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ESTABLISHED SEPTEMBER 11, 1889.

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PUBLISHED EVERY MONDAY AND THURSDAY.

VOL. XXX—NO. 71.

JAFFNA, MONDAY MARCH 17, 1919.

PRICE 5 CENTS

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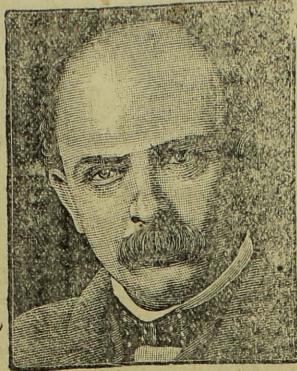
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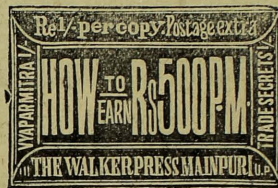
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of the powers of a member of Parliament. This is the Montagu-Minto scheme applied to Ceylon after having ignominiously failed in India, producing merely an increased sense of irresponsibility in both members and electorates. We do not think any Secretary of State would dream of setting up in Ceylon the anachronism of an elected Council with an official majority. What is more likely is that he will take the will of the European community for the dead. The report expresses a keen desire for the elimination of the official majority; but does not believe it is possible. The Secretary of State knows that it is possible, for he already has under his care crown colonies in which it has been achieved. We should not, however, like to see the old-fashioned constitutions of colonies like Jamaica and Mauritius adopted in Ceylon. We should much prefer a graduated scheme for the introduction of public responsibility like that suggested for India—a scheme which would grant opportunities for the exercise of the powers of self government to the people at first "in those departments which afford most opportunity for local knowledge and social service," and those subjects such as agriculture and education, in which the natives of this country have shown themselves to be most keenly interested and those in which, to quote again the words of the Montagu-Chelmsford report, "the mistakes that may occur, though serious, would not be irremediable." It would be perfectly feasible to introduce such a scheme in Ceylon, while reserving in the hands of Government the full power of affirmative legislation and the control of all departments vital to the interests of the colony. There is a suggestion in the report that in the case of the provincial governments of India this control is secured by the supervising functions which remain vested in the Central Government. This is entirely erroneous. This safeguard was deliberately rejected, for the reason that to quote the "Times of India," "the whole design of the Montagu-Chelmsford reform scheme is to make provincial autonomy as complete as possible." The scheme for dividing subjects into "transference" and "reserved" is perfectly applicable to Ceylon, whether or not the analogy is between the Ceylon Government and Provincial governments or the Central Government of India. This scheme avoids the evils, rightly denounced by the drafters of the report, which would attach to the constant use of the veto by the Government.

NOTES & COMMENTS.

This Report, which has been published, makes recommendations for the larger employment of Ceylonese in the public services of their Island. The Commission must have found its work lightened by the study of the Reports issued in India dealing with a similar question. Whatever differences there may be in minor details, we have no doubt that the British Government will apply the same principles of policy in dealing with political concessions to India and Ceylon. The recommendations of the Ceylon Public Services Commission follows in the main the recommendations contained in the Montagu-Chelmsford Report under this head. All racial bars in the recruitment for these services, are to be abolished. In the Civil Service it is recommended that one-third of the posts should be held by Ceylonese and that proportion should be gradually raised to one-half. In the other branches of the public services too such as the Police, the P. W. D. Irrigation &c., similar concessions are granted. If the recommendations of this Commission are adopted by the Government in full, and if sufficient educational facilities are granted to deserving Ceylonese students by means of scholarships &c, to acquire the necessary qualifications either locally, or in foreign countries, we may be sure that such a just policy will be received with a hearty welcome by the public. As we conclude in this issue the publication of the European Association's Report on Ceylon Reforms, we hope to publish this Report in our next issue.

LOCAL & GENERAL.

THE WEATHER.—A few welcome showers of rain fell yesterday in the town and in most parts of the District. It has cleared again.

AN EDUCATIONAL APPOINTMENT.—We are glad to hear that Mr. K. Kandiah, a trained teacher in the Hindu College, Jaffna, and the son of Mr. P. Carigoes Pillai, Tamil Editor, "Hindu Organ", has been appointed to act as Sub-Inspector of Schools, Northern Province. We hope he will before long get a permanent appointment in the Educational Service of the Island.

PERSONAL.—The Hon'ble Mr. A. Sapapathy returned to Jaffna on Friday last.

—Dr. K. Ponniah, Visiting Medical Officer, Kandy, has been transferred to Udugama as District Medical Officer.

