

SUBSCRIPTION RATES			
PAYABLE IN ADVANCE.			
Town	Inland	Foreign	
Deliveries	India etc.	F.M.S.	
R.C.	R.C.	R.C.	
Rate	5-00	8-00	9-00 Yearly
Rate	9-00	13-00	13-00
Tamil			

THE Hindu Organ.

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PUBLISHED EVERY MONDAY AND THURSDAY

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AND
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THE COUNTRY'S PEASANTRY—IV

ITS PAST HISTORY AND PRESENT POLITICS

Effect Of Exploitation By Foreign Capital

By R. C. Proctor, (Jaffna)
(Special to the "Hindu Organ")

THE earliest arrival of foreign capital on land acquisition and on planting enterprise was in Jaffna, and extensive jungle lands were cleared and planted in Muhamalai and Puloppalai divisions. The peasant population in these divisions about the beginning of the 19th Century, from various reports, were large; and they supplied the labour to the new enterprise. Under the regime of wage and hire system which left them little leisure to attend to the sanitation of their dwellings or attend to their traditional social and religious duties, the peasantry dwindled and disappeared. The prosperity of the planters, however, did not last long; they too have disappeared, the estates on the plan of which so large a capital had been spent passing title to the natives of Jaffna who are not all sticklers for the capitalists' rigours of discipline. The same may be said to have happened to the estates opened out with European Capital in the Batticaloa District. Of the planters it may be truly said that the good they did "is interred with their bones" while "the evil lives after them."

Foreign Capital and New Land Laws

The policy of opening the country to non-indigenous capital for exploitation of agricultural resources brought the need of altering, by legislation, the indigenous customs and laws of land tenures. Accordingly under titles of *Forest Ordinance* and *Waste Land Ordinance* measures were introduced subversive of titles and practices held or followed by the peasantry from time to time immemorial. D'Oyley, the British Expert in the customary laws of the Up-country Sinhalese, definitely said that in the Kandyan Kingdom the peasant-owned *chena* lands as appurtenant to paddy fields and that the former were not to be separately alienated, but to go with the latter. Nearly 250 years before, Rebeyro, the Portuguese Historian, describing the land tenures of the low-country Sinhalese testified to an identical custom. Yet the new laws declared that *chena* lands were the property of the Crown and as such the Crown was entitled to sell them to outsiders. The new land laws were rigorously enforced entailing on the peasantry great hardships and sufferings. Though the consequences were far-reaching as adversely affecting the well-being of a large majority of the people, yet any attribution to the Britishers of evil design and deliberate intent to depress the people for the sake of benefitting outsiders might be unreasonable. All peoples are more or less children of their own history which colour their reasoning. The Britishers were out

to spread their own civilisation and culture. The system of colonial administration under which Ceylon had come was another reason why the colony should be administered so as to be reclaimed to line up with Britain.

Peasant Revolt in England

After the 'Black Death' the peasantry in England revolted. The lords in whose hands political power was centred attempted to enchain and fetter the peasantry into serfdom. Rigorous laws were introduced to achieve the object. But the British peasants would not go under. The struggle was long and tenacious. Numerous people were evicted from their lands and became workless. A minimum wage was fixed for labour under the "Statute of Labourers." Labourers refused to work. There was continual legislation against "valiant beggars" who on the third offence were hanged. According to the late Keir Hardy M. P. over 60,000 people were hanged before the law was abrogated. In 1677 the *Statute of Frauds* was passed in Parliament which declared that all interests in land, if created by any other process of law than by deed should be treated as mere tenancies at will. This extinguished the tenancies of all yeomen who had held their lands at a small customary rent, but had no written evidence to prove their tenure and even ousted free holders similarly situated. But the effect of these laws in England was to create the mercantile and the industrial system as well to put out the people in the urge of necessity to acquire colonial possessions abroad.

In Ceylon

Could the same or similar harsh measures produce the similar results in Ceylon? It is simply impossible. The reasons are obvious.

It is the declared policy of England to rule other countries with the consent or acquiescence of the inhabitants. A clash of culture and civilisation should be a constant source of discontent or lead to rupture. The oneness of purpose and outlook should by all means be promoted so that it may be the link of unity of the rulers and the ruled. This is done and effectively done by propaganda and education. While this may be a good policy, the peasantry imbued as they were with the cultural traditions of millenniums, conservative and staid, being firmly rooted to the soil, refused to be fascinated by the new presentation of life and destiny. They would sooner die in their ancient homesteads than reside.

