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TIRUKETHEESHWARAM— THE REFUGE OF KETHU

By E. P. RASIAH

THIRUKETHEESHWARAM is, it was able to command the one of the two temples of the greatest importance to Hindus and of remote antiquity in Ceylon. It has been immortalised with songs celestial, by the Hindu Saints, Sundara Moorthy and Tirugnanasambanda Moorthy, and is situated a few miles from Mannar close to Mathottam, on the West coast of Ceylon.

This temple is said to have derived its name from one of its devotees. It appears that a Naga Asuran disguising himself paraded along with Devas, obtained and tasted Nectar, the Elixir of Life, from the Lord. On the deception being pointed out by the Sun and Moon, the Lord is said to have cut the Naga-Asuran into two. The parts so cut continued to throb with life, as the nectar of ever-lasting life was in them; but, somehow, one part had a human head and the body of a serpent and the other a serpent's head and the body of a human, and they came to be called Rahu and Kethu—two of the Navagrahas, reported by astrologers, to be capable of exerting malefic influence on men. Some erroneously believe, that in revenge for this betrayal, Rahu and Kethu assert their malefic influence, even on the Sun and Moon and thereby cause eclipses.

தற்கும் ஒழி அகரன் அரவமர் தொழுதேத்த வகம் மலிவன்ற கடன் மதோட்ட கண்ணகிப் பங்கம் செய்திறை குடினன் பரவியின் கலையென் செங்கண் னாவகசை தரன் திருக்கே தீச்சுத்தரவே.

This Kethu is said to have spent a period of penance and prayer at this temple and thereafter it came to be called Tiru Kethu-Eswaram.

Mathottam

In ancient India, Towns generally sprang up around temples and with the growth of such Towns civilisation spread. Likewise, in Ceylon too, it would be seen, that cities sprang up around temples and it was particularly so in the case of Thiruketheeshwaram. The famed river Palavi flowed through the adjacent land called Manthai or Mathottam or the modern Mantotte. While St Tirugnana Sambanthar refers to it as,

மதோட்டத்தர் மன்ற யி ளாதிவ் கையிற தெரிச்சம்.

the ancient Roman writers, Ptolemy and Pliny refer to it as "Palavi Mundi Oppidum"—Palavi-Mandala-Nagaram. During 1st century B.C., this Mathottam appears to have been the Chief Seat of Government, possessing an excellent harbour. It was the nerve centre of international trade between East and West—India and China on the one side and Rome, Greece and Arabia on the other. Being situated centrally

maritime highways of the merchant vessels, which passed from the Bay of Bengal to the Arabian sea and back. It was also a first rate emporium, for, according to Cosmos Indicopleustes "the emporium in that place is the greatest in those parts".

The cities had wide streets well laid out...the palaces and mansions several storeys high containing terraces and balconies, the State rooms were supported by pillars covered with gold. The implication being, that this city was in those days, the supreme example of wealth and magnificence—Royalty rode on elephants and chariots—and aeroplanes appear to have been in use!

De Cauto the Historian says "we find today in Ceilao vestiges of Roman building which show that they formerly had communications with the Island—in it were found the same coins that the freedman, Annius Plocamus took, when Joao de Mello do Sao Raya was Captain in Mannar in Ceilao—in the territories they call Mantota where even today there appear here and there, large ruins of Roman masonry work."

Populace

The territory all around the temple appears to have been inhabited mostly by Nagas (or Kammalams) Asuras and Rakshasas and there appears to have been inter-marriages among them. Mathottam was a city of remote antiquity and the native place of Visvakarma, the Master craftsman and Architect.

Magnetic Fort

In Mantote, there appears to have been 3 important fortifications, one of which was constructed by Visvakarma himself. As it had a high tower, some people called it "Hanging Fort". Being a formidable fortification with impregnable ramparts, high walls and a deep moat, some called it "Iron Fort". As it was an object of admiration and perhaps attraction, reference was made of it in Periplus, the Grecian work, as "Sopatama" meaning the "Magnetic Fort". In Visvakarma-Nadagam this Fort has been exaggerated as a magnetic mountain:-

செங்கமல மாலையணி தேவமனை! பரந்திற கைப் புங்கமனை! கந்த பம்பி பூண செயிரமணமு!

Residents of the Magnetic Fort

The occupants of this particular Fort had, however, earned for themselves an ill-repute, as inter alia, they had made plunder and piracy their profession

(Continued on page 4)

Ice Masses Held Them Captive

Scientists' Experience

Eleven British scientists marooned for two years on Stonington Island, in the Antarctic, saw the ice masses which held them captives for over two years breaking up as rescuers were moving in by ship and plane to take them out. Dr. V. E. Fuchs, Cambridge scientist and leader of the trapped survey party, reported that an ice-free pool estimated to measure about two square miles had formed not far from the base.

Other members of the group joyfully announced that they had discovered a big crack in the ice covering the sea while huge icebergs were beginning to move in the pack ice about twelve miles from the base. News of this favourable development came as the John Biscoe, British Antarctic survey ship, was leaving for the final jumping-off point, the Argentina Islands, off Central Grahamland.

Russia Demands HiroHito's Trial

A surprise Soviet proposal to try the Japanese Emperor on criminal charges involving the use of germ warfare will be rejected by the United States.

The exact response will be worked out by the State Department after study of the charges filed against Emperor Hirohito and four other Japanese. Presumably the other wartime Pacific allies will be consulted. Diplomatic authorities said there is "little doubt that this country's answer will be an emphatic "no". They look to most of the other former foes of Japan to follow suit. To accept the Russian proposal would mean reversing a decision by the 13-nation Far Eastern Commission to wind up all the war crimes trials and upsetting the American policy of controlling Japan during the occupation through the Emperor.

