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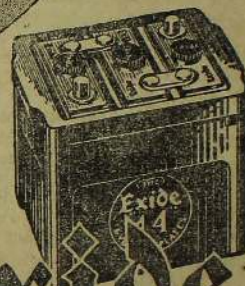
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The Hindu Organ.



JAFFNA, MONDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1931.

CONGRESS AND JAFFNA

"I APPEAL" SAID MR S W R D BANDARANAIKE in the course of his presidential address to the Ceylon National Congress "to our brothers in the North and to the other minorities to join us in working under the banner of the reorganised National Congress for the attainment of that goal which is common to us all, the welfare and advancement of our dear Motherland." It is about 10 years since the Tamils seceded from the National Congress. Though during this long period they did not take part in its deliberations, yet in all matters pertaining to the welfare of the common motherland the Tamils co-operated with the representatives of the Congress in and outside the old Legislative Council. On many public questions representatives from Jaffna as well as those of the Congress held identical views and pressed on the Government for their acceptance with the same vigour and earnestness. Before the Donoughmore Commission, the Congress deputation as well as the Jaffna deputation demanded full responsible Government. When the Congress scheme was debated in the Legislative Council, the criticism of the defects of the scheme made by the Jaffna members is almost identical as that levelled against it by the members of the then Congress party. But when the Congress decided to accept the scheme and to work it, the Jaffna people regarded that decision as a betrayal of the interests of the country and decided on the only course of conduct that is open to a self-respecting people. They have declared that they will have nothing to do with the present constitution unless Great Britain is prepared to concede full responsible Government to the people of this country.

Mr. Bandaranaike thinks that the new constitution affords scope and opportunity for doing "constructive work". Mr. Bandaranaike is labouring under a delusion when he makes that claim for the new constitution. Under the new constitution, which Mr. Bandaranaike wants to give a fair trial, the representatives of the people have no power over the salaries and emoluments of public servants, though more than half the revenue is spent on these matters. The revenue is raised in the Island. It is the people's money and they, on the basis of universal franchise, have returned 46 members to the new Council. The first thing the new Council has to do is to beg the Secretary of State for the Colonies through the Governor for reduction of salaries. Is this the advance conceded to the people under the new constitution, as proclaimed by Mr.

Bandaranaike. We are of the emphatic opinion that no constructive work of any kind can be done under a system of Government controlled by an alien bureaucracy. We commend to the consideration of Mr. Bandaranaike and his party a striking incident related by Sir M. Visvesvaraya, ex-Dewan of Mysore, as having happened in the course of his travels in foreign countries:

In 1919, in the course of my travels in Japan and the United States of America, I discussed the sterling exchange position in India with recognized financial experts whom I met. The Governor of the Bank of Japan said that the gold standard was the best for this country and he, for one, had no misgivings on the point.

I pursued my investigation in the United States of America and it will interest you if I recall a striking incident connected with a visit I paid to a financier and banking expert of repute, Mr. Jacobson by name, who was associated with the Federal Reserve Board at Washington. I went to him with a letter of introduction and had a companion with me

who was a New Yorker and a Freemason. I asked the expert what he thought of the sterling exchange position in India and what, in his view, was the best way of placing the currency policy of this country on a sound basis and preventing the losses to which it was being subjected from time to time. He was evidently unwilling, possibly on account of his official position, to speak out his mind, and began to say that India was a distant country, he had not seen it and knew little of its real position and wants. I showed some impatience at this answer, remarking that an expert of his standing could not possibly be so ignorant as he professed himself to be. He thereupon beckoned to my companion into an adjoining room and said: "Tell this man to go back to his country, change the system of Government there and come to me again for advice. I will then be able to help him."

This really shows that no real constructive work can be accomplished under a system of Government which is either Crown Colony or dependency form of administration.

Ceylon should be governed either under a pure and simple Crown Colony administration or under a system where the executive is responsible to the people. This half-way house of sharing some sort of responsibility with the bureaucracy is demoralising in the extreme. It is demoralising to the people and it is demoralising to the Government. No better evidence can be given of its demoralising nature than of the case of Mr. Bandaranaike, who has fallen a victim under its glamour. Mr. Bandaranaike is a great nationalist and his articles in the press show that he is a great admirer of Mahatma Gandhi. If such a man could put forward such a special pleading for the indefensible constitution as that which we note in his presidential speech, it only shows that this constitution is a defiling thing and it should not be touched. So long as the Congress is wedded to the new constitution it will not be possible for the people of Jaffna to co-operate with it.

