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## A GREAT LITTLE STATE

—:O:—  
Venice

## A MUSEUM OF PAST GLORIES

BY COL. GARIBALDI

(ITALIAN CONSUL IN CEYLON)

Looking through the pages of Venetian history one can at once perceive how STRONG-WILL, TENACITY and INDUSTRY, coupled with sincerity of purpose, spirit of organisation and firm government, are the most important factors which may turn a lonely and desolated stretch of land, and sometimes not even land, but only marshes, into a most flourishing centre of human activities. And the case of Venice is not an isolated one: Dutch cities are also wonderful instances of the same kind, and soon we may also add to them the new towns which the strong will, tenacity and good government of Premier Mussolini have just founded in the most lonely desolated and unhealthy of LITTORIA and SABAUDIA, in the reclaimed lands of the Venetian Marshes. These are not likely, of course, to become independent states such as Venice and the Netherlands, but, who knows, they may be the seeds of great agricultural centres, which some day may obscure or even absorb the greatness of other Italian rural districts.

But this is not the subject of my lecture, and therefore we turn back to Venice, or rather to the Republic of Venice.

I wonder if many of the general public know anything of Venetian History; certainly every body knows about the canals of Venice, about the bridge "of sighs", the San Marco Campanile, the gondolas, and the Lido. Touristic attractions, alas, disturb the mind of ordinary men, when they are confronted with more important factors, but if people had only a smattering of Venetian history, they would certainly appreciate much more those otherwise meaningless architectural and folkloristic features.

### Unique History

The history of Venice and its republic is interesting, and I would say also unique, for many reasons: first of all for its uninterrupted sequence of nearly two thousand years, and no state in the world, except, perhaps ancient Egypt, can claim such a record. Secondly because Venice was the first power of the Modern Age to possess for some time the largest fleet and the largest colonial empire; thirdly because the republic of Venice was based on a form of free government organically perfect, from which even modern nations have much to learn; and finally because Venetian historical facts were not only continuous struggles for self-preservation and accumulation of wealth, but also a magnificent effort for checking and impeding the numerous invasions of Mussulmans in the territory of East Europe.

For Asiatic people, moreover, Venetian history should have a particular appeal, because for more

than one thousand years the marketing in Europe of their produces was made possible only through Venetian maritime organisation and transport.

But apart the importance acquired by Venice through her commercial exploitations, her history is full of pages of heroism and glory, and even Shakespeare, without ever having been to that city, could not help to immortalize in his plays happenings of Venetian history and Venetian life: "Othello" and "the Merchant of Venice" are indeed among the best works of Shakespeare's genius.

### Origin of Venice

The origin of Venice is lost in the history. You must know before all that in the upper Adriatic Sea there is a stretch of lagoons, with a dozen or so of little islets, on which from an immemorable time a few fishermen from the mainland had settled and lived in almost independent state, and practically forgotten by the rest of the world, both on account of the sea which separated the lagoon from the continent, and also on account of the general unhealthiness of the place, which attracted very few new immigrants, if any. But when the Vandals and some other Teutonic races overran the North of Italy, sacking and destroying every town they met with, many of the inhabitants of the invaded land just opposite the lagoon escaped and found shelter in these little islets, where they intermingled with the original population and gave birth to the new community which created the republic. This happened in the 5th century of our Era, and from this time we may assume that Venice, as an organised municipal community, began to develop the activities for which she soon became famous.

The independence of Venice as a State also had origin from this time, 5th century "de facto", if not "de jure". It is very characteristic a reply that the Venetian gave to an envoy of the Emperor from Byzantium, who still claimed the sovereignty over the Venetian lagoons, and invited their inhabitants to acknowledge themselves subjects of the empire: "God who is our help and protector saved us that we might dwell upon these waters; and no power of prince or emperor can therefore touch us."

### Shaping of the Constitution

As early as in the seventh century the Venetian constitution begins to be shaped and consolidated by converging the government of the lagoon from twelve tribunes who had jurisdiction one for each island, in one only ruler who was henceforward called "doge".

The word "doge" was a corruption of the Latin "dux", meaning "leader", and the original Doge was in fact a leader in every meaning of the word, and he had almost absolute power over his subjects.

He was originally elected by a kind of general suffrage, but when the power and wealth of Venetian citizens grew to such an extent that the most powerful and wealthy families could assemble together and form a kind of commercial aristocracy, the suffrage for the

## CEYLON'S NEW GOVERNOR

—:O:—  
Sir R. E. Stubbs  
Appointed

## COLONIAL OFFICE CHANGES

—:O:—  
Sir John Maffey To  
Succeed  
Sir S. Wilson

—London, Friday.

The King has approved the appointment of Sir Reginald Edward Stubbs to be Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Ceylon.

(Reuter)

—Rugby, Friday

It had been intended that Brigadier General Sir Samuel Wilson, Permanent Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, on retiring from the Service in November, should be succeeded by the late Sir Graeme Thomson, Governor of Ceylon, who was on his way home, when his death occurred.

It has now been decided to appoint Sir John Maffey, Governor-General of Sudan, as successor to Sir Samuel Wilson and he will take over his appointment towards the end of November.

The King has approved the appointment of Sir Reginald Stubbs, Governor of Cyprus, to be Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Ceylon. (British Official Wireless.)

election of the Doge was gradually restricted to such families and the power of the supreme ruler was greatly reduced.

