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No. 5

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

DR. MOTT ON BRITAIN'S WAR AIM.

In a series of addresses given by Dr. John R. Mott in Toronto, Canada, the veteran missionary leader asserted that "Great Britain, in his judgment has undertaken a divine mission to preserve charity and decency in the world."

NEWS IN BRIEF

The All-Ceylon Provincial Synod meets this year in Jaffna, 9th-14th instants. On the opening day, Friday, 9th at 6 p. m. a missionary meeting will be held, open to the Christian public, at St. Peter's Church, when the chief speakers will be the Rev. D. F. Lausdown from Kandy, and the Rev. D. J. Bartholomew from Galle. A collection is to be taken in aid of the Home Mission work at Marankan and Puthukkumam.

Jaffna College reopened on the 16th ultimo and 105 new students were admitted. At present the number on roll is 615. In the Inter Arts results which have just been published, of the eight presented, five passed and one was referred in Mathematics. The College has done remarkably well in the Island. These are much the best results that were ever achieved in this examination.

Cash Day and Old Boys' Day Celebrations of the Jaffna Central College will take place at Jaffna Central College on 3rd February, 1940.

The Rev. Percy T. Cash M. A., B. Sc.

The North Ceylon Synod of the Methodist Church which met in Batticaloa last month unanimously passed the resolution given below in appreciation of the services of the Rev. Percy T. Cash, late Principal of Jaffna Central College:-

"This synod cannot allow the withdrawal of the Rev. P. T. Cash from the District to pass without an expression of its appreciation of the valuable service he rendered to the District over a period of seventeen years. Personally, he was beloved both by his staff and his students. He always held before them the example of a Christian gentleman. His scholarship and his gifts as a teacher gained for him a high place in their respect and confidence. His zeal for the Kingdom influenced many in the choice of their life's vocation and several of his students offered for the Christian ministry as the direct result of his inspiration and training. The plight of Jaffna Central College was substantially improved during his principalship and he did not spare himself in the effort to raise funds for these extensions. Outside the College Mr. Cash took a great interest in the general life of the Church and was an effective preacher both in English and in Tamil. Mrs. Cash was one with him in all good works. Her musical gifts gave her a special sphere of service and she was a leader amongst the Tamil women of the Church. The synod desires to send its affectionate greetings to them both, and prays that they may have a very happy and fruitful period of service in the homeland." Moved by the Rev. James, S. Mather and seconded by Mr. C. B. Casinader.

The Northern Province Teachers' Association.
The annual general meeting of the Northern Province Teachers' Association was held in the Jaffna

Hindu College Hall on the 27th ultimo at 9.30 a. m. The Rev. J. T. Arulanatham B. Sc. President of the Association presided. A large number of teachers were present. The following were among the resolutions passed:-

(a) "This Association again urges on the Minister of Education the desirability of appointing a Commission to review the system of education including the question of educational finance.

"This Association requests the Minister not to accept any scheme of retrenchment till its educational implications have been studied by a competent Commission."

"This Association emphatically protests against the fixing of a maximum age for J. S. C. candidates as this is the only school leaving examination for the majority of the students who are unable to prosecute their studies further and who generally are over seventeen."

New Office-Bearers.

The election of office-bearers for the ensuing year was then proceeded with, and resulted as follows:-

President—Mr. I. P. Thuraiatnam.

Vice-President—Mr. S. H. Perinbanayagam.

Secretary—Mr. A. K. Kandiah.

Treasurer—Mr. K. Nesiiah.

Auditor—Mr. K. Navaratnam.

Representatives to the All-Ceylon Union of Teachers: The President, Vice-President, Secretary, Rev. J. T. Arulanatham and Mr. S. Ambikapalan.

After this S. Natesan, Esq. M. A. addressed the House on "Some Educational Problems of Ceylon." Mr. K. Pooranampillai proposed a vote of thanks to the lecturer and the meeting terminated.

