

The Morning Star

Friday, November 16, 1945.

SILVER LININGS

The acceptance of the White Paper on Constitutional Reform by a ninety-four percent majority in the State Council, though not an unexpected event, is of momentous importance in the history of the island. We are placed now on the threshold of a new era. The country is embarking on a new Constitution "trusting in the power of education and the lessons of experience to promote further development." What these lessons of experience would be will be largely determined by the statesmanship and sense of responsibility displayed by Sinhalese leaders towards minority interests. The most gratifying feature of the Leader's speech on the New Constitution is his consciousness of the supreme responsibility which now rests on him and his admission that the minorities are essential for the welfare of this island. While thanking the Leader for his kind comments, we only wish that this attitude had been displayed at an earlier stage of the agitation for Reform, and we hope that all this friendliness would be translated into action in dealing with the legitimate grievances of the Tamils. If every leader in Ceylon would follow the lead of Mr. Senanayake and think and act not as Sinhalese, Tamil or European but as a Ceylonese, then Ceylon would indeed be a "Heaven on Earth." To Mr. Senanayake and to others of his mind who entertain any grave doubts about the sincerity of the Tamil Cause, we would make bold to say again that it was the racial trend in the management of affairs in Ceylon that caused much misgiving and fear in the minds of the Tamil people who were compelled for self preservation to defend their fundamental rights. It would be a travesty of the truth to attribute the defence put up by the Tamil community to any other cause than to a desire for self-preservation. The freedom of Lanka, we can assure Mr. Senanayake, has been and will be as dear to the Tamils as to any other community in the island. But the extent to which the Tamils would collaborate in the achievement of this object will, of course, have to depend on the degree of confidence the majority community is able to command among the minorities.

Now that the final step has already been taken and the country is about to enter a new era, it is up to the Sinhalese leaders to convince the Tamils of the sincerity of their professions of love and friendship for the Tamil people. The Government of a country is a sacred trust. Being a majority community, the major responsibility of this trust falls on the Sinhalese leaders who will be called upon largely to shape the policy of the Government and to determine the place which other communities should hold in the future Government of the country. That the minorities too have given their vote at the last hour at the request of the leader, makes this trust more sacrosanct than it would otherwise have been.

In this connection it would be useful to recall those memorable words spoken by General Smuts at San Francisco immediately after the signing of the New World Charter establishing "the rule of reason":

Great as our achievement is, more is needed than a ma-

chine of peace. Unless the spirit to operate it is there the best plan or machine will fail. The human factor must play its part.

To the majority community the Soulbury Constitution has been a great achievement. Now that it has been passed, to the minorities it is a great document affecting the future of this island and affecting the interests of generations yet unborn. It now remains for the various communities in the island to have "the will to use it". If the spirit in which the new Constitution is to be operated is that foreshadowed by the Leader of the State Council in his epoch-making speech on the New Constitution, then we see some silver linings in the dark clouds that have been hanging over us during the past.

MOVING DRAMA IN MALAYAN JUNGLE

JAP MURDER OF NEW ZEALAND PILOT

Rev. J. W. A. Kadirgamar and Japanese soldier conduct a memorial service.

[From "The Sunday Tribune," Kuala Lumpur, Oct. 14, 1945.]

Ten days before the fall of Singapore on February 15, 1942, a group of Allied bombers raided the Japanese Airbase at Kuala Lumpur. One of the bombers was piloted by a young New Zealander, Paul Michael. Its compass was damaged by ac-ac fire. Unable to find his way back, Michael zig-zagged over the Malayan mainland. At Kajang his plane was brought down by ac-ac fire. Michael escaped unhurt only to be captured by the Japs. The Japanese military Commander questioned him with a view to securing military information. Michael refused to divulge. So the Commander ordered that Michael be beheaded next evening.

The man who interpreted the Commander to Michael was Joseph Tatsuda. He escorted Michael to a cell and locked him up but did not divulge the fate to which Michael was condemned. That night Tatsuda was posted on sentry duty at the camp. All soldiers had gone to sleep. Suddenly the stillness of the night was broken by singing: "Thou Fount of every blessing, Tune my heart to sing Thy Grace....." Tatsuda listened.

"Teach me some melodious sonnet sung by flaming tongues above. Here's my heart, O, take and seal it for Thy courts above."

The song touched Tatsuda. He walked up to the cell from which the voice came. It was Michael singing. Tatsuda shook Michael by the shoulder: "Don't you know it is late in the night and you should not disturb the soldiers." "I do not care what I do," replied Michael, "for I am ready to die. At this lonely hour I felt like singing the hymn that my mother taught me." Tatsuda found from Michael he was a Methodist Christian. He, too, was a Methodist Christian, Tatsuda told him. The two sat down and talked the whole night.

