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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

#### The Methodist Festival

The 13th Anniversary of the Methodist Mission was celebrated in Jaffna on 27th-28th June. There was a Thanksgiving Service at St. Peter's Church, in the morning on the 27th, conducted by the Rev. M. S. Obiniah when addresses were delivered by the Rev. A. C. Thambirajah of the S. I. U. C., Vaddukodai and Mr. D. S. Kandiah, Notary Public, Nallur. In the afternoon there was a Garden Party at the Vembadi Mission compound followed by a Procession of Witness. Later, there was a public meeting and concert at the Jaffna Central College hall, presided over by the Chairman of the North Ceylon District, the Rev. James S. Mather, who in his opening address dealt with the crisis through which the Ceylon Church was passing at the present time. (A summary of this address is given elsewhere). Mr. J. C. Amarasingham spoke of the New World, and said that it would not come by resolutions and paper plans. Man should "repent" as Jesus Christ taught, and it was the only solution for all problems. He said that this repentance was three-fold, God-word, Man-word, and in one's attitude to wealth and matter.

The Rev. R. A. Jefferies and Mr. M. Sasasudram also addressed the meeting. Several schools contributed interesting musical items. The Wesley Guild staged a play entitled "Old King Wesley," which was much appreciated.

#### Service of Dedication

A Service of Dedication was held at the Alaveddy Church last Sunday when Mr. J. J. Ratnarajah, B.A. B.D., was installed as Minister of the Alaveddy Church. Rev. G. D. Thomas, President of the J. C. S. I. U. C. and Executive Officer conducted the service and preached the sermon. Rev. B. C. D. Mather, Secretary of the Council, presented a statement. Rev. A. C. Thambirajah gave the charge to the candidate. The dedicatory prayer was offered by Rev. G. D. Thomas.

Mr. Ratnarajah is the youngest son of the late Rev. V. M. John, who was a Minister of the J. C. S. I. U. C. for a number of years. He is an Old Boy of Jaffna College and had his Theological training at Serampore.

#### Tellippalai Reading Room

A very successful and entertaining Concert in aid of the Tellippalai Reading Room Fund was held at the Union College Hall on Saturday the 30th ult.

Mesars. S. Sanmuganathan, K. Chornalingam and K. Charavaamuttu took a prominent part in the major items.

Dr. S. Subramaniam, J. P. Patron of the Concert, donated Rs. 250 towards this fund.

#### Victory Savings Week

A "Nest-egg" of Rs. 15,000,000 is arrived at for "Victory Savings Week" which will be opened on July 21 following an inaugural address by His Excellency the Governor. It is

understood that Dr. W. Ivor Jennings Vice-Chancellor of the Ceylon University who is now in England has sent a special message on "Savings Week" which will be duly issued. The "Victory Loan" which will be floated to coincide with Savings Week will be floated in two catagories—at the rate of 2½ per cent interest for loans maturing from 10 to 15 years and 3 per cent on those maturing in 20 to 25 years.

#### St. Peter's Wesley Guild

Rev. and Mrs. R. A. Jefferies were entertained at a Social by the members of St. Peter's Wesley Guild. Rev. Jefferies who was responsible for establishing this Guild has returned from a furlough in England where he recently got married. Rev. and Mrs. Jefferies were received by Miss P. Thambiah, the President and Rev. J. S. Mather, Chairman, Methodist Mission, N. C. D. and were garlanded. Mr. J. K. Thambirajah and Miss Thambiah spoke on the occasion. A welcome song specially composed for the occasion was sung. Rev. Jefferies thanked the Guild for the cordial welcome they gave him and expressed the hope that they would continue the useful work that they have been doing. The members of the Guild accepted with thanks the wedding cake presented to them by Rev. and Mrs. Jefferies. The meeting terminated with a prayer by Rev. J. S. Mather.

### Personal

Mr. N. G. Thamotheram, Irrigation Field Assistant, Badulla, has been awarded a scholarship in Irrigation Engineering in the College of Engineering, Guindy. He is a son of the late Mr. J. C. Thamotheram, B. A. (Vice-Principal of Hartley College), and Mrs. Thamotheram of Jaffna.