Responsible officials made it plain they suspect a Moscow propaganda manoeuvre. The United States has been pressing Russia to return 376,000 war prisoners which the Japanese contend are still being held by the Soviets.

A STRICT MORAL LIFE.

For Spiritual Evolution

THE basis of spiritual evolution is a strictly moral life. The characteristics of an aspirant on the divine path are truthfulness, honesty, chastity, simplicity and an earnest longing for the Divine. He, who has developed these qualities, can alone attain perfect purity, which is essential for the realisation of God. Mind should be free from all illusions, and heart should be filled with love and compassion towards all creatures on the earth. The aim of the aspirant is to ultimately hand over his entire life to God by a complete dedication of it to Him. It is by such a dedication that he causes his ego-sense to be destroyed, and permits the Divine splendour, joy and peace to reveal themselves in him. A spirit of renunciation of his petty desires for the passing and ephemeral things of life now seizes him as an inevitable outcome of life led along the line indicated above. Just as the appearance of the fruit causes, automatically, the fall of the petals of the flower, from which it comes forth, so also, when the mind of the aspirant is fully absorbed in God, all other thoughts, desires and ambitions leave him

which is dormant should be awakened and made to distinguish truth from untruth, and then you should reject untruth and aspire for truth with all the intensity of longing you are capable of. All your thoughts, words and actions should conform to the fulfilment of this aim.

Now, what is the nature of the experience you gain by cherishing and attaining this ideal? At the very start, you feel elevated within, because you are striving to reach a goal which is of the utmost significance for you. By shedding your lower nature, you blossom into a being of immortal radiance and joy. The very fact that you are on this path gives a zest, a meaning and a rare uplifting influence to your life. Those, who are awakened to the need of this supreme consummation, know, that, to allow life to flow along the desert ways of a disorganised, dried up, aimless and rudderless existence, is to deny, ignore and abuse the wonderful capacity and privilege granted to them as human beings.

So it is rightly held that there is no greater ideal to achieve in life than the realisation of your deathless, changeless and all-blissful existence. Hence Ramdas exhorts you all to strive for the Eternal and let this aspiration be the under-current running below the surface of all your activities until a stage is reached, when the grace of the Divine throws its full light upon you and transforms you into an embodiment of His power, knowledge, peace and joy.

(From the Vision)

Water Supply On Limited Scale

At a special meeting of the Jaffna Municipal Council it was unanimously decided to request the Central Government to start the limited water supply to areas adjoining Karaiyoor (Beach Road etc.) and thereafter to Grand Bazaar area-Moor Street etc. The Council further decided to request the Government to call for plans and specification in connection with the Main Water Scheme.

Conservancy Labourers' Housing Scheme

The Mayor said that a blue print was drawn in 1945 for constructing houses at Thiddy but as there was objection from the Government Agent as part of the land belonged to the Crown, the Scheme had to be abandoned. At the present time it was very necessary to press on the Government to take steps for compulsory acquisition to provide dwellings for these poor homeless labourers.

The Commissioner of Local Government who was present said that at present the Government was prepared to pay two-thirds of the cost for a Scheme of this nature.

Mr. T. S. Durairajah suggested that the labourers should be split up into two groups and buildings erected far apart from each other in two different places within the town area.

It was unanimously decided to urge the Government to take necessary steps for the compulsory acquisition of the necessary lands for putting up of two separate blocks for the labourers of the Council and the Government to bear two-thirds of the total cost.

It was further decided on the suggestion of Mr. P. Casipillai that the Government ought to be urged to hand over to the Council the Courts building—to be used as the Council's library and stores.

Erection of New Resthouse

The Mayor said that it is proposed to build a rest-house adjoining the beach on the reclaimed grounds and it was necessary that the Central Government should grant the Council loan facilities.

Mr. A. M. Brodie supported the proposal of the Mayor and said that Central Government should give the required loan on a long-term basis (25-30 years) to enable the Council to repay from the collection of the Resthouse.

The Council unanimously agreed to the erection of a new resthouse on a long term loan obtained from the Central Government.

Reduction of Rent of Gurnagar Houses-

Mr. P. M. John member for ward No. 2 said that at present

Tiruketheeshwaram Temple Restoration Society

First Annual General Meeting

The first Annual General Meeting of the Tiruketheeshwaram Temple Restoration Society was held recently at the Old Kathiresan Temple, Bambalapitiya. Mr. K. Kanagaratnam, M. P., one of the vice-presidents of the Society presided. A General Committee representative of the Hindu public consisting of 104 members was elected. Donations of Rs. 1001/- and over have been promised by 67 devotees. It was also mentioned that further sums of moneys have been paid by several Hjordus, Mr. C. Thiagalingam, Advocate, has donated a sum of Rs. 1000/- for the Working expenses of the Society in addition to the sum of Rs. 1001/- that he had donated earlier for the Temple Construction fund. A Statement recording the Temple Restoration Movement and the work done by the Society was read. It was also stated that extensions to the existing Madam put up by the Society were being constructed. The General Committee will meet on Wednesday the 8th instance to elect the Working Committee, the Office-bearers and the Board of Trustees.

Reading Room at Vannarponnai

Murugan Reading room was declared opened at Vannarponnai by Mr. V. Mahesan, Chairman, V. C. Manipay on Thursday the 2nd inst, Mr. S. Durairajah M. M. C. Jaffna presided. Mr. Mahesan explained in detail the benefits of reading rooms and requested all to co-operate and convert that reading room into a well equipped library in the near future.

Dr. Ponnambalam and C. Pathanjeli, Proctor S. C. and N. P. also spoke.

