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SIR ANDREW CALDECOTT'S TASK IN CEYLON

A Number of Problems to Solve

MALAYAN JOURNALIST'S VIEWS ON CEYLON AFFAIRS

"On the solution of the constitutional problem will largely depend the future happiness of Ceylon. It is the most stupendous task that Sir Andrew Caldecott has to tackle. It bristles with such difficulties that even the most brilliant brain might well boggle at it. Sir Andrew, as we know, brings to his task not only a brilliant mind and a freshness of outlook but also an inexpressible sense of humour and an inexhaustible capacity to suffer fools. He can be grave and he can be gay. He can bend down or rise high without losing his equilibrium. He has the added advantage of a youthful enthusiasm for hard work. Above all this he is essentially a man of goodwill, and if there is an atom of goodwill among those with whom he has to deal, a spark of true patriotism and not mere narrow nationalism, an iota of political wisdom and usefulness, then all of us who know Sir Andrew feel certain that he will accomplish his task. If he fails it will not be for want of trying."

Thus observed Mr. Francis F. Cooray of the Editorial staff of the "Malay Mail", in an address at the meeting of the Fortnightly Club held at the Y. M. C. A., Kuala Lumpur.

Following are further extracts from his speech:

Ceylon Governors from Malaya

In our own time Malaya has given to Ceylon a number of Governors—Sir Henry McCallum of the Royal Engineers, Sir John Anderson, who died in harness after a fearless but all too short regime, Sir Hugh Clifford, and now Sir Andrew Caldecott, who will be remembered in Malayan history as the last permanent Chief Secretary of F.M.S., and of all these Sir Andrew's task is probably the most unenviable, the task

of running with the hare and hunting with the hounds. It is not, therefore, surprising that he should have adopted as the keynote of his policy the Sinhalese words *hemim, hemim*. He has told the Ceylon public that those two were the first Sinhalese words he learnt, and it was on a golf course in England he heard them. Partnered by a Malayan Civil Servant he was playing a four-some with a Ceylon Civil Service pair and he noticed that every time one of his opponents began to put the other would say *hemim, hemim* (slowly, slowly). Sir Andrew will, of course, in course of time, learn that there are two other phrases closely connected with *hemim, hemim* and they are *hitapan, hitapan* (wait, wait) and *heta, heta* (tomorrow, to-morrow). They all belong to the same category as *mei pen arai* of the Siamese and *tida'apa* of the Malays.

Many Problems

To appreciate Sir Andrew's task it is necessary to understand the problems facing the country. As most of you are probably aware Ceylon is hard put to it to balance her budget. She has nothing like the two millions a month surplus that we have in the F. M. S. Taxation, both direct and indirect, is, therefore, fairly heavy. Although in area the country is slightly smaller than the F. M. S. the population is more than three times. Even then there are large tracts which are uninhabited and uninhabitable. As in India, so in Ceylon, poverty is rampant, and the standard of living of the large majority of people is comparatively low. Practically the entire export and import trade of the country is in the hands of foreigners. Literacy is high in the towns and when poverty and literacy join hands they always create considerable

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ALL CEYLON INDUSTRIAL RALLY AND CARNIVAL

JAFFNA PUBLIC MEETING PLEDGES SUPPORT

MAKE PEOPLE MORE INDUSTRIALLY MINDED

A very largely attended Public Meeting of the residents of Jaffna was held at the Kachecheri at 4-30 p.m. on Saturday the 19th instant. There were representatives from the Village Committees, the Urban District Council, the various Government Departments and the elite of Jaffna who enthusiastically pledged their support towards making the Rally and Carnival a success.

Mr. E. T. Dyson Government Agent took the chair. The Ministry of Labour, Industry and Commerce was represented by Mr. J. C. W. Rock, the Registrar General and Director of Commercial Intelligence. Mr. R. R. Nalliah and Mr. Cosmas W. D. Alwines acted as Joint Secretaries. Proceedings began with the reading of the notice convening the meeting. This was followed by the reading of letters from the Hon. the Minister of Labour, Industry and Commerce, the Director of Education; telegrams were received from Sir W. Duraiswamy, Mr. A. Mahadeva, Mr. R. Sri Pathmanathan, Members of the State Council and from Messrs J. R. Peter, Doresamy, J. Tyagarajah, A. Ganapragasam, T. C. Rajaratnam, Nadarajah, Retnasabapathy, A. M. Brodie Dr. Blok, I. P. Thuraiyettam, Mudhr. V. Ponnambalam and Mr. J. V. Chelliah.

The Chairman Mr. Dyson inviting very Rev. Fr. T. M. F. Long, O. M. I. the Rector of St. Patrick's College said that one who was deeply interested in the Rally & Carnival would be better able to tell them about it than he could do. Winged words, or burning words were needed and he had great pleasure in calling on Fr. Long to address them. Where he (speaker) was concerned, he would give the movement as much support in his power.

Genesis of the Project

Very Revd. Fr. T. M. F. Long said that the venture was nothing short of colossal. He wished to give briefly the genesis of the project. It was originally intended to hold a Carnival with a small exhibition of Local Industries. The Carnival was to be the main thing and the Exhibition a mere appendix. Considerable pressure was however brought to bear on him, the Chief Executive Officer, by influential people, official and unofficial, in

Colombo and Jaffna to concentrate rather on a Rally of local industries, as the time seemed ripe for a big drive in that direction, so that in the new scheme the Carnival would be the appendix to the Rally. It was pointed out that 18 million rupees left the peninsula every year for produce of different sorts and that only 2 million rupees came in. It was high time to encourage the local producer to cope with some at least of the existing demand, and keep some of these 18 millions in the country, by helping the local producer and craftsman to improve their methods and designs and by striking out on new lines of production, and getting the public to realise how much can be done by local energy and resources and by inducing people to support when possible the local producer. The Executive Committee discussed the change of plan and orientation and decided to make the Industrial Rally the main feature. But the scheme and the work involved were seen to be so gigantic in their scope and implications that they had to call for the hearty co-operation of the public in a work destined to achieve great things for the people.

Gigantic Scope

That the scope and implications were gigantic might be realised from the bald statement of some of the plans. The Rally was not to be an isolated feature, a mere flash in the pan. From it, it was hoped to originate an economic conference to give every help in effecting and economic survey of the peninsula, that alone obviously called for great co-operation. Then it was proposed to establish with the co-operation of the Director of Commercial Intelligence and the Marketing Board a Central clearing House in Jaffna for finished articles, to keep in touch with the marketing agencies, keep the producer informed of the lines for which there is demand and on which profit may be realised. Another suggestion was to maintain a studio of samples and designs to get the local producer to improve his design, quality and finish, and to encourage him to strike out on new lines. A Producers' Association was necessary, something in the nature of the medieval guild, as the isolated producer was his own worst enemy.

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THE FUNCTIONS OF THE MODERN EDUCATOR

Demand for Educating for Leadership

By S. Subramaniam, B. A.

(An address delivered at the Central Valigamam Teachers Association on 17-2-38)

In discussing the subject three questions naturally arise.

1. Who is an educator?
2. What is the difference between the modern educator and the educators of the past?
3. What are his functions?

