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## IMPORT OF CURRYSTUFFS INTO CEYLON

### Quota System Recommended

### TO INCREASE LOCAL PRODUCTION AND MAKE CEYLON SELF-CONTAINED

THE Central Board of Agriculture has recommended to the Executive Committee of Agriculture and Lands the advisability of introducing a system of quotas on currysuffs imported from India and other countries, with a view to encouraging the cultivation of these products on a large scale and thus make Ceylon self-sufficient.

A motion to this effect was moved at the Central Board of Agriculture by Mr. C. Arulambalam and adopted.

The following motion was moved by Mr. C. Arulambalam, Advocate, at the meeting of the Central Board of Agriculture held on March, 17th, 1938, at Peradeniya:—

"That with a view to encouraging the cultivation in this Island on a large scale of chillies, onions and similar products used as currysuffs, and with a view to gradually making the Island self-sufficient as regards these commodities, the Central Board of Agriculture recommends that the Executive Committee of Agriculture and Lands consider the advisability of introducing a system of quotas in respect of such commodities now imported from India and other countries."

This motion was seconded by Mr. U. B. Unanboowe, R. M., and adopted by the Board.

#### A Memorandum

In support of the motion the following memorandum was submitted.

It appears from statistics given by the Principal Collector of Customs in his Administration Report for the year 1936, that in that year 1936 there were imported into this Island:—(1) Dried chillies—157,010 cwt., value Rs. 1,999,147; import duty paid—Rs. 196,325 (2) Onions—608,831 cwt., value Rs. 2,012,134; import duty paid—Rs. 121,814; (3) other currysuffs—161,809 cwt., value Rs. 1,273,336.

The Ceylon Trade Commissioner for India gives the following statistics for the import of currysuffs from India for

the year 1937, in his 'Review of the Trade, between India and Ceylon in 1937:—

"Among currysuffs, chillies and onions hold the pride of place. Though the quantity consumed of the former has decreased from 140,334 cwt. to 121,599, the price paid has increased by a quarter million to Rs. 2,096,813, one cwt. in 1937 costing Rs. 17-2 as against Rs. 12-6 in 1936. Of onions, the Island has an increased consumption of 631,583 cwt., valued at Rs. 3,035,947. The other Indian currysuffs consumed are coriander seed (46,351 cwt., value Rs. 294,97-), cummin seed (5,903 cwt., value Rs. 112,347) fennel (6,634 cwt., value Rs. 67,065), mathe seed (6,889 cwt., value Rs. 51,920), tamarind (21,629 cwt., value Rs. 123,589), turmeric (12,612 cwt., value Rs. 128,836) and garlic (874 cwt., value Rs. 9,140), and these items disclose increased consumption. A similar increase is noticed even in the consumption of Indian ground-nuts, in which the quantity has risen from 9,766 cwt. to 11,712 cwt., of dried fruits from 258 cwt. to 936 cwt. and of ginger from 2209 cwt. to 2,727 cwt."

#### Countries of Origin

The commodities mentioned by the Principal Collector for Customs in his Report were imported from the following countries:—(1) dried chillies from India, Burma and Straits Settlements; (2) onions from India; (3) coriander seed from India and France; (4) tamar-

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## RICE IN INDIA

### Nutritive Value Versus Fashion

### NEED FOR CHANGE IN OUTLOOK

By Prof. V. Subrahmanyam, D. Sc., Department of Bio chemistry,  
Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore.)

RICE is the most important grain crop of the world and is extensively grown in all tropical and sub-tropical countries where sufficient supply of water is available. The annual world production of rice is of the order of five hundred billion pounds, which is nearly double that of the next grain crop, wheat. Over 600,000 varieties are being grown and dozens of new ones are being added every year. The acreage under rice is very vast, being over eighty million in India alone.

The general make-up of the rice grain is well known and consists of the outer coat (the husk), the neighbouring bran layer and the main body of the grain (the endosperm) with the germ at one end. Each of these parts has its characteristic composition. The husk is non-edible, being mostly made up of resistant organic matter and sand (silica). The bran is edible and is rich in proteins, fat, minerals and vitamins, all of which are essential to make a well-balanced diet. It is not, however, used for human consumption and is mostly used to feed cattle. The germ is also rich in valuable food constituents, but is mostly lost during the process of milling. Only the inner portion, which is rich in starch but deficient in other respects, is eaten by the majority of the population. The significance of this will be discussed later.

#### General Classification

For general purposes, the different varieties of rice may be classed under three main heads:—hard, soft and glutinous. The hard varieties are the most popular and fetch the highest prices. Their kernels are strong, compact and glassy. They stand milling and can be easily transported without much damage. The soft varieties are generally white and brittle. They generally crack on drying and break on milling. The glutinous varieties

are comparatively rare in India, though very popular in China and other Eastern countries. They are chalky in appearance, mill poorly and cook to a pasty condition. Other recognised classifications are "fine," "medium" and "course," depending largely on the size and appearance of the kernel. There are also the broad divisions of coloured and white rice as well as scented and non-scented. The colour may range from perfect white to almost black. It is of course only 'skin-deep' and confined to the bran layers, the inner kernel being white in all the cases. The scent is a varietal characteristic. It reminds one of the mild mahua flavour.

The hard varieties (white or coloured) are best suited to cooking in water. The soft varieties cook to a pasty condition but improve considerably after parboiling. The glutinous varieties are unsuitable for cooking (as ordinarily practised in Indian households) but make good pastries. The scented varieties are very popular for certain special preparations like *Pulav*. Hard and coarse varieties with thick bran layers do well in baking, preferably after admixture with other flours. The same varieties can also be used for preparing alcoholic beverages after polishing.

#### Qualities that Appeal to Consumers

The qualities that appeal to different sections of consumers may be placed under the following main heads:—(1) colour, (2) shape and size, (3) flavour, (4) polish, (5) manner and extent of curing, (6) behaviour on cooking, (7) digestibility, and (8) general sustaining power. The tastes are highly variable, but it may be stated that white varieties are generally preferred to the coloured ones. (In certain parts of the west coast of India, coloured rice is preferred

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# HINDU NEW YEAR AND OUR CALENDARS

By S. Muttiah, (Thavady)

EVERY one of us knows that New Year happens once a year but it is not all that know how it is computed.

But the time has come when we should examine our Panchangam more closely, for the authorities who are responsible for the correct computations of new year, Longitudes of planets, eclipses transits etc are at variance with one another. So it will be interesting to investigate some of the Astronomical constants which are employed in the calculations of new year, new moon etc.

Among the various authoritative Siddhantas, Modern Surya Siddhanta, Arya Siddhanta and Rajamirahangam are now in use. Arya Siddhanta is in use in Jaffna and South India. The Astronomical constant of the year by A. Siddhanta is 365.2586895 days and by S. Siddhanta is 365.25875648 days. The Hindu New Year 'Biharhanya' falls on April 13th 1938 at 1531 of the day from Lanka sunrise, that is at  $\frac{N}{27} \frac{V}{11} \frac{T}{20}$  according to S. Siddhanta and according to A. Siddhanta at 343745 of the day that is at  $\frac{N}{30} \frac{V}{37} \frac{T}{41}$ .

