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THE Hindu Organ.

IT PAYS TO ADVERTISE IN THE HINDU ORGAN AND INTHUSATHANAM.

The Only Newspaper in Ceylon for the Hindus, PUBLISHED EVERY MONDAY AND THURSDAY

Editor: M. S. Eliatamby, Advocate.

Estd. Sept. 11, 1889.

VOL. XLV—No. 87

(Registered as a Newspaper.)

JAFFNA. MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1934.

Phone 56.

PRICE 5 CTS.

MY IMPRESSIONS OF CEYLON

THE CENTRE OF CIVILISATION OF ANCIENT CEYLON

BY PROF. G. C. BHATE, M. A.

[Retired Principal, Willingdon College, Poona]

(Special to the "HINDU ORGAN")

WHEN I speak of a 'centre' here I take the term in its technical geometrical sense which implies plurality of centres. As an ellipse is said to have two centres, so ancient Ceylon had two centres of civilization i. e., the famous lost cities of Anuradhapura and Pollanaruwa. These two cities served as successive capitals for a long line of patriotic and powerful Sinhalese Kings who constructed great irrigation tanks and canals, built architectural temples and palaces and encouraged cottage crafts and industries and thereby made the country populous and prosperous and the people happy, self-contented and self-sufficient. In these two capitals alone, about one hundred and thirty-five Kings out of about one hundred and seventy-five Kings, from Prince Vijaya who conquered Ceylon about the time of the Nirvana of Buddha i. e., 385 B. C. down to Wickrama Raja Sinha who abdicated the throne of Ceylon in 1815 A. D. lived, did their life's work and died. No doubt in later times Kandy became the capital of Ceylon. But this was on the eve of the occupation by European natives of the maritime parts of the island and the advent of European civilization in Ceylon. So Kandy cannot properly be called the centre of civilization of ancient Ceylon. Kandy was a capital comparatively in modern times when the ancient indigenous civilization was already declining and dying and the Kings of Kandy were kings of Ceylon in name only. For, their rule and authority was gradually confined to the four corners of the Kandyan hills and even that rule and authority was handed over to the British King in 1815; the whole island became a Crown Colony of the British nation and the modern European civilization of Ceylon began its career of expansion and growth.

A Contrast

It is interesting to compare and contrast the characteristics of the ancient indigenous civilization of Ceylon with those of the modern European civilisation of the island. The latter is an Up-country civilization. Leaving aside the maritime towns and harbours which are mere emporiums of trade and not productive centres, this civilization is confined to the central high lands, 8000 square miles in area, being about 100 miles in length from Haputale to Matale and about 80 miles in breadth from Kandy to Badulla. It is in this area that the modern money-crops of rubber, tea and cocoa are grown and it is these crops that have brought plenty and prosperity to the island. Moreover this modern civilization is a capitalistic civilization. It has been brought about by European planters and settlers in Ceylon who discovered the suitability of the soil and the climate of the high lands for the luxuriant growth of tea, rubber and cocoa. These are not food-crops for local use and consumption, but essentially export crops for world-wide use and consumption calculated to bring large profits into the pockets of the European planters. Again this modern civilization required the importation and concentration of labour population into the vicinity of tea factories and rubber estates. Lastly, this modern civilization was calculated to bring about rapid and enormous growth of foreign trade and commerce in the form of exportation of agricultural products from the island and importation of foreign manufactures into the island.

Ancient Civilisation

Now the characteristics of the ancient indigenous civilization of Ceylon were entirely different. In the first place, it was a flat country civilization. For, in these times the high lands were full of forests, were the haunt of wild animals and were inaccessible by reason of the barriers of high mountains and of flooded rivers. The flat country was more accessible and fit for habitation. That ancient civilization was brought about by patriotic and powerful Kings. They knew that for the true happiness and real prosperity of the people, plentiful and regular supply of water for raising food crops and especially rice—the staple food of the people—was required in a tropical country. So, these kings built gigantic tanks and great irrigation works and cut canals to reach water for miles and

(Continued on page 3.)

Gandhiji's 'Two Achievements'

SUCCESS OF TAMIL NAD TOUR

Sanatanists Visibly Affected

Madras, Feb. 21.

"Two achievements stand out prominently in my Tamil Nad tour", declared Mahatma Gandhi in a special interview which he accorded to "The Hindu" last night at Kodambakkam soon after prayers. "In spite of the hard times, people have given freely; and in spite of prognostication to the contrary, tens of thousands of people including a very large number women flocked to our meetings, although they knew for what purpose the meetings were held," he added.

"How is it proposed to harness such enthusiasm as you have aroused in the present tour for constructive effort," asked the interviewer.

"In order to make sure that the work will be continued, the Central Board is allowing 75 per cent of the collections to each province to be used for constructive schemes, to be produced by them", replied Gandhiji. "If they succeed in doing so, naturally the work done now will be all properly garnered. Constructive work will consist of conducting schools, hostels and wherever necessary digging wells and doing work that would tend towards the social, moral and economic uplift of the suppressed classes."

Gandhiji gave the information that total collections, including value of jewellery presented up to Sunday last, amounted to Rs. 1,03,491-1-5 in Tamil Nadu.

Temple Entry.

