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# The Hindu Organ.



JAFFNA, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1931

## HEALTH UNITS

IN A SIGNIFICANT COUPLET ST. THIRUVALLAVAR has described a state as one which is free from famine, disease and civil commotion. Owing to the strong and stable Government established by the British, there is no civil commotion. Certain areas in the Island suffer at times from lack of food in certain periods of the year. But there is no general famine in the country. But disease is always with us. There is no province or district which is free from diseases, Malaria, dysentery, enteric and ankylostomiasis not only sap the vitality and strength of the people but they are also responsible for many deaths in the country. These are diseases whose incidence can be reduced by the improvement of general sanitation in the country and by the adoption of prophylactic measures. Health Units are institutes established to carry on intensive campaign in a limited area for general sanitary improvement and to adopt such measures as may be necessary to reduce sickness and promote public health. There are already seven such Units in the Island. We are glad to note that during the year 1930 successful work has been done by them and there is marked improvement in the health of the people in the area served by them.

Birth and death rate is one of the tests by which the health of the locality can be judged. The figures given by the Director of Medical and Sanitary Services in his Report for 1930 show how useful the Health Units are. The average birthrate for the different Units is 39.3 while the rate for the Island is 37.4; in one Unit the birth rate is as high as 48.4. As regards the death rate it is 23.05 in Health Unit areas while for the Island it is 24.4. Another test is the rate of infantile mortality and maternal death. The average for the former is 137 in the Health Unit areas and 175 for the whole Island. As regards the latter 17.7 is the rate for the Health Unit areas and 21.4 for the Island. If the rate for infantile mortality for the Jaffna town should be compared with one having a Health Unit, it is evident that Jaffna is far behind some of the towns in the South in the matter of public health. Infantile mortality in Jaffna town is 233 per thousand while at Matara where a Health Unit has been working for a number of years, it is 146.

There is another test to judge the good work done by Health Units. We pointed out in a previous issue the value and importance of school medical inspection and its effect upon the general physique and health of the children who attend schools. There are 3992 schools in the Island and there are five school Medical Officers and six school Nurses to carry on this work. The number of schools visited by them in 1930 is 673 and the pupils examined 81240. It is doubtful if any one of the above schools was visited more than once or twice. Defects of the children were suffering from were however noted. But the number treated is extremely small. In five Health Unit areas there are 176 schools and they received 2012 inspections. It is probable that each school received more than twelve inspections in the year. In the various schools 1417 defects were noted and 548 were rectified. Further a marked improvement is noticeable in the case of school latrines. In 130 out of the 176 schools there is adequate latrine accommodation. This is due to the fact that the schools received greater and more vigilant attention from the medical authorities.

Supply of wholesome food and pure milk is necessary for the health of the people. The importance of the inspection of bakeries, eating houses, and coffee and tea boutiques and dairies by Medical Officers and Sanitary Inspectors cannot be over-emphasized. In six Health Unit areas there are 125 Bakeries, 700 tea and coffee boutiques, 119 eating houses, 9 aerated water manufactories, 47 meat-stalls, 51 fish-stalls, 80 vegetable stalls, 44 dairies, 101 laundries, 15 gallas and one soap manufactory. All these had been inspected and received a total of 35570 inspections. 20533 defects were found and 8750 of them were remedied. Jaffna is an important town. There is a general complaint that eating houses and tea boutiques are not kept clean. And that the quality of food supplied is in some places below the standard. The public will be interested to know in what way the Urban District Council is discharging its duties in this matter.

Another important matter that is being done by the Health Unit is health education. During the year under review 230 lectures and 290 school and village talks were delivered. Six Health and Baby Weeks were held. In this way 92588 people comprising of 27 percent of the health unit population were reached and the value of proper sanitation and personal hygiene and cleanliness was brought home to them.

There is great need for more Health Units in the Island. It is a matter for regret that Jaffna has rejected a good offer for the establishment of such a Unit. We are sure that the people in the town who opposed it, will now realise the advantages of such a unit and will not oppose it if at any future time steps are taken to establish it here.

## Saraswathi Pooja

Saraswathi Pooja was, as usual, celebrated in our office on Monday night and was continued on Tuesday morning.

