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AN EDUCATIONAL REVOLUTION

CURVED SPINES AND CRAMPED SOULS

(By J. N. Mitra, M. A.)

THE University? Oh, no, it is not the Mecca of my educational pilgrimage. I would rather open a tea-shop.—said a boy after passing his High School Examination. That shows the general attitude of the new youth in this country towards the University and its attractions: it is an attitude of disillusionment to be reckoned with. No country or people can regard the University as a delusion and a snare with impunity and without an atrophy of progressive forces and bankruptcy of leadership.

But our country has been suffering from a false perspective in the matter of High Education and the misuse of the University. The blue harum-scarum rush to the University has led to a dismal condition of plethora and to a miserable crop of failures clogging the wheels of progress. An inevitable stage has been reached where the Indian youths and the parents weighed down by depression, are looking at Higher Education in a spirit of pessimism, and the whole educational system stands discredited, lock, stock, and barrel. Degrees and certificates are looked upon as apples of Sodom.

Danger Ahead

While an educational revolution is in the air, there is not the least doubt that the present educational system threatens a dislocation of society. It cannot serve the people by fighting the wind-mill like Don Quixote. If the holocaust of wastage is carried on by the present educational system any longer in utter disregard of circumstances, it will produce widespread chaos and an irreparable damage will be done to society. An eminent educationist is of opinion that we are on the eve of a revolution in the system of education in this country and if proper action is not taken in time this revolution will prove more dangerous than non-co-operation or communism.

Such a spectre may be the product of a powerful imagination but it is of vital importance to society that its leaders of thought and action turn their attention seriously to the roots of the problem and that a complete overhaul is brought about with all possible expedition. Our efforts are to be directed to avoiding wastage at every stage of educational structure. There is demand for widespread primary education in the country, and it can be so reorganised with the employment of capable teachers that it would make a tremendous contribution to national reconstruction and welfare and solidarity, by laying the foundation of a strong character amongst our boys and girls.

Turn to Primary

A well directed primary education will sow the seed of successful careers, providing our boys and girls with an inexhaustible fund of energy and inspiration that would stand them in good stead in every stage of their career. A programme

of widened and reorganised primary education would absorb a large number of unemployed and educated youths who would make it a source of great power, and a thing of vast potentialities to the country.

Education in the High Schools demands a similar re-organisation and re-orientation. One can hear the ceaseless whirr of the High School mechanism today, but to what purpose? One enters the High School factory with enthusiasm, perhaps with hope. The feverish haste, the restless din, and the constant standardization give the idea of a hurried business, but the result is a wastage of energy, a loss of individuality, and a general stagnation. The new result is an appalling wastage which every High School working faithfully and sincerely must try to avoid.

The Destination

In reorganising the High Schools, the fact should never be lost sight of that the destination of the vast majority of our boys coming out of them, is not and should not be the University. Education in the High Schools must be as self-contained as possible. They must not kill initiative and they must not let out standardized dolls, and physical wrecks which add to the grimness of the tragedy. They must send out youths filled with a spirit of adventure and physically fit for hard work. A youth equipped with the High School certificate but without this spirit of adventure is bound to break down in the teeth of realities of to-day. Under no circumstances, physical character, initiative and physical fitness be sacrificed at the altar of the Examination

Manual training will serve a useful purpose and should be compulsory up to the High School age. The vast majority of the students coming out of the high schools, should rather not make the pilgrimage to the University which will thus be saved from suffocation and a process of tragic deterioration, and thus enabled to carry on its real work of providing leaders of thought and action to the country. To-day the University—the best consummation of education, marks the beginning of disillusionment for the majority of our youths. One passes the pompous facade with hopes re-kindled.

The animated under-graduate enters with awe, and feels glorified as he joins the promiscuous herd of Liliputs and Brobdingnags, and when he comes out with his prize, the degree in his hand, and then stands at the Bridge of Sighs, with a sinking stomach, the cup of disillusionment is full to the brim. The University here deteriorates by eating stodge, indigestible stuff, and stands distended and puffed up—a colossal failure.

The average under-graduate is a fish out of his element in the University. If with his ordinary abilities he loses his vitality in ceaseless cramming, he loses everything. The youths who come out of the University should have the character, the enterprise, and the abilities to give the lead in every phase of life. Such is the stuff that is assimilable, and the

Ceylon Forest Resources

A SCHEME OF DEVELOPMENT

Search For Suitable Officer

A First-Rate Forest Officer, with a wide experience of tropical conditions, it is understood, is being sought for through the Crown Agents in London, to completely organise the local Forest Department and carry out a scientific exploitation of Ceylon's forest resources.

It is likely that if a suitable officer is obtained that he will be engaged for a period of about three or five years to take charge of local forest development.

Offer of Assistance

It is learned that, in keeping with the recently enunciated policy of fully developing and exploiting the Empire's forest resources, the Secretary of State for the Colonies has called for a comprehensive report on Ceylon's forest resources and has offered the assistance and advice of British forestry experts, if they are needed by the local authorities.

The Colonial Office's interest in the matter is said to coincide with the recent decision of the Executive Committee of Agriculture and Lands to carry out an extensive scientific scheme for developing and conserving the Island's forest resources.

CEYLON CIVIL SERVICE

Seven Cadets This Year

A Communique issued on Monday by the Department of the Deputy Chief Secretary on the subject of cadetships in the Ceylon Civil Service, states that vacancies are being offered this year for five Ceylonese and two European Cadets.