A couple of questions were then put regarding the temple-entry movement; and Gandhiji stated:

"While I have purposely kept the temple-entry question in the background, the Sanatanists have always been keeping it before the public. My own impression is that the public mind is overwhelmingly in favour of entry of Harijans into temples on the same terms as other Hindus. But I have no desire whatsoever to force the issue. For me the acid test is of a change of heart on the part of the Caste-Hindus; and temple-entry unaccompanied by that change of heart, is to me of no consequence. I am, therefore, concentrating my efforts on educating public opinion on the question.

"Have you been able to effect any change in the attitude of the Sanatanists" asked "The Hindu" representative.

Visibly Affected

"I am sure," replied Gandhiji with emphasis, "that the rank and file of Sanatanists have been visibly affected by the manifestation of the mass mind. After all those who flocked to our meetings were the Sanatanists of yesterday. So far as Sanatanists are concerned, I cannot say that their attitude has changed, although I have noticed that they have begun to realise that the public are not with them."

Q: Are you satisfied with the provisions of the Temple-Entry Bill in the Assembly? Opinion even among those friendly to the cause, does not seem to be quite favourable to the Bill in

(Continued on Page 3)

PARLIAMENTARY COMMISSION ON CEYLON CONSTITUTION

Sir Henry Page-Croft's Motion Talked Out

COL. WEDGWOOD'S WARNING TO CEYLON

LONDON, Wednesday

In the House of Commons to-day Sir Henry Page-Croft moved:

"This House, in view of the results of Democratic Government in Ceylon, is of opinion that a Parliamentary Commission should be appointed to proceed to that Island and report on the working of the constitution."

He said that when one looked at the affairs of Ceylon it would be agreed that it was a startling lesson in the failure of a Democratic Government planted in a simple soil, and a warning against further experiments in that direction. Under British rule the population had multiplied nearly seven times and Ceylon had reached a state of prosperity reached by no other community in the world.

Widest Possible Franchise

Under the present Constitution, various race and various religions had almost the widest possible franchise. Every youth of 21, even the savages in the jungle, were having votes, and in the entire Legislative Council there were only six British representatives with votes.

It was said that there were safeguards, but the members wasted time in baiting the Governor. Within two days the Governor had to use his powers of certification four times.

He believed that before long the Colony would be entirely without British officials. This would demoralize all safeguards. Those who could remain did not wish to do so, because there was no security and their lives were being made unbearable.

Bribery

The handing of finance had been disgraceful and bribery had been made, but there was nothing new in this in the East. It had been stated on high authority that there was a greater amount of crime in Ceylon than among any other people in the East.

No steps whatever had been taken to conserve trade between the Colony and this country. The balance of trade between Ceylon, and England was now about 4 to 1.

Japan last year supplied about 60 per cent of Ceylon's total imports of cotton goods.

"Why were we engaged in all these surrenders?" he asked. "Had we lost all backbone? Why should we shed territories without any mandate from our people?"

"We were thinking of revising the Constitution of India and it would be wise forthwith to send a Commission to Ceylon to enquire into its Government and to see if we have not permitted a grave blunder before letting loose a terrible avalanche which would come crashing down on the Indian Empire."

An Amendment

Time Not Ripe for Inquiry

Sir J. Sandeman Allen (Con.) moved an amendment:— "That an insufficient period of time has elapsed in which to judge of the success of the operation of Ceylon's Constitution and this House considers it would be premature to appoint a Commission to proceed to the Island to report upon its working."

He said, that when compared with India, the whole superiority was with Ceylon. The native population of Ceylon was not convinced that the Constitution was a failure and to alter it now would lead to violent opposition and rebellion, which would have to be put down by force. He declared that the safeguards were real and effective and pointed out that the Ceylon Commission on whose recommendation the Constitution was brought into being was appointed by a Conservative Cabinet, and two years was all too short a time to judge of the working of a new Constitution, especially when they had been years of such abnormal difficulty.

Time Necessary

Time was necessary to get a balanced judgment, and if things continued to go on in an unsatisfactory way, then would be the time to send a Commission with a view to considering whether amendments in the Constitution were necessary.

Col. Wedgwood

"Ragging and Padgering"

Col. J. Wedgwood (Lab.) in moving an amendment to leave out the following words: "In view of the results of Democratic Government in Ceylon," praised the people of Ceylon for their good qualities but warned them that they must not continue to rag and badger, because the future depended on what the Governor decided and the future of the Constitution would be decided by the Colonial Office. On the strength of his report the Governor had practically absolute powers under the Constitution and could pass or veto or initiate legislation and he could act on his powers without fear of being attacked or criticised by the Colonial Office for carrying out his duty.

Mr. W. Lunn (Lab.) opposed the resolution and said that the appointment of a Commission would do infinite harm.

Under-Secretary of State

After a long debate Sir R. Hamilton, Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, criticised severely the statements made by Sir H. Page-Croft and gave detailed replies to the many allegations made, and declared that the statement that the Council spent its time baiting the Governor was simply not true. In a difficult year the Constitution had worked satisfactorily and smoothly between the Governor and the Council.

Sir Henry Page-Croft then moved the closure which was lost by 188 votes to 93.

His motion, therefore, was automatically talked out. No decision was taken on the motion or the amendment.

Order Nisi

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 8455. In the matter of the estate of the late Ambalavanar Rajaratnam of Vaddukoddai East.

