

The Jaffna Organ.

"Arise! Awake! and stop not till the goal is reached."

THE ONLY NEWSPAPER IN CEYLON FOR THE HINDUS

HAS THE WIDEST CIRCULATION

ESTABLISHED SEPTEMBER 11, 1839.

PUBLISHED EVERY MONDAY AND THURSDAY.

VOL. XLIII—NO. 49. (Phone 56.) JAFFNA, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1931. (Registered as a Newspaper.) PRICE 5 CTS.

Empire of India Life Assurance Co. Ltd.

Established 1897

Assets exceed Rs. 38,000,000

BONUS
YEAR

NOW is the TIME to ASSURE
Your life
in
this Leading and Popular
Indian Life Office.

BONUS
YEAR

Prospectus and Proposal form on Application.

F. DADABHOY,

Head Office

Chief Agent for Ceylon,

Empire of India Life Building

No. 2, Canal Row, Fort,

BOMBAY.

COLOMBO

H 4. 30-12-31

AGE and EXPERIENCE COUNT FOR MUCH IN AYURVEDA

36

Years of
Continuous
Practice,
Study and
Research.

Here are Some Pills

1. DIGESTIVE PILLS.—To cure loss of appetite, indigestion, belching, heartburn, biliousness, giddiness, etc.
Per Box 8 As. V.P.P. Charge 8 As. up to 2 boxes.
2. LAKSMIKARA KASTURI PILLS.—Best companion to betel. Removes bad odour from mouth. A digestive.
Per box. As. 4 V.P.P. Charge 8 As. up to 12 boxes.
3. PURGATIVE PILLS.—Painless, easy
Per box 8 As. V.P.P. Charge 8 As. up to 12 boxes
4. SANJEEVA PILLS.—Child's companion, cures fevers, cold, cough, headache, digestive disorders etc.
Box 10 As. V.P.P. Charge 8 As. up to 12 boxes

Ask for Detail Price List sent FREE

P. SUBBAROY,
AYURVEDIC PHARMACY,
Sri Venkatesa Perumal Sannadhi, Tanjore.
(M. P. Uoy.)

(Y. 5. 27-26-11-31.)

Star & Morgan Tiles.

These and 14" inch Gauge Perfect Model Tiles are famous for large covering capacity, good fitting, strength and polish. They absorb least amount of water and dry very quickly.

AVAILABLE AT
MANGALORE TILE AGENCY.

Jaffna:— M. Rajendra Mooper,
Bankshall Street.

Point Pedro:— M. Namasivayam,
Market Square,

Kayts:—Karampan

Trincomalie:— S. Chinniah,
Green Road.

(H.13 10-1-32)

Opportunity TO BUYERS.

JUST RECEIVED
A LIMITED NUMBER
OF OUR FAMOUS
STAINER & STRADIVARIUS
MODEL VIOLINS.

PRICES SPECIALLY
REDUCED TO MEET THE
DEMAND OF THE DAY.

AGENTS FOR:-
HIS MASTERS' VOICE

TAMIL RECORDS & GRAMAPHONES.

Jaffna Apothecaries & Co.,
Stockists of Harmoniums,
Gramophones etc.
Main Street, Jaffna

(X. 7. 19-18-1-32.)



PRICE
(Fully Charged)

Rs 35/-

Less 10% Discount

For cash with
Order.

Exide "44"

6-Volts - 13 Plates

Capacity: 85 AMP. Hour; Size of Battery; 7 1/4" wide, 9 1/2" long 9 1/2" high
SUITABLE FOR

BUICK, CHEVROLET, CHRYSLER, ERSKINE, ESSEX,
FORD, RUGBY, STUDEBAKER,
WILLYS OVERLAND, WILLYS KNIGHT
AND MANY OTHER MAKES OF CARS AND LORRIES.

Brown & Co., Limited.,

LANKA WORKS, DARLEY ROAD,
COLOMBO AND BRANCHES.

(Q. 14. 5/10-21/12) (A)

AN UNMATCHED EXPRESSION OF PUBLIC CONFIDENCE.

MORE THAN 26,000,000 POLICIES
ARE HELD TODAY BY THE PEOPLE IN

The Prudential Assurance Co. Ltd.

THE LARGEST INSURANCE INSTITUTION IN THE BRITISH EMPIRE
Funds of the Company Amount to over Rs. 30,500,000,000.

The Total Income of the Company Last Year was over Rs. 5,700,000,000.
A sum over Four times greater than the total Revenue of Ceylon.

A WIDE RANGE OF POLICIES ISSUED.

Bonuses are declared annually—

For 1930 Rs 26/- per Rs. 1000/ assured. (Whole life policies)
(Endowment policies)

FULL PARTICULARS CAN BE "HAD ON APPLICATION."

K. Chornalingam,
Inspector for North Ceylon, Manipay.

K. Ratnasapathy,
Asst. Inspector Manipay.

PRINCIPAL AGENTS FOR CEYLON—
Delmege Forsyth & Co Ltd., P. O. Box 45, Colombo.
(X. 10. 18 to 31 12-31.)

The Hindu Organ.



JAFFNA, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1931.

MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION

THE EDUCATIONAL PROBLEM IN THE Island cannot be satisfactorily solved unless there is only one class of schools and in those schools the mother-tongue is made the medium of instruction. Our view is not based merely on sentiment but it is the outcome of our belief and conviction that no cultural progress can be achieved unless the mother-tongue is made the vehicle of education. This question engaged the attention of the last Council and in pursuance of a resolution brought before it the Education Commission was appointed. One of the terms of its reference is as follows: "How far is it practicable to make Sinhalese and Tamil the media of instruction in the schools of Ceylon." But the majority of the Commissioners did not tackle this question properly and only recommended that all schools in Ceylon should provide facilities for teaching pupils in their mother-tongue and that instruction in the vernacular languages should be compulsory for all pupils at the earliest stage of their school career whether that vernacular be English, Sinhalese or Tamil. But two members namely late Sir P. Ramanathan and Mr. W. Duraiswamy who differed from the news of the majority expressed the opinion in their respective riders that it is practicable to make the vernacular the medium of instruction in the Ceylon Schools, and Mr. Duraiswamy went so far as to suggest that vernacular should be the medium of instruction in the secondary schools.

It is reported that the draft Education Ordinance provides for the making of the vernacular the medium of instruction in the primary schools and its study compulsory throughout the secondary course. We do not think that this can adequately solve the question of the place of vernaculars in the curriculum of Ceylon Schools. It is admitted that the mother tongue is the true vehicle of mother wit. It is also admitted that defective language training in the mother tongue, as pointed out by Dr. S. A. Wickremasinghe in his valuable contribution to our contemporary, the "Daily News", is the root cause of our cultural sterility in art, music, architecture and philosophy. If the present system of education has not in any way helped the cultural progress in this country and if adequate training in the mother tongue is necessary for such progress, can that be achieved by making the mother tongue medium of instruction only in the primary stage and a subject of compulsory study throughout the secondary course? The report of the Sadler's Commission is always appealed to as an authority on educational matters. They report that "we are convinced that the use of English medium is at present excessive in the secondary schools, to the detriment of both of pupils' education and of the rational use of both media, and that a substantial change should be made; we think it would probably be desirable as a rule to use the vernacular as a medium throughout the secondary schools for all subjects other than English and Mathematics". The conditions are similar in Ceylon. What is applicable to India holds good for this Island. If the distinction between vernacular and English schools is to be abolished and only one class of schools is to be recognised by the new Ordinance, making the vernacular the medium of instruction in the primary standards may be accepted as the first instalment of the necessary reform. But no time should be lost and no labour should be spared for removing those obstacles which now stand in the way of making the vernaculars as media of instruction in the secondary schools in the Island.

Letter To The Editor.

THOUGHTLESS PERFORMANCE OF THE GUARDIANS OF EDUCATION

Sir,

You will be interested to know that there was a great sensation in the village of Pan-nalal on the 30th ultimo, when the Divisional Inspector accompanied by the Chairman of the R. E. D. C. went to the Tamil school situated there in order to get a girl of the pella caste admitted into the school. It is a well known fact that the Manager of this school has already given an undertaking to the Director of Education that he will admit into the school pupils of any caste regardless of consequences. No child of the so-called low castes who sought admission into the school has ever yet been refused admission. It being the case, it is inexplicable why two persons of such high positions created an unnecessary scene in a village the people of which, it is reported, even went to the extent of doing personal harm to them and break their car by disturbing the peace of the place without any provocation.

There was a good deal of excitement in different villages about two years ago in connection with equal seating, and a number of schools were burnt down by notorious rowdies who were set up to do this mean work by those who did not favour equal seating. As time went on, people began to realise that the time had come, when they should treat persons of all castes alike, and give children of all castes equal opportunities in regard to education. Equal seating is given to children of all castes in schools now, and there is perfect peace in the country with regard to this matter.

It is very much to be regretted that Mr. Nevins Salvadoral whose experience of the people of this place is not a little, took with him our Divisional Inspector who is new to the place for a trivial matter like getting a child admitted into a Tamil school, when there would not have been the slightest trouble about admitting the child, had it gone to the school for admission like any other child. The car of the Divisional Inspector was seen going up and down in the village on the morning of the 30th ultimo, and somehow or other, there was a rumour about that that the Divisional Inspector had gone to the place with the object of getting a pella girl admitted into the school. When the Divisional Inspector and the Chairman of the R. E. D. C. were inside the school after having got the pella girl admitted by the Head Teacher of the school, the parents of the people were seen getting into the school in large numbers with sticks, stones and knives and driving their children out of the school. In a few minutes the whole school was empty, and the teachers alone were there besides the two gentlemen mentioned above. It is also reported that the Attendance Officer who was suspected by the people of the place to be at the bottom of the whole affair was chased by some rowdies and that he had a narrow escape. The parents have now prevented their children from attending school, and there is a good deal of agitation in the village. All this commotion is the result of the attempt made by the Divisional Inspector to make a mountain of a molehill. Had the pella girl gone to the school for admission without any show, she would certainly have been admitted, and the peace of the village would not have in the least been disturbed. The most curious part of the Divisional Inspector's performance is that he acted as the father of the girl, and the real father was not seen even in the vicinity of the school when the girl was admitted. The Divisional Inspector could have easily got any child admitted into a school without stirring from his office, even if there was any complaint by a father that his child had been refused admission into school.

In every village where there will naturally be some persons who will be opposed to the introduction of any caste of affairs contrary to the age long customs of the place. That is why school authorities had a "very up-hill work" in the matter of giving equal seating in schools. But the construction of the 30th ultimo has undone a good deal of the work already done, and fresh difficulties have been created by the unwisdom and inexperience of the Divisional Inspector.

