

# The Hindu Organ.

THE ONLY NEWSPAPER IN CEYLON FOR THE HINDUS  
H.S THE WIDEST CIRCULATION

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## PAST REGRETS AND FUTURE HOPES.

BY T. L. AHOBALACHARYA, M. A.  
(The Indian Playwright and actor  
who is now in Colombo.)

The Russian Poet, Bulgakov, sings,  
"For some a prologue,  
For some an epilogue."

That is what the present moment is. And there is no analogy in history for the present moment. The present moment is big with the epilogue of human sobriety of a transvaluation of all values; the present moment spells the speedy death of all that smacks of prostitution of man by brother man. The present moment sings the Epilogue of Imperialism, the Epilogue of the modern edition of Judas Iscariot. It is the Epilogue of Empires, of Pockets and Markets of all the half-gods, false-gods and tin-gods at whose feet man has placed wreaths of flowers bathed in human blood and tears.

It is the Epilogue of the Machine Gun. It is the Prologue of Soul-Force.

The world will be saved when Lenin will rise from his great grave and stretch his hand across the mighty Himalayas and shake the hand of the new Prophet of India—Gandhi. That day a fresh mile in the journey of man will be recorded, a new chapter in the destiny of man will be opened.

### Drama of Day-light Robbery.

General Smuts in 1918 to the accompaniment of peace drums said, "There is no doubt that mankind is once more on the move. The very foundations have been shaken and loosened and things are again fluid. The tents have been struck, and the great caravan of Humanity is once more on the march." This utterance has its genesis in the facile and surface optimism of the close of the War, though the result of all the empty fire that issued from the lips of statesmen has only been an advance into a new disgraceful futility, and has only resulted in a new drama of daylight robbery and open-eyed bungling. Smuts means that mankind was till then marking time. Marking time with the weight of a false ideology, with the gruesome burden of millions and millions of tons of armaments, marking time with the blood of the hungry millions of the East on their hands.

The world is still marking time. Only in one country of the globe has the order for the March been thundered. Russia. Of course, Russia is the other name for the Devil in the European Press. Still, while Europe has been assassinating idealism, Russia is trying to play an honest game.

### A New Civilisation.

What does Russia mean? Two things. It is a practical paradise for children now. It presents a new fundamental moral proposition.

The road is punctuated with corpses. The road is watered by pools of blood. True. There is no excuse.

But the disease of that medieval human oppression demanded a drastic operation. And Lenin launched a thunderbolt.

What a thunderbolt!

But beyond the heaps of corpses and the pools of blood, there is a clear lake of fresh water, Humanity walking in the glory of a new morning.

Let us not forget the endless number of wars that Europe has fought. What for? A War to end Wars? For Humanity? For Democracy? Lest we forget.

In Russia there is the spectacle of a deliberate attempt to build a new civilisation,

on an entirely new pattern, a pattern that "never was on sea or land", a civilisation that has no model, a civilisation that accepts the right of every man for decent human comfort. Of course, Japan tried to build a new civilisation and succeeded marvellously. But Japan played the Ape.

### Mahatma Gandhi's Philosophy.

What is the new fundamental moral proposition? It is contained in the philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi, when he said that he would call that a man *thief*, who appropriated for himself more than he needed to enable him to live in ordinary human comfort. It is contained in the life of Charles Proteus Sternmetz, an engineer of the General Electric Company of U.S.A., who was reputed to have accumulated a fabulous fortune, but who when he died had £ 300 and a dilapidated car. This was a shock to many. He was the greatest electrical engineer of his time. But he gave his services free. He said, "I will do my work for its own sake; money will have nothing to do with it".

The idea of Service. Service, hitherto toyed with by ethics, has been placed on the empty throne of the Czar. As somebody said Russia has introduced ethics, where the rest of the world has been content with snobbery. The jargon of contemporary social philosophy is that "man being what he is," unselfishness cannot be the prime motive of human effort. Russia is out to present a practical demonstration of the unsoundness of this theory, as she is definitely out to expose the profound hollowness of a civilisation based on full pockets. Russia is out to show that hunger does irritate the stomach and that the hungry cannot be fed upon the prostituted words of statesmen, that they cannot be clothed in rainbows and housed in metaphysics.