Deceased. Sivanayagipillai widow of Ambalavanar Rajaratnam of Vaddukoddai East. Vs. Petitioner. 1. Rajaratnam Sivaprakasam of -do- by his guardian ad litem. 2. Kanagasabai Chelliah of Karaitive presently Cigar Boutique, Changanai.

Respondents. This matter coming on for disposal before C. Coomarasamy Esquire. District Judge, Jaffna on the 6th day of February 1934 in the presence of Mr. M. Kathiravelu Proctor on the part of the petitioner and the affidavit and petition of the petitioner having been read.

It is ordered that the abovenamed petitioner is the widow of the deceased abovenamed and as such she is declared to be entitled to have letters of administration to the estate of the deceased abovenamed and that letters of administration be issued to her unless the respondents abovenamed shall on or before the 16th day of March 1934 show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this court to the contrary.

This 20th day of February 1934. Sgd. C. Coomarasamy District Judge.



Hindu Organ.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1934.

AN IMPERIALIST'S GROUSE

WHATEVER WAS HIS PURPOSE, IT must be admitted that, SIR HENRY PAGE-CROFT has strengthened the cause of constitutional reform by the mischievous arguments based on half-truths and whole lies by which he sought to support his motion in the House of Commons for a commission of enquiry into the working of the Donoughmore Constitution. It is necessary that the people of this country should realise the consequences and cost of British tutelage. Thoughtful persons are now in a position to gauge the merits of British rule in this country for over a century and the progressive deterioration of the economic condition of the people. The arts and crafts which flourished at one time under the personal care and patronage of native rulers have disappeared and the cultivation of paddy for which the country was famous at one time has fallen into neglect and disrepute. The net-work of irrigation tanks which assured the people their regular supply of food have fallen into disrepair and in some places their very existence still remains undiscovered. The people now find it necessary to import almost all their food while two-thirds of the Island's cultivable area is covered with jungle. In the matter of clothing, our dependence on the foreign manufacturer is complete. Our finances are controlled by the Secretary of State for the Colonies who is responsible only to the British Parliament. Our investments and our borrowings are made for us by our political masters in England. By way of interest we pay more on our borrowings than our investments bring us. We have to purchase all our stores and materials, not in the cheapest market as any

but get them through the Crown Agents who act as our expert-advisers, brokers, shroffs and commission agents and get paid well enough for their trouble. Thus, bound hand and foot, this country finds herself unable to stir, much less, achieve her own freedom.

The prosperity of this country has been linked to that of the major agricultural industries which are largely in the hands of European capitalists. When tea and rubber dropped, the country realised fully the implications of a policy which subordinated the interests of the permanent population to the insatiable greed of the foreign investor. From the Secretary of State down to the latest recruit to the ranks of Public Service, the interests of the foreign manufacturer and capitalist are their chief concern, with the result that the permanent population, the trade returns notwithstanding, has sunk deeper and deeper into poverty, misery and disease.

The power of the purse which the old Legislative Council enjoyed and which helped the representatives of the people to cure the squint of certain executive officers has been withdrawn and the control of the Public Service has been reduced to mere paper protest. It is not love of agitation that has produced the island-wide awakening in favour of substantial reforms. The Ministers' Memoranda may not go far enough, but they represent the minimum that can satisfy the demand of the people. It is now widely realised that clinging on to the apron-strings of the Colonial Office cannot give us the opportunity to develop the strength necessary to stand on our own feet. Mistakes, perhaps, many, may have to be committed on our march towards full responsibility. For, the world has yet to see the nation which has grown to the full height of her stature without making mistakes.

The sullen outburst of SIR HENRY PAGE-CROFT is typical of the attitude of the British imperialist who has neither opportunity nor inclination to study the conditions of a country six thousand miles away from his home but must wax eloquent over the interests of his own country and hurl defiance on all and sundry that stand in the way of his country's advance. The points raised by SIR HENRY cannot stand examination in the light of facts, but the attitude of the imperialist towards the Colonies of the Empire is made clear by the speeches of the mover and his supporters. Ceylon holds a very insignificant place in the thoughts of the average member of Parliament and it is no wonder that only a third of the members were present when the motion was discussed. There are few members in Parliament who follow the trend of events in Ceylon. And yet, we find the political destiny of this country committed to the hands of members who, by reason of distance, language, culture and conflict of interests, cannot sympathise with the aspirations of the people of this Island. The perpetuation of this system of control by masters from thousand of miles away cannot but result in depriving the people of self-reliance and initiative. It is just this—the transference of responsibility for the good Government of the country from the absentee masters and their agents to the people and their elected representatives—that the Ministers ask

for in their memoranda. The debate in the House of Commons initiated by SIR HENRY PAGE-CROFT should open the eyes of the people of this country to the immensity of the task before them and spur them to unite to win full responsible Government. We trust, the communalist will see the futility of pursuing shadows when the country needs the best efforts of a united people to secure freedom from outside interference.

We issue as a supplement today "A Letter to the Tamils of Jaffna" from the

'The Present Political Position' pen of Mr. K. Balasingham than whom there is none more competent to advise his countrymen on the present political position. Our readers, we have no doubt, will have ample reason to feel grateful to Mr. Balasingham for clarifying a situation rendered obscure and confusing by unscrupulous propaganda on the part of groups of place-seekers and title-hunters. The cold douche of facts marshalled by Mr. Balasingham in his letter should prove a valuable step in the return to sanity of the communalist who poisons himself and his neighbours by raising the cry of Sinhalese domination. Thoughtful, convincing and outspoken in its statement of facts, Mr. Balasingham's letter deserves to be read and re-read by our readers.