## Sir P. Ramanathan's Portrait.

### A SITE IN COUNCIL CHAMBER.

A deputation of the Sir Ponnambalam Ramanathan Jubilee Committee recently waited on the Speaker of the State Council, the Hon. Mr. A. E. McIlwaine, on the question of a site for a portrait of the late Sir Ponnambalam Ramanathan within the State Council building.

It is understood, says the "Observer" that a site by one of the two main staircases offered by the House Committee of the Council has been accepted by the Jubilee Committee.

## Mahaweli Ganga Running to Waste.

### HOW TO UTILISE IT.

The feasibility of utilizing the Mahaweli Ganga water-supply to augment the Vakameri Tank by cutting a canal from Kiliro to Matara has been considered at a meeting of the Batticaloa North Agricultural Committee.

It was pointed out that the resources of the Ganga which are perennial, practically run to waste at present. It was thought that, if water could be made available from this source, an additional cultivation extent of over 15,000 acres could be brought in.

The Chairman promised to find out the possibilities of the scheme.

## Largest Number of Plague Fleas.

### M O H'S WARNING TO KURUNEGALA

Of all inland towns in the Island, Kurunegala harboured the largest number of plague fleas and that only a contact was necessary for a severe outbreak of the disease, said Dr. Crockett Thambiah, M O H, Kurunegala, in the course of a lecture at Kurunegala on the "Prevention of Plague".

He said that precautionary measures were absolutely necessary and the U D C intended passing certain laws which, he said, would at the start embarrass the people but would ultimately be for their own good.

## Has the Boycott Failed?

### JAFFNESE MUST ENTER COUNCIL

#### GOVERNMENT AGENT'S ADVICE

That the Jaffna boycott has not achieved anything and, therefore, the boycotters must now enter the State Council, was the solemn advice given by Mr. E. T. Dyson, Government Agent, N P at the opening of a new building of the Village Committee, Kokkuvil.

The new building of the Village Committee, Kokkuvil, was declared open by the Mr. E. T. Dyson, Government Agent, N P on Tuesday the 20th instant at 9 a.m. Mr. O. Muttuvelu, J. P., Chairman of the Village Committee, and some members of the Committee met the Government Agent at the Kokkuvil Railway Station. The Chairman garlanded the Government Agent who was then taken in procession to the new building.

On arriving at the building Mr. Muttuvelu called upon Mr. Dyson to declare the building open.

#### Advice to Boycotters.

Before declaring the building open, Mr. Dyson said that he was surprised when he received the invitation to open the new building of the Village Committee, Kokkuvil, majority of whose members were boycotters. But he again thought that it was out of a genuine desire to reform the constitution that they boycotted the State Council and that the boycott had nothing against him personally or with Government officers. When he inquired from Mr. Shivapadasundaram, a boycotter, why they boycotted the Council, the reply was that they had done so as the Council had no control over the finances of the Island. Mr. Dyson said that recent happenings in connection with the Budget should now disillusion them on that point. As a result of the pressure brought to bear on the Government by the Council, the Governor had now communicated with the Secretary of State for the Colonies regarding the cut in the salaries of public servants. That indicated what amount of control the Council exercised over the finances of the Government. He would therefore ask the boycotters to reconsider their decision to boycott the Council. At the start the boycotters counted on the co-operation and support of the rest of the Island. But now they found that no such co-operation was forthcoming. Even the Tamils of the Eastern Province had not co-operated with them. So it was only a small section that was now boycotting the Council. They were thus left alone with no representatives in the State Council to look after their interests. He would ask them as to what they had achieved so far by their boycott. In their own good interests, he would advise them to lift the boycott and enter the Council.

Mr. Dyson then declared the building open and entered the hall, and took the seat on the platform. Others accommodated on the platform were Messrs. N. Selvadurai B.A., J. P. M.B.S. and R. Sivagurunathan Chairman U. D. C.

Mr. Dyson then spoke a few words suggesting many ways how the hall could be made use of.

Mr. Selvadurai, speaking next touched upon the rare qualities of the Village Committee Chairman and congratulated him on the self-sacrificing work he was doing for the improvement of his village. Mr. Selvadurai also concurred in what Mr. Dyson said about the boycott and commended Mr. Dyson's advice to enter the Council.

