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Obiter Dicta—VIII.

THAT COMPLEX

Salute! — The Nigger! — Black and White — Tit for Tat — Warrent Against the Fiscal — The Black Chairman — The Box Seat.

Salute!

IN quite recent times there lived in Jaffna a white Government Agent who was all-white, and he was terribly conscious of his whiteness (note this *hood*, it is not the same as *whiteness*) and very terribly insistent upon it. He was not a Solomon. I cannot take upon myself to say that he was as the son of Solomon. Be it as it may, one day he issued a circular to all the headmen of the Province ordering them, at sight, to salute him, and he might or might not recognize or return their reverence. It is a very good thing to be respectful to one's superiors, but why should the superior be above returning the courtesy? Superiority complex should be more tactfully manifested. The minor headmen began practising the 'salute' on the major, and the major on passers-by, till they were all adepts in the art, and the great white man was glad. Is the circular still in force?

The Nigger!

A white man was brought up before a black District Judge on a criminal charge. On the charge being read to the prisoner and on his being asked to plead, said, "I can't plead before a nigger." What do you think the "nigger" did? A legal friend, reporting this to me, says the Judge had power to send the European to prison for contempt of Court. He didn't do it. He took a more compassionate view of the man's mentality. He treated the man as subject to insanity and ordered his being detained in the house of observation for 14 days! I have not heard how it all ended, but I guess that the superiority complex of the suspected lunatic suffered change in the interval.

Black And White

The District Judge of Jaffna was a dark man, thin, beaky and very assertive. He had his residence in the Fort, as he lawfully might. He was learned, had been to Cambridge and was a man much superior, in intellect and attainments, to the Government Agent of the time, a white man. The Fort tennis club is an exclusive club. Judges are eligible to be members. The black D. J. exercised his prerogative. The G. A. seeing the black man in the tennis court walked out of the place in a fit of temper and pettiness. The G. A. didn't go near the Fort Club again till the black judge left Jaffna. This is superiority complex run mad!

Tit for Tat

Sir Thomas de Sampayo, acting Chief Justice, a black man, was in the train going up to Kandy when, at Maradana, a white lady got on board, saw the black man, and immediately began to prod him with her sunshade, ejaculating race antipathies. Defenceless Sir Thomas had the lady handed over to the authorities who duly prosecuted her. The Colombo Magistrate fined her heavily and read her a ripping homily on colour bias. The case of another Chief Justice, a Madras one, illustrates the principle of tit for tat. Sir

Muttuswamy Aiyer, Chief Justice of the Madras High Court, was journeying, in Tamil national costume, in a first class carriage in the train to Madras. A young Englishman got into the same compartment at an intermediate station and, when he had put his things on the rack, saw, as he was making himself comfortable in a corner, his fellow passenger. He scornfully took stock of him, noticed his bare feet and diaphanous *Versiti* and muttered unpleasant words about half clad natives and all that. Sir Muttuswamy pretended to be lost in the pages of *The Hindu*. The hater of Indian nudity noticed a pair of offending slippers and promptly checked them out of the window. The mild Hindu didn't move a muscle. There were more mutterings from the Englishman. He was having it all his own way. Only for a while, for he was aghast when the Hindu flung out of the railway carriage the Englishman's Ellwood hat, and they were nearing Madras. "Eh! What have you done?" asked the owner of the hat. "Your hat will keep my *ootas* company," said Sir Muttuswamy calmly. The Englishman was furious, the train halted at Egmore. He jumped on to the platform and tried, only *tried*, to get the Stationmaster to listen to his voluble complaint against "that fellow there", but he noticed that the Stationmaster, a number of court officials, liveried peons and others were dancing attendance on "that fellow there." Somebody in the crowd told him truths. "My God", the hatless Englishman exclaimed, "and I am going to the Registry of the High Court to work there. And he is the blooming Chief Justice! A hell of a mess I have got into!" Later, when Mr. Jones entered the Chief Justice's Chambers to apologise for his conduct, Sir Muttuswamy wound up let him say a word. "We are quits," he said good-humouredly, "your hat, my *ootas*! And, you have learnt a lesson."

Warrant Against the Fiscal.

The Judge presiding over the Northern Assizes was a Ceylonese. He attended Divine Service at Christ Church, and mounted the bench with due pomp and ceremony usual on the occasion of the opening day. "Fiscal of the Northern Province, present your Mandate"—was heard breaking the silence. A Clerk from the Fiscal's Office timidly sneaked up to the Registrar with some papers. "Where is the Fiscal?" asked the Judge. "He sent me, My Lud", said the poor clerk, "with these papers." The Judge directed the Registrar, "Issue warrant for the arrest of the Fiscal, and adjourn Court till tomorrow morning at 11." Sensation in Court, and in the Town, and in the whole Peninsula! For the Fiscal was the G. A., and an Englishman. Next morning the Fiscal was duly before the Judge and had to eat humble pie.

