

# THE MORNING STAR.

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No. 340

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

## Day of Prayer.

His Excellency the Governor has received a telegram from the Secretary of State for the Colonies to the effect that it is the desire of His Majesty the King that Sunday, the 8th September being the first Sunday after the anniversary of the outbreak of war, should be observed as a day of national prayer.

The participation of all religious bodies of every creed or denomination in the Island is invited in implementing His Majesty's desire.

H.E. Excellency joins with the Minister of Home Affairs in commanding the observance of the 8th September as a day of national prayer and in hoping that opportunity will be provided for persons of all religions to take part in it.

## Fort Church Convention

The Convention held last week at the Fort Church was largely attended, specially the evening meetings when the Church was quite full. Stirring addresses were delivered by the Rev. D. T. Niles, Rev. G. Thorpe and Sadhu De. Intercession services and Worship were conducted by different leaders each morning. At the Worship, the sermon was preached the first morning by Rev. S. Kulandran, the second morning by Rev. V. B. Muttuvalee, and the third by Rev. G. Thorpe. The Sadhu's Bible Studies were inspiring and profitable.

In the afternoon meetings, answers were given to questions and problems which members experienced in their Christian life, by Rev. James S. Mather, Rev. J. A. R. Navaratnam and Mr. Lewis Subramanian. These answers were found to be most helpful. On the last day, a Consecration meeting was conducted by Rev. S. Selvaratnam and Rev. D. T. Niles. A United Communion Service was held on the last day, conducted by Rev. James S. Mather and Rev. M. S. Chinniah, when large number of members of all the denominations took part. At the Testimony meeting which was conducted by Miss M. V. Hutchins, and Mr. A. Wedsworth, several took part and told the convention what the Lord had done for them and how they were saved from certain sins.

We trust that as a result of this year's convention the Churches in Jaffna will enter into a new life:

## Excise Department Communiqué

I. It is notified for the general information of the public by the Excise Commissioner that owing to shipping difficulties, supplies of imported bottles and corks are running short. The available stocks of white bottles are insufficient to meet the normal demands, and bottling in black punts of two sizes has had to be resorted to increasing numbers. Owing to an anticipated shortage of corks, supply of arrack even in black bottles may have to be restricted.

2. Renters of arrack taverns and the public are earnestly requested to co-operate buying their requirements in any kind of bottle available at Government Warehouses and arrack taverns, and in bulk, if bottled stocks are not available. Hoarding of bottles will only worsen the situation.

3. Renters of arrack taverns will greatly assist the Department by not trying to buy up excessive stocks of bottled arrack, rationing of which among all renters has had to be adopted to ensure fair distribution among all renters.

## Weddings.

A gathering of the elite of Jaffna in the tastefully decorated Church of St. John's Chandiculi witnessed the union of two distinguished families of Jaffna, when Mr. J. F. F. Asewratham the only son of the late Mr. S. N. Asewratham the popular proctor of the Metropolitan Bar of his time, and Mrs. Asewratham of Jaffna and the nephew of the late Mr. George Stanhope Asewratham professor of St. Patrick's College led to the altar Miss Alice Blossom Tambar the only daughter of the late Mr. G. W. Tambar of the tutorial staff of Jaffna Central College and Mrs. Tambar of the "Grove" Main Street, Jaffna and sister of Mr. A. E. Tambar B.Sc. Central College and niece of Mr. J. A. J. Ti-severasinghe Proctor, S. C. Jaffna. The bride was given away by Mr. A. E. Tambar and the nuptial service was celebrated by Rev. Mottuvalee, and Canon Somasundaram delivered an interesting homily. The attesting witnesses were Mr. C. Coomaraswamy C.O.S. and Rev. E. M. Weaver. After the ceremony there was a reception at the bride's residence. The toast was proposed by Mr. W. D. Niles.

—A pretty wedding was solemnized at St. John's Church, Negombo, on the 31st ultimo. The contracting parties were Mr. J. W. U. Tampliappa of Messrs Hunter and Co., Colombo, and Miss Lily Pushpana Bonne presently of Negombo. The Revd. Percy Wickramasinghe assisted by the Revd. A. Yorke officiated Mr. W. B. Kanagathurai gave away the bride.

## Obituary

The death occurred on the 18th ultimo at his residence at Araly North Vaddukoddai, of Mr. S. Sithamparapillai, retired Overseer P. W. D. The deceased was 79 years of age at the time of his death and had been over 30 years in the P. W. D. before he retired. The funeral took place the following day and the remains were cremated at Araly North. He was the father of the late Mr. J. S. Navaratnam of the Memorial School, Manipiy.