I

In answering the first question, I say that the educator is not merely the teacher. The term refers to all functionaries who are engaged in the task of education. From the Minister of Education down to the teacher in the lowest classes of the Primary school, all have a part to play in the scheme of education. There is a large number of officials and un-officials e.g. the Director of Education, the Inspectors and Managers of Schools, who will find a place among educators. Nay more, I would even extend the application of the term to the great teachers of humanity that have lived in all ages and climes

II

Now I come to the second question. How does the modern educator differ from the educators of the past?

The term education has acquired at present a much wider significance than it had in the past. In the past, the conception of education seems to have been narrow not only in the East, but in the West also. Even now there are some who cling to the old opinions. For them education is entirely a matter between the teacher and the taught. It was regarded as merely a knowledge of certain subjects or even certain books. Without in any way disparaging the educators of the past in our country, or their deep devotion to religion and culture, I must confess that I am surprised to hear that some savants of learning devoted one full life time to the study of one great work. Not much attention seems to have been paid to physical culture as we understand it at present. Probably the public did sufficient manual work at home. Spiritual education, of course, received the highest attention. The other modern developments were perhaps not necessary then, and are not heard of in the education of the past. In the West too the conception of education was rather narrow. J. S. Mill in his *Autobiography* says, "my amusements which were mostly solitary, were, in general, of a quiet, if not a bookish turn, and gave little

stimulus to any other kind even of mental activity than that which was already called forth by my studies. I consequently remained long inexperienced in anything requiring manual dexterity, my mind as well as my hands did their work lamely, when it has been applied or ought to have been applied to the practical details, which, as they are the chief interest of life to the majority, are also the things which whatever mental capacity they have, chiefly shows itself. The Education which my father gave me was in itself much more fitted for training me to *know than to do*. He made no effort to provide me with any sufficient substitute for its *practicalising influences*." Cardinal Newman says with regard to university education; "The aim of university teaching is to educate the intellect to reason well in all matters, to reach out towards truth and grasp it. It is, I believe, as a matter of history, the business of a university to make this *intellectual culture its direct scope* or to employ itself in the *education of the intellect*." I think it is Carlyle that defines a university as a collection of books. According to the modern conception a university is the training ground of statesmen, poets, scientists, philosophers, captains of industry and even generals of war.

The narrow outlook referred to above is sometimes found among us teachers as well, and even among the other educators of this country. Each teacher is satisfied if his class does well or if he obtains the largest percentage of passes in his subject. A headmaster may be satisfied if a large number of boys become successful in the public examinations. The physical instructor is satisfied if his students win their laurels in sports. A manager is satisfied if the finances of the school are quite steady. An Inspector is satisfied if the teacher does good work. The Director of Education is pre-occupied with administrative details. The Minister of Education too does not seem to devote his attention to the wider aspects of education, as his time is for the most part devoted to inquiry into complaints from the public, the Managers and teachers. The task of the real educator is different from all those enumerated above.

III

Now we come to the third ques-

tion. What are the functions of the modern educator? He must aim at cultivating the many-sided personality of the pupil or the learner—spiritual, moral, intellectual, physical and aesthetic. The problem of education is co-extensive with the welfare of humanity as a whole. The curriculum must be so fashioned as to develop the whole personality or the many-sided life of the pupil. This does not mean that we should multiply the number of subjects. The teacher and even the other educators must learn to look at education from this angle of vision. The westerners have for the most part emphasised only on two aspects viz the intellectual and physical. L. P. Jacks, a distinguished educationist, says "I contend that for educational purposes the mind and body of the pupil should be treated as an inseparable unity and that no education given to the one can be fully effective unless it supports the education given to the other. My physical instructor would be a psychologist and humanist. The one great truth the psychologist has to teach is this. The organ of human intelligence is not the brain alone, but the whole body from the crown of the head to the foot." This is the trend of the western world. But we must lay sufficient emphasis on the other aspects as well.

With regard to teaching the following characteristics are essential:—

- (1) A many-sided curriculum
- (2) Freedom for the child
- (3) Individual teaching
- (4) Fusion of related subjects or correlation
- (5) Co-operation between the teacher and the taught.

I need not comment on these in detail. We know what they are, even though we have not reduced them to practice. With regard to (1) I would say that the intellectual side is too heavy. There are no facilities for adequate physical training. It must be compulsory like any other subject in the curriculum. Moral training can be imparted by specific subjects or by emphasising the study of suitable subjects. The spiritual and aesthetic side also deserve every encouragement. The study of Religion and Art will help these. With regard to (2) the fullest scope must be allowed for the development of the child's personality. Ex-

pression and not suppression must be our watchword. The self-governing class is a useful device. In regard to (4) Economy in time and energy can be effected by correlation. Life itself is a complex and correlated phenomenon. (5) Co-operation between the teacher and the taught is very essential. It must be willing co-operation both in work and play.

I have discussed the subject now from the point of view of a teacher in the class room. But I have already said that the term educator has a much wider reference than the mere teacher.

I would classify the wider aims of education under the following heads:—(Political) (2) Economic (3) Social.

I have subdivided political aims into (1) Education for citizenship. (2) Education for leadership.

Education for citizenship is very essential in a democratic state. Efficient citizenship and leadership are necessary for the successful working of democracy. The citizens should know their rights and exercise the duties of citizenship. They should not be taken up by false propaganda. On the other hand they should cultivate the virtues of honour, self-reliance and activity. The aims of citizenship can be summed up under the following heads.

- (1) A sense of social responsibility.
- (2) A love of truth and freedom.
- (3) The power of clear judgment in every day affairs.
- (4) A knowledge of the broad political and economic facts of the country and of the world in general. We should ourselves sedulously cultivate these qualities and inculcate them into the minds of the children that come under our care. Indeed a great responsibility rests on our heads.

Now with regard to (ii) i.e. Education for leadership, we may say that there is an ever-increasing demand for leadership in this country. We have to send leaders in all walks of life out of the portals of our institutions. The call for leadership is very great in countries which want to develop democratic institutions. Leadership does not imply that everyone should become the Speaker or member of the State-Council. Leaders are required for International, Imperial, National, Provincial, Urban, District or Village

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A Steam Launch Service Suggested

PROPOSALS BEFORE S. INDIAN AND CEYLON RAILWAYS

A SUGGESTION has been made, and it has been received sympathetically by the South Indian Railway authorities, that a steam launch service plying between Pt Calmere and Kankesanturai should be provided for the convenience of passenger and goods traffic between S. India and Jaffna.

Mr. R. K. Karusamykurukkal, Manager of Schools, Kaithady, Jaffna, had an interview with the Chief Superintendent, South Indian Railways on the subject.

Mr. Kurukkal was made to understand by the Chief Superintendent, that he would be willing to have a steam launch plying between Pt Calmere and Kankesanturai if the Ceylon Government Railway authorities would construct a proper landing Jetty at Kankesanturai, which is the terminus of the Northern line of the Ceylon Government Railway.

