

	Town Delivery.	Inland India etc.	Foreign P.M.S.
Yearly	R. C. 5-00	R. C. 8-00	R. C. 9-00
6 Months	3-00	4-50	5-00
3 Months	2-00	2-50	3-00

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PLATITUDES

A Dumping Ground

JAFFNA is a favourite dumping ground for platitudes. Don't I platinise in these pages? Then why not Mr. Justice Akbar? He has been flooding our country with wisdom of late. The retailing of copy-book maxims by the average man is bathos; the same thing done by a Judge is brilliant. What is a platitude? It is the saying of a commonplace tenet in a commonplace way. "There is nothing new under the sun." The same thing is being said by generations of men from age to age: it is the manner of saying it that arrests attention. Mr. Akbar does it well, and the cynic or the critic or both may see nothing new in what he says, but he says it dexterously, even dramatically, and the fact that he is all the time retailing platitudes passes unnoticed. There is an art of platinising, and Mr. Akbar is an expert in it. "Think twice to speak once" is a Methuselah among maxims. Mr. Akbar has been decorating it with much wordy finery with the result that that most ancient Law is presented to an enraptured audience in so thoroughly rejuvenated a form that it seems very originally Akbarian. The people of the North may or may not learn to think twice to speak once but they would do well to study Mr. Akbar's splendid device of exalting the commonplace and so make public speaking less boring.

In Superlatives.

The best cigars are made in Jaffna and Jaffna cigars are the best in the world. Thus the tradesman. It is good to think in superlatives. Mr. Akbar loves them. The Jaffna man is the most industrious man; the history of the Tamils in the most marvellous thing in literature; Tamil drama is the most arresting of its kind in art; Tamil singing is the most sensuously sweet; the Ceylon Civil Service is the most perfect institution of its kind; Mr. Wilkinson of the Jaffna Kachcheri is the best representative of that Service; and Mr. Wilkinson's scheme for the amelioration of the Vanni is the most original plan since the days of Sir Thomas More's Utopia. All this is very interesting, flattering, and more than all, up to the standard of expectation of Mr. Akbar's audiences in Jaffna. But they had no right to expect such superlative things. A superlative view of anything shuts out the scope for improvement, for to grow into perfection we must continue discontented. An ardent lady who admires Mr. Akbar said to me the other day, "He is the most perfect speaker I have ever heard in Jaffna."

"But what did he say?" I asked. "He said this," she answered.

"That is nothing new or striking," I said. And so on, I ticked off every item as stale.

"But that about Mr. Wilkinson?" she urged.

"There have been Wilkinsons before now," I said, "and there is nothing new under the sun, not even Mr. Akbar."

Something Striking

"Then" asked the widow "what on earth should Mr. Akbar have said?"

I answered, "He should not have uttered platitudes, or he should have said them in some very defiantly striking manner. Thus: The Civil Service is a fine institution but there are a few fellows there who should be hounded out of it. Mr. Wilkinson's zeal and enthusiasm are commendable but watch him after his acclimatisation and you won't know him. Tamil singing is really sweet but the facial contortions of some singers are most repellent."

"Yes, yes," said the lady, "but Mr. Akbar is very religious."

I said "Have you heard what a lawyer remarked on a public occasion at Manipal the other day? Mr. Akbar, he said, is very religious though he is a Mahomedan!"

"Now what did the proctor mean?" she asked.

"I am sure I don't know," I replied "and I agree with you if what you mean is that Mr. Akbar talks very nicely on religious or ethical subjects."

Acclimatisation

The lady admirer of Mr. Akbar was anxious to know something about acclimatisation. For her benefit what I said then I say unto all. Acclimatisation is something which happens to an Englishman or any white man, after a few months' stay in Ceylon. When the English missionary arrived newly, said the schoolmaster to me once, referring to the Principal as "Missionary", he would himself see to the preparation of the orange squashes for his guest and carry the glass full of it and present it to him. Three months passed and the white man was all awank and swagger, and had become a seasoned civilian. He was curt, distant, offered nothing, and generally seemed to stand on a higher plane than his Asiatic visitors, and took pleasure in subservience and deference such as is shown by Asiatic subordinates to European superiors in office. He had become acclimatised to the condition of the Colonial Englishman, having had the first good attack of Colonial fever. It must be said in fairness to the white man that it is not every white man who is subject to Colonial fever. Some know how wonderfully resisted its attacks, noble souls like Sir William Tynnam, Dr. Green, Dr. Howland, Rev. J. Thompson, and, among the living Miss Tynnam, Mr. Freeman, Mr. Russell to name a few of those who are best known in Jaffna.

Adorning the Platitude

The theme of this paragraph is a platitude, but the illustration is intended to make the commonplace uncommon. A missionary lady arriving in Jaffna from another Town left her companion, a lady, to the hospitality of my home for a day. Nothing was spared to make the lady's stay comfortable. At the close of the day the missionary called to fetch her companion to the railway station. Then she said to me, "I have no money with me now, I'll send it to you from A—if you will please tell me the cost of the meals." That the speaker was not a man made it very hard for me to refrain from saying the proper thing in reply to so rude a remark. What was permissible under the circumstances was, however, said by me, and it was an eye-opener to the white lady.