The examination will be held in July and August this year.

rest but adds to the wastage. The University thus can digest a fraction of those who pass out of the High Schools. The vast majority of them must go out into the wide world, with the unshakable determination to rise from the bottom rung, to apply themselves seriously to any work that is honest, in a small shop, or in the fields, in a factory or even on the streets, and thus to win through sheer enterprise and labour, in the teeth of terrible circumstances and regardless of the hard merciles blows of modern life. This is how our schools and universities, instead of fighting the wind-mill will grapple with the realities of life, and the enormous wastage of our youths would be avoided.

(Roy's Weekly)

A Short Story.

WHO IS THE SINNER?

Translated by Srimathi K. Savitri Ammal
(From the 'Ananda Vihatan')

SINCE the cruel waters had snatched away her man, strong and in the prime of his life, Murugayi preferred to remain single. She couldn't think of living with another. For was there any other in the world to equal her Irula? 'Here, get me the ashes (sacred) Murugayi,' he would call to her before going out; who would say so and be all that to her now? And indeed, how could she forget him who never failed to take her to a fair or festival anywhere within fifty miles? Poor woman!

Irula had tremendous faith in the Lord Kailasnath, the presiding deity of the village temple. For a long time he had been childless. He worshipped and made many devout sacrifices to the innumerable gods of his clan. But all in vain. He then prayed and vowed to offer two wooden bars of his own making to Kailasnath, and lo! within a year Murugayi was the mother of a fine boy.

From the day the child was born Irula was a changed man. He gave up drinking, never touched fish, beef or anything. He was content with the gruel and the plain meal Murugayi cooked for him. His master too felt kindly towards him on account of his simple honest ways. Thus all was well and happy with Irula and Murugayi.

'What if we be low in caste! We are none the less the children of God. If we be honest He would serve us well,' he preached, and to hear him say it, the rest of the people in the 'cher' blessed him and called him the 'saint.'

One day Irula was sitting with his boy on the bank of the river, teaching him nursery rhymes. Suddenly there arose a hue and cry further up the bank that a Brahmin girl had fallen into the river by accident. On hearing this, Irula ran over to that place, and seeing none of the higher caste made for the rescue of the drowning girl threw in himself after her. But he never came back again.

Murugayi was down with unutterable grief. She could never recover from that blow. One thing, however, cheered up a bit her broken heart. It was the sight of her darling Vela. In his face she forgot something of the keenness of her anguish. But even this perhaps was too much for the gods. For Vela was ill—very ill for the past three days, and the mother, foodless and with streaming face, sat by his side.

It was a black night. A few stars shone in the sky, as if in contempt at the inferiority of the world below. All was silence in the 'cher'. Not a leaf stirred. The frogs lay in wait for the glow-worms while the snakes pursued the chase after their prey.

Inside the hut of Irula the 'saint' a small earthen lamp was burning. Murugayi who had lain down a bit in sheer fatigue awoke all of a sudden, ran out and looked up and around her a little excitedly. Then she went in and with fervour applied

the sacred ashes on the face and hands of the sick child.

During the brief while she slept, Murugayi dreamt a very vivid dream. After four years Irula came to see her for the first time. He told her to look after Vela carefully. No treatment was necessary, he said, and added if their boy was to live she should take him to the temple and prostrate him near the *Balipeetam* of Kailasnath and do the simple worship of burning campher in the sacred Presence. He then stepped over the child in order that his demand may be rendered solemn.

At this Murugayi awoke. She was at a loss to think what she should do. 'God, temple, all belonged to those of the higher caste. They—the untouchables—could never dream of getting near the temple within short of a furlong's distance. And any one who dared beyond the limits did so at the peril of being tied to the tree and flayed alive in front of the house of the big *Miradar* of the village. But, had not Irula come after these four years on purpose to acquaint her with his wish? What if they took off her skin? Nothing mattered if only darling Vela could live! 'What'll become of me if he dies and me not doing anything to save him' she thought wildly, and at last came to a conclusion.

It was about eight O'clock next morning. The priest, coming out of the temple for the purpose of spitting out the tobacco juice in his mouth, saw a *Panchama* woman with a child clasped in her arms within ten yards of the doorsteps. Lord! how the sight struck him! The worthy man got into a violent rage and poured forth the vilest abuse he could find in the sacred hearing of Kailasnath. 'That man they call Gandhi,' he cried in angry tones, 'has been responsible for such audacity. I have got to wash myself now. Here, Muthumari, go and inform the big *Pannai*.' He gave the order and went inside. The sanctity of the temple was profaned! His mind was busy with thoughts of the purification ceremony, his own share in the income, and other things.

Soon there gathered a large crowd in front of the temple. Murugayi was sitting with the child on her lap. She was confident there was justice in her case. But the whip was brought with all dispatch, and there stood the big *Pannai* ready to give the order. Murugayi went through her sorrows, the vivid dream she dreamt, and all in a way that would melt the very stones to pity. She begged; she implored.

'The hussy has gone mad,' bawled the big *Pannai*. 'She simply raves. Ramu, close the door; else she will get inside. Go, bring four men from the 'cher'.'

A dog had been discovered inside the temple. It was driven out and the door was shut. A man from the crowd set the animal against Murugayi and another picked up a stone and flung it at her.

'Is the wretched *Pariah* woman even lower than the dog? You may kill me; I don't mind. But save the life of my child,' she sobbed.

Meanwhile the 'cher' men had come and she would be forcibly led from that place to receive her punishment. At the moment the child gave one piercing shriek 'Amma!'