The constitution of the Republic took final shape in the year 1300 and remained almost unaltered till the end of the Republic itself. The form of Government from democratic, as originally was, became strictly oligarchic, that is to say reserved to a minority of the population, the upper class, formed by the wealthiest and most ancient families of the State.

The first governing body, which elected the "doge" and discussed municipal matters, was the "maggior consiglio", or the "greater council" composed of 480 members, who were nominated by deputies selected by the assembly before retiring at the end of each year. A condition for being a member of the "maggior consiglio" was that a candidate must have been registered in the "golden book" of Venetian aristocracy. This register was started in the year 1297, by enlisting all the members of the Council then in power and their families, and all the families who had a direct ancestor who took part in Council at least once in the previous one hundred years.

The "maggior consiglio" also supplied all the high officials and most influential posts in the government.

Immediately above the Greater Council there was the "Senate", strictly legislative and deliberative body, dealing with matters of foreign affairs, finances, commerce, peace and war.

### Council of Ten

Almost parallel with the Senate, but much more powerful, ruled the (Continued on page 3)

## Marketing Ceylon Produce

—:O:—  
A DIFFICULT PROBLEM

—:O:—  
Specialised Staff  
Required

The problem of marketing of produce grown in Ceylon was the subject of preliminary investigations made by a Committee appointed for the purpose and its Report has been published as a Sessional Paper. A brief summary of its contents is given as follows:

(1) The formulation of an effective policy for the improvement of marketing must be based upon exact knowledge of existing conditions.

(2) Such knowledge can only be gained by a patient and methodical investigation and study of a large number of factors which enter into the problem.

(3) Such investigation and study cannot efficiently be made by the existing machinery of any Government department. They require whole-time and specialized staff. The officer entrusted with the task must have special qualifications and upon his possession of such the success of his work largely depends.

### A Special Officer

(4) We recommend for consideration that an officer be appointed to take charge of this investigation and that he be given the necessary assistance. He might be attached to a department under the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands or that of Labour, Industry and Commerce preferably the former, but should work directly under the Ministry.

(5) The collection and dissemination of accurate marketing information is essential to any real improvement in marketing. This work cannot be done efficiently by existing Government machinery. The staff recommended under the last head might, however, form the nucleus of an organization to perform this function.

(6) The wholesale trade in agricultural commodities such as are produced by the Ceylon peasant is at present largely in the hands of Indian traders who are mainly interested in imported produce. The result of this state of affairs is that local produce tends to suffer in competition with imported produce. To meet this there is no adequate organization for the marketing of home grown produce.

### Potential Export Trade

(7) We believe, further, that there is a potential export trade for certain commodities which are or could be produced by the Ceylon peasant. This trade cannot be developed in the absence of a suitable organization.

(8) We discussed various forms of organisation which might possibly be set up or encouraged to come into existence.

(a) Government cannot in our opinion undertake marketing itself. It can, however, do something to encourage organization by private enterprise. Further, it is clearly the function of Government to secure, by legislation and the creation of the necessary machinery for inspection, that exported produce is properly graded and up to the proper standard.

(b) The best form of marketing organization is provided by co operation. The growth of such organization (Continued on page 3)

## THE DEPUTATION TO LONDON

—:O:—  
Urgent Necessity  
Now Removed

## ALTERED SITUATION

—:O:—  
Leader's Statement  
In Council

In the State Council on Thursday afternoon Sir D.B. Jayatilaka, Leader of the House, made the following announcement—

"On the 16th of last month, as Honourable members will remember, upon the motion introduced by the member for Kegalle, the Council decided to send a deputation to London to urge upon the Secretary of State the necessity of reforming the present Constitution. This step was taken in order to meet the situation created by the summoning of the Governor to London unexpectedly. Sir Graeme Thomson himself could not give any definite information for this summoning to London, but it was generally believed that it had something to do with the reform of the Constitution, in regard to which the Memorandum of the Ministers had already been forwarded to the Secretary of State."

### 'Absolutely Necessary'

"But recent events have altered the situation very considerably. The unfortunate and very sad death of Sir Graeme Thomson on the voyage home has removed the urgent necessity of sending a deputation to England at the present time. At the same time I want to say, personally speaking, that I have not changed my view at all with regard to a deputation. I am more than ever convinced that it is absolutely necessary at the right time to send a deputation to England to present the case for reforms on behalf of this Council and the people of this country."

"In the meantime a very important step had to be taken by this Council. The Secretary of State in his message to the Governor in reply to the question which the Governor asked him at any instance, namely, whether the Secretary of State would be prepared to receive a deputation when the Governor was in London, stated that he was prepared to receive a deputation after if the Council thought oral representation was necessary, but on the condition that a written statement of the proposals which he was to be asked to consider was submitted to him."

### Introducing a Motion

"In view of that statement I propose it an early opportunity to introduce a motion into this Council asking the House to accept the proposal embodied in the Memorandum of the Ministers for the reform of the Constitution."

"On this occasion I do not want to say anything further, but I would repeat what I said some time ago, namely, that if our efforts are to succeed we, this Council and the people of this country, must make our request with a united voice."



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Auction Sale

K. A. Veeravagu and wife,  
Kondavil Plaintiffs.

Vs.