The above two Astronomical Constants of the year are not sidereal but Anomalistic. According to these Constants the sun will never be at the first point of Asvini at the beginning of the new year. The Hindu Sidereal year is  $\frac{d}{365} \frac{h}{9} \frac{m}{41.41} \frac{s}{355.6}$ , 1900, Modern Astronomy as determined by the Hindus in 1192 B. C. or so.

The entry of sun into the first point of Asvini can only be calculated by a sidereal year and not by Anomalistic year. The Hindu Astronomy gives the lengths of Tropical, Sidereal and Anomalistic years very accurately and these values agree very favourably with those of modern Astronomy. It is a great mystery, even today, that Siddhanta Panchangams, employ anomalistic year to compute their values instead of sidereal year.

It is interesting to see the constant used by Drigganitha Panchangams is a sidereal one  $\frac{d}{365} \frac{h}{9} \frac{m}{41.41} \frac{s}{355.6}$ , and all the longitudes of planets, the sun, the moon and stars are calculated independently from the vernal Equinox or the first point of Aries.

But the Siddhanta Panchangams mainly base their longitudes of planets on sun's mean longitude. If the sun's mean longitude goes wrong the whole thing goes wrong; they can never get the correct Longitude of the sun if they use anomalistic year in place of Sidereal one. It is no wonder they (authors of Vakya Panchangams) extract elements of eclipses from the Nautical Almanac for computing the circumstances of eclipses.

All data given in Hindu Astronomy are for the meridian of

Ujaini and it is doubtful if the Vakya Panchangams of Jaffna are computed for the meridian of Jaffna. We should not be surprised to see the difference between Vakya and Drigganitha Panchangams in fixing the forthcoming New Year at  $\frac{N}{20} \frac{V}{37} \frac{T}{33}$  10 respectively. Surya Siddhanta fixes it at  $\frac{N}{27} \frac{V}{11} \frac{T}{20}$  (this comes closer to Drigganitha). The sun can not enter the first point of Asvini for all these values but once only at  $\frac{N}{33} \frac{V}{10}$ .

No Ayanamsa values are given in most of these Panchangams. Perhaps the authors think that it is not necessary for the public to know.

Length of the Synodic revolution of the moon agrees very nearly with that of modern Astronomy. In a five thousand years the difference may amount to one hour and 11 minutes but as the Hindu year is essentially lunar and not solar, not much practical inconvenience is caused by such difference; then we can infer that Vakya Panchangams are only good enough to predict new moon and full moon. The Siddhanta and Drigganitha occasionally exhibit a divergence of 17 ghatikai in regard to tithis intermediate between new moon and new moon (from 5th to 10th tithis).

"Modern Astronomers use five principal equations in order to determine the moon's actual, from her mean, elongation or tithi. These are (1) the sun's equation of the centre (2) the moon's equation of the centre (3) the moon's evection (4) the moon's variation (5) the moon's annual equation. The ancient Astronomers were unacquainted with the evection and variation as perturbing elements of the lunar theory."

Drigganitha Panchangams are based on modern Scientific Astronomy. The values of tithis, longitude of planets eclipses, occultation, and transits are very accurately calculated.

The Ayanamsa value, given in Drigganitha Panchangam published by Brama Sri S. Subramaniya Iyer of Madduvil, Jaffna, Ceylon, is one of the achievements in Astronomy. I believe, this mathematical display is due to his erudite Guru Brama Sri T. S. Visvanatha Srauti Avergal.

The question of Ayanamsa is a mooted one yet the Ayanamsa given by Srauti Avergal is quite rational and mathematical.

Mesha Sankranti of Drigganitha Panchangam published for the meridian of Jaffna, is always mathematically correct. It is the duty of every educated Hindu to observe the new year as prescribed by the above Drigganitha Panchangam. It is very easy to assess the good value of such a Panchangam as Drigganitha and it will be quite unnecessary to discuss its merits here.

# RICE IN INDIA

Continued from Page 1.

to white, but this may be regarded as an exception). Small and shapely grains are preferred to big and coarse ones. The scented varieties are popular in North India, whereas in South India, non-scented ones are preferred. All consumers prefer rice which has been stored for some length of time. Certain sections like raw rice (without any treatment), while others prefer it parboiled. Parboiled rice is generally popular on the west coast of India, while, on the east coast, it is consumed chiefly by the working classes. The richer and the middle class people like rice varieties, which are easily digested while the poorer folk prefer varieties which digest slowly and will consequently be more sustaining. It has been reported that, shortly after the introduction of new and high yielding varieties in certain parts of South India, the working classes complained that such varieties did not suit them. They reported that whereas they were content with only two meals of the older varieties, even three meals of the new ones did not satisfy them!

In addition to the above, the consumers are keenly interested in the nutritive value of different varieties, but have as yet very little scientific information thereon. They are largely guided by popular impressions based on general experience. Some of these have been borne out by recent scientific work, while others seem to be unfounded.

## Chemical Composition

The chemical composition of rice has been determined by a number of workers. The recent work of Dr. A. Sreenivasan and Mr. V. Sadasivan of this department would show that the composition is more variable than was originally supposed. Thus, proteins vary from 7.0 to 10.0 per cent; phosphoric acid from 0.6 to 1.2 per cent and lime from 0.06 to 0.11 per cent! It has been found that the coloured and the so-called coarse varieties are generally richer in the essential nutritive elements than the white and 'fine' varieties which fetch the highest prices on the market.

These observations have been supported by the independent histological findings of the Coimbatore workers.

The reason for this apparent anomaly is not far to seek. The public taste has so far been largely in favour of the white and high-yielding varieties and the plant breeder has done his best to cater to it. Nutritive value has yet no place in his scheme! The result is that he has gone on selecting or breeding varieties which are predominantly starchy but poor in other essential constituents. If, on the other hand, the public awaken to the realisation of the situation and demand nutritively rich varieties, the position will soon be reversed. The so-called coarse and inferior varieties will take their right place on top of the table. Further search will no doubt reveal the existence of varieties which are even richer than those so far reported, and which perhaps may surpass wheat in regard to essential nutritive constituents.

In spite of its great popularity, rice is to day classed as an inferior grain, poor in necessary food factors. The stigma is rather unfair because human fashion sought certain external characteristics and selected only the poorer varieties. Once the present outlook is changed, there will be no difficulty in producing nutritively superior varieties of rice.

## Rice Protein Highly Nutritious

There is ample experimental evidence to show that rice protein, small as it is in quantity is nutritively superior to that of wheat. It is richer in regard to the essential amino acids and taken on equal weight basis, promotes better growth than wheat protein. Unfortunately, the present taste is such that even the small quantity of protein is largely rejected in the form of bran and only the residue is eaten.

Some varieties of rice are fairly rich in phosphorus which is necessary for the building of the bone. Others are comparatively poor. A large part of the phosphorus is present as phytin, which is not readily available for human nutrition. Cooking and digestive juices increase the

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## EBB AND FLOW

By S. A. N.