Mr. S. Thambirajah secretary of the association thanked those present.

the people were unable to pay a rent of Rs. 2/50 per mensem which was being levied on them for occupation of the model tenement.

The Council unanimously decided to write to the Central Government through the Minister of Health and Local Government to reduce the rate from Rs. 5/- per mensem to Rs. 2/50 per mensem.

The Council unanimously decided to approve formally the action of the Mayor in cancelling the booking of the Town Hall by Mr. C. Vanniasingham Member of Parliament for the 22nd January 1950 at 4 P. M.



Hindu Organ

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1950

Treasure These Thoughts

We shall know some day that death can never rob us of that which our soul has gained, for her gains are one with herself.

—RABINDRANATH TAGORE

THE TASK AHEAD

TWO YEARS AGO CEYLON achieved political freedom. On last Saturday Independence Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm in all parts of the Island. Messages of congratulations were received by the Governor-General and the Premier from different quarters of the globe. We join with the others in the felicitations. Political freedom by itself without economic and social emancipation will not be sufficient. Ceylon depends for about five sixths of her food requirements on foreign countries; socially there are yet people who do not want their children to sit side by side with children belonging to a supposed lower stratum of society even in state schools. While achievement of independence remains a great event of which people may feel proud it must be stated that the responsibility of the people has greatly increased. The messages of the Governor-General and the Premier, extracts from which have been published elsewhere, have not failed to impress on the sons and daughters of Lanka the tremendous task that lies before them.

After paying a tribute to the peaceful manner in which freedom had been won by Ceylon, the Governor-General emphasised on the need for proper education and the training of character; as power without knowledge can be very dangerous he stated that a great responsibility rests upon every educational administrator and teacher, maximum effort is needed to increase the national output and the responsibility rests on every soul to do his best to make Ceylon the most peaceful, happy and prosperous land in Asia. There is no room for self-satisfaction or complacency over what has been achieved. The difficulties which Ceylon has to face can be overcome by the determined efforts of her peoples. It is the duty of every son of Lanka to co-operate with the State in the measures devised for attaining self-sufficiency in food. The vast potentialities of the dry zone to make the Island self-sufficient in food have been stressed by the Prime Minister. We have often stated in these columns that State schemes and plans alone without the co-operation of the people cannot fulfill the objective in view. The Prime

INDEPENDENCE DAY MESSAGES

United Effort To Overcome Poverty

SPIRIT OF COMPROMISE NECESSARY

In the course of his message broadcast on Independence Day, Lord Soulbury, the Governor-General said:—

THE Second Anniversary of her independence finds Ceylon firmly established as a free country, successfully working a democratic constitution, and in full and equal partnership with a number of other States, each of which enjoys the same form of Government and which together compose the great association of peoples known as the Commonwealth of Nations.

Ceylon's membership of that association, in company with two other Asiatic States, gives to the Commonwealth far greater power and influence than it has hitherto possessed; and marks one of the great turning points in history. Eastern and Western peoples are now linked together for the first time by the bonds of similar political usages, principles, and ideal. They share and are organised to promote a common faith in personal liberty, and in the right of every man and woman to lead a life free from the fear of coercion by dictators or oligarchies.

Signal to whole world

The recent meeting in Colombo of the Foreign Ministers of the Commonwealth can be interpreted as a signal to the whole world that, whatever be the creed or colour of the hundreds of millions of people in the Commonwealth, and no matter where they live, all are determined to uphold the freedom of the individual.

It is the purpose of us all to resist any attempt to undermine the liberty of thought and speech and conscience that belongs to every human being and to substitute the role of law for arbitrary and irresponsible control by powerful groups or persons.

Since Ceylon attained free-

Minister has called upon the unemployed to co-operate with the Government to develop the resources that are being tapped and do the pioneer work in places away from the comforts of town life. It is to be hoped that the call will not fall on deaf ears.

Ceylon has a great future and an important part to play in world affairs. The Conference of the Foreign Ministers of the Commonwealth and the I. L. O. Conference were both held in Sri Lanka; it is a great tribute to the respect and regard which the Commonwealth countries and U. N. O. have for Ceylon. The Pt. Hon'ble D. S. Senanayake is following the same policy as Pandit Nehru in India, regarding foreign affairs. It augurs well that Ceylon stands not committed to any power bloc but it will be almost impossible to stand in isolation. It will be best to await the time when a decision becomes necessary and then make the correct decision.

dom, the management of her affairs has borne striking testimony to the merit of democratic institutions and the democratic way of life. But while democratic Government in the form adopted by Ceylon and the other nations of the Commonwealth is, in my judgment, the best and fairest form of Government yet devised, it is also the most difficult to practice with success.

For it calls for a spirit of compromise, tenderness to minorities, consideration for others, and a willingness to give and take.

The power to govern is now in the hands of the people—in your hands—through your elected representatives. But, power without knowledge can be very dangerous," said Lord Soulbury.

A great responsibility, therefore rests upon every educational administrator and teacher, for it is his task to train the electors of the future to perform their important duties with intelligence and rectitude.

They will, I trust, be taught not, as in some other countries, what to think, but how to think. Thus will they become critical of slogans and catchwords, and difficult to mislead by specious appeals to emotion and self-interest.

Character Training

But, far more important than the education of the intellect is the training of the character. Character must always be the test of political life, and the touchstone of the electors' choice. Character is a fruit of religious teaching and discipline. That the people of Ceylon have been, and, I believe, still are, a profoundly religious people is, in my opinion, one of the chief causes of their political stability and successful self-government.

Fatal to Relax

But there are difficult times ahead not only in the political but in the economic sphere. Man cannot live by politics alone. It would be fatal to relax and contemplate your new freedom with self-satisfied complacency.