JAFFNA HINDU COLLEGE

Committee to Collect Funds

ALL HINDUS TO BE APPROACHED

A conference of the Directors, teachers, Old boys and well-wishers of the Jaffna Hindu College was held on Sunday, the 25th inst. at 3-30 p.m. in the College to devise ways and means for raising a fund in aid of the College.

Mr. A. Ambalavanar, Manager, was voted to the chair and Mr. A. Karapathipillai, Secretary of the O. B. A., was elected Secretary pro tem. The Chairman, explaining the purpose of the conference placed before the house a statement of the financial position of the College and appealed to all Hindus to come to the aid of the College to place it on a sound financial footing.

Speeches were made by Mr. S. Rajaratnam, Advocate, Mr. M. Sabaratnasinghe and Mr. A. Sita Raman exhorting the Hindus of Jaffna to rise up to the occasion and come to the help of the premier Hindu Institution so that it may effectively carry out the cause of Hindu Education in the country.

The following resolution was unanimously passed by the Conference:—

"The Conference is of opinion that it is necessary to approach every Hindu in Jaffna or outside, for contribution in aid of the J. H. C. Fund and resolves that a Committee with the Principal as its Chairman be appointed to collect the said fund"

A strong Committee consisting of about fifteen members was appointed, and the Conference terminated at about 5 p.m. Great enthusiasm prevailed at the Conference, and everyone present showed keen interest on the purpose for which they had gathered that afternoon.

"THE HINDU ORGAN" EARTH-QUAKE RELIEF FUND

The following are further contributions received to the Fund: Rs. Cts. Previously acknowledged 704 44 Mr. A. K. Alvappillai, Mavattagama- 1 00 P. Veluppillai, Bazaar Street Vavuniya. 1 00 R. W. Kanagasabai, Nallur. 1 00 Mr. N. Madhavaram 1 00 S. M. Sinnathambay 1 00

Collected by Shroff: Mudaliyar, S. Veluppillai, Jaffna Kachecheri:—Rs. 2; Messrs M. Kanagasabai Re 1; S. Murugesapillai, Re. 1; K. Sanmugam -50 Cts; A. Veluppillai, -50 Cts; T. Ponniah, -50 Cts; A. Kathiravelu, 50 Cts; V. Somasundaram, -50 Cts; T. Ranganathan, 50 Cts R. Kandappoo, 50 Cts; P. Thillaiyan, 50 Cts; K. Sianappi, -50 Cts; V. Vaithalingam, -50 Cts; A. Muthuthambay, Rs. 1; A. Nicholas, -50 Cts; S. Thambay, -50 Cts; K. Nagalingam, Rs. 1; V. Somasundaram, Rs. 1; S. Thambiah, Rs. 1; V. N. Bartlett, -75 Cts N. Sethupathy, -50 Cts; Ponniah, -50 Cts; Total, 15 75

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Details:— Mr. J. R. Lane Supt. 5 00 Through Mr. M. Chiniah Head Kangany 19 70 Mr. K. M. Poovan Head Kangany 32 30 Mr. A. M. Cassim, Teamaker 2 00 G. Nicholas, Clerk 2 00 N. Chelliah 2 00 M. Sinnadurai, Merchant 2 00 M. M. Pysena, Teamaker 1 00 S. A. Rahim, Merchant 1 00 M. M. Lebbe 1 00 E. Perera, L. D. 1 00 A. Kandiah 1 00 Dr. A. R. de Silva 50 cts; Messrs M. Antony 50; cts; D. Francis 50 cts; M. Chiniah E. D. 50 cts; S. Ramasamy 50 cts; P. Perumal 50; S. Letchuman 30 cts; A. David 25 cts; P. Supplah 25 cts; S. Suppan 25 cts Akuppay Estate Dr. K. P. Mendis Re 1 00; Messrs N. Rasiah, Clerk 1 00; E. Navarajah Clerk Re 1; V. Gopalapillai Clerk Re 1; S. Sathasivam Teamaker Re 1; S. Ponniah Teamaker Re 1; D. D. Sriwardena L. D. Re 1; G. A. Padiappubamy 50 cts; S. Ramasamy E. D. 50 cts; D. Thomas 50 cts; S. R. Manuel 50 cts; E. Kanapathipillai, Kahawatta 50 cts; P. M. Bartampillai Kahawatte 50; E. O. Charles, Conductor Talukella. Re 1;

Total 809 69

NORTHERN ASSIZES

Three Cases Disposed of

The accused in the Chavakacheheri case—the first case that came up for trial at the Northern Assizes—were found not guilty and acquitted.

Sabapathy Sadasivam a driver of motor bus H. 1045, of Copay who stood charged with rash and negligent driving and with having caused the death of Vaitampillai Chelliah at Nochehimooddai on July 1st 1933 was acquitted after a prief inquiry.

Kathiripillai Sinnathambay of Alvai South who stood charged with the murder of a woman, Chellachi was found guilty of having caused grievous hurt and sentenced to two years, R. I.

