to declare the tea-shop duly opened? Most people thought it was proper that Arumugam should be given the honour, that he was worthy to open any amount of tea-shops. Murugesu had his doubts. Proctor Sinnasamy developed these doubts, and the proctor was a cute fellow. "Let me see," said the man of law, and saw it in a flash. He said, "Friend Murugesu, the new A. D. J., Mr. Jones, would be excellent. I'll ask him. Leave it to me." The proprietor of the tea-shop jumped out of his skin with glee at the glory that was to come. The Proctor was successful. Soon cards were out intimating that M. M. Jones Esq., C. C. S., A. D. J., Jaffna, had kindly consented to open the tea-shop.

Man Slaughter

Then nearly came man-slaughter, for Murugesu and his proctor called on Mr. Arumugam and asked him to propose a vote of thanks to Mr. Jones. They saw red. "You, idolatrous dogs," said the old man, "you want me to join in your white worship"—and the next moment, how it happened nobody knew, the proctor's wind-pipe was in the grip of the irate pensioner, and Murugesu had to bite the I.S.O. body to effect a timely rescue of the little man from the wrath of the vigorous iconoclast. That week's talk was simply this incident, and its importance was not wiped out by even the opening of the tea-shop by Mr. M. M. Jones. Mr. Jones shook hands with Murugesu—for he had not yet been taught that Jaffnese love to shake hands with white men and should not be encouraged—and for a week Murugesu wouldn't touch anything or anybody with that Jones-touched hand. The cup out of which Mr. Jones had drunk the inaugural tea, and its saucer, are now among the priceless heirlooms of the Murugesu tribe of Achuveli. Idolatry!

A Tamil Christian Wedding

A fire-eating friend of mine and I had been invited to a Tamil Christian wedding at Anaicottai. We reached the place in time. People had begun to arrive, and the pandal was fast filling. We stood at the entrance waiting to be received but luck didn't come our way. Some people, some of the fifteen or seventeen men who are all masters

of ceremonies at such functions, saw us, took no further notice and went about "managing". We, therefore, did the best thing under the circumstance—walked conspicuously through to a corner where there were half a dozen seats unoccupied and sat down. The corner had a great advantage: you could see everywhere, everybody, in the pandal. It was moreover quiet and even cool for four in the afternoon. My friend, deservedly distinguished and worthily honoured Govt. of India pensioner, had not quite recovered from the effects of the obvious sight on the part of our host and hostess, when I whispered to him, "Now, watch the fun. Look."

Disgraceful Slave-sight

"Fun! What fun?" he asked, unglacated. I drew his attention to a scene at the entrance of the pandal, in fact most people's attention now had been drawn to it. What was happening? A white school-mistress had arrived by car and eleven men, each carrying a chair, were trying to receive the American and lead her to a prominent part of the pandal. My friend contrasted this worship of the white with the utter disregard shown us. "Parishas like these" he remarked, "make those white folk real gods and goddesses". The schoolmistress, used well enough to such functions and such idolatry, was enjoying herself. A man, armed with a fan, was hovering round her—a very disgraceful slave-sight indeed. "More fun!" I remarked and nudged my irate companion. This time was an American schoolmaster (popularly these are called missionaries), a good enough fellow. There was a rush to him. Two men grabbed his hat and a third was nearly carrying the white god to the dais. He was taken up. "Take this chair, Sir," said one idolator. "Take this" offered another. "This is better, Sir" addressed a third. The poor god was like a circus animal told to jump from chair to chair, and out of sheer perversity, and I am sure disgust at all this abject adoration, the schoolmaster occupied the fourth, and unoffered, chair. Now, of all the parsons in the pandal, including even the U.D.C. vice-chairman perched indignantly on the edge of a bench opposite us, my friend from Madras deserved most to be honoured by his countrymen, but the idolatrous crew, with a depraved longing for white gods, thought nothing of him. The bride and groom arrived duly, that is of course, very late.

A Castigation

Then something happened. The host was seen making his way towards me. Would I propose the toast of the afternoon? I pleaded a bad throat in an assumed, tragically hoarse whisper, and with a sly jerk of my right thumb indicated my fiery friend to my host. The poor man guilelessly proffered his request: and fireworks! In fine flamboyant phrases my friend read a stirring homily to the host on the horrors of idolatry. The host was writhing under the well-earned castigation, and lay metaphorically a mangled carcass in the sight of all the self-respecting Tamils there. More out of pity for the much slighted City Father than for the flagellated idolator I suggested (while my friend was cooling down) that the U.D.C. (Continued on page 3)

Gandhiji's Second Day of Fast.