The Black Chairman

Prize day at the College. The teachers, by a majority, had voted for an old body to preside. There was a disgruntled, malevolent minority. The old boy had been written to, and had consented to preside. The invitation card, issued to the general public, had the announcement that a high, white ecclesiastic would be the chief speaker and distributor of the prizes, but there was no mention of the Chairman. This was so very unusual that people began to discuss the omission.

(Continued on page 3.)

EDUCATION IN CEYLON

From Literary To Economic Aim

ELEMENTARY FACTS

High Cost Of Education?

"Education in Ceylon" was the subject of an address delivered by Mr. L. Macrae, Director of Education, at the Rotary Club of Colombo.

He referred to the facile propensity of people to discuss the subject of education in the press and on the platform. What characterized those speeches was an amazing prolixity without any really valuable contribution to the subject.

He gave a few elementary facts relating to education in Ceylon, which were not well known. For example, out of a population of approximately 5 million the number of children of school-going age was 800,000 and the number actually attending school was 600,000; the number of teachers was 18,000—all these figures being approximate.

Extending Rapidly.

Out of the 600,000 attending school only 60,000 received an English education, from the Kindergarten to the University. This was contrary to the popular belief that English education was very widespread in Ceylon.

Education was extending rapidly, the number of school-going children increasing annually by about 22,000. Schools to accommodate these pupils were mostly built by villagers and not by the Government, which was only asked to provide the teachers.

High Cost?

The total cost of education, about 14 million rupees, was high in relation to the revenue of Ceylon but was not high compared to the expenditure on education in some other countries, notably in England.

Examinations were conducted on a self-supporting basis. The standard required for the Cambridge Senior was somewhat higher in Ceylon than it was in England, yet thousands of candidates got through.

Change of Aim

As regards recent changes in education, it was pointed out that while education used to be spoken of as leading to "thinking" for oneself, the aim nowadays was to inspire both "thinking", and "acting" for oneself. The literary tradition of British education had been handed over to India and the East over a hundred years ago. It was only recently that the literary aim had been gradually changed to an economic and social aim.

In the experimental work done in rural schools in Ceylon a four-fold aim was encouraged, the curriculum consisting of a series of jobs rather than a series of lessons; the four main aims in the school being the ability to maintain health, mental ability, emotional and social ability, and practical ability.

STORES EXCESSIVE AND OBSOLETE.

ENCOURAGING LOCAL GOODS?

How Government Buys And Wastes Stores.

"It was brought up in open Council that you do not encourage locally made goods," remarked the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee (Sir H. L. de Mel) while examining the Colonial Store-keeper, Mr. John Gibb, on the report of the Auditor-General in regard to some obsolete stores and those which are in excess of visible requirements, according to the Colonial store-keeper's stock at September 30, 1930.

The Colonial Store-keeper replied that they encouraged locally made goods. "Out of six and a half millions spent a year ago," he added "over two millions were spent locally as far as I can remember."

The committee examined the Colonial Store-keeper in regard to certain items reported to be in excess.

Mr. Perera: Item (iii.) steel safes costing Rs. 5 000.

Mr. Gibb: That was on the estimate of the Post Office.

Mr. Perera: How many safes does that value represent?

Mr. Gibb: About a dozen. They are in stock for two years.

The Chairman: Would it not be far more businesslike to buy safes locally when necessary rather than have 12 safes in stock?

Mr. Gibb: No. The Post Office wanted these at the time, but suddenly there was a cut in the Post Office votes.....

The Chairman: It is a big amount to pay for safes.

Queen's House Bed-Sheets

Mr. Goonetilleke: Item (iv.) bed-sheets.

Mr. Gibb: Those are the Queen's House, &c., bed sheets.

Mr. Goonetilleke: Are they still in stock?

Mr. Gibb: Part of them. They are being issued to hospitals, &c., and will soon be used up.

Mr. Goonetilleke: If they were meant for the Queen's House, &c., they must be too good for hospitals.

Mr. Gibb: No. They are cotton sheets.

Mr. Perera: For whom were they intended and when?

Mr. Gibb: They were intended two or three years ago for the Queen's House.

Mr. Perera: What is this fuse, item (v.)?

Blasting Operations

Mr. Gibb: For gun powder.

Mr. Goonetilleke: Is there a fairly large stock in hand?

Mr. Gibb: No.

The Chairman: Who are using it?

Mr. Gibb: The Public Works Department.

Mr. Goonetilleke: What about gun powder, item (vii.)?

Mr. Stewart-Smith: What is this gun powder for?

Mr. Gibb: For blasting operations.

Mr. Perera: What is the quantity issued every year?

Mr. Gibb: About four to five thousand barrels a year.

Mr. Perera: What is the price of a barrel?

Mr. Gibb: The price is about Rs. 12 per barrel.

(Continued on page 3.)

IT PAYS TO ADVERTISE IN THE HINDU ORGAN AND INTHUSATHANAM.

