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You have been informed individually about arrears due up to the end of the year 1967. Please check with me if you have any doubts. 1968 subscriptions of Rs. 15/- are payable now. Foreign subscribers pay Rs. 20/- . Please respond favourably.

Manager

## Calendar of Events

June 9-17 : Children's Week of the J. D. C. S. I.  
June 17 : Children's Rally (J. D. C. S. I.) at the Old Park, Jaffna.

## SHOULDERING OTHER'S BURDENS

\* Help one another to carry these heavy loads, and in this way you will fulfil the law of Christ. Galatians 6:2 (N.E.B.)

'The first moment of genuine religious feeling I can remember with any vividness', writes the Rev. W. B. J. Martin, 'is a feeling of concern and guardianship for two friends in my class at school. I felt that I had a responsibility for them, and when Noel started swearing or Leo began to frequent the billiard saloon, a rather disreputable place near the school, it seemed to me that I was being challenged, that my friendship, because it was impure and undisciplined, was partly the cause for their behavior. It sounds priggish, I dare say... but I believe that God was within and behind the sense of responsibility and the desire to be worthy.'

A sense of responsibility for others, especially for their failures and weaknesses, is an essential part of Christian discipleship. It is in a caring community that faith finds its best expression. Writing about the Christian symbols which may be used in broadcasting, F. W. Dillstone suggests that when the television screen can show a body of Christ's people caring, a group of Christ's people venturing in service, then the world again sees the life which was manifested fully in Christ and which continually seeks new forms of expression through His Church.

Loving concern for others, which is the law of Christ, is 'the overflow of gratitude by those who have got far past the cautionary morality of "do-as-thy-neighbour-would-be-done-by", and are now exploring the infinite range of that new world which is open to those who "do-as-thy-neighbour-would-be-done-by", being constrained by the love of Christ.'

— The Soldier's Armoury.

## SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING

A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of the late Kaimanase Samuel Kanapathippillai was held at St. John's Church, Chundikkal, on Saturday, the 15th of May at 8 p.m. The Rev. W. R. Coomaraswamy, Vicar, St. John's Church, led the Service. A special Thanksgiving was rendered by the Rev. (Sovak) Sam Alfred, Lessons from the Scriptures were read by Mrs. Jayaratne Joseph (the younger daughter of the deceased) and the Rev. K. M. Alfred. The Chundikkal choir rendered the hymns. A Round of prayer followed. The Vicar led the congregation to a Litany of Prayers. Mr. R. E. J. A. Senukavalar, a close associate of the deceased during the last years of his life, was the speaker.

Freaching from the text "If a man die shall he live again" (John 11:25), Mr. Senukavalar said that many people today are not to be interested in this question. In fact, one prominent man had said that eternal life would bore him stiff. But let someone today, lose a father or mother, a wife or husband, a child or some dear friend and then as he lingers

"For the touch of a vanished hand And a sound of a voice that is still,"

he would begin to wonder whether in some distant corner of this vast universe, he would some day touch that loved hand again and hear those words that dear voice

In short he would ask again the ancient question in the Book of Job, which was their text.

To that question many answers had been given but few of them amounted to much more than wishful thinking. To the believer in God, however, the answer given by Jesus to the Sadducees was utterly convincing. For Jesus had pointed out to them that if God was the God of Abraham, of Isaac and of Jacob, then it was impossible to believe that these Patriarchs were not alive. God could not have enjoyed their fellowship and then thrown them away on the dust-heap, as a child might throw away the previous year's Christmas toys.

Mr. Senukavalar went on to say that, if their communion with God was really the ground of belief in the continuance of that communion after death, then the twenty-third Psalm was an epitome of every Christian's life, as it was an epitome of the life of the late Mr. Kanapathippillai.

While a student at Jaffna Central College, he had in becoming a Christian said to himself "The Lord is my Shepherd". His conversion aroused opposition and even persecution, but he did "not want" for the Lord made him "lie down in green pastures" and led him beside the "still waters".

Bereavement and crushing sorrows came to him, but his soul was always restored. In a very special way, God had led Mr. Kanapathippillai in the path of righteousness for he was a man of exceptional honour and integrity in private life and in the public sphere.

Some years ago, he had been seriously ill and the life was ebbing, but as he walked through the valley of the shadow of death he feared no evil — so firm was his trust in God.