Personal

Prof. C. Sunthalingam of the Ceylon University College has come to Jaffna on a brief visit. His chances for the Town seat at the forthcoming elections are being seriously canvassed in certain quarters

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THE JAFFNA FREE TAMIL LIBRARY.

Sir,—I shall be glad if you will kindly publish in your paper the annexed letter from the Chairman, the Urban District Council, Jaffna, for the information of the public.

I am, Sir, Yours truly, K. M. Chellappah.

Lanka Home, Jaffna, 23-2-34.

The Letter

"No. 4794. Office of the Urban District Council, Jaffna, December 7th, 1933.

THE JAFFNA FREE TAMIL LIBRARY.

Sir,—With reference to your application of the 29th ultimo, I have the honour to inform you that there is no provision in the Local Government Ordinance No. 11 of 1920 under which the council could contribute anything towards the maintenance of the proposed Free Tamil Library. The Hon'ble the Attorney-General who was consulted in the matter by another council has ruled that such grants are illegal.

The Council is however empowered to establish its own library and reading room and if you will be prepared to hand over all subscriptions raised by you for the free library the question of the Council taking up the matter may favourably be considered.

I am, Sir, Your Obedient Servant, Sgd. R. R. Nalliah, Chairman U. D. C.

Mr. K. M. Chellappah, Lanka Home, Jaffna.

THE ULTRA ORTHODOX IN CONCLAVE.

Sir,—A handful of men who delight to call themselves orthodox Shaivites assembled at the Navalur School on Saturday week, and arrived at a decision acceptable to all Hindus. The Vedas and Agamas, they decided, should be the foundation of Shaivism. They also decided that 'interpretations of or commentaries on any passage from these, based upon Yukti (intelligence) should be rejected.' This is as it should be. The opposition of the few Sanatanists in India and the 'ultra orthodox' in Jaffna against anti-touchability is warranted only by an interpretation of shastras by Yukti. The 'orthodox' in Jaffna are reasonable men and they will therefore concede the reasonableness of the anti-touchability movement. The Agamas only state that Chandalas should not be admitted into temples and it is hoped our 'orthodox' gentlemen will not use their Yukti and interpret Chandalas as Panchamas. The present agitation is only for admitting Panchamas into temples and not Chandalas. Will any of your readers refer us to any passage in the Agamas, which forbids Panchamas entering temples.

Yours etc., Visvamitra.

Lady Tata Scholarship

FOR RESEARCH IN BLOOD DISEASES

Four scholarships of the value of £ 4000 a year to be awarded in June this year to men or women of any nationality for research work in the subject of blood diseases, with special reference to leucemias, is announced by the Lady Tata Memorial Trust.

Ward No. 8 Rate-payers Association

A meeting of the rate-payers of Ward No. 8 was held on Tuesday at the Namasivaya Vidyalalai, Koddady, and a branch of the Jaffna U. D. C. Rate-payers Association was inaugurated,

JAFFNA TRAVANCORE TOBACCO TRADE

Methods of Improving

PROPOSED APPOINTMENT OF AGENT

Ways and means of improving the Jaffna tobacco trade with Travancore were, it is understood, discussed at a conference held on Thursday at the office of the Registrar of Co-operative Societies.

Among those present were the Registrar of Co-operative Societies, the Director of Commercial Intelligence and Mr. I. X. Periera.

It is understood that it was decided to appoint an agent in Travancore who would be responsible for receiving the tobacco sent from the Northern Province and for selling it in Travancore.

KUMARASWAMY PULAVAR DAY

Celebrations In Jaffna

The public celebrations of the Kumarasamy Pulavar Day was held at the Kala Nilayam on Friday the 16th instant. The first celebrations of this Day was held at the "Eelakesari" Office, Chunnakam, last year.

The portrait of the Pulavar which was presented by Mr. N. Ponniah, Editor, "Eelakesari", to the Kala Nilayam was unveiled in the Nilayam hall by Rev. Dr. T. Isaac Tambiah. A garden party was held at the Nilayam and a party of musicians enlivened the occasion.

A public meeting was held at the Vaideshwara Vidyalayam at 6.30 p.m. under the Chairmanship of Mr. S. Netesapillai. Vidvan S. Ganesha Iyer, Pandit S. Kanapathipillai and Vidvan V. Ramasamy Sarma spoke on the life and works of the Pulavar.

The meeting terminated with a vote of thanks to the chair and the speakers, proposed by Mr. S. Nagalingam, Proctor.

Kachcheri Changes

Mr. R. Chintamani, Chief Clerk, Jaffna Kachcheri, has been appointed Office Assistant to the Assistant Government Agent, Puttalam, from 23rd instant. Mr. J. P. Kandiah of the Ratnapura Kachcheri succeeds him in Jaffna.

GANDHIJI'S LONDON HOSTESS

Miss Muriel Lester In Ceylon

Miss Muriel Lester, Mahatma Gandhi's hostess in London when he went there to the Second Round Table Conference, arrived in Colombo on Saturday from Madras by the Talaimannar train.

Miss Lester has been in India for the last three weeks and accompanied Gandhiji in his South Indian tour in connection with Harijan uplift. She is now on a tour of the East and hopes to see several parts of Ceylon before she leaves. She left for Moratuwa on Saturday itself.

MALAYAN URUMPARAY UNION

14th Annual Meeting

K. Lumpur, Feb. 14.

The Fourteenth Annual General Meeting of the Malayan Urumparay Union was held at the Maxwell English School, Kuala Lumpur on Saturday, the 27th January, 1934.

