

# THE MORNING STAR.

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No. 8

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

## PLEASE NOTE.

All Subscriptions for 1940 are payable within the first three months. The Manager will be obliged if these are remitted without undue delay.

## Events to Come.

- Feb. 24, 25, Ashram Retreat, at Paruthanamadam.
- Feb. 24, Annual Meeting of "Commaraswamy Bahvar's" Reading Room, Chunnakam, 4.30 p.m.
- Feb. 27, The Annual meeting of the Ceylon Branch of the British Red Cross Society at Queen's House.
- March 1, Jaffna College Prize-Giving at Vaddukoddai, 6.30 p.m.
- March 2, Annual General Meeting of the Jaffna College Old Boys' Association (Colombo Branch).
- March 6-12, Colombo Y.M.C.A. 13-18, Kandy Y.M.C.A. 19-24, Jaffna Y.M.C.A.
- March 3, Pope's Day - Special broadcast for India and Ceylon.

## FIFTY YEARS A SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER.

Mr. S. C. Arnold has been a Sunday School teacher at Navaly for the past fifty years, and the Golden Jubilee was celebrated last Saturday. Rev. S. K. Banker, Principal Jaffna College presided, and several glowing tributes were paid to Mr. Arnold. Two illuminated addresses were read. Greetings from the Sunday Schools connected with the sister Churches were given by Mr. J. S. Lewis, on behalf of Anglicans, Mr. P. W. Ariyaratnam on behalf of S. L. U. C. and Rev. James S. Mather for Methodists. The old students of the Navaly Sunday School presented him with a purse.

Rev. K. C. P. Welch addressing the large gathering that was present said that Mr. Arnold was an example for others. He admired his punctuality and sense of duty.

Mr. V. Veerasingham, Principal Manipay Hindu College, said that he was an old pupil of Navaly Sunday School and had won several Scripture prizes. He knew that all Mr. Arnold's old students had the greatest respect and love for him.

Rev. James S. Mather said that the purpose of Sunday Schools was the formation of character, and that day's celebration was really honouring Sunday School work. He said that in a village, a good Sunday School was a better safeguard against crime than ten Police Stations.

Adigar A. Naganathar said that he knew Mr. Arnold from his infancy, and he was a grateful pupil of the late Mr. J. K. Arnold. The son had followed in his father's footsteps, and was a real sadhu.

Rev. S. K. Banker said that the occasion was a unique one. Laymen often left religious work in the hands of pastors without sharing a portion of the load. If any Church should be healthy, the laity should take a share in the work as Mr. Arnold had done.

Mr. S. C. Arnold in reply said that he had only tried to do his duty and did not deserve any praise. Looking back he said that he was deeply indebted to two persons, one was his father who gave him his early training, and the other was the late Mr. William Ma-

ther who helped and inspired him by his example.

Rev. S. P. Vijayaratham proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman and the speakers.

Mr. and Mrs. S. C. Arnold were then taken in procession to the accompaniment of oriental music to their residence. All along the route several old students and Hindu friends garlanded them. At the home, Rev. J. V. J. Arnold thanked all the guests for the honour done to his father.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

-Special prizes for cattle farming and poultry farming are to be awarded this year by the Education Department for competition among schools under the Rural Scheme schools competition.

-The brins in the tank at the Elephant Pass Salterns is likely to prove very efficacious in the treatment of patients suffering from rheumatic ailments and scrofulous diseases.

-It is hereby announced that Dr. E. Stanley Jones of Lucknow, the world famous traveller and author of several religious works, is expected to be in Jaffna for a week from the 19th March. He will deliver special lectures and arrange to meet different groups of friends.

-The engagement is announced of the Rev. T. Kanagarayar Curtis of the Methodist Church Kand., with Miss Evangelina Sathiaranee Nathaniel eldest daughter of the late Mr. Thambaratnam Nathaniel and Mrs. Alice Nathaniel of Chundikuli.

## Personal

-Mr. M. Prasad, Government Agent, Eastern Province, has been appointed to be Government Agent Northern Province consequent on the grant of leave out of the Island to Mr. R. B. Naish from about March 1st.

## Obituary.

-The death occurred at Nallur of Mr. A. R. Saravanamuttu F. M. S. Pensioner on the 19th instant. The Rev. Canon S. Somasundaram assisted by Rev. S. T. Aseervatham conducted the funeral service the following day.

-There passed away on the 18th instant at Udovil, Sizmachypillai widow of the late Rev. S. John who had predeceased her more than 40 years ago. She was 84 years old at the time of her death. The funeral services was conducted both in the house and at the graveside by the Rev. S. T. Aseervatham assisted by the Rev. J. V. J. Arnold. A fuller account of her work and worth appears in our Tamil columns.

