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THE Hindu Organ.

IT PAYS TO ADVERTISE IN THE HINDU ORGAN AND INTHUSATHANAM.

The Only Newspaper in Ceylon for the Hindus
PUBLISHED EVERY MONDAY AND THURSDAY

Editor: M. S. Eliatamby, Advocate.

VOL. XLVII No. 69.

(Registered as a Newspaper.)

JAFFNA, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1935.

Estd. Sept. 11, 1889

Phone 56. PRICE 5 CTS.

THE COUNTRY'S PEASANTRY—III

ITS PAST HISTORY AND PRESENT POLITICS

BEGINNING OF THE BRITISH RULE

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

THE British succeeded to the maritime territories occupied by the Dutch and declared it their policy to further the interests of cultivators on the lines of their immediate predecessors. Officers in the service of the Dutch Government were persuaded to stay on. Bertoloci, a Swiss, who had gained considerable experience of the needs of the peasantry while in the service of the Dutch accepted office and made a comprehensive report as to the economic conditions of the people and the ways and means of promoting peasant agriculture. His report bears evidence of great insight and may be read with profit by the present day public men interested in the revival of rural industries. Governor Maitland commissioned Captain Schneider R. E. to make a general survey of the villages and to submit recommendations for the promotion of paddy cultivation. Captain Schneider's report to which was appended a map of Ceylon showing the areas then in the possession of the British with the villages marked affords convincing proof of how thoroughly qualified an officer he was to execute the task entrusted to him and how delicately imbued he was in spirit and the historic outlook of the peasant. He submitted to His Excellency the Governor in 1807 "a list of all the villages situated in each pattu or province in which is particularized the number of fields and gardens and the number of bushes which have been used for cutting chenas and the grounds employed for sowing paddy etc., and also the remarkable forests furnishing fine timber. The number of headmen, husbandmen, the manner of sowing and watering the fields together with the necessary remarks tending to the improvement of the agriculture. In his report he said, "I reckon with certainty that if government will be helpful to the inhabitants that an increase of people will soon be seen in the country and that those who have already emigrated will return, and thus in the succeeding years more tanks can be repaired and the fields sowed, and by these means it will become possible to make a great improvement upon this part of the Island (referring to the Wannu Districts) and I doubt not but in 4 or 5 years the same will be in a flourishing state."

Rehabilitating the Village

His plan was to rehabilitate the village on basis of self-sufficiency as an economic unit comprehending within its area in addition to tofts and crofts, village common, tank with its appurtenant reserve for

catchment area, jung-land and paddy fields.

To make up the deficiency in man-power in the Wannu of the Northern Province his suggestion was stated thus: To make up this deficiency will be very difficult on account of this country being known as a sickly place, which is also the truth, for such as are not accustomed to the climate of this country are generally sick, and specially such people as labour in the fields, but for this reason this fertile country cannot be left untried; notwithstanding which every means must be used to bring as many people as possible together, which people must be selected from the inhabitants of the Province Walligammo, Waddematchy, Temmaratchy and Pachchappally and from the Islands under the District of Jaffna; and if possible be induced to settle in the Wannu (as in these places the inhabitants are numerous) and there may be such people as have little or no landed property, where they are, and to whom lands in the Wannu must be assigned; and also it will be necessary that government assist them with what seed paddy they may stand in need of, and also some money in order to defray the necessary charges for repairing the tanks and which they shall be obliged to pay again, but without interest and moreover to such people as may thus leave their native soil and go to settle in the Wannu, it may be well to grant certain privileges, which in time may be described and fixed within proper units.

Conditions in the Wannu

I give below for sample, his observation on the conditions of the villages in the Wannu, taken at random, from his report:—

"Tekku Peerivoe (within the Province Carnava pattu) has 49 villages and an equal number of tanks, whereof 32 are broken down; and to bring all those tanks into a state of repair will cost about 2560 rix dollars, after which government may expect an income of about 3900 parras of paddy yearly (in rent). Plantations of tobacco are here also to be found, which depend upon the tanks for water, but through scarcity of people the said work has been entirely forsaken."

His recommendations would have been carried out, but war with the Kandyan Kingdom broke out and the resources of the British had to be diverted to the war. After the Kandyan provinces passed on to the British in 1815, attention came to be centred on other sources of revenue and in quelling disturbances

MADRAS UNIVERSITY EXTENSION LECTURES

Six Lectures by Swami Vipulananda

Srimat Swami Vipulananda has been invited by the University of Madras to deliver a course of extension lectures.

The Swami has accepted the invitation and will deliver a course of six lectures, commencing on February 10th, 1936, on (1) Music and Dancing, (2) Architecture and the Fine Arts and (3) the Positive Sciences of Ancient Tamil-land.

Subjects

The titles of the Six lectures are:—

1. THE WANDERING MINSTREL: A Study of the references to Music and Musicians in Ancient Tamil literary works known as the Sangam Classics.
2. THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE MUSICAL SCALE: A study of the Mathematical basis of Ancient Tamil Music.
3. THE DEBUT OF THE DANCER: An Exposition of Arangeru-Kathai of Chhappadikaram.
4. TAMIL MUSIC OF THE SEVENTH CENTURY AND AFTER: A Study of references to Tamil Music in the Kudimiyamalai Inscription, the Devara Hymns, the Tiruvaimozhi, the Jeevaka Chintamani, the Perum-Kathai, the Periya-Puranam, the Sangita Ratnakaram etc.
5. BUILDERS AND CRAFTSMEN: A Study of the references to Architecture and Fine Arts in the Perum-Kathai, Chhappadikaram, Manimekhalai, Jeevaka-Chintamani, Periya-Puranam etc.
6. THE SEARCH FOR THE PHILOSOPHER'S STONE: A Study of the literature records left by Alchemists and Siddha Scientists.

in the newly acquired territory and the report was apparently shelved.

Recommendations of a Chief Justice

Sir Alexander Johnston (Chief Justice 1807—1820) "at the particular request of the then Governor of Ceylon, Sir Thomas Maitland, made a circuit through every part of the British territories on that Island, for the purpose of obtaining the most accurate local information upon every subject connected with the interests of the Island" and he advised a variety of measures "as necessary to improve the condition of the natives and the agriculture of the country." The measures were so inter-related and balanced that acceptance in their entirety only could have been beneficial to the country as a whole. The Secretary of State for the Colonies in 1809 agreed with Sir A. Johnston as to the policy of all those measures, but on a change of government he was succeeded by another Minister who gave effect to one or two items out of the 24 measures recommended. Among the measures given effect to at the earliest possible date were (1) "that all the restrictions which prevailed in Ceylon against allowing Europeans to receive lands by grant from the local government, or to

(Continued on page 6)

A Short Story.

WITH HIS DEAD WIFE

By Arjun

THE death scene in the sick chamber was pathetic: the circle of relatives burst into sympathetic tears.

"You carry on, and I shall watch your work from the other world. They say that there is a spirit world and that spirits do visit the earth and have the earthy feeling. Have faith—we shall meet and work again."

