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THE NORTH AND TEMPERANCE.

IN A RECENT CONTRIBUTION TO A WELL-known daily of Colombo, a writer says that temperance is the keynote of most of the papers of the North. We may not speak for the other papers of the North, but for our part we are glad to state that we are proud of the part we have played in the cause of temperance. It gives us great satisfaction to note that the majority of the people of the North have been backing us whenever we advocated the cause of temperance. Whatever might have been the differences with regard to other matters in this land of miscellaneous castes and various creeds, temperance is a cause in which all have been united. No other proof is necessary than the mighty efforts made in recent times which resulted in the closure of nearly all the licensed taverns in the Jaffna Peninsula. We who live in this land and move among the people alone know what an amount of good the closure of taverns has done to the people of this country in spite of the ill conceived notions to the contrary of Excise officials and Government spokesmen. We fully believe that the much advertised increase in Excise crimes in the district are repercussions of a transition stage and that if Government were to pursue a strong policy of prohibition, such repercussions would soon die a natural death and the country would gradually settle down to normal conditions. We do not deny that there exists in this country a certain amount of illicit traffic. Nor do we ignore the fact that there is a certain type of people whose hobby appears to be wire pulling. The latter is often spoken of as an anti-temperance party. The illicit seller and the wire puller are to be found in every country. They should be put down rather than humoured. That responsible officers of the Government should be a party to this sort of humouring is the most lamentable feature of the whole business. The declared policy of Government has been to put down drink. The Excise policy appears to be quite the reverse. The argument that the existence of illicit traffic is sufficient proof that there exists a reasonable demand for facilities for drink cannot be maintained in view of the fact that the Government has not tried to put into operation that machinery which we believe would effectively check all abuse of Excise laws—we mean total prohibition. So long as there are loopholes, so long as there is piece-meal legislation, as long there will be all the attendant evils of an imperfect system. We are constrained to ask even as the Hon. Mr. D. B. Jayatilaka asked in the course of his speech in connection with a debate on the Government's Excise proposals, "Was it the incompetence of officers of the Department or was it really impossible in the nature of things?" Why should the Government find fault with the program of the temperance workers, when it has failed in its duty to help the temperance cause? We work for temperance. We close taverns and assign to a Department its normal duty of putting down illicit traffic. It is up to its duty in despair and Government tries to save its reputation by a diversion in the form of a new Excise policy which as Mr. Jayatilaka pointed out is bound to be in opposition to the temperance movement.

The temperance movement in the North is not a sectarian movement nor is it any one man's undertaking. It is Mr. Rajaratnam's movement nor Mr. Rajawamy's movement nor Mr. Rajaratnam's movement. It is a popular movement supported by the bulk of the population. The temperance movement is a movement of the people as a whole have unmistakably shown their conviction with regard to the question of drink both at the recent polls held to open taverns as well as at the polls held for the closure of taverns. Government officials who have remained here for some years would have noticed the difference between the great enthusiasm that prevailed when polls were held to close taverns and the complete indifference betrayed by all sections of the people towards the polls that are now being held to reopen taverns. To some of these polls we understand not even a soul turned up. Now, could it be possible that a class of people who put

themselves to so much inconvenience and who pay so heavily for drinks illicitly imported are loath to make use of an opportunity to secure facilities for cheap drink? Our firm belief is that they care more for public opinion than for cheap drink. The real fact is public conscience has been awakened. Jaffna can never go back to the state in which it was in the pre-temperance days. A tavern may be opened here, another there but the faith of the Jaffna man in the wholesome effect of temperance can never be shaken. If the rest of Ceylon cannot help Jaffna, Jaffna will stand alone. Jaffna will fight its own battles and we are certain that Jaffna will win in the long run.

