

The Morning Star

Friday Nov. 22, 1940

RE-ELECT THE COMMITTEES

Under normal conditions, the present State Council's life would terminate with the end of this year; but because of war conditions the inevitable has happened and the life of the Council has been extended by two years. The country has, almost to a man, accepted the decision of the Secretary of State for the Colonies to extend the Council's life without dissent or murmur, for there is the feeling, that at this time of trial and trouble to the British Empire, in every one of its component parts, things should be normal as much as is possible. It is also felt that the country should be spared at this time the enormous expenses the Council elections would involve. Most of the money, which would otherwise be thrown away by the many rival candidates contesting the elections in bribing and dragging the voters, they can ill afford to waste now, when prices of most commodities have gone up very much. And where such wanton waste can be afforded, it can now be diverted to good purposes, especially towards helping the many war-charities demanding attention. These are probably the main reasons that have contributed towards the absence of protests against the decision of the Secretary of State. But it does not mean that the people of Ceylon are entirely satisfied with the achievements in and through the State Council of their representatives. A true verdict of the people concerning their representatives can be seen only when the day of reckoning comes, on which they will be called upon to give an account of their stewardship, as they woo the support of their constituencies once again. Till then, for another period of two years, the State Council has to be tolerated.

However, in the meantime, an important change can be made, if only the State Council will see reason in the suggestion put forward by some sections of the press. It has been suggested that the best thing to do under the circumstances would be to dissolve the present Executive Committees and have them and their Chairmen elected afresh. We are glad that a member of the Council has taken the suggestion seriously and embodied it in a motion of which he has already given notice in the Council. The motion will soon come up for discussion before the Council. We hope the Councillors will give it their unprejudiced and impartial consideration. Such a change as is suggested will give an opportunity to the whole Council to give its verdict on the achievements of the respective Committees. It may mean at least in some cases new Committees and new Ministers, who will bring into their work fresh outlook and fresh enthusiasm and new life, so very necessary now.

SPARKS FROM AN EDITOR'S ANVIL

The constitution is the Gibraltar of popular liberty and human rights.

Deterioration of international morality is the root cause of war between nations.

Every Government whose powers are not limited by a constitution becomes a despotism.

He that sweareth to his own hurt, and changeth not is a man you can trust under trial.

Nations rise when their ethical standards are high, and fall when their morality decays.

The greatest satisfaction, next to the possession of liberty, is the joy gained in pursuing it.

The quickest way to destroy the bulwarks of the constitution is to weaken popular Government.

THE PASSING HOUR

REQUISICAT IN PACE

There are some people who spread sunshine wherever they go. It is a tonic to converse with them. They help us to see the bright side of things. Such a man was the late Dr. A. N. Comaraswamy whose sudden death in the height of his career we all mourn. If I know anyone who came up to the ideal of St. Paul, "Rejoice always," it was he. The key-note of his life was service, and I cannot say anything higher.

A CEYLONESE CAPITAL

Very often we cannot see the wood for the trees. In simple words we are so absorbed in the details of our work that we fail to see the general lay-out of things. For example, we have just taken the City of Colombo for granted. There is nothing wrong about it. As outsiders had to come and tell us what is wrong with it. A noted town-planner has recently told us that Colombo cannot be a suitable capital for Ceylon. It is a cosmopolitan city with a strong western bias. A capital should reflect the country's best traditions, and culture. Colombo is a second edition of a western city. People living there are in Ceylon, but not of Ceylon. Their life, their customs, their manners, their speech, their dress, and what not, have become alien. When Mark Twain visited Colombo many years ago he was astonished, yet shocked to see the way in which people aped western ways, discarding their own beautiful things. This cannot be helped in a sea-port city which has been called the Chapman Junction of the East. The Capital of Ceylon should be situated where people could be themselves, and not in a second rate imitation of somebody else. And the climate of Colombo! And thereby hangs a tale.

FOOLISH RATIONALISING

The other day when it was proposed in our State Council that European Sergeants should be recruited for the Fort Police, one member who wished to support the proposal by hook or by crook resorted to an argument which we cannot but call fouling one's own nest. He said that the Ceylon man did not have the necessary physique! We need not examine a statement that was resorted to as a last resource. If people defame themselves like this at the slightest provocation, they might as well give up the hope of self-government altogether. Here is a fine instance of the slave-mentality which makes it necessary for the capital of Ceylon to be removed to real Ceylonese surroundings.