A deep sigh was the only answer of Rammurthi who was sitting on the cot. The head of his wife and co-worker lay on his lap. Life was fast ebbing away from Sita.

"If only you had permitted it, you might have lived—" he whispered, "but you would not. Heaven knows I have loved you. It seems to me as if you are almost courting death. That is a thought that will never die in me; and that thought will make life a hell to me so long as it lasts."

"There, partner—" Sita tried to impart a tone of merriment to her fast dying voice to encourage her husband, "you are wrong. God is Truth, says Gandhiji. We deliberately went to his school of philosophy. We gave our all to public service Gandhi needed advertisement to spread his philosophy, so he allowed limelight to be played on him. He allowed himself to be operated on. But how many are the poor who die like me, without the means to be operated on? After having given away the money for public cause, how dare you think of using it for your sake? That is untruth. We took the vow of poverty. We must stand by it. I have stood by it—and you will believe me that this feeling alone gives me strength and hope to face the unknown future."

II

Sixteen years hence. Rammurthi had continued his work of Harijan uplift. Little boys and girls, the children of his tenants whom he had adopted, had grown up, married and were happy amidst the smiles and cries of children born to them. The extensive estate was one common property; it was in fact, one joint family; Rammurthi was the head—that was all. He was now 36—in the prime of youth. Strict *Brahmacharya*, after his wife's death, had endowed his body with such strength and beauty that Rammurthi might have posed for an artist's model for the perfect man.

Rammurthi worked with others—his sons, as he called them. Every one living in his vast fields had *pucca* cottages to live in. His large ancestral house had been uprooted. From these materials, 50 modern cottages had been built for the labourers—slaves hitherto, living on rags and handfuls of rice, but now citizens, educated, and living in exactly the same style as their high caste neighbours. And where sixteen years ago was standing a mansion, now stood "Sita Kutir"—a cottage exactly like the other 50 cottages of the working labourers.

"Grandad—" one of the children assembled round Rammurthi in his

cottage was pestering him, "take us to the cinema that has arrived in our village. Every one is going there."

"So be it—" said the mighty looking grandad as he lifted the leader of the deputation to the high level of his lips and imprinted a kiss; "we shall engage the whole show for the whole family this evening."

III

Rammurthi's family! They were more than 200—young men and aged parents of the young men and young wives and little babies. Only one condition had Rammurthi fixed for taking over the whole show for the evening, that the proprietor would give away the actual profits of the day to the "Sita Kutir school." To this the cinema man had readily agreed. He was no follower of truth; actual profits may mean nothing—or anything.

At the conclusion of the play, when Rammurthi was going up to the stage to thank the proprietor for his gift to the school, he stopped short before a young girl whom he happened to see at the stage door.

"Who is she?" he mechanically asked himself aloud as he was trying to recall to memory some scene that had burst on him from somewhere. "Who is she?"

"She is my daughter—" answered the proprietor. "She has insisted that every pie that you gave me today, must be given back to the "Sita Kutir" school. Thus I am a loser tonight—but it has pleased a motherless girl. Her mother died at her birth. She is the son and daughter and the world to me."

"Who is she?" again muttered Rammurthi to himself as he gazed in the brilliant light on the stage. "Where have I seen her?"

IV

The function went off mechanically. Rammurthi was looking around him for the daughter of the cinema proprietor. And ever and anon the strong man, the talk of the village for his uncanny physical prowess, seemed to totter as he mustered to himself, "Who is she?"

"Please let me thank you for bringing your whole family for the show—I have heard your story from the people. I am happy to have been of some use to you—"

And as Rammurthi turned to thank her, and his face was fully turned towards her, from somewhere, across some unfathomable unknown, a light seemed to dawn on the cinema proprietor's daughter.

"You—Partner, have you forgotten me?"—and the girl swooned in Rammurthi's arms.

"And this is the mango plant you and I put into the pit we dug, is it not?"—the strange cinema man's daughter was saying, as she walked with her father and Rammurthi in the "Sita Kutir" grounds.

"Hallo, Chandri and Saraswathi Kartayyani, you have all grown up—you were kids when I played with you—Do you remember your 'mother'?"

(Continued on page 4)

Manager's Notice.

Subscribers are kindly requested to pay up arrears of subscription before Thai Pongal (14th January 1936). The receipt for payment will be sent along with a neatly got up Calendar for 1936.

MANAGER,
"Hindu Organ"

17-12-35.



Hindu Organ.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1935.

THE CIGAR INDUSTRY

IT IS GRATIFYING TO NOTE THAT the Jaffna Association, far from busying itself solely with political questions, is beginning to take a comprehensive view of the problems before the country. Only thus would it be possible for the Association to extend its influence among the people and enhance its prestige and representative character. Its reports on the Cement factory and the working of the Northern railway have helped to educate public opinion on these important questions. The report on the Cigar Industry now made available to the public is an instructive and valuable study of the aspects of a problem which no longer brooks delay. The Committee appointed to investigate the causes of the decline of the industry and suggest ways and means to rehabilitate it have spared no pains to discover the factors which have contributed to the slump in the industry. Their recommendations to set the industry on its feet merit the careful consideration of Government and those directly interested in the industry. It is beyond question that without State assistance, those engaged in the industry cannot hope to tide over the present situation or rescue it from the ruin towards which it is heading. The need for State intervention was mooted at a meeting of the Central Board of Agriculture in last May. The question is still pending before the Board. It was suggested that a State Model Cigar factory should be opened. The Director of Commercial Intelligence favoured the idea of starting a Research institution. The Jaffna District Agricultural Committee supported the suggestion for a model State factory. The Co-operative Conference which met in July resolved that the tariff wall in the Malaya should be lowered to enable the Jaffna cigar to find its way into the Malayan market. The meeting held at the Tinnevely Experiment Station while emphasising the need for reorganising the industry on sound lines, decided to hold exhibitions to encourage improvement of quality by the manufacturer. It is thus clear that the need to take steps to save the industry from collapse is realised on all sides. The factory-owners are now keenly alive to the sinister implications of the situation. This augurs well for the future of the industry. For, without the active co-operation of the manufacturers no great or lasting im-

provement of the industry is possible. Of the many difficulties which hamper the industry the most prominent and insidious is the unrestricted manufacture of cigars by all and sundry. Irresponsible small manufacturers use leaves of inferior quality and put on the market cigars which cannot but undermine the hold the Jaffna cigar has achieved in the home market. This danger to the trade could be obviated, in the opinion of the committee, by restricting the manufacture to approved factories with a registered trade mark. This will have the effect of improving the quality of the cigars put on the market and bring back the patrons who were forced in sheer disgust to forsake the Jaffna cigar. As Jaffna still continues to be the chief cigar manufacturing centre in the Island the elimination of the small manufacturer is bound to produce a steadying effect on the trade. It is important at the same time that the manufacturer should cater to the tastes of their patrons. There is a demand for the light variety of cigars and these could be produced without much difficulty. If "koda"-treated cigars are not popular in certain localities, the manufacturer must be in a position to offer lighter varieties without forcing the smoker to seek consolation in cheap cigarettes and beedies. The Committee strongly urge the need for a Research Institute to enable the local cultivator to grow tobacco leaves suitable for the manufacture of cigarettes. We trust the Jaffna Association will take up this question with the appropriate Ministry and bring relief to an industry which provides an honest living for more than half the population in Jaffna. We have no doubt that when the manufacturers themselves join hands and show their readiness to help themselves, Government will not refuse to lend them a helping hand