A State Farm

A resolution requesting the Minister of Agriculture and Lands to secure the establishment of a state farm of at least a thousand acres under the Irramaddu Scheme as at Bidiyagama, was passed at a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Jaffna Association, held at the residence of the President, Mr. S. Kanagasabai, who took the chair. The matter was taken up on a motion by Mr. V. S. Karthigesu, seconded by Mr. N. Selvadurai.

Free Manure for Cultivators.
The question of the free distribution of manure to paddy cultivators during the present food production "drive" was considered at the recent conference of Government Agents.

It was agreed that manure should be distributed through Government Agents and Assistant Government Agents to peasant cultivators who agree to carry out manuring according to the stipulations made recently by the Executive Committee of Agriculture and Lands.

Each Government Agent and Assistant Government Agent was asked to prepare a list of the cultivators who are prepared to accept manure on the terms laid down.

Wedding.
The wedding was solemnized at the St. John's Church Chundicheilly, on Monday the 29th ultimo of the Rev. A. B. Kanagaratnam, Curate, St. Stephen's Church, Negombo, and itinerating Priest-in-charge of the Mission area in the Negombo-Chilaw District, and Miss Grace Pushparatnam Sinnathurai, eldest daughter of Mr. J. S. Sinnathurai, Bursar of the Girls' Boarding School, Udumalurai, Rev. V. B. Muthuvallee with

Canon S. Someasundram Revs. J. A. R. Navaratnam and H. Peto assisted by the Church choir conducted the service which was a full and representative one. Rev. V. B. Muthuvallee tied the nuptial knot, while Rev. H. Peto preached the homily. A well attended reception followed at the bride's residence. After refreshments had been served, Rev. K. C. P. Welch in a well chosen speech blessed the newly married couple to which the bridegroom humorously replied.

Obituary.
The remains of the late Mrs. Rasamma Sinnappoo of Erupalai, Kandy, beloved mother of Mr. S. Thuraiatnam of the P. and T. Stores and Workshops, Kuala Lumpur were removed for interment at the Cheras Cemetery, Kuala Lumpur on the 9th ultimo. The deceased was 75 years old at the time of her death. She leaves two sons Messrs W. S. Rajaratnam of Sandilipay and S. Tambyrajah of Kuala Lumpur.

The numerous floral tributes and messages of condolence received at her funeral is a testimony to the high regard in which the late Mrs. Rasammah was held by her relatives and friends.

Puttur Rural Development Centre.

The inaugural meeting of the opening of the First Rural Development Centre at Puttur for the Northern Province by the Department of Commerce and Industries will be held on the 4th of February. Honourable Mr. G. C. S. Corea Minister for Labour, Industry and Commerce will perform the opening ceremony and he will preside over the meeting.

The following will speak on the occasion: Mr. J. C. W. Rock, Director of Commerce and Industries; The Government Agent of Northern Province, Mr. Natesan M. S. C. The Divisional Agricultural officer and Mr. T. Muthusamy, Advocate.

The foundation stone will also be laid for the New Village Library and Reading Room by the Home Minister.

Ten centres have been selected in the various Districts of the Island and the First Centre selected for the Northern Province is at Puttur, a village about 9 miles from Jaffna Town.

Point Pedro Coir Company.

A mass meeting was held on the 27th ultimo in the premises of St. Thomas Church, Point Pedro at 4.30 p. m. under the auspices of the St. Ganapiragarsier Co-operative Society. Rev. F. T. O. F. Mather, O. M. I., president, Mr. Sam. T. Solomons, President of the Vadamaradchy Co-operative Union addressed at length on 'Coir Industry'. He urged the people of Point Pedro to form a company for the purpose of giving work to the unemployed. Boys and girls on leaving the Vernacular school while away their time playing marbles and other indoor games. The speaker said that he had visited the State Coir Yard in British Cochin and had seen it at work. The cottage industries in Malabar where with little expense they were able to gain much in this industry. He also explained the process of Coir making and rope making.

Later Mr. P. Nadesan, Sanitary Inspector, Point Pedro spoke on 'Co-operation and Sanitation'.

St. Thomas, St. Ludiths, St. Antony Co-operative Societies took part in the discussion. Immediately after the meeting a Company was formed.