Neglect of Villages

The hardships which resulted from this attitude were severe.
(Continued on page 3)

NO ELECTRIC LIGHT FOR JAFFNA STATION

U. D. C. RATES TOO EXPENSIVE

IMPROVEMENTS TO NORTHERN RLY.

REPLY TO JAFFNA ASSOCIATION MEMORANDUM

The Railway authorities regret that the Jaffna Station cannot be installed with electric lighting as the rate of current offered by the U. D. C., viz. 50 cts. a unit, is too expensive, and that the Department will be prepared to give the matter favourable consideration when the U. D. C. is prepared to offer better terms, say 30 cts. a unit.

The Jaffna Association forwarded a memorandum to the Minister of Communications and Works on the working of the Northern Railway, offering suggestions for improvements on the working of this line.

The Minister referred the suggestions to the General Manager of Railways for comments.

The Jaffna Association has now been favoured with a copy of the G. M. R's comments which are as follows:—

(1). In the estimates for the current financial year, a sum of Rs. 50,000/- has been voted for relaying a portion of the track with 80 lbs rail and it is intended to push on with this work as quickly as possible. The present speed of trains on this section is 28 miles per hour.

2nd Class Compartments

(2). Investigations were made into the complaint re the unsatisfactory state of the 2nd class compartments and it is found that all the carriages including the lavatories of these trains are well washed, cleaned and disinfected at the starting point of the train as well as at the destination, but on long journeys the coaches are likely to accumulate dust on route and it sometimes happens that they are made untidy by certain passengers. As regards the cushions, they will be attended to, replacing the old ones as far as practicable. It is presumed that 1½ "necessaries" in the lavatories of the second class carriages "toilet paper" is meant and if so, they are supplied in sufficient quantities at both ends.

(3). This matter has been dealt with in the memorandum dealing with the conditions affecting the system of Railway and Road Transport in Ceylon, dated 10.10.35.

(4). A spare carriage is always available at Kankasanturai to strengthen the train when required and arrangements are in force to run additional bogies second on the up night train from Colombo on Fridays and Saturdays to return from Kankasanturai on Sundays and Mondays by the down night mail.

Luggage

The present free allowances of personal luggage, viz., 112 lbs., 84 lbs.

The Task for Modern India

Co-ordination Of Wills And Scattered Energies

(By the Editor. "Prabuddha Bharata")

WHAT is necessary for the national life of India is to see how people of different provinces and communities can co-ordinate their wills and concentrate their scattered energies. The consciousness of one nationality is of utmost importance for the solidarity of the nation. The danger of local and communal patriotism is a great bar to national unity and harmony. The provincial and communal interests should be sacrificed at the altar of greater interests of the nation. Instances are not rare in modern India, in which we find people stunting the growth of Indian nationhood for the sake of personal, communal, and provincial interests. If national problems become more weighty and powerful, the linguistic and communal differences are sure to lose their force and will sooner or later be submerged in the surging tide of national aspirations. The interdependence of the different provinces is of great importance, so far as agricultural and industrial interests are concerned. It is not possible for each province to be self-contained in all respects. Each province should look to the general economy of national life, as the good of each depends on that of the others. The provincial and communal jealousies are a stumbling block against the fruition of nation-

consciousness. If these be not guarded against, any improved political status will only increase provincial and communal animosities. Since jealousy is the bane of a fallen nation, Swami Vivekananda asked the people of India to worship their countrymen as the first Gods, instead of being jealous of each other and fighting each other.

Unity of the Nation

Therefore the crying need for the people of India is to feel the unity of the nation at first, before they expect any amount of national progress. India is now passing through chaos in every phase of national life. In every field, the clarion call to the children of the soil is: "Unite, Unite!" In these days, the value of united action can hardly be over-estimated. Nothing can be done on a great scale, unless people speak with one voice and act like one man. The chief aim of every national worker should be how to keep up unity and integrity in the collective body he belongs to. Sister Nivedita observed: "If the whole of India could agree to give, say ten minutes, every evening at the oncoming of darkness to thinking a single thought, 'We are one. We are one. Nothing can prevail against us to make us think, we are divided. For, we are one, and all antagonisms against us are illusion',—the power that would be generated can hardly be measured." If this idea be translated into action in every small or big organization in the country, there is sure to grow an atmosphere for united action and all healthy movements will not die on account of party strifes and want of co-operation.