## The Jaffna College

The Annual Tea by the Principal and Mrs. Bunker to the Jaffna College Old Boys Association (Colombo Branch) will be held on Saturday, September 7, at 4:30 p.m. at the Central Y.M.C.A. Fort, G. A. Wille, Esq., M. A. G. K. W. Perera, B. A. Barrister-at-Law, K. S. Arulnandy, Esq. M. Sc. and Rev. Sydney K. Bunker, B. A., B. B. Litt. (Oxon) will address the gathering.

## New Police Station at Anicottai.

The new Police Station at Anicottai was opened on Monday last by Mr. Prasad, Government agent in the presence of a large gathering of residents of the parish of Manipiy. Mr. V. Veerasingham welcomed the G. A.

Mr. C. Thiagarajah, Secretary of the Manipiy Parish Social Service League in thanking the Government for granting a new police station said that it was granted as the result of persistent agitation for it by his league.

Dr. K. Cathiravelu who followed said that sometime ago, the people of the parish were in fear because of most during thefts and criminal acts and the people appealed to the Social Service League or assistance.

Mr. Prasad, in declaring open the new Police Station, hoped that the necessary cooperation will be available from the public to the Police. The opening of the new station does not reflect on the work of the headmen but the police being technically trained, the men should considerably benefit by their services with the cooperation of the headmen. He was aware of representations to the Government that the present site was not a central one, and he himself was of the opinion that the site at Anicottai is too near Jaffna. A trial is to be given at this site and the question of removing it to a more central site in the parish would be considered in due course.

## Personal

—Mr. Chas. R. Stickney has been appointed manager of Udayal Practising School Jannaham in place of Rev. J. M. Singanayagam

Capt. S. Thambiah M. G. B.A., F. D. S., M. R. C.P. of Madras has been made additional Professor of Medicine of Madras Medical College and physician of General Hospital, H. He is an Old Boy of Jaffna College, and the second son of Late P. Saravanan, teacher, Karainagar and a nephew of Mr. W. A. Clough, L. S. O. Karainagar.

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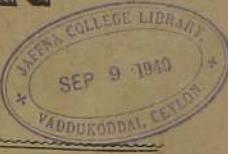
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The  
Morning Star

Friday Sept. 6, 1940.

## CONVENTION YEAR.

For certain section of the Christian Community in Jaffna the annual "Fort Convention" usually held in the Jaffna Fort during August of each year marks the beginning of a new year of Spiritual Revival. This year the Convention was held on the 28th, 29th and 30th of August as previously announced in these columns. The gathering was unusually large, simpler in their dress and subdued in their manners. These were times of Worship, Intercession, Bible Study, Witness-bearing, questioning, quiet waiting on God and forceful messages delivered with earnestness. No one, who has gone through these experiences, can remain the same. There is bound to be a Change. Is it for the better or the worse? The question in everybody's mind is "How long will this fire last?" The new year of the convention will correspond to the second year of this terrible war—a period of great uncertainties and far reaching consequences for nations and peoples. No nation can remain the same after this devastating war. Is it going to be a better world with a just and lasting peace? It all depends on what people would do. Will they return to God? This was the key-note of the Convention. Return to God? We believe that hearts of men and women were deeply touched by the spirit of God and they have sincerely returned to God at the Convention. "Ye were astray like sheep, but you have come back now to the Shepherd and Guardian of your souls."

What next? This is the great question. We quote below from a recent call to the citizens of Great Britain:—

"Amid the failure of human wisdom, there is still one Supreme Source from whom all can draw new power, new hope, new illumination. God speaks directly to the hearts of every man and woman who is prepared to listen and obey.

We deeply need the leadership of God-lead men and women who base their lives on the Christian principles of honesty, unselfishness and faith. Such men and women will not only make the morale of the country impregnable; they will today create and spread that spirit which will ensure a just and lasting peace."

This new spirit must come. We owe it to ourselves, our children and our children's children."

It is our earnest hope that men and women will be found in each church and village of this great province who will faithfully follow the Voice heard at this Convention, and daily listen and obey this Voice in such a revolutionary way as did the members of the Apostolic Church and turn our Conventional Christianity into something dynamic and living. Nothing short of a revolution will redeem individuals and other relationships with each other from that Age long Hate, Fear, Greed and Selfishness which are the root causes of all wars at home and abroad. It is earnestly hoped that "fire" lit at this Convention will continue to burn brightly and light up the dark corners of individual lives and the unevangelized areas of this land."