'God! they are killing my child, my Vela!' screamed the frantic woman.

(Continued on Page 4)

**Sale of Toddy Rents, 1935—1936,
Mannar District**

Tenders are hereby invited for the purchase of the exclusive privilege of selling toddy by retail in the toddy taverns of Mannar District for a period of twelve months from July 1, 1935, to June 30, 1936. Tenders should reach the Assistant Government Agent, Mannar, not later than 10 a. m. on Thursday, May 30, 1935. The conditions of sale and any other particulars can be obtained on application at the Mannar Kachebери.

R. S. V. POULIER,
Assistant Government Agent
The Kachebери,
Mannar, May 10, 1935.
(G. 10, 16-5-35.)



Hindu Organ.

THURSDAY, MAY 16, 1935.

**THE JAFFNA-MALAYALAM
TOBACCO CO-OPERATIVE
SALES SOCIETY**

UNTIL QUITE RECENT YEARS, THE urban population of this country has taken little more than recreational or sentimental interest in the tobacco cultivator and his produce. Happily this is no longer true, and it has become more widely and realistically recognised that the prosperity of the agricultural producer is the foundation of the economic well-being of the townsman. It is now widely realised that the only way to rehabilitate the local tobacco industry is to assure the cultivator freedom from the attentions of the money-lender and the middleman. For generations past, the money-lender and the middleman have batted on the labour of the ignorant cultivator and denied him a square deal. The result was that the tobacco grower, despite his strenuous and continuous labour in his garden, found himself in chronic indebtedness to the village money-lender. The Co-operative Credit Society in his village could not release him from the grip of the village shylock. The money-lender himself was often always an exporter of Malayalam tobacco and he saw to it that he exploited to the full the relation that subsisted between him and the producer, his debtor, to do him in the eye.

It was with a view to counteracting the sinister operations of the local money-lender and exporter as well as the monopolistic control of the broker on the other side of the ferry that the Assistant Registrar of Co-operative Credit Societies organised the Jaffna Malayalam Tobacco Co-operative Sales Society. The Government now provides the Society with an annual loan of three and a half lakhs to enable it to pay the producer a 60% of the assessed value of the tobacco handed over for shipment. The Society's Agent at the other end arranges for the sale of the tobacco and remits the money to the Society for distribution among the members. Thus, a member of the Society may rely on receiving the sale price of his produce less any deductions for the working expenses of the Society.

It is not necessary for us to point out the immense advantage the Society holds out to its members in the disposal of their produce. Suffice it for us to point out that the producer himself realises the futility of lone-hand dealing. The Society is growing in popularity. But, a ring of local traders has launched out a campaign to prejudice the ignorant cultivator against the Society. By subtle propaganda, this group

of unscrupulous exploiters expects to break the back of the Sales Society and annex the market for its own unhampered operations. We understand the local ring is backed by the brokers in Travancore who, not unnaturally, feel the ground slipping under their feet. These may be expected to join hands to throw obstacles in the way of the expansion of the Society's business, if not to wipe it out of existence altogether.

The local trader here commands influence with the producer, and the broker in Travancore is in touch with the retail trader there, and between them both, the possibilities for mischief are great. It is necessary, therefore, to counteract the pernicious propaganda of the local trader and strengthen the hands of the Society by persuading the producers to join in larger numbers. Once the producer is enabled to see the advantages accruing to him by joining the society, no amount of false propaganda is likely to hold him back. Educated youngmen should consider it their duty to enlighten their neighbours on the advantages of co-operative sales. The Society is not out to make profits. The profits, if any, ultimately return to the hands of the members. Payment is prompt. Advances may be obtained at cheap rates of interest. The Society works under the supervision and guidance of the Department of Co-operation. The tobacco grower cannot find a more powerful organisation to fight his twin enemies, the money-lender and the exporter, than the Jaffna Malayalam Tobacco Co-operative Sales Society.

A STATE TOBACCO FACTORY

MR. C. ARULAMBALAM DESERVES well of his countrymen for the vigorous plea he made at the last meeting of the Central Board of Agriculture for State intervention to pull the tobacco industry out of the morass into which it has drifted. The "rugged individualism" of traders coupled with the ignorance of cultivators has been responsible for the absence of an organisation to regularise the manufacture of cigars and teach the cultivator methods of curing and treating his crop to suit the demands of the trade. Tobacco is the only money crop in Jaffna and was at one time the most flourishing industry.

With facts and figures culled from official sources Mr. ARULAMBALAM has made out a strong case for the early establishment of a State Tobacco Factory in Jaffna for the encouragement of tobacco cultivation and the production of good varieties of cigars, smoking tobacco and cigarettes. The industry is already in a parlous condition and what its extinction would mean to the people of this District may be imagined if one bears in mind the fact that about half the population is dependent for its livelihood directly or indirectly on the cultivation and manufacture of tobacco. Between 7,000 to 8,000 acres of land are under cultivation in the District. It would be nothing short of a tragedy if the industry were left to its fate. Unaided, it could never rehabilitate itself. The soil and climate in the District are exceptionally favourable for the growing of excellent tobacco leaves. The local tobacco industry has suffered considerably as the result of competition from Indian beedies and locally

manufactured cigarettes. There cannot be the least doubt that with a higher standard of cultivation and manufacture, the demand of the home market could be supplied locally. The Jaffna cultivator has demonstrated his capacity to adopt improved methods of cultivation and curing by the enthusiasm with which he took up the cultivation of White Burley. In the stress of competition by foreign manufacturers, he has been knocked out of the British market. But, this need not deter him from aspiring to recover his lost ground in the home market.