Because in his youth he had chosen the Lord as his shepherd, God had led him, followed Mr. Kanapathippillai all the days of his life and now "he dwells in the house of the Lord for ever".

The service terminated with the singing of the hymn "On the resurrection morning, soul and body meet again", followed by a few minutes of silence.

## PERSONAL

Mrs. V. P. Gunesingham, of the staff of District College, Chavakachcheri, has been appointed to the Public-Service Commission one of the Grade II Lecturers in English in the University College, She is a B.A. of the London University and underwent training recently in Australia in teaching English as a second language. She is the eldest daughter of the late Mr. Kanapathippillai, formerly Supervisor of the Lower School of Jaffna College, and Mrs. Kanapathippillai, of Chavakachcheri.

## WHITSUN FESTIVAL

The annual Whitsun Festival, sponsored by the Christa Serva Ashram, Maruthanadaram, was held from the 1st to the 3rd of this month. The Rev. L. B. Gnanadason, the Bishop of the Kandy Diocese of the Church of South India, conducted the morning Bible Studies and delivered the addresses in the evening meetings. The afternoon meetings were addressed by the Rev. E. J. Miles.

## St. John's College Prize - Giving

The annual Prize-giving of St. John's College, Jaffna, commenced last Friday evening, the 31st May, with the Canadian High Commissioner in Ceylon, His Excellency John Zimmerman, and Mrs. Zimmerman as Chief Guests. Presided over by the Ven. J. A. R. Navaratnam, Archbishop of Jaffna, it commenced with the singing of the hymn "For ye are the chosen of the Lord", followed by prayer by the Rev. L. B. Arulpragasam, the new Chaplain of the College. Three items were presented by Mrs. J. Zimmerman and the prize-giving was followed by a Recitation by Mrs. O. B. Miles, a Tamil Speech by Mrs. R. R. Kumar, and an English Elocution by Mrs. M. Veerasingam. All these winning entries in contests held earlier. The prizes were distributed by Mrs. J. Zimmerman and the prize-giving address was delivered by His Excellency John Zimmerman. The vote of thanks was proposed by Mr. T. L. Segarajasinghe and seconded by Mr. A. P. Perinpanayagam. The function came to a close with the singing of the College Song.

## Principal's Report

The following are extracts from the Report of the Principal, Mr. E. Perinpanayagam :

"It is more than seven years since St. John's became what is

called a non-fee-paying private School. It is natural to ask ourselves whether the effort and struggle are worthwhile. The founders of the School would answer that it was worthwhile, as long as there was work to be done and need to be met.

"Difficulties are not new to St. John's. In the Centenary History of the College is the following paragraph : 'A Government grant-in-aid was received until 1962 when by the introduction of new rules which the Church Missionary Society felt to be incompatible with its principles, the Government grant was relinquished. From that time for nearly ten years, the School was maintained by fees, additional grants from the Society, and private support. The School's work was in no way affected. Reports of the Inspectors pointed to the fact, that, in spite of the withdrawal of Government grant, the School was maintained on proper lines.'

"That was a hundred years ago. Today, we are without Government grant and without fees, and yet good work is being done, we presume, to judge by our results at public examinations, and by the growing demand for places in our School. Yet another piece of evidence is an unofficial comment from official quarters that reaches us: at the recent Sixth Standard Examination conducted by the Education Department, the private schools maintained their lead, though the Course Guides on which the tests were based were not available to St. John's and other private schools are serving the cause of education by maintaining standards which seem to be falling all over the country.

"Secondly, St. John's is also serving the community, and will, I trust, do so increasingly, if the Government continues its policy of transferring without sending replacements, the key teachers of A. L. classes out of the peninsula to schools which have no A. L. classes.

"Thirdly, our country needs leaders imbued with the spirit of service. The founders of our School were men who followed Christ, who being God "foretook the courts of everlasting day and chose with us a house of darkness one day". One born in a carpenter's house, lived the life of a homeless wanderer and died the violent form of death on the Cross that men might be led to live aright. To take only the man of this century, Thompson of St. John's, Frater of Trinity, Highfield of Wesley, were people who could have made their mark and lived comfortably in their own country, but who elected, following the example of their Master, to come to the tropics, facing the rigours and dangers of life here in those days, in order that they might train our boys to become good men. Those who have followed them try, however unworthily, to keep the vision from fading, and to pass it on to our pupils that they may become men who serve.