Leadership

The lure of the leader is at the root of many evils that have retarded India's progress at the very critical moments of her struggles and aspirations. The age of cheap leadership has gone by. A leader has to combine a massive intellect with a mighty heart. He must be above the last infirmity of a noble soul and should be perfectly selfless. He must be imbued with the great ideals and traditions of India, at the same time he must chalk out before the country a definite line of work suiting to the country's genius and modern conditions. There are now leaders, not a few in number, who neither have a first-hand knowledge of Indian culture, nor do they themselves lead Indian styles of living. Still they venture to lead the country according to their mistaken ideas and ideals. Therefore it is for the leaders to see wherein lie their own drawbacks, and it is for them to attempt how the different forces in the country can be united for the common good of all provinces and communities.

Jaffna Station Lighting

(6). It is regretted that Jaffna station cannot be installed with electric lighting as the rate of current offered by the U. D. C., viz. 50 cts a unit, is too expensive, and if and when this body is prepared to offer better terms, say 30 a unit, this Department will be prepared to give the matter favourable consideration.

(7) The present practice of outside porters handling the personal luggage of passengers carried with them in their own compartments has worked satisfactorily, and a change, incurring additional expenditure to the Department is not justified.

(8) This suggestion will not fetch any revenue to this Department. Railway officers who perform postal work at stations are however remunerated by the Postal Department, vide R. D. I. 368.

Change of Name

I, Miss Chellamma Ramanathan of Vannarpoani, Ceylon, do hereby give notice, to all whom it may concern, that I shall henceforth be called, known and sign as Senthyl Chelvam Ramanathan.

Chellamma Ramanathan

23rd December 1935

(Mis. 231, 23-12-35)

NOTICE

THE JAFFNA URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Proposed New Town Hall

Tenders are hereby invited for the erection of a New Town Hall at Jaffna to reach the Chairman U. D. C. on or before 12 noon of 4th January 1936.

Tender forms may be obtained from the Chairman on a deposit of Rs. 50/- which will not be returned. Tenders made on forms supplied by the Chairman only shall be entertained.

Plans, specifications and bill of quantities prepared by Messrs. Billimoria and De Silva, A.A.R.I.B.A., Architects, can be either examined at the Office of the Architects 81, Chatham Street, Colombo, or at the Office of the Superintendent of Works U. D. C., Jaffna, or copies of same can be had by bona fide tenderers during office hours.

No tenders will be accepted unless such tenders are accompanied by the copies of plans, specifications and bills of quantities issued to them.

The Chairman reserves to himself the right to reject all or any of the tenders and to accept the whole or any part of a tender as he may think fit.

The successful tenderer will have to deposit with the U. D. C. a sum of Rs. 2000/- in cash as security which will be returned only after satisfying the conditions of the specifications and contract.

R. R. NALLIAH,

Chairman U. D. C.

Office of the Urban District Council,

Jaffna, December, 1935.

(G. 56, 19 & 23-12-35.)



Hindu Organ.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1935.

NEED FOR UNITY.

NOW THAT ELECTIONS ARE COMING on for the second term of the State Council it behoves the Singalese and the Tamils, the two major elements in the country, to revise their respective positions for the sake of the pressing demand for unity. They who have lived together side by side for centuries must patch up any unfortunate breaches in the fellowship and harmony which have long existed between them. In the regrettable pass we are in, it is unwise to inquire into as to who is to blame for the friction. Such a course would not help us either way. If the Sinhalese and the Tamils realise the need for unity as an essential condition for further constitutional progress, the leaders of each community should make a fresh approach to the problem. The Sinhalese leaders should not be carried off their feet by the thought of their numerical strength, nor should the Tamils be so unreasonable as to complain all along the line. We regret that the Northern Members in the last Council should have accused the Sinhalese of any conspiracy against Tamil interests. Perhaps a few administrative false steps the Sinhalese Members were betrayed into by the unconscious sweep of things may have misled the Tamils into the belief that they were calculated efforts to shut out Tamils from public services. The Tamil leaders ought to realise that a greater percentage of power and positions is a natural share of the Sinhalese by virtue of numbers. That is not saying that the Sinhalese members in power should be niggardly in their recognition of