Minister of Communications and Works in Jaffna.

INSPECTION OF NORTHERN RAILWAY LINE

The Hon. Mr. Maan Marker, Minister of Communications and Works with Mr. T. E. Dutton, General Manager of Railways, visited Jaffna on Thursday last on a tour of inspection of the Northern line. After inspecting the Kenkesantural and Jaffna Stations they left for Mannar the same evening.

The Hon. Mr. Maan Marker was given a reception by the Moslem community in Jaffna at Moor Street and an address was presented to him.

Acting Police Magistrate, Jaffna.

Mr. V. Joseph has been appointed to act as Commissioner and Police Magistrate, Jaffna, Kayts and Mallekka, during the absence of Mr. M. F. de S. Jayaratne, from December 13, 1931 to January 3, 1932.

The Jaffna Night Mail.

NO SLEEPING BERTHS.

It is said that with the beginning on the 19th instant of the issue of cheap tickets on the railway applications for sleeping berths are pouring in.

It has been decided this year not to provide second class sleeping berths on the Jaffna night mail to those travelling with excursion or cheap tickets.

A Politician of Extraordinary Ability.

MR LLOYD GEORGE'S IMPRESSION OF GANDHI.

"You met Mr. Gandhi. What do you think of him?" asked a "Daily News" representative who interviewed Mr. Lloyd George on board the R. Jupiter.

"I was very impressed with him," he replied. "Of his sincerity I have no doubt. But what struck me most about Mr. Gandhi as I have said before, is his extraordinary ability as a politician."

The New Education Ordinance.

(Continued.)

I.

Thanks to the energy of Mr. Kannagara and his ministers of the Committee for Education things have been set moving. We have before us the main provisions of their New Education Ordinance which is expected to be introduced in the State Council next year. A cursory survey of these provisions makes it quite clear that the Committee have had before them the model of the educational system in England. The recent phases of educational development in England have been the devolution of responsibility to local Education authorities who are given the rights to control and develop the system of Education in their own area along the lines most suited to the local conditions. While the Central authority attempts to regulate the pace of the local authorities great scope has been given to L. E. A.'s to develop at their own pace according to the opportunities and resources at their disposal. While welcoming this change in main principle as a change for the better we will have to wait till we get the details of these powers vested in Local Authorities to find out how far the new Ordinance will give local self-government in education.

All the present Government schools will be handed over to the L. E. A.'s when the Ordinance comes into operation. All public schools will then fall into two categories, those that are provided by the L. E. A.'s and those that are not. All the present denominational schools will fall under the latter category. When we consider the number of schools that are now controlled by Government and those that are controlled by various denominations we notice that only a very small percentage of our schools will go under the control of the L. E. A. With the growth of State interference in England the general tendency had been for even the denominational schools often pressed by financial stringency to pass over into Government control. Churches of England Schools, Catholic Schools, Methodist Schools have many of them in turn been put on the black lists and being unable to be maintained in level with the progress of the times had ceased to be denominational schools. It is the first duty of Government to make adequate provision for the education of the children. Education has been by some philosophers described as the propagation of the racial culture and traditions and while taking over the responsibility for the education of the child the government should keep well in mind that the child's religion and national traditions should form the bedrock for its education. Whilst in England there has been a general uniformity in traditions, culture and religion yet very strong objections were raised by the Catholics especially who claimed the rights for their children to have the religious teaching of their own particular denomination. Government enforced the teaching of the fundamentals of Christianity, those tenets in which all the sects agreed while they ignored the rest which formed the differences between the different sects. Again the Central Government and the local authorities were in full agreement about the ideals of national development.

Here in Ceylon, however, the problem is not so easy. The first difficulty is the clash of ideals between the Government and the people. *Timeo Danaos dona ferentes* and our past experience has shown that wherever Government has given signs of falling in line with the ideals of the people one is inclined to look upon those gestures with suspicion. Now that this offer comes from the Board of Ministers it would prove a test case if the government is prepared to allow us to develop along our own lines. The L. E. A.'s are to be composed of members appointed by the Municipalities in the case of municipal areas with an officer appointed by the Government while in other areas both the committee and the officers shall be appointed by the Government. Our experience of committees like the Urban and Rural Education Committees, Excise Advisory Committees and other Committees based not on the principle of popular election but on nomination by the Government shows us how little these committees have claim to represent the real wishes of the people. If the New Education Authorities are to be formed of similar committees it will prove a farce and the same alien system will continue to be perpetuated on the people as in the past. We would insist that these Local Authorities be appointed on a really popular

Continued up

News & Notes.

