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JAFFNA.
PHONE 56.

THE Hindu Organ.

(The Only Newspaper in Ceylon for the Hindus)
PUBLISHED EVERY TUESDAY AND FRIDAY

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9 AUG 1948

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VOL. LX.

JAFFNA FRIDAY, AUGUST 6, 1948

NO. 34

Extract from the Hansard

BUDGET DEBATE

Mr. C. Vanniasingham's Speech

Permit me, Sir, first to congratulate the Minister of Finance on his masterly address, and on his presenting the Budget in such fine and beautiful language. He gave his Budget proposals a form and a pattern based on a plan spread over a number of years. The Ministers have had the benefit of a long recess during which, they informed us some time ago, they would formulate their plans and policies. That led us to expect many great things in this Budget.

I must say, however, speaking for myself, that I feel very much disappointed. On an examination of the proposals, I am inclined to call this a "continuation Budget": there is no radical difference between this Budget and the one that preceded it. It almost looks like stale food, served to us, after it had been heated, as freshly prepared delicacies. If I may use the term, this Budget is a *re-réchauffé* coin passed off as genuine.

On analysing this Budget, one finds that on the revenue side, there is nothing new. There are no new taxation proposals of a radical nature. There is no change worthy of the name in the matter of taxation.

On the expenditure side the pattern, in any event, is much

the same as the last year's Budget. Now the Hon. Minister, in inviting criticism, desired that the defects in the Budget be pointed out, and invited members of this House to offer constructive suggestions. And it is in a friendly way and with a view to offering constructive criticism that I make a few remarks which I propose to make.

In regard to the revenue proposals, considering the fact that very large sum of money—I believe it is Rs. 139,000,000 or Rs. 140,000,000—is to be spent out of Loan Funds, would it not be desirable to have some schemes for raising loans, especially, at a time when the evils of inflation on revenue have not been fully checked, at a time when the money market may be said to be buoyant? When there is so much money in the country, it is not desirable to raise loans locally. In this connexion, may I suggest that it would be desirable that these loans, whenever they are raised, should be earmarked for particular schemes and projects? I say this because it would also afford an opportunity to Government to test the faith the public have in some of these schemes. And in the case of those schemes that bring revenue—revenue earning schemes—the loans should be repaid out of the proceeds we would get when

these schemes are put into execution. What I mean is this: say, we want to develop a port. We raise a loan *ad hoc* for that purpose or earmarked for that purpose, and what revenue or profits we get out of port dues would be devoted to paying off the loan. That would incidentally show us the degree of confidence the public have in these projects. So that, if we have a well-considered scheme, or a number of schemes for various projects, we might straightaway advertise loans for those schemes.

Now, the Hon. Minister of Finance in the course of his Budget speech referred, with perhaps in a certain amount of justifiable pride, to the fact that the population of the North-Central Province which he called the heart of the dry zone showed an increase of 40.3 per cent. Now, may I ask the Hon. Minister whether he is aware that another equally important dry zone area, namely, at least during the period 1921-31 a decrease in population, that since 1931 it has shown only a very slight increase amounting to only 1 per cent, namely the districts of Vavuniya and Mannar? During the last twenty-five years Mannar, which had in 1921 a population of 25,582, showed only an increase of 6,000-odd souls, and Vavuniya, which had a population of 18,706, showed an increase of only 4,500 souls. Is the Minister aware of these facts? And has Government given thought to these figures, considered why the population is falling, or at least is stationary, in these areas?

THREAT TO KILL Mr. DAHANAYAKE

Large crowds collected at the residence of Mr. W. Dahanayake, M. P. on Tuesday when erroneous news spread that he had been stabbed. About 5.30 p. m., a man had entered the garden of Mr. Dahanayake's residence, brandished a knife, and threatened to kill Mr. Dahanayake. He was taken away, but returning later, grappled with Mr. Dahanayake's twin brother. The crowd overpowered the man who was injured in the struggle. The police discovered in his possession a kris knife a razor, and a pen-knife.

The statements of Mr. W. Dahanayake—who had left for Colombo in the morning and returned after the incidents—and three others were recorded. The man was admitted to the hospital with multiple injuries.

lation of 18,706, showed an increase of only 4,500 souls. Is the Minister aware of these facts? And has Government given thought to these figures, considered why the population is falling, or at least is stationary, in these areas?

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: I am sorry, I did not follow the Hon. Member.

Mr. Vanniasingham: I said the population in Mannar and Vavuniya has been falling or been stationary.

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: Has it been?

Mr. Vanniasingham: Yes, that is why I gave the figures. I will repeat them. Mannar which had a population of 25,582 in 1921 had only shown an increase of 6,216 in 1946. In 1931, actually it showed a decrease of about 500. Similarly, Vavuniya and Mullaitivu, which had a population of 18,706 in 1921, showed an increase of about 4,500 only in twenty-five years, — those are the 1946 figures. In 1931 that too had a decrease of about 500. Has the Government considered why the population has been decreasing or shown a tendency to be stationary? And has the Government considered any schemes for improving the condition of the people around these areas? To see that there are more colonization schemes launched in these areas, with a view to developing these areas?