### The Regrets.

What are the Regrets?

War. The stupidity of it. The futility of it. The wrongness of it. Croesus in Herodotus, trying to tell his friend why he went to war, says, "The oracle told me to go to war. Nobody in his senses would voluntarily do so. For, if in peace time, the sons bury their fathers; in war, the fathers bury their sons." I think it is a good suggestion, that if men refused to stop all wars, the moral sense of woman should be mobilised and women must universally refuse to bear sons to men just to be used as cannon fodder.

The Post made a good point:

Judas descended to this lower Hell,  
To meet his only friend—the Profiteer—  
Who looking fat and rubicund and well,  
Regarded him, and then said with a sneer,  
"Iscariot, they did you! Fool! to sell  
For silver pence the body of God's son,  
Whereas for maiming men with sword and  
shell

I gain at least a gloden million."  
But Judas answered, "You deserve your gold;  
It's not His body but his soul you've sold!"

Idealism was sandwiched between Clemenceau and Lloyd George and perished. The Great War has resulted in a Bad Peace. According to Com. Kenworthy, what are the *civilised* countries of the world styled as to-day spending £900,000,000 annually on armaments; England is spending on experiments in poison-gas laboratory annually £170,000.

Regrets? Yes.

### Religion.

Religion. Even God is sitting on the front bench of the House of Commons.

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## English Prisons.

### English Penal Methods Yesterday and Today.

(By V. E. CHARAVANAMUTTU, ADVOCATE.)

AS the Ceylon Penal System is more or less based on the English system, we might with profit study English methods before we come to look in our system.

There was no imprisonment as a punishment in England in early days. Death or transportation was the punishment for those who did wrong. Death was the punishment for several offences and even about 150 years ago there were over 200 offences for which death was the punishment. The less heinous offences were punished by transportation which was the characteristic method adopted by England in treating offenders. At first, offenders were transported to America and when America declared its independence, England had to find other means of dealing with wrongdoers. Then she housed them in the 'hulks' or prison ships moored at Greenwich and Woolwich on the Thames. These ships became overcrowded and then convicts were sent to Australia. The Botany Bay convicts are famous in history. When convicts were being transported to Australia, the ships were used as collecting centres.

The first prison which was built at Millbank (on the present site of the Tate Gallery, London) in the early 19th century, was on the Pennsylvania or separate confinement. Then transportation was dropped and imprisonment began to be the main reliance of England for the treatment of Criminals.

### Early Prisons.

The early prisons were noted for the severity with which prisoners were treated. Prison labour was degrading and non-productive. The tread wheel was introduced in 1818 to provide work for prisoners. It was a large wheel about 8 or 10 feet across, on the inner circumference of which were several steps. Each prisoner held on to a wooden bar above his head and kept on treading as the steps went round. These wheels were used to draw water and to grind corn but in many cases they were non-productive.

The tread wheel was vehemently attacked but continued to be used. Even in 1863 Parliament voted strongly for the retention of the tread wheel.

These earlier penal methods severe as they were failed to check crime. Solitary confinement, though an advance on indiscriminate herding presented several problems.

Solitary confinement was found in practice to unfit a man for return to Society and in many cases even to produce insanity. The degrading and non-productive nature of prison labour was found to crush a man's self-respect and to degrade. Experience showed that prison was not a place of reformation.

### Failure of the System.

The failure of this nineteenth century prison system which began to be evolved about 1825 and extended with a few changes into the present century can be best seen from the following figures.

In 1906, 180,000 persons were sent to prison in England and Wales. Of that number 107,000 had been in prison before, 63,000 at least 11 times and over 10,000 more than 21 times.

