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(Sanmarga Bodhini.)

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ATCHUVALY, JAFFNA,

SATURDAY, MARCH 12TH, 1921

OUR COMMON TRADITIONS.

In a previous article we spoke of our national aspirations as being based neither on the unity of religious persuasions nor on that of race. In India and in Ceylon there is a variety of contending religious beliefs among the peoples that make up the nation. Of the diversity of castes and sub-castes in the sub-continent and in our Island the number is legion. The bonds that bind us together, the filaments that knit us into one are therefore to be sought elsewhere. They are in the main our common political and social traditions. So vast is the field of these traditions that any exhaustive account of them would fill volumes of interesting matter. We can only refer to them here in a most cursory way.

In the matter of ancient political and social traditions what is true of India is true of Ceylon. Aside from the probable fact that the Island was within historical periods territorially one with the Mainland, the well established ethnological affinities of the one with the other make their case the same in many respects. When we speak here of India we must therefore be understood throughout to speak of Ceylon as well.

To begin then with political traditions India has, from the remotest times, always striven to find self-expression as one nation. This does not mean that she has at any time been successful in bringing the entire sub-continent, territorially included under the name of India, into one united empire. Under Asoka indeed this was almost accomplished, and the Moghuls did it to a less extent still. But whatever may have been its success or failure the idea was always there and it was the goal to which every monarch with any pretension to superior power aspired. The dream of all greater Indian monarchs was to bring the entire sub-continent 'under one umbrella' as the phrase goes—an accomplishment which almost every one boasted in his inscriptions and grants as already his. Run through the whole history of India and you will find that the domination of its entire area was the ideal set before the eyes of every outstanding power. Whether it was the Mauryas of pre-Christian days or the Pallavas the

great temple-builders, or the Chalukyas of irresistible power, or the Rajputs of conquering genius or the Cholas of a prosperous period, all fostered at one time or other a tantalising vision of united India. And what was the justification for this seemingly mad pursuit? India was fundamentally one and monarch after monarch was fired with the ambition of coming into her undivided heritage. Geographical position, the natural grouping together of allied races and tongues and the fact of great portions, now on this side now on that having come under one sway and lived a common life—these and others were reasons which pointed to the possibility of an entire sub-continent being brought under one rule. And these were views shared by the people consciously or unconsciously and formed and still continue to form a basis for India's standing apart as a national unit among the great peoples of the world.

(To be continued.)

Editorial Notes.

The Excise Department.—In connection with the Polling for the Kankesanthurai Arrack Tavern certain glaring activities of the Excise Department to assure the continuance of the tavern as a means to the people of that locality, were evidenced. This tavern which prior to 1918 was supposed to serve a very limited area comprising of the villages of Kankesanthurai, Palai and Vimankaman, came under the notice of the Excise Dept in connection with the Local Option campaign vigorously carried on by the people of Valigamam North. By Local Option the people of this Division were able to remove nearly a dozen toddy taverns and the Excise Dept. appears to have got alarmed. Secretly they pulled the wires as to make the Kankesanthurai tavern beyond the possibility of a Polling by tacking to its area a very wide range of many miles embracing six or seven populous villages far removed from Kankesanthurai. The result of this is known to the public. As desired by the Excise Dept. the last polling for the abolition of this tavern held at three or four centres was a failure in spite of hard work on the part of the people. We are at a loss to know whether the Excise Dept. is a revenue making Dept. or whether it is formed to control liquor traffic to the benefit of the people. If it is the latter, we are unable to reconcile the action of this Department in extending the supply area of the Kankesanthurai tavern to remote villages. We fear it was done more to defeat the object of the Local Option campaign than to conserve the rights of these villagers. We are however glad that Mr. B. Constantine, our popular Government Agent, who knows the wish of the people by intimate contact with them has been pleased to submit to the Advisory Board to close this tavern. Much of the labour and money spent could have been saved if not for the misdirected energies of some superior officers of this Dept. who are fortunately for the Province not with us now.

First class hotels are attached to the Railway Stations at Kuala Lumpur and Ipoh and refreshments are also served in train even to third class passengers though a gangway which run from one end to the other. The railway officials are all kind and polite and even porters are men who would not care for a tip.

Week-end tickets.—A trial is being made by the C.G.R. by extending week-end ticket available for travellers from Jaffna. This privilege is extended only to first class passengers. The week-end ticket system is available at all up-country stations and went to assist the planter to visit Colombo at a week-end on business or pleasure. We would submit that the privilege should be extended to the second class passengers as well from Jaffna in the interest of the middle class man, in view of the high cost of travelling from Jaffna to Colombo.

Impressions of Malaya.

(Continued from our last issue.)