When the Hon. Minister referred to the dry zone and its development in such glowing terms, in fact I was delighted because I thought that the areas with which we are directly interested, the Tamils of the North are directly interested, will also get the benefits of this development. But I turned to the Estimates, and except for the Gal Oya Scheme I found no new major scheme in the Northern Province or the Eastern Province. It may be that I am wrong and if any such items are hidden in the votes for colonization schemes, or other major or minor schemes, I dare say the Hon. Minister will correct me.

(Continued on page 2)

International Conference of the Legal Profession

Mr. Kadirgamar to Represent Ceylon

Mr. Sam J. C. Kadirgamar, president of the Law Society of Ceylon, will represent Ceylon at the second International Conference of the Legal Profession, to be held at The Hague from August 16 to 21.

Mr. Kadirgamar, who is going on the invitation of the International Bar Association of New York, will fly to The Hague about August 8.

He will also attend the International Law Conference at Brussels, to be held on August 29.

PERSONAL

Mr. R. Sivagurunathar, President, Saivaparipalana Sabha, who entered Durand's Nursing Home Bambalapitiya for medical treatment has recovered and will be returning to Jaffna in a few days.

Credentials Accepted

A Government Gazette notification states that the Governor-General has accepted on behalf of the King the Letters of Credence of Mr. Felix Cole accrediting him U. S. Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary in Ceylon.

Dhyana Yoga

(MEDITATION)

The Thought of God or Atma

(Continued from our last issue)

When you are a neophyte in meditation, start repeating some sublime slokas or stotras (hymns) for ten minutes as soon as you sit for meditation. This will elevate the mind. The mind can be easily withdrawn from the worldly objects. Then stop this kind of thinking also and fix the mind on one idea only by repeated and strenuous efforts. Then Nishta will ensue.

You must have a mental image of God or Brahman (concrete or abstract) before you begin to meditate. When you start a fire you heap up some straw, pieces of paper, thin pieces of wood. The fire gets extinguished quickly. You blow it again several times through the mouth or the blow pipe. After some time it becomes a small conflagration. You can hardly extinguish it now even with great efforts. Even so, in the beginning of meditation neophytes fall from meditation in the old grooves. They will have to lift up their minds again and again and fix on the lakshya. When the meditation becomes deep and steady, they get established in God eventually. Then the meditation becomes Sahaja (natural). It becomes habitual. Use the blow pipe of thevaira vairagya and intense meditation to kindle the fire of meditation.

You will have to note very carefully whether you remain stationary in the spiritual path even after many years of spiritual

practice or whether you are progressing. Sometimes you may go downwards also if you are not vigilant and careful. If your vairagya wanes and if you are slack in meditation. Reaction may set in. Some practice meditation for a period of 15 years and yet they have not made any real progress at all. Why? This is due to lack of earnestness, vairagya, keen longing for liberation and intense, constant sadhana (spiritual practice).

During meditation when your mind is more sattvic you will be inspired. The mind will be composing fine poems and solving some problems of life. Stamp out these sattvic Vrittis also. This is all dissipation of mental energy. Soar higher and higher to Atma only.

You will get the full Ananda of the Divine Glory only when you dive deep, when you merge deep in silent meditation. When you are on the border land of Divinity, when you are at the gate of threshold of God, when you are in the outer skirts, you will not get the full peace and bliss.

Before saturating the mind with thoughts of Brahman you will have to assimilate the Divine ideas first, assimilate first and then saturation. Then comes Realisation at once.

(Continued on page 3)

Hindu College Old Boys Dinner

Saivism should adapt itself to the conditions of the twentieth century and include non-vegetarians within its fold, said the Hon'ble Mr. Justice C. Nagasingham at the annual dinner of the Jaffna Hindu College Old Boys' Association held last Saturday in the College hall.

Covers were laid for over a hundred guests, among whom were Members of Parliament, heads of local Government departments, representatives of various professions and principals of other Colleges.

Proposing the toast of Free Ceylon, Dr. T. G. Menon, the Indian Trade Representative in Ceylon, said he was sure that in the era of freedom that had dawned Ceylon and India would draw closer together to develop trade and enrich their cultural connections.

In his reply to Dr. Menon's toast, Mr. C. Vanniasingham endorsed the proposer's sentiments and said that Jaffna's link with India was so close that down in the south many Sinhalese saw little difference between the Jaffna Tamil and the Indian Tamil.

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Nagasingham proposing the toast of the college, regretted that, though the college was the first institution of its kind in Ceylon its history and record of work had not been publicised enough. Blaming the rigidity of Saivism for restricting the diet of Saivaites students and thereby preventing their fullest possible physical development, he appealed to the College to cater to all interests irrespective of social differences. When India had done away with such differences in its schools, Ceylon he urged, should not be far behind.

The Principal of the College Mr. A. Cumaraswamy, replied. He said that the College was open to all without discrimination and in this respect was second to no other College. Anyway, the College had its distinct role to play—to inculcate Hindu education. As regards vegetarianism, he said that the record of the College Hostel showed that students, far from losing weight, had been found on leaving it to have gained in poundage.