#### A Boycotter's Reply.

Mr. Sivagurunathan in the course of his remarks said that he himself was a boycotter. They had boycotted the Council, he said, for very good reasons. He now found that things had not now changed for him to change his decision on the boycott.

Mr. Muttuvelu, Chief Clerk, Manner Kacheheri, proposed a vote of thanks to the Government Agent, in the course of which he echoed the advice of Mr. Dyson to enter the Council.

## News & Notes.

It is reliably reported, says a Reuter's message, that the Japanese Cabinet has decided that under no circumstance will Japan secede from the League of Nations.

A Reuter's message states that £400,000 worth of Khadi (home-spun cloth) according to authentic information was sold in one week in honour of Mahatma Gandhi's birthday.

Mr. Lloyd George, interviewed denied that he had entered into any secret pact with the Socialists. He said there was no pact even regarding his own constituency.

A local association of prominent mill agents in Ahmedabad has decided to purchase for export to foreign countries the stocks of foreign cloth sealed up by the Congress during the picketing campaign. A beginning was to have been made on the 20th instant.

"I shall retain my Chairmanship of the Indian Round Table Conference and continue to do what I can to bring the peoples of India in closer understanding with ourselves" declared Mr. Ramsay MacDonald, in the course of his election address.

"It is a hopeful sign of the times that the question of effecting practical reforms in marriages is engaging the earnest attention of both Hindus and Mussalmans" says the "Indian Social Reformer". "An object lesson in economy in marriage expenses, was provided by the zeal of two well-known Muslim social reformers, Professor Maulvi and the Nawab Sahib Savanur in Dharwar district. Only rupees ten was spent on the ceremony, and even this amount was provided by friends and well-wishers of the couple".

The biggest girder in the world to be used as the mainstay of a new hotel, which is being built near Marble Arch London took four hours for the two-mile journey from a London station to the site of the hotel. The girder is 63 feet long and weighs 98 tons. Traffic had to be diverted from the route, a plan of which had been specially drawn to scale and the girder almost grazed many walls and other obstacles en route. It took gangs of workmen over 24 hours to remove the girder from the railway to the lorry. The journey alone from Middlebrough, where it was constructed cost over £20,000.

The election campaign in England has entered upon the second week and with polling day only eight days off candidates all over the country are intensifying their efforts to reach the electorate through thousands of meetings, tons of literature and armies of canvassers, says an official wireless message. Appeals by various political leaders over the wireless, reaching millions of listeners in their homes are however probably more effective in the present contest than the old style electioneering methods and are certainly playing a more prominent part than ever before. In continuation of the series of talks broadcast from all B. B. C. stations, there will be four this week, including one by Mr. Arthur Henderson, leader of the Labour Party, and a final radio address by the Prime Minister on Saturday. Another novelty of the campaign is the growing use of aerial transport by candidates and organizers.

## WEATHER.

At last! After a long drought commencing from last May, Jaffna is having good showers of rain from yesterday. The villages of Jaffna had rain for the last three days, while Jaffna town is having rain, worth the name, only today.



## Gandhiji Accuses Government.

## AGENT OF DISUNION AMONG INDIANS

Birmingham, Sunday.

Mr. Gandhi was severely questioned at a meeting at Woodbrooke Settlement to which the public were invited.

Mr. Gandhi accused the Government of India of playing the parties in India one against the other and making the achievement of unity among Hindus, Moslems and Sikhs a Herculean task.

He declared that the delegates to the Round Table Conference as the nominees of the British Government were not free to settle the differences among the communities. Mr. Gandhi himself was there on sufferance and could do nothing. Moreover the threat of Government to settle the question themselves in the event of the delegates not settling gave hopes to the minorities that they could get more than they had the right to receive, if they succeeded in bringing about a failure of the Conference.

## Exploitation.

No one at the Conference expected satisfaction to the Indian demands but everyone expected something would be given to India. That something would be shared in the exploitation of the masses by the British, and every delegate at the Conference was trying to get the largest share possible for his own community. If Britain declared that she would withdraw from India, the various communities would reach a settlement immediately. The Government of India was a wedge between the communities and the organic life of India was being poisoned by foreign matter, which had to be expelled as the first condition of settlement.

