

MORNING STAR

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Communications
Letters to: THE ENGLISH EDITOR,
Vaddukoddai &
THE TAMIL EDITOR,
Uduvil, Chunnakam.
News to: THE NEWS EDITOR,
Telippalai.
Advertisements,
Inquiries &
Remittances to: THE MANAGER,
Telippalai.

RIGHTEOUSNESS EXALTETH A NATION, BUT SIN IS A REPROACH TO ANY PEOPLE.

NEWS

LOCAL

The New Puisne Judge

Mr. Alan Edward Percival Rose, the new Puisne Judge of Ceylon has taken his oaths before the Chief Justice and begun work on Monday. He is 35 years old and is the youngest of the Puisne Judges in Ceylon. He acted as Attorney-General of Palestine and was made a Judge of the Supreme Court there in August, 1939. Unlike his brother Judges, he is a bachelor.

Penicillin for Civilians

A small consignment of Penicillin for Civilian use has arrived in Ceylon and has been kept in a special container in the Bacteriological Institute. Dr. A. Nimalasuriya has been elected Chairman of a Committee to recommend the type of cases for which Penicillin is to be used.

A. C. U. T. Memorandum to Board of Ministers

A memorandum has been submitted by the All Ceylon Union of Teachers for consideration by the Board of Ministers, on behalf of certain classes of teachers. It requests that a First Class Certificate be granted to Second Class Certificated Teachers on reaching their maximum salary and that a Third Class Service Certificate be awarded to Provisional Certificated Teachers before 1929, who are "anomalously placed lower than the uncertificated teachers of the same period."

Women's Art and Industrial Institute

A general meeting of the Women's Art and Industrial Institute was held at Nallur, Jaffna, on the 22nd of January with Mudaliyar C. Kandiah in the chair. A sub-committee has been appointed to frame rules and regulations and submit them to the Managing Committee for approval. The Managing Committee has been authorised by the General Committee to take all necessary steps for the efficient conduct of the Orphanage and Industrial School.

Post of Director of Education

It is understood that the Executive Committee of Education will shortly be asked to consider the question of a permanent appointment to the vacant post of Director of Education. It is learnt that the name of Dr. Ian Sandeman, Deputy Director of Education, will be considered for the post.

The Duke of Gloucester in Colombo

It is disclosed now that their Royal Highnesses, the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester and their two little children made a two-day halt in Colombo on January 9th and 10th on their way to Australia where His Royal Highness has now taken up the appointment of Governor-General. It is interesting to note that this is the first time that a member of the Royal Family is going to Australia to take up the appointment of Governor-General. It may be remembered that the late Duke of Kent who was appointed to the post was killed in a plane crash before he could take up the appointment.

New G. O. C., Ceylon

Major General F. I. S. Tucker, C. B.; D. S. O.; O. B. E.; former Commander of the famous, "Red Eagles" who played so magnificent a part in the defeat of the Axis in North Africa and accepted the surrender of General Von Arnim has taken up duties as General Officer Commanding, Ceylon.

Malt from Kurakkan

Possibilities of manufacturing malt extract from Kurakkan are now being explored by the Department of Commerce and Industries on a Report submitted by the quinine expert who has returned from a study tour in India.

Small Pox Situation in Jaffna

A total of 170 cases of Small Pox with 27 deaths have occurred in the Jaffna Peninsula up to now. The Muslim Ward of Jaffna Town has had 89 cases with 13 deaths, while

other areas in the U. C. limits have had 16 cases with 3 deaths. The suburban areas have had 11 cases with two deaths. Chavakachcheri which is free of the disease has had a total of 31 cases with 8 deaths. In the Changanai area there have been 15 cases with one death. The Director of Medical and Sanitary Services has arrived in Jaffna in response to an urgent telegram from the Chairman of the Urban Council. He is of opinion that the situation is not very alarming as it is made out to be.

Precautions against Textile Thefts

As shortages have been detected in some of the consignments of textiles transported by train from India to Ceylon and it cannot be discovered how they could have occurred, it is recommended that all textile consignments from India should be re-weighed at Talaimannar Pier before they are loaded into waggons of the Ceylon Railway and the weights re-entered in the invoices so that if there is any disparity in the weights it can be easily traced to its origin. It is also suggested that the consignments should be conveyed direct by themselves instead of being mixed up with consignments of other goods en route. Thefts are said to be facilitated when consignments of goods intended for several stations are loaded together thus necessitating the opening of the waggons several times en route.

Jaffna Central College

Rev. C. A. Smith, B.A., D. Th. has been appointed Principal. Mr. Smith was an assistant Master at Central under Rev. P. T. Cash and was later Bursar of the College and Warden of the Hostel.

Mr. A. M. Spencer, has been appointed to the staff on the Arts side. Mr. A. G. Rajaratnam, has gone on study leave to undergo a course of post-graduate training at the Government Training College.