Mr. S. N. Rajadurai, Secretary of the O.B.A., proposed the toast of the sister Colleges

In Parliament Citizenship Bill

In the House of Representatives, Mr. D. S. Senanayake, Prime Minister, and Minister of Defence and External Affairs, tabled a Bill on Wednesday to make provision for citizenship of Ceylon and connected matters.

Mr. Senanayake also tabled another "Bill to make provision for controlling the entry into Ceylon of persons other than Citizens of Ceylon, for regulating the departure from Ceylon of Citizens and persons other than Citizens of Ceylon, for removing from Ceylon undesirable persons who are not Citizens of Ceylon, and for other matters incidental to or connected with the matters aforesaid."

The Second Readings of both these Bills were fixed for August 19.

to which Mr. K. Karalasingham, Proctor, replied in a humorous speech.

The toast of the guests was proposed by Mr. S. U. Somasegaram, Education Officer, who is also an old boy of the College. This was replied to by Mr. K. Karalasingham, M. P., and Mr. C. Suriyakumaran, Asst. Commissioner of Local Government. In his speech Mr. Karalasingham reiterated the point made by the chief guest advocating the equalitarian attitude to all sections of the community.

RABINDRANATH TAGORE

AN EPITOME OF CULTURE

TRUTH, non-violence and friendship were the cardinal virtues to which Mahatma Gandhi had awakened in his reason and which he had grasped in the discipline of his will. He did not, like the saints of the past, realise their usefulness merely in the field of individual self-control for the attainment of saintliness, but he realised that the possession of these virtues would lead us inevitably to the possession of a power which could be exercised in the socio-political field for the attainment of peace, freedom and happiness.

The cardinal virtues which formed the bed-rock of his endeavours and their value in ennobling our moral nature are indeed well-known and well-established in almost all religions. But the fact that those virtues could be massively concentrated in a society or a nation for the attainment of social and political ends was a new discovery. The principles of his discovery were applied by him through a long course of suffering in the fields of communal and racial conflict. The success of his discovery has been proved by the unity that he was able to achieve among teeming millions of Indians over the greater part of the sub-continent of India. His political ideal was attained by the voluntary withdrawal of the British by the fact that a spirit of friendship unknown before, now exists between India and Britain.

Creative Spirit
Rabindranath Tagore the other great figure of India, presents to us a personality which is of an entirely different order. He was born in one of the most cultured families of Bengal where, Western learning and Eastern tradition had harmoniously been nestled together. His early life was guided by the teachings of his father who was a great teacher of the Upanishads and was the founder of a reformed religion which emphasised the unique oneness of the Divinity and His relation of friendship and love with humanity, and laid stress on the fact that it was the fountainhead of all life. What came to Tagore as a traditional teaching of Hinduism was re-discovered by him in the capture of his soul. He tells us that in one fine summer morning an inspiration of gladness ran through the veins of his spirit and in one moment in one enlightenment of his soul he suddenly realised the nearness of the whole nature and humanity around him with himself. In his inner joy he was embracing the whole world, nature and men. It was no longer a philosophical, moral or religious creed. It was the unbarrening of his own soul. It was the call of his own inner joy which sought to serenade



over the delicate union of the many emotions of man and the diverse expressions of nature. Tagore was from the very beginning a votary of aesthetic joy, and he found his dalliance in music, poetry, pictorial art and all creations of joy as such as expressed in dance or the histrionic arts. His school at Santiniketan for the education of youngsters was also an outflow of his creative spirit which indulged in developing young minds in association with nature.

The Surplus Energy
As Tagore proceeded in his quest of the beautiful and the joyous he transcended the limits of the philosophy of his earlier days. He became impressed with a sense of the surplus energy in man and nature which continued continually in all vital creations of nature and of art. His concept of Divinity gradually crystallised in him as the concept of the surplus in man which

(Continued on page 3)



Hindu Organ

FRIDAY, AUGUST 6, 1948

THE NEGLECTED NORTH

Sidelights and Lightsides

(BY SQUINT EYE)

The wife of Yardley, the England Cricket captain, saw to it that her baby was born in her husband's county, so that if a boy he could qualify for his country.

Englishmen are born for Cricket.

Cricket is in the blood, and they play the game, in life and in sport!

As a tribute to Bradman's prowess in cricket, there is a proposal to make him a knight. If plain Don Bradman hits centuries out of luck, Can Bradman be knighted? Be got out for duck!

In the Commons debate on Malaya when a communist M.P. spoke of the government as murderers of communists, the speaker pulled him up and said 'we may accuse other people of being murderers. Our own people are accused here'.

Quit: human!

Two motor cars approach a road junction in Jaffna Town at right angles, and graze at each other, almost in locking-up position, with an unfortunate push-cyclist in between. Crosswords, dart-looks, no solution, no action. Only tyre marks heavily imbedded on the tar surface of the road. Another might have been!