-The sad death of Ernest Tayalaratnam aged 5 years, son of Mr. E. R. Sabaratnam of the Karainagar English School (and grandchild of Rev. Yesudas and Mr. T. W. Tambiyappa) took place on the 12th instant at the Green Memorial Hospital Manipay. He had a severe attack of Enteric and passed away after an illness of 30 days.

## From Govt. Gazette

Applications for 15 vacancies for Excise Learner Guards will be received up to 12 noon Thursday February 29, 1940 at the office of the nearest Superintendent of Excise.

Applications will be received by the Director of Commerce and Industries for the posts of Demonstrators of Spinning Weaving and Dyeing of Cotton Silk and eoir yarn, and assistants to the Demonstrators up to 4 p. m. Thursday February 29, 1940.

Applications for two posts of daily paid supervisors at the salterns will be received by salt advisor Torrington Street

Colombo up to February 29 1940.

Applications are invited for the post of Sanitary Engineer in the Sanitary Engineering Division of this Department.

## Jaffna Urban Council.

At a General Meeting of the above Council Circular No. LA 54/EB 359 of December 16, 1939 from the Commissioner of Motor Transport re carriage of goods in omnibuses was considered. And it was decided to recommend that vegetables, agricultural produce, poultry and one bag of rice may be allowed in the Jaffna District.

It was also decided to give notice to all officers who had reached the age of 55.

The suggestion of the Chairman to retire Overseers Thambiah and Thambapillai was approved.

It was decided to renew the fixed deposit of Rs. 15,000 in the National Bank for a period of one year, and to renew the fixed deposit of Rs. 15,000 in the Mercantile Bank for a further period of six months.

## PIANO

## TUNING AND REPAIRS

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The Morning Star

Friday Feb. 23, 1940.

AN EDUCATION COMMISSION.

At long last we hope that the Executive Committee on Education will be compelled to see the reasonableness in the universal demand in the country for an Education Commission. We are happy that a sub-Committee has decided, though by the barest margin of majority to recommend to the Committee the appointment of such a commission. For the last three years, the Committee has been adopting a stubbornly, we were going to say 'stupidly'—obstinate disregard and indifference to public demand in the matter. The obvious reason for such obstinacy was their boundless faith in themselves, in their superior knowledge of, and exceptional ability to tackle and solve, all educational problems. This faith led them to venture on solving problems, which a right realisation of their own limitations should have taught them were beyond themselves. The results their unwarranted tinkering with these problems produced are confusion, dissatisfaction, unrest, and aimless drift in the educational world. The problems that cry for immediate solution are many. To mention only a few: there is the question of what place the various denominational schools ought to have in the future educational scheme, and the allied question of the amount and type of state control over educational institutions. Secondly, there is the problem of how to meet the ever-rising education vote. (Frankly, we are not worried much about it. For, in our opinion, the state is turning some serious attention now only towards financing the educational requirements of the land). The responsibility and the functions of the central Government and the local bodies with regard to subsidy for education ought to be clearly and definitely defined. Then there is the question of a suitable scale of salaries to teachers which will enable them to meet their daily needs and maintain the dignity of their noble profession. More than all these, the whole educational system should be rethought and examined with a view to evolving a scheme to suit the genius and the tradition of our people, and to meet the demands of the modern world. Such a task as finding an adequate solution to all these and allied problems, we repeat, is beyond the Executive Committee on Education. Hence, we welcome a special commission of experts.

However, we are not enamoured of, in fact we are disappointed with, the decision of the sub-Committee to appoint a local commission. It may be urged in favour of such a commission that people with a knowledge and experience of local conditions and needs will be able to contribute better towards a successful solution of our educational ills than others. On the other hand, we are afraid that such knowledge and experience may be found to prevent a dispassionate and unprejudiced examination of the whole matter. We would, therefore, advocate the bringing into the commission of men with a larger outlook and richer experience of other countries in Ceylon. We want the commission to be composed of people free from peculiar predilections, or powerful prejudices unswayed by the sway of orthodox conservatism, and altogether

impervious to intrigues and machinations of time-serving politicians. A local commission may mean in the words of the Daily News, a collection of the representatives of all the denominations, together with a number of politicians, which may easily make confusion worse confounded. A commission from abroad is what will satisfy most people. It need not be entirely made up of English men or other Westerners; one or two members of it may be invited from India.

BETTER LIVING SOCIETIES.