INDIAN

Teachers should be conscripted

Mrs. Lilavati Mueshil has given notice of a resolution to the Senate of the Bombay University that a Scheme should be instituted for the Presidency by virtue of which in addition to the training arrangements mentioned in the Sargent Plan all pupils who appear for the Matriculation Examination with the exception of those eligible for higher education or Special training in Industry, Commerce and Agriculture be conscripted for service as teachers in primary schools in villages and towns for a period of two years with option to continue in service if so desired, on the minimum salary scales mentioned in the Sargent Plan. The services of Graduates in Arts also be conscripted for the period of two years to work as teachers in Secondary Schools on the Scale prescribed by the Sargent Plan.

Saving the Seed-Rice

Three thousand miles of escape by rail, river and air is the story of 80 lbs of Burmese seed-rice, now in Southern India. Its original home was on a Government Experimental Farm near Raekoon where agricultural experts had been working for 25 years to improve the famous rice strains of Burma. The seed-rice already produced was too precious to be left to the oncoming Japanese invaders. 500 bags of it were put on the last train that left Rangoon early in 1942 and were evacuated to Mandalay. Then Mandalay itself was threatened and 80 lbs of the finest seed were selected to be put on to the last civil evacuation aeroplane to leave for Chittagong in Eastern India. By July 1942 this seed was sown in an Indian Experimental Farm under the care of a young Burmese Agricultural Officer. As soon as the advancing British and Allied forces have liberated Burma the seed-rice from Southern India is going home to do a priority job of reconstruction. It will help to re-establish the rice industry of Burma to bring back prosperity to the Burmese people and to make Burmese rice available again throughout the world.

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WE HAVE THEM — IN QUITE A GOOD SELECTION —
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MAIN STREET,
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JAFFNA

Important Announcement for Textile Traders

In case you wish to have Whole-sale stocks of Benares, Bridal, and Silk Sarees, please pay a visit to the 'Novelty Silk Store', Main Street, Jaffna. They are the only dealers for Ceylon who have opened out an office at Benares and have all the facilities and privileges of getting their goods DIRECT from the Manufacturers, instead of through middlemen or commission agents as other merchants do. Their rates, therefore, are much cheaper than any other Wholeseller.

"NOVELTY SILK STORE" — Well Remembered for:- Novel Selection - Dainty Designs - Lovely Quality - Reliability, Cheapness & Service.

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 - A Class Book of Physics by Gregory and Hadley.
 - Light and Sound by Stewart.
 - Elementary Calculus by A. S. Ramsey, M. A.
 - Heat by Hutchinson.
 - Plane Trigonometry Part I by S. L. Loney.
 - Elementary Trigonometry by Hall and Knight.
 - A Tale of Two Cities.
 - Practical Physics by Allen and Moore.
 - Practical Chemistry by Oscroft.
 - A Class Book of Physical Chemistry by Lawn and Sugden.
- THE C. L. S. BOOK SHOP,
First Cross Street, Jaffna.

The Morning Star

Friday, February 2, 1945

BALANCED REPRESENTATION: ITS NATIONAL ASPECT

We have from time to time expressed our views on the desirability of balanced representation. We wish here to summarize our thoughts when the Reforms Commission is with us. It should be clearly understood that we have no desire to join in the general scramble for more legislative seats and official leaves and fishes. We only want to stress the national aspect of this question.

We are quite conscious of the fact that for the achievement of responsible government, apart from what the powers-that-be will grant us, such a demand in the very nature of things, must come from a politically united Ceylon. We have always advocated a union of all of our forces for such a consummation. But the experience of the last fourteen years has taught us that, at least at the present stage of our evolution, such a hope is not within the range of practical politics. Therefore we are driven to adopt the second best course of advocating something that will enable the various races to live together and carry on the Government in amity and good-will.

The Donoughmore Commissioners thought that territorial representation—which is only a camouflaged communal representation—was a panacea for our communal ills. It is an irony of fate that what they intended as remedy has actually resulted in the disease becoming worse. Whereas in 1918, when the National Congress was established, all sections were united, today the tide of communalism runs high, a fissiparous tendency has begun to manifest itself, and sub-sections and sub-sub-sections have sprung overnight. Consequently the Commissioners will have to deal with a babel of voices. The cause of this unexpected result is not hard to find. Two decades ago the British ruler was considered to be the common opponent from whom freedom was to be wrested. The Donoughmore Commissioners came and handed over a great deal of this power to the majority race whose appetite for power grew with what it fed on, and the fears of the minorities have been aroused. The demand of balanced representation is made with the object of arresting this tyranny and making all sections have an effective voice in the Government of the country.

The Donoughmore Commissioners made the mistake of ignoring the constitution of our society, and imagined that they could change our communal outlook with one stroke of the pen. But that great British statesman, the Duke of Devonshire, had a greater sense of reality and understood the truth that what may be suitable for one soil, may not flourish in another, and, enunciated a principle on which the minorities base their demand.