### A Mass Effort

THE Jaffna Peninsula was never before so lively as it was during the last week. It was a week of intense educational activities in urban centres and rural areas. The young and the old, men and women and boys and girls—everybody seemed to take a hand in the doings of the week. Day and night hummed with entire school thrown into some activity or other. For parts of most days of the week almost every school both English and Tamil was on wheels. The State Councillors who have been misguided to rack themselves over road traffic control ought to seriously reconsider any control measure they may have evolved in respect of hiring buses and cars. The Education Week would have been an unimpressive affair but for these motor vehicles. It was all rattle and drive far into the night. Physical displays, concerts, exhibitions, contests and such other stirrings were the order of the day in villages and hamlets. Some of the big performances wended to the Jaffna town esplanade for the finish-off. Educational activities on such a huge scale were never before conceived of and executed. Most of the old folks in the Peninsula who are interested in education are thankful that they were alive to see this mass display of education. It is no exaggeration to affirm that education as a mass movement has just been set on its foot. The physical-fitness display in the Jaffna Town grounds in which an army of children took part was an unforgettable lesson in the demonstration of the importance of physical fitness even in a subject race. The Jaffna people of the last fifty years have sadly neglected physical culture. There is yet the danger of the race becoming a puny-bodied one. If the mass movement which the Education Week served to stimulate would only grow, then Jaffna could cover up the lost ground in some years. Jaffna has reason to be thankful to the Education officers in Jaffna.

### Cheap Homilies

"The Times of Ceylon" assumes now and then the step-motherly role to the people of Ceylon and thus effectively helps in clouding the real issues. The economic survey conducted by Dr. Das Gupta has been seized upon by the Times for a homily and a moral which on analysis would serve to expose a system of personal emoluments for the so-called high services of the country, which system the Times has helped to guard against attack. The Ceylon villager is poor, miserably poor. His prostration is so complete and chronic that economic surveys and recipes suggested by such surveys can hardly save him from his degradation. In countries subject to Imperialism the native people in the villages are not cared for. But they are yet taxed so that a revenue may be obtained to feed fat what are pompously called Public Services. And in the Public Services, that part of it described as the

Covenanted Services consumes the very cream. It is all nice and true to say that the villager is lazy and slow to benefit by modern scientific methods of agriculture. But the friends of the villager including the Government of the country do not go to the root of the problem. The bulk of the revenue which ought to be spent on reclaiming the villager from poverty and disease is spent on a huge army of Government Servants whose avowed object is to serve the villager, but who are really parasites on him. Where the villager does not earn twenty rupees a month there is a Civil Servant in his neighbourhood drawing two thousand a month from a revenue made up mostly of the mites of the villagers. In Ceylon Government services tend to the distress of the villager who is their paymaster. In India the Congress Government has shown the possibility of running the machinery at rates which would realise the tax-payer from considerable burden. In Ceylon too salary scales could be lowered so that the villager might be helped out of his helplessness. The "Times of Ceylon" should devote its labour to devising substantial methods of help to the villager but not to the delivery of cheap homilies. The Times will not do it. Its scribbler of little-tattle pours ridicule on national dress, for any national or rational dress to suit the climatic conditions of Ceylon would deprive European countries of some fair revenue; quite a lot of money goes from the country for hats, boots, ties and cloths. If this money could be retained in the country by Ceylonese evolving a sensible mode of dress the villager's lot might be improved to an extent. The Times certainly knows that the helplessness of the people is the chance to the foreigner.

### Mollycoddling the Child

Mr. L. H. W. Samson, the retiring principal of the Royal College, has done equally valuable service in laying down his charge as he has done during the many years he was connected with the Royal College. An Englishman reveals that he had not the freedom to develop the education imparted in the college in the manner in which he would have done. Muk you, an Englishman himself is not trusted in a British Colony to do the right thing. Mr. Samson's reluctance to discuss certain things in the moment of his retirement shows the extent to which red-tapism carries formalities. But where he was free to be himself he has put his finger on a very weak spot and in doing so Mr. Samson has directed light to a matter of vital importance to the welfare of the people. In diagnosing the disease he has not traced it to the root cause; nor has he prescribed a remedy. The Ceylon parent mollycoddles the child. That is a fact and Mr. Samson has not failed to be struck by it. The people in this country as in all other dependent countries may or may not be aware of it, for the simple reason that a subject people, unnerved and emasculated,

turned to be a prey to their own delusions also. Dependent and despondent, they bring up their little ones in all the mollycoddling softness. It takes a free man and a free people to cultivate vigorous and adventurous ideals of life. Time was in these lands when valour and adventure were pursued and practised even by women. Children were trained in all the arts of war and peace. Change of times has brought a change in habits of life. Diplomacy of foreign rule denies the people the pursuit of manly occupations. Not to say anything of military training we are not trusted with a fire-arm to protect ourselves and our possessions against robbers and wild animals. If a villager applied for a gun the very hub of the Empire should be consulted before the permission was granted. But seldom is the permission given. The Government thinks it prudent to mollycoddle the whole country and it is no wonder that parents timid of difficulties will not throw their children on any adventure. Our loss is twofold. We have neither freedom nor the capacity of mind and body to know and value what freedom is. Blighting are the results of foreign rule of any country.

### Britain Keeps Aloof

Mr. Neville Chamberlain has delivered a statement in the Commons on the position of Britain in the European situation. A correct surmise of what Chamberlain was going to say was wired by Reuter two days ahead. Sometimes a forecast is fulfilled. But in this case it is just possible that the Cabinet wanted by a "teak-out" to know the possible reactions to its policy. The British foreign policy, some people may say, has committed a somersault. It is nothing of the kind. It is always the British policy to follow the safest course. The British foreign policy is always so simple that one cannot know at any time what it is. The British Cabinet alone knows what it is. What else could Britain do with a far-flung Empire? Could she trust France with her unstable Government? Could she retain the confidence of U. S. A. whom Lloyd George "fooled" in 1919? The fall of Mr. Eden marked the end of the pretence called the League of Nations and Collective system. If there was anybody to blame for the mess in Europe, it was the Supreme Peace Council of 1919. If President Wilson's fourteen points had not been jettisoned the post-war Europe would not have prepared for another war. There is one man who ought to be charged for wrecking the chances of European peace. That man is Lloyd George, the old Welshman who was Prime Minister of England when the last Great War was fought to a finish. Lloyd George wanted to bring the Ex-Kaiser William II of Germany to trial by an international Court of law for wrecking the peace of Europe. In his turn George blundered by being vindictive to fillen lee. The result of it all is that Britain has to pursue a lonely course. She cannot afford to risk another war by guaranteeing the independence of the Czechs for she knows well the scheme of Hitler. Therefore she wants to keep her high-way of the Mediterranean free from the wrath of Italy. Ger-

## STATE-AIDED BANK BILL

### CHANGES RECOMMENDED BY COMMITTEE

### EXPECTATIONS FALSIFIED, SAY DISSIDENTS

STANDING Committee "B" which considered the State-aided Bank Bill, think that the prohibition against establishing branches without the previous sanction of the Governor is a sufficient safeguard against the premature formation of branches abroad.