The presentation of prizes to the successful contestants in 1933 badminton tournament over, the meeting began at 6 p.m. with the President, Mr. K. Peethamparan, in the chair.

The minutes of the previous General Meeting were read and confirmed on the motion of Mr. U. Chelliah seconded by Mr. R. Kandiah.

In reviewing the Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st December, 1933, the President said that the Report with the Statement of Accounts had been in the hands of the members for the prescribed period and he would, with their permission, take it as read. He then continued that it was customary on an occasion like that for the outgoing President to review the work of the past year, and contrast intentions with achievements while the members listened with what patience they might to the ramblings of retrospection. The Report was fairly comprehensive, and any attempt on his part at reviewing would amount to a recapitulation, in different words, of what had already appeared in the Report. He expressed his personal opinion that he would like to explode the convention of making a speech at all, but his was a voice in the wilderness. Customs died hard, and he was afraid he would have to toe the line.

"Membership"

Referring to membership, the President said that notwithstanding an addition of nine new members, the total strength was down by two. The membership of a body was of all-consuming importance; its financial position, activities, usefulness, all depended on the strength of its membership. One of the gifts which an inscrutable Providence had denied to him was that of prophecy. Even then he thought their likelihood of an annual exodus of members from this country towards Ceylon, but there was no prospect of an introduction of any fresh men into the country. Therefore it was up to those who were in the country, and who had not already done so, to join up and make the Union a really live force. Unfortunately most of the non-members were in out-stations and were not in a position to participate personally in the activities, but that was a defect inherent in any body which had a membership which was as widely scattered as theirs. He only wished that those who stood outside and watched the others do the thing would get into the fray and give the Union and its members the benefit of their experience and hoped what he said would go beyond the precincts of the four walls of that room.

Financial.

The President stated that never before in the history of the Union had the financial position been sounder. The total balance according to the Report was \$ 3,375 41, but since the issuing of the Report, the amount of

(Continued on Page 4.)

A Hindu Prasarakar

Mr. K. Ramiah Bhgavatar of Valangaman, South India, who delighted and instructed large audiences in Jaffna when he was here last, has arrived in Jaffna and opened a series of Katha Kalakshetams, with one at Venkatesaperumal Temple yard on Saturday, the 24th instant, on "Savitri Satyavan".

Tamil Schools' Interests

CONFERENCE OF MANAGERS

A conference of Managers of Tamil Schools and Principals of Tamil Training Schools of the Northern Province was held in the Central College hall on Saturday. Rev. E. M. Weaver proposed Mr. S. Rajaratnam to the Chair. This was duly seconded and Mr. Rajaratnam took the chair. Mr. J. K. Arnold was elected Secretary protem.

The Chairman explained that the object of the meeting was to watch the interests of Tamil education and to co-operate with the teachers and the Department, by discussing from time to time the different problems that arose in connection with Tamil Schools and Tamil education.

A resolution for the forming of the N. P. Tamil School Managers Association having been passed, the house proceeded to elect office-bearer.

The following office-bearers were elected:

President: Mr. S. Rajaratnam.
Vice President: Rev. E. M. Weaver.
Secretary: Mr. J. K. Arnold.
Treasurer: A. M. M. Abdleader.

A provisional committee was appointed to draft rules of the Association.

Rev. Kandiah moved and Mr. E. C. Daniel seconded:

That Sec. 37 (c) be deleted or in the alternative that trained teachers, if they are in excess of 1 for every 40 units, be treated as an untrained teacher as long as that teacher will not earn the grant under sec. 37 (c). The resolution was carried.

Rev. Weaver moved and Mr. C. Arulambalam seconded—That the Government be approached to advance the grant quarterly, after the previous year's grant for the school is paid.

The resolution was carried. The Secretary was directed to take action on the resolutions.

Our Malayan Letter

(From our own Correspondent.)

K. Lumpur, Feb. 16

English Vs Malaya.

The new policy of offering free Malay Education to Europeans, Chinese, Indian and Ceylonese children in the colony was debated at great length in the Legislative Council last week.

An assurance that free elementary education in English was the ultimate ideal of the Straits Settlements was asked for. This was not forthcoming, however. On the contrary, Sir Cecil Clementi repeated his belief that "the Malay language must at present be taken as the basic language for educating the masses of our population".

His Excellency's regret at country's Temper.

An appeal to Malaya to approach its problems in a catholic and not in a "protestant" spirit was made by the Governor in a parting message delivered at the Legislative Council meeting at Malacca. He said he noted with great regret the attitude of protest, which was conscious only of what it was against and which was too narrow or angry to survey the whole field of problems involved.

A New Councillor

Dr. H. A. Tompany, Director of Agriculture, S. S. and F. M. S., has been appointed a member of the Federal Council. This is an appointment which planters in the F. M. S. have long desired and advocated through the Planters' Association of Malaya, and several speeches have been made in the Federal Council on the subject by planting members and others.

The Late Dr R. Chelliah

The death took place at Taiping on Sunday of Dr. R. Chelliah, late Assistant Medical Officer, Taiping. Dr. Chelliah succumbed to heart disease. He retired from Government Service about two months ago and intended setting up in private practice in Taiping, but he was taken ill soon after his retirement and had to seek treatment at the hospital, where he died.

