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No. 3

RIGHTOUSNESS EXALTETH A NATION, BUT SIN IS A REPROACH TO ANY PEOPLE

DR. TAGORE'S CHRISTMAS POEM.

Dr. R. Tagore has given expression to his view of the bitter sorrows of the world at the present season in a song dedicated to "Christmas Day 1939." The authorised translation of the song is as follows:

Those who struck Him once
In the name of their Rulers,
Are born again in this present age.
They gather in their prayer-halls
In a pious garb,
They call their soldiers, 'kill,
kill they shout;
In their roaring mingles the
music of their hymns
While the "Son of Man" in
his agony prays, 'God'
Pung, fling far away this cup
filled with the bitterest
of poisons.
The Christmas day service was
held in Santiniketan, and was
conducted by the Rev. Mr. Andrews.

Wedding.

The marriage took place at Uduvil Church, Jaffna of Mr. S. Samuel Rajah son of the late Mr. S. Sabapathy and Mrs. S. Sabapathy of Valvetty and Miss G. Lily Samuel daughter of Mrs. Eliza Samuel. The Rev. S. T. Aseerwatham officiated assisted by Rev. E. N. Hitchcock. A reception was held at the Bride's residence at Uduvil, Messrs. T. C. Rajaratnam, Sam Seevaratnam and the bestman spoke, and Mr. Sam. T. Solomon on behalf of his mother-in-law thanked the large gathering for their kind presence on that happy occasion.

OBITUARY

Master Anton Jegathason Thevathason, son of Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Thevathason died at the Green Memorial Hospital, Manipay on Wednesday the 10th of January, 1940. He contracted Typhoid soon after his uncle the late Mr. E. V. Thambimuttu of the Jaffna Post Office who died of the same disease. After forty days' treatment at the Hospital the deceased was taken back home well recovered, but got a relapse and had to be removed to the hospital again. In spite of the best of medical attention both at the house and the hospital he passed away peacefully. Young Anton, aged 8 years was a cheerful boy and by his pleasant manners attracted the attention of all who came in contact with him. The funeral service was conducted the next day at Chundikul where friends and relations were gathered in large numbers. The service at the house was conducted by the Rev. V. B. Mathulal, Vicar St. John's Church, Chundikul, and Canon Rev. S. Somasundaram delivered an appropriate sermon. Besides the father and the mother young Anton leaves behind four sisters and a brother to bemoan his loss.

North Ceylon Methodists.

At the representative session of the North Ceylon Methodist Synod, held at the Paliyantiva Church, a considerable time was devoted to the subject of education. Rev. E. M. Weaver presided.

The Synod decided to appoint a commission of inquiry to visit during the year all the vernacular schools in the North and Eastern Provinces, belonging to the Methodist Mission and to report to the next Synod on the missionary value of these institutions.

It was also decided to unify the management of all the vernacular schools in the Jaffna Peninsula and to appoint a Tamil minister as the manager of all the schools.

The Synod considered a proposal to hand over all the schools

to the management of the Ceylon Christian Council, but resolved that the proposal was impracticable.

The Rev. James S. Mather was elected Chairman-designate for 1941. The appointment marks a new departure in the annals of the North Ceylon Methodism, as it is the first time that a Ceylonese minister has been elected to this high office.

The Union High School, Tellippalai reopened after Christmas holidays on the 16th inst. Two new teachers have joined the staff this term—Mr. K. Muttavelpillai, B. Sc. (LOND.) and Mr. P. Ariapooshamam. A number of new boys were admitted.

Persons.

—W. T. Jegasothy has been appointed to be Extra Office Assistant, Kandy Kachcheri with effect from January 3 until further orders.

—Mr. A. Saravabamuttu Udaiyar of Pungudutive is acting for the Manisgar of Islands since the death of Mr. M. Somasundaram Manisgar of Islands.

—Mr. S. D. Coomaraswamy has been appointed to be in addition to his own duties as Assistant Food Controller with effect from January 3.