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The Morning Star

Friday Feb. 2, 1940.

GOVERNMENT STORES AND LOCAL INDUSTRY.

Slackness over the issue of some Government Reports is well exemplified in the case of the Report of the Committee appointed to examine the question of purchase by Government so as to encourage local enterprise and industry. The Committee held its first meeting in June, 1937 and "approved the substance of its final report" in February 1939. In signing the report on March 14 the Committee noted that the delay in issuing the report was owing to the absence of two members in England for some time during the course of the investigations. But, subsequently "copy" was received by the Government Press only on June 24 who sent proof on June 30. The proof was returned on December 6, to be published on December 15. The main report covers only six pages.

In a rider the Financial Secretary, who was Chairman of the Committee, dissents from the majority recommendation that tenders should be invited locally, as well as through the Crown Agents, for overseas goods where large quantities are involved. He thinks this will contravene the Colonial Regulations and could not be put into practice without the sanction of the Secretary of State. He also anticipates "delay, trouble and expense" in calling for quotations locally as well as in London.

The principal recommendation of the Committee is that where the local article is comparable in quality and the price is not more than 15 per cent (the present standard rate of import duty) above the price of the imported article, the former should be purchased. Where the local price exceeds that of the comparable imported article by 15 to 25 per cent reference should be required to the Deputy Financial Secretary. The corresponding existing requirement is 10 and 20 per cent respectively. In this connection the Committee observes: "It is generally an admitted fact that in countries industrially nascent the public accustomed to patronize imported manufactures are extremely reluctant to purchase indigenous articles. This reluctance is due partly to the force of habit and partly to the absence of an industrial consciousness. In such circumstances it is all the more incumbent on the part of Government to give a lead to the public by purchasing indigenous manufactures." The Committee also deplore the unwillingness on the part of departments to accept the Ceylon made article, instances brought to the notice of the Committee included for example, strong objections raised by certain Heads of Departments in Colombo to the supply of locally made cloth for peons' coats!

The Committee's recommendations if adopted, will doubtless improve the existing position. But we will not make much headway unless the Government and all the Departments are wholehearted in their plain duty of patronising local articles. Bengal serves as an example. We understand the Government of Bengal has guaranteed to buy at a remunerative price the entire output of certain local industries; electric bulbs is one of these.

IMMEDIATE ATTENTION NEEDED.

We are in receipt of a copy of a memorandum forwarded to the Minister of Communications and Works at the direction of a public meeting held at Suthumalai about a month back regarding the great necessity of constructing a permanent

drainage channel to drain away the surplus water from the Suthumalai pond in the rainy season. It was only in the fitness of things that the public meeting should have been presided over by Sir Waitialingam Duraiswamy, not only for the reason that Suthumalai is a part of the Kayts constituency he represents in the State Council, but also for the fact that he is the one man, with the exception of the Secretary of the meeting Mr. C. N. Davarajan, who has been actively connected for a number of years with the movement to have that drainage channel constructed. The memorandum, which we would urge on the authorities concerned for their immediate and urgent attention, in very telling terms details the innumerable hardships and the untold losses suffered by the people of the village by the overflowing of the pond during rainy seasons. This overflowing has not been a phenomenal event. It has become on the other hand a very frequent visitation, blocking all kinds of vehicular traffic (admitting the only possibility of people wading or even swimming through to reach the temple at the centre of the pond for their worship), inundating this village and the neighbouring ones, destroying the crops and rendering hundreds of people homeless. What is more, the flooded areas turn out to be veritable beds of filth and disease, and the pond continues to be for a good part of the year a prolific source of danger to public health and consequent loss of life. In the words of the memorandum, such "periodical visitations have greatly impoverished the farmers, sapped the vitality and health of the people and produced incalculable economic loss by rendering many a man and woman unemployable for a good portion of the year, not to speak of the untimely loss of lives adult as well as infantile."