MY IMPRESSIONS OF CEYLON

(Continued from Page 1)

miles over the whole flat country. They also developed the water-ways for easy communications. The idea and ambition of these patriotic Kings is well described in the following words of the great Parakrami Bahii, the maker of Pollanaruwa as a great and flourishing capital of the united and prosperous Kingdom of Ceylon: "Let there not be left anywhere in my kingdom a piece of land, even though it were the least of the yards of a house, which does not yield any benefit to man." This was a noble ambition for kings and nobly was it fulfilled by the then kings. With plentiful and regular supply of water throughout the year peasants could grow in a year two or even three crops of rice which was their staple food. In the compound of their homes they could grow plantains and cocoanuts which supplied additional food as also fat and served many other wants of the simple life of the people; arecanuts, the beetle-leaves and coffee which they grew in their gardens supplied mild stimulants required to digest food and to add to the enjoyments of life. This ancient civilization did not require much machinery nor did it require the concentration and importation of labour in one locality. Each farmer could live in his own farm house surrounded by the groves of palm, cocoanut, arecanut and plantain trees and could cultivate paddy in the field adjoining his house. In this manner, the whole flat country was studded with happy home-steads separated from from each other by gardens and fields instead of with crowded and closely packed villages and towns. Lastly, the ancient civilization was not a lop-sided agricultural civilization. It was an all-round civilization in which crafts and industries, fine art, science and literature had their share of development and growth. For, though the Sinhalese kings were enthusiastic followers of Buddhist religion, they were only lay followers who were not required to lead a stoic and ascetic life but who were allowed to enjoy the good things of life. So, they built great temples out of their religious zeal; they built great palaces for themselves; they adorned these temples and palaces with paintings, statues, furniture; they wore gold and diamond ornaments themselves and they liked to see their queens richly attired and diademed. Thus, the religious zeal, the love of the beautiful and the passion for enjoyment all contributed to the wonderful growth and development of all arts, mechanical and fine, in the

country for centuries together. They were also lovers of learning and gave encouragement to literature.

Such is the contrast between the ancient indigenous and the modern European civilisation of Ceylon. This contrast was brought home to me when I travelled North from Kandy for the purpose of visiting the ancient capitals of Ceylon. From Kandy to Matale there is a railway line and so I went by train to Matale. This part of the island is a high level part. On both sides of the railway line I saw fields and gardens; of the new money-crops; there were beautiful, shining and glossy tea bushes on the slopes of hills; groves of tall rubber trees planted in straight rows were to be seen here and there. Now and then cocoa trees with their red, broad, beautiful leaves and with their still more beautiful and reddish cocoa fruits delighted the eye; the coffee plants with long branches of coffee seed-pods were also seen at intervals; of course there were tea factories, residential bungalows and houses for labourers. All this gave a vivid and delightful picture of the plenty and prosperity brought about by these modern money crops—signs and tokens of the modern civilization. The whole country presented a delightful scene of busy life.

From Matale to Pollanaruwa—the later capital which I visited first—I had to travel by motor bus for over sixty miles. Out of this tract the first fifteen miles tract up to Nalanda was cultivated here and there not with modern money-crops but with plantains, cocoanuts, arecanuts and paddy. Because, soon after Matale is left

(Continued on page 4)

GANDHIJI'S 'TWO ACHIEVEMENTS'

(Continued from page 1)

its present form, owing to legal difficulties?

A: The Bill in the Assembly is certainly capable of improvement. When the proper time comes, I would be prepared to offer suggestions. Those who oppose the Bill are so prejudiced against it that they are not disposed even to consider improvements.

Q: Opinion among Sanatanists being favourable to the uplift of Harijans, it is suggested that you can enlist their support for social uplift and leave the temple entry question, which is only one aspect of the big problem, to solve itself?

A: I have never been able to understand the attitude of those Sanatanists who propose in a bargaining spirit that on my abandoning the temple-entry movement, they would cooperate with me on the social, moral and economic uplift of Harijans. They must respect the conscience of reformers who believe that temple-entry is an integral part of the Yerowada Pact.

When next the interviewer sought for an expression of his views on one or two political questions, Gandhiji's curt reply was that he could not answer them.

Asked about his further programme, Gandhiji said that as soon as he finished the Karnataka tour, he proposed to go to Bihar in response to Babu Rajendra Prasad's invitation.

Malayan Urumparay Union

(Continued from page 3)

Rs. 100/- (\$65 61) referred to in para 8, had been deposited in the Jaffna Co-operative Central Bank. In consequence the actual balance would be \$3,401.06, which included the Flood Relief Fund of \$574.50. He thought it was a creditable performance.

Continuing, the President referred to the Flood Relief Fund and the replies given by the Government Agent. He added that he had read in the "Hindu Organ" that the Minister of Agriculture had asked in the Legislative Assembly for a special vote for the alleviation of Floods in Jaffna. He expressed the hope that he would be successful in his endeavours.

For the rest he said he thought the Report spoke for itself. He would only commend paras 22-27 dealing with Sanitation and Health for the second reading of the members.

He reiterated the thanks accorded to the Editor, "Hindu Organ", to the T. P. C. A., to the Headmaster, Maxwell School and to the Headmaster, Maxwell English School.

