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No. 25

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

The Christa Seva Ashram

The Lord Bishop of Colombo will open the cottage which is a gift of the members of the Church of Ceylon, at the Christa Seva Ashram, Maruthanadam, on Friday the 12th July at 5 p. m. Friends of the Ashram are invited to be present on the occasion.

Co-operative Conference

The Jaffna District Co-operative Conference, 1940, will be held at the Regal Theatre Hall, on the 11th, 12th and 13th July.

The Jaffna Dramatic Club

The Eleventh Anniversary Celebrations of the above Club will take place to-morrow at the Channiculi Vernacular School Hall.

Public Auditors and Valuers

His Excellency the Governor has appointed Messrs R. M. Guneratnam, and J. Subramaniam Lewis as Public Auditors and Valuers. Mr. Lewis held high appointments in India as Government Auditor and now he is doing excellent service as Manager of the Jaffna Co-operative Central Bank and Official Liquidator of the Travancore National and Quilon Bank.

Public Reception

A public reception was accorded to Mr. C. Arulampalam, J. R. Advocate at the Stanley School on Saturday, the 29th June at 6 p. m.

Wedding

A fashionable wedding took place at St. Joseph's Church, Batu Gaja, Malaya on the 13th ultimo, the contracting parties being Mr. Arthur Brito Muttanayagam, M.Sc., (Cornell U.S.A.) B.C.S. Agricultural Bio-Chemist to the Government of Travancore, Trivandrum and Miss Beatrice Tiruchelvam, youngest daughter of Mr. James Tiruchelvam of Malaya and a granddaughter of the late Mr. A. N. Tiruchelvam of Jaffna.

The ceremony in the Church was followed by a reception held by the bride's aged father at which there was a large and representative gathering present. Dr. M. E. Tiruchelvam, F.R.C.S., the Malayan Surgeon, brother of the bride spoke a few words on behalf of his father thanking the gathering for their presence and good wishes.

The C.C.R.

Of late it has been encouraging to find that the Ceylon Government Railway has been receiving increasingly greater patronage, but we in the North have one complaint against it. And that is with regard to the failure of the trains on the Northern line to keep to their scheduled times. What is the use of a time table if the trains do not work according to it? It has been recently a rare phenomenon to note that trains both from and to Colombo do not arrive at their destinations correct to the scheduled time. The causes of the delays have not been clear. The exceptional circumstance of a flood, or unprecedentedly heavy rain on the line, or a fire in a carriage, or an engine failure does not happen always and cannot be always pleaded as an excuse. We would commend this matter to the General Manager of Railways and earnestly request him to give his most careful consideration to it and have this complaint of a long suffering and patient travelling public redressed. We wonder if there is any other line in Ceylon which is enjoying the same notoriety as the Northern line because of the lack of promptness of the trains running on it!

Conference

The J. C. S. I. U. C. Workers' Conference (including Workers' wives) will be held at the Araly Church on Thursday the 11th instant at 9 a. m.

Relief to Mortgagees

The Second Reading of the Bill intended to give relief to mortgagees of immovable property was passed by the State Council on the 27th ultimo.

An American Christian Ashram

It is announced that a Christian "Ashram" will be held in America this summer under the sponsorship of the Evangelical Department of the Federal Council of Churches. Dr. E. Stanley Jones will lead it.

America's Mission to save Civilization

The hope that America will not fail in her mission "to stand against this universal disaster that appears so imminent" is expressed by Dr. Rabindranath Tagore, the eminent poet in a cable which he sent on June 15 to President Roosevelt.

The cable states: "To-day we stand in awe before the fearfully destructive force that has so suddenly swept the world. Every moment I deplore the smallness of our means and the feebleness of our voice in India, so utterly inadequate to stem, in the least, the tide of evil that has menaced the permanence of civilisation. All our individual problems of politics to-day have merged into one supreme world politics which, I believe, is seeking the help of the United States of America as the last refuge of the spiritual man, and these few lines of mine more fully convey my hope, even if unnecessary, that she will not fail in her mission to stand against this universal disaster that appears so imminent."