For the real protection of Society from anti-social behaviour and for the education of the offender in social responsibility, methods were needed other than those which characterised the treatment during that period.

Then we come to the present period. The 1899 Act abolished the treadwheel and the

quality of food was improved. People came to see that one of the best methods of protecting society against crime was to educate the law-breaker in social responsibility and that perhaps the most effective method of achieving this end was to keep him out of prison. Several administrative and legislative reforms of this period are due to this view.

### Probation.

In 1926 only 53,000 persons were sent to prison as against 180,000 in 1906. 26 prisons have been closed since 1900.

This reduction is not a reduction in the number of crimes but it only shows that other methods are adopted of dealing with delinquency, the most important of these is Probation.

Many first offenders and others who in former times were sent to prison are now put on probation. They are handed over to the supervision of a probation officer whose duty it is to keep in touch with the offender, visit him, help him to get employment and generally help him to keep straight. Probation officers who are full-time paid officers are attached to each court and they are usually men with good qualifications. Reports of the efficacy of probation vary but one estimate is that 75% of the adults and 95% of the juvenile offenders put on probation, do not come before the courts again, charged with further offences. Even if the percentage is not nearly so high, the system will surely be justified.

There is special provision for "Mental defectives" and they are no longer kept in ordinary prisons. Most magistrates give time for the payment of fines.

In spite of these alternative methods of dealing with law breakers, nearly 50,000 people go to prison every year. Several reforms have been made in prison treatment.

### System of Classification.

Prisoners are no longer herded together without any division into first offenders and habituals. The English Prison System is noted for its system of classification.

First offenders and certain other "Star" Class prisoners are sent to Wormwood Scrubs or Wakefield where the treatment is quite different from other prisons. There is a good deal of self-government. There are organised games, concerts and lectures in addition to educational classes. They take their meals in mess halls and have their own cricket and football teams.

Long term men are sent to convict prisons like Dartmoor, Paikhurst or Maidstone. Habitual criminals who are sentenced to a period of preventive detention, after serving a sentence of rigorous imprisonment (Penal Servitude) are sent to a special prison—Camp Hill (Isle of Wight).

The silence rule has been done away with in several prisons and is relaxed in the other prisons. The time spent in solitary confinement has been greatly reduced.

### The Human Element.

The human element has been introduced into prison life and approved persons are allowed to visit prisoners in their cells, to make friends with them and help them in their effort to rehabilitate themselves.

While English Prisons today are quite different from what they were 25 years ago, still there are several directions in which

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## The Hindu Organ.

YALPANAM, MONDAY, JUNE 6, 1932.

### CHILDREN FIRST.

MR. S. RAJARETNAM, ADVOCATE, IN A recent communication to the Press, drew public attention to the absence of facilities for even elementary vernacular education to no less than 400,000 children of school-going age. It is incredible that those charged with the duty of making provision for the interests of the rising generation should have overlooked what common-sense and political foresight alike would have prompted them to do. It is scandalous that four lakhs of future citizens should be condemned to grow up in ignorance in a country which enjoys manhood suffrage. In any emergency, individual or national, children in every civilised country are accorded a position of privilege and their claims receive preferential treatment. Their helplessness and their potentialities for the future have claimed for them willing sacrifices from the adults.

Apart from the callousness of it, the policy which subordinates the interests of children to those however insistent and clamant of the present, is shortsighted and pennywise. No situation is conceivable in which retrenchment on elementary education can be defended. Indeed, it is part of the sacrifice which each generation is called upon to make for the next that expenditure on vernacular education should not be stinted.

The present economic depression imposes on everyone the duty of cutting one's coat according to one's cloth. But, elementary vernacular education is one of those vital and necessary services which cannot be starved without undermining the efficiency of the nation. To thoughtful men it will be obvious that every penny saved now by refusing assistance to a vernacular school will cost the country, in years to come, more than a pound to repair the wrong, and with doubtful results.