GETS AN ATTACK OF NAUSEA

GENERAL CONDITION SATISFACTORY

PT. JAWAHARLAL'S MESSAGE

Poona, Tuesday

A Bulletin regarding Mr. Gandhi's health issued at 6 p. m. to-day from Mahatma Gandhi's residence states: "Mr. Gandhi slept fairly well last night, waking up as usual for prayers at 4 a. m. His general condition is satisfactory and he is as cheerful as ever. Every effort is made to avoid his having to undergo any exertion.

"This evening about 6 o'clock, after he had been spinning for fifteen minutes, he got an attack of nausea." It is understood that as a sequel to the early appearance of this undesirable symptom Mr. Gandhi's friends have wired to Dr. G. V. Deshmukh to Bombay to come down immediately in order to attend on him.

Except for attending to a bit of correspondence Mr. Gandhi did not move from bed throughout the day as he is keen on conserving every bit of energy in view of the long duration of the fast. Mr. Gandhi is very cheerful and had a good sleep in the afternoon. (C. O.)

Attack of Nausea for 15 Minutes

ANXIETY COMPLETELY ALLAYED

Bombay, Tuesday.

After the attack of nausea, which lasted about fifteen minutes, Mahatma Gandhi had three hours' sound sleep which made him quite refreshed and the anxiety that was caused in the evening has been completely allayed.

Immediately after waking up Mr. Gandhi held his usual prayers at the southern terrace. Lady Thackersey's bungalow which overlooks a beautiful valley separating Yeravada prison and Mr. Gandhi's present palatial residence. After prayers, Mr. Gandhi again went to bed and, at the time of telegraphing this, is enjoying sound sleep.

Friends of Mr. Gandhi assured the Associated Press correspondent that there is absolutely no cause for alarm or anxiety in the present circumstances. They hope that he will have another night of sound sleep which will make him more refreshed.

"Whatever Happens, You Win."

PT. JAWAHARLAL'S MESSAGE.

The following telegram from Pandit Jawaharlal was read to Gandhiji.

"Now that you are launched on your great enterprise, may I send you again love and greetings, and assure you that I feel clearly now that, whatever happens, it is well, and that whatever happens, you win."

Suspension of Civil Disobedience.

OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Poona, Tuesday

Mr. Aney, Acting President of Congress, announces the suspension of civil disobedience for six months (?) beginning from today.

Mr. Aney, in a statement, declares: "In the statement issued last night after his release Mr. Gandhi expressed views on the conduct of the civil disobedience movement which I have no doubt will receive the consideration they deserve from every civil resister. A response to Mr. Gandhi's suggestion also strikes me as the proper thing to do at this time in order to eliminate from the atmosphere all elements of excitement and render it pure for all of us to inhale it in a prayerful mood and invoke the blessings of the Almighty on the great cause for which Mr. Gandhi is undergoing this penance, and to supply him with an abundance of spiritual food which is so necessary for him to sustain the ordeal.

"I declare officially that civil disobedience shall be suspended for six weeks beginning from today.

Salaries of Crown Counsel

RUPEE BASIS TO BE INTRODUCED

It is understood that the Government has decided to put the salaries of the Crown Counsel on a rupee basis, following the Salaries and Cadres Commission's recommendations on the subject.

According to the Commission's recommendation there should be six Crown Counsel on salaries of Rs. 4800 rising to Rs. 8400 a year by ten annual increments of Rs. 360.

It has now been decided, we understand, that the future initial salary of a Crown Counsel should be Rs. 4800 and the maximum Rs. 9000.

At present Crown Counsel draw sterling salaries commencing at £ 600 and rising to £ 1000.

Engagement.

The Engagement is announced of Mr. J. N. Kadirgamar of the R. G. O. Colombo, to Miss. Thilaha Kathiravelu, eldest daughter of Mr. N. Kathiravelu, retired Post-master and presently Manager, Messrs. N. Vaiilingam & Co., of Jaffna. Mr. Kadirgamar is a son of the late Mudliar K. C. Kadirgamar and Mrs. Kadirgamar of Manipay.