If Government is to play an active part in the industrial development of the country with the aim of making Ceylon more self-contained in respect of men and material, it should speed up the process of industrial development by erecting model factories of educative value to the capitalist and manufacturer. We do not think Mr. ARULAMBALAM asks for more than this or expects Government to compete with private enterprise. His object, if we read his motion aright, is to stimulate private enterprise by demonstrating the possibilities of improved cultivation and manufacture. We trust Mr. ARULAMBALAM's motion will receive the support of the Central Board of Agriculture and the approval of Government.

Jaffna Hindu College

The Jaffna Hindu College reopened today after the New Year Holidays.

Thiruvalluvar Day

A Public Lecture on Thiruvalluvar will be delivered by Swami Uruthrakodeeswarar on Friday, the 17th instant at 6-30 p. m. (Eye of Thiruvalluvar's Day) at the Y. M. C. A., Jaffna, Rev. Dr. T. Isaac Thambyah, will preside.

Saraswathy Tamil School, K-Lumpur

The Prize Day at Saraswathy Tamil School, Scott Road, Kuala Lumpur, was held on Friday, the 10th instant Mr. C. G. Solis, Inspector of Schools, distributed the prizes. The annual general meeting of the Managing Committee was held after the function at 8 p. m. (Cor)

North-Ceylon Volley Ball Champions

The final match for the decision of the championship in the North was played at the Government Service Sports Club on the 4th inst. between the Uduvil Star Club and the Kankesanthurai Volley-ball Club. The match as anticipated was a very exciting one from the beginning to the end. The Uduvil Star Club which is composed of excellent players defeated the Kankesanthurai team in a love set thus securing all the three points. The "Uduvil Star" will meet the Colombo Champions in the latter part of July.

The following played for the Uduvil Star Club
K. Subramaniam (Captain), E. Vijayasingham, S. B. Sinnathambay alias Bastiampillai, V. Chelvaratnam, S. Thirananvakkarasu, C. M. Tharmalingam, K. Rasiah, S. Ampalam and R. Sunderam.—(Cor)

Personal

Mr. S. M. Visuvalingam, Chief Shroff of the General Treasury, proceeds on three months leave from today, preparatory to retirement.

**A STATE TOBACCO
FACTORY**

**TO ENCOURAGE JAFFNA'S
STAPLE INDUSTRY**

**DISCUSSION AT MEETING OF
BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

A MOTION seeking the establishment of a State Tobacco Factory in Jaffna, if the Industrial Adviser makes a favourable report after investigation, was moved at the meeting of the Board of Agriculture on Thursday. Discussion of the proposal was postponed till the next meeting to enable members to study the subject.

The motion, which was moved by Mr. C. Arulambalam, was in the following terms:

"That with a view to encouraging the tobacco industry in the Jaffna District, the staple agricultural industry, this Board recommends to Government to have an investigation made by the Industrial Adviser into the possibilities of opening a tobacco factory in Jaffna on up-to-date lines at State expense for the purpose of manufacturing cigars, cigarettes and pipe-tobacco from the White Burly and other suitable types of tobacco cultivated in the Jaffna District with a further recommendation to Government to—"

Speaking on the history of the tobacco industry in Jaffna and said that more than 50 per cent. of the people of the district and over 50 per cent. of the cultivated area were under tobacco and therefore tobacco was the staple industry. The soil of Jaffna, the quality of its water and climate (a dry climate) were all suited for the cultivation of tobacco. Dutch writers and also Dr. Mann, that distinguished Agriculturist of the Indian Agricultural Service, had so expressed.

The correctness of their opinion was proved, he said, by the existence of the tobacco industry for decades even before the British period. The area under tobacco cultivation in the Jaffna District was 7,000 to 8,000 acres and the yield per acre from 4,000 plants was 800 pounds of tobacco. If an increased demand for tobacco was created another 2,000 acres and over could be cultivated. The Jaffna tobacco has four different markets to trade in the product, namely:—(1) Home Market, (2) Malayalam-Travancore Market, (3) South Ceylon Market and (4) the London Market.

Cheap Cigarettes

He said that the home market required both the chewing and smoking tobacco. There was a change of taste as regards the smoking tobacco.

In Jaffna there was a flourishing cigar industry for internal consumption and export to South Ceylon but the industry had fallen by two-thirds within the last ten years. This falling off of the industry he attributed to the following causes:—

(1) Change of taste and standard of life of consumers;

(2) Influx of cheap beedies and cigarettes. A leading store in Jaffna who are the sole agents for the Elephant brand of cigarettes imported on the average about 40 to 50 cases of that brand of cigarettes a month, each case containing 25,000 cigarettes and one cigarette tin of Elephant brand contains one-eighth pound of cigarettes.

(3) The quality of manufacture had deteriorated owing to unregulated manufacture by small capitalists.

Travancore Duty

As regards the Malayalam tobacco market Mr. Arulambalam quoted from leaflet No. 26 of the Department of Agriculture which reads thus:—

"It is estimated that more than 7,000 acres are under tobacco cultivation,

and more than half the population of this district engaged in this industry. The prosperity of the whole district depends largely on tobacco cultivation and trade. Jaffna exports a little over 2 million pounds of manufactured chewing tobacco to the value of 2 million rupees to the State of Travancore, and also supplies to a great extent the needs of other districts of Ceylon. The inland trade and the prosperity of the cultivators is governed by the market rate of the export tobacco.

