

The Morning Star

Friday Nov. 1, 1940.

CRIME IN 1939.

The Administration report of the Inspector General of Police for 1939 records a small decrease in the total number of crimes during the year under review as compared with the number for the previous year. There were recorded altogether 16,627 cases of crime as against 16,854 in 1938, showing a decrease of 227. Of this total 359 were cases of murder, in which also there is a decrease of 31. An increase is recorded in the number of burglaries and bicycle thefts, the number of burglaries reported 3,620 being the highest on record. Though a slight improvement in the crime report of the country is noticeable, Ceylon still compares unfavourably with some other countries in this matter. For example, with regard to crimes of violence, the proportion of crime against the person to crime against property is roughly 2 to 3 in Ceylon, whereas it is 1 to 5 in Bihar and Bengal, and 1 to 3 in Malaya. The Inspector General is correct when he ascribes sudden quarrels as the cause for the majority of these cases of violent crime, for about a half the number of the cases of murder were found to be the result of sudden quarrels. His remarks in this connection are worth quoting: "Temper is notoriously short but the blow or stab is provoked by the use of immoderate language—the taunt and vulgar abuse—which is all too common. The influence of religious instruction and education are negated by such language and when the child leaves school the ideal he has learnt are apt to be considered only in the abstract and his everyday life and conduct descends to the level of the language he hears". In connection with the number of cases of murder, the distressing fact has to be noted that they have been increasing in the Northern Province for the last three years; in 1937 there were 19, the following year 20 and last year 26.

While the whole situation with regard to the criminal record of the country needs to be carefully considered, particularly three disconcerting facts call for special action. One, the number of youthful offenders shows an increase in 1939; 3,144 or 36 per cent of the total number of persons convicted for crime. This number is the highest yet recorded and shows about 7 per cent increase on the previous year's figures. Secondly, the number of reconvicted criminals also shows an increase of 370, the number last year being 11,281. Thirdly, the number of absconders remains large, with 468 of them still at large on December 31 of last year. The Training School for youthful offenders already opened may soon contribute materially towards reducing the number of youthful offenders.

The Inspector General puts his finger on the right spot when he says: "Detection is essentially the duty of the Police; Control is the responsibility of the Courts and the Police; whilst Prevention calls for the attention of everyone." We are glad to be told there is improvement in all these matters, mainly in controlling crime. We are particularly happy to learn that increased help from members of the public was offered to the police. Still more help and co-operation can be given.

THE PASSING HOUR

POOR MINISTER OF EDUCATION!
Now that the late Professor of Mathematics is at the Bar, nothing can bar him from speaking out his mind—and what a mind!—on public questions. Indeed

he has already begun to give a few bits straight from the shoulder. To him the Minister of Education is the greatest problem of the day!

"AMEN MEMBERS."

One more hit. He has characterised the Committee members of Education as 'amen members.' The phrase is pungent, but I am afraid it is beside the mark. They do not say amen—that is just the trouble. All the muddle that is in the Ceylon educational world today is due to the house of the Ministry being divided against itself. As far as I understand the situation, the members do not have a corporate sense, and love to plough their lonely furrows. The minister is sometimes compelled to sponsor resolutions in the Council against which he voted in the committee. If there is an argument against the Committee system, here is one.

THAT INTERESTING WORD.
By the way there is something wonderful about that word, amen. This Hebrew word has the same meaning in a score or more of languages. To take our own language, amen means saying yes (am, yes; en, say). What a coincidence!

EVERYBODY AN EXPERT
Legal problems pertain to lawyers. Curative problems belong to the medical profession. Engineering problems are the special preserve of engineers into which others are not allowed to peep. And so on, and so forth. But every one poses as an educational expert. The educational layman rushes in with his nostrums for the ill the educational flesh is heir to, while the expert angel fears to tread the field.

