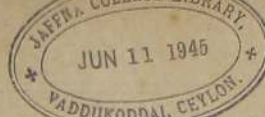


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THE



# MORNING STAR

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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

#### A Branch of the All-Ceylon Tamil Congress at Kayts

A largely attended public meeting was held at Kayts on Friday, 1st of June at St. Anthony's College grounds when a branch of the All-Ceylon Congress was formed. Mr. G. G. Ponnambalam, the President of the Congress was taken in procession from the jatty to the College grounds where a rousing reception was given to him. Mr. S. Sivasubramanian, retired Udayar, took the chair. Messrs N. P. Sivasubramanian, Proctor, A. Arumugam, J. P. C. M. and Mr. Ponnambalam addressed the gathering.

#### Methodist Mission marks another milestone

The Methodist Home Mission in the North Western Province reached another milestone when on May 26, a new Methodist Church was opened at Lihiliyagama by the Rev. G. A. F. Senaratne, the Chairman of the Methodist Church, South Ceylon. Immediately after the opening ceremony, a dedicatory service was held at the Church. A public meeting was held later in the compound, presided over by Mr. W. G. Spencer, Police Magistrate, Dandegamulla.

**Tamil Teachers' Request**  
At a meeting of Tamil certificated teachers at the Bilingual School, Cheria Street, Jaffna, it was resolved to send a deputation to the Minister and the Director of Education on matters connected with salary increments and to press that the second class certificated teachers be given one year's training with full pay study leave.

**Farewell to Scout Leader**  
At the Patrol Leaders' Camp held at the Old Park, Jaffna, Mr. T. M. Mathai, on behalf of the Scouts of the peninsula bade farewell at the conclusion of the camp to their Assistant District Commissioner, Mr. K. B. Alahakone, Deputy Camp Chief, who is leaving for Kandy. Mr. Mathai said that Mr. Alahakone had been a live wire and had nursed an almost dyptic association to one full of health and energy. He exhorted the Scouts to maintain that high standard.

**Jaffna Central College**  
Nine out of the eleven students sent up were successful at the H. S. C. and University Entrance Examination held recently. In the H. S. C. Examination two were placed in the First Division. At the Entrance Examination, two gained admission to the Faculty of Arts, two to the Faculty of Science, and five to the Faculty of Medicine.

**The Northern Province Teachers' Association.**  
The thirtieth annual general meeting of the N. P. T. A. was held on Saturday, 2nd, inst. at the Jaffna Central College, commencing at 10 a.m. The President, Mr. J. C. Charles, took the chair.

The following resolutions were adopted:  
1. That this Association views with grave concern the dearth for qualified teachers and the difficulties experienced by School Managements in securing suitable teachers on the salary scales for new Entrants, and therefore, appeals to the Minister in Executive Committee to delete appendix C of the Code for Assisted English Schools as the continuance of the Salary Scale for

New Entrants constitutes a grave injustice to teachers in English Schools and is likely to seriously jeopardise the cause of education.

2. This Association is of opinion that owing to the increase in numbers in existing schools and due to the opening of new Central Schools there is an increasing demand for Graduates and Trained Teachers, and with a view to providing the necessary number of qualified teachers the Government to take steps:-

(1) To provide facilities for the training of a larger number of Teachers;

(2) To evolve a scheme in collaboration with authorities in the University of Ceylon for a larger production of Graduates.

3. This Association is of opinion that the Secretary and the Treasurer of the A. C. U. T. shall be elected by the delegates present at an Annual General Meeting of the A. C. U. T. from among the nominees of the Affiliated Associations.

4. "There should be Colleges of University Status at Colombo, Jaffna and Galle in addition to the University at Kandy which would give facilities and opportunities to all students to receive a University Education."

The election of office-bearers resulted as follows:-

President: Mr. K. Poonanampillai, B. A.; Vice President: Mr. C. Subramaniam, B. A.; General Secretary: Mr. T. Jayaratnam, B. A.; Asst. Secretary: Mr. T. Seenivasagam; Treasurer: Mr. C. S. Ponnuthurai; Representatives on the Executive of the All Ceylon Union of Teachers: Messrs. K. Poonanampillai, T. T. Jayaratnam, J. C. Charles, S. Sivapathasundaram, and C. Subramaniam.