With regard to the capital of the Bank, the new clause recommended by them reads as follows:—

The capital of the Bank shall be Rs. 7,500,000 divided into 30,000 convertible preference shares of Rs. 50 each, and 120,000 ordinary shares of Rs. 50 each.

"Rs. 100 is too high a value for an ordinary share," the Committee observe.

"and unless it is reduced, there might be difficulty in effecting" a ready sale of such shares."

### Ceylonese Interests

The Committee go on to state that as in the case of the first allotment of shares, the Minister should be in a position to safeguard the interests of Ceylonese applicants for shares in subsequent allotments of shares created by the issue of unissued or increased capital.

An express clause giving authority to the Board of Directors to appoint the staff of the Bank is also recommended.

In the clause relating to the dismissal of the General Manager, Assistant General Manager, Secretary or Accountant, the Committee recommended the deletion of the requirement that the resolution of the Board must be passed by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the Directors for the time being on the ground that it is too great a fetter on the freedom of action of the Board.

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### Colombo Lecture by Indian Swami

Colombo March, 26.

Swami Somesvaranandagiri, who addressed the University College Tamil Society last week, delivered a lecture in Tamil on "Hindu Mysticism" at the Vivekananda Society yesterday.

He will be shortly visiting Jaffna where he will be the guest of Mr. V. Ramanathan, Agricultural Inspector, Vannarponnai. (Cor.)

many and Italy are highly pleased with the British attitude. It is all like British diplomacy. But how long will this method pay? The real test will come when Hitler, the master Dictator of Central Europe, with the added forces of Austro-Hungarian states, will deliver his demand to England for the old German Colonies in Africa and elsewhere. This situation will not be long in coming.



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**Hindu Organ.**

MONDAY, MARCH 28, 1938.

### BRITISH FOREIGN POLICY

THE PRIME MINISTER'S statement on Foreign Affairs in the House of Commons is, in fact, a restatement of the policy followed by the British Government since 1931, which is not calculated to reassure the anxious world that Britain stands for the sanctity of treaty rights and obligations and the enforcement of international law. The statement, coming as it does on the heels of the Nazi coup in Austria and the consequent nervousness and anxiety in Eastern Europe, cannot be said to have made a constructive contribution towards the appeasement of Europe or the prevention of war in a world distracted by fears and anxieties. All that Mr. CHAMBERLAIN elucidated was that Britain would fight in defence of her "vital interests" such as those territories and communications that are essential to the solidarity and prosperity of the Empire. He prefaced his statement with the observation that "peace is the greatest interest of the British Empire, but that does not mean that nothing will make us fight." True it is that Britain has for long worked for the cause of peace, and by adhering to the policy of peace at any cost she has but promoted the cause of *fascism* and militarism to the prejudice of her time-honoured prestige in the world. The policy of inaction and indecision which has, in recent times, characterized the British Government has tended more and more towards the satisfaction of insolent and unscrupulous dictators than towards the cause of world peace. No impartial student of current history will question the fact that the cause of peace has been wrecked by the policy of non-interference so consistently followed by the great Democracies to the positive advantage of *fascism* and to the betrayal of democracy in the world. The policy of drift and opportunism so woefully displayed in recent years by Britain and France, accounts in no small measure for the European, nay the world situation of today.

It is perfectly clear from the Premier's statement that Bri-

tain is determined to harness all her resources to carry out her re-armament programme to the full, with a view to recovering her lost influence and prestige in international affairs. The fact cannot be gainsaid that in pursuing the principles of collective security and disarmament Britain allowed herself to be handicapped in the matter of armaments. Now that Mr. CHAMBERLAIN has confessed that his belief in the effectiveness of the League is shaken, he rightly insists on the imperative need for efficient re-armament. He stressed the point that for collective security it was necessary that a sufficient number of League members should present a front of over-whelming power to a potential aggressor. To quote his own words: "If Britain is to make a substantial contribution towards its establishment, our great interest must be to see that she is strongly armed for defence and counter-offence."

The British Government, it seems, are not prepared to make any commitments in Europe other than those to which they are pledged. In Europe, they regard the invasion of France and Belgium as a direct menace to their security and will therefore fight in defence of those countries against any unprovoked aggression. As to Britain's attitude towards Czechoslovakia Mr. CHAMBERLAIN is not very explicit. His observations in this respect are hardly reassuring and not in the least calculated to deter the Nazi dictator from going ahead with his well-conceived plans. He says that no automatic military assistance will be given to the Czechs in the event of an aggression. But he is careful enough to add that under the Covenant Britain may consider helping the victims of aggression. "Such a case, for example, may include Czechoslovakia". The Prime Minister takes a realistic view of the matter, when he observes in this connection as follows: "Where peace and war are concerned, legal obligations are not alone involved and, if war broke out, it would be unlikely to be confined to those who have assumed such obligations. It would be quite impossible to say where it might spread and what Governments might become involved". This is particularly so in the case of countries like Great Britain and France which are wedded to democratic ideals. May we not hope that in the end British Foreign policy will make for the triumph of democracy?

### An Information Bureau

It was a very useful suggestion that the Rev. R. S. de Saram, Warden of St. Thomas College, made the other day at the meeting of the Chamber of Commerce—the establishment of a Bureau of Informa-

tion to assist boys leaving school in obtaining employment. His suggestion was that there should be a bureau of information about vacancies in mercantile firms and on estates, for lack of which information a large number of young men walk the streets of Colombo, trying to discover vacancies in business firms and other establishments. The young men could be spared this sickening experience, if there were a centre at which all information about vacancies and the names of candidates in search of employment would be available. The bureau can help to establish contact between business firms and schools. This contact will greatly assist a firm in securing the services of capable young men, while helping at the same time really efficient and deserving youths to get jobs with little chances of being elbowed out by less worthy and more influential men. This would also obviate the painful necessity of a young man having to knock at the door of any and every establishment in search of a billet—a process that kills the self-respect of a young man. The Rev. Warden appealed to the Chamber of Commerce to prevent such a soul-killing process by the establishment of a bureau of information. He was assured by the Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce that the matter would receive careful consideration by the committee. We are certain that the committee will appreciate the usefulness of a bureau of this nature and establish one before long to the advantage of the employer no less than that of the employable.

### Education Week

Thanks to the enthusiasm and initiative of the educational officers in the district, Jaffna has had the benefits of the Education Week which commenced on Monday and concluded on Friday last. Schools, secondary no less than elementary, bilingual as well as vernacular, hummed with extra-curricular activities which were best calculated to bring home to the sceptic and the critic alike that, in the education of our children, no undue stress was being laid on mere book learning. The Art Exhibition, the Physical Fitness Display and the Inter-schools Concerts—all these were an exhilarating experience to the public pointing to the same conclusion. In almost every school Parent day was a notable feature of the Week, showing a welcome appreciation of the fact that only the combined efforts and influence of teachers in their class-rooms and parents in their homes could effectively tend to the moral and intellectual well-being of our children. Excursions formed another feature of the Week. Their educational value cannot be

emphasised too much. It is perhaps the most practical and effective method of making history, geography and botany subjects of absorbing interest and enjoyment to the students. The Education Week, we trust, will be an annual event that will edify as much as entertain the people.