After the suspension of the gold standard, the new Japanese Government has issued a decree temporarily suspending the conversion of bank notes into gold, except by licence from the Minister of Finance.

The Bombay Provincial Congress Committee has received a cable from Port Said, stating that Mr. Vithalbai Patel is also travelling by the s. s. "Pilsna" with Mahatmaji and will be arriving in Bombay on the 23rd instant.

The brother-in-law of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru has been ordered to deposit his motor car in the police lines, presumably because the car had been used in contravention of the Ordinance which prohibits transport facilities for "non-renters."

A British Note preparatory to the forthcoming Reparations Conference has been presented to in reply to the French memorandum refusing priority for commercial debts. The note stresses the importance of commercial debts to Great Britain, but does not discuss details, pending the report of the Basle Committee on Germany's solvency. Discussions are proceeding as regards the venue of the Conference.

The public meeting under the auspices of the All-Ceylon Liberal League to protest against the present financial policy of the Government, will take place today at 5 p.m. at the Town Hall, Colombo. Mr. Francis de Zoysa k. c. will preside, and the principal speakers will include Mr. H. A. P. Sandrasegaram k. c. Dr. S. C. Paul, Mr. A. M. Brodie, (Jaffna), and Messrs P. B. Nugawala (Kandy) and H. K. P. de Zylva (Negombo).

"It is heinous crime and unbecoming of the traditions of Indian womanhood" declared Mr. Vallabhai Patel, President of the Indian National Congress, referring to the murder of Mr. Stevens by two Bengali girls. "It is a blot on Indian womanhood" he added, "and a stain on their fair name. The Congress can never countenance such cowardly acts. The act is against the culture and traditions of India and it does not become our woman to wield weapons of death and destruction. It is given to a woman to create and sustain life, and not to kill."

A unique spectacle was witnessed on the 19th instant in the Panadura Police Court, says the "Times of Ceylon" correspondent, when 1288 residents of Ego-danyana, who were charged with failure to pay punitive police tax came in procession to the Court house. When the cases were called Madr. G. W. Fonseka, on behalf of the Government Agent, moved that a postponement be given in view of deputations and telegraphic appeals made by the Moratuwa Maha Jana Sabha, Moratuwa Sewaka Samithiya, and by Messrs. W. A. de Silva and D. S. Fonseka, members of the State Council, who had taken the matter up in the Council. The Magistrate, Mr. P. Vythilingam, said it was with the greatest reluctance that the cases would be laid by for a period of two months, after which he would not, either at the request of the Government or anybody else, postpone them.

Continued

basils. All the elected members of the various local administrative bodies like the Urban Councils, Local Boards and Village Committees may be vested with the right of electing the members to the local educational committees. We trust the Committee for Education will have this fundamental principle in view and then we can picture the educational system of our land being gradually moulded to suit the culture and requirements of the people of the soil.

Rebuff to Anti-Temperance Campaign.

TEMPERANCE REPRESENTATIVE ASSAULTED.

55 OUT 1400 VOTE FOR RE OPENING TODDY TAVERN.

The anti-temperance activities of some rangers and tappers had a rebuff on Saturday last in Vannarpoone, when a poll was held for the re opening of a toddy tavern in Ward No 7.

The polling commenced at 8 A. M. on Saturday the 19th instant. Mr R J Wilkinson Office Assistant, to the G. A. N. P., was the presiding officer.

Finding that there was strict identification the anti-temperance workers lost hopes and resorted to vile abuses which culminated in a tapper assaulting the Temperance representative, who came out of the booth for the recess at 12 noon.

Mr Chidambaranathan returned to the booth at 1 P. M. with more members of the Temperance party and continued to represent the cause for which he has suffered.

Asst. Supdt. of Surveys, Jaffna.

Mr. Edwin Keyt, Assistant Superintendent of Surveys, Jaffna, has been transferred to Colombo.

Northern Province Teachers Association

CONDEMNES SALARY "OUT".

The Northern Province Teachers' Association, at its meeting last week, passed a resolution condemning the proposal before the Board of Education to recommit a cut in the salaries of teachers.

New Ordinances in India

Allahabad, Dec. 19th

The first direct action under the new United Provinces Ordinance was made when Pursoottamdas Tandon, the President of the Allahabad Congress Committee, was arrested for presiding at a public meeting yesterday evening for condemning the Ordinance.

A crowd gathered outside the house but the police succeeded in depositing him in gaol without incident.