The government clerical service is mainly recruited from Ceylonese and Eurasians, the rank and file of the Police from India and Malay countries and the Railways, post, and telegraph offices from India and Ceylon. Subordinate posts requiring intelligence and financial skill in the holders are filled by Chinese.

Indians and Ceylonese have had a large share in the rapid development of Malaya. The first railway undertaken was a line of only eight miles from Taiping to Port Weld. That line was constructed by two divisions of Ceylon pioneers lent by the Government of Ceylon. The visitor who now travels by train through a succession of populous towns, who lands at or leaves busy ports on the coast, can hardly realise the infinite trouble taken and the difficulties undergone by our pioneers when the country was still unexplored, covered with virgin forest and the dense undergrowth of a moist tropical climate with hill and swamp alternating, and a rainfall of 80 to 160 inches annually. And again those who see the splendid roads which now traverse Malaya in every direction, will not understand the difficulties experienced by Indians, Ceylonese and other Asiatics who toiled in the early days to open up the country. It is not easy to convey a correct idea of the difficulties of correspondence between any Malay state and Singapore and between one State and another. Those difficulties continued until 1908 when the main trunk line of railway traversing all the western States, with a terminus in Province Wellesley, opposite Pinang, was completed. Until railway communication was established, though the actual distances were comparatively insignificant, the carriage of letters depended upon, first, runners over jungle tracks, then pony carts and finally railways, in the case of those places which enjoy a train service. Therefore correspondence was irregular and often subject to very trying delays. Communication between the States was even more uncertain until they obtained a through railway service. There is now a daily service of fast trains between Penang and Singapore. When a mail steamer from Europe touches Penang, the mails are transferred to the train which reaches Singapore in 24 hours.

Ceylonese form a large part of the medical profession, while the legal profession is left at the mercy of those who come from England with British qualifications. A Law College is a desideratum for the country and when the proposed University comes into existence, this want may be removed.

Malaya is the largest rubber-producing country in the world. Rubber estates, which look like forests, cover almost the whole land. Capt. Ross Smith, the airman who, flying from Europe to Australia, took a birds-eye-view of Malaya, remarked that the country looked as if it were one rubber estate stretching over the entire land. In these estates, most of them malarial, Ceylonese render efficient help as assistants to the managers. Malaya has also a few coconut estates. One of the largest is at Dindings where also I found a Ceylonese assistant who understands his business thoroughly. Sungai Nipah estate near Port Dickson is the largest dwarf coconut estate in the world. Hearing that a certain American was travelling all the way from his country to Malaya to see this estate, I also made up my mind to visit this curiosity. The day was rainy and the strong wind blowing from the sea tore to pieces the tent-covers of my car and yet I made a romantic adventure crossing a river by a frail canoe and then trudging through a lonely, slippery path four or five miles long, used by pedestrians and cyclists alone. I was not sorry for my trouble, for I was presented with a sight I would never have dreamt of in my life. A Ceylonese assistant who was there, introduced me to the owner of the estate Mr. W.P. Handover F.R.S.A. who showed me round the estate and explained me everything and had the kindness to present me with photographs of his different plants. It is a glorious sight to see a thousand acres planted with coconuts mostly in full bearing, with bunches of nuts actually resting on the ground. A friend of mine who had accompanied me wanted to know if the trees were not buried deep in the ground! There are about thirty varieties such as bearing red, yellow, ivory brown and green nuts, which are bigger than the nuts of the Maldives variety in Ceylon. I believe that Mr. Handover has found out the right seed, the right place and the right method of cultivating these plants. First of all he destroys lallang by growing mimosa over it, the grass thus becoming the manure for the soil. And mother-nature supplies water from the Seremban hills without cost. There is no wonder then that the palms put forth spathes in the third year and bear 100 nuts per tree in the sixth year of yield, thus producing 21 piculs of copra per acre.

(To be continued.)

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Local News.

On Circuit.—Mr. B. Constantine, Government Agent, N. P. accompanied by the Kachcheri staff went to Puneriy and Delft last week. During the week they were at Kays and Changkanai on Poll Tax Exemption duty.

A Suspected case of Murder.—On Friday 28th a passenger from Puneriy to Columburutti is reported to have died at the landing place under suspicious circumstances. Five men including boatmen and tindal are charged with murder and the accused are in custody.

Visitors from Peradeniya.—A batch of 43 students from the Peradeniya Agricultural School accompanied by Mr. St. L. H. de Silva, Registrar, Messrs. T. C. Driberg and C. Canagaratnam, lecturers, and Cooke of the Tobacco Experimental Garden at Tinneveli, arrived at 'Sandra Giri', the residence of Mudaliyar J. N. Sandrasagara. J. P. Maniagar Valigamam West, on Friday noon the 25th ulto. The party on their way from Jaffna to Mathakal, visited Ramanathan College, MacLeods, Hospital at Innuvil, Chunagama and had a dip at the springs at Keerimalai. In the evening the staff and students in company with Maniagar Valigamam and Muttukumaru visited Batticotta College. After dinner the first and second year students held a concert at 'Sandra Giri.' Mudaliyar Muttukumaru, the staff and the cricket eleven of the school left Mathakal at 11 p.m.