Mr. T. M. Mathai of St. John's College Jaffna, has been appointed Assistant District Scout Commissioner for Jaffna.

Mr. K. Kularatnam of the Department of Mineralogy has been elected President of the Indian Society of Geographers for the year 1945-46.

### INDIAN NEWS IN BRIEF

Mr. T. D. Santwan, has succeeded Mr. D. F. Maclelland as National General Secretary of Indian Y. M. C. A's.

Burma will export about half a million tons of rice to Central Europe and India by the middle of July.

Calcutta University will, it is learnt, shortly institute two Diploma courses, one in Journalism and the other in Soap Technology.

Lord Wavel has been appointed Chancellor of Aberdeen University.

The S. L. Church Union Continuation Committee has appointed August 26, 1945, as the Day of Prayer for Union.

Presiding over the All-India Santana Dharma Conference in Hardwar recently, the Sankaracharya said that Harijans should be given facilities to enter the temples and say the prayers. He called upon all Mahants and Pujaris to follow the example of Baroda and Travancore States where Harijans enjoyed this privilege.

The Madras Government has decided to control the prices of handloom articles exported to Ceylon from July 1.

—Miss Marjori Sykes has been appointed the first occupant of the Dinabandhu Chair of International Co-operation at Santiniketan, started on July 1. The first task to be taken up by the Dinabandhu Bhawan would be to publish the authentic life history of Dinabandhu Andrews.

—A Missionary Medical Conference was held at Kodakanal recently under the auspices of the Christian Medical Association of India, Burma, and Ceylon. The programme included lectures on medical treatment and hospital organisation and management. Spelling on "Post Graduate Training of nurses in India" Miss Craig of the Post Graduate School of Nursing New Delhi stressed the need for relieving the acute shortage of nurses in the country and the need for attracting the right type of persons.

### FOREIGN

The conditions under which young children receive instruction were criticised by two bodies of teachers at their annual conferences. Both the National Union of Teachers in London, and the National Union of Women Teachers, at Nottingham, carried resolutions demanding that the maximum numbers of scholars in any class should be thirty. The former organization also called for parity of conditions of premises, staffing, and size of classes in every type of school.

The Nottingham conference also passed a resolution demanding that teachers should have a say in the design of school buildings, while the London Conference adopted a resolution that education from the nursery school to the university should be free.

## GLEANINGS

### DOWNFALL OF "ENGLISH"

The percentage of passes in the I. A. and I. Sc. examinations of Calcutta University this year was 291 and 352 as against 39 p.c. and 451 p.c. which was itself a fall from the previous year. Out of a total 13936 who appeared, 9521 failed. It is reported that the largest number of failures were in English. Blame of course, will readily fall on the curriculum and the system of teaching. High School education is a matter of experimentation in India, experts still fumbling. A crude but steady system produced better results in older days than imperfect systems which refuse themselves to fade and cease pupils now. This admitted, the fact remains that a bigger reason is the growing indifference towards the English language among large numbers. Clerical professions are rapidly losing their glamour and the wage earner discovers that there is other work to do which brings food without a mastery of English. Unemployment has been solved in India in the war period without its aid. It is a secret discovered that will work the further downfall of English. The Indian language Press is an ally of that movement, for without knowledge of a syllable of foreign medium, many a man knows as much as an average B.A. Let every means be adopted to maintain the importance of English, but that is a different

endeavour from the attempts to re-educate English as the saviour of hungry mass population.

### THE MOTHER TONGUE

This neglect of English may be sufficiently explained if we ponder, the study of the mother tongue had improved. That is not the case, and cannot be, so long as teachers of those languages enjoy no better respect or status than the "puntilt" of older days. Pupils' grasp of their own language remains as poor as when emphasis was all on English. From greater facility of both occurs the atrocity in conversation from the highest placed lawyer to the poorest coolie woman, that is neither of the languages. The school is the factory of this mixture. In our school days, immediately after the primary stage, the pupil who attempted to speak in Tamil in the class room was punished and the teacher was never more affronted than when the pupil asked a question or replied one in Tamil. We were all "English" in speech, thought and sympathies too. Today the pupil does not know what he is. Language cannot be taught through the text book alone. A choice must be made by the schools as to the medium the pupil be familiarised with, till then both languages will suffer and the pupils too.