NEW VARIETIES OF TOBACCO

Experiments To Be Extended

EXPERT'S VISIT

Cigarette - Tobacco Experiment In Jaffna.

Tobacco suitable for making cigars, cigarettes and smoking mixtures is being successfully grown in the Warapola-Ganewatte area of the Kurunegala District, where experimental plots have been planted with seed obtained from Egypt, India and America among other places. It is now proposed to open up about four acres in tobacco in order to obtain sufficient seed for distribution among cultivators, who wish to try the new variety of tobacco, says the "Daily News."

Investigation in India

The visit to be made shortly of the expert of the American Tobacco Co., is to be availed of to obtain advice for cultivators.

Later on it is proposed to send one of the officers of the Agricultural Department over to India to investigate further into the methods of cultivating the tobacco and curing the leaf to suit the various grades of tobacco, which are used in the manufacture of cigars, cigarettes and pipe tobacco. The varieties grown in that district, were Hickory Prior, Harrison Special, Hiriya, Maulekuda, Kukuyen, White Burley, Yellow Burley and Southern Province.

Suitable Areas

Land suited for the cultivation of these varieties of tobacco are said to be situated in the Kurunegala District, Dumbura Valley and along the Mahaveli Ganga towards Polonnaruwa.

It is proposed to carry out experiments in Jaffna also with a view to getting tobacco suitable for cigarette manufacture.

For the present, however, efforts will be confined largely to producing a variety suitable for pipe tobacco and cigars. Of the varieties so far experimented it is understood that Harrison Special is best suited for "filling" and White Burley for "covering" cigars. The results of the experiments are said to be highly satisfactory and there appears to be every promise of the industry being put on a sound footing commercially.

Ceylon's Trade During August

RISE IN VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS

The Customs Returns for August show a further rise in the value of Ceylon exports, from Rs. 16,838,695 in July, to Rs. 18,119,217. On the other hand, there has been a simultaneous rise in import values, from Rs. 13,798,112 to Rs. 16,352,858. The excess of export value over imports for the year now stands at Rs. 11,631,562, the totals being: Exports, Rs. 127,612,367; imports, Rs. 115,980,372.

The Economic Crisis and Spiritual Life In America

By Irwin Edman

(Professor of Philosophy at Columbia University, New York)

THE spiritual life is the same in all ages, if it is genuinely spiritual, and the economic crisis is, save in detail, for the moment the same all over the world. That sustained absorption by timeless and immortal things in which the spiritual life consists is impeded, menaced and even paralyzed by the "poverty amid plenty" which is being experienced in all lands facing all seas. The nature of spiritual interests is no different in essence in America than it is in India or Norway, nor are the financial and industrial ills it faces altogether unique. But an observer in America is perhaps placed at an especially advantageous position for observing what the crisis has done to the older preoccupations of the race, and what hope the crisis holds forth for their renaissance. For the fact is that America, by virtue of its almost fantastic economic triumphs and equally fantastic economic debacle, both in prosperity and in poverty offers a cardinal case of the relation of material conditions to ideal interests. And though contemplation and aspiration have no local frontiers, the life of the spirit, like other lives, has native lineaments; though mind be invariable, the language of the mind varies in different corners of the earth.

It is to some degree surprising that spiritual interests should have had as much of a career as they have had in America. The frontier is no place for leisure, for the brooding that turns into poetry and the dreaming that turns into thought. The frontier has passed away from American life but only within a generation or two, and the temper of physical conquest and material success until very recently dominated the American scene. Yet the very arduous and endurance of pioneer life contributed elements to the life of imagination and thought. It is impossible to appraise with exactitude the amount that the necessary individualism and adventure of a frontier civilisation contributed to the thought of Emerson and Thoreau, nor how much being an American in the nineteenth century made Whitman the poet that he was. The very absence of distraction by tradition and luxury made it not only possible but imperative that gifted Americans should very early have learned to live in the mind and to dare with it as many of them had perforce to dare with the body. The simplicities of a pioneer civilization, in so far as that civilization permits leisure at all, are no enemies of the soul. Rather they teach it that "self reliance," those "spiritual laws," and that converse with the "over soul" about which Emerson was so eloquently to discourse. They save it from corruption by matter and involvement in snobbery and success. Plain living and high thinking have not for nothing been hailed as natural adjuncts of each other. The enemies of the soul in America came later. They rose when the arduous and endurance were ending and when America was beginning to stand to the world as a symbol for the unparalleled triumph of mechanism in things and of materialism in the way of a philosophy of life. Ingenuity in America by the beginning of the twentieth century had come to take the place and the

honours more properly belonging to wisdom. Whatever lip service might be paid to traditional religion, the animating religion of most people, those who were successful and those who wished to be so, was Success itself. Nor was Success very much more generously or beautifully conceived than pecuniary gains or narrow social distinction. Indeed in America the two went until very recently hand in hand, the successfully acquisitive were the respected and honoured. Possibly nowhere in the world, not even in thrifty France, would a man be the subject of full and fulsome obituaries simply because he was a multimillionaire.