SUPPRESSING ILLICIT TRAFFIC

Home Committee's Proposal

AN EXPERIMENT

Excise Policy Of Government

The following report of the Executive Committee of Home Affairs, presented by Sir D. B. Jayatileke was adopted by the State Council on Thursday last:—

For the purpose of eliminating the facilities for illicit sales in areas where taverns or liquor shops have been closed, the sub-Committee of the Executive Committee of Home Affairs which inquired into the Excise Policy of Government recommended *inter alia*, that subject to the issue of permits to *bona fide* consumers, the introduction or possession of the class of liquor, the sale of which has been stopped by local option or otherwise, should be prohibited. The Executive Committee did not support this recommendation on the grounds that any system of registration of *bona fide* consumers would be impracticable and that difficulties would arise as regards travellers passing through wet and dry areas in the course of one journey *vide* paragraph 7 of Sessional Paper III of 1933, presented to the State Council.

(2) The Executive Committee has since reconsidered the matter on a modified proposal, which is in the nature of an experiment prohibiting the possession and transport of *toddy* in areas in which *toddy* taverns have been closed, making due provision for the transport of *toddy* for legitimate reasons, e.g., from the topes to the taverns.

(3) The proposal is in respect of one class of liquor only, i.e., *toddy* and includes no system of special permits to *bona fide* consumers, the question of the adoption of some form of such permits, if necessary, being left over for consideration if during the progress of the experiment the situation demanded such action.

(4) The proposal is not affected by the second objection previously envisaged by the Committee, viz., the difficulty as regards the transport of liquor through dry and wet areas alternately. This objection applies only to foreign liquor and arrack but not to *toddy*. *Toddy* does not keep and is not transported for personal consumption over long distances traversing "dry areas".

(5) This proposal will greatly facilitate the task of suppressing illicit traffic and the Executive Committee of Home Affairs recommends that a trial be given to the experiment which might be abandoned at any moment.

(6) Pending the approval of the State Council to the proposal as a whole, the Executive has authorized the Excise Commissioner to start the experiment and report the result of working it in actual practice in the following areas:—

- (1) Urban District Council area of Moratuwa.
- (2) Maradana Ward of the Colombo Municipality.
- (3) The Sanitary Board area of Wattala.
- (4) Urban District Council area of Panadura.
- (5) One or more "dry" areas in Chilaw.

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Hindu Organ.

MONDAY, JULY 3, 1933.

NATIONAL DETERIORATION

TURN TO WHICHEVER SIDE ONE may, the evidence of national deterioration is abundant and overwhelming. The glory of the people has departed with the sprit of self-reliance and self-respect. The relics of the ancient greatness of their ancestors which have not been obliterated by the hand of time stir up only a feeling of shame and humiliation in the bosom of the present generation of Ceylonese who cannot but feel themselves unworthy of the heritage they are called upon to accept and enrich.

The Grama Sangams (Village Communities) have disappeared and with them the village elders who were responsible for the maintenance of village life, in its varied aspects of law and order, economy, education, religion and social scales. The British official took upon himself the responsibility for most of these essential duties and the Headmen gradually became mere accessories to the huge administrative machine which, aiming at results and a certain uniformity, ignored the human factors which needed sympathy to understand or foster. The administration in the hands of men who were aliens to the culture, language and customs of

the people over whom they were called upon to rule quickly degenerated into a penny-in-the-slot machine and was surprisingly efficient in that it worked without any serious hitch or breakdown. The village elder had no place in the working of the machine, except in a subsidiary capacity to help the machine to run in its predetermined way. He was rewarded in money and titles for this service. He might hold his head high and affect importance but he no longer was the servant of the village; he was servant of the machine which he dared not turn from its appointed course without risk to his own life. As a servant of the machine, fellow-villagers feared him and did not, therefore, love him. He could not lead his village. Corporate life disappeared from the village. Individualism penetrates the sacred precincts of the home and brother stands up against brother and in their mutual conflict they lose sight of the claims of the family. With the disruption of village solidarity, the arts and crafts fell into decay. When a small committee of patrons of arts and crafts, consisting of selected members of the landed gentry and devotees of learning were the sole judges of truth and beauty, every artist and craftsman sought to win their favour. Before that incorruptible court of judgment the artist appeared with his poem, his music and his pictures. The craftsman appealed to the same tribunal for approval of his furniture, his tapestries and his shawls; and not until they had won a verdict in their favour could they hope to receive material reward for their labour. The arts and crafts languished for want of support and encouragement. What little remained of them was destroyed by the competition of cheap machine-made articles from abroad and the change wrought in the tastes of the literate classes by the foreign system of education which emphasised the superiority of the West, while the political masters of the people were already busy inculcating it by example.

We are so helpless today that nothing short of complete responsible self-Government will give us back our lost strength. Without responsibility we cannot rediscover our power of self-reliance. Every year that Ceylon remains in subjection to foreign rule will drive national deterioration deeper and deeper. Let us awake to this peril to the nation's life. Our helplessness is best illustrated by the fact that whenever the question of constitutional reform is mooted, a party of 'politicians' suddenly makes its presence felt with the cry of "communal interests". Wild statements are made about domination by the major community and even political suicide. Beneath these ravings may be traced the degeneration which the spirit of the people had undergone as a result of alien domination.