In spite of repeated agitation for a period of twenty years to have this state of affairs remedied, we are surprised to find the authorities concerned still unmoved and indifferent. Except for voting a ridiculously paltry sum of Rs. 500 in 1933 which the Manipal Village Committee rightly refused to touch, the Government has done nothing. Of course it has time and again made pious promises which have so far amounted to nothing of giving the necessary aid if and when the finances of the exchequer warranted it. And for receiving such vague promises those who begged for help were driven from pillar to post, first from the Government Agent to the Governor then from one Minister to a second, again from a second to a third one. In our opinion the authorities concerned did not hold themselves absolved from all blame with the plausible excuse of "there is no money available." Money ought to be found for such an urgent need as this. If there is no money which may be turned to this purpose we would suggest that a portion of the Loan Funds may be utilised for this purpose and later the amount spent may be made good from the revenue. Immediate attention is what is demanded to this pressing need. Otherwise the same harrowing tale of woes as was told during the floods of last November may have to be repeated before another year is out.

THE SOUTH INDIA SCHEME.

Owing to the inability of Archdeacon Beven to leave Ceylon I was once again privileged to attend the recent meeting of the Joint Committee of the S. I. U. C. Scheme as one of the delegates appointed by the Church of India, Burma and Ceylon. The meetings were held in Madras at the end of November and at the request of the Committee of the Friends of Reunion in Ceylon I am writing this short impression of the proceedings.

The meetings opened in an attitude of foreboding: Vitally important proposals were being sponsored by the delegates of the existing S. I. U. C. and it was known that in the main these suggested modifications of the scheme were wholly unacceptable to the Anglican delegation. But once again, as though by a miracle, a breakdown was averted nor was any amendment made in the scheme which any of the delegations regarded as fundamentally unacceptable.

Perhaps the crucial debate centred around the proposal that definite provision should be made for occasional lay celebrations of the Holy Communion. It was surprising that in actual fact there seemed to be very little demand for such a practice even in the S. I. U. C. itself, but there was undoubtedly a strong minority who felt keenly that this practice was an essential part of Congregational polity and must therefore receive official recognition. The matter has now been referred to a strong Committee representing all three of the delegations to enquire afresh into the matter in its theological, historical and practical aspects and to report if possible to the next meeting of the Joint Committee early in 1941, but it was agreed that in the meantime negotiations and preparations for bringing the scheme into operation should continue as before. Dr. Bauniga—the leader of the S. I. U. C. delegation—made it quite clear that in his opinion a definite decision on this point must be reached before the Union could be consummated but added that this did not mean that the S. I. U. C. view must prevail and stated that the whole matter needed much fuller investigation.

From the S. I. U. C. point of view the most important decision reached was the adoption of a report of a sub-committee recommending an immediate extension over a wide field of joint action between the uniting Churches. There is no doubt that this will help very much to break down existing prejudices which are still strong in certain quarters, but it must also be remembered that any widespread extension of inter-communion before union is achieved will undoubtedly make the whole position more difficult for many Anglicans.

In Anglican circles great anxiety had been felt over the provision in the scheme which in certain circumstances allowed the bishops to be out-voted in matters of faith and order. Counter proposals had been made that in such questions nothing should be authorised which had not received the support of the bishops, presbyters and lay representatives in the Synod, each voting separately. This was not accepted, but an elaborate procedure was adopted, the practical effect of which would be to give the bishops power to delay an unsatisfactory proposal coming within the sphere of the faith and order of the Church but leaving the ultimate decision with the synod voting as a whole after it had secured the support of the Diocesan Councils. This compromise of course can hardly be said to have met the Anglican requirements, but from a practical point of view it seems hardly conceivable that circumstances would ever arrive in which this elaborate machinery would be put to the test.

The paragraph in chapter II of the Governing principles of the Church dealing with the Faith of the Church has been somewhat expanded into a simple creedal form, whilst a short statement on the Priesthood of all Believers has been prefixed to the paragraph in the Basis of Union dealing with the Ministry of the Church.

