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NO. 25.

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

NEWS**LOCAL****Church Union in Ceylon**

The first meeting of the Joint Committee on Church Union for Ceylon was held on the 31st May and 1st June. Since 1940 there have been "exploratory" committees and after many meetings now the churches appointed delegates. The Church of Ceylon had a delegate from India also appointed by the Metropolitan. The Church of Ceylon, the Methodist Church, S. I. U.C. and the Baptist Church were represented. The Archdeacon of Colombo conducted the devotions. The constitution and the procedure of the Committee were discussed at length. The Rev Mr. Senaratna (Methodist) and Rev. Mr. Weerasinghe (Baptist) were appointed Chairman and Secretary. Conveners for the delegation of different churches were nominated. It was agreed that the same procedure be adopted as was obtained in the Joint Committee on Church Union for S. India.

The question of the unified ministry was taken up and frankly faced. In the opinion of the Committee, the unification of ministry by some means or other from the very inauguration of Union was preferable to safeguarding conscience by pledge and having 30 years period of irregularity. It was decided to study further the question of supplemental ordination and Canon Manuel and Rev. D. T. Niles were asked to prepare a statement on the subject after consultation.

"Dr. Hewavitarne Prize"

K. V. S. Kathirgamanathan, a student of Jaffna Central College and son of Mr. K. V. Sinnadurai, Proctor S. C. & Member U. C., has won the "Dr. Hewavitarne Prize" awarded to the best candidate at the S. S. C. 1941 Examination.

Educational Exhibition at Kandy

An educational exhibition is to be held in Kandy in August under the auspices of the All-Ceylon Union of Teachers.

It will consist mainly of display of the practical work done in schools and is being organised to stimulate interest in 'learning by doing', especially in the primary and post primary classes of schools and to show how schools and courses of study could be built round arts and crafts, a local industry or agriculture or music.

Jaffna Wins Health Shield Outright

The Michael Gunaratne Health Shield has been awarded to the Jaffna Health Week Committee for the third year in succession.

This means, according to the conditions of the grant of the Shield, that Jaffna is entitled to its permanent possession.

In view of this Mr. Michael F. P. Gunaratne, the donor of the Shield, has promised to offer another Shield for competition under the same conditions.

The Shield was first offered in 1930 to be awarded for the best Health and Baby Week held in the Island. Since 1933, however, its award has been based on the reports submitted by the Medical Officers of Health on the activities carried during the All-Ceylon Health Week.

Jaffna Schools and War Savings

Inviting Mr. S. L. B. Kapukotuwa, Deputy Director of Education, to open the Food and Craft Exhibition at the Stanley Government Central School, on the second day Mr. V. K. Nathan, Education Officer, Northern Province said that children in Jaffna Schools have this year invested one and a quarter lakhs of rupees in War Savings Certificates. The Exhibition was a great success and large numbers of pupils and teachers thronged the premises from morning till late in the evening. The Prizes were distributed on Saturday by Sir Waithilingam Duraiswamy, Speaker of the State Council.

Benefit Performance

In aid of the Anaiottai Central Reading Room, a musical entertainment was given by Pundit N. Samugaranathan at the Manipur Hindu College Hall, under the patronage of Mr. C. Coomaraswamy, Government Agent. N. P. A vote of thanks was proposed by Mr. V. Chunderampillai, President of the Reading Room.

Tamil's Grave Misgivings

At a meeting of the Working Committee of the All-Ceylon Tamil Congress held on the 17th inst. at which representatives of various districts and provinces in the Island were present, it was unanimously resolved to convey to the Secretary of State the grave misgivings of the Congress at the exclusive opportunity to hold ex parte discussions given to Mr. D. S. Senanayake who, "though in name Leader of the State Council, cannot claim to speak for five of the six communities in the Island and has been the chief advocate of Singhalese communalism against the Tamils and other minorities, and who led the boycott of the Soulbury Commission which might have succeeded but for the united and determined opposition of the Tamils and other minorities, and who has further refused to obtain a mandate from the State Council or even afford an opportunity to debate the scope of his mission."

The Working Committee further resolved that the Tamil community, by virtue of its historic past and present importance and the contribution it had made to the political and constitutional progress of the Island should be afforded equal opportunity for discussions with the Secretary of State and urged that discussions by the leaders of the various communities would be essential for the forming of the constitution suitable and acceptable to the various sections of the population.

The Committee further resolved to convey its thanks to the Se-

cretary of State for sending out the Soulbury Commission thereby affording an opportunity to the various interests, including minority communities to place their views fully and publicly before the Commission.

New Feature in Draft Estimates

We understand that a new feature in the Draft Estimates of expenditure for the financial year 1945-46 will be the provision of a motor car and a furnished bungalow in Colombo for the Speaker of the State Council.