Tamil claims for a greater share in the administration than is vouchsafed to them under the mischievous constitution. The majority members should if they attach any value to contentment on the part of the minority as a basic condition of responsible Government, try to create, secure and safeguard that necessary condition by a far more liberal attitude than they have exhibited during the last four and a half years. They must understand that no minority community would co-operate for the welfare of the whole at the risk of losing its own individuality. If they understand this proven principle of democratic government and if they are really egged on by the desire to develop in this Island a really good breed of democratic rule, they should grant the Tamils at least a part of their demands. On the other hand the Tamils should not be more obdurate in their attitude than reason and prudence dictate. A minority should not always live in an atmosphere of distrust. They should continue to trust for some time and may be sure of reciprocal confidence. The Jaffna Association whose influence in the affairs of the country is felt and appreciated should shape and lead the position of the Tamils. Let all efforts be attuned to the key of unity which alone would make for constitutional progress. The next batch of Northern representatives should be such as would not raise the rank, unreasonable communal cry of majority aggression. They ought to be men of moderation, balance and sound judgment. The Jaffna Association owes a duty to the country in that it should put in the electorates such men as would not make a bad situation any the worse. Unity is the need of the day and let us all work for it.

PREFERENCE TO SINHALESE

Sir Baron Castigates Mr. Mahadeva

Sir Baron Jayatilaka, speaking at the National Congress sessions at Mahinda College, Galle, today, in support of a resolution for amendment of the Donoughmore Constitution, strongly criticised Mr. A. Mahadeva's recent statement that preference was being given to Sinhalese in the matter of Government appointments.

Regarding Mr. Mahadeva's recent budget speech he gave several instances of Tamils and Burghers being given preference to Sinhalese in the matter of Government appointments, and said that allegation to have come from Mr. Mahadeva was most surprising as Mr. Mahadeva himself had been appointed Manager of the State Mortgage Bank in the directorate of which Sinhalese predominated. In gratitude could not have gone madder than that. One of the national virtues of the Sinhalese was to be strictly impartial to other nationalities.

MOVE-ON BY-LAW

Kokkuvil and Nallur V. C's Rule

The following rule made by the Village Committees of Kokkuvil and Nallur subdivisions has been approved by the Governor:—

Rule

"No person, after he is ordered to move on by a police officer in uniform, shall stand or loiter upon a road which is used by any omnibus or at or near any junction through which any omnibus passes, or at or near any place set apart as a public stand or stopping place for omnibuses."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

COMMUNAL JUSTICE

Sir,—Many right-thinking people will agree with or echo your opinion or sentiment expressed in the course of your powerful editorial of the 12th inst. I, for one, almost fully endorse your view: "After all is said and done the only policy open to a subject people is to unite and throw off the yoke of subjection without sacrificing the just rights of the component elements." Sir, S. Radha Krishnan is also in partial agreement with your "dictum," for, in his concluding remarks at the fig-end of Mr. Chintamani's Lectures on Indian Politics Since 1857, he is reported to have uttered these words: "A subject nation has only one policy viz to shake off the subjection." Mr. Croce waxed lyrical when he says that "freedom alone gives meaning to life; without it life is unbearable." There is an insidious magic in the grandeur of his words: "There are those who question the future of the ideal of liberty. To them we answer that it has more than a future, it has eternity." But when he goes on to say that this freedom abides in the minds of many noble men, "in the constitution of many important countries and in institutions and customs," we are brought back to the hard facts of existence from the giddy and ethereal heights and flights of speculation. In Ceylon, under the Donoughmore Constitution, so long as communities continue to exist, one must in any dis-

THE GENERAL ELECTION

Nomination Day Fixed

The Nomination day for the State Council General Election is fixed for January 15, 1936, between 12 noon and 1 p.m.

course on liberty ask: liberty for which class or community? and for exactly what use? and what exactly is to be the relation of one community to the other?"