—We are glad to learn that Mr. Victor Emmanuel Basheem Bastiampillai of the Irrigation Office, Kurungala, who passed his final Examination held recently, has been appointed as a Sub-Inspector of Irrigation for the North Central Province at Anuradhapura. He is the fourth son of Mr. B. S. Bastiampillai of Jaffna.

—Mr. C. Sunthoram, Chief Appraiser, Colombo Customs, who came here on short leave returned to Colombo on Wednesday.

THE ASIAN COMMERCIAL ASSURANCE COY. LTD.—We have received with thanks from Mr. C. N. Deva Rajan, the Chief Agent in Ceylon, an artistically got up wall calendar, issued by this Insurance Company.

THE "CEYLON BUSINESS ADVERTISER"—This is a unique venture in the field of journalism in Jaffna. It is published monthly in English and Tamil, and is devoted to all sorts of advertisements and the promotion of business knowledge. It will be found in experience that almost every one has something to buy, or something to sell. A cheap advertising medium like this with a wide circulation may, therefore, be of immense advantage not only to traders especially, but to the general public as well. We thank Mr. N. Ponniah, the Managing Proprietor, for the copy sent to us.

HINDU CALENDAR.—Srinat S Sathesiva-Kurukkal the well known Astrologer of Kondaivi, has issued his Calendar compiled for the year Siddharthi in the form of a wall-almanac. The sheet contains, as usual, several valuable informations of astrological importance, such as auspicious times etc., and being printed in English must be useful to all nationalities interested in astrological predictions. We thank the author for the copy sent to us.

THE RAILWAY CASH SHORTAGE—In connection with the big C. G. R. defalcation it is understood that Government has called upon those officers, whose chits and I.O.U.'s were found in the iron safe, to explain why they borrowed money contrary to general orders.

MEDICAL INSPECTION OF SCHOOLS.—The Hon. Mr. O. O. Tilakaratne a short time ago brought forward a motion in Council, asking Government to carry out a medical inspection of schools and Government accepted the motion. For the present the work will be carried on in the Colombo Schools. A full-time Medical Officer is to be appointed as there are nearly a hundred schools to be inspected. The children will be subjected to an examination for diseases of the eyes, ears, mouth and throat.

CIVIL MEDICAL DEPARTMENT—Dr. H. Bawa, F.R.C.S & L.R.C.P., Edinburgh, has been confirmed in the appointment of Inspecting Medical Officer.

THE EDUCATION OFFICE.—Mr. Edwin Evans, Assistant Director, will act as Director of Education when Mr. E. B. Denham goes home shortly on furlough. No date has been decided on; his passage has not been booked. As the accounting work at the office of the Director of Education has increased to a very great extent, Mr. Denham has asked Government for the assistance of an Accountant. A suitable Officer will be appointed shortly. His name has not transpired.

"TAMBEY MOOTOO" OF TRINCOMALEE.—It would be interesting if any old residents of Trincomalee could furnish particulars as to the person referred to in the following announcement in the "Unclaimed Money" column of the "News of the World," and the circumstances in which he left his native land:—"Mootoo (Tambey)—Surviving wife or next-of-kin of Tambey Mootoo, formerly of Trincomalee, Ceylon, a naval pensioner, late of Tenterden, Kent, who died at St. Leonards-on-Sea on Nov. 2nd apply Cornwall S Bailly, 6, Dana-road, St. Leonards-on-Sea."

Y. M. H. A., KURUNGALA.—Meetings are now being held regularly in the Y. M. H. A. Hall under the presidency of Mr. N. Muttiyah, Postmaster. Arrangements are being made to call the first annual general meeting and a sub-committee consisting of Messrs. N. Muttiyah, Postmaster, M. A. Masilmani, Advocate, P. Tambirajah, Proctor, S. Sanmugam, K. N. Vyramuttu, K. M. N. M. Palaniappah Chetty, M. K. Velupillai, S. Muttiyah, S. Kailasapillai, A. Nadarajah and P. Somasundaram has been appointed for the purpose. —Cor.

A FAREWELL FUNCTION AT KAJANG.—The friends and well-wishers of Mr. P. Eliathamby, Registration Clerk, Land Office, Kajang, entertained him on the eve of his transfer to Jagra Kuwa Langat as Chief Clerk, Land Office, in the Broadriok Club, Kajang on the 23rd ultimo at 4.30 p.m. A group photo was taken and light refreshments were served. The function was performed splendidly under the patronage of the president Dr. A. O. Karthigasu who dilated upon the qualities of Mr. P. Eliathamby in his brief presidential speech. After a vote of thanks to the chair amidst applause, it came to a close at 6 p.m. —Cor.