V. Veeravagu of Uduvil

Defendant.

In terms of the commission  
issued by the District Court of  
Jaffna in case No. 4054, the fol-  
lowing property will be sold by  
public auction, at the spot, on  
1st November 1933 (Wednesday)  
at 4 p. m.

PROPERTY

Land at Uduvil called "Kurum-  
palsiddy and Thevaridday" in  
extent 16 Lms. V. C. with share  
of well on the Western boundary,  
bounded on the East by M.  
Thamboo, North by Nannippillai  
and S. Suppiah, West by well and  
N. Kulantaitamby and South by  
lane and M. Thamboo. The  
whole hereof excluding the foot-  
path on the eastern side.

P. MOSES & K. PONNAPPA,

Commissioners.

Jaffna,  
5th Oct. '33.



## Hindu Organ.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 9, 1933.

### PROTECTION FOR LOCAL PRODUCE.

THE COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO report on the problem of market-  
ing of Ceylon produce have dis-  
cussed the merits of the policy of  
tariff protection for Ceylon pro-  
duce. Though they do not de-  
finitely recommend the imposition  
of a protective duty on Indian  
imports of paddy and other com-  
modities that may well be pro-  
duced locally and have left the  
matter in the hands of the State  
Council, yet the Committee would  
seem strongly to favour the  
policy of protection. It is well  
known that "the principal factor  
in the present position is the  
competition with Ceylon grown  
produce of produce imported from  
India". The best efforts of the  
Minister for Agriculture to pro-  
mote local cultivation are bound  
to be ineffective unless the culti-  
vators themselves are stimulated  
to their task by the expectation  
of fair return for their labour.  
At present we find that in certain  
Districts, cultivators, owing to the  
absence of a market close at  
hand or the heavy cost of trans-  
port to a distant market, are  
handicapped in securing a fair  
market for their produce. The  
Ministry of Agriculture was, there-  
fore, compelled to seek the advice  
of the Committee to solve this  
difficulty. The Committee have  
made their recommendations with  
regard to marketing facilities  
which, we have no doubt, will be  
considered by the State Council  
at an early date. The provision  
of cheap facilities for marketing  
local produce must result in great  
advantage to the cultivator in as  
much as the cost of production  
will be kept down to the extent  
involved in the cost of transporta-  
tion. Perhaps, the duty of  
discussing other ways of cutting  
down cost of production was out-  
side the purview of the Committee.  
Any recommendations calculated  
to keep down the cost of produc-  
tion would have been more wel-  
come to cultivators and consu-  
mers alike than the doubtful  
expedient of tariff protection.  
Protection may be one of the  
effective safe-guards that a young  
and growing industry needs in  
normal times. Protection for  
paddy and rice at this time of  
financial depression will raise the  
cost of living and unfavourably  
react on the cost of production.  
Moreover, the Committee observe  
that "it is further doubtful whe-  
ther, even after a period of pro-  
tection, they (commodities im-  
ported from India) will ever be  
produced as cheaply in Ceylon."  
Protection by means of tariffs  
to be effective should be  
stiff enough to keep the  
foreign competitor out of the  
market. The present revenue  
duty, will have to be doubled,  
even trebled, before we could  
place local produce on an equal  
footing with its Indian competitor.  
The cost of the commodities thus  
protected will rise many points to  
the consumer. It is a sacrifice  
which the poor and the un-  
employed cannot stand even on  
the ground of future advantage to  
themselves.

The Minister for Agriculture  
would do well to address his

energies to the task of relieving  
the present hardships of culti-  
vators and reduce the cost of  
production. In any measures he  
might take to increase the quan-  
tity of production and extend the  
area of cultivation, the Minister  
and his Committee will have the  
cordial support of the cultivator  
and the consumer. The absence  
of marketing facilities is one  
such hardship. Another and still  
more urgent is that of labour. In  
our own province, successive  
Government Agents have drawn  
attention to the need for cheap  
labour. The high wages demand-  
ed by labourers in the cultivation  
areas at Iranamadu and Pooneryn  
make paddy cultivation an un-  
profitable business. We would  
invite the attention of the Gov-  
ernment and the public to this  
urgent problem. It is too early  
yet to consider the question of  
affording tariff protection to agri-  
culture. Before the country shall  
have advanced a fair way towards  
the goal of self-sufficiency, pro-  
tection is bound to produce more  
hardship than good to the people  
by throwing a heavy burden on  
the poorest of the poor.

We, however, are in agreement  
with the proposal of Dr. Young-  
man that a small cess may be  
levied on certain of the imported  
commodities to provide funds for  
the special purpose of relieving  
the marketing or labour difficul-  
ties of cultivators.

### The Sinhalese Throne.

#### MOTION FOR ITS RETURN.

Mr. D. D. Athulathmudali has  
given notice of the following motion  
in the State Council:

"That this Assembly requests the  
Secretary of State for the Colonies  
and His Majesty's Government to  
take steps to return the Sinhalese  
Throne and the Crown Jewels of  
the last King of Kandy."

### Conservator Of Forests

J. D. Sargent, Conservator of  
Forests, has retired from the Public  
Service and Mr. A. B. Lushington,  
Deputy Conservator, has been ap-  
pointed to act as Conservator.

