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Notice

Please send all editorial correspondence as well as all business matters to Tellippalai. This will ensure prompt attention.

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

NEWS

LOCAL

Victory Variety Entertainment

A grand victory variety entertainment organised by St. Peter's Wesley Guild was held recently at the Jaffna Central College Hall under the kind patronage of Dr. S. Subramaniam, Retired Provincial Surgeon.

There were four dances in all; two by the members of the Jaffna Sangeetha Abivirithi Sabha and the other two by Mr. S. Thangarajah of the Shanti Nilayam. A scene from a classical drama entitled "Sakuntala" was given by the Vembadi Girls' High School followed by a comic burlesque, "Council In and Out"—by the Jaffna Sangeetha Abivirithi Sabha. The Wesley Guild acted a Sham Court Scene "Kanthan and Ponny Divorce Case" which kept the audience rolling with laughter. Then followed a very interesting Boxing Bout by two famous boxers.

Farwell

The Northern Province Teachers' Association bade farwell to Mr. K. Nesiiah, M. A., Dip. Ed. at a garden party on Friday, 7th inst. at Jaffna Central College. Mr. K. Pooranampillai, the President, Messrs J. C. Charles and T. Muthucumaru representing the N. P. T. A. and Mr. T. C. Rajaratnam, J. P., representing the public spoke on the very valuable services rendered by Mr. Nesiiah to the Association from its very inception. A reference was also made to his services to the teachers of all Ceylon, as the President of A. C. U. T., to the abiding interest he had taken in education and to his keen and enthusiastic work in the fields of Co-operation and Social Service.

Mr. C. S. Ponnuthurai presented to Mr. Nesiiah on behalf of the N. P. T. A. a set of books as a token of the love and esteem in which he was held by the Association. Mr. Nesiiah replied thanks and presented to the N. P. T. A. library a copy of his book, "Mother Tongue in Education."

DISTRIBUTION OF SUBSIDIARY FOODSTUFFS

The undermentioned commodities will be issued in the Jaffna District to all consumers except those served by Co-operative Stores on the basis of the ration given below for the period 17-9-45 to 7-10-45.

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E. Goonaratne,
 Asst. Govt. Agent,
 (Emergency)

The Kacheheri,
 Jaffna, 15th Sept. 1945.
 37-1.

DISTRIBUTION OF COCONUT POONAC

Permit holders on coconut poonac residing within the Jaffna Mantagar's division are informed that the new permits have been delivered to their dealers in Animal Food. The permits will be issued to them by their dealers when purchasing their coconut poonac for September, 1945.

E. Goonaratne,
 A. G. A. (E), Jaffna.

Supply of Firewood to the Public

Firewood is available for sale at Rs. 35 per ton at the Government Firewood Depot at Chunnakam. Applications should be addressed to D. R. O., Vallakam North.

Sgd. E. Goonaratne,
 Asst. Govt. Agent,
 (Emergency)

The Kacheheri,
 Jaffna, Sept. 13, 1945.
 37-1.

PRIZE-DAY AT JAFFNA COLLEGE

JUDGE'S COMMENT ON COMMUNAL BICKERINGS

Future of the College vis-a-vis the Free Education Scheme

The Annual Prize-Giving Function of Jaffna College was held in the Otley Hall, on Saturday the 15th September, at 6 p. m. The chief guests on the occasion were the Hon. Mr. Justice Alan Rose and Mrs. K. Kanagaratnam. Besides these two those who were accommodated on the platform included Members of the Board of Directors of the College and members of the Staff. There was a representative gathering of distinguished Old Boys, Well-wishers and Friends present.

After a prayer by Rev. K. S. Jayasingam, Master E. R. Appadurai, a senior student of the College, in a well-delivered speech extended a warm welcome to the guests.

The Principal, Mr. K. A. Selliah, then presented a most comprehensive and lucid report covering a period of two years. Referring to the question of the future of Jaffna College vis-a-vis the Free Education Scheme, Mr. Selliah said that after very careful consideration the Board of Directors had decided to run the College as it is for one year from now before making any final decision in the matter.

Mrs. K. Kanagaratnam, wife of the Auditor General, gave away the prizes at the end of which the Hon. Mr. Justice Alan Rose addressed the gathering.