The fundamental problem of human and communal existence is the purpose which freedom can serve. "Freedom is a very good horse to ride, but to ride somewhere."

Liberty, has often, in history, been the rallying cry of a selfish interest upon retaining privilege for itself. The Sinhalese Goigama Buddhist majority wants liberty to dominate over the others. Let us not be deluded by the catchwords of Swaraj, Liberty, Freedom and Independence and Unity. There are organisations of anarchy, organisations avowedly national but really communal, whose main object is to ensure and secure the predominance of certain communities, caste and creeds, flying the flag of liberty and national solidarity. There are few things more dangerous than the habit of speaking of liberty in general terms. It does not really exist; it serves too often when illegitimately invoked as an instrument of oppression. There is a disproportionate preoccupation with the problems of liberty, while the emphasis should be shifted to that of security of well-being of safeguarding the just rights of minorities. Those in power have always understood liberty to mean liberty for the rich to make profits, the liberty for the workers to die of starvation; by

liberty of the press they mean liberty for the rich to bribe the press and to fabricate and inspire so-called opinion. We ask only for fair field, fair play, no favour, no handicap. We demand that the dice be not loaded against us not only in the Public Services by alterations of syllabuses and manipulations of subjects calculated not only to deprive us of our due place but even specially designed to keep us out of the Services, but also in other fields especially in the sphere of education, industry, agriculture, health and communications, to mention but a few.

I do not deny the splendour of freedom, the ineffable relief all shall feel when we invite and throw off or lift the intolerable degradation of a foreign yoke from our necks and shoulders, minds and spirit. To promote unity what is urgently required as a pre-requisite is Communal and Social Justice. We want no weightage. We want no favoured community clause or treatment. Let the majority community be just before they prate of generosity. We ask for bare justice only—for our just rights. If our just rights are safeguarded and discriminatory regulation or manipulation or alteration ruled out we shall and will be in the vanguard of liberty.

POLITICUS.

"CHRISTMAS IN THE AIR"

Sir,—Now that we have an Aerodrome at Ratmalana we may look forward for the time, when Ceylon will occupy a very prominent position on the aerial map of the world.

Already, two puss moth 'planes belonging to the Madras Light Aero Club, have had the unique privilege of being the first aeroplanes, to link Madras and Ratmalana by air. Moreover, the fact that arrangements are being made to make Ceylon air-minded by the proposed joy-flights, would have certainly aroused the interest of many and the curiosity of everybody. The members of the Ceylon Aero Club, and others who are air-minded, will undoubtedly avail themselves of this singular opportunity, of spending "Christmas in the Air."

As reported in the daily papers, these aeroplanes will confine their short flights to Nuwara Eliya, Kandy and places in their neighbour hood. It might perhaps not be convenient for the aeroplanes to fly over to Jaffna, from Ratmalana. This may be owing to the distance. If this should really be an obstacle, I hope the authorities will make some arrangements whereby the people of the North will also have a chance of enjoying Christmas with others, in the air. The 'planes that recently flew over Jaffna, have greatly disappointed many people, for, before they could catch a glimpse of them, they vanished into the air, as suddenly as they came. May I, therefore, suggest a way by which the desired end could be easily achieved. If Mr. Tyndale Biscoe, who will be piloting one of the 'planes expected for Christmas, is requested to give the public of Jaffna some demonstration flights, either on his way to or from Ratmalana, the people of North will certainly have a thrilling spectacle.

I hope the authorities will kindly consider the suggestion and once more display that public sympathy they manifested when the H. M. S. Emerald visited Kankasanturai.

Thanking you for the space.

I am,
Yours truly,

A. M. JESUTHASAN.

"St. Anna's Villa",
Jaffna,
18 12 35.

Vacancies

Two posts of Postal Probationers in the Post and Telegraph Department are vacant and applications are called for same, which should reach the P. M. G. before January 22. Candidates, except those already in service in the department, must be graduates.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Board of Indian Immigrant Labour.—Dr. R. Briercliffe O. B. E., and G. R. Motha has been reappointed members of the Board of Indian Immigrant Labour with effect from December 9, and December 19 respectively.