Under the Bengal Ordinance, bicycles cannot be used without special licence, as hitherto warnings of the approach of police search parties used to be given by cycle flylog squads in league with the absconders.

Power to do Constructive Work

CONGRESS PRESIDENT ON THE NEW CONSTITUTION.

The Annual Session of the Ceylon National Congress commenced on the 18th instant. Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike presided. In the course of his address referring to the new constitution he said:—

"The attitude of Congress generally and of Congress Candidates at the last Election may, I think, be summarised as follows: The new Constitution has defects, but because it is a distinct advance on the old Constitution and gives us power to do a great deal of constructive work for the benefit of the people we are prepared to accept it and give it a fair trial."

State Council's Work.

The Council is only now beginning to deal with constructive work. The important question of Relief to Debtors has been taken in hand, and the Select Committee appointed to consider the subject will shortly make its report.

Appeal for Time.

These schemes cannot fructify in a day or a month or even a year. Let us remember that the history of nations is not counted in decades or even centuries but in thousands of years.

The Jaffna Boycott.

FOR CONSIDERATION AT TAMIL LEAGUE MEETING.

The General Committee of the Ceylon Tamil League held a meeting last Tuesday at the L.O. P. A. Rooms, Fort, with Rev. James S. Mathew in the chair.

The Secretary Mr. B. Nadaraja, presented the letter of the European Association to the Ceylon Tamil League, with reference to what should be done in regard to the introduction of Income Tax.

The Chairman proposed that the general meeting should also consider the question of the Jaffna Boycott, and make representations to the Secretary of State if necessary urging the necessary reforms of the present constitution of the State Council, and placing before him clearly, the reason for their boycott.

The Committee accepted the proposal of the Chairman, and appointed a sub-Committee to prepare the agenda of the general meeting which will be held before the 10th January, 1932.

Levy on Public Servants' Salary.

DRAFT ORDINANCE.

The draft of an ordinance "to enable a temporary levy to be imposed on the salaries and wages of persons employed in the public service," is published in latest "Gazette"

Scope of Ordinance.

The scope of the Ordinance is described in the statement of "Objects and Reasons" signed by the Financial Secretary, Sir Wilfrid Woods, as follows:—

The object of this Bill is to enable the Governor, with the prior approval of the Secretary of State, to impose a temporary levy on the salaries and wages of public servants

whenever he shall consider it expedient to do so for the maintenance of the financial stability of the Island.

The method of calculating the levy, and consequently its amount, as well as the classes of public servants from whose salaries or wages it will be deducted, will be prescribed by the Governor with the prior approval of the Secretary of State.

Not Before February

An Order imposing a levy may be retrospective to a date not anterior to the 1st February, 1932, the date on which it is intended that the levy shall take effect.

Every Order must state the period for which it is to remain in force, but an Order may be amended at any time or renewed at any time with or without amendment.

The levy will not affect pensions or gratuities based on salaries or wages, or payments based on salary, required by the Ordinances relating to the Widows and Orphans Pensions Fund or Scheme.

The amount of the levy will be credited either to the general revenue, or to the revenue of the Railway or of the Colombo Electricity Supply, according to whether the salary or wages from which the levy is deducted is primarily chargeable to one or other of those sources.

Medical College Examinations.

SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES.

The following are the results of the examinations of the Ceylon Medical College held this week:—

Final Examination.

First Class (in order of merit).—Nil.

Second Class (in order of merit).—Nil.

The following complete the examination:—M H Saddhasena, L S Karunaratne, M Z Markar, J A Q Mendis, G S O de S Gunasekera and D S S P R Senasekera.

The above-named candidates have fulfilled the requirements for the Licence in Medicine, Surgery and Midwifery.

The following pass in the subjects stated:—R A Panchaud, Midwifery; W de Soysa, Surgery.

Second Apothecaries' Examination.

First Class (in order of merit).—Nil.

Second Class (in order of merit).—Nil.

The following complete the examination:—B J Emmanuel, A Kandiah, S Sivathanan, D H Banasinghe and O Velayathan.

Midwives' Examination.

Results of the examination for Certificate of Efficiency as Midwives of First Class:—

Mrs Susan Brown, Mrs M E Cooke, Mrs A O de Silva, Miss Riba Maud Vollenhoven and Mrs Grace Woutersz.