Non-Violence

The reign of Gandhiji as the over lord of the Congress is now over, and his non-violent abdications was carried out at the recent meeting of the High Command at Wardha.

Invasion of England

Germany is threatening to invade England and since the 16th of June masses of aeroplanes from Germany have been regularly visiting in the night several parts of England including London and dropping bombs, killing and wounding innocent civil population.

Village Libraries

The Congress Ministries in the various provinces of India during the comparatively short period they were in office were able to do some solid work towards the amelioration of the living conditions of the villagers. One thing of which some of these Ministries can well be proud of is the Prohibition they have successfully introduced into their provinces. Here is another. We are told that one lakh and fifty-five thousand books were purchased during the last year for the village libraries of the United Provinces which were started by the Government during the Congress Ministry with the object of rousing the interest of the village people in literacy and civic matters. The number of libraries has risen from 768 to 1000 and the number of readers was about twelve lakhs. Villagers are charged no fees for borrowing books. Ceylon can take a leaf from India in this matter. Even if the Central Government fails to do anything to introduce village libraries, the District Councils can do it. We know of a few Village Lib-

mittees that have undertaken this work, sometimes in co-operation with Rural Reconstruction Societies working in their areas. We would commend this example of India to all the Village Committees and the Rural Reconstruction Societies in the Island.

Obituary

The death occurred of Ponnammah George dearly loved wife of Mr. A. S. Muttiah of Urumpirai, at the residence of her eldest daughter Mrs. A. B. Sinniah, 77 Bangsar Road, Kuala Lumpur at the age of 67.

The remains of F. R. Sandrasegara (beloved father of F. A., R. E. Dr. A. P. Sandrasegara and Mrs. S. S. Christopher) were interred at the St. Mary's Burial Ground on the 2nd inst. at 7.30 a. m. The funeral was largely attended.

The remains of Julius Kappakam, the wife of the late K. S. Karthigasir of Changanai, whose death occurred on the 1st ultimo were interred at Changanai Cemetery. The deceased who was 73 years of age, was educated at Udupilly Girls' School, became a Christian and did much for her Master's cause.

Personal

At a meeting of the American Ceylon Mission held recently Mr. J. S. Thirupattam was appointed President of the Mission in place of Mr. C. S. Gnanasekaran who had resigned.

It is understood that His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to appoint Mr. N. Salvatnam F. C. I. (Birm), Public Accountant, Jaffna, as a Public Auditor under section 18 of the Ordinance No. 16 of 1891.

Mr. Dan. S. Devasagayam, Trained Teacher, Jaffna College, Vaddakkodai, has come out successful in the B. A. examination held by the Calcutta University in March. He is preparing to appear for the London University Examination for the Diploma in Education in 1941, and the M. A. (Economics) Examination in 1942.

WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD?

With each passing day bringing its huge toll of startling major events such as wars, assassinations, world conference failures, murders, suicides of eminent persons, flights into voluntary exile of the heads of gigantic syndicates, kidnappings for ransom, farm strikes, mob outbreaks and financial difficulties everywhere, it becomes apparent that this poor world is reeling to and fro like a drunkard. It is with strange misgivings that one surveys the news of the day, the question which springs spontaneously to mind is: "WHAT NEXT?"

Without wishing to be sensational, we wish to state on unfeeling authority that an event is yet to occur which will give to the world its greatest shock. The shock will consist in the sudden and complete disappearance of millions of its choicest inhabitants. The disappearance will be of such a mysterious nature that it will seem as though the earth has opened its mouth and swallowed them. However, the very reverse will be the case; Heaven will have opened its door to receive them!

The unparalleled mystery will be deepened by the discovery that myriads of bodies which were at rest in mother earth will be missing at the same time. The bodies will be missing at the same time. The bodies will be missing at the same time. The bodies will be missing at the same time.

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TRAVANCORE NATIONAL AND QUILON BANK.

In the District Court of Jaffna. In the matter of the Travancore National and Quilon Bank Ltd, Jaffna (In Liquidation). Notice to Creditors—Case No. L. 2. Creditors are hereby notified that the first dividend of 60 p.c. of their claims will be paid to them on their application to the District Court Jaffna.