The testing time is now and in the days to come and much of your future happiness will depend upon your ability to develop to their full extent the material resources of your country. If you do not put every ounce of your energy into that task, no Government, however enlightened, and no Minister, however industrious, can do much to mitigate the poverty and hardship which is the lot of so many.

Therefore, the maximum effort is needed to increase the national output; and the responsibility rests on every soul to do his best to make Ceylon the most peaceful, happy, and prosperous land in Asia.

Prime Minister's Speech

In a broadcast talk on the occasion of the Independence day Mr. D. S. Senanayake, Prime Minister, announced the State could not take the place of private industry.

Mr. Senanayake said it "would be impossible for Government servants to initiate and be responsible for all new industries" and observed that the strain on the Public Service is even now heavier than it should be.

Mr. Senanayake warned that though the prices for our tea and coconut are satisfactory now, "we must not presume that these satisfactory prices will continue for ever, and we should endeavour to strengthen our economic position in other directions as well."

The Government could not altogether, control the factors which send up prices for food, because so much of it was imported.

Much more could be done to ease the situation by a determined effort to increase the production not only of rice, which should be really a long term objective, but other important foods such as milk, vegetables, yams, grains and fruits, said the Premier.

Dry Zone

"Our experiments have taught us the vast potentialities of the dry zone. Food crops of all kinds, vegetables and paddy under irrigation can be grown very successfully in the dry zone, and the solution to the problem of the future economic well-being of the people of this country lies in the opening up of the vast areas of land under forest."

"Our hopes for a stronger and happier race depends increasingly on the speed and success with which we develop the four million acres of land which await cultivation" Mr. Senanayake said.

The Prime Minister appealed to the unemployed to co-operate with the Government to develop the resources that they were trying to tap.

"It is true that Government is undertaking relief schemes to relieve to some measure the unemployment that exists, but if people could only decide to move out to some of the remote areas and help to develop these lands, they would not only be helping themselves but would also be helping the Government to a great extent," said the Premier.

"We cannot live in isolation Our prosperity is bound up with the prosperity of our neighbours and friends. We shall not be found wanting in the united effort that must be made to overcome poverty, disease and depression in this part of the world."

Northern Assize Court

Calendar of 24 Cases

Justice Dr. D. F. Dias Bandaranayake presided at the Northern Assize Court when it commenced its sittings yesterday at the Jaffna Town Hall. The roll consists of 24 cases 15 murder, 5, attempted murder 1 rape and 3 others.

The 1st case taken up for trial was from Vavuniya Varnakulasuriya, Lucas Fernando, Vanitbahamige Harathbamy Alias Sudabamy, Menika Rajale Ponchirala all of Maruthamadu of Vavuniya stood charged with highway robbery and attempted murder. After trial the jury returned a unanimous verdict of not guilty and all the accused were acquitted.

Mr. V. T. Thamotheram Crown Counsel conducted the prosecution.

Mr. M. Balasundaram Assisted by Mr. J. Rajaratnam defended the accused.

Graded Taxation Demand

Public Meeting of Ratepayers

"Though the Jaffna Municipal Council has increased the rates this year with the professed purpose of increasing the people's amenities, its record of service last year shows that the people will not gain by it," said Mr. S. Sivapathasundaram, Vice-Principal of Parameshvara College, presiding at a public meeting held under the auspices of the Jaffna Branch of the Communist Party at the Esplanade last Sunday.

The increase, Mr. Sivapathasundaram said, was introduced for the plain reason that certain people had wanted to become Municipal Councillors and not mere Urban Councillors and some of them wanted not to be a plain Chairman, but a dignified Mayor with all the regalia of office.

He appealed to the people to oppose this increase in rates and announced that that meeting would be followed up by further meetings of protest.

Mr. I. R. Ariaratnam said that, when the cost of living had risen to unprecedented heights, increasing the rates would be the last thing a popularly elected Council should do.

Other speakers were Messrs. J. T. Hensman, N. Maitivaganam, G. M. Ponnuthurai, A. Sivakolundhu and M. C. Subramaniam.

A resolution condemning the action of the Council and demanding assessment at the 1940 level and graded taxation according to income was passed unanimously. Signatures of many of the audience were obtained to form a Ratepayers' Association.

Independence Day In Jaffna

The Independence Day Celebrations in Jaffna took the form of the usual march past of school children. The Government Agent Mr. P. J. Hudson took the salute.

At a public meeting the G. A., the Mayor Mr. C. Ponnampalam and Mr. V. Veerasingham Principal Manipay Hindu College spoke.

Viswanathapillay Memorial Lectures

Viswanathapillay Memorial Lectures were held last Thursday (2-2-50) at 5.30 p. m. in the Suthumalai Sinnaya Bharati Vernacular School Hall under the chairmanship of Mr. V. Nagalingam, J. P. Proctor S. C.

Mr. A. S. Nagalingapillai read the minutes of the last year's proceedings of the memorial lectures and special mention was made of the lecture on "Thiru Kural" by Mr. Balasubramania Mudaliar of India. The chairman outlined in short the life history of Viswanathapillay (Carrol) and stated that Pillay had high ideals of religion and a broad out look of religion.

Pandit S. Rasiah spoke on the life of 'V. Pillai' and his works in Tamil viz., 'Veesakantham', 'Dharmakantham' and 'Supra-Deepam' and said that his desire was to translate every Western book worth reading in the Vernacular.

Pandit Siba Ananthar B. O. L. spoke on the name & fame of Bharati's songs. He said that he cannot place Bharati on the same pedestal as "Kambar", "Thiruvalluvar" and Ilankovadijal but no one can beat "Bharati" as a national poet of South India who instilled into the minds of the millions of the uneducated masses of S. India the seed of Nationalism in plain language. He said that Bharati rose to the occasion at a time when South India needed a National Hero.