Nor was it only the very rich who were corrupted by the temper of a mechanical civilization and of material gain. For it was one of the illusions, long cherished and only recently exploded, that ingenuity might make anyone wealthy and that wealth, the fruit of ingenuity, was the only and the final goal. The hopes of the frontier lingered after the frontier had passed away. The summit of success in life in America was bare and bleak enough but it was ardently supposed that anybody could reach that summit. And there were enough true stories of magical rise from poverty to riches to nourish that belief and make it plausible.

It was beginning to be apparent even before the Great Depression set in, in 1929, that the financial as well as the physical frontier was closed. It is unimportant for our purposes to trace the well enough known story. But increasing numbers of Americans were discovering that consolidations of wealth and industry were making gold a very precious metal indeed and material success, however dearly and exclusively desired, a prize as romantic for most citizens of the commonwealth as any dreamed of Paradise. Yet the delusion persisted, and during the period of speculative boom and prosperity, there was, if not the hope in the mind of the average American that he might become rich, at least the prevalent impression, expressed by no less a public figure than the President that Americans were destined to know the highest standard of living that had ever been known in the world. The highest standard of living, of course, meant the imitation on a small scale on the part of the man of small income of the standards of comfort and luxury and display set in advance by the very rich. Comfort meant not, on the whole, what it still means in Europe, a certain graciousness and mellowness in the details of life, an English tea in an English garden or a long quiet evening with a book before a fire. It did not mean a ramble on a country road or a leisurely cycling trip over hills and moors. It meant mechanical contrivances, it meant the thrills of change and of speed. One of the most revealing symptoms of the direction of American life was the fact that even in the peak of prosperity, there was little leisure and even where there was leisure there was no sense of it. The American in his freedom had to depend on mechanical devices for his pleasure as he depended on mechanical devices for his work. His pleasure, too, had to be marked by the same physical tenseness and excitement that marked his work. He had lost

(Continued on page 3)

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Mis. 95. 18 & 21.

Order Nisi

IN THE DISTRICT COURT
OF JAFFNA

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 8327

In the matter of the estate of the late Vadivampikiammah wife of Eliyathamby Viswanathan of Chuthumalai,

Deceased.
Eliyathamby Viswanathan of Chuthumalai.

Vs.

- Minor 1. Viswanathan Ssevaratnam of Chuthumalai
2. Muttu Eliathamby of do, Guardian ad-litem over the minor the 1st Respondent

This matter of the petition of the abovenamed Petitioner praying for Letters of Administration to the estate of the abovenamed deceased coming on for disposal before D. H. Balfour Esquire, District Judge, Jaffna, on the 11th day of August 1933 in the presence of Mr. P. K. Somasundaram, Proctor on the part of the Petitioner and the affidavit of the Petitioner dated the day of 1933 having been read, it is declared that the Petitioner is the lawful husband of the said intestate and is entitled to have Letters of Administration to the estate of the said intestate issued to him unless the Respondents or any other person shall, on or before the 8th day of September 1933 show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

Sgd. S. Rodrigo
August 19, 1933 District Judge.
Order Nisi extended till
29th September 1933

Sgd. S. Rodrigo
(O. 22. 18 & 21) D. J.

**Hindu Organ.**

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 1933.

MINISTERS' SUPPORT FOR REFORMS

THE MINISTERS' MEMORANDUM AND connected correspondence which have now been made available to the public constitute a definite accession of strength to the Reform movement in the country. The delay of the Board of Ministers to take active steps to implement the Perera resolutions on constitutional reform and the seeming attitude of fatalistic resignation with which they stood the humiliation repeatedly offered them by the Governor, coupled with the readiness of some members of the State Council to turn apologists for a system which has no friends left, in or out of Council, had, not unnaturally, created misgivings in the public mind regarding the sympathy of the Ministers with the popular movement for reforms. We congratulate the Board of Ministers on their memorandum which should effectively purge the air of any suspicion concerning their public spirit and restore confidence in them. The memorandum is a sober and lucid exposition of the minimum demands that will satisfy the people of this country, with the exception, perhaps, of the party which envisages complete independence as their goal. There is no finality in politics, religion and art. Well may, therefore, a section of the people

stand for complete freedom. Absolute independence and freedom can be won by a successful armed rising or by a movement of non-violence which would put an equivalent pressure on the British Government and people. But, let us recognise our own limitations with regard to the choice of weapon and our immediate inability to put greater pressure of either description on Great Britain, and agree for the present to put forward a claim for something less without prejudice for a higher demand.

History proves that the most despotic and absolute autocracy has not stood in the way of nations winning full freedom. Hence, though we may have the most ardent longing for freedom and independence, we may accept responsible Government as the immediate goal and carry on the agitation for larger freedom. We say this for the reason that too often in the past, the tendency to break away from a movement when complete agreement is not reached on matters of secondary importance, has asserted itself with great detriment to the achievement of essential and vital ends. If all sections of the people do not stand up as one man for complete freedom, it is because many of them realise the inherent difficulties of such a step and not because they are any the less patriotic than the rest. Responsible Government will not stand in the way of the country working for and securing independence. It is wisdom to seize the opportunity now arising out of the measure of agreement among the political organisations in the country and set our feet firmly on the road to larger self-realisation.