May we hope that the Divisional Inspector will not repeat his performance of the 30th ultimo at least hereafter and disturb thereby the peace of the country and make the position of Managers of schools more difficult than it is at present?

Spektor.

BY THE WAY.

I invariably prick up my ears when I happen to read a speech of the Rev. Fr. Rector of St. Patrike's College. He has always something remarkable to say at the annual prize giving of his college. Was it last year that he pleaded with all the force of his personality for commoratorial careers for our educated young men?

Some years ago the Rector stated in public that Hindu boys were not wanted at all in his college meaning thereby that the Catholic Educational Mission had enough children to tend and could not spare time or trouble to train non-Catholic children. The Hindus have taken the hint and have set about seriously to shoulder their own responsibility with regard to education. The Hindu Board of Education is now responsible for managing 58 vernacular schools in different parts of Jaffna as also an orphanage and a Training School. The Rev. Father Mathews is reported to have referred at this year's convocation of parents and pupils at the St. Patrike's College to the financial stress which the Hindu Board is at present labouring under. With justifiable pride he proclaimed the fact that the teachers in the employ of the Catholic Mission have never to worry over payment of their salaries. This, certainly is a sign of temporal prosperity and stability. Of course, when Mr. Lloyd George spoke of the world wide character of the present depression his alert mind had failed to size up the financial potentialities of the Catholic Mission. The ability of the Mission to weather any adverse financial wind is due to the contribution in money and service which every Catholic feels called upon to make according to his means. When the holy Father protested against the inclusion of Managers of Catholic institutions in the ministerial fustigation against managers of schools who could not balance their budgets, he was by implication commending the co-operation of the Catholic clergy in ensuring the success of their convicts. Do I read in this reference an invitation to every Hindu to support the Hindu Education Week Collections? While Catholic leaders the world over claim the right to have complete control of the education of the children of their faith, they will not withhold the like privilege to the R. E. B. E. is therefore most opportune and I trust that this gentle hint will not fall on unresponsive ears. The necessity to provide a fund to meet the growing demands of a flourishing institution is admitted on all hands. We have workers enough but money is needed to push our plans through. It might be said that the present was not the time to commend to people ways of hoarding their surplus funds. Not many can boast of surplus funds and even those lucky ones that have large sums accumulating to their credit are panting about the future. "How long would the depression last" is worrying them more than "How best to tide over the present" which one hears on all sides of oneself. There may be, there is, let us say depression all round, but it is not so acute as to deprive us the pleasure of giving something to the R. E. B. E. We are yet in a position to maintain ourselves and our dependents in tolerable comfort. We have only to realise the urgent need to help now and do our best to make the movement a success. During the ensuing Xmas and New Year holidays most of us are not likely to be over-careful in handling cash. We let ourselves "go" a little according to our means. Why not stint in some item and expend our appreciation of the noble work the R. E. B. E. has set itself to do. Let us bear in mind the fact that the idea of opening Hindu Schools throughout Jaffna was the dream of the late Sri Sri Arumuga Navalar. He was truly the prophet and pioneer in the work of National re-generation. To him the control of education was the key to national upliftment. He had to face great odds; there were ranged against him the great and mighty ones of the land but he never swerved from his purpose. The apathy of his co-religionists did not blight his ardour, it only moved him to pity, "Ah! if my countrymen only realised" said he "the supreme necessity of taking over the education of our children into our hands I had not lived in vain." The great Navalar handed over his trust to the late Sir P. Ramanathan who lavished his great wealth and varied talents in building up on the foundations laid by his illustrious predecessor in Service. The sacred trust has now devolved on the leaders of the Hindu community in the Island and it behoves them to emulate the example of their forbears and strain every nerve to place upon

Continued up

News & Notes.

The annual sessions of the All-Ceylon Youth Congress commenced yesterday, and will be continued till today, under the presidency of Mr. Aelien W. Pereira.

As a result of a petition from the residents of the areas concerned the proposed extension of the Kandy Municipality has been deferred for nine months.

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 last Friday's "Gazette".

The deliberations of the Standing Committee "A" on the Income Tax Bill concluded, and there will be only one more sitting for the Committee in January to draft its report.

The General Manager of the Ceylon Government Railways notifies for general information in his week-end circular to the staff that the new passenger fares will not be brought into operation in January, 1932.

Pandit Jawaharlal replying to an address presented by the Daarwar Municipality, prophesied that he would soon be in jail, because an order under section 144 of Criminal Procedure Code was pursuing him.

It is reported that the Chairman, Sir Edgar Walter of the Board of Directors of the "Eastern Province Herald" was warned and discharged by the Magistrate of S. Africa for publishing the results of the Irish Sweepstate on the Manchester November handicap.

The Police Magistrate of Panadura has given two months' time for three hundred male residents of Egoda Uyana and Kasukurunda to pay the punitive police tax, on the request of the Korals Mudaliyar. The Magistrate expected them to pay the tax within that time, and would not give them any more time after that.

Jaffna Man Arrested.

OPIUM AMONG CHILLIES AND ONIONS.

SMART ARREST BY THE RAILWAY AUTHORITIES.

A man named Sinniah of Korudavil near Valvetittrai was arrested at the Ragama Railway Station on Monday the 21st instant, for being in possession of a parcel of opium hidden under chillies.