The State of Travancore imports tobacco from Jaffna and Coimbatore. The Government of this State has twice placed difficulties in the way of import of Jaffna tobacco and encouraged the import of Coimbatore tobacco by imposing differential import duty unfavourable to Jaffna. On both these occasions the Ceylon Government succeeded in inducing the Travancore Government to alter the duty and equalize the rates of import duty from both countries. On the last occasion, in the year 1910, an arrangement was made with the State of Travancore for Jaffna to export a fixed quantity of 5,745 candelas per year."

Reduced Trade

Mr. Arulambalam remarked that in spite of the quota fixed the average imports to Travancore for the last ten years had averaged 3,200 candelas per year. During last year, 1934, the export to Malayalam averaged 2,500 candelas. Malayalam requires the chewing type of tobacco only. The export of Jaffna tobacco to Travancore dated back even before the British period. The Travancore market had however, gone down in recent years and the present maximum quota is 5,745 candelas. This figure had exceeded in the past but had fallen short more particularly after 1910.

Mr. Arulambalam remarked that the following reasons tended to the falling off of the Malayalam Market:— (1) Raising of import duties, (2) Competition with Coimbatore tobacco, (3) Depression in the Coconut Industry in Travancore and consequently loss of purchasing power.

The establishment of the Jaffna Malayalam Tobacco Co-operative Sales Society had been formed in order to save the cultivator his money which went to the middleman.

(3) With regard to the South Ceylon Market Mr. Arulambalam said that Jaffna traded mostly in chewing and smoking tobacco and catered to the estates and country districts. The market had fallen off owing to the following causes:—(1) slump in coconut, rubber, tea, cocoa, plumbago and other exportable products and the consequent loss of the purchasing power both on estates and in the country districts.

(2) Certain parts of South Ceylon taking to tobacco cultivation especially in the Kurunegale district. (3) Change of taste in tobacco in South Ceylon being similar to that in the Jaffna product.

In 1932 chewing tobacco to the amount of 3,055,922 lbs. was sent to South Ceylon, and in the same year 3,509,446 lbs. of tobacco came from the cigar trade from outside Jaffna.

London Market

The London Market catered for the White Burley type of tobacco grown in Jaffna, Mr. Arulambalam said. The cultivation of White Burley was introduced into Jaffna in 1914 when tea acres of land at Tirunelveli were placed at the disposal of the Government by the Jaffna Tobacco Committee, and the work of finding a variety suitable for Jaffna and one that could be marketed in Europe was started. Nearly forty varieties brought by Mr. B. F. Scherffus, a tobacco planter from America were tried. Out of these the White Burley tobacco introduced from the blue grass region of the Kentucky lime soil area was found to be suitable.

(Continued on page 8)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

TESAWALAMAI—NEED FOR LEGISLATION

Sir,—An article on the above subject in the columns of the "Law Students Annual" is reproduced and editorially commented on in your issue of May 9, 1935. "The principle of community to property acquired with money belonging to the separate Estate of his wife" affecting materially the rights of the widow and her heirs had not been seriously discussed till near about the verge of the "silver jubilee" of Ord. no. 1 of 1911, or to be precise, before the decision of the Full Court Bench in *Ayiche Chettiar Vs Rasammah*. At this distance of time, it cannot be ascertained what other factors were present in the mind of the Tamil Knight (District Judge) beyond those stated in the judgment in *Nalliah Vs Ponnammah*. Though Judges are expected, indeed, enjoined, to steer clear of local prejudices, being human, a thing or two may, at times, stick up to their minds and refuse to go out. "Tesawalamai" is a codification of the customs (then prevalent) governing certain civil rights of the Malabars (I forget the exact words of the preamble). This Law has become an anachronism and should be wiped off the slate. There are others as well that should be scrapped and put into the melting pot and recast in the light of modern development in Law and its practice. Under this very same law, half of the salary of a teacher here was seized at the instance of a judgment creditor of his wife on the ground that his wife was entitled to this, being *tesawalam*. Such is the uncertainty of laws in general and of this law in particular. However, the Supreme Court quashed the decision of the lower Court. The Law Lords of the Privy Council have, on more than one occasion, given expression to their sense of bewilderment at the number of Law Systems current in Ceylon, i.e. *Tesawalamai*, *Mohammedan Law*, *Kandyan Law*, *Roman Dutch Law* and anything more!

Yours &c.
S. Kanapathipillai.
"The Camp".
Karainagar, May 10, 1935.

GENERAL ELECTION AND REFORMS

Sir,—I find in the last issue of your paper that Mr. H. A. P. Sandrasekera has announced his candidature for the Jaffna electorate. It may be that some more candidates may announce their candidature soon. If the people of Jaffna have the capacity to unite together and refuse to seek nomination on the last occasion, I should certainly expect them on this occasion to decide unanimously the four candidates we should send to the Council. If we do so, we will not only send the best and tried men but also will save to the country and to the candidates a large sum of money required for election expenses. Besides the electorates are demoralised, and unnecessary hostility and bitterness is imported endangering the moral of the people and the leaders.

As we have only four seats, it is unnecessary that several candidates should seek election. All serve the same purpose and it is only the merit of the candidates that determines the issue.