We trust the Board of Ministers in framing the new Budget will not allow false notions of economy to sway them to slacken the pace of vernacular education. Expenditure on education is always regarded as a national investment at all times. It is also the best insurance against the ugly features of the problems which unemployment brings up to the surface. Ours is an agricultural country and it may take some years before things begin to look up. We might have to continue in the doldrums much longer than manufacturing countries. The problem of unemployment threatens to stay with us some years. It will tax the wit of the leaders and the Government in no small measure. Vernacular education with modifications to equip the youths of the country to battle bravely against the problems of depression will relieve Government of the duty to provide relief measures.

The duty of the people in the situation is no less. The Government, as at present constituted, can afford to snap its fingers at public opinion and go its way merrily. The people have no means of making their will felt by the Government. Let them realise that the tide of unemployment will recede and ebb away sooner or later; but, the tide of ignorance and illiteracy does not change with the seasons. The problems of illiteracy are fraught with greater danger to the well-being and progress of the people than those of unemployment to material prosperity.

These are difficult times but never so difficult as to preclude the people from undergoing a little sacrifice for the good of the future generation and, indeed, of their own.

MR. S. RAJARETNAM points out ways and means to adjust conditions to the needs of the times. We have no doubt, his proposals will meet with general approval. They are eminently reasonable and practicable. If funds are needed to provide vernacular schools and not fat salaries for specially recruited officers, it is just possible to secure the willing co-operation of Government pensioners to forgo a percentage on their pensions for the sake of the young ones, but no pensioner is likely to favour the proposal so long as the amount collected by this act of self-denial cannot be ear-marked for elementary vernacular education.

### Kandavanam Subramania Temple Festival.

The annual festival at the Kandavanam Subramania Temple commenced on the 4th instant. The (The) Car festival comes off on the 18th instant.

### Ceylon Trade Commissioner in India.

#### OVER 100 APPLICANTS.

Proctors, Advocates, Barristers and a few businessmen, over a hundred in all, have applied for the post of Ceylon Trade Representative or Commissioner in India. The appointment is for six months carrying a salary of Rs. 750 a month, with a subsistence allowance of Rs. 300, a travelling allowance of Rs. 250, an entertainment allowance of Rs. 200 a month as well as a servant. The appointment is in the nature of an experiment and the Trade Commissioner will be required to stimulate the export trade of the Island. If the experiment proves a success, a permanent Trade Representative will be appointed.

### Liberal League Conference.

#### MANDATE TO THAMIL LEAGUE REPRESENTATIVES.

As a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Ceylon Thamil League held last week, the invitation of the All-Ceylon Liberal League to a Conference was accepted and the following were appointed as representatives: Messrs. H. A. P. Sandrasegara, V. M. Saravanamuttu, Rev. James Mather, Messrs W. S. Niles, S. Somasundaram, C. Sivaprakasam, J. Thiagarajah, W. H. T. Bartlett, S. R. Sathaseevam, J. Chellappa, H. T. Ramachandra and R. Nadarajah.

#### Mandate.

The following mandate was given to the representatives of the League.

1. That our representatives be instructed to ask at the conference for immediate Dominion Status to Ceylon,
2. For the appointment of a committee to draft the constitution.
3. To devise ways and means to obtain our demands.
4. To oppose any demand for communal representation either by election or nomination.

### Farewell to Retiring Maniagar.

The leading residents of Pachchilaipali-Karachchi assembled at the Village Committee Court House, Pallai, to consider what steps should be taken to accord a fitting farewell to Mr. P. Rajagopal, Maniagar, Pachchilaipali Karachchi, on the eve of his retirement from public service and it was unanimously decided to entertain him at a garden party to be held on Saturday the 11th instant at Pallai.—Cor.

### A University Scholar.

MR. K. Kanapathipillai B. A. (Hons.) (London), of Pt. Pedro, who won the Government University College Scholarship in Oriental Languages last year is proceeding to England on August 24th to carry on his studies in London. He has just returned after completing a course of studies in Tamil at the Annamalai University, Chidambaram, where he obtained the title of "Vidvan."