### Thesawalamé Committee in Jaffna

#### Evidence Recorded

"IT is very difficult to find out the views of the people of Jaffna as most people disagree on most questions" remarked Mr. G. G. Ponnambalam, Chairman of the Select Committee of the State Council on Thesawalamé which sat on the 25th instant at the Jaffna Town Hall.

The opinion of the Bar was so sharply divided that the Chairman had to make the above remark.

He added that a further sitting would be held probably in the latter part of May, to enable the Jaffna Lawyers' Association to state their views in writing to find what opinion the majority favoured.

Mr. T. Muttusamipillai, Advocate, giving evidence, characterised as inhuman certain aspects of Thediathettam.

He was followed by a group of Senior Proctors led by Mr. K. Arulambalam who supported in main the draft Ordinance, but suggested reversion to the old Thesawalamé right by which the surviving spouse could give the dowry property of the deceased spouse to daughters to the exclusion of sons.

The second group which gave evidence consisted of young Advocates and Proctors led by the senior lawyer, Mr. N. Chelvadurai. This group, which called itself progressive, advocated the complete abolition of Thesawalamé as customary law, and suggested that Jaffna Tamils be governed by the common law of the Island in respect of matrimonial rights and inheritance.

On inquiry by the Chairman that if that view was not acceptable, what suggestions they would make to amend the Thesawalamé, the group replied that in regard to Thediathettam, there could be no community and that acquisition of either spouse should remain separate property, that spouse to be dealt independently on lines similar to Married Women's Property Act and Real Property Act in English Law. It also stressed that scrapping Thesawalamé would lead to inevitable disappearance of the present dowry system and of litigation among heirs and would result in conferring greater freedom on women dealing with their own property.

The Point Pedro Bar led by Mr. K. Muttucumaru was of opinion that there should be no community of property in Thediathettam.

The members of the Select Committee were Messrs. G. G. Ponnambalam (Chairman), S. Natesan and E. R. Tambimuttu, with Mr. E. W. Kannangara, as Secretary, Mr. P. C. Villavarayan, Assistant Legal Draughtsman, assisted the Committee.



## TO SECURE JOBS FOR BOYS

NEED FOR INFORMATION  
BUREAU

### EDUCATIONIST'S APPEAL TO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Colombo, Saturday.

THE establishment of an information bureau to assist boys leaving school in obtaining employment was strongly advocated by the Rev. R. S. de Sarau, Warden of St. Thomas' College, when he addressed the members of the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce at yesterday's annual meeting on "Commercial Education."

Mr. De Sarau, who spoke on behalf of the Ceylon Headmasters' Conference, said:

"We are anxious that some of the boys leaving our school should secure employment in business. Many of them do, but the manner in which employment is secured appears to me quite haphazard. Boys hear by the merest chance that a job is going or they never hear at all.

"Some more regularised method by which information about employment can be obtained would be of immense benefit to us. And I think in the long run it will be of benefit to you.

#### "Going to Waste"

"What I suggest is that there should be a Bureau of Information about vacancies in Mercantile Firms and our Estates. Those who are seeking employment need not then go round and round the Fort inquiring whether there is any work going. They can go to the Bureau. That would, of course, be an immense benefit to them.

"The benefit to the employer is not perhaps as apparent, but it is none the less real. It is this. There is some real good stuff in our schools, and I suggest that owing to the present rather haphazard method of recruitment to jobs in business it is largely going to waste; or it secures employment only by the merest chance.

"If there were a Bureau of the kind I suggest applicants would come up for consideration by the employer bringing a confidential report as to character, ability, etc., from the Principal of his school. I think it will be found that candid reports will be obtained from the vast majority of Principals.

"I have been now for some eight years in charge of a school. Our method is to give boys responsibility and to trust them—in short, the Prefect system as employed in many schools in England. Boys

## Kandyans Demand More Seats

Deputation Meets  
Governor

Kandy, Saturday.

A Deputation, representing the Kandyan National Assembly submitted a memorandum to the Governor, Sir Andrew Caldecott, at King's Pavilion today, claiming more equitable representation in the State Council and urging other considerations cognate with the political future of Kandyans.

The deputation suggested: The redistribution of territorial electorates, such electorates being divided into urban and rural divisions;

The exclusion of the Indian Immigrant labourer from the territorial electorates special representation being given to them on an "Interests" basis.

have risen to their responsibilities and been entirely trustworthy.

"It has been my experience that boys of first-class character, thoroughly trustworthy and reliable, have had to go wandering about looking for work while others far less deserving have managed to get work either through luck or because some relation is already employed in the firm.

"I know I am speaking to business men and I suppose the primary concern of business men is efficiency. Well I bring my suggestion before you first on the ground of efficiency. I think that you will get better men than you are doing at present.

"But I appeal to you on wider grounds too. When a self respecting young man has to go from door to door only to be turned away courteously or otherwise and this continues for a long time a spirit of discontent and bitterness inevitably arises. To prevent that as far as possible is I think the business of every good citizen.

"To sum up: First there is good stuff available in our schools. Government Service is taking some of it, but not all. The clever ones perhaps get preference there. But there are plenty of others with good commonsense, sound education and really first-class character who would do very good work in business if employed.

"Secondly, I suggest that in order to establish contact between business firms and schools an Information Bureau be run."

#### Chairman's Assurance

The Chairman (Sir John Tarbat) asked the members to pay heed to what Mr. De Sarau had said and assured the latter that what he had said would receive careful consideration by the Committee which would be very happy to give their co-operation in the matter.

## PLANNED EDUCATION

VITAL FACTOR FOR A  
NEW CEYLON

TEACHERS ASK FOR  
EDUCATIONAL SURVEY

Colombo, Saturday.

A "Planned" education in this country as a vital factor in the making of a new Ceylon, was urged on the Minister of Education yesterday, by a deputation of the All-Ceylon Teachers' Union.

The deputation consisted of the Rev. Pro. Luke, Director of St. Benedict's College, Messrs S. D. Abeyratne, K. Nesiiah and R. H. Phillips (Secretary).

The deputation asked for a survey of the educational structure of Ceylon and referred to the remark of a former Director of Education, that all educational systems should be scrapped every five years, in support of their contention.

They cited the case of India, where there were several commissions, such as the Sadler Commission, the Hartog Committee, the Zakir Husain (Wardha) Committee, the Abbott and Wood inquiry, etc.

Such a survey, they stated, was particularly necessary in Ceylon in view of changing social, political and economic conditions. It was necessary, too, on the eve of the establishment of the University of Ceylon, for secondary, and even elementary education, to take cognizance of the coming university.

Since the Commission of 1929 which was confined to a rather limited inquiry, Ceylon had been content to stumble forward in the dark with piecemeal changes, when other countries were having "planned" education.

#### Mother Tongue

On the question of the mother tongue, the deputation said: "a stock-taking now will reveal that our educational system lacks aim.

"But, what is more, it will reveal in a glaring manner the tragic loss caused by the failure to make use of the mother tongue for purposes of education.

"For the mother tongue is not only the natural medium by which the growing child thinks and feels and expresses its personality, but it enshrines the cultural heritage of the race.