With a vote of thanks to the retiring president, Mr. J. C. Charles, and the retiring Secretary Mr. M. A. Thangarajah, the meeting terminated.

Mr. J. C. Charles entertained the members of the Executive Council to tea at 4 p.m.

#### University Entrance and H. S. C. Results.

The results of the University Entrance and Higher School Certificate examinations conducted last month by the University of Ceylon show that the following number of candidates have passed from the different Colleges of Jaffna.

	University Entrance	H.S.C. Total
Arts	2	4
Science	2	1
Medical	2	1
Jaffna Central	2	4
" College	2	1
Hindu	2	2
St. Patrick's	1	3
St. John's	3	2
Hurtley	1	2
Victoria	1	1

### Personal

Rev. G. D. Thomas, has assumed duties as Executive Officer of the Jaffna Council of the South India United Church.

### FOREIGN

#### Founder of Girl Guide Movement Dead

The death has been announced at the age of 86 of Miss Agnes Baden Powell, founder of the Girl Guide Movement. She is a sister of the late Lord Baden Powell, Founder of the Boy Scout Movement. She was a skilled balloonist in her younger days. It was her wish when the war ended to have a helicopter.

### GOVERNOR'S VISIT TO AMERICAN MISSION INSTITUTIONS

#### At Jaffna College

A framed letter of George Washington, written from Mount Vernon was read with interest by the Governor when he and Lady Moore visited Jaffna College, the pioneer American educational institution in Ceylon, on June 1st.

Mr. K. A. Selliah, Acting Principal, showed them round the College. The Governor and Lady Moore were greatly interested in the College library, comprising over ten thousand volumes including rare plays and books on ancient Ceylon.

The Governor and party then moved on to Oakley Hall, where the whole college had assembled.

Ratnasingum Appadurai, a senior student, welcomed them.

Replying His Excellency congratulated the speaker on his very fine address. Recalling the year 1912, when he was in Jaffna, the Governor said that he could not recognise that College with its excellent buildings of today. He was glad to find that in the supervening years Jaffna College, as one of the oldest Colleges, had not forgotten its ideals. He referred to the great support that College received from their great ally America. He expressed his sincere hope that the spirit of co-operation would continue. Acceding to a request of the students the Governor declared that day a holiday.

#### At Union College

His Excellency the Governor visited the Union College Industrial Department on the afternoon of Thursday, May 31st. On arrival he was given a rousing reception by the staff and students of the College. After a Guard-of-Honour presented by the scouts, the Directors of the College and other prominent visitors were introduced to His Excellency. On ascending the platform, His Excellency was greeted by Muhammad A. B. Kumarakulasinghe. Then Mr. I. P. Thuraiaratnam, Principal, read an address which recalled the visits of previous Governors beginning from Sir Arthur Hamilton Gordon in 1886. On that occasion Sir Arthur Gordon offered a generous donation to send Mr. C. K. Yesuthason, a graduate of the Industrial School to America for training. His useful work done by the Department of Commerce and Industries for industrial development of the Island and the assistance received by the school from this Department were also gratefully acknowledged in the Address. Mr. Yesuthason, who retired in 1937 after 50 years of meritorious service, was himself present at the reception.

The address was exquisitely worked on paper made of palm-leaf pulp and beautifully framed in palm-leaf wood and other parts of the palm-leaf palm.

The Governor, in reply, expressed great admiration for the workmanship of the address and said that he and Lady Moore would always treasure this memento. He also expressed his delight at the opportunity of seeing Mr. Yesuthason who, he said: "has indeed proved a very wise investment for this school and for all Ceylon."

His Excellency then went round seeing the various activities of the Industrial Department—printing, book-binding, carpentry and paper-making. He expressed great interest in all that he saw and made special reference to the paper-making department. The Governor and party then left amidst enthusiastic cheering by the students.