Mr. S. H. Perinpanavagam, Advocate, Principal Kokuvil Hindu College, spoke on "The Civilisation of Tamils". He said that there are two ways of knowing the civilisation of a nation—one by its ancient Temples, Streets, Monuments, Architects, Dwelling Houses, Medals and coins and the other its language literature, poets and poems, Kings and kingdoms. He said that Tamils were a great race.

He also said that the excavations of Mohenjo-Daro and Harappa and the inscriptions found on them reveal a civilisation not of an incipient nature but one already age old and stereotyped on Indian soil. The civilisation of the Tamils may be traced to this. The excavations at Mohenjo Daro and Harappa reveal to a certain extent what the civilisation of the Tamils was.

The Secretary Mr. S. Kandiah proposed a vote of thanks.

WEDDING

Gulasegaram-Parameswary

The marriage of Mr. S. G. Gulasegaram son of Mr. & Mrs. S. Gopalapillai of Bandarawella with Miss Parameswary daughter of Dr. & Mrs. C. Gurusamy was solemnised according to Hindu Rites at the bride's residence at Koddaly on Monday the 6th instanta at 9 p. m.

A large number of friends and relations attended the wedding. We wish the new couple long life happiness and prosperity.

Ceylon's Commissioner For Malaya

Mr. M. Saravanamuttu who has been appointed Ceylon's commissioner in Malaya intends opening an office in Kuala Lumpur for the purpose of registering Ceylonese citizens in Malaya. His estimate of Ceylonese citizens in Singapore and Malaya is about 30,000.

Independence Day Message From Noel Baker

"On the second anniversary of Independence Day when Ceylon achieved full nationhood as a free and equal member of the Commonwealth of Nations, I want to send my warm greetings and congratulations to the people of Ceylon. I was deeply impressed during my recent visit, not only with the long famed beauty of Ceylon and the proverbial hospitality of the people, but also with the progress they are making, their artistic achievements and their natural gifts. In two years Ceylon has already come to play a valuable part in Commonwealth and world affairs and I am certain that as the years go by this will become of increasing importance and benefit both to Ceylon itself and to the world."

Nehru May Visit Indonesia

Calcutta newspapermen were authoritatively told by a source close to the President of Indonesia Dr Soekarno, that Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister of India, has accepted an invitation from Dr. Soekarno to pay a visit to Indonesia. Pandit Nehru might go to Djakarta sometime in June or July next.

New Drug To Cure T.B

The discovery in Japan of a new antituberculosis drug which is claimed to have cured over 40 per cent of specially treated cases is reported in the current issue of the British Medical Journal. The Journal quotes Japanese claims that the drug known as Cepharanthine, also has "a remarkable effect" in leprosy cases and aids whooping cough treatment. But further work in other countries will be needed before Cepharanthine can be accepted as an important drug for the control of these diseases, the Journal comments. The drug originates in Japanese plants and experiments with it have been carried out on Japanese factory workers, school-children and animals.

World Peace On Gandhian Principles

Suggestions Invited From Bapuji's Disciples

The Education Ministry of the Government of India, is understood to have written to prominent disciples of Mahatma Gandhi to send their suggestions giving their views as to how world peace could be established on Gandhian principles. On receipt of these suggestions, the Government may formulate a peace-plan on the basis of those suggestions or may publish all those contributions in the form of a book. Among the prominent persons who have been approached, it is understood, are: the President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, the Prime Minister, Pandit Nehru, the Deputy Prime Minister, Sardar Patel, and other life-followers and friends of Gandhiji.



(By Squint Eye)

"Divine Guidance For Choosing British Government"

Viet Nam can supply a good portion of India's requirements of rice imports next year, according to V-N delegate to the I. L. O. Asian Regional Conference at Nawara Eliya.

Some Viet-Nam rice also would be useful, but because Indian and Asi n food scientists have been experimenting on vitamin rice. But Nam and Minh are at loggerheads now. So Viet Minh rice will be revolutionary!

Three men, members of the Lost Chord Club in Montreal, lamented in a hospital lecture hall there that having had their larynges removed they could still speak from their stomachs audibly.

In this age of food storage in South East Asian Countries lots of people with their larynges still intact speak audibly from their empty stomachs.

India's Republican Constitution which the members of the Com-senly signed on the 24th January weighs over forty pounds.

Sir Ivor Jennings the great constitutional authority who had not been consulted on the making of this, has criticised it as too long and rambling with its 395 articles and 8 schedules.

He will admit now that it is a weighty constitution nevertheless!

In the Dighi Radio Station of the Overseas Communications near Bombay, they recently demonstrated to Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru the working of the invisible radio beams which keep India continuously tied with the outside world. The radio telephony and secrecy methods used for wireless speech became unintelligible on a common receiving set. They make what is called "speech inversion" which turns normal speech upside down before it reaches the transmitter. That is for security.

Panditji would not have had difficulty in deciphering the demonstration—he is reputed to practice standing on his head!

And, seriously, dont see know Jawaharlal sees so many things which other politicians and

Leaders of the three biggest political parties who will be fighting the British general election in three weeks time, knelt side by side at a special pre-election service in historic St. Paul's Cathedral in the centre of the city of London.

Mr. Clement Attlee Prime Minister and Labour Party leader, Mr. Winston Churchill, Conservative Party leader, and Mr. Clement Davies who heads the Liberal Party, knelt facing the high altar while the Bishop of London led the prayers.

The Bishop, Mr. J. C. Wand, was calling for Divine guidance for the British people in choosing their new Government on February 23.