The flat denial by the Education Department of the existence of correspondence regarding the "immoral pact" restricting the number of passes does not lift the veil regarding this matter. On top of this allegation comes proof positive of the irresponsible manner in which question papers are set. The Tamil paper for the Senior Certificate students this year reveals the depth of the learned professor's ignorance of Tamil rather than his scholarship in Tamil as she is spoken or written. The students are not asked to correct the passage set; they are bidden to translate it. What they made of it only the answer papers will show. Did they wrestle with the passage to find out what was at the back of the professor's head or merely translated it as they found it? An impossible feat in either case. One wonders how the answers will be assessed for marks. We trust the Education Department will now realise the need to do away with the farce of holding these syndicate examinations in the country.

State Mortgage Bank Directorate

According to a Treasury communique, His Excellency the Governor has re-appointed Mr. K. Balasingham as Director of the State Mortgage Bank for a term of five years from January 1, 1936.

THE JAFFNA CIGAR INDUSTRY

IMPROVEMENTS SUGGESTED

RESEARCH AND REGISTRATION

The present state of the Cigar Industry, the causes of its decline, and methods of improving the product to suit modern taste, are exhaustively dealt with in the report of the Sub-Committee appointed by the Jaffna Association to investigate the question. The report was accepted by the Committee of the Jaffna Association on Saturday last.

THE REPORT

The following is the full text of the Report:—

WE were appointed on July 15, 1935, with the following terms of reference:—

- (1) To inquire into the state of the cigar industry in Jaffna
- (a) by recording first-hand information on the subject;
- (b) by otherwise ascertaining facts and recording same.
- (2) To ascertain from owners of cigar manufactories and from others:

- (a) causes of the present state of the cigar industry in Jaffna;
- (b) how the industry could be improved.
- (3) To submit to the Jaffna Association Committee before August 31, 1935 a written Report containing:

- (a) The Sub-Committee's considered opinion on the state of the industry,
- (b) Suggestion of ways and means for improving the same.

We met in committee four times, spent two days in visiting six cigar manufactories, and also had an interview with the Divisional Agricultural Officer.

At our first meeting we drafted the Questionnaire annexed. At a second meeting we discussed the evidence we had gathered. The last two meetings were devoted to drafting the Report.

Our thanks are due to Mr. W. R. C. Paul, Divisional Agricultural Officer, to the following owners of cigar manufactories—Messrs. V. S. S. Kumaraswamy, B. A., K. M. Sellappah Pillai, A. Raphaelpillai, P. S. Aiyadurai, S. S. Nagalingam and E. S. S. Sinnadurai, and also to the various workers in these manufactories; all of whom helped us with valuable information and suggestions.

Owing to the prolonged method of investigation we followed, we had to obtain an extension of time from the Committee of the Jaffna Association.

II. Present Position of the Cigar Industry

The number of manufactories, the number of men working in them and the output of cigars will be indices of the state of the industry. But we were unable to secure definite figures from any sources. We therefore asked for rough estimates from those whom we interviewed and checked the figures with one another.

The number of bigger manufactories (employing over 25 men) has been roughly counted as about thirty in the Jaffna Maniagar's Division, excluding Chundikuli and Pettah. This number appears to have been constant for a long time. In the Chundikuli and Pettah area there were about fifteen big manufactories some twenty years ago; but now only four survive to tell the tale of an industry that has definitely declined in this area. To compensate this decline, a number of manufactories have sprung up in several villages of the Jaffna Peninsula in recent years and the industry is now spread throughout the Peninsula. But the Jaffna Maniagar's Division continues to be the stronghold of the industry.

We cannot here go into all the

standardisation; and (c) the use of cheap and inferior raw materials.

III.

Changes During the Last 15 Years in Cost of Production

The expenses of production can be analysed under four heads: price of raw material; labour; packing, freight and miscellaneous items; and profits.

The price of raw material, i.e. tobacco, is now higher than fifteen years ago, though it is a little less than a couple of years back. Present prices are approximately a 50% advance on those of fifteen years ago. Cash buying always gets a premium, but it is not always the fashion.

The labour cost of making a thousand cigars of the average type has gone up from 65 cents to Rs. 1. 65. But the other expenses have risen only slightly.

The element of profit (which includes earnings of management) was certainly a considerable one in the past, but now owing to keen competition between rival manufacturers, especially between the larger and smaller ones, and more particularly owing to competition with rival commodities like cigarettes and beedies, nearly all establishments appear to be working with a narrow and diminishing margin of profit.

IV. The Decline of the Industry: Causes.

The Cigar industry had kept on progressing rapidly for several decades in the past and contributed in no small measure towards the prosperity of the District. But the line of progress has had a sharp drop during the last few years and downward tendency yet continues. That we are facing a critical situation there can be no doubt.

The chief cause for the decline would appear to be a change in the public taste in favour of cigarettes and beedies.

Even those who preferred good Jaffna cigars had to give them up owing to the suicidal policy of the manufacturers who raced with one another in flooding the market with poor quality cigars. The boutique keeper aggravated this by mixing up rubbishy cigars bought from tiny manufacturers with the somewhat better stuff of the well known manufacturing houses.

Cheap cigars, now increasingly manufactured in the outstations, have also to some extent displaced the Jaffna cigar.

V. Recommendations

Our recommendations are concerned with a system of registration of trade marks, changes in the methods of manufacture, changes in the selection and cultivation of tobacco, improvements in methods of sale, and the adoption of a definite national fiscal policy.

Before stating our recommendations we may briefly allude to a licensing system which we had carefully considered and discussed with the manufacturers. The underlying idea of the system was that production should be confined to a limited number of licensed manufactories fulfilling certain conditions and that the various grades of cigars produced should bear Government certificates guaranteeing that they came up to a certain standard of quality, very much like certain Australian products which are certified by the Government of Australia. As we are not recommending this system we need not discuss its details.

We have here developed an alternative suggestion made to us by Mr. W. R. C. Paul as it appears to imply less interference with the freedom of industrial enterprise and is more economical from the manufacturer's point of view. We therefore recommend that Government insist upon all cigars bearing registered trade marks: Production should be confined to manufactories which have registered trade marks for their various brands of cigars, which employ at least ten men, which maintain the present level of wages, which have sanitary premises and satisfy an occasional inspection by the proposed Department of Industry. All cigars produced should be packed in boxes

(Continued on page 5)

Recent Trends In Religious Thought—III

Mind-Cure and New Thought Movement

SPECULATIVE BASES

By CLIO

(Continued from our issue of 12-12-35)

AS regards the speculative bases of Mind-Cure and New Thought we may without hesitation follow the lead given by Prof. James as there is no gainsaying the fact that he is far and away the greatest psychologist America has yet produced and of his contributions to Psychological science none is of more paramount value than his epoch-making Gifford Lectures on the *Varieties of Religious Experience*.