OUR CITY FATHERS

Very soon the still waters of our peaceful town will be stirred by the effort to find out who our City Fathers are to be. This periodical excitement, however disturbing to the even tenor of our life, has one good point "at least; it makes the man in the street, I mean the cottager, to realise once in a while that he is a human being with some rights, and not merely a forked animal. But I am thinking just now of another by-product of the forthcoming elections. If I am not mistaken, they are to fight on party principles, and not on personal merits. Municipality to be or not to be, that is the question. One step towards self-government!

A GREAT STATESMAN

When the late Sir Neville Chamberlain made peace possible at Munich, the approval and disapproval of this action was fifty fifty. But when people realised that consciously or unconsciously he had given England breathing time to get ready, approval was cent per cent. Now that he is gone, his solid qualities, his sincerity, and his love of peace, have been acclaimed unanimously. It is a singular fact that a position which his brilliant father, and his able brother could not attain was secured by him, although he was not trained for a political life. The world's work is not carried on by brilliant

men, but by steady mediocrities. At any rate the Englishman is suspicious of brilliance, and prefers dependability.

Scrutator.

LIFE ASSURANCE CO'S PROGRESS

At an extraordinary general meeting of the shareholders and policyholders of the Oriental Government Security Life Assurance Co., Ltd. held on October 2nd at the registered office of the company, Oriental Buildings, Bombay. Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas, who presided, said that at a previous meeting he had referred to the remarkable progress which had been made in the expansion of the company's business during the triennium, then just closed, the new business showing an increase of practically 50 per cent. on the new business of the previous triennium.

"On this occasion, in spite of the fact that the last year of the last triennium showed a substantial drop in new business compared with that of the two preceding years, the result for the triennium, 148,681 policies issued assuring Rs. 27,788,983, is even better than that recorded during the previous triennium and a record for the company during any triennial period," he said.

"The income from premiums at Rs. 104,444,964 shows an increase of 30 per cent. on the premium income of the previous triennium, which I think you will agree is satisfactory and the net interest income at Rs. 29,395,802 shows an increase of 27 per cent."

"The expense ratio for the triennium works out to 22.5 per cent as compared with 22.8 per cent for the previous triennium, the decrease being to some extent due to the fact that the flow of new business did not proceed at the same rate as during the previous triennium."

"Claims by death during the triennium amounting to Rs. 18, 291,472 show an increase of only just over 13 per cent. on the claims by death that occurred during the previous triennium, a very satisfactory result indeed, while claims by maturity at Rs. 23,225,256 show an increase of nearly 35 per cent."

The ratio of actual claims to claims expected and provided for the mortality basis assumed in the valuation is 47.8 per cent, as compared with 52.2 per cent for the previous triennium and 53 per cent for the triennium 1931-1935.

The Chairman moved "that the actuary's report on the valuation of the assets and liabilities of the company as at December 31st, 1939 should be adopted and that this meeting declares that the amount of profit which has been realised is Rs. 16,150,642 as found by the actuary." Sir Cowasjee Jehangir Bhatt seconded the proposition.

Letter to the Editor

OUR DEBT TO THE MISSIONARIES.

Sir, A controversy has been going on in the columns of your paper for some time on the subject of the foreign missionary's place in the Church and its institution. In my opinion, some of the facts mentioned by your correspondents are incorrect and the issue raised by them in respect of the future leadership of the Church is beside the point.

"(a) 'A Friend' says 'persons educated in the missionary school are clamouring for the outlawry of their benefactors.' This generalisation is altogether untrue. Fifteen years ago at the time of the Unvill centenary, at a reception given to the American Board deputation, a young nationalist addressing the deputation spoke somewhat as follows: 'You have perhaps heard whispers to the effect that missionaries are no longer wanted. This is not true. We want the Board for the next hundred years but to end of days. When we are strong enough to stand on our own feet we shall reciprocate your own feel by sending our missionaries to you.' This sentiment was in accord with the general opinion of the Christian community. Last month an American Board letter to the American Ceylon Mission intimated that the Board had decided to reduce the quota of Missionaries sent to us by two on the expiry of the services of two of our missionaries. The American Ceylon Mission, half of whom are nationals has replied praying the Board to reconsider its decision and to continue the present quota. We have not today in Jaffna half the number of Missionaries we had 25 years ago. Missionaries were withdrawn not because any body of people here thought that their services were not wanted but because the Home Board found it impossible to support all of them here. The foreign missionary societies had been very generous these hundred years to the people of Jaffna in the matter of distribution of their missionary force. They find that they cannot support the same number of missionaries in Jaffna hereafter. The present war will make matters still worse. When will the time come when the Church here will undertake the responsibility for the support of some of our foreign missionaries? It is contended by one of your correspondents that education was fairly well widespread even before the Missionaries came. Mr. J. V. Chelliah in his book on 'A Century of Education' says that in the whole peninsula there were only a few who were educated and that there was only a single woman who could read and write. This statement has been contradicted.