Many prominent political leaders attended Britain's first ever pre-election service at which the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Geoffrey Fisher, preached. "The knowledge that the day approaches when nations will have the power to disintegrate the very world we live in, is perhaps the strongest defence against that happening", Dr. Fisher declared.

The Archbishop said that in the war between political systems and between man and society being fought all over the world, Britain, by her history, traditions and Christian faith was "pledged to resist the premises of materialism and its consequences in their manifold and menacing forms".

Dr. Fisher added that "those who seek power now seek a terrifying load of responsibility for the maintenance of this great nation in prosperity, freedom and godliness and for its contribution to the world's health and peace."

statesmen fail to?

The Dutch soldier of fortune, Westering, has been doing the imperial trick in Indonesia.

That imperialists are all too human has been proved in India, Kashmir, P histan, Java, and will be in Indo-China, French In d.a, Goa!

SWEET BLESSEDNESS

My God is within and without: Having becoming all, my Sun of suns, He shines in the face of all things, Sitting on my heart-throne, He, my King of kings, permeates My thoughts, feelings and acts; My senses, my breath and my life And reveals through them all, My Beloved beyond compare, as pure wisdom As all absorbing love and ecstasy. I exist because of Him. Am His abode The abode is also He. We exchange places And we often lose in each other Like nectar drop in nectar. What to call this sweet blessedness?

—Swami Ramdas

Vedanta in the west

Swami Vividishanandaji, Head of the Kamakrishna Mission Vedanta Centre, Seattle, U. S. A., delivered a lecture on "Vedanta in the West", on Wednesday evening, at the Kamakrishna Mission Hall, Wellawatte, Prof. M. D. Kanasuriya, Dean of the Faculty of Oriental Studies, University of Ceylon, presided. The Swami in the course of his lecture, said that the West is unhappy, in spite of its wealth and prosperity and the West must look towards the East for spiritual knowledge and bliss. The West shall help the East materially and the East shall help the West spiritually; then alone, there shall be better understanding and harmony between the East and the West. The Swami left for Calcutta on Thursday morning, en route to America.

Swami Prabhavanandaji, the Head of the Ramakrishna Mission Vedanta Centre, Hollywood, California, U. S. A., is expected to arrive at Colombo, on today (7-2-50) by Air India plane. Swami is expected to stay in Ceylon for three or four days. Swami Prabhavanandaji went to America in 1923. A dotis Huxley, Christopher Isherwood and Gerald Heard are some of the distinguished writers who had studied Vedanta Philosophy under him.

Cumpston Report Criticised

Recommendations of Dr. Cumpston with regard to the conversion of the General Hospital into an autonomous unit have not found favour with a section of medical men. There is said to be a sharp division of opinion on this subject.

The Government Medical Officers' Association has decided on two resolutions one censuring its President Dr. A. S. Rajasingham and the other condemning Cumpston Report as "hasty concessions to vociferous demands".

Several members of the Associations do not approve of the proposal to recommend Dr. Cumpston being appointed Director-General of the Medical Department.

Colombo Local Option Polls Fail

The polls held in Colombo for the closing of liquor bars and taverns in Wekande, Kotahena West and Kochchikade Wards had not been successful.

Improvement on Atom Bomb

While the U. S. A. is making feverish efforts to win the race for the 'H' bomb, Russia is said to have mastered a new type of chain reaction that may out-beat the Hydrogen Bomb. This is the opinion of Professor Robert Hans Havemann a Berlin physicist.

OBITUARY

Mrs. C. Muthuvelu widow of Mr. C. Muthuvelu J. P. died on the 31st day of January 1950, after ailing for 2 months. Funeral took place the next day. She leaves behind two sons Mr. M. Kumarasingham Inspector, P.W.D. Mannar and Mr. M. Mathiaparam, Proctor, Kokavil.

Communist China's Extent

8,474,500 square kilometres of the Chinese mainland is said to be under Communist Regime with a population of 460,530,000. The estimated loss of the Chinese Nationalists is 7,445,621 men.

American Estimate of Nehru

Opinion of the Common Man

Pandit Nehru is regarded by the common man in the United States as a "regular guy", according to the Indian Ambassador to the United States, Mrs. Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit.

Mrs. Pandit, who was addressing members of Parliament at a meeting presided over by the Speaker Mavlankar, said that this was the highest compliment the common man in America could pay to anyone.

"I do believe", said Mrs. Pandit, "that the Americans by and large are anxious to help this experiment in democracy which we have stated in our country".

Pandit Nehru's visit, she added, had created in America a desire for closer understanding with the people of India, a sympathetic approach towards Indian problems, an awareness of what India stood for in international life and what she could contribute in the international sphere.

Is Nehru a Communist?

Srimati Ammu Swaminathan asked whether she was aware of a report that some Americans considered Pandit Nehru as more a Communist than anything else. Such a report had been current in America after Panditji's return and after India's recognition of Red China.

Srimati Vijaya Luxmi said that she was not aware of any such report in America. Nor was she in a position to comment on India's recognition of the new China Regime. Probably the latter was necessitated by force of events. Anybody could have his or her own opinion about Pandit Nehru, but she was not aware of any such talks in America dubbing Pandit Nehru as a Communist.

A Second White Paper on Education

The Minister of Education is reported to be studying a second White Paper on Education prepared by the Permanent Secretary Mr. L. J. de Seneviratna after taking into confidence leading educationists of the Island.

The scheme is regarded as having better chances of acceptance by the public and educationists than the previous one.

After discussion by the Cabinet the new White Paper is expected to be released as a sessional paper.

