

# THE MORNING STAR.

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No. 36

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

## ECHOES

### Head-Hunting

Pacific peoples are asking many questions about the so-called Christian West now at war. In Papua the advent of the Church has meant the disappearance of cannibalism and head-hunting. "Why," one Papuan asked, "has it not the same effect in Europe." From an L. M. S. Pamphlet.

### THE CALL OF THE WAR

"As I see it, this war is a call to us all to be keener Christians. We have the only message that is not discredited."

A. M. C. R. G. V. I.

### THE OPPORTUNITY OF THE WAR

In the confused deadlock of this war, I take consolation in the belief that it may give an opportunity to leaders who understand the necessity for a new social order. London Diary "New Statesman and Nation."

### THE BEST RESULT OF THE WAR

The best that the war can do for us is to inspire us with an irresistible desire for better things. Lord Merston.

### JAFFNA Y. M. C. A.

Dr. D. John M. B. delivered an interesting lecture on Monday under the auspices of the Jaffna Y. M. C. A. at the Jaffna Central College, giving a new interpretation of the Kandapurannam and cited evidences to show that the seven islands and the seven seas mentioned in Kandapurannam referred to the seven islands off the West Coast of the Jaffna Peninsula. The lecture was full of deep interest, showing the antiquity of Jaffna. Mr. K. Nesiiah presided.

### The Jaffna National Evangelistic Society

Under the auspices of the J. N. E. S. an Evangelistic Expedition will be made to the Island of Delft, during the last week-end of September. The Expedition will take the motor launch at Kayts on Saturday the 28th inst. at 9 a. m. and will spend the week-end profitably with the members of the Island Church there. Special meetings are being arranged. Members will return on Monday evening at 5.30 p. m. to Kayts. Those who wish to join the expedition, please inform the Secretary, J. N. E. S., "The Parsonage" Udovil Chunnakam.

### St. John's Church, Chundicut

The Rev. R. S. de Siram M. A. (Oxon) Warden of St. Thomas' College, Mount Lavinia will be the preacher on next Sunday the 22nd at the 8.15 a. m. service.

### Birth

To Sugirtham, wife of Mr. R. N. N. Daniel—a son.

### Obituary

The death occurred on Thursday the 12th inst. of Mr. H. A. P. Suddrasegare, K. C. at his residence in Jaffna. The deceased was 65 years of age and was in poor health for some time past. He was a son of the late Mr. J. A. Suddrasegare, Superintendent of Minor Roads, Jaffna. He was the Senior King's Counsel, having been appointed in 1924, and once acted as Commissioner of Assize. But after a short period of service he resumed his practice at the Bar from which he retired. Glowing tributes to him were paid in the State Council, the Chief Appellate Court, Colombo District Court, the Jaffna Assizes and at the Jaffna District and Magistrate's Courts. The funeral took place on the 13th evening at St. Mary's Cathedral burial grounds and was largely attended.

The remains of Mr. S. Rasaratnam former broker, Messrs. Darley Butler & Co. Ltd. who died on the 15th inst. were cremated according to Hindu rites on the 16th evening at the General Cemetery, Kattale.

### Law Examination Results

Seventeen students of the Ceylon Law College have passed out as Advocates and 25 as Proctors in the Final held in August last. **Advocates:**—Tamils: S. P. M. Rajandram, S. Saravanamuttu, T. Somasundaram, G. G. Hoover, S. H. Perinpanayagam, V. N. Pillai and W. A. Walton. **Proctors:** K. Sivasangaram, M. V. Chelva-thuray, A. Camarasamy, S. Sallamuttu, C. Sionatbamby, K. Thambipillai, W. D. Thangtheram, J. Patrick, F. Rajaratnam, S. Ramachandran, T. V. Suppamaniam, K. C. Thillaiampalam and K. Vinasithamby.

### North Ceylon Sinhalese Union

To look after the welfare of the Sinhalese in the Northern Province is one of the objects of an association which has been inaugurated in Jaffna under the name of the North-Ceylon Sinhalese Union "at a meeting held at Hospital Road Jaffna, with Mr. Ariya Pathirana in the chair.

Mr. T. N. Peiris acted as Secretary pro tem.

According to the constitution, which was adopted unanimously every Sinhalese, irrespective of caste, creed or vocation, who is domiciled or living in the Northern Province, shall be eligible for membership.