"We are happy that parents appreciate what we are trying to do and have helped. A school aims at fitting its pupils for life in the modern world must also equip itself for the task. Marginal finances have prevented us from investing in additional equipment, urgently needed to give our pupils a broad education. Audio-visual aids, modern scientific apparatus for our Laboratories, work, and a fully equipped gymnasium are among our needs. We commend these to our parents, Old Boys and friends."

## CHILDREN'S RALLY

on Monday, 17th June, 1968, at the OLD PARK and St. JOHN'S CHURCH

Programme  
8-15 a.m. : Arrival of Churches at St. John's grounds  
8.30 " : Procession into the Church  
9.00 " : Worship Service  
10.00 " : Cool Drinks  
10.45 " : Children's Activities & Exhibition of Handwork  
12-4.30 p.m. : Lunch Interval  
2-4.00 " : Children's Activities & Education Service  
4.00 " : Procession  
5.00 " : Tea  
H. G. Ancevarathan

## MOTHER OF PARLIAMENT

By R. D. Karunairajan

Mr. Francis Noel-Baker is a Member of Parliament in England. A few days ago he announced that he would not seek re-election to the House. He seems to wonder whether the House of Commons now has a death wish. In a recent article Mr. Noel-Baker said, 'If it is losing the respect of the electors, this is mostly its fault, not theirs. It is out of date, inefficient and remote. It treats its members in a puerile and humiliating fashion. Membership no longer provides an effective means either of affecting government policy or of influencing public opinions.'

Two years ago I had the opportunity of visiting the Houses of Parliament and watching them at work. My heart sank at practically all that I saw. Perhaps the English people are too tradition-conscious to effect changes in keeping with the times, but this was certainly no place to carry out policy making and government of a nation. The architecture itself was forbiddingly ancient and the general set-up gives the impression of a system geared to the nineteenth century. A glance into the well of the Commons made me wonder as to how 600 odd Members of Parliament could ever find sitting accommodation at the same time. It must be a pretty cramped up affair, when they do sit together.

One often reads in the newspapers and hear on the Television the appalling physical conditions to which Members of Parliament are subjected in their day-to-day working. Lack of office facilities, ill-ventilated rooms, insufficient number of telephones and as such limited communication means are some of them.

Mr. Noel-Baker, talking of actual debates, said, 'Debates themselves are seldom of any real significance or have more than a minimal effect on Government policy because all the important decisions have already been taken. This is one reason for the meagre attendance by M.P.s and for the scant attention given to them by the Press and the T.V. No recent Government has really wanted the House of Commons to be effective. Ministers, once they become Ministers, are not unhappy to keep their back-bench colleagues ill-informed and ineffective. They are less nuisance that way. Some Ministers quickly become remote and develop a petronising superiority (often encouraged by their Civil servants) a lofty—if only you knew what I know but I am damned if I will help you to find out.'

There is a popular feeling among the young intellectuals in the Universities and Colleges (as in the rest of Europe with telling effect) that the Parliamentary structure is out-dated and a re-structure of the administrative machinery is necessary. The recent speech made by the Labour Government Cabinet Minister, the Hon. Anthony Wedgwood Benn, warning that the events in Europe could possibly happen here, has been ridiculed as total unreality by many leading politicians, including the amiable Mr. Quintin Hogg. It was not long ago that the British people were told that the sun would never set over the British Empire. The young intellectuals of Europe, with Britain included, are idealists — idealists not given to any prejudices. They have openly called for a complete change of the machinery whereby there could be more participation of the people in the running of the country. They want a responsible Government. The reformation process is going

## CHILDREN'S SUNDAY

June 9

Theme: Bear ye one another's burden

### Churches

Karainagar  
Moolai  
Araly  
Vaddukoddai  
Navaly  
Anakkoddai  
Manipay  
Uduvil  
Chankalai  
Pandateruppu  
Alaveddy  
Sandilipay  
Tollipalai  
Erialai North  
Erialai South  
Achuvally  
Ududdipai  
Kulathanaal  
Varany  
Chavakachcheri  
Navavil  
Colombo  
Pungadutivu  
Delft