### Officers Going On Leave

Mr. G. K. Thornhill, Surveyor-  
General will be proceeding to  
England on leave next month.

It is learned that Mr. W. J. Thorn-  
hill, Director of Public Works, will  
be going on leave early next year.

Mr. H. K. de Kretser, Deputy  
Director, who is at present on a  
holiday in England, will act as D.  
P. W. in Mr. Thornhill's absence.

### Women to Serve as Jurors?

#### MOTION IN COUNCIL.

In the State Council on Thursday  
Mr. D. D. Athulathmudali moved:  
"This Assembly recommends that  
the right to serve on the Jury be  
extended to the women of this Island  
on the same qualification as it is  
granted to men."

Mrs. Molamure seconded and the  
motion was referred to the Attorney-  
General.

### Judicial System.

#### MOTION FOR APPOINTING A COMMISSION.

In the State Council on Friday  
Mr. A. Ratnayake gave notice of a  
motion, that in view of the fact that  
the Judicial system of this country  
has been a subject of unfavourable  
criticism the Council requests His  
Excellency the Governor to appoint  
a Commission to inquire into it and  
make recommendations to remedy  
its defects.

## NATIONAL CONGRESS AND REFORMS.

### Corea Bill Vs. Leader's Motion.

The Executive Committee of the  
Ceylon National Congress met  
on Friday evening to discuss the re-  
forms memoranda of the Board of  
Ministers and the proposal made by  
the latter that Mr. G. C. S. Corea,  
President of the National Congress,  
should withdraw his Reform Bill  
now before the State Council so as  
to allow Sir D. B. Jayatilaka,  
Leader of the House, to move a re-  
solution in the State Council  
embodying the reform proposals.

The Committee adjourned without  
arriving at a decision. It will meet  
shortly to continue the consideration  
of the subject.

### Member for Horana's Ill-Health

#### STATE COUNCIL GRANTS SIX WEEKS' LEAVE

The Member for Horana, Mr. E.  
W. Perera, who was operated upon  
recently applied for leave of absence  
from the State Council for six weeks  
from 1st October.

On Sir D. B. Jayatilaka's motion,  
seconded by Mr. D. S. Senanayake,  
Mr. Perera was granted the required  
leave.

### Pasture land in Agri- cultural Areas

#### RESOLUTION PASSED IN MOVER'S ABSENCE

The State Council passed on  
Thursday last a motion to the effect  
that immediate steps be taken to  
provide pasture lands in Agricultural  
areas.

in whose name it stood.

### The Taj Mahal and Its Antecedents

#### A PUBLIC LECTURE

Mr. K. P. S. Menon, M. A., I.C.S.,  
Agent to the Government of India  
in Ceylon, will deliver a lecture on  
"The Taj Mahal and Its Antecedents"  
under the auspices of the Kala  
Nihayam, at the Vaideshwara Vidy-  
alya on Sunday the 15th instant.  
at 5 p. m.

### New Govt of India Agent in Ceylon

#### MR. T. L. R. CHANDRAN APPOINTED

It is understood that Mr. T. L. R.  
Chandran, I. C. S. (Madras) has been  
appointed Agent to the Government  
of India in Ceylon, in succession to  
Mr. K. P. S. Menon. (A. P. I.)

### Farewell Function At Kandy

#### CHIEF CLERK, TRINCOMALEE KACHCHERI FETED

Mr. Ramalingam, Acting Chief  
Clerk, Kandy Kachcheri and Mrs.  
Ramalingam were given a Farewell  
by their friends on 27-9-33 on the eve  
of their departure to Trincomalee.  
After a group photograph was taken,  
there was a grand social at the  
residence of Mr. A. Nadarajah,  
where refreshments were served ad  
lib. Messrs A. Murugesu, S. Saba-  
pathy, S. U. Somasegaram and A.  
Shivasunderam spoke on the sterling  
qualities of the departing friends  
and wished them all success in their  
new station. Mr. Ramalingam  
replied suitably and the function  
came to a close late in the evening.  
Mr. Ramalingam is going away as  
Chief Clerk, Trincomalee Kach-  
cheri. —Cor.

## Madras To Colombo By Air

### PLANS FOR SERVICE READY

#### Indian Company's Project

A daily aeroplane passenger air  
Service between Madras and Colom-  
bo will be commenced as soon as an  
Indian Company, the Madras Air  
Taxi Service, discovers a suitable  
aerodrome site in Colombo.

Representatives of this firm are  
now in Colombo inspecting prospec-  
tive sites in and around the city,  
and informed a "Sunday Observer"  
representative that their plans for  
an Indo-Ceylon air service are ready  
and that they only need a landing  
ground for the service to start.

If this service is inaugurated the  
journey from Madras to Colombo by  
air will take only four and a half  
hours, the distance to be covered  
being 467 air miles against more than  
600 miles by train.

The company is equipped with four  
aeroplanes, qualified pilots and an  
up-to-date aerodrome in Madras. They  
will increase their complement of  
aeroplanes to six, if the Ceylon service  
is a success.

Each of their aeroplanes can carry  
three passengers and mails in addition  
to the pilot.

### U. D. C. Clean-up day

#### FOR WARD NO. 6

Mr. K. Aiyadurai, Member for  
Ward No. 6, has for the second time  
arranged with the Sanitary Depart-  
ment of the Corporation to have the  
streets of the ward swept clean on  
Wednesday the 11th October,  
1933 from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. All the  
streets lanes and water channels will  
be swept clean on that day.