Obituary.

MRS. S. NALLATHAMBY.

The death occurred on Friday last at Trincomalee of Chellachipillai (86) widow of the late Mr. S. Nallathamby, Chief Clerk, District Court, Trincomalee. The funeral was largely attended. She leaves behind her only son, Mr. N. Swaminathapillai, landed proprietor and ex-member Local Board, Mrs. Nagarathnam and Mrs. Visvalingam daughters, Mr. Advocate Krishnadas and Mr. Sangarathnam grandsons, and a host of relatives who bemoan her loss. —Cor.

"WAY OF THE LORD FOR HEROES"

Hymn Sung at Commencement of Gandhiji's Fast

The following is an English translation of the first hymn sung by Mr. Mahadeo Desai at the commencement of Mahatma Gandhi's fast:—

"The way of the Lord is for heroes; it is not meant for shrinkers.

"Offer first your life, and your all; then take the name of the Lord.

"He only tastes of the Divine Cup, who gives up his son, his wife, his wealth, his own life.

"For verily, he who seeks for pearls, must dive to the bottom of the sea, endangering his very existence.

"Death he regards as naught; he forgets all miseries of mind and body.

"He who stands on the shore



FOURTH DAY OF FAST

'I am not anxious to die. I will not die. Don't worry yourself about me.'

—Gandhiji.

fearing to take the plunge attains naught,

"The pathway of life is the ordeal of fire; the shrinkers turn away from it.

"Those who take the plunge into the fire attain Eternal Bliss.

"Those who stand afar looking on are scorched by the flames.

"Love is a priceless thing, only to be won at the cost of death.

"Those who live to die, these attain; for they have shed all thoughts of self.

"Those heroic souls who are swept in the love of the Lord, they are the true lovers; it is given to them alone, says Pritham, to see the lila of the Lord.

Acting Chief Justice

CHIEF JUSTICE GOING ON LEAVE

Mr. Justice L. C. Dalton, it is learnt, has been appointed to act as Chief Justice from the 28th instant in the absence of Sir Philip Macleod. Mr. Justice Dalton, who is proceeding to England on leave.

CEYLONESE NATIONAL ANTHEM

YOUTH CONGRESS AWARD OF GOLD MEDAL

At the Tamil Literary Conference of the last sessions of the Youth Congress, Jaffna, an announcement was made that a gold medal will be awarded for the best Ceylonese National Anthem in Tamil.

"The National Anthem must be on the lines of the 'Bande Matarani'—The Indian National Anthem—and other similar national songs. It must briefly but powerfully emphasise the unity of the nation, refer to the spacious centuries when Ceylon was self-governing and stress the need for immediate self-rule. The song must be in simple, popular language and must be so constructed as to catch the imagination and feelings of the people."

Sangeetha Samajam

ANNUAL MEETING

The annual general meeting of the Sangeetha Samajam (The Music Academy), Jaffna, will be held on Saturday, the 13th instant, at 4 p. m. at the Samajam hall, Pirappankulam Road, Vannarponna.

SALE OF TODDY RENTS, 1933-34, MANNAR DISTRICT.

Tenders are hereby invited for the purchase of the exclusive privilege of selling toddy by retail in the Toddy Taverns of Mannar District as per schedule annexed for a period of 12 months from July 1, 1933, to June 30 1934, subject to the General Conditions applicable to all Excise Licences published in Government Gazette No. 7,704 of April 12, 1929, and Toddy Rent Sale Conditions that will be published in Gazette of May 5, 1933.

2. Tenders should be marked "Tender for Purchase of Toddy Rents, Mannar District" and should reach the Assistant Government Agent, Mannar, not later than 11 a.m. on Tuesday, May 30, 1933. The tenders should be present at the Mannar Kacheheri on this date.

3. The Assistant Government Agent reserves to himself the right of putting up the taverns to auction if the tenders are unsatisfactory and at such auction of rejecting any bids.

4. (a) Every tenderer should make a deposit of Rs. 75/- in respect of his tender, in this Kacheheri or in any other Kacheheri or Treasury. The Kacheheri or Treasury receipt for the deposit should be attached to the tender.

(b) The deposit so made by the successful tenderer shall be liable to forfeiture should he fail to sign the conditions immediately he is declared the purchaser.

(c) The deposit of unsuccessful tenderers will be refunded after the sale is concluded.