The Pakistan wrestling team for the London Olympics arrived too late for the weigh-in and were disqualified.

Pakistan has been busy wrestling with more vital problems at home.

Reference has been made by Mr. Vanniasingham also to the tidal well at Puttur. This is a minor scheme providing for the cultivation of an extent of only 200 acres. The Minister of Agriculture has stated that at the committee stage of the Budget Debate the estimates regarding the Puttur tidal well will be included.

It should never be thought that the Tamils of the North are ungrateful; they realize and are grateful to Government for the housing scheme intended to relieve the congestion at Karaiyur which has been described as one of the worst slums in the Island; the necessary land has been acquired and work has begun in earnest for establishing the Cement Factory at Kankesanur; a beginning has been made at Thondamannar under the Jaffna Lagoon Scheme. While the Tamils will be grateful for the good things which are being done for the North they feel that they have been neglected.

The Northern ports have inspired of past promises made by the Minister of Communications not yet been opened for passenger traffic. Jaffness who want to travel to India have still to travel via Madawachchi, Talaimannar and Dhanushkodi if they travel by train. The opening of the Air Service is a boon to travellers in North Ceylon but, no valid reason has been shown to explain why the Northern ports have not yet been opened for passengers travelling by boat from Jaffna to India. The Railway to the North deserves greater attention from Government than it has hitherto received; though it has been a profit-making concern while other sections of the Railway are being worked

at a loss yet little is being done to provide facilities for passengers from Colombo and other places in the South travelling to Jaffna. D.R.O.'s and Mani gars in the Northern Province are busy encouraging the establishment of co-operative producer societies. It is expected that these societies will be co-ordinated with co-operative consumer societies and that it will be possible to help the producer to realise a fair price for his products. The success of these undertakings will, to a great extent, depend on the spirit with which these societies are worked. While it is the duty of Government to provide for the development of the North as much as for the rest of the Island, it is incumbent on the Tamil members of Parliament to win the sympathy of and co-operate with Government without estranging feelings.

World Classics to be Worldwide

UNESCO'S PROJECT

REPRESENTATIVES of 11 countries recently met in Paris, France, to draft a programme for making the great books of all countries available in languages in which they are not now published. This United Nations Scientific, Educational and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Committee was composed of members from China, India, Egypt, Uruguay, Brazil, Mexico, Italy, Hungary, France, the United Kingdom and United States.

Suggestions developed at the Paris Meeting included the establishment of a central committee with subsidiary groups in each UNESCO country. A list of approximately 100 of the world's great books published prior to 1900 would be built up from suggestions made by the national committees, five countries having already contributed their ideas. The plan envisages that UNESCO would actively encourage the translation and publication of these books in as many languages as possible but would not become publishers or commercial distributors of the selected volumes.

As a second step, the UNESCO committee suggested that each country develop another list—the "best" books of 1901-39—which they would most wish to see available in other languages. Publicity would be given to these selections (developed by some responsible national govern-

mental bureau, institute or university to encourage their translation and publication as widely as possible. It is planned to draw up lists of scientific works later.

Translation Standards. STANDARDS of translation: it was felt, should be established so that no country would later regret the form in which its masterpieces were presented to the world. Translation of the early classics would be supervised by a permanent UNESCO committee, meeting annually as a liaison group. It was suggested that a manual of standards be developed for distribution among the various countries as a guide in processing the more recent works and to encourage the fine art of translation. The revival of the "Index Translationum," published pre-war by the International Institute of Intellectual Co-operation, was also recommended as a valuable working tool for publishers, authors and scholars of every country.

Budget Debate

(Continued from page 1)

rect me. Of course, the Hon. Minister may say that there is a Vote, a fairly large Vote, for improving the spill of the Irani-madu tank. But that is for improvement of an existing work which, if not carried out, will breach the tank itself. The Hon. Minister may refer to the Jaffna Peninsula Lagoon Scheme. That is again a continuation scheme. What I say is that there is nothing new.

While reading the Budget speech of the Hon. Minister as reported in HANSARD, I found this sentence:

"There is nothing that has been asked that has been refused."

Now, this is an intriguing sentence in his speech—

Mr. Speaker: Asked by the Ministers.

Mr. Vanniasingham: If it refers to requests by the Ministers in the Cabinet, then the Hon. Minister no doubt has reason to congratulate himself that he has satisfied every one of his colleagues, but as far as the people and the representatives of the people are concerned, I daresay there are a number of useful projects which might have found a place in the Budget.

In referring to the acreage of paddy, I believe the Hon. Minister referred to the total area under cultivation as 912,000 acres which at the end of the six-year plan would have increased by 81,000,000 acres. It is, however, my duty to draw the attention of this House and of the Ministers to the fact that in the North an extent of about 12,000 acres face extinction, if not the entire 12,000 acres, at least the greater part of the 12,000 acres face extinction by sheer neglect, because those areas are not protected from salt water inundation from the Southern end of the Jaffna Lagoon. In this connexion, I might also mention that about six or seven years ago the greater part of this tract of paddy fields, including a vast extent of paddy fields belonging to one of the Ministers, suffered from salt water

inundation. A good portion of this extent has since been abandoned as cultivators are not inclined to go on account of this periodical inundations with salt water. I may mention that the Jaffna Peninsula Lagoon Scheme in which the work is now in progress and for which money has been voted, covers only the northern section, that is, Thondamannar. What I am talking about is the southern section, the Jaffna town end, that is near about the place where there is a railway bridge between Navatukly and the Jaffna Railway Station. That is called the South Lagoon or the Uppu aru.