### Speakers

Mr. W. N. Thevakadacham  
Mrs. K. J. Mills  
Miss Grace Vaidvelu  
Mr. S. P. C. Solomon  
Mr. S. Paulraj  
Miss A. Ramalingam  
Mrs. L. N. Hicchock  
The Rt. Rev. I. R. H. Gnanadasan  
Mr. S. T. Arnold  
Mr. A. R. Kadrigamar  
Mr. G. Y. Navaratnam  
Mrs. N. Subramaniam  
Mr. G. Rasanayagam  
Mr. S. Sellathurai  
Mr. E. T. Rajaratnam  
Mr. A. Attanarajah  
Mr. S. S. Selvadurai  
Mr. William Thevasathan  
Mr. S. P. Jayasingham  
Mr. K. Nalath  
Mrs. J. B. A. Alagaratham  
Miss G. R. Chellappah  
Mr. S. N. Sugunathan  
Mrs. Sam Thampon

factorily effected in Czechoslovakia and the concern of the German young people to the sudden growth of the Nazi N.P.D., the ineffectiveness of the Grand Coalition to run the country and the total lack of Parliamentary opposition, the French situation are all direct outcome of the young intellectuals taking responsible actions to thwart a state of anarchy in Europe.

As in those days of Renaissance, Reformation and Counter Reformation it is inevitable that these trade winds of Europe should also blow over England. The conditions in England — politically, socially and economically — are ideally suited for a European situation developing here. After all, Britain wants to be in the Common Market and participate fully in European affairs; as such it is but proper that failures and successes of European experiences should also be shared by her. If the winds of change that have suddenly taken over Europe should spread across the channel, and effectively bring about radical reforms, the hundreds of bells from ancient Churches through the country could at least hail a great era of the future, before they finally wind up.

## Letter to the Editor

Dear Sir,  
In reply to Alpha's letter of 31-5-68, I wish to say that he and his informant appear to have slept like Kumbhakarnan. They both should visit the next dance drama at their or any Christian village school to see the acting there today.

The Dancer acts her part. 'Act' is to pretend. God can understand it.  
Yours faithfully,  
J. R. Fray.

## IN AFFECTIONATE MEMORY

of FREDERICK THAMBARAJAH JOHN  
Born: 3-3-1881.  
Died: 9-6-1963.  
Remembered by his wife.  
Chundikkal

## Notice

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The Manager, The Morning Star — A. Kadrigamar, Esq., College Lane, Vaddukoddai.

## ORDER ABSOLUTE IN THE FIRST INSTANCE

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA

In the matter of the Last Will and Testament of the late Henry Ponnambalam Chelliah of Manipay. Deceased.

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 2194

Rose Thangaratnam Chelliah widow of Henry Ponnambalam Chelliah of Manipay. Petitioner

This matter coming on for final disposal before R. Paramakuru, Esq., Additional District Judge, Jaffna on the 6/10th day of April, 1968 in the presence of Mr. S. Rajendran, Notary Public under No. 6337 be and the same is hereby declared proved and that Probate of the said Last Will issued to the petitioner as the executrix named in the said Will.

It is ordered that the Last Will and Testament of the above-named deceased dated 19th July, 1960 and attested by S. Rajendran, Notary Public under No. 6337 be and the same is hereby declared proved and that Probate of the said Last Will issued to the petitioner as the executrix named in the said Will.

This 6/10th day of April, 1968.

R. Paramakuru, Additional District Judge.

Drawn by: S. Rajendran, Proctor for Petitioner, 20 & 21

## IN MEMORIAM



## IN LOVING MEMORY

of REV. W. A. RAJADURAI  
Born: 9th June, 1916  
Called to Rest: 9th October, 1967.

There are no words to express our sorrow. As we face your Birth-day today, We miss you more than any one knows. The tears in our eyes can be wiped away But the ache in our hearts will always stay. Affectionately remembered on this Birth-day by his loved ones, Vaddukoddai, 9th June 1968.











# The Morning Star

7TH JUNE, 1968.