#### At the Mission Hospitals

His Excellency the Governor and Lady Moore on arriving at Melwood Hospital, Jaffna were received by Dr. E. T. Buell, the Director, Mr. T. Buell, the President of the American Ceylon Mission, the members of the Board of Directors and the Staff, and were shown round the wards. His Excellency expressed great delight and admiration at the work done and at the pleasant atmosphere of the premises.

Lady Moore also visited the William Mather Memorial Orphanage at Maruthansadai.

### PREPARATION OF SALTEN CRYSTALLISERS AT ELEPHANT PASS AND PALAVI

The Chairman, Tender-Board will receive tenders up to 12 noon on Friday the 8th June 1945, for the above services.

For further particulars, application may be made to the Salt Commissioner or the officers in charge of the respective Saltens.

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### IN MEMORIAM.

In Ever-Loving Memory of  
Edward Swaminather Sinnathamby

Died: June 7th 1944

"Father, who hast gathered  
This dear soul to rest  
Unto Thee we yield him  
Sure Thou knowest best."

(Inserted by his sorrowing wife and children)  
Nunavil,  
Chavakachcheri.

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10







## The Morning Star

Friday, June 8, 1945

### TWELVE MEN IN A ROOM

This week, the Y. M. C. A. celebrates its one hundred and first birthday. On June 6th, 101 years ago, twelve good men and true met in an Upper Room in St. Paul's Churchyard in London and began a work which has flourished and multiplied far beyond their dreams. The meeting place was a bedroom over a drapery store where, with one exception, the twelve young men were employed and the company were assembled to establish, on a permanent basis, a devout welfare society which, for a year or so, had been developing among themselves.

The leader and inspirer of it all was a cheerful, ruddy-faced young man named George Williams, son of a Somerset farmer. He had come to London after serving his apprenticeship to a Bridgewater draper, and had soon found himself appalled by the terrible conditions of living among his fellow-workers—conditions all too common, alas, in those days of "a barrack-like boarding-in" of employees.

Challenged by such a pressing need, George Williams had felt impelled to attempt some Christian solution for the lamentable state of affairs in his own house of business; and the meeting on June 6, 1844 was the culmination of the little gatherings he had arranged for Bible study and prayer in his own room. But what George Williams did not know then and could not even imagine was that that meeting in an upper room was to take a world conquest.

This is how the Young Men's Christian Association was born. These were the humble origins of an institution now beloved, respected, and sought after throughout the world—a truly international Youth Movement. The Y. M. C. A. grew quickly. Within a few weeks of its founding it had settled in ampler headquarters at Radley's Hotel, Blackfriars and from the gatherings there, we are told, the members separated to their various places of business strengthened and cheered for the difficult task of keeping their flag flying in dormitory, shop and warehouse. Very soon the flag was flying on the continent, in the Dominions, in America. The Red Triangle was firmly supported on all sides and the first World Conference was held in Paris in 1855 when 37 young men were present, the veteran among them being George Williams, aged 24.

On the occasion of the Y. M. C. A. Silver Jubilee George Williams was knighted. At that time the Association had more than 150,000 members in the United Kingdom, nearly half a million in America and it was firmly entrenched all over Europe, and the Dominions and had spread even to China and Japan.

In the summer of 1905, Sir George Williams in his 84th year and a very sick man paid his last visit to the City to take his leave of the London he loved. In the words of his biographer Sir Ernest Hodder-Williams, "The slight, bent figure walked down Paternoster Row. Men turned as they saw the firm, strong white face, its deep thoughtful lines more marked than ever, the eyes sunk under the heavy white brows. And thus he passed out of sight of the business he had built and the scene of his labours for God and for Man and turned Amen Corner". A few

weeks later Sir George Williams died and they laid him to rest in the crypt of St. Paul's.