The Jafna Commercial Corporation Ltd. (in Liquidation) A General Meeting of the Company's creditors will be held on Saturday the 25th of February 1950 at 'Kalanitajam' Vannarponnai, Jaffna, commencing at 4 p.m. to consider the closing of the Liquidation proceedings, Liquidators' report and any other business of which due notice has been given to the Liquidators.

Those creditors who have not yet applied for and obtained payment of the Dividend of 15% declared in 1949 are hereby requested to apply at once for payment.

Refer to the Liquidators for necessary information.

S. W. RAJARATNAM C. N. DEVARAJAN Joint Liquidators (J.C.C. Ltd. in Liq.)

Office No. 422 K.K.S. Road, Vannarponnai, Jaffna. (M 248. 7)

ORDER NISI

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF POINT PEDRO

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 394

In the matter of the intestate Estate of the late Mariampillai Philippupillai of Puloly East, Point Pedro Annammah widow of Philippupillai of Puloly East, Point Pedro Vs. Petitioner.

- 1 Vaitiampillai Mariampillai of Thumpalai
2 and wife Victoria of do
3 Rayappu Thomas of Puloly East
4 and wife Francisca of do Respondents.

This matter coming on for disposal before S. R. Wijayatileke, Esquire, District Judge, Point Pedro on the 9th day of November 1948 in the presence of Mr. M. Esurapadham Proctor on the part of the petitioner and the petition and affidavit of the petitioner dated the 9th day of November 1948 having been read.

It is ordered that the petitioner as widow of the deceased Mariampillai Philippupillai be declared entitled to take out Letters of Administration and that Letters of Administration be issued to her accordingly, unless the respondents or any other persons appear before this court on or before the 22nd day of December 1948 and show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this court to the contrary.

This 9th day of November 1948 Sgd. S. R. Wijayatileke, District Judge.

Drawn by Sgd. M. Esurapadham Proctor for Petitioner 13-1-50 Time to show cause extended to 9-2-50 Intld. P. S. D. J.

O. 120 3 & 7)

ORDER NISI

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA

Testamentary Jurisdiction No 1138

In the matter of the intestate estate of the late Velupillai Murgesu of Punguduthivu East, Jaffna, Deceased.

Marimuttu widow of Murgesu of Punguduthivu East, Jaffna, Vs. Petitioner. Minors: 1 Murgesu Thalasingam, 2 Murgesu Ponnampalam, and 3 Kandiah Velupillai all of Punguduthivu East, Jaffna. Respondents.

This matter of the Petition of the abovenamed Petitioner praying that the abovenamed 3rd Respondent be appointed guardian-ad-litem over the minors the abovenamed 1st and 2nd Respondents, and that letters of Administration to the estate of the deceased be granted to her, coming on for disposal before R. R. Selvadurai Esquire, District Judge of Jaffna, on the 20th day of January, 1950 in the presence of Mr. S. Visuvalingam, Proctor on the part of the petitioner and the affidavit and petition of the petitioner having been read.

It is ordered that the abovenamed 3rd respondent be appointed guardian ad-litem over the minors abovenamed 1st and 2nd respondents and that letters of administration to the estate of the deceased be granted to the petitioner as his widow accordingly unless the respondents abovenamed or any other person or persons interested shall on or before the 8th day of March 1950 appear before this Court and show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this court to the contrary.

It is further ordered that the said minors be produced in court on the said date.

This 20th day of January 1950 Sgd. R. R. Selvadurai, District Judge.

Drawn by S. Visuvalingam Proctor for Petitioner (O. 121 3 & 7)

Tiruketheeshwaram—The Refuge Of Kethu

(Continued from page 1)

and the chief means of livelihood. It was said that while women inveigled the crew of merchant vessels inside the Fort and entertained them during the night with drink, dance, etc; the men boarded the vessels that were lying in anchor and plundered the merchandise and caused much damage. These acts were exaggerated by medieval Mohammedan writers, who forcefully depicted in The Arabian Nights "that there was a magnetic mountain which drew towards it all the iron-clad ships in its neighbourhood and wrecked them."

"raised his Standard which was decorated most beautifully and which bore the device of a lion in gold with a palmyra tree in the background" and this was cut down by Arjuna. It is interesting to see that even in remote antiquity, the Flag of the Naga Kings of North-Ceylon was the lion (yali) with a Palmyrah in the background.

Mandodari and Tiru-ketheeswaram

Mandodari, the Queen of Ravana, was a devout worshipper at Tiru-Ketheeswaram and by her piety and prayer she had extracted a boon from Siva, that, when she prayed for His Dharsan, wherever she may be, He should appear before her.

Late one night, after retiring to bed she thought of the Lord of Tiru-Ketheeswaram and He immediately appeared before her as a youngster in the garb of a Kuppayan Rakshasi. Overjoyed by His Dharsan, she addressed Him aloud and recited songs in His praise. Ravana, who was sleeping in the adjoining room, being awakened by this noise, rushed to the Queen's room to investigate the cause of the commotion. In view of the awkward hour and the place, perhaps to avoid misunderstanding, the Lord is said to have changed Himself into a child. Ravana finding that Mandodari was only singing to the child of one of her attendants, left the room. Then the child too is said to have disappeared from view, mysteriously.

"அக் கேயன் மூன்றெந்த செழுந் காணம்மரீன்"

Industrial Advancement

This area was world-renowned for iron-ore and gems, gold from the village of Ponparippu, pearls from Marichikkade, milk and paddy and above all cloth and drapery of the finest and costliest variety. The weaving industry had particularly reached such an advanced stage that their products, were termed by foreigners as 'Sloughs of serpents', 'woven wind' and 'vapour of milk'.