More Support Asked for Ayurveda.—Resolutions urging Government to give more support to Ayurveda were passed at the All-Ceylon Ayurvedic Congress which held its annual sessions at the Buddhist Hall, Moratuwa on Saturday. Mr. W. A. de Silva presided.

New Police Office at Trincomalee.—A New Police Office has been opened at Trincomalee with effect from December 1, 1935. The Office is in charge of an Asst. Superintendent of Police who is responsible for supervising the Police in the "policed" areas of the Eastern and North Central Provinces.

Judge's Servant Electrocuted.—A case of electrocution occurred on Saturday at the residence of Mr. M. H. Kantawala, in Turret Road, Colombo, the victim being a servant. The man, it is stated, was handling a table lamp when he received a shock which rendered him unconscious. He died on the way to hospital.

Bicknell Silver Jubilee.—An appeal has been issued by the Jaffna College Old Boys' Association, Colombo, to all the friends and Old Boys of the Jaffna College for co operation and help to celebrate the Silver Jubilee of Rev. and Mrs. John Bicknell's active association with the College for the last twenty-five years. The Jubilee celebrations will take place in July 1936.

Bangle Theft at Railway Station

One Sinnadurai was charged in the Police Court on Friday with theft of a bangle of a child at the Jaffna Station on Thursday.

It appears that there was a large crowd at the station and an alarm was raised by a woman, that her child's bangle had been stolen. P. C. Thampipillai who was at the station immediately arrested the man before he could escape.

The accused was produced in Court the next day was allowed bail in Rs. 100.

What Children do in Russia

A message from Moscow brings news of a new railway project which is to be carried out by children.

A railway tunnel, 3,000 feet of line, and a station complete in every detail are to be built in their spare time by 500 children in the Tiflis Park of Culture and Rest.

These projects will be an extension of the famous Children's Railway built in the park by the children themselves. It is run entirely by children and has two stations and 1,200 feet of track. It was opened three months ago, and since then 65,000 passengers have ridden in its tiny train, driven by a child.

The work of building the railway was supervised by engineers of the Transcaucasian Railway. Russian Government takes a great interest in the railway, and a group of the child builders visiting Moscow recently was received by the People's Commissar of Railways, M. Kaganovich.

"Too Late In The Day"

"NO RATIO IN DISTRIBUTION OF SEATS"

Congress President On Political Situation

"That our political development has now reached a point at which unless we are watchful and march ahead, a wrong turn may easily create a setback.

"That reactionary forces in our midst are taking full advantage of the present agitation for reforms in an attempt to block the path that leads to the goal of Swaraj. Our friends from the North have accused us of unredeemed pledges and broken pacts. I wish to tell them that it is now too late in the day to reconsider the question of an adequate ratio in the distribution of seats for we entirely disagree that any ratio is necessary."

Thus declared Mr. H. W. Amarasuriya, in the course of his presidential address at the seventeenth session of the Ceylon National Congress held at the Mahinda College Hall, on Saturday.

He advocated, in his address, the curtailment of the Governor's powers, the removal of the Officers of State and greater control of the Public Services and finances.

As regards the Public Services Commission, he said, the Congress demanded that its present constitution should be altered and that an independent and non-official Public Services Commission be established.

Judicial

Mr. S. Natarajah has been appointed to act as District Judge and Police Magistrate, Anuradhapura, during the absence of Mr. J. Wilnot Perera from December 23, 1935 to January 2, 1936.

Mr. N. Ponniah has been appointed to act as Commissioner of Requests and Police Magistrate, Pt. Pedro and Additional District Judge, Jaffna, during the absence of Mr. F. S. Paul from December 23, 1935 to January 3, 1936.

Answer to Correspondent

PARENT:—Receiving consideration at the hands of the authorities concerned. Do not worry.

KAYTS SEAT

Invitation to Mr. W. Duraiswamy

W. Duraiswamy Esqr., Advocate, Jaffna.

Sir,—The Village Committee, Karainagar, has at the meeting held this day unanimously decided to request you to come forward as a candidate for the Kayts seat in the State Council at the forthcoming election.

We have the honour to request you therefore to come forward as a candidate for the said Kayts Seat in the State Council. This resolution was proposed by Mr. S. Ganapathipillai and seconded by Mr. A. S. Kandiah and unanimously carried.