—The Guardian.

### Notice

#### William Mather Memorial Women's Centre

HANDWORK DEPARTMENT

Baskets (all sizes and shapes), Wool jerseys, socks, child's vests, needle-work of all kinds, embroidery—will be made to order. Please send in your orders specifying size and kinds.

L. G. BOOKWALTER, Manager.

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### TENDERS

Co-operative Union Hospital Ltd. Moolai, Chulipuram.

#### Surgical Block

Tenders are called for the erection of the Surgical Block. Plan and Specification can be seen at the Secretary's Office by the contractors between 9 a. m. and 5 p. m. Tenders will be closed before 12 noon on the 23rd July 1945. Forms can be obtained from the Secretary on payment of Rs. 10 as deposit. Unsuccessful tenderers' deposits will be returned.

Apply to the Secretary, Co-operative Union Hospital, Ltd., Moolai, Chulipuram.

## THE SHOP FOR THE BEST BOOKS

General and Regional Geography by *Unstead and Taylor*. Geography of Ceylon by *E. K. Cook*. Introduction to Tropical Botany by *M. J. Legos*. Light and Sound by *Stewart*. Heat, Light, Sound and Magnetism and Electricity by *Mackenzie*. A Class Book of Physical Chemistry by *Lawry and Sugden*. Introduction to Organic Chemistry by *E. J. Holmyard*. Higher Algebra by *Hall and Knight*. Pitman's Shorthand New Era Edition.

THE C. L. S. BOOK SHOP, First Cross Street, Jaffna.

### BOOKS OF SPECIAL INTEREST

"THE CASTES, CUSTOMS, MANNERS AND LITERATURE OF THE TAMILS"—By SIMON CASIE CHETTY.

Price Re. 1-00; (Postage Cts. 25).

A work of great interest to students of this subject.

"OUR PLACE IN THE CIVILISATION OF THE ANCIENT WORLD"—By K. BALASINGHAM.

Price Cts. 75; (Postage extra).

A lecture covering a wide field of historical inquiry.

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## The Morning Star

Friday, July 6, 1945.

### 'CORDIAL COMPROMISE'

The words 'provided' and 'but' are two of the most intriguing words in the English language. They can be used to reduce or even totally cancel the effect of all that has been said earlier. The Minister of Education in his reply to the debate on Educational Reforms said that he was grateful to the Leader for his announcement that so far as the expenditure on education was concerned, he undertook to find the money needed. Mr. Senanayake being wide awake interposed: "Provided?" Practically every resolution on the subject of Educational Reforms bristles with provisos. We see the nauseating repetition of the words "provided that", "provided further that", and "subject to the further conditions that". The important thing is to find out what is left of the original motion or intention after three or more such provisos are attached. We are afraid this is what the State Council failed to do when it passed the amendments to Recommendation I, in regard to the '30' rule.

As a statement of our national aims and aspirations, the Report of the Special Committee on Education is an inspiring document. The best known educationists and statesmen collaborated in its production. A mass of evidence was analysed, sifted and examined. The findings were arrived at after 90 meetings spread over a period of 3½ years. The Report says, "many questions, particularly those that gave rise to controversy, had to be carefully considered and then reconsidered." "Who should have control of education is still a burning question in Ceylon. We have therefore given much consideration to the advantages and suitability to this country of (a) a State system of public education, and (b) the voluntary system commonly known as the denominational system." After a world survey of the two systems the Report arrives at the finding that: "The system of direct State control and the system of denominational control should be permitted to exist side by side." Certain restrictions were proposed for new denominational schools "to prevent undue multiplication of schools."

The loftiest sentiment and the best gem in the whole report stands to the credit of the Minister of Education who in the preface to the Report says:—

"The task before the Committee has been arduous and difficult, but I am happy to bear testimony to the spirit of cordial compromise that has pervaded our deliberations."