FIRE ON SHIP IN BOMBAY DOCKS—Bombay, March 13th.—A fire broke out in No. 2 hold of the ss. "Thessollo" berthed in the Alexandra docks. The hold contained hay, lubricating oil, etc. belonging to Government. The fire Brigade managed to put out the fire after several hours' hard work. The damage is believed to be enormous. The cause of the out-break has not been ascertained.

EUROPEANS AND THE REFORMS.

(Continued from our last issue.)

10. THE NATURE OF THE FRANCHISE.

The extent of the franchise is from the point of view of the various religions, a matter of peculiar importance in Ceylon, where so many of the educated classes are Christians while the majority of the peasantry are Buddhists or Hindus. A narrow franchise, practically confined to educated persons, might result in the return chiefly of Christians while a wide franchise would probably secure a council composed of Buddhists and Hindus. We have not, however, considered the matter from the point of view of religious interests but merely from that of the general capacity of electors to exercise a wise choice and escape the influence of possible corruption. On the one hand it may be argued that the peasantry is not yet capable of appreciating the value of a vote and may be subjected to improper influences. On the other hand the view may be entertained that the average villager is by no means without common sense where his own interests are concerned and will soon learn the importance of a secret ballot, while from the point of view of possible corruption there may be safety in large numbers. As a compromise between these two views we suggest that the proposals of the Reform League in this respect should be adopted with such modifications as will be mentioned below, when we discuss our scheme in detail.

11. THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

We agree with the memorialists that the present Executive Council is too large and that the presence of Government Agents of Provinces, whose official administrative acts may at any time become the subject of comment or investigation by the Council of which they are themselves members, is undesirable. We cannot however approve of the reduction of the official members to two. It seems to us that there would be no practical value in a Council which did not include a military adviser, a legal adviser, a financial adviser and a general administrative and revenue adviser. We think that there should be two unofficial members of the Executive Council, but consider that the proposal to vest the choice of them in the Legislative Council is based on a failure to appreciate the constitutional difficulties involved. The suggestion was made in India and is discussed in the Montagu-Chelmsford report which exposes its impracticability. Whether or not the members of the Executive are officials or un-officials. Europeans or Ceylonese, they must stand together as one government and take collective responsibility. If some of them are responsible to an independent electorate, how are they to act in a conflict of views between the permanent government and that electorate? Personally they might no doubt resign; but that course would offer no solution when their successors would be chosen by the same body and, presumably, be expected to voice the same views. Ultimately, therefore either the Legislative Councilors are to govern the country against the Will of the Governor, who nevertheless is responsible to the Secretary of State, or else the Governor is to be in the position of having to rule in conjunction with Executive Councilors whose wishes he may be continually forced to over-ride. Dealing with the suggestion of elected Executive Councilors the Montagu-Chelmsford report says (par. 161): "Election would deprive the Governor of all discretion in making recommendations as to his colleagues..... When ability in administration ought, generally speaking, to be the test, nomination by those who are in the best position to judge must be far more satisfactory..... Farther, the scheme involves the association of individuals in the government who, while sharing in the same degree the same responsibilities, yet derive their authority from different sources, being responsible to the Secretary of State in the one case and the Legislative Council in the other; and hence, in the event of a divergence of view, there is no way of securing the unity of action required." We therefore advise that the unofficial members of the Executive Council should be nominated by the Governor.

12. THE COLONIAL OFFICE.

As stated before, the constitution of this Office does not make any provision for the association with the officials in England, of any one having a personal knowledge of the Colony and we believe that in practice no such person is consulted. It appears on the face of it impossible for the affairs of any country to be controlled satisfactorily by men living six thousand miles away who have never seen either the country or the people whom they control. We are of opinion that the blunders which are made from time to time, in important matters, might be avoided, if there were associated with the Secretary of State persons having long personal acquaintance with the Colony. The Secretary of State for India has a council of which nine members must have had long and recent service or residence in British India. We are further strongly of opinion that it is necessary to press for a reform of the system under which Colonial affairs are handled in London and in particular that the affairs of this Colony should be directed by a Council, presided over by the Secretary of State for the Colonies, composed of officials and unofficials with experience of Ceylon. We are not at present in possession of sufficient information to enable us to make detailed proposals. They may be framed at a later date, after consultation with persons more intimately acquainted with the affairs of the Colonial Office. We would however suggest that subordinate officials in London should be drawn from the various Colonies and that such senior officers as may be recalled from Ceylon for service in England should, after five years service there, retire on full colonial pension and so make way for new men. In this manner the Secretary of State would be supplied with a staff of officers having an intimate knowledge of the Colony's affairs and needs.