## PLEA FOR SANITY

All right-thinking people should be greatly beholden to Mr. S. C. Fernando, a former Permanent Secretary of the Home Ministry, for his thoughtful and forceful article on "District Councils—Sanity", which appeared in the last Tuesday's issue of the *Times of Ceylon*. We have nothing but the highest praise for this noble effort of his to bring sanity into a situation filled with suspicion, imaginary fears, and gross, disreputable twisting of facts by scheming politicians. The furor, which has been created by the Opposition and by other racial fanatics all over the country, is out of all proportion to the issues involved in the proposed District Councils Bill. The real questions to be asked about the Bill are whether it will help in developing democracy, to which the country is committed, and whether it will benefit it as a whole. Instead of doing that, politicians without any respect to truth or justice are galvanizing about the country rousing the communal frenzy of the Sinhalese masses by telling them that the Bill will strike a death blow to Buddhism and the Sinhalese language. One Communist leader is reported to have warned the majority community that it would lead to the crushing of the Sinhalese by the Tamils. And we are yet to see many Sinhalese leaders outside the Government ranks, publicly condemn such actions of dangerous communal rabble rousers. It is, therefore, very refreshing to have a person of such integrity of character, independence of outlook, and rich experience as Mr. Fernando to come out boldly with an exposure of several myths which have been manufactured by these unprincipled men for the sole purpose of exploiting the masses for their own political power.

The first myth Mr. Fernando exposes is the impression that "the D. C. idea always had a shady origin in the form of a bargaining counter, whether with the S. L. F. P. or the U. N. P." He goes on to say that the idea originated with the Donoughmore Report of 1926, and later was seriously considered by the late Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike, when he was the Minister of Local Administration of the State Council in 1939. The White Paper itself carefully and truthfully traces the history of this idea. Secondly, Mr. Fernando calls the talk that Mr. Bandaranaike bowed down to public opinion and gave up the very idea of Regional Councils altogether also a myth. Strong support for the exposure of this myth is found, according to him, in the fact that Mrs. Bandaranaike herself repeatedly included District Councils in a succession of Throne Speeches. Now it is passing strange that she should say that she is opposed to the District Council in any form. The same kind of metamorphosis appears to have happened in the case of Dr. N. M. Perera too, who once declared in the House of Representatives that he was one hundred per cent for the establishment of District Councils. Under these circumstances it is understandable why the Opposition should want to boycott the debate on the White Paper now, before Parliament. The logical thing for its members to do is to take part in the debate and show clearly why the Bill is unacceptable and how the Prime Minister and his Government have been so mesmerized and victimized by the Federal Party as to sell the majority race and religion into the hands of the Tamils.

Mr. Fernando also refers in his article to the mischievous, disreputable twisting of historical facts by these politicians. One is the "mischievous argument that Ceylon Tamils are interlopers, whose real home is South India". He says about such claims "All this is, of course, grand melodrama, but not good enough history to bolster up the Sinhalese into a self-constituted master-race". Then with refer-

## AUTONOMY IN INDIA AND CEYLON FROM ROMAN TIMES

By J. R. SINATHANBY

In view of the interest created in the country on the subject of District Councils, I think the following observations made by the historian Nikanta Sastri in his work on the "Colas" will be read with interest. This also gives some indications of the standard and methods of government prevailing in olden times.

"The encomiums bestowed on ancient village republics of India by the observant British administrators of the early 19th century, though we may not accept them as literally true, are clear proof that, until then, the village continued to be the real centre of social life and the principal nursery of social virtues. And from the hundreds of Cola inscriptions that have come down to us, we see that under the Colas the villages of South-east India were full of vigour and strength....."

The beginnings to the system of village government that we see in full swing under the Colas must be sought in an earlier age. The Pandya and Pallava inscriptions of the 8th and 9th centuries, show a system, very similar, but not quite so developed in operation throughout the Tamil country.

Government by means of primary assemblies comprising the adult males of each village was the central feature of rural organisation..... They were subject to general supervision, in particular a periodical audit of their financial transactions, by the officials of the King's government. Otherwise, they were left to themselves where important business was transacted by these assemblies, such as a change in their constitutional procedure or an alteration of land rights affecting the revenues of Government, their meetings were attended by officers of the King's Government..... That the villages were little republics which had a large measure of

ence to the mischievous cry that the Sinhalese would be in grave danger with the setting up of the District Councils, despite all the assurances of the Prime Minister, Mr. Fernando guesses that the reason for it is "Some extremists even envisage a future Ceylon where, like the King's Writ in Mediaeval England, the Sinhala language should penetrate down to every sphere of activity in the country. According to them the day must come when even every brawl under a toddy-tapped palm-tree in Jaffa, or at every cadjan-flanked street corner, should be in the inviolable official language". He has no respect for those Sinhala patriots who yearn "for the day when all other races in Ceylon (Tamils, Moors, Malays, all told) would come under an All-Sinhalese umbrella, forgetting their ethnic origins". He adds: "Now one would ask, in the name of sanity as well as humanity, whether (to take only the Tamil community) a racial atoll that can claim affinity with the great Dravidian civilizations of Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro of 5,000 years ago, and heritage to an ancient language admittedly among the oldest groups in the world, ranking almost with Sumerian and Akkadian, will ever voluntarily commit gratuitous genocide to satisfy a few racial fanatics".