The truth is, the people of Jaffna are not for temperance merely on moral or spiritual grounds alone. They see in it a solution to their social and economic problems as well. There is a universal desire among the people to ameliorate the condition of the labouring classes. Labour is recruited largely from the climber caste. The people of this caste have been kept down so low in the social scale because any amelioration of their condition will only tend to make them despise their hereditary occupation of climbing. If they are made to change their occupation and become agricultural labourers or by education fashioned to enter other useful and dignified occupations, then all the taint attached to their birth and occupation is bound to disappear. Again drink is a luxury which Jaffna can ill-afford. We are poverty stricken. There is not enough food and clothing for a lot of us. The products of the palmyrah palm, especially the "Kilangu," "Odia" and "Panaddu," which were articles of diet popular with the poor people cannot be produced on any extensive scale so long as the destructive process of tapping toddy from the flower buds continues. The male flowers are as necessary as the female flowers for purposes of pollination. It is inconceivable why the advocates of toddy of doubtful food value should help in the wholesale destruction of well known and time honoured foodstuffs of the people.

Government is being accused of fooling us but we refuse to be fooled. Our head is clear and our heart is pure. We feel for our people because we know what they want and what is good for them. What we would earnestly desire of Government is a generous response or failing that even a little sympathy towards our aspirations.

LOCAL & GENERAL.

MR. RUSSELL'S PORTRAIT UNVEILED:—An oil painting of Mr. T. B. Russell, late Government Agent, N. P. Jaffna, by Mr. George de Niese was unveiled by Mr. J. D. Brown, Government Agent, Northern Province, on Saturday last.

SIAMSE ROYALTY IN COLOMBO:—H. R. H. Prince Krom Luang Kampengpet, brother of the King of Siam, accompanied by his wife, Princess Prabhavasi, and his daughter, Princess Mayrachatra, arrived in Colombo on Thursday last en route for Europe.

DEVIL DANCERS AT OLYMPIA:—Three Sinhalese Devil-Dancers, appeared in Bertram W. Mills' circus at Olympia recently. There were attired in fur dresses with masks bearing the appearance of wild beasts.

BUDDHIST NEW HEADQUARTERS:—The new Headquarters of the Colombo Buddhist Theosophical Society in Norris Road, Colombo were opened on last Monday by H. E. the Governor in the presence of a large gathering.

CEYLON AT THE IMPERIAL INSTITUTE:—Mr. F. A. Stockdale, former Director of Agriculture in Ceylon, is reported to be taking a keen interest in the proposals for the renovation of the Ceylon Court at the Imperial Institute, London.

INTERNATIONAL COLONIAL EXHIBITION:—The first meeting of the Committee appointed by Government to consider and report on the representation of Ceylon at the International Colonial Exhibition at Antwerp in 1930 was held at the Port Commission office on the 23rd last.

SHORTHAND SPEED TEST: At the Open shorthand Speed Examination held in December last under the auspices of the Fort Shorthand Tutor, Colombo, Messrs. N. Nadarajah and A. S. Sivaramakrishnan were successful among others. The speed attained by the above was 120 words per minute.

REVISED RAIL TIME TABLE:—The revised Railway Time Table will be brought into force next month and it is claimed that it will be a considerable improvement on the existing service. There will, however, be no radical changes as far as the mail trains are concerned.

Continued up.

INDIAN & FOREIGN.

INDIAN STATES' ROYALTY CO-OPERATING WITH B. I. SUBJECTS:—Their Highnesses the Maharajahs of Alwar, Nawanagar and Bhopal have assured their complete good will and desire to co-operate with the people of British India in their attempt to achieve their political and constitutional aspirations.

COMBATING THE VAGRANTS' NUISANCE:—Canton has decided to put its beggars to school. It is a vocational school where all are compelled to learn a trade of some sort and they will not be released until they are considered capable of making an independent living. Already there are 700 "students."

THE WORLD'S OLDEST LIVING WOMAN:—In a little town in the interior of Mexico, a woman reputed to be the oldest in the world, has been discovered. She is Dona Hiedmehuida Rojas, familiarly called Dona Migilda, who is stated to be 145 years of age.