Democracy is our goal. We need not labour the point that a permanent racial majority is the very negation of democracy. Majority should certainly rule, but a parliamentary majority, and not a racial majority. The for-

mer is fluid and is possible only in a homogeneous body where the majority changes according to principles and policies. One who is in a majority today may be in a minority tomorrow. But in a country where the party system has not emerged and where racial and communal considerations prevail the majority becomes a permanent autocracy. If it is argued that this autocracy might be a benevolent one, our answer is that famous saying of another great British statesman who said, "Good Government is no substitute for self-Government". But our case is stronger. We have by actual experience seen that Sinhalese autocracy has not even been good Government. The tendency to discriminatory legislation has increased as the years have gone by, and the prospect is that if this tendency is not checked, the minorities will have to be content with being hewers of wood and drawers of water. One of the Sinhalese Ministers himself put this in a nut-shell when he said: "The minorities will have to submit to the majority, or get out".

In speaking in this way we are not trying to make out that the Sinhalese people are a wicked lot and tyrannically-minded. No, they are ordinary human beings like ourselves afflicted with the same human frailty. The great historian, Lord Acton, has said: "Power corrupts", and absolute power corrupts absolutely. If Sinhalese leaders have discriminated against minorities they have only followed a natural tendency, and the blame should rather be laid at the door of those who exposed them to this temptation. No amount of promises and good intentions can avail against this patent fact of human nature.

Let us, for arguments sake, suppose that the majority community overcomes this human tendency and fraternises with their weaker brethren and do them justice. What then? There is the more important psychological objection still remaining. Freedom consists not only in liberty of action, but also in feeling free. We should like to lay great emphasis on this point as the lack of this free feeling has most disastrous consequences. We see this proved in subject nations. Their originality, creativeness, culture, energy, and self-respect are lowered. We ask for freedom from our British rulers. Why? Have we not enjoyed *Pax Britannica*, British justice, which is synonymous with perfect justice, and social, intellectual, and economic advantages under British Raj? But we want to feel free and call our souls our own that we may live a more abundant life. We want to feel that this house is ours, and we are free to order it in our own way. We do not want to feel that another is the arbiter of our fate, and we do not want the sword of Damocles hanging over our heads all the time. We want to be saved not only from the probability of the sword falling on us, but also from the possibility of it. If this is the way we feel about the benign British rulers who have at least held the scales even among the various communities, shall we allow ourselves to be bound hand and foot and delivered to one section of the people who naturally have an axe to grind? The minorities may as well have no voice in the Government, if there is a permanent racial majority in our legislature.

We have so far spoken of negative advantages. There is a positive one resulting from balanced representation. The party system is the foundation of parliamentary government. There is no such system in this country. When representation is balanced,

and whenever there is a deadlock in the consideration of any measure, one section will have to get the aid of some members of the other in order to get the measure passed. And this they cannot do on racial or other grounds, but only on the ground of principle. This would mean a cross-section of members of the majority and minority communities. As time goes on, this resort to cross-sections will become a settled habit, and the party system will be born, in other words, parliamentary democracy.

Balanced representation will benefit not only the minorities, but also the majority community. When there is no such balance, the leaders of the latter having no check by an effective opposition will in time become autocratic, flout the wishes of their own community and become an oli-

garchy. Further, a Sinhalese government cannot be efficient and successful without the hearty co-operation of the minorities. Discontent, bickerings, if there is nothing more violent, will mar the even tenor of its absolute rule. Already there is a longing of the Tamils of the North to be one with their kin across the narrow straits who are on the eye of obtaining self-government. How will the Sinhalese feel if Ceylon comes to be partitioned in that way?

This instalment of reforms is not in the way of experiment, as the last one was, but probably the last one with which the Imperial government will be directly connected. Therefore it is necessary that the minorities should be delivered from the nightmare of domination by the constitution that is going to be given to Ceylon now.

Distribution of Subsidiary Foodstuffs to Schools for mid-day meals

All schools now providing a free mid-day meal and which require subsidiary foodstuffs or wheat for the purpose should apply to me at the beginning of each month giving the average number of school-fed children during the preceding month. This should be certified by the Manager or Inspector of schools.

E. Goonaratne,
Asst. Govt. Agent (E), Jaffna.
Jaffna,
28th January, 1945.
5-1

FOR SALE

First class Paddy land for sale in Paranthan; about a mile and a half from the station. Good P. W. D. Road access, water - channel running past the field; rich yielding soil. Now is the chance to buy.

Apply to:

W. B. Canagaratnam,
Proctor,
3rd Cross Street,
Jaffna.

BANK OF CEYLON

The Directors of the Bank of Ceylon have pleasure in announcing that a branch of the Bank under the charge of Mr. C. Loganathan will be opened at No. 242, Hospital Road, (opposite the Power Station), Jaffna, today at 10 a. m.

Facilities for all Banking and Exchange Business will be provided.

In view of the present war situation there will be no formal opening of the branch.

2-2-45.

A. T. HUNTER,

Acting General Manager.

5-1

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