The General Manager, Ceylon Government Railways, who was also interviewed on the subject has, it is learnt, made the interviewer understand that the question of building a jetty at Kankesanturai would be considered if the Chief Superintendent of the South Indian Railways promised to start a steam launch communication between Pt Calmere and Kankesanturai, in the event of the Ceylon Government undertaking to put up a proper landing jetty at Kankesanturai and agreeing to co-operate with the South Indian railway in the proposal.

Negotiations, we understand, are going on in connection with this matter.

As the South Indian Railway has been extended to Point Calmere, and the distance between that port and Kankesanturai by sea is very nearly the same as between Talaimannar and Danushkodi it will be very convenient for passengers from Jaffna to South India and also for goods to be sent from South India to Jaffna. It will also be very convenient for draught bulls to be taken from South India to Jaffna, which are now allowed to be taken from Pt. Calmere to Kayts, one of the Northern ports of Jaffna. Passengers and goods from South India to Jaffna have now to go by a circuitous route, by rail from Jaffna to Talaimannar, by steam launch from Talaimannar to Danushkodi and from Danushkodi by rail to the different parts of South India. It will be seen that there will be a great saving in time and money for the people of Jaffna, who go to South India for purposes of trade and on religious pilgrimage to the shrines of South India.

Mr. G. G. Ponnambalam in Singapore

"The Whip" writes in the "Times of Ceylon"—

Mr. G. G. Ponnambalam, another of Ceylon's ambassadors, has done equally well in Singapore.

On his arrival he was met on Board by Sir George Trimmer, Chairman of the Singapore Harbour Board and Mr. J. T. N. Handy, Assistant Controller of Labour, Singapore. Mr. S. Muthucumaru, Patron of the Ceylon Tamils' Association garlanded Mr. Ponnambalam.

The day after his arrival he delivered a lecture in the Y.M.C.A. Hall. It was under the auspices of the Ceylon Tamils' Association.

His friends from Jaffna were overjoyed beyond description at Mr. Ponnambalam's arrival in Singapore.

Mr. Ponnambalam will tour the Federated Malay States before he leaves for Ceylon.

Mr. Ponnambalam has given a press interview in Singapore. He has spoken as a unit of the Empire.

"I consider the constructions of the Singapore Naval Base greatly affects the position of my own country, Ceylon, as a strategic unit of the Eastern Empire," he told the Singapore Free Press.

"As one representing a strategic unit of the Empire, I welcome the advance in arms, including the construction of this base, as I consider the security of Ceylon, as well as Malaya, Australia and India, must be commensurate with the strength of Great Britain's Navy and Air Force in the East."

TRANSPORT OF PADDY FROM A'PURA

Prohibitory Order by Govt. Agent

The Government Agent, North Central Province, has prohibited the transport of paddy to outstations without a permit, a measure found to be necessary owing to the shortage of paddy due to the failure of crops as a result of the severe drought. There is also a shortage of other cereals such as kurakkar, meneri etc.

Personal

Mr. V. S. Vallipuram of Nakiadeniya Group, Nakiadeniya, has returned to Jaffna, after 32 years' service, and has taken up residence at Kailaya-pillayar-kovilady, Nallur.

The Kathirgama Shrine

Kurunegala Hindus on Its Management

At a largely attended meeting of the Hindus of the Kurunegala District held at the Saiva Maha Saba Hall, Nagonbo Road, Kurunegala, at 7 p. m. on the 19th February, 1938, the following resolution was unanimously passed.

"This meeting of the Hindus of the Kurunegala District is of strong opinion that the Hindus of Ceylon have a right to have the administration of the Kathirgama shrine entirely in their hands or in partnership with the Buddhist brethren provided the latter agree to the Hindus having an effective voice in the management of the said shrine in all matters of worship and control of finance and all properties belonging to the said shrine."

It was decided at the meeting that a copy of the above resolution be sent to His Excellency the Governor, the Ministers of the State Council, and to other influential Buddhists and Hindus with a view to get their assistance in the matter.

The chair was taken by Mr. R. Sabapathy, Proctor, S. C., Kurunegala.

The resolution was proposed by Mr. M. Chellaiah and seconded by Mr. S. A. Murugesu. The Chairman put the resolution to the House and it was unanimously carried.

A sub-committee of three consisting of Messrs. T. Sinnaiyah, K. Gurusampillai and S. A. Murugesu was appointed to carry out the directions of the meeting.

The Chairman and other speakers touched on the various defects of the present administration and the bad handling of the finance and properties of the Shrine. The construction of a proper path for carts and pilgrims, supply of good water for the use of the pilgrims, clearing up of the jungles lying around the shrine, steps to be taken to safeguard the lives and properties of the pilgrims sanitation of the locality during the festival seasons, safeguarding the yearly income of the temple and various other matters were brought to the notice of the audience. (Cor.)

(Continued.)

Town Hall to the Supreme Court from June 1938 at a minimum rate of Rs. 1,000 per year, and decided to request the Fiscal to provide the necessary equipment.

The Council considered a letter from Messrs. Walker, Sons and Co., Ltd., regarding the extension of time for the completion of electrical work.

Mr. Nalliah moved that the extension of time be granted subject to the payment of damages stipulated in the agreement. Mr. C. Ponnambalam seconded—Carried.

Disappointment

Mr. S. Patanjali moved that the Chairman should write to the Electrical Department that one of the chief points urged by the department for the award of the tender to Walker's was a guaranteed delivery date and expressing disappointment at their advice and now recommending an extension.

Mr. S. M. Aboobuckar seconded.—Carried.

The confirmation of Mr. S. Balasubramaniam, Proctor, in his appointment as Secretary of the Council was approved.

JAFFNA U. D. C's INCONVENIENCE

NON-RECEIPT OF LOAN INSTALMENTS

"UNSATISFACTORY" SAY CONTRACTORS

A protest was made by a member of the Jaffna Urban District Council against the failure of the Commissioners of the Local Loans and Development Fund to pay the instalments on the loan on the due dates as agreed upon (between the Commissioners and the Council) and thereby necessarily making the Council commit a breach of the agreement entered into by the Council with Messrs. Brown & Co. Ltd.

A resolution to this effect, with an appeal to the Minister for Local Administration to investigate into the matter, moved by Mr. S. Patanjali at last Saturday's meeting of the Jaffna Urban District Council, fell through for want of a seconder.

The circumstances that led to this protest motion are understood to be as follows:

To carry on the work of extensions to the Electric Lighting Scheme, the Jaffna U. D. C. had applied to, and obtained a loan of a little over three lakhs from, the Commissioners of Local Loans and Development Fund in June 1937. The Commissioners were willing to pay the full amount at that time, but at the suggestion of the Government Electrical Department, it was decided by agreement, that the loan should be received by the U. D. C. in four instalments—August 1937, September 1937, January 1938 and April 1938. In the meantime the contract with Messrs Brown & Co. Ltd., was signed for one of the sections of work, this agreement of contract was drawn up by the Central Government and the U. D. C. was not allowed to make any alterations before signing it. It was stipulated there that payments should be made to Messrs Browns in December 1937 for the value of material supplied by them.