During the term of the next Council, the question of reforms will be discussed. We should therefore send our men who have had considerable experience in Council and influence among other communities. Mr. Balasingham, Mr. Duraisamy, Mr. Mahadeva, Mr. H. A. P. Sandrasekera and Mr. S. Rasaratnam should be the persons who should be sent, provided all these gentlemen give an undertaking with regard to the political demands that they have to make on behalf of the Ceylon Tamils. Let the whole country decide the political issue and these gentlemen should accept that view, whether willing or not; if not they should not be sent. Let us have no opposite sections among ourselves. Of these five gentlemen, I would suggest that Mr.

THE QUILON BANK LTD.

BRANCH OPENED IN JAFFNA

FORMAL OPENING ON MONDAY

In the presence of a large and representative gathering assembled at Dharmala "Lakshmiwasam", Clock Tower Road, in response to invitations issued by the Local Advisory Board of the Jaffna Branch of the Quilon Bank Ltd., Mr. Nevins Selvadurai M. S. C. declared the Bank open, on Monday the 6th instant at 5 p.m.

Messrs Nevins Selvadurai, W. D. Niles and Mr. Matthan, the Managing Director of Bank, spoke on the occasion. The speakers referred to the connection that existed between Jaffna and Travancore, and to the many things common to both the places. Reference was also made to the trade connection between the two countries. The public of Jaffna, said the speakers, ought to feel thankful to the Quilon Bank for providing Jaffna with a branch of the Quilon Bank Ltd., which was one of the well-established Banks in India. The need for an efficient and sound Bank in Jaffna was greatly felt and the present Branch which they were opening that evening would certainly supply the long felt need and be of great help to Jaffna.

S. Rasaratnam should stand out for this term as his services in the Hindu Board are necessary. It is the greatest national venture and it is very difficult to find another suitable person to be in charge of the affairs.

There should be a give and take policy among the leaders. The present set of councillors should make room for others. Similarly the next set of men should make room again for others. Mr. Rasaratnam and other gentlemen who sacrifice their political ambition on this occasion will be returned for the next term. It is not fair that one set of men should dominate all the time and the people should refuse to support such men who do not agree with this view.

Let us no more imagine that there is any party in Jaffna except one party. The adequate representation of the Ceylon Tamils and other minorities under this or any other constitution is the chief issue before the country. The Singalese have not and will not advance the cause of the minorities and they have been deliberately silent on the point. We cannot afford to support the Ministers' memorandum unless and until the political power of the country has been justly and equitably distributed among the various communities. The number of seats allotted to the Tamils or likely to be secured under the present territorial representation has reduced the political power of the Tamils. If the territorial representation is to be retained, more areas should be carved out to return more Tamil members or representation by communities should be advocated. The percentage of 2:1 should be insisted under any system of government. Any candidate who fails to accept these views should be opposed by the people.

In suggesting the above names, I considered that experienced councillors and fighters are necessary to endorse our political demands. Under the policy of boycott adopted by the people, these persons have had a reverse and it is our duty to give them the necessary lift. Their voice will be the voice of the people.

May 10, 1935.
Yours truly,
S. B. Vaithilingam

Reviews

THE CEYLON LAW STUDENTS' ANNUAL 1934 VOL. V. NO. 1. Edited by M. M. Vararajasinkam, Printed at St Gerard's Press, (Price, not stated.)

It is a pleasure to review this handsome got up Annual of our future lawyers and leaders. The volume reflects great credit on the diligence and discernment of the editor, Mr. Vararajasinkam, who is not a stranger to the journalistic art. The message to the students from the pen of the Chief Justice deservedly finds an honoured place. He invites the students to give undivided attention to the study of the law. The address delivered by the late Sir Alexander Wood Ronton K. C. M. G. on "Demotenes" will be read with much interest by students and lawyers alike. The Rev. Dr. Isaac Tambiah in his own inimitable style recalls some of the incidents of his student days. Mr. R. R. Crossette Tambiah, Crown Counsel, gives the students the opportunity of a glance at the fly-leaves of his copy of the Cr. Pr. Code on which he has, during the past ten years, noted down the "dicta" of judges in their charges to the jury. Mr. W. Summerfield B. C. L. L. B. contributes a thoughtful article on "The Value of our Jury System." Mr. K. Balasingham's note on the Full Court decision in *Ayiche Chettiar Vs Rasammah* is of more than passing interest. Besides other very readable articles the volume publishes Reports, examination results and notes of particular value to students. We thank the editor for the copy sent us.

THE TWENTIETH CENTURY (May 1935):

A Monthly Journal edited by Mr. K. Iswara Dutt. Published by the Indian Periodicals Ltd., Allahabad. Annual Subscription Rs. 8.

The May number of this high class Indian monthly appropriately opens with a succinct survey of the outstanding features in H. M. the King's reign. The writer's identity is but thinly veiled by the initials I. D. M. Edward C. Carter writes an informative article on the nature and work of "The Institute of Pacific Relations" of which he is the Secretary General. The Institute stands for the scientific method in the study of current conditions and provides a common platform for conflicting ideals and social programs. "Action" in his "Cards on the Table" frankly discusses the difficulties of the problem of the Princes and Federation. "Griggism and Neo Gandhism" by "Galery-man" is an admirable review of the Congress victories in the Indian Legislative Assembly during the debate on the Finance Bill. "The moral value of the session" concludes the writer "cannot be too much exaggerated. It has rekindled the national spirit, it has re-instated parliamentarianism, and if the message is carried from the Assembly to the constituencies it might even make the re-entry of Direct Actionism into our national politics impossible". Mr. Kali Kinkar Datta M. A., P. R. S., Lecturer in History at Patna College, contributes a brief article on the period of Emperor Muhammad Shah of Delhi (1742-4 D.). Dr. Lanka Sundaram continues his casuistry on "Foreign Affairs". Prof. V. N. Bibushan of Maharajah's College, Bikaner, writes a thought provoking article on "The Moral of Shelly's Personality and Poetry". Shelly is among English poets by far the most unflinching fountain of inspiration for young poets in the East for he dins into our waxed ears "Tatva Masi". Another English poet, Robert Browning is the subject of study by Mr. C. N. Zutshe, a journalist of note. In Browning, this writer hears, "A call which is the cry of the Vedic past, the key-note of the Gita, the vision of the Yogi, the glory of the Avatar." That Srimati Nilima Devi certainly wields a powerful pen is evident from her contribution on "Harijans of Indian Literature". The usual book notices also appear.