It will be a fine opportunity for  
the house holders to sweep and clean  
their premises and deliver the sweep-  
ings to the coolies at work.

### Reviews

THE INDIAN COLONIAL RE-  
VIEW. Edited by Mr. T. K.  
Swaminathan, 21, Thambu  
Chetti Street, Madras. Annual  
subscription Rs. 6/- (Inland);  
Sh. 12. (Foreign); Vol. 1.  
No. 1, September, 1933; 28 pages.

We heartily welcome this Review  
into the ranks of journalism. It is  
the "reincarnation" of an earlier  
journal called the "Indian Emigrant".  
It contains a foreword from the pen  
of His Holiness Jagadguru Sri  
Sankaracharya of the Govardhana  
Math Puri, who lays down its object  
as the "sublime" one of teaching the  
Indians abroad to so order their daily  
lives as to raise themselves and India.  
in the estimation of the world and  
thus enable themselves to lead not  
only happier lives (from the physical  
and material standpoint) but also  
higher lives in every way (from the  
ethical and spiritual standpoints) in  
accordance with the lofty ideals which  
constitute their sacred heritage from  
the great Sages, Seers, and Saints of  
India's mighty past, to the glory of  
God, the Uplift of Man and the resus-  
citation and rejuvenation of our sacred  
and beloved Motherland and there-  
through, in fact, of the whole Uni-  
verse!"

THE NEW ASIA: Editor and  
Publisher—Rash Behari Bose,  
79, Sanchoe, Onden, Shibuya-  
Ku, Tokyo. Annual subscription:  
Y. 1-00 Nos. 5 & 6. September  
and October, 1933; 4 pages.

This monthly from Japan stands for  
the complete independence of Asia.  
Its appearance has been hailed with  
enthusiasm by scholars like Prof.  
Dhirendranath Roy and Dr. Tarak-  
nath Das, and it contains a number of  
well-written paragraphs. We wish  
this new venture all success.



## COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION

### Retards Movement For responsible Govt

## NATIONAL COMMITTEE'S CONDEMNATION

### Resolutions For General Meeting

At an emergency meeting held on Friday the Executive of the National Committee accepted a resolution for submission to the general meeting in the following terms:—

"The National Committee, while standing by its demand for Dominion Status, supports the reform of the Constitution as set out in the Memoranda of the Board of Ministers to the Secretary of State."

The meeting was held at the Liberal Club, Maradana, and the chair was taken by Mr. Francis de Zoysa, K. C.

The meeting was convened for the purpose of discussing the agenda for the general meeting of the National Committee to be held next Friday.

#### Communal Representation

A resolution, which raised a prolonged discussion, was as follows:—

"This Committee, while not being opposed to any scheme (a) for the re-adjustment and delimitation of the electoral constituencies, and (b) for the making of suitable provision in the Constitution against discriminatory legislation, emphatically declares that the restoration of communal representation is calculated to retard the movement for the realisation of Responsible Government."

Mr. A. Gnanaprakasam: What about nominated members?

The Chairman: Have another resolution about nominated members.

In the course of further discussion, the Chairman said that he personally thought the resolution was important because it was time they indicated that there was no doubt in their minds as to what they wanted. But, there were some people who had certain things at the back of their heads as regards communal representation. Whether they passed that resolution or not they did not object to a redistribution of seats, but the question was whether they wanted the resolution to be submitted to the National Committee pledging themselves against the restoration of communal electorates.

Mr. T. B. Jayah: I think you are presuming too much.

Mr. H. A. P. Sandrasegura said that the Tamils were very strong in the attitude that they did not want communal representation.

Mr. Jayah: What is communal representation?

Chairman: Communal representation is communal representation, whether it is camouflaged or not.

Two amendments proposed by Messrs T. B. Jayah and G. G. Ponnambalam were defeated and the resolution as it stood on the agenda, subject to the alteration of the term "communal representation" into "communal electorates" was passed for presentation at the next general meeting of the National Committee.

#### Other Resolutions

The other resolutions accepted for submission to the National Committee were as follows:—

"This Committee resolves that a deputation of five members do wait on the Officer Administering the Government and place before him the country's demand and the memorial to the Secretary of State."

"That a sub-Committee consisting of the Chairman, the Secretary and five

## MARKETING CEYLON PRODUCE

(Continued from page 1)

tion must, however, be gradual and will probably be many years before it can fully supply the existing needs either for local marketing or for export. In the interval the question is whether any other form of organization can with advantage be encouraged to come into existence.

(c) A public Utility Limited Liability Company with a certain amount of financial backing from Government, afforded on condition that the profits of the Company are restricted and its activities limited in certain directions in the interests of the local producer, is a proposal worth careful consideration.

(d) A monopoly for a certain period granted to an existing well established firm on condition of its submitting to certain conditions in the interests of the producer is a possible solution of the problem of export but we fear such a monopoly is open to such objection as would render it unacceptable to Government.

(e) A recent project for the formation of a Co-operative Society with limited liability for the supply of Ceylon rice to Colombo residents has come to our notice and the progress of this venture will be watched with great interest.