"Breach of Agreement"

In December, however, the U. D. C. was not able to make the payment as the Central Government had not remitted the instalment of loan due in September 1937, in spite of repeated reminders from Jaffna. Their case was that they were short of funds. In January Messrs Browns wrote a letter to the U. D. C. in which they say that "it is needless to state that this is a very unsatisfactory state of affairs. We wish it to be placed on record that the Council has committed a definite breach of the agreement."

This letter was considered by the Council along with the reply of the Deputy Financial Secretary to the President, Local Government Board, to the application for an advance of Rs. 180,000 in view of the delay in receiving the loan for extensions to the electric lighting scheme from the Local Loans and Development Commissioners.

Mr. Patanjali moved a protest motion, with the result mentioned above.

It is feared that because of the situation arising out of the non-payment of the instalment, as stipulated in the agreement, the extension work may be delayed unduly.

Supreme Court in Town Hall

The Council decided to hire the

(Continued on Previous Col.)



Hindu Organ.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1938.

SPEAKER'S RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES

WE WERE GLAD THAT THE "Times" incident in connection with the State Council was happily closed to the satisfaction of the parties and the public alike. Little did we then fear that the unfortunate incident would manifest itself in the form of a legislation which is calculated to trench upon the fundamental rights of citizens. The Bill, sponsored by the Legal Secretary last Friday, if enacted, is bound to result in a deplorable invasion of the rights of the public no less than those of the press. Apparently, Mr. HOWARD found himself in an unenviable position, when he was called upon to pilot through the Council the Bill for which he could find no justification whatever. His speech shows clearly that he has undertaken a task which is revolting to his legal and constitutional knowledge. It is a pity that he consented to move the Bill which he damned with faint praise. His observations are an eloquent testimony to the fact that there is no need for such a legislation to safeguard the rights and the dignity of the State Council and the Speaker. He felt it necessary to observe as follows: "It must not be thought that I am enamoured of its provisions or of some of its features." After reciting clause 8, which is perhaps the most offensive, Mr. Howard said by way of comment and criticism: "This is the most serious provision of the Bill.....I am very doubtful whether it is right to take such powers to confer immunity on the Speaker against civil and criminal proceedings." In fact, the Bill aims at arming the Speaker with dictatorial powers which are above the rule of law. It appears that our Councillors seem to forget the fact that in democratic States the Courts of Law are in the last resort the guarantee of the rights of citizens.

No thinking man or woman will contest the fact that the Speaker should have adequate powers to keep order and to uphold the dignity of the House. This authority he has under Standing Orders. What need there is for extraordinary and all-embracing powers which would elevate the Speaker to the position of an autocrat who is beyond the jurisdiction of a court of law? There is no reason why this Bill should be passed to the

prejudice of the rights of the press and those of the public. For it exposes them to the caprice of the Speaker, who could even arbitrarily exclude them from the sittings of the State Council. In a country like ours which aspires to full responsible government the rights of the press should be more jealously guarded against all possible encroachment. The late PROFESSOR DICRY said with reference to England that by the rule of law is meant "not only that with us no man is above the law, but (what is a different thing) that here every man, whatever be his rank or condition, is subject to the ordinary law of the realm and amenable to the jurisdiction of the ordinary tribunals". We cannot bring ourselves to believe that the public who in 1935 so successfully opposed the Powers and Privileges Bill will now lie down to this Bill. It is up to the people and their representatives in Council to resist this new despotism.

The Haripura Congress

The Fifty-first session of the Indian National Congress which has just concluded at Haripura is in more ways than one a unique event in the history of Indian National movement and of the Congress. On a conservative estimate the crowds that gathered there were somewhere between four and five lakhs. Since the Faizpur session which was held last year under the distinguished presidency of Mr. Jawaharlal Nehru, the ideal behind the session has been mass education. The Congress has caught the heart and the imagination of the masses and no longer depends for its strength on the intellectuals. This year the villagers in their thousands made a pilgrimage to Vithalnagar, not minding the hardships of trekking a long distance through jungle areas. The vast power of organisation which the Congress has displayed in transforming a jungle into a fairyland with all the amenities of modern life speaks volumes for the patriotism and capacity for self-government which the Indian leaders and people possess. Over seven lakhs of rupees went to the creation of Vithalnagar and its organisation, two lakhs and a half being paid on wages alone. The enthusiasm that prevailed there and the soberness and discipline that marked the proceedings were no less remarkable. Assembling in an atmosphere charged with electricity, as a result of the ministerial crisis which the unstatesmanlike action of the Viceroy forced upon the Congress Ministers, the members displayed great moderation and self-restraint which was the outcome of a desire not to further widen the breach between the Raj and the Congress. There was

none of the bluff, the mass appeal to clap-trap, the tall talk of retaliation and civil disobedience which one should expect at a popular gathering. Both in their speeches and in their resolutions the great Congress leaders have made no secret of their unflinching resolve not to compromise on essentials but to oppose Federation with all their might, should it be forced on India.

Another remarkable feature was the great unity and harmony that prevailed at Vithalnagar. In the face of a grave Constitutional crisis, the leftists and the rightists, the socialists and kisan workers on the one hand and the bourgeoisie on the other, all composed their differences and stood shoulder to shoulder. Before the supreme issue of combating Federation and winning Swaraj all conflicting ideologies and objectives receded to the back-ground. Socialists, terrorists and minorities have begun to find in the Congress the one organisation that can effectively combat imperialism and make India free. The constitutional crisis naturally overshadowed every other issue. The Viceroy has undoubtedly put himself in the wrong, and far from undermining the prestige of the Congress has only helped to enhance it. All progressive opinion both in India and Britain is agreed on this question. The resolutions on the ministerial crisis and Federation were carried with great unanimity. Though some leftists were not satisfied with the restrained tone of the resolutions, they were not disposed to embarrass the Congress, but felt the need for united action and team spirit. The spirit of Haripura should serve as an object lesson to British imperialists of the determination of the Indian people to be masters in their own land and not to be put away with sops.

As in so many previous crises, here at Haripura also the great personality of Mahatmaji triumphed. All looked up to him for the lead and abided by his decision. The history of the Congress during the last twenty years is the history of Mahatma Gandhi. His is the one unifying influence that more than anything else has worked during these stormy times for the consolidation of the Indian nation, and has been able to bring under one banner various communities and interests. No crisis ever finds his nerve ruffled, his faith shaken, his resource gone or his vision clouded. Men of such pronounced socialist outlook like Mr. Jawaharlal Nehru and Mr. Bose the President feel the spell of his greatness and willingly carry out his decision, even when it goes against their most cherished convictions. MR. JAWAHARLAL'S tenure of presidentship has been the most

distinguished in Congress history. Under his regime the Congress witnessed a solidarity, discipline and mass contact such as it never before enjoyed. He more than anybody else was instrumental in carrying the message of the Congress to the most outlying villages of India. Mr. Bose possesses remarkable capacity and is a valuable successor to Mr. Jawaharlal. The influence of Mahatmaji will be there to sober him a bit and he will be fully equal to the great demands that will be made upon him by the strenuous times that are ahead. Haripura gives fair promise that this year the Congress will witness far greater successes over the forces of reaction than in the past.