"Subjection for a long time to a foreign yoke is one of the most potent causes of national deterioration," says Sir John Seeley. Indeed, the spirit of self-reliance has been lost so entirely that there are some people who would even oppose the agitation for freedom. If it should ever happen for Britain to send out an urgent call to her sons and daughters in the Empire to hurry back to defend their hearth and home and Britons in this Island were willing to shake the dust of Ceylon from their feet, the passenger Jetty in the

Colombo Harbour will be thronged with certain people who will tearfully pray that their political masters might postpone their voyage for a few years. When the Romans left the shores of Britain, it is said that the wretched inhabitants of Britain gazed longingly after them as the Roman ships departed, being themselves too weakened by foreign rule to have any powers of self-reliance left. A Government imposing its rule on a subject people will always see to it that it renders the subject nation incapable of helping itself. This is done in obedience to the fundamental instinct of self-preservation. The world is yet to see the nation which undertakes for nothing the arduous duty of training another nation in the art of Self-Government.

Let us bear in mind the fact that increased dependence on foreign rule means increased deterioration of the people. Those who are inclined to agree with the European Association in the "doctrine of gradualness" propounded by Sir John Simon and condemn the "impatience of politicians" to secure more reform would do well to consider whether the instalments of reforms given to us during the last 150 years and more of British rule in Ceylon has weakened in any degree the dependence on the British Government. Amendments to the constitution here and there cannot restore to the people that vital life force which alone can arrest the deterioration of the people and enable them to be masters in their own land and honoured comrades of the Britons.

It was well that the attention of the U. D. C. was invited to the widespread dissatisfaction felt throughout the

Unfair Assessment. urban area over the manner in which the assessment for 1933 has been done. We understand that the year's assessment has resulted in an increase of rates all round. It is strange that the assessors had over-looked the resolution of the Council which directed that the assessors should take into consideration the fact of the depression which has forced down rents and produce value. The mere fact that a room has been added to a building should be no pretext for the assessors to raise the rental value without inquiry into the possibility of any added benefit accruing to the owner. Business is at a standstill in the town and it will certainly add to the difficulties of the rate-payers if they are to be saddled with additions to the rates they now pay. In many cases objections have not been lodged owing to ignorance of the parties concerned. The Committee appointed by the U. D. C. would do well to scrutinize the reported assessment and order relief even if no formal objection is placed before them. Of course, while the Committee will protect the interests of the rate-payers, we trust they will not fail to conserve the revenue of the Council by refusing to be over-generous. The Committee will be flooded with objections from all and sundry, but we are certain they will exercise their discretion so as not to cause hardship to the rate-payers or loss to the Council. We would suggest to the Chairman to inform the rate-payers of the duties of the Committee to enable them to take advantage of the opportunity offered them to rectify errors in the assessment.

AMERICAN
INDEPENDENCE DAY

By Politicus

(Special to the "HINDU ORGAN")

The story of the struggle to win back freedom is a subject of perpetual interest. The struggle of the American Colonies for Independence has many lessons for countries in the East chafing under the yoke of alien rule.

The following article by "Politicus" has a special interest in view of tomorrow being the day of American Independence.

Quos Deus vult perdere, prius dementat. (Those whom God wishes to destroy, he first furms mad.)

During the period of intense agitation against the tyrannies of Great Britain there presided over the destinies of Great Britain and her Empire beyond the seas, a Monarch who wanted to be a "Patriot King", a Monarch who achieved his ambition by resuming into his own hands, the patronage of the State wherewith he bribed the Houses of Parliament himself, instead of leaving patronage and corruption as the perquisite of the Whig Oligarchy then ascendant in the Councils of the Realm

Duel between the Two Georges

The fight against George III's tyranny in America once begun resolved itself after the lapse of a few years into a duel between George III and George Washington. Between these two men—one resolute with the blind certitude of stupidity and "growing" insanity—the other resolute to make and weld a nation out of a congeries of Colonies, to curb himself for the sake of his cause in all things,—the ultimate issue of the contest could have been easily foreseen. From that contest the King emerged as a madman who threw away half a continent from Great Britain, the other as the Cincinnatus of the West, the father of the American Nation, first in war, first in peace and first in the hearts of his countrymen.

Stamp Act

The Nation of shop-keepers tried by every means especially by navigation laws to throttle American Shipping and Trade. In an evil hour for predatory Imperialism battering on the red wine of power and plunder of weaker races, but in an auspicious hour for the Dawn of Independence over the Land of Hope and Glory, the land of the Free, there took definite shape in the legal mind of George Grenville—who at one and the same time doubted the propriety of taxing the Colonists without allowing them representation and held the crude view that colonies were only settlements made in distant lands for the purposes of trade and exploitation—the idea that the Colonies might be made to contribute something towards the military expenses of the Imperial connection. So the Stamp Act was passed in 1765 in utter defiance of the strong protests of the Colonists headed by Samuel Adams and Benjamin Franklin. It was signed by a Commission on behalf of King George III—then suffering from a malady which is supposed to have been in fact the first visitation of his subsequent insanity. (March 22 1765.)

