

The Hindu Organ.

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THE ONLY NEWSPAPER IN CEYLON FOR THE HINDUS

HAS THE WIDEST CIRCULATION

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THE HINDU ORGAN.

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The Hindu Organ.

JAFFNA, THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 1924.

THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN ENGLAND.

It is well known to all who have any idea of the political situation in England that Mr. Ramsay Mac Donald has an exceptionally difficult position to fill as Prime Minister of England. The position to which he has risen is unquestionably the greatest to which an Englishman can aspire. But the circumstances under which he occupies that position are so peculiarly difficult that the honour and pride associated with it are lessened to some extent by its precariousness. As the Labour Government represents the industrial population, the various classes of workers which comprise it seem to be very restless, which is due to their natural anxiety to safeguard their interests as best they can when their Government is in power. We understand that there have been strikes and demonstrations among the railway workers and the dockers, and the miners seem to be girding up their loins to secure higher wages for themselves with the aid of the Government. We understand that after organising a strike on a large scale, they have postponed it as the Government is preparing a bill which will give legal basis for miners' wages. Any special favour shown to the miners will displease the other classes of workers and demoralise the trade of the country, for if the miners succeed in the unreasonable demands which they make on their employers, their success is bound to affect the interests of the other workers. Of all the workers the miners are the most powerful owing to their relation to the iron and steel and other big national industries. They are already given higher wages for short hours of work than the other workers owing to the great risk they run in doing their work. But if the miners can coerce their employers into paying them still higher wages by means of strikes, the prices of all manufactured goods will go up, and unemployment with all its miseries will be the result. It is clear that the miners have power to injure all other workers. It is also clear that they are in a position to use that power to secure for themselves rates of wages which the other workers can never aspire to get. It, therefore, becomes the great duty of the Labour Government to make laws which will prevent the miners from injuring the other workers. But we do not think Mr. Ramsay Mac Donald will dare legislate on miners' wages so as to safeguard other industries, as such an attempt is sure to cause a split among the Labourites, which is fatal to the position of the Prime Minister. If on the other hand, he prepares a bill which is favourable to the miners, it is bound to give great offence to a very large number of Liberals, which will make the position of his Government very precarious.

It has been thought by many that the support given by the Liberals to the Labourites in preference to the Conservatives is unaccountable. One reason has, however, been assigned for the strange alliance, and that is that the Liberals, feeling that their only chance to come to power would depend on a split of the Labour party, put it in office. It is expected by many that the miners' wages bill which the Government is preparing will give rise to that split sooner than the Liberals expected. If the Labourites split into two or more groups, it will cause the Parliament to be made up of more groups than desirable, which is sure to have a demoralising effect on the Government of the country.

It will thus be seen that the high position which Mr. Ramsay Macdonald occupies is one of peculiar difficulty and uncertainty. His only hope of maintaining his power firmly would seem to depend on his securing an independent majority which will keep him master of the House, and whether he has the skill to do so remains to be seen.

NOTES & COMMENTS

The term Swadeshi has become one of the dearest words to Indians and conveys to them a meaning which expresses the essence of true patriotism and nationalism. We think our readers are aware of the great struggle the people of India are having in endeavouring to free their motherland from the unbearable industrial thralldom which

has been imposed on her by foreign countries. The Indians feel most keenly that before their motherland can gain swaraj she must be industrially and commercially free. We have always been of opinion that the great defect in the national and political life of our people is the absence of any genuine feeling in them against the industrial and commercial slavery to which she has long been subject and which has proved so ruinous to her advancement, and welfare. It must be admitted that there are few countries in the world with the resources which Ceylon possesses. And yet she is dependent on foreign countries for a supply of even the bare necessities of life. A more unhappy state which is utterly opposed to the gaining of swaraj it is impossible to conceive of, and yet our leaders speak complacently of the hope of gaining self-Government for the country. Even if such an achievement is possible, we do not know what value can be attached to the self-government of a country which is a slave of foreign countries industrially and commercially. We want our leaders to consider carefully the very sad industrial condition of Ceylon and to take steps without delay to make her independent of foreign countries industrially and economically.