According to the Periplus "a kind of muslin sprinkled with pearls was exported from Epidorus (Mannar). This muslin, which by reason of its fineness and transparency was specially sought after by Roman ladies, who apparently preferred effect to modesty, fetched fabulous prices in foreign markets". Ptolemy, the Roman writer, states "so has toil to be multiplied, so have the ends of the earth to be traversed, and all, that a Roman dame may exhibit her charms in transparent gauze—this drained the Roman Empire annually to the extent of 55,000,000 sesterces (equal to about £ 487,000)—and this is the price we pay for our luxuries and our women".

Demolition of Temple etc:

The credulous believe that this temple and the adjoining lands of 'milk and honey' were burnt down to ashes by some curse or the wrath of God. Some hold the view, that a deluge was responsible for wiping out the whole city. The more probable cause may have been, the frequent devastations caused by successive invading forces of the Chola Kings of South India. Those days, it was customary for victors to ensure total victory over the vanquished "by razing the enemy's capital to the ground, by ploughing the site with donkeys yoked to the plough and by sowing castor and cotton seeds in order to make the place overgrown with jungle as speedily as possible." It may, therefore, be safely inferred that this temple and the flourishing city of Mathottam met with some such fate.

The Present Temple

Nearly quarter of a century ago, the Nattukkottai Chetties had bought from Government some extent of land here and constructed the present temple and installed two of the Lingams they are said to have unearthed from the adjoining ruins. Around this temple, even to this day, broken pieces of ancient glazed pottery, bricks, beads etc: are found. Some time ago, I happened to visit this temple. An atmosphere of perfect calm and quiet prevailed there, and even I was able to concentrate my mind for a few minutes and offer my pra-

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ORDER NISI

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 1026

Visaladchy widow of Nagalingam of Inuvil. Petitioner.

Vs.

1. Alagesu Nadarajah of do and
2. The Secretary, District Court Jaffna the 1st Respondent is a minor appearing by his guardian ad litem the 2nd Respondent. Respondent

Subramaniam Rasiah of Chuthumalai Interventient Respondent.

In the matter of the Estate of the late Alagesu Nagalingam deceased, of Inuvil.

This matter coming on for disposal before S. S. J. Gunasekera Esq District Judge, Jaffna on the 4th day of April 1949 in the presence of Mr. S. Kanagasabapathy Proctor on the part of the petitioner and the affidavit of the above-mentioned petitioner dated 17th March 1949, having been read.

It is ordered that the said second respondent, be appointed guardian ad litem over the minor the 1st respondent and that the said Petitioner be declared entitled to have letters of administration to the estate of the said intestate as his widow and that she is entitled to have Letters of administration and the same be issued to her accordingly unless the respondents or others interested shall on or before the 9th day of May 1949, show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this court to the contrary.

It is further ordered that the Petitioner do produce the minor in court.

This 4th day of April 1949.

Sgd S. S. J. Gunasekera District Judge.

9-5-49

Time to shew cause extended to 6-6-49

13-2-50

Sgd. William Gunam Spencer District Judge.

(O 123 3 & 7)

years, undisturbed.

Renovation

The recently formed "Tiruketheeswaram Temple Restoration Society" is doing laudable and noble work in its attempt to renovate and rebuild this temple and bring it back to its former glory and importance. The task is a commendable one worthy of the support of every Hindu. Already the mouth of the river Paliavi has been desilted and the waters flow freely as in times of yore. Perhaps, with the aid of modern mechanical and electrical contrivances, this river could be harnessed and once more the battle scarred lands and burnt ruins could be made to smile with peace and plenty, fame and fortune.

This 20th day of December 1949

Sgd R R Selvadurai District Judge

(O 122 3 & 7)

NEWS

We want NEWS of popular interest from every quarter. Something happens, everyday, everywhere; if you can jot it down clearly, briefly in readable, interesting language, readers of the Hindu Organ will appreciate it. Let the News be authentic. When you have it please send it quick to The Editor, Hindu Organ, Jaffna.

Regular correspondents in important places are also welcome.

ORDER NISI

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA

Testamentary Jurisdiction No-1130

In the matter of the intestate estate of the late Poothathamby Sinnadurai of Neervely North Jaffna Deceased

Sethupillai widow of Poothathamby by Sinnadurai of Neervely North Vs. Petitioner.

1 Poothathamby Sinnathamby of Neervely North, 2 Poothathamby Vallipuram of Tinnevely, 3 Poothathamby Sithamparapillai of Neervely North, 4 Kovinath Sinnathamby and wife 5 Nagaretman of do 6 Pushparasa Mahendran son of Sithamparapillai of 40/2 Temple Road, Chundikuly, Jaffna 7 Arunachalam Thiruvavukarasu and wife 8 Pushparany Manokary of do Minor 9 Pushpavei Manoranjitham Sithamparapillai 10 Pushpa Amirtham Manosakthy Sithamparapillai 11 Fush aragam Manolayam Sithamparapillai 12 Pushpalayam Manoganam Sithamparapillai 13 Ramalingam Poothathamby of Neervely North Respondents'

This matter coming on for disposal before R. R. Selvadurai Esquire District Judge Jaffna on the 20th day of December 1949 in the presence of Mr. A. Thanabalingham Proctor on the part of the petitioner and the affidavit of the petitioner filed of record having been read;

It is ordered that the abovenamed 7th and 8th respondents be appointed as guardian ad litem over the minors the 9th to 12th respondents abovenamed and that the petitioner abovenamed is declared entitled to have letters of administration over the estate of the deceased and the same issued to her accordingly unless the respondents or others shall on or before the 3rd day of March 1950 appear before this court and show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this court to the contrary.

It is further ordered that the said 7th and 8th respondents do produce the said minors in court on the said date.

This 20th day of December 1949

Sgd R R Selvadurai District Judge

(O 122 3 & 7)

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