Spirited Protest

Patrick Henry of the Give-me-Liberty-or-Give-me-Death fame, then the youngest member of the Virginian House of Burgesses, carried through a resolution asserting the right of the Colonies and repudiating the authority of the British Parliament to tax them. Similar resolutions were passed in the other colonial legislative assemblies. The Massachusetts Assembly convoked a Congress at New York for the month of October. The other legislative assemblies followed suit. The agitation became intense and violent and swept everything before it. Rioting and burning of stamp offices became almost the order of the day. A Boston paper wrote "North American Liberty was dead, but she had left one son behind, Independence, the hope of all when he should come of age."

Congress Meets

On October 7, 1765 the Congress met and drew up a petition to the King and a Memorial to the Parliament. On

November 1, the day the Stamp Act came into force, there was not a stamp master in the Colonies nor a stamp to be seen there. The Stamp Act was "stamped out" next year. But further obnoxious measures, like the Declaratory Act and the Revenue Act were passed. It was a grim irony of Fate that the Tax on Tea and other articles was passed during the regime of Lord Chatham, the strongest opponent of taxing the colonies—but during his absence from the cabinet owing to the increasing burden of age and infirmity.

Civil Disobedience.

In 1766 the Massachusetts House of Assembly set the ball rolling by denying the right of Parliament to legislate for the Colonies. Before the taxes came into force, before the time appointed for collecting these taxes, the inhabitants of Boston met and called a convention, as the Governor had refused to issue writs for a new Assembly. This convention attended by delegates from every settlement refused to break up at the bidding of the Governor and conducted its proceedings so adroitly that the members could not be accused of treason or sedition.

The merchants of Boston entered into an agreement against importation of British goods. Women—"daughters of Liberty"—gave up the use of tea. British goods were boycotted. Revolution was in the air of the American Continent. Troops were hastily dispatched to Boston. Though surrounded by soldiers the Assembly met and curtly refused to carry out the Governor's orders.

"Buy American"

An impetus was given to Home Manufactures. The graduates of Harvard stood up to take their degrees clad in New England blackcloth. There were frequent clashes with the troops, riots, and disorders. The victims of the "Boston Massacre" were accorded a public funeral. British imports into the Colonies fell off to an alarming extent.

Those at the helm of the affairs of the Nation of shop-keepers sought to appease the discontent of the Colonists by removing all duties except that on tea. The Duty on Tea was left intact to propitiate the new Deity—Royal Prestige. The "Sons of Liberty" organisations determined that Tea should not be landed or if landed not sold. The Boston Tea Party supplied the fishes with refreshment—cold tea brewed in salt water.

Reprisals

The retaliatory machinery was set in motion by the British Government. The Boston Port Act closed the port. Stern repressive measures soon followed. America was flooded with repressive laws just as India is flooded with Ordinances promulgated by the Vice-Royal fiat.

Public Fasting and Prayer Day

On the first news of the Boston Port Bill the leaders of the Colonists set apart June 1, as a day of fasting to implore the "Divine interposition" for averting the terrible calamity which threatened destruction to their civil rights and to give them courage to oppose by all just and proper means every injury to their rights. It was religiously and enthusiastically observed by the colonists all over America. Washington presided over several county meetings and set forth in a masterly fashion the points at issue between Great Britain and America.

Continental Congress

It was also decided by the leaders to hold a Congress at Philadelphia on September 4, 1774. The "Continental Congress" was held on that date. Delegates came from all the colonies except Georgia. Samuel Adams, Patrick Henry, George Washington, and Thomas Jefferson drew up a Declaration of the Rights of America. A Grand Remonstrance was also drawn

up. After sitting for 51 days the Congress broke up to meet again on May 10, 1775. The calling together of the Congress to protest against and sanction resistance to the Government was itself an act of Independence.

Parallel Government

Massachusetts took a bold lead. Elections to the Assembly were held in direct defiance of the Governor's writ cancelling the Elections. The Governor did not attempt to check them. The Members met after the Elections and on the Governor showing the white feather, resolved themselves into a Provincial Congress to consider the affairs of the Colony. Measures were taken by the Provincial Congress for organising the Militia. Corps were formed in the other Colonies also. The British General, Gage, wrote to his chief that the edicts of the Provincial Congress were implicitly obeyed. Massachusetts was without British Courts of Justice or legislature established by English Law. The whole country was in arms.

North's Divide et Impera Ruse.

The English Parliament met and carried out the behests of the King communicated through his mouth-piece, Lord North. Chatham's warnings and his advice "to retract while we can, not when we must" fell on deaf ears. North's Machiavellian plan to divide the colonies by forbearing to tax such of them as would of their own accord provide for the expenses of their defence and civil government made no headway in America.

Blockade.

Having failed in his attempt to quell Boston by crippling her trade, he forged Restraint of Trade Bills with the object of starving the Americans into submission aided by a stringent naval blockade. Massachusetts prepared and thoroughly equipped herself for war. Virginia acted likewise and Washington pledged himself to devote his life and fortune to the cause of American Freedom.