The Board of Ministers, in formulating proposals supplementary to the PERERA resolutions, have done well to moderate their demands and in this they will have the support of the majority of the people of this country who will not grudge to give them credit for sagacity, moderation and practical wisdom. The Ministers have given a convincing answer to certain false issues and fanciful theories raised by the Governor with a view to delay the establishment of real responsible Government. The effort of the Governor to put off the demand of the people for the reform of the constitution which, in the opinion of the Ministers, "is all but universal", on the ground that the constitution had worked "without friction except in one instance" was met by quoting a number of instances where the friction was so great that only the exercise of patience and tact on the part of Ministers staved off a complete break-down of the constitution. The Governor urged that the Ministers had not worked the constitution long enough to gain sufficient experience or to justify him to support a further extension of responsibility. The Ministers demur and point out that no time-limit had been fixed for the "experiment" of working the "novel constitution" and that "the working of it during the past two years has brought to the surface many serious defects inherent in it which cannot be expected to disappear by mere lapse of time." We are glad that the Ministers repudiated the libel—it is nothing less—on the people that outside Government service and the field of politics it was difficult to find three good men and true to sit on the Public Service Commission. On a par with this, but more telling and direct was the attempt

made, not many years ago, by the late LORD CURZON when he was Viceroy of India to stigmatise the Indians as a nation of liars—or more elegantly, incapable of realising the sanctity of the spoken word. It was necessary to give a bad name to the Indians before the noble Earl could hang them. The flood of resentment which poured from the four quarters of the Indian continent taught his Lordship the folly of succumbing to the temptation to lapse into hasty generalisations. Quite recently, in the Joint Select Committee in London, Indian Ministers were accused of nepotism and Sir, T. B. Saprú promptly challenged the author of the libel to substantiate the foul insinuation. Three of the Ex-Viceroy of India had to offer their testimony to repel the slur cast on Indian Ministers.

What a sad commentary on British rule in Ceylon it would be, if after a century and half of British tutelage three honest and capable men outside the sphere of Government and politics cannot be found in a population of 5 millions! This confession of failure in itself would, were it true, furnish the sole incentive and reason for the people to struggle for their own freedom. The political domination of one people by another inevitably leads to the cultural starvation of the subject people and the progressive deterioration of their ideals of manhood. It is precisely for this reason that the country demands larger freedom, not to dominate over other peoples, not to acquire markets or territories but to enable the people to develop and perfect their own manhood, grow up in their own way, enrich their own country, become self-reliant and give more opportunities and larger freedom for expression to their own soul, unhampered by alien influences.

Excuses will always be invented to delay or defeat the demands of the people. This is the way with all peoples anxious to retain power in their own hands. Until we are in a position to wrest our freedom from unwilling hands, we shall not have it. We should make it impossible for Great Britain and her people to refuse us our legitimate demands.

The Ministers' Memorandum provides a platform for all shades of opinion in the country to join forces to work for the liberation of the country, for the Ministers ask for transference of power from the people of England to the people of Ceylon. We have no doubt that the Ministers will have the backing of the whole country for their demands.

(Continued from Column 5)

and it is from these down trodden classes that he has drawn strength. I feel, however, that it would be desirable to define our objective more clearly so that there may be no misapprehensions in India and abroad. In particular, I feel that in these days of economic breakdown of the capitalist order it is essential for us to lay down a clear economic policy for the national movement.

"I have had a request from a respected colleague to convene a meeting of the All-India Congress Committee. I would gladly take this step, as indeed I am bound to do if there is a requisition demanding such a meeting, but I feel that under the present circumstances there are considerable difficulties in the way of convening a meeting of the All-India Congress Committee." (Associated Press).

GANDHI-NEHRU PARLEY AT PARNAKUTI**Leaders' Statements**

THE conversations that took place between Gandhiji and Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru at Parnakuti were watched with anxious interest by people in India and outside. Two separate statements by the leaders have now been issued to the press on the problems and conclusions arrived at.

GANDHIJI'S STATEMENT

Poona, September 14

Gandhiji has made the following statement to the Press:

"As the rule, during my long course of public service, the next moment's step has been clear before me, but since my unexpected release from prison on August 23 last, darkness has surrounded me and the path of duty therefore has not been clear to me. My present state of health is such that it may yet take several weeks for me to regain my lost strength. To seek imprisonment as soon as I am physically fit or restrain myself for the interrupted year of imprisonment was the question before me. After hard praying and thinking I have come to the conclusion that up to the termination period of my sentence, that is up to August 3 next, I must not court imprisonment by offering aggressive civil resistance. This, however, in no way affects the advice given in a statement issued by me after the informal conference at Poona that I am to suspend action for myself.