It is evident that the three speculative bases mentioned by Prof. James, namely, Emersonianism, Berkeleyan Idealism, and Hinduism or Vedantism are in essence one. They are all pantheistic. Emerson drew much of his inspiration from the mysticism of Persia and India. His *Oversoul* is indistinguishable from the *Atman* of India and the *Tao* of Tao-Tse. He also drank deeply at the fountain of Platonism and Stoicism, with its fundamental doctrine of essential dignity of man. Now all forms of monistic pantheism disclose the same deep craving of man's rational soul, not simply to have fellowship with God but to realise its complete identity with Him. And this experience it is self-evident, must come from within, i.e., through the evolution or realisation from within of that Divine Principle which constitutes the true essence of his being.

The essential divinity of man is thus the key-note of the Mind-Cure and New Thought movement. Hitherto it has been mainly to poetry and art that we have had to look for appreciation of this sublime truth. For example, Shakespeare puts into the mouth of Hamlet:—

"What a piece of work is man! How noble in reason! How infinite in faculty! In form and moving how express and admirable! In action how like an angel! In apprehension how like a God!"

A Debasing View of Man

This is one specimen of the profound reverence for human nature, its greatness and divinity. Now turn to the Prayer Book and what do you find? Of the babe presented at the font for Baptism the priest is required to declare that it is "conceived and born in sin." In the rite he is about to administer, the child is to receive, that, which he says, by nature it cannot have. It is to be regenerated, born again. "Conceived and born in sin!" Here we have no celestial plant, no child of the starry sky, as Platonism taught but a creature born corrupt and unholy, only to be washed and renewed by the cleansing water of the baptismal font. Such at present is the teaching of the National Faith!

Can anything, we would ask, be conceived more calculated to hinder the true evolution of human life than this mean and debasing view of our nature inculcated, as it has been by the authority of the Church and State for ages past? Prof. William James has remarked that a sense of inferiority afflicts the self-consciousness of man in the West. Prof. Gilbert Murray and others have similarly said that the West is suffering from "a failure of nerves"; whilst nerve specialists like Doctors Dubois and Levy tell us that the prevalence of nervous breakdown so characteristic of our modern life may be traced largely to lack of self-re-

liance, i.e. lack of confidence in our rational nature. The democracy, we are told, have in times past been taught to trust in the State and in the Government; they have not yet learnt to rely on themselves. Now, the New Thought movement is a practical protest and a vigorous reaction against all pessimistic views of human nature. It is a re-discovery by the Soul of the American people of the old Platonic teaching of the divinity of man together with full appreciation of its immense practical value. The "Truth," says the New Thought, is for each man his own divinity, and that divinity is rational, a principle of harmony. We need not, he tells us, go outside ourselves to find this Principle. It is already within; in stillness and silence alone can its voice be heard. It is our divine self; ours and yet far more than ours or it would not be divine. "Through my divine Self," it says, "I am one with all that lives, nay with the Universe itself." And the evolution of this divine Self within us is the sole end and purpose of our being in the endless worlds to come. "Then go," it bids us, "into the silence, be still and harken to the voice of this divinity within:

"I give thee rest,
I set thee free,
I make thee whole."

(On *Meditations and Health*, P. 242 by Adela M. Curtis).

Precession of Characters

Here we have unquestionably one of the most noteworthy stages in religious evolution, scarcely paralleled since the great awakening of the Sixth Century B. C. Recent biological science has discovered an evolutionary fact (entirely unknown to Darwin), what is termed "Precession of Characters." "One of the most striking arguments in favour of development, operating in a determined direction, without the intervention of chance," writes Prof. Berg in his recent volume *Nomogenesis*, is afforded by the interesting phenomenon of the "precession of characters." "Palaeontology teaches us that in young forms characters not infrequently occur, which, disappearing with advancing age, reappears in more recent geological deposits, both in the young and the adult form. In their development the young seem to be pushing ahead of their time." The application of this law of precession to human life and especially to the evolution of religion is obvious. Individual genius, it has been frequently remarked, is usually before the time, and often, as Wordsworth says, has to create the taste by which it is appreciated. The immanent Divine Idea reveals in true genius those evolutionary characters that are at present only latent or subliminal in the race as a whole, but into the complete conscious possession of which the race itself will enter in course of time. And a nation, which in truth, is but a larger individual, may also at times display prophetic genius. Not all nations, however, have genius, any more than have all individuals. All nations, no doubt, have special characters but not all have genius. Some nations live and die and are practically forgotten like most individuals. They contribute little or

ILLICIT POSSESSION OF GANJA

Sandilipay Accused Fined Rs 750/-

A fine of Rs. 750/- in default 1½ months' imprisonment was the sentence passed by the Police Magistrate, Jaffna, on one Veerasingham Ramalingam of Sandiruppay for illicit possession of 7½ lbs of ganja.

The accused was charged in the Police Court on Tuesday by Excise Inspector Armstrong with the offence. The accused pleaded guilty and submitted that he did so as it was discovered in his compound, though not in his possession. He suspected that some one had introduced the ganja, but he could not say who had done it.

The Magistrate passed the above sentence and gave the accused two months' time to pay the fine. The accused was ordered to furnish security in Rs. 1500.

Rs. 100 for Overloading Lorry

One Kandiah Subramaniam, driver of a lorry, was fined Rs. 100/- by the Police Magistrate on Tuesday, for overloading his lorry.

Obstruction in Public Thoroughfare

K. Kandiah, driver of Car H, 1129, of Chunnakam, who stood charged before the Additional Police Magistrate, with causing obstruction in a public thoroughfare, was found guilty and fined Rs. 25/-

nothing permanent to the progress of the race. But no one will venture to question the genius of Ancient Greece. And as regards Platonism, its vitality, genius and prophetic character become increasingly manifest with the progress of time. And in nothing has Ancient Greece given more evidence of prophetic genius than in this clear and emphatic enunciation of the essential Divinity of man. In the Gifford Lectures, and in the *Vitality of Platonism*, Prof. James and Adam point out that this was the central idea in Plato's philosophy. "The text of that philosophy is to be found" he writes, "in Plato's own great saying that man is a celestial and not a terrestrial plant," assuredly the most living, aye, life-giving of all Platonic doctrines." (*Vitality of Platonism*, P.P. 21 and 22).

The New Thought thus links itself with the fundamental principle of Platonism, namely, the Divinity of man by virtue of his rational nature. It is the key to the evolutionary process as a whole, since the universe shows itself as a Cosmos, a harmony, a progressive unfolding of the Divine Idea. But it is man's special prerogative and vocation to express it above all lower forms of life, and is what the New Thought terms specifically the Truth of Man. It is, in fact, the Logic of Hegel practically applied.