HOUSING THE POOR IN MADRAS:—The Madras Corporation has decided to request the Government for a free grant of Rs. 5,00,000 to be spread over a period of three years for housing the poor.

THE MAHARAJA OF INDOR:—The Maharaja of Indore Sharmishta Bai Holkar (see Miss Nancy Miller) has given birth to a daughter at the Chateau Holkar, St. Germain-en-Laye, Paris.

INDIANS AND THE FRANCHISE:—Hon. Mr. Rangaswamy Iyengar has given notice of a question in the Legislative Assembly asking whether Government had received any report from their Agents in Ceylon regarding the position of Indian immigrants whether the Agent took part in any deliberations on the subject and what report he had submitted, whether the Government of India was in correspondence with the Ceylon Government and the Colonial Office against the disabilities sought to be imposed on Ceylon Indians and what action they proposed to take to protect the status and rights of Indians in Ceylon.

INDIA'S PROBLEMS:—It is authoritatively reported that the Government of India has under consideration the appointment of a Labour Commission to enquire into general conditions of labour in India. The Provincial Simon Committee discussed the continuance or abolition of the present dyarchy system and the formation of an Executive Council under the new constitution. The Committee has not reached any definite conclusions and will meet day to day.

Gas MASKS FOR AGRICULTURAL WORKERS:—Workers on the Ukraine State Farms in Africa are using gas masks in grain threshing in order to protect their faces and lungs against the dust and the flying grains. It is believed that this wearing of gas masks will obviate the discomfort and illness which is so closely connected with the Department of Agriculture.

Continued.

STATE OF WORK IN THE COLOMBO P. C. AND C. R. COURTS:—The Committee consisting of the Hon. Messrs. W. Duraiswamy, E. W. Perera, and C. W. W. Kanangara, the Police Magistrate of Colombo, the Commissioner of Requests, and the Hon. Mr. S. Obeyesekere, Acting Solicitor-General as Chairman was appointed by His Excellency the Governor on January 16, 1928, to examine the state of the work of the Police Court, and the Court of Requests, Colombo, and to make recommendations. The Committee having examined the state of the work in these Courts submitted their report which is issued as Sessional Paper III of 1929.

PUBLIC TRUSTEE VISITING INDIA:—Dr. P. E. Peris, the Public Trustee, was to have sailed for Bombay yesterday (Wednesday) He will be away in India for about three months studying the system of work in the Public Trustee Offices of Bombay and other chief centres in India.

U. D. C. MEMBERS' AFTER THOUGHT:—We understand that Messrs. P. Moses J. P. and C. Somasegaram, who sat in a requisition to the Chairman, Jaffna U. D. C., calling for a special meeting of the Council to discuss the areas of polling, have withdrawn same. Mr. Moses has written to the Chairman requesting him to forward the petitions, which were presented at the last meeting of Council, to the Urban Advisory Committee.

ICE-MAKING MACHINE NEGOTIATIONS FALL THROUGH:—It is reported that the suit brought by the Colombo Electric Tramways Co., Ltd., against Mr. P. Asaipillai of the "Jaffna Dana Letchimi Mills," Nalor, Jaffna, for the recovery of Rs. 6,900 being balance due as damages for breach of an agreement to buy an ice making machine was fixed for trial on Monday last before Mr. W. S. de Saram, the First Additional District Judge of Colombo. The plaintiffs alleged that the defendant agreed to purchase from them a machine capable of making 130 lbs. of ice per hour, for Rs. 7,900 on terms one of which was that he should pay an advance of Rs. 1,000. The defendant paid Rs. 1,000 and they tendered the machine but he failed to take delivery. The defendant answered that the machine tendered was not up to specification inasmuch as it was not capable of making clear hard ice out of Jaffna water. He claimed a return of the advance. The Judge fixed the trial for November 29th next.