Mr. Gandhi said that nothing would result from the Round table Conference, unless the British public forced the hands of the Government.

He implied later that he had lost all hope of reaching a settlement with the Aga Khan and the Moslems — 'O.D.N'.

## Proctor Sentenced to 5 years' R.I.

## CRIMINAL BREACH OF TRUST.

Mr. W A S de Vos, late partner of the Firm of Messrs. de Vos and Grainger, Proctor was sentenced to five years' rigorous imprisonment on Monday by Mr. E W Jayawardene K O, Commissioner of Assize.

Mr. de Vos stood charged with having (1) on a date between March 1, 1930 and April 30, 1931 as Colombo committed criminal breach of trust in respect of a sum of Rs. 50,000 entrusted to him as a Proctor and Notary by the late Mr. Tom Walker; (2) on or about July 15, 1930, committed criminal breach of trust in respect of a sum of Rs. 14,367.50 entrusted to him by Mr. F A H Didi and (3) on or about December 1928, committed criminal breach of trust in respect of a sum of Rs. 20,000 entrusted to him by Mr. G G de Saram.

In passing sentence the Commissioner said "You have disgraced the honourable profession to which you belonged. You bear an honoured name and you have belittled that name."

## New Railway Rates.

## NO RETURN TICKETS FROM DECEMBER.

Arrangements are in hand to bring the revised railway passenger fares into effect from December, says the "Observer".

The chief feature of the change will be the abolition of the much abused return tickets. Only single tickets will be issued at reduced rates so that the cost of a double journey will amount to practically the present cost of a return ticket.

The changes to be introduced will also include a modification of the fares charges on excursion and work and tickets.

The position with regard to the proposed increase of season ticket fares, however, is that no definite course of action has yet been decided upon. Strong protests have been made against the proposal and the matter is now being held over for the decision of the State Council.

## The Bounds of Liberty.

(By K. SHIVAPATHAM, MATALE.)

There is a story of a stout old lady, walking with her basket down the middle of a street in Leningrad, to the great confusion of the traffic, and with no small peril to herself. It was pointed out to her by a well meaning constable, that the pavement was the place for foot passengers, but she indignantly replied "You mind your own business, I am going to walk where I like. We have got liberty now in Russia."

It is not an exaggeration to say that the conception of liberty of many of us is not very different from that of this dear old lady with the basket. The word liberty, like the word equality, is one of the most misunderstood words in the world. When one talks of liberty one means democracy, morality, franchise, and a dozen other things that have no connection whatsoever with liberty. If these advocates of liberty could persuade themselves to think a little, they would be surprised to find that liberty really means the limitation of individual wish to that of society. A man is constantly making compromises between his own wishes and the wishes of his neighbours. He limits his neighbour's liberty by his own rights, and his liberty is in turn limited by the rights of others.

Liberty, therefore, is both a personal and a social affair. Personal liberty consists of those elementary rights of an individual, which he exercises according to his own pleasure, provided however, that in the exercise of such rights he does not interfere with the rights of others. No one on earth, not even the most despotic monarch, enjoys absolute liberty. But a fairly large measure of such personal liberty can be enjoyed only by a person, who, for instance, looks him self up alone in his room. He can do anything he likes within the four walls of his room. He can talk to himself as loud as he pleases him, and no one will hear him. He can play marbles on the floor, or rehearse with gesture a Budget speech, or practise a graceful tennis stroke, or even take a few physical exercises, and there will be nobody to grieve at him. In short, he is not bound by that great outlaw of personal liberty, namely, social conventions. But when he steps outside the limits of his enclosure, he should be on his guard lest he acts against established conventions, how far we can sacrifice our personal liberty to satisfy the demands of convention. The problem is very complex in Ceylon, where there is a tragic mixture in our social conventions—our traditional conventions coming down from our fathers, and our imported conventions coming down from our masters.