Receipts, Pass-books, Cash Certificates, Drafts, as the case may be, should accompany the application.

By order of Court, J. Subramaniam Lewis, Liquidator.

The Morning Star

Friday, July 5th, 1940.

CEYLON'S WAR CONTRIBUTION

We are happy that the State Council has decided to contribute five million rupees as Ceylon's contribution towards the war expenses of England. If any one was inclined to take the time taken by the Board of Ministers to vote this amount as a sign of any lack of enthusiasm for England's cause or of loyalty to her, the lie direct was given to him by the Home Minister the other day when he made a full statement about this vote in the Council meeting. The delay was due only to the fact that the Board was anxious to examine all the financial implications involved in the vote taking into its careful consideration all other financial commitments of the country. The Minister has made it clear, we are glad, that this will be only the first instalment of the Island's war contribution. Other instalments will follow. No right thinking person in Ceylon will grudge any sacrifice, however great, she may be called to make for this cause.

It would be a grave error if the measure of enthusiasm for and loyalty to the Empire's war cause is judged only by the sum of money voted by the Government. The response that our people have given to the various appeals for help in this connection has been magnificent. At the time of writing, the three funds set in motion by the *Duke of Gloucester's Fund*, the *Send a Plane Fund* and the *Sailor's Entertainment Fund*—have already topped the five hundred thousand mark. The rate at which the *Send a Plane Fund* has been growing has been strikingly amazing and heartening. In addition to the response to these funds, our people have given freely to the *St. Dunstan's Fund*, and the *War Purpose Fund*, which was recently started. All parts and all interests of the Island are co-operating in the effort. People of all grades of service and all walks of life, from the Governor to the estate labourer, are vying with each other in their contributions. While we congratulate our people in their magnificent effort, we hope that they will not allow their enthusiasm ever to cool down till the British Empire has won a convincing victory over her ruthless foes and freed those who are already Hitler's unfortunate victims, from the cruel heel of the oppressor. In this connection we would wish to commend the latest move in Jaffna to contribute also towards a distinctly separate fund—to send a plane named *Jaffna* to England. During the last war, it was left to our friends in Malaya to do this for us. It is but fitting that Jaffna should raise the money required to send the *Jaffna plane*. We hope that the money will come in soon.

More than the contribution our people may make towards the war by the way of money, material or men, they can contribute towards the final victory of the Empire by their grim and stern determination to make all sacrifices necessary. They should not allow any false panic to be created in the country, nor any defeatist attitude to be adopted. The persistent prayers of all are required for the triumphing of the righteous cause.

THE CONVOCATION OF DEACONESSES AND SOCIAL SERVICE WORKERS AT PUTTUR.

On Wednesday, June 12th, over 40 Christian women from many Mission stations, gathered at Puttur for the annual Convocation of deaconesses and Social Service workers.

By kind invitation of Miss Twynam O. B. E. a reception was held at which all were welcomed, representatives of other Churches and circuits being also present. After the Garden Party a meeting was held with the Rev. E. M. Weaver in the chair.

Much careful thought and planning had been put into all the arrangements for the Convocation. The programme was varied and interesting—full but not so full as to be overwhelming—and adequate time had been allowed for quiet thought and fellowship.

Those who were privileged to be present found it a time of inspiration and joy—an oasis of quietness and peace in the midst of a world at war and in turmoil—a garden to which the Master Gardener Himself had called us apart for a little while.

In the mind of the writer the calm peacefulness of it all lingers, but it was not a peace of stagnation but peace that strengthens for the battle against evil—peace with the clear call to the Victory that Christ has promised to all who love Him.

Each morning began with a "Quiet Time," a fitting prelude to the day's activities. After the morning meal we all assembled in the Church and Miss Mabel Brown of Dharaparam, South India, led our devotions. We shall long remember her talks on "The Victorious Life of Jesus," "The Victorious Experience of the Early Church," and the "Victorious Life in the World Today." Miss Brown stressed the fact that victory is gained by prayer and that as Jesus victoriously faced and conquered all crises and difficulties, so may we, in His strength we "watch and pray".