Staunch Friends

In the morning both found themselves staunch friends. When Tatsuda retired from duty Michael requested him to fetch him his Bible, a book of devotions, and a golden cross from the wreckage of his plane. These were his dearest possessions, he added. The things were brought.

In the afternoon Tatsuda and another soldier were called by the commander and ordered to take Michael to the jungle and behead him. Tatsuda felt very sad. He went to Michael and told him of his painful duty and asked him whether he could do him any favour before his death. Not in the least perturbed Michael wrote out a menu for Tatsuda to prepare. Both partook of the meal. At the appointed hour Tatsuda and the soldier escorted Michael to the jungle.

There Michael knelt and prayed to God. He prayed for himself, the two Jap soldiers who were to behead him, for his mother, for peace, for Australia, Britain, Japan and the world. When Michael finished his prayer he gave Tatsuda the Bible, book of devotions, and the golden cross and requested him to bury the Bible with him, to keep the book of devotions in his memory, and to send the golden cross, presented by his mother, to his mother in New Zealand through the Red Cross.

Then he knelt down and requested Tatsuda to behead him. Tatsuda refused. When what happened was interpreted to the other Jap soldier he, too, begged mercy for Michael. But Michael told them that if they did not behead him, some other would do it and behead them,

too Michael added "For me to live is Christ; to die is gain." He knelt Tatsuda paused. Racked by anguish and in tears, he drew his sword. The painful business was done.

Several months later Tatsuda visited Port Dickson where he related this story to a congregation who heard him with tears. That service during which he related the story was a memorial service to Michael. It was conducted by Tatsuda and the Rev. Mr. Kadirgamar of Seremban, while the whole of Port Dickson was being shadowed by dozens of Jap detectives and informers. "I am still unable to know whether I did the right thing."

If only the Japs had known what Tatsuda did it would have been, for Tatsuda, death in the most horrible form, added the Rev. Mr. Kadirgamar.

in the business of exchanging things of beauty for hard cash. Both can be a joy for ever.

Yours etc., S. J. C. KADIRGAMAR.

Lalita, Colombo 5-11-45.

VITAMIN A & D

Your Baby Needs a sufficient quantity of Vitamin A & D daily to fortify him against many ills.

Kenico's Super Sweet Concentrated Shark Liver Oil is the Best.

Highly Purified and refined.

Supersedes Cod Liver Oil.

Drop Dosage:

Infants 1 to 2 drops daily
Children 1 to 10 " "
Adults 5 to 20 " "

Available in 60 C C Bottles

FROM

The Jaffna Apothecaries Co., Jaffna.

45-48.

THE

JAFFNA FORAGE STORES (FORAGE SPECIALISTS)

MAIN STREET, JAFFNA

Best Quality Forage at reduced prices.
More milk Mixture 100 lbs, Rs. 21.50
do do " " Rs. 18.50
do Goats Food " " Rs. 21.50
Bull Mixtures " " Rs. 20.50
Poultry Mash for Layers in 4 lbs. bag Rs. 1.20
Chicken Grains in 5 lbs. bag Rs. 2.00

The above Mixtures and Poultry Food can be had from our Sole Agents.

Messrs The Nadana Vilas, Kangesantal Road, Grand Bazaar, Jaffna.

or direct from us, 43-2

PROPRIETOR.

PLACE YOUR ORDERS NOW FOR

"DRAVIDA"

A History of the Dravidian Race from Mohanjo - Daro period to the British period - WITH MAPS AND ILLUSTRATIONS

BY E. I. TAMBINUTTU.

FOREWORD BY K. A. NILAKANTA SASTRI, M. A., Professor of Archaeology and History, Madras University.

Rs. 4-00 PER COPY. Postage Cts. 25.

"THE CASTES, CUSTOMS, MANNERS & LITERATURE OF THE TAMILS"

BY SIMON CASIE CHITTY.

Rs. 1-00 per copy. Postage Cts. 25.

"OUR PLACE IN THE CIVILIZATION OF THE ANCIENT WORLD"

By K. BALASINGAM.

Reduced Price Cts. 65. Postage Cts. 12.

COLOMBO BOOK CENTRE

General Publishers Ltd., 20, Parson's Road, P. O. Box 305, Colombo.



A STAR SELECTION

of

GLAMOROUS SAREES

from

INDIA'S FASHIONABLE SAREE CENTRES FOR CEYLON'S FASTIDIOUS SAREE LADIES.

SEE OUR SELECTION OF BENARES, KASHMIRE, JARI - GEORGETTES, TISSUE, FISH NET AND NEW JUNGLE AND KATAN SAREES.

CONTROLLED PRICES.

NO COUPONS.

NOVELTY SILK STORE, MAIN ST. JAFFNA.

Printed and published for the American Ceylon Mission by Mr. V. Joseph Ariyanayagam, residing at Tellipalai, at the American Ceylon Mission Press, Tellipalai.