We remain,
Your Obedient Servants,
S. Ganapathipillai
A. S. Kandiah
T. Mahalingam
R. Nagalingam
சே. தம்பதம்பிள்ளை
அ. சே. சந்திரன்
க. குறுமுத்து
A. Kanagasabay

Karainagar,
19-12-35.
(Mis. 229. 23-12-35)

THE COUNTRY'S PEASANTRY—IV

(Continued from page 1.)

They were also aggravated by other factors. Townships arose and attention became concentrated in their formation, development and adding to their amenities and embellishments; in that corresponding degree, villages were neglected. Then followed rural exodus to the towns. Deserted by talent and enterprise the villages soon lapsed to a state of lethargy. English education and the necessities of passing examinations on the competitive system for securing appointments should leave little time to urban young men to visit the country side much less to associate with their country cousins in social equality. The villagers found themselves cut off from their own kith and kin. With the progress of time, the difference between the townsmen and the country folks has become pronounced and accentuated. Through neglect, the country-side which was once all the store-house of health and vigour, as may be evidenced even to-day from the villages of Jaffna, became hot-bed of Malaria and other sickness and the townsmen now found good reason to avoid the villagers. There has been no call or incentive for English-educated young men to study the language and literature of the peasantry or become conversant with the social structure, customs and outlook of the villagers. On the other hand the urge for aping British manners and imitating British forms became insistent, the adoption of these offering chances of material gain. The education has not been of that kind as could endow the learner with an analytic bent of mind to understand the social or the economic logic, which gave birth to the indigenous customs and forms or the *raison d'être* of British institutions.

Lack of Sympathy

Imitation, however, has become the rage. Little sympathy could exist between young men nurtured in the cities and towns and educated in English on the conditions referred to above and the village folks; and yet official and political power remains vested in the hands of the former. When these young men are sent into rural districts as Agricultural, Irrigation and Police Officers, their aversion to rural conditions find expression in supercilious or contemptuous treatment of petitions and in prosecutions. There is no sympathy. There is truth in the general complaint that corruption is rife among officers, and this is due to the villager regarding sympathy as a commercial article under the hybrid civilisation. Fines and forfeitures imposed on the villagers for defaulting, through sheer inability, to put earth on tank bunds and for failing to do such other things as ordered by the officers have been heavy rendering their condition poor indeed.

The language of adoption of our public men and politicians—English—is inefficient to express the concepts of the peasant industry. This fact will be found stressed by Mill in his book "Principles of Political Economy" in the following terms: "the general system, however, of English cultivation affording no experience to render the nature and operation of peasant properties, and Englishmen being in general profoundly ignorant of agricultural economy of other countries, the very idea of peasant properties is strange to the English mind. Even the forms of language stand in the way: the familiar designation for owners of land being land-lords, a term to which 'tenants' is always understood as a correlative."

An enlightened British Civil Servant the late Mr. Mitford, G. A. N. W. P. supports Mills' statement in the following terms: "It will be found that much confusion has been introduced into the subject (land tenures) by the perversion of terms in our translations which have been handed down and found their way into all regulations relating to it. For instance in this Order-in-Council the parties are described as 'Proprietors of villages' and 'Tenants of lands', whereas the Kandyan system, there is no such tenancy in a legal sense, and no land-lord, yet we loosely use these terms

A WATER-WAY DISPUTE AT MANIPAY

Village Committee Dismisses Udayar's Action

The case filed by the Udayar of Manipay in Village Committee against a land-owner for encroaching on a water-way, alleged to have been in existence for over 50 years, was dismissed and a petition against the Committee's decision has been forwarded to the Government Agent.

It would appear that on account of a dispute over the blocking of the water-way, the Maniagar, the District Engineer, the Chairman V. C. Manipay and the Udayar inspected the spot. As a result of their inspection the Udayar was ordered by the Maniagar to file an action in the Village Committee. An action was accordingly filed and at the inquiry, old residents of the locality including Mulaiyar T. Karalapillai spoke to their personal knowledge of the existence for over 50 years of the water-way in question. The Udayar who prosecuted produced deeds to support the prosecution. The late owner of the particular lands through which the water-way in question runs, who gave evidence for the defence admitted having got no money from the present owner for those portions of the three blocks of land as they were a water-way reservation.