It appears that Sinniah was travelling by the night mail train from Jaffna and reached Ragama at 7.15 a. m. and got down, as he had a ticket from Jaffna to Ragama. He then passed through the gate and bought a single ticket to Kolanaiya.

The Station Master and his staff who were on the look out for illicit vendors of opium travelling by train, on instructions from the Police observed Sinniah with a bag; the Stationmaster instructed a Policeman at the gate to question him owing to his suspicious appearance. Sinniah when questioned was greatly excited. His bag was examined, and there was found a parcel carefully wrapped under onions and chillies. The parcel was opened, and it was found to be a pound of opium. Sinniah was taken into custody, and the matter was reported to the Korudavil Police. The accused will be produced before the Police Magistrate of Gampaha.

Continued.

a firm footing the affairs of the Hindu Board of Education. They on their part are willing to do their "bit" and now they call upon every one of us to prove our own faith and contribute our share in the work of national re-generation. Give one, give all. Every little counts. Let us all join in this great national rejoicing and festivity of giving.

M. S. E.

FLOODS IN NORTH-CEYLON.

HEAVY RAINS AND STRONG GALE

MANY RENDERED HOMELESS: TRAIN SERVICE DISLOCATED.

Jaffna had an unprecedented flood and severe gale last Tuesday night, rendering many people homeless and dislocating mail service. All the low-lying lands were covered and many adjoining high lands soon threatened to go under water. A strong wind blew over the Peninsula and many trees were uprooted.

By morning on Wednesday the floods increased and many compounds and roads were under water. Many of the roads were rendered impassable by the trees that had fallen on the road and the channels that were cut across to lead the water out of the flooded areas.

The whole of North Ceylon was affected by this big downpour of Tuesday. Trains which left Jaffna for Colombo on Tuesday night and trains bound for Jaffna from the South have not reached their destinations yet, as the Railway line between Puliyankulam and Vavuniya is under water. The railway line between Paranthan and Elephant Pass is also flooded.

The flooded area ranges from Jaffna to Vavuniya and even further South. It is understood that in some places on the railway line between Vavuniya and Madawachchi there is water.

For the past two weeks the weather was very inclement and not a day passed without rain. There has hardly been any sunshine these days. All the low-lying lands in the peninsula were, as usual in these months, under water. The fields had sufficient water for the crop. Jaffna has therefore been growing sick of the protracted rain which has been causing much hardship to the cultivators and daily wage-earners who could not go out to find any work. On the top of all these, came the biggest downpour of the season on Tuesday coupled with a severe gale. Many of the villages, such as Kokuvil, Kondavil, Urumparai, Chivyateru, Kodigamam, Mirusuvil, Navakuli, to mention a few, are the hardest hit, the floods in some of these places rising up to 3 or 4 feet.

Dislocation of Train Service.

The evening train bound for Colombo left Jaffna amidst heavy rains. Throughout its journey it continued to rain cats and dogs and there was a mild gale. When it reached Mankulam the rain as well as the gale increased and it was feared that something untoward was going to happen. The journey was, however, resumed and the train arrived at the next station, Puliyankulam. Here the signal for what was in store for the future was clearly given by the automatic flood alarm that continued to sound at the station. At about 10-30 p.m. the train arrived at this station. It did not proceed thereafter, as information was received that there were floods about 7 miles from Puliyankulam. A party of railway officers left the station towards Vavuniya to find out if the line was clear for the train. They returned more convinced that a resumption of the journey was impossible. The flood alarm was ringing throughout. So the train stopped at Puliyankulam, in the heavy showers of rain and the strong gale which, it seemed, would push down the carriages; the blowing was so hard that they actually rocking was so hard that they actually rocking mildly. The train thus stopped there till about 7-30 a.m. There were no refreshment rooms or kiosks for the people who, it was feared, would have to starve if the train continued to stop there. The daring among the passengers, ventured out to seek some kiosk or other to have hot drink in that chilly weather. They went to a boutique and asked for bread. The woman began to wail over the loss of her pot of prepared flour, which she pathetically told the passengers, had been washed away by the floods. There was only another boutique where some coffee and bread were available. The demand was more than what the poor boutique-keeper could supply. So many had to go away hungry. At this stage, the Station bell sounded and the stranded passengers assembled from many directions at the Station, to learn the glad tidings, that the train was going to take them back to Mankulam.

Back to Mankulam

About 7-30 a.m. the train left for Mankulam. On arrival, it was learnt at Mankulam that the morning train from Jaffna to Colombo was held up at Pallai as the line between Pallai and Paranthan was under water. So the passengers at Mankulam were held up between two flooded lines. There were many telephonic and telegraphic communications with Transportation Superintendent. No definite reply was received. The fate of the passengers was indefinite. They lost all hopes of returning to Jaffna or of proceeding to Colombo. Mankulam itself was having floods. The road leading to the station was under water and people had to wade through it to reach the main road. The patience of the passengers had reached its limit and those who had come with their families were very anxious to return to Jaffna. So after a long time, on instructions from Anuradhapura it was decided to run a train to Jaffna. The goods train which left Jaffna at 9 pm on Tuesday arrived at Mankulam earlier than noon. With the carriages attached to it, was added another from the night mail. This train left for Jaffna at about 2 p.m., taking those passengers who were willing to return to Jaffna. Some remained behind with the hope that they could resume their journey. But it was learnt that the Colombo-Jaffna night mail of Tuesday was held up at Vavuniya and that through service was impossible.