The following are extracts from his address—

"I feel it a very great favour indeed at having been honoured to come here and attend this prize-giving this afternoon. I need no introduction or evidence as to the prosperity and healthy outlook of this institution. A peep into this splendid hall would answer any doubts that I might have in regard to that matter. Both Mr. Selliah and one of his most eloquent students have said the kindest things about me that I feel it is unnecessary for me to do anything more but try and look modest and I only hope that you will not regret at having invited me to come here tonight.

You will expect me to make some reference however in my own humble way to this very pressing problem—the principle involved in the new educational policy that is being imposed, or shortly to be imposed upon this country. Now I must say—and it must represent the view of most of us—that the idea underlying the principle of Free Education is of course an admirable one and does need the support of us all—socialist people and also of those who, to whatever party they might belong, are socialists at heart. But I am sorry to see that this has become a matter of controversy in this beautiful island.

It is not for me to comment on the details of the scheme that is being put before you and is going to be introduced from 1st October, because it is quite obvious I think even to those who are sponsoring the scheme that it is by experience alone that alterations can be made as the months and years go by. Therefore we will be always wasting our time by concentrating on the weaknesses of any scheme. Because I hope and am quite confident that good sense will prevail in the end and that people who are sponsoring the scheme will see for themselves which are the strong points and which are the weak points and the principles on which we all agree.

Now, there is just one other matter that has an important bearing on this question I think, and I say it with great humility because the majority of the people present in this room—may in the whole island—may not agree, at any rate at first sight, with me. That is, on reading the enormous publicity being given to the scheme in the local newspapers, it seems to me that too much emphasis is being

(Continued on page 4)

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The Morning Star

Friday, September 21, 1945

PLATITUDES

At a glittering function which took place in Jaffna a year ago, Sir Oliver Goonetilleke, then Civil Defence and Food Commissioner, was the chief guest. This was the climax of a triumphal tour that Sir Oliver made through Jaffna. Excepting for the fact that elephants were lacking in the processions, the receptions were worthy of princes and potentates. It was even said that Sir Oliver was moved to tears.

At the particular function which took the shape of a lunch, Sir Oliver made a speech which keeps ringing in our ears still. Referring to the Educational Reform proposals, Sir Oliver volunteered the statement that the fears entertained by denominational schools were not warranted and assured them that no harm would befall them. The audience devoured this dessert even more avidly than they did the dishes that preceded it. The Leader of the State Council had said the same thing on several important occasions.

When the hour of decision came, Mr. Senanayake had taken flight to England while Sir Oliver had been elevated to the post of Financial Secretary with a seat in the State Council and a direct say on this momentous question. A sum of Rs. 1,200,000 represented all the difference between efficiency and inefficiency of the assisted schools, the vigorous existence of denominational schools or their lingering death, their staying within the scheme or going out of it. Sir Oliver in his capacity as Financial Secretary supported the Free Education Scheme and explained that he did so because he knew where to get the money. He had also earlier said that the scheme would cost Rs. 300 million. Nobody can quarrel with a son of Lanka doing his bit for it when he is in a position to do so. But what we regret is that Sir Oliver missed a golden opportunity, when he had it, of suggesting to the Council that the extra Rs. 1,200,000 didn't very much matter and that he could find it. Not even the whole Council could have stood against him. Thus reasonable rates of equipment grant could have been provided and our best schools saved for the country.

The question arises, "Have public men a right to utter pleasant platitudes on important occasions?" The milk of human kindness may overflow in the shape of pleasantries in regard to personal matters. If somebody says that Ceylon possesses the most finished financier in the world and the most expert Education Minister in the East, nobody should mind it. The world is not affected for better or for worse by such sentiments.

During the dark days of the war when the Allies suffered reverse after reverse, Mr. Churchill went to the House of Commons and not only told them the unvarnished truth but also prepared them for worse things to come. A true leader warns the people about the dangers that lie ahead and, having done so, tries his best to deliver them from such dangers.

PRIZE-DAY AT JAFFNA COLLEGE
(Continued from page 1)