The objects of the Union are: (a) to cultivate among its members a spirit of fraternity and service; (b) to foster in the members a sense of good citizenship; (c) to look after the welfare of the Sinhalese in the Northern Province; (d) to work for the better relationship and unity of the Tamils and Sinhalese; (e) to associate with other bodies working for the general betterment of Lanka.

The election of office-bearers resulted as follows:—

**President:** Mr. Ariya Pathirana; **Hon. Secretary** Mr. T. N. Peiris; **Treasurer:** Mr. E. C. De Silva. **Executive Committee:** Messrs H. B. H. Hobbewala; M. D. Saldago, K. K. G. Appahamy, U. G. L. Bandara, H. K. Simon, K. M. P. Bandara and the office-bearers.

### Purchase of Rural Produce.

Field officers of the Department of Agriculture have been instructed to bring to the knowledge of producers information regarding the operation of the Agricultural Products Ordinance by which the prices of certain crops are guaranteed to growers by the Government through the Marketing Department.

The crops so far brought within the scheme are chillies, turmeric, green gram, red onions, dhal and ginger, and agents have been appointed in all parts of the Island for the purchase of these classes of produce in any quantity.

In instructions issued through the Propaganda Department the Director of Agriculture request field officers to identify themselves with village organisations and take every opportunity of addressing gatherings at fairs, festivals and other meetings of cultivators on the disposal of the crops at guaranteed prices. (PRICES WHICH ARE GUARANTEED)

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+ Guaranteed by Department of Agriculture.

### CHANGE OF DATE

The Founders' Day and Prize-Giving of the Union High School, Tellippalai, will be held on **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13** and not on Oct. 5 as previously announced.

PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE

I. P. Thurairatnam.  
Principal.

### NOTICE

At Udovil School on Oct. 5th. A Sale and Tamil Play in aid of The School Electric Light Fund and War Charities **3 o'clock onward** Parents, Old Girls and Friends are cordially invited.

### UNION HIGH SCHOOL, TELLIPPALAI.

There are a few vacancies at the Orphanage. Those wishing to join should apply stating particulars before the 27th inst. to:

I. P. Thurairatnam,  
Principal.

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The Morning Star

Friday Sept. 20, 1940.

ANOTHER DARK AGE.

"To Your caves, ye people!" may well be the cry today to those millions of the earth's inhabitants who must fly to air-raided shelters from the havoc wrought by the new force in war.

Fortunately, far underground is still comparatively a safe refuge from flying splinters, if not from direct bomb hits which dig holes forty feet deep.

But how soon may the caves, natural as well as artificial, also be secure in the face of devilishly ingenious methods of destruction? Sinking and penetrating gases have yet to be used in this war.

Soon we will find that there is no physical escape from the material destruction that wastes both at midnight and noonday. And man becomes the victim of his own inventive genius.

For years we read with wonder about the man-made caverns far beneath the city of Paris, where the huge French gold and silver hoard was treasured, the war chest that failed. Whole regiments of soldiers could be kept down there to guard it. There were food supplies for a year. Absolutely impregnable! It could be flooded in case of enemy capture of the city. We wonder what the Germans are doing to it now, and how much precious metal they got or hope to get.

When the coming generation must be hustled into holes in the earth before the overflowing scourge of war, is it symbolically prophetic of the dark age they are facing? Our statesmen find it difficult to convince the people that we are facing terrible times, without by the same effort sapping their courage to face them. The caves are convincing, but they do not prevent the greying of many a head and the wrinkling of many a face, almost overnight.

Yes, we are hard upon a dark age, if those who fight against God will have their way. For the war against God, which has been growing in momentum for the last quarter of a century in the minds and hearts of multitudes of men, is the basic cause of this stupendous conflict.

Do not blame Christianity—Christian-like Christianity—for this war, even though it be waged in part by so-called Christians. Central and Eastern Europe have long been openly or covertly repudiating Christ as the sacrificial and atoning Son of God, in some quarters even denying that He ever existed. And this atheism has overstepped national boundaries and has permeated every country, till one is not sure of the fellow patriot by his side.

More and more this war is changing from a battle between great nations to a battle between great principles of government and human conduct. The dividing line is changing from the vertical to the horizontal. It is a question of whether the principles from beneath or the principles from above shall prevail.

Since the war will be fought out along the line of the principles for which men stand, it behoves every man to determine now on which side he will fight. For sooner or later all of us will be called upon to defend our principles with our resources and our lives, or to repudiate them like cowards. Both man and God will demand of us a declaration and a defence.