After dealing so forcefully with such mischievous propaganda Mr. Fernando feels convinced, from his intimate knowledge of rural areas, that "the ordinary villager, left to himself, can live in peace for centuries side by side with his neighbours of diverse races and faiths. It is only when mischievous politicians and other self-seekers inflame him in his ignorance with false propaganda that gunpowder is ignited in the manner of the disastrous holocaust of 1958."

It is fervently hoped that sanity will prevail in the country in the present situation, even with Opposition politicians, and that parliamentarians in particular and the people in general will be allowed to settle down in calm to discuss the White Paper and then the Bill dispassionately on its own merits,

autonomy in the management of their own affairs is seen from the powers of taxation for local purposes and of granting exemptions from such taxes and dues enjoyed by their assemblies and from the separate staff, comprising doubtless only a few officials employed and controlled by the central government. Of their power of taxation for local purposes, an idea may be formed from the instances in which assemblies grant remissions and assignments of dues without any reference to the King's Government and in the exercise of their own power..... Between an able bureaucracy and the active local assemblies which in various ways fostered a live sense of citizenship, there was attained a high standard of administrative efficiency and parity, perhaps the highest ever attained by the Hindu state..... A remarkable parallel on the position of townships in the Cola empire is furnished by that of the cities of Gaul in the Roman Empire as can be seen from the description of the latter by Eusebius of Caesarea, "Each city possessed a public property comprising buildings, land, capital fund, contributions. It could receive donations and requests. It directly administered all this property. It regulated land rights and lent out its money on interest. It got contributions for itself such as octrois, market dues, tolls on bridges and roads..... the imperial government had no agent always present in the city..... It possessed its direct Senate, its corps of magistrates, its jurisdiction, its police, its treasury, its goods moveable and immovable, its public fund, its schools, its clergy, and its high priests. None of all these came to it from outside. Magistrates, professors, priests, everyone was found within".

The reference to the parallel in the institutions between South India and the Cities of Gaul in the Roman Empire is not in the least surprising, as there was more intercourse between South India and certainly at least North Ceylon and Rome early in the Christian and pre-Christian era, mainly on account of trade, than ever since. V. A. Smith has pointed out in an article of great interest to historians and scholars on Graeco-Roman Influence in India in the R. A. S. Bengal Journal of 1889 "I can see no reason whatever to feel sceptical about reality of diffusion to a limited extent of Greek books in Greek among the learned classes of India during the early centuries of our era..... why it should be supposed incredible that Kalidasa could read plays of Menander I cannot imagine."

Mockerji, lately of Calcutta University, quotes Faulkner as saying "The fact is now scarcely to be doubted that the rich oriental merchandise of the days of King Hiram and King Solomon had its starting place in the sea ports of Dakkani and that with a very high degree of probability of some of the most esteemed of the spices which were carried into Egypt by the Medianish merchants of Genesis 30—7, 25, 28, and by the sons of the Patriarch Jacob (Gen. 43-2) had been cultivated in the spice gardens of Dakkani".

Mockerji observes further "The labours of Von Bohlen confirming those of Lassen have established the existence of Maritime Commerce between India and Arabia from the very earliest period of humanity". "More interesting and reliable information regarding some of these South Indian ports is supplied by the Tamil literature of the times in which are contained descriptions of magnitude and magnificence which cannot fail to bring home to our minds the throbbing international life pervading entire Tamilakam".

"The Greek names for rice (Orzya), Ginger (Zingiber), and Cinnamon (Karpion) have close correspondence with their Tamil equivalent viz., arisi, inchiver and karavai, respectively and this identity of Greek with Tamil words clearly indicates that it was the Greek merchant-chant who conveyed these articles and their names to Europe from the Tamil land". The words Orzya and Zingiber have been used by Ptolemy about 100 A. D. in his geography of Ceylon.