Man is born free, they say. To give free play to one's individuality is, in the words of Mr. H G Wells, the subjective triumph of existence. Thus man, in the mental and physical planes, can move about freely. But even in this sphere where there is freedom of movement, the private right of entry of one man's fist into the territory occupied by another man's nose cannot be conceded, because society has learnt by experience that unless the liberty of a man's fist ended where the nose of another began, the consequences have been disastrous both on the individual and on the community.

The birth of a new idea like democracy has tended towards obscuring the meaning of the word liberty. The famous democratic challenge "May not a man say and do what he likes?" has made each man a law unto himself. It has produced several top heavy citizens, who are not only a nuisance to the neighbourhood, but are also a real source of danger to the country, because a reasonable consideration for the rights and feelings of others, which is the foundation of social conduct, is entirely absent in them.

Take for instance the case of a person who has recently bought a gramophone. He is of course at perfect liberty to set his gramophone going, but when it goes on during the sleeping hours of his neighbour, he is certainly interfering with his right of enjoying a quiet sleep. He is as inconsiderate as the motorist at night, who has not the courtesy to shade the glaring front lights when he sees a speckled cyclist coming in the opposite direction with great difficulty. He is not a sociable man, and though he sits behind the wheel, he cannot claim to be a gentleman.

What then are the reasonable limits to the liberty of an individual?

(Continued up)

## All-Ceylon Union of Teachers.

## RESOLUTIONS PASSED AT ANNUAL MEETING.

The All-Ceylon Union of Teachers at their Annual General Meeting held on Saturday last, at the Zibira College passed the following resolutions:—

1. "This Union urges upon the Government the necessity of constituting a Board of Examiners to conduct all public examinations at present held by the Department of Education."

2. "This Union requests the Government to introduce a system of Day Training Colleges throughout the Island to afford facilities of training to those teachers desirous of obtaining professional qualification."

3. "In the opinion of this Union, in all districts where there are recognised Teachers' Associations affiliated to the All-Ceylon Union of Teachers, representatives of the local Association should be nominated as members of the Education District Committee."

4. "This Union urges on the Minister of Education the desirability of so altering the composition of the Board of Education that one half may be representative of the Government, the Department, the managing bodies of Schools and the public generally, and the other half may be representative of the teaching profession including the heads of Schools."

5. "Whereas accuracy of tenure is indispensable to building up in Ceylon an efficient and self-respecting teaching profession; and whereas therefore no teacher should be discontinued from service except for educational inefficiency or unprofessional conduct; the All-Ceylon Union of Teachers requests the Government and the Director of Education to institute an Arbitration Board consisting of representatives of Manager, Teachers and the Department to inquire into and arbitrate in cases where teachers seek the intervention of the Board."

## Suffering to Goats.

## MAGISTRATE FOR CHARGING RAILWAY AUTHORITIES.

The Acting Police Magistrate of Hattion has directed the Police to charge the Railway authorities for having allowed over-cading and causing undue pain and suffering by conveying 75 Indian goats in one railway truck.

The owner of the goats was warned and discharged and the S.P.O.A. Inspector has undertaken to write to the Department for instructions.

## An Inspector's work in Batticaloa.

In his administration report for 1930 the Government Agent, Eastern Province, says:—

In September last, Mr. J. T. Sadasiva Iyer, who was the District Inspector of Schools for some years past, was transferred to Jaffna, and the district was divided into two subdivisions in the charge of two assistant inspectors. The teachers of this district owe much to Mr. Sadasiva Iyer, who worked very hard and perseveringly towards the upliftment of the teachers and specially those in the vernacular schools. He made arrangements to hold regular classes for teachers on Saturdays, and for periodical conferences at which new and up to date methods of teaching were imparted to the teacher; and during his period of service in Batticaloa he raised to a higher level the standard of efficiency in the vernacular schools.

## Continued

The volume of individual liberty is directly proportional to the circumference of social limitations. In fact, the mathematical sign before the word social liberty may be either positive or negative. It may be a series of permissions or prohibitions. The sum total of a country's liberty may be greatly increased by a number of laws of prohibitions, just as it may be greatly diminished by the granting of unrestricted permissions. Take for instance the extent of personal liberty we enjoy by the denial of the liberty to an individual to dip his hands into the pockets of another. It avoids so much inconvenience, and so many complications, especially in a crowded street.