Thus passed the old warrior who never ceased to fight the good fight. But the Y. M. C. A., which he had founded went on. It has ever been the aim of the Y. M. C. A. to help youth in the development of Christian character and to give practical help and counsel as well as spiritual guidance, recognising that a man must work and play as well as pray. The devout George Williams and his helpers were the shapers of those aims. They were the master builders and to that meeting of twelve men in an upper room 101 years ago, youth owes more than it will ever know.

### ROLE OF RELIGION IN THE POST-WAR WORLD

It is a commonplace of contemporary thought and opinion to attribute the catastrophes and calamities of the day to the failure of religion to lead mankind through morally sound paths of life. Have not the so-called Christian nations of the West struggled through two deadly wars in the last quarter of a century? Have they not requisitioned every single invention, every item of progress, every resource of the brave new world, to further their earthly power, pride and national glory? Have they not, in doing so, utterly disregarded the moral authority and teaching of their religion? While admitting these charges, one cannot but level similar charges against other prominent religions that have been functioning elsewhere. The fact is that religion has not so far been permitted to play its legitimate part in the proper ordering of the world.

#### Defective Education

Speaking about religion in general, and Christianity in particular in the centres of modern civilisation, we should ascribe its comparative failure to defective instruction in the full meaning of its implications. Says a noted Roman Catholic contributor in an issue of the *Dublin Review*:

"Christianity in the past has been more of an appearance than a reality. In other words, despite its authority, its prestige, its numbers, it has not really converted men. Nine-tenths of men's lives, let us say, have been led without reference to Christian teaching, so that, even though the world were outwardly converted, the direction of men's social lives would still be nine-tenths non-Christian". Continuing in the same strain, the writer grows rhetorical and asks:—"Holiness there is; fidelity there is; full wisdom in the Church herself there is. But is there sufficient education? Are Catholics today, and have Catholics in the past been adequately trained; not so much to be good Catholics according to their lights: but to see the full light? Do they know clearly enough what their religion implies?" The writer's eloquence is understandable, and can be applied *mutatis mutandis* to every other religious denomination, national or international.

Reasons of Failure  
The failure of Christianity to leaven the social life of the West, as best as one could desire, may be attributed to a variety of circumstances. Christianity of the first three centuries was characterised by a real cent per cent practice of the Gospel of Jesus. But with the acceptance of the Faith—nominal in most cases—by worldly emperors, potentates, dukes and kings, the rank and file of Christians began to lead lives, more or less like those of their leaders and rulers. At best, they all led double lives, the spirit struggling against the flesh, rising to spiritual elevation at one moment, and falling back to flesh pots, the next. Later, Christianity was troubled and troubled by

series of heresies and schisms which not only broke up the religious unity of Christendom but focussed its attention on purely dogmatic questions, leaving aside, or rather throwing into the shade those broad principles of social justice and right ordering of society for which Christianity has always stood.

#### Struggle between Church and State

This sad state of affairs was followed by the rise of a galaxy of a secular states in the political horizon of Europe, which, in turn, kept a jealous eye on what they regarded as the pretensions of the churchmen. When the struggle between the Church and State grew more and more intense, the Church faced by a choice of evils, chose the lesser evil. In other words, the Church chose to fight for the bare minimum of religious liberty, namely freedom of worship and religious education. But when she was reduced to defending this citadel the enemy had occupied immense territory which, properly speaking, belonged to her.

In fact, this domain of men's social behaviour has all along been a sort of no-man's land, where the law of the jungle prevailed. It was disowned by the State and practically unclaimed by the Church. Hence the genesis of the present national calamities and world cataclysms. No wonder that a world, smarting under the yoke of such gross injustice, has chosen to experiment with the Fascism of Italy, the Nazism of Germany and the Communism of Russia. The first two have virtually made their exits, when the third is, perhaps, about to make its entrance in right earnest! Religion and Communism

Religion and Communism agree in violently repudiating the social evils of the day. Both of them repudiate the selfishness, greed, uncontrolled competition, and terrible disparity between the rich and the poor. They demand in common the essential rights of men to living wages, decent living quarters, to marriage and children, to education, to justice before law, to wholesome recreation, etc. But they fundamentally differ in their basic philosophy. The true Communist following the lead of Lenin and Stalin is an atheist, whereas religion holds up God as the Supreme Ruler of all creation. Whereas class-war is of the very core and essence of communism, universal brotherhood and mutual co-operation are the fundamental gospels of religion. Differing as they do in such vital matters, the two cannot be yoked together in redeeming the world from the social and political evils of the day.