It will take some days before through service to Colombo could be resumed (Further details will appear in the next issue.)

Govt. Servants Over 55 Years of Age.

QUESTIONS IN STATE COUNCIL.

Mr. George E. de Silva has given notice of the following questions in the State Council:—

Will the Honourable the Chief Secretary be pleased to give the following information:

1. How many Government servants over the age of 55 years are employed in the Government Department in Grades 1, 2 and 3?
2. How many under each of the following Departments? (a) Civil Service; (b) Medical Department; (c) Public Works Department; (d) Forest Department; (e) Irrigation Department; (f) Excise Department; (g) Railway Department; (h) Survey Department; (i) Post and Telegraph Department; and (j) Electricity Department.
3. Will the Government consider it necessary, in order to effect retrenchment, to ask all those Government servants above the age of 55 years to retire and not refill the vacancies so created?
4. If such a step is taken, how much money could be saved?

Gandhiji's Appeal To Britain.

SPEECH AT PLENARY SESSION OF R. T. C

The following is the text of Gandhiji's speech at the Plenary Session of the Round Table Conference:—

Prime Minister and friends, Prime Minister you will extend to me the indulgence of a physically incapable man and therefore you and this Assembly will please excuse me for my inability to stand up to address you.

The Chairman: Certainly, Mr. Gandhi.

Mr. Gandhi: Thank you. I wish that I could have done without having to speak to you but I felt that I would not have been just to you or just to my principle if I did not put in what may be the last word on behalf of the Congress. I live under no illusion.

I do not think that anything that I can say this evening can possibly influence the decision of the Cabinet. Probably the decision has been already taken. Matters of liberty or practically a whole Continent can hardly be decided by mere argumentation, even negotiation. Negotiation has its purpose and has its play, but only under certain conditions. Without those conditions negotiations are a fruitless task. But I do not want to go into all these matters. I want as far as possible to confine myself within the four corners of the conditions that you, Prime Minister, read to this Conference at its opening meeting. I would, therefore, first of all say a few words in connection with the reports that have been submitted to this Conference. You will find in these reports that generally it has been stated that so is the opinion of a large majority. Some, however, have expressed an opinion to the contrary, and so on. Parties who have dissented have not been stated. I had heard when I was in India, and I was told when I came here, that no decision or no decision will be taken by the ordinary rule of majority, and I do not want to mention this fact here by way of complaint that that the reports have been so framed as if the proceedings were governed by the test of majority. But it was necessary for me to mention this fact, because to most of these reports you will find that there is a dissenting opinion, and in most of the cases that dissent unfortunately happens to belong to me. It was not a matter of joy to have to dissent from fellow delegates, but I felt that I could not truly represent the Congress unless I notified that dissent.

There is another thing which I want to bring to the notice of this Conference, namely: what is the meaning of the dissent of the Congress; I said at one of the preliminary meetings of the Federal Structure Committee that the Congress claimed to represent over 85 per cent of the population of India, that is to say the dumb, toiling, semistarved millions. But I went further: that the Congress claimed also by right of service to represent even the Princes, if they would pardon my putting forward a claim, and the lauded gentry, the educated class. I wish to repeat that claim and I wish this evening to emphasize that claim.

All the other parties at this meeting represent sectional interests. Congress alone claims to represent the whole of India, all interests. It is no communal organization; it is a determined enemy of communalism in any shape or form. Congress knows no distinction of race, colour or creed; its platform is universal. It may not always have lived up to the creed. I do not know a single human organization that lives up to its creed. Congress had failed very often to my knowledge. It may have failed more often to the knowledge of its critics. But the worst critic will have to recognize, as it has been recognized, that the National Congress of India is a daily growing organization, that its message penetrates the remotest village of India; that on given occasions the Congress has been able to demonstrate its influence over and among these masses who inhabit its 700,000 villages.

"A Parallel Government."

And yet here I see that the Congress is treated as one of the Parties. I do not mind it; I do not regard it as a calamity for the Congress, but I do regard it as a calamity for the purpose of doing the work for which we have gathered together here. I wish I could convince all the British public men, the British Ministers, that the Congress is capable of delivering the goods. The Congress is the only all-India wide national organization based on any communal basis; that it does represent all the minorities which have lodged their claim here and

Continued up

The Perfect Man

VIEW OF UNIVERSITY WOMAN STUDENTS.

What makes the perfect man?

Here is the answer in the view of the women students of the University of Southern California:

- Intelligence..... 20 per cent.
- Culture 15 per cent.
- Personal appearance..... 15 per cent.
- Courtesy..... 10 per cent.
- Sense of humour..... 10 per cent.
- Physical fitness..... 5 per cent.
- Dancing..... 5 per cent.

Getting the remaining 20 per cent for various other qualities, the students arrived at their decision by taking a vote.

Any man with these qualities in the correct proportions is in for a gay time with the women, for they are willing to foot all the bills he incurs while entertaining them.

If, however, a man takes a girl out for an evening and fails to reach the 100 per cent standard, deductions are made accordingly.