## GOVERNMENT OF CEYLON WAR PURPOSES FUND

In the seven days covered by the list, just over, Rs. 19,000 has been received, the bulk of which viz. Rs. 14,517.80 has come from the remarkable effort of the Social and Sports Clubs of

Ceylon. Notable among the subscriptions received are Rs. 5,000 from the Ceylon Rugby Football Union, Rs. 2,500, from Colombo Hockey and Football Club, Rs. 2,600 being member's first contribution from the Orient Club, Rs. 1,750 from the Colombo Ladies' Club, Rs. 1,141 from the Ceylon Turf Club (3rd contribution) Rs. 10,00 from the Ceylon Tobacco Co. Ltd., Rs. 500 from the shareholders of the Narangoda Rubber Co., Ltd.

## Monthly Contributions:

The generous contribution of Rs. 219.12 from the labourers of Opa Estate, Kahanwatta, representing a monthly 10% contribution from pay is also worthy of special mention. Those responsible for the Ceylon War Purposes Fund would very much like to see this example followed. Already a number of firms and estates send regular voluntary contributions from the pay of their staff and the bulk of the contributions received from the Public Service and Government Pensioners are, of course, monthly contributions which will in course of time realize a large sum. Previously acknowledged:

From the General public Rs. 70,647.93  
From Social and Sports Clubs Rs. 216,784.55  
From The Pub.  
Govt. Services and Govt. Pensioners Rs. 53,911.40

Total Rs. 341,343.38

## WHAT THE BRITISH NAVY DOES FOR CEYLON

(Continued from last issue)

The Indian Ocean is practically a British lake bordered as it is on the North by India and Ceylon, on the East by British possessions in Africa, and on the West by Malaya and Australia.

To protect this lake, the British Navy have bases at Singapore, Colombo, Bombay, Aden, Simonstown and in Australia. From these bases proceed the Men-of-War that patrol the trade routes, watch over the British shipping, and make it extremely hazardous for an enemy raider to venture forth.

Suppose we had no ships in these waters, suppose we were not in command of the Seas, suppose enemy raiders were free to move at will and carry out depredations on British shipping; how would it affect Ceylon?

First of all, she would not be able to export her tea, her rubber and her coconut produce; a country lives by her exports, and stoppage of exports means economic ruin.

Now let us consider the imports. Every year Ceylon imports 18,000,000 (eighteen million) bushels of rice. That represents about two-thirds of the annual consumption of the Island. What would happen if enemy raiders were able to stop or destroy the ships bringing this rice to the Island? It looks to me as if someone would be hungry.

Since June 19, the East Indies Squadron have captured or sunk five Italian submarines. These submarines were destroyed in our own waters and any one of them was capable of reaching the shores of Ceylon and destroying shipping or bombarding our coasts. Another instance of what the Navy is doing for Ceylon.

When this war is over and the threat of Nazi-Germany is finally overthrown, the Navy will go back to its peace-time duties, fully conscious and proud of the fact that once again it has saved the British Empire from destruction.

## NORTHERN PROVINCE ADMINISTRATION REPORT 1939.

(M. Prasad Esqr.  
C. C. S. G. A. N. P.)  
History

(Continued from last issue)

An All-Ceylon Mango Show organized by the Jaffna District Mango Growers' Association was held at the Jaffna Hindu College. It was opened by the Director of Agriculture on July 14, 1939.

There was a rain storm on April 12 & 13, 1939 which caused

a great deal of damage to tobacco, chilly, plantain and other crops cultivated in low lying lands. Some of the smaller tenant cultivators sustained losses which were heavy in relation to their means. Relief works were provided in centres where distress prevailed.

On November 15 there were very heavy showers of rain followed by a cyclone which caused damage to many houses and plantations in certain parts of the district. Immediate relief was granted by free distribution of rice and currysuffs to those who were affected by floods and rendered homeless. The people who were poor and unable to repair the damage caused to their houses by floods were given financial assistance to repair their houses.

Relief works were provided at Delft for about three months owing to distress caused by drought and failure of crops.

## EXTRACTS

*Revenue and Expenditure:* The total sum collected as revenue during the financial year 1938-39 was Rs. 2,841,575.53, which was Rs. 1,441,783.31 more than the amount collected the previous year. The increase in the amount of revenue collected in the financial year 1938-39 compared with the amount of revenue collected in the preceding financial year was mainly due to a very substantial increase in the collections on account of the import duty on grains which in turn seems to have been due to the fact that during the latter part of the financial year the importers were building up stocks to meet the requirements of the Essential Commodities Reserves Ordinance No. 5 of 1939.