Embarrassing

"It is unfortunate but inevitable that my release placed me in a most embarrassing position but as a Satyagrahi, that is, as a humble seeker after truth, somehow or other it offends me that I am discharged. Whatever the motive behind it, I may not quarrel with my release. I must examine the act on its merits. It appears to me to be petty to force Government to re-arrest me by taking aggressive action during my unexpired term of imprisonment unless extraordinary circumstances which I cannot foresee arise compelling me to revise my decision. There is no room for smallness in civil resistance."

A Helpless Witness

Mr. Gandhi continues: "This self-imposed restraint is a bitter cup. When I said at my trial after my arrest that to remain outside and be a helpless witness of the devastating and demoralising effect of Ordinance rule was an unbearable agony, I stated a simple and unvarnished fact. That agony is no less today than it was on August 4, but I must bear it. I cannot be a willing party to an undignified cat and mouse game, if Government have any such thing in contemplation. Therefore when and if I am arrested again and denied Harijan service; I would not hesitate, if I had the inner urge, to undertake a fast to a finish which would not be broken even if Government released me as they did on August 23 last, when the danger point had been reached."

Limitation of Self Restraint

Mr. Gandhi observes "I must state the limitations of my self-restraint in clear terms. Whilst I can refrain from aggressive civil resistance I cannot, so long as I am free help guiding those who seek my advice and preventing the national movement from running into wrong channels. It is an ever-growing belief with me that truth cannot be found by violent means. The attainment of national independence is to me a search after truth. Terrorist methods, whether adopted by the oppressor or his victim, can, I am convinced, never be effectively answered by violent resistance but only by civil resistance. I would therefore be guilty of disloyalty to my creed if I attempted to put greater restraint on myself than I adumbrated in this statement.

Constructive Work

"If then Government leave me free, I propose to devote this period to Harijan service and if possible to such constructive activities as my health may permit. It is needless to repeat here that peace is as much a part of

my being as civil resistance. Indeed a civil resister offers resistance only when peace becomes impossible. Therefore, so far as I am concerned and so long as I am free, I shall make all endeavours in my power to explore every possible avenue of an honourable peace."

Pt. Jawaharlal's Statement

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru has issued the following statement to the Press:—

"Immediately after my discharge from prison my first thought was the serious illness of my mother and I hastened to her bedside in hospital, but though anxiety filled me and my mind was troubled because of her illness, it was inevitable for me to think hard about the pre-ent political condition of the country and the course of our struggle for freedom. For over twenty months I had been cut off from activity. For over two years I had not met Gandhiji and much happened during this period. I sought to find out how matters stood from some of my colleagues in the United Provinces but above all I desired to meet Gandhiji after my long separation from him. It was hard for me to leave my mother's bedside but as soon as I could possibly do so for a few days I came to Poona and I have now had the privilege of long and intimate conversations with him and placed my point of view before him and listened to his advice.

Two Issues

Two questions faced us, the larger national question involved in the struggle for freedom and the personal issue raised by Gandhiji's recent discharge from prison. The latter was a question which Gandhiji alone could decide. It was primarily a matter affecting him, though, of course, any decision of his was bound to have national reactions. I had come to Poona to see Mr. Gandhi and clear my own mind about many matters, but I find that considerable public interest has been taken in our conversations and there seems to be the expectation that some public statement should be made with regard to them. It has been thought that a convenient way of placing some important points before the public would be by an exchange of letters between Gandhiji and myself and it is proposed to exchange and issue these letters to the Press in due course.

Difference in Outlook

"It has been my privilege, in common with vast numbers of my countrymen and countrywomen, to take part in the struggle for India's freedom during the last memorable thirteen years under the leadership and inspiration of Gandhiji. My own point of view has always been political and economic and I have seldom been influenced by religious and other like considerations, though the moral and practical aspect of Satyagraha has always appealed to me. Gandhiji, as is well known, is essentially a man of religion and his outlook is governed by this. Despite this difference in outlook many of us found numerous points of agreement with him and most willingly and joyously followed his lead in action. India knows and the world knows how great a leader in action he is and how he infused the breath of life and hope into our suffering, toiling masses. Politically and to some extent economically, the objective he had in view appealed to us and we worked to the best of our ability to achieve it. I feel the methods he taught us to follow are fundamentally right for us and we must continue to pursue them till we gain that objective and that for these methods his leadership is essential.

Congress Committee

"Freedom can have no real meaning for us unless it be freedom of the lowest and most exploited in the land. Gandhiji always laid stress on this (Continued on Col. 3).

THE CASE FOR REFORM OF THE CONSTITUTION

Verdict Of Ministers On Its Working

MINISTERS' MEMORANDUM TO SECRETARY OF STATE

Governor's Unsympathetic Attitude

"If the constitution has so far been in operation without much friction it is, we submit, to a large extent due to the efforts of those who undertook to give it a fair trial. But to use this measure of success that has attended their efforts as an argument against further reforms or for the perpetuation of the present Constitution with all its defects, is, we cannot but consider, exceedingly unfair,"—is the submission of the Board of Ministers in a letter to His Excellency the Governor on the necessity and urgency of reforming the present constitution, the need for the revision of which Sir Graeme Thomson is not willing to admit.