Colombo Association of the J. C. S. I.**U. C.**

A variety entertainment in aid of the above Association was held at St. Paul's Hall, Mihagiriya on Monday the 25th of June under the distinguished patronage of Mr. J. G. Rajakulendran, Acting Minister of Labour, Industry and Commerce. Rev. G. M. Canagaratnam welcomed the Minister while Dr. S. L. Navaratnam, the President of the Association, garlanded him. An interesting programme consisting of songs, dances, and scenes from plays was gone through. Mr. S. J. V. Cheilanayagan, Advocate, thanked all those who contributed to the success of the entertainment. Mr. S. K. Nalliah, Secretary of the Association and the members of the S. L. U. C. Hostel in Colombo, were responsible for organising the entertainment.

Personal

Mr. K. Sabanathan, of the Education Department, has been appointed Chief Tamil Translator to Government. He has contributed several articles on Tamil Literature and History to the leading Tamil Journals and Annals in South India and Ceylon and is the author of several books which are at present in the press.

Obituary

The death occurred on Monday at Koddaimunai, Batticaloa of Rev. Thambipillai Samuel Vethanayagan, retired Methodist Minister. The remains were interred at the Methodist Cemetery, Koddaimunai on Wednesday.

University Awards

The following students from the Colleges in Jaffna have been awarded Scholarships by the Ceylon University on the results of the University Entrance Examination:-
Hardley College : K. Nadarajah
Central College : S. Ravi Raj
St. Patrick's College: P. Jegannathan
(Exhibition)

A Service of Installation

A Service of Installation, installing Mr. F. J. Ratnayake, B. A., B. D., as a worker under the J. C. S. I. U. C., will be held at the Alaveddi Church on Sunday the 1st July, at 4.30 p.m. All are invited.

INDIAN NEWS IN BRIEF

Rev. A. Ralla Ram, General Secretary of the Student Christian Movement of India, now touring in U. S. A., has received the honorary degree of D. B. from Wooster University, Ohio, U. S. A.

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SHORTLY!

"DRAVIDA"
A history of the Dravidian Race from the Mohenjo-Daro period to the British period, with Maps and Illustrations
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FOREWORD BY K. A. NILAKANTA SANTRI, M. A., Professor of Archaeology and History, Madras University.

"The author deserves a word of thanks.....this is the first book I have seen which seeks to satisfy want that has been felt for some years."—PROF. NILAKANTA SANTRI.

"It is a clear and succinct account of the history of the Tamil race...."—REV. FR. GNANA PRAGASAM, O. M. I.

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The Morning Star

Friday, June 29, 1945.

NEW TRENDS IN EDUCATION

The story is told that when a Chinese Students' Association in America was offered a small amount of space in an aeroplane going to Chunking, they were told that it could be used only for "cultural material". But what the Association particularly wanted to send was a parcel of vitamin pills for Chinese students. Fortunately the State Department concerned took a wide view of the meaning of "cultural" and gave permission for fifteen pounds of vitamins to be included with the text books, pens and typewriter ribbons which were also needed in Chunking. The officials very sensibly realised, it is said, that students do not live by books alone.

It is with more than ordinary interest that we should watch this new trend in educational policy. Declaring open the Food and Craft Exhibition last week at Stanley Central School, Jaffna the Hon'ble Mr. A. Mahadeva, Minister of Home Affairs, very rightly said that the Exhibition organised by the Education Officer of the North reflected the new trend in educational policy which required that a child's education was not thought complete unless he had been educated in Arts, Craft, Music and Agriculture. The Educational Exhibition to be held in Kandy in August under the auspices of the All-Ceylon Union of Teachers has also been organised with the object of stimulating interest in "learning by doing" especially in the primary and post-primary classes and with the object of showing how schools and courses of study could be built round arts and crafts, a local industry or agriculture or music. It is certainly very gratifying to note that Ceylon is keeping abreast of the times and is by no means slow to experiment on systems of education that have been tried with success in other countries.

There is little doubt that this new trend in our Education policy is well conceived. Any attempt to implant a system of education with the highest features of cultural progress on the empty stomachs and half naked bodies of village children is doomed to failure. It is also very desirable that under the stress of abnormal conditions like War, Pestilence or Famine, we should have in our country schools of the type of the Baile Schools of China which are the latest development of the Co-operatives and through which Rewi Alley, the New Zealand Founder, is teaching the Youth of China to see adventure in creative work. These Baile Schools, incidentally, are likely to have a big influence on China's future industrial development.