Institute of Civil Engineers of Great Britain

Mr. S. Mahadeva Made a Member

Mr. S. Mahadeva, Engineering Assistant, to the Director of Public Works, has been made a Member of the Institution of Civil Engineers of Great Britain.

Mr. Mahadeva recently returned from study leave in England where he worked with the Ministry of health visiting water works.

Mr. Mahadeva started his career in the Department as a draughtsman in 1909.

He was later awarded an engineering scholarship and on his return from England was appointed District Engineer. As Resident Engineer in the Construction Engineer's Office, he was in charge of the building of the Lunatic Asylum and the Infectious Diseases Hospital at Angoda.

Mr. Mahadeva is a member of the Institution of Water Engineers and Fellow of the Institution of Sanitary Engineers.

In sanitary and water engineering he was awarded the medal of the Institution of Sanitary Engineers for first place for the year 1922.

CLASS III CLERICAL SERVICE

Ministers Considering Salary Scale

Colombo, Feb. 22.

The Board of Ministers at a meeting yesterday began the consideration of the Salary Scheme for Class III. of the Clerical Service.

The official Committee which reported on the question had suggested that the maximum salary of an officer of this class should be raised from Rs. 100 to Rs. 150 per month.

A petition has been addressed to Government by the members of Class III., who number about 1,800, requesting that the maximum salary be raised to Rs. 200 per month.

VICEROY'S APPEAL TO MINISTERS

"Resume Your Labours"

NO DESIRE TO UNDERMINE THEIR POSITION

New Delhi, Feb. 22.

AFTER narrating the circumstances leading to the Constitutional crisis, H. E. the Viceroy says in the course of a statement: "I would like particularly to emphasise that there is no foundation for suggesting that the action I have taken is dictated by a desire to undermine the position of the Congress Ministries. The record of the last seven months should have made it abundantly clear that the Governors and myself are only too anxious to lend all assistance that we properly can within the framework of the Act to any Ministry in proper in a province.

"Neither the Governors nor the Governor-General have any desire or intention of interfering with the legitimate policies of the Congress or any other Government. The action taken in the present case has been designed to safeguard the peace and tranquillity of India and incidentally to uphold the sanctions of law and the orderly functioning of the constitutional machinery. That action keeps it open to Ministers in consultation with Governors to pursue policies of the release of prisoners. They need anticipate no difficulty now any more than in the past in securing the friendly and ready co-operation of the Governors in the individual examination of cases.

"I am glad to think that in no quarter is there manifest any disposition to extend the area of difficulties beyond the limit of the position which I have described, and it is my sincere and earnest hope that it may be shortly possible for a return to normality and that in the two Provinces most concerned, the Ministers in discussion with the Governors may find themselves able to resume their interrupted labours".

JAFFNA HINDU COLLEGE

PLAYGROUND FUND

I beg to acknowledge with thanks the following contributions towards the Playground Fund:—

	Rs.	Cts.
Mudaliar M. Somasundaram, <i>Maniagar, Islands</i>	100	00
Mr. S. Maruthamuttoo, <i>Govt. Pensioner Vaddukhoddai</i>	100	00
Vaddukhoddai Hindu English School		
Mr. M. Sivasubramaniam, <i>Kokuvil H. E. School</i>	25	00
Mr. K. Kandasamy	15	00
" A. Nagalingam	25	00
" A. Amirthalingam	25	00
" S. C. Thillainathan	10	00
" N. Chellappah	10	00
Mrs. P. P. Bhargaviamma	10	00

S. ADCHALINGAM,
Hony. Treasurer.

24-2-38.

Skeleton Found at Pallai

Remains of a Tamil Woman?

A skeleton believed to be the remains of a middle-aged woman was discovered at a spot three miles away from Pallai. There were also found some pieces of bone, two sarees, a tuft of hair and a skull by the side of this skeleton. These are suspected to be the remains of a Tamil woman.

On receipt of information, Mr. F. R. Sandrasegara, Maniagar, Mr. P. R. Krishnaratne, Asst. Superintendent of Police and Inspector Khan of the Chavakachcheri Station visited the spot.

The police are investigating.

SPECIAL MEDICAL FACILITIES

Plans for Improving Social Hygiene

Colombo, Feb. 22.

It is learned that plans are being made by the Medical Department to provide island-wide facilities for the treatment of venereal diseases.

All Medical Officers in charge of hospitals and dispensaries have been instructed to make arrangements for conducting clinics at those institutions, separate days being allotted for males and females.

In the case of the more important outstation centres such as Kandy, Jaffna, Kurunegala, Batticaloa, Anuradhapura and Matara etc., is is being arranged for special buildings to be provided for the work of these clinics.

Besides providing all facilities for the actual treatment of patients, the Medical Department is planning to combat the menace by means of extensive propaganda in the way of lectures, cinema shows and lantern exhibitions and also by a widescale distribution of special literature on the subject of social hygiene which at present is in course of preparation. The Medical Officers have even been instructed to give short talks on the subject to patients as they attend for treatment.

Personal

Adigar A. Naganather has left for Kandy for a change and will be there till 6th March.

Foreign Secretary Resigns

Differences over Italian Question

Crisis in British Cabinet

Mr. Anthony Eden, the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and his Under-Secretary, Viscount Cranborne, have resigned and their resignations have been accepted.

This was the sequel to difference of views between Mr. Eden and the Premier, Mr. Chamberlain, over the starting of conversations with Italy.

It is announced the Premier has asked Lord Halifax to take temporary charge of the Foreign Office.

A Labour motion of censure in connection with Mr. Eden's resignation was lost by 330 votes to 168 in the House of Commons on Tuesday

THE LAST OF THE OLD SCHOOL OF PANDITS

Vidwan S. Ganesha Iyer's 60th Birthday

An announced earlier, a public meeting was held at the Vaidyeshwara Vidyalaya to consider what steps should be taken to celebrate the 60th Birthday of Vidwan S. Ganesha Iyer in a fitting manner. Muhandiram S. Candiah, retired supervisor of Tamil Studies, presided. Pandit Kanapathipillai spoke about the life and work of Vidwan Ganesha Iyer. In doing so, he said that Ganesha Iyer, was almost the last pandit of the old school being a worthy successor of Ponnampalapillai and Kumaraswami Pulavar. He had done great service to Tamil by writing a commentary on "Raguvamsa", a work of which all Jaffna should be proud, as it was written by a Jaffna Prince. He had published only a part of the commentary and though the other parts of it were ready he was not able to publish them for want of support. Recently he had brought out an edition of "Tholkapiam Eluthathikaram" which was highly praised in India and Ceylon. His edition of "Tholkapiam Solladikaram" was in print. He intended to bring out an edition of "Tholkapiam Poruladikaram". All these meant money and the speaker thought that the best way of celebrating the event was to present him with a purse so that he might carry on his literary activities unhampered by financial difficulty.

It was decided to hold a public meeting in April and present him with a purse. A committee with the following office-bearers was appointed to do the needful.

President: Muhandiram S. Candiah.

Secretaries: Pandit S. Kanapathipillai and Mr. S. Ambikaipalan B.A.

Treasurers: Messrs. N. Ponniah and M. Vaithialingam.