The Memorandum of the Board of Ministers to the Secretary of State on the reform of the Constitution, which has now been forwarded to the Secretary of State, was tabled at Friday's meeting of the State Council, along with the covering letter of the Ministers addressed to the Governor and a subsequent communication in which certain points raised by His Excellency in an interview with him were dealt with.

MINISTERIAL PROPOSALS

The memorandum of the Board of Ministers, and connected papers on the reform issue were tabled on Friday in the State Council.

The proposals of the Ministers in their memorandum to the Secretary of State is summarised as follows:—

(a) The removal of the officers of State, and their substitution by Ministers and Executive Committees of the Council;

(b) The strengthening of the position of the Board of Ministers by enabling them to initiate and carry out their financial policies;

(c) Alteration in the method of election of Ministers.

On this point only a majority of the Ministers are agreed, the minority holding the view that the present method needed no change;

(d) The reconstitution of the Public Services Commission;

(e) The deletion of the provision for obtaining the prior sanction of the Governor in the case of bills, motions, resolutions or votes affecting officers in the Public Service;

(f) The curtailment of the special powers of the Governor.

Covering Letter

The following are extracts from the letter which accompanied the Memorandum of the Ministers when it was forwarded to the Governor for despatch:—

We forward herewith the resolutions passed in Council together with the official report of the proceedings in Council and would ask that Your Excellency will be pleased to forward them to the Secretary of State for his favourable consideration.

In connection with these resolutions we beg to submit a memorandum prepared by us showing the difficulties we have encountered in the working of the Constitution in its present form and we now propose to submit for Your Excellency's consideration a scheme for the Reform of the Constitution which we consider vital, and urgently necessary for the purpose of ensuring its successful working.

As will be seen from our memorandum, one of the gravest defects of the Constitution is the maintenance of the anomalous position by which Officers of State are permitted to administer large and important departments of Government in a Ministerial capacity without at the same time being responsible to the Legislature.

All the evils attendant on the formation of a mixed executive composed partly of officials not responsible to the Legislature and partly of unofficials elected by, and wholly responsible to,

the Legislature, which the Donoughmore Commissioners actually foresaw, have in fact been experienced in a marked degree in the working of the Constitution. We venture to think that the Officers of State would themselves be the first to recognise this inherent difficulty in the working of the novel Constitution and that we can count upon their support in our demand for the creation of a homogeneous Ministry wholly responsible to the Legislature in order that unity of action might be secured and the authority of the Board of Ministers maintained. It is hardly necessary to labour this point as we feel sure that Your Excellency would yourself not have failed to note the awkward position in which, owing to this division of responsibility, the Officers of State, on the one hand, and the Ministers, on the other, find themselves in tendering their advice to Your Excellency on matters of administration and in proposing important measures to the State Council.

Removal of Officers of State

"We consider therefore, that the first step in the scheme of Reform contemplated by us should be the removal of the 'Officers of State' and their substitution by Ministers responsible to the Council. With the disappearance of the Officers of State, there should be created an Executive Committee of Finance to deal with subjects and functions now administered by the Financial Secretary and an Executive Committee of Law and Justice to deal with subjects and functions now administered by the Attorney-General, while the subject of Defence would be transferred to the Executive Committee of Home Affairs which is in charge of the police. The only subject that would remain unallotted would be External Affairs which we consider should for the present be administered by Your Excellency. We would at the same time propose a reduction in the number of the existing Ministries by one by the amalgamation and reallocation of subjects and functions now assigned to them. We accordingly recommend that the Constitution be amended so that all subjects and functions of Government exclusive of External Affairs might be administered by the State Council divided into eight Standing Committees.

The Committee System

"As we have mentioned in the memorandum it is yet too early for us to give a final opinion on the success or failure of this system, and in view of the resolution passed in the State Council for its retention until more

experience is gained, we do not propose to suggest any drastic amendments on this point, but we consider that by suitable amendment of the relevant provisions of the Order-in-Council it should be made clear that the Board of Ministers which is invested with ultimate financial responsibility is also invested with the power of carrying out its financial policy. In other words, the Board should have the full responsibility for initiating policies and framing the Budget after taking a comprehensive view of the needs of the country and the financial situation.

Election of Ministers

We have given anxious and prolonged consideration to the method of election of Ministers, which, a majority of us agree, is unsatisfactory.

The Hon. Mr. Macan Markar and the Hon. Mr. Peri Sundaram, maintain that the present method ought to be continued as it is in their opinion the only available means by which members representing minority communities can hope to be chosen to Ministerial Office. The rest of us who are not of this view recognise fully the fears and apprehensions of the minorities on this point, but under the method we propose we have every reason to think that the interests of the minority communities would be more secure than under the present method. Those of us who hold the majority view on this point are of opinion that the Chief Minister or the Leader of the Council should be elected by the Council and that thereafter he (the Chief Minister) should nominate his Ministerial colleagues who if appointed by the Governor would be assigned to and become Chairmen of the various Executive Committees into which the Council would thereafter divide itself as at present. We have no doubt that in making his choice the Chief Minister will bear in mind the necessity for gaining the confidence and support of the whole Council by doing justice to the claims of members of minority communities that deserve recognition.