Ethically considered, the keynote of liberty is self-denial, that is, the denial of self to others, which is the true essence of service. There should be a delicate balance of interaction between the individual and society. Otherwise, liberty will mean impertinence or free intrusion.

## Order Nisi.

## IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 7948.

In the matter of the estate of the late Annampillai wife of Murguesu Chellappa of Thirunelvely East, Jaffna

Deceased.

Murguesu Chellappa by his attorney Murguesu Sivakoluntloo of Thirunelvely East Jaffna.

Vs.

Petitioner.

- Minors
1. Pakkiam daughter of Chellappa of Thirunelvely East
  2. Ratanavathi daughter of Chellappa of do
  3. Ratanabapathi son of Chellappa of do
  4. Ponnampalam son of Chellappa of do appearing by their guardian ad litem
  5. Thamboo Rasmalingam of do.

Respondents.

This matter of the Petition of the abovesaid Petitioner coming on for disposal before D. H. Balfour, Esq., District Judge, on August 4th 1931, in the presence of Mr. S. Kumaraswami, Esq., on the part of the Petitioner and the affidavit of the Petitioner dated July 27th 1931 having been read, it is ordered that the 5th Respondent be appointed guardian ad litem over the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th minor respondents for the purposes of this testamentary action and it is declared that the petitioner Murguesu Sivakoluntloo is entitled to have letters of administration as attorney of Murguesu Chellappa who is the husband of the said intestate named to him unless the Respondent or any other person shall on or before October 30th 1931, show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

Esq. D. H. Balfour,

September 29, 1931.

District Judge.

O. 287. 22 &amp; 26.

## Order Nisi.

## IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF MANNAR.

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 458.

In the Matter of the Estate of Thankam widow of Ponnann Sappan late of Villankulam

Deceased.

A. B. Kumarakulasingham, Secretary, District Court, Mannar.

Petitioner.

Vs.

1. Nagamulla Sivalingam and
2. Anjalai widow of Mathuramy both of Sitrucclasant in Mannar South

Respondents.

This matter of the Petition of A. B. Kumarakulasingham, praying for letters of Administration to the estate of the abovesaid deceased Thankam widow of Ponnann Sappan, coming on for disposal before R. M. Davies Esquire, District Judge, on October 9, 1931, in the presence of Mr. F. J. A. Ponsaraj, Esq., on the part of the Petitioner and the affidavit of the Petitioner dated December 23, 1930, having been read, it is declared that the Petitioner is the Secretary, District Court, Mannar, and is entitled to have Letters of Administration to the estate of the said intestate named to him unless the Respondent or any other person shall, on or before October 30, 1931, show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

It is further ordered that the 2nd Respondent be appointed guardian ad litem of the 1st Respondent for the purpose of representing him in these proceedings unless the Respondents abovesaid shall on or before the said date show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

R. M. Davies,

October 9, 1931.

District Judge.

O. 290.—22 &amp; 26.

## NOTICE.

Tenders for the lease of markets for 1932 will be received by the Chairman, District Road Committee, Jaffna, up to noon on Saturday the 14th November, 1931.

For conditions of sale and other particulars, please apply to the Chairman.

P. MORTIMER,

D.R.C. Office, for Chairman,  
Jaffna, 20th October, 1931. (G 113 22.)

## NOTICE.

In order to avoid inconvenience and delay, our friends, who are good enough to send us advertisements, are kindly requested to see that the same are sent to us at least a day earlier than the date of publication.

Manager.

## The Jaffna Mutual Benefit Fund Ltd.

Fund Ltd.

NOTICE.

Thirteenth annual general meeting of the shareholders of the Jaffna Mutual Benefit Fund Ltd., will be held on Saturday the 31st October 1931 at 3 p.m. at Vaitheeswara Vidyalayam, Vannarponnai, Jaffna

V. SOMASUNDARAM,

Hon. Secy

Vannarponnai,

October 16, 1931

(Ms 586 22)



## Gled Standard Suspension in Britain

### CAUSES OF THE CRISIS EXAMINED

Britain's struggle to maintain its currency on the gold standard proved a losing struggle against world economic forces. Thus, despite the final efforts resulting in the formation of a National Government, with a parliamentary majority, and the balancing of Budget by drastic and rapid measures, the Government, after a brief lull in the storm, found itself forced on Monday, September 21st, to pass a bill through Parliament which received the Royal assent, the same night suspending the legal obligation to convert the paper currency into gold.