—The Coomaraswamy Prize at the University College offered to the student who does best in Science in the B. Sc. examination, has this year been awarded to Mr. C. S. de Silva.

—Among the officers whose promotions to the First Grade has been sanctioned by the Secretary of State for the Colonies are the following doctors from the North:—

Cooke Gunaratnam, Kulnayagam, T. Puvimsasingham G. W. Ramanathan S. Nagamutta C. The promotions are to take retrospective effect as from October 1935.

—Mr. S. S. Aciaratnam, B. A. (LOND.) was duly admitted and enrolled as an advocate of the Supreme Court before Justice O. L. de Kretser on 11th December last. He is the only son of the late Mr. Samuel John and Mrs. Samuel John of Uduvil. He will be practising his profession in Colombo.

—Dr. M. E. Tiruchelvam, B. Sc. of the Malayan Medical Service and Mrs. Tiruchelvam who were away in England have returned to the Island. During their stay in Europe they visited the Holy Shrine of Lourdes. Dr. Tiruchelvam has since returned to Malaya to resume duties.

—Mr. J. N. C. Tiruchelvam, J. P., the well-known Colombo lawyer, Mrs. Tiruchelvam and Miss Mahesvari Tiruchelvam who were spending the X'mas holidays in Jaffna have returned to Colombo.

—Dr. R. L. Tiruchelvam, M. O. B., Trincomalee and Mrs. Tiruchelvam were on a short visit to Jaffna. During their stay they were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Emmanuel Tiruchelvam of "Elizabeth House," Jaffna.

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3-52



IN
LOVING MEMORY
of

our beloved mother who
passed away on 15th Jan.
1938.

"Ah, dearer than the praise that
attra

The air to-day, our love is here!
She needs no guarantee of fame
Whose own is linked with thought
for others."

Inserted by her sorrowing children
and husband.

"Pon Vaas"
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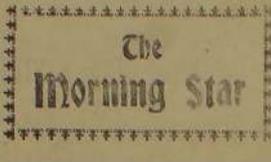
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Friday Jan. 19, 1940.

A BLESSING IN DISGUISE.

Even a war can be a blessing at times. In at least one respect, it may be considered a blessing to Ceylon just now. The circumstances that have been created by the European War are compelling the Government and the people of Ceylon to turn their eyes to the necessity of taking prompt and effective steps towards the production of the necessary food-stuffs in the country itself. Of late there has been a good deal of propaganda work done by the authorities to urge the people to take to such production. The propaganda has we notice, resulted in more persons taking a greater interest in it and paying greater attention to it. For example, many a leading secondary school in Colombo has added to its activities farming on a fairly large scale and established its own farm. Even schools in Jaffna have not hesitated to follow the lead given by the educational institutions in Colombo. This is an encouraging sign. These schools would not only for the time being give a relief to the land in finding food for it, but would also train their students to take a really lively interest in farming and make them devote, in their lives after school, a good part of their time, energy and money to food-production.

We welcome the communique that was issued by the Government to the press last Friday on this subject of producing locally the food-stuffs necessary. The communique warns the country that the volume of shipping available to bring in supplies of food from abroad will decrease as the war goes on and that it is not safe to presume that supplies will be forthcoming from overseas on the scale to which we have become accustomed. Hence its appeal that the country should make itself independent of supplies from overseas to the greatest possible extent. The communique goes on to say: "In particular it is most desirable that the great majority of the people of Ceylon, whose staple food is rice, should accustom themselves to locally-grown food-stuffs, as a regular part of their diet," and it suggests that the people confine themselves to rice for one meal a day only. The introduction of such a variety in the normal diet, besides helping in these difficult times, will be found to be very wholesome on health grounds. It needs no repetition from us to mention the evils of an all-rice diet. Medically the evils have been proved, still our people will stick to it. At least now formed by circumstances, let us hope that we will turn once again to the more wholesome and stronger food of our forbears. This is a matter of not only common prudence, but of patriotism.