# The Origin of 'Yalp-panam'.

## A HAPPY NAME.

BY 'AGRICOLA'.

IT is the habit of the ancients to weave a tradition around a flourishing institution or name, ostensibly, to explain the origin, but often designedly to add lustre to it and thus ensure its permanence or fame. Such instances are not wanting even in Church history.

The legend connected with the name *Yalp-panam* may be one founded on historical fact, or it may be an allegorical picture drawn to illustrate the aims and ideals of the State when it was so organised, but the fact remains that the name was in use long before the invasion by the Sinhalese under the leader Sempaka Perumal *alias* Sapumal Kumareya, which is beyond doubt.

#### Inscriptions at Rameswaram.

The name *Yalp-panam* occurs in the inscriptions found at Rameswaram, a Rajah there claiming to have subdued Elam, Yalpanam, and Kampolam at some period anterior to the invasion above mentioned.

The verse which recites the date when Kandaswamy Temple at Nallur was built has Guruparamparave tradition to support—and this is no mean authority—and it states .....புவனேகாவாகு நலமிது யாழ்ப்பாணத்தி ககரிசுடரிலிந்தது நகலிக்குலையிபகந்தஞ்சுரு கோ மிழம்புரிவிந்தாரோ," that Puvaneka Vahu built the city in *Yalppanam*. The city so built was *Sinkai Nagar*. It is doubtful if the whole Peninsula was ever known by the name *Sinkai Nagar*.

#### The Time of Kailaya Malai.

Amidst the conditions that we live in to day, it is somewhat difficult for many of us to realise what organs there existed in our society—and safeguards—for the transmission of historical facts and family traditions from generation to generation. That the Portuguese, while they remained here, acted for the most part depending on the correctness of the traditional lore of the people is evident.

I have not heard it said by any one before that "Uraiyur Sendiappen's son, Mutturayan", the author of *Kailaya Malai*, lived during the Portuguese times and it was somewhat perplexing to read the suggestion thrown out by the Rev. Father Gnanaprakasam in your issue of the 30th May last that *Kailaya Malai* was a composition of the Portuguese times.

#### Too Fantastic.

The preservation of Tamil books and documents in family archives was a difficulty during the Portuguese times. I have come to know of cases where the custodians of some books of Hindu Ritual Slokas resorted to the subterfuge of adding a verse or two at top and one at end in praise of Virgin Mary and Lord Jesus in order to save the books (which were in fact thus saved) from destruction at the hands of the Portuguese.

The suggestion that the Sinhalese people translated the original name *Nallur* to their own language (*Nal* = Yappa and *Ur* = pattuna) and named the Peninsula *Yappa pattuna* and that the Northerner who accepted the name continued to mispronounce it till he got to limit at *Yalp-panam* when he weaved a tradition round it is too fantastic a conception to receive credence.

#### Yalp-panam an Old Name.

There is a village *Nallure* where an "Aryan" prince ruled between 1053—57 A. D. in Rohina and the name has survived to this date, neither Prakrama Bahu VI nor Sapumal Kumareya interfering with the Tamil name.

The fact, was that *Sinkai Nagar* had become a hated name on account of its identification with "Aryan" seat and its association with invasions, subjugations and heartless spoliations. That name had to be abolished and in its place the older name *Yalp-panam* was revived; or it may be that the Sinhalese writers subsequent to the

invasion designated the Peninsula as Viceroyalty of the heir-apparent which Sapumal Kumareya claimed to be the throne of Cotta calling it *Eppattuna* (*Epa* = heir apparent, *pattua* or *Pattina* division or city); in either case the transition to *Yappa pattuna* may be explainable.

#### How the Names Came to Stay.

It is true that on the subjugation of *Yalp-panam*, the Sinhalese who came with the invading army occupied villages, giving them new names; but when the *Yalp-panam* royalty regained the country, the Sinhalese left; but the names still remain.