"The restoration of the mother tongue to its rightful place will, however, not solve the problem of languages in Ceylon which is perhaps the biggest education question that has to be decided.

"It has become an urgent necessity to have expert investigation on the whole question of languages in our education system. It is necessary to find out which of the modern and classical languages will serve our children best, and at what stage each language should be introduced.

## MYSTERY MURDER AT VADDUKODDAI

DECOMPOSED BODY OF  
LONELY WIDOW

JEWELS MISSING FROM  
BODY

THE smell of a decomposed body in a lonely house occupied solely by a widow at Vaddukodai West attracted the attention of the neighbours who informed the police yesterday of it. The police found the dead body of a woman who must have died, according to doctors, four days ago.

Medical examination showed fractured skull as the cause of death.

The deceased woman was Sinnatnam (55) widow of Arumugam. It is said that she used to get remittances from her son Mr. Kandiah, a Government Surveyor in the F.M.S. She was wearing jewels worth about Rs. 600, which were missing from her body. She was, in addition, said to be an unlicensed pawn-broker.

## EDUCATION WEEK AT PT. PEDRO

Point Pedro, March 23.

The masters, students, parents, old boys of Hartley College and parties of students and teachers in the various neighbouring schools assembled at Hartley College, Point Pedro, on Wednesday 23rd inst at 9 a. m. Mrs. R. Ramachandran and Mr. R. Ramachandran, Police Magistrate, Point Pedro, were received at the entrance by Mr. C. P. Thamotheram and were conducted to the place where the exhibits were kept. The Principal then briefly thanked those present and explained that it was got up in connection with the Education Week organised by the Inspectorate of the Northern Division. He also especially thanked the D. M. and S. S. for having kindly given the use of the health posters. In conclusion he called upon Mrs. Ramachandran to open the Exhibition. She cut the ribbon with the pair of scissors and declared it open. Art and Handwork Exhibition was in charge of Mr. Sam. T. Solomons. Hygiene and Physiology by Mr. S. C. Rasa Ratnam. Experimental Science by Mr. S. T. Samuel. History and Geography by Mr. S. A. Rasaratnam.

After looking round the exhibits the people retired to the hall where Historical plays were staged by the students of the various forms of the college.

In the evening there was an Inter-school Oratorical Declamation contest under the auspices of the Vadamaradcy Teachers' Association. Messrs. T. B. Wadagodapiya, Dr. J. P. Subramaniam, K. Muthukumar, were the judges. All the English Schools participated.

In conclusion Mr. C. P. Thamotheram, the President of the Association thanked the Judges and congratulated the students and teachers on the good standard reached by the various competitors. He said that the prizes would be distributed by the Director of Education when he would pay his official visit to Point Pedro.

—(Cor.)



## Speaker Opens New School Hall

### Chavakachcheri Function

THE opening ceremony of the Chavakachcheri Hindu English School new Hall was performed by Hon. Sir W. Duraiswamy, the Speaker of the State Council, on the 23rd inst. at 4-30 p. m.

The Hall was gaily decorated. The opening ceremony was performed in the presence of a large gathering of students, parents and well-wishers. After the ceremony all the people assembled in the Hall, and Mr. V. Balasundaram, the Headmaster, garlanded Sir Duraiswamy. Then a welcome song was recited by ten girls of the school. After this a few more items were gone through all of which were much appreciated. The Headmaster submitted a report in which he stressed the urgent needs of the school, namely a fund of Rs. 2000/-. Then speeches were made by Mr. V. Kurthigasu and Mr. Amarasingham in which tributes were paid to Mr. V. Thamotheerampillai, the founder of the school, to the ex-headmasters Messrs. Hensman and T. Arunasalam and to Mr. V. Balasundaram, the present Headmaster, and staff for having brought the school to such a flourishing state. Sir Duraiswamy rising amidst loud applause said that he was very much taken up by the welcome song sung by the girls and that he was purified by it. He also said that students should be developed physically, mentally and morally.

to achieve these ends children must be taught in well managed, well disciplined institutions. He blessed the school, the teachers, the students, parents and well-wishers. After a vote of thanks proposed by Mr. S. K. Chelliah the function came to an end with Devaram and three cheers to Sir W. Duraiswamy. (cor.)

## STATE-AIDED BANK BILL

(Continued from page 3)

With regard to the requirement that the Bank should within five years sell any immovable property, howsoever acquired, the Committee recommend the following proviso:—

Provided that if the Board is of opinion that any immovable property cannot be sold within the said period of five years without detriment to the interests of the Bank, the Board may by resolution passed by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the Directors of the Bank for the time being decide that the Bank should continue to hold such property till such time as the property can be sold without detriment to the interest of the Bank.

### A Dissent

Mr. D. P. R. Gunawardana and Dr. N. M. Perera, in a joint rider strongly dissenting from the Bill, state:

"The amendments that have been accepted in Standing Committee do not go far enough to eradicate the mischievous features of this Bill. The Ordinance as has been framed seems only to contemplate the speedy transformation of the State-

## TELEGRAPH ENGINEERING SCHOLARSHIP

### Mr. S. Thirunavukkarasu Selected

Mr. S. Thirunavukkarasu, Telegraph Inspector in charge of the Central Telephone Exchange, has been awarded the Post Office Engineering Scholarship on the result of a competitive examination held by the Civil Service Commissioners in London.

He is proceeding to England on March 30 and during his stay there he will specialise in Automatic Telephone Systems and machine telegraph.

## Fencing Display at Manipay Hindu College

There was much enthusiasm and cheering last Friday evening at Manipay Hindu College, when the principal, staff and students assembled in the College grounds to witness a display in fencing, given by Mr. Thuraiyiah of Kilner College, and his party in connection with the education week celebrations. The display won the admiration of the crowd and was of a fairly high standard. At the conclusion of the game the Principal Mr. V. Veerasingham in a brief speech, after outlining the merits and the history of the game, exhorted the students to practise it and congratulated Mr. Thuraiyiah and his party for their brilliant performance. (Cor.)

## Honours Diploma In Sinhalese And Tamil

ARRANGEMENTS have been made for a two-year post-Intermediate Honours Diploma in each of the languages Sinhalese and Tamil. The Diploma will be of the standard of the London B. A. (Hons.) degree. Applicants for admission to these courses should have passed the Intermediate Arts examination in Sinhalese and either Sanskrit or Pali for the Sinhalese Diploma, and in Tamil and Sanskrit for the Tamil Diploma. It may be possible to admit to the courses commencing in July, 1938, applicants of special merit who have passed the Intermediate Arts examination in Sinhalese or Tamil, but did not offer Sanskrit or Pali. Details of the syllabuses and regulations may be obtained on application to the Registrar, University College.

Applications for admission should reach the Registrar not later than April 15, 1938.  
R. MARRS,  
Principal,  
Ceylon University College.  
Ceylon University College,  
Colombo, 22nd March, 1938.  
[G 66 28-3-8]

aided Bank into a purely private deposit bank. It is another piece of class legislation in favour of black capitalists at the expense of the poor taxpayer against the white capitalists.