I had occasion to discuss this matter with the Deputy Director of Irrigation who at first suggested that a scheme of salt water exclusion for the southern tract may await the Thondamannar experiment, as he called it. I explained that what I was concerned with was not the conversion of the Lagoon as such into a fresh water lake, which was the experiment that was being tried at Thondamannar, but that I was concerned in obtaining a purely salt water exclusion measure to protect these fields from salt water inundation, and that therefore it was not necessary to await anything. Then the Deputy Director of Irrigation explained to me the difficulties, such as the unavailability of staff, and so on, in putting these plans into execution. Finally, after some discussion, we agreed that at least plans should be drawn up and estimates proposed for execution later on on completion of the Thondamannar project. I may say that if we succeeded in converting the southern lagoon also into a fresh water lake, as I think it is possible to do, even the problem of a water supply scheme for Jaffna Town would have been solved automatically, because the lagoon which I am speaking of forms the Eastern boundary of the Jaffna Town itself, with the result that this project, if carried out, would be a multi-purpose

Northern Assizes

MURDERED A WIDOW

13 Years R. I. For Accused

Accused of the murder of a widow, a man named Saverimuttu Gaspar, alias Vaddan of Alarupil pleaded guilty to manslaughter and was sentenced by Mr. Justice Nagalingam at the Northern Assizes to 13 years' rigorous imprisonment.

The widow, Kammamah, had been struck with a club in a jungle at Chillaawathai, a village near Mullativu, on August 27, 1937. She was returning home after drawing her pension.

Mr. K. Sivasubramaniam, Crown Counsel, prosecuted Mr. J. Rajaretnam defended.

scheme. However, I was surprised to read a letter from the Minister stating that this matter would be considered after the Thondamannar work has been completed. May I repeat that what I am concerned with is not the conversion of the South Lagoon into a fresh water lake; what I want is a salt water exclusion scheme to protect the paddy fields bordering the Uppu aru. Of course, if we succeed in converting the salt water lake, there will be other benefits. It could be used for purposes of irrigation and to supply water to the town. And considering the urgency of this matter, there is no need to wait till the completion of the Thondamannar scheme.

In this connection, I might also mention another project which may be of immense benefit to the people of the Jaffna District, namely, the Elephant Pass Lagoon Scheme. I believe Webb in his report stated that it would be easy to block up the Elephant Pass bridge, so that sea water would not flow from the western to the eastern section. If so, the leaching or taking out the salt water could be easily done by the Kanagarayan-aru flowing into the lagoon at that point. The leaching process would be easy; the salt water is diluted and gradually converted into a fresh water lake. If we connect the Vadamarachi lagoon with the Elephant Pass lagoon by a small canal we would be able to have inland navigation through these lagoons. We will be able to have plenty of fresh water available all the year round for cultivation, and also reclaimed lands bordering these lagoons.

I might also mention two other schemes which were referred to in last year's Budget Debate merely as an indication of the price at which things seem to be moving. I refer to the Puttur well which, the Hon. Minister stated, would be able to irrigate about 200 acres of land which, he said he had in mind to put in hand. I do not know whether that scheme is included in this year's Budget. I hope it is.

The Hon. Mr. Dudley Senanayake: If the hon. Member will give way, during the Committee stage I am moving an Amendment to include it.

Mr. Vanniasingham: I am thankful to the Hon. Minister for his assurance in this matter. I will not refer to the question any more except to make one observation, that is the urgency of doing land settlement work round about the Puttur area so that both the work of allotting land to the peasants round the area and the work on the tidal well might proceed simultaneously.

I might now refer to the proverb which the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Food and Co-operative Undertakings cited, namely, *varum-pu-yara*. That is one of the slogans which we have been using all along in connexion with one of our major tasks, namely, the Irani-madu tank. The complaint has been that we have not been utilizing the water to the utmost during the rainy season. To a certain extent I plead guilty to the charge. But there are very many extenuating circumstances

(Continued on page 3)

ONE THING AND ANOTHER

BY YALPADI

Control Coming!

Cloth control in India relaxed by the Government some months ago in the hope of things adjusting themselves alright as a result, is to be revived in the shape of government distributing mill cloth through Co-operative Stores with prices stamped on. This is because dealers and middlemen in the textile trade took advantage of decontrol to put up prices. Either way the capitalist classes fill their pockets. Some foodstuffs also are likely to go under control. How will these measures affect us here in Ceylon?