Information relevant to the degree of prosperity and maritime activity reached in Ceylon also at the same time as in the South of India is given by the famous German

geographer and historian Heeren, based on information of a highly authentic nature supplied by Sir Alexander Johnston.

The degree of authenticity and reliability of the information supplied by Sir Johnston, who also held the post of Chief Justice of Ceylon, can be gauged from the following extracts from a communication by him to the R. A. S. Great Britain in 1827 where he says "The late Sir Thomas Maitland..... that I might be enabled to afford his Majesty's Ministers such recent information as they might require..... sent me in 1806 on a circuit completely round the island with the fullest powers to collect authentic and detailed information relative to the ancient and modern history of the country, origin of all the different classes of inhabitants, their laws, their castes, their religion, their language, their agriculture, their manufactures, and their commerce..... In the course of the inquiry all the best informed men of the island..... zealously cooperated..... from every part of their respective districts".

In his "Historical Works" Heeren states "upwards of 300 years before Christ, and consequently of nine hundred years before the time of Cosmas, the Island of Ceylon and above all the northern part, together with the channel which divides it from the Indian continent, was the seat of a very active and opulent trade". He also continues to state the trade was in the hands of the Arabians, Persians and Malabars, I will finally quote from an article by Kennedy in the Journal of R. A. S. Great Britain, 1893, where he says "Every unknown article which we find imported by Sea into Babylon before 500 B. C. brought with it a Dravidian, not a Sanskrit designation". This is also convincing proof of the Tamil origin of the articles from India and Ceylon in Biblical times, when South India and, at least, North Ceylon formed the heart of the commercial world for about 25 centuries. That this should be so is nothing unusual when it is appreciated that even the greater part of North India was also Dravidian before the Aryans invaded India, according to Masson-Oursel, Nahrn, Chatterji (lately of Calcutta University) Mendis (lately of Ceylon University) and Barrows (presently of Oxford University). This also explains the presence of the tri-lingual (Tamil, Chinese, Arabic) inscriptions at a port in South of Ceylon as recently as about the 14th century A. D. This can still be seen at the Colombo Museum.

That a people who had a trade with the known world for about 25 centuries should have had an enlightened form of government with a large measure of autonomy even at village level can be easily understood.

In a communication to R. A. S. G. B., 1890, pertaining to an embassy to Rome from Ceylon about 60 A. D. and the people who probably occupied North Ceylon at the time, Ole Brunnvold Blaust says that "even at this day they are distinguishable by qualities which we are accustomed to look upon as the characteristics of a free people or at least of people living under known laws. They are industrious, persevering, intelligent, orderly, provident and have a keen sense of the rights and advantages of property..... there you everywhere meet with something that tells of Municipal care or individual exertion, but with nothing that is the work of an imperial will aided by imperial sources".

## Youth Column

### "BEAR YE ONE ANOTHER'S BURDEN"

My dear Youngsters,

I have been writing to you in the past few weeks about Truth and its freedom, about discipline, obedience and courage and how important these things are to us as chisels and mould our characters as we grow.

The coming week is the Children's Week in our Diocese and as our little sisters and brothers learn in their own small way to "bear one another's burden" (this being the theme for the week), I would like to read the background in which

## IMPROVING ELECTRICITY SUPPLY TO THE JAFFNA TOWN

By Carl H. De Fry, Municipal Electrical Engineer, Jaffna.

This Electricity Scheme, now nearly forty years old, was originally designed as a Generating Station, but with progress and development both of the Town itself and the Peninsula in general it had to fall in with the progressive plans of the Department of Government Electrical Undertakings and has now become only a distributing agent purchasing its requirement in bulk.

The Scheme, originally designed for Generation and Distribution, now purchases and distributes Electricity through eleven Sub-stations sited at convenient sites within the Municipal Area.

To meet this Scheme of Distribution the existing centrally controlled system should have been re-designed to meet the expanding demand with growth and progress. However, finances and other more urgent requirements like opening of roads, water and housing schemes took up so much of the money earned, something had to suffer and give way to advancement with the resultant chaos that now exists.

Feed in at mid points of the already heavily loaded Overhead Distribution System, now nearly twenty to thirty years old, had to temporarily accommodate the bulk supply injected into them, but time has taken its toll and now, although supplies are available at these sites in most cases, yet the lines being of such gauges as to cause a bottle-neck at the source are not capable of carrying without any subsequent losses on the lines.