Two letters were published in our issue of the 31st ultimo which have caused us considerable surprise and regret. We have reason to think that if Mr. Silva's wishes in regard to the Tamil Seat were carried into effect, the deplorable Sinhalese-Tamil split would not be in existence to-day. Mr. Silva has unquestionably been the most ardent and fearless champion of justice for the Tamils among the Sinhalese, which his utterances on the public platform and his writings in the press have always made abundantly clear. It is, therefore, passing strange, and is a matter for great regret, that instead of giving their whole-hearted support to him, some persons of the Tamil community are reported to be working against his candidature. We are of opinion that Mr. Silva is just the man whom the Tamils of Ceylon should strive their utmost to help to be returned to Council, not only out of gratitude for what he has done to them, but also on account of his great qualifications and eminent fitness to be a councillor. We wish the Tamils residing in Colombo will bear in mind that it is absolutely necessary for the safeguarding of the interests of the entire Tamil community of Ceylon that there should be in the new Council a man of the proved sympathy, faithfulness and friendship to them of Mr. de Silva.

LOCAL & GENERAL

OBSEQUES.—Owing to the new year holidays there will be no issues of the "Hindu Organ" on Monday the 14th instant and Thursday the 17th instant. Our office will be closed from tomorrow and reopens on Friday the 18th instant. We wish our readers the greetings of the season.

CHARTER TICKETS FOR EASTER HOLIDAYS.—Charter tickets, first, second and third class, will be issued from all stations to stations which are not less than fifty miles distant from the 11th instant, available for return by the 25th instant. They will be issued at single fare for double journey.

THE POLICE MAGISTRATE OF JAFFNA.—We learn that Mr. B. H. Bassett, Police Magistrate of Jaffna, is going on leave shortly to England.

VICTORIA COLLEGE JAFFNA.—We understand that the Director of Education has, in reply to the application for restoration of Victoria College as a Secondary School made by the Manager of this institution, granted permission to begin secondary work. Arrangements are being made to begin Secondary Classes from Form I to the Cambridge Senior Certificate Class after the Hindu New Year holidays.

NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATIONS.—The Tamil National Day Celebrations will take place on Monday the 14th inst. at 3 p.m. in the Jaffna esplanade. Hon. Mr. W. Duraiswamy will preside.

CAMBRIDGE SCHOOL CERTIFICATE EXAMINATIONS.—The results of these examinations have been published. 2300 candidates appeared from Ceylon for the Senior and Junior Certificate examinations held in December last. The percentage of passes in the Senior is about 40 and that in the Junior is about 50.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL COMMISSIONERS AND EXCAVATION WORK.—Mr. A. M. Hoar, the present Archaeological Commissioner, is now engaged in excavation works at Vabara Condingala, near Horowpatawa, in Anuradhapura. Two inscriptions of the second century have been discovered by him. The present Buddhist ruins date only as far back as the ninth century of the Christian era, and if Mr. Hoar's attempts prove successful, remains of a much earlier period are likely to be disclosed.

MAD DOG BITES.—Two men of Maviddapuram and a woman of Panalali were bitten by a mad dog at Vithalidai, a village near Maviddapuram, on Saturday the 5th instant. The woman, who was severely bitten by the dog, has been taken to Colombo for treatment at the Pasteur Institute. The mad dog, which had also bitten a number of dogs in the neighbourhood, was killed on the same day by the owner.