Before he concluded, he said he must refer to the work done by some of the Union's executive officers. The members owed a great debt of gratitude to Mr. M. Selvadurai who, as Honorary Secretary, for the last four years, had served the Union, and thereby the members and the Village. He had been tireless in his efforts and his enthusiasm had never flagged. The President did not wish to sully the purity of Mr. Selvadurai's work by any attempt at description.

Their thanks were also due to their indefatigable Treasurer. His was a thankless and, to a certain extent, invidious job. To many of them his monthly calls had been a source of pleasure, or should he say, annoyance?

He next thanked the Members of the Committee for their interest and loyal co-operation, for it was solely due to them that any degree of success had been attained.

Questions on the Report were invited and answered.

The Report and Accounts were then adopted, proposed by Mr. C. Alagaratnam and seconded by Mr. A. Mailvaganam.

At this stage the President and Honorary Secretary vacated their seats and Mr. R. Thampipillai was elected Chairman pro tem and Mr. S. Chelliah Secretary pro tem.

Mr. R. Thampipillai addressed the meeting and thanked the outgoing Committee for the very valuable Report presented to the members.

Office-bearers

The election of office bearers for the ensuing year then resulted as follows:

President: Mr. K. Peethamparam (re-elected)

Honorary Secretary: Mr. S. Chelliah. Honorary Treasurer Mr. K. Sivapragasam (re-elected).

Committee: Messrs. M. Selvadurai; M. Senagaratnam; C. Kathiravelu; C. Nadarajah; G. A. Rasiah and S. T. Thambayyah (re-elected).

Hon. Auditors: Messrs. S. Krishnappillai and A. Mailvaganam.

The elections of members of the Home Advisory Committee resulted as follows:

Messrs. S. Nagalingam; A. Kandiah; K. Manickam and R. Seenivasagam (Secretary)

With regard to the 5th member it was decided to ask the Home Advisory Committee to submit a name for the approval of the incoming committee.

The following resolution to be conveyed to the bereaved family of Dr. V. Vallipuram of Urumparay was passed, proposed by Mr. K. Peethamparam and seconded by Mr. R. Thampipillai:

"The members of the Malayan Urumparay Union assembled at their Fourteenth Annual General Meeting at the Maxwell English School, Kuala Lumpur, record with profound regret the death of Dr. V. Vallipuram of Urumparay, who had been a member of the Home Advisory Committee and who had done valuable services to the Hindu English School at Urumparay and resolve to convey to the bereaved family, their sincere and heartfelt sympathy in the irreparable loss they have sustained."

The meeting terminated at 7.30 p.m. with a vote of thanks to the chair.

(Cor)

MY IMPRESSIONS OF CEYLON

(Continued from Page 3)

Behind, the high level country comes to an end and the flat country begins. Here we have living indications of the old civilisation. But from Nalanda, the country is now a vast forest of all manner of trees, creepers and wild shrubs. Where formerly, families of peasants supplying all their wants from their gardens and fields were living in their homesteads scattered through the length and breadth of the whole area, there, now, roam buffaloes, spotted deer, elephants and many a carnivorous animal. All indications of old habitation and civilization have disappeared except the great tanks, irrigation works, choked up channels and the old rice fields which have become muddy swamps and marshes. While travelling through this vast level tract once cultivated and populated but now lying waste and uninhabited, I felt that the restoration of this and such other tracts of land in the island to their former state of cultivation and habitation, by encouraging young unemployed men to settle in the tracts and helping them with funds for doing all this, was a public and patriotic work which did not admit of delay. I was glad to read a small pamphlet "The spinning-wheel and the Paddy-field" in which the writer makes an earnest appeal to his countrymen to take to and encourage paddy cultivation in the island.

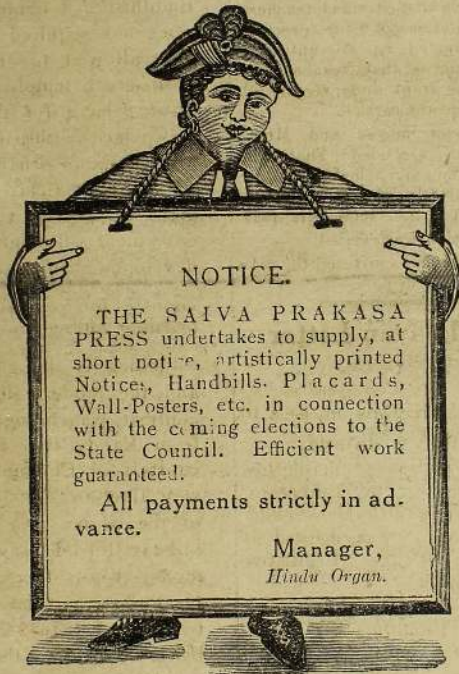
At Pollanaruwa I put up with the PostMaster—a Jaffna gentleman from a high and respectable family. He was very kind and hospitable to me and presented to me a fine spotted deer skin.

[The concluding portion of this article in which the writer gives his impressions of the ruined cities of Anuradhapura and Pollanaruwa, will be published on Thursday.]

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Printed & published by S. ADCHALINGAM, residing at Ayanarkovillady Van: West, Jaffna, for and on behalf of the Proprietors, the Saiva Paripalana Sabha, Jaffna, at their Press the Saiva Prakasa Press, Vannarpounai Jaffna, on Monday February 26 1934