













The Morning Star

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MODERN TRENDS IN AMERICAN EDUCATION.

Much has been made of the so called march of progress of Western countries, but even in the West thinking people are becoming doubtful of its good effects. It is with three of the dangers of Western culture and the attempts made by American schools to meet them, that this article is concerned.

Now people are finding that the great creation so painstakingly put together in the name of science and progress is beginning to look fearfully like a Frankenstein monster. Whenever the shadow of the mighty machine falls, people find their happiness in danger in three different ways.

First, there is the idea of freedom, and of equality in all things. Freedom so construed, also means freedom to destroy. The destruction of large numbers of cherished institutions like divorceless marriage, extensive classical training, and fairly large families has carried with it the obliteration of so many landmarks that the present generation is indeed a lost generation. The West is at the bottom of the curve of change; it is between the revolution of science and reconstruction of a new world.

Second, there is the rise of the machine, which has caused widespread unemployment which is steadily increasing, and which has come to make life so much easier that people are becoming too fond of comfort and too far from the satisfactions of natural living. The machine now dictates to man rather than man dictating to the machine. His living has become mechanical, his existence highly artificial. He has come to like ease better than hearty and active effort.

Third, there is the increasing crowding together of peoples. Populations are growing and transportation is faster and faster. The result is that one cannot live as much to oneself as formerly. One is continually having to adjust oneself to new people, some of whom may be thousands of miles away. Business is increasingly a more international affair, and the need for better and stronger international law becomes extremely acute as we are faced with a new world war.

All of these things put together make life more and more difficult for American young people. The challenge to education as a preparation for living is therefore great. In answer to it, the following may be noted.

Students are being trained to use their new freedom and equality by being given courses in practical government, home management, psychology, and special vocational guidance. In general, the idea of "education for living" is being emphasized for above the old idea of formal discipline and a rigid insistence upon subjects like Latin, English Literature, and Mathematics.

Machine made problems are being met by vocational training for every type of occupation. Instead of educating students toward any single occupation or simply for a degree, schools believe in helping them to learn whatever occupation they find most fascinating. Then the school helps them to find a job in that occupation.

The increasing complexity of modern society—which by the way is resulting in a growing number of insane in America—has brought forth new causes as well. These include such subjects as sociology, world history, international economics, philosophy of religion, social problems. Help in thinking

along these lines is imperative if American students are to find a way to full, rich living in such a confusing world as ours.

But all these difficulties and dangers are only the usual companions of progress. Progress only comes painfully through much suffering. It is simply a matter now of meeting these new challenges in the same determined way in which they have been met in the past. Since the East has become much concerned with the West, its schools are likely therefore to face the same problems as the West. Hence the present discussion, since it was thought that a description of American developments might be helpful in thinking about the situation here.

STUART WRIGHT.

THE INTERNED MISSIONARIES.

Readers will be glad to know that a considerable number of the missionaries who were interned have been released on parole and are now back in their posts. We give these brethren an affectionate welcome and wish them God-speed in the name of our common Lord as they take up their work again. Since rumour has been busy regarding the conditions under which they were released it seems good to us to quote the exact words of the promise they were asked to make. It is a reaffirmation of the pledge they gave before coming to India and it reads as follows:—

I swear in the presence of God that I will faithfully observe the promise which I made to the British Government through the International Missionary Council, London before coming to India to do nothing contrary to the Government established by law in India, and I include in this promise exact obedience to any rules laid down by His Majesty's representatives, and also an undertaking to refrain from doing, saying, or writing anything, either publicly or privately to the prejudice of the British Government in India.

There is no attempt there to ask any one to forswear his private opinions which whatever they are he has a perfect right to hold. It is a promise an honourable man can honourably give. We should like to take this opportunity to the correct and considerate attitude shown by Government in this whole matter. All who have been released speak well of the treatment they received while in camp. We should also like to pay tribute to the splendid way in which sister Missions, and notably those of the Lutheran persuasion have rallied to the help of their brethren. The war notwithstanding, we live in a kindly world.

N. C. C. Review

NEWS IN BRIEF

The Annual Synod of the North Ceylon Methodist District and of the South Ceylon District are in session this week in Batticaloa and Colombo respectively, and will continue till Wednesday next. The All Ceylon Provincial Synod which consists of elected representatives from both District Synods will meet this year in Jaffna, 26th to 29th inst.