A dark time is upon us, but it will not be age long. We are seeing the triumph of brute force, but it will not usher in dark ages, but it will, if God Himself did not intervene, but He will. The long reign of sin and its consequences is just about over. In reality, "the night is far spent," and we

are in the darkest hour which comes immediately preceding the dawn. The day comes which will see no declining sun.

Soon Christ will appear in the clouds of heaven; and those who have fought against Him and denied Him will call for the rocks and the mountains to fall upon them and hide them from His awe-inspiring presence. However incredible this divine prophecy may appear to the materialist and the scoffer, it cannot be ignored without fearful peril, for this life and the life to come.

But there will be those who lift up their heads and welcome His coming, and who will say, "Lo this is our God; we have waited for Him, and He will save us." We may choose now to be among the number. T. O. W.

CHRISTIANITY AND DEMOCRACY

One of the greatest contributions of Christianity to men's moral outlook was a sense of the worth of the individual. In all ancient civilisations whether Egyptian, Chinese, or Indian—even in feudal Europe, the value of the individual person or soul received no recognition. Value was attached to either birth, or rank, or position, not to the individual as such. In India through his subtlety the Brahman enthroned himself as the pet of society, and all others outside the pale of his favoured caste had to bring their tribute to his feet. The worth of the other individuals was assessed by reference to their respective positions in the ladder of caste.

If the democratic religious movement of Buddha found no foothold in India, it was partly because it tended to upset the exalted role played by the Brahman and to a less degree by the other favoured castes in the social structure, so ingeniously justified by the arrogant Aryan conquerors.

Jesus taught that there was no difference between Jew and Gentile, Pharisee and Publican, Master and Slave, though it took several centuries for Christian Europe to abolish serfdom and slavery. To Jesus every individual had an immortal soul to be saved; even the meanest soul or person was as precious to God as the mightiest on earth. In short the pivotal idea—the worth of the individual personality—round which modern democratic ethics moves may be traced to Jesus for its fount and inspiration.

We who have tasted and appreciated the high value placed on human personality by a civilisation influenced by the teaching of Jesus clamour today for democracy and even immediate Swaraj. But in spite of a century of Christian influence we continue to uphold the injustices of caste distinctions. Not to speak of offering equality of opportunity to our fellow men, we refuse even today equal seating to them in our places of worship and in our schools.

Let those few among us who are drunk with the wine of the democratic literature of England and America before clamouring for 'freedom' first rescue our fellow countrymen from age old ideas that make us slaves. Let the new wine enter the blood of all our race before we seek to dispense with Christianity and chase the 'mirage' of Swaraj.

The most vital message of Jesus to India and Ceylon is the call for the recognition of the eternal and inestimable worth of every individual, be he a Pariah or Brahman. In the enlightened legal codes of the West the sense of the value of human personality as well as life is recognised and enforced through the courts of justice. Recent democratic legislation such as compulsory elementary education for all, the factory and shop acts, all to mention only a few, are all based on the recognition of the worth of the individual personality irrespective of caste rank or age.

Christianity in the middle ages took the false step of exalting the Church and its priestly hierarchy at the expense of the individual. It was the Protestant movement which first brought the

impetus in Europe to this democratic idea implied in the message of Jesus. It urged men not to look to institutions but rely on the insight of the individual conscience—for therein lies the key to the development of the individual personality with all its infinite worth.

Nazism and Fascism are retrograde movements just because they aim at subordinating completely the individual to institutions. They point back to the dark ages of tyranny and self-suppression. Self-expression and not repression is the soul of freedom. These new movements are anti-Christian, undemocratic and immoral just because they ignore the great truth that Jesus taught—that men should be treated as ends in themselves not as means to ends beyond themselves.

NORTHERN PROVINCE ADMINISTRATION REPORT 1939.

(M. Prasad Esq., G. A. N. P.)

EXTRACTS

Cattle. The health of the cattle throughout the Jaffna District for the year under review. There was an outbreak of Black Water disease at Pangudutivu in October when the rains prevailed. Of the 105 head of cattle reported to have been affected 102 died of the disease and the remaining three recovered. The Veterinary Dispensary at Jaffna continued to do useful work but as a retrenchment measure the dispensary ceased to function from October 1 this year.

Public Health. The birth rate during the year dropped to 29.6 from 31.6 per cent in 1937, and 31.2 per cent in 1938. There were most satisfactory improvements in the general, infant, and maternal death rates.