Is it right that the findings arrived at after such conscientious consideration should be so lightly set aside or materially altered by the whims and fancies of individuals who brought forward amendments before a House which was not in a mood to understand the far-reaching implications of innocent-looking amendments? Broad sides were averted but subtle by-passing succeeded. Is it fair that the spirit of 'cordial compromise' should be given up when the crucial time comes?

### THE 'THIRTY' RULE

For those who are under the impression that the '30' rule is the same in the amendment as in the original recommendation but that only its application has been changed from new schools, which are not to be, to old schools, the actual words may be quoted:—

The recommendation is:—

- (a) To be recognized a denominational school (new) shall have at least 30 pupils of school-going age of the same denomination as the controlling body who reside with their parents within a radius from the school of two miles for boys and one mile for girls and children under 8 years of age;
- (b) having been recognized and registered for grant such a school shall have at least 30 pupils of school-going age of the same denomination as the controlling body if it is to continue to receive assistance from public funds;
- (c) if it is within 2 miles of an already existing State school, children of an "unlike" denomination shall not be taken into account for assessing grant;
- (d) if it is within 2 miles of a State school established later, children of an "unlike" denomination shall continue to be reckoned in the assessment of grant.

The amendment as passed is:—

- (a) To be recognized the school shall have at least 30 pupils of school-going age of the same denomination as the controlling body who reside with their parents within a radius from the school of two miles for boys and one mile for girls and children under 8 years of age;
- (b) to be registered for grant the school shall have at least 30 pupils of school-going age of the same denomination as the controlling body who reside with their parents within a radius from the school of two miles for boys and one mile for girls and children under 8 years of age;
- (c) to continue to receive assistance from public funds the school shall have at least 30 pupils of school-going age of the same denomination as the controlling body who reside with their parents within a radius from the school of two miles for boys and one mile for girls and children under 8 years of age.

It will be seen that (b) and (c) in the amendment are very different from (b) in the recommendation. The terms of the rule as well as its application are changed. The amendment is as illogical as the recommendation is logical. The double change makes the amendment doubly absurd.

To explain what we mean: According to the Recommendation, if a denominational body wished to start a new school while there are so many already existing, it must prove that there is a real local need. The test is provided by (a). Having been thus recognized and registered for grant, the school should always have 30 pupils of like denomination but not necessarily limited to any particular radius in order to continue to receive assistance. The point is clear. If there are

30 local children and not imported ones to begin with and then there are 30 always, may be from anywhere, it could be safely presumed that this is a stable 30. A school cannot perennially be importing pupils or entertaining visitors. On the other hand, (c) in the amendment requires that there should be always 30 from within a fixed radius. Others cannot be counted. Is a Christian child coming to a Christian school, already grant-in-aid, from a distance of 3 miles any the less Christian than a Christian child coming from ten miles? If Christian children come to a Christian school from 5 and 10 miles away, does it not make this school more truly denominational? This is the first absurdity.

The second absurdity lies in applying the rule as amended to existing schools. Denominational schools like Trinity, St. Thomas', St. Joseph's, Ananda and Zahira command island-wide allegiance and any parent who can afford would like to send his child to one of these schools according to his religious affiliation. Or there are schools like St. Patrick's, St. John's, Jaffna Hindu, Central and Jaffna College representing various denominations and enjoying strong provincial allegiance. Is there any earthly reason why students attending these schools from 5, 10 or even 50 miles away should not be counted? The further the students of that particular denomination come from, the stronger is the claim of that school to be called a denominational school.

To fulfil condition (c), students from within two miles should not be allowed to enter the boarding and students from beyond 2 miles need not be taken care of. Residential education should be discouraged. Girls who cannot cycle or pillion-ride and therefore join boarding schools should be disqualified. Finally, what about the practical application of this rule? Is the 2 miles to be measured as the crow flies or the car glides? What a volume of statistics has to be collected and furnished and in turn scrutinized every year to make sure that conditions (b) and (c) are really satisfied. If the number falls below 30 by any chance in any one year, a red flag should be hoisted outside the school gate. Is there any hope of a green flag replacing it afterwards?

The original recommendation has none of these defects. The amendments seem to have been ill conceived by the mover and ill understood by his colleagues.