#### History of Gold Standard

Britain had been on the gold standard for just over six years. She abandoned the Gold Standard in 1914 and returned to it in 1925. The return to that basis of currency, involving as it did the increase in value of the paper pound of the time, was a much debated measure. Britain, in fact, both during and since the war undertook heavy financial obligations based on a policy of financial integrity. The resulting burden in circumstances of prolonged world wide trade depression at last became unbearable. During, and for some time after the war, Great Britain exported to America nearly bought gold to the value of £322 millions in discharge of debt. After that, Great Britain funded her remaining war debt to America, sums amounting to about £280 millions, equivalent to about one third of the amount of the debt at the date of funding, have since been paid by Great Britain to America. Incidentally, of the repayment of War Debt, which the United States has received so far 83 per cent has come from Great Britain. Britain, with her consistent regard for financial rectitude on her own part, has been paying her debts in full. On the other hand under the terms of debt settlement with France and other countries, a large concession on the original sterling amount was made by this country to her former allies. Added to this the British Government decided to revert to the gold standard in 1925. This led the way for general return to the gold standard by nearly all the countries of the world. The outstanding benefit of this was to end the chaos of fluctuating exchanges which was hampering world trade.

The return to the gold standard was yet another burden which Britain shouldered. Because, offsetting the advantages of the established currency for this country and the world, the consequent increased value of the pound increased the real burden of the internal debt, and, no less serious, placed a burden on the export industries. At the time controversy raged round the fact that the bankers were improving the value of "their" pound at the expense of industry. By that as it may, public opinion believed that to restore the pound to its pre war value was the honest course and that course was followed. Had there been a world-wide and consistent improvement in trade all might have been well. But the world continued to suffer from many ills.

For several years now a number of experts and publicists have been calling attention to the growing danger and some of the evils of the gold standard as now being operated in the world. The League of Nations had gone into the matter and had prepared data upon which some international action might be taken. The Bank of England had been active in inducing greater co-operation among central banks in order, *inter alia*, to make the gold standard operate successfully. Unfortunately, most countries suffer their economic ills in relation and have therefore to suffer them alone and with grudging sympathy and limited understanding; and so the contagion spreads.

The crisis of the past months came in this way. First difficulties of the Austrian Bank; next the financial crisis in Germany. In each case the Bank of England endeavored to help. Then the crisis in Great Britain itself and the Bank of England turning to France and America for help. Now comes news that other European countries are in difficulty. The post war financial situation is breaking out again. If ever international action prompt and decisive—comparable with the vigour and repidity of the Hoover Debt Suspension declaration of July—were needed, it is urgently needed now. But many statesmen continue to approach the matter with the psychology of rural district councillors.

Meanwhile, as far as Great Britain is concerned the first shock of the abandonment of the gold standard has passed off, without undue harm or alarm. Indeed much now depends on financial and currency developments abroad. If the pound remains depreciated in terms of other currencies exports from Great Britain should increase and imports decrease. The balance of trade problem will settle itself and the pound will come to its natural level. Estimates of that level vary, but they seem to indicate a value of about 4 dollars as against the previous par of \$4.86.

#### The Task Ahead

The essentials of a currency, which is to enable trade to prosper are stability of exchange rates and stability of price level. It is to secure these two requirements that bankers and statesmen must now address themselves. That is a problem which it will require more than one National Government to solve.