The Public Services

As regards the Public Services the Ministers say:

"Our recommendation is that it should be an independent body composed of three persons unconnected with the Public Service or the State Council and selected and appointed for a definite period, say five years, by the Governor from among prominent public men in the Island. With the appointment of such an independent body to deal with all matters connected with the Public Service, the practice of referring recommendations for appointments to Executive Committees might with advantage be abolished. It should, however, be laid down that the Heads of Departments should make their recommendations through the Ministers concerned.

"We also consider that the provision in Article 87 (1) of the Order-in-Council under which the Governor's sanction must be obtained before certain bills, motions etc., affecting the Public Service are introduced into Council should be deleted.

Governor's Powers

"Finally, it is our considered opinion that the Constitution should be amended so as to curtail the special powers vested in the Governor. The position of the Governor must be consistent with the type of Constitution granted to the people. Our apprehensions of the grant of unlimited special powers to the Governor have been increased by the recent use of this power for certifying as a matter of paramount importance the Supplementary Estimate in respect of the salary payable to an officer on temporary agreement in the Printing Department.

We consider, therefore, that these special powers should be defaced and restricted within specified limits and that they should be invoked only in an emergency. We accordingly recommend the amendment of Article 22 of the Order-in-Council to secure this end in view. In this connection we would also urge the repeal of the proviso to Article 72, which reserves to His Majesty the right to make laws for the peace, order and good government of the Island, as the existence of such a provision is inconsistent with the grant of Responsible Government.

We trust that the above scheme will commend itself to Your Excellency

and that Your Excellency will be pleased to forward the same and the memorandum attached to this letter to the Secretary of State for the Colonies. We would welcome an opportunity of discussing this important question with Your Excellency at any time convenient to you before the final proposals are submitted to the Secretary of State for his consideration.

PUBLIC SERVICES COMMISSION

In their Memorandum the Ministers referring to the Public Services Commission observe:

"The fact that this body is composed of only the three officers of State who themselves are in the position of Ministers administering certain departments of Government places the elected Ministers in an unenviable position in relation to the officers working under them. It is no doubt essential to protect the Public Service as far as possible from political or personal influences and to give it that position of stability and security so vital to its successful working as the impartial and efficient instrument by which the Government may give effect to their policies. There are therefore undoubtedly advantages in having a Public Services Commission to deal with the recruitment and control of the Public Services. Its composition, however, should be entirely different. There is no justification in having as its members Public Servants who themselves being in charge of departments cannot be expected to take that independent and detached view in dealing with the many complex problems that arise for disposal by a Public Services Commission. It is of the utmost importance that the Commissioners should be men of the highest public standing unconnected with the Public Service and detached so far as practicable from all political associations.

Under the existing Public Service Regulations, recommendations for filling vacancies are made in the first instance to the Public Services Commission and thereafter reference is made to the Executive Committee for its recommendation. In order to establish a better liaison between a Minister and the Head of a Department and to simplify the procedure it is considered that the more satisfactory course would be for the Head of the Department to make his recommendation through his Minister.

"The remarks in respect of the exercise of the special powers by the Governor apply equally to the exercise of the corresponding powers by the Secretary of State. He has adjudicated on ex parte reports without hearing the Board of Ministers or the State Council. It is impossible for the Secretary of State to be the final arbiter in all matters if his powers are exercised prematurely on representations made by the Governor without having the considered views of the elected representatives of the people before him."

Minister's Deep Regret

The Ministers had an interview with the Governor subsequently, and afterwards addressed to His Excellency a letter in concluding which they say:—

"It was with very deep regret that we heard Your Excellency at the conclusion of the interview declare yourself as being opposed to any fundamental changes in the Constitution on the ground that any such change was premature, that the present Constitution had worked during the past two years entirely without friction except on one particular subject, and that owing to unprecedented difficulties, economical and financial the activities of the Government have been severely restricted and consequently the Ministers and Members of Council had not gained sufficient experience to justify any change at present in the direction of a more liberal measure of self Government. In reply, we would emphasise the fact that the present Constitution is admittedly a novel experiment upon the trial of which no time limit has been imposed. The working of it during the past two years has brought to the surface many serious defects inherent in it which cannot be expected to disappear by mere lapse of time. To insist upon its continuance in its present form for an indefinite length of time will not only hamper progress but inevitably create widespread discontent. If the Constitution has so far been in operation without much friction it is, we submit, to a large extent due to the efforts of those who undertook to give it a fair trial. But to use this measure of success that has attended their efforts as an argument against further reforms or for the perpetuation of the present Constitution with all its

STATE COUNCIL DEPUTATION TO WHITEHALL

To Urge Immediate Revision of Constitution

The State Council passed on Saturday without a division, a resolution to send a deputation, consisting five members, to the Secretary of State to urge the immediate revision of the constitution. When the State Council met on Saturday, Mr. E.A.P. Wijeyaratne obtained the suspension of the Standing Orders and moved the resolution which as amended and carried by the house is as follows:

"That a deputation consisting of five members of this House be sent to the Secretary of State to urge the immediate revision of the Constitution."