A BLANK SPACE ON THE MAP OF THE WORLD.

Formerly, when maps were drawn and nothing—or practically nothing—was known of regions appearing on them, such places were just left blank. At the present time, there are scarcely any more blanks of this kind. There are very few countries that have not yet been thoroughly explored.

New Guinea is one of the last regions where explorers can enjoy themselves to their hearts' content. After Greenland and Baffin's Land, it is the next largest island in the world.

It was the Portuguese (after the ancient Dutchmen) the great European navigators, who discovered this island at the begin-

ning of the 16th century. It was the Portuguese Don Jorge de Menezes who gave the natives the name of Papuans, which title they have kept right up to our own time.

New Guinea is a strange country from every standpoint. The fauna and flora afford species that are not met with elsewhere.

Now for the inhabitants. The Papuans live for preference in houses built on piles; the social and family life also have many curious points about them. In the interior of the country we find, as in Africa, tribes of pygmies of peaceable disposition. The practices of head-hunting and anthropophagy to which the various Papuan tribes are addicted, are now forbidden by the Governments ruling over New Guinea.

Most of the people are tattooed; hairdressing receives a great deal of attention. With regard to the rest of their bodies, the Papuans are exceedingly dirty, unlike the Malays, and they suffer from numerous skin diseases. Other ailments are also met with, such as beriberi and malaria.

The immigrants who, owing to present day politics, now settle in New Guinea, take preventive measures for protecting themselves as far as possible from malaria.

The Malaria Commission of the League of Nations prescribes as a preventive measure 6 grains of quinine per day during the fever season. Should an attack have already come on it only requires a daily dose of 15 grains to 20 grains of quinine during 5 to 7 days, to affect a cure. On page 124 of its report, issued in 1938, this Malaria Commission stresses the fact that the harmlessness of quinine makes it a suitable drug for administration by subordinate personnel without constant supervision whereas such supervision is essential in the case of synthetic products.

In spite of all its efforts the colonisation of New Guinea is still only in its infancy. Those who go to settle there must expect to live the hard life of pioneers.

M. Eng. No. 1.8.

UNVEILING OF TABLET

At Araly IN MEMORY OF THE LATE Mr. and Mrs. Vythianathan Buell.

A largely attended meeting of Christians and Hindus was held at the Araly South Old Church on Friday, the 12th instant at 4 p. m., when a marble Tablet in memory of the late Mr. and Mrs. Vythianathan Buell, parents of Mr. T. Buell, J. P., Horary, Presidency Magistrate, Bombay was unveiled by Mrs. M. H. Harrison of Bangalore.

After the thanksgiving, the Rev. R. C. P. Welsh, President, Jaffna Council of the South India United Church, who presided, said they had assembled there to pay homage to the memory of the late Mr. and Mrs. Vythianathan Buell. He noticed in that Hall three leading gentlemen who knew Mr. and Mrs. Buell intimately and who could testify to their exemplary life and Christian service: Adigar A. Naganathar, Mr. J. V. Chelliah and Mr. A. Thillaiyampalam.

Mr. J. V. Chelliah, speaking in English, said when 40 years ago he came to live at Araly, Mr. Vythianathan Buell was one of those who welcomed him. He had the privilege of knowing Mr. Buell very intimately. When the American Missionaries came over to Jaffna they strove to disseminate the Christian Light among those who belonged to the highest strata of Tamil Society. They believed the spiritual influence would sink down to the lower grades; whereas in India it was the reverse process.

Mr. Buell was a graduate of the Old Bahicotta Seminary. He got his name from America where even now there is a great family of Buells in Boston. There was recently an American Consul by that name, Mr. Buell belonged to an older generation—the like of which it was hard to see now. People of his last generation possessed distinctive qualities, one of which was courtesy. With the

coming of Western democratic tendencies, that virtue was fast disappearing. Mr. Buell was an embodiment of courtesy.