THE NORTHERN ASSIZES

NAVATKULY V. C. CHAIRMAN ACQUITTED

TWO YEARS FOR "KNIFING"

Mr. S. Sandrasegaram, Chairman of the Navatkuli Village Committee and the other two accused, Thambiah and Nagamuttan, were acquitted at the Northern Assizes on Tuesday, after a trial lasting five days.

The accused were indicted on charges of unlawful assembly committing house trespass, robbery of cash and jewellery and clothes to the value of Rs 1,150 and voluntarily causing hurt to Mr. S. K. Arumugam, a landed proprietor of Kollakandy and a member of the Navatkuly V. C. and to members of his family.

The Jury returned a majority verdict of 5 to 2 in favour of all the accused. The Judge acquitted and discharged all the accused.

Two Years for "Knifing"

Vairamuttu Velupillai of Alangany, Pooneryn, who stood charged at the Northern Assizes with having attempted to cause the death of V. Sinnathamby by stabbing him was sentenced to two years' rigorous imprisonment.

Crown Counsel stated that Sinnathamby took exception to the accused having made an offering at the temple without his permission and kicked the offerings. This would constitute grave and sudden provocation.

The accused said that he acted under grave and sudden provocation. His Lordship passed the sentence mentioned above.

Alvai Murder Case

The fourth case taken up for trial at the Assizes is one of murder from Alvai North, in which one Kanapathy Sellan stands charged with the murder of Alvan Elaiyavan of the same village.

Trial is proceeding.

RAN ON MARRIED WOMEN TEACHERS

Director to Make Detailed Proposals

It is understood that the proposal to ban the employment of married women teachers in schools has been referred back by the Ministry of Education to the Director of Education for detailed proposals.

The Ministry, it is understood, is inclined to the view that the proposal should only be made applicable in the case of future entrants.

EMPIRE AIR SERVICE STARTS ON MONDAY

His Excellency the Governor will perform the official opening ceremony at the Rimalana Aerodrome and inaugurate the New Empire Air Mail Service from Ceylon on Monday at 8.30 a. m.

MAHASABAI INAUGURATED AT MALLAKAM

At a meeting of the residents of Mallakam held at the Mallakam Private Tamil School on 5-2-38, presided over by Mr. A. Saravanamuttu, Inspector of Schools, Mr. R. N. Sivapirakasam proposed the inauguration of a Maha Sabai at Mallakam, to work for the physical, social and spiritual advancement of the people of Mallakam. Several spoke in support of the resolution which was unanimously accepted by the House.

A sub-committee was appointed to draft the Constitution of the Sibhai.

The First General Meeting of the Maha Sabai was held on 19-2-38 at the Mallakam Private Tamil School. Mr. A. Saravanamuttu occupied the chair. The Constitution of the Maha Sabai as drafted by the sub-committee appointed for the purpose was approved by the meeting.

The following Office-bearers were elected:

Patron: Mr. R. Chintamani, C. C. S.

President: Mr. T. N. Appadurai, I. S. M.

Vice-Presidents: Messrs M. Kandiah, M. Subramaniam, R. Sivas, A. Saravanamuttu, and M. S. Subramaniam, Proctor.

General Secretary: Mr. R. N. Sivapragasam

Section Secretaries: Physical, Mr. M. Rajaratnam; Social, Mr. V. Chelliah; Spiritual, Mr. K. Murugesu

Treasurer: Mr. S. T. Rajaratnam, Proctor.

Unofficial Members of the Committee: Messrs S. Navaratnam, K. Damotharampillai, M. Selvadurai, A. Vaithalingam, V. Eragupillai, T. Ponnampalam, S. Subramaniam and V. Kumaraswamy.

Auditor: Mr. T. Kanagarayar.

Messrs A. Saravanamuttu and R. N. Sivapragasam addressed the gathering and exhorted them to work wholeheartedly for the success of the Sabai. The meeting terminated at 8-30 p. m.

(Cor)

Order Nisi

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA

Tesamentary Jurisdiction No. 143
In the matter of the Estate of the late Pathmasany daughter of Sithamparappillai of Karaveddy East
Decceased,
Thamotheram Alvappillai of Karaveddy East

Vs. Petitioner.
Sithamparappillai Thamotheram of do a minor by his Guardian-ad-Litem: Velauther Sittampalam of Do.

Respondent.
This matter coming on for disposal before C. Coomaraswamy Esquire District Judge on the 10th day of October 1935 in the presence of Mr. M. Esurapadham Proctor on the part of the Petitioner and the petition and affidavit of the Petitioner having been read.

It is ordered that the Petitioner as the uncle of the deceased be declared entitled to take out Letters of Administration and that letters of administration be issued to him accordingly unless the Respondent or any other person shall appear before this Court on or before the 18th day of November 1935 and shew sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

The 16th day of October 1935

(Sgd) C. COOMARASWAMY,

District Judge.

Extended to 3rd March 1938.

(Intld) H. S. R.

A. D. J.

[O. 84. 24 & 28-2-38]

All Ceylon Industrial Rally and Carnival

(Continued from page 1)

And lastly it was of the utmost importance that there should be the greatest amount of publicity, "to say it on the boardings."

A Common Failing in Ceylon

Mr. J. C. W. Rock, the Registrar General and Director of Commercial Intelligence, said that he was there that evening representing the Hon. the Minister of Labour, Industry and Commerce. The Minister could not be present there owing to other engagements. He (speaker) represented a many sided department. They heard a good deal of talk on Industrial Development. There were too many suggestions, and they were all running in different directions. It was heartening to find that Jaffna had caught the idea. It was a common thing in Ceylon to see movements start with a great flourish of trumpets and die out with the blast of the trumpets. He hoped that would not be the case with the venture of that evening. Mr. Rock then went on to state how the Industrial Pageant had been conducted in 1935 and 1936. Continuing, Mr. Rock said that where the development of Industries were concerned they had to look into their economies and survey the ground. It had been mentioned by Fr. Long that a very large sum of money went out of the country. There was a time when a large amount of money came in, especially from Malaya.

The enthusiasm for farming did not land them very far. Those who studied at the Scout Colony, several mentioned that they were going to become teachers. There was a good deal of unemployment. Malaya which at one time had been the dumping ground of the brains of the country was closing her doors to them. In Jaffna his Department had set up a weaving centre at Perumalkovilady. It was just a small beginning, a small grain sown. Next year there would be a weaving factory. If by an Industrial drive they were going to create an interest in weaving and other kindred Industries they would be able to find an outlet in two directions towards solving that problem of unemployment. The two directions were in the way of food and clothing. At present weaving was looked upon more as an accomplishment. There were schools where weaving was taught, but the pupils did not take up weaving after leaving school. There were thousands of pupils learning music, as the results of the music examination will show, but how many musical artists were there in Ceylon? The number could be created on the fingers of one hand.