She pointed out that all Christians are Ambassadors of the Forgiveness, Love, Courage and Peace of Christ, and that Jesus has told us to be strong and of good courage, for thought in the world is tribulation, in him is Peace. Whatever is born of God conquers the world, and our faith will conquer if we believe in Christ. Ultimately, good will triumph and the Love of God fill the world.

Each morning the devotional session was succeeded by Discussion Groups on "Our Work in the Villages", "Our Work in the Church", "Our work in the World". A questionnaire had been prepared and each group discussed (to choose a few at random) such questions as: In what ways can we present Christ to Non-Christians more clearly? What special problems have you met with in work among Christians? What part has a Christian to play in the life of her country?

After half an hour's discussion the groups united to give the "findings" which were of great help and interest.

The Business Sessions as conducted by Sister E. Hayden were anything but dull affairs. They were full of practical suggestions, and the accounts of work carried on in different villages and the discussion of Community Problems were most helpful.

On the Saturday, the Rev. M. S. Chinniah gave an interesting talk on "Co-operation in Religious Education." This was followed by a Service of Intercession on the World Situation, led by Miss Dore and Miss Chelliah.

There was no set time-table for the afternoons but something interesting had been arranged for each evening. On the Thursday we went to Point Pedro, where we were welcomed by Miss E. Everatt and the members of the congregation. A public meeting followed, at which very varied speeches were given, and the singing of the *Familia* lyrics was excellent.

On the Friday we paid a visit to the Christa Seva Ashram which was exceedingly interesting and the following evening Mr. R. S. D. Williams lectured on "The Old and New in West Africa," which he illustrated by some very beautiful lantern slides.

Each day closed with evening prayers led by a member of the Convocation.

On Sunday morning, services were conducted in many villages

by the deaconesses and workers, and in the afternoon we all went to Jaffna and were entertained to tea by the kindness of the Vembidi High School. We greatly admired the new hostel and particularly the simple beauty of the "prayer room" which is in the centre of the building to symbolize its place in the heart of all who worship there.

At 6 o'clock we gathered in St. Peter's Church for the Consecration Service. As the solemn vows of dedication and loyalty to the Service of Christ were spoken by the two deaconesses who were consecrated; as the Chairman of the District directed our thoughts to Lydia, the first Christian convert, stressing that dedication was giving everything without reserve to Christ and opening our hearts wide to His love; and later as we knelt to partake of the bread and wine in memory of His great sacrifice, we felt He was with us.

Returning to the High School we were hospitably entertained to dinner and then repaired to the Prayer Room where we sang hymns and closed with prayer and thanksgiving after which we returned to Puttur.

The closing Assembly was held next morning—members dispersed to their different stations—and Convocation was over.

Convocation is over, but the memory and inspiration and joy remain.

We had "walked with God" and we returned to our work strengthened and encouraged, knowing that whatever the future may bring the ultimate victory is with Him, for He is Love and Love never faileth.

O. M. B

CEYLON'S COCONUT PROBLEM

Until the war lasts, Ceylon cannot hope for an amelioration of her European trade in coconut products; she can only focus her immediate attention on the development of her Indian and domestic markets, says a Press *Communique* issued from the Governor's Office.

The *Communique* states: Representations have been made to the Imperial Government concerning the plight of the Ceylon Coconut industry and assistance asked for along three lines: (1) A request for more shipping space for coconut products, (2) A suggestion that the United Kingdom should import coconut oil in preference to copra (3) A demand for prices more economic to the Ceylon producer.

The reply indicates that compliance with none of these requests has proved possible and that among principal reasons should be included the following:

In peace time, Germany imported some 14 million tons of oil-seeds. That market and the markets of countries overrun by Germany, being no longer available to producers the supply of vegetable oils and oil-seeds particularly copra and palm kernels now far exceeds the present demand.