Continued

which, or the signatures on their behalf, claim—I hold unjustifiably—to represent 46 per cent of the population of India. The Congress I say claims to represent all these minorities. What a great difference it would be to day if this claim on behalf of the Congress was recognized. I feel that I have to state this claim with some degree of emphasis on behalf of those, for the sake of achieving the purpose which is common to all of us, to you Englishmen who sit at this Table and to us the Indian men and women who also sit at this table. I say so for this reason; Congress is a powerful organization; Congress is an organization which has been accused of running or desiring to run a parallel Government; and in a way I have endorsed the charge. If you could understand the working of the Congress, you would welcome an organization which could run a parallel Government and show that it is possible for an organization, voluntary, without any force at its command, to run the machinery of Government even under adverse circumstances. But no. Although you have invited the Congress you distrust the Congress. Although you have invited the Congress, you reject its claim to represent the whole of India. Of course it is possible at this end of the world to dispute that claim, and it is not possible for me to prove this claim; but, all the same, if you find me asserting that claim, I do so because a tremendous responsibility rests upon my shoulders.

The Congress represents the spirit of rebellion. I know that the word "rebellion" must not be whispered at a Conference which has been summoned in order to arrive at an agreed solution of India's troubles through negotiation. Speakers after speakers has got up and said that India should achieve her liberty through negotiation, by argument and that it will be the greatest glory of Great Britain if Great Britain yields to India's demands by argument. But the Congress does not hold that view, quite. The Congress has an alternative which is unpleasant to you.

I heard several speakers—and I let me say I have endeavored not to miss a single sitting; I have tried to follow every speaker with the utmost attention and with all the respect that I could possibly give to these speakers—saying what a dire calamity it will be if India was fired with the spirit of lawlessness, rebellion, terrorism and so on. I do not pretend to have read history, but as a school boy I had to pass a paper in history also, and I read that the page of history is rolled red with the blood of those who have fought for freedom. I do not know an instance in which nations have attained their own without having to go through an incredible measure of travail. The dagger of the assassin, the poison bowl, the bullet of the gunmen, the spear and all these weapons and methods of destruction have been upon now used by what I consider blind lovers of liberty and freedom and the historian has not condemned him. I hold no brief for the terrorist. Mr. Ghaznavi brought in the terrorists and he brought in the Calcutta Corporation. I felt hurt when he mentioned an incident that took place at the Calcutta Corporation. He forgot to mention that the Mayor of that Corporation made handsome reparations for the error into which he himself was betrayed and the error into which the Calcutta Corporation was betrayed through the instrumentality of those members of the Corporation who were Congressmen.

Ancient Inscriptions of Ceylon.

THEIR HISTORICAL AND PHILOLOGICAL VALUE.

By S. Paranavitane.

Interest in the old inscriptions of Ceylon as documents throwing light on the past history of the island, began to be taken from the early days of the British rule in Ceylon and Major Forbes and others have given, in their works, translations—full of mistakes, no doubt—of some of the later documents. But the earlier inscriptions remained a sealed book till James Princep, nearly a hundred years ago, deciphered the script in which these, as well as numerous pillar and rock inscriptions in India, were written and which for several centuries remained unintelligible to the pandits both in India and in Ceylon. This script, which was 2,800 years ago, prevalent all over India, and in the island of Ceylon, is known as Brahmi and is the parent not only of all modern Indian vernacular alphabets—except of course, those of Arabic origin such as Urdu and Punjabi—but also of the Sinhalese, Burmese and other alphabets of the Indo-Chinese Peninsula, the Japanese, Tibetan, and some scripts recently unearthed in the deserts of Central Asia. The theory now holding the field is that the Brahmi, like the Western scripts, is derived from a Semitic source; but recent discoveries of pictographic writings in the Indus Valley—in the ruins of cities dating back to the third millennium B. C.—will probably result in a revision of this view.

The scientific study of the Ceylon inscriptions was initiated in 1875 under the patronage of the Government and has been continued up to date with varying degrees of enthusiasm. The most notable names associated with the progress of epigraphical studies in Ceylon are those of Goldschmidt, Muller, Parker, Bell and Wickramasinghe. As the result of the labours of these scholars we have the texts and translations of a considerable number of inscriptions, and information about many more, which throw welcome light on the past history of Ceylon and which very often confirm, sometimes supplement and, in a few cases, modify the statements of the chroniclers.

Continuous Series.

The earliest inscription found in Ceylon may be ascribed to the third century before the Christians and from this time up to the very end of the Sinhalese kingdom, we have a fairly continuous series of documents. For certain periods, the material available is abundant while for others it is not so numerous nor so informative as one would wish and there are several gaps which, however, are steadily being bridged by new discoveries.

The inscriptions found in the island can be divided into several well defined periods. In the earliest period, from the third century B. C. up to the first century A. D., the great majority of inscriptions are on the drip ledges of caves, and as a rule, are concerned with recording the names of the individuals who dedicated these caves for the use of the Buddhist order. They are couched on a stereotyped formula and contain very little except names. A few mention the names of kings and sometimes also their parentage and are therefore of importance in confirming the genealogical information given in the chronicles. There are many hundreds of these cave inscriptions found in various parts of the island; but, considering their number, the information they yield is not much.

Second Period.

The second period may be said to extend from the first to the fifth centuries. In this period the inscriptions were generally inscribed on natural rocks without first dressing the stone; the letters are deeply cut and are generally large. The documents are, as a rule, longer than in the first period and are of a more varied character. A good proportion of the kings who ruled during these centuries find mention in these documents and the genealogical information given of them is generally corroborated by the chronicles. These records are mostly concerned with grants to Buddhist monasteries and shrines, of incomes derived from lands and paddy fields, of gold and sometimes of grain. In some cases, the records mention that money or grain was deposited on interest to be paid regularly to the religious institutions. It is interesting to find some benefactions mentioned in the chronicles being confirmed by these contemporary records.