But we should like to sound a note of warning. It is a tremendous responsibility on those who are responsible for shaping the educational policy of our Island at this transitional period to see to it that neither education nor culture suffers by this change. There should be no room left for the remark that "a crude and steady system produced, in older days, better results than imperfect systems

which reduce themselves to fads and tease the pupils." We should also like to refer to the note of caution expressed recently by Mr. C. M. Bowra, Warden of Wadham College, Oxford, in his Presidential Address to the Classical Association at Oxford. While admitting the claims of the new Scientific Spirit in Education he said that the spiritual experience derived from great literature is not a thing we can lightly throw away. To all those who love the highest qualities of the human mind, the necessary sacrifice of the Art's courses at the English Universities in order to set free as many young men as possible for the defence of Freedom has been he said, one of the real sorrows of these war years. We do hope that the new trends in our educational policy will steer clear of these dangers.

INDIAN CHRISTIANS AND OUR NATIONAL DESTINY

At the third sitting of the Bangalore Conference on Wednesday the 6th June, Messrs V. Chakkara and Chandran Devadasan opened the debate on the above subject which was followed by a very lively and many-sided discussion in which several members took part.

MR. CHAKKARA'S ADDRESS

Mr. Chakkara referred to the early history of the evolution of the Indian Christian consciousness. It had nationalism as unchristian and disloyal to the Lord. Since those years there has been a steady and continuous movement among Indian Christians towards complete identification with the main current of Indian nationalism. That India has a political destiny cannot be questioned by even the old world Indian Christians, but this is not to be achieved by the more automatic processes of history but by active participation in the common struggle for freedom. The Indian Christian attitude is determined both by his common kinship with India as a whole, and his religion. Such is the problem, and how these two factors will act and react is being discovered and the future will make the discovery more explicit and clear-cut in details.

Turning to the Indian Christian part, Mr. Chakkara said that there is an Indian Christian community and yet there is not any such in the sense in which we can speak of the Hindu community and the Muslim. There is no internal cohesion because of caste and Church cleavages. Yet there is a legalised community—probably a legal fiction. This has its own advantage in that it has lessened the idea of communalism: so much is this the case that it may be said that Indian Christians are the least communal minded in India. Communal representation for a very minor community like ours cannot furnish us with adequate safeguards nor such a large share in the loaves and fishes of Government service. The real potential influence of Indian Christianity and leadership can only be realised by our active participation in the wider national life—especially in the political and economic planning that is, for the highest destiny of the country.

The speaker could not agree with either those who would accept whatever powers that be, or with those who would regard politics as of the devil, though reaping the fruits of the rule of Satan in this world. Religion is of two kinds—communal religion that emphasises community and true religion that makes the love of God and love of men, irrespective of caste and creed and colour the supreme guiding consideration. The Christian should be under the influence of the higher teaching of Jesus. Religion should be divorced from politics, but it should inspire the inner motives and outlook and treatment of men. Such is the contribution that we can make. If we can align ourselves with the real genius of our land, and illuminate it and bring it under the influence of Jesus Christ. Indian Christians cannot be untrue to the past heritage of which we ought to be fully conscious, nor of the Christian message—and it is one of the co-operation between the two that our place in our national destiny should be determined. Neither chauvinistic nationalism of the West, apart from Christian values, nor a mere contentious religious mysticism can be our role. A more positive and dynamic synthesis is demanded by the challenge of Indian nationalism and Indian Christianity.

MR. CHANDRAN DEVADASAN'S ADDRESS

Is there no place for the service

of the Christian community in India? Some would call it a legal fiction. Others who are familiar with certain painful aspects of church councils, such as squabbles over property, would accept it as far too much of a legal reality. Yet others would call the existence of the Christian group a historical accident. The point however is not merely to try and explain its presence but to accept responsibility for it and to study its problems. The acceptance of such responsibility involves the recognition of two facts. First, the Christian groups scattered all over the country need to be welded into Christian community. Second, the life of the community should be integrated into the life of the nation so that Christians can participate in our national destiny.

In order to achieve the first objective, namely, the creation of a real Christian community, we need to get rid of those anti-social elements which we have taken over from the communities from which the converts came. Unless this is done the Christian elements will merely solidify into yet another static, reactionary communal group. We do not want Christians to shelter behind existing barriers and prejudices. On the contrary, we need a lowering of barriers and closer contacts with other communities. The Christian community must firmly reject the caste idea. Efforts must be made to rid ourselves of provincial prejudices through inter-marriage. We need to eradicate the differences between rural Christians and urban Christians. We need too to fight the class differences that are entering more and more into the economic life of the country. The Christian groups should be pioneers in co-operative ways of life. But none of these desirable changes will come until the community becomes truly Christian in its outlook. In other words, we need a Christian revolution among the groups that have accepted the faith.