With reference therefore, say to the demand for payment of higher prices for coconut products it is probable that had it not been for the reluctance on the part of the British Government to take advantage of the stock position by allowing prices to find their own level according to the usual law of supply and demand there would have been a marked deterioration in current prices.

Moreover, a consideration of the shipping problem (length of voyage round the Cape and space needed for other essential Oriental products such as rubber, tea, tin, etc.) will suggest the necessity of the Ministry of Food importing palm kernels from Africa and copra from the West Indies (where the whole economy of many islands is solely based on coconuts and where there is no adjacent market for them such as Ceylon possesses in India) rather than copra and coconut oil from more distant Ceylon.

The same consideration applies equally to ponnac, oil-cake being available in ample quantities from sources nearer to the United Kingdom.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

LETTER FROM MALAYA

Sir, I hope the following would be interesting news for publication in the next issue of your "Morning Star."

TRINITY COLLEGE EXAMINATION RESULTS

The following sons of Dr. & Mrs. J. H. Ponnampalam of Kuala Lumpur have been successful in the Trinity College of Music Examinations held in Kuala Lumpur by Dr. William Lovelock in June 1940.

Mast. Joseph Tharmasingam Ponnampalam (aged 10) has passed the Intermediate in Piano-forte and Junior in Violin.

Mast. James Balasingam Ponnampalam (aged 9) passed his Junior in Piano-forte and Preparatory in Violin with merit.

Mast. Mathew Chelvasingam Ponnampalam (aged 6) passed his First Steps in Piano-forte with merit.

Mast. Mark Saundarasingam Ponnampalam (aged 4) passed his Initial with merit.

It is interesting to note that Mrs. Ponnampalam their mother was their tutor.

The percussion band of thirteen players under the baton of their able and talented conductor Mast. James B. Ponnampalam (aged 9) also appeared for their examination and passed with honours. The conductor was being specially complimented on the able way the band was conducted. Other passes are as follows:—

Glady's Ponniah daughter of Mr. H. V. Ponniah passed the L. T. C. L. (Practical) Piano-forte.

Miss W. Sabaratnam daughter of Mr. Sabaratnam Asst. Post Master, Kuala Lumpur, passed her A. T. C. L. (Practical) Piano-forte.

Sothi Duraiswamy youngest daughter of Dr. Duraiswamy of the General Hospital, Kuala Lumpur passed her First Steps (Piano-forte) with honours.

Mast. E. Hoisington and Miss P. Hoisington children of Dr. G. Hoisington of Klang have passed Junior Violin and Higher (Local Piano) respectively.

Yours faithfully,
P. M. Ratnam.

34 Brickfields Road,
Kuala Lumpur,
15th June, 1940.

SEA BATH

The Church Missionary Society in particular and the Educationalists in general are poorer today by the untimely passing away of the Revd. Henry Peto, M. A., who held the Principalship of St. John's College, Jaffna since 20th May 1920 till his end on 14th June 1940—for an unbroken period of more than 20 years and it goes without saying, to perpetuate his dear memory combined with the connected tragic circumstances, and suggests itself for consideration for the desirability of establishing a suitable public bathing place in or about Jaffna with life saving apparatus.

Yours faithfully,
S. R. Sathasevan,
Seewawasa,
Kaithady,
18th June 1940.

CONFERENCE FOR WORLD PEACE.

The following resolutions were passed at the Second All-Asiatic Conference for World peace and fellowship held at Anurachapura on June 17:—

This Conference appeals to all Asiatic races to revive the time honoured system of Ayurveda, and take the necessary steps to raise its standard of efficiency.

While strongly upholding the principles of Religion, this Conference appeals to Aisa the Mother of Religions, to unite in destroying the powers of (Adharma) irreligion which threaten civilization.

This Conference appeals to all Nations to send periodical Embassies of Good-will to establish Peace on Earth and good-will among men.

Dr. A. Laxmipathi of Madras delivered an address on the "Revival of Ayurveda" and Mr. P. S. Moses, Rural Welfare Secretary of the Student Christian movement of India, Burma, and Ceylon spoke on "Good will Embassies to Asiatic and other Lands."

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