There is steady downward trend from 1937 onwards in the infant and maternal death rates, the lowest for both rates having been recorded in 1939. This is mostly due to the maternity and child welfare work which is being carried on at different centres. In the district there is an excellent maternity hospital at Inuvil managed by the American Mission. The Mission has also a maternity ward in their hospital at Maunipay. Maternity wards are provided in the Civil Hospitals in Jaffna, Point Pedro and Kayts. Besides these there is a maternity hospital in Karayoor and 12 whole time midwives are employed by the local authorities. Several Village Committees have voted money for employing midwives but have not been able to obtain the services of midwives owing to the shortage of registered Tamil midwives.

Two hundred and twenty-six clinics were held at six centres during the year. At these clinics expectant mothers were examined and necessary advice and treatment given. Four health exhibitions were held during the year. Forty-four lectures with lanterns, 86 without lanterns and five cinema shows on health subjects were also given by the Medical Officer of Health.

Crime and Police. The figures obtained from the various Magistrates' courts of the districts indicate that there has been a decrease in crime.

Village Tribunals were established in the Chief Headmen's Divisions of Islands, Vadamaratchi, Pachchilaipalli-Karacchi, and Puarakiri-Tinnukki excluding the island of Irranativu on November 1st 1939. It is too early to express an opinion about their effect on the work of the Magistrates' court.

During the year the Police have been successful in rounding up the leaders of three notorious gangs which resulted in the breaking up of these gangs and an appreciable decrease in grave crime.

GOVT. OF CEYLON WAR PURPOSES FUND

Since the 10th list was issued (which included subscriptions up to the 4th September, 1940) the Fund has grown from Rs. 435,984.95 to Rs. 470,518.08 i. e. an addition of Rs. 34,533.13. To this addition, the Social and Sports Clubs of Ceylon have contributed Rs. 14,888.21.

PRINTERS PIE CARNIVAL

Of special interest among the subscriptions received from Clubs is the sum of Rs. 3,500 received from moneys collected at the 'Printers Pie Carnival' organised by the Government Press Sports Club. This is only a first instalment. When the accounts of that successful Carnival, which reflected great credit on the Organising Committee, have been settled, a considerably larger sum will, it is understood, be paid into the War Purposes Fund. A third contribution of Rs. 3,000, has been received from the Royal Colombo Golf Club making a total of Rs. 20,316.07 from that Club alone. The Hill Club, Nuwara Eliya, has sent Rs. 2,000. A third contribution of Rs. 1,129.50 has been received from the Ceylon Game and Fauna Protection Society and members of the Ceylon Fishing Club have sent a first contribution of Rs. 1,405.

MONTHLY CONTRIBUTIONS

The growing total of the sum contributed by Public Services and Government pensioners indicates the special usefulness of a system under which monthly contributions are paid. It is noted with pleasure that some business firms and estates have adopted this method. The Government would like to see it much more widely extended so that persons in regular employment may be able to make a regular monthly voluntary subscription to the War Purposes Fund.

CEYLON'S DEFENCE FORCE.

The Chief Secretary of Ceylon (Mr. G. S. Wodeman) referred to Ceylon's Defence Force in the course of the Budget debate. He said that, except in special categories, volunteers were not required to proceed overseas, and the Secretary of State was of opinion that it would be contrary to the public interest to reduce the Colonial Services by such recruitment. In regard to the training of Ceylonese recruits for the Royal Air Force the Imperial Government had intimated that the Ceylon Government might arrange for the constitution of a Selection Board for the medical examination in Ceylon of suitable candidates. Ceylon however could not start recruiting immediately until they received details of the medical and educational requirements from the Singapore Command. With regard to the question of a Ceylon Regiment, the Chief Secretary said that for the duration of the war it would be impossible to arrange for the recruitment of a Ceylon Regiment because they would need the assistance of the War Office in many directions and this was not feasible at the present time. Certain proposals for the re-organization of the Ceylon Light Infantry, he said, have been approved. The present regiment would be divided into two regiments and this would involve an increase in the number of Officers and other ranks. This was an opportunity for a large number of young men in ostensions to join the C. L. I. It is expected that in two month's time the C. L. I. would be in a position to carry out whatever war role it may be required to perform within the Island. Thus, if at any future time, the call arose for volunteers for service overseas, they would be recruited from the trained volunteer units in the Island. Ceylon and the War.

WANTED

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Rev. E. Middleton Weaver, General Manager of Schools, "Vembadi" Jaffna.

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