With Mr. R. Dharmalingam, Proctor, Vice-President, in the Chair, Mr. R. C. S. Cooke, Supervising Inspector of Co-operative Societies, and Mr. S. Sithamparanathan, Sub-Inspector of Co-operative Societies, addressed the men and women members of the Manipal Parish Social Service League on Wednesday last on "Better Living Societies" and on the possibilities of the manufacture of Palmyrah Products to suit modern conditions and the extensive uses that can be made out of them. Mr. Cooke stressed on the necessity for promoting thrift, sanitation, adult education and banning certain old customs among the people of the village. Quoting instances from progressive Indian villages where better Living Societies were achieving great success, he outlined a programme of work for the members of the Manipal League which was much appreciated by the audience. He exhorted the members to divide themselves into committees to encourage thrifty living, to start a night school, and propagate the necessity for keeping houses and compounds clean, and adopting scientific and simple diet, in addition to removing illiteracy and ignorance among the masses. He further condemned the practice of poor people imitating their rich neighbours in the matter of celebrating marriages, funerals and festivals. The rich men, he said, ought to set an example to the others by spending not more than Rs. 100 on marriage and other ceremonies, and by doing everything that would add to the progress of the village.

Mr. Sithamparanathan exhibited a number of useful articles which he had himself manufactured at the Tolpuram Palmyrah Industrial Co-operative Society and pointed out how they served modern needs and what great possibilities the manufacture of such products offered for the employment of our youth. He also explained how people of the past generation in Jaffna lived a healthier and happier life by making the Palmyrah products a chief item in their diet.

Mr. T. Buell, J. P., in offering remarks ridiculed the practice of our women folk spending immense amount of money on costly dress. From his personal experience in Bombay, he was able to tell them how the wives and daughters of rich men in Bombay with an income of five to six thousand rupees, wore only saris worth only 3 or 4 rupees at home and abroad of Rs. 20 only for occasions. He had heard that over 75 per cent of the lands in Jaffna were under mortgage. That showed the people were living on their capital, and a great deal of the drain of money can be stopped if the women of the place, rich and poor, would take to simple dress.

Dr. K. Cathiravelu in proposing a vote of thanks to the chair and the lecturers appealed to the audience to encourage the manufacture of Palmyrah products and place large orders with the Tolpuram Co-operative Society for Palmyrah Hats for Children, Carpets, Mats, Waste Paper Baskets, Jaggery, Flour, etc. in an course of time to start the industry in Manipal also.

Mr. P. Ambalavanar, Native Physician, spoke of his experience in the manufacture of Palmyrah Products and on the medicinal value of Palmyrah Jam, Flour, Root, Toddy etc.

NORTHERN PROVINCE TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION.

The following resolutions were passed at the last Annual General Meeting of the N. P. T. A.

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

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

2. While thanking the Minister of Education for his recognition of the reasonableness of the request for the award of Untrained 1st Class Certificate to Untrained 2nd Class Certificated teachers drawing their maximum, which was recommended by the Board of Education and the A. C. U. T. twice, this Association earnestly urges on the Minister and Executive Committee for Education to grant the request applying the principle conceded to Vernacular teachers but denied to English teachers.

3. This Association is of opinion that holders of either the old Third Class Certificate or the Third Class provisional Certificate be exempted from Part II of the Ceylon Teachers' Certificate Examination, provided that they have put in fifteen years of service.

4. Whereas it is desirable to provide a school certificate to those who leave a secondary school without entering a University, and whereas the London Matriculation Examination and the Cambridge School Certificate Examination held in Ceylon are designed solely for those who desire to reach the standard of University Entrance, this Association recommends to the Ministry of Education to accept the proposal of the Cambridge Syndicate to have a 'pass' standard (with 'credits' in two subjects) for those who leave school after the school certificate and to retain the higher 'credit' standard (with all five 'credits') for those who seek University Matriculation.

5. This Association is of opinion that the Departmental test for the Fifth Standard of the type now in force, is educationally unsound and that it should be discontinued.

6. 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.

THE APPOINTMENT OF MANIAGARS IN THE EARLY SIXTIES

(Continued)

On 16th December 1867, Mr. Russell met the applicants for the office of Maniagar of Valigamam West at the Government Bungalow in Changanai. It must have been a very splendid sight, as there were nearly 90 candidates from different parts of the country. Of the applicants, some withdrew and a few others did not attend the interview. From the applicants present Mr. Russell selected Messrs. L. C. Graves, Ponnampalam, G. H. Hallock, Iranganthar and V. Sinnathamby and addressed the people on the qualifications necessary for a chief Headman. Having caused a diary entry of the late Government Agent to be read and explained to the people by Kanagaratna Mudaliyar, he paid a graceful tribute to the abilities of the departed worthy and expressed his intention of following the policy which Mr. Dyke in his long experience had found to be the best.