Closing of Toddy and Arrack Taverns.—It is notified that it is proposed to close thirty Toddy taverns and five Arrack taverns in the Northern Province for July 1st 1921. It is also proposed to transfer an existing Toddy tavern from one locality to another.

The Government Agent will be prepared to receive any written representation up to April 9, 1921, and to hear any verbal representation at 1 p.m. on that date at the Jaffna Kachcheri, regarding the closing and transfer of these taverns.

Abduction.—A dhoby girl aged 12 was abducted last Monday by a dhoby at Mahipity. The offender has absconded with the girl and a warrant has been issued for his arrest.

Obituary.

On Sunday the 20th ultimo at Jaffna, passed away Mr. Saveriampillai Theogupillai at the ripe age of 81. The deceased was a popular and influential figure, and above all an exemplary Catholic. He leaves behind an only daughter, the wife of Mr. A. Gabrielpillai, Retired Draughtsman, F.M.S.

Personal.

Mr. S. M. Arulampalam of Taiping, is now here on leave. He is staying at Chunnakam.

We are glad to learn that Mr. R. Vairamuttu, Overseer P. W. D., Agrapratnas has been appointed Town Overseer, Nawalapitiya.

Mr. S. S. Chelliah, Chief Clerk, D.E's Office, P. W. D. Ratnapura, has been transferred to Kurunegala and has assumed duties as chief clerk of the same office there.

General News.

The Coming Council.

THE EASTERN PROVINCE SEAT. At the request of several leading and influential residents of the province, Mr.

Lionel F. Tisseverasinghe, Proctor and member of the Local Board for the own Ward of Batticaloa has consented to come forward as a candidate for election to the Eastern Province Seat in the Reformed Legislative Council. Mr. Tisseverasinghe is a son of the late Hon'ble Mr. J. N. Tisseverasinghe, the first Tamil Member in Council from the Eastern Province.

levied on goods to regulate trade, not to increase the revenue of a country. These duties are imperatively necessary and also may be exorbitant on opium, alcoholic drinks, and conveyances to check smuggling, but not on the necessities of life. Taxation on these enhances the price and subjects the poor to intolerable difficulties.

Ceylon Precious Stones.—Mr. David de Silva, Proctor, in a lecture delivered at Ambalangoda, says:—

In considering the prevalence of gems in our country what strikes one most is the presence of some kind of precious stones in practically every province and village in the island, and the utter ignorance and indifference of our people regarding them. True it is that gemming is being carried on all over the place, but nothing worth speaking has gone beyond the speculative stage of the industry. To about 90 percent of the diggers it is a gamble, and the man who makes money is the middle man, who is always a Moor. As I stated before, this is due to ignorance of the immense possibilities in this as a line of business, more especially in view of the fact that almost the whole Island is one vast field of precious stones. You have to thank the Moorman, for but for him Ceylon would have ceased to be the "precious stone set in the silver sea."

Ceylon Medical College.—The Medical and Apothecary Professional Examinations of the Ceylon Medical College will be held at the College, commencing on Friday March 18, and ending on Wednesday March 30, 1921. Receipts for fees and the certificates prescribed by the regulation must be presented to the Registrar between 15th and 17th March.

H. M. S. "Malaya."

PRESENTATION BY CEYLON COMMUNITY.

A presentation by the Ceylonese community of Negri Sembilan while H. M. S. "Malaya," was at Port Dickson of a silver tea and coffee set with the engraving "Presented by the Ceylonese Community of Negri Sembilan to H. M. S. 'Malaya'" took place on February 11th. A Deputation of Ceylonese headed by Dr. Muttu, visited the ship and after a brief speech by Dr. Muttu, made the presentation.

A similar presentation followed this event when the Indian community of Negri Sembilan presented a mounted stag's head. Captain Buller thanked both the communities for the presents and both deputations were regaled with refreshments before the parties left for the shore.

The deputations were introduced by Mr. G. W. Bryant, the Secretary to Resident, N. S.

Ceylonese Representation in the Federal Council.—At a meeting of the Ceylonese in the F. M. S. held at Kuala Lumpur on Wednesday the 9th ultimo it was resolved to ask the Select Committee of the Federal Council on Council Reforms to allot a seat to the Ceylonese in Malaya.

Allies Occupying German Towns.