In reply to Mr. Freeman's question the Speaker informed the House that the expenses of the Deputation would have to be borne by the public exchequer.

Civil Service Changes

Consequent on the departure on leave of His Excellency the Governor on September 20 and the appointment of the Hon. Mr. P. G. Tyrrell, C. M. G., to act as Officer Administering the Government, the following changes will take place:—

Mr. W. E. Wait, C. M. G., Deputy Chief Secretary, will act as Chief Secretary.

Mr. M. M. Wedderburn, at present acting as Land Commissioner, will fill the acting appointment of Deputy Chief Secretary.

Mr. R. M. Worsley, Acting Government Agent, Western Province, will act as Land Commissioner in addition to his own duties.

Mr. W. J. L. Rogerson, presently A. G. A. Nuwara Eliya, will be taking up duties as Additional Government Agent, W. P.

Mr. R. H. Bassett, who returns to the Island this month, is to be Assistant Government Agent, Nuwara Eliya.

Mr. R. N. Bond will act at Nuwara Eliya in addition to his own duties until Mr. Bassett's return.

The Economic Crisis And Spiritual Life In America

(Continued from page 1.)

the capacity and the desire for peace of the soul.

(To be Continued.)

—The Aryan Path.

MISSING FROM HOME

My son Subramaniam, aged 13, complexion rather dark, a broad oval face, thin build, itch marks all over the body, is missing since the 3rd instant. He was last seen at Thondaimannar Sannithy Temple. Any information leading to his restoration will be thankfully received by

P. Sinnathamby,

Physician, Vallvetti,

Mis. 94, 18 & 21. Vallvettiturai

defects, is, we cannot but consider, exceedingly unfair. It is true that the Constitution has been worked during the past two years under unprecedented difficulties and that the activities of the Government have been consequently greatly restricted. The fact that even in these exceptionally difficult circumstances the Board of Ministers and the State Council have discharged their responsibilities satisfactorily should, we submit, be regarded as an indisputable proof of the fitness of the people of this country for Responsible Government.

In conclusion we sincerely hope that Your Excellency will be pleased to reconsider the matter and support the demand for the Reform of the Constitution which is all but universal.

NOTICE.

—O—

Warning to Intending Purchasers

I Sangarapillai Saravanamuttu of Changanai East, do hereby notify to the public that as I am prosecuting a claim in case No. 3210 in D. C. J. to recover a sum of Rs. 1165/- and interest and costs from Thangamuttu widow of Thampippillai and her son Kulasagarampillai both of Chulipuram, and as I understand that the said parties are taking steps to alienate their properties to defeat my recovery of the above claim, I warn the public against accepting any sale or transfer affecting any of the lands belonging to the parties aforesaid.

S. SARAVANAMUTTU
Changanai East
Mis. 90, 14 & 18, 13-9-43.

NOTICE.

THE JAFFNA CO-OPERATIVE STORES, LIMITED.

The Fifteenth Annual General Meeting of the Share-holders of this Company will be held at the registered office 'Mahamandapam' Hospital Road, Jaffna, on Wednesday, the 20th September 1933, commencing at 4 p. m. to receive the report of the Directors and the statements of accounts for the year ending 30th June, 1933, and for the transaction of such other business as may be brought before the meeting.

V. M. Veyagasun,
Secretary

Jaffna,
7th September 1933
Mis 89, 11,—18

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(H. 75, 10-8-33—9-2-34.)

Order Nisi.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF
JAFFNA.

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 8378.
In the matter of the estate of the
late Vairavanathar Subramaniam
of Tolpuram

Deceased.
Subramaniam Kandasamy of do
Vs.
Petitioner.
Sellam widow of V. Subramaniam
of do

Respondent.
This matter coming on for disposal
before D. H. Balfour Esquire, District
Judge on the 5th of July 1933 in the pre-
sence of Mr. A. Mudir. Velupillai, Proctor
on the part of the Petitioner and the
affidavit of the Petitioner having been
read: It is ordered that the Petition-
er be declared entitled to have Letters
of Administration to the estate of the
said intestate as his sole heir—unless
the Respondent shall appear before
this Court on the 21st day of July
1933 and show cause to the contrary.
Sgd. D. H. Balfour,
District Judge.

July 18, 1933.
Time to shew cause extended for
25th August 1933.

Sgd. D. H. Balfour,
District Judge.
Time to shew cause extended for
22-9-33.

Sgd. S. Rodrigo,
A. D. J.
O. 21, 14 & 18.

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S. SELLAPPAN,
Manager.

Q. 78. 21-8-33—20-11-33.

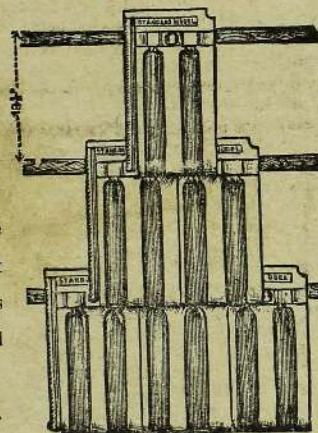
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