"This means that the pious expectations of a national bank to help local industries have been completely falsified. The project stands naked and clear as another venture to help secure profits for a handful of wealthy people in Ceylon in conjunction with the Imperialists.

"No attempt has been made and no safeguards have been provided to prevent the shares of this bank from being garnered by the existing British banking interests.

"Even its powers have been so cleverly curtailed that it would merely serve as a deposit bank suited to a very highly developed industrial country, but utterly out of place in a country like Ceylon which is hungering for credit facilities for industrial development."

## Work for Prisoners

### Committee's Recommendations

THE third interim report of the Special Departmental Committee on the Administration of Prisons and the Treatment of Prisoners has just issued its report.

### Chief Proposals

Its principal recommendations may be summarized as follows:—

(1) Existing policy of industrial training for long-term prisoners is essential and satisfactory both from the point of view of the State.

(2) Agricultural work is beneficial for prisoners but is impracticable under present conditions.

(3) The already well-established prison industries must be carried on on the present scale but any large scale extension of such industries or the choice of new industries should, as far as possible, be confined to the manufacture of articles required by Government Departments which are now imported in a manufactured state.

(4) A compulsory system of State use of such articles as are manufactured in the prisons should be introduced. The Government Departments should be free to deal direct with the prisons in regard to their requirements.

(5) It should be optional for Government Departments to obtain their requirements from the various Government Industrial Schools.

(6) All future contracts and notices calling for tenders should contain a clause reserving the right of Government to obtain their requirements from the Prisons Department and should make it clear that the monopoly to be granted to the successful tenderer is restricted to the supply of goods required by Government which cannot be satisfactorily made by prison labour.

(7) The appointment of a Superintendent of Prison Industries and an Industrial Committee on the lines of the Printing Committee is recommended.

(8) The Government has a clear right to supply its needs from its own resources. The question of competition with free labour hardly arises in Ceylon, therefore, seeing that prison industries are in practice confined almost entirely to supplying the needs of Government Departments; the supply on private orders being so small that its effect on the outside market has been negligible.

(9) Private orders should continue to be undertaken on a limited scale subject to the safeguards that prison goods are not sold to private parties below the market price and that a periodical return of all private work is submitted to the Industrial Committee.

(10) The existing rates (including those charged for labour) for

## CEYLONESE APPOINTED COMMISSIONER

### First Non-European Appointment In India

Mr. J. C. S. Jayaratnam I. C. S. has been appointed Commissioner, Jubbulpore Division.

\*This is the first time that a non-European Member of the Indian Civil Service has been appointed a Commissioner in the Central Provinces.

Mr. Jayaratnam is a Ceylonese. He joined the I. C. S. in 1918 and was for three years Under-Secretary to the Government of India Home Department. Mr. Jayaratnam is the younger brother of Dr. Gunaratnam Cooke, Visiting Physician of the General Hospital, and nephew of the present Municipal Commissioner of Madras, Mr. A. M. C. Tampoe, I. C. S.

various prison made goods are satisfactory and in the case of articles manufactured for private sale the existing prices are well above the market rate and should not be increased.

(11) The use of up-to-date machinery is justified to produce work of a high grade and to give prisoners some knowledge of machinery of the type to be found in the outside world of industry.

(12) Laundry work for the large public institutions is a service which the prisons should continue to render.

(13) Agricultural work for prisoners is impracticable under the present conditions, and there would be administrative and other difficulties in the way of the establishment of new prisons or agricultural colonies and their cost would be prohibitive.

(14) In view of the difficulties surrounding the provision of extra-mural agricultural work a certain proportion of prison labour must, as has long been recognised by the Government, continue to be employed on intra-mural industrial undertakings.

(15) In any future establishments of prisons or allied institutions the employment of the inmates on agricultural activities should be a primary factor in choosing location sites.

(16) Release on Parole—A system of release on parole is not suitable for adoption in Ceylon at present nor can it be given effect to at present for serious financial and other considerations.

(17) The existing provisions for reviewing the sentences of long term prisoners are sufficient.

The Committee consists of Sir D. B. Jayatilaka (Chairman), Messrs. D. S. de Fonseka, Francis de Zoysa, G. A. Wille, P. N. Banks, C. C. Schokman, J. E. M. Obeyesekere and V. E. Charawan-nattu.



# IMPORT OF CURRYSTUFFS INTO CEYLON

(Continued from page 1)

rind from India and Java (It may be noted that the import of tamarind from Java increased by 137 p.c. as compared with the previous year) (5) garlic, mainly from the Straits Settlements and Hong Kong and a small quantity from India; (6) cummin seed, dry ginger, turmeric and mustard seed from India and (7) pepper from India and the Straits Settlements.

All these products can be produced in this island, certain parts of the country being more suited than other parts for particular products.

It is well-known that all these products are necessities of life widely used by the people in their national diet. A system of quotas is recommended to regulate imports in lieu of a system of protective duties levied at the ports of entry so that as little hardship as possible may be caused to the consumer. The import duties on these commodities levied at present for revenue purposes may be retained.

Ordinarily, according to the law of supply and demand, the import of a commodity into a country will be correlated to the total consumption and local production and supply of that commodity.

Suppose the total consumption of dried chillies in this island for a year comes to 100,000 cwts. and that chillies are locally produced to the extent of 10,000 cwts. To meet consumption, 90,000 cwts. have to be imported or in other words for each cwt. locally produced 9 cwts. have to be imported. If the local production is 20,000 cwts. the consumption remaining at the same figure, 80,000 cwts. have to be imported or in other words for each cwt. locally produced 4 cwts. have to be imported. Thus the more the local production is the less will be the import.

## An Illustration

As the object of the recommended quota system is gradually but steadily to replace the imported commodity by the locally-produced article, it is advisable to have the quota for the imported article fixed at a slightly lower figure than consumption requires but not so as to give hardship to the consumer by unduly enhancing the price of the commodity and increasing his cost of living through too inadequate a supply.

To illustrate my point, suppose 100,000 cwts. of onions are required for consumption in this island for one year and the local production is 30,000 cwts; to meet consumption, 70,000 cwts. have to be imported but the quota for the imported onions may be fixed, say, at 65,000 cwts. There will be a deficiency of 5,000 cwts; and thus the supply

will fall short of requirements. The insistent demand caused by this lack of supply will have the effect of stimulating local production so as to make up the deficiency.

The quota fixed periodically for each commodity should be divided and distributed among all the countries from which that commodity is imported.

## Statistics Necessary

To ensure the satisfactory working of the quota system, periodical statistics have to be compiled as to the total consumption and the total production of the different commodities. Unless this is done the import quota, which has to keep pace with local production, cannot be fixed year by year at a satisfactory figure.

It will be advisable to establish in the immediate future, an Agricultural Branch of the Statistical Department which may, besides taking a census of the areas under currysuffs (the subject of my motion) also take a census of the areas under paddy, economic products, vegetable products, cereals other than paddy, pulse crops etc. and also of fruit production in each District of the Island. Now that the improvement of live-stock is a concern of the Agricultural Department, the same Branch may take a census of livestock such as cattle, sheep, goats, fowls etc. and also of the areas under cattle-fodder crops and pasture. Once the Agricultural Branch of the statistical Department has been organised and statistics compiled, the task of keeping them up to date can be done without much difficulty, if the Branch is manned by a qualified and active staff.