Lady Professor

Dr. (Miss) E. M. Thillayampalam, M. A., M. Sc., Ph. D. has been appointed Vice-Principal of C. M. S. Girls' College, Jaffna.

A State Tobacco Factory

(Continued from page 2)

Favourable reports were received on samples submitted to the Imperial Institute in London.

The crops were annually shipped to London, and were sold at prices ranging from 1s. 4d. to 1s. 10d. per pound. This tobacco was used mainly as a pipe and cigarette tobacco. It is highly valued, and has a very great absorbitive quality and is easy to flavour.

In 1934 the area under White Burley cultivation was about 3 acres. This year one fourth of the want of the present demand, he said, could be attributed to competition in London with tobacco of the same type cultivated elsewhere and partly to the want of proper supervision in Jaffna. If cultivated in the proper season White Burley can be grown in all areas where the soil and water are free from salinity.

Five Reasons

In all progressive countries, he said, the State helped the people in establishing pioneer industries. In Ceylon too the State was going to erect a Rice Mill in Anuradhapura for the Paddy Industry and the early establishment by the State of a factory for the tobacco industry of Jaffna would be of great assistance to the tobacco cultivators of Jaffna.

Mr. Arulambalam urged the necessity of establishing a State Tobacco Factory for the following reasons:—

- (1) A State factory by manufacturing according to modern lines will turn out products to suit modern taste and to compete with imported products.
- (2) It will encourage tobacco cultivation in the same way as sugar factories encourage sugar cultivation.
- (3) The tobacco factory, under the direction of the Industrial Adviser, can work in collaboration with the tobacco cultivator to produce the exact type of tobacco suitable for manufacture.
- (4) Some of the objections which have been raised against the White Burly produced in Jaffna have been that owing to such defects as charring, having thick veins and a strong flavour it is not suited for smokers of light tobacco but those defects will not stand in the way of local consumption as local consumers are accustomed to tobacco with a strong flavour.
- (5) The fact that a local factory will require a regular supply of raw tobacco will encourage the people to open new areas under tobacco.

Scheme Must be Studied

Mr. R. P. Gaddum suggested that if the paper could be printed and they were thus afforded the opportunity of studying it they would be in a better position to appreciate the proposals made.

Mr. Huntley Williamson supported Mr. Gaddum.

The Chairman (Dr. W. Youngman) suggested the postponement of the discussion to the next meeting.

Asked for his comments, Mr. J. C. W. Rock said that Mr. Arulambalam had pointed out certain difficulties in marketing Jaffna tobacco and the quality of White Burley. There were certain drawbacks which seemed to him to be a matter for agricultural research in order to ascertain what was the best tobacco to grow on the soil and compete with other tobacco, even the popular Elephant brand.

The chief market for Jaffna tobacco, was Travancore, but it had been limited by the quota that had been fixed. Owing, however, to the slump and the purchasing power of the people being reduced they had not been able to buy even the quota.

Selling Agency

Mr. Rock said that the mover had not dealt with the question of a selling agency in Travancore, nor had he indicated whether the proposed factory was to be for demonstration purpose or for actual trade in the product.

As to the desire that the Industrial Adviser should report on the matter, the correct procedure, he believed, was for the Board to pass a motion, which would be conveyed to the Minister for Agriculture, who would pass it on to the Ministry of Labour, Industry and Commerce, from whom it would come to him. It would be for him then to ask the Industrial Adviser to make the necessary investigation.

Eventually it was decided that the motion should be minuted in the record of the meeting and that the discussion be postponed till the next meeting.

SILVER JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

At Kayts

With the pealing of bells, the booming of cannons, devotional services in all churches and temples, the Town and houses beflagged and with all the schooners and boats in the harbour flying the Union Jack, the celebrations of His Majesty's Jubilee began from the early hours of the morning till midnight on the 6th inst.

The programme for the day started at 2 p.m. with the school children assembling at the Court House, Kayts. The Police Magistrate, Jaffna, who represented His Majesty's Government led the procession to the Police Grounds where six smart police-constables with a Police Sergeant in charge gave the Royal Salute. From there, the procession, with native music in attendance and the photos of their Majesties decked with flowers and garlands carried should high, proceeded through the Town on to St. Anthony's School. The School was superbly decorated and in the centre of the Sports Grounds was hoisted the British Flag. The Police Magistrate having taken his position in the centre, with the school children assembled before him in a crescent form and thousands of people standing at the rear delivered a speech which was interpreted in Tamil by the Maniagar, Islands Division, on the meaning of this august occasion. Mr. Clough Balasingham spoke next.

Over a thousand bags containing cakes, suttandi, and sweets were distributed to school children and those assembled were treated to light refreshments.