It was at long intervals that Land Registers were revised. On the resumption of government, there arose other troubles and distractions. Ceylon was found divided into two hostile camps. The Sinhalese King of Cotta entered into a compact with the Portuguese, binding himself to be "a vassal of Portugal." *Yalp-panam* threw herself heart and soul into the fray on the Nationalists' cause hoping to retrieve the wrong committed by the Cotta King. There was no time left to attend to internal reforms and the Sinhalese names still remain.

I am afraid I have digressed from the subject in hand for which my apology to the reader.

#### An Auspicious Name.

To resume: *Yalp-panam* is an auspicious name. It conveys the message of Ahimsa which is explained by the legend involved in the name.

The Peninsula was acquired *not* by war or violence or trickery, but by straight peaceful means: by arts of culture, harmony and peace. *Yalp-panam* had for its ensign the representation of the Zodiacal sign, the Gemini: two children one of whom holding a lyre. Cultural progress, harmony and Ahimsa were set down as the goal of the state. There is good reason to believe that the dynasty who ruled under the flag received moral guidance from Jainism. About the year 948 A. D. Government passed on to another line of kings known as "Aryas." Under the "Aryan" rule, militarism triumphed. Countries were forcibly annexed. Smaller nationalities were compelled to pay tributes. The policy of aggression and annexation engendered hatred. The neighbouring kingdoms combined and marched an army to *Sinkai Nagar* and subjugated *Yalppanam*. Before she could revive from the effects of the depredations of war, a new enemy was at the door—the Portuguese.

#### Name with a Tradition.

The rise of *Sinkai Nagar* was meteoric and her fall was terrible.

I, for one, would not advise the revival of the name *Sinkai Nagar*. The older name *Yalp-panam* bears a tradition. It suggests nobility of action. If the present hybrid name *Jaffna* is desired to be changed, let us go back to the old name in its uncorrupted form *Yalp-panam*.

### The late Sir Dorabji Tata

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The death of Sir Dorabji Tata on the 3rd instant at a sanatorium in Germany, removes from the field of industry an outstanding personality. He was Chairman of Tata and Sons and the Tata Companies. It was only in March last, say the *Hindu*, that Sir Dorabji made over his extensive properties worth three crores to a trust to be used for relieving those afflicted by sudden calamities and for helping public institutions irrespective of race and colour in all parts of the world. Apart from this he had previously set apart twenty-five lakhs for the institution of scholarships for research in malignant diseases.



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To  
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A fund has been opened in this Office to erect a suitable Memorial to the memory of the immortal Sinnathamby Pulavar.

Subscriptions will be received by me and acknowledgments made in these columns.

A meeting of contributors will be held before deciding upon the shape the Memorial should take.

M. S. ELIATHAMBY,  
EDITOR, HINDU ORGAN  
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## 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.

## NOTICE.

TRUTH SHALL PREVAIL.

Get your life read with mathematical accuracy by one who knows Hindu Astronomy and Astrology Know about employment, result of examinations, business, marriage, children etc. Bring the exact date, place and time of birth to:—

A. S. Natarajah,  
SCIENTIFIC & PRACTICAL  
ASTROLOGER  
Bhaskaralaya Office,  
Nachehmar Kovil Road  
Kalatty, Jaffna.

Y 31. 30/5-30/5/33.

## NOTICE

The undermentioned Government timber at the Jaffna Depot will be sold by public auction on the spot by the Divisional Forest Officer, Northern Division, Jaffna, on Wednesday, June 15, 1932 at 9.30 a. m.:

- Lot I. 103 Peau logs
- Lot II 10 Satin logs
- Lot III 1 ton Sain pieces
- Lot IV 500 Teak poles

For further particulars please see Government Gazette of 27-5-1932.

J. D. SARGENT,  
Conservator of Forests.  
Office of the Conservator of Forests,  
Colombo 28th May 1932 (G. 153 6th.)Printed & published by S. ANCHALINGAM,  
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