J. C. Amarasingham, Chavakachcheri 11. 11. 40.

To be continued

GOVERNMENT OF CEYLON WAR PURPOSES FUND

Rs. 44,798.94 has been collected since the issue of the last list. The grand total is now Rs. 856,915.79.

It may be mentioned incidentally that of this total, approximately Rs. 23,000 has been passed on at the request of the donors to the 'Times of Ceylon' Sunday-Plate Fund, the Gloucester Fund, St. Dunstan's Fund, King George's Fund for Sailors and 2 branches of the Hospital Supply Association. This fact should be taken into account in any statistical measurement of Ceylon's war giving.

LOCAL EFFORTS

Perhaps the most interesting feature of the present list in the large sums which are now flowing in from the provinces largely as a result of special local efforts. In this connection special attention is drawn to the subscription forwarded by the Morawak Korale Collection Committee which include a single donation of Rs. 1,000 from Mubandiram A. A. W. Ratnayake. The Kurunegala District War Purposes Fund Committee has forwarded Rs. 4,245.84. A notable contribution is that sent by the Divisional Inspector of Schools, Galle, being the proceeds (Rs. 3,089.80) of concert held in the Southern Division. Similar efforts are being made in other parts of the Island. An interesting small, but significant, item is one of Rs. 30 representing the contributions by sutors to a till kept in the Village Tribunal, Dandagamuwa. A noteworthy large single donation is that received from Miss V. C. Hayley (Rs. 1,350).

There are interesting items under the Social and Sports Clubs Section of the list, e. g. Rs. 750 from the Kandy Club, Rs. 500 (second contribution) from the Royal Colombo Yacht Club, Rs. 225 (a further contribution) from the Women's International Club of Ceylon. The proceeds of Football Matches and other sports events also have helped to swell the total.

First College in Thennarachchi

The Board of Directors of Jaffna College recently decided to work the Driberg English School, Chavakachcheri on the B scale of salaries, which step the Direc-

tor of Education has sanctioned. The school has now been graded as a Senior Secondary Institution as from the 1st of November 1940 and shall be known as the Driberg College.

This step was long felt as a need for the people of Thennarachchi and the announcement has been received with considerable satisfaction by the many old boys and parents in the district.

In recent years the school has shown considerable progress in studies and sports. A Matriculation class has been started. It is hoped to present the first batch of students in June 1941.

Obituary

The remains of Elizabeth, wife of Dr. E. A. Anketell were removed to the New Burial Ground, Jaffna on the 17th instant.

The funeral services were conducted by Rev. Canon Somnadasaram assisted by Rev. Albert Lewis.

The deceased was 60 years of age at the time of death. She leaves behind the following to mourn her loss: Dr. E. A. Anketell (husband), Mr. and Mrs. Anketell Selvanayagam (Son and daughter in law), Mr. and Mrs. D. J. Thampapillai, Mr. and Mrs. V. K. Jesudasou, Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Rajaratnam (daughters and sons in law) and Miss Katy Anketell (daughter).

NOTICE

Sealed tenders will be received by the Chairman, Sanitary Board, Jaffna District, up to 12 noon on Tuesday 3 December 1940; for the supply of the undermentioned personnel and animals for the removal of rubbish and sweepings within the Sanitary Board towns of Point Pedro and Valvettiturai for the period of two years from 1 January 1941 to 31 December 1942:-

- For Point Pedro
 - 2 Adult carters
 - 2 good bulis capable of drawing one rubber-tired double bullock scavenging cart
 - 1 good bull capable of drawing one rubber-tired single bullock scavenging cart

- For Valvettiturai
 - 2 Adult carters
 - 2 good bulis capable of drawing one rubber-tired double bullock scavenging cart
 - 1 good bull capable of drawing one rubber-tired single bullock scavenging cart

Tenders must be made on the basis that the contractor will not be permitted to appropriate the rubbish and sweepings but each tenderer may make an alternative tender on the basis that he will be permitted to appropriate the rubbish and sweepings.

2 The contractor will be required to supply one bull and one driver for each town on Sundays

3 Tenders must be made on forms supplied by the Office of the Sanitary Board, Jaffna, on a deposit Rs. 10 for each form

4 The successful tenderer must deposit one tenth of the tendered amount as security, within 7 days of the acceptance of his tender and thereafter enter into a contract with the chairman

5 For further particulars apply to the Sanitary Board Office, Jaffna

Sgd. M. Ponnambalam for Chairman, Sanitary Board, Jaffna

Sanitary Board Office, Jaffna, 18 Nov. 1940

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