Third Period.

The third period comprising the sixth to eighth centuries is the most obscure in Ceylon epigraphy. There are only two inscriptions so far known, within this period, which can be satisfactorily dated, one in the sixth century and the other in the early eighth. The records of these centuries, of which there is a considerable number, mostly on rocks and steps leading to buildings, are usually brief, the writing is not well executed and the language not easily understood. Very little study has been directed to these records, they being the most difficult to deal with and the least profitable.

Most Abundant Period

The next period, the ninth and tenth centuries is the one in which inscriptions are most abundant,

They are written on pillars and slabs, the writing is smaller, but better executed than in those of earlier times. The records of this period are mostly royal edicts, containing immunities granted to temple lands and, in a few examples, to those of private individuals. These documents throw some light on administrative, social, economic and political conditions of the day; but the information is very scattered and requires patient and laborious study. These also contain incidental references to contemporary events and throw a flood of light on the monastic institutions of the time. There are also a few which are not religious in character; for instance, one royal edict, of which several copies have been found in places far removed from each other, gives details about the administration of criminal justice and another contains much valuable information about village institutions.

The language of the earlier inscriptions, with one or two exceptions, is very matter of fact and is devoid of any attempt at literary embellishment. From the tenth century onwards, it begins to assume a literary character particularly in the introductory parts eulogizing the monarch reigning at the time. Some of the documents belonging to these centuries are of considerable length.

Tenth Century Script.

The script of the tenth century has already assumed rounded forms like the modern Sinhalese script and in the next stage, i. e., from the eleventh to thirteenth centuries, this process is continued. There are several inscriptions, belonging to this epoch, which are not only of considerable length but are also of great historical interest. A rock inscription at Ambagamuva in the Kandy District, recording benefactions made to Adam's Peak, gives a historical account of the career of Vijayabahu I, one of the greatest of Sinhalese kings. Another rock inscription at Dayanagala in the Kegalla District, has a reference to the Burmese expedition of Parakramabahu the Great while the Galvihara inscription of the same monarch contains a set of rules for the guidance of the monks. An inscription, recently discovered in the Kurunegala district gives the treaty between Parakramabahu and his cousin Gajabahu II. The Ceylon king who has left the largest number of inscriptions is Nissanka Malla who reigned at Polonnaruwa towards the end of the twelfth century.

The chronicles have very little to say of Nissanka Malla; but the monuments that he has left show him to have been a remarkable personality. His inscriptions are to be found not only in his capital; but throughout the length and breadth of Ceylon, e.g., at the Giant's Tank in the North, at Kanthale in the East, near Ambalantosa in the South, on the summit of Adam's Peak, and even at Rameswaram. At Polonnaruwa he has left the longest inscription found in Ceylon, on a stone also known as Galpota 'Stone Book' 27 ft. long, 4 1/2 ft. broad and 2 1/2 ft. in thickness. It is said that Nissanka Malla had this huge slab of stone transported from Mihintale. All his inscriptions have one theme, i.e., his own greatness, which he is never weary of repeating. In one inscription, he gives to his subjects advice on political matters, the real purpose of which is to make them loyal to his house, in another he warns the officials of the treasury against embezzlement, and on the mile stones which he set up on the high road from Megama to Polonnaruwa, he has inscribed quite a small homily addressed to his subjects in Kshana.

'Political Conditions Reflected.

Inscriptions dating from the fourteenth century century downwards, are found mainly in the South-Western and Coastal parts of the island; they, in their provenance, reflecting the change of political conditions in the island. The script in which these records are written differs very little from the modern and the language is intelligible to a person with an average knowledge of Sinhalese. Unlike the earlier inscriptions, which are dated in royal years, dates in recognised eras, such as the Buddhis and the Saka, now come to be increasingly used in records. Several inscriptions of the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries have been of the utmost value in reconstructing the history of this period, which is not adequately presented in the literary sources. From the tenth century up to very recent times, we have also a number of Tamil inscriptions. Some of these were left by the Tamil rulers who on various occasions held the sovereignty over this island whilst Sinhalese kings are the authors of others. At certain periods, for instance in the first half of the twelfth century, Tamil was fashionable at court and official documents were written in that language.

Besides their historical value which is considerable, the inscriptions of Ceylon are also valuable from the standpoint of the philologists. The oldest extant book in Sinhalese dates from the tenth century and the scholar who is interested in the earlier phase of the language has to depend solely on the inscriptions. These and the literary remains combined give us a fairly good idea of the development of the language through a period of over two thousand years. This is much more than can be said of any other modern Indo Aryan language. The inscriptions also show on the gradual evolution of the Sinhalese characters we use to day, from the Brahmi script to pre Christian times.

New Ayurvedic Hospital.

GOVERNMENT TO LEASE BROOK.

It is learnt that the Government has decided to grant the lease of a block of land along Cotta Road a little over three acres in extent to the Board of Indigenous Medicine for the purpose of the erection of a College and Hospital.

The College of Indigenous Medicine and Hospital now situated in Cotta Road is housed in a rented building and some time ago the Board of Indigenous Medicine asked for a block of land slightly over four acres in extent in the neighbourhood.