(d) No person is permitted to send in more than one tender for any one tavern.

5. The successful tenderer or bidder on being declared the purchaser shall pay immediately to the Assistant Government Agent, a sum equivalent to two months rent as a security deposit and sign conditions and contract furnishing necessary stamps.

6. The conditions of sale and any other particulars can be obtained on application at the Mannar Kacheheri.

R. Y. DANIEL, Assistant Government Agent, The Kacheheri, Mannar, May 3, 1933.

SCHEDULE REFERRED TO. Toddy Taverns, 1933-34, Mannar District.

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9.	do.	Kaddadivayal
10.	do.	Arippu
11.	Musali	Vanka'ai
12.	do.	Ollimadu
13.	do.	

G. 3. 11th.

IDOLATRY

(Continued from page 1)

celebrity might be given the honour of proposing the toast. It was given him. He spoke for 45 minutes. We listened. We are alive to tell the tale.

A first class headman once referred, at a social gathering, to his white Chief and his wife as, "My gracious master and his noble consort." It was not so bad as what another headman did. A portrait of his white superior was being unveiled. A speech from the headman was due. A part of it was like this: "You have endeared yourself to all of us. More than that is the fact that Mrs. Dash, a goddess, has often stepped down from her pedestal and moved amongst us as a queen." Idolatry with a vengeance.

Wrong From Brown and Right From White?

Another illustration from life, opposite to our aspiration for Swaraj. There was a dress rehearsal of a Roman Play. One of the actors was a Dravidian, he represented the chiefest man in the story. The fellow had borrowed his wife's saree and decked himself in red and gold with it. Someone asked me (under the impression that I knew something of Roman costumes) to be kind enough to see if the actors were properly habited. The glaring saree struck me as extremely un-Roman, I said so. The mislaid man flared up, "Oh! no, no! It is quite proper. Ha! There is Miss Blank you ask her." Miss Blank was an English school-mistress. I replied, "You had better ask her yourself if you want to." He did. Miss Blank confirmed my opinion. The man began to divest himself of the wrong stuff and was fitted into proper costume, when I felt it my duty to speak to him. A few strong words should do him and his kind a world of good I thought. "Swaraj! Swaraj for such as you! You want Swaraj, do you?"—I said and paused to give the man time to take in my meaning. Then I proceeded, "What I said was wrong because I am brown; the same thing said by Miss Blank is right because she is white. Dogs like you deserve the white man's kicks and not Swaraj!" Silence, I walked out relieved.

The Case for Swaraj

There is a jolly lot of jabbering in Jaffna just now about Swaraj. One gas-bag guesses he is going to get it by registered air-mail post. Another fears it may arrive per V. P. P. post. A third is hopeful it will come by cable in reply to his cabled demand for it. O ye gods and little fishes! Swaraj is yours for the wishing if only you can show yourself fit to govern yourself in the spheres where self-government is now possible. There is the white man at the Kacheheri. Yes, don't worry about him. Set your own house in order. Your own boys' schools and girls' schools (pompously called colleges) and other institutions. Has the time not come, is it not overdue, when you can dispense with the services of Europeans and Americans as heads of institutions? Are there not capable and competent Tamils to occupy such positions? Why clothe and feed a costly foreigner when for less, you can have an equally efficient son of the soil? Why? The answer is simply this—there must be a white god! If so you will be eternally an underdog and you jolly well deserve to be one. Put the case for domestic and preparatory Swaraj this way. One hundred and more years of white civilisation have either evolved or not evolved leaders; if they have, then the duty of the white man is to retire into the background; if they have failed to evolve leaders, then too it is the duty of the white man to retire into the background. Thus comes indigenous autonomy in all aspects of public life. Realise this, and Swaraj is yours for the wishing! The white man is what you make him. Break away from idolatry. Realise (I write from personal experience) that it is absolutely easy to be independent without being impudent, to be brave without blustering, to be simple without subservience; to serve without being servile and to be courteous without cringing. Try this and then see if Swaraj is far.

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IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT.

It is hereby notified for the information of the travelling public in general and of our clients from Malaya and Straits Settlements in particular that we have made arrangements with our shipping Agents in Colombo for the issue of passage tickets in Jaffna FREE OF ANY COMMISSION for all class of passengers by any line of steamers sailing from Colombo to Penang, Singapore and to any other ports of the world.

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