Such then is the speculative basis of the New Thought or Mind-Cure movement. It is monistic in philosophy and pantheistic in its religion. It is indeed a truly amazing application of what have hitherto been generally regarded as dry philosophical abstractions, purely academic ideas, the vain speculations of the Schools. To bring a high philosophy from heaven to earth, to bring it home to men's "business and bosoms" has been the great achievement of the practical American mind.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CAMB. SENIOR TAMIL PAPER, 1935.

THE RAMANATHAN STATUE

Sir,—Of late the Cambridge Ceylon Senior Certificate Examination has justly come in for a good deal of public censure. But nothing can be more censurable than the way in which Tamil Paper II has been set this year. The Tamil portions of this paper are correctly transcribed below, and they will show how absurd it is to allow Tamil candidates to be examined by people whose knowledge of Tamil is worse than shallow.

1. Translate into simple, idiomatic English:—
மட்டத்துக்குச் சென்ற பிற்பாடு குருவானவர் வெகு கவலைப்பட்டார். தந்த குதிரை மிகவும் குறைபட்ட குதிரையாகவும், கிணியில்லாமல் வந்ததென்று மிகவுஞ்சந்தேசமாயிற்று. ஆளுங்குதிரையினுலே வழிநிலனுபசிதர துக்கவாழைக்களை நினைக்க நினைக்க வெகுமனக் கிணைசெய்துக்கொண்டார். அப்படியே சிவரங்கனைக் கூட்டிவைத்துக்கொண்டு தாம்பல பரமஞானக்களைச் சொல்லத்துவக்கினார்.

தம்பிராரே, வாரா நாடொறும் அதிகமதிகமாகப்பிரபஞ்ச வாழ்வுகளைல்லாம் பெரியவான வாழ்வென்ற கண்டுபிடிக்கிறேன். தினமும் கல்பிலவாத நன்மையும், கசப்பிலவாத இனிப்பும், துக்ககல்பிலவாத மகிழ்ச்சியும், இங்கே இடையே. இையயோ, கிணையினி உபகரமாய்க்குதிரை வந்ததென்ற நாம் மிகவும் மகிழ்ந்ததல்லவோ? இந்தப் பாக்கியத்தோடே தெடர்ந்துகொண்டே அன்று தானே வந்ததிரைகிணைசெய்துக்கொண்டே. ஒரு துளித்தெனக்க உத்தனை கசப்பு விழுங்கவேண்டுமோ? தூ சாலைநெல்லும் தன்னுமியுள்ளது. எவ்வகைக் கனிக்குந் தோலுக்கொட்டையுமுண்டு. இவ்வளவு உள்ளது தானே. ஆகிலும் நான் ஒரு தினத்தளவில் அனுபவித்த பொல்லாப்புமெத்த. குதிரையிறத்திரிய எனக்கு இயோக்கிய மில்லையாகும். மேல்விதிக்கு எதிராய்ப் போகிறதென்னவாகும் தன்மையோ, இல்லையோ? இனி அந்தக் குதிரையை திரும்ப அனுப்புகிறதெனும் என்றார்.

அதற்குச் சிவரங்களைல்லாரும் ஆகாததானது. இதென்ற டி சொல்வாதேயு, ஐயா. நீர் கொண்ட குதிரையோ, காக்கன் தேடின குதிரையோ, அல்லவோ, தேவாதினமாய் தானாகவந்த குதிரையோ, அல்லவோ? நாம் இதைத் திரும்ப வந்துகொண்டிருக்கின்றதற்கு எதிராய்ப் போகிறதானது. இது தேவம், ஐயா. இதுவும் தனி, குதிரையைப்பிடித்திருந்த கோஷத்தை அந்த வள்ளுவன் கழித்தபிற்பாடு அஞ்சுத்தக்குதொன்றும் இல்லை என்றார்.

4. என்வருகிற வாக்கியங்களில் பிசு கு எங்கேயாவது இருந்தால், வேண்டிய வேண்டிய இடங்களில் திருத்தத்து செய்து, அப்படி செய்வதற்குக் காரணம் எழுதுக:—

- (a) நான் செய்கப்பாவக்களை நீர் செய்ய வேண்டாமே.
- (b) நீர் அங்கே போகிறதை நியாயமல்லவென்றுச் சொல்லுகிறேன்.
- (c) அவன் குப்படி நடக்கிறதற்கு கட்டாது.
- (d) அவன் அவன் கைக்கு அகப்பட்ட எல்லாம் எடுத்துப் போனான்.

Last year, this paper was realized to be far above the standard, and several complaints were made to the Director on this account. This minimized the harm that could be done to the candidates. But this year, the imperfections of the Tamil portions of the paper are so glaring that they deserve to be altogether ignored in assessing the worth of the candidates and the examiner himself deserves to be reprimanded and debarred from further appointment as an examiner in Tamil.

Yours faithfully,
N. NARAYANAN.

Sir,—Will you kindly publish in your valuable journal the following for the information of the subscribers of the above statue fund.

"Will the Hony. Treasurers of the Ramanathan Statue Fund make an announcement in the press in respect of the following:

- 1. What amount is payable to the Company who made the Statue?
- 2. How much money is in the hands of the Treasurers now?
- 3. Where the statue is at present in England or Ceylon? If in Ceylon, in whose custody is it?

The above information is wanted by the subscribers to the fund with a view to know whether their subscriptions were properly used, and if any sum is further required some subscribers at least are prepared to make a supplementary subscription with the idea of getting erected the said Statue in Ceylon as early as possible.

I am, Sir,
Yours etc.
Chilaw,
16-12-35.
M. C. FERNANDO.

VILLAGE LIBRARIES, HALLS AND THEATRES

Sir,—It is unfortunate that our enlightened men in the rural areas do not take any interest to make the village life pleasant. In the past, we have heard little of murders, thefts, prostitution, litigation, quarrels, laziness, feuds, factions, denationalisation, irreligious and irreverent behaviour, hatred of national culture and national literature, loss of national virtues etc. Though the Village Committees have been in our midst during the last 14 years, not a single Village Committee has cared to improve the village amenities. Possibly they believe that these are not within their province. The exercise of judicial functions and the mania of repairing lanes and roads are supposed to be their chief concern. It is high time that more sensible persons who know the provisions and powers of Village Committees enter the committees and took an active interest in improving village amenities.

If we have any love for our country and nation, if we pride in our national culture and virtues, if we mean to be progressive and enlightened, if we mean to abolish crime and establish a golden era, and if we wish to elevate our people in all directions, it is absolutely necessary that every Village Committee should establish a Village Library and Village Hall for every V. C. area. The Village Hall can be used for holding meetings, Kathapirasangams, or for holding national celebrations or for entertaining men of learning and repute. The Halls can also be used as Village Theatres whenever required. The villagers must assemble at a place and discuss their needs, difficulties, aspirations and other things. This step should be the first step in the rural reconstruction work. It is not necessary that Village Committees should devote their funds entirely but can raise public subscriptions and donations from the Village populace. I hope that some Village Committee in the Jaffna District will give a lead in this direction.