The First Shot

The embattled farmers stood at Lexington and fired the shot heard round the world. General Gage's troops effected a retreat—20 miles in 3 hours—with the Colonists at their heels in hot pursuit. The Colonists surprised the Fort of Ticonderoga and claimed of the commandant his surrender "in the name of God and the Continental Congress"—which had met again at Philadelphia and had under the leadership of Washington Jefferson, and Adams made preparations for war, voted men for the army and issued currency notes. General Gage proclaimed Martial Law over the land. The Congress answered it by appointing George Washington as the Commander-in-Chief of the American forces. Before Washington could take up his command the battle of Bunker's Hill had been fought, and won by the Colonists. In the South the royal authority had been shaken off. Yet the Colonists were faced with great difficulties.

Olive Branch

Penn, late Governor of Pennsylvania, was in England as the bearer of the "Olive Branch," as the second Petition of the Congress was called. But Penn could not obtain an audience and when he applied for an answer to the petition he was informed that a Royal Proclamation had been issued, 10 days after his arrival, in England, for suppressing sedition and rebellion. Some waverers and fainthearts began to flood the American Department of Great Britain with loyal addresses. Everything seemed to encourage the King and his ministers and they called out the Militia and passed the Prohibition of Trade Act to prohibit all trade and intercourse with the 13 colonies.

Bold Lead of the Congress

America received with divided feelings the proclamation against sedition and rebellion and the Prohibition of Trade Act. The Congress virtually asserted Independence in authorising New Hampshire and South Carolina to frame new constitutions. But Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, and Maryland did not desire to cut the painter. The situation was confusing, critical, and dark. Nobody knew what course to pursue, yet all the American patriots who had taken their stand against despotism felt that some decided course must be adopted without delay, and resolutely carried out. What did the Colonists want? The repeal of the oppressive taxes set out in the Olive Branch? Or did they want that they must sooner or later have what almost nobody dared to breathe—Independence? It was at this critical juncture that Thomas Paine broadcast his pamphlet "Com-

monsense" which gave the *coup de grace* to Great Britain and convinced the American leaders of the necessity of Separation. With its appearance came a marked change and advance in public sentiment.

The American Flag.

On the New Year Day of 1776 the American flag was first unfurled having no stars as yet but with 13 stripes of alternate red and white. The Congress voted for the building of 13 men-of-war. After several severe reverses Washington succeeded in making General Howe and the British troops to evacuate Boston.

First Steps towards Declaration of Independence.

The Congress passed a resolution against the import of slaves and another throwing open the trade of the colonies to all the world. Several states declared themselves one by one, one after another, free and independent and absolved from all allegiance or dependence upon the Crown or Parliament of Great Britain. A convention of Delegates instructed the representatives of Virginia in Congress to propose that the United Colonies be declared free and independent states, absolved from all allegiance or dependence upon the Crown or Parliament of Great Britain; and issued on June 12, 1776, a celebrated declaration of rights, which became substantially the foundation of the still more celebrated Declaration of Independence. John Adams made the Congress adopt a resolution allowing the colonies to frame their own government under the Crown of Great Britain. R. H. Lee proposed and John Adams seconded a resolution in the Congress declaring the Independence of the United Colonies, the expediency of forming foreign alliances and of forming a plan of confederation. The consideration of the first part of the resolution was postponed for three weeks but a committee was appointed for drawing up a Declaration to the effect proposed. The arrival of the the Big British Fleet and the British Royal Commission created something akin to panic among the faint hearts and waverers.

The Declaration.

But the Congress stuck to its guns and adopted the famous Declaration of Independence (almost as) penned by Thomas Jefferson on the 4th day of July 1776.

That immortal document declared—that all men are created equal that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights among which are the rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness; that to secure these rights governments are instituted among men deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed; that whenever any form of Government becomes destructive of those ends it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it and to institute a new Government.

It enumerated a long list of acts perpetrated by Great Britain—all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute tyranny over the American States. It recounted the petitions for redress which had been presented, the appeals to justice and magnanimity which had fallen on deaf ears.

Conclusion

It concluded as follows: "We, therefore, the representatives of the United States of America, in General Congress assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the World for the rectitude of our intentions, do in the name and by the authority of the good people of these colonies, solemnly publish and declare that the United Colonies are and, of right, ought to be free and independent States; that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British Crown and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as free and independent States, they have full power to levy war, conclude peace, contract alliances, establish commerce, and do all other acts and things which independent States may of right do. And for the support of this declaration with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honour".

Reception.

This declaration was signed by every member of the Congress. Throughout the revolted colonies the Declaration of Independence was received with unbounded enthusiasm. Its adoption was rung in the belfry of the old, Ring in the New to Phila-

WORTHY TASK FOR YOUTH

Restore Prosperity To Empty Tracts

ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE'S ADVICE TO STUDENTS

"There is one profession, of which I can speak with knowledge and that is the Legal profession. It is over-crowded and there is nothing like sufficient work for all. Yet the numbers go on growing", said the Hon. Mr. L. C. Dalton, Acting Chief Justice, presiding at the Annual Prize Distribution at St. Joseph's College Colombo.