If 'cordial compromise' is to be the way for peaceful progress in this Island, as we sincerely believe it is, then in regard to the particular matter under question, Recommendation I should be restored in its entirety. We appeal to the Minister to carry the spirit that pervaded the deliberations of the Special Committee to the very end.

### AT CROSS ROADS

(Summary of the Address delivered at the Methodist Festival last week in Jaffna by the Rev. James S. Mather, Chairman of the North Ceylon Methodist Mission)

Today the Christian Missions in Ceylon are at cross roads. Within the next few weeks, they will make important decisions of a most far-reaching character. For over one hundred years, amongst their methods of work, they had laid very great emphasis on Educational work and invested most of their money—capital on it. The resolutions of the State Council passed on Schools recently, affected their schools very seriously. Not even two per cent of the Vernacular Schools run by the Protestant and Christian Missions in Ceylon will

escape this sword of our Minister of Education. He was not able to persuade the members of the Special Committee on Education to agree to do away with our Mission Schools and to have all State schools, but here we see him attacking his object through another channel.

According to these resolutions, I understand there are certain Christian Denominations which will close every one of their Vernacular Schools. Under my own Synod, there are scores of Vernacular Schools all over the Northern and Eastern Provinces, but I have only one small school at Komari, in the jungles of the Eastern Province, which will not fall a prey to the sword of 'King Herod'!

In the present situation, with the sword of the Buddhist Government, under which we at present are, unheated against us, it seems to me that there are two alternative courses open to the Christian Missions to follow.

1. The policy of non-resistance to Evil: The Master taught it in the Sermon of the Mount. Tell the Government, 'you take over all our schools'.

2. The policy of fighting for the right: We may protest against these new rules, appeal to His Excellency the Governor and if necessary, even to the Secretary of State.

There will soon be held a Conference of the Heads of all the Protestant Christian Denominations in the Island, and other representative leaders, which will discuss these questions and give us its recommendations as to the course that might be taken.

There are many I know, who believe that the second course should be taken. I myself have not yet finally decided which is the right course to take under the present conditions. Though I am almost certain that if we protested and appealed to higher authorities we are sure to succeed yet my mind is more favourably inclined towards the first course.

I know that there are many things that might be said in support of the second. It was at the request of the Government that Christian Missions started Educational work more than one hundred years ago and we have invested millions of rupees of Mission money on this enterprise. These moneys were mostly sent by our Christian brothers and sisters in the West, often sacrificing themselves of their comforts and the very necessities of life. Today we are the Trustees of these gifts and it is asked, 'Are you right in allowing Mission schools to be closed? Is the Government justified in its present action?' etc. Even if we are all agreed that the present government is most unreasonable in its hostile attitude to our work, or that these new rules when implemented will be most disastrous to the whole country, yet I am now beginning to feel more and more in favour of the first alternative course, provided Government would accept the following two conditions:— (A) The Education Dept. should guarantee the employment of all the teachers who are now in the Mission schools. (B) Government should pay us adequate compensation for the moneys we invested during the past fifty years on our educational machinery and enterprise, and take over all our School property for which the Controlling Bodies cannot find suitable use in other ways.

The present government in Ceylon is to my mind like the ghost sitting on the graves of the old Sinhalese and Tamil Kingdoms, dressed in modern democratic robes. Whatever it be, there is nothing for the Christian Church in Ceylon to fear, because as we knew from the Bible as well as from the History of the Church the past nineteen centuries, Christianity is a wonderful religion, which prospered best, when difficult times are placed in its way, when ties in authority opposed and persecuted it, rather than when the path was smooth and things were all easy. For more than fifty years, the Church in Ceylon has remained static, the numbers of its membership being all these years just ten per cent of the entire population of the Island. The present opposition though unpleasant for us to face will rouse the Church from its slumber, and prove a great blessing in disguise. It is true that the work of the Christian Missions in Ceylon is at cross roads, but at this juncture if only we seek Divine Guidance, and take the right road as the Light from Above shall direct our footsteps, as I am sure it will, then the Church shall surely march triumphantly onward, and as Isaac Watts sang,

"Jesus shall reign where'er the Sun  
Doth his successive journeys run;  
His kingdom stretch from shore  
to shore,  
Till auns shall rise and set no more."