In the face of all this evidence the Committee thought it just to dismiss the action. The Committee's decision has created resentment in the locality and a petition has been forwarded to the Government appealing against the decision of the Committee. —(Cor.)

Matrimonial

KATHIRAVELU—SORNALADCHUMY

The marriage took place at 'Ganesha Vasa', 10 Temple Road, Kuala Lumpur, on Friday, 6th December, of Mr. S. Kathiravelu of the Divisional Superintendent's Office, P. M. S. Railways, Kuala Lumpur, and son of Mr. and Mrs. P. Sinnathamby of Nallur, Jaffna, with Miss Sornaladchumy, the youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. Arumugam of Araly North, Jaffna, and sister-in-law of Mr. K. Chellaturaj, Chief Book-keeper, P. M. S. Railways. There was a large gathering of relatives and friends of the parties present. —(Cor.)

for want of words corresponding to the originals.

What are the peasants called in their own language and in all proceedings in which they have to assert their rights? "Hereditary proprietors of the land" usually adding "from time immemorial". The lord is also proprietor of the Mutteto fields, which are accurately defined, and he cannot touch a spadeful of earth in the other lands of the village.

The Land Development Ordinance

The recent "Land Development Ordinance" affords an illustration of how profoundly ignorant the majority of our State Councillors are with regard to the essentials of peasant life. While security of tenure and freedom from outside interference are the basis of the peasant life, the new ordinance aims to reduce the peasant even lower than the level of a coolly with respect to means of his livelihood, hedging possession of land with servile conditions as well as placing him in perpetuity under tribute to Headmen, State Councillors, Government Agents and Land Commissioners. Perhaps the provisions of the ordinance may be usefully made applicable to human derelicts from industrial centres, as in England, when the land available for development belonged to private owners—not to the State—and private interests of the landlord dominated. While even in the Soviet Russia "peasants are now being permitted to assume outright ownership—which was abolished by the Bolshevik Nationalism", our State Councillors seek through this ordinance to reduce the status of this ancient community of Ceylon to the level of serfs!

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The Royal Assent to the Bill to abolish the levy of estate duty in Ceylon is proclaimed in a Gazette extraordinary issued on Thursday.

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K. Thambipillai Esq. Manager of Schools, Kankasanturai
A. Manicam Esq., Science Master, Skandavarothaya College, Kanderodai.

(H. 192. 6/11/35 to 5/5/36.)

(M)

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(H. 200. 13-11-35 to 12-5-36.) (M)

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Y. 189. 1-11-35—31-10-36 (M)

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(Q. 237. 23-12-35—18-3-36)

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(Q. 172. 13-10 to 12-1-36.)

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9-12-35.
(Mis 222. 9 to 31-12-35.)

Notice

I Sengkarapillay Inthirarajah of Chulipuram do hereby give notice to the public that my father Ampalavanar Sengkarapillay of Tholpuram was in bed and in unsound state of mind since 1st August 1934; any deed executed by him and witnessed by Sengkarapillay Saravanamuttu, who is also in unsound state of mind, after that date will be invalid.

S. Inthirarajah.

(Mis. 226. 16-12 to 23-12-35.)

Order Nisi

IN THE DISTRICT COURT
OF JAFFNA

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 189.

In the matter of the estate of the late
Chinniah Navaratnarajah of
Alvai South Deceased
David Nagappan Chinniah of Alvai
South Petitioner.
Vs.

Chinniah Rajadurai of Alvai South
a minor by his guardian-ad litem
John Nagappan Vallipuram of Do.
Respondent.

This matter of the petition of the abovenamed petitioner praying that Letters of administration to the estate of the said late Chinniah Navaratnarajah coming on for disposal before C. Coomaraswamy Esquire, District Judge Jaffna on the 9 day of December 1935 in the presence of Mr. I. W. A. Samuel Proctor on the part of the Petitioner and the petition of the abovenamed Petitioner dated the 7th day of December 1935 having been read. It is ordered that Letters of administration be issued to the Petitioner as the father of the said deceased unless the respondent or any other persons shall on or before the 9th day of March 1936 show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

This 10th day of December 1935
Sgd. K. Kanagasabai
District Judge

(O. 104. 19 & 23 12 35.)

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