BULLOCK CART RACING.—Two men of Maviddapuram were seriously injured on Monday the 7th instant as the result of bullock cart racing. They were going to Chuccekam market in a double bullock cart, and when a cart which followed their cart attempted to overtake and pass it at a place within half a mile from the market, the driver of their cart beat the bulls incessantly in order to make them run fast. The bulls which were furious at this treatment turned to a side and jumped over a culvert which happened to be by the side, with the result that the cart leaped turtle, all the occupants being thrown out. About four men were hurt, the two mentioned above sustaining severe injuries. It is worthy of note that on the same road a man of Maviddapuram lost his life about 3 months ago while engaged in bullock cart racing. It is very regrettable that the Government has not taken adequate steps to put a stop to this barbarous practice.

A PUBLIC LECTURE.—A very interesting and instructive lecture on "The Oriental Ideals of Student Life" was delivered by Mr. F. Gordon Pearson, Principal of Parameshwara College, in the Kanderolai English School hall on Monday the 7th instant at 5 p.m. Mr. V. S. Ponnambalam, Proctor, presided on the occasion. The substance of the lecture was given briefly in Tamil by Mr. K. Sathupasingam. Mr. S. Eliathambypillai, B.A., passed a few remarks on the subject.

CEYLON MEDICAL COLLEGE.—The results of the examinations held last month by this college have been published. Mr. R. Jarambath is among those who have come out successful in the final examination. Mr. N. Sivalingam is one of the two candidates who have passed in Medicine and Surgery at the final examination.

REGISTRATION OF BUSES.—All buses belonging to Colombo and those from outside which make Colombo a terminus will hereafter be taxed according to the seating accommodation of each individual bus at the rate of Rs. 10 per seat, and not according to the weight of the conveyance as has hitherto been done.

NEW RAILWAY CONNECTION.—The Badaravala Badulla railway was opened by His Excellency the Governor on Saturday the 5th instant. This railway which is about 21 miles in length connects the capital of the Uva Province with the metropolis of the Island by a line of a total length of 180 miles.

TRINITY COLLEGE OF MUSIC, LONDON.—The Board of this College has announced the appointment of Mr. J. Charles Loeg, M.A., B.M., as the Examiner in Ceylon, India and the Straits for the College this year in Practical subjects, namely, Piano-forte, Organ, Viola, Singing, Elocution etc.

FOUR BIRDS AT ONCE.—Mrs. James Matthews of St. Stephen Street, Georgetown near Middleborough has given birth to four children, two boys and two girls, who were born on the same day one after another. All the four babies are reported to be perfectly healthy.

GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE.—Mr. J. Ramanyako has been appointed to act as Chief Clerk, Government Printing Office, in view of the promotion of Mr. W. Francis Silva as Acting Third Assistant Government Printer.

POLITICAL TURN COATS

(Communicated)

I have read with great surprise and indignation the speech of Mr. J. V. Cheliah delivered at the Tower Hall, Colombo, in support of the candidature of the Hon. Mr. James Peiris. He says that there is no Sinhalese-Tamil split and that it exists only among a handful of leaders as if he had no part in creating the split. I will bring to his notice the violent, inflammatory speech which he delivered on the occasion of the inauguration of the Tamil Maha Jana Sabha. He told the audience that the Sinhalese were like lions seeking to devour the Tamil lamb; and that it was the duty of the Tamils to take effective measures to safeguard their interests. This speech was reported at that time in full by the "Morning Leader", "Daily News" and the "Ceylon Independent" who sent their reporters to the meeting.

Again he cannot deny that he was a member of the Committee of the Jaffna Association and the Tamil Maha Jana Sabha and that he was also member of the sub-committee appointed to draft the memorial and memoranda which were sent to His Excellency the Governor and the Secretary of State and which were published in the sessional papers connected with the Reforms. He was actually present when these drafts were considered by the sub-committee and he gave his approval to them.

DE OMNIBUS REBUS.

Fashion at the expense of convenience and simplicity of life is the order of the day. Everything and everybody seem to grow "fashionable." Putting on European costumes is regarded as a mark of civilisation. A Ceylonese dressed in up-to-date style of European dress is considered by many as a civilised man, a fashionable being. But there are sensible persons who will regard him as an ape. The pity is that those who ape Europeans in their dress and modes of life do not seem to realise how ridiculous they make themselves in the eyes of all sensible persons. They do not know, perhaps they do not care to know, the great injury they inflict on themselves and their country. We consider reform in dress as absolutely necessary for the preservation of our simple national lives and for safeguarding the economical condition of the country.