the fact that the teaching of English in schools should be drastically cut. I happen to be English but that has nothing to do whatever with the point I am about to make. It seems to me that that might be a mistake that ought to be adjusted, and I would explain why. There is no virtue, as such, at all in the English Language, but there is this very important consideration and that is that the English language is one of the most widely spoken languages in the world. I mean, supposing you honestly want to substitute, say, French, Spanish or German—languages all widely spoken themselves—I should have nothing to say whatever. It is purely a matter of choice. But it seems to me that, and even the youngest children present here today must realize, as a result of this war, things have changed very much and that it is so all over the world. Far from there being an increase in nationalism, if this world (or man) is to survive at all there has got to be a sort of internationalism of thought of all the peoples. It does seem to me therefore in your own interests—and yours is only a small island, your population is about 6 million—that it will be a very great pity to abolish English deliberately and as a result to cut adrift from the world unless you are going to substitute in its stead some other world language such as Spanish, German or French which are all spoken widely outside their own countries. You know you have only to look at the map of the world to realize the enormous nature of the extent of the English language is spoken. Perhaps while I am on that point, I would stress that there is not the slightest derogation to speak in another man's language. It seems to me that a very good example, to stress my point clearly, was that during the last war French was the universal diplomatic language used by various ambassadors all over the world. There was no possible way of any derogation, any loss of face. It is a purely simple matter, and perhaps while I am still on that point, I might relate an incident that always tickled me. I do not think it is generally known, though I have perfectly good grounds to vouch for its accuracy, that when the Russian-German Pact was signed in 1939 and Ribbentrop went to Russia in order to sign it, he and Stalin had their famous conversation—resulting in the signing of it—in English. The reason for this is that English is the only foreign language Stalin knows. There is no possible loss of prestige or loss of standing in any way in using a language that is widely known instead of using a language that might, as in your case, be unknown at all outside your own area. I am not suggesting in any possible way that the teaching of the customs and manners of the Tamils, or the Sinhalese, should be abandoned. It will be a great pity if what I might stress as excessive nationalism that caused this last war, is pursued with. You probably might think what bearing has this point upon schools, or your own children. But it seems to me that it has an enormously important bearing because one thing which struck me forcibly on coming to this island was how you were bickering amongst yourselves—community with community, religion with religion, and all about nothing! (laughter) I have just come to this island. I have been spending the last 7 or 8 years in the country called Palestine where hatred is really hatred, and where people have good historical and racial reasons for real hatred. There the two communities hate the sight of each other. When I came here I thought to myself how fortunate you all are—to miss the damages and ravages of war—and that you have really no good reason for this sort of life. You have no grievance, and there is no good reason for you in this country to hate each other. But pick up any local paper, you will see therein that the Sinhalese do not like the Tamils, and the Tamils do not like the Muslims, and so on, and that none of you like the English! (Loud laughter) That last remark may be true and perhaps may be justified. If indeed that is really the case I have been grossly deceived by the various gentlemen I have met during the last few months. However I do feel that, in your own interests, it is a little too dangerous to strain your feelings—of one community against the other. In your own interests therefore, there are two things to be done. The first is that these frayed communal feelings and differences should be overcome. In England too the same conditions prevailed and it took a long time to sink the differences of the English, Scotch and the Welsh. Secondly—and it follows in order of time—you must realize that in this new world it will be quite impossible for a country of the size of Ceylon to stand alone. That cannot be done. In another ten years or so you will find "international groupings" there will be three or four such groups. There is no question of our joining the American Group with all the countries

who are willing to join that group. Then there will be the Russian Group, &c. You will see that these groups gather together for their own security and their own good, and Ceylon will have the sense to join one of these groups. In conclusion, I would say that, though one hears a lot about political freedom nowadays, freedom in the real sense we use that word has gone. The people who were really free were the aborigines. They were free to do anything they liked! It is now becoming increasingly obvious to us all that the whole world itself is growing too small. You have the airplane, the atomic bomb and a host of other inventions for destruction or construction as man chooses. You may, perhaps, disagree with the remarks I have made today, but I commend them to you for consideration. The President of the Students Council proposed a vote of thanks which was seconded by Mr. J. F. Ponnambalam, Secretary of the Board of Directors.

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An undivided 1/4th share of all that allotment of land situated at Changavelly in the parish of Uduvil in the division of Valikamam North of the District of Jaffna in the Northern Province of Ceylon called Vaerakkaiyaval and Pampaadyaval in extent 20 lms. P. O. bounded on the East and South by water-course, on the North by the property of Sittampalam Appukkuddy and by the property of the heirs of the late William Paul and on the West by the property of Lucipillai wife of Murugesapillai.

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13-9-45.
37-1.

E. Goonaratne,
A. G. A (E) Jaffna.



IN LOVING MEMORY OF
Daniel Gunasanan Lewis
Born: July 17th 1922.
Taken away: Sept. 27th 1944.

"Though thy voice we cannot hear,
Thou wilt not be far away:
Sometimes when we rest or pray,
We shall know thy spirit near."
[Inserted by the bereaved parents,
brothers and sisters].
37-1.

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