Men and Mangoes

Mangoes have been fairly plenty this season in Jaffna, in the accepted varieties. The other day sampling one of these from a familiar old garden I remarked on the difference in flavour as I was used to a much sweeter one from the same tree many years ago. The owner explained by telling me, like men mangoes also have changed over the years—for the worse. A very reasonable observation indeed!

Bo-tree Not Dying

Speaking of trees, it is reassuring to be told that the Anuradapura Bo-Tree is not withering, and that the story of its gradual dying is exaggerated. Bernard Shaw contradicting a newspaper obituary of himself the other day said he was only half dead. Now about the sacred Bo-Tree scientists and pseudo-scientists and lay men and clergy are trying to find out about the signs of decay visible in the withering branches and leaves. One such attribute the withering to the great heat generated by the thousands of electric lamps hung about the tree during festivals. That is another damper on modern scientific advancement!

Mad Motoring

I had the unpleasant experience recently of being driven in a hired motor car in Jaffna along the Jaffna-Kankesanur ribbon of a road, for quite many miles. Unpleasant, did I say? The speedometer hand touched 60 miles occasionally, and 40 to 50 generally all the way. It was a choking ride for me. But the worst was for the poor pedestrians, young and old, who were driven perforce to the fences or heaps of road-metal to avoid being flattened on the track by my monster in its mad career. Not mad, altogether, because the driver had a firm and smart grip on the wheel and the controls. He was not alone in this exhibition of motor-racing. Almost every motor we met or passed was in like mood, driving for all they were worth. The petrol stations may have a slogan hung up—USE SHELL AND DRIVE LIKE HELL.

Now about this madness of motoring I have an idea that speed is the Ceylon man's foremost fancy. Some years ago I went from Colombo to Putalam in a bus that took my breath away by the devil-may-care rashness with which the man at the wheel drove past terrified people on the road all along. I returned to Colombo by rail. Perhaps it does not strike any motor owner that speeding contributes to shortening of the life of the car, and sudden and sharp braking certainly affects the tyres and springs—for the worse. Nor is high speed good for the news of the occupants of the car. Car-owners perhaps may take care of themselves and their property, but pedestrians must be given a chance to live to tread their weary way a little more. Cannot the police have a check-up on speeding in Jaffna? Will they?

The Writing on The Wall

We are to have better railway carriages on our Railway shortly on long distance trains, we are assured, but the suggestion is made that we should behave better if we are to deserve the promised amenities. Tampering with carriage fittings, slashing at cushions, writing obscene slogans and messages on carriage walls—these are far too frequent in rail

ways. The South Indian Railway has in a very recent appeal in the press pleaded for public co-operation in putting down the prevalent practice, much in the same manner as our Railway authorities have. I am afraid the perverted youth and the mischievous urchin who are the main culprits in this matter cannot be reached by this appeal to the finer sense. The evil is far too deep-seated for it. A very radical change in the manner of schooling right from the bottom, perhaps will give some good results in the course of years. Too many activities of the average man today are tainted with unwholesome aspects of a very disagreeable character for the decent citizen, and their ramifications reach unsuspected recesses. Disinfectant sticking out of the evil is the first course. Then the cure by simple doses. Have we the patience and the plan to perform it?

Quite a piece with this evil is that other one in the University and Colleges known as ragging and treatment of freshmen of which much is being written in the Press. It is civilisation's disease.

Minister Opens Neeraviady Sub-Post Office

The official opening of the above Sub-post office on 31st July was a day of great rejoicing at Vannatsoppo East.

The Hon'ble Mr. C. Sittamabalam, the Minister for posts and Telecommunications was received at Neeraviady junction by the residents of the area and after being garlanded by Mr. A. Arulambalam, Proctor was taken in procession to the accompaniment of oriental music, to the venue of the Sub-Post Office, where a large number of ladies and prominent gentlemen of the locality, including the Govt Agent had gathered.

At the entrance, the Minister was garlanded by the new Sub-Post Master, Mr. A. Vaitilingam. He was introduced to the Minister who congratulated him and wished him success.

Mr. T. Muttusamy Pillai, Crown Advocate, Jaffna in an impressive speech welcomed the Minister and requested him to declare the post office open.

The Minister, after thanking the organisers of the reception declared the Sub-Post office open by lighting a Kuththuvilakku. He purchased some stamps and was followed by a Govt Agent, Kachcheri Mudliyar and others.

Then while drinks were being served, three girls from the Hindu Ladies College gave musical recitals.

On behalf of the ladies present, Miss Savitri Devi Ariyaratne in a short speech thanked the Minister for granting them that Sub-Post office, which was a crying need of the locality.

Mr. E. P. Rasiah the Secretary of the Reception Committee thanked the Minister, the Govt Agent, and the ladies and gentlemen present for responding to their invitation.

Charge Of Rash Driving

One Year R. I. For Minister's Son

A sentence of one year's rigorous imprisonment on a charge of rash and negligent driving was passed by an Allahabad Magistrate on Ravi John Mathai, a son of Dr. John Mathai, India's Transport Minister.

Ravi Mathai, who is a student of Allahabad University, was alleged to have knocked down a fellow-student named Rajni Mohan Srivastava, causing his death.