He would strongly advise any parent who proposed to let his son go in for law to reconsider the matter.

Open Up Empty Tracts

In this connection, as to careers for boys, he was very much interested to hear in the report that was read that the Rector was trying to find in the vicinity of Colombo a plot of land where practical lessons could be given in experimental farming and gardening. He hoped the Rector would be successful in his search. He had wandered all over Ceylon from Point Pedro to Dondra Head and from Kalpitiya to Batticaloa and what struck one's attention at once was the great empty tracts in the North and East and South which seemed as if they were only waiting for someone to open them up and restore them their prosperity of earlier days. Here was a worthy task for the youth of Ceylon under experienced guidance. He hoped all the schools in Colombo would follow their Rector's example. They may then see School Agricultural Shows in a small way which will be very much more beneficial to Ceylon than, for example oratorical contests.

Stores Excessive And Obsolete

(Continued from page 1)

The Chairman: Cannot you sell this gun powder?
Mr. Gibb: We have lately sold gun powder to firms licensed to deal in same.

The Chairman: Why did you in the middle of the year order as much as 3,000 barrels at a cost of Rs. 38,000?

Mr. Gibb: The Public Works Department were drawing on us and we estimated for them.

The Chairman: Does the Colonial Stores pay any interest on the advance of cash?

Mr. Gibb: It is not a commercialized department.
Mr. Goonetilleke: The Colonial Storekeeper has to keep in stock what the other people want him to keep in stock and therefore any excess in his store is primarily due to the mistake of other departments.

delphia from the great bell of Independence Hall, which bore for motto "Liberty throughout the land to all the inhabitants thereof," and Royal Arms were brought from the State House and burned publicly. At New York the statue of George III was pulled down and cast into bullets. Washington had the troops paraded and each division listened bareheaded while the Declaration was being read

Effect of the Declaration

This immortal declaration was an assertion of right as well as of defiance uttered in an hour of great peril, in the face of a formidable foe. Viewed in the light of attendant circumstances the declaration itself and the practical unanimity with which it was adopted became heroic. Through the general principles which it sets forth it appealed and still appeals to all peoples that are oppressed and are struggling for freedom from the intolerable degradation of a foreign yoke and became and becomes the charter of revolution throughout the world. The Declaration of Independence virtually cost Louis XVI his crown, George III his throne and well half a continent, half a hemisphere,

STATE MORTGAGE BANK

Subsistence Allowance For Officials

Rules formed by the Board of Directors of the Ceylon State Mortgage Bank and approved by the Governor, fixing the subsistence allowance to be paid to the Directors, Manager, Assistant Manager, Valuers and Inspectors, when travelling on duty are published in the latest Gazette.

Govt. Agent, Eastern Province

Mr. V. Coomaraswamy has been appointed to act in the Office of Government Agent, Eastern Province.

Obiter Dicta—VIII

(Continued from page 1)

white principal had no reasonable excuse to offer. Well, the old boy Chairman-elect, was duly at the College gate (I was there and I saw and testify) but the Principal did not receive him. It was the white man from Colombo whom he received, and it was the white man from Colombo who inspected the scouts and cubs and it was the white man from Colombo for whom the cubs roared and for whom the cub-master whined. The old boy presided. The white principal at the report reading stage, read it completely ignoring the Chairman (old boy) and addressing only the white ecclesiastic from Colombo, and ladies and gentlemen. *It was a slight.* The slight is perpetuated with brazen audour in the report being found on the Journal of the College just as it had been read. An emendation, however untrue, might have saved to the principal credit for good taste, but unrectified that report remains to this day a monument of deliberate insult. The white principal's superiority complex found response in the mentality of the malcontent minority among the masters at the closing stage of the proceedings, for they called for three hearty cheers for the white ecclesiastic and none for the black Chairman.

The Box Seat.

In the old coaching days the box seat of the Royal Mail Coach was a very privileged one. A rash occupant of it, though he had paid for it, ran the risk of being challenged. Indeed it was lawful in those days for all seats to be challenged. One morning, the Matale—Kandy coach had been waiting sometime, the horses very impatient, for some big person to turn up. He did turn up at last, a hefty well-nourished Britisher, a proprietary planter, owner of wide stretches of coffee and cocoa. "Halloo!", he roared to the coach-conductor, "what is Muniandi doing in the box-seat?" Now, the occupant of the box-seat was (as he then was Mr. (afterwards Sir) P. Ramanathan, calmly engrossed in a copy of the Brihad Aranyaka Upanishad. The conductor rubbed his palms together most apologetically, but said not a word to the planter. The planter addressed Mr. Ramanathan. "Eh! Look here, what the hell are you doing in my seat? Get behind, will you?" The turbaned figure was motionless, and silent, lost in his Brihad, or apparently so! The planter roared the louder, "Damn it, are you deaf? Come off my seat, and get behind. Look sharp." Then meekly the reader of the Brihad inquired, "were you speaking to me, Sir?"—you know the soft, mellifluous tone of the great man. "The devil I was," said the planter. "Now, what is it you want to know, Sir?", asked the philosopher. The planter said shortly, "who the hell are you to occupy my seat?" The philosopher smiled a provokingly benevolent smile, and answered, "I am His Majesty's Attorney General, and am occupying my own seat." The planter—the perfect gentleman that he was—pulled his pipe off his mouth, took off his hat, and said, "Let me apologise, Sir, for my ignorance. Give me your paw." The Attorney-General and the Planter shook hands. The planter was for taking a seat in the back part of the coach, but Mr. Ramanathan insisted on his sitting in the box seat by his side. "Now, let us have a long chat." And they did.