NEED FOR RESEARCH
When Prof. Kilpatrick, the world famous expert from the Columbia University, was here on a visit he told us that he was amazed to know that the Ceylon Education Department had no one left off to study the educational problems of the island. Assistant Directors there are a number, Divisional Inspectors are daily increasing in strength, there are any amount of Inspectors and Assistant Inspectors, and there are Superintendants of that, but not a single man whose business it is to concentrate his attention to pressing educational problems, such as the medium of instruction, Educational reform is left to provincial Proctors and cocksure politicians. Even when a Commission was suggested our bigwigs of the Ministry wished to have a finger in the pie!

BATTLEDORE AND SHUTTLECOCK
The game of imitations and recriminations about 'contribution' by teachers is going on merrily. This matter is positively scandalous. I would say that this is the most pressing problem of the day. Why not appoint a Commission to undertake the herculean task of cleansing the Angaman shambles?

GAMBLING IN POLITICS
One more nail on the coffin of the Committee system! The Ministers are chosen by lot! We will soon have the spectacle of each member voting for himself, as indeed some have one in the recent elections, and lottery will have to be resorted to. Why did they not bring in the human element instead of gambling about a most responsible position? It can be done by one of several ways. They could have agreed among themselves to ask the presiding officer to cast a vote. Or they might have let the matter in the hands of the Governor, who after all appoints the Ministers. Best of all, the Leader of the House may have been asked to come in, as that would be a half-way house between the present system and selection by a Prime Minister. To resort to lottery! What are we coming to? There is a Tamil proverb to the effect that sometimes cure could be effected only when the fever develops into coma. The coma has set in.

ATHANASIOS CONTRA MUNDUM
This theological phrase when applied to the war situation, when day may be translated as Britain against the whole world (of course

America excluded). The British Lion has given evidence that it has not lost its teeth, but on the other hand has developed wings. The whole world stands amazed that the confidence and calm with which the Briton is facing the situation with his back to the wall. We may be confident that he will see the thing through in spite of foxes and poodles trotting by the side of that abomination of desolation.

WHO WILL BE PRESIDENT?
We will know in a few days. It is an ill wind that blows no one good. If there was no war, Roosevelt would not have had the ghost of a chance for a third term. The genius of the American people is against it: Hitler is aiding him by plotting against him. I am confident that the unwritten law against a third term will be broken—and the Anglo-Saxon races will stand shoulder to shoulder in the fight for freedom.

SCRIBATOR.

FRIENDLY TALKS

Our Debt to the Missionary
(Continued from last issue)

The missionary's point of view however still remains the same. "I came to convey a message to you, a message which has elevated me and inspired me to a nobler life. I came to share it with you. I have tried my utmost. If you think my message and my presence are of no value to you any more, I am ready to depart."

It requires a more humble and grateful generation of Jaffna men to assess the worth in money, men and character that missionary effort has expanded in the villages of Jaffna. It requires a more grateful generation to form a juster estimate of the vast contribution they have made to enrich our language and to soften our manners and customs.

English education has raised today the question of colour in an undignified form. All whites are fast becoming anathema. When the white man came here first he was worshipped more or less like a God. He taught us a language and we learnt to curse. It is time we thought more soberly and not in terms of loaves and fishes for our generation.

From gutter to gutter they say is only three generations; progressive education for three generations is hardly adequate to make a new race of the old. Let us not be too impatient. Changes in the mentality and social organisation of races and peoples take centuries to be effected. Race instincts are deeply rooted and are not transformed overnight by success at examinations. A little knowledge is a dangerous thing. We require many more years of discipline and competent leadership.

A Friend.

A NEW WORLD ORDER

One of the blessings which war is bringing to us is a fresh sense of discontent with the present world order in times of peace when things are 'normal, we grow up with a sense that all was well, and that living conditions were not too bad or were fairly tolerable. We live with very much to disturb us, and go on as if everything was satisfactory or that any existed as to be expected.