It is understood that the Government Agent of the Western Province recently submitted, a memorandum offering another site, in extent 8 acres, 2 rods, 36 03 perches.

It is understood that the Government Agent's recommendation was recently considered by the Executive Committee on Agriculture and Lands and approved.

Work for the unemployed.

50 CENTS A DAY.

The Colombo Municipal Council has decided to provide manual work at 50 cents a day for the unemployed who fall under the following categories:—

- 1 Those whose usual place of residence for six months prior to their application for relief has been within the Colombo Municipal limits; or
- 2 Those whose last regular employment during a period of not less than one year has been within Colombo Municipal limits, and whose usual place of residence prior to application has been within 12 miles of the G. F. O.

The following are liable to disqualification:—

- (1) Any one who is in receipt of any regular monetary relief from any official source or charitable organization, or (2) has any close relative who are in sufficiently good financial circumstance to support him, or (3) has any private source of income, or (4) has been detected making any substantially untrue statement to the Inquest officer.

All unemployed falling within the above require those who desire work are expected to make early application at the office of the Charity Commissioner, where it will be possible to inquire late only about 40 applications a day.

Poison-Eater Accepts Challenge.

REMARKABLE DEMONSTRATION IN CALCUTTA.

Calcutta, Dec. 20th.

Responding to a challenge following his recent demonstration before Sir O. V. Raman, Swami Nara Singha, the poison eater, gave another demonstration today in Calcutta, in the University Institute Hall, before a large gathering including several well-known citizens, Europeans and Indians.

The Swami said that as he could not obtain any potassium cyanide, he was not in a position to take it, but he was negotiating with the Police Commissioner to allow him to give a demonstration of flaking it.

He added that he practised "batha yoga", which was a form of deep concentration.

He commenced his programme by breaking small pieces of glass with his teeth, chewing them for a minute and then swallowing them, after which he took a tea of mercury and ate it in the same way.

Next he licked a few drops of concentrated nitric and carbolic acids, and finally swallowed about a dozen nails.

Each time the Swami drank water to facilitate swallowing.

A Calcutta message dated Dec. 21st, stated:—"I am completely mystified," declared Sir O. V. Raman, the famous scientist, after witnessing remarkable demonstration of poison swallowing by a fakir, Swami Nara Singha, carried out today at Calcutta University under strictest scientific supervision.

The man lapped up every available known kind of deadly poison, showing a preference for cyanide of potassium, varied with broken glass and nails, without ill effect.

The poison was retained in the stomach, and the man was afterwards X-rayed and the position of the articles located.

Sir O. V. Raman declared that the performance was a definite challenge to modern science. Swami declared that he was a student of "batha yoga" (suspended animation).

R. Papyah.

(late of P. Orr & Sons Ltd.) MANUFACTURING OPTICIAN (Adjoining Kluwer College)

Vannarponnai, Jaffna.

Bring your Spectacles if you find anything wrong with it, and consult when your Eye sight fails at the above address.

Prescriptions from Doctors attended to carefully.

Crockets, Cylindrical, Bifocal and other lenses and Frames of different kinds in stock;

Consultation 9 a. m. to 1 p. m. and 3 p.m. to 5 p. m.

Y. 14. 12-11-32.

Roofing.

as important as.

FOUNDATION ITSELF.

Exercise great Care and Caution in the Selection of TILES.

There is an all-round RUSH

FOR OUR POUND MARK STANDARD TILES, and WHY this demand,

BECAUSE our TILES are LIGHT our TILES are DURABLE. our TILES are the CHEAPEST

and above all

THEY ARE DEAD PROOF against TROPICAL HEAT AND RAIN.

THESE ARE THE TILES

FOR OUR CLIMATE

Really a BOON to House-builders and others faced with the

problem of ROOFING

Trial Costs a mite but gains a mint of health, happiness and comfort.

S Veeragathipillai & Sons,

Sole Agents, Jaffna, Kankesanthurai & Point Pedro.

Telephone (Jaffna) No. 93.

H 14 10-12-31-9-6-32.

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.

HOUSEHOLD REMEDIES

- Useful in the maintenance of health, at trifling cost.

LOB MEDICINE CHEST

- containing Little's Oriental Balm, the Best Remedy for Aches and Pains; Henry's Jvara-Hari, the renowned cure for Ague, Malaria and fevers; Henry's Ommu-Car-poor, the safe cure for Colic, Indigestion, Cholera, etc, Henry's Kila Kold, the instant cure for Colds, L O B Cough Tablets, the simple cure for Coughs, and Bronchial Troubles, L O B Laxatablets, the safe Laxative and Aperient; L O B Skin Dressing for Cuts, Wounds and Bruises and L O B Antiseptic, a wonderful disinfectant.

for the price of

4

viz, Rs. 3-8 Get a "Chest" from your Postage Chemist or store extra.

Little's Oriental Balm Depot, Main Street, Belfry Junction P. O. Box 298, Colombo

— o r —

Little's Oriental Balm & Pharmaceuticals Ltd. Post Box 67, Madras.

— (Y. 8, 1-31-12-32.) (B)

Printed & published by S. ANCHALINGAM, residing at Ayanserkovilady, Van West, Jaffna, for and on behalf of the Proprietors, the Saiva Paripalana Sabha, Jaffna, at their Press, the Saiva Prakasa Press, Vannarponnai, Jaffna.