In wanting such a revolution we tend to overlook a very important fact. What differentiates Christian groups from the other religious communities? It is the particular fashion in which the Christian groups express their faith, namely, through the churches, schools, Y. M. C. As and even the I. C. A. These things are the sinews that bind the Christian groups together. In wanting to revolutionise the community we must be prepared to accept responsibility for these factors. The continuance of these factors depends to a very large extent even today on missionary financial support. The Christian groups in the country are still mission-centered. As long as this continues to be so the meaning of the Church will continue to be learned as a second-hand experience. The first step towards making the Church take root in the soil is to make it self-supporting, for only self support can bring real responsibility and acceptance. It is only such a Church that can enter fully with India's history and participate in the national destiny. The birth of such a Church will also symbolise the coming of age of the Christian community. Then the Christian spiritual life in the church will be relevant to the Christian's participation in the destiny of his country. Then there will be absolutely no necessity for a political party of the communal variety. Then the voice of the Christian community and the voice of the Church will be the same though it must be admitted that it is not so today. The Church will mediate between the nation on the one hand and the Christian community on the other where such mediation is necessary. But the Church will also stand for the fulfilment of the destiny of the nation as a whole. At present it is bound to be a hypothetical picture. But that is a goal worth striving for.

What is our national destiny? Whatever that destiny may be, it can only begin to operate in all its richness and fullness when we have achieved nationhood. The creation of national unity, social consciousness, and a national culture are still sore needs of the day. As Christians we need to enter more fully into the struggle. Can we create a pattern of community living free from all anti-social tendencies? Can we strengthen the ideals of service and loyalty which will overcome all that is disruptive and divisive in Indian life? Or are we content to leave it to the forces of nationalism even though we believe our faith has something better to offer? Can we help to level out our caste and communal differences, our social and economic inequalities? If we do not, communism will. The lack of any revolutionary zeal in the religion we make out of Christianity sends hundreds of our young men into the communist fold. And who can blame them? The assimilation of some of the worst features of Western life is doing untold harm to the life of our country. As Christians are we not in a position to interpret some of the finest things in Western culture to our fellow countrymen in order

that our nationalism will be based on understanding and respect for other nations? These are some of the things that come as a challenge to our community. Are we prepared to enter into the blood stream of the

The magnitude of the task and the sense of our own inadequacy will not give us any cheap optimism with which to face the situation. The Christian patriot will always be conscious not only of his own failure but also of the sins of his own people. He must not allow national pride or a false sense of prestige to prevent the courageous condemnation of the evils that hinder our national progress which is so necessary today. The Hebrew prophets had a lofty vision of the future and destiny of Israel but they were untiring in their denunciation of just those things which prevent the vision from being a reality. As the Christian travels along the road which leads from the Old Testament to the New, he hears the lamentations of Jeremiah, the awful denunciations of Amos, the tender pleading of Hosea and the sound of our Lord weeping over Jerusalem. The Christian needs to have a lofty vision of his country's national destiny but if his insight into human history that comes with the knowledge of the Cross does not sometimes provoke "thoughts that lie too deep for tears", he will not be a true Christian patriot.

(To be Continued)

UDUVIL OLD GIRLS' RE-UNION

The 24th Annual Celebrations of the Uduvil Old Girls' Association will be held at Uduvil on Saturday the 30th of June.

Old Boys, Husband of Old Girls and Friends are cordially invited to tea, the public meeting and the entertainment.

Kindly keep this day Free.
No individual invitations.

PROGRAMME

10 a.m.	Praise Service.
11 a.m.	Demonstrations of school activities.
1 p.m.	Lunch.
3 p.m.	Business Meeting.
4.30 p.m.	Tea.
5.30 p.m.	Public Meeting.
6.30 p.m.	Entertainment.

R. Suppiah,
Secy., U. O. G. A.

THE GREEN MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

Pupil Nurses will be admitted to the Hospital for training during June and July this year.

Please apply to:-

Mrs. S. T. Aseervatham,
Manager, Pierce School of Nursing, Manipay.

24-2.

Engagements

The engagement is announced of Mr. G. G. Visuvalingam of Kopay North to Miss Mercy Nesanmany Aseervatham, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. G. Aseervatham of Atchuvelli.

The engagement is announced and the marriage will take place shortly of Mr. Jacob Thambyratnam, B. A., son of Mr. V. C. Thamothampillai and of the late Mrs. Thamothampillai of Atchuvelli, with Mercy Subirthamalar, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Sinnadurai of Uduvil, Manipay.

Uduvil,

20.6.45.

25-1.

MEMORIAL SERVICE

There will be a Service of Remembrance for Miss S. L. Page, Principal, Chundikuli Girls' College, Jaffna—1903-1931, on Wednesday, 4th July at 7.00 p.m. in St. John's Church, Chundikuli.

All the old girls, parents and friends of the school are cordially invited to join in this service.

E. M. Thillayampalam,
Principal,
Chundikuli Girls' College

25-1. Chundikuli Girls' College

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