The way in which organisations are conducted in Jaffna has become a subject of ridicule among some persons, who after carefully observing the unsatisfactory nature of it, have given expression to their feelings in some newspapers. It is our candid opinion that unless and until every movement in this country, which has been started for the promotion of the public good is conducted in the right way and in the right spirit, the benefits accruing from it to the people abound to be marred and spoilt. Our educated men should regard the great good which every organisation in this country can do to it as of infinitely greater consequence than the gratification of their own vanity or the assertion of their own magnified importance or prestige. If every educated man who has anything to do with any organisation will do his simple duty without endeavouring to interfere with those who do theirs and keep as his honest aim the achievement of the aims of the organisation and the promotion of the welfare of the country, we are sure that the organisation will prosper and fulfil its aims successfully.

There are some religious movements in the world at the present moment against which we feel it our duty to raise our voice. These movements not only hold the theory but practise it that a man may follow any religion he pleases if he wishes to save his soul and obtain *mukti*. Such theory and practise are particularly dangerous in the case of young people many of whom, we are personally aware, have been deprived of the wholesome influence of any religion. We want our Hindu young men to be true Hindus, loyal to their religion and country. We do not want an educated young man before his religious ideas have become firmly ingrained in his mind to be under the decidedly irreligious influence of theories and practices which undermine his faith in his great and superior, ancestral religion and induce in his mind the dangerous belief that it is not necessary for a man to follow faithfully any particular religion to gain the salvation of his soul.

SIR PONNAMBALAM RAMANATHAN.

GRAND RECEPTION AT KLANG BY THE CEYLONESE COMMUNITY (SELANGOR COAST).

The heavy rain which fell on Tuesday evening, the 13th ultimo, was a great disappointment to the organisers of the reception given to Sir Ponnambalam Ramanathan at the Anglo-Chinese School, Klang by the Ceylonese Community (Selangor Coast). It had been arranged to have the Garden party in the open grounds but it was found necessary to hold the function indoors owing to the bad weather.

Sir Ponnambalam and party arrived sharp at 4 p.m. at the Istana, where they were met by Mr. F. W. Douglas, the D. O. Klang and Dato Sidi D. R. Ja and introduced to His Highness the Sultan. His Highness welcomed Sir Ponnambalam and Lady Ramanathan and expressed his pleasure at seeing them there. He entertained the party to tea, which included Sir Ponnambalam, Lady Ramanathan, Miss Ramanathan, Mr. F. W. Douglas, Dato Sidi D. R. Ja, Tanjaku Peira and Mr. D. B. Amarasetha (Chairman of the Reception Committee, Klang).

After tea at the Istana, Sir Ponnambalam and party motored to the Anglo-Chinese School, where they were met by the members of the Committee. Mr. D. S. Ratnaka-garlanded Sir Ponnambalam and bouquets were presented to Lady Ramanathan and Miss Ramanathan by Misses Arulampalam and Ponniah.

There was a large and representative assembly, which included many leading Europeans, Chinese, Indians and Ceylonese. There was also a good number of ladies of various nationalities. Light refreshments were served very lavishly and the leading men of the town were introduced.

The Colliseum Band, in charge of Mr. Gomez, was in attendance.

During the interval before the lecture, Sir Ponnambalam, Lady Ramanathan and Miss Ramanathan were taken round and shown the school buildings by Ray and Mrs. Ekland.

Sir Ponnambalam delivered his lecture on "The culture of the Soul" to a large audience at the School Assembly Hall. Mr. F. W. Douglas, the popular District Officer of Klang presided and introduced the lecturer in very glowing terms. He said Sir Ponnambalam is well known and his introduction was