Mr. and Mrs. Emmanuel Tiruchelvam of "Elizabeth House" Jaffna, were at Home on Saturday the 30th December, 1939 from 5 to 7 p. m. to meet Dr. R. L. Tiruchelvam, Medical officer of Health, Trincomalee and his wife on their first visit to Jaffna after their recent marriage. Dr. Tiruchelvam is the youngest son of Dr. James Tiruchelvam of Malaya and nephew of Mr. N. Tiruchelvam of Jaffna and Mr. J. N. C. Tiruchelvam, the well known Proctor of Colombo. The bride is the younger daughter of Mr. W. A. Muttanayana Crown Proctor of Puttalam and grand daughter of Mr. A. M. Muttanayagam, retired Palace Judge, Iravancora.

The function was confined to the close relations and friends of the family. The large and respectable gathering present had a very pleasant time and departed late in the evening.

A memorial service was held in Kuala Lumpur on the 20th December 1939 at the Methodist Tamil church in memory of the late Mr. R. S. V. Muttutambi of Kopay, who died at Kopay on the 8th of October last. There was a very large and representative gathering of all communities residing in Selangor.

Revs. L. A. Samuel, J. S. Adir, S. M. Thevathasan, J. W. A. Kadirgamar, Dr. A. E. Doraisamy and Mr. R. Thambipillai spoke of the sterling qualities of the late Mr. Muttutambi, and Rev. S. S. Pakiamathian, District Superintendent, unveiled the tablet and said that the Tamil church will always remember him as a great Tamil scholar, preacher, poet, author and editor.

—Mr. N. Veluppijai, Manager of Valikam North and South has been transferred to Vadamarady in place of Mr. Sinnathamby who has retired.

—Mr. N. Thambipillai Manager of Tenmaradhy succeeds Mr. Veluppijai.

—Mr. C. Naganathan, Manager of Pooneryn succeeds Mr. Thambipillai at Tenmaradhy.

—The Managements of Pooneryn, Pallai and the Islands have been temporarily filled by clerks of the Jaffna Kacheri.

—Mr. C. Ponnambalam, Advocate, was elected Chairman of the Jaffna Urban District Council and Mr. S. M. Aboobucker, Proctor S. C., Vice-Chairman at a special meeting of the Council held on the 6th inst.

—Mr. Albert Kanagasenan Lewis was ordained as Deacon in the Mutwal Cathedral on Sunday the 24th Dec. by the Bishop of Colombo. He will remain attached to Christ Church, Jaffna with particular responsibility for Evangelistic work in the Pallai District.

WEDDING

At the Methodist Church Colony on Saturday afternoon the marriage took place between Mr. L. R. A. Thevathasan of the Irrigation Department and Miss Mabel Thangathasan Rice, daughter of the late Mr. Samuel Rice and of Mrs. Rice of Vaddukoddai. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. E. Rowton Lee. The bride was given away by her uncle Mr. T. V. Edwards. The attesting witnesses at the signing of the Register were Dr. R. K. Williams and Mr. J. V. Dharmarajah.

PICKED FROM THE WAYSIDE.

STATUES AND GRATITUDE.

That was an unfortunate and unnecessary—why, was it not discourteous too? interruption, when some person shouted out "What about the statue of the late Sir P. Ramanathan?" in the middle of the speech of Mr. Francis de Zoysa at the golden Jubilee celebrations of the *Hindu Organ*. Mr. Zoysa felt rightly perturbed and annoyed. He was warming up with all sincerity and all the eloquence he could command to convey to his audience his conviction that communal cancesses in Ceylon were doing untold harm to the country when this interruption was made. He little expected this question at that time and place. That is why perhaps his reply to the effect that he did not believe in statues and that were trivial things was even more unfortunate than the question.

There may be many to agree with him in his opinion about statues, but what one would like to know is what has happened to the statue of the late much honoured Tamil Knight. What has the Ramanathan Statue Committee done all these long years to redeem the statue from the dusty fate to which it is committed in some god-down? Perhaps Mr. Zoysa was hardly the person to be asked that question. However, could not he and many others of his kind, who profess great amount of gratitude and appreciation of Sir Ramanathan's selfless services to all communities, have helped to see that the statue was put up in the right place?

