



The Hindu Organ.

JAFFNA, MONDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1918.

FOR THE UPLIFT OF CEYLON.

The most devastating war in the history of the world has practically come to an end. The world has passed through a period of the most terrible suffering. It will be foolish to suppose that all this was brought about by the all-wise and almighty Providence for no good purpose. From the very outset of the war the leading statesmen who have been conducting the Government of the British Empire have been reiterating in unequivocal terms what the victory of the allies will contribute to the progress of humanity. This has been highly emphasized by the declaration of the war aims by President Wilson. We have published from time to time these important declarations of British Statesmen on the war aims as they are worthy of study and reflection by every Ceylonese. They indicate the cardinal principles for which the Ceylonese, in common with the rest of the Empire, have contributed and are still contributing their share of suffering and sacrifice. The question of the hour is—how far would the Ceylonese be benefited, spiritually and in material advancement by the great victory.

A favourable answer to this question depends entirely in the extent of our endeavor and ability to utilise the fruits of the victory for our national advancement. External aid will come to a nation and will be useful to it only when it deserves it as a reward of its own exertions and earnest longing for a higher and fuller corporate life. The close connection between one's desert and destiny cannot be denied. If the individuals of a nation exert themselves successfully to cultivate the spirit of unity self-reliance and just-dealing, and are imbued with an earnest desire for progress, there is no power on earth which can keep them down. Righteousness exalteth a nation. If a nation is backward and dependent it is certainly owing to its evil Karma in the past which must be wiped out and expiated by present national reformation. It now depends entirely on every Ceylonese whether he will utilise the fruits of the war, the most important of which is the sacred promise given by the high and mighty powers of the world to assure freedom and justice to small nations, so as to enable them to work on their own initiative and self-exertion for the much needed reforms in their national life.

Circumstances as we are the problems of our national advancement require special consideration and treatment. Fortunately for us, at a period of national disruption and anarchy in our past history, the all-merciful God had in his infinite wisdom provided us with a guardian in the British nation, which was found by Him to be the most trustworthy, liberty-loving, and politically competent to discharge the difficult duty of guiding our national development in directions most suited to our national genius. If we love true progress we should not get impatient or irritated at the control exercised by our rulers who are our political guardians. We should work with united earnestness and selfless devotion for the reforms we are in need of. At the same time there should be absolute confidence in the justice and goodwill of the British Government and in its readiness to grant us political liberties when it becomes convinced of our capacity to utilise them to our best advantage. The past conduct of the British Government in her own Colonies as well as in India and Ceylon fully justifies our confidence in her high moral and political motives.

Ceylonese of the present generation have a most favourable opportunity to secure the uplift of their motherland. Governments in all countries are becoming more and more socialistic in their functions. Inequalities among the citizens, in wealth and in social status, established by long standing custom as well as by legal and political conditions, are now levelled and equalised by modern principles of taxation, and by the supply of free education, free medical aid, old age pensions, the system of profit-sharing between capital and labour, and similar provisions introduced by democratic Governments of the present day. For the uplift of a

nation political freedom is therefore more necessary than anything else. Human progress necessarily involves the freedom to learn things by experience. Continual subjection to another's will, whether it is enforced or voluntary, must eventually enervate and enslave human nature. This is an axiomatic truth. But at the same time a sudden transition from a state of subjection to absolute freedom is also harmful. Russia and the Empires of Central Europe are now reaping the bitter fruits of this suddenly sprung freedom in the bloody massacres and revolutions under which they are now writhing in agony. As we have stated before, it is the good fortune of India and Ceylon that they need not pass through such excruciating experiences. But that does not mean that every good thing in this good world will fall in their lap from heaven and they have only to lounge and loll in idle luxury and in selfish enjoyment. No. Heaven helps only those who help themselves. If under modern conditions political freedom is necessary for our advancement, and if we are fully assured that such freedom will ultimately be granted to us through successive stages, we must work hard to prepare the way for it. Love and sacrifice are the two principles of life. We must learn to love our fellow-countrymen and evolve national unity from it. We must learn to sacrifice our narrow, limited, individual self for the broad comprehensive national ideal and evolve national consciousness in us. He who values these truths lives and grows in a happy state and he who neglects these declines and suffers the penalty.

Among institutions that were designed by man to aid him in the development of these qualities of love and self-sacrifice, the most important are found in the Parliaments and in the Councils for local self-government which are found among all civilized nations. There are such institutions in Ceylon but, as they are at present constituted they are ill-adapted to aid the people in the development of their moral and civic virtues which are the offspring of the two life-giving qualities we have noted above—love and self-sacrifice. These Councils are not now representative of the people or responsible to them for their actions. Indians proved their capacity to work such representative institutions through the long and continuous working of the National Congress and Provincial Conferences and the numerous other unofficial organizations designed for the uplift of India. The political prestige and efficiency of these unofficial Indian organizations were so high that it is one of the past Presidents of the Indian National Congress who was appointed by the Government of India to represent that country in the past two Imperial War Conferences and who has been now appointed to the still higher and more responsible position of India's Representative at the World's Peace Conference.