13. SUMMARY OF GENERAL PRINCIPLES.

Having explained the chief problems which presented themselves for solution and the manner in which we approached them, we think that, before setting out the particulars of our proposals, we should summarize briefly the conclusions at which we have arrived, for unless those conclusions are accepted, the scheme detailed below must necessarily fail to meet with approval. The general lines of policy on which we are agreed and which

we put forward for acceptance by the Council may be stated in the following propositions:—

- (a) Some reform of our constitution directed towards an increase of popular control is desirable.
- (b) Europeans should be prepared to support such demands as are reasonable and should be ready with proposals of their own.
- (c) The Colonial Office should be brought more closely into touch with the Colony which it controls.
- (d) There should be unofficial members of the Executive Council, the official members of which should be reduced in number but not to the extent suggested by the Ceylon Reform League.
- (e) The unofficial members of the Executive Council must be nominated and not elected.
- (f) The unofficial members of the Legislative Council should be elected, except those required to represent particular interests.
- (g) The official majority in the Legislative Council must be maintained.
- (h) The distribution of seats should be based on full territorial representation.
- (i) Special provision must be made for the representation of small communities and important interests.
- (j) The franchise should be wide enough to include all those who can reasonably be expected to appreciate the value of a vote and the responsibility involved in exercising it.

14. SUGGESTED REFORMS.

(a) **The Colonial Office.**
We have already indicated the lines on which we think an improvement in the efficiency of this office should be effected.

(b) **The Executive Council.**
This should consist of the following members: His Excellency the Governor, The Officer Commanding the Troops, The Colonial Secretary, The Attorney General, The Treasurer.
Two unofficial members nominated by the Governor of whom one should be a European and another a Ceylonese.

(c) **The Legislative Council.**
The size of the Council is necessarily dependent upon the number of officials who can be spared from their duties to attend its meetings. As it is improbable that government will be able to spare twenty two officials, the number of Unofficials suggested by the Reform League must be reduced. We can see no necessity for the election of several members to represent the views of any one area. We suggest that there should be one member for each of the following provinces, namely the Western Province, the Central Province, the Northern Province, the Southern Province and the Eastern Province, while the North Central and North-Western Provinces should together return one member, and Uva and Sabaragamuwa another. The following table shows the population, at the last census, of each of these electoral areas and the race which is in numerical preponderance:—

Electoral Areas.	Total Population.	Predominating Race.
Western Province ...	1,106,821	Low-country Sinhalese
Central Province ...	672,258	Kandyan Sinhalese
Northern Province ...	369,651	Tamil
Southern Province ...	628,817	Low-country Sinhalese
Eastern Province ...	183,698	Tamil
North-Central Province	520,892	Kandyan Sinhalese
North-Western Province		
Uva Sabaragamuwa }	625,218	Kandyan Sinhalese

This division of the country gives a fairly even distribution of seats. The Northern and Eastern Provinces have sufficiently distinct interests to warrant separate representation in spite of their smaller populations and the under representation of the Western Province will be corrected by providing a separate member for Colombo. If, as is highly probable, the predominating race in each electoral area secures the return of one of its own members, there will be two Tamil members, three Kandyan Sinhalese and two Low Country Sinhalese, but all races will be included in the electorates. There is no means of forestalling to what race the Colombo member will belong. As it is highly improbable that a European, or Burgher or Mohammedan will be returned for any of the provincial seats, we recommend that each of these communities should have one member, to be returned by its own electorate for the whole Island, or nominated if any community to desire. There still remain the special claims of commerce and agriculture. We regard it as a serious defect in the present constitution of the Council, and one fraught with real danger to the prosperity of the Island, that there should be no commercial member and that agriculture should be dependent upon the return of a planter for the rural European seat. Interests of this nature should be represented by members selected by bodies which have acknowledged authority. We recommend therefore that there should be three extra members to be nominated respectively by the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce, the Ceylon Planters' Association and the Low-Country Products Association. A Council so constituted will provide a substantial beginning for territorial representation thereby leading to a diminution of racial distinctions which may in the distant future permit of the total disregard of race and the mutual acceptance of each other by all classes of persons as citizens with the same political needs, in the meanwhile and until that ideal is realized it will satisfactorily safeguard the special views of the various races, each of which has at the present time strongly differentiated interests and prejudices to ignore which would be mere folly. The Ceylon Chamber of Commerce and the Planters' Association will be certain to return Europeans. It need not for a moment be pretended that there is any probability of their taking any other course. So long as the Europeans have invested in Ceylon agriculture and commerce the vast capital which they control at the present day, they are clearly entitled to representation in excess of their proportion as gauged by mere population.