Exception being taken to some of the number selected, Messrs Ponnampalam and Graves were chosen by him as the most eligible candidates for the post, on the score of wealth, influence and efficiency, caste or rank being of secondary consideration to the estimation of the late Agent. He stated, however, that it was represented to him by

an anonymous petition that Mr. Ponnampalam was a sickly person. On subsequent inquiry and personal inspection he was satisfied of the truth of the statement and, as Mr. Graves had not that disqualification even he considered him as the fittest candidate for the post. This was received by the people with great satisfaction as was apparent from the demonstration made by them in his favour, Mr. Graves was accordingly appointed Maniagar of Valigamam West.

M. Ramalingam.

Forest Officers in Point Pedro.

A deputation from the Point Pedro Maha Jana Sabha met the Assistant Conservator of Forests, Major C. P. Jayawardana, with Mr. L. A. T. Abeyasundere, District Field Officer and Mr. S. Ponusamy, Forester, at the Resthouse, Point Pedro at 10 a. m., on the 12th inst. The deputation was led by Mr. Sam. T. Solomons, President of the Sabha. On arrival at the Resthouse Major C. P. Jayawardana was garlanded by Mr. Solomons, and Mr. Abayasundere by Mr. M. Philip, the treasurer of the Sabha.

Mr. Solomons said that great hardship was being caused to fishers engaged in curing fish when they had to transport the dried fish from Chundikulam to Point Pedro, as the dried fish got damaged by salt water in course of transit. The deputation asked for permission from the Forest Dept. to use for purposes of dunnage the dead twigs from jungles neighbouring Chundikulam. A permit-system to use such dead wood for dunnage, and particularly arrangements to have the permits issued at Point Pedro instead of at Jaffna, were asked for.

The Forest Officers gave a full and sympathetic hearing to the deputation and were later taken to the Maha Jana Sabha Office, where over 200 members of the Sabha were present. A demonstration followed, showing how the dead twigs were used at the bottom of 'Valams' (small boats) to protect the dried fish.

Later the Officers visited the various private firewood stalls in Point Pedro and examined the kind of wood on sale. Finally Major Jayawardana promised the Deputation that he would recommend to the Head of his Dept. that permits at the rate of 50 cents per Cwt. be issued on the first day of the month to those engaged in curing fish.

After lunch, the Forest Officers visited the jungles along the coast near Kudathana and Kudappu. Interviewed by the Times Correspondent, Major Jayawardana expressed grave concern at the rate the trees in the jungle were being cut. He said that if the jungle disappeared the sand would shift with the mon-

soons and cause untold harm to agriculture. Illicit trade in firewood was probably the cause of the thinning of the jungle and he wished to make arrangements to put a stop to such traffic.

Sam. T. Solomons.

Point Pedro

Women's Mission Society.

February 11th was observed as Women's Sunday in all the S. I. U. C. Churches. Much enthusiasm and keen interest were shown by all the women in the day's programme. The following ladies took 'services' in various Churches:—

Mrs. R. C. F. Welch Karainagar, Mrs. S. Williams Moolai, Mrs. V. R. Samuel, Vaddukoddai, Mrs. J. M. Jacob Araly, Mrs. A. E. Subramaniam Navaly Mrs. S. Saravanamatu Manipay, Mrs. Ed. Mather Chankanni Miss M. Thambipillai Pandatherrappu, Mrs. E. C. Lockwood Udaval, Mrs. L. Pallipillai Alveddy, Mrs. P. Vallipuram Erlalai North Mrs. L. Chelliah Erlalai South, Mrs. B. Kanagathungam Tellipallai, Miss L. K. Clark Uduppiddy, Mrs. S. Saravanam (du Chavakachcheri).

The Annual meeting of the Women's Mission Society will take place in the first part of March.

Volley Ball Tournament in the North.

In response to a circular letter sent out by the Executive Committee of the Point Pedro Athletics Sports Club, representatives from the various Volleyball Clubs met at Hartley College Hall on the 15th instant at 4.30 p. m.

Mr. N. Sivagnanasundaram, Advocate, who is the President of the Club presided and began the proceedings by explaining the purpose of the meeting. Mr. S. A. Rasaratnam, the organising Secretary of the Club, was elected Secretary of the meeting.

The rules relating to the proposed tournament drawn out by the Executive Committee of the Club were unanimously adopted.

A Council consisting of the President, Joint Secretaries, Treasurer of the Club together with the elected representatives, Messrs. Sam. T. Solomons K. Kathirathambi, S. Pasupathy, C. Bainganam and K. Thampipillai, was asked to carry out the Tournament.

The following Volley Ball Clubs have entered the proposed competition.

- (1) The Mathana Club, (2) The Vaivettithurai Club, (3) The Golden Star, (4) The Alway Club, (5) The Point Pedro Maha Jana Sabha Volley ball Club, (6) The Point Pedro Club, (7) The Diamond Club.

The meeting decided to fix the opening match of the Tournament for the 2nd March 1940 and list of fixtures was also tentatively drawn. The meeting then adjourned with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

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