This important factor the Special Commissioners have now realised and they are determined to plough back into the Scheme all extra monies available for the entire re-designing of these schemes starting at the Sub-stations and going through in stages as follows:-

### (i) Provision of Protective Equipment at all Sub-stations.

This text appears. It is in the last of St. Paul's six letters to the Galatians, Gal. 6: 2. I suggest you read all the six letters together or one each day this week, then you will understand how he is stressing the importance of faith in Jesus Christ and how this faith delivers us from our weaknesses and lesser desires and transforms us with the help of the spirit into better beings. I do not want to come between St. Paul's letter and you—better read it yourselves. You'll enjoy it and it is very enlightening. St. Paul warns us against the common temptation of relaxing in our own personal discipline and yielding to the easier and less demanding pleasures of this world. Also that God is not to be fooled (Gal. 6: 7) Through all these temptations which not only the Galatian had then, but we too have today, our only help comes from our faith in Jesus Christ.

Sir Humphrey Davies, a leading scientist (about whom some of you might have heard in your Chemistry or Physics classes), has said, "I prefer a firm religious faith to every other blessing. For it makes life a discipline of goodness, creates new hopes where there are none, over the decay of life the more gorgeous life even in death." To have such a faith would change you so that without your being aware of it others would find you lightening their loads and brightening their roads. Your life would be God's witness like St. Paul and his letters are to us.

God bless you and grant you an undivided heart which worships God alone and trusts Him as it should.

Yours sincerely,  
PETER RABBIT(c) The Editor,  
The Morning Star,  
Vaddukoddai.

(ii) Provision of Distribution and Feeder Pillars making allowances for an extra feeder or so.

(iii) Replacing, in the first instance, the smaller gauge Overhead Copper Wires with those of heavier gauge to eliminate the excessive voltage drop at line extremities and other small feeder lines.

(iv) Redesigning of lines and conversion from the present horizontal to vertical design being taken up later after the consumers' immediate demands of a better voltage and less inconveniences are arranged.

These important functions have now fallen on co-operative shoulders and my able assistants and I intend putting our shoulders to the wheel to see that all consumers and ratepayers will have no cause for complaint on completion of these works.

All within the Town will, therefore, also have to help us achieve this target we have set ourselves by their kind co-operation, patience and forbearance in giving all assistance in the following:-

Hundreds of units of Electricity are lost daily by trees or branches of trees coming in contact with the Live Mains. There is also the danger of electrocution by the branches of trees rubbing against the lines and causing them to snap. As such the co-operation of the ratepayers is sought to help the Council's tree cutters to clear all trees adjoining the Mains. Though there is provision in the Ordinance for the clearing of way leaves, yet some place obstructions for the clearing of these obstacles and great deal of time is lost and in the end it is only the ratepayer who suffers and none others. As such it is an appeal that everybody will assist in helping clear these obstacles.

You all are aware that costly Mercury Vapour Lamps are fitted at important streets and junctions. These are bought at the expense of the ratepayers and these are being damaged wilfully or pars being robbed day in and day out and none seems to take notice of them. Even those who see these misdeeds turn their heads away and pretend not to see them. The people must be civic minded and, whenever such deeds are seen, we appeal to you to report such deeds to the Police so that the offender might be brought to book and repetition of these things will not occur.

Electricity consumers are requested in the name of public interest to use the least amount of Electricity during peak load hours, that is from 6 p. m. to 9 p. m., by switching on to one lamp, or fan, or any other appliances so that the neighbours' light might be a bit brighter and your own Electricity Bill much lower.

Materials, all are aware, are now in very short supply with local dealers and to overcome this difficulty the Council has now placed orders direct with the manufacturers through appointed agents and materials will be received—I expect—in the latter part of this year or early in 1969. In readiness for the use of materials on order all preliminary works are now being undertaken and all available materials are put to use with a view to satisfying each and every one who depends on Electricity for his daily needs.

Schemes for extensions into unlit areas are now in hand and together with this also will be done the important work of improvement at all Sub-stations, especially the replacement of undersized cables to better facilitate the lead off and improve the present voltage.

We, therefore, of this essential service, while humbly acknowledging the little failures and inconveniences much beyond our control, pledge that we on our part, if given the necessary financial assistance, will do our utmost to put this scheme into the pristine glory it once had and see to it that every consumer will be served with standard and voltages for the beneficial use of all appliances at the cheapest possible rates.