The second Ceylon Reform Conference which is to meet on the 13th and 14th instant gives the Ceylonese a fine opportunity to display the possession of the qualities of love and sacrifice for advancing and consolidating their national life and to show their earnest attachment to political progress. Issues of the most vital importance to the national uplift of the Ceylonese depend on the success of this year's Conference. It is therefore the duty of all educated and patriotic Ceylonese to muster strong at the Conference and register the united national will, and prayer to the Imperial authorities to give them the promise which has been given to India, viz., to work towards the progressive realisation of Responsible Government in Ceylon, and to grant reforms in the Government as the first step to that goal. The subject of communal representation in India has not been settled yet. If our Sinhalese brethren cannot view this question from the same standpoint as the Tamils of the North the question may be left open, to be settled by the Government following the precedents set up in India.

Important Notice to Our Subscribers.

As we are reprinting the Addresses of Subscribers, and as we understand that there are some cases in which our paper is sent to wrong addresses owing to the failure of some of our Subscribers to notify to us the change of their address, we invite them to communicate to us instances of such mistakes so that we may amend them.

LOCAL & GENERAL.

THE WEATHER AND PUBLIC HEALTH.—Since the floods of the 17th ultimo the weather has been for the most part clear. Probably as a consequence of the recent floods there is a striking increase of mosquitoes which invade all houses at night and attack the inmates. The poor, especially, who cannot provide themselves with the necessary protection from this pest, suffer most. If this portends a general out-break of malaria in the District, we hope the authorities will take the necessary precaution and promptly introduce prophylactic measures to avert the impending calamity. Free distribution of quinine through schools and other means and advising the people to take small doses of it as a preventive, the compulsory cleansing of wells and dwelling compounds, and other preventive measures which may be found necessary should be introduced by the Government. A fire pan kept at night in the old style and fed with fumigating substances such as benzoin, husks of mango seeds, mango leaves & such as an effective and cheap disinfectant and mosquito preventive.

FLOOD RELIEF WORK.—The subscription raised in Jaffna for flood relief comes to about Rs. 5000. In addition to this the F. N. S. has donated Rs. 1000, and liberal subscriptions are expected from Colombo. The Government has so far given Rs. 2000 for relief work. All the timber required to rebuild the destroyed houses will be given free by the Government and the committee have engaged a contractor to cut and deliver the timber from the crown lands at Pooneryn. Large quantities of rice have been donated by several gentlemen to relieve the distress of the many who have been flooded out of their houses and been left starving. The Relief Committee with the G. A. at their head has done a great deal to reduce the distress caused by the flood.

THE HINDU COLLEGE BOARDERS' LITERARY UNION.—The annual meeting of this society came off on Saturday. In the morning athletic sports were held in the College grounds, and it was witnessed by a large number of people. In the afternoon there was an exhibition of Kolattam and fencing by the students. The former especially was highly admired by the visitors for its comprehensive usefulness. It gives good exercise to all limbs in the body. At the same time, the drill, the rhythmic motion and singing which form part of the exercise help to develop the aesthetic faculties of the students. Every one present praised the College authorities for helping to revive these national exercises which have now almost gone into oblivion. The visitors were then lavishly served with light refreshments by the boarders in the upper hall, after which the meeting commenced. Mr. N. Selvadurai, the Principal of the College, presided. Various recitation exercises were gone through by the students. Rev. Bicknell of the Jaffna College and the President then delivered interesting addresses to the students.

PERSONAL.—Mr. D. C. Vairakiam of Genuang Estate, Johore, who was here on six months' furlough, has left Jaffna to Colombo on the 4th November to bid good bye to his only brother Dr. S. V. Vairakiam. From there he will go to Madras to take up his Boat to the Straits.

NEW COMMERCIAL CLASS IN 1919.—It is proposed to hold Commercial Classes from January under special qualified Masters in English, shorthand, typing, book keeping, accountancy, methods and machinery of business, Commercial Geography and Arithmetic (including totals) at the Technical Schools in preparation for London and Ceylon Chambers of Commerce, Clerical, &c., examinations. Fees Rs. 5 term per subject (except English and Arithmetic Rs. 3) or Rs. 12 50 a term. If three subjects are taken, Rs. 15 for four subjects and Rs. 17 50 for five. A special charge may be made for use of typewriters. No student will be admitted to any Class who does not satisfy a test in English.

RICE FROM CALCUTTA.—The "Botanist" which arrived on the 29th ultimo from Calcutta, has brought 26,000 bags of rice for Colombo.

INDIAN EDITORS.—London, Nov. 21.—A reception was held for the Indian Editors at the India Office yesterday evening. Mr. Montagu being present. Sir Thomas Holderness received the guests, who inspected the historical treasurers of the India Office.