I am, Sir,
Yours truly,
Jaffna,
9.12.35.
K. M. CHELLAPPAN.

MINORITY REPRESENTATION IN THE STATE COUNCIL

Sir,—It is admitted on all hands that the Ceylon Tamils and other minorities are not adequately represented in the State Council or rather
(Continued on Page 4.)

BICYCLE ROBBERY

Three Months for Accused

The case was taken up for trial on Tuesday before Mr. K. Alvapillai, Police Magistrate, in which two Palla men, named Thavasy and Kandan of Sandruppail stood charged with robbing Selvam of the same place of his bicycle worth Rs. 80/ on the 26th ultimo.

The accused pleaded not guilty. The defence was the accused were not present at the scene of the incident and did not rob the cycle. The case was filed against them on account of a grudge the complainant bore against the 1st accused; the second accused was latter's cousin.

The accused were found guilty and sentenced to three months' rigorous imprisonment each.

Letters to the Editor

(Continued from page 3)

they are under-represented in the Council. We do not know when and how the Donoughmore Constitution will be revised. Until it is revised, we must live and breathe under it. It is therefore necessary that as a temporary relief or adjustment the minorities should request the Governor to provide some more additional nominated seats. Under the Order-in-Council, His Excellency the Governor can, if he thinks fit, effect the change by a proclamation or by securing an amendment to the Order-in-Council. The least that we should attempt now is to secure some more nominated seats for our community. This should be the work of the Jaffna Association or of the people in a public meeting.

Let us study the psychology of the Donoughmore Commissioners. They state that the Tamils are politically dominant, disproportionate to their population, and that the Tamils are found scattered in the estates in the Singalese Districts and that the Tamils should be able to secure far more seats under territorial representation than the ratio of 2:1 would yield. The position today is that we are not having the number of seats that we had under the previous constitution nor more seats that were promised to us under the constitution. We do not find even a member for each of the seven committees to watch our interests. On the contrary the Singalese had under this constitution more than twice the number of seats they had under the previous constitution. Such is the position.

The Singalese leaders have played foul and forfeited our confidence. Let us not be inimical to them or their interests. But let us try to regain our lost position and also such other position necessary to cope with the situation. We can under the circumstances ask the British Government to do justice to our community.

If we are united and make a determined and united demand for just and reasonable measures, we are bound to succeed and must succeed.

I fully hope that The Jaffna Association which is the only political organisation of the Ceylon Tamils will convene an all Ceylon Tamil Conference and take counsel and decide the issue and lead the country.

Yours truly,
S. N. PONNUSAMY.

Jaffna,
December 5, 1935.

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ILLICIT POSSESSION OF TODDY

At the Jaffna Police Court on Tuesday one Kathiran of Thallalai was fined Rs. 15/- for illicit possession of toddy.

Travelling Without Ticket

Sinnathamby Kanapathipillai of Karaveddi, who stood charged before the Additional Police Magistrate of Jaffna, with travelling without a ticket in the Colombo—Jaffna train, was fined Rs. 12/-

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.)

House and Property For Sale

A large commodious upstairs bungalow with garden, several rooms and well. Suitable for lodging and dispensary or any other business at Hospital Road, Koddady, Jaffna.

Apply N. KANDIAH,
Commissioner of Sales,
Koddady,

9-12-35. JAFFNA.

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

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 31, 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.)

N. VAITILINGAM & Co.,

HARDWARE MERCHANTS & BUILDING CONTRACTORS

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Y. 56. 8-2—7 2-36. (T)

A Short Story

(Continued from Page 1.)

as you used to call me?" asked the girl to women who came round to see the stranger.

The stranger girl spoke and acted exactly as Sita, the wife of Rammurthi, who had died on his lap sixteen years ago. On his lap she had come back again to a new life! She remembered every scene, she remembered every face. Rammurthi had no doubt about it: within this girl's body was the soul of his dear beloved partner.

"Those whom God has united, let none part—" was all that the cinema man said as he permitted his daughter to remain behind.

"Marriage?" and the new Sita laughed, "Do the same husband and wife marry twice?"

(Roy's Weekly.)

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 Nagappiar Chinniah of Alvai South Petitioner.

Vs.

Chinniah Rajadurai of Alvai South a minor by his guardian ad litem John Nagappiar 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. Kanagasabay
District Judge

(O 104. 19 & 23 12 35)

N. Kandiah
LICENSED
AUCTIONEER
AND
Commissioner of
Sales

KODDADY. JAFFNA.

(M. 75. 1-6 to 31-12-35) (T)

B. P. NICHOLAS & SONS, (Bankers)

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Y. 188. 21-10-35—20-10-36

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CURRENT ACCOUNTS opened and interest allowed at 3% per annum on the average monthly balance when it does not fall below Rs. 500/-.

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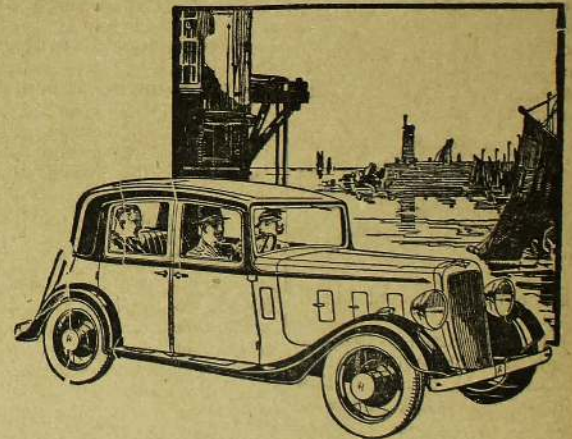
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Y. 203. 21-11-35—20-11-36. (T)

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(Y. 137. 19/8/35 to 18/8/36.) HOSPITAL ROAD, JAFFNA.

In The Track of Truth

By Quiz

Reverence and Discipline

His Excellency the Governor should be felicitated on his beautiful address delivered at Vidyankar Privila, Paliyagoda. He laid emphasis on two important things. The first essential of education, he pointed out, was knowledge of one's own language. We have become such blind backsliders in respect of things which are fundamental for the preservation of race, religion and culture that it has become necessary for others in our midst to remind us of our drawbacks. We are giving up, and some have totally given up, our own language, our own religion, our own traditions and our own culture which have stood the test of times. The latest reminder of our unwisdom came from Dr. Mees the noted Indologist from Holland who addressed two meetings in Jaffna. The abandonment of one's own and adoption of another's, however faithfully done, lead to a complication of a dangerous type. His Excellency nearly drew the connection between the want of reverence for persons and things and neglect of one's own language. Our forefathers taught respect your elders; respect the fellow man; respect womanhood; respect things sacred to others and they laid down several other "respects". One who knows one's own language grows into its culture and develops thereby an instinctive reverence. The language of a people is the sanctuary of its soul. But modern English educated men and women have no worship for things of their own. They know no sanctities and nothing is holy to them. This calamity is due to a misunderstanding of the European attitude. The European has respect for several things. But his imitators do not see them. Sometime ago another high officer of Government talked of discipline as a very necessary aspect of education. Our boys in Schools do not know what discipline is. Where the school fails to impart discipline it lays the foundation for undisciplined public life. No boy or no man can turn his opportunistic in life to good account if he has turned his nose at these two virtues. It is so good of His Excellency to have drawn pointed attention to things fundamental to healthy, peaceful growth of the people in a country