(9) We discussed a proposal to set up a Marketing Board composed of officials and unofficials. Such a body would in our opinion have a certain utility as an advisory body to the Ministries concerned. It could not however, be in any way an executive body and would not be in a position to carry out any systematic market survey nor the collection or dissemination of marketing information.

#### Protection

(10) The main difficulty in the local marketing of the produce of the Ceylon peasant is the competition of produce from India. At present India can definitely produce cheaper than Ceylon. In these circumstances improvement of methods of cultivation only palliatives and do not go to the root of the problem. If Ceylon is to get appreciably nearer to being self supporting in the matter of her food supply Ceylon produce must be protected. We recommend that the provision of some measure of protection be carefully considered.

(11) Protection can be effected in two ways. Tariffs are easier, cheaper and more satisfactory, but are politically difficult to impose. A system of quotas is more difficult and expensive to work but politically more acceptable.

(12) If some measure of protection is decided on we do not see that its provision need affect in any way our good relations with India or our acceptance of imperial preference.

(13) A necessary preliminary to any system of protection would be the appointment of a Commission to advise as to the general principles to be followed. A small Board would then be necessary to advise from time to time on details of working.

(14) We discussed a proposal by Dr. Youngman to collect a cess on imported produce and utilize the proceeds to defray a part of the rail freight to the market on locally grown produce. Some amelioration might be effected by this proposal but we doubt if it is practicable or whether it could be made to provide sufficient protection to the local article to ensure successful competition with the imported.

(15) We recommend that our Chairman should be afforded facilities to study marketing organization on his forthcoming visit to Australia and New Zealand.

(The Committee was composed of Mr. C. V. Brayne (Chairman), Messrs L. J. B. Turner, W. K. H. Campbell, W. L. Murphy and J. C. Hutson.)

other persons be appointed to report on what steps should be taken to prepare the country for further action and what form of action should be recommended to the country for the purpose of securing the object of the National Committee in the event of the Secretary of State refusing his assent to the country's demand."

"That a Local sub-Committee be appointed to organise and promote the work of the National Committee in the various Provinces."

## Indo-Ceylon And Indo-Burma 'Phone

### CEYLON GOVT. TAKING STEPS

#### Madras As Link

Simla, Oct. 7.

According to the latest information it is expected that telephone cables between India and Ceylon will be laid by March next year. Both the Government of India and the Ceylon Government will bear half the expenses both recurring and non-recurring of the telephone service. The Ceylon Government has already taken in hand the necessary instalations with a view to link Colombo to the boundary line connecting India with Ceylon.

It is also understood that the question of linking Rangoon with India by land telephone service has been dropped for the present in favour of the scheme of linking Rangoon by wireless telephone. Most probably Madras will be selected for wireless link as that centre is already equipped for the purpose. All connections from India for Burma will be operated through Madras, by wireless telephone. It is not certain yet as to whether the cost of this scheme will be included in the next year's budget as all depends on the financial position of the Government. (A. P. I.)

## Kandy Thamils Association.

### HALF-YEARLY GENERAL MEETING.

The 48th half-yearly General Meeting of the above association was held on Friday the 29th ultimo at the 6 p. m. with Mr. C. S. Rajaratnam, Advocate in the chair.

The notice convening the meeting having been read, the minutes of the 47th half-yearly general meeting, the report of the managing committee and the Treasurer's balance sheet were submitted to the house and adopted. Amendments to the rules that there shall be no elected vice-presidents, and that membership is open to ladies also were passed unanimously.

Election of office bearers for the 39th half year resulted as follows: President: C. S. Rajaratnam, Hony. General Secretary: Mr. A. Nadarajah, Literary Secretary: Mr. S. U. Somasegaram B. A., Sports secretary: Mr. K. Nagapper, Hony. Treasurer: Mr. S. Ganapathipillai, Asst. Treasurers: Messrs. C. Subramaniam, K. Chelappah, and V. Sangarapillai, Auditor: V. A. Arumugaswamy. Managing Committee: Messrs. K. S. Arulnandhi M. Sc., N. Coomaraswamy, P. Balasingham, N. Changanayagam, S. Kandiah, A. Shivasunderam, M. Kandiah, R. Ratnasabapathy, S. S. Kandiah, K. V. Cheladurai, S. Somasunderam and S. Selvanayagam.

Then the President addressed the meeting touching upon the various activities of the association in general, and about the success of the drama, 'Maheswary' acted by the members in particular. This play is an original composition by Mr. S. Selvanayagam, a member of this association. Then he appealed to all the members for their active co-operation and support to strengthen the financial position of the association so that a permanent home may be procured as early as possible. The meeting terminated at about 8 p. m. —Cor.

### Obituary.

#### MR. S. MATHAWARAYAR

We regret to record the death which occurred on Monday, the 18th ultimo, of Mr. S. Mathawarayar of Manepay. The deceased who was 35 years old was the second son of Mr. T. Sivakolunthu, Retired Mudaliyar, Manepay. The funeral took place on Tuesday morning and was largely attended. The bereaved family were the recipients of many messages of condolence.