This summarises the main changes which were made in the scheme which actually remains practically unchanged. It is possible to lay too much stress upon the atmosphere which prevailed in the Committee but I cannot close this report without registering my conviction that the vast majority of the delegates from all three of the Churches were determined to find a solu-

possible to do so. The main difficulties at the moment are coming from a section of the existing S. I. U. C. but I was much impressed by the statement of Dr. Bauniga that whatever happened the negotiations must not be stopped until a way of agreement had been found. The tremendous enrichment to the life of all the negotiating Churches which reunion will bring must be obvious to us all, but on the other hand I cannot but record that the debates showed that there is still a wide divergence amongst us, particularly on the vital question of the ministry. Whatever may be the outcome of these particular negotiations we cannot doubt but that they mark a notable advance in the movement towards a reunited Church and that they have undoubtedly been richly blessed by God.

Eric H. Denver, Archdeacon of Jaffna, 19-12-39.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

A MUNICIPALITY FOR JAFFNA.

Dear Sir,

The following is the last communication that I received from my beloved guru, the late Mudaliyar C. Rasanayagam, J. P., of Colombo, and it will not fail to interest you and your readers.

"The people of Jaffna were the first in Ceylon who thought of establishing a Municipality in their town. In 1864, Henry Francis Muttukrishna, who was the first in Ceylon to be called to the English Bar, convened a public meeting in Jaffna and spoke vehemently on the necessity of establishing a Municipality, as it would be the best means to gain experience in Self-Government. Advocate Mr. N. G. Gould and Mr. Solomon Johnpulle were the other speakers. But, the people assembled did not vote for the resolution as they thought that such an establishment would conduce to the taxes being increased.

In 1890, after the establishment of Municipalities in Colombo and Kandy, the people presented a monster petition to Government, praying that similar status might be given to Jaffna also; but the Government replied that the matter would be considered after establishing a Police Force in Jaffna.

Seventy-five years have elapsed since then and it is deplorable to find that the people of Jaffna are as backward and the possibility of the establishment of the Municipality is as tantalising as it was in 1864. Is the Jaffna mind so callous as to depend for its greatness on ancient glory and not seek fresh venues according to present day conditions?

Is the existence of caste system, which is embraced with vehemence and abiding in Jaffna, the cause of this backward state? The fear of increased taxes should not disturb the mind of the Jaffna man; for, if members, who would efface themselves and work for the good of the country, are elected, a Municipality too can be worked very economically."

Yours faithfully, M. Ramalingam.

Ayodhiya, Alexandra Road, Wellawatte, Jan. 19. 40.

JAFFNA RED CROSS FLAG DAY.

2ND LIST

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- S. James 1.00 Mr. M. Jacob 1.00 Mr. S. T. Kandiah 1.00 Mr. K. Kanagarayar 1.00 Mr. S. A. Alagaratnam 1.00 Mr. R. Rajadurai 1.00 Mr. S. F. Saniappillai 1.00 Mr. S. M. Nalliah 1.00 Proceeds of Football match paid by Jaffna Schools Sports Association Rs. 100.00

Till-boxes:—

- Collected by students, St. Patrick's College Jaffna 24.39; Achuvely A. C. M. English School 7.28 Holy Family (Convent), Havelan 2.59 Jaffna 22.04 English School Jaffna 1.05 Red Cross 8.8; Mallakas—Hindu English School boys 55 Jaffna College Scouts' collection 19.87 Till-box in Jaffna Apothecaries' shop 56 Arady A. C. M. Vern-Schools collected by Mrs. J. M. Singanayagam 7.27 A. Achela Methodist Tamil School boys 66 Eevnai 94 Telipallani A. C. M. 1.44 Perampalam Methodist Tamil 2.45 Till-box in Wm. Mather and Sons Office 1.01 Udavil Church Vern-Schools children through Rev. S. T. Aseervatham 6.47

Total of Second List 281.15

Total of First List 25.20

Proceeds of Red Cross Day Concert 150.00

Total 1076.35

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Reduced rate Telegrams to the Malay States and Straits Settlements.

It is observed that the public use the more expensive rates for telegrams to the Malay States and Straits Settlements although a reduced rate is available. They are reminded that Family telegrams to these countries may be sent at the special "G. L. T." rate of Rs. 3.50 for 12 words, plus 30 cents for each extra word.

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