London, March 8. A very brief period elapsed between the break down of the Conference and the carrying out of military measures, for a Paris message announces that, according to semi-official advice from Dusseldorf, the first French detachments advancing towards Dusseldorf arrived on the border of the region to be occupied last night, while a Berlin message states that a British detachment from Cologne is also on its way to participate in the occupation. General Degoutte is in supreme command.

Correspondence.

(The Editor does not hold himself responsible for opinions expressed by correspondents.)

The Council Election.

We, Jaffnae resident in Ipoh, are glad to know the views of the two candidates for the Northern Seat. Each of them deals with taxation, which takes away a great percentage of the public income into the Government Exchequer. Taxation may be light or heavy. It matters very little with the tax-payers. But the problems to be handled are (1) how the revenue shall be spent, (2) to see that it does not go out of the country, and, that a greater part of it is devoted to its improvements—especially agricultural and educational. Taxation is intended to maintain the government of a country and to better its interests. When the Americans refused to be bound by taxation, Lord North allowed not to pay taxes to the States, which could manage their own civil and military affairs. Customs duties are

levied on goods to regulate trade, not to increase the revenue of a country. These duties are imperatively necessary and also may be exorbitant on opium, alcoholic drinks, and conveyances to check smuggling, but not on the necessities of life. Taxation on these enhances the price and subjects the poor to intolerable difficulties.

Law and journalism are litigious and reforming professions respectively. The former qualifies man to move in the circles of monied and erudite classes, whose interests are not our concern, makes one a Roman in politics and partially paints always one side of problems; but the latter discloses the abuses, suggests and substitutes reforms in their places, advocates public causes, brings into contact the wits of the day, makes the past and the future meet, studies through local reliable correspondents the crucial tests of the peasants, sympathises with their legitimate aspirations, governs the actions of the Government if wrong, and fights for its freedom and independence. Therefore we are of opinion that the claims of a journalist to become the servant of the public, to "weather the storm, to take charge of, and to steer, the boat of democracy" at a time "when the sky is overcast with clouds, and the angry waves are beating around", are more worthy of appreciation than those of a lawyer, and we wish him the support of an overwhelming majority of the voters to emerge from the present crisis with unimpaired vigour and enhanced prestige and to become the governor of the vessel whose destiny is fated to be ours.

Ipoh 19-2-21.

A NATIVE.

The Northern Province Seat, Largely attended Meeting in Support of Mr. A. Canagaratnam.

A largely attended meeting in support of the candidature of Mr. A. Canagaratnam was held at Kondavil School on Saturday the 5th Inst. presided over by A. Nagathia Mudaliar. J. P. U. P. M. of Copay, one of the most highly esteemed leaders of Jaffna. The chairman in his introductory speech set forth the reasons why the electorate should choose Mr. Canagaratnam. Mr. Kanagaratnam's knowledge of facts and public affairs, self-sacrificing spirit and devotion to the public cause in the past was a guarantee of faithful service in the future. Messrs. S. Veluppillai and K. S. Appapillai, leading residents of Kondavil, T. Kalasapillai Manager Sivaprakasa Vidyalayam, and T. Ponniah, T. N. Suppiah and S. Chidamparamanathan, wellknown teachers, also spoke setting out the high qualifications of Mr. Canagaratnam and the arduous work in the Council which required a man of his ability, experience and devotion, to tackle with. Mr. Canagaratnam addressed the audience on the nature of the work in the Legislative Council and in the Finance Committee. The Northern Province candidate had not only to merely study and deal with questions of this Province alone but with questions affecting the whole Island and every Province. The reform of the constitution and questions of taxation were some of the most important problems which would have to be tackled with in the new Council. After a vote of thanks to the chair the meeting dispersed.

Formation of a Detachment of the C. L. I. at Jaffna.

A public meeting was held at Central College Hall to consider the feasibility of forming a detachment of the Ceylon Infantry at Jaffna. Milkington, Hauffmann, C. C. S. presided and Lt. Col. T. G. Jayawardena, was the chief speaker. Col. Jayawardena said he wanted to find out whether Jaffna was willing to form such a detachment and called upon the audience to express its views.

Mr. Richard Aluwihara, C. C. S. spoke on the fitness of Jaffna for such an attempt. Lieut. A. S. Abraham dealt on the objections that are likely to be raised by the parents in Jaffna, but was of opinion that they may not carry great weight. Mr. V. Ramalingam, Proctor, said that Col. Jayawardena, could count on the hearty co-operation of the Jaffna Bar.

Mr. Edwin Hensman was of opinion that Jaffna would be only too willing to help Col. Jayawardena in forming such a detachment.

Col. Jayawardena, who was greatly impressed with the willingness of Jaffna to form such a detachment, said that the meeting was only an informal one. He would communicate with them by letter when he returned to Colombo.

Maniagar Muttukumaru who was greatly responsible for convening the meeting was highly complimented by Col. Jayawardena and Mr. Hauffmann.

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