THE PIECE GOODS MARKET.—In view of the present state of the cloth market and the writings in the Press on the subject the opinion of Mr. L. V. Gelder, travelling Agent of the business house of Cohen, London, now staying at the Bristol Hotel, is interesting. To begin with Mr. Gelder stated that people who think that the price of cloth would go down in the near future did not know what they were talking about. It was madness to think that prices will ever go below what they were before the War, as was suggested in an article in a morning paper which he had read. He said that just now prices in Manchester were much higher than those in Colombo for the same material. It was the work of some speculators in the market that brought down the prices. They were forced prices due to the dumping of the goods on the market, speculators selling them below cost price. He said that prices would never fall

below pre-war prices because labour can never possibly be so cheap. Formerly, a labourer was paid £2 a week but now he was paid £6 to £8. It may be possible to bring the figure down to £4 or £5 but never below that. Mr. Gelder said that the impression that prices will go down is disastrous to shopkeepers and those who were propagating such an idea were doing mischief unknowingly. Mr. Gelder stated that the demand for piece goods was great in England. As the soldiers were not going to be demobilised immediately their clothing would be a problem. He said that it was true there had been some speculation by the Chetties. They had hoped to profiteer and they deserved to lose. But the impression that the prices will go down when facts do not permit such a belief was harmful. Even if it was assumed that prices in Manchester would fall suddenly, it would take fully six months for the local market to be affected, where the cloth that has been stocked will be sold at the high prices which were paid for them.

INDIAN WOMEN AND HOME RULE.—Calcutta, Nov. 24.—The Ladies' Home Rule League, Ahmedabad, has adopted resolutions: that a deputation should be sent to England to secure for the women of India the same rights as the men of India in the coming Reforms. Also that Bombay and District Municipal Acts should be amended to remove the disqualifications imposed on women.

—(Ceylon Observer.)

THE LATE MR. J. A. SETUKAVALAR.—It is with the deepest regret we have to record the death of this gentleman, Proctor of the Supreme Court and Member Local Board, Batticaloa which occurred in that Town on Saturday last of pneumonia, as the result, we think, of an attack of influenza. He was the eldest son of the Rev. R. N. Setukavalar, M. A., and a nephew of the late Mr. R. W. Allagooon, C. U. S., Police Magistrate of Point Pedro. Mr. Setukavalar occupied a most prominent position in Batticaloa and was highly esteemed and respected by the public on account of his sterling character, and public spirit. His death is a distinct loss to Batticaloa. We offer our heartfelt condolences to his aged father and mother and other relatives at the irreparable loss they have sustained.

THE LATE MR. S. MURUGASU OF KARAITIVOE.—There passed away a few days ago at Karaitivoe Mr. S. Murugasu a retired Government servant of the Straits at an early age of about 35. He retired some five years ago from service owing to ill-health but after a time was himself again. Karaitivoe and for that matter I may say Jaffna, is poorer today for his death because he was a quiet but none the less ardent worker for the public good. The Hindu English School at Karaitivoe after a protracted period of well nigh quarter of a century despaired of Government recognition partly due to inefficient staff. It was Mr. Murugasu in the Straits who bent to the wheel at the psychological movement and saved the school. In this matter his tenacity of purpose is well worth record and imitation. How obediently he bore it sending mouth after mouth till the Government help came, his own money which could easily run into a few thousand rupees, to keep a graduate at the head of the school. No public matter lacked his support. His sympathy towards the poor and the needy was only matched by his saint-like patience under difficulties and trials. It will not be far wrong to say that it is not easy to find another for the virtue of patience. His was a life of constant usefulness to the public in his unobtrusive manner. Mr. Murugasu while in the Straits took particular pleasure in helping the young men to find work. I know of many young men in the F. M. S. who were helped to get work by this good man. The writer of this feels his debt very keenly because it is difficult to find a truer and more sincere friend. On Death, how exceedingly cruel thou art at times.

—Cor.

OBITUARY.—We deeply regret to record the death of Mr. S. Swaminathan, Retired Chief Clerk, P. W. D., Jaffna, which took place at his residence at Chunnakam on Thursday last. Messrs A. Ponnaiya, Asst. Inspector of Schools, Jaffna, and A. Appathurai, Proctor, are the sons-in-law of the deceased. We offer our condolences to the bereaved relatives and others at the loss they have sustained.

—We regret to announce the death of Mr. O. Ponnampalam of Tamang Estate, Batu Anam, which took place at Singapore on the 28th October. He was the only son of the late Mr. Coomaraswami of Chunnakam, a well known native Physician. The late Mr. O. Ponnampalam was an old boy of the Hindu College.

—Cor.

THE CHILAW ASSOCIATION.

The Chilaw Association met on Nov. 23rd. Present: Mr. C. E. Corea (in the chair), Rev. H. K. Ponniah (Vicar of St. James's, Chilaw), Rev. J. S. B. Mendis (Wesleyan), Advocate Rajakariyer, Messrs. F. Tambyah Proctor, Shelton Storier, W. Wijekoon, J. A. Corea, Johnathan Gounewardere, J. M. Corea, and Dr. Corea (Hon. Secretary). Resolutions were passed.