After the sports-meet which lasted for about three hours, the prizes were distributed by Mrs. Alvapillai. Special mention must be made of St. Anthony's School and Nageswari Vidyalayam, Saravani, for having carried away most of the prizes. The celebrations came to a close with an illuminative and spectacular display of fire works.—Cor.

AT VAVUNIYA

The celebrations connected with the 25th anniversary of His Majesty the King were conducted on a very elaborate scale in the Town of Vavuniya and in the Villages of the Chief Headman's Division of Vavuniya South. The sound of bells in the Temples, Churches, and Mosques announced the break of day and special poojas for the long life of their Majesties were performed. At 8 a.m. there was a procession consisting of over 300 school children from the Town, members of the General public, Government officers, and headmen, headed by the Mudaliyar of the Town, the District Engineer, the medical officer, the Secretary of Jubilee celebration committee, and others. The procession passed through Bazaar street and reached the Court House premises at 10-30 a.m. when the Union Jack was hoisted and there was a march past of school children, the salute being taken by the District Engineer. A mango tree was planted at the Court House premises by the District Mudaliyar in the absence of the Asst. Government Agent to commemorate the event.

About 300 school children and 300 poor people were fed. In the evening a sports meet was held and prizes were distributed to the children. The entire Bazaar Street, private houses, and public building were decorated and illuminated. The whole Town were looked very picturesque. Mudaliyar T. E. Selvadurai, The Chief Headmen of the Division, awarded a prize for the best decorated and illuminated building and the prize was won by the C. M. S. School, Vavuniya.

A telegram was despatched to the Assistant Government Agent requesting him to convey to their Majesties the sense of loyalty and devotion to the throne and person of their Majesties by the inhabitants of Vavuniya District. (Cor)

Obituary

MR. M. A. ARULANANDAN.
We regret to record the death of Mr. M. A. Arulanandan, Advocate, which took place in his residence at Hill street last Monday.

The late Mr. Arulanandan was an advocate of high standing at the Metropolitan Bar and was one of the founders of the Ceylon National Congress. He was a ready speaker and an astute politician. He acted some months in Jaffna and Negombo as District Judge and retired owing to ill-health. Much sympathy will be felt with the bereaved family.

A SHORT STORY

(Continued From Page 1.)

The little body shook convulsively, twice, and then all was still.

The mother placed her hand on the forehead of the child. There came a sudden change over her. Her tears had ceased, and she stood up with fierce, flashing eyes. They shot out real sparks of fire. Like Mariamman she flared up, an image of fury.

'Close your Temple now. Look your god up and keep watch over him as you please. I don't want him any more. I'll follow my Vela', she cried and ran away throwing the corpse down. A dead silence fell on the crowd. The extremity of sorrow softens the hardness of man. But pride conceit and other evils take possession of him again.

The dead body was taken away by the 'cheri' men. The whole 'cheri' mourned the death of the child. The question of who was responsible for it was asked secretly in the Brahmin quarters. A search was made for Murgayi. But nowhere could she be found. It was concluded she was very likely gone to the other world to plead her cause before God. Indeed! Who was the miserable sinner who bore the burden of Murgayi's wrongs?

(Tripeni.)

Order Nisi

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 63.

In the matter of the estate of the late James Vallipuram Kandavanam of Karaveddy Deceased.

Samuel Kandavanam Thiravaniyagam of Chavakachcheri

Petitioner.

Vs.

Lisetta Ariyanayagam widow of Kandavanam of Karaveddy

Respondent.

This matter of the petition of the above-named Petitioner praying that Letters of Administration be granted to him in respect of the estate of the above-named deceased coming on for disposal before C. Coomaraswamy, Esquire, District Judge Jaffna on the 11th day of March 1935, in the presence of Mr. M. M. Kanagasiam Proctor for Petitioner and the affidavit and petition of the petitioner having been read:-

It is ordered that the petitioner above-named be and he is hereby entitled to take out Letters of Administration in respect of the estate of the above-named deceased as the heir and son of the deceased above-named and that such Letters of Administration be issued to him unless the respondent shall appear before Court on the 22nd day of May 1935 and shew sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

Jaffna this 21st day of February 1935.
Sgd. C. Coomaraswamy,
District Judge.

Drawn by,
(Sgd.) M. M. Kanagasiam,
Proctor for Petitioner

(O. 18. 16 & 20.)

Order Nisi

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 8604.

In the matter of the Estate and effects of Pakiavathy alias Soupakiam wife of Kandiah Kanapathipillai of Puloly West late of Batticaloa Deceased.

Kandiah Kanapathipillai of Puloly West

Petitioner.

Vs.

1. Seethaladobumy daughter of Kanapathipillai

2. Ponnammah widow of Kumaraswamy, both of Puloly West

Respondents.

The 1st Respondent is a minor appearing by her Guardian ad litem the 2nd Respondent.

This matter of the petition of the petitioner above-named praying for Letters of Administration to the estate of the above-named deceased coming on for disposal before C. Coomaraswamy Esquire, District Judge, on the 15th day of February 1935 in the presence of Mr. T. Balakrishnan Proctor on the part of the Petitioner and the affidavit of the Petitioner dated the 15th day of February 1935 having been read:

It is ordered that the said Petitioner be and he is hereby declared entitled, as the husband of the said deceased, to have Letters of Administration to the said estate issued to him unless the Respondents or any other person or persons interested shall, on or before the 24th day of May 1935, shew sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

Signed this 9th day of May 1935.

Sgd. C. Coomaraswamy,

District Judge.

(O. 17. 13 & 16.)

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