Economic Survey

That showed the necessity of getting their young men and women to apply the knowledge they learnt at school, after they had left school. The other problem was to sell the article that was produced. Then they were confronted with the competition of the foreign article. A clearing house was therefore a necessity. Fr. Long in making mention of the clearing house was looking very far ahead, and one had in these matters to look ahead. Mention had been made of an Economic Conference. Sometime ago he had addressed letters to the Government Agents of the various provinces with regard to an economic survey. The replies received showed that they were not very enthusiastic over these matters. An

economic survey was properly the function of private bodies. Once these bodies had surveyed the field, they could call on Government to carry out their proposals. He wished all power to Fr. Long's idea. He (speaker) proposed to send some time later an economic unit to do an economic survey. That unit generally collected data of representative sections of a village. It was necessary to do the work for every village in a district. He hoped that Fr. Long's ideas would rectify. The question of designs, was a very important matter. There was no denying the fact that their artisans had been very badly hit. The machine-made article generally commanded a wider market. That was partly due to the fact that patterns and designs were out of date. Their designs had become passe. They were living in an age of aeroplanes, motor cars, and radios. Their tastes in food and clothing were changing. He noticed that that change had come even in Jaffna. They should therefore march with the times. Out of loans funds Government proposed to build a textile factory. He hoped Jaffna would give the example to the rest of the Island and make that textile factory a real step towards the industrial prosperity of their country. With regard to the exhibition, his Department would be booking one or more stalls where demonstrations would be given. He hoped that those who were present there that day would visit the Perumalkovilady Demonstrations and write to him what they thought of them. He was always glad to receive criticisms.

Whole-hearted Support

Mr. Sam. Sabapathy, Chairman, Jaffna Urban District Council, then moved the first resolution: The Public of Jaffna in meeting assembled do pledge their whole-hearted support towards the All Ceylon Industrial Rally and Carnival.

Mr. Sabapathy said that the only hope of the country was industrialisation. He had great pleasure in associating himself with that Rally and Carnival and he fervently wished that it was the beginning of a new era of industrialism.

Mr. S. Kanagasabai, Crown Advocate, seconded the resolution. He said that he was very glad to be there that day. Many of their industries were dead and others were languishing for want of support. He was glad to see that Government was giving a great deal of help towards improving food production. They were all glad to see the Registrar General Mr. Rock that day. The speaker referred to the good work that the Marketing Department was doing in giving the producer some return for his products. There was ample scope towards improvement. The time would come when their educated young men would take to farming. In Jaffna the farmers still carried on in spite of losses. The project they were launching that day was a very ambitious one. He hoped that several young men would take up the heavy burden of organisation and make it a success. Mr. P. Moses J. P. spoke in support. The resolution was put to the house and carried enthusiastically.

Committee

Mr. Nevins Selvadurai J. S. P., M. B. E. moved the next resolution: This meeting resolves that the following do form a General Committee, with power to add to their number to help and advice the Executive Committee: The Chairman of the Village Committees, the Members of the Urban District Council, the Managers of the District, the District Judge, the Provincial Surgeon, the Asst. Commissioner of Excise, the Divisional Agricultural Officer, the Principals of the Secondary English Schools, the Headmasters of the Secondary Vernacular

THE FUNCTIONS OF THE MODERN EDUCATOR

(Continued from Page 2)

administration. The qualities that should be cultivated in the pupils are:—

- (1) A constructive sense
- (2) Loyalty
- (3) Courage
- (4) A thorough mastery of facts
- (5) purposeful idealism

Who else can impart these qualities except us teachers? Should we not ourselves be leaders if we want to inculcate these virtues?

These are not vague generalisations, but have an apt reference to the political condition of our country.

Now I pass on to the economic aspect of the problem of education. This looms large in the vision of every modern educator. The evergrowing problem of unemployment is awaiting solution at our hands. Is not our educational system largely responsible for the present state of affairs? If the scheme of education has to be re-organised so as to meet the ever-growing and varying demands of the country, who else can do it but the teachers themselves? The teacher cannot say that his duty is merely to teach, but that the unemployed should solve the problem by themselves. Every citizen has a right to expect work from the state and must be given a fitting place in the national polity.

Lastly we come to the social aspect of education. We find criminals and thieves increasing day by day. Some of these have actually received a school education. They have not profited by it, but have reacted in the worst manner possible. It is the expression of anti-social conduct. Is it not the task of the educator to emphasise this aspect of our education and root out social evils. If we impart the right kind of education, social inequalities, social injustice, and other social evils will vanish & we shall create a fairer and nobler world to live in.

There are many other problems which the modern educator has face and I shall not discuss them in detail here. We have to re-organise our schools. The curricula and working hours have to be reconsidered. The problem of adult education will engage our attention more and more in times to come. We shall be called upon to play a more important part in the future than in the past with the ever-increasing complexity of our political, economic and social life. We have before us a virgin field, the harvest therein is plenty & let us set to work in right earnest.

Schools, the Principals of the Training Schools, the Divisional Inspector of Schools, the Asst. Registrar of Co-operative Societies and Adigar A. Naganathar, Gate Mudir, P. J. Rajah, Mudirs P. Canagasabai, C. Kanapathypillai, V. Ponnambalam, Muhandirams Kandiah and Nagalingam, Messrs. S. Kanagasabai, T. Muttusamy, T. C. Rajaratnam, Nevins Selvadurai, J. V. Chelliah, S. Thuraiasingham, S. C. Gunaretnam, M. R. Jebaretnam, P. T. Sampanthar, S. U. Somasegaram, I. P. Thuraiethnam, Wm. Black, R. Thamotharampillai, V. Suppiah, C. Arulampalam, M. J. Pullennayagam, and Dr. Isaac Tambiah. Mr. V. Veerasingham Principal Manipay Hindu College seconded the resolution which was put to the house and carried unanimously.

SIR ANDREW CALDECOTT'S TASK IN CEYLON

(Continued from Page 1.)

able disturbance. And that disturbance in the life of the people is evident everywhere.

The Crown Colony form of government no longer obtains in Ceylon. She has been set on the path of self-government, but self-government appears to be a forlorn hope until and unless the people of Ceylon agree to compose their differences. These differences are not so much political as national and racial. As in Malaya, so in Ceylon there are a number of Nationalities, the two most important being the Sinhalese and the Tamils. Numerically the Sinhalese are in the majority and they dominate six out of the nine provinces into which the Island is divided. The Sinhalese colonised Ceylon and the Tamils from South India invaded it, off and on over the centuries.

Historical Handicaps

Happy indeed is the country which has no recorded history. The Sinhalese people have the misfortune to have such a history, according to which they are the direct descendants of a renegade prince of Northern India who was deported from his own country together with a band of his ruffianly friends. They drifted across the Indian ocean and landed on the western shores of Ceylon and settled down there. But their colonization was by no means peaceful. They were unable to break away altogether from India from where came beautiful women as queens of the Kings of Ceylon. And trouble always followed where women went and for centuries Ceylon was the battle ground of rival princes. The Sinhalese Kings suffered heavily, they had to shift their capitals to various parts of the island to avoid extermination, but they preserved their individuality. There can be no doubt at all that Sinhalese are of Indian stock, and the only thing that differentiates them from any other tribe of India is their language, which is not spoken or written to-day in any part of India. Whatever might have been the origin of the Sinhalese, Ceylon has been in their possession for centuries. The only other people who have lived there as long, but always in the minority, are the Tamils.