The total amount of the payments made during the financial year 1938-39 on account of voted services was Rs. 1,781,501.15, which was Rs. 74,616.21 more than the total of the payments made during the previous financial year.

*Food Supply, Industry, and Condition of the People:* The staple articles of food are rice, palm oil products, dry grains such as kurkkan, sami, varaku &c., and vegetables including manioc. Rice is the staple article of food for the well-to-do and for persons of the middle class. With the exception of the Pachchilai-palai, Karachchi and Pusakari Thunukkai Divisions, the Jaffna District is not self-supporting in the matter of rice. During the year under review the production of rice was below normal in all the divisions except in the Islands division where it was normal.

There was no noticeable shortage of food stuffs during the year although a food crisis on account of the war was anticipated and the price of rice was controlled for some time.

The industries of the Jaffna District are almost entirely agricultural. There is no agricultural product in which there is any large export except tobacco, which is grown extensively in the Vaigamam West, Valikamam North and East, Vadamarachi Divisions and of which large quantities are exported to Travancore. During the year under review the tobacco crops were greatly damaged by the heavy rains of April and the price of tobacco also went down owing to the imposition of increased import duty at Travancore.

The cigar industry which has in the past played an important part in the economic conditions of the Jaffna District is now in a depressed state. The future of the industry is instinctively gloomy and a change can be brought about only by a marked improvement in the quality of cigars turned out at the various factories to suit the marks in various parts of the Island.

The conditions of the people may be considered to have been on the whole satisfactory,

(To be continued)

## A CIRCULAR LETTER

Dr. W. Wilson Cash, the General Secretary of the Church Missionary Society, in a circular letter

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is one of the creative hours in world history and a critical hour for the Church of God. The close of this war may be but the prelude to the greatest spiritual awakening the world has ever seen. It may offer the Church the unique opportunity of universal witness and evangelism. Out of suffering may come the dawn of a new era, and if we are to see it, we must prepare ourselves for the tasks God would commit to us. In the C. M. S. we believe that for us it means not that our task is done, but rather that it is only beginning, for it was for this day that God called the C. M. S. into being, and for this day He has led us for 141 years.

In closing I wish to give a concrete example of missionary giving in a Midland parish. The situation briefly was that the parish income fell after war began by £150, the bank overdraft was £400, pent rents were 25% less, and free-will offerings were also down. The congregation was smaller owing to the black-out, and the position was regarded as most serious.

The vicar writes, "What did we do? We at once launched a missionary campaign. We trebled the number of our missionary box-holders. We decided to adopt our 'Own Missionary,' which meant doubling our contributions to medical work. What has been the result? We have sent more money to missions overseas than ever before. But notice too the result on parish finances. The year ended with a higher balance than for many years. Financial worries were solved as the parish got a world vision of the Church".

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Sir,

Three weddings were recently solemnized on the same day and almost at the same time, being an auspicious day. The parties concerned are all supposed to be Christians, yea, Christians of two or three generations. Are such people Christians or heathen? The faith in Jesus Christ—the name above every other name—and the observance of auspicious days. Are these two reconcilable? If they are not, what should be the attitude of the Church of Christ in such matters? At the Convention the other day, the Spirit of the Lord (through one of the speakers) said the following: "At the Ceylon Christian Council meeting two altogether different questions were asked. But the answer given was the same for both questions! What is the real cause of the spread of Christianity in Ceylon?"

Ans. The lives of (true) Christians.

What is the real cause of the decline of Christianity in Ceylon?

Ans. The lives of (nominal) Christians.

Woe unto him by whom the hindrance does come; better for him to have a great millstone hung round his head and be sunk in the deep sea" (Lord Jesus.)

"Christian"

## Correspondence from Klang F. M. S.

Owing to the absence of the Chaplain of Selangor (Rev. J. G. Hall, M.A.) on holiday, the English Service at St. Barnabas' Church, Klang, on August 25th at 9.45 a.m. was conducted by the Rev. E. G. Proctor, who is now residing in Klang. It was a Eucharistic Service with special intentions for the true vision of God for nations that are perplexed because of this terrible war; for the wounded and the sick; for the lasting and real Peace of the world; for the bestowal of more Grace to strengthen Great Britain and the Allies in their resolutions to bring to the troubled world the God-given Freedom, a righteous Peace, and a better world of real happiness.

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Truth, Justice, Religion and Piety after this war, and that God will give them glorious victory before long. Rev. E. G. Trotter preached a sermon based on Rev. 3. 21. "To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in My throne." Touching on Suffering endured for Love, suffering prolonged to extremity in the service of any noble cause comes in its final phase a point of union with immortal joy.

## GARDEN OF EDEN

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