Results of the examination for Certificate of Efficiency as Midwives of Second Class:—

Mrs E Warsakoon, Mrs W J E Fernando, Mrs R A Don Francina Hamy, Nona Inthan, M Leelawathie, D H J Fransiske, D A Don Ellen Nona, B Juliet Perera, K Ponnamma, D Dona Roslin, W A Emeline Perera and W K P M H Rodrigo.

A Press Canard

GANDHIJI DENIES ALLEGED INTERVIEW

RUGBY, Dec. 17th.

MR. GANDHI, who is at sea, en route for India, has in reply to an inquiry, wireless London today denying the statements attributed to him in an interview, alleged to have been given in Rome a few days ago to the "Giornale d'Italia."

He says he gave no interview at all to any journalists in Italy.

Mr. Gandhi, in his message to London, says:—

"The 'Giornale d'Italia's' statement is wholly false. I never gave any interview to Pressmen in Rome.

"The last interview I gave was at Villenoble, Switzerland, where I asked the people of India not to come to any decision, but to await my statement.

"I shall take no precipitate action, but shall make ample previous entreaties to the authorities should direct action become unfortunately necessary.

"Please give this statement the widest publicity possible."

An earlier message, from Rome, stated:—"India with her vast masses, can create a new civilization, but this work of construction is for the future. Today, the whole Indian Nation is called to work destruction.....boycott" said Mr. Gandhi in an interview with the "Giornale d'Italia."

"The Round Table Conference, which has brought a definite break in relations between Great Britain and India has been for us long and slow agony, but it has served to prove to the British authorities the spirit of the Indian Nation and its leaders, and to us the real intentions of Great Britain.

"I return to India to continue the struggle against England, which will be, as heretofore, without violence. Violence will mean India's defeat, but in passive resistance India has formidable reserves of strength and means which England has reason to fear."

Mr. Gandhi anticipated that England would be badly hit by the boycott "which, as in the past, will be directed not against persons, but against policy, institutions and things."—"Times"

Ramanathan Day Celebration at Kandy.

PORTRAIT UNVEILED

Old residents say that, never before, was such a largely attended function among the Tamils, as on the day when that versatile Indian Ambassador, Mr. Menon, I O S, unveiled the Portrait of Ramanathan, amidst lusty cheers of "Rama Rama Rama" from the Burghers, Singhaleses and Tamils (India and Ceylon) who assembled in the Saba-Ratna Hall at the Tamil Home, Kandy on Saturday last.

Mr. Menon paid a glowing tribute to the Great Hero and was followed by Mr. O S Raja Ratnam, Leader of the Kandy Bar, who mourned the absence of any Tamil to take the place of that Great Man, and demanded the Tamil youth present to produce, from among them, leaders for their community by keeping one phase or other, if not more, of the life of Ramanathan, as an ideal for them.

Mr. C E S Perera, the leading Sinhalese Lawyer of the Hill Capital rendered the eloquent tribute of the Sinhalese race.

Mudaliyar C Basnayagam delivered in Tamil an eloquent tribute to Ramanathan, the Scholar and the Educationist.

Gate-Mudaliyar Nagesanathar, a great contemporary of Ramanathan narrated very touching incidents of his life.

Mudaliyar O Arumugam stressed the significance of his entry into "Samadhi" and appealed to the Tamils all over to start a paper, named RAMANATHAM "Voice of Rama" which, as an institution, can effectively take his place and protect the interests of the Tamils and deter others from faulting the Tamils with impunity. He also suggested that Government should be approached to grant Ramanathan Day as a Public Holiday, in so far as Ramanathan is universally acclaimed as an All-Ceylon Leader.

Mr. Selvanayagam, Chief Clerk of Walkers Ltd, author of Tamil Novels, paid a moving tribute to Ramanathan's noble services as a Hindu and a Tamil and characterised the Hindu Temple at Colombo and Paramaswara and Bommanath Colleges in Jaffna as three everlasting monuments to him.

Songs were sung by Mr S Sabapathy, Deputy Post Master and a popular Author and Dramatist and Mr A K Velupillai, Chief Clerk, New Peradeniya Estate.

Mr S Kandyalah, Agricultural Chemist, Peradeniya, in a beautiful short speech heartily thanked Mr Menon, the Indian Agent and the other speakers and all those assembled, for having responded to the invitation of the Tamil Association.

Mr S Sivaganesandram, Vice president, who received and greeted Mr Menon, and received the other guests and Mr S Somasundaram, Honorary the other guests and Mr S Thambiah, the General Secretary and Mr K S Jayatavar, Literary Secretary and Mr V Ponnampalam, and their capable colleague deserve to be congratulated.