## A GREAT LITTLE STATE —Venice.

(Continued from page 1)

Council of Ten, a body originally created as a Committee of Public Safety, but gradually transformed into a legislative body, dealing with all matters of internal and foreign affairs. This Council had the characteristic of making its deliberations with the greatest secrecy and rapidity, and was therefore a very useful organ of government, specially in times of war or internal discord. It had its own agents, in Venice itself and abroad, and kept in continuous contact all intending conspirators and enemies of the State, as well as all the officials of the Republic. The deliberations of the Council of Ten were merciless and immediately connected with the Hall where the Council held its meetings were the State prisons, as a reminder to intending defaulters of the Laws of the Republic that a person tried by the Council had no other escape. The "bridge of sighs", now only an architectural feature of Venice of old, derived its name from the fact that the person who crossed that bridge, connecting the Council chambers with the Execution room, could not hope to re-cross it for a second time.

Immediately above the Senate and the Council of Ten stood the "Collegio" or Cabinet, who were entrusted with all the administrative matters and sent the different subjects for deliberation to one of the two legislative bodies.

At the apex of the government, finally, we find the Doge with his Privy Counsellors, all of whom, although entitled to the highest honours, had in fact less power and smaller incumbency than all the other officials of the major institutions.

This complicated machinery of government, had, no doubt, its own advantages, but the system tended to gradual decay, and with the decay of the system also the republic lost all the power she had enjoyed for a long time in the State itself as well as abroad. But the system had also many advantages, and it was due to these the early rise to power of the Republic and the increase of the wealth of its citizens.

#### Huge Limited Company

The Venetian republic, after all, was nothing but a huge Limited Company, where the wealthier families were the biggest shareholders, and the ordinary citizen was only an employee with a few shares in the concern. The management of the Company had therefore to go solely in the hands of the biggest investors. This is the reason why the government of Venice became gradually oligarchic. The members of the different councils and the "Doge" himself in governing the interests of the Republic avowedly governed their own private interests, and they always endeavoured to bring more money into the coffers of the State, because in doing so they also brought more money in their own coffers. The ordinary citizen, extraneous to the government, would also get his shares in the profits, in the way of higher wages and better living conditions.

That the Republic of Venice was a vast commercial enterprise we have also an evident proof in the fact that as early as in the year 1171, the Venetian Government, not having enough funds for waging war on the

(Continued on Page 4)

## NO RECRUITMENT FROM ABROAD

### Post Of Rly. Deputy Chief Accountant

### MINISTER'S MOTION TURNED DOWN

#### Ceylonisation Urged

A motion for the recruitment from abroad of a Deputy Chief Accountant for the Railway Department was turned down by the State Council last Friday.

Mr. H. M. Macan Markar (Minister of Communications and Works) moved at Thursday's State Council meeting the following resolution:—

"Pursuant to the resolution relating to new appointments of non-Ceylonese to the Public Services passed by the State Council on March 1, 1933, and appearing as item 3 (i.) in the Minutes of that day's meeting, this Council agrees to make such provision as may be necessary for the appointment of a Deputy Chief Accountant for the Railway Department recruited from abroad on a five years' agreement on a fixed salary of £300 per annum with the allowances and other conditions of service now in force in respect of overseas officers serving on agreements for fixed terms of years; and for his appointment, if he is found suitable, to the post of Chief Accountant of the Railway Department on the existing salary scale (£840—£1,120), for the remaining portion of his five years' term of service, when the present holder of that post retires."

The appointment of Deputy Accountant, he said, came before his Committee in May last year when the permanent officer retired. The reports of the General Manager and the Financial Secretary were for getting an officer from abroad, but the Committee suggested that an officer should be recruited locally for the post. Accordingly applications were called for and they received nine local applications, among whom were two members of the Railway, four from other Government Departments and three from the general public. The Committee considered the applications and found that there was one applicant who was suitable for the post. He was a Government officer. The Committee recommended that he be appointed as Deputy Chief Accountant with a view to promotion as Chief Accountant when the present officer retired.

#### "No Ceylonese Fit to Fill Post"

The Financial Secretary, however, was of the same opinion as at the beginning and he requested of the Committee an opportunity to discuss that question once again. When the Financial Secretary explained to them with regard to the candidate the Committee had selected the Committee receded from that decision. There were certain facts placed before them which showed that that candidate was not suitable for the post. Then finding that there were no other suitable candidates so far for the post, the majority of the Committee agreed that the Deputy Chief Accountant should be recruited from abroad.

Mr. Dassanaike pointed out that for 33 years as a public servant he had seen this kind of thing happening—trained Ceylonese overlooked and forgotten.

#### More Opposition

Sir Henry de Mel (Puttalam) said that there was something wrong about the way the policy of Ceylonisation was being carried out since here was a Committee recommending the importation of an officer to fill a post for which trained and qualified Ceylonese were actually available. It was a shame he said, that at the present time when they had in the Island a number of Ceylonese Chartered Accountants that they should have to consider a proposal like the one before the House. He personally knew of a Chartered Accountant in the Income Tax Department who was perfectly fitted to fill the vacant post in the Railway.

After further discussion the motion was defeated.

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(H 75, 10-9-33—9-2-34)



## A GREAT LITTLE STATE

—Venice.