What then is the role of religion in the post-war world? Evidently it cannot, without grave detriment to its very existence, be content with merely guarding the citadel of religious worship. Religion has to resume its original role of enlightening man on the principle of the Fatherhood of God and Brotherhood of Man, with all the social implications it conveys. Religious education must be given very great importance in the post-war world; and the State ought to play the role of the procurator and protector of religion. Every religion emphasises social justice, which is, also, so conspicuous in the world by its very lack of universal recognition. When the ideas of social justice are thus given wide currency, and the conscience of the human race is thus given a reorientation, states, provinces, nations and international corporations will be weaned from their narrow lust for gold, power and racial superiority. Then and then alone shall the world be prepared for world-security plans and international peace. "The Orient"

## CORRESPONDENCE

### A LAGOON SCHEME

AN APPEAL TO MR. SENANAYAKE

Sir, In 1934 I submitted to the Minister of Agriculture a scheme for the conversion of large lagoons (e.g. Jaffna, Puttalam, Batticaloa) into fresh water lakes. The deep portions of these lakes were to be used as storage tanks for life irrigation: the shallow portions when they dry up annually in the dry weather were to be used for agriculture and pasture; some portions were to be reserved for fish culture; canals were to be made for irrigation and for providing cheap water transport. The Minister hesitated. No one can blame him as he had already embarked on a vigorous irrigation policy of the conventional type and did not want to be distracted by what he considered a novel scheme though I held out hopes of better and speedier results at a very small fraction of the cost. Being convinced that the scheme would give handsome profits I offered in 1935 to do all the work at my expense if I got a lease of the lagoon for 50 years on a rental of Rs. 16,000 per annum; the Government was to be at liberty for any reason or no reason to terminate the lease on payment of the money expended and Rs. 50,000 as compensation. The Minister replied (29-5-35) that this proposal also could not be entertained.

Though the then Director of Irrigation expressed the view later in that year that the scheme was feasible and was the best method of providing irrigation for Jaffna nothing was done for years till Mr. Webb was asked to report on a scheme for the Vadamaratchy section of the Jaffna lagoon. In 1942 he submitted a very exhaustive and learned report. He says: "Inc calculable benefits will be derived by the Peninsula from the construction of the scheme. I use the word 'incalculable' advisedly, as conveying both its meanings—that the benefits would be tremendous even though the full extent of them cannot be reckoned out beforehand. I consider it a most excellent proposition and advocate it most strongly". The present Director of Irrigation, Mr. Taylor, reports, "I consider the scheme will be a boon and blessing to the Jaffna Peninsula.... I recommend the project with every confidence".

Mr. Webb having been asked to report on the Vadamaratchy section does not report on the Elephant Pass Lagoon. He, however, points out that the Elephant Pass scheme seems to offer possibilities of conversion.... as an extension of this scheme and with even less cost", and compares the main section to the Zuyder Zee reclamation.

I proposed in 1934 that the Elephant Pass Lagoon should be taken up before or along with the Vadamaratchy lagoon. The Elephant Pass Lagoon which is as big as Minneriya Giant's Tank, Irampadu, and Kalawewa—all four put together can be easily made to feed the Vadamaratchy and Upper lagoons. Though I am convinced that the proper order is Elephant Pass first, I would not raise the question if it would delay the Vadamaratchy scheme which Mr. Webb recommended in 1942 should be put under construction at the earliest possible moment. I would appeal to the Minister and his Committee to make supplementary provision for this work. My offer of 1935 is still open. If Government does not wish to undertake the work.

Yours etc.,  
K. Balasingham.

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