History has not helped to create friendship between the Sinhalese and the Tamils, without which there can be no hope of a peaceful Ceylon. Rather, it has kept them apart and created bitter feelings which has to a certain extent been encouraged by the isolation to which the Tamil people have relegated themselves, and the Sinhalese have left them severely alone in their Jaffna peninsula. Had there been closer communication between the two communities during the past century there would not be all the bother that exists

to-day. Closer communications would also have been of mutual benefit.

Jaffna To-day

My wife and I had the very great privilege of spending nearly a week in Jaffna, the northern province of the island, recently and no one can realise the grit and enterprise of the Jaffna people without seeing Jaffna. Can you imagine a people thriving in an arid country without a single river or anything even resembling a hill? Yet, that is Jaffna and it is to the pioneers from Jaffna that this country owes a great deal. We were fortunate to see Jaffna at her best, with miles of green paddy fields guarded by interminable avenues of palm-rah palms, but that pleasant spectacle lasts no more than three months. During the rest of the year, I am told, cows raid the office waste paper baskets, chickens thrive on straw and goats climb the dad-p trees in search of leaves that do not exist.

The migration of Tamil people from Jaffna to the Malaya Peninsula has now practically stopped. Instead they are wisely moving into the Sinhalese districts from Jaffna, and this infiltration may have very salutary effects on the political situation in years to come. At least let us hope that by closer association a closer understanding and closer friendship will grow.

The Constitution

The present constitution is the result of years of agitation. This much we must say for Ceylon, that agitation has been entirely constitutional. It has been a wordy warfare and nothing more. True, persons have been reviled on the platform and the Press, characters have been damaged, but no bones have been broken. When Sir Hugh Clifford was Colonial Secretary of Ceylon—it was said that he wrote all the Governor's despatches to the Colonial Office at the time—he characterised those who agitated for reforms as the "little core of rot" and it was to satisfy this "core of rot" that the franchise was first introduced, and the election for the educated Ceylonese seat gave an indication of what might be expected in the future when electioneering became a common method. I have followed this agitation for a quarter of a century, my name appeared in the first list of electors and I was not alone among that first batch of voters who felt utterly indifferent towards this new found freedom. Whatever the vote and the ballot box may have achieved in England I am sure it has not made the forcibly enfranchised millions of Ceylon one whit happier than they were before. However, Ceylon is set on the path of self-government, and when she achieves it, may she find something really satisfying and in harmony with her past traditions!

The critics of the present constitution are numerous. They are found among all classes and it appears to be the only thing in which all people are agreed. But they are agreed for very different reasons. The minorities say it gives the majority community too great a say in the administra-

tion; the majority say it does not give them enough. By petition, memorandum and interview, the Secretary of State for the Colonies has already been made aware of these views. Even before Sir Andrew has had time to study the situation the Secretary of State has thrown a bombshell by extending the powers of the Governor and bringing them into line with what obtains in the Indian Provinces. From all what I hear the Secretary of State has not taken that step on the advice of Sir Andrew, but on representations made by previous Governors. The Donoughmore Commission state in their report that with the transference of greater responsibility to the people the reserve powers given to the Governor have to be increased. No greater responsibility has so far been transferred to the people. Whether the increasing of the reserve powers of the Governor, conversely, means that transference of greater responsibility is projected I do not know. Whatever they may be we are on the eve of political changes of considerable importance to Ceylon and Sir Andrew Caldecott will have his hands full in the years before him.

I have mentioned in the course of the foregoing a number of problems which the Government of Ceylon have to solve. They may be summarised as follows:

1. Unemployment
2. Immigration
3. Food production
4. Industrial expansion
5. Sinhalese-Tamil unity
6. Constitutional changes

I believe that most of the other problems would either solve themselves or at any rate assume manageable proportions once the constitutional difficulties are settled and I make no excuse for lingering a little longer over this problem which at present is uppermost in the minds of the educated people of Ceylon.

I have already referred to the first introduction of the franchise to Ceylon. The idea behind the innovation then was the creation of an intercommunal electorate. It was I think even then realised that the experiment would not be a success unless the electorate could be educated to sink communal differences.

A Far Cry

From that first election when a predominantly Sinhalese electorate returned by a thumping majority that gallant Tamil fighter, the late Sir Ponnambalam Ramanathan, in preference to the brilliant Sinhalese doctor, the late Sir Marcus Fernando, to the Donoughmore Commission which granted adult suffrage to men and women alike, is a far, far cry.

Most of the disturbances in the political life of Ceylon can be traced directly to the widening of the franchise because it has kept out of the Council some of the best men of the country, and brought into it men who were able to influence the electorate by appealing to their worst passions. This blunder by the Donoughmore Commission should be a lesson to those people of too much leisure in London and elsewhere who try to make new heavens and new earths by meddling with social conditions in eastern countries. Distance must certainly lend enchantment to their view but the ultimate

sufferers are the victims of their optical illusions.

Amazing Progress

I visited Ceylon recently after twelve years, and I was amazed at the progress made in certain directions and considerably depressed by the stagnation in others. Now, if a State Council, which does not by any means include the best brains in the unofficial community, which is hampered by the lack not only of any vast resources of revenue but also of unity, could have achieved so much in so short a time it is pertinent to ask how much more they would be able to achieve if the Council could give its undivided attention to the problems that affect the whole country.

At present the whole of the permanent ministry consists of Sinhalese, with a Tamil Speaker, and the Opposition consists of members of all the minority communities—Tamils, Muslims, Europeans and Burghers. But the Donoughmore Constitution is such a strange thing that almost all the members of the Council are in one or the other of the Executive Committees and it often happens that whenever a permanent Minister goes on leave there is an unholy scramble for the acting appointment and opposition members are not among the least eager to accept such appointments.

Now a few words with regard to the reforms desired necessary. I understand that Sir Andrew Caldecott has already received innumerable memorials, most of them requests for communal representation. The Ministers are opposed to communal representation, but there appears to be a strong feeling that minorities should be accorded special treatment.

Sir Andrew and Minorities

The Governor has already indicated, very early in his regime, that minorities must be reasonable. And we have an idea of how his mind is working on this problem from his own lips.

WANTED

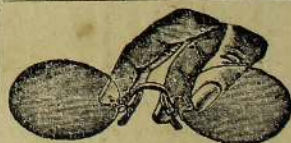
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[Mis 235 17 and 24-2-38]



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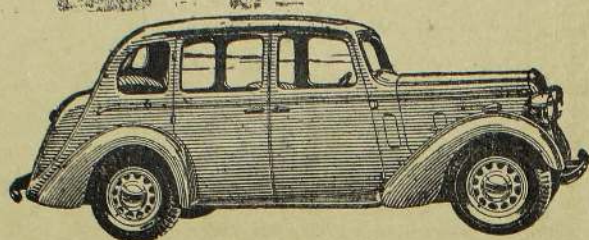
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[Y. 13f, 19/8/37 to 18/8/38.]

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[T]

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Y. 65. 1-3 37—31 3 38. (T)

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[Y. 2. 1-4-37 to 31-3-38.]

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