(Continued from page 3)

Emperor who wanted to infringe some of their trading rights, raised a loan on the citizens, bearing an interest of 4% per annum. This loan was compulsory and had to be subscribed in the measure of one per centum of the net income of each citizen. This is the first instance of Government bonds ever issued, and had not the Venetian even in those dark times a sense of gain and commerce, they would have never thought to resort to that system for raising money. Another government of the same time would have just taxed the citizens, or pillaged a neighbouring state. Only modern governments, who are up to a certain extent imbued with commercial spirit, take the bold step of launching a public loan, but, contrary to the Venetian aims, the loan is launched mostly with the purpose of extinguishing old debts; I may also add that the interests on the loans are paid now with taxes imposed on the citizen who, perhaps never subscribed to the loan.

The theatre of Venetian commercial and political operations was the Mediterranean sea, where branches, warehouses, and commercial as well as diplomatic representatives were established in almost every town of a certain importance. Some of these towns, and most of the Islands spread all over the Eastern portion of the Mediterranean, became gradually Venetian possessions, and formed the Venetian Empire.

### Similar To British Empire

From what I have already stressed, it should be at once understood that the Venetian colonial empire was nearer to the form and scope of the present British Empire, rather than any other. It was formed not for imperialistic purposes, but only for necessity of business or self preservation. Dalmatia, for instance, close to Venice itself on the Adriatic sea, was one of the first conquests of the tiny Republic, and it was occupied with the only purpose of securing to the republican fleet freedom of movements, and bringing under check the numerous pirates harbouring on those coasts. The islands on the Mediterranean were annexed only if they served some purpose, strategical or commercial. Even the great stretch of land opposite the lagoon, from where originally came some of the founders of the Republic, was gradually, and with much difficulty, conquered by the Venetian for trading purposes. The various rulers of the major towns of that land (Padova, Treviso, Verona, Vicenza, etc.), jealous of the prosperity of Venice, used to impose enormous taxes and levies on all Venetian goods which crossed their territories. Only the occupation of those towns by the Venetians themselves could bring an end to this state of affairs.

But the possessions on the Italian mainland were never considered as colonies, but formed part of the republic itself. For this reason they were known as the Three Venices (Tre Venezie), which appellation is still in vogue in the official division of Italian territory. I may incidentally mention that two of the three Venices, and precisely the Venezia Giulia and Venezia Tridantina, became part of the Italian Kingdom only as a consequence of the Great War, and one of the main reasons for Italy's participation in the war was exactly the redemption from Austrian rule of Italian provinces, with their capital cities Trieste and Trento.

It is quite clear that to protect her commerce and to conquer and maintain all her possessions Venice had to sustain numberless wars and to surmount endless obstacles. I will not make here a list or enumeration of Venetian battles, losses and victories. But I will just mention that before monopolising her Mediterranean trade, and securing the greatest part of the import and export to and from Asia and the East in general, Venice had to crush down more than one rival and competitor. With a certain ease the other two Italian republics of Amalfi and Pisa were crushed down early enough, but the antagonism of the Genoese republic lasted nearly as long as the independence of Venice itself.

### Robbed of Her Trade

Venetian wars against the Arabs during the Crusades and against the Turks later on, are also well known and brought to Venice laurels and

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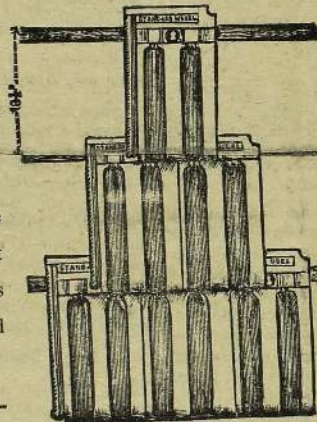
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trophies of which she was justly proud.

A battle, however, which Venice could never win, was that of the new maritime powers which arose in the West and North of Europe. First came Portugal, who, by the discovery of the via-Capo route to India, robbed her of the greatest part of her trade with the East; then came forward the two fleets of Great Britain and Holland, who captured the rest of the former Venetian trade, both with the East and West.

The battle with these new powers was a bloodless one, because the adversaries never came to blows, on account of their fields being far apart one from the other. But it was a silent and disastrous battle, which began with the first journey of Vasco da Gama, and ended with the ultimate downfall of the Republic. Spain, Portugal, England and the Netherlands shared gradually most of the Venetian spoils long before the battle ended, and when Napoleon Bonaparte bargained Venice in favour of Austria at the Peace of Campoformio, the actual destroyer of Venetian independence handed to the new possessor only the corpse of the oldest and most decrepit of European States.

### Museum of Past Glories

From the Australian occupation, to

the annexation to the Kingdom of Italy in the last century, and from those days to our very days, Venice has been nothing else than a touristic curiosity and a museum of all her past glories. The Fascist government has given a new impetus to her commercial life, and it is to be hoped that some day her fame on the seas will again rival with that of Genoa, who, although lost her independence long before Venice, was the first to recover from her past ill, in becoming the most important Port of United Italy, and one of the most important of the whole world.

If Venice will come again into the ring of international competition, she will have harder battles to win in order to regain the lost fame. She will have to beat not only her Italian sisters, which are more than a few, but the hundreds of other international Harbours of some fame. History is but a repetition of events, and Venice may come to be known again not as a Museum of past glories and empty warehouses, but as a harbour, still alive and active, still bridging, as in the past, the renewed trade of the East with the West, o Indian and Ceylon with the rich powers of Central Europe.

(Full text of a speech delivered at the Y. M. C. A., Colombo last month.)

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