Ravi Mathai was allowed bail upto August 15 for filing an appeal.

Budget Debate

(Continued from page 3)

draught cattle. Animals suitable for milking have not been provided. There is however no reason why a Government Dairy at Kilinochchi should not be established.

I now come to the question of trade, especially the import and export trade. I believe the Hon. Minister of Finance referred to the fact that more than 90 per cent of the traders engaged in this business were non-Ceylonese. At a cooperative meeting I urged that it should be the duty of the cooperatives to capture the import and export trade. It would be worthwhile for the cooperatives to try and achieve this object.

In the context of import and export trade, I would like to refer to the question of the re-opening of the Northern ports. I mentioned this last year too. I believe the Hon. Minister of Transport and Works stated that every endeavour would be made to help us in this matter. As the Northern ports are only forty miles away from some ports of South India, would it not be very easy to divert a portion of the trade through these ports if we open our ports for traffic?

In regard to the question raised, I believe again by the hon. Member for Kankesanthurai why these ports were not open for passenger traffic it was stated that in their present condition these ports could not be opened even for passenger traffic. The Hon. Minister stated that the question concerned more than one Ministry and that it would take a little time to effect improvements. We have now before us a second Budget, and no steps whatever have been taken in regard to this matter. Of course, I have no reason whatever to doubt that the Hon. Minister meant everything he said when he stated that he intends to develop these ports at an early date and open them for passenger traffic. Then why there is this delay, I cannot understand. If this is the pace on which the six-year plan is to be worked out, I am afraid no plans whatever will be worked out and we will be worse off six years hence than we are today.

While on the question of passenger traffic, I am reminded of the Railway, reference has been made to the losses sustained—that is, about Rs. 1,000,000 a year. No wonder when the Hon. Minister believes in penance and self-infliction by passengers even when they are travelling in trains as pilgrims.

The hon. Mr. Gonesinha Only to Kataragama.

Mr. Vanniasingham: If that is so, I have nothing to say. But I am afraid even ordinary passengers have to suffer penance and self-infliction when travelling by train. A distance of 240 miles from Jaffna to Colombo is covered in the good space of a little over 13 hours. That is the pace at which our railway runs. Why should we not have faster trains, express trains for long distance journeys so that the trains might stop fewer stations and run faster? Why don't we run sleeping trains? By that I do not want trains to sleep. I want provision to be made for every passenger, including third-class passengers, to sleep. Why not have a train, for instance, running to Jaffna carrying sleeping berths for first, second and third class passengers.

The hon. Mr. Gonesinha: Yes, but the train is at Kankesanthurai.

Mr. Vanniasingham: I do not want it to sleep, as I said before.

Mrs. Florence Srinayake: (Kilinochchi) It sleeps now.

Mr. Vanniasingham: It will run faster if such a provision is made. If the journey can be completed within 7 hours, it would be more popular. As it is, you provide all the discomforts to all passengers, especially to third-class passengers who, after all, provide the bulk of the revenue to the Government, and you make them travel for periods of 13 hours or more seated with out even space to stretch their legs. Do you expect the people to patronize your trains

when the buses at least travel much faster? Buses do the journey in about 9 hours and charge one-fourth the fee that you charge. You should either provide more comforts and charge the passengers for the comforts provided, or reduce the fares. Reduction of fares will be more or less out of the question. The Government should, therefore, provide better facilities.

I understand that the Hon. Minister of Transport and Works will be going to the North shortly. I do not want to invite him to travel in a third-class compartment as the hon. Member for Galle did but I would nevertheless expect him to see some of our platforms and stations when he does go there. Some of these platforms are constructed with discarded sleepers.

Mr. Speaker: These matters might really be taken up during the Committee stage.

Mr. Vanniasingham: Very well, Sir. If the Railway is to reap benefits, I would like them to copy some of the methods employed on the Indian Railways. For instance, in the larger stations in India when one arrives at night, one is provided with retiring room facilities. In Ceylon, we have waiting rooms which are invariably overcrowded, and there are no facilities for anybody to sleep in these rooms.

I would next refer to the Co-operative movement, and in that connection suggest that the Co-operative Department should aim at having a network of producers' societies and consumer societies which would be more or less complementary to each other, and thus eliminate the middleman as was suggested by the Hon. Minister of Finance.

Finally, Sir, there is one other matter which I thought I should refer to, namely, the question of prohibition. Time was when the Jaffna Peninsula experimented with prohibition, but prohibition proved a failure for two reasons. One reason was that foreign liquor was allowed to be imported freely and even sold freely. The other was, of course, the existence of a large number of palmyrah trees in practically every compound providing easy facilities for illicit tapping. The result was that prohibition in Jaffna proved a failure.

May I ask whether it would not be better for our Government also to adopt the methods adopted in India by introducing prohibition in this country so that the evil of drink may be rooted out altogether and the peasant who invariably is the victim of drunkenness may be rescued thereby from this evil of drink?