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(H. 13 10-1-32)

## The Ceylon State Council and the Government.

The Madras Hindu writes:—

A very intriguing situation has arisen in Ceylon in regard to the budget which was for the first time introduced by a Minister who is also the Leader of the House. It will be remembered that the Ministers came in for a good deal of criticism with reference to the proposals which they made for balancing the budget. The deficit of over 17 millions was proposed to be met by finding the balance to the extent of ten millions, raising a loan of four millions and effecting retrenchment in allowances and emoluments to the extent of ten millions. It was complained that the Ministers in making these suggestions had merely been pawns in the game of others, that they were led by the nose by the officers of the State and that they lacked both courage and statesmanship. The budget was discussed nearly the whole of last week and some thirty members took part in the debate. It became clear not only that there was a good deal of dissatisfaction with the budgetary provisions among all classes of members, but also that the suggestion which had been made by Mr. Pereira for referring back the budget to the Ministers had found increasing favour among the members of the State Council. As may have been expected, numerous hints were given to the Ministers as to the new sources of income that could be tapped. Taxes on bachelors, amusements and entertainments, on the exercise of professions, on tourists, higher postage and telegraph rates, increase of stamp duty on cheques, higher tax on motors, and the organisation of a National Sweepstake, were some of the suggestions made, as also increase in customs, surcharge on salaries and the levy of income tax. The last three expedients were those that were proposed by the Ministers themselves as being fit sources which might be tapped next year, but not in the present year. The predominant feeling, however, was that the Ministers had been persuaded by the bureaucracy not to agree to any cut in the salaries of public servants, the bill for which came to about fifty per cent of the total expenditure of the Island. When England and India, Malaya and the Straits Settlements had effected cuts in salaries and when there was overwhelming necessity for sacrifice all round, it was unfair, non-official

members argued, to leave the public servants alone without any reduction of their emoluments which were already much too high for the Island to bear. The Ministers in reply to the debate could only say that they were new to their responsibilities, that the budget had been before them only for a few weeks and that they had to balance the budget somehow or other. Sir Bernard Bourdillon, the Chief Secretary, was more aggressive. He not only twitted the members who talked about equity of sacrifice, at having vigorously opposed the levy of income tax the previous year, but stated that the example of other countries where a cut in salaries had been effected was not applicable to the conditions in Ceylon because in those countries every other device had been tried before a raid on salaries was contemplated. Sir Bernard, it was obvious, had forgotten that even Government had already become aware of the heavy fall in customs, making it imperative on the part of the authorities to review the whole situation. And the fact that the budget was strenuously opposed and that there was a real danger of its being sent back to the Ministers, created in the minds of the authorities an apprehension that the situation has to be tackled boldly and squarely. There were three courses open: referring the budget back to the Ministers, which would have entailed a long delay in providing for the carrying on of the necessary services; the rejection of the budget by the State Council, which would entail a General Election; or modification of the detailed proposals so as to satisfy the State Council and public opinion. As a result perhaps of pressure brought to bear upon the Governor by the Ministers, and of the effect which the trend of events had on the Cabinet, the Governor instructed the Leader of the House to secure the adjournment of the House till the 27th instant. Mr. Jayatilaka told the Council that the Secretary of State had been addressed on the question of temporary cut in the salaries of public officers and that his orders were expected in the course of the next two weeks. He added that "it was found necessary to review the financial situation in the light of the reduced revenue returns." It must be said that the Governor's action points to the only way of tackling the difficult and delicate situation which has arisen owing to the lack of foresight, if not also perversity, on the part of the Officers of State. —Hindu.

## Order Nisi.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 7889.

In the matter of the estate of the late  
Thelvanappillai wife of Sanmugam  
Ponniah of Vaddukoddai East

Deceased,  
Sinnstamby Nagamuttu of Vaddukoddai  
attorney of Sanmugam Ponniah of  
Vaddukoddai

Vs.

Minor, 1. Thanapackiam daughter of N.S. Ponniah  
2. Visaladhipillai widow of Kathiravelu  
Vaitilingam of Vaddukoddai West

Respondents.

This matter coming for disposal before D. H. Balfour Esquire District Judge, Jaffna on April 18, 1931 in the presence of Mr. P. Cenasapathy Pillai, Proctor on the part of the Petitioner and the affidavits and petition of the Petitioner having been read:

It is ordered that the abovesaid 2nd Respondent be appointed guardian ad litem over the minor the 1st Respondent for the purpose of this action and that the Petitioner be the attorney of the husband of the deceased, entitled to have Letters of Administration to the estate of the abovesaid Deceased unless the Respondents abovesaid or any others shall on or before May 27, 1931 show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

May, 6, 1931. Extended to 28 10 1931.  
O. 288 22 & 23

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