Ceylon University Commission

PROJECT TO COST 10½ MILLIONS

NEGLECT OF AGRICULTURE?

The report of the University Commission, which was appointed in July last with Sir Walter Buchanan-Riddell, Bt., as Chairman, and twenty five other members 'to inquire into and report upon the details of or incidental to a scheme for the establishment of a unitary residential University in Kandy and the total cost of establishing such a University and the amount and the provision of the recurrent expenditure necessary for its upkeep and for the due discharge of its functions' in accordance with a resolution of the Legislative Council passed in last March, was issued as Sessional Paper IV of 1929. It is a bulky and comprehensive document of 134 pages divided into seven chapters with numerous appendices and dissents and with notes by the members of the Commission.

Twelve meetings of the full Commission and twenty-two Committee meetings were held subsequent to the Chairman's arrival in Ceylon on July 21 last.

CONCLUSION.

The final chapter gives the Commission's conclusions in a summarised form. It states:—

"Our conclusion is that a University of the type defined in our terms of reference could be established at Kandy on the site which we have indicated by an initial expenditure of about five and a quarter millions of rupees over and above the sums already hypothesised for the University project, and that the recurrent cost of its upkeep would amount to approximately five and a half lakhs of rupees per annum more than the present annual net expenditure by the Government on the University College and Medical College at Colombo.

"Though we have expressed the hope that private liberality will bear a part—and an increasing part—of the burden we recognize that these figures entail a formidable charge upon the public revenues. But we believe that there exist a widespread conviction among leaders of opinion in the country that Ceylon ought to have and must have its own University. That idea if it is to be attained worthily will inevitably impose financial sacrifices both upon individuals and upon the community as a whole. Viewed in right perspective these sacrifices ought in our view to prove remunerative in their effect upon the character, the intellect and the capacity for public service of all those whom a University must directly and indirectly influence."

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS.

All the University courses should lead to a first degree of Bachelor of Arts. Both at the Entrance examination and at subsequent stages of the degree courses every candidate should be specially tested in English and every candidate of the Sinhalese or Tamil race should be similarly tested in Sinhalese or Tamil language and literature.

All candidates for admission, except those who obtain exemption by passing other examinations prescribed as equivalent, should be required to pass an Entrance Examination.

The academic year should consist of three terms and an undergraduate should keep a minimum of nine terms of residence in order to qualify for graduation.

Every candidate for the Pass degree of Bachelor of Arts should pass First and Second Public Examinations which should involve the study of both Arts and Science subjects. The optional subjects in Arts should include English, Sanskrit, Pali, Sinhalese, Tamil, Arabic, Latin, Greek, French, German, Philosophy, Psychology, History, Law, Economics, Geography and Education. The optional subjects in Science should include Chemistry, Physics, Botany, Zoology, Physiology, Anatomy, Geography, Mathematics, Agriculture and (in the case of women candidates), Domestic Science.

The Bachelor of Arts Honours degree should be differentiated throughout from the Pass degree. The honours course should consist of (a) either the First Public Examination or a Preliminary Examination, and (b) a Final Honours Examination. The Honours courses should include English language and literature; Sanskrit language and literature, including Hindu Philosophy; Tamil language and literature including Hindu Philosophy; Pali, Sanskrit and Sinhalese language and literature, including Buddhist Philosophy; Arabic language and literature, including Islamic Philosophy; European classical languages; Philosophy and Psychology; Philosophy, Politics and Economics; history with economics and geography; law; chemistry; physics; botany; zoology; physiology; anatomy; mathematics.

There should be two Master's degrees the Master of Arts and the Master of Science. The Bachelor of Arts should be allowed to proceed to the examination for the Master's degree after a period of not less than six academic terms from graduation. The Master's degree should be conferred in any of the subjects taken for the Bachelor's degree with the exception of Agriculture. The examination should normally consist of (a) a thesis, (b) a written examination and (c) a viva voce examination.