These are some of the suggestions which I thought I might make during Debate on the second Reading of the Appropriation Bill. I have offered these suggestions purely in a spirit of friendly criticism and as constructive suggestions for the Hon. Ministers to adopt.

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(M. 41. F)

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The Chairman, Way & Works Head Office Tender Board, will receive at the Chief Engineer's Office, C. G. R., McCallum Road, Maradana, tenders up to 12 noon on Friday, August 27, 1948, for the construction of the following buildings respectively:

- | | |
|----------------|------------------------------------|
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| (d) One set | " " Mankulam |
| (e) Three sets | " " Hingurakgodda |
| (f) Two sets | " " Tampalakamam |
| (g) Three sets | " " Murikandy |
| (h) Five sets | " " Galoya |

For further particulars, see Government Gazette of 30-7-48.
Way & Works Office, C. G. R., Sgd. W. A. SHAW,
P. O. Box 370, Colombo. Chief Engineer, C. G. R.
(C. 54, 30, 6 & 10.)

National Development Savings Campaign 1947-48

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9th to 14th August 1948

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Opening of Week by The Hon'ble Mr. Justice

C. NAGALINGAM, K. C.

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MANIPAY HINDU COLLEGE, MANIPAY

Other Public Meetings

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| 10th August 5 p.m. | Vallikamam East, Urumparai Hindu College, Urumparai. |
| 11th " " | Vallikamam North, Mallakam English School, Mallakam. |
| 12th " " | Thennaradechi & Paschilapalli, Driberg College, Chavakachcheri. |
| 13th " " | Vadamaradechi, Puloli Boys Hindu English School, Pt. Pedro. |
| 14th " " | Jaffna Maniagar's Division & U. C. Area, Jaffna Hindu College, Jaffna. |

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Mudaliyar C. THIAGARAJAH.
Districts Organiser,
MANIPAY.

(M. 75) 6-8-48.

ORDER NISI

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 902.

In the matter of the Last Will and Testament of the late Sinathamby Kanithasingham of Manipay. Deceased.

Kanithasingham Panchalingam of Manipay. Petitioner.

Vs.

1. Kanithasingham Sivarajalingam

Minor. 2. Kanithasingham Rajeswary

3. Kanithasingham Maheswary and

4. Nagaratnam widow of Sinathamby Kanithasingham of Manipay.

Respondents.

This matter coming on for disposal before R. R. Selvadurai Esquire District Judge, Jaffna on the 8th day of July 1948 in the presence of Mr. S. Rajendran Proctor for the Petitioner and the affidavits of the Petitioner and of the Witnesses having been read:

It is ordered the Last Will and Testament of the said deceased be declared proved and Probate thereof be issued to the Petitioner as the Executor named therein and that the 1st Respondent be appointed Guardian-ad-litem over the minor 2nd and 3rd Respondents for the purpose of protecting their interests and of representing them in these Proceedings unless the Respondents or any other person appear before this Court on the 17th day of August 1948 and state objections to the contrary.

It is further ordered that the Minors do appear on the said date.

The 8th day of July 1948.
Sgd. R. R. SELVADURAI,
District Judge.

S. Rajendran,
Proctor for Petitioner.

(O. 51. 30 & 6-8-48).

ORDER NISI

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF POINT PEDRO

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. A.56T/379 P.T.

In the matter of the Last Will and Testament of the late Santhirasegaram Velupillai of Thumpalai.

Packiam widow of Santhirasegaram Velupillai of Thumpalai.

Vs.

1. Velupillai Nadarajah

2. Manoranichtham daughter of Velupillai

3. Velupillai Chellamanikkam

4. Velupillai Satkunanathan

5. Yoheswari daughter of Velupillai

6. Vijayalaxmi daughter of Velupillai

7. Kanthapoor Subramaniam all of Thumpalai

Respondents.

This matter coming on for disposal before W. Richard D. de Silva Esquire District Judge, Point Pedro on the 5th day of May 1948 in the presence of Mr. K. Vallipuram Proctor on the part of the Petitioner and the Petition and affidavit of the Petitioner having been read:

It is ordered that the 7th Respondent be appointed Guardian-ad-litem over the minors 1-6 Respondents that the Petitioner as widow of the deceased Santhirasegaram Velupillai be declared entitled to have Letters of Administration be issued to her accordingly, under the Respondents shall on or before the 2 day of July 1948 appear before this Court and shew sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this court to the contrary.

This 5 day of May 1948
Sgd. M. K. SANKARAPILLAI,
Addl. District Judge.

Drawn by
Sgd. K. Vallipuram
Proctor for Petitioner.
22-7-48.
Time to shew cause Extended to 19-8-48.
Intld S. R. W.
D. J.
(O. 50, 30 & 6.)

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Printed and Published by Pandit V. T. SAMBANDHAN, residing at, Vannarpannai West, Jaffna, for and on behalf of the Proprietors, the Saiva Paripalana Sabha, Jaffna, at their Press, the Saiva Prakasa Press Vannarpannai, Jaffna, on Friday, August 6, 1948.
Chief Editor T. MUTTUSAMPILLAI.