But the present war has shaken the foundations. Everywhere people are beginning to feel and to think seriously that their peace time 'securities' were not as safe and sure as they believed them to be. When there was no war, people lived believing that progress was inevitable, that the world was going forward and would always do so, that they were safe if they had such things as wealth, profession, government jobs etc. etc. Nations lived as if prosperity and well-being solely depended on questions related to import and export, trade and the like, but today all over the world thinking men are beginning to feel dissatisfied with the present world order. It is a new world order to see that under the existing conditions, war was to be expected,

and everything that went to make life unhappy and unsafe was to be considered only normal. Everywhere today man is disappointed bitterly with his own lot as well as that of his fellowmen. He is beginning to throw away what he had so long, like the old Ford car which smoked and rattled too much, and go in for a new one, a new world order which will be based on other foundations that are firm and truly secure, and that will not cause so much heat and friction and noise as the present one.

To this subject, all thinking men are giving serious thought at the present time. To the Christian man, the Bible is beginning to be a new book. Old and familiar passages are found to be full of new meaning, and are beginning to be understood in a new way. He sees that the Bible has the solution for all world's problems, and that present conditions were created solely through neglect of the Bible, and failure to apply its principles to answer the demands of life.

The Bible looks forward to a new earth and a new heaven. The hope and goal of the Christian Gospel is the creation of a new earth and a new heaven. "We look for new heavens and a new earth" said St. Peter in his second general epistle. See chapter III, verse 13. In the divine Revelations of the things to come, given to St. John when he was alone in Patmos, we read "And I saw a new heaven and a new earth."

A new world order is the purpose of the great Architect. God seeks to create a new earth out of the ashes of the generations that are passing away one by one. It is God's purpose to have, for instance, a world without war. The Bible is a book of many promises of God, several of them already fulfilled and others yet to be fulfilled. Belonging to the latter category we have God's promise concerning war, which we shall see fulfilled in "They shall beat their swords into ploughshare and their spears into pruning hooks."

There shall be a new earth, which is free from war, free from poverty, free from drink, and free from everything that made man's life miserable and bad. The Christian Gospel has for its purpose the creation of a new earth and a new heaven, and the Bible has the solution for all world's problems. We know how already the Gospel has changed several ugly features of life on this earth, like slave trade, inferiority of women etc. But there is still more to be done, and there is urgent need for the Christian Church to proclaim the Gospel of the Fatherhood of God, and the Brotherhood of man—old themes, but eternal verities which alone will give us a new world order, new earth and a new heaven.

J. S. M.

STRANGE PAPER PULP

From—Robert Williamson
20, John Adam Street,
Adelphi, London W. O. 2.
The world shortage of pulp for paper-making is creating a new demand in Britain for unusual raw materials in the United Kingdom and from overseas.
Research chemists seeking to replace the 2,000,000 tons of pulp used every year by British paper mills are substituting the straw of oats and other cereals for the 800,000 tons of asparto grass im-

ported annually. Reeds, covering an extensive acreage in Norfolk and Suffolk, are being converted into pulp and the possibilities of bracken and potato haulm are also being investigated.

The Indian pulp industry is already using bamboo with success and vast quantities of it are available in Burma, India, Kenya, and the West Indies. Experiments indicate good potentialities in elephant and Tambonkie grass from Africa, and lalang grass from Malaya, Ceylon and Papua. Reeds and papyrus from the Nile may also be of service.

The possibilities of such agricultural wastes as cotton plant stems from Egypt, India and the United States; Indian rice straw; and the vast quantities of Indian, Canadian and Argentine linseed straw are all being explored.

Apart from research, British supplies of paper will be maintained by a thoroughly effective collection of waste paper and strict economy of the finished manufacture.

IN EVER-LOVING MEMORY OF S. K. Ariyanayagam

Promoted to Glory 3rd Nov. 1934

In our lonely hours of thinking His dear face is always near. We who love him sadly miss him As it dawns another year.

(inserted by his wife and sons.)

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