Understanding at Last

The strongholds of what they describe as classical education in Ceylon are at last emerging to from the nebula of their obsession. The Royal College and the St. Thomas' College have been the pioneers of Europeanised education in this country. They long thought that the barbarian of the Ceylon boy could be led into light and life only through the portals of Latin, and Greek. Some other schools too followed the example. The "high pedestal" on which they set education created a class of men and women who did not know their own language, who did not care to know it and who led an artificial life of supposed superiority. The want of reverence for ancient monuments, for old things of the country and for things of value that do not possess a glossy surface,—the want of reverence complained of by His Excellency has been, some think, produced unconsciously by certain Schools which often derided things of the country. Even these Schools are at least waking up to the folly of the attitude. These Schools are now re-organising their courses of study admitting the languages of the country and also starting vocational education. Some may remember that when Dr. Bridges, the expert invited from England to report on education in Ceylon some quarter of a century ago, recommended certain changes which would finally lead to Latin and Greek being given subsidiary places, these self-same Schools raised

a storm. It is a happy sign for the future of education in Ceylon that these "blue bloods" have begun at long last to realise the value of His Excellency's first essential of education. Let me not be misunderstood by any one that I am against the Latin and the Greek classics being taught. I only wanted to point out that sound education could yet be given to our boys without wasting precious time on things dead. In spite of the mania for European classics we have not produced a writer of real eminence like Radhakrishnan, Tagore or any other of the band of the great Indian writers not one of whom probably knows any Latin or Greek. It is after all a matter of attitude, a matter of real brains and sound training. We have had in Ceylon a certain amount of "sound" training. That is all. It is a happy sense of reality that dawns now.

The Brute at Headquarters.

At the last annual general meeting of the Northern Province Teachers' Association a charge was preferred against the Department of Education that it dictated the percentage of passes in the Cambridge Local Examinations. No doubt it is a serious charge to make. The one that acted the mouthpiece of the Teachers is an Englishman and missionary to boot. He had the information from a lady missionary, an American who happened to interview some official or other of the Syndicate of the Cambridge University. Now there is the flat denial by Cambridge and the Department of Education. The connected correspondence has appeared in the local press. Here you have, dear reader, two sets of persons who are respectable and who are engaged in the dissemination and promotion of truth. That is, they proclaim, the object of all education. Now, the question is who speaks the truth? Not surely both. One is lying. Could it be that modern truth has Janus-like two faces? Shall we put it down to some misunderstanding somewhere? When the very font is polluted, nothing clear and wholesome will emanate. Verily the modern world and all the modernism it has manufactured are Satan superb, all our lives and all our activities are suffocated by artificiality and untruth. It is no wonder that our educators and their work produce no harmonious and lasting fruits. Whither art thou heading, oh, modern world!

Yet Daring Despite Unmasking.

The Christian Literature Society of Ceylon at its annual meeting a little while ago has pleaded for new orientation in the literature it manufactures or gets manufactured in relation to the masses. It is difficult to guess what the Society really means. Are they going to embark in an enterprise of faking? What is the new orientation they long for? Bible tracts by the million have been delivered whether the villagers want or not. They have been freely distributed. This work has gone on for years and years. We have not seen any miracle in the lives of the villagers. One of those who gathered spoke of these Bible stories in tracts touching the depth of life in villages he was familiar with. The writer is familiar with the villages, the speaker referred to. He could not see any depth being stirred, nor the surface having any ripples. To be direct whatever is offered gratis uninvited has no value set upon. A cart-load of literature would not add an inch to the stature of the spiritual in man. The Bible has not touched any depth in the West. At any rate the educated sections of the Western nations have no value for it. The missionary bodies in the East are not tired of telling us that they are going to reform the world by reforming the East. They want us believe that the world is walking with the devil because we in the East do not read the Bible and become Christians. This is a pretty bit of argument. The East gave the message of Christ to the West. They don't practise it. They send it back with the super-scription that they would all come into salvation if all Eastern peoples accepted it. To reform the world they want to reform the good peaceful East. Let us await the new orientation of C. L. S.

HIGHER TARIFF ON COPRA

Ceylon to Pay Enhanced Duty

A Gazette of India Extraordinary publishes the revised tariff valuations for imported articles which will come into force from January 1, 1936, operating till the end of that calendar year.

Important changes are made in the case of coconut and coconut oil imports into India.

These revised tariff values affect Ceylon's copra trade with India; from Rs. 28½ per 1000, the current value, the figure has been raised to Rs. 45 per 1000.

Regarding coconut oil which is now Rs. 10 per cwt. the tariff value from January will be Rs. 13.

The effect of these changes in tariff will be that the proportionate amount of duty to be paid will be increased.

Mr. Macrae's New Appointment

Mr. Lachlan MacRae, Director of Education, has accepted an appointment as the Glasgow representative of the British Broadcasting Corporation, and it was announced in Edinburgh on December 2.

Mr. MacRae will take up his new duties on January 1, 1936.

Seriously Ill

Sir Marcus Fernando, it is reported, is lying seriously ill in a London Nursing Home. His condition, according to a cable, is causing anxiety.

Transfer of Doctors

Dr. W. S. Nathaniel, of the General Hospital, Colombo, has been appointed to Jaffna. Dr. S. N. Chelliah of Mannar has assumed duties at the General Hospital.

Motor Vehicle Statistics

314 motor vehicles were registered in Ceylon during November 1936. The total number registered included 227 motor cars and cabs, 26 omnibuses, 54 lorries and vans and 7 motor cycles.

221 of the total number of vehicles registered came from the United Kingdom, 43 from the United States of America, 20 from Germany, 21 from Canada, 4 from France, 3 from Italy and one from Holland.

Issue of Passports During Holidays

During the Christmas and New Year Holidays from December 24, 1935, to January 2, 1936, the Chief Secretary's Office will be open daily except on Christmas Day and on Sunday, December 29, for one hour only from 10 a.m. for the issue and endorsement of urgent passports

Personal

Mr. K. Aiyadurai Proctor, with Mrs. Aiyadurai leaves Jaffna this evening on a short visit to the F. M. S. They will be the guests of Mr. T. Sivapragasam, Co-operative Inspector, Singapore.

THE JAFFNA CIGAR INDUSTRY

(Continued from page 3.)

or gelatine paper wrappers and should bear labels showing the Trade Mark and grade of cigar.

We consider that the adoption of trade marks would compel manufacturers to keep up the quality of their different grades of cigars. Bad cigars would be driven out of the market because they could be identified under this system. We are convinced that our suggestion would act as an incentive to the production of a better class of cigars and thus help the Jaffna cigar to re-capture lost territory.