Whoever is to blame the dis-

no account be allowed to continue. Here is a suggestion. Let a new committee be formed to redeem the statue from where it is now. The committee may be an entirely new one, without any of the old members on it. Or some of the old members also may be added. Let this new committee, consisting of representatives from all the communities, be filled with men who have a real desire to do honour to the statue and the right energy to put their desire to action. I should think that even in the present time of war it will not be difficult to raise the money required for redeeming and installing the statue. Of course, the old committee will only be too glad to be relieved of its arduous duties, which have proved greater than its ability and strength, and it will also be happy to transfer all monies it has with it now on this account. Mr. Zoysa can be counted to give all his help to this new committee.

SINHALESE AMBASSADORS TO JAFFNA.

Another embassy from the Sinhalese community, in the person of Mr. Francis de Zoysa, has come to Jaffna pleading for the co-operation and better understanding of the Tamils with the majority community, and returned.

What is going to be the result? There must be many like me who expected great things to result from the such cordial and intimate contacts made between leaders of the two communities. But we have been disillusioned a good deal. In the past there were a number of such good-will visits at one time from Mr. C. E. Corea of Chilaw, again from Sir D. B. Jayatilaka and so on. A suggestion about a round Table Conference has again and again been made. But nothing tangible has come out either from the visits or from this suggestion. And now will any good result from the impassioned and sincere plea of Mr. Zoysa? There is the President of the Ceylon National Congress Mr. Corea, who is also anxious to see the Tamils joining the Congress. If these two men will join and make the advance necessary to get together a Round Table Conference, their efforts may bear the desired fruit. The Ceylon Congress can be made truly national only when all the communities are gathered together under its fold. Is it not a consummation devoutly to be wished and eagerly striven for?

"A JOKE IS A SERIOUS THING"

Mr. M. Balasundaram, Advocate, the other day at the Old Boys' Dinner of Manipal Hindu College quoted the above words from the late Justice de Sampaayo and also said that he had found it to be so in Jaffna to his cost. But what is truly pathetic is that he found to his cost that day itself that a joke was a serious thing in Jaffna for his humorous

remarks about politicians and political groups in Jaffna brought a spirited and vigorous protest from the Principal of the College. The Principal, who is also one of the Vice-Presidents of the Jaffna Association, must have felt that the fate of the Association rested on his shoulders and that its very existence was threatened. Hence he was cut to the quick and burst into a vigorous reply. But in spite of what this respected Vice President may say there is a good deal of truth in the remarks of Mr. Balasundaram. And what objection could any one have to these words of Mr. Balasundaram:—"The men in Ceylon fall roughly into two classes—honest men and politicians. The politicians are noted for forming political associations which live in a sort of suspended animation or samadhi and come into conscious life or activity once a year or once in a period of five years, when some political reform is being discussed. Their activity for most part therein consists of a cry for more seats or for more jobs and when the discussion is over they once again relapse into their suspended animation or samadhi."

U. D. C. Jaffna

At a General Meeting of the Jaffna Urban District Council held on the 15th ultimo:—

1. The application from the President, Jaffna Public Library for a building site on the Esplanade for the Library was refused.

2. The amended draft by laws regarding Timber or firewood Store or Depot was considered and was decided to adopt the draft of the Legal Draftsman forwarded by the President, Local Government Board.

3. The model by-laws regarding registration of dogs was considered and was decided to adopt the model by-laws referred to in Paragraph 1 (a) of Circular No. B. 1387 of November 29, 1939 received from the Commissioner of Local Government.

4. Considered and adopted Secretary's memorandum with draw Rs. 20,000 from the Kacheri and deposit same in current account in the Mercantile Bank, Jaffna.

5. Sinnadurai delegates to the 7th Conference and Annual General Meeting to be held at Kurnegala on the 2nd and 3rd February 1940.

6. It was decided to inform the Director of Education that the Council is not prepared to contribute any amount towards Free Mid-day Meals for School Children in 1940.

7. It was decided to place Rs. 10,000 in fixed deposit for 6 months in the National Bank, and Rs. 15,000 in fixed deposit for 6 months in the Mercantile Bank, Colombo.

It was decided to place Rs. 15,000 in fixed deposit as Reserve for Depreciation in the Jaffna Central Co-operative Bank.

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