Then the native intelligence in the older generation was something very remarkable. They displayed independent thinking. In these days people were addicted to second hand ideas borrowed from men and books. Mr. Buell's similes and illustrations were often inimitable. He was again conspicuous for his independence and strength of character. In his opinions he was adamant and did not mind what other people thought or said.

The speaker continuing said, Mr. Buell was such a remarkable man that he had made every preparation for his own funeral. He consulted the speaker about Christian cremation, and almost his last words were, "I wish to be cremated. People may misunderstand my action. You must bear testimony to my firm faith in Christ." While in America the speaker happened to meet Mrs. Scott, wife of the well-known Medical Missionary, Rev. Dr. Scott, and she told him that her husband was cremated. She would advise the Christians of Jaffna to cremate their dead.

The Christian work Mr. Buell had done in his parish was very irksome indeed. In those days the missionaries very much misunderstood the religion of the people. It was not their fault. The people's religion since the days of the Portuguese had degenerated. One of the things that purified the Saiva religion then was the strength of character, integrity and piety which brought many into the Christian fold. Mr. Buell loved his work. That compound with that church built by him and his family is an index of that love.

Mrs. Buell, the speaker reminded, came from a noble family at Udulvil who owned a Temple and officiated as its priests. Her aunt was the first high caste pupil to enter the Uduvil Girls' School. It was said that when Mrs. Spalding gave her a slice of bread and a plain one rainy evening, the girl became an out-cast and the missionaries were asked to take charge of her. Mrs. Buell was a niece of that girl. Being of a quiet disposition, with a heart full of love and sympathy for the poor and the needy, she proved an ideal companion to Mr. Buell.

Well, they had gone and yet they lived! There are different kinds of immortality. One kind of immortality was that a man lived in his children and his children's children. Mr. Vythianathan Buell had been a teacher, physician and evangelist in his time. But it had not stopped there. Among his children and grand-children there were three national missionaries—one an educationist of great repute in Bombay, another the able General Secretary of the Colombo Y. M. C. A. and the third the popular Doctor of Manipal Hospital. And so it was in the fitness of things that they should have a Memorial to the life of that great soul.

Adigar A. Naganathar, who spoke in Tamil, recounted his early association with Mr. Vythianathan Buell. He was every inch a gentleman "with malice towards none, with charity for all." Men of all clans and creeds respected him. With all his religious, educational and social activities he was also an enthusiastic agriculturist, reaping more harvest than his neighbours. The great qualities of character and temperament Mr. Vythianathan inherited from his illustrious fore-fathers, Vijaya Devandra Mudaliyar and Chamaradevandra Mudaliyar the great feudal-lords of Araly. The Adigar explained Mr. Buell's connection with the chief ancient class of Jaffna and made an interesting survey of the Jaffna Tamils from the 12th to the 15th century, showing how some of the Kandyana Sinhalese families were blended with the Chamaradevandra, Veidra and Vanniyar families of the Tamils.

Then after the rendering of

Mr. T. Swaminathan of Manipal in memory of the dead, Mr. A. Thillaiyampalam spoke of the distinguishing traits in Mr. Buell's character. Mr. Buell had been his teacher in his early days and his family physician. His grandfather was a Hindu philanthropist who gave vast tracts of land to the Sithambaram Temple. The spirit of benevolence and hospitality was in the blood of Mr. Buell and he eagerly pursued the example of his great forbears.

Mrs. Harrison now unveiled the Tablet amidst applause and read out the Inscription. The Chairman exhorted the audience especially the younger folk to take to heart the sterling qualities and rare graces of good men like Mr. Buell and make their lives sublime and departing leave behind them "foot-prints on the sands of time."

A Correspondent.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

A MUNICIPALITY FOR JAFFNA

Dear Sir,

The following extract from the leading article of the Jaffna Freeman of July 12, 1936 almost a three quarter century ago will not fail to interest you and your readers.