## Need for Legislation

Legislation will be required to work the system. Suppose for every cwt. of a commodity locally produced 4 cwts. have to be imported, the trader must be required by law to stock the locally-produced and the imported commodity in that proportion. Legislative provision may also be necessary to prevent the trader from profiteering at the expense of the consumer. In other words there must be state control of distribution and sale.

If the quota system is to be brought into effect, the Agricultural Department must make a preliminary survey and map out the areas in the Island suitable for the cultivation of particular products, taking into consideration the nature of the soil and the climatic conditions. For this purpose it will be advisable for the Minister of Agriculture to appoint a Commission of qualified members to go round the Island and make the necessary investigations and survey. After this survey is done and the different areas mapped out, such of the areas as are Crown Land should be leased out by Government on easy terms to genuine cultivators.

For the satisfactory working of the quota system, five Government Departments must collaborate. They are:—(1) the Agricultural Department (to conduct pro-

# RICE IN INDIA

(Continued from Page 2.)

availability, but further improved methods are needed.

The commoner varieties of rice are very deficient in lime. The proportion of phosphoric acid to lime is of the order of 10 to 1, whereas it ought to be somewhere about 1 to 1. There is evidence to show, however, that some of the hitherto neglected varieties are comparatively rich in lime. Further search in this direction will yield valuable results.

The majority of rice-eaters are predominantly vegetarian by tradition, habit or necessity. Many of the vegetables are rich in lime and may thus partly make up the deficiency in rice. A large section of consumers—at any rate in India—also chew *pan* which includes some lime and thus supplements the deficiency in food.

Some of the coarse varieties of rice are fairly rich in iron which is quite necessary for making a well balanced diet. Many of the vegetables are also rich in that constituent, so that, ordinarily, there is no much shortage in that direction.

## Manuring

Certain sections of scientific workers incline to the view that the nutritive constituents of a grain cannot be appreciably increased by manuring. That may probably apply to other grains, but it is not quite true in the case of rice. Rice can be enriched, at any rate, in regard to proteins, by judicious fertilising. Both organic and mineral fertilisers evoke the necessary response, the effect being more striking in the case of the latter. The best time for application—at any rate in the case of certain varieties—seems to be about two months after planting. Increase in protein content to the extent of about 20 per cent has been reported.

In actual practice, enrichment of the grain by suitable fertiliser treatment may not prove paying. Very few farmers can afford the extra quantity of fertiliser needed for the purpose. Moreover, the consumer can-

pagandā and to give scientific advice and help to the producer) (2) the Irrigation Department (to give as much irrigation facilities as possible to the cultivator) (3) the Statistical Department (to take periodical statistics of local productions and consumptions; (4) the Marketing Department (to give marketing information and facilities) and (5) the Railway Department (to fix reasonable freights for the transport of the locally produced commodity from one part of the Island to the other)

The benefits of a steady increase in local production will be two-fold. Firstly, it will help to carry out the "back to the land" policy throughout the Island. Opening up more and more land in these products will give increased employment to the people.

Secondly, the large sums of money which now go to other countries in payment of imported commodities will gradually be decreased in amount with the increase in local production. The circulation of this money within the country will improve the economical position of this Island and conduce to the material welfare of the people.

not distinguish between nutritively rich and poor grains and will pay the same minimum price for both. The only direction in which some useful result can be obtained seems to be that of selecting and breeding nutritively rich varieties. This work requires the co-operation of the plant breeder and the chemist and there is no doubt that, if the consumer demands it, a number of varieties possessing the required qualities can be evolved and the seeds supplied to farmers.

## Period of Crop and Quality

There seems to be a general impression that rices grown, during certain seasons of the year are nutritively superior to those raised in others. There is also the common belief that long duration crops are more nutritious than short duration ones. Some scientific work has already been done with the object of verifying these, but more extensive enquiry is needed before any definite conclusion can be drawn. Judging from chemical composition, some of the short duration crops are even richer than the commoner long duration ones. Duration is not, however, a safe criterion because what is long duration in one part of the world may not be so in another part. Thus, some of the long duration crops of Japan turn out to be short duration crops in India and vice versa. Anyway, there must be some basis for the popular belief and more extensive scientific enquiry is needed.

## Dry and Wet Cultivation

Rice is generally wet cultivated but there are certain dry cultivated varieties which are grown on the west coast, in some of the agency tracts, on the east coast, in Chota Nagpur and elsewhere. These do not require puddling and prolonged swamping in some way as the common varieties do, but are still not so "dry" as commonly believed. They are often raised on hill slopes and get useful supplies of water through seepage in the sub-soil. As compared with the other varieties they are poor yielders and the grains are generally coarse and coloured.

Dry cultivated rices are popularly believed to be more nutritious than wet cultivated ones. Working with experimental animals, Sir R. McCarrison also came to a similar conclusion, but more recent experimental work does not entirely support this view. When the same variety is raised under dry as well as wet cultivated conditions, the grains from the latter are invariably richer in proteins and minerals than those from the former. This is supported by the work of the Paddy Specialist and his associates at Coimbatore who find that the wet cultivated rice has a thicker bran layer than the same variety grown by dry cultivation.

The above observations are largely of academic interest. Dry Cultivation is more a matter of necessity than of choice and the farmers will gladly forsake it as soon as a liberal supply of water is available.

As already mentioned, the varieties that are grown under conditions of dry cultivation are the coarse ones which are generally rich in nutritive constituents. If the same varieties are grown under conditions of wet cultivation, they will not only yield better, but they will also bear richer grains. It may be hoped, therefore, that, with the necessary change of outlook, the white and starchy varieties, which are the fashion at the moment, will be replaced by nutritively richer varieties which are now being largely neglected. (Hindu)



**Order Nisi**IN THE DISTRICT COURT  
OF JAFFNA

Testamentary No. 569

In the matter of the estate of the  
late Kanapathipillai Namasivayam  
of Karadivu West Deceased.

Sivakamipillai widow of K. Namasivayam of do

Vs. Petitioner.

1. Ambikai
2. Nadarajah
3. Balasubramaniam
4. Parkkiam
5. Tirunavakarasu
6. Nallamma and
7. Ponnampalam all children of Kanapathipillai Namasivayam of do and
8. Sithamparapillai Arumugam of do

Respondents.

This matter coming on for disposal before C. Coomaraswamy Esquire District Judge Jaffna on the 8th day of March 1938 in the presence of Mr. A. Kanagasabai Proctor on the part of the petitioner and the affidavit of the petitioner having been read; it is ordered that the above-named 8th respondent be appointed Guardian-ad-Litem over the minors 1-7 Respondents and that the petitioner be declared entitled to have letters of administration to the estate of the abovenamed deceased as his lawful widow unless the respondents or any other person shall appear before this court on the 6th day of April 1938 and state objection or show sufficient cause to the contrary.

14-3-38 Sgd. C. COOMARASWAMY,  
District Judge.

[C.S. 24 &amp; 28-3-38]

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[Mis. 260 21-3 to 4-4-38] M.

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