CONFERENCE OF CONGRESSMEN.

Informal Meeting On July 12.

GANDHIJI TO INTERVIEW VICEROY?

Poona, June 29

The informal conference of Congress leaders, fixed for the 12th July will be an important event in the history of the Indian National Congress, inasmuch as it will finally decide the future Congress policy.

Although there have been suggestions from certain quarters that a special session of the Congress should be called for taking the final decisions it is reliably learnt that there is no likelihood of this being done.

Even the decision of the informal Conference on the 12th July, whatever it be, will be mainly that of Mr. Gandhi himself, though he may be guided to a large extent by the views expressed by various leaders who have first-hand knowledge about the state of affairs in the country.

In view of Mr. Gandhi's present satisfactory progress, it is confidently hoped that he will be able to actively participate in the discussions, even if they be held outside "Farakuti."

While the suggestion that Mr. Gandhi may seek an interview with the Viceroy when the latter visits Poona is regarded in Congress circles as highly improbable, it is quite possible he may seek an interview with the Viceroy at Simla before the end of July, when the period of the suspension of Civil Disobedience ends, but this will to a large extent depend on the decision of the Conference.

It is understood that an early date was fixed for the Conference, with a view to providing sufficient time to give effect to the decision of the Conference before the period of the suspension of Civil Disobedience expires.

The final list of invitees to the Conference, it is understood, exceeds twenty five, despite efforts made to keep down the number.

—"Associated Press of India".

Probation Officers

ONE WITH A GALAXY OF INITIALS

His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to appoint the following gentlemen as Probation Officers for the District of Kegalle:

Rev. Fr. V. R. Jayawardena
Messrs B. J. Preris and W. R. G. M. S. A. R. L. P. S. M. U. Padiyar.

Surveying and Levelling Examination

The examination for the Surveyor-General's licence in surveying and levelling (Ordinance No. 26 of 1909), will begin on October 17.

Personal

Mr. V. Nagalingam, Excise Inspector, Jaffna, to act as Assistant Superintendent of Excise, Jaffna circle, during the absence on leave of Mr. J. S. Nicholas, from June 15.

Sale Notice.

Chevrolet Lorry bearing No. A 3150 which was confiscated by the Principal Collector of Customs, Colombo, on the 19th April 1933 will be put up for sale by public auction at the Jaffna Customs House on Monday 10th July 1933 at 9 o'clock in the morning.
H.M. Customs, Jaffna, 28th June 1933.
R.J. Wilkinson, For Collector, Customs, N. P. Mis 49. 3-7-33

CEYLON SAVINGS BANK.

RS. 70,000 PROFIT
LAST YEAR.

**Annual meeting of
Directors.**

Accounts showing a profit of Rs. 70,000 for last year were adopted at the Annual General Meeting of the Ceylon Savings Bank Depositors, which was held on Monday in a Committee room of the State Council Chamber.

Mr. C. W. Bickmore presided and with him were present Messrs H. A. Burden, and J. C. W. Roek.

Investments Valuation Methods Altered.

The Chairman, referring to the report and accounts, said that for the first time they had prepared the accounts in a new form which valued their investments not at the purchase price but at the market price. The balance sheet was now a clear record of things as they existed.

Another fact was the alteration in the investment of monies which comprised the amounts shown under assets. For a long time they had felt that a large quantity of the 3½ per cent. India on paper was unredeemable and had been standing very much below par for many years and that had been one of the principal causes of the paper loss which the accounts had shown in the past. With the improvement of the market in Government Securities in India they had taken the opportunity of disposing of that 3½ per cent. on paper and had put the greater part of it into 4 per cent. India loan 1960-70 and 4½ per cent. India loan 1955-60.

Expenses Reduced

The result of that transaction had been that as the years went by they had the value of that investment appreciating from year to year as the date of redemption drew near. They were not losing anything on the current rate of interest.

They had also been able to reduce the expenses of running the Bank. The salaries of officers of the Bank had been subjected to a levy, in the same way as Government servants. They had also kept unfilled one vacancy.

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1923.	Rs. 39,97,000	Rs. 1,98,92,000
1933	Rs. 70,17,000	Rs. 3,96,69,000

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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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