We would call equal attention to the need for another important reform. Manufacturers in Jaffna have shown considerable industry in maintaining their business on time-honoured lines, but none has been equal to the demands imposed by the change in the tastes of the smoking public. Strong tobacco with the added flavour of the "koda" appears to have a decreasing number of patrons, but the market is being flooded with this and nothing else. No wonder the cheapest cigarette surpasses in popularity the best cigar. The younger section of the middle classes smoke as much tobacco as anybody else in the country. It may be possible to enlist a good proportion of this class for the cigar, provided it is refined enough to suit their taste. In this connection we would point out that cigars of the kind we suggest are manufactured by certain leading firms and marketed successfully in South India. A few small experiments in Jaffna on the same lines have met with success recently.

The question of improving methods of manufacture leads us to the question of improving the tobacco itself. Perhaps the tobacco grown in Jaffna at present may not be the most suitable for this new type of cigar we advocate. It will therefore be necessary to experiment and grow specially selected types of tobacco which will be suitable for making cigars, both with strong and mild flavour, without the addition of "koda."

Private enterprise may not and perhaps cannot undertake this work of experimentation. This work must be undertaken by the Department of Agriculture. We recommend that the Government be persuaded to establish a Tobacco Research Institute under expert direction. This Institute, with the attached experiment station, may be located either in Tenmaradchi or in Pachilaipali

The cigar trade will gain considerably by more modern methods of marketing. Tidy boxes, beautiful wrappers, latest kinds of advertisements will all go a great way in getting at the public.

The industry will derive enormous encouragement from a definite fiscal policy followed by the State. We recommend that the State Council be requested to pass a Protective Duty on cigarettes and beehives imported into Ceylon and an Excise Duty on locally manufactured cigarettes and beehives where imported raw materials are used. We would also urge that the Government of Ceylon should use its good offices to secure, by some kind of reciprocal arrangement, the abolition or reduction of the heavy import duty imposed by Malaya on cigars. The existing duty practically prevents the Ceylonese in Malaya from using their favourite Jaffna cigar. Within Ceylon too, a reduction in rail freight, both for raw tobacco and cigar, will be a timely aid. State support can do much to save an industry which contributes considerably to the prosperity not only of Jaffna but of all the tobacco producing districts of Ceylon.

Answer to Correspondent

PARENT: Referred to the President Ramanathan College, Chunnakam.

THE GOLD PLATE AGAIN!

Pillaiyar Temple Burgled

Temple burglars renewed their activities again last night, availing themselves of the heavy down-pour, and removed the gold-plate (yantram) from under the image of the deity on the Pillaiyar Temple at Aiyanarkovilady, Vannarponne. Some other articles of value were also removed.

The burglars appear to have made two unsuccessful attempts previously, some months ago. This time they managed to let themselves down through the roof and carry away the articles. Information was given to the police who are making investigations.

SINGAPORE NAVAL BASE

£5,000,000 Already Spent

Up to October 31st, £5,113,800 had been expended under the Navy votes on the construction and equipment of the Singapore Naval Base, said Mr. Kenneth Lindsay, Civil Lord of the Admiralty, in a reply to Mr. Thorne in the House of Commons. A further £3,579,200, he added, remained to be spent.

The figures do not include £791,000, the cost of the floating dock.

Heavy Showers of Rain

The week opened with heavy showers which continued till last night. Many low-lying places are under water. The sky has cleared a little today, but the liability to rain continues.

Ramanathan College

The Ramanathan College closes for the Pongal Holidays tomorrow.

It is understood that with the beginning of next term, Miss R. R. Chelliah M. A. who is now on the staff of the College will succeed Miss V. F. Scarleton as Principal.

Jaffna Hindu College

The Jaffna Hindu College closed for the Pongal Holidays yesterday and re-opens on 20th January, 1936.

General Treasury

Mr. K. Somasundaram has been appointed controller of Finance and Supply, General Treasury, from about January 3, in place of Mr. R. Aluwihare who has been granted leave out of the Island.

Review

TWENTIETH CENTURY (December) 1935: A Monthly Journal edited by Mr. K. Iswara Dutt. Published by the Indian Periodicals Ltd. Allahabad: Annual Subscription Rs. 8/-

The current issue of this interesting monthly maintains its standard of literary excellence. "The New Constitution of the Philippines" provokes a thoughtful contribution from Mr. V. S. Ram. Among other interesting articles mention must be made of an interesting study of the problem before the congress by an "Inquirer" and Mr. D. C. Sharma's views on "What shall we read." The regular reader will miss Dr. Lanka Sandaram's causerie on Foreign and International affairs, but this omission is made up by other interesting articles by eminent students of public affairs and movements.

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

THE COUNTRY'S PEASANTRY—III

(Continued from page 1)

acquire them by purchase or gift from individuals, in perpetuity, and that Europeans, as well as Natives, be allowed to acquire and hold lands in perpetuity in any manner they may find it advisable; and that the local government be authorised by parliament to grant all the lands over which they have any control, on the most advantageous terms which can be devised for the individuals, whether Europeans or natives of India, who might apply for them" (2) and "that every native of the Island as well as European shall have a right subject to certain qualifications, to sit upon Juries."

Struggle for Revenue

After the annexation of the Kandyan Kingdom, the local government were at its wit's end to find the money to defray the expenses of war and it was impossible for the Kandyan peasantry to get any manner of relief to enable them to resume their normal vocations after the devastations of wars carried on for about 250 years. There were sporadic risings which were put down with barbarity. The needs of the foreign government were great, and taxation rose high which the people were unable to pay. Peasant cultivation was the main source of revenue. The peasantry were fleeced inordinately by headmen and others to whom the paddy "rents" were farmed. And paddy must be cultivated else government should lose its major revenue. And pressure was applied to this end. It came to be believed that if the peasantry were prevented from cultivating chenas, the greater would become their need to cultivate paddy and the more the chances of larger income to revenue. Chena cultivation was put down with an iron hand. But chena products were the life and 'forrader' to the peasant. A civil servant once remarked with some truth that what was mustard to ham chena produce was to rice. But we know chena produce stands on a higher scale in food value than rice or mustard; it is the sustainer of peasants' life. The suppression of chena cultivation went hand in hand with the sale of Crown lands to foreign capitalists. The new land-owners took advantage of the hard facts and offered them newly purchased jungles to be cleared by the villagers on condition that they planted the areas with economic plants as they wanted (e.g. Coffee, tea, coconuts, plantains etc.). The peasants must live and for the meagre chena produce, they gave their labour free to capitalist planters; and on this availability of free labour many capitalistic estates came in to being.

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(Y. 32. 25-4-35—14-4-36)

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Printed & published by S. ADCHALINGAM, residing at Vannarponnai, West, Jaffna, for and on behalf of the Proprietors the Saiva Paripalana Sabha, Jaffna, at their Press, the Saiva Prakash Press, Vannarponnai, Jaffna, on THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1935.