"As old world institutions are fast passing away and are being replaced by more modern improvements in all the chief Towns of Ceylon, we have felt it our duty, in the interests of the Town we represent, to advocate the introduction into it of a Municipality such as obtains in Colombo and Kandy and such as is now proposed for Galle.

There are matters which require the attention of a Municipality and which are far too minute and far too varied to be looked after by existing Government Departments with that degree of efficiency which their importance demands.

His Excellency's recent answer to the residents of Galle, who memorialized against a Municipality for their Town, encourages the hope that an application from the inhabitants of our Town will, for a Municipality, be favourably responded to. For it needs no argument to prove that Jaffna, so far from being inferior in importance to Galle is in every respect much superior to it. Indeed beyond the fact of Galle being the Port of call for mail steamers and a sort of highway home for passengers, it is not superior to Jaffna in any other respect. In intelligence, in wealth and in the aptitude to work municipal institutions with success the people of Jaffna are far superior to the residents of Galle.

It is also, we submit, a very desirable step in the right direction for the gradual introduction of representative institutions; and it will serve to inspire confidence in the Government on the part of the inhabitants."

Yours faithfully M. RAMALINGAM

'Ayodhya', Alexandraroad, Wellawatte. January, 11, 1940.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Experiments in the teaching of Basic English have already been started in a number of bilingual schools in Ceylon as well as at the Government Training College Practising School. —Dhal is extensively grown in India as a rotation crop in the paddy fields. It is understood that the Government Agent, Eastern Province has prepared a scheme to initiate extensive cultivation of dhal in that Province. —Probationary Revenue Officers now in training will take a special course in general health work and in sanitation at the Kalutara Health unit. —The Department of Agriculture has prepared a scheme which gives a classified list of

food crops and shows ways and means to make Ceylon as independent as possible of outside food supplies.

It was decided at the Synod of the South Ceylon District to request the Provincial Synod to issue an invitation in the name of the Methodist Church, to the Church of Ceylon, the Presbyterian Church, the Baptist Church and the South India United Church, asking them to appoint representatives to serve on a Joint Committee.

The Education Department has refused to feed from this year the children of the schools within the U. D. C. town limits unless the U. D. C. comes half way to meet the expenses.

A service in memory of Mr. J. V. Thambiah who died on the 6th Dec. '39 was held in Chankanaik Church on Friday the 5th inst. being the 31st day after his death. The meeting was presided over by the Rev. V.M. John the pastor and the attendants were several of the members of the Church and relations of the deceased. The speakers were Pastor Rev. G. D. Thomas and Mr. J. V. Chelliah, who dwelt on the good character and benevolent qualities of Mr. Thambiah. The gathering was treated with refreshments after the service at his daughter, Mrs. Sabaratnam's house at Vadakkoddi East.

St. John's College Jaffna, re-opened on January 10th at 9.30 a. m. Examinations for the Thompson's Cross Scholarship were held on Tuesday the 9th at 9 a. m.

Following on the Post Matriculation Form inaugurated last year Inter-Arts and Inter-Science classes are being formed this year. Provision has been made for all the usual subjects and also for a course in Physics, Chemistry, Botany, and zoology to meet the requirements of the syllabus for the pre-medical examination.

Messrs. J. Cherubin and Brothers of Main St. Jaffna the Sole Agents for the well-known 'Umbrella' mark tiles are expecting a large shipment shortly.

FIGURES AND FACTS.

At the different centres throughout the Island 2294 candidates sat for the London Matriculation Examination which began on the 9th instant.

The response to the 1939 Poppy Day Appeal in Ceylon is reported to be Rs. 59,600/40.

The total exports of the Island for the twelve months ended December 1939 amounted to Rs. 328,105,223 and the imports, Rs. 244,369,560.

It is reported that cattle thefts have risen from 968 in 1934 to the high figure of 2,136 in 1938.

A sum amounting to Rs. 6,00,000 was received by money order from Ceylon in India during 1938-1939.

India received about Rs. 51,600,000 more than the amount sent remitted abroad.

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